

Lesmahagow Local Place Plan

2025



Contents

1. Foreword	3
2. Introduction	5
3. Location: The Boundary of Our Plan	7
4. Community Consultation - Gathering Everyone's Views	9
5. The Core of Our Local Place Plan	12
5.1 Fit with Local Development Plan and NPF4	13
5.2 Lesmahagow Local Place Plan Map	16
5.3 LPP propositions with supporting statements	17
5.4 Our Vision for Lesmahagow	20
6. Evidence Driving these Priorities	23
7. Implementing our Plan	26
7.1 Monitoring, Review and Resetting	27
8. Compliance	28
9. Acknowledgements and thanks!	30
Appendix 1 : Strategic Alignment	33
A1.1 Core Strategic Fit	33
A1.2 Crosscutting National Strategic Fit	34
Appendix 2 : Community Survey	36
Appendix 3 : Asset Map	44
Appendix 4: Lesmahagow Community Action Plan	49

Foreword

01

Lesmahagow has a long and proud heritage dating back to the Lesmahagow Priory, founded by Benedictine monks in 1144.



Over the centuries, the village grew around the abbey, becoming a centre for agriculture and coal mining. In the 19th century, the arrival of the railway boosted its development. Today, Lesmahagow is known for its deep-rooted heritage and community spirit with a modern history of community activism. Our dedicated community organisations, and motivated, community-minded, individuals, have a network of close and productive working relationships and co-operated closely on the development of this Local Place Plan.

In that context of community-led activity, we are pleased to present one of the first Local Place Plans to be prepared in South Lanarkshire. This is the outcome of hard work and commitment, of our whole community and all those with an interest in the future of Lesmahagow.

We have worked hard to engage the whole community over a number of months and are confident that this represents the views of the people of Lesmahagow. We used a range of methodologies to ensure everyone had a chance to contribute in a way that suited them.

The Lesmahagow Local Place Plan is rooted in the consultations and workshops that took place during 2023/24, supported by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) in collaboration with Community Enterprise. Thanks are also due to South Lanarkshire Council who have helped guide this process.

We have worked closely with the Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) and used it as our guide when framing the Lesmahagow Local Place Plan. The community working together has been key to the success so far and continues to act as a benchmark for future engagement in planning and community planning in Lesmahagow.

This plan aims to address key needs while building on what already makes Lesmahagow great. It focuses on making the most of our outdoor spaces, regenerating the heart of the town, and improving connectivity and local housing. The proposed actions will help Lesmahagow continue to thrive ensuring it is a great place to live, visit, work and play.

Introduction

02

The idea of a specific geographical place being important and having control of its facilities and services has been an important direction of travel for Scotland and the “place principle” was adopted in 2018.

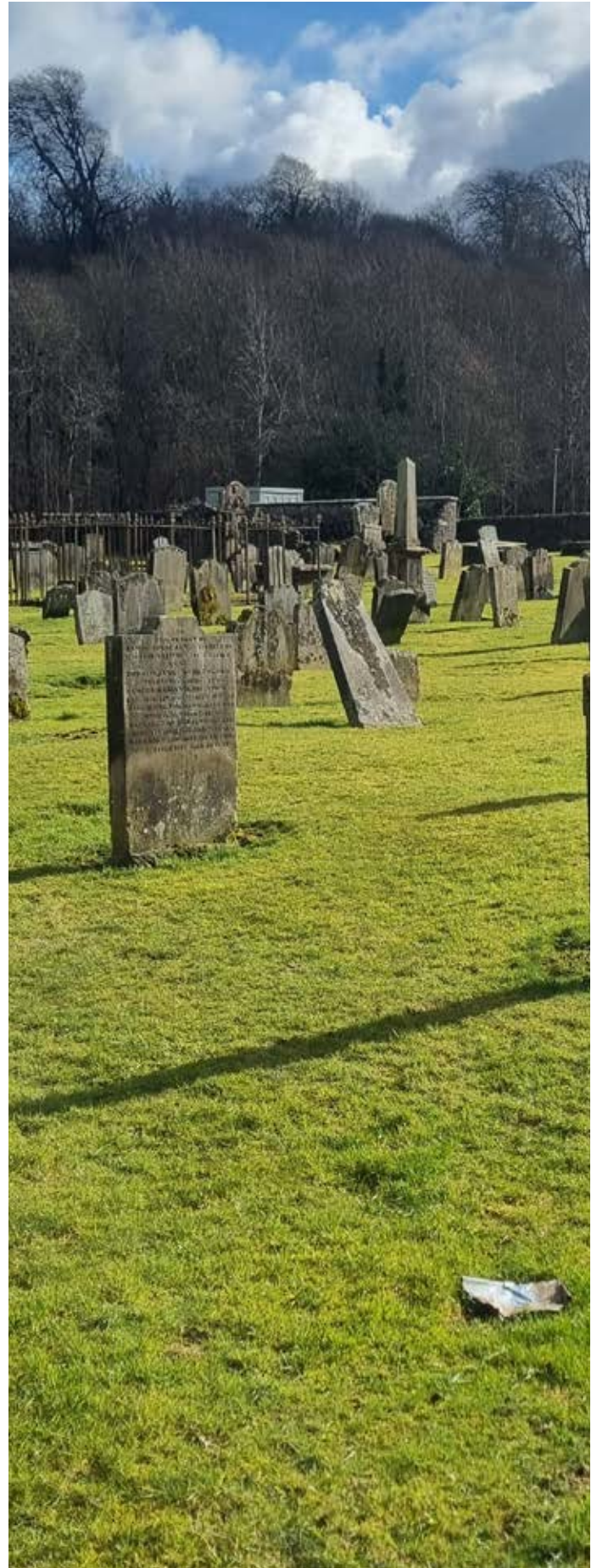
As part of this way of thinking, the National Planning Framework 4 was enacted in February 2023. This gives communities the right to feed into the planning system with ideas, and the right to influence planning decisions. Rather than the local authority having sole responsibility for deciding what is built in a place, it gives communities like Lesmahagow the opportunity to get its people to drive change from the bottom up.

The Local Place Plan will influence the development of South Lanarkshire's next Local Development Plan. That plan will identify what should happen in each community. Though becoming more common, Lesmahagow is at the vanguard of communities who have a place plan.

Though this is primarily a planning and place making document, the focus of a Place Plan is not restricted to South Lanarkshire Council's planning concerns. Some of the themes and project ideas included here will be the responsibility of the community itself. They are rooted in place but not dependent on land.

With a Local Place Plan registered and verified, the people of Lesmahagow will be able to influence and drive developments in the area and to give a platform to the community to voice their own aspirations for the area.

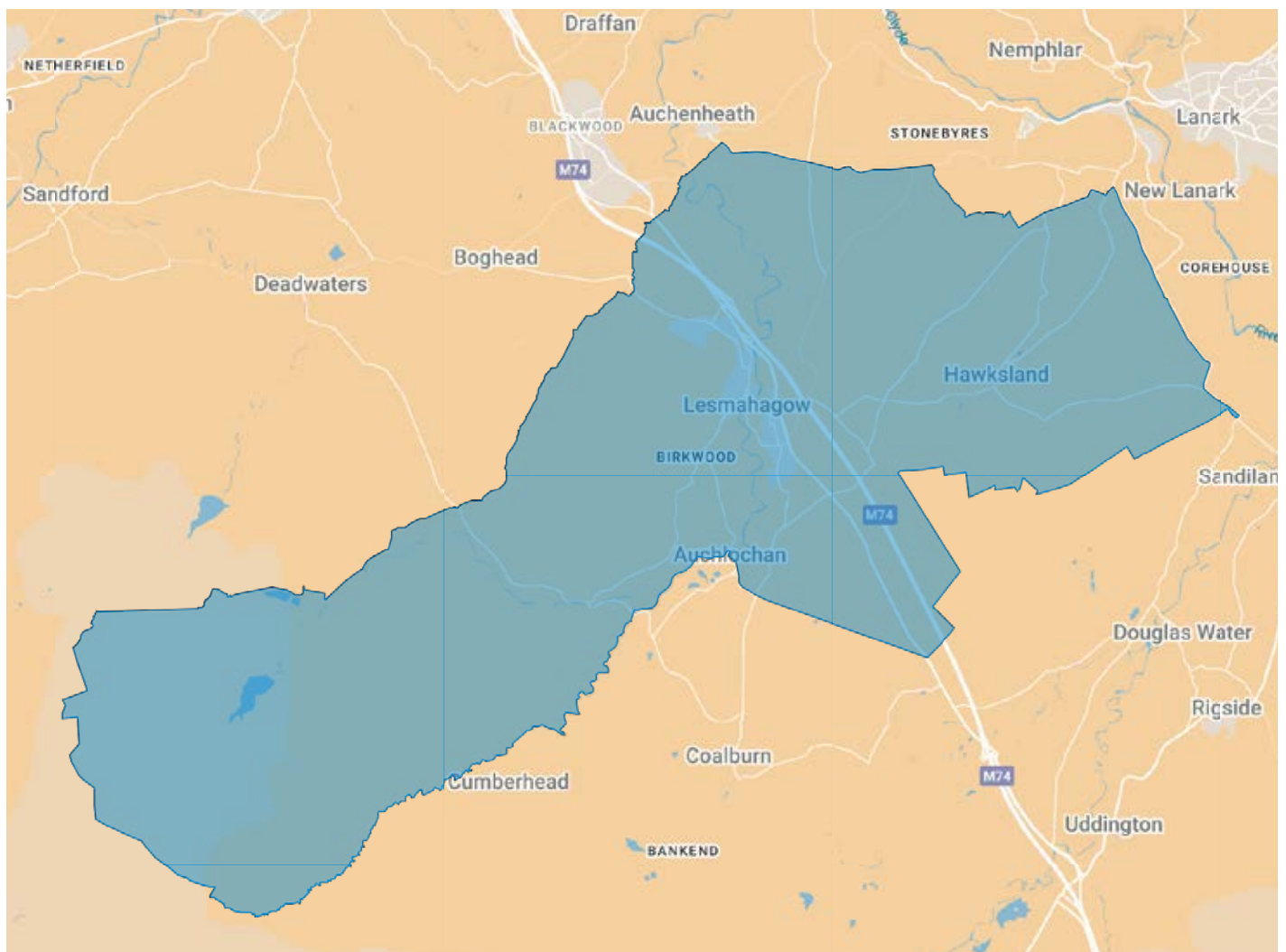
CRT Place has supported the process. This is a place based approach to support the regeneration and creation of sustainable and resilient communities in Scotland's former coal mining communities. This has guided the community to use a range of methods to capture people's views of where they live, as it is now and how they see the future in their local community. This approach promotes dialogue and cooperation between community members, partners and outside agencies. Any type of community led plan is always a work in progress, however it provides concrete steps to help shape local communities going forward. The aim of this is that future generations can thrive in changing times, so that no one is left behind.



Location: The Boundary of Our Plan

03

Lesmahagow is a town that sits on high ground in rural South Lanarkshire, with scenic views over the Clyde Valley. It lies approximately 5 miles southwest of Lanark, 21 miles southeast of Glasgow, and 35 miles southwest of Edinburgh. Nearby towns include Coalburn and Blackwood. The area of this plan is the Lesmahagow Community Council Boundary.



Lesmahagow Community Council Boundary and is also the boundary for the Local Place Plan

Community Consultation - Gathering Everyone's Views

04

4. Community Consultation - Gathering Everyone's Views

A series of community engagement events and online surveys over the last year has enabled us to gather people's views to help inform this Local Place Plan.

Consultations included:

- A community wide "3 wishes" campaign using postcards and an online version via social media and QR code promotion. 178 wishes were received
- Hosting an NPF4 community mapping workshops at the Fountain Centre. With around 30 attendees
- Attended the Climate Conversation event at the Fountain using the Place Standard Tool with a Climate Lens. Around 20 attendees contributed ideas
- Youth focused engagement at the McKirdy Park
- A community survey with 212 respondents
- 1:1 Stakeholder Interviews with 6 key local organisations
- This built on a statistical and demographic analysis of the community and a consideration of the policy landscape

What we did

Site visit and Asset mapping

Various visits took place to the village to assess the assets that the town has to identify what needs to be protected and invested in. This includes the Fountain, an excellent community facility, the McKirdy Park, Lesmahagow football club's pitches, the former B listed Old Lesmahagow Parish Church and the Development Trust's other offices.

Demographics and statistics

CRT have a licence to a piece of software called Local Insight. This formed the basis of the statistics in this Plan and Community Enterprise augmented that with their GIS based system that picks up data not included in Local Insight.

A community wide "3 wishes" campaign

The community took part in a 3 wishes campaign, using branded cards circulated round the whole community. 173 people of all ages and backgrounds completed these cards which started to form the ideas for projects in the community.

A community mapping workshop at the Fountain Centre

The community were encouraged to debate the needs of Lesmahagow and how a Local Place Plan priorities could meet those needs.

Attended the Climate Conversation event

This event attracted people from across the town and representatives of the LPP steering group were there to gather views.

Youth focused engagement at the Kelso Park

The team attended an event at the park for the whole community. Though there were people from all walks of life and ages, the focus was to target young people to ensure their views were included. It is estimated that around 20 young people gave their views.

1:1 Stakeholder interviews

We spoke to 6 key individuals and organisations which have a view on the community.

A community survey

The community survey was distributed via stakeholders, community organisations and widely by press release, flyers and social media. 212 responses were received and 97% were Lesmahagow residents. 38% have lived here for over 30 years so this is a stable community where 80% intend to be here in 10 years' time.

A thematic public event took place to allow the community the opportunity to discuss the proposed priority projects before the Local Place Plan was finalised.



The Core of Our Local Place Plan

05

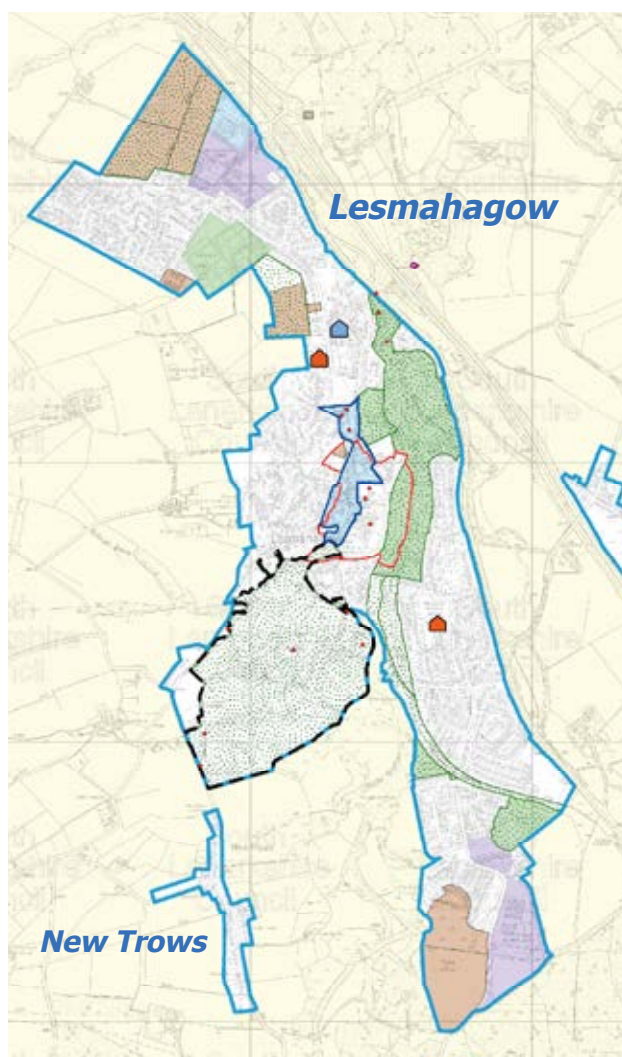
5. The Core of Our Local Place Plan

5.1 Fit with Local Development Plan and NPF4.

It is important to show in detail how this Local Place Plan fits with the key policy framework.

Appendix 1 sets this out in detail and shows how this current plan builds on the Local Development Plan 2 and with NPF4.

Map showing current Local Development Plan - Lesmahagow area



Key

Please note: Not all of the Key elements will be present on each map

	South Lanarkshire Boundary		Proposed Local Nature Reserve
	River Clyde		Langlands Moss Local Nature Reserve
	Settlement Boundary		Priority Greenspace
	Strategic Economic Investment Location		Green Network
	Clyde Gateway		New Lanark World Heritage Site
	Community Growth Area		New Lanark World Heritage Site Buffer
	Development Framework Site		Scheduled Monument
	Residential Masterplan Site		Listed Building
	Primary School		Conservation Area
	Secondary School		Quiet Area
	Air Quality Management Area		Park and Ride Proposals (Refer to Park and Ride Strategy)
	Green Belt		Railway Station
	Rural Area		Bus Station
	General Urban Area		Park and Ride / Rail Interchange
	Core Industrial and Business Area		Park and Ride / Rail and Bus Interchange
	Other Employment Land Use Area		Proposed Railway Station (Aspirational site currently being investigated)
	Housing Land Supply		New Transport Infrastructure
	Strategic and Town Centre		Recycling Centre
	Local Centre		Waste Management Site
	Out of Centre Commercial Location		

View high resolution of map here: https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/14538/hamilton_lanark_area_maps

The priority for quality homes, good green space and other beneficial developments evolve from the previous LDP and reference to these elements can be seen the new map in section 5.2

Lesmahagow Local Place Plan gives regard to National Planning Framework 4

Statement by Minister for Public Finance, Planning and Community Wealth Tom Arthur on the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) on 8th November 2022

‘The world is changing, and so are Scotland’s places. This strategy sets out how we will work together in the coming years to improve people’s lives by making sustainable, liveable and productive places. This will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as our national outcomes.’

‘We have substantially re-worked the Framework’s ‘National Spatial Strategy’, which sets out how our approach to planning and development will help achieve a net zero, sustainable Scotland by 2045.

The map at section 5.2 shows the links between policy propositions raised by the community and National planning policies commonly referred to as NPF4.

Map themes are in line with NPF4 and include Sustainable, Productive & Liveable Places.

We also worked hard to ensure that the propositions set out in this plan also dovetail with the national strategic direction of travel which can also be seen at Appendix 1. Throughout the Local Place Plan development and consultation phases, regard was made to the following plans and policies:

1. South Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2017
2. South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2022 – 2032
3. Lesmahagow Community Action Plan 2019 – 2024
4. Douglas Valley Outdoor Recreation and Adventure Tourism Feasibility
5. The Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) was consulted throughout the same period.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>



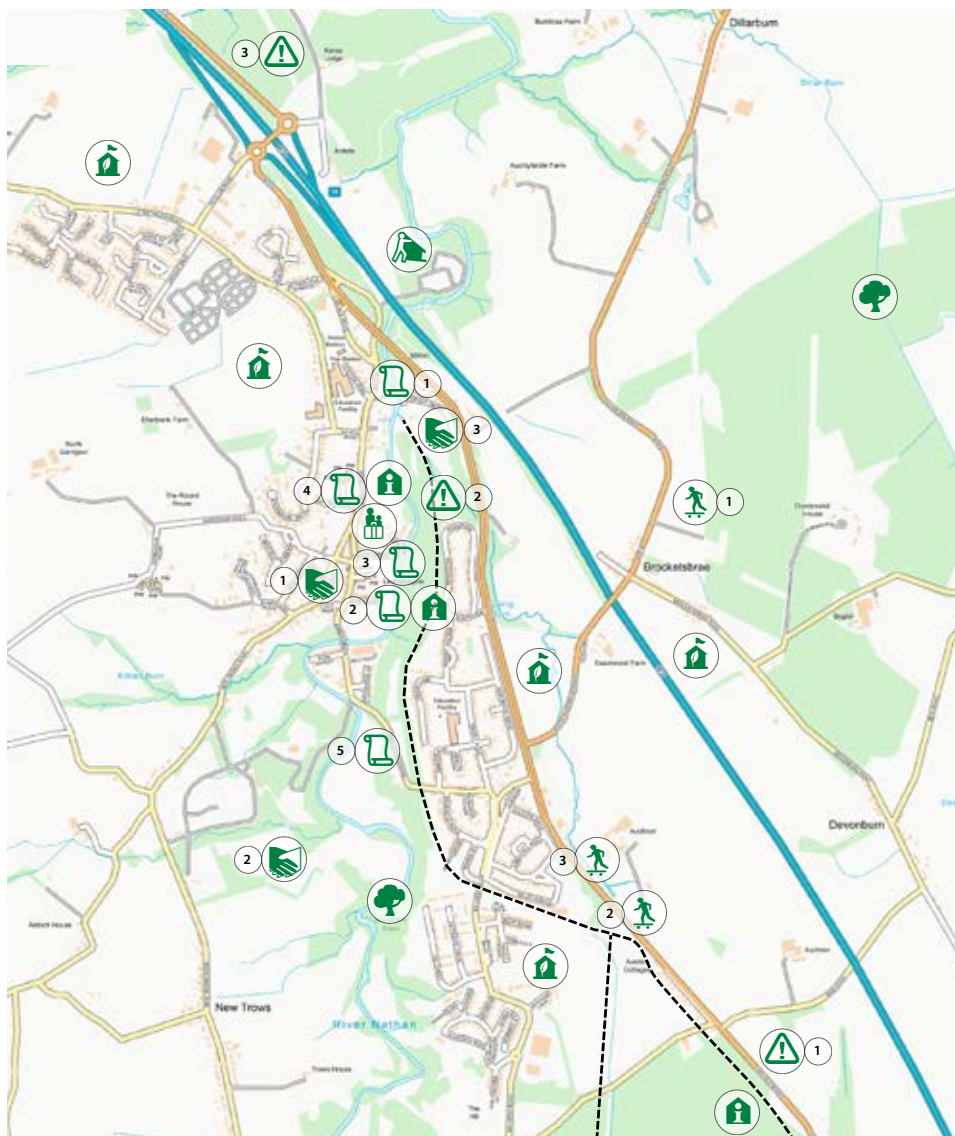
The current Lesmahagow LDP2 Proposals have been reviewed and acknowledged in the following Community Feedback Table

Proposal Ref	Proposal Title	Proposed Use	Location	Details (Size, Scope, Features)	Progress and Changes suggested
LDP2-LSM-01	Residential Development at Wellburn Farm	Housing (224 units)	Wellburn Farm, Lesmahagow	Development of 224 energy-efficient homes, ranging from two-bedroom terraces to four-bedroom detached houses. Features include solar panels, electric car charging points, new play parks, and areas of open public space.	Amend. Impact assessment updated of the additional traffic on safety of roads/ pavement for those walking to school, also those with disability. Main concern is there is no encouragement to come to the village.
LDP2-LSM-02	Retail and Commercial Development on Main Street	Retail & Commercial	Main Street, Lesmahagow Town Centre	Proposal for 5 retail units with associated parking facilities to enhance local commerce.	We support this proposal and would like to see a business first approach. Limit the change of use to residential.
LDP2-LSM-03	Green Space Enhancement South of River Nethan	Community Park	South of River Nethan, Lesmahagow	Expansion of existing parkland by 2 hectares, introducing new walking paths, seating areas, and community gardens to improve recreational facilities.	We support access to greenspace, possibly utilise digital to support. Improvements are required to walking signage across the local area.
LDP2-LSM-04	New Primary School Near B7078	Education Facility	Adjacent to B7078, East Lesmahagow	Construction of a modern primary school with capacity for 300 pupils, including sports facilities and community halls.	We support this proposal and encourage full consideration at design stage.
LDP2-LSM-05	Road Infrastructure Improvements at A72 & B7078 Junction	Transport & Roads	A72 and B7078 Junction, Lesmahagow	Upgrading of road junctions to improve traffic flow and safety, including pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures.	We support this proposal. Current pavements not suitable for mobility, especially recognising the high level of elderly population.
LDP2-LSM-06	Industrial Development at Lesmahagow Business Park	Industrial	Lesmahagow Business Park, Near M74	Development of new industrial units aimed at attracting businesses and creating employment opportunities, with associated parking and landscaping.	We support this proposal and would like to see Hotel and Air B&B provision included.
LDP2-LSM-07	Birkwood Hospital Development	Mixed-Use Development	Birkwood House, Lesmahagow	Conversion of the historic Birkwood House into a boutique hotel, along with the construction of 165 new houses and potential play and sports facilities in collaboration with the Lesmahagow Community Council. <i>Note: Previous plans included holiday chalets and redevelopment of South Lodge.</i>	We support this proposal, however there is concern that this may translate into more housing which would not have local support. We would recommend a full scale masterplan be undertaken to identify the most beneficial use of this site for the benefit of the community. A Masterplanning exercise would help to "join up the dots" between the various developments planned.
LDP2-LSM-08	Teiglum Road Retail Expansion	Retail	Teiglum Road, Lesmahagow	Expansion of retail facilities along Teiglum Road to enhance local shopping options and support community growth.	Lesmahagow Development Trust are keen to see the commercial and shopping aspects developed as a wider project taking in the whole of the area and its needs. We support this proposal as long as the village identity is not threatened as a result of the expansion plans.

5.2 Lesmahagow Local Place Plan Map

The icons on the map show the locations highlighted by local people that align with the latest Scottish Government planning policies, commonly known as NPF4. Each proposition put forward on this map has further details and information outlined in the pages that follow.

The 33 NPF4 policies sit within the themes Sustainable Places – Liveable Places – Productive Places



NPF4 / 6 Forestry, woodland and trees

Add all the woodlands along the River Nethan and community woodlands to protected greenspace and increase biodiversity



NPF4 / 7 Historic Assets

1. Restore Smiddy Brae bridge to usable condition
2. Tourist information at the site of the old Priory
3. Church and graveyard
4. The Fountain
5. The Walled Garden



NPF4 / 16 Quality homes

Ensure all new housing has renewable energy and water harvesting. Developments must include adequate social housing element



NPF4 / 18 Infrastructure First

Increase capacity at sewage works



NPF4 / 21 Play, recreation and sport

1. Create a permanent campsite next to the allotments
2. Site for sports and leisure centre
3. Improve the play park



NPF4 / 23 Health and safety

1. Single carriageway is not fit for purpose
2. Improve access and maintenance of path (CL3278/1) along the old railway line
3. Improve access to the path (CL3266/1)



NPF4 / 25 Community Wealth Building

1. Regeneration initiatives to breathe new life into Abbeygreen
2. Consultation with the community for a master plan for the Birkwood development
 - * Promote local economic hubs to attract small businesses and entrepreneurs
 - * Enhance partnership working to improve vocational training and increase employment
3. Community asset transfer of football pitch



NPF4 / 30 Tourism

Interpretative information panels
The Development Trust supports the proposals for improved active travel, recreational routes the Hub, and the Douglas Valley master plan

This map represents the views of the community of Lesmahagow and is informed by the key points of the National Planning Framework 4 'Central Urban Transformation'

5.3 Local Place Plan propositions

Sustainable Places

Aligned with NPF4's focus on environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and the protection of natural assets, the following propositions aim to enhance the local environment, ensuring long-term ecological balance and better quality of life for the community. *National Planning Policy Theme*



NPF4 Policy 6 Forestry, Woodland, and Trees

Proposition:

- Add all woodlands along the River Nethan and community woodlands to protected greenspace status
- Increasing biodiversity
- Protect the natural environment

Supporting Statement: By designating woodlands along the River Nethan and community green spaces as protected areas, this proposition safeguards vital carbon sinks and wildlife habitats, which are crucial for enhancing local biodiversity and mitigating climate change.

Protected status will prevent inappropriate development, ensuring the continuity of green corridors that support pollinators and native species.

Additionally, this initiative strengthens green infrastructure, creating more opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental education, and community stewardship, thereby promoting mental and physical wellbeing.

Aligning directly with NPF4's emphasis on ecological integrity, this also contributes to Scotland's wider goals of nature restoration and climate resilience.



NPF4 Policy 7 Historic Assets and Places

Proposition:

- Restore Smiddy Brae Bridge to usable condition
- Tourist information at the site of the old Priory
- The Church and graveyard
- The Fountain
- Explore opportunities for development of the Walled Garden

Supporting Statement: These historic assets collectively safeguard Lesmahagow's rich historical fabric while unlocking its potential for sustainable tourism and community enrichment.

Restoring Smiddy Brae Bridge and protecting the Fountain preserve historic landmarks that define the town's character, while tourist information at the Priory site invites visitors to engage with local history.

Recognising the history of the church and graveyard fosters a strong sense of place. The potential for revitalising the Walled Garden creates an opportunity to create multi-functional spaces that could host events, social enterprises, and cultural activities.

By repurposing heritage assets, we also avoid demolition and material waste, preserving embodied carbon in line with NPF4's sustainability principles.

These actions enhance civic pride, create tourism related jobs, and ensure that historic places continue to serve future generations.



NPF4 Policy 21 Play, Recreation, and Sport

Proposition:

- Develop a permanent campsite near the allotments
- Upgrade local play parks
- Establish a sports and leisure centre

Supporting Statement: Investing in recreational infrastructure will transform Lesmahagow into a more active, inclusive, and connected community.

A permanent campsite near the allotments offers eco-tourism opportunities, drawing visitors while supporting local food initiatives.

Upgraded play parks provide safe, modern spaces for children and families, contributing to healthier childhood development.

A new sports and leisure centre will cater to people of all ages and abilities, offering facilities for physical activity, social interaction, and community events.

These improvements not only promote physical and mental wellbeing but also boost the local economy through increased footfall and tourism.

This aligns with NPF4's vision of places that nurture health, inclusivity, and community cohesion.

Productive Places

This theme focuses on enhancing economic opportunities and ensuring social and economic justice by fostering a diverse local economy, boosting tourism, and encouraging entrepreneurship. *National Planning Policy Theme*



NPF4 Policy 30 Tourism

Propositions:

- Install interpretative information panels to highlight Lesmahagow's history
- Improve active travel routes
- Create an adventure hub for outdoor activities
- The Development Trust supports the proposals for the Douglas Valley Master Plan

Supporting Statement: By celebrating Lesmahagow's heritage and natural beauty, these propositions position the town as a unique destination for cultural and adventure tourism.

Interpretive panels will enrich visitor experiences and deepen appreciation of local history, while improved active travel routes make the area more accessible for walkers, cyclists, and eco-tourists.

An adventure hub will capitalise on outdoor assets, offering activities that attract families and adventure seekers, diversifying the local economy.

Backing the Douglas Valley Master Plan ensures alignment with wider regional tourism strategies.

These initiatives will stimulate job creation, support hospitality and retail businesses, and reinforce Lesmahagow's role as a key tourism node in South Lanarkshire.



NPF4 Policy 25 Community Wealth Building

Propositions:

- Regenerate Abbeygreen high street by enhancing the built environment, encouraging local entrepreneurship and traditional high street provision e.g., butcher, baker and hardware.
- Explore the idea of establishing an online marketplace for local goods.
- Work with Scottish Futures Trust to develop opportunities around a town centre living initiative.

Supporting Statement: Revitalising Abbeygreen High Street represents a cornerstone of community wealth building, breathing new life into the town centre and creating a platform for local businesses to thrive.

Improvements to the built environment, alongside support for traditional traders such as butchers, bakers, and hardware stores, will restore vibrancy and retain spending locally.

Establishing an online marketplace connects local producers with broader markets, supporting small enterprises and social enterprises alike.

Collaboration with the Scottish Futures Trust on town centre living will increase residential density, reduce vacancy rates, and create a mixed-use environment that sustains foot traffic and services.

These initiatives advance NPF4's aim to build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable local economies.



Liveable Places

Aligned with NPF4's focus on health and wellbeing, these priorities focus on creating places where people live healthier, more inclusive lives with access to essential services and high quality housing. *National Planning Policy Theme*



NPF4 Policy 18 Infrastructure First

Proposition:

- Increase capacity for sewage works and associated infrastructure to accommodate growth and reduce pollution in the River Nethan.

Supporting Statement: Enhancing sewage treatment capacity is a critical investment in Lesmahagow's future, supporting both environmental health and responsible growth.

By reducing pollution levels in the River Nethan, this action protects aquatic ecosystems and aligns with Scotland's water quality targets.

Ensuring that infrastructure can accommodate new housing and businesses also underpins sustainable development, preventing service strain and safeguarding public health.

This proposition is essential to delivering resilient, future-proofed infrastructure in line with NPF4's Infrastructure First principle, enabling the community to grow sustainably without compromising environmental standards.



NPF4 Policy 23 Health and Safety

Proposition:

- Improve the single carriageway and overgrown paths to enhance road safety and promote active travel.

Supporting Statement: Upgrading narrow roads and overgrown paths is vital for making Lesmahagow a safer and more liveable place.

Enhancing these routes will reduce accident risks, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists, while encouraging active travel as a convenient and healthy alternative to car use.

Safer, better-connected paths will promote physical activity, lower emissions, and increase social interaction, contributing directly to community wellbeing.

This proposition supports NPF4's commitment to safe, inclusive infrastructure that enables healthier lifestyles and reduces transport inequalities.



NPF4 Policy 16 Quality Homes

Proposition:

- Ensure all new housing developments incorporate renewable energy solutions and water harvesting systems. Include a social housing element in each new development.

Supporting Statement: This proposition guarantees that Lesmahagow's future housing growth is both socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable.

By mandating renewable energy installations and water harvesting systems in new developments, it helps lower household utility costs, cuts carbon emissions, and conserves resources.

Requiring a proportion of social housing ensures that developments address local housing needs, supporting mixed-income communities and preventing social exclusion.

This approach directly contributes to Scotland's net-zero targets while delivering high quality homes that are affordable, energy-efficient, and resilient, fulfilling NPF4's housing and climate ambitions.

Evidence driving these propositions

The evidence supporting these propositions is derived from the **Lesmahagow asset map**, public consultations, and local community surveys. Key findings include:

- **Biodiversity:** There is a lack of dedicated green space in Lesmahagow, with only 0.03% of the community designated as parks or gardens. Enhancing local woodlands and creating more green spaces will directly address this shortfall and contribute to ecological sustainability.
- **Public Health:** The community has a higher proportion of individuals with long-term illnesses (25%) compared to the national average, indicating a need for better health infrastructure, recreational facilities, and active travel options.
- **Economic Regeneration:** Deprivation is a significant issue, with several data zones ranking among the most deprived in Scotland. Regenerating the High Street and supporting local businesses through targeted initiatives will enhance the local economy and create jobs.
- **Housing:** There is a clear need for affordable housing, with 17.55% of homes rented from the council, compared to 24.3% nationally. Ensuring that new developments include social housing will provide much-needed affordable options for residents.

Lesmahagow, Growing Stronger, Greener, and Closer

A thriving, well-connected village with vibrant local businesses, improved transport, and inclusive spaces for all. We envision a revitalised high street, better facilities for youth, and enhanced public areas that foster community pride and sustainability.



The South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2022-2032 outlines the strategic direction for the region, focusing on these 3 ambitions and 6 priorities:

» People

We will invest in people by finding ways to share power and resources

» Progress

We will make progress by investing in learning together and how we can do things better

» Planet

We will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work

1. **Caring, Connected, Sustainable Communities:** Fostering inclusive and resilient communities that are well-connected and environmentally sustainable.
2. **People Live the Healthiest Lives Possible:** Improving health and wellbeing outcomes for all residents through accessible and effective health services.
3. **Thriving Businesses, Fair Jobs, and Vibrant Town Centres:** Encouraging economic growth, supporting fair employment practices, and revitalizing town centres to create dynamic local economies.
4. **Good Quality, Suitable and Sustainable Places to Live:** Providing housing and environments that meet diverse needs and promote sustainable living
5. **Our Children and Young People Thrive:** Ensuring that children and young people have the support and opportunities needed to succeed and flourish.
6. **Inspiring Learners, Transforming Learning, Strengthening Partnerships:** Enhancing educational experiences, promoting lifelong learning, and building strong collaborative relationships.

These themes are used to show how the Local Place Plan propositions align with the South Lanarkshire Community Plan 2022-2032.



Priority: Caring, Connected Communities

Forestry and Woodlands ^(NPF4/6)

- Adding woodlands to protected green spaces and improving biodiversity supports the goal of connected communities through access to natural areas that enhance social cohesion and mental wellbeing.
- Aligns with using green areas to improve people's health and bringing communities together through shared priorities.

Historic Assets ^(NPF4/7)

- Restoring Smiddy Brae Bridge and preserving other historical sites reinforces community identity and connectedness while boosting tourism and local pride.

Play, Recreation, and Sport ^(NPF4/21)

- A campsite and leisure centre near allotments foster recreational activities and encourage local interaction, creating inclusive spaces for all age groups.

Digital Infrastructure ^(NPF4/24)

- Enhancing broadband speed directly supports the goal of connected communities by improving access to online services and social connections.

Priority: People Live the Healthiest Lives Possible

Infrastructure First ^(NPF4/18)

- Expanding sewage works to reduce pollution safeguards water quality and public health, promoting healthier lives for residents.

Health and Safety ^(NPF4/23)

- Addressing overgrown paths and improving single carriageways ensures safer travel and better access to outdoor spaces, fostering physical activity and reducing accidents.

Priority: Thriving Businesses and Fair Jobs

Tourism ^(NPF4)

- Interpretive panels on Lesmahagow's history contribute to local tourism, supporting small businesses and creating job opportunities in hospitality and services.

Community Wealth Building ^(NPF4/25)

- High Street regeneration, vocational training, and promoting local hubs create equitable job opportunities and attract small businesses, supporting the local economy.

Priority: Good Quality, Suitable Housing for Everyone

Quality Homes ^(NPF4/16)

- Mandating renewable energy, water harvesting, and social housing in new developments ensures housing is environmentally sustainable, affordable, and accessible to all.

Priority: We will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work

Forestry and Woodlands ^(NPF4/6)

- Protecting woodlands and promoting biodiversity directly supports climate change mitigation and environmental stewardship, ensuring healthier ecosystems for future generations.

Youth-Led Climate Actions ^(from Ambition 2)

- Involving young people in green initiatives connects well with forest preservation and sustainability goals.

Infrastructure First ^(NPF4/18)

- Increase capacity for sewage works and associated infrastructure reduce environmental pollution, demonstrating investment in a sustainable planet.

Priority: Putting Learning at the Centre

Community Wealth Building ^(NPF4/25)

- Vocational training and entrepreneurship support help individuals build skills for sustainable employment, aligning with the focus on life-long learning and skills development.

Historic Assets ^(NPF4/7)

- Tourist information at historic sites offers educational opportunities for residents and visitors, preserving cultural heritage and history.

Evidence Driving these Priorities

06

6. Evidence Driving these Priorities

We will invest in our planet by putting local areas at the centre of our work

In the open meetings, access to nature and walks emerged as something that local people felt proud of but sometimes found it hard to access.

Engaging with the school has indicated a real lack of things for young people to do and a particular interest in net zero and in growing. Plans to improve McKirdy Park need to include young people who should be involved in the design.

Lesmahagow has 0.57% of its area as green space compared to 1.02% across South Lanarkshire and 0.58% across Scotland.

Caring, Connected Communities

The asset map (see appendix 3) shows that the Lesmahagow area offers a range of assets, services, and amenities. The maps highlight a range of assets in the community which should be preserved and built on over the period of this Local Place Plan. This includes the heritage assets such as the church and the Smiddy Brae Bridge but also the need to maximise the benefit that can be gained from green space which is not currently projected. Stakeholders also noted the old Abbey behind the church and how it could become an archaeology themed visitor destination.



20.2% of households in Lesmahagow do not own a car. While this is below the regional and national averages, it is statistically important given the rural nature of the place indicating an increased reliance on public transport. For example, the SIMD index shows high deprivation associated with the domain for geographic access to services which measures the mean travel time (in minutes) to key services by car or public transport.

Strikingly only 0.03% of the community is parks and gardens compared with 1.02% across South Lanarkshire and 0.58% across Scotland.

In the three wishes exercise, at 57 votes, play and recreation was the second biggest aspiration of local people followed by Streets and Spaces at 13.

“Some walkways such as Rookwood are closed, and the Old Bridge over the Nethan at smiddy brae. These should be open to link up nature and the village main street.”

In the place standard work done at the climate event, transport and getting around were identified as two of the biggest challenges in the community. As well as this, signage was identified as lacking in the community.

People Live the Healthiest Lives Possible

The total population of Lesmahagow is 5,151 and there is a need to impact on the wellbeing of the whole community. There is a 3% lower proportion of people who are not limited by disability compared to the average across Scotland. A quarter of Lesmahagow's population have a long-term illness or condition which is a 3.69% higher proportion than across Scotland.

The place standard work and public meetings identified the importance of green space to health including opening up walking routes but also creating a green gym.

For the school and young people, wellbeing, sport and health are a big priority and this was confirmed in stakeholder interviews.

In the community survey, 54% scored the area poor or very poor in relation to access to leisure.

“There is little to do. Lovely walks but not much else.”

“Limited leisure facilities since the sports centre closed.”

Thriving Businesses and Fair Jobs

The asset map identifies all the businesses in the area. Though there are a number of good businesses, other research indicated the need to upgrade the Main Street to drive the local economy. People were concerned about empty shop fronts (such as decaying shop fronts along Abbeygreen) and the lack of good quality shops such as a butcher, grocer and local produce.

There was a desire expressed to make Lesmahagow a destination due to good access to green space and heritage but also re-inventing the main street to have artisan shops. Stakeholders indicated that a real priority was the high street and the need to upgrade it to increase local pride and attract new business.



The 5 datazones that cover Lesmahagow show a town with varying levels of deprivation. One datazone ranks in the most deprived 10% in Scotland, with high levels of deprivation for income, employment and education.

There are slightly fewer people of working age compared to the South Lanarkshire and National average. Though unemployment is slightly higher than the national average (3.48% compared with 3.19%), youth unemployment is slightly lower. The area has 4.09% claiming Personal Independence Payments compared with 3.16% nationally.

Job density calculated as the number of jobs as a percentage of the working-age population, is very low calculated at 38.7% compared to 76% nationally and 59.7% in South Lanarkshire.

In the three exercise, work and the local economy was by a long stretch (at more than double the next need) the biggest aspiration.

It was noted that transport is vital not only for personal connectivity but to encourage new business development.

In the community survey, it was felt that the place could be a great place to visit but was 52% felt it was poor or very poor because of lack of facilities.

“Nowhere to take visitors for a nice meal or a quiet drink.”

“The village is lacking any kind of visitor attraction (even the excavated priory is dilapidated).”

In the community survey, one of the biggest issues named was “Village upkeep and maintenance”. People demanded better retail and better cafes, particularly meals in the evenings. “Improving the Main Street and town centre” was mentioned 33 times. Improving public transport was mentioned 30 times. Boosting the local economy was mentioned 19 times.

Good Quality, Suitable Housing for Everyone

Most dwellings in Lesmahagow are either a house or bungalow (80.1%) which is higher than the national average (65.5%). The majority of dwellings in Lesmahagow are owned (65%) rather than rented, which is similar to the national average. Household composition in Lesmahagow is similar to the national averages, with a lower (3.49%) proportion of one-person households.

There is 17.55% of houses renting from the council compared to 24.3% nationally.

The public meetings identified a shortage of affordable housing which was confirmed during the place standard work.

Putting Learning at the Centre

During the public consultation, it was regularly noted that community activism is changing in Lesmahagow and it is harder to get people to volunteer their time to support local projects. People noted that is a noticeable decline since covid and the some of this may be rooted in the increase in home entertainment, as well as more commuters living in the village with less connection to groups. The school indicated that a real priority for them was safe access to woodlands and outdoor space to deliver the outdoor learning curriculum. There is access issues with what is currently available due to litter, dog mess and vandalism.

“What we really need is a small, gated area with proper signage, informing the public that children play and learn in this clearing.”

The upgrading of Birkwood estate was given as an example of an ideal project.

Educational attainment in the local area is poorer than the national average. There is a 5.5% higher proportion of people in Lesmahagow with no qualifications compared to the national average. 23.3% in Lesmahagow have a qualification at a degree level or higher, compared to 32.5% across Scotland.

Implementing our Plan

07

7. Implementing our Plan

We seek to work in partnership to make real progress and invite residents, local groups and businesses, local authority departments and outside agencies to work together with us. If you can help with any of these issues and help improve our community, please get in touch with Lesmahagow Development Trust or Lesmahagow Community Council.

7.1 Monitoring, Review and Resetting

The success of the Lesmahagow Local Place Plan and Community Action Priorities depends on people in our community getting together to identify and address both the opportunities and threats the community faces.

For its part the Lesmahagow Development Trust commits itself to be constantly monitoring the Plan's progress and, on an annual basis, to organise a public meeting with an agenda which provides for the reporting of progress, or lack of it, and the resetting of priorities and targets where circumstances have changed.



Compliance

08

8. Compliance

Submission of our Lesmahagow Local Place Plan

Requirements for registering a Local Place Plan:

Plan Area Boundaries: A map must clearly define the geographic boundaries of the Local Place Plan area.

A boundary map identifying the area covered by the Local Place Plan can be seen on page 8.

Development/Use Proposals: The plan must include a statement outlining the community body's specific proposals for the development or use of land within the defined area.

Page 17 identifies these on a map and shows their alignment with NPF4

Community Body Identification: The plan must clearly identify the community body that prepared it.

Community Bodies in Scotland play a crucial role in shaping Local Place Plans (LPPs) under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. To be formally recognised, a Community Body must be a properly constituted group—such as a Community Council, Development Trust, or Community Interest Company—that represents the interests of local people. These bodies must engage with residents, gather evidence, and align their LPPs with the Local Development Plan (LDP) and national planning policies such as NPF4. While LPPs are not mandatory, once submitted to the local authority, they must be considered in future planning decisions. This process ensures that communities have a strong voice in shaping sustainable development and influencing how land and resources are used in their area.

The Lesmahagow Local Place Plan has been registered with South Lanarkshire Council planning by Lesmahagow Development Trust.

Lesmahagow Development Trust (LDT) meets the criteria of a Community Body in Scotland under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

To qualify as a Community Body, an organisation typically must:

- Be incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), or Community Benefit Society.
- Have a community-led membership structure, ensuring local control.
- Have open membership, meaning people in the area can join and participate.
- Operate for the benefit of the community, rather than private individuals.
- Include provisions in its governing documents (Mem & Arts) that align with community empowerment laws.

Lesmahagow Development Trust was established on the 28th August 2009. It is an independent, not-for-profit charitable company with the objective of funding and implementing projects to enhance the facilities and environment of Lesmahagow.

LDT was set up with the overriding aim of implementing projects and providing support to make our village a better place to live which means it fits the legal definition of a Community Body. LDT trustees are all voluntary with staff to help carry out the aims of the Trust.

Lesmahagow Community Council (LCC) fits the criteria of a Community Body in Scotland, but under a different legal framework than a development trust.

Lesmahagow Community Council was established under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and operate as a statutory body rather than independent charities or companies. Their role is to:

- Represent local community interests to the local authority (South Lanarkshire Council).
- Facilitate community engagement and participation in decision-making.
- Act as a liaison between residents and public authorities.
- Promote local projects and improvements.

Acknowledgements and thanks!

09

9. Acknowledgements and thanks!

We would like to recognise the support that has been given from the following agencies and organisations who have played their part in one way or another in helping create the Lesmahagow Local Place Plan:

- **Lesmahagow Community Council**
www.lesmahagowcommunitycouncil.co.uk/
- **Lesmahagow Development Trust**
<https://www.lesmahagowdevtrust.com/>
- **Coalfields Regeneration Trust**
<https://www.coalfields-regen.org.uk/>
- **Community Enterprise**
<https://communityenterprise.co.uk/>
- **Place and Wellbeing Alliance**
<https://www.ourplace.scot/>
- **Scottish Government**
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>
- **South Lanarkshire Council**
<https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/local-place-plans>
https://www.southlanarkshirecommunityplanning.org/info/26/community_matters
- **Douglas Valley Advisory Group**
<https://thehagshawenergycluster.co.uk>

A big thank you to everyone in our local communities who helped make this Lesmahagow Local Place Plan possible. To find out more information about this plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact:

Lesmahagow Development Trust

Tel: 01555 230069

Email: info@lesmahagowdevtrust.com

11 Abbeygreen, Lesmahagow ML11 0HD

Lesmahagow Community Council

Email: lesmahagowcc@outlook.com

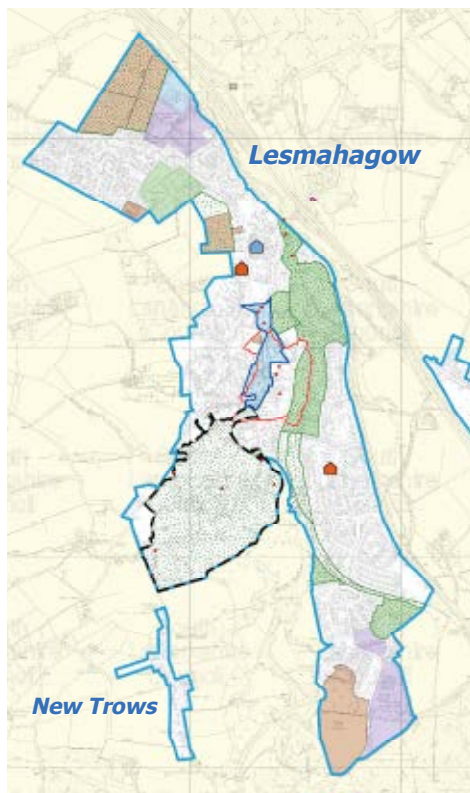


Appendix

Appendix 1: Strategic Alignment

This Local Place Plan will be taken into consideration during the preparation of South Lanarkshire Council's Local Development Plan 3. The preparation of our plan has been in the context of the existing Local Development Plan 2 and reflects current planning objectives. These are also referred to in section 5.

A1.1 Core Strategic Fit

Key strategies	How we Have Considered these Plans and Strategies																																																																																	
Local Development Plan 2	Regional Vision LDP2 seeks to ensure that future development takes place in a sustainable way and respects the distinctive and valued qualities of the area's natural and built environment. The plan also encourages economic growth and regeneration. The plan identifies four themes around which objectives have been structured: • Encouraging sustainable economic growth • Meet the communities needs • Enhance and safeguard the environment • Maximise the use of and seek opportunities to enhance existing infrastructure.	How it fits with Lesmahagow area Our Thriving Businesses and Fair Jobs theme fits well with encouraging sustainable economic growth and there is a focus on both high street regeneration for local residents and heritage and natural assets to attract visitors. Meeting communities needs fits well with our Caring and Connected Communities theme which includes access to the outdoors as well as physical and digital connections. Safeguarding the environment fits well with our Planet theme but access to good green space is mentioned across the themes. We will enhance existing infrastructure through investment in heritage assets and community assets and this can be viewed across the themes.																																																																																
		Key Please note: Not all of the Key elements will be present on each map <table><tr><td></td><td>South Lanarkshire Boundary</td><td></td><td>Proposed Local Nature Reserve</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>River Clyde</td><td></td><td>Langlands Moss Local Nature Reserve</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Settlement Boundary</td><td></td><td>Priority Greenspace</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Strategic Economic Investment Location</td><td></td><td>Green Network</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Clyde Gateway</td><td></td><td>New Lanark World Heritage Site</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Community Growth Area</td><td></td><td>New Lanark World Heritage Site Buffer</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Development Framework Site</td><td></td><td>Scheduled Monument</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Residential Masterplan Site</td><td></td><td>Listed Building</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Primary School</td><td></td><td>Conservation Area</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Secondary School</td><td></td><td>Quiet Area</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Air Quality Management Area</td><td></td><td>Park and Ride Proposals (Refer to Park and Ride Strategy)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Green Belt</td><td></td><td>Railway Station</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Rural Area</td><td></td><td>Bus Station</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>General Urban Area</td><td></td><td>Park and Ride / Rail Interchange</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Core Industrial and Business Area</td><td></td><td>Park and Ride / Rail and Bus Interchange</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Other Employment Land Use Area</td><td></td><td>Proposed Railway Station (Aspirational site currently being investigated)</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Housing Land Supply</td><td></td><td>New Transport Infrastructure</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Strategic and Town Centre</td><td></td><td>Recycling Centre</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Local Centre</td><td></td><td>Waste Management Site</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Out of Centre Commercial Location</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>		South Lanarkshire Boundary		Proposed Local Nature Reserve		River Clyde		Langlands Moss Local Nature Reserve		Settlement Boundary		Priority Greenspace		Strategic Economic Investment Location		Green Network		Clyde Gateway		New Lanark World Heritage Site		Community Growth Area		New Lanark World Heritage Site Buffer		Development Framework Site		Scheduled Monument		Residential Masterplan Site		Listed Building		Primary School		Conservation Area		Secondary School		Quiet Area		Air Quality Management Area		Park and Ride Proposals (Refer to Park and Ride Strategy)		Green Belt		Railway Station		Rural Area		Bus Station		General Urban Area		Park and Ride / Rail Interchange		Core Industrial and Business Area		Park and Ride / Rail and Bus Interchange		Other Employment Land Use Area		Proposed Railway Station (Aspirational site currently being investigated)		Housing Land Supply		New Transport Infrastructure		Strategic and Town Centre		Recycling Centre		Local Centre		Waste Management Site		Out of Centre Commercial Location		
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The priority for quality homes, good green space and so on evolve from the previous LDP and reference to these elements can be seen on the new map at section 5.																																																																																		

National Planning Framework 4¹ There are six overarching spatial principles: 1. Just transition. We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive. 2. Conserving and recycling assets. We will make productive use of existing buildings, places, infrastructure and services, locking in carbon, minimising waste, and building a circular economy. 3. Local living. We will support local liveability and improve community health and wellbeing by ensuring people can easily access services, greenspace, learning, work and leisure locally. 4. Compact urban growth. We will limit urban expansion so we can optimise the use of land to provide services and resources, including carbon storage, flood risk management, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity. 5. Rebalanced development. We will target development to create opportunities for communities and investment in areas of past decline and manage development sustainably in areas of high demand. 6. Rural revitalisation. We will encourage sustainable development in rural areas, recognising the need to grow and support urban and rural communities together.	How it fits with Lesmahagow 1. Our "Planet" theme works to a just transition particularly focussed on being designed by young people. 2. There is no aspiration to build new, rather the "Caring Connected Communities" theme will use existing assets from green space to the Fountain to delivery services from. Regeneration of heritage asset and the high street will improve what is already there, protecting embodied carbon. 3. Our "Good Quality Suitable Housing" theme sets out good local living with the concept of a 20 minute neighbourhood 4. Our themes balance green space production, housing and services development in a coordinated way. 5. The decline in our parks and community space will be readdressed. 6. Lesmahagow is a semirural area that will be regenerated
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A1.2 Crosscutting National Strategic Fit

Scottish Government National Performance Framework

Scotland's National Performance Framework provides a vision for Scotland with broad measures of national wellbeing covering a range of economic, health, social and environmental indicators and targets. The Framework is intended to inform discussion, collaboration and planning of policy and services across Scotland, encompassing the public sector, businesses, civil society and communities. There are 11 national outcomes, of which the most relevant to Lesmahagow are:

- **Communities:** We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe.
- **Fair Work and Business:** We have thriving and innovative businesses with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.
- **Environment:** We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.
- **Health:** We are healthy and active.

The vision for better green space, things to do, enterprise and jobs and a stronger community will feed into these outcomes.

Place Principle, 2019

Adopted by the Scottish Government in 2019, and intended to provide a collective focus to support inclusive economic growth and create places which are both successful and sustainable.

It recognises that:

- Place is where people, location and resources combine to create a sense of identity and purpose, and is at the heart of addressing the needs and realising the full potential of communities.
- A more joined-up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities.

Place is fundamental to a Local Place Plan which is part of the National Planning Framework 4.

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 / Land Reform Act (2016)

Helps to empower community bodies through the ownership or control of land and buildings and by strengthening their voices in decision making around public services.

There is a policy move to shift control of assets from the public and private sector to the people. The Lesmahagow Development Trust already has a track record in asset transfer with the Fountain and has an appetite to consider more as part of this place based strategy.

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/>

Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy, 2016-2026

The vision is that

"Over the next decade social enterprise will be at the forefront of a new wave of ethical and socially responsible business in Scotland. It will become a far reaching and valued alternative and a key part of the Scottish way of doing business."

A third action was launched in September 2024.

We will not suggest anything in the Local Place Plan that is not sustainable and ideally will hope that the community has some level of benefit from that enterprise activity.

A Wellbeing Economy

Wellbeing Economy Governments (WEGo) and First Minister speech at Panmure House 2019. This sets out that an economy should be driven by the wellbeing of people and communities rather than only GDP. This has developed with the establishment of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance (<https://weall.org/scotland>).

The proposal for Lesmahagow will achieve both financial outcomes but also social and wellbeing ones through the community, learning and the development of workshops.

Community Wealth Building

CWB is a model whereby locally based anchor institutions (such as local authorities, NHS, etc.) focus spend locally to encourage the development of local economies and to limit procurement spend leaking out of the area.

The Scottish Government has bought into this concept and it is rolling out across local authorities. There are 5 key principles:

1. Plural ownership of the economy.
2. Making financial power work for local places.
3. Fair employment and just labour markets.
4. Progressive procurement of goods and services.
5. Socially productive use of land and property.

This is becoming a central policy reference point and the focus on using these five principles to build the local economy of Lesmahagow will be a major focus, harnessing the buying power of South Lanarkshire Council and other anchor institutions, as well as creating local community supply chains to boost the local economy.

Climate Emergency and Net Zero

Recognition of the climate emergency and a need for "transformative change." With an increasing focus on this as a cross cutting theme in Government is resulting in new policy areas and funding streams from Government and other bodies such as the Lottery distributors.

There are policies at national level, Council level and for the third sector.

This is a fundamental reference point for the place plan with a theme dedicated to a move to town wide Net Zero.

Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation

This maps out how Scotland will recover from covid in a way that is more than just getting into growth again.

"The ambition of this strategy is not just to grow our economy but, in doing so, to transform our country's economic model so that we build an economy that celebrates success in terms of economic growth, environmental sustainability, quality of life and equality of opportunity and reward."

Key objectives are to:

1. establish Scotland as a world-class entrepreneurial nation founded on a culture that encourages, promotes and celebrates entrepreneurial activity in every sector of our economy;
2. strengthen Scotland's position in new markets and industries, generating new, well-paid jobs from a just transition to net zero;
3. make Scotland's businesses, industries, regions, communities and public services more productive and innovative;
4. ensure that people have the skills they need at every stage of life to have rewarding careers and meet the demands of an everchanging economy and society, and that employers invest in the skilled employees they need to grow their businesses;
5. reorient our economy towards wellbeing and fair work, to deliver higher rates of employment and wage growth, to significantly reduce structural poverty, particularly child poverty, and improve health, cultural and social outcomes for disadvantaged families and communities.

This policy sets out a commitment to a new economy that the Place Plan will contribute to at a local level.

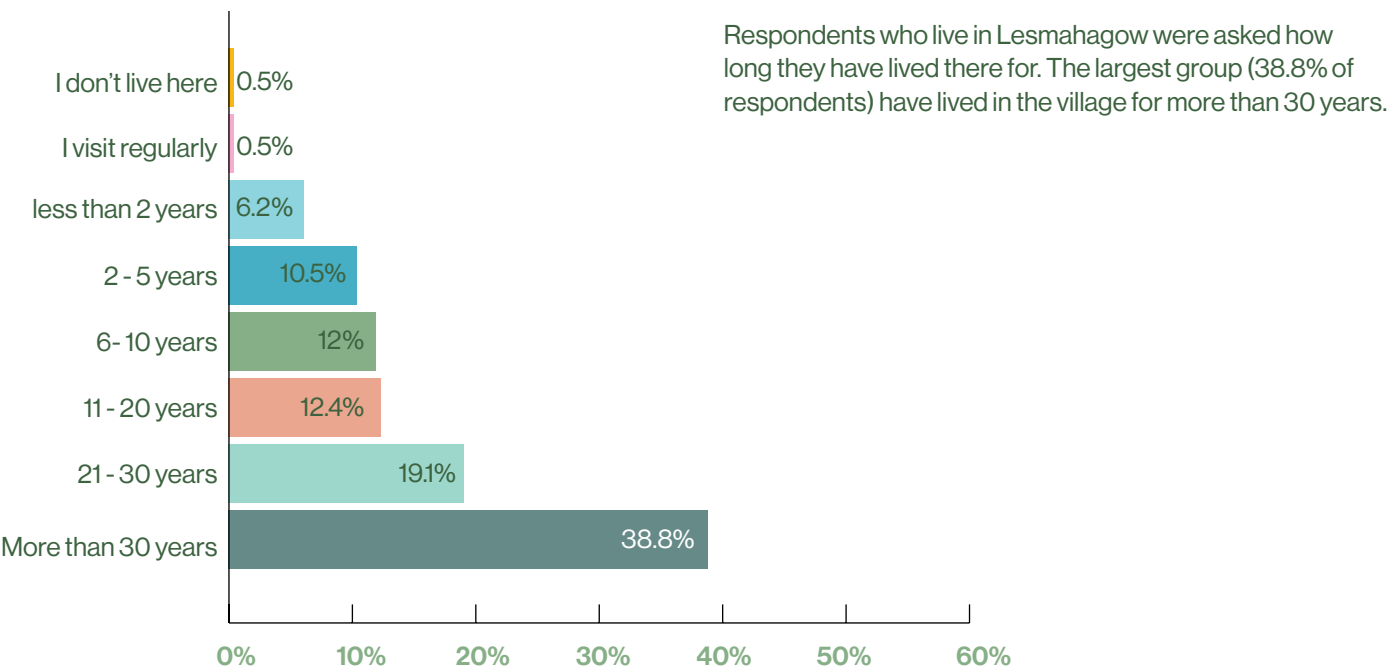
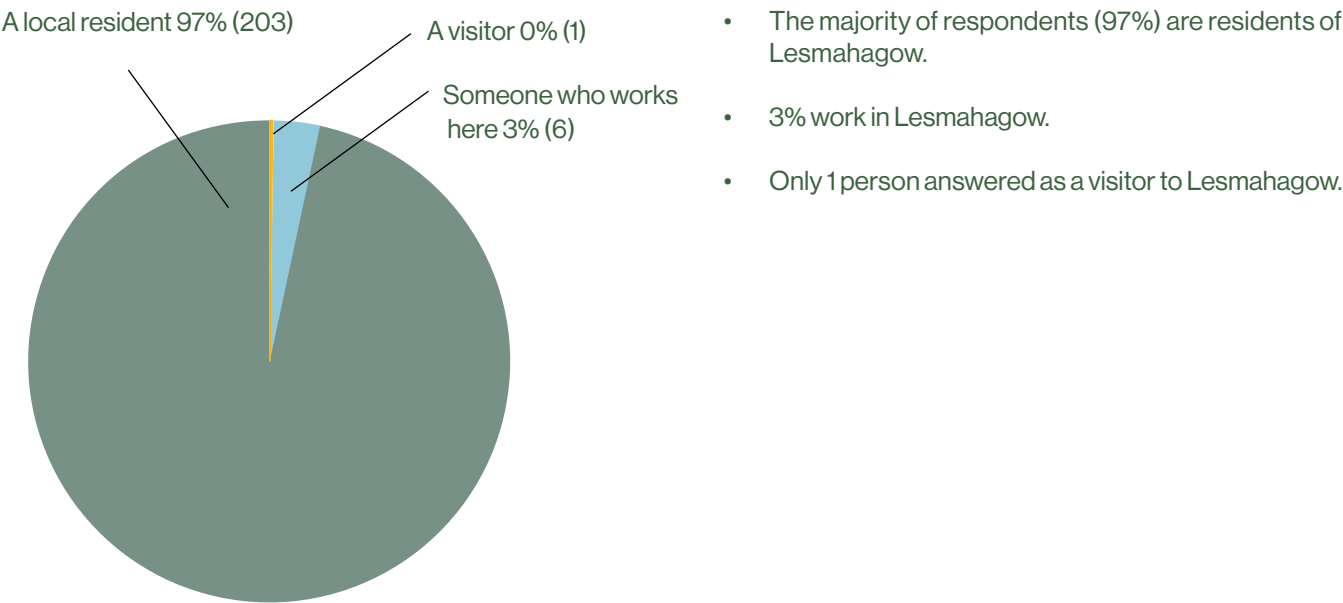
Appendix 2 : Community Survey

Introduction

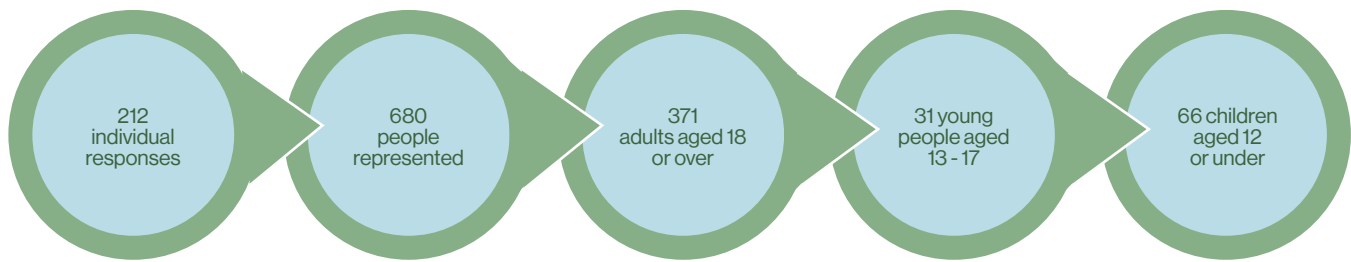
A survey was carried out during September-November and made available via an online form with paper copies available on request. 212 responses were recorded.

Respondent characteristics

Respondents were asked about their connection to Lesmahagow (whether they live, work or visit there).

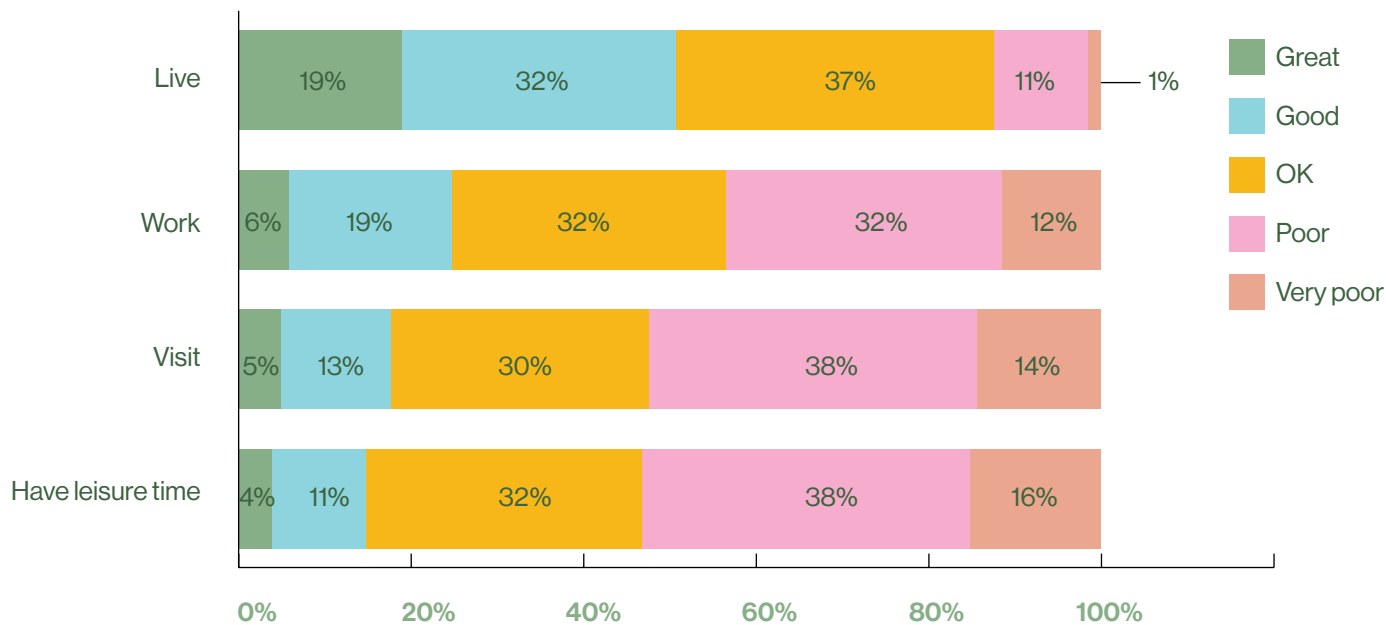


The survey could also be answered on behalf of a household. The graphic below shows the number of people's views represented in the survey. Most respondents were over the age of 18 and only 14% of respondents were 17 years old or below.



Community views of Lesmahagow

Respondents were asked to rate the community as a place to live, work, play or visit.



51% of respondents were positive about Lesmahagow as a place to live. 19% rated it as a great place to live and 32% rated it as good. Some examples of what people said are:

"It's a lovely, friendly village to live..."

"Great place to live as all of our family are in the village."

"The countryside makes Lesmahagow a wonderful place to live, plenty of nice walks around the village"

However, Lesmahagow was rated poorly as a place to visit and for leisure.



Lesmahagow Local Place Plan

For Lesmahagow as a place for leisure, 38% gave an overall rating of poor and 16% of very poor. Some of the reasons for this are:

"There is little to do. Lovely walks but not much else."

"Used to be a great village with a soul. It's little more than a dormitory settlement now with a Tesco. I moved away for that very reason."

"Limited leisure facilities since the sports centre closed."

As a place to visit, 38% gave an overall rating of poor and 14% of very poor. Some of the reasons for this are:

"Nowhere to take visitors for a nice meal or a quiet drink."

"The village is lacking any kind of visitor attraction (even the excavated priory is dilapidated)."

"I'm embarrassed for those visiting because of the present state of the village."

Positive aspects and assets in the community

Respondents were asked to think about what is positive about Lesmahagow as it is today and were asked to select their two favourite things about their place. The responses have been grouped into main themes below, alongside a selection of comments for each theme.

Thematic Area	% of respondents mentioned	Comments
Strong community and friendly people	61% (mentioned 90 times)	<i>"Community feel"</i> <i>"Friendliness of locals"</i> <i>"Social activities for elderly"</i> <i>"People are generally very friendly and there is a strong sense of community."</i> <i>"Community spirit to tackle local issues and take care of one another"</i>
Rural area with access to countryside	32% (mentioned 48 times)	<i>"Countryside on your doorstep"</i> <i>"Proximity to parkland and meadows"</i> <i>"Countryside very accessible"</i> <i>"Rural enough but still with access to amenities"</i> <i>"I love being so close to the countryside but still having basic amenities such as doctor, dentist, shop etc"</i>
Parks and greenspace	20% (mentioned 30 times)	<i>"I love the local park which is spacious and well kept. It would be great if it could be developed further, especially near the river"</i> <i>"The community garden and planted areas outside Canderavon"</i> <i>"Greenspaces, walks and parks"</i>
Quiet and peaceful	18% (mentioned 27 times)	<i>"Quiet area close to towns"</i> <i>"Not as busy as other towns or the city"</i> <i>"It has a rural feel to it and isn't too crowded"</i> <i>"Village feel"</i> <i>"Peaceful"</i>
Connection to motorway	15% (mentioned 22 times)	<i>"Travel network is close"</i> <i>"Handy for M74"</i> <i>"It has good commuter links"</i>
Walks	10% (mentioned 15 times)	<i>"There are some nice quiet walks"</i> <i>"Countryside walks"</i>



Challenges

Respondents were asked to think about the challenges faced by the community and were asked to select two main challenges. The responses have been grouped into main themes below, alongside a selection of comments for each theme.

Thematic Area	% of respondents mentioned	Comments
Village upkeep and maintenance	20% (mentioned 29 times)	<i>"Better maintenance of buildings of buildings in the centre of the village"</i> <i>"General upkeep of streets and park"</i> <i>"General appearance of village and properties"</i> <i>"Less litter"</i>
Retail and supermarkets	15% (mentioned 22 times)	<i>"Increase in shops, particularly a decent supermarket"</i> <i>"More local independent shops, bakers, fruit and veg etc"</i> <i>"More variety of shops on Main street, greengrocers etc"</i> <i>"More facilities, especially shops. Making better use of run down areas in the village centre."</i>
Transport	14% (mentioned 20 times)	<i>"Transport links to Glasgow are better but poor elsewhere"</i> <i>"Public transport, especially on a Sunday"</i> <i>"Not enough public transport, so have to use our own cars"</i>
Parks and play areas	13% (mentioned 19 times)	<i>"Play and recreation at the top of Lesmahagow "</i> <i>"Play areas for kids, public park is too far away and too steep"</i> <i>"New park near LifeStyles"</i> <i>"More accessible play facilities for children"</i>
Community and leisure facilities	13% (mentioned 19 times)	<i>"Lifestyles being more affordable for local groups"</i> <i>"Exercise class provision in community centre"</i> <i>"Public toilets"</i>
Facilities and activities for young people	11% (mentioned 16 times)	<i>"An outdoor area suitable for teens to 'hang out' like a skate park"</i> <i>"Lifestyles used more for children's activities"</i> <i>"More social spaces for teenagers"</i> <i>"Would love a skatepark for the kids and toilets in park"</i>
Paths and walkways	10% (mentioned 15 times)	<i>"More local walking footpaths i.e. to Strathaven"</i> <i>"More walking paths/nature trails cycle paths"</i> <i>"More walking paths particularly to Strathaven"</i> <i>"The old railway line cleared and become a safe walking and cycling route"</i>



Projects

To start to identify potential project ideas, we asked respondents to suggest up to 3 project ideas they would like to see happen over the next 10 years.

Project ideas were grouped into thematic areas:

- Leisure and recreation
- Town centre regeneration
- Infrastructure
- Local economy and employment
- Other

Leisure and recreation		
Thematic Area	Number of mentions	Comments
Community activities and facilities	Mentioned 65 times	<i>"A variety of clubs that people could attend"</i> <i>"Community gardens/allotments"</i> <i>"Universal connections for youths"</i> <i>"Ensure we don't lose our last public hall – The Fountain"</i> <i>"Youth projects"</i> <i>"A support project for older people"</i> <i>"Community events" E.g. village fayre or seasonal events like the best decorated house at Halloween"</i>
Upgrade/more sports facilities	Mentioned 37 times	<i>"Reopen gym facilities"</i> <i>"Outdoor sports improvement"</i> <i>"Sports centre"</i> <i>"Skatepark"</i> <i>"Another multi-use sports area maybe on waste ground beside woodpark school"</i> <i>"3G/4G football pitches"</i>
Upgrade/more parks, play areas and greenspaces	Mentioned 25 times	<i>"Craighead park modernisation"</i> <i>"Kelso Park is in dire need of a revamp"</i> <i>"Greenspace maintenance"</i> <i>"Picnic facilities on the other side of the Nethan in Glebe park"</i>
More shops	Mentioned 24 times	<i>"More shops on Main Street – butcher, florist..."</i> <i>"More retail"</i> <i>"A community thrift shop in one of the empty shops"</i> <i>"Bigger supermarket"</i>
Path improvements and maintenance (walking and cycling)	Mentioned 22 times	<i>"Waymarked walking routes"</i> <i>"Cycle path extended to Coalburn and Douglas"</i> <i>"Publish a map of local, safe walking areas (invest in rural walkways)"</i> <i>"Fixing of bridge at smiddy brae"</i>
More dining options	Mentioned 13 times	<i>"Family restaurant, opening evenings"</i> <i>"Bring more than one pub and a parttime bowling club into the village to encourage people to go out in the village"</i> <i>"Another café"</i>
Paths and walkways	10% (mentioned 15 times)	<i>"More local walking footpaths i.e. to Strathaven"</i> <i>"More walking paths/nature trails cycle paths"</i> <i>"More walking paths particularly to Strathaven"</i> <i>"The old railway line cleared and become a safe walking and cycling route"</i>

Town centre regeneration		
Thematic Area	Number of mentions	Comments
Improving the Main Street and town centre	Mentioned 33 times	<i>"Revitalising the main thoroughfare of Abbeygreen"</i> <i>"Improve the look of the place"</i> <i>"Fill empty shops"</i> <i>"Reopen Rookwood to improve appearance that end of the street and provide a small area to sit and enjoy"</i> <i>"Funding for local businesses to improve their shop fronts"</i>
Restoring/upgrading buildings	Mentioned 18 times	<i>"Restoration of Old Parish Church"</i> <i>"Former Bank of Scotland being used for something"</i> <i>"The Old How Club could be purchased and turned into a sports facility"</i> <i>"Old buildings not to be left neglected"</i>

Infrastructure		
Thematic Area	Number of mentions	Comments
Improving public transport	Mentioned 30 times	<i>"Increase bus services"</i> <i>"Some form of rail infrastructure would benefit the town"</i> <i>"Train station/improved public transport to and from Glasgow"</i>
More public services	Mentioned 6 times	<i>"Better cash point facilities"</i> <i>"Return of manned Police Office"</i> <i>"Better local healthcare"</i>
Housing	Mentioned 6 times	<i>"Better housing for young people"</i> <i>"Affordable housing for families"</i> <i>"More homes built"</i>
Road improvements	Mentioned 6 times	<i>"Road repairs on New Trows Road"</i> <i>"Better road layout at motorway cut off! Traffic lights and signalling similar to Larkhall has just had would be great."</i> <i>"Pedestrian area"</i>
Parking	Mentioned 3 times	<i>"Local shop parking"</i> <i>"Better parking in main street"</i>

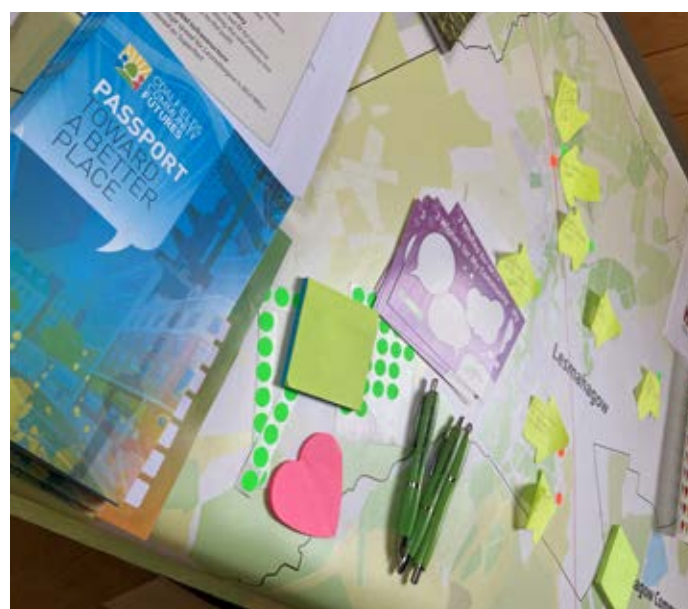
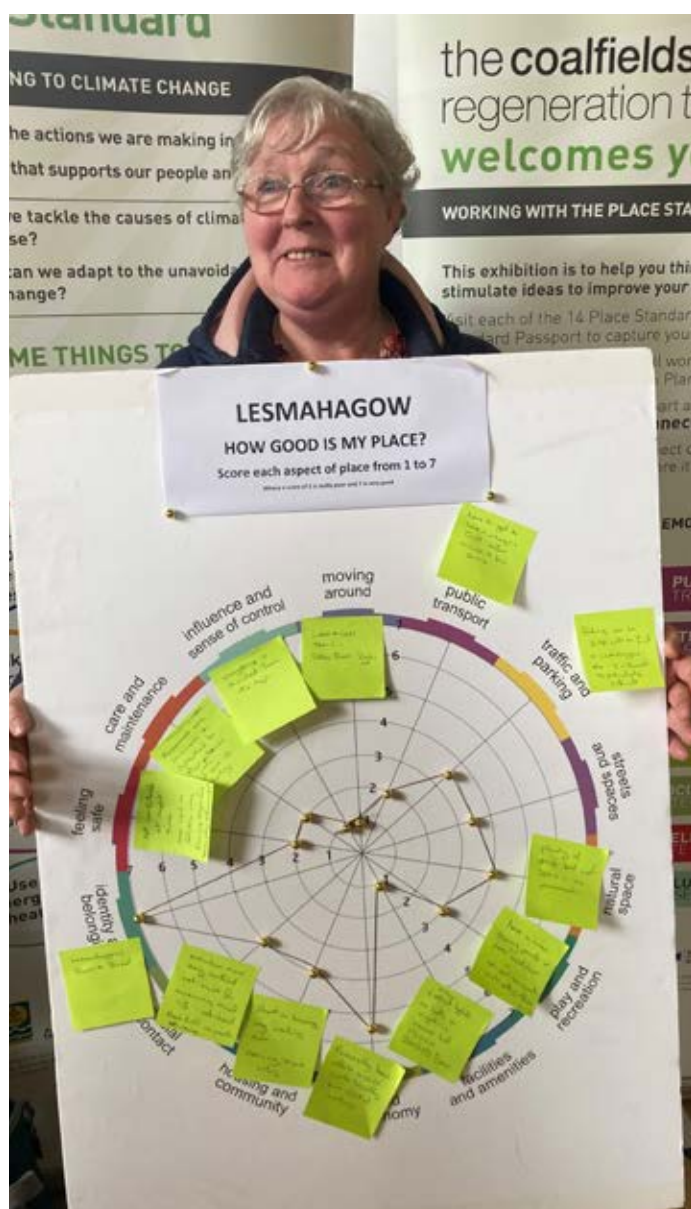
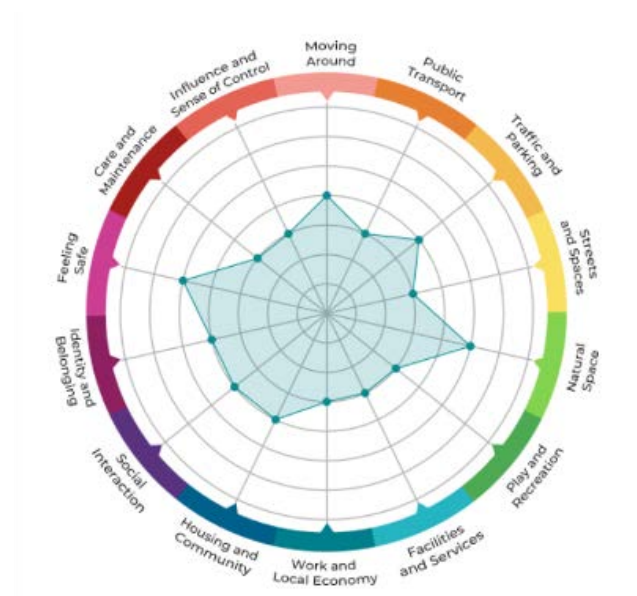
Local economy and employment		
Thematic Area	Number of mentions	Comments
Boosting the local economy	Mentioned 19 times	<i>"Revitalise local economy with increased commercial spaces"</i> <i>"Unused shops being open for social enterprises, start up or local SMEs"</i> <i>"Maybe a regular market for local produce"</i> <i>"Initiatives to help local business"</i> <i>"More local crafts"</i>
More jobs	Mentioned 3 times	<i>"Investment in work opportunities"</i> <i>"Green jobs"</i>

Other

- **Heritage** – 5 mentions
- **Community development** – 3 mentions
- **Safety/policing** – 3 mentions
- **Tourism** – 2 mentions
- **Education** – 1 mention
- **Broadband** – 1 mention

Place Standard Assessment

Respondents were asked to rate Lesmahagow from 1 to 7 (1 being very poor and 7 being excellent) on the seven Place Standard indicators. As shown in the results below, **feeling space** and **natural space and environment** were rated the highest with an average score of 5 out of 7. This was followed by **moving around, a sense of belonging, traffic and parking**, and **social interaction** which were all rated a 4 out of 7. The lowest scoring categories were **facilities and amenities** and **work and the local economy** which were rated as poor with an average score of 3 out of 7.



Respondents were asked to think about how they would like to describe their community in ten years' time. The word cloud below shows the most common words used by respondents.



- Thriving
- Vibrant
- Welcoming
- Friendly
- Safe
- Main Street

“Welcoming when you enter the village and a sense of place for children, aged to reside with pride.”

“A village to be proud of and for people to visit, as an example of a small Scottish village.”

“A thriving community, with opportunities to work locally, live locally, and welcome visitors with pride.”

“A thriving village with a lively Main Street at its heart.”

“Safe, social, easy commuting, good spirit.”

"A friendly community, with plenty of activities for all, unspoiled countryside to enjoy and for wildlife to thrive."

“Quaint, with a strong community. Vibrant, clean and tidy and pretty.”

“A friendly, welcoming village with excellent amenities and better public transport.”

Appendix 3 : Asset Map

Map of area

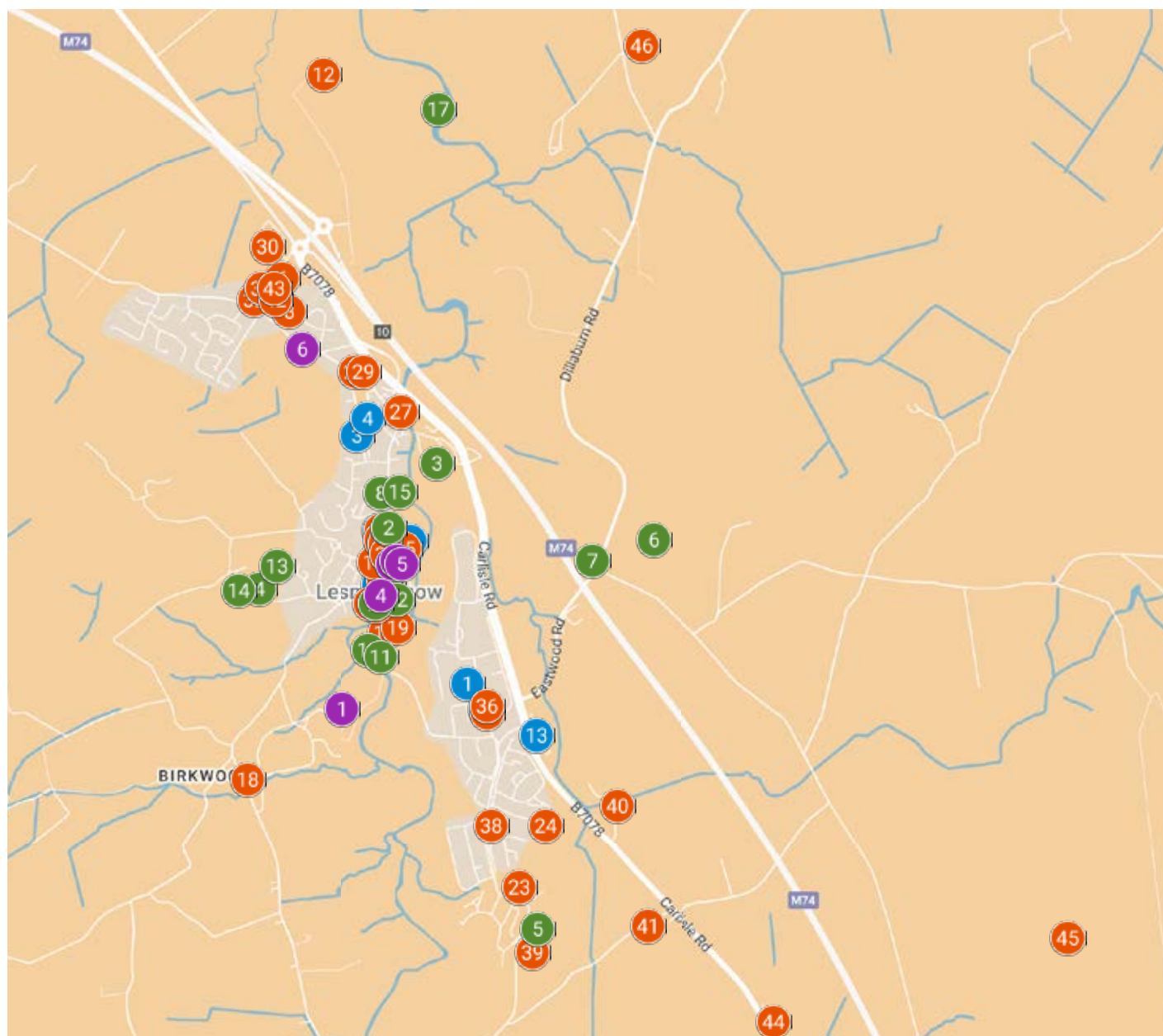
The Lesmahagow area offers a range of assets, services, and amenities. This section is a snap-shot of some of the key assets across the area. The maps highlight a selection of the things in the area which can be preserved and built on over the period of this Local Place Plan.

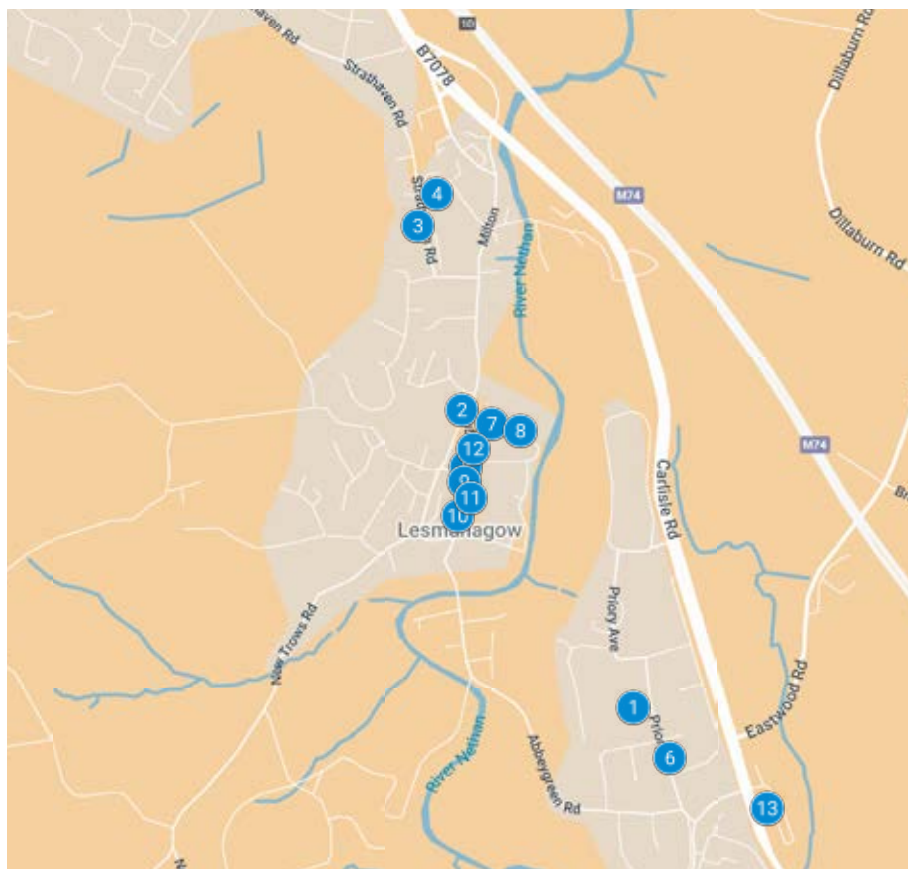
Assets identified are within the Lesmahagow Community Council boundaries.

The following categories of asset are shown:

- **Services and Facilities** [Blue]
- **Community, Recreation and Leisure** [Green]
- **Local Business/ Private Sector** [Orange]
- **Heritage and Culture** [Purple]

These categories are not rigidly defined and where some institutions might fall under more than one category, we have only listed it in one.





1. Woodpark Primary School

- a. South Lanarkshire primary school (P1–P7) and nursery. Open hours are 9am – 3pm. Current enrolment is 182.

2. R Coventry Dental Practice

- a. Present in village for 30 years. Currently taking new private and NHS patients. Generally open 9am to 5pm, sometimes later. Open one Saturday a month.

3. Milton Primary School

- a. South Lanarkshire primary school (P1–P7). Open hours are 9am – 3pm. Current enrolment is 169.

4. Methodist Home for the Aged

5. Lesmahagow High School

- a. Takes in both Milton and Woodpark primary schools, as well as other primary schools in the region.
- b. Current enrolment is 580. Has additional support needs provision
- c. Open 8:40 – 3:35 M – Th, closes 12:30 on Friday

6. Lesmahagow Resource Centre²

- a. The Lesmahagow and District Resource Centre had a presence, at 40 Abbeygreen on Lesmahagow's Main Street, for over 30 years, and prior to that at 4 New Trows Road. Over that period, the Centre provided assistance, advice, information and training for tens of thousands of callers, residents and visitors alike. The Centre also provided a meeting space for use by local clubs, and housed the Lesmahagow Parish historical archives. Due to cuts in its core funding and the shift towards a more online provision of services, the Centre was no longer viable. It closed in June 2024.

7. Lesmahagow Post Office

- a. Open 9am – 5pm, M – F; shut from 12 – 1pm. Open 9am – 12:30pm on Saturday
- b. Offers postal service as well as personal and business banking services, can pay bills, can pay vehicle tax, can buy Euros.

8. Glebe Medical Centre

- a. Opening hours 8am – 6pm, M – F.
 - i. As well as providing general medical services the practice also provides: Maternity Services, Cervical Smears, Child Health Surveillance, Care and Support Planning, Non-NHS Services

² <https://lpha.org.uk/2024/07/29/lesmahagow-resource-centre-site-in-photographs/>



9. Lesmahagow Day Centre

- a. South Lanarkshire Council run daycare centre within the shelter housing complex which provides a number of organised activities in a group setting, providing a range of social, personal, therapeutic and recreational activities. It has places for up to 12 older people.
- b. Open 9am – 5pm, M - F

10. Lesmahagow Library

- a. South Lanarkshire Council Leisure and Culture run library. It provides a selection of adult fiction and non-fiction books, photocopier and children's library. The library has free wi-fi and a small active IT learning centre with two Chromebooks for public use. The library has disabled access and some IT adaptations.
- b. Opening Hours: Monday/Thursday/Saturday/ Sunday – Closed; Tuesday 9:15 – 12:30 and 1:30 – 5pm; Wednesday 9:25am – 12:30pm; Friday 9:15 – 12:30pm and 1:30 – 5pm.

11. Bankhouse Care Home

- a. Privately run care home, run by Auchlochan Garden Village. Provides nursing and respite care.

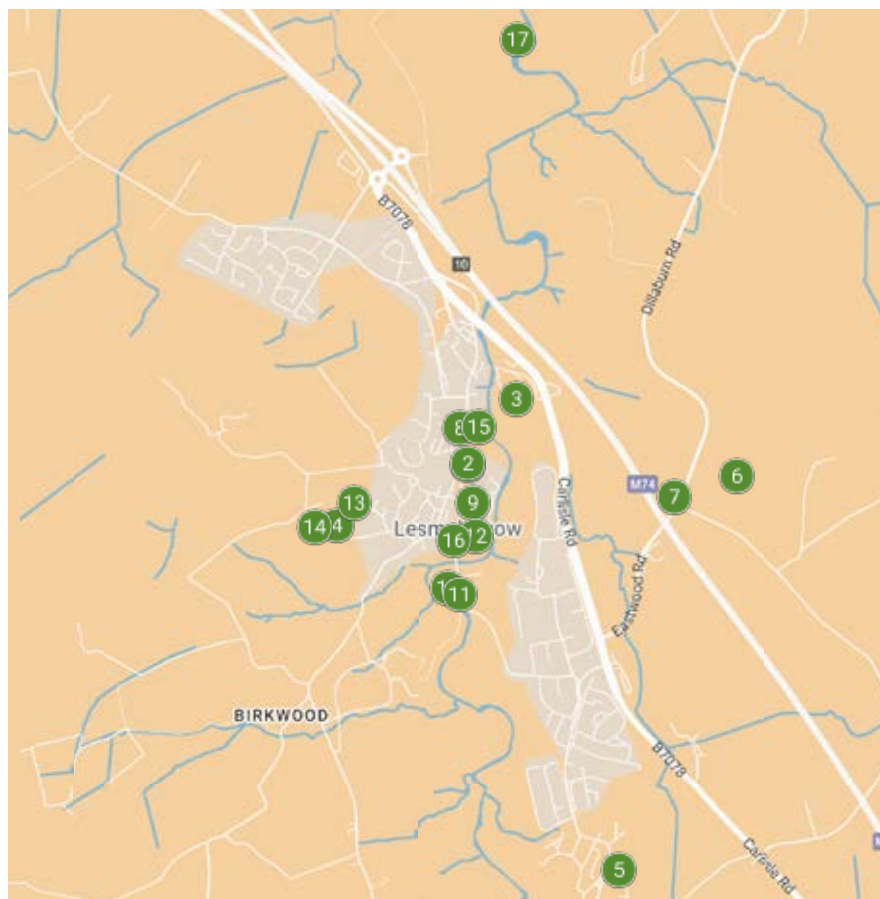
12. Abbeygreen Pharmacy

- a. Services Offered: Emergency Contraception, Pharmacy First, Supervised Methadone Supply, Treatment For Impetigo, Treatment for Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)
- a. Open hours: 8am – 6pm, M – F; 9am – 5pm Saturday

13. Boots Pharmacy

- a. Services Offered: (Non-NHS) Seasonal flu vaccination service (not at risk groups), Boots Macmillan Information Pharmacist, Emergency Contraception, In Store Malaria Prevention Service, NHS Prescription Ordering, NHS Urgent palliative care medicines service, Prescription delivery service, Prescriptions Direct, Stop Smoking, Winter Flu Jab Service
- a. Open Hours: 9am – 6pm, M – F; 9am to 1pm Saturday

14. South Lanarkshire Council Road Depot



1. The Fountain

- a. Managed by Lesmahagow Development Trust.
- b. Venue for hire with a main hall, lesser hall, office/therapy room and soft play room. There is also a bar and catering services available for hire.

2. Lesmahagow Development Trust - independent, not-for-profit charitable company with the objective of funding and implementing projects to enhance the facilities and environment of Lesmahagow. Main funding comes from our investment in a commercial renewable energy project.

- a. Current membership sits on 130 people.

3. Craighead Park & Lesmahagow Juniors - football club playing in Division 2 of the West of Scotland Football League.

- a. Craighead Park is SLC Leisure and Culture run grass pitch venue.

4. ISKCON Scotland Temple & Krishna Eco Farm - ISKCON Scotland is the Scottish branch of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) also known as the Hare Krishna Movement. It has its roots in India from a very respected ancient spiritual Vaishnava tradition also known as Bhakti Yoga.

- a. Connected to ISKCON is the Eco Farm, Food For All charity, and the Cow Care Scotland charity.

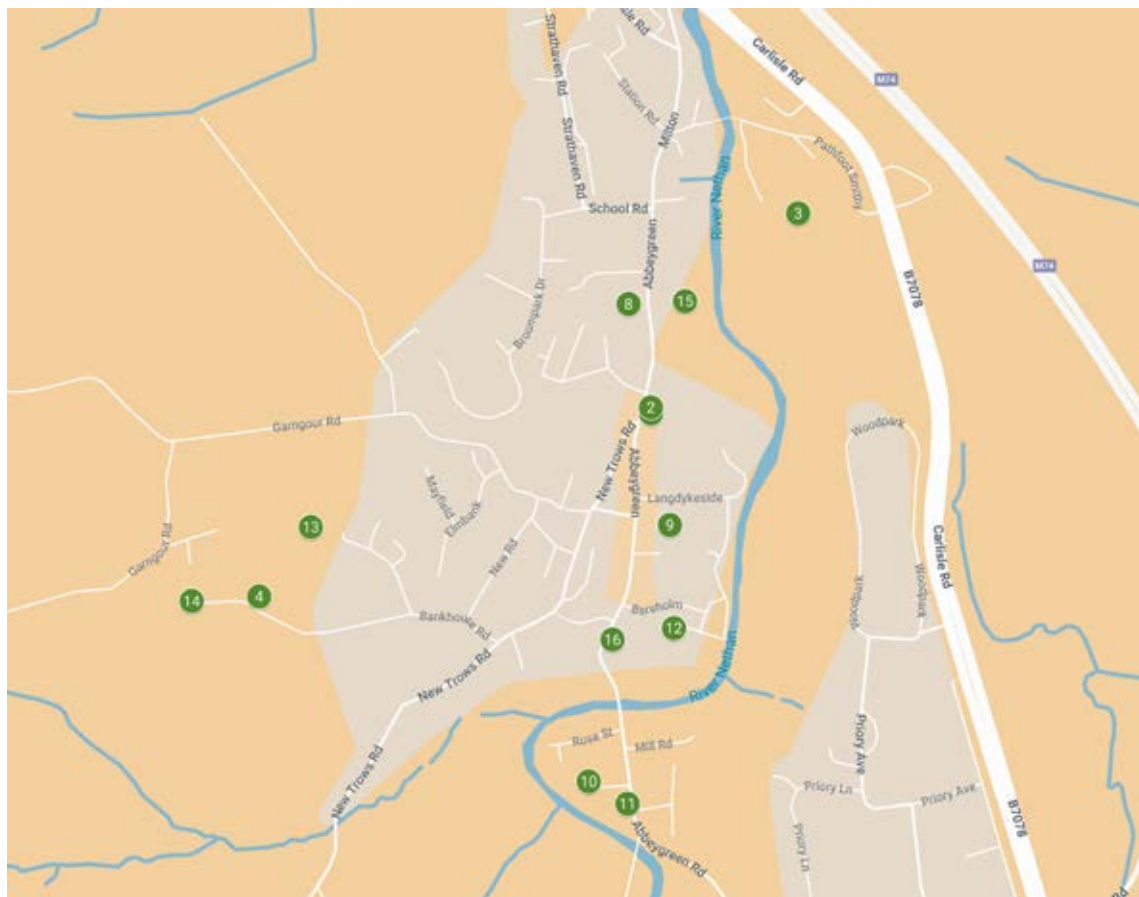
5. Lunar Gymnastics Club - provides both recreational and competitive Gymnastics across multiple disciplines from lower through to national levels.

6. Lesmahagow Allotments

- a. Community Allotment Project set up by Lesmahagow Development Trust on land leased from the Forestry Commission. Primary focus is for residents of Lesmahagow.

7. Brocketsbrae Hall - South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture facility, consists of a main hall, two small committee rooms, kitchen and toilet facilities.

8. Abbeygreen Church [Free Church Of Scotland] - a Reformed, Evangelical congregation of the Free Church of Scotland.



9. Candle Church, Coalburn and Lesmahagow Parish Church - Church of Scotland. Has a location in Coalburn as well.

10. Lesmahagow Bowling Club - hold social functions in winter and available for hire for birthday parties, christenings, weddings, family gatherings, bingo, etc.

11. Abbeygreen District Hall - Abbeygreen District Hall (Rainbow, Brownie, Guide hall). Available for hire, ideal for kids parties, activity groups, meetings, and community activities. Decent size main hall, fully equipped kitchen, secured garden area to the rear and private parking. Run by volunteers and all profit going to assist the ongoing running costs of the hall. This is not a council run property.

12. McKirdy Park Football Pavilion - South Lanarkshire Council Leisure and Culture run synthetic football pitch. Space for 7-a-side football and 5-a-side football.

- a. Location of many Lesmahagow Community FC training sessions.

13. Memorial Bench (The Grassy Road)

14. Public Footpath

15. The Glebe - SLC Leisure and Culture run venue. 11-a-side grass football pitch.

16. Hope Hall

17. Billy's Bog – Walking path

Appendix 4: Lesmahagow Community Action Plan

- **Short** – achievable within 1–2 years
- **Medium** – 2–5 years, requiring planning or funding
- **Long** – 5+ years, complex or large-scale

1. Caring, Connected, Sustainable Communities			
Category	Short (1-2 years)	Medium (3-5 years)	Long (5+ years)
Forestry and Woodlands	Add woodlands to protected green spaces	Community-led biodiversity initiatives	Develop green corridors and nature trails
Historic Assets	Install tourist information at Priory site	Restore Smiddy Brae Bridge	Develop the Walled Garden
Play, Recreation and Sport	Improve play parks	Permanent campsite near allotments	Build sports and leisure centre
Digital Infrastructure	Improve broadband speed	—	—

2. People Live the Healthiest Lives Possible			
Category	Short (1-2 years)	Medium (3-5 years)	Long (5+ years)
Health and Safety	Clear and maintain overgrown paths	Improve single carriageway	Develop active travel infrastructure
Infrastructure First	Audit sewage capacity	Plan sewage works upgrade	Expand infrastructure to support growth
Recreation and Wellbeing	Promote green gym concept	Improve access to outdoor learning spaces	Develop integrated health and wellbeing hub

3. Thriving Businesses and Fair Jobs			
Category	Short (1-2 years)	Medium (3-5 years)	Long (5+ years)
Community Wealth Building	Community asset transfer of key buildings and land	Regenerate Abbeygreen High Street	Town centre living initiative
Local Economy	Promote local marketplace	Support artisan shops & social enterprises	Develop economic hubs with anchor institutions
Tourism	Install interpretive panels	Improve active travel for visitors	Adventure hub & Douglas Valley Masterplan

4. Good Quality, Sustainable Housing for Everyone			
Category	Short (1-2 years)	Medium (3-5 years)	Long (5+ years)
Quality Homes	Promote social housing in new builds	Encourage renewable energy and water harvesting	Develop town-wide net zero housing strategy
Public Realm	Improve village maintenance	Restore key buildings	Masterplan for integrated housing and services

5. Putting Local Areas First

Category	Short (1-2 years)	Medium (3-5 years)	Long (5+ years)
Forests and woodlands	Improve knowledge of the landscape	Create biodiversity projects	Develop a Lesmahagow Eco-system plan
Youth involvement	Clear access to woodlands	Signage for outdoor learning zones	Gated outdoor learning area near schools

6. Putting Learning at the Centre

Category	Short (1-2 years)	Medium (3-5 years)	Long (5+ years)
Vocational training and entrepreneurship support	Promote local volunteering and awareness of training opportunities	Develop partnerships with anchor institutions for vocational programmes	Establish a community learning hub with lifelong learning and enterprise support
Safe access to outdoor learning	Clear access routes to woodlands used by schools	Install signage and basic infrastructure for outdoor learning	Create a gated outdoor learning area with interpretation boards and facilities
Heritage education	Install tourist information at historic sites (e.g. Priory)	Develop school-led archaeology and heritage projects	Establish a cultural centre using heritage assets for education and community use
Community engagement in learning	Encourage intergenerational learning activities	Support youth-led climate and sustainability projects	Develop a local learning strategy in partnership with schools and community groups

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Lesmahagow
community council