

AUCHINLOCH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN



2019-2024



Foreword

Auchinloch's name is derived from the Gaelic, 'Achadh an Locha' meaning 'Field of the Loch', referring to the local Gadloch. The district of Auchinloch appeared on a map as long ago as 1654.

In the 18th century Auchinloch was a small rural hamlet consisting of two rows of weavers' cottages situated on a drumlin (ridge), surrounded on all sides by farmland. There is a brief description of the village as "delightfully situated upon the ridge from which we are gazing upon the widespread landscape below", written by Hugh McDonald in "Rambles Round Glasgow" (1856). He mentions "a neat little school-home, built in the year 1745", referring to the plaque which can still be seen inside the former school, now the village hall or community centre.

During 1925 a new village of 252 houses was built at Wester Auchinloch by the mine owners, James Nimmo & Company, for the miners employed at Lumloch and Auchengeich mines. This was followed by the opening of a new school, the present Auchinloch Primary School, in April 1931.

At various times the village has grown, including additions to the old village; tenement flats, four-in-a-block houses and a terrace all on the north side of Langmuirhead Road; the "electric houses" at the end of Second and Third Avenues; the homes for farm workers on the north side of Burnbrae Road; the development in the 1980s in Gadloch Avenue and Gadloch View; and, most recently, the new estate on the south side of Langmuirhead Road.

Regarding local government, Auchinloch has been subject to a variety of councils, including Cadder Parish Council, Lanark County Council, Strathkelvin District Council (that included Lenzie and Kirkintilloch) within Strathclyde Region, and currently North Lanarkshire Council.

One particular feature of Auchinloch is the golf course that runs across the extent of the village from north to south. This land is managed by the Lenzie Estate Company, wholly owned by Lenzie Benevolent Society, which has leased the golf course to Lenzie Golf Club since 1936. The club was founded in 1889 and its future was secured when John Duncan, a local benefactor, purchased the land for recreational use.

In 1937, the village was granted the use of the park for a nominal rent. The first event in the park was a celebration of the coronation in 1937 of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. In 1953 there was an impressive programme of events, also held in the park, the school and the village hall, to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. For many years, the village park (situated on the south side of Langmuirhead Road between the golf course and the new housing estate) was well used with a playing field and pavilion and a play park.

The Auchinloch Bowling Club was opened in 1967 with funding from the Miners' Welfare Committee, on land that had belonged latterly to the National Coal Board. A well-known landmark is the Golden Pheasant Pub.

Auchinloch retains its distinctive character as an attractive semi-rural village.

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Introduction

142 Community Household Surveys were returned representing the views of over **426** residents.

220 people attended the Coalfields Community Futures Voting Event.

Coalfields Community Futures

The Coalfields Community Futures Programme is an approach to local community planning and sustainable community development that aims to encourage active citizenship and build local democracy. It enables communities to devise a community action plan which makes a case for the things that the community thinks are important and wishes to make happen.

The process builds on existing processes of community action research to identify local needs and priorities, using residents as co-researchers. We work with local residents and groups to develop a common sense of purpose and assist them to produce a deliverable community action plan.

To support the action planning process the community receive a Participatory Budget of £20,000 which is available to local constituted community or voluntary groups for soon, seen and successful projects.

This budget enables the community to fund small projects that are identified by the community through the results of the household surveys, stakeholder interviews and the community voting event.

Auchinloch Community Action Plan

The plan summarises community views and information about:

- Our community now.
- Our shared Vision for Auchinloch.
- Priority themes and actions.
- Making the links to Community Planning.

The Steering Group brought together representatives from Auchinloch Community Council, Auchinloch Toddlers Group, Auchinloch Primary School Parents' Council, Auchinloch Residents and North Lanarkshire Council.

Thank you to everyone who took part in helping Auchinloch plan for a bright future!



Our community now

Location

The village of Auchinloch is situated in the north-western corner of North Lanarkshire on the boundary with East Dunbartonshire (Lenzie/ Kirkintilloch) to the north and the boundary with Glasgow (Robroyston) one mile to the west. Langmuirhead Road is the main artery through the village, going west to Robroyston. It adjoins the main local road, the B757, which is called Auchinloch Road going north to Lenzie and Kirkintilloch, and it is called Stepps Road going south towards the M80 at Hornhill Junction.

Population

The total population of Auchinloch is 775 with a working population of 465. (Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS) 2016) with the estimated addition of 225 for the new residential estate, bringing the estimated total to 1000 with a working population of 600.

Housing

Auchinloch has a range of different housing including detached, semi-detached, terraced and flats/apartments, built mostly in the 1900s with the addition of seven houses in Burnbrae Road and a new estate completed in the spring of 2019. 76.2% of housing is owner occupied with 18% being council/housing association tenants, according to the 2011 census. The total number of home units, including three farms, is 394.

Health & Care

Most residents are registered with GPs, dentists and opticians in Lenzie and Kirkintilloch, and attending hospitals and clinics with NHS Glasgow and Clyde. Community health services are now provided by NHS Lanarkshire. At the time of the last census, 23.9% of all people in Auchinloch were living with a limiting long-term illness. The figure for Scotland as a whole is lower at 19.6%. Source: Census 2011.

Local Economy, Shops and Services

There is one small general store in the village. A fish van comes on Fridays and a mobile library visits the

village one afternoon weekly. Shops and services are available in Kirkintilloch and Lenzie, and there are retail parks at Strathkelvin and Robroyston. At the time of the last census, 66.4% of people aged 16-73 were economically active with 39.5% of people in full time employment. This is lower than Scotland as a whole at 69%. Source: Census 2011.

Education and Childcare

Auchinloch Primary School has about 100 children on its roll. There is also a Nursery for pre-school children. An after-school club is run privately by KiddiCare in the Community Centre. There is also a voluntary Toddlers' Group. The RC Primary School is either Holy Family in Kirkintilloch or St. Barbara's in Muirhead. There is a choice of local secondary education: Chryston High School, Lenzie Academy or St Ninian's RC High School.

Community Activities and Facilities

There is an active Community Council which holds monthly open meetings and occasional larger public meetings on important matters. The old school has been the village hall since 1931. It is now Auchinloch Community Centre, under the management of CultureNL. Due to budget cuts, since June 2018 its use has been restricted to school term-time and to limited hours. The only other community facilities are the Bowling Club with its licensed clubhouse and the Golden Pheasant pub. Nearby there is Lenzie Golf Club.

There is an excellent children's play park at the end of Second Avenue and the new estate will have two small play areas. Except for the school grounds, there is a lack of recreational facilities, especially for teenagers and adults. The Thursday Club is a popular lunch club for our senior citizens. It meets fortnightly and organises outings and entertainment. A Community Church meets every Sunday in the Community Centre.

Our community now

Environment

As a semi-rural village many residents, young and old, appreciate being close to nature. Twelve years ago one member of the community used her expertise and local knowledge to produce a detailed report of the biodiversity that existed within the green spaces of the village including what became the development site for the new estate. She recorded an amazing variety of birds, amphibians (frogs and toads), small mammals including water voles, insects including butterflies, wildflowers including three types of orchid, and other plants and trees, hedges and bushes. After several years of construction, much of this biodiversity has been lost or diminished, but we hope that the village park area can be reclaimed and a programme of nature conservation developed.

Traffic & Transport

With its proximity to the motorway (M80) local roads have become very busy with traffic. Although the Initiative Road takes a lot of traffic away from Auchinloch, the local B757 (Steeps Road / Auchinloch Road) is still the most direct route to and from Lenzie and Kirkintilloch for many drivers. It also links with a popular route in the direction of Bishopbriggs, Torrance, and Milngavie. At the eastern end of Auchinloch there is a frequent express bus service into Glasgow Buchanan Street Bus Station and to Kirkintilloch and Campsie Glen in the other direction. An hourly 72 bus service runs through the village along Langmuirhead Road to Glasgow Bus Station via Robroyston and Springburn and to Kirkintilloch town centre in the other direction. There is no public transport link with the rest of North Lanarkshire and its facilities. Most of the village is no more than a mile from Lenzie station with frequent trains to Glasgow Queen Street station and to Edinburgh via Croy and to Stirling.

Community Action Plan: Considerations

- Community Structures and Community Leadership - It is vital to ensure the continuation of the Community Council as a fully representative body in dealings with North Lanarkshire Council and other agencies. Elections are due to be held in October 2019.
- Community facilities - Alongside the Community Council, a new community body is needed to develop and manage community facilities such as the Community Centre (under Asset Transfer) and a new Village Country Park with all-age facilities and nature conservation.
- Voluntary service and involvement - The community spirit will thrive upon promoting active engagement to meet the needs of young and old alike, for example through leading youth activities or providing a befriending service.
- Life enrichment - Human beings thrive through social interaction and the enjoyable and fulfilling sharing of interests, skills, projects and recreation.
- Care of the environment - Everyone benefits from care of our environment, whether it is being a responsible pet owner or being considerate of others when parking your vehicle or assisting a litter-pick. Our village is what we all choose to make it.



A shared vision for our community

Auchinloch remains a community with a village identity, retaining a feeling of being in the country.

Auchinloch, friendly and welcoming, an inspiring and enjoyable place to live.

A community that thrives on mutual respect and inclusiveness, where all of our residents are well looked after.

A place where our school remains at the heart of the community.

With a common sense of purpose and a strong sense of community spirit between young and old.

A place where our community centre is well maintained, available for use by everyone, affordable and accessible.

A tidy well-kept village with flowers and benches with trees planted wherever possible to encourage and support our abundant wildlife.

All the age groups are supported and catered for with local events, culture and crafts.

We respect our environment and people by our day to day conduct.

A well connected community that draws from its history and looks forward to its future.



The results from the community survey show us what the people of Auchinloch like

What do you *like* about your community?

- 65% community spirit
- 28% clean, safe, peaceful
- 27% village identity
- 26% rural setting
- 19% access to amenities
- 10% well located
- 9% transport links
- 4% green space



Quotes taken from the survey

"Auchinloch is a lovely place to live. You are in the countryside with beautiful views but not far from the motorway. Still consider ourselves a village although we are growing. People stay a long time in Auchinloch and they are a great source of history."

"Quiet, friendly people, quite a few children playing out."

"Community spirit and willingness to make improvements. Having access to a field/loch for walks. The playpark for younger children, Community Centre access."

"I like that there is more than one generation that wants to live in the village."

"Our community is small and close knit, there is a great school, a good local shop. It is a great place to raise a family."

"It feels safe and homely."

"Lovely village near main transport routes and amenities."



The results from the community survey show us what the people of Auchinloch dislike

What do you *not like* about your community?

32% volume, speeding traffic

22% amenity

21% activities, facilities

21% dog fouling

14% local development

14% litter, fly-tipping

11% roads, pavements

11% public transport



Quotes taken from the survey

"The local pub is the most convenient meeting place but it is not suitable for teenagers & a lot of older residents unless they are able to have a meal or an alcoholic drink. The bus service is very limited so you need to take a taxi or use a private car to go outside the village."

"There is nothing for the younger generation apart from a swing park."

"The traffic drives at speed through the village. The local football park has been lost. The village hall is at risk. We need more support for the elderly and infirm."

"We don't have anything for older children, clubs etc. The way cars are parked on pavements it makes it dangerous, particularly if walking with a pram. Police don't seem to do anything to sort it out. Trying to get out of the village at Golden Pheasant, speed of traffic is really bad, can't get council to sort that no matter how often we have asked."

"Lack of facilities and activities for children. Community hall is not being used to its full potential. It is now restricted to weekdays in term time. Dog fouling often outside the school."

From Our Kids' Perspective

Pupils from Auchinloch Primary School made their contribution to the Auchinloch Coalfields Community Action Plan by completing their own questionnaire which asked pupils questions like – What things do you like to do most of all? What hobbies do you have? Are you a member of a club? What do you like about living here? What do you dislike most about living here? What would you like to see happen here in the future?

Thirteen pupils took part and the results give an insight to the thoughts and feelings of our young residents.

Their key concerns about the village include:

- Large amounts of traffic.
- Lack of amenities.
- Effects from local development.

What they like most about living in the village include:

- Community spirit.
- The play park.
- Local facilities.

Out of the thirteen pupils surveyed, 69% of the young people are involved in a group or club.

Looking to the future the three most important issues for our young people are:

- Sports facilities/equipment for everyone to use.
- Improving amenities.
- More activities.



Theme 1: Services

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Public services rank high on the priority list for the people of Auchinloch. Services including improved local amenities, improved roads and public transport as well as adequate education provision have all been highlighted in the community survey.

Improve local amenities

- Identify what the key priorities are for local people.
- Work with appropriate organisations and agencies to explore new ideas and opportunities for improvement and development.

Supply a Defibrillator for the Village

- Identify best location for easy access to a defibrillator.
- Work with North Lanarkshire Council and others to help install it.
- Carry out training sessions with local groups for effective use as a lifesaving instrument.

Improve Public Transport Services

- Identify what service provision is required by local residents.
- Lobby public transport providers around delivering a service that meets the need of the people of Auchinloch.

Welcome signage and local interpretation

- Agree on where signs are required and style of interpretation.
- Identify funding for design, sign production and installation.

- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to agree planning permission.

Maintain & develop footpaths

- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to agree on priorities for path maintenance.
- Carry out a mapping exercise to propose plans for developing new paths.

Adequate Primary School provision

- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to make sure that plans are in place to secure adequate provision for primary school places for local children.

Better engagement between service providers and local community members

- Investigate opportunities to improve two way communication between the local community and the North Lanarkshire Local Area Partnership and other service providers.

Potential Partners

North Lanarkshire Council, Public Transport providers, Transport Scotland, Community Council, Local Community, Local School, Police Scotland and North Lanarkshire Local Area Partnership.

Theme 2: Roads & Traffic

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

We need to work closely with North Lanarkshire Council to help alleviate the issues relating to parking, poor road conditions and traffic issues around the village and in particular the school. We also want to improve local residents' access to wider transport links and safety for pedestrians.

Safer exit from the Village

- Work with North Lanarkshire Council & other agencies to investigate options for creating a safe exit from the village at the staggered junction and blind summit with the B757.

Speeding traffic

- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to explore enforcing a 20mph limit where appropriate.
- Identify priority areas for traffic calming measures.

Improve roads & pavements

- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to identify the roads & pavements which are most in need of repair/maintenance.

Improve parking provision

- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to explore ways of improving the availability of car parking in the village.
- Work with Police Scotland to explore ways of managing car parking in the village.

Safer routes for pedestrians

- Carry out a mapping exercise to identify routes which are unsafe to pedestrians.
- Work with agencies to investigate ways of making the identified routes safer.

Potential Partners

North Lanarkshire Council, Transport Scotland, Community Council, Local Community, Local School and Police Scotland.



Theme 3: Community Facilities & Activities

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Building social capital is a key aspect of creating strong, resilient communities. Good quality community facilities that are fit for purpose with regular opportunities for communities to meet and share in activities and conversation: this is the glue that binds communities together. This theme has emerged from the survey and it is essential that the community can work together with stakeholders, support organisations and agencies to realise these outcomes over the term of the action plan.

More activities for all ages and abilities

- Carry out community engagement to identify what activities people would like within the village.
- Work with partners to secure funding and identify necessary provisions.

Community sports facilities

- Increase the amount of sports equipment available for community use.
- Identify opportunities for increase of sports facilities.
- Buy or lease the former village park for recreational development.
- Identify nearby facilities and improve access/transport for the community.

Upgrade the Community Centre and make it easier to access for community use

- Identify the need for better access e.g. who would like to use it and when.
- Work with North Lanarkshire Council to improve access & affordability for the Community Centre.

- Investigate the idea of applying for Community Asset Transfer to manage and upgrade the village hall.

Create Annual Events to bring the community together e.g. Gala Day

- Create an events committee to work together to plan community events.
- Carry out a community engagement exercise to see what events the community would like to see happen.
- Fundraise and identify sources of funding available to pay for the events.

Potential Partners

North Lanarkshire Council, Local Community, Local Schools, Sport Scotland and Community Council.



Theme 4: Village Environment & Heritage

These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters.

Access to good quality green space and woodland with good path networks is important for the health and wellbeing of a community. It also relies on such key priorities as feeling safe, having adequate play and growing spaces, with people having a sense of place and a sense of pride. A community that is attractive and cared for with local people taking responsibility for their actions on a day to day basis. This is essential in helping maintain a clean and tidy environment for everyone to enjoy. Recognition of our heritage is another key aspect enabling the community to understand where it has come from and in doing so, help it create a vision for the future.

Exploit the potential for a village country park

- Survey the potential of linking our green assets: area of the Gadloch, Cardyke woodland, former village park and adjacent wetland.
- Engage with the various landowners.
- Investigate community right to buy.
- Develop a vision for a unique village country park.

Promote biodiversity

- Work with NLC's Greenspace Development team.
- Run a nature education programme.
- Engage with the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and Greenspace Development on conservation work.
- Create nature trails.

Deal with Dog Fouling

- Identify areas where bins are required.
- Ensure bins are emptied regularly.
- Work with North Lanarkshire Council on a joint approach to dealing with dog fouling.

Green spaces

- Add value by suitable planting, care and maintenance.

Clean up our village – Litter & Fly Tipping

- Encourage participation in regular litter-picks.
- Report fly tipping to North Lanarkshire Council.
- Run a "Keep Auchinloch Beautiful" campaign.

Create a Miners' Memorial in the "New Village"

- Identify a suitable location within the community.
- Work with the community to agree on a design.
- Work with North Lanarkshire Council for planning and installation.

Potential Partners

North Lanarkshire Council, Greenspace Scotland, Forestry Commission, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Local Community Council and NLC Greenspace Development Team.



Early actions funded through Participatory Budget

The process of creating a five year action plan also included an opportunity to make the most of a Participatory Budget of £20,000. Local voluntary groups and organisations applied for funding in order to deliver soon, seen and successful projects that are aligned with the themes and priorities outlined in this action plan. Local residents were able to vote on the projects at the community voting event which helped inform how the funding was allocated. The successful groups include:

Auchinloch Toddlers' Group

- Equipment Upgrade.

Auchinloch Community Council

- Village Park Design.

Auchinloch Primary School PTA

- Outdoor Learning & Community facilities equipment.

Auchinloch Community Council

- Miners' Memorial.

Auchinloch Community Council

- Defibrillator.

Auchinloch Thursday Club

- Garden/Outdoor Project for the Elderly.

Auchinloch Bowling Club

- New Equipment/Lawnmower.

Auchinloch Community Church

- Media Projector & Screen for community use.

Auchinloch Thursday Club

- Improve our communication.

Working Together - North Lanarkshire Partnership

Working Together – North Lanarkshire Partnership sets out the three high level outcomes with each of the partners agreeing to work together to achieve these. We see our community action plan as an opportunity to link in with these outcomes and help make action to achieve major improvements in the quality of life for the people of Auchinloch.

Working Together - North Lanarkshire Partnership High Level Outcomes	Auchinloch Community Action Plan Themes
Health & Wellbeing Lifelong Learning Regeneration	Services Roads & Traffic Community Facilities & Activities Village Environment & Heritage



Making it happen

This report summarises the findings of the Community Views Survey carried out in Auchinloch during October 2018 - January 2019. The survey was carried out as part of the Coalfields Community Futures participatory process that informed the preparation of this five year community action plan. The voting event, which took the form of a family fun day in January, allowed the local community to review the results of the survey, make further comment on community issues and vote on which priorities were most important to them. The Participatory Budget from Coalfields Regeneration Trust of £20,000 has been used to help take forward local projects which support the key themes found in this action plan. The Community Action Plan contains:

- A summary of Auchinloch Community Profile.
- Our main Likes and Dislikes expressed in the community survey.
- Our Vision Statement for Auchinloch.
- The main themes and priorities for taking action.
- The Participatory Budget projects that are helping kick start the action plan.
- Making the links between the Auchinloch Community Action Plan Themes and the High Level Outcomes of Working Together - North Lanarkshire Partnership.
- Information on how to get involved or just be kept informed.

The Auchinloch Community Action Plan is not just for the few but for everyone, we hope you will read it, consider its content and help toward making it work by taking action where you are, in whatever way you can. If everyone did

something positive for their community every day, then what a difference that would make! Many thanks go to all those who took their time to share their views, to the volunteers and participants who made the Voting Day a great success. Thanks go to members of the community who contributed the photographs in this community action plan.

To find out more information about the Auchinloch Community Action Plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact; communitycouncilauchinloch@gmail.com.



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The Coalfields Regeneration Trust

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