

# STEPPI AND DISTRICT

## LOCAL PLACE PLAN 2025

- 3 FOREWORD
- 4 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND
- 5 OUR COMMUNITY NOW
- 12 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
- 14 PICTURE MY PLACE
- 15 STEPPS AND DISTRICT LOCAL PLACE PLAN
- 16 REGARD TO NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4
- 17 PROPOSITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2
- 18 STEPPS AND DISTRICT
- 20 NPF4 AND THE PLAN FOR NORTH LANARKSHIRE
- 23 WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER PLACE FOR EVERYONE
- 24 OUR COMMUNITY VISION
- THEMES AND PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY ACTION:
- 25 THEME 1 | MOVEMENT
- 26 THEME 2 | SPACES
- 27 THEME 3 | RESOURCES
- 28 THEME 4 | CIVIC
- 29 THEME 5 | STEWARDSHIP
- 30 OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT
- 34 MAKING THE LINKS TO THE LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN
- 35 OUR COMMUNITY - MAKING IT HAPPEN
- 36 APPENDIX 1 - CURRENT NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAPS



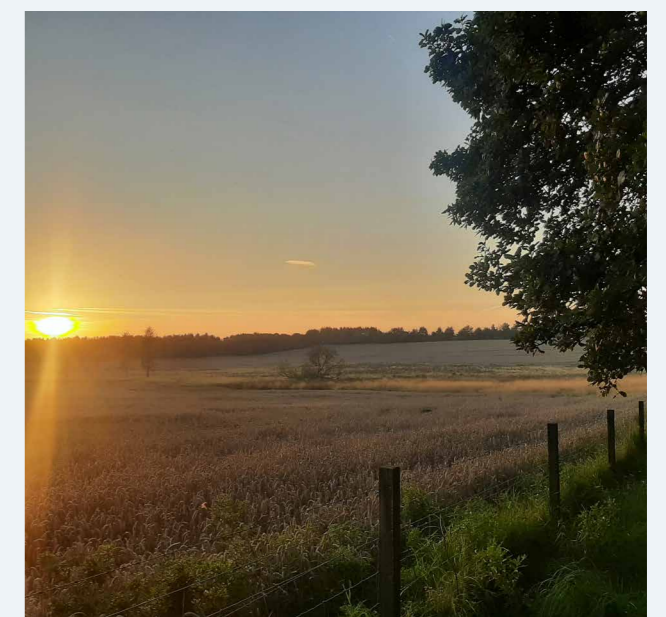
*Fields and trees on the green belt*

Stepps and District Community Council is pleased to present this Local Place Plan (LPP) on behalf of our local community.

It has been prepared following extensive community consultation from May to July 2025 and was supported by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT).

The aims of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) have been used as a guide when framing this plan. Its production has been greatly assisted by the use of the CRT Place Standard Toolkit and NPF4 resources.

The Stepps and District LPP sets out a future vision for our community and the actions to achieve this. The local community has also identified Community Action Priorities that they want to happen. These are set out under the five themes of the Improvement Service's 'Place and Wellbeing Outcomes' which are designed to improve Scotland's wellbeing and reduce inequality.



*Sunset on the green belt*



Tower at Buchanan Business Park

This LPP has been prepared under the provisions of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. It aims to articulate our community's collective vision and proposals for the future development and the use of land within our local area. It highlights the community's ambition for our area, setting out what features are valued or are of concern today, and the aspirations that are held for the future.



LPPs hold a unique and significant status within Scotland's planning framework. They are a mechanism for devolving planning power to communities, and are designed to align community views with the overarching objectives of NPF4. This LPP will serve as a vital source of local knowledge, informing the preparation of the next North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (NLLDP2).<sup>1</sup>

## Background

This LPP has been developed and shaped by extensive community engagement led by Stepps and District Community Council and supported by the CRT. Through this engagement, we have captured the unique desires, needs and priorities that community members hold for our local place.

By shining a light on the historic, natural and socio-demographic features that make our area special, and providing a platform and voice for the community, the LPP sets out concrete steps to help shape our community and local area for the better.

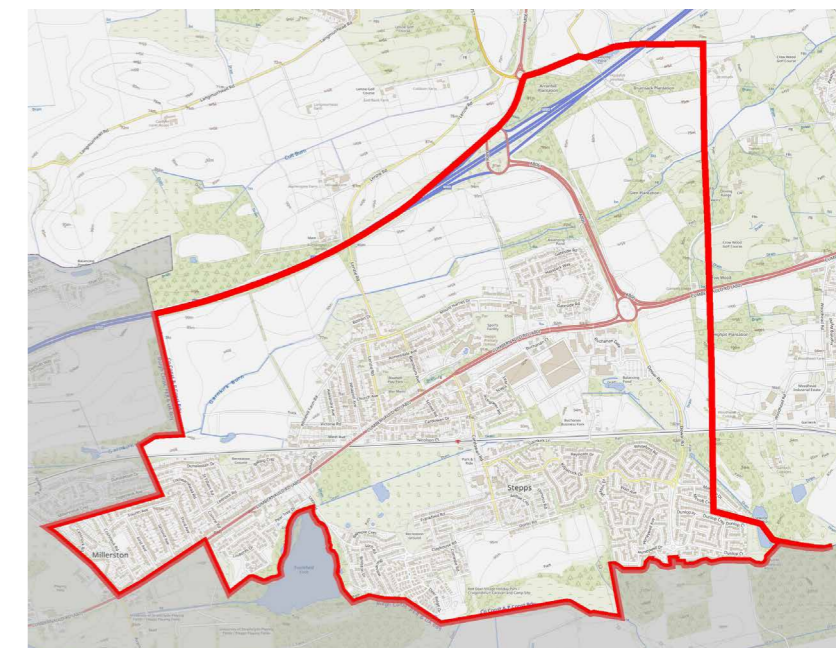
<sup>1</sup> Once completed and then registered by the planning authority, LPPs are to be taken into account in the preparation of the relevant local development plan. LPPs might also be classed as a "material consideration" when planning authorities make determinations on future planning applications that come in. For more information on LPPs see: [www.gov.scot/publications/circular-1-2022-local-place-plans/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/circular-1-2022-local-place-plans/) and [www.scdc.org.uk/local-place-plans/faqs-lpp-guide](http://www.scdc.org.uk/local-place-plans/faqs-lpp-guide)



View of the Cumbernauld Road at Stepps

## Location

Stepps and District is located within the North Lanarkshire Council area of Scotland, positioned approximately 7 miles (11 km) northeast of Glasgow with transport connections to the city centre. To its west and south, it borders the eastern edge of Glasgow. To the north and east the land transitions into more rural landscapes and green belt. Its suburban residential areas are interspersed with significant and valued natural green spaces. This bolsters environmental diversity and provides a crucial recreational asset for the community.



The above map shows the boundary of the Stepps and District Community Council area. This is also the boundary for this LPP.

# OUR COMMUNITY NOW



6

## Population

The total population for Stepps and District was

**8,272**

based on mid-2022 estimates published by National Records of Scotland.

The male population is **3,981**, while the female population is **4,291**. Children (0-15) account for **1,653** of the population. Working age individuals are **5,165** and older adults (65+ years) make up **1,454** of the population.<sup>2</sup>



## Housing

As of 2024, there were

**4,034**

dwellings in the local area.<sup>3</sup>

Housing stock is predominantly owner-occupied dwellings. The housing market in the area has been active with new developments, such as Earls Rise on Cumbernauld Road, contributing to population growth. There has also been a recent focus from North Lanarkshire Council to increase affordable housing options within the area<sup>4</sup>. Census 2022 data shows that **39.8%** of people owned their homes outright, **42.9%** owned with a mortgage or loans, and **6.4%** are renting.

<sup>2</sup> Cardowan, Millerston and Stepps small area population estimates: [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/small-area-population-estimates-mid-2022/](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/small-area-population-estimates-mid-2022/)

<sup>3</sup> Cardowan, Millerston and Stepps small area statistics on households and dwellings: [www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/small-area-statistics-on-households-and-dwellings-2024/](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/publications/small-area-statistics-on-households-and-dwellings-2024/)

<sup>4</sup> North Lanarkshire Council has engaged in partnerships, such as the "off the shelf" purchase of 30 new homes from Barratt West Scotland at Buttercup Crescent and Gateside Road in Stepps, to increase affordable housing options.

# OUR COMMUNITY NOW



7

Our well-known local postman on his rounds

## Poverty and Deprivation

Concerning poverty and deprivation, data from the early 2020s<sup>5</sup> shows that:

- The total population that are income deprived is **5%**
- The total population that are employment deprived is **4%**
- Children aged under 16 living in relative low income families is **10.6%**

Unemployment estimates, based on the number of people claiming unemployment benefits, sit at **1.7%** of the working age population as of March 2025. This is lower than the proportion in North Lanarkshire (**3.2%**) and Scotland (**3.2%**).

<sup>5</sup> North Lanarkshire North Locality Health and Social Care Locality Profile Summer 2022: [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/North%20HSCP%20Locality%20profile%202022.pdf](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/North%20HSCP%20Locality%20profile%202022.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> CRT Local Insight Report, based on Census 2022 Self-Reported General Health data

## Education and Skills

Stepps hosts two primary schools, Stepps Primary School and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School, with most pupils transferring to Chryston High School and Our Lady's High School, Cumbernauld. While higher and further education and extensive skills training facilities are not available within Stepps itself, residents can have access to the broader educational and skills provisions offered across North Lanarkshire and Glasgow.

## Health and Care

Healthcare is provided by two local general practitioners, a dental surgery and a pharmacy, with hospitals located outside the area. **1.4%** of people in Stepps and Cardowan LPP boundary have self-reported very bad health. This is lower than the proportion in North Lanarkshire (**2.2%**) and lower than the proportion in Scotland (**1.6%**). The proportion of people disabled under the Equality Act - with their day-to-day activities limited a lot - is **8.9%**. This is lower than the proportion in North Lanarkshire (**13.2%**) and lower than the proportion in Scotland (**10.8%**)<sup>6</sup>.



Outdoor Gym at Frankfield Park

## Sports and Recreation

Within the residential parts of Stepps there are a number of parks and recreational areas for residents, often featuring play areas, open grass for informal sports and landscaped sections for relaxation. Local parks, such as the Bluebell, Frankfield and Dunalastair play parks and the Cardowan multi-use games area (MUGA), are crucial for daily leisure and offer immediate access to outdoor environments for residents. There are also a number of sports facilities in the area, including a private health club, boxing club, lawn bowls, lawn tennis club, hockey field and pavilion and football pitches.

## Heritage

Around the beginning of the 19th century, the area around Stepps and Cardowan was primarily a rural landscape of farms and woodland. In the coming years the area soon began to see industrial activity with the opening of coal, limestone and fireclay works. A pivotal moment was the arrival of the Garnkirk and Glasgow Railway in 1831, which shaped the settlement profoundly, leading to the opening of a station in 1832 known for many years as "Steps Road" and later formally becoming "Stepps" in 1924.

This railway connection gradually transformed the area from a collection of scattered cottages and farms, with the present day village of Stepps developed on the Garnkirk Estate in the fifteen years before World War One. In the early 1900s the population more than doubled in a decade, with villagers served by a number of local schools, halls, churches and shops.

The Cardowan Colliery was a major local employer from the 1920s to the 1980s, employing 940 people in 1982. In the 1960s James Buchanan & Co commenced construction of a whisky blending and bottling plant, adjacent to Cumbernauld Road, employing 800 - 1000 people before ceasing operation in 1987. This site was converted for use by several different companies, with six additional double storey office blocks further built in the 1990s. Later developments took place at Buchanan Gate, including the construction of a Premier Inn, and in 2012 Scottish Water began construction of a large office development.

Over the decades, Stepps has benefitted from its early railway links and later, the M80 motorway bypass in 1992. Historic farm buildings, Gateside Farm, Hornshill Farm and Coshneuk Farm have all been demolished since 2021, with new housing estates added over the years contributing to the community's growth.

## Timeline

- 1831** The Glasgow and Garnkirk railway line is opened.
- 1832** Steps Road railway station opened in 1832. This station site closed in 1962.
- 1875** St Joseph's Church was erected.
- 1885** Stepps Public Hall opened on Cardowan Drive and was used as a school until 1902. The hall was demolished in 2012 after being used for a variety of functions over many years.
- 1900** Stepps Parish Church erected.
- 1901** St Joseph's School was added to the church, in use until a new primary school was opened in 1985.
- 1902** Stepps primary school was erected, with extensions added in 1911 and 1960. The old school was demolished in 2008 after the construction of the new school.
- 1903** Stepps Bowling Club was formed. The club was formally opened in 1905.
- 1907** Stepps Tennis Club was formed. The club was formally opened in 1908.
- 1910** Stepps public park was opened.
- 1913** Stepps Hockey Club was formed.
- 1913** St Andrew's Church was erected on Blenheim Avenue and demolished in 1984.
- 1922** The housing in Millerston began construction by Lanarkshire Council.
- 1924** Cardowan Colliery was sunk in 1924 with the first coal being produced in 1929.
- 1937** The housing in Cardowan was erected by Lanarkshire Council.
- 1953** Volunteer Fire Station opened on Mount Harriet Drive.
- 1965** Garfield Hotel opened.
- 1966** James Buchanan & Co whisky company started operation, closing in 1987.
- 1975** A local Fire Station opened in Cardowan.
- 1983** Demolition and clearance of the Cardowan Colliery site (with housing now in place).
- 1985** Opening of St Joseph's Primary School.
- 1989** A new railway station opened, with the line electrified in 2013.
- 1996** Six double storey office blocks were built on Cumbernauld Road.
- 2002** Stepps Twinned with Les Marches, Savoie, France.
- 2007** A new primary school, cultural centre and library was opened.
- 2012** Scottish Water began construction of office.
- 2022** 199 houses were erected on Gateside Farm.



Cardowan Mining Memorial

## Social and Community

Stepps and district has some important services that help contribute to community life. These include Stepps Library and Cultural Centre, St Joseph's Church (including the Old School Parish Centre) and Stepps Parish Church (including the Parish Halls).

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) indicates geographic access to services in a given area.<sup>7</sup> Stepps and District LPP boundary has an overall Geographic Access to Services domain rank of 1,668. This is lower than the rank in North Lanarkshire (3,195), and lower than the rank in Scotland (3,511), reflecting higher levels of service access deprivation in the area.

## Local Economy

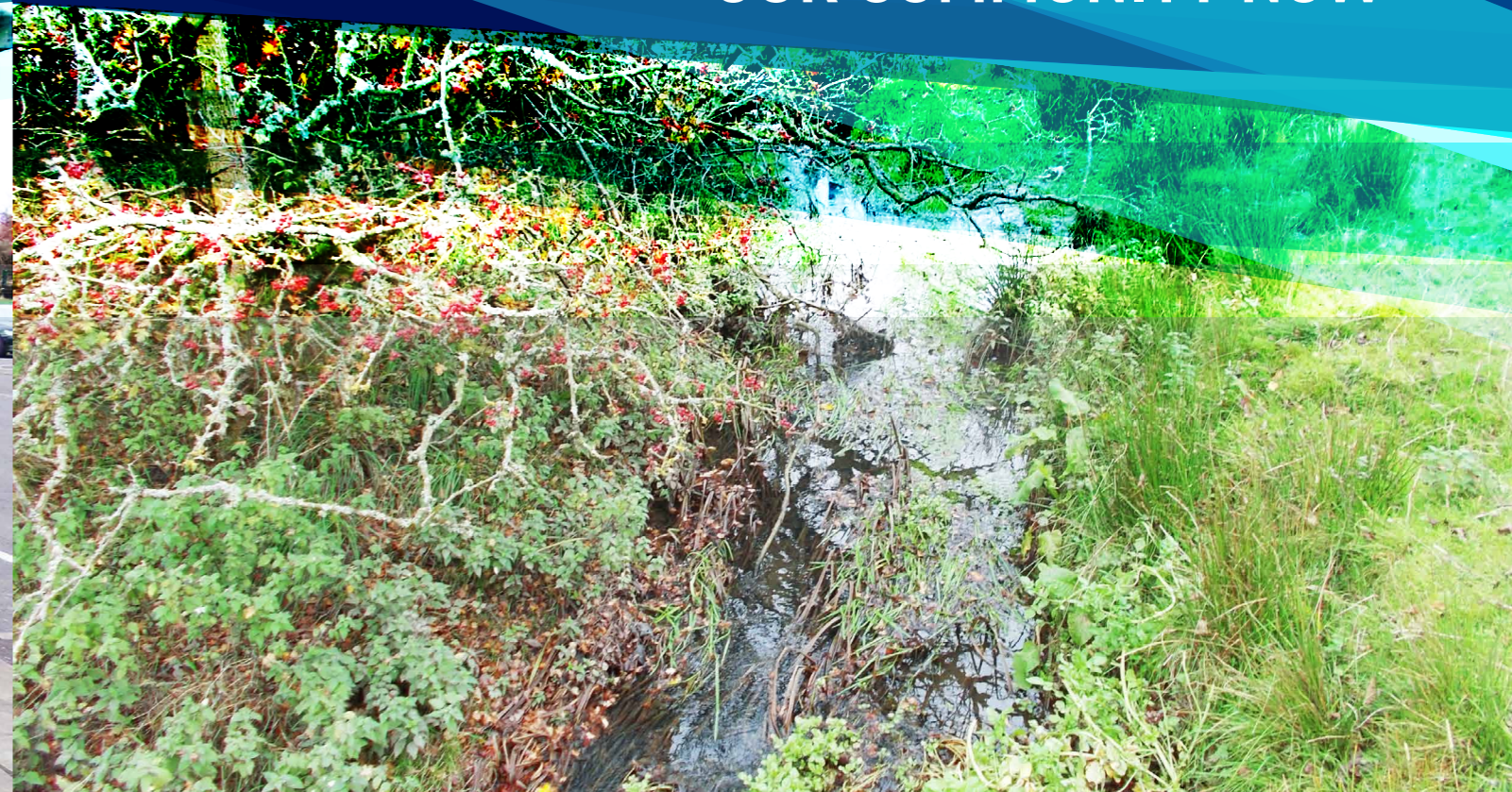
The district's economy is predominantly residential, with a small number of local services and small businesses for its growing population. Its mix of businesses is less diverse than nearby districts. Rather than a wide array of smaller independent retail or hospitality enterprises,

business support and professional services are more prominent in the area. A cluster of employers can be found in the Buchanan Business Park including the headquarters of Scottish Water. The area also has two hotels the Garfield House Hotel and the Premier Inn.



Stepps and District War Memorial

<sup>7</sup> [www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/](http://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/)



The Garnkirk Burn

## Environment and Biodiversity

The Stepps and District area boasts a rich array of green spaces, vital for both local biodiversity and community health and wellbeing. A cornerstone of this is the Seven Lochs Wetland Park, which extends into the district. The area's green spaces serve as a crucial ecological corridor, supporting a diverse range of plant and animal life, particularly various bird species. In addition to its ecological importance, the green spaces offer opportunities for walking, cycling and enjoying nature.

Beyond the expansive wetland park, the district incorporates various other valuable green assets.

- The Garnkirk Burn passes through the local area, providing an important green link and blue corridor that supports diverse plant life along its banks.
- The land behind Dorlin Road offers walking trails and a habitat for local wildlife that is important for biodiversity.
- The Bluebell Dell is a charming local woodland area renowned for its vibrant display of bluebells in spring.

The area's green spaces are not only aesthetically pleasing but also play a role in local drainage and provide foraging grounds for wildlife.

## Public Transport

Stepps and District has public transport links (bus and rail) connecting residents to Glasgow and Falkirk and to destinations in North Lanarkshire e.g. Chryston, Gartcosh and Cumbernauld. Bus services in Stepps are provided by First Bus Glasgow. The most frequent route is the 38C which offers a direct connection to Glasgow city centre.

Train services are provided to Glasgow Queen Street, Cumbernauld and Falkirk Grahamston. Direct train services from Stepps to Edinburgh ceased with the introduction of the May 2022 timetable change, as part of a service rationalisation. Trains on this route now only run as far as Cumbernauld or Falkirk Grahamston, with journeys to Edinburgh now requiring at least one change.



In-person 'mapping conversations' event

## Gathering Everyone's Views

Over May to July 2025 a series of community engagement activities were held by Stepps and District Community Council in order to inform the LPP. These activities gathered a wide range of views and feelings about our local place. Outreach was both online and in-person, using a range of tools and approaches to identify local priorities. This included:

- An **online survey** based on the 14 themes, questions and prompts in the Place Standard Tool<sup>8</sup> (see results on page 14).
- A **'3 Wishes for My Community'** campaign, supported by CRT, which received 626 completed cards from across the community.
- Stalls at the local **Stepps Market** in May and June and the **Stepps Primary School Fun Day** in June.
- Engagement with **local pupils** at Stepps and St Joseph's Primary Schools, **local churches** St Joseph's Church and Stepps Parish Church and with **older peoples'** groups.
- Engagement with **community services** i.e. Community Police Officers and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.
- Holding an in-person engagement session on 15 July entitled **'Mapping Conversations'** which focused on the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and community aspirations for the future.

The **'3 Wishes for My Community'** campaign highlighted the community's aspirations for the area. Top themes from these responses were:

- **Protect the Green Belt and Promote Green Spaces:** The community is strongly and repeatedly advocating for the protection of the green belt and local green spaces and a halt to unsustainable housing developments.
- **Improve Public Transport and Transport Infrastructure:** The community is concerned about the state of its bus and train services and the condition of roads and pavements.



Community consultation at Stepps Food Market

- **Create a Stronger, More Social Community:** The community desires more opportunities to connect and socialise locally. This is reflected in wishes for more social spaces such as shops, cafes and restaurants that are within walking distance, family friendly and offer a place for people to gather.
- **Enhance Local Amenities:** The community expresses a strong desire for more and better local facilities. This includes a call for a village centre with a wider variety of shops and more essential services (e.g. GPs and Dentists).
- **Recreational Spaces:** There were numerous wishes for more recreational spaces, such as more and better-maintained parks and an indoor community sports centre and swimming pool that is affordable for all. Wishes for more recreational options for children were also expressed.



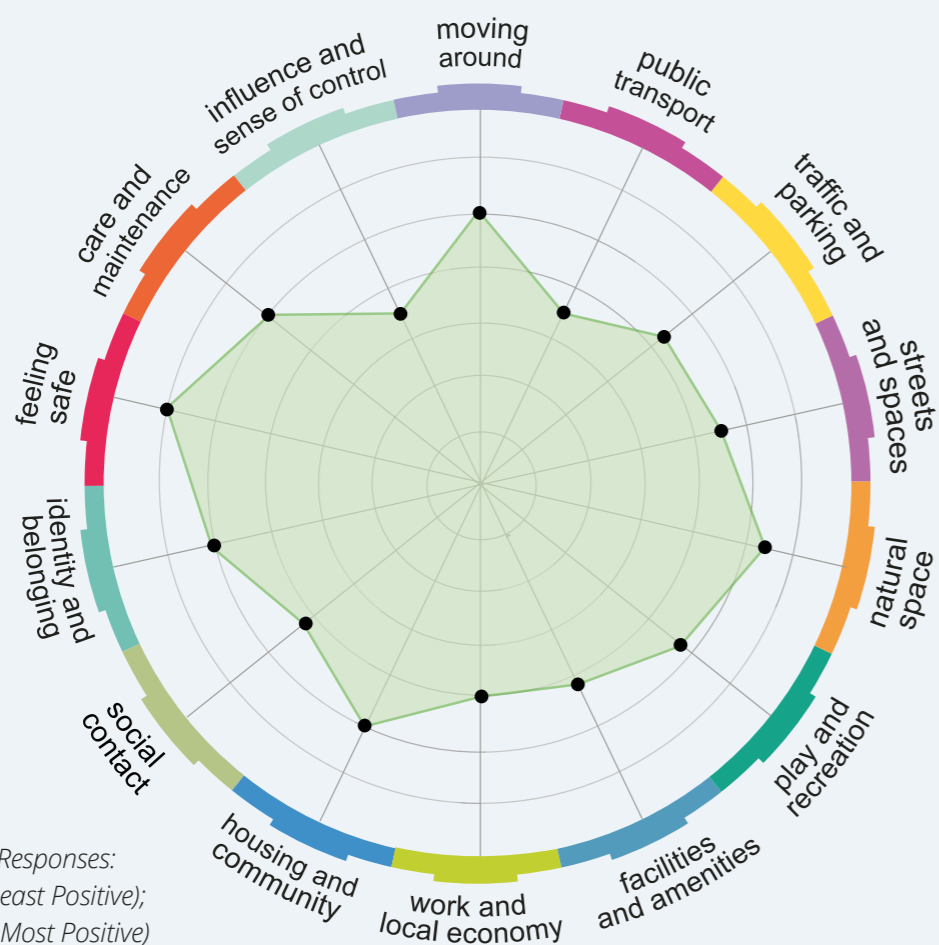
## Public Consultation on the LPP

A proposed Stepps and District LPP was made available online and at Stepps Library over a 28-day consultation period during October and November 2025. Comments received were carefully considered. Where consultation feedback aligned with broad community views revisions were made to inform the final LPP.

<sup>8</sup> For further information see: [www.gov.scot/publications/our-place-website/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/our-place-website/) and [www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/planning-and-place-based-approaches/planning-for-place-programme/place-and-wellbeing-outcomes](http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/planning-and-place-based-approaches/planning-for-place-programme/place-and-wellbeing-outcomes)

Using the Place Standard Assessment Tool

The community online survey was open over May, June and July 2025, with the questions posed based on the 14 place standard categories identified by the Scottish Government Improvement Service as underpinning place and wellbeing outcomes.



Mean of Survey Responses:  
Inner Ring = 1 (Least Positive);  
Outer Ring = 7 (Most Positive)

246 people participated in the survey, with 87 respondents fully completing the survey and 159 partial responses. Survey results showcased a range of views across the community.<sup>9</sup>

Public sentiment was 'most positive' about the quality of accessible natural space, ease of movement around the local area and feeling safe and belonging.

Sentiment was 'least positive' regarding people's sense of control over what is happening in the community, public transport, facilities and amenities (e.g. services, shops, cafes etc.) and the local economy.

<sup>9</sup>A summary of survey results will be published on the Steps and District Community Council Website.



Throughout the development of and consultation on this LPP regard was given to the following plans and policies:

1. The Plan for North Lanarkshire
2. North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan
3. Local Outcome Improvement Plan for North Lanarkshire Northern Corridor
4. The Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4)
5. The planning circular 1/2022: Local Place Plan
6. The North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2027

North Lanarkshire's current LDP<sup>10</sup> came into force on 6 July 2022 with preparations now underway for the new North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (NLLDP2).<sup>11</sup>

This is an important document which sets out the policies and proposals for land use and development in North Lanarkshire.

It will set out the future for development, for example, where new housing, shops, business and industry premises, leisure facilities and roads can be built and, importantly, where they can't. It also protects our green spaces.

This LPP provides a crucial opportunity for our community's views to be heard and contribute to shaping the new NLLDP2. In preparing its next NLLDP2 the planning authority must take into account the Steps and District Local Place Plan.

<sup>10</sup> Steps and District falls within the Northern Corridor LAP Mapbook with Promote Map 7.2 and Protect Map 7.2 and legend illustrated in APPENDIX 1. This mapbook is published at: [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Northern%20Corridor%20LAP%20Mapbook.pdf](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/Northern%20Corridor%20LAP%20Mapbook.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building/development-plans/our-new-local-development-plan/key-stages-development-plan-scheme-and-participation-statement](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building/development-plans/our-new-local-development-plan/key-stages-development-plan-scheme-and-participation-statement)

# STEPS AND DISTRICT LOCAL PLACE PLAN GIVES REGARD TO NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK 4

“ The world is changing, and so are Scotland’s places. This strategy sets out how we will work together in the coming years to improve people’s lives by making sustainable, liveable and productive places.

This will play a key role in delivering on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as well as our national outcomes.

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

STATEMENT BY MINISTER FOR PUBLIC FINANCE, PLANNING AND COMMUNITY WEALTH TOM ARTHUR ON THE FOURTH NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK ON 8TH NOVEMBER 2022

With the assistance of the CRT, Stepps and District Community Council has fulfilled the requirement for LPPs to show the links between local propositions and national planning policies. These propositions are in line with National Planning Framework 4’s (NPF4) main themes, Sustainable, Productive & Liveable places.

By applying these spatial principles, our LPP 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.



# PROPOSITIONS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2

The following propositions are for consideration in the **North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan 2 (NLLDP2)**. The map and legend on pages 18 and 19 use the current LDP Promote Map 7.2 to illustrate the propositions emerging from community responses. The numbers on the map correspond to the following 6 propositions:

**NPF4 / POLICY 8 GREEN BELTS, NPF4 / POLICY 4 NATURAL PLACES**

1. Retain the existing green belt designation as shown in the current LDP Promote Map 7.2. Maintain the green belt buffer to the east and west of the district to protect these natural assets and prevent suburbanisation of the countryside.

**NPF4 / POLICY 3 BIODIVERSITY, NPF4 / POLICY 4 NATURAL SPACES; NPF4 / POLICY 6 FORESTRY, WOODLAND AND TREES**

2. Support nature conservation:
  - (i) at the Garnkirk Burn SINC ref. 66/04A and Garnkirk Woodlands SINC ref. 66/04B by the extension and enhancement of the woodland area around the Burn to the west, east and north.
  - (ii) by designating the natural space south of Dorlin and Clayhouse Roads as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) with ‘Protect’ status, linking this with existing SINC ref. 66/03 Cardowan Moss/Garthamlock Quarry.

**NPF4 / POLICY 3 BIODIVERSITY, NPF4 / POLICY 4 NATURAL SPACES**

3. Retain the four green network sites as shown in the current LDP Promote Map 7.2. Consideration could be given to the identification of additional green network sites at:
  - (i) the woodland area parallel with the Cumbernauld Road adjacent to Stepps Primary School.
  - (ii) the green space on the south side of the Cumbernauld Road adjacent to the footbridge.
  - (iii) the land between Braeval Way and the railway line.

**NPF4 / POLICY 9 BROWNFIELD, VACANT AND DERELICT LAND AND EMPTY BUILDINGS, NPF4 / POLICY 15 LOCAL LIVING + 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS, NPF4 / POLICY 18 INFRASTRUCTURE FIRST**

4. Re-consider the two sites (i.e. NLSK1048A and NLSK1048B) at Buchanan Business Park which are no longer considered to be ‘effective’ housing sites and now removed from the annual Housing Land Audit. This involves consideration of:
  - (i) constructing a new road to the site from the west off Dewar Road which will provide a more appropriate and improved pedestrian and vehicular access to any future development.
  - (ii) repurposing underutilised business and commercial zoned land, for a mixed-use development opportunity including affordable housing, local retail amenities and essential services, i.e. GP and Dental, to meet the increased community need.

**NPF4 / POLICY 9 BROWNFIELD, VACANT AND DERELICT LAND AND EMPTY BUILDINGS, NPF4 / POLICY 15 LOCAL LIVING + 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS, NPF4 / POLICY 27 CITY, TOWN, LOCAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRES, NPF4 / POLICY 28 RETAIL, NPF4 / POLICY 26 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

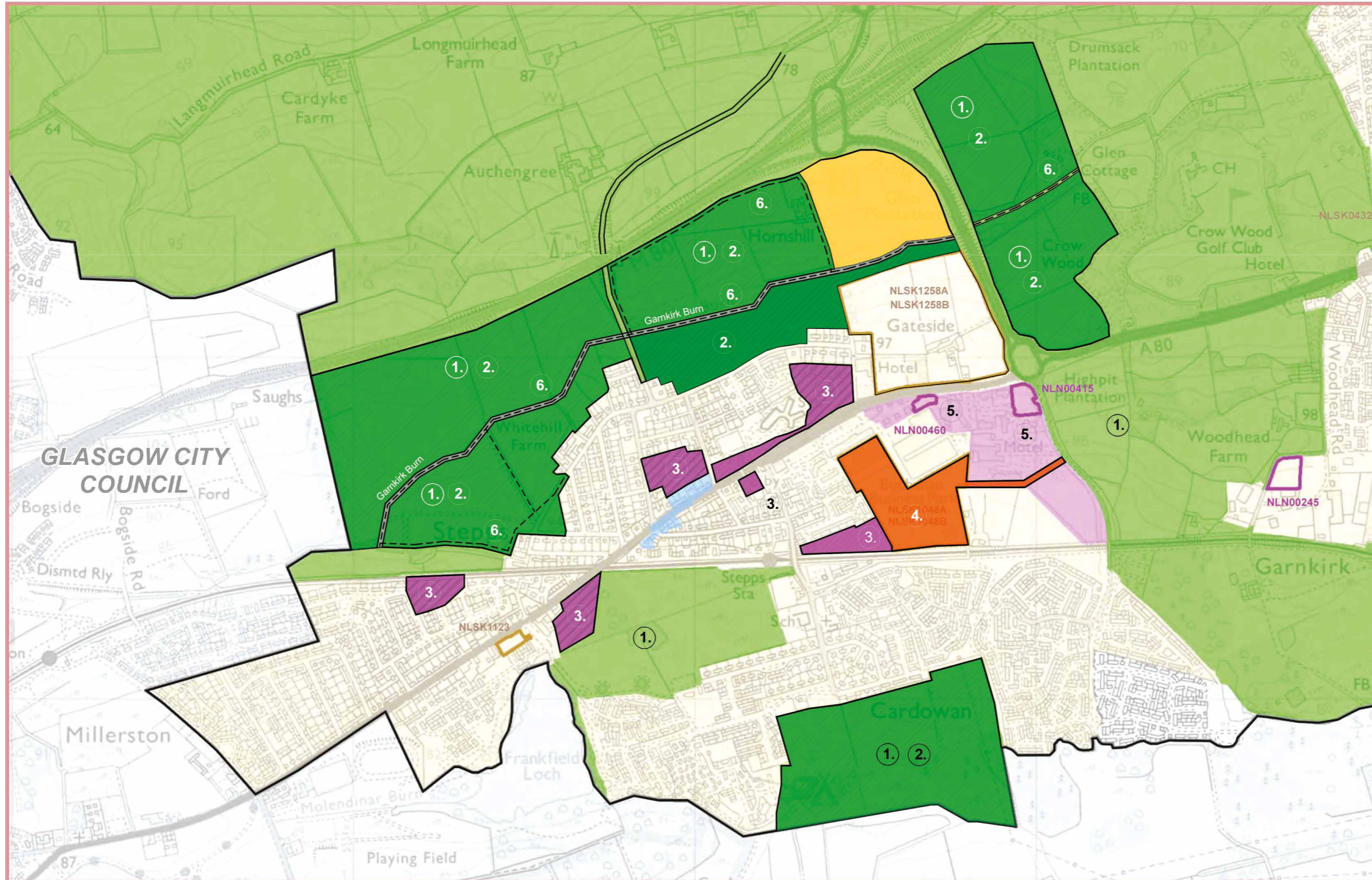
5. Consider existing business sites NLN00460 and NLN00415 at Buchanan Business Park and across the district for retail, shopping and places to eat, meet and socialise.
6. Implement new core paths along Garnkirk Burn and adjacent to M80 and connecting to the path from Auchinloch and Crowwood. Also explore how the new Roadside Services development (see map legend - Transportation Opportunity) can support connectivity for the community via a bus interchange, while ensuring surrounding natural spaces are protected.

# STEPS AND DISTRICT

18

19

This map represents the views of Steps and District community and the 6 propositions represented are linked to the key points of the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4).



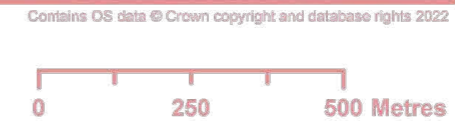
## LEGEND

- 1. Green Belt
- 2. Nature Conservation/SINC
- 3. Green Network site
- 4. Mixed Use Site
- 5. Business Site
- 6. New Core Paths
- Transportation Opportunity
- Housing Development Site



## LDP Promote Map

# 7.2



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This section sets out how the LPP propositions and NPF4 policies align with **The Plan for North Lanarkshire** outcomes while supporting community responses.

## Proposition 1

### NPF4 / 8 GREEN BELTS, NPF4 / 4 NATURAL SPACES



Retain the existing green belt designation as shown in the current LDP Promote Map 7.2. Maintain the green belt buffer to the east and west of the district to protect these natural assets and prevent suburbanisation of the countryside. This will require:

- ensuring no sites on the green belt are released for development in either the Housing Land Supply Audit or the new NLLDP2.
- directing development to the right locations and protecting biodiversity, natural assets and networks thus safeguarding the natural setting and identity of our settlement; preventing unsustainable suburbanisation and managing the land to help tackle climate change.
- ensuring any shortfall in housing land allocation, via the Housing Land Supply Audit, is directed to brownfield/derelict sites.
- ensuring an 'infrastructure first' approach so that necessary infrastructure, roads, services and amenities are in place prior to any future developments on brownfield/derelict sites.

## Proposition 2

### NPF4 / 3 BIODIVERSITY, NPF4 / 4 NATURAL SPACES, NPF4 / 6 FORESTRY, WOODLAND AND TREES



Support nature conservation:

- (i) at the Garnkirk Burn SINC ref. 66/04A and Garnkirk Woodlands SINC ref. 66/04B by the extension and enhancement of the woodland area around the Burn to the west, east and north.

- (ii) by designating the natural space south of Dorlin and Clayhouse Roads as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) with 'Protect' status, linking this with existing SINC ref. 66/03 Cardowan Moss/Garthamlock Quarry.

In addition, the NLLDP2 should support the retention and enhancement of all four existing local SINC's ensuring they retain 'Protect' status. These include:

- Garnkirk Burn SINC ref.66/04A, designation stream and banks.
- Garnkirk Woodlands SINC ref.66/04B, designation broadleaved woodlands.
- Frankfield Loch SINC ref.66/02, designation open water, greenland and marsh. Good diversity of habitats.
- Cardowan Moss/Garthamlock Quarry SINC ref. 66/03, designation dry heath, marshy grassland, uncommon Flora.

## Proposition 3

### NPF4 / 3 BIODIVERSITY, NPF4 / 4 NATURAL SPACES



Retain the four green network sites as shown in the current LDP Promote Map 7.2. Consideration could be given to the identification of additional green network sites at:

- (i) the woodland area parallel with the Cumbernauld Road adjacent to Stepps Primary School.
- (ii) the green space on the south side of the Cumbernauld Road adjacent to footbridge.
- (iii) the land between Braeval Way and the railway line.

## Propositions 1, 2 and 3 - Alignment to The Plan for North Lanarkshire

**Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities:** Green belt areas in the district are used for exercise and recreation. This encourages the health and wellbeing of people throughout the community. Protection of the SINC's and green network sites ensures these spaces can be enjoyed for leisure and recreation, promoting community health and wellbeing.

**Enhance participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities:** Protection and care of SINC's and green network sites promotes a nature positive approach and support for biodiversity for generations to come. Keeping our natural environment clean, safe and attractive will help support community wellbeing for current and future generations.

## Proposition 4

### NPF4 / 9 BROWNFIELD, VACANT AND DERELICT LAND AND EMPTY BUILDINGS, NPF4 / 15 LOCAL LIVING + 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS, NPF4 / 18 INFRASTRUCTURE FIRST



Re-consider the two sites (i.e. NLSK1048A and NLSK1048B) at Buchanan Business Park which are no longer considered to be 'effective' housing sites and now removed from the annual Housing Land Audit. This involves consideration of:

- (i) constructing a new road to the site from the west off Dewar Road which will provide a more appropriate and improved pedestrian and vehicular access to any future development.
- (ii) repurposing underutilised business and commercial zoned land, for a mixed-use development opportunity including affordable housing, local retail amenities and essential services, i.e. GP and Dental, to meet the increased community need.

Consideration of the above proposition would:

- encourage the sustainable redevelopment of brownfield land at this location.
- provide affordable housing for those who require it.
- provide local employment opportunities for residents including younger residents and those unable to commute to work.

## Proposition 5

### NPF4 / 9 BROWNFIELD, VACANT AND DERELICT LAND AND EMPTY BUILDINGS, NPF4 / 15 LOCAL LIVING + 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS, NPF4 / POLICY 27 CITY, TOWN, LOCAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRES, NPF4 / 28 RETAIL



Consider existing business sites NLN00460 and NLN00415 at Buchanan Business Park and across the district for retail, shopping and places to eat, meet and socialise.

Other considerations could include:

- regeneration of the shopping area on Dorlin Road to support local community needs.
- supporting local shopping and places to eat and meet on the Cumbernauld Road.

### Propositions 4 and 5 - Alignment to The Plan for North Lanarkshire

**Improve economic opportunities and outcomes:** Exploring provision of affordable housing on local brownfield sites supports community concerns for young people to remain in their local area. Meanwhile, taking opportunities to provide the community with more shops, amenities and services will help maximise social and economic opportunities in the district. This will help contribute to a more sustainable and diverse North Lanarkshire economy that supports people and businesses.

**Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities:** Provision of affordable housing and more shops, amenities and services will help ensure residents are able to live independently and have access to a range of social, cultural and leisure activities, while also increasing economic opportunities for the working population.

**Enhance participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities:** The investment in and development of local amenities and services will support community interaction, which is a key factor for enhancing community participation.

### Proposition 6

#### NPF4 / 4 NATURAL SPACES, NPF4 / 13 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Implement new core paths along Garnkirk Burn and adjacent to M80 and connecting to the path from Auchinloch and Crowwood. The new paths (as noted on pages 18-19) would promote enjoyment of nature, better connectivity and health benefits that support community wellbeing.

Explore the potential for a bus interchange at the new Roadside Services Development, supporting sustainable transport while ensuring natural spaces surrounding this development are appropriately rejuvenated and protected (see map legend - Transportation Opportunity).

### Proposition 6 - Alignment to The Plan for North Lanarkshire

**Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities:** Core paths and rights of way in the district are used for exercise and recreation. Protection and maintenance of these routes mean they can be enjoyed for leisure and physical activity. This promotes the health and wellbeing of people in the community.

**Improve economic opportunities and outcomes:** Improved paths and rights of way between districts, and a bus interchange, would improve local and regional connectivity, expanding economic opportunities for members of the community.



### Setting out the priorities for community action

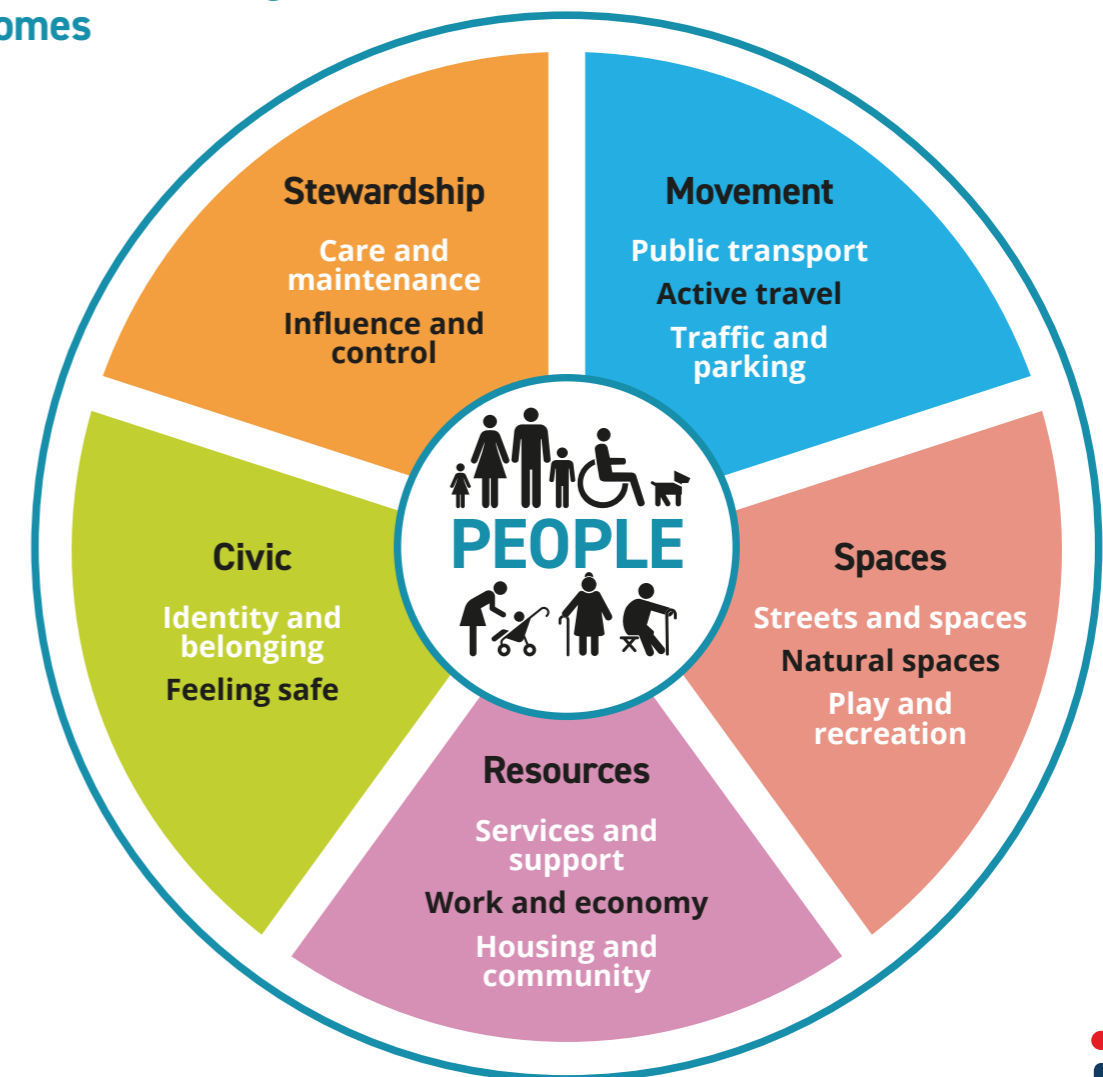
The priorities for action that have been identified are set out under the Place and Wellbeing outcomes based on the Place Standard themes.<sup>12</sup>

These themes are all the characteristics of a place that allow those who live, work and relax there to thrive.

The outcomes provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to work collaboratively and deliver on the actions identified in our community area:

#### Movement, Spaces, Resources, Civic, and Stewardship

### Place and Wellbeing Outcomes



The principles of equality, net-zero emissions and sustainability underpin all of these themes, and all themes should be embedded in policy and action.



<sup>12</sup> More information on the place and wellbeing outcomes is available at: [www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/planning-and-place-based-approaches/planning-for-place-programme/place-and-wellbeing-outcomes](http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/products-and-services/planning-and-place-based-approaches/planning-for-place-programme/place-and-wellbeing-outcomes)

Stepps and District will fulfil its potential, developing a vibrant village centre, harnessing its natural assets and strengthening community bonds - attracting people to live, work and visit here.

Our vision is a community that is a connected, sustainable, safe, inclusive, and a thriving place for local living, with an excellent range of amenities and facilities to cater for all ages and sections of our community.

We will work together to address the challenges we face and build a future that benefits all residents.

By prioritising green spaces, mobility, safety, local economy, balanced development, wellbeing and community identity, we will create a vibrant and resilient community for generations to come.



Local green belt- the countryside on our doorstep

**This theme highlights the priorities that emerged from community feedback and relate to aspects of place that include moving around, public transport and traffic and parking. Relevant NPF4 policies include NPF4 Policy 13 Sustainable Transport and Policy 23 Health and Safety.**

Feedback highlighted some accessibility and safety concerns when walking, wheeling or cycling in the district. There were also significant concerns about the public transport services available in the area, with this impacting on non-drivers and young people especially. Insufficient parking spaces, unsafe parking practices, poor driving behaviours and road conditions were concerns of some residents.

## PRIORITIES

## ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

**A BUS SERVICE THAT MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS**



Advocate for increased frequency and coverage of buses to the following places: Glasgow City, Glasgow Fort, Lenzie, Kirkintilloch, Muirhead and Chryston.

Advocate for bus services for residents living in Cardowan and Crowwood Grange.

Engage with providers to ensure bus services that are affordable, frequent, on-time and reliable, with shelters and patrolled crossings that are well maintained and support safe travel. Also ensure school bus services are improved to meet community needs.

**A TRAIN SERVICE THAT BETTER CONNECTS AND SERVES THE COMMUNITY**



Advocate for the reinstatement of direct train services to Edinburgh and an increase in the frequency of trains to Glasgow in the early morning, evenings and weekends.

Advocate for improved bicycle lock-up facilities at Stepps train station, and well maintained platforms, paths, roads and greenspaces to improve accessibility and safety.

**IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WALKERS, WHEELERS AND CYCLISTS**



Advocate for well maintained and defined cycle paths and lanes along Cumbernauld Road and throughout the district, ensuring potholes and obstructions are addressed.

Advocate for safe crossings along Cumbernauld Road and Dewar Road ensuring safety for people (especially school pupils) travelling to Muirhead and Chryston.

Advocate for improved and more accessible paths for the entire community including those using mobility aids, wheelchairs and prams.

- Pavements can be uneven and narrow, lack ramps and can be obstructed by illegally parked vehicles, overgrown shrubs and bins.
- Many paths (such as near Frankfield Loch) need improvement for cycling and walking, including de-weeding, surface repairs and lighting.
- Many natural paths are overgrown, unmaintained, muddy in winter, and lack connectivity to neighbouring communities, limiting accessibility.

**IMPROVED ROAD QUALITY AND SAFETY**



Advocate for effective road maintenance (e.g. repairing potholes, ensuring quality road signage) and appropriate road safety measures (e.g. speed bumps, monitoring and enforcement) throughout the district. In particular, community concerns have been raised about Dewar Road and Loch Road, including arrangements for their ongoing maintenance and adoption.

**IMPROVED PARKING**



Advocate for more parking on and near Cumbernauld Road, to support access to shops and services, and promote safer parking.

Support efforts for effective parking, traffic and land management near Stepps and St Joseph's Primary Schools, to ensure safety of children.

Promote awareness of parking regulations and enforcement.

**POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

North Lanarkshire Council (NLC), First Bus, ScotRail, MSP, Police Scotland, Stepps and St Joseph's Primary Schools

This theme highlights the priorities that emerged from community feedback and relate to aspects of place that include streets and spaces, natural space, play and recreation. Relevant NPF4 policies include: NPF4 Policy 4 Natural Spaces; Policy 21 Play, Recreation and Sport; and Policy 23 Health and Safety.

Feedback highlighted mixed views on the condition and accessibility of streets, pavements, parks and public spaces, with some people appreciating the cleanliness and green space they offer, while others have concerns about maintenance, safety and amenities. It was clear that residents value highly the natural spaces in the area and want them preserved for environmental reasons and to support community wellbeing. While existing facilities are appreciated, there was also a strong appetite for more indoor spaces for sports and youth-oriented activities.

PRIORITIES

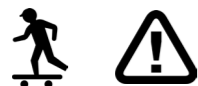
PRESERVE AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Promote the accessibility of the green belt, ensuring the community can benefit from the countryside on our doorstep by enjoying walks, paths, trails and its natural heritage.  
Encourage NLC and landowners to invest in the maintenance and accessibility of the area's natural spaces and woodlands.  
Maintain protection of existing green spaces, and where possible, increase the number of green network sites in the area.  
Promote the sustainable use of local green spaces to support outdoor community events (e.g. summer fayres, Christmas trees and celebrations).

IMPROVE EXISTING SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES



Encourage and promote maintenance of the hockey pitch and upgrade of the hockey pavilion to provide improved opportunities for sports and outdoor recreation.  
Advocate for better maintenance of the football pitch and surrounding space off Cardowan Road.

MAKE THE MOST OF LOCAL PARKS



Work with the local community and NLC to ensure that local parks, Bluebell Park, Frankfield Park and Dunalastair Park - and other play parks in the district - are well-maintained in terms of paths, drainage and play equipment.  
Ensure the footpaths across the Cardowan Moss are well maintained.  
Ensure local parks are appealing and safe for young people and adults to use all year round.

PROVIDE NEW INDOOR SPORT FACILITIES AND SOCIAL SPACES



Explore the possibility of more recreational spaces and an NLC indoor sports facility or hub in the local area to support community engagement and exercise for people of all ages.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

NLC (including the NLC Community Matters and Active Travel Team), local Councillors, Northern Corridor Community Volunteers (NCCV), Cardowan Community Meadow, Ramblers Scotland, Walking Scotland, local sports clubs.

This theme highlights the priorities that emerged from community feedback and relate to aspects of place that include facilities and services, work and local economy, housing and community and social interaction. Relevant NPF4 policies include: NPF4 Policy 7 Historic Assets and Places; Policy 15 Local Living + 20 Minute Neighbourhoods; Policy 27 City, Town, Local and Commercial Centres; Policy 9 Brownfield, Vacant, Derelict and Empty Buildings; and Policy 18 Infrastructure First.

Feedback highlighted community wishes for improved amenities in Stepps, with a current lack of variety in food, drink, shopping and social space options seen to limit community connection, convenience and commerce. There were also strong concerns about unsustainable housing development over-stretching local infrastructure and services and negatively impacting green spaces. Concerns were expressed about an increasing lack of local services such as GPs, Dentists, nursery (under 2s), schools as well as no post office, bank or vet.

PRIORITIES

PROMOTE OUR HERITAGE



ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Advocate for the protection and enhancement of the Old Stage Coach Road on Whitehill Farm, the Heritage Trail sites and information boards. Promote heritage walks and information sessions.  
Advocate for the provision of resources to ensure maintenance of the Stepps and District War Memorial and its surrounding area and the Cardowan Mining Memorial.

VILLAGE CENTRE AND MAIN STREET



To support local living, explore opportunities with stakeholders to develop the shopping area on Cumbernauld Road, such as providing more choice of shops, cafes, places to socialise.  
Advocate and support community-led efforts to improve the aesthetic of Cumbernauld Road and surrounding area to foster community connection and make a positive impression on visitors.

MORE SOCIAL SPACES



While existing businesses are appreciated, the community expressed a preference for more independent shops, cafes, and family friendly restaurants or pubs. This includes exploring opportunities on the Cumbernauld Road and local brownfield sites.

PROVISION OF SERVICES AND AMENITIES



Provide more facilities and amenities for residents in the Cardowan area and those in the south-east of our district, including promoting the regeneration of shops on Dorlin Road to support community needs.  
Communicate community concerns to NLC in relation to pressure on education provision and NHS Lanarkshire in relation to health provision as a result of house building and population growth. Concerns also persist about a lack of shops and services to satisfy community demand.

MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON BROWNFIELD SITES



Limit new housing to brownfield sites wherever possible, preventing unsustainable growth, suburbanisation of the countryside and erosion of our settlement's character.  
Address affordable housing issues to avoid young people being forced to move away from the area.  
Lobby for house builders to contribute to amenities such as schools, healthcare, roads, and community facilities to support increased population.

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY



Support initiatives that create and promote job opportunities within the district, particularly for younger residents and those unable to commute.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

NLC including the 'Your Heritage in Focus' project and Community Matters Team, NHS Lanarkshire, local Councillors, local residents, Northern Corridor Community Volunteers (NCCV).

This theme highlights the priorities that emerged from community feedback and relate to aspects of place that include identity and belonging and feeling safe. Relevant NPF4 policies include NPF4 Policy 23 Health and Safety.

Feedback highlighted that many residents perceive community engagement is limited in the district, and it lacks a strong community feeling for many in the area. Renewed efforts to support community cohesion would be welcome. There were mixed feelings about community safety, with residents noting both a generally safe environment and concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and ensuring local spaces are safe.

**PRIORITIES**

**COMMUNITY BELONGING AND IDENTITY**

**ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

- To support community connection and sense of belonging:
- Promote and organise opportunities for community activity and interaction by expanding the variety of clubs and organisations available to residents.
  - Explore a quarterly community social gathering facilitated by Stepps and District Community Council.
  - Explore and promote community activities for people aged 25-35 years.

**PROMOTE WHAT IS GOING ON LOCALLY**

Explore how Stepps and District Community Council and other groups can promote awareness of existing meetings, activities and groups. Celebrate, support and encourage volunteering across the community, including the possibility of volunteering awards.

**MAKE OUR COMMUNITY SAFER**



- Lobby for increased community police engagement to address local crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Explore community-wide approach to anti-social behaviour, including nuisance from fast electric bikes, quad and trail bikes, speeding and noise from vehicles.
- Lobby for lighting improvements in places where people may feel unsafe, such as the Bluebell Park and off-road community walking routes.
- Advocate for proper upkeep of A808 underpass connecting the Bluebell Dell with Crowwood Golf Course right of way, to ensure safety for walkers.

**YOUTH SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES**

Promote youth work and organisations in the community to give young people more opportunities and places they can identify as their spaces.

**POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

NLC including the 'Your Heritage in Focus' project, Police Scotland, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL), Northern Corridor Community Volunteers (NCCV), local Councillors, local clubs and organisations ( e.g. Friends of Les Marches Twinning Association<sup>13</sup>)

<sup>13</sup> For 23 years, Stepps has enjoyed a very successful twinning with Les Marches, France. Regular exchange visits, organised by active committee members, have forged strong and enduring family friendships and a mutual appreciation of French and Scottish cultures and language. 'Tartan Croissant' evenings held locally, offer an informal opportunity for those with an interest in speaking French to meet and chat.

This theme highlights the priorities that relate to aspects of place that include care and maintenance as well as influence and sense of control. Relevant NPF4 policies include NP4 Policy 25 Community Wealth Building.

Feedback highlighted mixed perceptions of care and maintenance, with private property generally well cared for while public spaces and council maintained areas often falling short of expectations. Residents expressed a strong sense of frustration and disillusionment regarding their influence over local decisions and council actions. Many feel ignored or that their opinions are overridden, particularly concerning planning, green belt development and local amenities.

**PRIORITIES**

**EFFECTIVE GRASS AND WEED CONTROL**

**ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

Advocate that grass and green spaces (both NLC and factor managed) receive sufficient maintenance to resolve overgrown verges and drains blocked from weeds and leaves.

**LITTER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Advocate with NLC for bins (including dog waste bins) to be well provisioned, maintained and emptied frequently, leading to cleaner streets and parks. Support efforts to reduce fly tipping and graffiti.

**AESTHETICS OF CIVIC SPACES**

Promote community initiatives and business involvement to improve the aesthetics of the district. Explore opportunities locally for festive decorations across the community.

**SUPPORT CARDOWAN COMMUNITY MEADOW<sup>14</sup>**



Advocate for resources to improve safety, accessibility and paths in the land behind Dorlin Road and support local volunteers who actively clear litter and help maintain paths, parks and other assets in the Cardowan area.

**EFFECTING LOCAL CHANGE**

Explore how promoting and raising awareness of our LPP can ensure its potential for influencing and effecting change is maximised.

**POTENTIAL PARTNERS**

NLC, North Lanarkshire Community Matters Team, local businesses, Cardowan Community Meadow.

<sup>14</sup> Cardowan Community Meadow is an organisation formed in 2020 to represent the views of this local community.

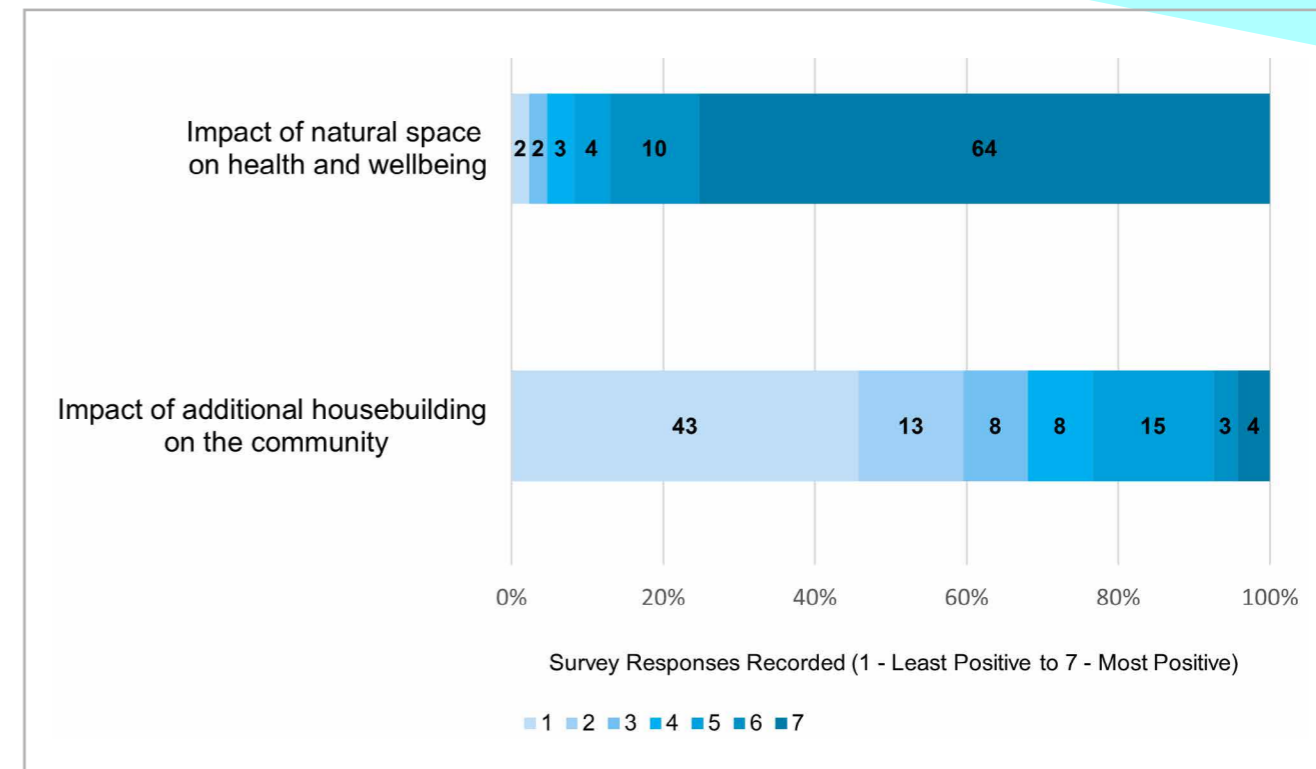
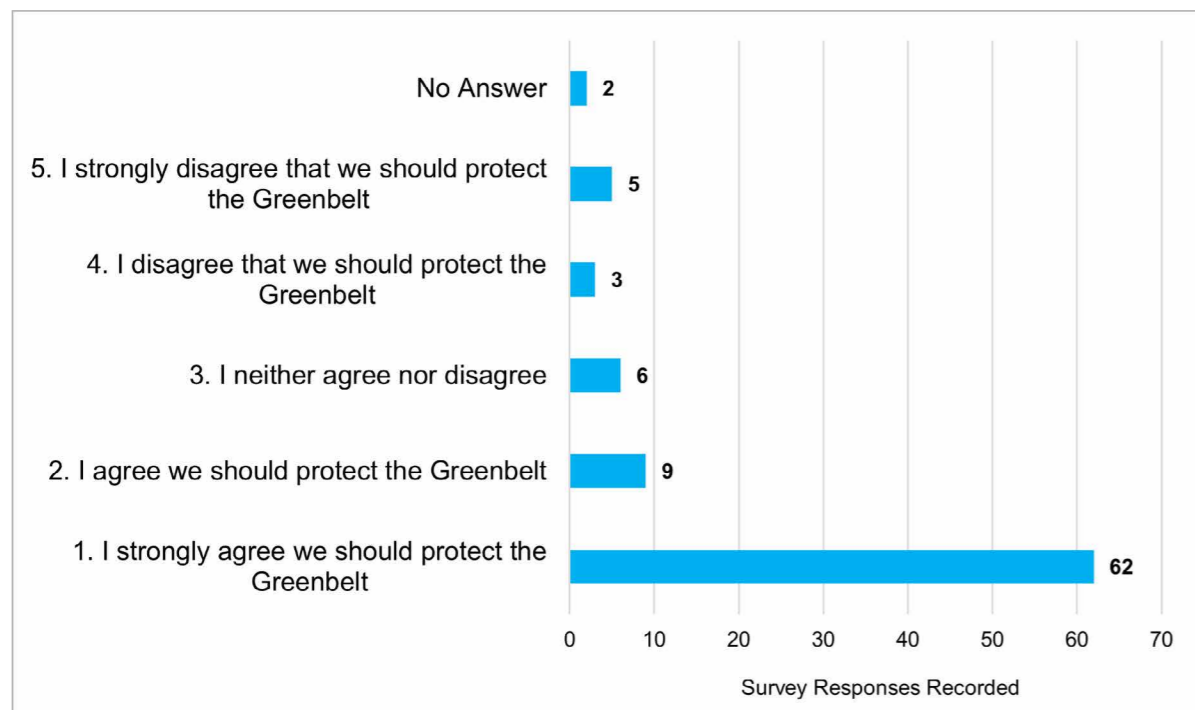


Green belt in the summer

## Protecting the green belt, enhancing natural spaces and core paths

Our community engagement captured major community concerns over the negative health, environmental and social impact that could be experienced by local people as a consequence of development on green belt land in the area.

Survey feedback received on the green belt, while diverse and multifaceted, revealed that an overwhelming majority of the community places high value on the green belt and natural spaces throughout the district.



### Key perspectives from a majority of survey respondents included that:

- The green belt is appreciated for its natural beauty, the recreational opportunities it provides and its positive impact on mental and physical wellbeing. People value the clean air, water, wildlife and the productive farmlands that the green belt supports, with some noting that it supports local drainage systems and wildlife habitats.
- The green belt is seen as a critical buffer against climate change and its impacts. It can help to protect homes and lives, with this also providing economic benefits.
- For many the protection and preservation of the green belt is a key priority, with opposition to building more houses on green belt land to preserve natural spaces and community character. Many in the community feel this would undermine the natural character, setting, identity and environment of the district and place further pressure on strained infrastructure and services.
- Community concerns exist about the negative impact the new roadside services area to the north of the district will have in terms of increased litter, noise, air and light pollution.

There were also comments about the maintenance and accessibility of the green belt. Some residents feel that more needs to be done to ensure the green belt land is well-maintained and accessible to the community. A small minority of survey respondents considered that restrictions on housing supply can lead to high property prices and limited housing availability, causing people to move away from the district.

It's important to note that for 14 years the Save Stepps Green Belt campaign committee has worked, on behalf of our community, to protect the green belt surrounding our settlement. Bringing NPF4 policies regarding Sustainable Places into play with a detailed alignment between these policies and community feedback on their priorities, offers a way to move forward by way of further community engagement and action.

## 1. Promote biodiversity across the district's natural spaces

### NPF4 POLICY 1 TACKLING THE CLIMATE AND NATURE CRISES; NPF4 POLICY 3 BIODIVERSITY



Boost biodiversity by granting 'Protect' status to all current green belt sites (see proposition 1, page 17). Further priority actions to support biodiversity include:

- Establishing nature corridors that help protect wildlife, including water voles, owls and nesting birds around the Garnkirk Burn.
- Providing nesting boxes to support greater biodiversity in the district's green spaces.
- Increasing tree and hedgerow planting while maintaining existing hedgerows to provide vital habitat and food for insects and birds.

## 2. Promote trees and woodlands across the district

### NPF4 POLICY 6 FORESTRY, WOODLAND AND TREES



Advocate for expanded woodland area around the Garnkirk Burn to the north and west, replacing lost trees and protecting this and the surrounding natural space into the future (see proposition 2(i), page 17).

Advocate for increased woodland in the west of the district, better sheltering the train line.

Explore opportunities for establishing wildflower meadows in the district.

## 3. Protect natural spaces from environmental harm

### NPF4 POLICY 4 NATURAL SPACES, NPF4 POLICY 8 GREEN BELTS



Advocate for the prohibition of the extension of Dewar Road through the Seven Lochs Wetland Park to ensure protection of this natural asset.

Gain assurances of compensatory measures due to any damage caused by the new roadside services area currently under development e.g. pipeline across the Bluebell Dell.

Continue advocacy to prevent unsustainable green belt development and suburbanisation that will result in damaging or overriding valued greenspace.

## 4. Enhance and improve the Core Paths network and Rights of Way

### NPF4 POLICY 4 NATURAL SPACES, NPF4 POLICY 13 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



Implement a new core path along the Garnkirk Burn, supporting community access to and enjoyment of this natural space (amendment to the Core Paths Plan).

Upgrade existing Right of Way SS0095 to a core path to connect with the path from Auchinloch and through the Bluebell Dell with the path to Crowwood.

Re-instate Right of Way SS0098 on Whitehill Farm recently ploughed out.

Advocate for well-signed and maintained walking and cycle paths fit for year-round use in the Seven Lochs Wetland Park, extending from the area surrounding Dunlop Loch, through Cardowan Meadow and Frankfield Loch to Cardowan Moss. This will provide sustainable travel options for communities in Stepps, Cardowan and Crowwood when accessing areas to the south (Glasgow Fort), east (Drumpellier Park) and west (Hogganfield Loch) of the district. Designate routes as core paths (amendment to Core Paths Plan).

Advocate for well signed and maintained walking and bike paths from Stepps to Auchinloch, promoting enjoyment of nature and better connectivity.

Upgrade the right of way between Stepps and Garnkirk (Core Path Route NL/156/1), ensuring its safety and maintenance for year round use.

Ensure quality paths to support community access to Bluebell Dell via Hornshill Farm Road.

Ensure paths in green spaces are well maintained and fit for purpose, supporting exercise and mental health benefits, contributing to the community's quality of life.



*Bluebell Dell in the spring*

## Potential partners

Moving forward on these priorities will require partnership with other stakeholders with expertise and jurisdiction on these environmental matters. To support further action, we will explore engagement with parties including:

- Woodland Trust Scotland
- Seven Lochs Wetland Park
- NatureScot
- Action to Protect Rural Scotland (APRS)
- Walking Scotland
- Ramblers Scotland
- NLC (including through the delivery of its Active Travel and Open Space strategies<sup>15</sup>).

<sup>15</sup> These strategies are available at: [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-council/council-strategies-and-plans/council-strategies/active-travel-strategy](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-council/council-strategies-and-plans/council-strategies/active-travel-strategy); [www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building/development-plans/land-supply/open-space-strategy](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building/development-plans/land-supply/open-space-strategy)

## Northern Corridor Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)

### Steps and District Local Place Plan and Community Action Priorities

Our LPP and community action priorities (pages 25 - 29) comes from a bottom up approach. It sits together with the LOIP<sup>16</sup> to encourage a joined up approach to community development and improved service provision. This LPP represents the views and aspirations of local people and can be used to help encourage partnership working. It promotes opportunities for local groups, public agencies and service providers to work together to improve the quality of life for the people of Stepps and District.

The Northern Corridor LOIP Themes and Goals	Steps and District Community Action Priorities linked to Place and Wellbeing Outcomes
<b>Health Inequalities</b> <b>Goal:</b> Improve access to health services and activities that support wellbeing.	<b>Resources</b> This LPP flags up community concerns about the availability of and pressure on healthcare services in the midst of recent population growth. These concerns should inform current policymaking and future planning considerations. In addition, the LPP's advocacy for protecting natural spaces will support mental and physical health into the future.
<b>Children and Young People</b> <b>Goal:</b> Make sure young voices are heard and children feel part of the community.	<b>Spaces</b> This LPP was informed by engagement with local schools. It advocates for exploring more places that provide opportunities for young people to connect with each other, participate in activities and receive services that will improve their wellbeing and sense of belonging.
<b>Social Integration and Inclusion</b> <b>Goal:</b> Ensure everyone, regardless of age or background, has access to social, recreational and developmental opportunities	<b>Civic</b> This LPP sets out actions and priorities for increasing social cohesion, including through organised social activities, further promoting what is going on locally and advocating for spaces and services that support recreation and community participation.
<b>Community Transport</b> <b>Goal:</b> Provide accessible, affordable and sustainable transport options.	<b>Movement</b> This LPP highlights the priority our community places on improving the frequency, local reach and connection of bus services (e.g. to Glasgow Fort, Kirkintilloch, Lenzie) and boosting train services (Edinburgh and weekend services).
<b>Building Local Relationships, Trust and Communication</b> <b>Goal:</b> Create structures for local voices to be heard and shape change.	<b>Stewardship</b> The community engagement undertaken for the LPP showed that people in the community can feel a lack of influence and control over what happens locally, especially planning and service provision. This LPP is a platform from which to improve this status quo, in line with this LOIP objective.

To make real progress, we seek to work in partnership and invite residents, local groups and businesses, local authority departments and external agencies to work together with us. If you can help with any of these issues and help improve our community please get in touch with Stepps and District Community Council.

<sup>16</sup> Stepps and District sits within the Northern Corridor Community Board and contributes to the Northern Corridor Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). LOIPs set out an approach to working with and empowering local communities, enabling them to contribute to, influence and shape locally identified actions around the priorities to achieve improved outcomes for local areas.

## Monitoring, Review and Re-setting

The success of this Local Place Plan, both its propositions and the Community Action Priorities, depends on people in our community getting together to identify and address both the opportunities and challenges the community faces.

For its part the Stepps and District Community Council commits itself to supporting the monitoring of the Plan's progress and, through the Community Council's public meetings, facilitate discussion of progress, or lack of it, and the re-setting of priorities and targets where circumstances have changed.

## Acknowledgements and Thanks

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

- Stepps and District Community Council
- Coalfields Regeneration Trust
- North Lanarkshire Council
  - NLC Planning Authority
  - NLC Legal & Democratic Solutions
  - NLC Northern Corridor Community Partnership Team
- Staff at Stepps Cultural Centre and Stepps Library
- Stepps and St Joseph's Primary Schools
- Cardowan Community Meadow
- Save Stepps Green Belt
- Stepps Food Market
- Improvement Services
- Place and Wellbeing Alliance
- Scottish Government

We also thank the local businesses and organisations who supported our '3 Wishes for My Community' campaign, including: Stepps Co-op, Behind the Scenes Hairdressers, Delrico's Cafe, Colliery Cafe, Cardowan Community Meadow Hub, Stepps Library, St Joseph's Church and Stepps Parish Church.

## Making it Happen

To find out more information about this plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact by email to [steppsc.web@gmail.com](mailto:steppsc.web@gmail.com)

Photo Credits: We acknowledge contributions from M. Monaghan, C. Provan and M. McDade and all those who gave verbal permission for their images to be used.

A big thank you to everyone in our local communities who helped make this Local Place Plan possible.



## Current North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan Maps



This North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan (NLLDP) was adopted and came into force on 6 July 2022.

Maps relevant to the Stepps and District area are published in the Northern Corridor mapbook.<sup>17</sup>





### LDP Promote Map Legend

**Promoting Development Locations & Infrastructure**


**PROM LOC1 Regeneration Priorities**

-  Ravenscraig
-  Regeneration Site





**PROM LOC2 Business Development Sites**

-  Existing Business Site
-  Proposed Business Site
-  Specialised Business Site
-  Proposed Leisure Site


**PROM LOC3 Housing Development Sites**

-  Housing Development Site







**PROM LOC4 Special Landscape Areas & Green Network Improvements**

-  Special Landscape Area (SLA)
-  Green Network Site
-  Culverted Canal
-  Green Network Improvement Opportunity

**PROM ID1 Transport Improvements**

-  Transportation Opportunity


**Placemaking Policies**

-  Mixed Use Centre
-  Business Centre
-  Visitor Economy Location
-  General Urban Area
-  Green Belt
-  Countryside


### LDP Protect Map Legend

**Protecting Assets PROT A - Natural Environment and Green Network**





**Category A1 International Sites**

-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC) / Special Protection Area (SPA)


**Category A2 National Sites**

-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) / Ancient Woodland

**Category A3 Local Sites**



-  Special Landscape Area (SLA)
-  Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserve (LNR), Community Park, etc
-  Seven Lochs Wetland Park
-  Country Park / Town Park

**Category A4 Green Network**



-  Green Network Site

**Protecting Assets PROT B - Historic Environment**


**Category B1 International Sites**

-  Antonine Wall World Heritage Site
-  Antonine Wall Buffer Zone


**Category B2 National Sites**

-  Scheduled Monument, Category A listed Building and Garden/Designated Landscape
-  Kilsyth Historic Battlefield

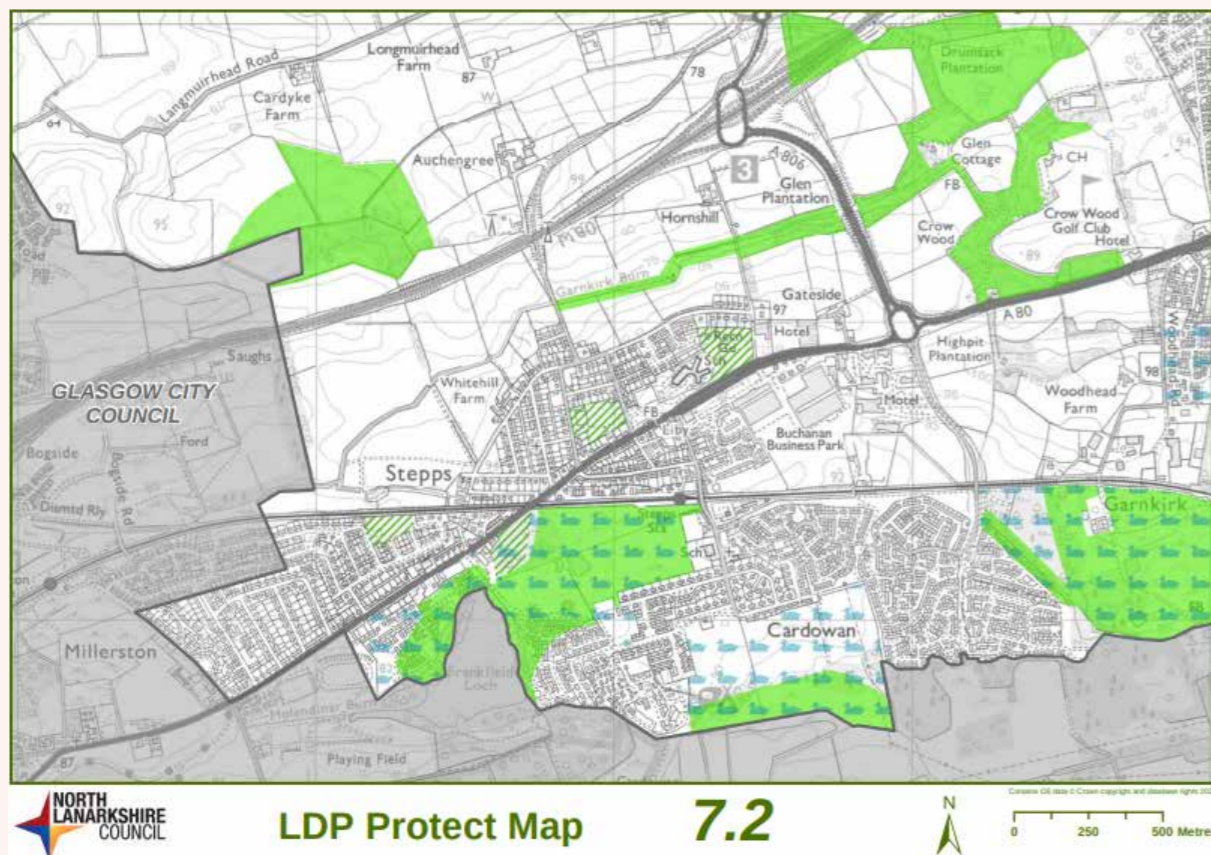
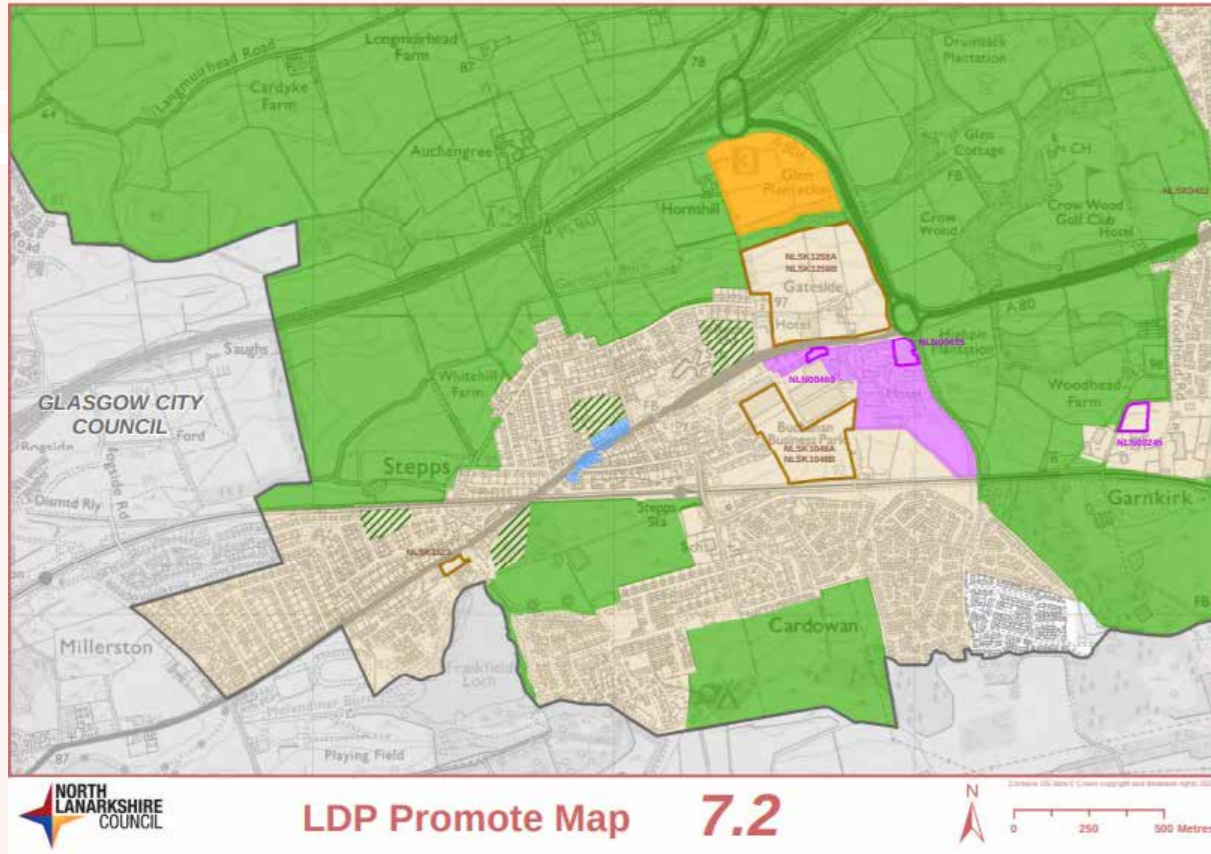
**Category B3 Regional / Local Sites**

-  Conservation Area / Canal Corridor / Site of Archaeological Interest

**Environmental & Design Qualities**

-  EDQ2 Air Quality Management Area

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