

Community engagement activity in Bathgate and Boghall

In Boghall various community engagement methods and tools were used to support determining the priorities in the area. Priorities identified were fed into the Locality Plan and will support the community action plans. Examples of approaches used are below. Additional engagement carried out by partners, including third sector organisations, was also utilised to provide a clear picture of what matters to those who live, work and visit in Bathgate and Boghall.



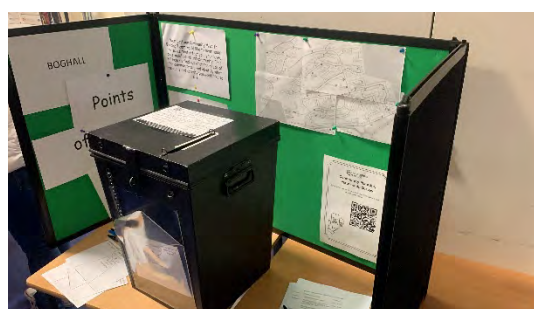
Methods

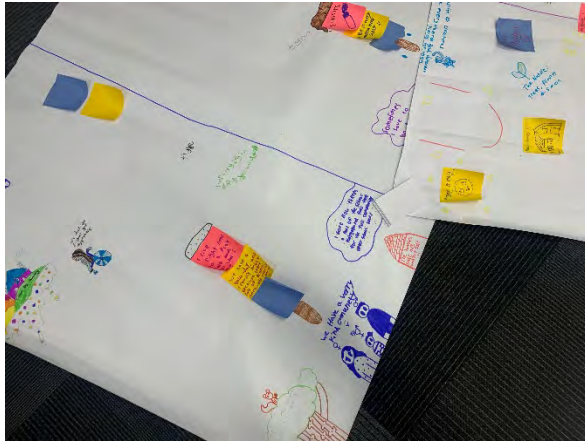
The table below provides a snap shot of the engagement carried out, including how the engagement was undertaken and who participated. The engagement was designed to ensure as wide participation from all ages and demographics as possible, within the community. It was also designed to meet the needs of the participants with a range of techniques being utilised.

Area of engagement	Description of the engagement	Participants
Key local community organisations	<p>Attending various meetings and group activities to engage with the participants.</p> <p>Tools used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face consultations/surveys • Online survey 	<p>Key community organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boghall Drop-In • Boghall Parish Church • Artlink
Community Planning Partners and other stakeholders	Consultation of proposed plan with CPP partners	<p>Key organisations and stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Scotland

Appendix 2

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scottish Fire and Rescue Service • NHS Lothian • WLC Housing
Community Survey	Short community surveys delivered face to face to while in the community and attending local groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole community
Schools and youth groups	Bespoke sessions within the primary schools engaging young people to determine what young people like and don't like about their community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Columbas • Boghall Primary
Community events	Organised events within the community including fun days and information market stall sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents and young people • Whole community
Social Media	Local community social media pages used to promote online surveys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole community
Desktop research and analysis	A desktop exercise was carried out on previous plan/studies and community engagement findings from partner consultation. Analysis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and other key data including Scottish Public Health Observatory (ScotPho)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Regeneration Officer • Regeneration Group





Engagement Findings

The engagement highlighted what the community valued in Boghall along with some key challenges that the community identified that they would like to be addressed.

The following local challenges were a common theme throughout the range of engagement activities:

- Poverty / cost of living
- Mental Health and wellbeing
- After school Activities
- Access to key transport links
- Litter and dog fouling
- Anti-social behaviour

The following areas were highlighted as key areas of value and positive in Boghall:

- Key Community Organisations – Church and Drop-In
- Community HUBs and the activities that take place
- Local Schools
- Open Spaces - Nature
- Sense of Community Spirit

School Engagement

Specific engagement within local primary schools was carried out. This sought the views from young people in the community, by providing a mechanism for them to engage in a way that they understood and a way that included their views. Primary 6 and 7 young people were provided with the opportunity to draw or write what they liked and didn't like in their community and were then provided with the opportunity to use a magic wand to change two things in their community.

The 'likes' / happy images from the young people in Boghall included the following:

- Woods
- Playpark
- Sense of Community
- Clubs and activities
- Nature
- Wildlife
- Walks
- School

The following were 'dislikes' / unhappy images from young people in Boghall:

- Litter
- Pollution
- Smoking near school
- Smashed glass

Conclusion

The engagement carried out in Boghall, in parts of Bathgate aligned to the SIMD datazones, has provided officers with an understanding of the challenges and opportunities that the communities identified within the local area. This information will be utilised firstly to support the development of the locality plan along with key statistical data and existing service knowledge and priorities. Secondly the information will be used to support the development of interventions in the area that meet the challenges identified.

Engagement in Bathgate and Boghall will be iterative to ensure that priorities within the community are kept current, the community feel engaged and to help measure changes / success.