

# GARTCOSH

## LOCAL PLACE PLAN 2025





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MAKING IT HAPPEN

Since 2016, I have had the privilege of serving as the constituency MSP for Coatbridge & Chryston. It is a pleasure to write this foreword for the first Local Place Plans (LPP) developed for the Gartcosh area.

I have noted several key points that I believe are important. The community has embraced the LPP as a pathway to drive change in their local area, working closely with the National Planning Framework (NPF4) as a guide in shaping their plan. Importantly, Gartcosh, situated within the Northern Corridor of North Lanarkshire Council, is a distinctive community with its own needs and rights. Too often, North Lanarkshire communities are grouped together as a single voice, and the unique differences between them are not always fully recognised.

The Gartcosh LPP has been supported by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT), following a series of consultations and workshops held between November 2024 and March 2025. Through this process, the community was able to reflect on how to improve their ‘place,’ agree on shared priorities, and work collaboratively with others to bring about positive changes.

This is very much a plan for the people of Gartcosh, shaped by their involvement in guiding how the

community can grow and remain an attractive place to live, work, study, enjoy, and invest. To support this, the Gartcosh LPP sets out a clear vision for the community’s future, along with the actions needed to help achieve it. While the plan is not perfect or complete, it marks the beginning of a journey that will adapt as the community’s needs change and evolve over time. It recognises the past, reflects the present, and sets out a vision for the future.

The local community has identified clear, action priorities they wish to see realised. The LPP brings together a wealth of information from many different sources, reflecting the strength of collective effort. Continued collaboration will be the key to success and should serve as a benchmark for future community engagement in planning. I hope public bodies will draw on this rich resource to positively consider the core proposals put forward by the community.

**Fulton MacGregor**  
**MSP for Coatbridge and Chryston**



# INTRODUCTION



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This Local Place Plan is the outcome of hard work and commitment by the Gartcosh Development Trust, alongside their community and all those with an interest in the future of their community.

The Gartcosh Local Place Plan has been prepared by following the outcomes of the consultation and workshops that took place during 2024/25.

We have worked closely with the Fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) and used it as our guide to frame the Gartcosh Local Place Plan.

Thanks go to Green Map System for their support in providing their resources to help us make the spatial mapping as accessible as possible, using adapted icons to identify policy and place.

The Gartcosh Local Place Plan sets out a future vision for how our community could be improved and the actions required to help achieve this. The local community have also identified community action priorities that they want to see happen. These are set out under the five themes of the Improvement Service 'Place and Wellbeing Outcomes', designed to improve Scotland's wellbeing, reduce inequality and work toward Net Zero.

The CRT Place engagement toolkit allowed us to reach out to the local community, and the Place Standard assessment tool has been a key driver behind the content of this work.

CRT Place is a place-based approach to support the regeneration and creation of sustainable and resilient communities in Scotland's former coal mining communities. They helped us by using their place-based approach, a range of methods to capture people's views of where they live as it is now, and how they see the future in their local community. This approach promotes dialogue and cooperation between community members, partners and outside agencies. Any type of community-led plan is always a work in progress. However, it provides concrete steps to help shape local communities going forward. The aim of this is that future generations can thrive in changing times so that no one is left behind.

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# BACKGROUND



Gartcosh has been part of a Community Growth Area (CGA), created by North Lanarkshire Council around 2012. The population in 2011 was under 2000 residents. Today it is substantially higher. From viewing the Local Development Plans in 2012, 2017 & 2022, residents became increasingly concerned that the infrastructure e.g. the local primary school, roads and lack of amenities, would in the future compromise the sustainability of our community.

In 2017 Gartcosh Tenants & Residents Association (GTRA) was formed within the village. It raised awareness of planning issues and gave a voice to residents' concerns. Through this work it became apparent that an additional vehicle would be needed to create and combine community-led action with an enterprising approach to address and tackle local needs and issues. The Gartcosh Development Trust was created to develop social, economic and environmental renewal in our defined geographical area, creating wealth within that area and keeping it there.

This Local Place Plan hopes though proposals and evidence to redress the balance of cultural, economic, and social heritage and environmental characteristics of the area. It would also uphold the break in coalescence with other communities, thus preserving our identity. The community believe there is no reason why both appropriate development and community characteristics could not be achieved.

Within the last year the Northern Corridor Forum, its membership consisting of all the surrounding villages and various organisations, published an Evidence Report relating to housing development, education, infrastructure, roads, active travel and amenities in villages across the Northern Corridor. Gartcosh featured heavily in that report.

Gartcosh, supported by CRT, now can build on the good work carried out in the past with the benefit of additional engagement. The community have been able to produce a spatial vision for the village.



## OUR COMMUNITY - PAST

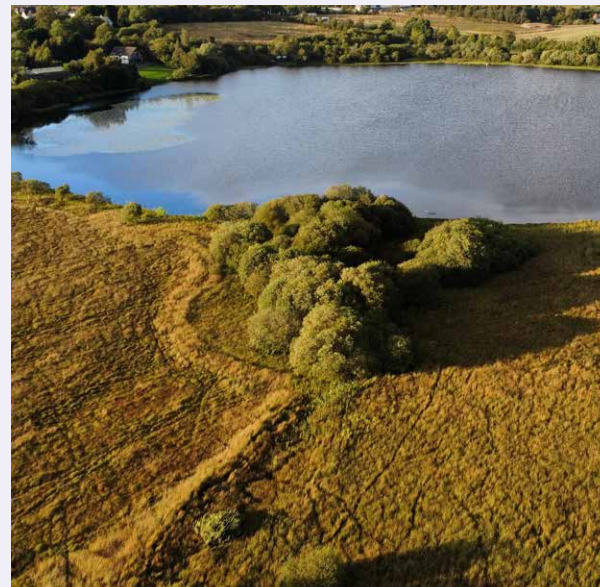
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If you visit Gartcosh, you may be forgiven for thinking it's not a community steeped in history and monuments which mark its historic past. You will find this not to be true. The village has one of the largest monuments to a different past and present time. Below is a timeline that stretches over 11,000 years to the present day. We also provide marks in time that influenced our rich agricultural and industrial past.

### The Ice Age Legacy

Johnston Loch and the drumlins that can be seen at the old golf course and the creation of Mount Ellen are due to the last "glacial period" (or Ice Age). The most recent period within the last glacial period ended around 11,700 years ago. A kettle loch is a body of water formed in depressions created by melting glacial ice. Retreating glaciers leave large blocks of ice, become detached and buried within glacial deposits. These ice blocks melt, fill with water and form a kettle loch. The melted glacier deposits created and revealed Johnston Loch and associated wetlands (it also created and revealed Loch Lomond) and are part of our heritage, historic landscape and a living monument in our community.



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## OUR COMMUNITY - PAST

### Ancient Settlements 700 - 250BC

Crannog dwellings found in Bishop Loch, Woodend Loch and Lochend Loch are documented by the National Record of Historic Environment.

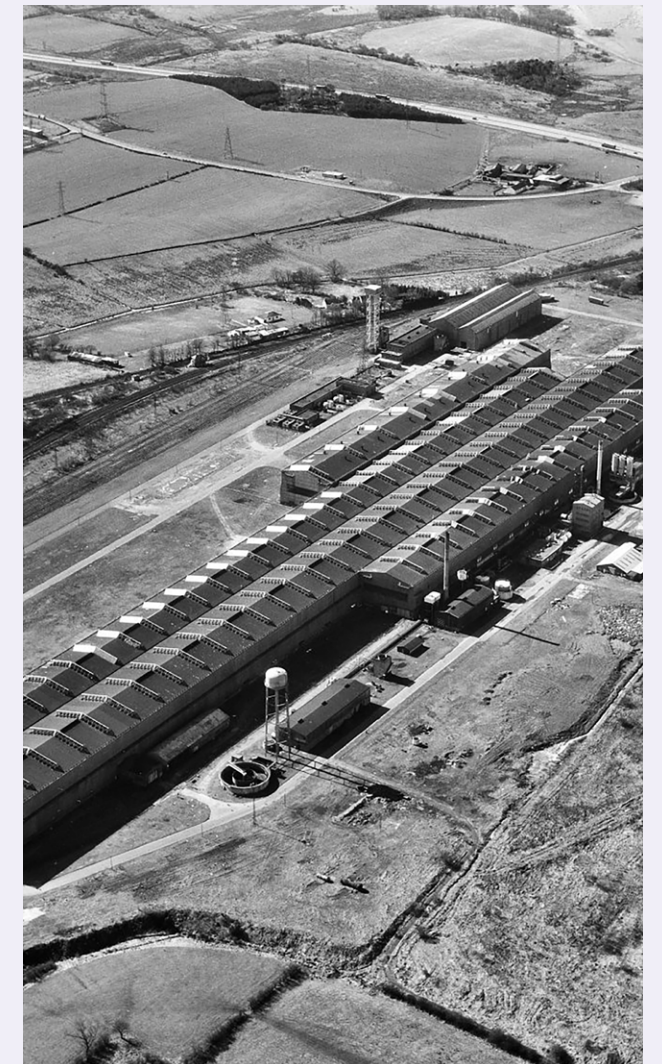
(Canmore). Many Crannog discoveries are made during low water levels, and the structures disappear with rising water levels or erosion. Artefacts found indicated the Early Iron Age, around 250 BC (Scott 1966) and the artefacts were key in determining the correct prehistoric age. Relics found included hand-made fragments, undecorated pottery vessels and many other items. Some are held in Airdrie Public Library, and fragments of crucibles are in Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum. Who knows what treasures lie beneath Johnston Loch? In the 1880s, Gartcosh House was being built, and a prehistoric dugout canoe was discovered, presumably used to travel over the wetlands. The canoe is now part of the Hunterian Museum collection. A canoe, dwellings, and artefacts all dated in the Mesolithic period were the only examples recorded in the west of Scotland of that period. Also, this confirmed the area has always been populated.

### The Bishopric of Glasgow

In the 1100s, the area became part of the vast Glasgow Bishopric estate. Lochwood Manor, the Bishops' country residence, stood nearby for centuries. Excavations in 2005 revealed its moat, foundations, and even medieval coins, offering glimpses of Gartcosh's medieval role as country residence, farmland and hunting grounds.

### Coal Mining in Gartcosh

From the 1700s through to the early 1900s, coal mining was active in the Gartcosh area. Small pits and shafts supported local industry, providing employment for many village families and contributing to the area's industrial heritage.



*The aerial shot of the steelworks: Canmore*



*Image courtesy of EDLC Archives and Local Studies*



# OUR COMMUNITY - PAST

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## The Industrial Age

The Industrial Revolution dramatically reshaped society, economies, and the environment. Originally an agricultural settlement, Gartcosh transitioned into an industrial hub in the 19th century but retained its rural characteristics. The population was scattered between the agricultural industry, and the fireclay works. Gartcosh was the estate and Gartloch was part of the estate, the difference being the land owners lived at Gartloch and Gartcosh was the farmland. Footprints of past landowners or directors in companies associated with the area can be seen in some of the street names; Baird Crescent, Jardine Terrace and Johnston Road, for example.

So why did the village location of Gartcosh develop? You must look at the broader picture. In brief, there was a railway, a fireclay brick work, an iron works (which developed into the steel works), and a change in legislation regarding mandatory school attendance. Added to this was the availability of land (some sold) in relation to the railway and some donated. This industrial activity caused the scattered population to center at the present-day location.

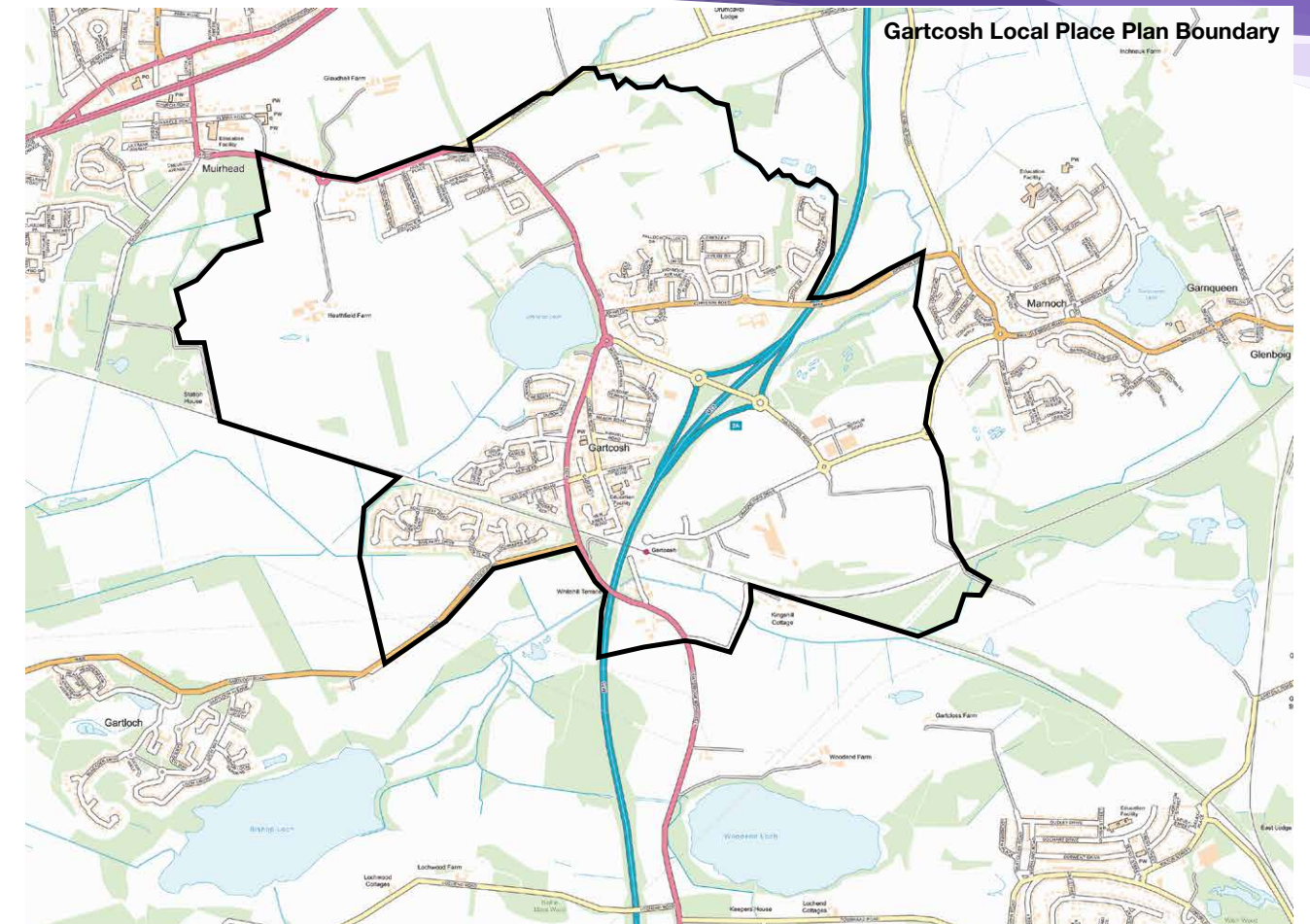
In the 20th century, Gartcosh had a school fit for purpose, a community hall, a Co-op, a butcher, a post office, convenience store and a step on step off railway stop. It also had Woodneuk Park, a cricket club and ground, and tennis courts. In 1929, a Church of Scotland church was also built.

Throughout these changes Johnston Loch still graces the village and area, as it has always done for over 11,000 years before, and is still a living monument to time - one of historic legacy and beauty in our area.



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# OUR COMMUNITY NOW



Map shows the Gartcosh Local Place Plan Boundary in relation to North Lanarkshire. Local Insight and Area Profile Reports have been applied to the LPP boundary to gain useful insights

## Location

Gartcosh is a semi-rural village located in North Lanarkshire within the Northern Corridor area comprising of seven villages. Gartcosh sits less than half a mile from Glasgow City Council Authority. It is situated seven miles east of Glasgow City Centre and two miles northwest of Coatbridge. Gartcosh hosts Johnstone Loch, one of the Seven Lochs within the wetlands park. The area has a rich agricultural past. Once home to the British Steel Corporation (Gartcosh Steel Works), it now hosts the Scottish Crime Campus. The Gartcosh Development Trust area has engaging historical narratives from its history of stone-age dwellings to its agricultural and industrial past.



Image courtesy of EDLC Archives and Local Studies



# OUR COMMUNITY NOW

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# OUR COMMUNITY NOW



## Population

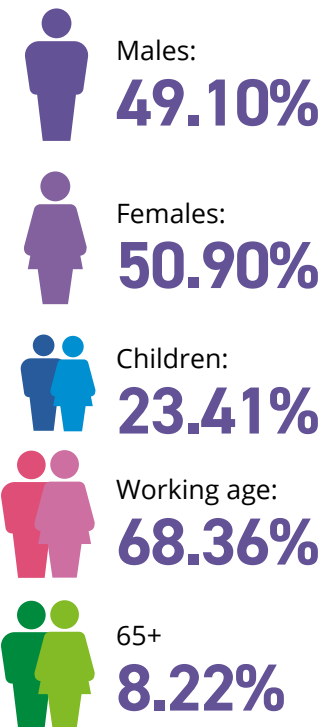
The total population for Gartcosh LPP Boundary was

**5,177**  
for Scotland was  
**5,447,700**

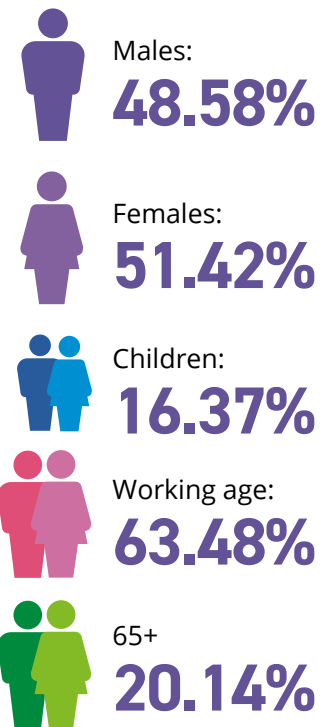
Source:  
[www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk)  
Office for National  
Statistics (ONS)

## Population Composition

### Gartcosh LPP Boundary



### Scotland



## Housing

Housing Tenure - The table below provides both the proportion of the area's population and the overall count for different housing tenures. The tenure of a household is derived from the response to the 2022 Census question asking whether the household owns or rents its accommodation and, if rented, from the response to the question asking who the landlord is.

Source: Census 2022

## Housing Tenure

Indicator	Gartcosh LPP Boundary	Scotland
Owned Outright	<b>21.66%</b>	<b>33.83%</b>
Owned: With Mortgage / Loan	<b>58.06%</b>	<b>28.49%</b>
Shared Ownership	<b>0.07%</b>	<b>0.25%</b>
Shared Equity	<b>0.39%</b>	<b>0.60%</b>
Private Rented: Landlord or Letting Agency	<b>5.28%</b>	<b>12.40%</b>
Private Rented: Other	<b>0.20%</b>	<b>12.40%</b>
Living Rent Free	<b>0.52%</b>	<b>1.43%</b>



Health

Self- Reported General Health

The table below shows data from Census 2022 on the total number and proportion of residents within each response category from a self-assessment of general health.

Health & Care

Gartcosh has no primary healthcare services within the village. GP services can be sought in Chryston & Muirhead, servicing only part of the catchment area of this plan. GP services (3 doctor practices) are also available serving Glenboig and surrounding areas including Gartcosh. Both surgeries have practice nurse services.

A private dental service is available in Muirhead. There is a dispensing chemist within Gartcosh Village.

The nearest accident & emergency services are at Monklands District General Hospital.

Source: Census 2022

Education and Skills

Gartcosh has one non-denomination primary school and denominational school approximately 0.5 miles from Gartcosh Development Trust area. High school pupils normally attend Chryston High School.

New College Lanarkshire (Cumbernauld Campus) offers a range courses for students going on to further education.

Glasgow Kelvin College also offers a range of courses and has campuses in Easterhouse, as well as Springburn and East End.

Source: Census 2022

Self-Reported General Health

Indicator	Gartcosh LPP Boundary	Scotland
Very Good	58.04%	47.97%
Good	26.53%	30.87%
Fair	10.36%	14.20%
Bad	3.57%	5.30%
Very Bad	1.25%	1.64%

Level of Qualification

Indicator	Gartcosh LPP Boundary	Scotland
No Qualifications	12.09%	16.66%
Lower School	16.47%	18.88%
Upper School	10.93%	11.16%
Further Education	17.20%	13.25%
Apprenticeship	7.82%	7.65%
Degree	35.59%	32.43%

Sports and Recreation (Outdoors)

There are five toddler or under 5's play areas within new housing estates and one recently refurbished play area for older children. There is no green space areas attached to these areas.

Gartcosh Development Trust has just purchased half an acre within the village, which after consultation will be a play park and a portion of green space appropriate for all age groups. There is one football pitch, privately owned by Gartcosh United AFC, and a bowling club and outdoor green space.

There are no other outdoor sports/recreation facilities for children or adults.

There is a small community garden situated behind the bowling club green, creating food production which opens approximately two days a week (weather permitting).

Heritage

Gartcosh and the villages of the Northern Corridor were the workforce of agriculture, the coal and steel industries of this country. Although the latter industries are gone, the contribution these communities made to the wealth of the country were not recognised or reflected in community wealth.

A rural life was led in Gartcosh, even with the links to large industrial giants such as British Steel. The school, amenities and transport links matched that classification, which was accepted by the individual village communities. Gartcosh still meets this classification today.

There must be an appreciation of how the community sees itself. If there is to be a change towards urban living, a community expects the major elements associated with a sustainable community, not to live with rural asset, infrastructure and public road transport and services associated with rural life.





# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

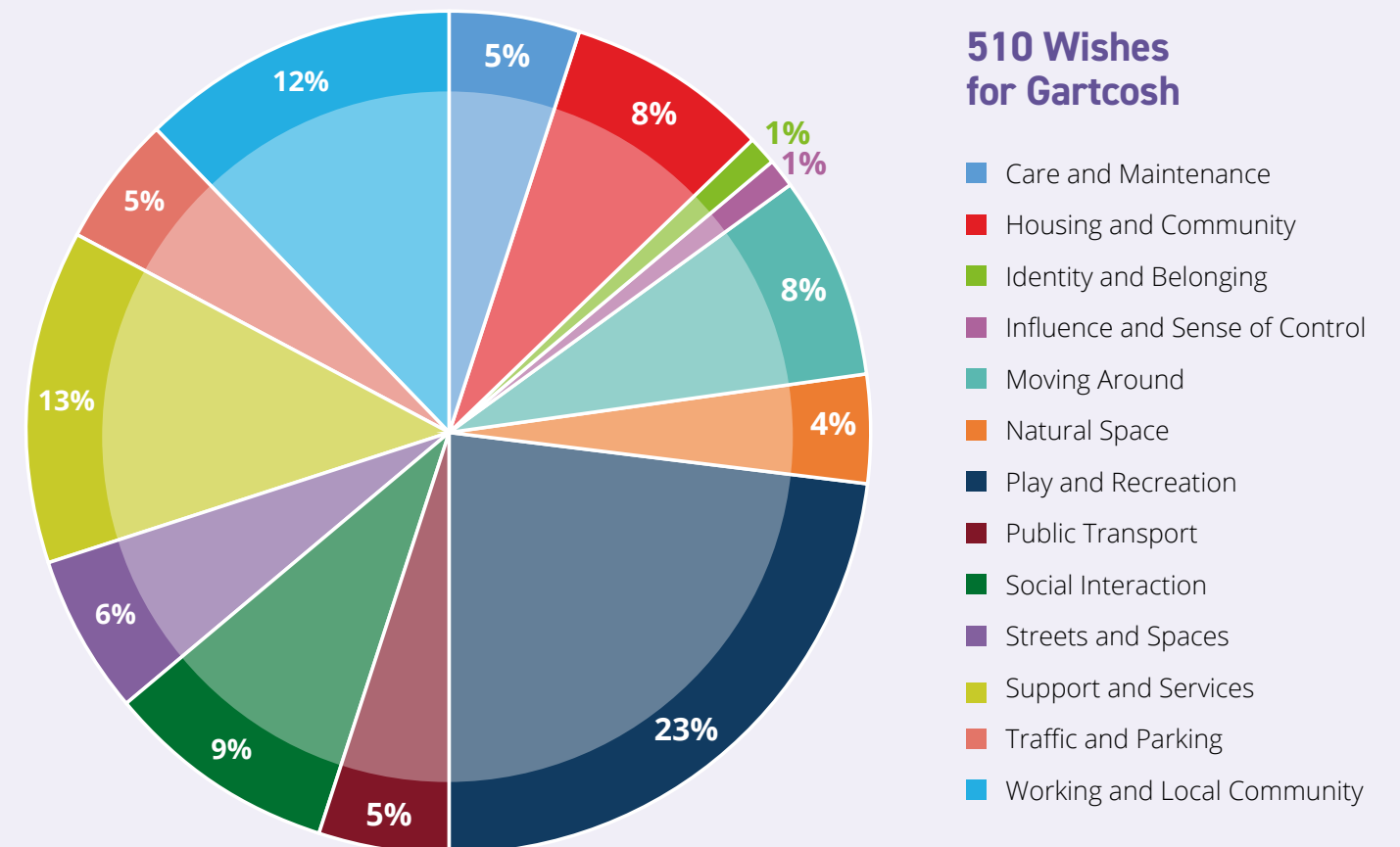


## Gathering Everyone's Views

A series of community engagement events have been held from October 2024 through March 2025. Engagement was both face to face and online.

Gartcosh Development Trust, with the support of CRT, hosted the following:

- The 3 wishes campaign that ran from October 2024 to February 2025 - 390 wishes were made for a better place to live.
- A Place Standard Assessment of Gartcosh using the Place Standard to identify the strengths and weaknesses, as perceived by the local residents. This assessment took place in March 2025.
- Mapping workshop conversations around the North Lanarkshire Local Development Plan and local issues.

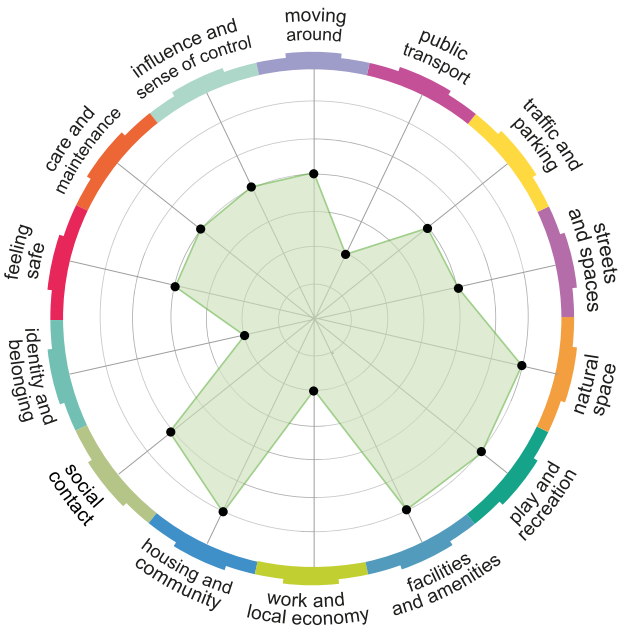


The 3 Wishes campaign highlighted the community's aspirations around improvements relating to infrastructure, amenities, activities, and recreational opportunities, as well as community safety.

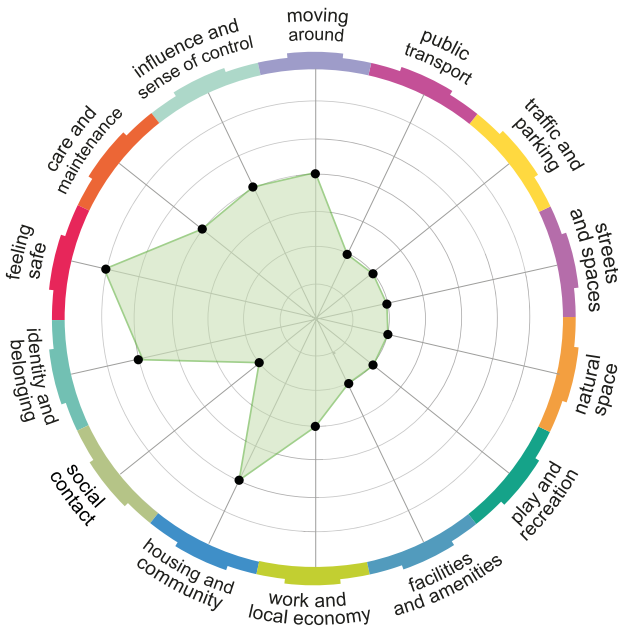


Results of the Place Standard Assessment Tool

This was completed in March 2025, during workshops hosted in Gartcosh Parish Church. The results were combined with a total of 390 wishes to provide a consolidated view of the 14 community needs categories.

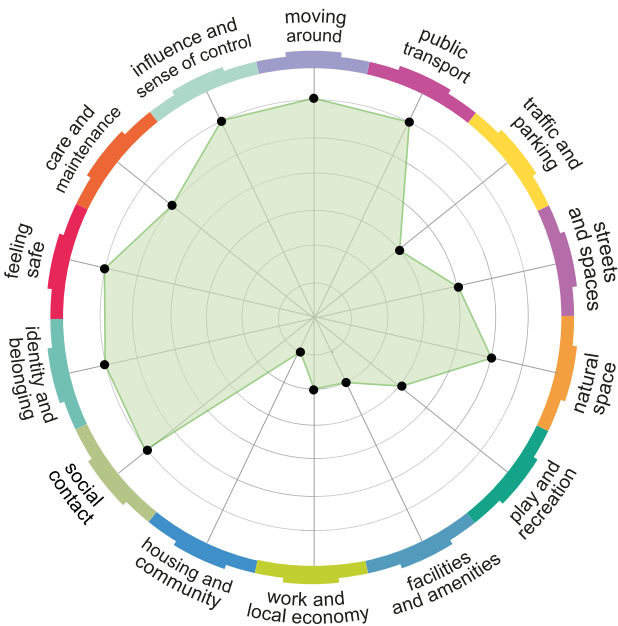


Age 12 - 17

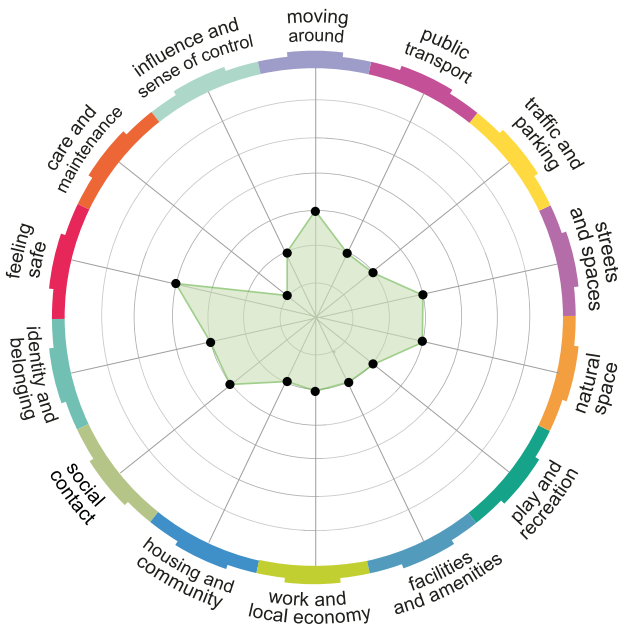


Age 18 - 44

The graphs show the strong and weak areas. This gives a good indicator of where improvements need to be made.



Age 45 - 59



Over 60

Place Standard Thematic Summary

Housing and Community

- Gartcosh is within the Gartcosh – Glenboig Community Growth Area (CGA), a major housing expansion zone.
- Community feedback reflects concern about:
  - Overdevelopment without matching infrastructure.
  - Pressure on local services due to new builds.
  - No land provided or available to develop amenities.
- Calls for a moratorium on further housing unit infrastructure and community services are in place.
- Clear desire to retain community identity and avoid becoming a commuter suburb.

Moving Around

- Safety concerns on the B806, Johnston Road, and Drumcavel Road due to traffic increases.
- Poor active travel connectivity:
  - Lack of walking and cycling links to school, station, and local centers.
  - Requests for traffic calming, crossings, and safe school routes.
- Poor public transport integration:
  - Need for a direct bus link to Glasgow.
  - Calls for better connections to Gartcosh Station, the Fort, and surrounding villages.

Identity and Belonging

- A shared desire for Gartcosh to retain its village character, with an identity that reflects:
  - Local history and industrial heritage.
  - Access to nature and landscape.
  - A welcoming, connected community.
- Community voice strongly supports local-led planning and ownership of community assets.

Natural Space

- Strong support for the protection and enhancement of:
  - Johnston Loch.
  - Local woodlands and wetland habitats.
  - Gartcosh Local Nature Reserve and Seven Lochs Park links.
- Concern about green field space being “ring fenced” for development or neglected.
- Requests for an accessible, well-maintained parks, with safe paths and lighting.
- Calls to restore biodiversity features such as flower beds, tree planting, and natural landscaping.

Facilities and Amenities

- Urgent requirement for a community centre.
- Demand for:
  - Youth activity space.
  - Indoor & outdoor sports and recreation (area park).
  - Access to healthcare, particularly a local GP surgery.
- Retail services (e.g. small supermarket, cafe, family pub/ restaurant).
- Support for asset transfer of existing school buildings and community hall for community ownership and use.









CRT Local Place Plan Maps use icons to represent NPF4 policies

CRT helps fulfil a requirement of Local Place Plans to show the links between local propositions and the Fourth National Planning Framework.

Map themes are in line with NPF4 and include Sustainable, Productive & Liveable.



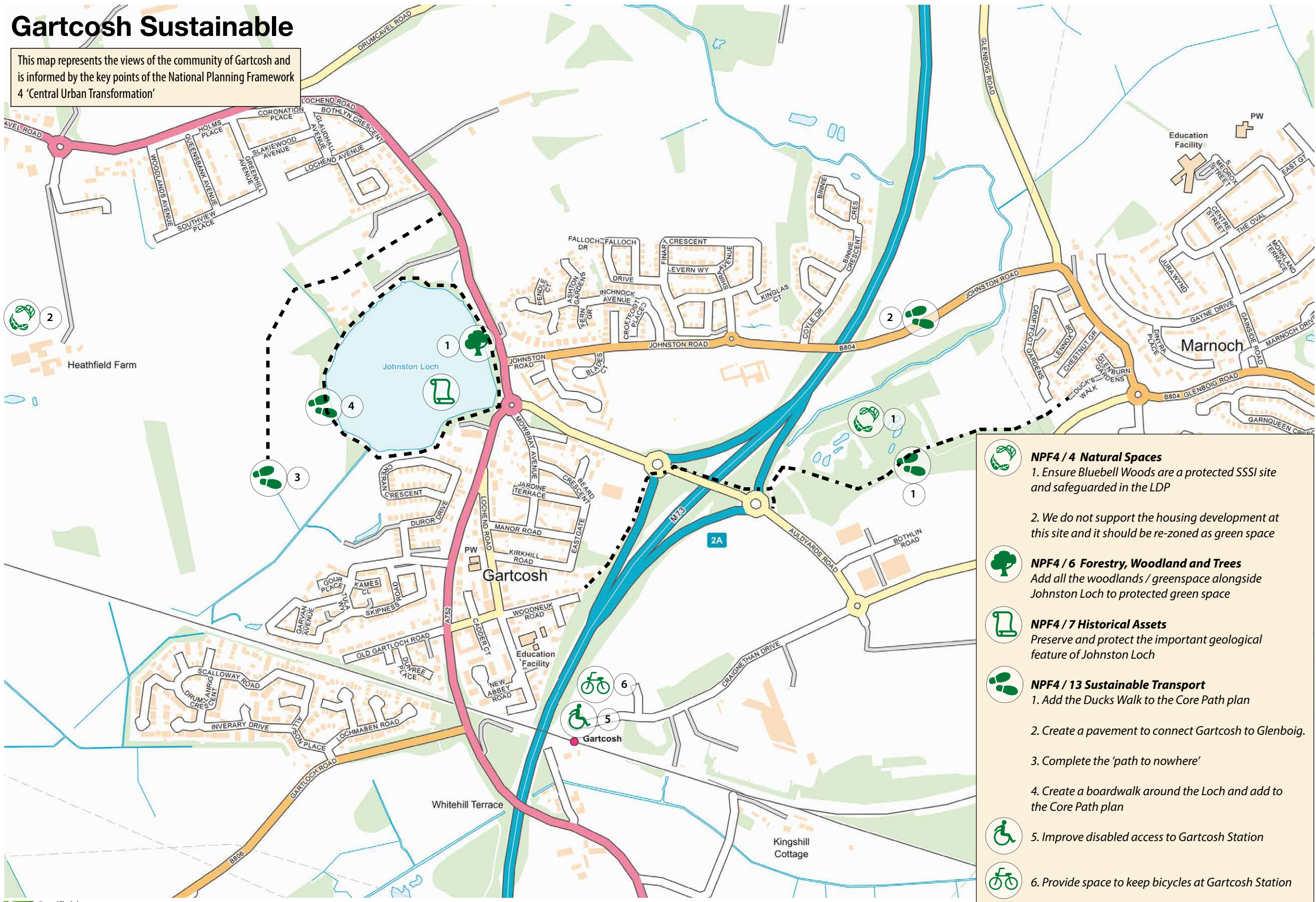
Table 1 Record of icons, map reference, related policies with number of propositions and amendments.

Icon	Map	NPF4 Policy	NLC Policy	No. of Propositions
Sustainable				
	Map 1	NPF4 / 4 Natural Spaces.	ENV1 (Protecting Natural and Built Environments)	2
	Map 1	NPF4 / 6 Forestry, Woodland and Trees	ENV3 (Green Network and Green Infrastructure)	1
	Map 1	NPF4 / 13 Sustainable Transport	PROM ID3 (Supporting Sustainable Transport Networks)	6
	Map 1	NPF4 / 7 Historic Assets (Natural)	ENV3 (Green Network and Green Infrastructure)	1
Liveable and Productive				
	Map 2	NPF4 / 14 Design Quality and Place. NPF4 / 16 Quality Homes	HCF3 (Affordable Housing and Housing Mix)	2
	Map 2	NPF4 / 18 Infrastructure First	DSP3 (Impact of Development and Infrastructure Delivery)	2
	Map 2	NPF4 / 21 Play, Recreation and Sport	ENV3 (Green Network and Open Space Protection)	1
	Map 2	NPF4 / 22 Flood Risk and Water Management	DSP4 (Quality of Development) / WAT4 (Sustainable Drainage)	2
	Map 2	NPF4 / 23 Health and Safety	DSP4 (Safe and Inclusive Design)	6
	Map 2	NPF4 / 25 Community Wealth Building	RTC3 (Community, Education and Facilities.	4



Gartcosh Sustainable

This map represents the views of the community of Gartcosh and is informed by the key points of the National Planning Framework 4 'Central Urban Transformation'



- NPF4 / 4 Natural Spaces**
  - 1. Ensure Bluebell Woods are a protected SSSI site and safeguarded in the LDP
  - 2. We do not support the housing development at this site and it should be re-zoned as green space
- NPF4 / 6 Forestry, Woodland and Trees**
  - Add all the woodlands / greenspace alongside Johnston Loch to protected green space
- NPF4 / 7 Historical Assets**
  - Preserve and protect the important geological feature of Johnston Loch
- NPF4 / 13 Sustainable Transport**
  - 1. Add the Ducks Walk to the Core Path plan
  - 2. Create a pavement to connect Gartcosh to Glenboig.
  - 3. Complete the 'path to nowhere'
  - 4. Create a boardwalk around the Loch and add to the Core Path plan
  - 5. Improve disabled access to Gartcosh Station
  - 6. Provide space to keep bicycles at Gartcosh Station

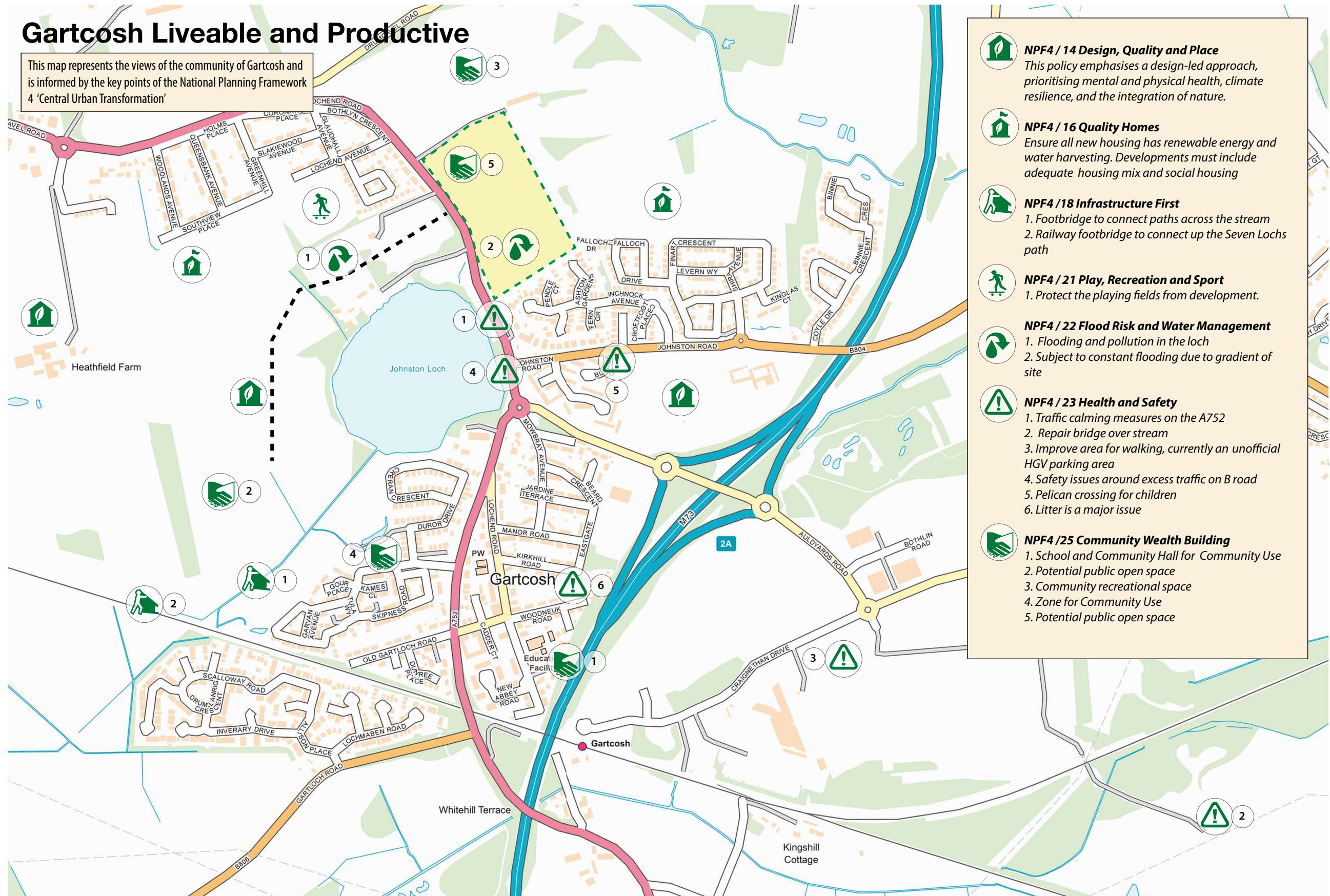


Map: Contain Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2011. Icons: Copyright © GreenMap Systems (GMS)

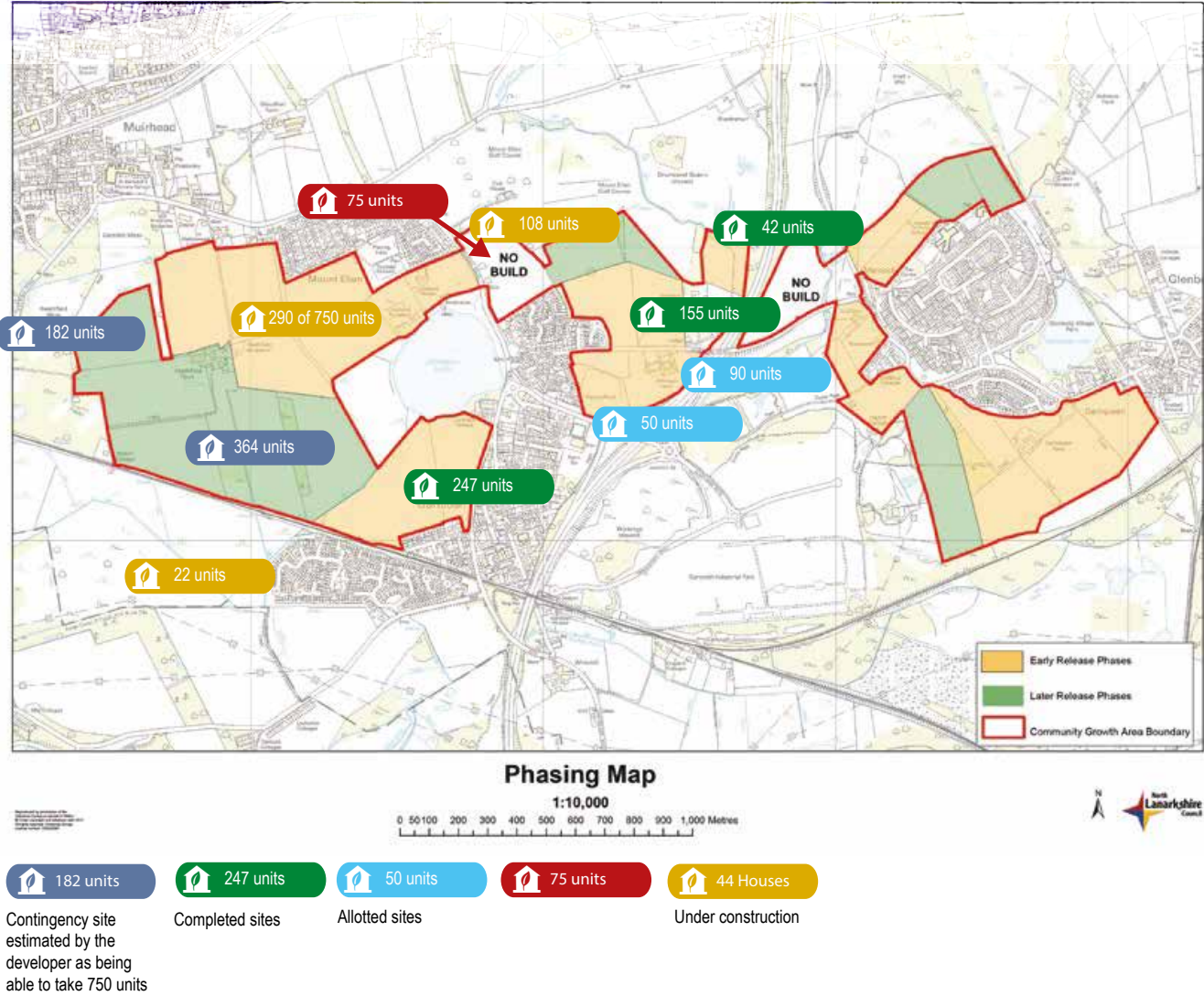


## Gartcosh Liveable and Productive

This map represents the views of the community of Gartcosh and is informed by the key points of the National Planning Framework 4 'Central Urban Transformation'







Observations

The site for 22 units was not on the current Local Development Plan. The no-build area is subject to an appeal by the developer. The number of units within the contingency site were found on the Housing Land Audit 2024. They are not under construction or a full planning application. A further 169 units have dropped off the Local Development Plan between 2012 and 2017, but were within the CGA (see appendix 5).

NPF4 / 4 – Natural Spaces.  
ENV1 (Protecting Natural and Built Environments)



**Proposition:**  
Ensure Bluebell Woods are a protected SSSI site and safeguarded in the LDP.

**Supporting Statement:**  
1. The Bluebell Wood is a cherished local green space with established biodiversity and seasonal bluebell displays. It provides habitat, community wellbeing value, and educational opportunities. Designating it as an SSSI and safeguarding it in the LDP supports NPF4's priority of restoring nature and ensuring long-term protection of valued natural assets.  
2. We do not support the housing development at this contingency site, and it should be re-zoned and used to realise the Seven Lochs Master Plan at this location.

**Supporting Statement:**  
This site lies within a sensitive landscape at Johnston Loch and is important for biodiversity and public access. Local community views strongly oppose development here. Rezoning it would prevent encroachment on valued green space, reduce climate risk, and align with NPF4 policies on compact urban growth and nature restoration. The buffer zone for housing development is considered by the community as inadequate to maintain the landscape. See appendix 5.

NPF4 / 6 – Forestry, Woodland and Trees ENV3 (Green Network and Green Infrastructure)



**Propositions:**  
1. Add all the woodlands/green space at the A752 adjacent to Johnston Loch to protected green space.

**Supporting Statement:**  
This woodland corridor contributes to landscape connectivity, carbon sequestration, and flood resilience. Designating it as protected green space under ENV3 would enhance the Seven Lochs Green Network, support active travel, and safeguard natural capital in line with NPF4 climate and biodiversity ambitions.

NPF4 / 13 – Sustainable Transport  
PROM ID3 (Supporting Sustainable Transport Networks)



**Proposition:**  
1. Add the Ducks Walk to the Core Path plan (Active Travel).

**Supporting Statement:**  
Ducks Walk is an important informal local route. Formal designation in the Core Path Plan would recognise its role in connecting people to nature, promote walking and cycling, and strengthen the green network's contribution to health and climate targets.

**Proposition:**  
2. Create a pavement to connect Gartcosh to Glenboig provided by section 75 (road payments) received.

**Supporting Statement:**  
There is currently no safe pedestrian route between the two villages. A new footway would reduce car dependency, improve community cohesion, and support sustainable, safe routes commuting to the new school. Glenboig residents (G69 post code) are in the catchment area.

**Propositions/continued:**  
3. Complete this path and add to the Core Path plan.

**Supporting Statement:**  
This path does not represent a walkway round the loch and is inadequate for its intended purpose. The path floods regularly due to the gradient of the path location and will erode after a short time. Most of the path route is void of any visual landscape qualities of Johnston Loch. Formalising and completing this connection will only serve as a secondary route, supporting active travel, and if not maintained regularly, will erode. It is not suitable for anyone with mobility or physical disabilities.  
Linking paths to form a continuous route will encourage healthy transport and reduce environmental impact and provides visual landscape qualities of the loch. The community was not consulted on this path location or suitability.



The path ends abruptly in a field next to wetland; the only option is to turn round and walk back to the start of the path.

**Proposition:**

**4.** Create a Boardwalk Around Johnston Loch Supporting Statement.

The creation of a boardwalk around Johnston Loch would deliver a significant improvement in local access to nature, while protecting sensitive habitats from erosion and disturbance. As a cherished natural asset and part of the Seven Lochs Wetland Park corridor, Johnston Loch offers immense potential for low-impact recreation, environmental education, and nature-based wellbeing.

A boardwalk would enable safe, inclusive, year-round access for residents, schools, and visitors without compromising the integrity of the loch's fragile wetland margins. It would also support active travel by connecting green routes between Gartcosh village, the proposed community hub, and the wider regional path network. A boardwalk at Johnston Loch would be a legacy investment, providing long-term environmental, social, and health value for the Gartcosh community.

**Proposition:**

**5.** Improve disabled access to Gartcosh Station.

**Supporting Statement:**

Current access is limited on the Gartcosh to Glasgow line and does not meet inclusive design standards. Upgrading accessibility would allow more equitable use of public transport and support NPF4's principles of health, fairness, and social inclusion.

**6.** Provide space to keep bicycles. Supporting Statement:

Secure, covered bike storage at Gartcosh Station would encourage modal shift, reduce congestion, and support Scotland's Net Zero potential for low-impact recreation, environmental education, and nature-based wellbeing.

**NPF4 / 7 – Historic Assets (Natural) ENV3 (Green Network and Green Infrastructure**



**Proposition:**

Preserve and protect the important geological feature of Johnston Loch and surrounding wetlands.

**Supporting Statement:**

Johnston Loch is a significant historic natural asset, a living monument at the heart of Gartcosh, contributing to the area's ecological diversity, local identity, and community wellbeing. As a remnant of glacial activity, the loch supports a mosaic of wetland habitats and is home to protected species including waterfowl, amphibians, and native plant life. It also plays a vital role in natural flood management and climate resilience.

Preserving Johnston Loch aligns with objectives for protecting and enhancing biodiversity, as well as promoting nature-based solutions. The loch is an integral feature of the Seven Lochs Wetland Park, and provides opportunities for education, recreation, and quiet reflection.

The community strongly supports its protection against inappropriate development. Future planning should prioritise enhancement of habitat quality, improved public access, and responsible stewardship to ensure Johnston Loch remains a treasured and sustainable local landmark for generations to come. No further development until full elements of master plan for Seven Lochs is progressed (further information in appendix 5).

**NPF4 / 14 – Design Quality and Place.**

**NPF4 / 16– Quality Homes HCF3 (Affordable Housing and Housing Mix)**



**Proposition:**

**1.** Ensure all new housing has renewable energy and water harvesting. Developments must include adequate housing mix, social housing and fully adapted housing.

**Supporting Statement:**

Future housing must deliver climate resilience and social inclusion. Incorporating on-site renewable energy and water harvesting reduces carbon emissions and utility costs. A balanced housing mix, including social housing, supports diverse community needs and aligns with NPF4's climate and housing policies. Housing should provide for aging well, supporting independent living for any and

older residents. There is not one fully adaptable home built in Gartcosh. All homes are designed with legislative house building design but that does not encompass the requirement for fully adaptable homes.

**Proposition:**

**2.** We do not support the housing development at these contingency sites at Johnstone Loch.

**Supporting Statement:**

None of the houses built or in-progress around Johnston Loch have promoted mental and physical well-being. Further development at this location is a threat to climate resilience. None of the green space, green initiatives e.g. Seven Lochs Master Plan have been realised. Planning has been unable to use affective mitigations to eliminate the risk to these unique habitats. Any examples of attempts to create community infrastructure (paths) have been inadequate and provide further frustration for the community. Two paths have been created, and both go nowhere (literally) in relation to active travel routes. Any visual landscape qualities that would promote mental and physical health are missing and housing development is given as the barrier to creating the valuable public realm that was to be created under the Wetlands Master Plan. Further development will reduce the environmental potential of the peat and peatland itself.

Peatlands have been found adjacent to Johnston Loch (and has been well documented). It covers approx. 20% of Scotland's land area and are unique habitats with specifically adapted groups of plants, birds and insects. They represent the largest natural carbon stock, making an important contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Peat is a finite resource, taking thousands of years to form, so once areas such as this are damaged or destroyed the many benefits of these unique areas are lost. Drainage solutions to accommodate development in the surrounding area will cause changes in the water table can have a long-term effect on the moisture content of the peat bog, regardless if development is considered a safe distance. The gradient of this site has contributed to the formation of the lower

wetland and controlled runoff will affect this unique area.

A reduction in moisture content will cause the bog to dry out, altering the sensitive balance of parameters which shape this ecosystem. If the waterlogged nature of the area is controlled and restricted to accommodate run off from housing and hard landscape, it is lost, as are its powers of preservation and proxies of past landscapes. It is important to maximise the potential of the peatland at Johnston Loch before the area is damaged forever.

This area is historic, a living monument within the community, and a treasured characteristic to all who live, work and visit here. It should not be subjected to further consent by planning to develop. Additional housing through contingency within the CGA cannot be sought here (see appendix 5). We feel Policy 5 soil, to protect carbon-rich soils, restore peatlands and minimise disturbance to soils from development cannot be safely applied to this area. As stated only 20% of land in Scotland hold these properties but is not common if ever found and of this quality in central Scotland and should be preserved. Based on the track record of development affecting the loch regarding pollution and the scale of drainage required to support development, water tables will be affected and would degrade and destroy the peatlands.

**NPF4 / 18 – Infrastructure First DSP3 (Impact of Development and Infrastructure Delivery)**



**Proposition:**

**1.** Footbridge to connect paths across wetlands area Johnston Loch.

**Supporting Statement:**

This bridge would improve active travel and safety. It provides a vital link in the path network, enhancing access to green space and promoting non-motorised travel. It was a feature within the Seven Lochs Master Plan.

**Proposition:**

**2.** Railway footbridge to connect the Seven Lochs path.



**Supporting Statement:**

A footbridge here would improve regional path connectivity and unlock access to the Seven Lochs Wetland Park. This enhances recreational value and links rural-urban active travel corridors. It was a feature for delivery within the Seven Lochs Master Plan.

**Proposition:**

3. Film Campus planning application and negotiation.

**Supporting Statement:**

At a community consultation the company representatives stated that a travel way and seating would be established around the new film campus for the community. Access to the railway underpass adjacent to or on this site should be maintained to preserve the active travel route at this location. The triggers for community benefit seem to be far too late in development projects. The crime campus is to receive a car park before the development of the film campus (community informed at consultation). Once the boundary fence of the development site is erected, the community requests that 80% of the travel way be created before site development starts. We appreciate safe access to the site that needs to be maintained during construction, but the majority of the travel way should be constructed and incorporated into planning negotiations now. An icon has not been placed on the map as a full planning application has not been submitted and therefore does not facilitate an accurate icon location representation at this time. We trust this support statement clarifies the community's position regarding timely delivery and access and state we support this development and welcome the opportunity to work with the applicant on delivery of this community benefit. We would hope to be updated on negotiations regarding this proposition.

**NPF4 / 21 – Play, Recreation and Sport ENV3 (Green Network and Open Space Protection)****Proposition:**

Protect the football fields from development.

**Supporting Statement:**

The football fields will provide essential space for youth activities, community sport, and informal play.

Protecting them from development ensures health, social cohesion, and fair access to recreation is consistent with LDP open space policy.

**NPF4 / 22 – Flood Risk and Water Management DSP4 (Quality of Development) / WAT4 (Sustainable Drainage)****Proposition:**

1. Stop flooding and pollution in the loch.

**Supporting Statement:**

This location experiences recurring pollution and overflow events, directly attributed to housing development activity. It was a no-build site and planning for access and 75 houses were the subject of planning applications. The land is on a steep gradient and was stripped of all vegetation. Soil erosion due to rainfall caused sediment to travel to the bottom of the hill. The loch was polluted and flooding is occurring in this area. Flood management and water quality measures support environmental health, biodiversity, and safe public use of natural spaces. Can it be applied in Gartcosh please?

**Proposition:**

2. Flooding issues.

**Supporting Statement:**

Managing flooding risk is essential for climate resilience. Addressing water flow through sustainable drainage solutions will protect homes and infrastructure and align with NPF4 and SEPA flood risk guidance. A path was introduced at Johnston Loch; it is below a steep gradient. When it rains the path floods. The path will be eroded. The path holds other significant negative issues detailed under sustainable transport item 3.

**NPF4 / 23 – Health and Safety DSP4 (Safe and Inclusive Design)****Propositions:**

1. Traffic calming measures on the A752

**Supporting Statement:**

This route presents serious safety concerns, particularly for pedestrians. Traffic calming will reduce accidents, support active travel, and improve the liveability of surrounding neighbourhoods.

**Proposition:**

2. Improve bridge over stream on walking route.

**Supporting Statement:**

This bridge is in a serious state of disrepair and is an integral part of a long-established walking route from Gartcosh to Glenboig. The bridge is used to cross the Bothlin Burn. A metal foot bridge with wooden infill. The wood has disintegrated through time.

**Proposition:**

3. Improve area for walking, currently an unofficial HGV parking area and used as additional all-day parking associated with the Scottish crime campus.

**Supporting Statement:**

This area poses danger to pedestrians and deters local travel on foot. Designating it as pedestrian priority to access rail station and controlling HGV use and improvements to staff parking at the crime campus will improve safety access to rail transport and environmental quality.

**Proposition:**

4. Address traffic issues the A752 and B806 to access the Fort Shopping Centre. Supporting Statement:

**Supporting Statement:**

The B806 and A752 running through Gartcosh serve as vital local routes but has become heavily overburdened. Part of the B806 road is managed by North Lanarkshire Council. Car journeys associated with Fort retail venue at a last enquiry generated 4.8 million car journeys. A portion of these journeys is in addition to traffic generated by the CGA and is significant. A substantial amount to and from the Fort retail park (2km away) exit and enter the 2a diamond junction from surrounding towns e.g. Cumbernauld, Falkirk, other villages and use the B806, contributing to congestion, air and noise pollution, and unsafe pedestrian conditions—especially at key junctions such as Johnston Road (B757/ A752) and Gartloch Rd (A752/B806).

**Proposition:**

5. Pelican crossing for children.

**Supporting Statement:**

A controlled crossing is essential where children can cross busy roads, especially near schools. This is a simple, high-impact intervention that supports

child safety and active school travel. In the 3 wishes campaign, children made wishes for a safe road crossing. It is unacceptable that our youngest members feel they need to wish for a safe crossing on stretches of this road.

**Proposition:**

6. Litter is a major issue.

**Supporting Statement:**

The only retail location is regarded as a health and safety issue due to inadequate bins, food wrappers and food waste deposited at this location. The population has significantly increased but the general-purpose bins have not increased at any location in Gartcosh. Residents frequently contact the NLC to report street bins overflowing and have a high food waste content attracting vermin.

**NPF4 / 25 – Community Wealth Building RTC3 (Community and Education Facilities)****Propositions:**

1. School and Community Hall for Community Use.

**Supporting Statement:**

The existing school and community hall at this location are highly valued community assets. With a new replacement school already under construction, there is a unique opportunity to bring the current sites into community ownership through asset transfer. This would secure the hall and former school buildings for continued local benefit, enabling their use as flexible spaces for health, education, recreation, enterprise, and social initiatives. Retaining these facilities aligns with NPF4 Policy 25 – Community Wealth Building by empowering residents, supporting local initiatives, and fostering long-term resilience in Gartcosh.

**Proposition:**

2. Potential public open space (development site Johnston Loch).

**Supporting Statement:**

Designating this area as public open space delivers multiple benefits and strengthens Gartcosh's contribution to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network. Accessible green space encourages physical activity, improves mental health, and



supports biodiversity by creating habitat linkages. It also acts as a climate adaptation measure by improving drainage and mitigating urban heat effects. It provides for community involvement and initiatives so that the Seven Lochs Master Plan could be delivered in our area. The community does not support this land for housing contingency purposes within the CGA.

**Proposition:**

**3.** Community Recreational Space (former Golf Course).

**Supporting Statement:**

This area has been a recreational space since 1903 and is part of the character landscape that makes Gartcosh. We do not support any more land being used for housing development at this site. By safeguarding this land, the Local Place Plan supports the delivery of facilities and services that meet the needs of existing and future residents. Such provision aligns with NPF4 Policy 25 – Community Wealth Building, which encourages investment in local assets to create strong, resilient communities. This land would provide a community park and other outdoor recreational activities that the community aspire to access within our community. The Gartcosh Development Trust has entered discussions with the owners of the site. Progress has been slow, but we are hopeful that recreational activities can be established at this location. With further housing development outside but boarding the CGA (over 500 units) at Drumcavel Rd/ Avenue Head Rd, this location serves as a coalesce break maintaining the characteristics of our individual communities.

We realise NLC does not own any significant parcels of land in our village (excluding the school and community hall). This makes it uniquely difficult to create amenities and why the Development Trust was established. We wish to work with NLC and the planning authority to try and salvage what has been a somewhat disappointing experience in CGA development for old and new residents regarding their aspirations for their village community.

**Proposition:**

**4.** Zone for community use (Retail Hub).

**Supporting Statement:**

We understand this area is designated for retail use, but the community is void of any progress or information in this area. If the area is not sold, the community does not want the land to revert to housing development. Please zone for community use. If it is to be retail development, we wish to hold discussions with owners/developers. We can use community consultation information to assist in any retail development considering the location and proximity to housing and how that may impact this sensitive location.

**Proposition:**

**5.** Zone Area for Community Use/Green Space.

**Supporting Statement:**

This site is identified as an important opportunity to provide green space and possible dedicated areas for community use in the future. This site had been identified as a non-build site to prevent coalescence and help maintain the characteristics of the village. Its status has been disregarded by developers with the recent planning application. By safeguarding this land, the Local Place Plan supports the delivery of facilities and services that meet the needs of existing and future residents. Such provision aligns with NPF4 Policy 25 – Community Wealth Building, which encourages investment in local assets to create strong, resilient communities.

Given the significant residential growth in recent years apparent in the Local Development Plan Promote Map, it is essential to resist further housing development on this site to avoid overloading local infrastructure and to preserve land for vital future community purposes. Protecting this area for community use will strengthen social cohesion, reduce reliance on car travel, and support equitable growth in the village. The planning committee refused permission, and the application is subject appeal. We ask that planning do not support the development of this site, leaving some land for future resilience.

# PROTECTING GARTCOSH FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT

## A Vision for Sustainable Growth

This Local Place Plan recognises the unique character, identity, and environmental assets of Gartcosh. Aligned with the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), it sets out clear principles to guide future development while protecting communities from overdevelopment.

**Preserve Village Identity and Distinctiveness**

- Protect the separation between Gartcosh, Glenboig, and neighbouring settlements with robust green buffer zones.

**Protect Natural Heritage and Biodiversity**

- Safeguard sensitive environmental assets and implement early ecological surveys and require developments to support biodiversity, including wildlife corridors and enhancements consistent with the North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan.

**Deliver High-Quality, Sustainable Development**

- With new developments insist on low-density, energy-efficient housing that reflects the character and landscape of each village.
- Require sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), renewable energy integration, and active travel infrastructure in all proposals.

**Infrastructure and Services First**

- New housing must not proceed until schools, health facilities, roads, and public transport networks are upgraded to meet demand.
- Address current transport constraints in Gartcosh and ensure sufficient capacity before approving further growth.

**Enhance Green and Blue Networks**

- Strengthen links to the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network by maintaining and extending woodland corridors, greenspaces, and path networks for walking and cycling.
- Prioritise community access to nature for health and wellbeing.

**Community Participation and Phased Growth**

- Require all major developments to be subject to full community consultation and align with a strategic masterplan.
- Phase growth carefully to avoid overwhelming local services and infrastructure.

**Alignment with NPF4**

- Policy 4 (Natural Spaces): Protecting biodiversity and natural assets.
- Policy 14 (Design Quality and Place): Enhance the character of places, strengthen communities, and forge a sense of belonging by integrating design principles into development.
- Policy 16 (Quality Homes): Sustainable and well-supported housing.

By adopting these principles Gartcosh aims to deliver sustainable development that respects the village's heritage, protects natural resources, and supports a healthy, connected community

**Gartcosh Ecology Summary**

This summary highlights the key ecological assets and considerations for Gartcosh, supporting efforts to protect biodiversity and guiding sustainable development in line with community priorities and national planning frameworks.

**Key Ecological Features**

Johnston Loch and Surrounding Habitats: A valuable wetland ecosystem supporting diverse aquatic and bird life.

Local Nature Reserves and Woodlands: Areas of ecological importance providing habitats for native flora and fauna.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC): Recognised areas requiring safeguarding from development pressures.

**Protected Species and Habitats**

Birdlife: Rich variety of species, including breeding swans and ducks. Amphibians and Mammals: Populations of water voles and otters in wetland corridors. Woodlands and Grasslands: Supports bats, hedgehogs, and invertebrates critical to pollination. The Gartcosh area is home to a nationally important population of great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*), a European Protected Species under the Habitats Directive. The following key ecological findings from research conducted on the Gartcosh translocation project highlight why limiting further land development is critical to safeguarding biodiversity.



# PROTECTING GARTCOSH FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT

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## 1. Habitat Fragmentation Threatens Species Survival

The Gartcosh Nature Reserve (GNR), created as a mitigation measure for previous development, is fragmented by roads, fences, and barriers. This prevents the natural movement of amphibians between ponds and across the wider landscape. Such fragmentation isolates populations, reducing genetic diversity and increasing extinction risk.

Relevant Policy: NPF4 Policy 3 (Biodiversity) prioritises nature networks and connectivity to support species viability.

## 2. Poor Connectivity Between Habitats

While additional ponds were created in the GNR, their connectivity is severely limited due to amphibian-proof fencing and lack of natural corridors. Effective dispersal and migration are essential for sustaining healthy amphibian populations. Without improved connectivity, isolated populations cannot maintain long-term viability.

Relevant Policy: NPF4 Policy 8 (Green Belt) reinforces the role of green belts in maintaining ecological coherence.

## 3. Net Loss of Terrestrial Habitat

Although the number of ponds increased during habitat creation, there was an overall reduction in pond surface area and surrounding terrestrial habitat. Great crested newts rely on high-quality terrestrial areas for foraging and hibernation, and further development would exacerbate habitat loss.

Relevant Policy: NPF4 Policy 4 (Natural Places) Natural places are protected and restored.

## 4. Population Viability is Uncertain

Monitoring results show that while adult great crested newts were initially maintained at comparable levels to the donor site, juvenile survival rates were low. This suggests potential breeding failures and casts doubt on whether the translocated population can sustain itself in the long term.

## 5. Importance of Minimum Viable Populations

Amphibian populations require minimum viable sizes (100–200 adults) to survive environmental change and avoid inbreeding. Further land development in Gartcosh risks reducing already stressed populations below critical thresholds.

## Planning and Protection Considerations

- Green Belt and Open Space Designation: Preserves the distinct rural character of Gartcosh and prevents encroachment.
- Floodplain and Drainage Protection: Essential for controlling water levels and supporting wetland health.
- Connectivity: Maintaining green corridors to enable species movement between habitats.

## Recommendations for Gartcosh

- Prioritise protection of Johnston Loch and associated wetlands.
- Resist development proposals that could compromise sensitive wildlife areas.
- Require robust ecological assessments for any new planning applications.
- Encourage community-led conservation initiatives to enhance biodiversity.

This ecology summary forms an evidence base for shaping a sustainable vision for Gartcosh.

## Recommendations for the Local Place Plan

- Preserve existing green belt areas and limit encroachment into sensitive habitats.
- Strengthening wildlife corridors and buffer zones to improve habitat connectivity.
- Require robust ecological impact assessments before any new development proposals.
- Prioritise conservation and enhancement of the Gartcosh Nature Reserve to protect one of Scotland's largest great crested newt populations.

Consider the cumulative environmental impact of housing allocations across the Northern Corridor.

## Planning Reference Links:

NPF4 (National Planning Framework 4):

[www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/](http://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/) -

North Lanarkshire LDP Protected Sites Map:

[www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building/development-plans/north-lanarkshire-local-development-plan](http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building/development-plans/north-lanarkshire-local-development-plan)

Gartcosh Translocation Project Research Reference:

[www.researchgate.net/publication/328490640\\_Assessment\\_of\\_habitat\\_and\\_survey\\_criteria\\_for\\_the\\_great\\_crested\\_newt\\_Triturus cristatus\\_in\\_Scotland\\_a\\_case\\_study\\_on\\_a\\_translocated\\_population](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/328490640_Assessment_of_habitat_and_survey_criteria_for_the_great_crested_newt_Triturus cristatus_in_Scotland_a_case_study_on_a_translocated_population)

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# PLACE AND WELLBEING OUTCOMES

## Gartcosh Community Action Priorities

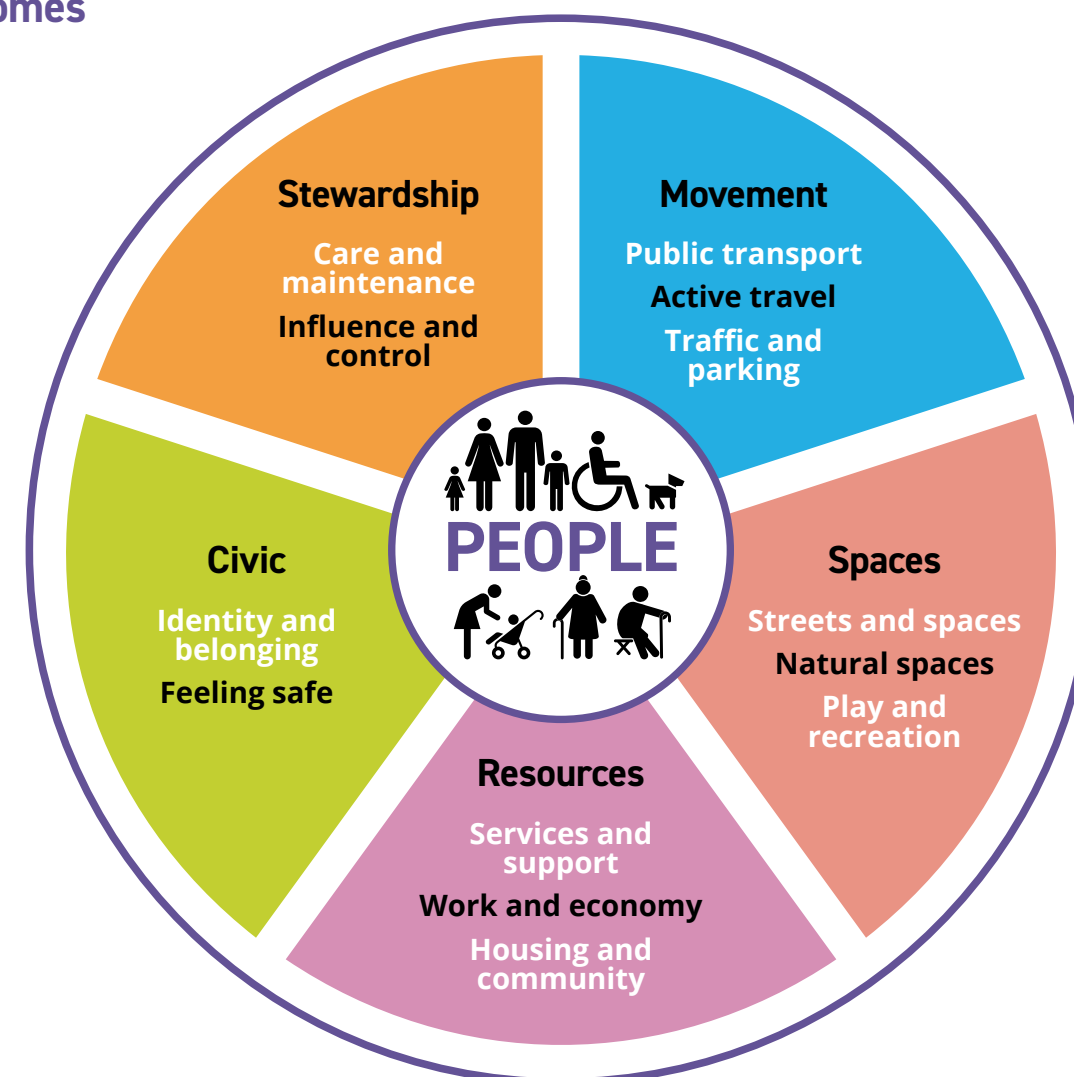
## Working Together for a Better Place for Everyone!

### 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. These themes are all the characteristics of a place that allow those who live, work and relax there to thrive. The outcome is for all stakeholders to take collaborative action on delivering in Gartcosh. The outcomes are for all stakeholders to take collaborative action on delivering in Gartcosh.

### 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.



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.

## PRIORITIES

**MAJOR CONCERN AROUND THE IMPACT OF HOUSING GROWTH ON THE B806 AND ARTERIAL ROADS SUCH AS THE A754**



## ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Commission a traffic impact assessment on the B806 corridor.
- Advocate for inclusion in the Council's Local Transport Strategy review.
  - Lobby for road infrastructure upgrades linked to developer contributions.

**Potential Partners:**

North Lanarkshire Council (NLC Roads & Transportation), Transport Scotland, Community Councils, Local developers, Northern Corridor Community Board.

**SAFETY CONCERNS ON JOHNSTON ROAD AND DRUMCAVEL ROAD ARE DUE TO TRAFFIC INCREASES**



- Implement traffic-calming measures (e.g. speed tables, signage).
- Assess feasibility of controlled crossings and reduced speed limits.
- Install monitoring (e.g. speed counters) to justify interventions.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Roads, Police Scotland, Local Schools, Parent Councils and Northern Corridor Community Board

**IMPROVE ACTIVE TRAVEL CONNECTIVITY AND WALKING/ CYCLING LINKS TO KEY DESTINATIONS**



- Extend walking and cycling paths to connect the village with schools, the train station, and green spaces.
- Work with Active Travel groups on safer routes.
- Include cycle racks and lighting in new developments.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Active Travel Team, Sustrans Scotland, Paths for All, Seven Lochs Wetland Park, Northern Corridor Community Board

**CONCERNS ABOUT PAVEMENT PARKING, CONGESTION, AND SCHOOL ROUTE SAFETY**



- Create a School Travel Plan and Safe Routes to School audit.
- Promote awareness campaigns on pavement parking.
- Consider double yellow lines or physical barriers in hotspots.

**Potential Partners**

NLC Education, Police Scotland, School Parent Councils, Living Streets Scotland, Northern Corridor Community Board through Transport LOIP

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS SEEN AS UNRELIABLE WITH POOR BUS COVERAGE**

**Potential Partners**

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), (e.g. Getting Better Together, Rural Connections)

This theme highlights the priorities that emerged from community feedback and relate to aspects of your place that include streets and spaces, natural space, play and recreation.

## PRIORITIES

**CONCERNS ABOUT GREEN SPACE BEING NEGLECTED OR AT RISK OF DEVELOPMENT**



## ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Identify and map all key local green spaces.
- Apply for formal protection status where appropriate (e.g. Local Nature Reserve, community asset).
- Campaign against inappropriate development proposals.

**Potential Partners:**

North Lanarkshire Council Planning, Greenspace Scotland, Community Councils, Local Planning Forums

**PROTECT AND ENHANCE JOHNSTON LOCH, WOODLANDS AND NATURE RESERVES**



- Work with Seven Lochs Wetland Park to maintain and improve access and biodiversity.
- Fund community clean-ups, tree planting, and habitat restoration.
- Prevent development encroachment through policy protections.

**Potential Partners:**

Seven Lochs Partnership, Scottish Wildlife Trust, NLC Environment Team, Local Schools and Volunteers

**MORE OUTDOOR AND SPORTS FACILITIES**



- Identify gaps in current provision and prioritise multi-use spaces.
- Apply for funding (e.g. sportscotland, Community Renewal Funds).
- Promote school and community facility joint-use agreements.

**Potential Partners:**

sportscotland, NLC Active and Creative, Local Sports Clubs, Community Groups

**CONCERNS ABOUT LITTER**



- Establish litter-picking groups and local clean-up events.
- Install and maintain bins in high-use areas.
- Run education campaigns in schools and public spaces.

**Potential Partners:**

Keep Scotland Beautiful, NLC Environmental Services, Local Schools, Community Volunteers

**BETTER ACCESS TO AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL PARKS**



- Audit accessibility and maintenance standards of local parks.
- Secure funding for upgrades including lighting, signage, and seating.
- Involve local groups in park planning and stewardship.

**Potential Partners:**

Greenspace Scotland, NLC Greenspace Team, Local Accessibility Forums, Community Councils

**CONCERNS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**



- Promote biodiversity action plans and pollinator planting.
- Protect habitats from development and invasive species.
- Run citizen science biodiversity monitoring projects.

**Potential Partners:**

NatureScot, NLC Biodiversity Team, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Local Environmental NGOs



This theme highlights the priorities that emerged from community feedback and relate to aspects of your place that include facilities and services, work and local economy, housing and community and social interaction.

## PRIORITIES

REGENERATION OF VILLAGE SQUARE AREA - INCREASED VARIETY OF LOCAL SHOPS



DEMAND FOR INDOOR SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LIMITED RENTAL OPTIONS



LOCAL ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



OVERWHELMING CONCERN ABOUT TOO MANY NEW HOMES BEING BUILT WITHOUT MATCHING SERVICES



RESIDENTS EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT OVER DEVELOPMENT AND INSUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT NEW HOUSING



## ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Support local business start-ups and pop-up shops.
- Apply for funding to improve public realm and shopfronts.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Economic Development, Business Gateway, Local Traders, Town Centre Regeneration Fund

- Conduct audit of sports facility gaps.
- Apply for investment via Active Scotland and sportscotland.
- Explore shared use of school facilities for community use.

**Potential Partners:**

sportscotland, NLC Active and Creative, Local Schools, Community Organisations

- Press compliance with affordable housing targets to stay within our area.
- Partner with housing associations to deliver social rent options.
- Advocate for balanced housing mix in future plans.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Housing, Registered Social Landlords, Planning Authority, Scottish Government

- Lobby NHS Lanarkshire to improve GP access.
- Explore co-location of health and community services.
- Promote outreach health clinics and services.

**Potential Partners:**

NHS Lanarkshire, Local GP Practices, NLC Health & Social Care Partnership

- Push for infrastructure-first approach in planning decisions.
- Ensure developer contributions for roads and health are spent in our area
- Resist speculative development not aligned with LDP/NPF4.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Planning, Community Councils, Local Elected Members, Scottish Government

- Request moratorium on major new planning consents.
- Create a monitoring framework tied to infrastructure delivery.
- Promote use of Local Place Plan in shaping future growth.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Planning, Scottish Government, Local Residents Groups

This theme highlights the priorities that emerged from community feedback and relate to aspects of your place that include identity and belonging and feeling safe.

## PRIORITIES

A SHARED DESIRE FOR GARTCOSH TO RETAIN ITS VILLAGE CHARACTER AND SUPPORT A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY



PROMOTE THE LOCAL PRIDE IN THE AREA'S HISTORY



URGENT NEED FOR A NEW OR REVITALISED COMMUNITY CENTRE



RESIDENTS WANT BETTER SOCIAL CONNECTION



CELEBRATE, SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERING



## ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS

- Use Local Place Plan to guide planning to reflect village scale and style.
- Design codes and community design reviews to reinforce local character.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Planning, Architecture & Design Scotland, Community Councils

- Install interpretation boards and village heritage trails.
- Encourage school and intergenerational projects celebrating local stories.

**Potential Partners:**

Heritage Lottery Fund, Local History Groups, Schools, Community Organisations

- Progress asset transfer of former primary school as community facility.
- Apply for community ownership and regeneration funding.
- Develop a community-led operating plan.

**Potential Partners:**

NLC Community Asset Team, Scottish Land Fund, Development Trusts Association Scotland

- Support local clubs, events and activities.
- Develop intergenerational and inclusive community programming.
- Use community spaces for drop-ins and shared meals.

**Potential Partners:**

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, Local Charities, Community Groups

- Launch local volunteering promotion campaign.
- Provide micro-grants for community-led ideas.
- Create a local recognition or awards scheme.

**Potential Partners:**


Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, Local Charities, Community Groups



This theme highlights the priorities that relate to aspects of your place that include care and maintenance, as well as influence and sense of control.

PRIORITIES


CLEANER STREETS



ACTIONS AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS


- Organise regular litter picks and clean-up days.
  - Request enhanced street cleaning schedules from council.
  - Promote anti-litter campaigns through schools.
- Potential Partners:**  
NLC Environmental Services, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Schools, Community Volunteers

PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE AREA'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



- Develop local biodiversity action plans.
  - Fund local tree planting and wildflower corridors.
  - Use Local Place Plan to resist development pressure on green space.
- Potential Partners:**  
NatureScot, NLC Greenspace, Local Environmental Groups

REQUESTS FOR BETTER ENGAGEMENT FROM NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL



- Request regular council liaison meetings.
  - Use Local Place Plan to formalise community voice in planning decisions.
  - Develop a community charter or agreement.
- Potential Partners:**  
NLC Community Partnership Team, Elected Members, Community Councils

DESIRE FOR COMMUNITY-LED PLANNING AND LOCAL INVOLVEMENT IN SHAPING OUTCOMES



- Build skills in participatory budgeting and design.
  - Create community action groups for local priorities.
  - Integrate Local Place Plan with Council's LDP review.
- Potential Partners:**  
Planning Aid Scotland, PAS, NLC Planning, Community Development Trusts

GARTCOSH DEVELOPMENT TRUST TO CREATE A BUSINESS PLAN TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER WHICH WILL LEAVE A LEGACY OF COMMUNITY ASSET OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNITY



- Apply for related suitable funding.
  - Encourage local businesses to be involved.
  - Negotiate and secure income e.g Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as the host community taking place at G698DT substation.
- Potential Partners:**  
CRT, DTAS, NLC

Gartcosh will flourish with prosperity visible to all, with a bright village centre and a culture of enterprise for people to live, work or visit here.

We will have made the most of our fascinating heritage and the opportunity to enjoy adequate green space, countryside and surrounding wetlands and wildlife once more.

Gartcosh will have an excellent range of services and community assets to cater for all ages and sectors of our community and there will be a responsive relationship with North Lanarkshire Council and other service providers.





# MAKING THE LINKS TO THE NORTH LANARKSHIRE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PLAN

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Our Gartcosh Local Place Plan and its community action priorities comes from a bottom up approach. It sits together with the My Northern Corridor Local Improvement Plan to encourage a joined up approach to community development and improved service provision.

This plan represents the views and aspirations of local people and can be used to help encourage partnership working. In producing the LPP has also given an opportunity for our unique community to define what is necessary to provide local

improvements in our community, apart from those which apply the Northern Corridor. It promotes opportunities for local groups, public agencies and service providers to work together to improve the quality of life for the people of Gartcosh.

### Gartcosh Local Place Plan Alignment with LOIP Outcomes

LPP Proposal / Policy Area	Key Action	Northern Corridor LOIPs Impact
Natural Spaces & Biodiversity	Protect Bluebell Woods (SSSI) Protect Johnston Loch & Wetlands; improve habitats. Maintain Woodlands, SINCs, and wildlife corridors.	Environmental and social benefits. Link residents to green spaces and employment, supporting wellbeing and inclusion.
Active Travel & Access	Create boardwalks, complete paths, add Core Path links.	Provides resilient, safe community.
Flood & Water Management	Sustainable drainage, flood risk mitigation.	
Transport Safety	Traffic calming on A752, pedestrian crossings, bridge repairs.	
Community Spaces	Community asset transfer of School & Hall. Recreational space (former Golf Course). Public open space (development site Johnston Loch). No build site (A752 facing Loch). Protect the football fields from development (Mount Ellen).	Allows the community at grassroots level to directly address Health inequality, Children & Young People and Social Integration and Inclusion.
Housing & Development	All new housing has renewable energy and water harvesting. Developments must include adequate housing mix, social housing and fully adapted housing.	Appropriate housing promotes health equality, social integration and inclusion.

### Notes:

- LPP proposals are carefully designed to deliver both environmental and social benefits.
- Active travel interventions link residents to green spaces and employment, supporting wellbeing and inclusion.
- Community and recreational spaces directly reinforce LOIP outcomes around lifelong learning, empowerment, and social cohesion.
- Environmental protection measures ensure biodiversity, climate resilience, and sustainable growth are embedded in planning decisions.

### Monitoring, Review and Re-setting

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

For its part the Gartcosh Development Trust commits itself to constantly monitoring the Plan's progress and, on an annual basis, to organise a public meeting with an agenda which provides for the reporting 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 the Gartcosh Local Place Plan:

<b>Gartcosh Development Trust</b> www.gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com	<b>Place and Wellbeing Alliance</b> www.ourplace.scot
<b>Coalfields Regeneration Trust</b> www.coalfields-regen.org.uk	<b>Scottish Government</b> www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4
<b>North Lanarkshire Council</b> www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk	<b>Green Map System</b> www.greenmap.org
<b>Improvement Services</b> www.improvementservice.org.uk	<b>Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion</b> www.ocsi.uk

We seek to work in partnerships to make real progress and invite residents, local groups and businesses, local authority departments and outside 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 Gartcosh Development Trust.

## APPENDIX

<b>Appendix 1</b> <b>Northern Corridor Forum Evidence Report:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix1	<b>Appendix 5</b> <b>Gartcosh and Glenboig Community Growth area, Residents Progress Report:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix5
<b>Appendix 2</b> <b>Scottish Parliament Motion / Debate regarding the Northern Corridor Forum Evidence Report:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix2	<b>Appendix 6</b> <b>The Six Principles of Place:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix6
<b>Appendix 3</b> <b>Gartcosh translocation project Research Reference:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix3	<b>Appendix 7</b> <b>The Six Qualities of Place:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix7
<b>Appendix 4</b> <b>Seven Lochs MasterPlan:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix4	<b>Appendix 8</b> <b>GDT Compliance Statement:</b> gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com/lpp-appendix8



# MAKING IT HAPPEN

To find out more information about this plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact Gartcosh Development Trust at [info@gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com](mailto:info@gartcoshdevelopmenttrust.com).

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



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