

Information Notice for the Bathgate Community Council Local Place Plan

This Local Place Plan is community-led, represents the thoughts and wishes of the Bathgate community, and sets out community proposals for the development and use of land, considering the timescale 2024 - 2034. Once registered by the Planning Authority, these should be taken into account in the preparation of the Local Development Plan.

Bathgate Community Council, as the relevant Community Body, is consulting each ward Councillor and Community Council within, or adjoining, the area covered by the LPP, by sending them a copy of the proposed Local Place Plan along with this Information Notice.

This Information Notice provides the following information:

1. A brief description of the content and purpose of the proposed LPP; and
2. Information as to how and to whom any representations (or comments) on the content of the proposed LPP should be made and the date by which they should be made.

Brief description of the content and purpose of the proposed LPP

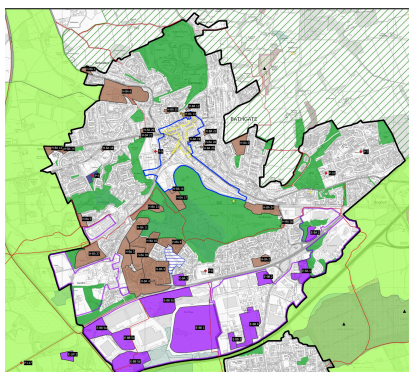
The Bathgate Community Council presents this Local Place Plan in order to assist West Lothian Council in identifying community needs, strengths, aspirations and challenges, and to give voice to the Community's wishes for the future of its place and people.

It has been created with regard to

- (i) community thoughts, hopes and concerns
- (ii) the [Local Development Plan](#) for the land to which the Local Place Plan relates.
- (iii) the [National Planning Framework \(NPF4\)](#)
- (iv) the [Strategic Housing Investment Plan \(SHIP\) 2021-2026](#)
- (v) the [West Locality Plan 2019-2022](#), published for the area covering the land to which this Local Place Plan relates.

The LPP was prepared by the Bathgate Planning Sub-Committee of Bathgate Community Council, an eligible 'Community Body' under the Regulations, and is a community driven plan created in accordance with Section 14 of the planning (Scotland) act 2019. It meets the necessary attributes and requirements of a Local Place Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Town & Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations which came into force on 22 January 2022.

The area considered is that covered by Bathgate Community Council:



In order to seek the greatest level of community engagement, the working group used the Scottish Government Place Standard Survey Tool, along with an online advert, three face to face consultations and 9000 leaflets distributed to all accessible Bathgate homes. Responses were fantastic with over 900 local people sharing their views.

Within the LPP we include an introduction, background and demographic portrait of the area covered by the plan, including appropriate maps throughout. This is all placed in context and summarised, then broken down into sections covering how local residents feel about specific aspects of living in and around Bathgate with regard to land use, including problems and solutions. We identify land and buildings that the Community Body considers to be of particular significance to the area. There are a range of issues / development proposals that are included: identification of activities and sites which support climate change adaptation/ renewable energy/ flood mitigation, local initiatives for the promotion of active travel and community food growing, identification of sites for specific uses, including housing (including affordable), local employment or tourism/community facilities, retaining and improving/ expanding open space, play facilities and other green/blue infrastructure. The LPP also includes identification of spaces that are of particular value to the community, those relating to conservation of the natural and built environment, improvements to the town centre and support for the National Planning Framework.

This informs the Action Plan itself which is supported by appendices at the back including a cross reference between proposed actions and the content of the current West Lothian Local Development Plan, so that points can be easily cross-checked to see how they concur with/differ from current policy.

Alongside the Action Plan is the Asset Retainment/Development map with further designations, projects, and areas of interest to be taken into account. There is then a statement on our view of the level and nature of support for this Local Place Plan, followed by suggestions re implementation and tracking, and a Registration Check List.

Information as to how and to whom any representations (or comments) on the content of the proposed LPP should be made and the date by which they should be made

In accordance with legal requirements, we are providing this consultation draft to you on 27th February, allowing a full 28 days for consideration and feedback, the minimum period required by legislation. We are happy to receive questions and feedback throughout this consultation period, and would be happy to arrange a meeting to talk it through if this would be useful.

Details of the relevant Community Body and contact options are detailed below

Bathgate Community Council

Bathgate Community Council email: bathgatecc@gmail.com

BCC Planning Sub-Committee email: bccplanningsc@gmail.com

How feedback will be treated

We recognise that any discussion regarding the use of limited resources that impacts where people live can lead to conflicts of views. Therefore we have drawn up the following guidelines as for a process that considers all feedback.

Where the feedback is in support of the Local Place Plan there is no further need for action and we appreciate the support.

Where the feedback refers to something not in the place plan or is in disagreement then it will be considered by the BCC Planning Sub-Committee. When making a decision on whether to amend/adapt the Consultative Draft the team will consider:

1. Whether there is a legislative or regulatory implication that has not been considered
2. If the feedback speaks for a minority group who have not been appropriately represented in the community consultation underpinning this plan
3. How the proposal sits with the wider consultation and if it goes against the wider view of the Bathgate community.
4. What opportunities for compromise exist to accommodate both views effectively.
5. In the event that the BCC Planning Sub-Committee feels unable to make a decision then they will consult the wider BCC for further guidance.
6. Finally if there is a weight of opinion behind two conflicting positions then an extraordinary public forum will be convened to have an open debate on the specific matter.

A final version of the Local Place plan along with a copy of the feedback received and how it has been treated will be shared after consultation closes. All personally identifiable information such as names, email addresses etc will be removed prior to sharing in compliance with GDPR and an individual's right to privacy.

Finally it is the BCC Planning Sub-Committee's intention to play back the proposals to the Bathgate community in an open public forum as well publishing the document through social media to ensure that the people of Bathgate can have their say.