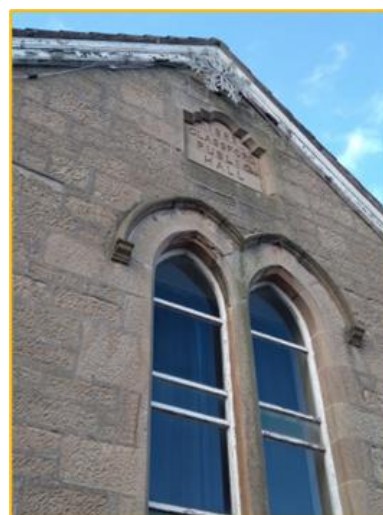




Strathaven and Glassford Plan Engagement and Research Report

Final Version: 4 September 2024



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1. Introduction

1.1 About the Strathaven and Glassford Plan

Strathaven and Glassford are vibrant communities, with lots of community organisations and events, and a strong sense of civic pride.

The development of a Plan for Strathaven and Glassford is intended to set out the long-term vision that the community wants to achieve over the next five years and beyond.

The process is led by the Strathaven and Glassford Community Council, but the Plan is by and for the wider community.

The Plan has been developed by consulting with local residents, voluntary groups, young people and businesses about what will make a direct difference to them, their families, and their neighbours. The issues, ideas and aspirations generated through the process so far have been compiled into a high level Plan identifying themes and priority actions.

This overarching vision will then inform two separate plans:

- **A Community Action Plan¹**; this is:
 - an aspirational statement about what people want the community to be like in an achievable future
 - sets out a vision for a community, with an accompanying set of actions to be delivered over time
 - provides details about what will be done, who will do it, how it will be resourced and how it will be undertaken
- The CAP will also help to inform the strategic spend of windfarm funding from the Kypemuir Community Fund².
- Because of the high level of existing community activities, it is likely that the CAP will focus on consolidating and sustaining projects and plans that are already underway.
- **A Local Place Plan³**; this is:
 - a part of the planning system, specific to development or use of land
- The LPP will be formally submitted to South Lanarkshire Council to validate and register, meaning it will feed into South Lanarkshire Council's Local Development Plan process⁴.

¹ [Community-Action-Planning-a-process-CE-0920.pdf \(dtascommunityownership.org.uk\)](https://dtascommunityownership.org.uk/Community-Action-Planning-a-process-CE-0920.pdf)

² [Kype Muir Community Fund – Strathaven and Glassford Community Council](#)

³ [Local Place Plans - South Lanarkshire Council](#) See also [Local Place Plans | Our Place](#), and the Scottish Government guidance: [Planning circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

⁴ [Local Development Plan 3 \(LDP3\) - South Lanarkshire Council](#)



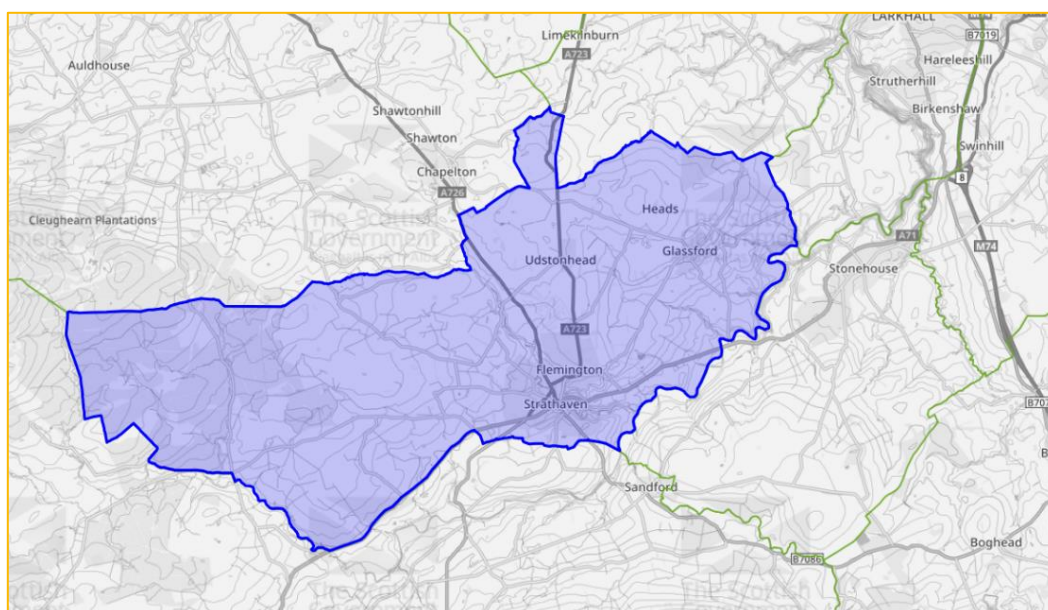
1.2 About Strathaven and Glassford

Strathaven is a historic market town in South Lanarkshire, and is the largest settlement in Avondale. It is on the A71 trunk road between Edinburgh and Kilmarnock. Glassford is a village north east of Strathaven.



Strathaven and Glassford are part of the Avondale and Stonehouse ward of the South Lanarkshire council area.

The area used for the purposes of this report and research is the Strathaven and Glassford Community Council area:



Glassford is geographically distinct from Strathaven, with its own assets, needs, and community initiatives. The majority of this report is about the whole area; however, where there are ideas and suggestions for either Strathaven or Glassford specifically, these have been articulated separately.

Strathaven and Glassford Community Council⁵ covers the area shown on the map above. It is the lead organisation and client for this piece of work, and is an eligible community body to submit a Local Place Plan to South Lanarkshire Council.

⁵ [Strathaven and Glassford Community Council – This is the where you will find all the latest news from Strathaven and Glassford Community Council](#)



1.3 About Local Place Plans

Local Place Plans were introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, which contains a new right for communities to produce their own plans as part of the new Scottish planning system. Local Place Plans contain the community's proposals for the development and use of land, and provide a new opportunity for communities to feed into the planning system with ideas and proposals.

However, Local Place Plans are more than just a plan: they can help communities understand what they want their community to be like in the future, and help to develop a positive community identity. They can help develop local connections and collaborations, and develop community capacity and improve social capital. They can support community aspirations on the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities. They are an opportunity for real, community-based change.

Local Place Plans include a spatial vision – a plan – for the community that sets out where changes should happen, including plotting those changes on a map. They can also contain an action plan laying out how changes could be delivered.

Once a LPP has been registered by the planning authority, that authority has a legal responsibility to take them into account in the preparation of their Local Development Plan.

South Lanarkshire Council has provided guidance on LPPs⁶. The Council is currently preparing a new LDP (SLLDP3). This new plan will replace the current plan (SLLDP2) which was adopted in 2021. It will set out planning policies and proposals for development and use of land across South Lanarkshire for the next 10 years. The Council aims to adopt this plan in 2027.

A full policy analysis of how the Strathaven and Glassford Plan fits in to local, regional and national policy is included at Appendix 1.

For further details, see:

- [Local Place Plans - South Lanarkshire Council](#)
- [Local Place Plans | Our Place](#)
- Scottish Government guidance: [Planning circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- Planning Aid Scotland resources: [Resources - Planning Aid Scotland \(pas.org.uk\)](#)

1.4 Methodology

Ensuring that as many people as possible contribute is a critical part of any Community Action or Local Place Plan.

Community Enterprise carried out participative research from May to July 2024, to ensure that there was a range of opportunities for people to share their views. The programme included time spent getting to know the area, encouraging engagement, and building a presence in the community.

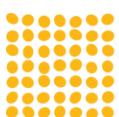
The aim of the research was to build up both a quantitative and qualitative picture of what local people think.

An outline of the methodology is as follows:

⁶ [Local Place Plans - South Lanarkshire Council](#)



- **Demographics and statistics:** A variety of different data sets have been analysed.
- **Asset mapping exercise:** The production of a map of the main assets across the area to understand the current level of provision. This is not an exhaustive list of every possible community space and activity, but an analysis of the most important ones.
- **Community survey:** This was undertaken to gather a broad range of community views about what people like and dislike about the area, and what people would like to see happen in the future.
 - A campaign was launched in May 2024, with a press release, through the Community Council website, and local group Facebook pages. Regular reminders were posted about the survey between May and July 2024.
 - Posters were distributed throughout the area at key locations including public noticeboards, shops and cafés.
 - Paper copy surveys were similarly made available across the area.
 - 201 people responded to the survey, representing the views of 444 people in total.
- **Community Consultation:** A range of consultation methods was used to engage the wider community in face to face conversations. This included:
 - Informal discussions with Community Council members, a local knitting group, and shopkeepers in the Common Green
 - Focus groups with Brownies and Guides in Strathaven
 - Creative sessions with pupils at Kirklandpark Primary School in Strathaven and Glassford Primary School
 - 1:1 semi structured interviews with representatives of community organisations and local businesses
 - A stall at Strathaven Gala Day
 - A stall at Climate Action Strathaven to share initial findings and feedback



2. Research and Engagement

2.1 Community Survey

Promotion

The survey was available online between May and July 2024. A Press Release was sent out on 1 May, and was picked up by the Daily Record, which includes East Kilbride News⁷. Posters, flyers and paper copies were distributed across the area. The survey was highlighted on the Community Council website, and via the social media of local organisations. It was promoted at key events including the Strathaven Gala Day in June. A member of staff from Community Enterprise⁸ and two Community Council members⁹ were interviewed for Avondale Radio.

HAVE YOUR SAY
On the future of our community
How would you like to see our community develop?
Share your views, and help us plan for the future.

We know that Strathaven and Glassford are great places to live - but what would make them even better? Take our survey and let us know!

The survey is available online:
bit.ly/StrathGlassSurvey
or pick up a paper copy from sites around the area

A series of Community Conversations will be taking place over the summer - see strathaven.org for details

Strathaven and Glassford Community Council

Strathaven & Glassford: Our Plans for the Future

Introduction

We know that Strathaven and Glassford are great places to live - but what would make them even better?

We are working to create a Plan for the area, which will set out the long-term vision that our community wants to achieve over the next five years and beyond. The Plan is steered by [Strathaven and Glassford Community Council](#). We are co-ordinating activities and events with support from independent consultants [Community Enterprise](#).

This Plan is led by the community, and we want to hear from local residents, voluntary groups, young people and businesses about what will make a direct difference to you, your family, and your neighbours. The issues, ideas and aspirations generated through the process will be put together into a Plan identifying projects and initiatives, as well as how people can work together to make them happen.

This survey is one of a variety of methods of gathering views. There will be a number of ways to contribute. Keep your eyes open for information about the Community Conversations taking place over the summer - details will be on strathaven.org.

If you would like more information, please email claire@communityenterprise.co.uk.

All information gathered will be confidential, and responses will be recorded on Survey Monkey: see [SurveyMonkey's Privacy Policy](#) and [Community Enterprise's Privacy Policy](#).

Next

Powered by
[SurveyMonkey](#)
See how easy it is to create surveys and forms.



⁷ [Community invited to shape the future of Strathaven and Glassford - Daily Record](#)

⁸ Broadcast on Avondale Radio, 4 May, 1 hour 10 mins and 20 seconds in: [Saturday Magazine - 2024-05-04 09:00:00 \(autopod.xyz\)](#)

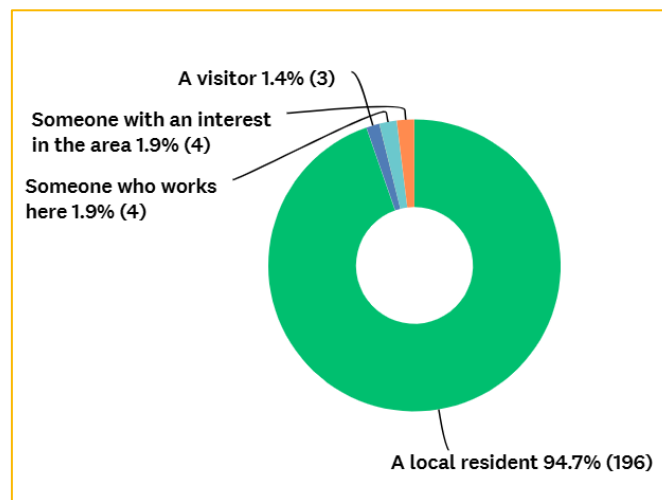
⁹ Broadcast on Avondale Radio, 18 May: 1 hour 8 mins and 15 seconds in: [Saturday Magazine - 2024-05-18 09:00:00 \(autopod.xyz\)](#)

Respondents

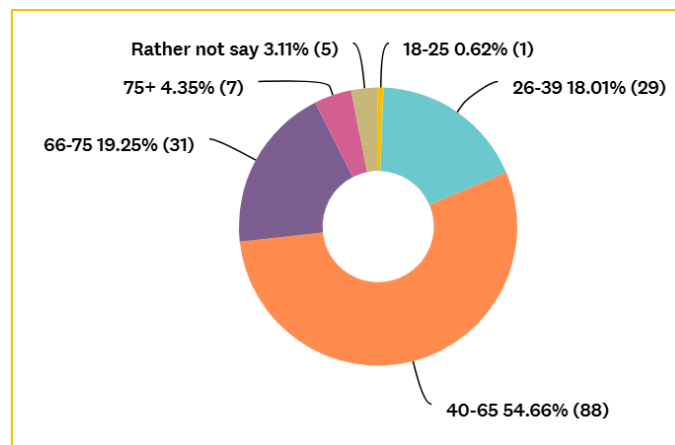
208 people responded to the survey. The majority of respondents (170) were answering on behalf of a household, so it nominally represents the views of an additional 167 adults, 28 young people aged 13-17, and 52 children aged 12 and under.

The analysis details the number of people who responded to the question, with the rest having skipped it. The percentages used in the analysis use the number of people who decided to respond to the question and did not skip it. For example, if 150 people responded to a question and 38 skipped the question, “50% of respondents” will refer to 50% of those 150 who responded to the question, so 75 people. The numbers in brackets on the graphs are the number of respondents who selected the option.

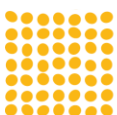
Of the 207 people who answered the question, 94.7% of survey respondents were local residents. The remaining respondents were either people who work in the area, people with an interest in the area or visitors.

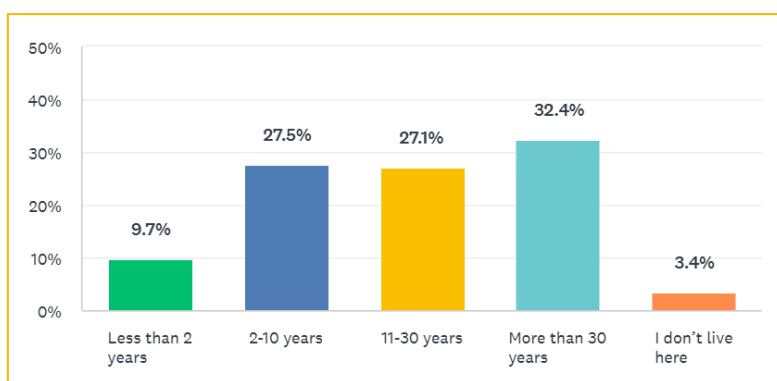


161 respondents indicated their age range, with the majority being in the 40-65 age bracket.

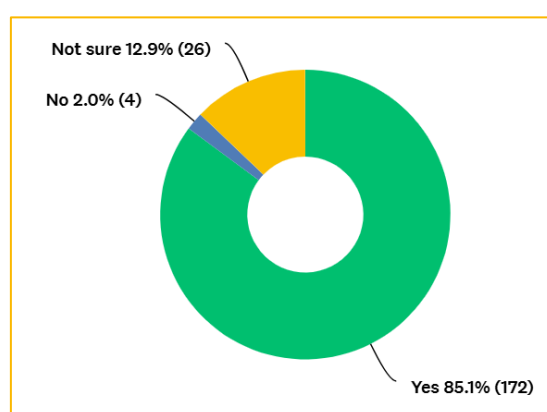


There was good variation in how long respondents have lived in the area. Of the 207 people who answered the question, 32% have lived in the area for over 30 years; 27% between 11 and 30 years; 28% between 2 and 10 years and 10% less than two years.





Of the 202 people who answered the question, 85% of respondents expect to still be living in the area in 10 years' time. 13% are not sure and just 2% do not expect to be living in the area. This indicates a general high level of satisfaction with the community.



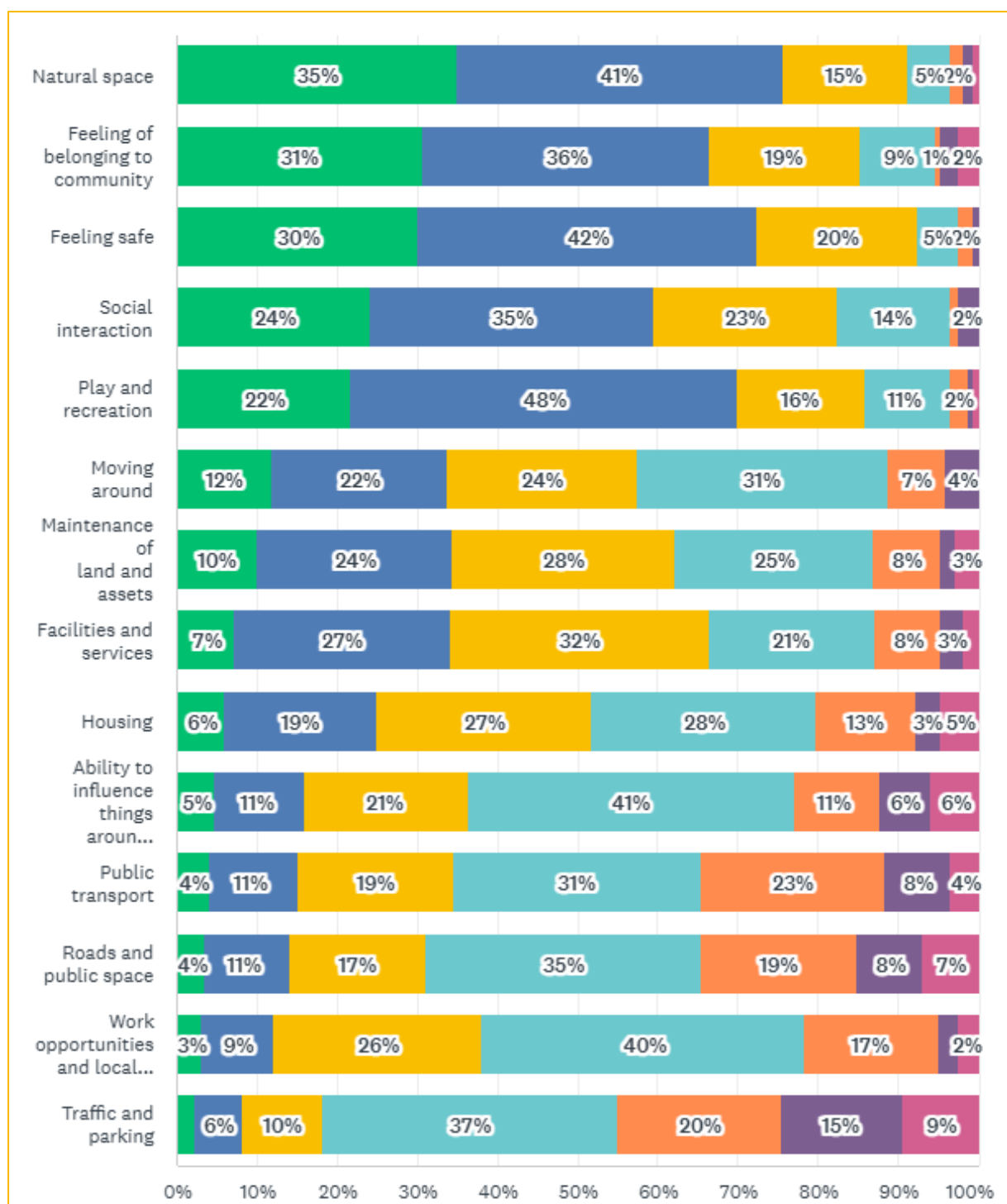
Views about the area

Respondents were asked to rate aspects of life in the area from 1 to 7 (1 being very poor and 7 being excellent). These aspects correspond with the seven Place Standard indicators¹⁰. 171 people answered this question.

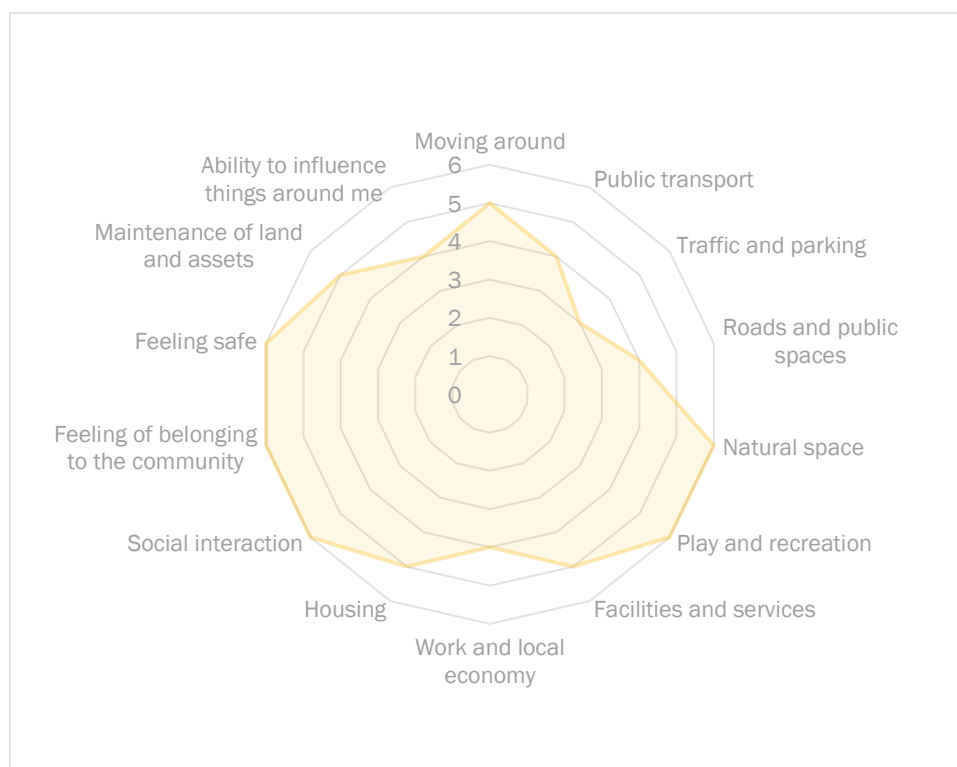
- Natural space rated highest
- This was followed by sense of community / play and recreation / feeling safe
- The lowest scoring categories were traffic and parking / work opportunities and local economy

¹⁰ [Place Standard tool | Our Place](#)



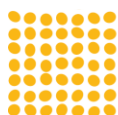


Using the Place Standard visual tool, this can be represented as follows:



Respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on their answer. Responses were analysed and grouped into the following themes (a sample of quotes have been included):

- 11 people mentioned **public transport**, mostly in relation to the 3C bus and how much it has benefited local people. Some still feel that there is more that can be done to improve public transport provision locally.
 - “3C service is amazing, genuinely transformative in terms of access to Glasgow. Were it not for the 3C, public transport would score at zero.”
 - “Public transport is limited to three buses two of which complete their journeys in Hamilton. The 3C service to Glasgow is excellent and hopefully can be further expanded.”
 - “Local bus service is patchy. Getting home at night should be easier.”
- 10 people mentioned **local traffic**, particularly around the Common Green area.
 - “Long term parking is limited and the traffic around Common Green difficult to navigate.”
 - “Town dominated by traffic.”
 - “Traffic management in and around the town is very poor.”
- 7 people mentioned a **lack of local infrastructure**, which is being exacerbated by large scale housing developments.
 - “Over expansion has ruined community. Infrastructure from schools, healthcare, road systems to sense of belonging and neighbourly consideration has been affected.”
 - “Housing keeps being developed, and facilities aren’t being matched to the surge of new residents. We need better gyms, doctors, leisure facilities.”
- 5 people mentioned a shortage of **social housing/ affordable homes**.



- “South Lanarkshire Council has not given sufficient priority to smaller affordable housing to enable elderly residents to downsize and stay local.”
- “While it is good that there are new houses being built, the majority of these are not for first time buyers or young people living in the area.”
- “In terms of housing, there's very little social housing available and next to no private lets, which are so expensive, that few can afford them anyway.”
- 4 people mentioned the poor condition of **local roads and pavements**.
 - “The street drains and not maintained or emptied often enough resulting in huge puddles making walking on the narrow pavements dangerous.”
 - “Pavements are impossible for children to walk safely to school. No lollipop staff on main roads.”
- 3 people felt that **communication** could be improved locally.
 - “The community activities and events are really good – however it is very difficult to find out what is going on, and when. A central annual events register would be welcome. If it not produced because the sale of programmes creates revenue I'd happily subscribe to an online service.”
- 3 people want an increase in **police presence** and **clampdown on anti-social behaviour**.
 - “As we grow further and further into a commuter town it's attracting new people and families - not all beneficial to the town but seek all its benefits and so things like crime and safety are very different now than even 5 years ago. Part of this is also the lack of police presence in the town and / or security monitoring.”
- 2 mentioned **lack of public toilets**.
 - “Lack of public toilets in the centre remains an issue.”
- 2 people mentioned the surrounding **countryside**.
 - “Parks and local countryside beautiful”

What people like

Respondents were asked to list three things they like most about the area. Comments were analysed and grouped into the following themes:

Assets	Number of times mentioned	Selected quotes
Community spirit / people	82	“The close knit community feeling” “Despite growth - Community Camaraderie”
Countryside access / rural feel	77	“Access to outdoor space and nature” “Rural aspects, clean air”
Community groups and local events	62	“All the lively associations that enhance life in the town” “The local events like Gala Day, Fireworks, Balloon festival. Hangarfest and the Agricultural Exposition.”
Local, independent businesses	59	“Vibrant high street” “Love the artisan type shops and cafes”
Strathaven Park	55	“The park is the towns biggest asset.” “Beautiful park”
Accessibility of shops and other amenities	18	“Ability to walk to shops bars & cafes” “Facilities within walking distance”
3C bus and Climate Action Strathaven	15	“Climate action Strathaven/3C bus” “Community working together e.g. 3C bus”



Schools	13	"Good schools"
Cleanliness / attractiveness	11	"Beauty of our wee town" "Cleanliness of Strathaven town centre and public spaces."
Safe	10	"Safety and people looking out for each other"
Family orientated	10	"It's a great place for kids to grow up"

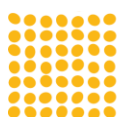
Other themes, which were mentioned by less than 10 people, were:

- Size: 9
- Quiet / peaceful: 9
- Leisure centre: 8
- Walking routes: 7
- Location (proximity to Glasgow and other urban areas): 6
- Public toilets: 3
- History: 3

What people would like to see improved

Respondents were asked to list three things they would like to see improved in the area. Again, comments were analysed and grouped into the following themes.

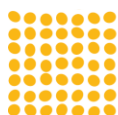
Area	Number of times mentioned	Selected quotes
Pavements / roads	84	"Active travel options into / out of Strathaven" "Safer walking at rural roadsides" "Maintenance of paths, roadways and hedgerows" "Better Signage of Walking Routes" "Country roads are atrocious and full of potholes" "Strathaven bypass. Too many large lorries going through town" "Road gullies poorly maintained" "Passing places on narrow road to save slicing your tyres on the drop off!"
Parking / traffic	75	"Common Green congestion" "Better layout of common green, revised traffic / pedestrian layout" "Traffic calming measures on the main through roads" "Parking on narrow roads causing a lot of bottlenecks throughout Strathaven." "Cars parked up sides of roads making it hard to get by" "Glasgow bus good in theory but people parking in car park at Common Green to take bus means no spaces for other residents all day."
Public transport	52	"Local dial a bus type service for rural residents to get into Strathaven" "Public transport links and frequency" "Public Transport connections beyond 3C to Glasgow"



		<p>"Expand climate action bus to 7 days"</p> <p>"Access to public transport and app to check when buses are running late"</p> <p>"Better connectivity in evening"</p> <p>"Better public transport network including trying to get a train service"</p>
Housing	31	<p>"More social housing and less private housing."</p> <p>"Less housing, losing all scenery"</p> <p>"More mixed new housing, not just 4/5 bed houses as aware of a large number of retirees remaining in family homes due to lack of bungalows and smaller houses to move to in the town"</p> <p>"Affordable housing"</p> <p>"Less housing developments or a cap on them"</p>
Infrastructure	28 (Medical: 13, Post office / bank: 7, General: 8)	<p>"More infrastructure, like Drs, School, banks etc. to match population growth"</p> <p>"Less new housing without infrastructure to support i.e. schools and doctors"</p> <p>"Better access to GP, dentists etc"</p> <p>"Reverse decline in banking and post office services"</p> <p>"Central post office"</p>
Public toilets	22	<p>"Public toilets to encourage tourist revenue"</p> <p>"A public toilet - even if it's just one and requires payment or some sort of smart deposit for access to allow costs to be covered"</p> <p>"Toilets in the centre of town"</p>
Maintenance / preservation of outdoor public spaces	20	<p>"Maintenance of public realm and local environment"</p> <p>"Park facilities reinstated"</p> <p>"Could we help develop more green space"</p>
Litter	16	<p>"Enforcement of restrictions on dog fouling"</p> <p>"Fly tipping response / litter"</p>
Youth hub/ activities	13	<p>"Facilities for young people & teenagers"</p> <p>"More winter activities for kids"</p>
Shop / building fronts maintained	11	<p>"Conservation area being upheld, enforcement of heritage colour on shops"</p> <p>"Kirk St improved from Todshill to Thomson St. Gives a poor impression to passersby, does not look good, and gives you no reason to stop in town for lunch etc."</p>
Leisure facilities	10	<p>"A better gym (council one is poor)"</p> <p>"The town has a severe lack of indoor training facilities that are adequate for our sports teams."</p> <p>"A men's shed"</p>

Other themes which were mentioned by less than 10 people were:

- Policing: 9
- Support / promote local business: 9
- Better communication from Council, Community Council, and other local groups: 6
- Strathaven Castle: 5
- Local energy / environmental initiatives: 5
- Use for empty / derelict shops: 5

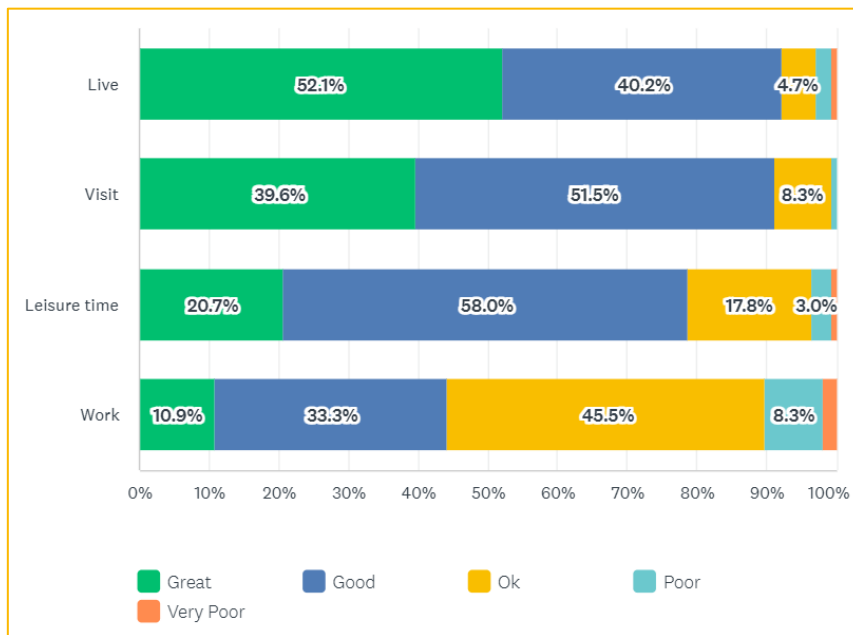


- Signage (walking routes, town history and roads): 5
- Extended opening hours of shops: 4
- Job opportunities: 3

Key themes

Respondents were asked to rate the area under 4 key themes: Live, Work, Visit, Leisure Time. 170 people answered this question.

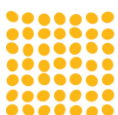
To start to identify potential project ideas, respondents were then asked to prioritise specific things within each theme. This list was intended to be indicative, not exhaustive.

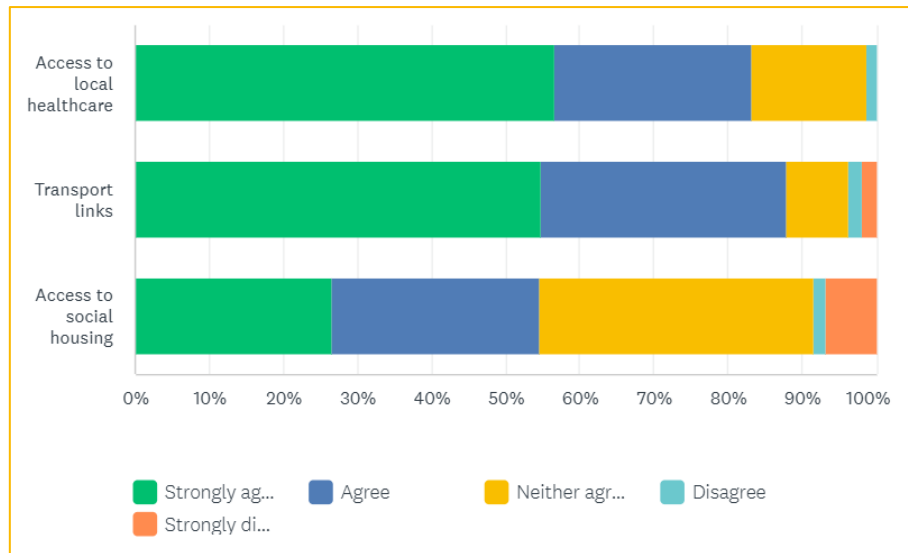


The area scores highest as a place to live, and lowest as a place to work.

The comments in this section reflected those elsewhere in the survey, but also included the importance of volunteers: “It relies heavily on its volunteers and community groups but they mostly go unnoticed and unrewarded.” “Too much is currently dependent on volunteers.” “One of the best things about living here are the things provided by volunteers - fireworks, balloon festival, gala etc.”

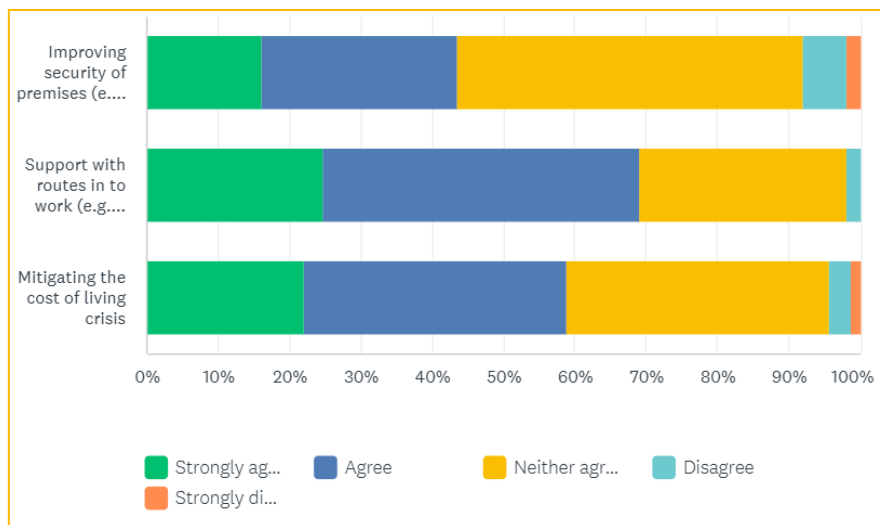
Live



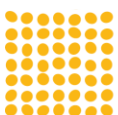


There was no clear ‘leader’ in the three suggestions given, rather strong support for both access to healthcare and transport links as priority areas. Comments also reflected those made elsewhere in the survey, i.e. a cap on new build housing, improvements to roads and pavements, better links between towns and villages (for cyclists and pedestrians) and better leisure centre facilities.

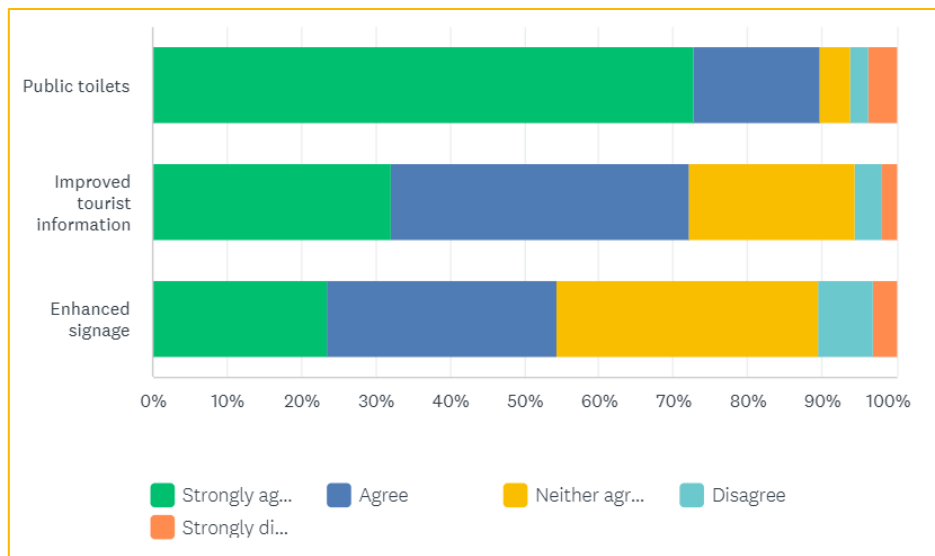
Work



Respondents did not feel as strongly about these potential priority areas. Suggestions included “Reduce business rates to help small family businesses” and “incentives for companies to develop offices”.

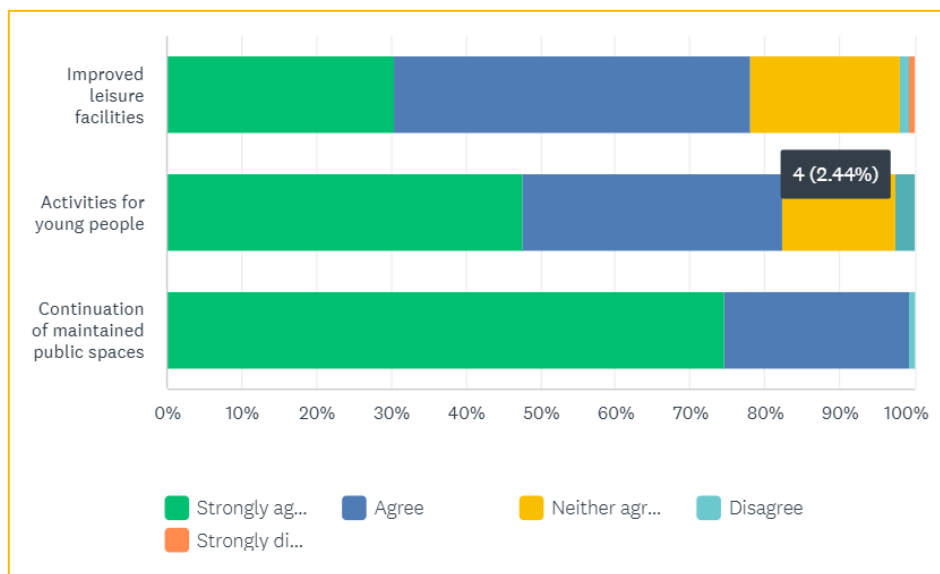


Visit



Public toilets are the clear priority here. Comments included improved heritage signage.

Leisure time

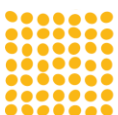


Maintenance of public spaces is the clear priority here.

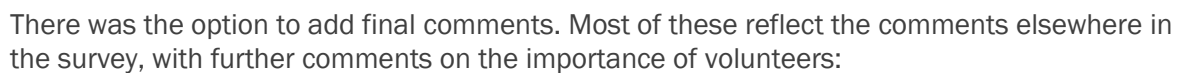
Vision for the Future

When asked to describe their community in ten years' time, responses included:

- “Strong rural identity with committed and supported community groups and organisations. Still lively and vibrant.”
- “A sustainable, affordable, healthy community for all.”
- “Continuing to feel like a well-loved and looked after community where people feel safe and welcome.”
- “Sustainable - vibrant, diverse, well connected with high quality spaces and places.”



- The word cloud below highlights some of the most frequent words and phrases which appeared as part of respondents' answers.



-

2.2 Youth Consultation

The **Brownies** were joined for their last event of term, when they were doing the Gala Week Window Spotting competition and having ice-cream and sweets from Epic Candy (25 girls ages 7 to 10, 2 teenage helpers, 2 Brownie leaders).

The **Girl Guides** were joined for their campfire cooking session at Avondyke Scout Camp (29 girls aged 11 to 14, 3 Guide leaders).

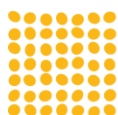


What the girls love about Strathaven:

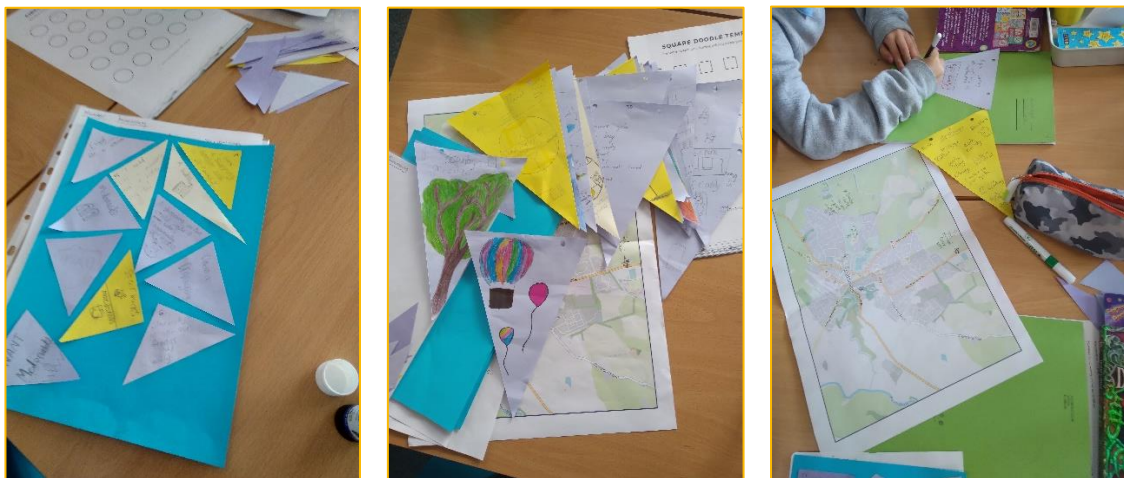
- There are lots of clubs – swimming, drama, badminton, church, tennis, football, rugby, dancing, gymnastics
- The leisure centre
- The size of the town: “it’s not too big, and not too small”
- It’s a friendly place: “everyone knows everyone”
- The shops and cafes where they can go with friends
- Access to the countryside
- “There’s lots of festivals”, i.e. Gala Week, the Balloon Festival etc.
- There are places to play
- “People are really kind, and we don’t need to worry about a lot of things”
- “It’s not a busy town and there’s lots of nice shops”
- “It’s calm and there’s not a lot of people – we don’t want it to be overcrowded”
- “It’s more of a community than in a city”

What would make Strathaven better:

- More shops / chain shops / clothes shop that teenagers can shop at
- More lunch options for school pupils
- Evening events for young people
- A skate park at Strathaven Park
- More public swimming pools



At a creative session at **Kirkland Park Primary School**, pupils made bunting¹¹ showing what they love about Strathaven, and shared their ideas of what would make it better (32 P5 pupils and 29 P6 pupils, 2 teachers).



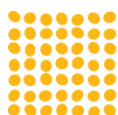
What the children love about Strathaven:

- Events like Gala Day and the Balloon Festival
- The Park, in particular the miniature railway, boating pond and sensory garden
- Swimming at the Leisure Centre
- Strathaven Dynamos
- Epic Candy and Greggs were firm favourites
- Independent shops; “it’s an old fashioned town, but in a good way”
- The countryside and greenery
- The castle
- The library

What would make Strathaven better:

- Keeping the boats at the boating pond
- A new gymnasium hall with more equipment, more soft play, pickleball courts
- More park benches
- More shops (including chains such as Primark), a bookshop
- More people walking (if they can)
- More places to eat (including chains like McDonalds)
- More buses / a Strathaven to Edinburgh bus
- Flats
- A cinema / outdoor movies, an ice skating rink, a skate park, a concert stage, ten-pin bowling
- A larger swimming pool – Strathaven’s is 20m, whilst Larkhall and Stonehouse have a 25m pool; the nearest 50m pool is East Kilbride – more swimming facilities and lessons
- More dog friendly shops
- A roller-skating rink / ice skating rink
- Doodle Walls / graffiti walls – where people can add their own art
- Arts activities like book making
- A garden for children to grow plants in
- Kid-friendly karaoke

¹¹ Photos of all the bunting are at Appendix 3



- Less graffiti and rubbish
- A trampoline park, Butterfly World, mini zoo

The children had questions about what was going to go in to three specific spaces:

- The old Greggs
- The old Arnold Clark garage
- The old library (Ballgreen Hall site)

At a creative session at **Glassford Primary School**, pupils made bunting showing what they love about Glassford, and shared their ideas of what would make it better (16 P1/2 pupils, 19 P3/4/5 pupils and 16 P6/7 pupils, 3 teachers including the Head Teacher).



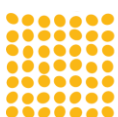
What the children love about Glassford:

- Playing football
- Playing with friends in the park
- Being able to walk to / from school
- Gala Day
- There are lots of trees
- The church
- The Chinese takeaway

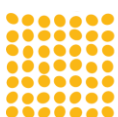
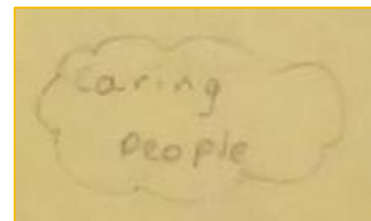
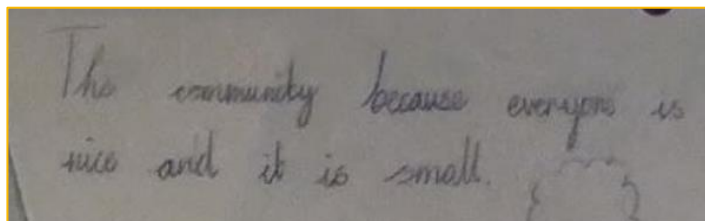
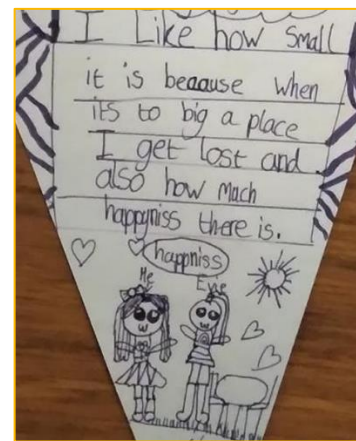
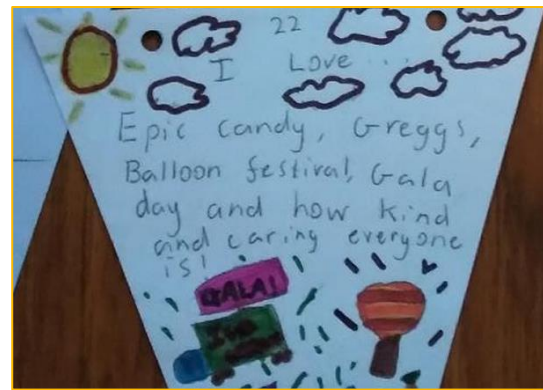
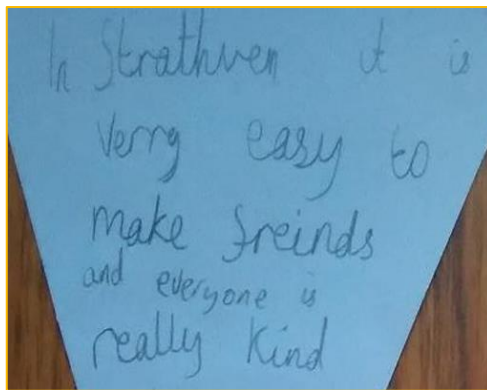
What would make Glassford better:

- A shop and a bank
- More things in the park, like a roundabout, more swings, a seesaw, monkeybars, a basketball hoop, a better football pitch
- A library (the mobile library used to visit Glassford), a nature trail, more family events, a reading club, a painting place, a hairdresser, a museum
- Less rubbish
- Creative suggestions included: an animal shelter, a water park, a mini Alton Towers, an Airthrill¹², a waterslide, a zoo, a theme park

¹² [Airthrill – Active Adventure Inflatable Parks](#)



In both Strathaven and Glassford, children commented on the friendliness of their community.



2.3 Adult Focus Groups

Community Council members

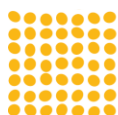
Informal discussions with Community Council members have taken place throughout the process, which has provided a good overview of the main issues. These threads also run through the minutes of the Community Council meetings, which are available on the website, and have been considered as part of the process¹³.

Key insights:

- There has been a steep population growth in the past 5 years, with a number of new housing developments:
 - This puts pressure on physical infrastructure, such as roads and parking, in a small market town
 - It also puts pressure on amenities and services such as schools and medical facilities
 - Strathaven is at risk of becoming a 'commuter town', where residents work / shop / spend their leisure time elsewhere
- The introduction of the 3C bus¹⁴, which created a direct public transport link to Glasgow, has made a significant difference to the community, particularly to students and those with bus passes
- There are excellent facilities for children, particularly around physical activities such as swimming, the rugby club, gymnastics groups, and Strathaven Dynamos (football club)
- Whilst the community may appear affluent, there are areas of poverty:
 - Strathaven has a foodbank, and a community larder
 - The cost of living crisis means that there is 'in work poverty', with families struggling to manage, where previously they were coping
- There are traffic pinch points in Strathaven:
 - The junction at the top of Townhead Street / Lethame Road
 - The one way system / parking in the Common Green
 - Waterside Street
- The lack of public toilets is an ongoing concern for the community
- Post office facilities have been moved out of the centre of the town
- There is a broad range of community events in the annual calendar, including the Gala Day, the Balloon Festival and Christmas events
- The public parks in Strathaven are a key local asset, both for the community and for visitors; there is a concern about the facilities (café, boating pond, toilets, bandstand etc.) not being adequately funded for the long term benefit of the community

¹³ [Community Council Minutes – Strathaven and Glassford Community Council](#)

¹⁴ [3C Bus Service | CLIMATE ACTION STRATHAVEN \(castrathaven.org\)](#)



- This is in the context of a history of Council owned assets being sold, including the John Hastie Museum (now a private house), public toilets (now a yoga studio) and the Ballgreen Hall (formerly the community centre and library, and recently demolished)
- Glassford Community Hall has been transferred to the community by way of an Asset Transfer, and the community is currently developing long term plans for the building
- Local churches have diversified in to providing community facilities, such as parent and toddler groups, coffee mornings, and youth groups

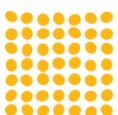
Informal knitting group

An informal knitting group (5 people) shared their views at a conversation in the Strathaven Hotel.



Key insights:

- The 3C bus is the “best thing that’s happened to Stonehouse and Strathaven” – it has “transformed the place”; “please don’t change it”.
- Climate Action Strathaven are promoting a car hire scheme – but where would these cars be hired from / stored, when there is already a parking problem?
- There is an award winning park in Strathaven which brings tourists to area – and yet the council wants to do away with the facilities in the park like the boating pond and the toilets.
- Parking is an issue, especially at the doctors. Strathaven doesn’t seem to get parking wardens very often but when they arrive, they are harsh; this is tough when there are not enough parking places.
- Traffic is an issue at the Academy, where there is a single track road. Could traffic lights be installed to make two way traffic flow easier? When the Academy was built, there was an alternative bit of land offered, but this was not taken up by the council.
- Strathaven doesn’t have the infrastructure for all the new houses; the schools are full.



- The library is well used. However, the old library had more space. The new one was supposed to have a mezzanine level, but this wasn't built as they ran out of money. The glass walls can make it like a greenhouse.
- Traffic flow in the Common Green is a problem. It gets completely blocked up when the bin lorries come, or when the bus is there.
- The Post Office is now at a garage, and no longer at a central location; "they asked people in a survey where they wanted it, but didn't listen to the answers".
- The Bank of Scotland "is supposed to be closing at the end of the year".
- "Strathaven is a lovely place to live."

Teachers

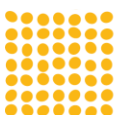
Attending the two primary schools also provided an opportunity for brief discussions with teachers.

Key insights:

- The pressure on the infrastructure of the school buildings at Kirklandpark is such that they have had to expand to an outdoor classroom – this is for a school that was only built 8 years ago
- There are parts of Glassford affected by poverty, but this is hidden by e.g. SIMD data; it has an impact on the context in which the school operates, which can be difficult to explain to inspectors etc.

Strathaven Gala Day

A stall at Strathaven Gala Day provided an opportunity to speak to around 60 people.





Key insights:

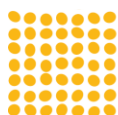
- “When we moved here 24 years ago, there was a 10 year moratorium on new building. I am a water engineer, and I remember planning for population figures that have now been surpassed. We would never have imagined that at the time. We’re having to review the physical water and sanitation structures for the area, and if they’re struggling, other infrastructure like schools and dentists must be struggling too.”
- “We had no connection with Strathaven, and come from Perthshire / the USA. We chose to settle here as it seemed like an ideal place to start and raise a family. We hope to stay here for the whole life of our wee boy. Everything is in walking distance for us – the GP, the supermarket, the park. The 3C bus has been life-changing. I work in Glasgow, and it really improved my mental health to have a direct route in to Glasgow. Before, it was a three hour round trip. It would be great if it also went to Edinburgh, as that would make it much easier to visit my sister who lives there.”
- “I have mobility issues. Taxi provision is an issue for me. It means that I miss out on what’s happening in the area, because I can’t get to it.”
- “There used to be a loyalty card for local businesses, which was a great idea.”
- “It would be great to have things for young people to do, like a ceramics painting café. If there are evening events, there has to be public transport for young people to be able to get to them.”
- “I moved here from Glasgow because of the community spirit.”
- “Everybody is proud of living here.”

Stall at Climate Action Strathaven

- A stall at Climate Action Strathaven provided an opportunity to speak to around 20 people.

Key insights:

- “I am the parent of a disabled child who often needs to use a wheelchair or adapted bike. We can’t walk to Strathaven Park because the pavements are too narrow, and when we are in the park, the footpaths, including around the sensory garden, are the wrong type of



surface, too narrow, or cracked, so that wheelchairs and adapted bikes can't access them. He can't play on the equipment in the play park. We have to drive to Darvel park or Sandford park so that he can play."

- "As an older teenager (15), I would enjoy having more places to go to."
- "The primary schools are oversubscribed. It can be difficult to get siblings in to the same school. St Patricks is open to non-Catholic pupils, but they are not then eligible to attend Strathaven Academy, so they are at a disadvantage."
- "Buses to Sandford / Kirkmuirhill would allow people who don't drive, including young people, to access the facilities in Strathaven."
- "In the old community centre [Ballgreen Hall] there were loads of noticeboards so you could find out what was on. There's nothing like that in the new community centre [Avondale Wing], so there's no obvious place to go to find information."
- "The Scout Hall¹⁵ would be a good place for young people to go to events, when it's not being used by Scouts and Guides. It's a homely space."

2.4 Stakeholder Consultation

Semi-structured conversations took place with representatives of the following organisations and local businesses:

- Strathaven Town Mill¹⁶
- Strathaven Choral Society¹⁷
- Friends of Strathaven Park¹⁸
- Friends of Strathaven Castle¹⁹
- Climate Action Strathaven²⁰
- Leafy Green²¹ (independent clothing shop on the Common Green)
- Creative Strathaven CIC²²

Key insights:

- Cuts in council funding threatens the maintenance / promotion of local assets and heritage, such as Strathaven Park and Strathaven Castle.
- There are a lot of community organisations, doing a lot of valuable and valued work.
- Many of those organisations are dependent on volunteers, and succession planning is needed to ensure the future of voluntary organisations.

¹⁵ [Facebook](#)

¹⁶ [Strathaven Town Mill | Arts And Heritage Centre](#)

¹⁷ [strathaven choral society – Just another WordPress site](#)

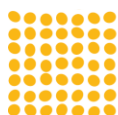
¹⁸ [Friends of Strathaven Park | Facebook](#)

¹⁹ [Friends of Strathaven Castle | Facebook](#)

²⁰ [About Us \(castrathaven.org\)](#)

²¹ [leafy green women's independent clothing, accessories & gifts store](#)

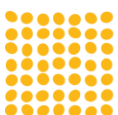
²² [Creative Strathaven | Community | Scotland](#)



- The amount of organisations can actually cause confusion about who is doing what, and where information is shared.
- Climate Action Strathaven has developed key initiatives including the 3C bus.
- Concerns include: housing, parking, traffic, public toilets, banking / post office facilities.
- There isn't a large venue for community groups in Strathaven, for e.g. community concerts. The Old Town Hall has a maximum capacity of around 200 people. The Town Mill and the Avondale Wing aren't large enough.
- Competing events can split or displace the potential audience in a relatively small area – e.g. similar events on the same date at e.g. the Strathaven Hotel / Town Mill.
- The Avondale Wing can be prohibitively expensive for small community groups to hire.
- Public transport only serves Glasow / Hamilton / East Kilbride. There is nothing in the other direction, to e.g. Kilmarnock.
- The old railway lines could be improved to make them more accessible as a recreational route for walkers and cyclists.
- The independent retailers in the Common Green experienced a direct downturn in business with the introduction of the 3C bus. It takes people away from Strathaven, but doesn't maximise the opportunity to bring people in to Strathaven to shop.
- People who have moved in to the area more recently aren't necessarily in the habit of supporting local businesses, particularly if they work outwith the area.
- There have been initiatives in the past like a loyalty card / late night shopping / promoting 'buy local'²³ / the Strathaven InsideOut App²⁴, but these sometimes fall to a few people, who don't always have the time and energy to sustain them. There is real potential for these initiatives to be reinvigorated / developed / consolidated.

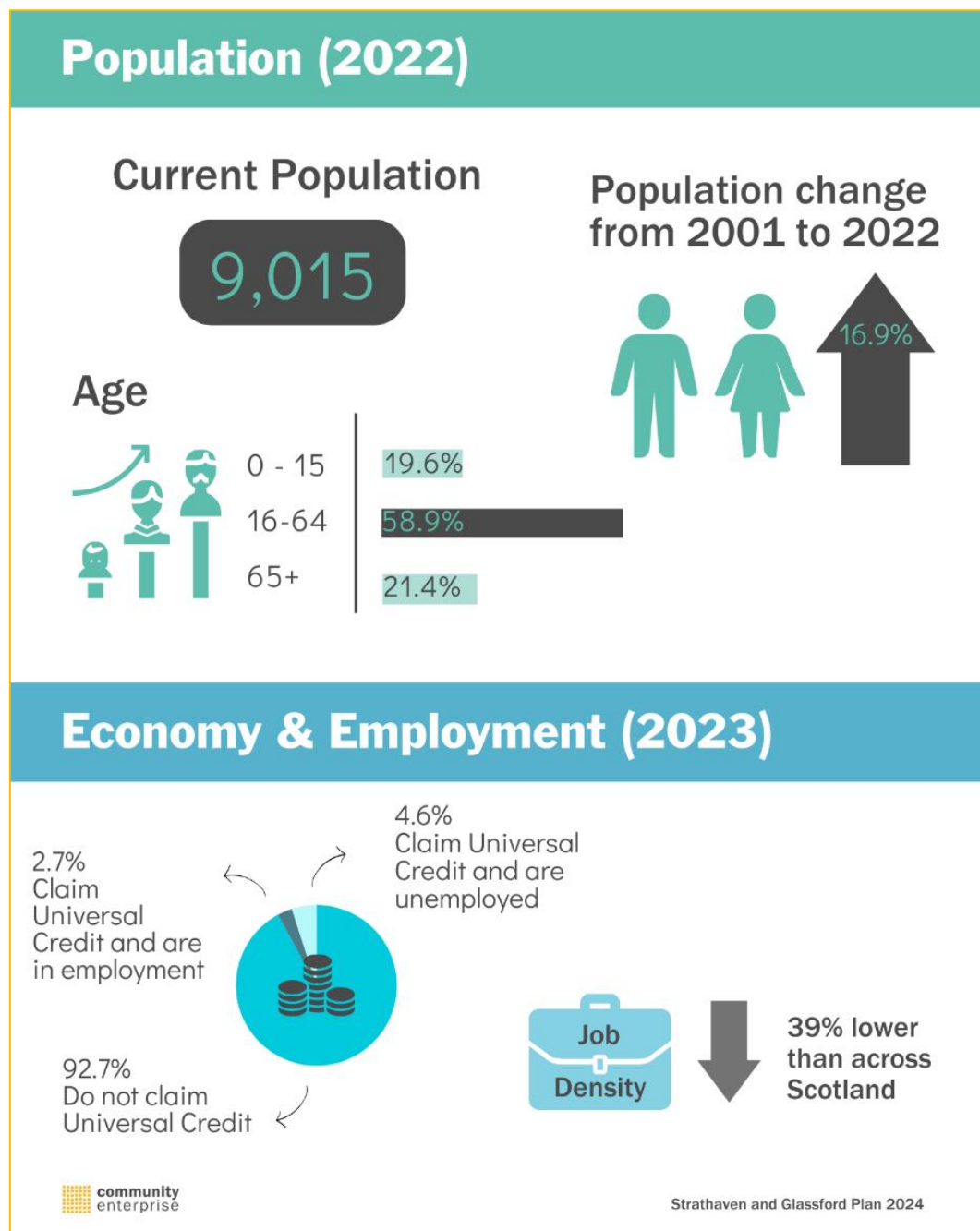
²³ [Shop Strathaven Group \(facebook.com\)](https://www.facebook.com/ShopStrathavenGroup)

²⁴ [Strathaven Inside Out App – Discover Strathaven](#)



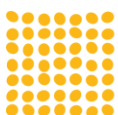
2.5 Demographics

A range of data sources has been assessed, including the South Lanarkshire Area Profile Tool²⁵ and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)²⁶. These figures are for Strathaven only.



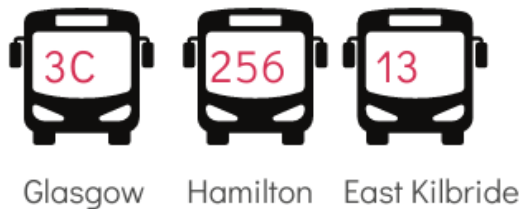
²⁵ [Area Profile Report Map 2022 \(southlanarkshire.gov.uk\)](https://southlanarkshire.gov.uk/area-profile-report-map-2022)

²⁶ This measures the level of deprivation across 6,976 datazones in Scotland: [SIMD \(Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation\)](#)

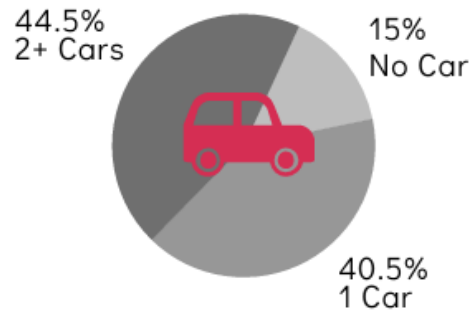


Transport & Connectivity

3 Bus Services

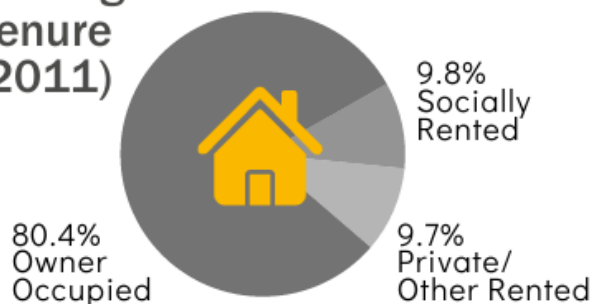


Car Ownership



Housing

Housing Tenure (2011)

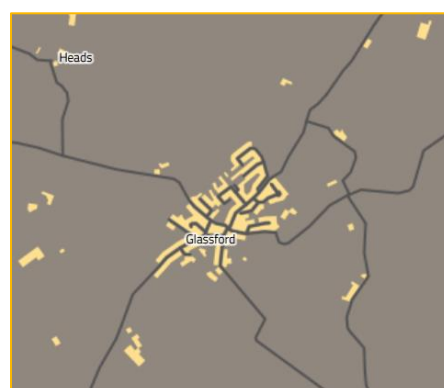
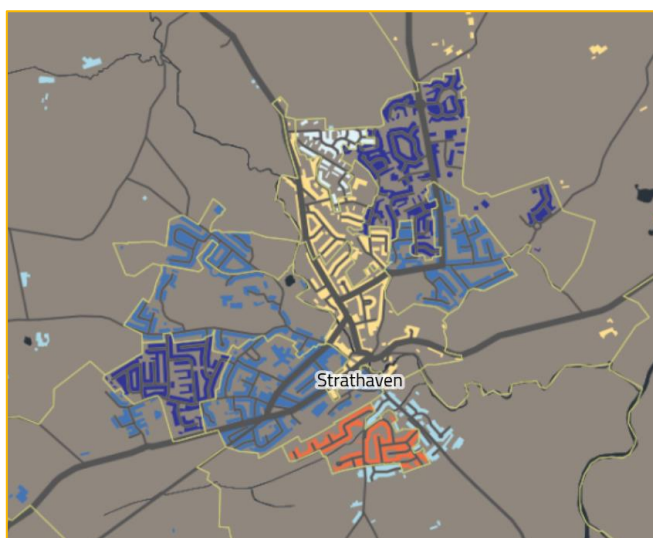


Just 5.7% of properties are in the most affordable Council Tax band; almost 15% less than across Scotland (2022).

- In 2022, there were 5,241 dwellings in the area. 97% were occupied and 2.7% were vacant (140 properties).
- There is a (+3%) higher proportion of children and young people aged 0-16 than regional and national averages. There is also a (+1%) higher proportion of older people aged 65 and over. The working age population is around 4% lower than regionally and nationally.
- The population has grown by 16.9% between 2001 and 2022, which is significantly higher than the average South Lanarkshire population growth (+8.2%) and the national average for population growth (+7.5%).

- The percentage of people claiming Universal Credit who are both employed and unemployed (7%) is around half that of the South Lanarkshire (14.2%) and national average (13.7%).
- 12.4% of children live in families with a relative low income, which is around half of the South Lanarkshire average (24.1%).
- For the most part, pupil attainment is higher than across the local authority. For example, there are more primary school pupils achieving the expected CfE levels in both literacy and numeracy and more leavers achieving one pass or more at SCQF level 6 or better. In 2021/22, 97.5% of school leavers were in a positive initial destination.
- 14.2% of households in the area do not own a car. While this is below the regional and national averages, it is statistically significant given the rural nature of the place indicating an increased reliance on public transport.
- The area is a relatively expensive place to live; just 5.7% of properties are in the most affordable council tax band, which is 15% lower than the national average. The mean price of homes in 2022 was £232,718, which is higher than the South Lanarkshire average of £188,414.
- NRS data from 2017 shows that 60% of residential properties in the area are either detached or semi-detached houses. 22.6% are terraced properties and 16.9% are flats.
- 9.4% of properties in the area are socially rented. In 2022/2023, there were 354 council stock properties in the area.

The diagrams below show Strathaven and Glassford's SIMD data zones. The least deprived data zones are depicted in dark blue and the most deprived are in dark red:



2.6 Asset Mapping

Assets in a community include not just physical assets, but also things like organisations and events, which foster a sense of local identity and civic pride. This section of the report maps out the existing assets in Strathaven and Glassford²⁷. It is not intended to be exhaustive.

There are plenty of examples of organisations and groups working collaboratively across the community, particularly in large scale events such as Gala Week. One recent example is a photography exhibition by young people²⁸, a project developed by Strathaven Camera Club²⁹, the John Hastie Museum Trust, Strathaven Academy and Strathaven CARS (Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme)³⁰.

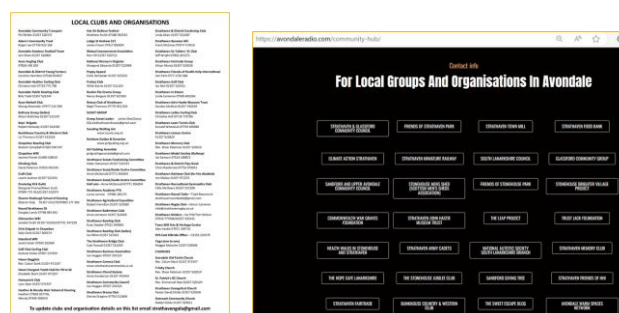
Events

There is a year round programme of community events³¹, which include:

- Strathaven Gala³²: held on the second Saturday in June, it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024
- Glassford Gala: third Saturday in June
- Strathaven Folk Festival³³: last Saturday in July
- Strathaven Balloon Festival³⁴: last weekend in August
- Hangarfest³⁵, an annual music festival showcasing local talent held in Strathaven
- Glassford Beer and Gin festival³⁶
- Strathaven Agricultural Exposition³⁷: first Saturday in September

Community organisations

Strathaven and Glassford have a large number of community organisations. Two visual representations of just how many, are the list that was included in the 2023 Strathaven Gala programme, and the listing on the Avondale Radio website:



²⁷ [Strathaven CAP and LPP - Google My Maps](#)

²⁸ [Academy Pupil's Photography Exhibition Strathaven Academy](#)

²⁹ [Strathaven Camera Club – Members Website for Strathaven Camera Club](#)

³⁰ [Strathaven CARS \(home.blog\)](#)

³¹ [Strathaven Calendar \(Regular events don't take into account holidays and 'odd' days off\) \(google.com\)](#)

³² [Facebook](#)

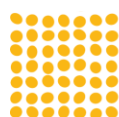
³³ [Facebook](#)

³⁴ [festival \(strathavenballoonfestival.co.uk\)](#)

³⁵ [Facebook](#)

³⁶ [Facebook](#)

³⁷ [Facebook](#)



This report therefore does not attempt to cover all of these groups, rather to highlight some key examples:

- Avondale radio: [Home - Avondale Radio](#)
- Climate Action Strathaven: [About Us \(castrathaven.org\)](#)
- Strathaven Foodbank: [Strathaven Foodbank – Supporting Avondale](#)
- Strathaven Scouts and Guides: [Strathaven Scout & Guide Centre \(google.com\)](#)
- Strathaven Rotary Club: [Rotary Club of Strathaven - welcome. \(rotary-ribi.org\)](#)
- Strathaven & District Round Table
- Strathaven Fairtrade Group: [Facebook](#)
- Friends of Strathaven Castle: [Friends of Strathaven Castle | Facebook](#)
- Glassford Community Group: [Glassford Community Group – Working for the community of Glassford](#) and [Facebook](#)

Buildings and facilities

The Avondale Community Wing³⁸ is the central community building in Strathaven, operated by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. It opened in May 2018 and is a multifunctional venue providing a range of community and social activities. It hosts the library, and has a range of spaces available for hire.

It replaced the former community centre and library, the Ballgreen Hall, which was demolished in June 2024. Questions about plans for the site were asked by school pupils, and in conversations at the Gala Day.

Strathaven Public Hall is currently used as a Scout and Guide centre, and is the hall / meeting rooms are available to hire to individuals and community groups³⁹.

In Glassford, the central community space is the Glassford Hall, which was transferred to the community via an Asset Transfer from South Lanarkshire Council to Glassford Community Group. Future plans for the hall are detailed on the GCG website⁴⁰.

Strathaven has two GP practices, Avondale Medical Practice⁴¹ and Strathaven Health Centre (Lanarkshire Medical Group)⁴². Both are located in the centre of the town.

Strathaven's Post Office was previously located on Green Street, and is now located within the convenience store at the Gulf petrol station on Hamilton Road, which is out of the town centre.

Strathaven's last remaining bank branch is the Bank of Scotland at the Common Green. This is currently under threat of closure. The Community Council has "launched a survey into Banking Services in Strathaven with a view to informing a decision on how we should proceed in conjunction with other organisations and local politicians on addressing banking needs"⁴³.

³⁸ [Avondale Community Wing - South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture \(slleisureandculture.co.uk\)](#)

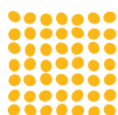
³⁹ [Strathaven Scout & Guide Centre \(google.com\)](#)

⁴⁰ [Our plans for Glassford Hall – Glassford Community Group](#)

⁴¹ [Avondale Medical Practice - GP practice \(nhsinform.scot\)](#)

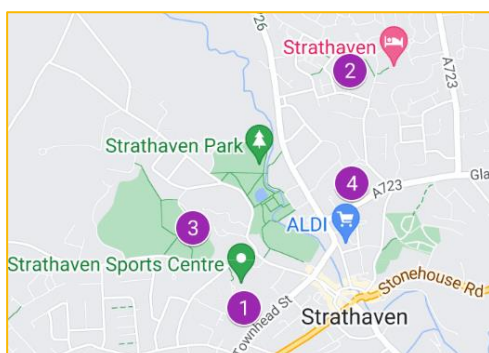
⁴² [Strathaven Health Centre \(Lanarkshire Medical Group\) - GP practice \(nhsinform.scot\)](#)

⁴³ [Strathaven and Glassford Community Council – This is the where you will find all the latest news from Strathaven and Glassford Community Council](#)



Schools

Strathaven has three primary schools, and Glassford has its own primary school. Secondary school age children in Strathaven and Glassford attend Strathaven Academy.

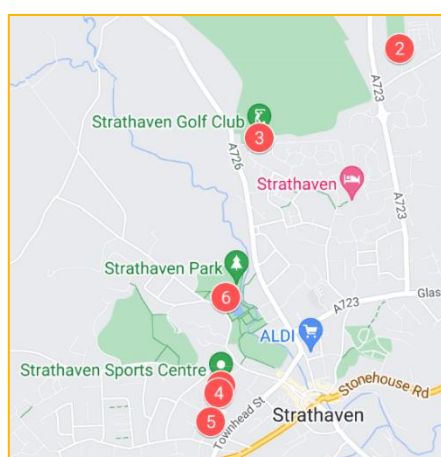


- 1 Strathaven Academy
- 2 Wester Overton Primary School
- 3 Kirklandpark Primary School
- 4 St Patrick's Primary School

Sport and leisure

Strathaven Sports Centre⁴⁴ was opened in 1999, and is operated by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. It is adjacent to Strathaven Academy, which was opened in 2009. Facilities include a 20m swimming pool, a large and small games hall, squash court, fitness suite, and an all weather outdoor pitch.

Strathaven has a number of active sport and leisure clubs, including the Rugby Club⁴⁵, Golf Club⁴⁶, Tennis Club, Bowling Club⁴⁷ and the football club Strathaven Dynamos.



- 1 Strathaven Leisure Centre
- 2 Strathaven Rugby Football Club
- 3 Strathaven Golf Club
- 4 Strathaven Tennis Club
- 5 Strathaven Bowling Club
- 6 Strathaven Dynamo AFC

Arts and cultural spaces

These include the John Hastie Museum Trust⁴⁸, and Strathaven Town Mill Arts and Heritage Centre⁴⁹. Strathaven Castle is a focal point of the town. Discover Strathaven⁵⁰ is an online resource, and includes things like the Strathaven Heritage Trails⁵¹ and visitor maps.

⁴⁴ [Strathaven Leisure Centre - South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture \(slleisureandculture.co.uk\)](https://www.slleisureandculture.co.uk/)

⁴⁵ [Facebook](#)

⁴⁶ [Home :: Home \(strathavengc.com\)](https://www.strathavengc.com/)

⁴⁷ [Facebook](#)

⁴⁸ [Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust \(strathavenmuseum.org\)](https://www.strathavenmuseum.org/)

⁴⁹ [About | Strathaven Town Mill](#)

⁵⁰ [Discover Strathaven - Live Strathaven! Love Strathaven!](#)

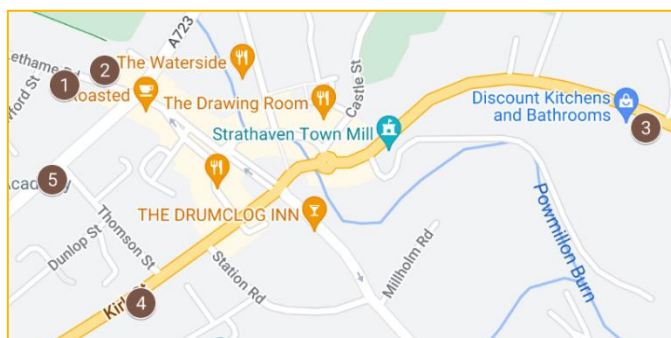
⁵¹ [Strathaven Heritage Trails - Discover Strathaven](#)



Churches

Strathaven and Glassford have a number of churches of different denominations, many of which host or run community groups, such as the foodbank, coffee mornings, Citizens Advice, youth groups, dementia groups etc.

In Strathaven, these include: Trinity Church (CoS)⁵², Strathaven Evangelical Church⁵³, St Patrick's Church (RC)⁵⁴, Avendale Old Parish Church (CoS)⁵⁵ and The Epicentre⁵⁶.



- 1 Strathaven Trinity Church
- 2 Strathaven Evangelical Church
- 3 St Patrick's Catholic Church
- 4 Avendale & Drumclog Parish Church
- 5 The Epicentre

Glassford has two churches, Glassford Parish Church (CoS) and Glassford Evangelical Church.

Glassford Parish Church was going to be closed under the Church of Scotland's programme of parish amalgamation. The appointment of the Minister as Interim Moderator⁵⁷ (he is also Minister of Strathaven Trinity Church and Chapelton Church), has postponed this decision for a year.

The church is the visual centre of Glassford, so much so that the Primary School uses it as its logo (the logo was designed by a pupil through a competition). There is concern about what will happen if the church is closed to worship, and this is something that the Glassford Community Group are actively addressing.



Green spaces and parks

Strathaven Park, made up of the upper George Allan Park, and the lower John Hastie Park, is a key asset in Strathaven. The park is owned by South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture⁵⁸, and the Friends of Strathaven Park⁵⁹ is a charity dedicated to promoting and fundraising for the park.

⁵² [Strathaven Trinity Parish Church | Presbytery of Hamilton](#)

⁵³ [Home - Strathaven Evangelical Church](#)

⁵⁴ [St Patrick's, Strathaven \(rcdom.org.uk\)](#)

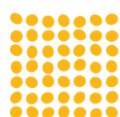
⁵⁵ [Strathaven Avendale Old Parish Church | Presbytery of Hamilton](#)

⁵⁶ [Facebook](#)

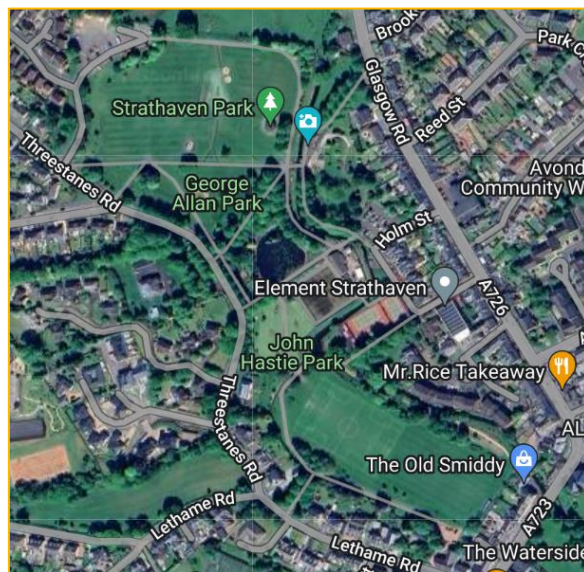
⁵⁷ [We need to 'build together' says next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland | The Church of Scotland](#)

⁵⁸ [Strathaven Park - South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture \(slleisureandculture.co.uk\)](#)

⁵⁹ [Friends of Strathaven Park | Facebook](#)



Facilities include the Barrie Shelter (café and toilets), playparks, a boating pond, a bandstand, a putting green, a bowling green and Scotland's oldest miniature railway⁶⁰. In July 2024 Strathaven Park was awarded the Green Flag Award for the twelfth year running⁶¹.



Both Strathaven and Glassford are surrounded by green space, and this is something that is highly valued by members of the community.

Local economy - business and enterprise

Strathaven Business Association is a membership organisation for local businesses to work together⁶². Strathaven has a number of independent local businesses, which are listed on the Discover Strathaven website⁶³. Most of these are in the Common Green.

Strathaven also has lots of independent cafes and restaurants, as well as chains such as Greggs. Supermarkets include ALDI and Sainsbury's.

In 2023, Creative Strathaven published "60 Things To See And Do In Strathaven"⁶⁴, a paper map for residents and visitors which is available in local businesses in the area. This is copied at Appendix 4.

Public transport

Strathaven is served by buses⁶⁵ linking it to:

- Glasgow: 3C service operated by Climate Action Strathaven
- Hamilton / East Kilbride: 13 service operated by JMB Travel; 254 / 256 service operated by Whitelaw Coaches

Glassford is also served by the 13 and 256.

Climate Action Strathaven are in the process of developing a Transport Strategy.

⁶⁰ [Strathaven Miniature Railway – Celebrating 75 years in Strathaven in 2024](#)

⁶¹ [Three of our parks awarded Green Flag status again - South Lanarkshire View](#)

⁶² [Become a member of Strathaven Business Association – Discover Strathaven](#)

⁶³ [Local Shops – Discover Strathaven](#)

⁶⁴ [60 Things to See and Do in Strathaven \(creativestrathaven.co.uk\)](#)

⁶⁵ [Strathaven – Bus Times](#)

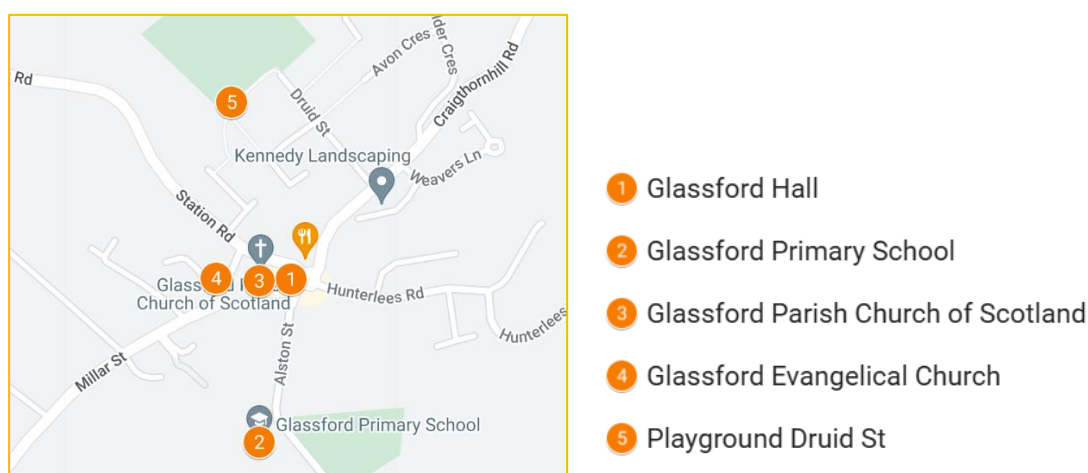


A summary of the Recommendations from the Strategy was recorded in the Community Council minutes of 28 May 2024 as follows:

1. Communications - Continue to use social media as well as traditional media to inform the community.
2. Collaboration - Work with other groups and organisations to encourage change and positive action.
3. Car Club - Develop a strategy to increase access to hire vehicles and encourage the reduction in the ownership and use of private cars.
4. Information - Work to develop a map of Charging Points across the community and to report on incentive schemes.
5. Cycling - Work with local organisations to create a cycling map for the local area, hire out e-Bikes, work with SLC to install Cycle racks in the town centre and develop the Bike Repair Service.
6. Deliveries - Encourage the use of the e-Cargo Bike.
7. Community Bus - Establish a Community Bus Network across Avondale.
8. Traffic Review - Encourage and participate in a holistic review of traffic, transport, parking and volume of this in Strathaven.
9. Local Travel Survey - Carry out a review locally about travel.
10. Strategic Options - Review the success of Park and Ride at the Balloon Festival and the feasibility of establishing a more permanent solution linked to community buses.

Glassford map

This map shows the key assets in Glassford:



Asset Transfer

There are currently two Strathaven sites listed on South Lanarkshire Council's Asset Transfer page⁶⁶. These both relate to the disused ash football pitch just outside Kirklandpark Primary School in Strathaven.

⁶⁶ [Current applications - South Lanarkshire Council](#)



Community transfer body	Asset requested	Proposed use	Lease, purchase or other rights	Status
1st Strathaven Scout Group Activity Facility Trust	Blaes pitches, Lethame Road, Strathaven, ML10 6EN	Scout and community hall	25 year lease	Application on hold
Grow Together	Blaes pitches, Lethame Road, Strathaven, ML10 6EN	Community growing space	Purchase	Asset Transfer Panel

In Strathaven Park, the tennis club are pursuing an Asset Transfer of the tennis courts and Strathaven Dynamos are pursuing an Asset Transfer of the football pitches.



3. Findings

3.1 Community Assets

The community itself is an asset:

- People want to remain living in the area in the longer term
- A sense of community, feeling safe and social interaction scored highly in the survey
- The strong community spirit was mentioned consistently across conversations, and by school pupils

Businesses and economy:

- The range of independent / local businesses is valued
- The year-round programme of events, including the Gala Days, Balloon Festival, Hangarfest etc. are significant assets

Green spaces are valued assets:

- This includes the surrounding **countryside**, as well as the formal **parks** in both Strathaven and Glassford

Public transport

- This has significantly improved with the introduction of **the 3C bus**

3.2 Challenges

Infrastructure:

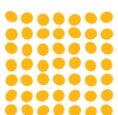
- There is a clear concern that with the growth in population in Strathaven, the town's infrastructure is under significant pressure
- This includes e.g. **access to GP services**, and the **physical infrastructure** of e.g. schools being at capacity
- It also includes concerns about **road maintenance**, **traffic management** and **parking**
- There is a concern about the lack of **public toilets**
- There are some concerns about the **general maintenance and upkeep** of the area, e.g. litter, shop front maintenance in Strathaven

Housing:

- Despite the large number of new build properties, this has not improved access to **affordable housing** or **smaller properties** (e.g. for young people getting on the property ladder, or older people downsizing)

Public transport:

- The area is rural, and in a context where 15% of households in Strathaven do not own a car, public transport links are vital to local people and the economy



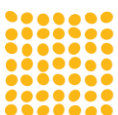
- There are concerns about what would be lost if the 3C bus was discontinued for any reason (including funding)
- There is a desire to see the 3C bus **extended**, both in terms of timetabling, and geographical reach (e.g. to Edinburgh)

Access to green spaces

- People would like to have **better access to the countryside**, e.g. through improved paths and signage
- There is concern about the **maintenance of / facilities within Strathaven Park**, in the context of local authority funding cuts

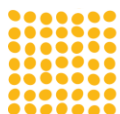
Business and economy

- More could be done to promote the independent retailers in Strathaven, both within the town, and by bringing people in to the area



3.3 Priorities and Projects

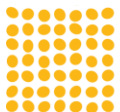
Theme 1: An Active Place for All	
We will be a place with great facilities where people can gather and where our assets can be of benefit to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds	
Priority Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community events and festivals</i> • <i>Events and facilities for young people (15-25)</i> • <i>Information sharing about what is available / events at central locations in the area and online</i>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and develop the existing calendar of community events so that these are sustainable for the long term future 2. A volunteering and community activism programme to get more people involved in the community 3. Review, develop and promote online resources for local information 4. Development of community noticeboards (and use of existing ones) to share information about what is happening in the area 5. Development of events and facilities for young people aged 15-25 6. Support and develop heritage projects, including the John Hastie Museum and Strathaven Castle 7. Support and develop the activities for the wider community that are organised and delivered within local churches
Theme 2: A Sustainable, Beautiful and Accessible Place	
Our environment and townscape will be well looked after, accessible to all and biodiverse in a way that transitions our community to net zero	
Priority Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protect and enhance local greenspaces and the natural environment</i> • <i>Development of active travel and local walking and cycle routes</i> • <i>Lobby council for road improvements and traffic control measures</i> • <i>Improve parking options and signposting to existing parking places, for both visitors and locals</i> • <i>General upkeep of the area</i>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance Strathaven Park and its facilities, including disability access 2. Protect and enhance children's play parks in Strathaven and Glassford, including disability access 3. Improve community transport, including preservation and expansion of the 3C bus service, and shared electric cars to hire 4. Public toilets 5. Continue to maintain the area with e.g. well-maintained street furniture, flower displays, bins etc. 6. Improve and widen footpaths for accessible access for all, both within and between Strathaven and Glassford and other villages



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Improve traffic control measures at certain places 8. Lobby Council for roads improvements 9. Continue to develop opportunities for active travel 10. Improve signage throughout the area
Theme 3: An Economically Thriving Place
We will be a place where the community helps to create a vibrant wellbeing economy
<p>Priority Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promote Strathaven as a shopping destination for independent businesses</i> • <i>Encourage people to 'buy local'</i> • <i>Create a post office and banking hub in Strathaven</i> • <i>Create a shop in Glassford</i> • <i>Work with landlords and property owners to develop affordable let opportunities for businesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review, develop and promote initiatives that support Strathaven as a shopping destination for independent businesses 2. Review, develop and promote initiatives that support people to 'buy local' 3. Support and promote community owned assets, including the Glassford Hall 4. Create a post office and banking hub 5. Develop a plan for affordable let opportunities for businesses
Theme 4: A Place with Sustainable Services
Our place will have sustainable services so that all our inhabitants enjoy a good standard of living
<p>Priority Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improve access to healthcare services, including GPs</i> • <i>Ensure families can send their children to the school of their choice</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lobby the Council / NHS to improve access to healthcare, including GP availability 2. Work with schools to support parents and children accessing the schools of their choice
Theme 5: A Place to Live Well
We will have appropriate and affordable housing for all stages of life
Priority Projects



- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>A moratorium on the expansion of Strathaven with large scale housing developments which increases pressure on the town's infrastructure</i>• <i>A range of housing options for all ages, from younger people to families to older people downsizing</i>• <i>Supported housing options for those in need of care and support</i>• <i>Affordable housing options, for renters and first-time buyers</i> |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lobby the Council for a moratorium on further expansion, so that the area has the chance to properly absorb the recent population growth2. Supported housing for older people to release bigger houses for young families3. Better affordable housing options to buy and rent |

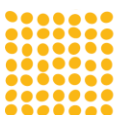


3.4 Next Steps

The engagement phase and the learning and findings now sets the foundations for the Community Action Plan and Local Place Plan content and detail.

It is proposed that phase 2 involves:

1. Agreement of the draft themes by Strathaven and Glassford Community Council.
2. Share, discuss and shape emerging solutions and agree the list of priorities. Key to this is identifying and ensuring that lead organisations and partners are on board.
3. Finalise the components (key projects) within each theme and identify partners for each.
4. Identify a key goal (or flagship project) for each theme that is achievable within the next 5 years.
5. Map out priority projects within the Strathaven and Glassford Community Council boundary.
6. Agree and publish the Community Action Plan.
7. Agree and publish the Local Place Plan for consultation (in line with the statutory requirements for LPPs).
8. 28-day consultation period.
9. Finalise the LPP following any required edits following the consultation period.
10. Submit the LPP to South Lanarkshire Council.



Appendix 1: Policy Analysis

National Policy Context

Scottish Government - National Performance Framework

NPF provides a national context for place and is Scotland's wellbeing framework. Our relationship with the place around us is complex and powerful. It has an important influence on our behaviour, our impact on the environment and our life chances.

Scotland's National Performance Framework sets out a series of Outcomes that reflect the values and aspirations of the people of Scotland. Each of these Outcomes is a crucial element in helping reduce inequalities and give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.

If we look at the whole system in which we live our lives then improving the quality of life for people, especially people living with disadvantage and inequality can be achieved at the same time as protecting and enhancing the environment. This is exactly what place-based approaches seek to do.

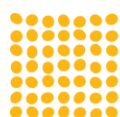
The NPF is closely linked to the Place Principle, which supports the National Performance Framework's collective purpose for Scotland and helps communities to apply it to local communities.

There are 11 outcomes in the NPF which have been summarised, along with the associated indicators below. Those which link clearly to the development of the Strathaven and Glassford Plan have been identified.

National Outcome	Associated National indicators and link to Strathaven and Glassford Plan
Children and young people – grow up loved, safe and respected so they can realise their full potential.	Progress for this outcome is measured against: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Child social and physical development- <i>Child wellbeing and happiness</i>- <i>Children's voices</i>- Healthy start- Quality of children's services- <i>Children have positive relationships</i>- Child material deprivation
Communities – are pleasant places to live where everyone has a warm, appropriate, efficient and affordable home. We value excellent and innovative design and are committed to sustainable planning and transport. We believe that access to greenspace, nature and other leisure activities positively enhances our lives and health. We have high quality, affordable and accessible public services and facilities that positively enhance lives. We focus our investment on	Progress against the communities national indicator is measured against: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Access to green and blue space (proportion of adults within 5 mins walking distance)</i>- <i>Number of assets in community ownership</i>- <i>Proportion of adults who have been victim of a crime in the last year and perceptions of crime reducing</i>



<p>deprived communities and disadvantaged rural areas.</p> <p>Communities are friendly, vibrant and cohesive.</p> <p>Our older people are happy and fulfilled and no one is isolated, lonely, living in poor housing or living in poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Percentage of adults who report feeling lonely</i> - <i>Percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a very good place to live</i> - <i>Percentage of adults who feel there are places to meet up and socialise in their neighbourhood</i>
<p>Culture – we take pride in being a vibrant and creative country. Our culture, humour and heritage as essential to who we are and to our appeal as a place to live and visit</p>	<p>Progress measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Percentage of adults attending or visiting a cultural event or places</i> - Growth in the arts, culture and creative sector - <i>Participation in cultural activity</i> - <i>People working in arts and creative industries</i>
<p>Economy – we have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy.</p> <p>Our economy is inclusive and focused on improving the lives of all our people. The benefits of economic growth, wealth and opportunities are fairly shared.</p>	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to superfast broadband - Scotland's carbon footprint - GDP growth - <i>Proportion of adult working age population actively trying to establish a new business or own a new business</i> - Income difference between highest earners and bottom 40% - International exports - Natural capital - Productivity - Spend on research and development
<p>Education – we are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society.</p> <p>We have an education we can all take part in, and understand that the desire to learn continues throughout life.</p>	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational attainment - Skill profile of the population - Skill shortages and underutilisation - Workplace learning - Young people's participation in learning and training



<p>Environment – we value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Our natural landscape and wilderness is essential to our identity and way of life. We enhance and protect our natural assets and heritage. <i>We ensure all communities can engage with and benefit from nature and green space.</i></p> <p>We are committed to environmental justice and preserving planetary resources for future generations. We consume and use our resources wisely, ethically and effectively and have an advanced recycling culture. We are at the forefront of carbon reduction efforts, renewable energy, sustainable technologies and biodiversity practice.</p> <p>We promote high quality, sustainable planning, design and housing. <i>Our transport infrastructure is integrated, sustainable, efficient and reliable. We promote active travel, cycling and walking, and discourage car reliance and use particularly in towns and cities.</i></p>	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean seas - Condition of protected nature sites - Biodiversity - Energy from renewable sources - <i>State of historic sites</i> - Sustainability of fish stock - <i>Visits to the outdoors (proportion of adults making one or more visits to the outdoors a week)</i> - Waste generated
<p>Fair Work and Business – We have thriving and innovative businesses with quality jobs and fair work for everyone.</p> <p><i>We successfully attract and retain new talent and fully support business and social enterprise.</i></p>	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contractually secure work - Economic participation (employment rate) - Employee voice - Employees on the living wage - Gender balance in organisations - High growth businesses - Innovative businesses - <i>Number of businesses</i>
<p>Health – we are healthy and active.</p> <p>We are all able to access world class, appropriate, and free/affordable health, social care and dental services.</p>	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health risk behaviours (e.g. smoking, harmful drinking, low physical activity and obesity) - Healthy life expectancy - Healthy weight - <i>Journeys by active travel</i>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mental wellbeing</i> - <i>Physical activity</i> - Premature mortality - Quality of care experience - Work related ill health
Human Rights – we respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination.	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to justice - <i>Influence over local decisions</i> - Quality of public services - Trust in public organisations
International – we are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally.	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A positive experience for people coming to live in Scotland - Contribution of development support to other nations - International networks - Scotland's population - Scotland's reputation - Public services that treat people with dignity and respect
<p>Poverty – we tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.</p> <p>We are committed to eradicating poverty and hunger in Scotland by addressing the links between poverty and income, housing, ethnicity, gender, health, disability and age.</p>	<p>Progress is measured against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost of living - Food insecurity - Persistent poverty - Relative poverty after housing costs - Satisfaction with housing - Unmanageable debt - Wealth inequality



The Place Principle

The Place Principle is the overarching context for place based working in Scotland.

The Scottish Government and COSLA adopted the Place Principle in 2019 to help overcome organisational and sectoral boundaries, to encourage better collaboration and community involvement, and improve the impact of combined energy, resources and investment.

Developed by partners in the public and private sectors, the third sector and communities, the Place Principle helps establish a clear vision for collaboration around place. It promotes a shared understanding of place, and the need to take a more collaborative approach to a place's services and assets to achieve better outcomes for people and communities. The principle encourages and enables local flexibility to respond to issues and circumstances in different places. It helps partners and local communities unlock the National Performance Framework and make it applicable to where and how they live and work.

The Place Principle 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.
- Places are shaped by the way resources, services and assets are directed and used by the people who live in and invest in them
- a more joined-up, collaborative, and participative approach to services, land and buildings, across all sectors within a place, enables better outcomes for everyone and increased opportunities for people and communities to shape their own lives.

The principle requests that all those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.

Planning (Scotland) Act 2019

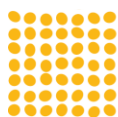
The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 sets the future structure of the modernised planning system. The Act includes a broad range of changes to be made across the planning system including:

- Arrangements for the preparation of development plans
- Proactive master planning
- Development management procedures and considerations
- Strengthening enforcement
- A focus on improved performance and positive outcomes

An important part of the legislation is the introduction of local place plans. Local Place Plans are community-led plans setting out proposals for the development and use of land. Once completed and then registered by the planning authority, they are to be taken into account in the preparation of the relevant local development plan.

National Planning Framework 4

The National Planning Framework sets out the Scottish Ministers' policies and proposals for the development and use of land. NPF4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers in February 2023. The statutory development plan for any given area of Scotland consists of the National Planning Framework and the relevant local development plan.



There are six overarching spatial principles:

- Just transition.
- Conserving and recycling assets.
- Local living.
- Compact urban growth.
- Rebalanced development.
- Rural revitalisation.

By applying these spatial principles, the national spatial strategy will support the planning and delivery of:

- sustainable places, where we reduce emissions, restore and better connect biodiversity;
- liveable places, where we can all live better, healthier lives; and
- productive places, where we have a greener, fairer and more inclusive wellbeing economy.

Local Policy Context

South Lanarkshire Council Plan (Connect) 2022-2027

This plan sets out how the council will deliver its services and take action on the things that matter to residents, with the overall objective of improving the lives and prospects of those who live in South Lanarkshire. Priorities set out in this plan include:

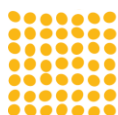
- **Putting people first and reducing inequality;** working with communities to ensure their voices are heard and that they are supported to take action on the things that matter to them.
- **Recovery, progression and improvement;** including continued recovery from the pandemic, and progression in terms of delivering the right things that matter to everyone, in the right place, at the right time.
- **Planet;** working towards a sustainable future in sustainable places, working together to develop local solutions to protect nature and take action on climate change- supporting our young people to lead the way.

Outcomes identified through the community consultation process include:

Theme	Outcome	Commitment to deliver (relevant to this plan)
Communities and environment	Caring, connected, sustainable communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support a circular economy by re-using, recycling and generating energy from waste,• Increase digital access in rural areas,• Ensure high quality streets, parks and other public areas,



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve road and transport infrastructure, including public transport and active travel,
Education and learning	Inspiring learners, transforming learning, strengthening partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps to raise standards in numeracy and literacy.
Health and wellbeing	People live the healthiest lives possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to live active and independent lives, • Deliver person centred care and support in communities, • Improve health and wellbeing to allow children and families to flourish, • Help people to live in their homes and communities through integrated community health and social care services.
Children and young people	Our children and young people thrive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work. • Improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.
Housing and land	Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support people to access and sustain housing that meets their needs, • Work to bring vacant and derelict sites into productive use, • Promote a mix and choice of homes by facilitating private housing development, • Work with property owners and landlords to ensure private housing meets the needs of residents, • Deliver an affordable housing programme that meets needs, • Support the sustainability and prosperity of rural communities and economy while protecting that character of rural areas.



Our economy	Thriving business, fair jobs and vibrant town centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise unemployment and underemployment, focusing on disadvantaged communities, Help create town centres that offer social, economic and cultural heart to communities
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South Lanarkshire Council – Local Development Plan 2

The LDP 2 was first published in January 2021 (covering 5 years from the date of adoption) and guides future development, following on from the vision set in the Council Plan ‘Connect’ and provides a framework to encourage development that will benefit communities and safeguard the environment.

The Plan’s overall strategic vision is:

To promote the continued growth and regeneration of South Lanarkshire by seeking sustainable economic and social development within a low carbon economy whilst protecting and enhancing the environment’.

The LDP has a specific role to play in supporting a number of ‘Connect’ objectives including:

- Supporting the local economy by providing the right conditions for inclusive growth,
- Work with communities and partners to promote high quality, thriving and sustainable communities,
- Improve the road network, influence improvements in public transport and encourage active travel,
- Improve the availability, quality and access of housing.

Four themes have been identified around which the plans objectives are structured and developed:

- Economy,
- People and Places,
- Environment,
- Infrastructure.

These themes provide the basis for four broad objectives which seek to:

- Encourage sustainable economic growth,
- Meet the community’s needs,
- Enhance and safeguard the environment,
- Maximise the use of and seek opportunities to enhance existing infrastructure.



There are a range of policies within the LDP which are used to assess and determine if development proposals will contribute towards achieving the plans objectives.

Policy	Points relevant to the development of the Strathaven and Glassford Plan
Spatial Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard and protect town, neighbourhood and village centres in accordance with the town centres first principle, • Ensure an adequate, flexible and generous supply of land for housing, industry and business in appropriate locations, • Protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.
Climate Change	<p>New development proposals should ensure that they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainably located to make the best use of public transport and the established social and economic infrastructure. • where appropriate involve the reuse of vacant and derelict land, • include opportunities for active travel routes and provide for trips by public transport.
Green Belt and Rural Area	<p>The Green Belt is considered to be a national, strategic and local resource. The purpose of the Green Belt is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct development to the most appropriate locations and support regeneration, • Protect and enhance the character, landscape and identity of the settlement, • Protect and provide access to public space.
Development Management and Placemaking	<p>The council expects new developments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create buildings which respect their surroundings, • Establish a sense of place and identity, • Contribute positively to the existing character of the area, • Are easy to get to and move around in, particularly for pedestrians and disabled people, • Incorporate the principles of sustainable development.
Network of Centres and Retailing	<p>Strategic, Town and Local Centres provide retail and other services to communities in South Lanarkshire.</p>



Affordable Housing	Developers are expected to contribute to meeting the region's affordable housing needs by providing up to 25% of affordable homes in developments of 20 houses or more.
Green Network and Green Space	Development proposals should safeguard the green network (as identified on the proposals map as a part of the LDP) and contribute towards placemaking, mitigating the impact of climate change, promoting biodiversity, enhancing health and quality of life, providing areas for leisure, allotments and growing and promoting active travel.
Travel and Transport	Active travel and the availability of public transport sources should be key in the planning of new developments. Proposals should seek to reduce car travel and promote walking and cycling as means of transport where possible.

South Lanarkshire Council Local Development Plan 3

South Lanarkshire Council started work preparing the next Local Development Plan for the area in May 2024. The plan, when adopted, will set out how places in the area will look in the future including where new homes and workplaces could be built and the areas that will be protected.

There will be a strong emphasis on improving the quality of places as well as addressing the challenges of climate change and the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

Extensive engagement will be carried out to gather information and views from partners, stakeholders, and local communities. The development plan scheme will set out the timetable for the next LDP3 and the Participation Statement has been prepared which describes the methods that will be used to engage.

The formal LDP consultation launch took place in May 2024 which, alongside stakeholder consultation, will feed into an Evidence Report informed by the views and lived experience of people who live, work and have an interest in South Lanarkshire.

The Proposed Local Development Plan including Delivery Programme will be shared and call to propose ideas will be open to all, consultation will be a minimum of 12 weeks. The timescale for the consultation is broad and could be launched between Q4 2024/2025 – Q4 2025/2026.

Following further modifications based on the consultation and examination, it is anticipated that the LDP will be adopted in financial year 2027/2028 (Q3).

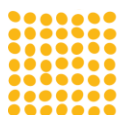
Community Empowerment Act 2015

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.



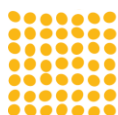
Appendix 2: Boards for Gala Day

See separate PDF file.



Appendix 3: School Pupils' Thoughts and Ideas

See separate PDF file.



Appendix 4: 60 Things To See And Do In Strathaven

60 THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN STRATHAVEN

A crowdsourced town guide for locals and visitors



#60ThingsStrathaven

Welcome to Strathaven

Strathaven is a historic market town in the heart of the Avon Valley. It's a busy wee place with lots to do and lots to see. From local history to a hot air balloon festival, and independent shops to plenty of walks, there's something for everyone - be they a local or visitor.

In this guide, you'll find '60 Things to See and Do in Strathaven' as suggested by the people who live here. The map shows you where everything is - just find the corresponding number for where you want to go, and you're all set. We hope you enjoy your visit!

If you find this guide helpful while you're here, please feel free to share your experience using #60ThingsStrathaven.

About this project

With lots of new people moving to the town, and more visitors discovering what Strathaven has to offer, Creative Strathaven CIC wanted to create something to help visitors and locals alike explore it.

This guide has been created and produced by Creative Strathaven CIC with funding from the Town Centre Fund from South Lanarkshire Council.

Designed and illustrated by Mhairi Anderson.

Places to eat and drink

Cafes

(1) The Tudor Coffee House, (2) Strathaven Tea Room & Gift Shop, (3) The Old Smiddy, (4) 13 Barn Street, (5) Food @ 40, (6) The Crib, (7) and The Drawing Room (a licensed cafe) serve delicious light bites, meals, sweet treats, and more. (8) Roasted is the place to go if you're a foodie and love coffee. If coffee is your thing, why not visit Strathaven's local coffee roaster and shop, (9) Fowler Coffee. Strathaven is home to Scotland's oldest bakery, (10) Alexander Taylor's who also have a cafe and deli opposite the bakehouse. Just outside Strathaven but the perfect place to stop after a walk up Loudon Hill is (11) The Heron Farm Shop and Kitchen, (12) For takeaway sweet treats, pop in to Cakes and Shakes.

Restaurants

Serving food and drinks all day and into the evening are (13) Strathaven Hotel, (14) The Waterside, and (15) The Strathaven. (16) The Taal is an award winning restaurant serving Indian cuisine.

Pubs

Ales on tap, craft beers and more can be found at (17) The Weavers, (18) The Drumclog, (19) The Bucks Head, and (15) The Strathaven all have great drinks menus but also run special events every week. Both (13) Strathaven Hotel and (14) The Waterside have bars alongside their restaurants.

About Creative Strathaven

Creative Strathaven CIC is a not-for-profit community organisation that's all about bringing people together. We're not a membership organisation but we run various events and activities that provide opportunities to meet new people, learn new skills, and become part of a creative community.

You can visit our shop at 6a Common Green where we showcase and sell work by over 70 local and Scotland based Makers. It's open from 10am-5pm Monday to Saturday. Pop in for a nosey if you're out and about.

Let's keep in touch!

Keep up to date with all of the goings on by subscribing to our newsletter via our website. You can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



www.creativestrathaven.co.uk

Places to shop

Visit (20) Hollow Wall Records for rare, vintage, and well-known vinyls. Treat yourself to some new clothes at (21) Leafy Green, and (22) Your Boutique 365. If you're looking for something for the wee ones in your life, pop in to (23) Say it Gifts, and (24) Stardust who specialise in clothing and gifts for babies and toddlers. (23) Say it Gifts is also home to (25) Boardboarders where you'll find a wide selection of board games for sale. (26) No.40 Common Green, (27) Jaro Design, (3) The Old Smiddy, and (2) Strathaven Tea Room & Gift Shop sell a selection of homeware, gifts, jewellery and more. You'll find work by over 70 local and Scotland based makers at (28) Creative Strathaven. (29) McColl's the Jeweller has a beautiful selection of jewellery and watches to suit a range of budgets and occasions. Interior shops (30) Interior 13, (31) Emily Ross Furnishings, and (27) Jaro Design have everything you need to dress your home. If you're looking to do some gardening, head to (32) The Common Greenery and (33) Brian Young Garden Centre. (34) Jan Rooney at 2 Barn Street Mews, and (35) The Flower Box Boutique do beautiful flower arrangements. (36) Waterside Wool is Strathaven's only yarn shop that also specialises in other knitting and crochet supplies.

Places to walk and things to see

(37) Strathaven Park is a beautiful greenspace in the town. Here you'll find an adventure playground, a smaller park for wee ones, the boating pond, the bandstand, a putting green, walks, and more. The Park is also home to Strathaven Miniature Railway, Scotland's oldest miniature railway, with trains running on weekends and public holidays from the end of April to the end of September. If you're interested in local history, take a walk up to (38) The Monument, followed by a visit to (39) Strathaven Castle (it was privately owned from the 14th century until 1716 when Anne, Duchess of Hamilton, died), and finishing at (40) Strathaven Museum run by (41) The Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust. There's plenty of great walks in and around Strathaven. You could take a walk to the (42) The Duck Pond, and enjoy refreshments and Jolly Jersey Ice Cream from Nether Lethame Farm - (43) Strathaven Airfield isn't far from there and you can often see small planes and microlights taking off from it. You can also take a walk around the grounds of (44) Strathaven Golf Club where you could even play a round of golf. For a slightly more adventurous walk, take a climb up (45) Loudon Hill and see the Spirit of Scotland sculpture on the trail, or walk to (46) The Spectacle E'e Falls in Sandford where you can do a bit of wild swimming.

Events and festivals

(47) Hangarfest sees shops, cafes, bars and restaurants turned into music venues for this music festival in a day on the first Saturday of June. It also marks the beginning of Gala Week where various events such as the Raft Race, the Duck Race, Car Treasure Hunt and more take place before (48) Gala Day which happens on the second Saturday in June. (49) Slainte Strathaven: Beer, Rum & Gin Festival, is hosted and organised by Strathaven & District Round Table in August. It's followed by (50) The Strathaven Balloon Festival, Scotland's only hot air balloon festival, on the last Saturday and Sunday of August. (51) Strathaven Agricultural Exposition happens on the first Saturday of September and features livestock showing, vintage tractors, handicraft displays, and much more. Remember, remember the 5th of November at (52) Strathaven Bonfire Night on the first Saturday of November. Start your Christmas shopping at the (53) Creative Strathaven Christmas Makers Market showcasing work by 40 local and Scotland based makers on the second weekend in November. Christmas comes to Strathaven on the second Sunday in December when Santa and his reindeer visit the town for (54) Reindeer Day. There are lots more events throughout the year including (55) monthly concerts hosted by FRETs Creative at (14) Strathaven Hotel. (56) The Town Mill regularly runs cinema nights, concerts, shows, and more.

Community organisations

There are several organisations and community groups in the town. Here are just a few of them...

(41) The Strathaven John Hastie Museum Trust works to tell Strathaven's story. You can find out more about the work they do by visiting them at the (40) Strathaven Museum.

(57) Strathaven & District Roundtable run various events throughout the year. They raise money to help other community initiatives. (58) Strathaven Rotary Club is a similar group who meet once a week, host events, and do voluntary work in and around the town.

(59) Strathaven in Bloom is a voluntary community group that keeps the town looking beautiful. Its volunteers can often be seen maintaining planters and flower beds throughout the town.

(60) Climate Action Strathaven works with individuals, groups, businesses and organisations to promote sustainability for everyone, engaging in discussions and acting on ideas to overcome the climate change emergency. You can find out more by visiting them at their Eco Hub where you can also visit the Community Fridge and Refill Strathaven. CAS also operates the 3C bus service to Glasgow.

