



Lenzie Local Place Plan

Whitegates Walkway-Cycleway

Executive Summary

The primary objective of the Lenzie Local Place Plan (LPP) is to establish a traffic-free Walkway-Cycleway around Whitegates Park area, creating a distinctive resource for local children, older adults, and families to enjoy at their leisure. The aim is to provide a loop that offers safe walking and cycling spaces over various distances reaching up to 2.35k in the end. For young cyclists, this initiative will present opportunities to learn to ride a bike, for toddlers a scooter, and for adults it will offer the prospect of a very local traffic-free exercise space in which to walk. This resource will lead to enhanced health and wellbeing across the Lenzie community.

The LPP traffic-free Walkway-Cycleway will be partly constructed on the existing walkway and enhanced with new sections to improve connectivity, thereby revitalising an area where green space has been significantly impacted by the construction of Initiative Road and the large housing estate, Woodilee Village. While the main sections of the walkway currently exist, they are sometimes in need of repair. This project aims to upgrade, improve, and extend the length, quality, and diversity of the walkway.

The proposed walkway is currently facing the potential construction of a secondary school in the adjacent area it encircles; however, this eventuality has been seriously considered, and LCC believes it is possible that both could be successfully accommodated within the available space. Indeed, if the school is built it will be even more important to use any remaining land for the benefit of the community.

A brief Description and History of Lenzie

As the crow flies Lenzie is situated approximately 8.97 km or 5.57 miles northeast from Glasgow's George Square. Mentioned in various medieval documents the village of Lenzie has expanded gradually over the years and latterly became more prominent with the opening of the Glasgow to Edinburgh railway line in 1842. With around 10,980 residents Lenzie is an attractive place to live having proximity to major road and rail networks, with the additional benefit of being situated in a semi-rural location, it is surrounded on all sides except north by rolling farmland and countryside.

The village is well served with a variety of local amenities, currently having three churches, three primary schools, a secondary school, a Bowling club, Tennis club, Rugby club, and Golf course

The Strathkelvin Railway Path runs through Lenzie and was recognised as a right of way until the link road cut right across it removing vital access to the Chryston link. However, it remains a popular amenity for walkers, cyclists and dog walkers. The path running north/south continues to connect to the canal path at Kirkintilloch and beyond, giving users the opportunity to travel further to destinations including the Falkirk Wheel, Glasgow, or even the town of Bowling on the river Clyde estuary. Implementing the Whitegates Walkway – Cycle Path would help facilitate access to the canal.

To the west of Lenzie lies Lenzie Moss. “The Moss” as it is known locally is a Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) designated Local Nature Reserve of approximately 40ha (98.8 acres) A lowland Raised Bog, the area was once used for peat extraction, but this activity ceased in 1968. Since then, the Moss has gradually returned to nature, and the site is now rich in a wide variety of wildlife and plant species.

Lenzie Moss, together with Christine’s Way, Ingleside and Boghead Wood provides the population living in the West of Lenzie with ample opportunities to walk, run, cycle or exercise. However, those residents living in the East of Lenzie do not have any green spaces of note easily available to them except Whitegates Park which is currently the proposed site for a new Lenzie Academy. The result of building a new school may inevitably mean more people sharing less green space - at least during school hours. Going forward there may be even greater need for pathways and cycleways. This Local Place Plan could be implemented in an incremental way as opportunities arose.

Lenzie Population Profile

Lenzie has a population of 10,980 according to the Community Insight profile of 2020. 48.4% of the population is male and 51% is female. 22.6% of the population is aged 0-15, 68.4% is of working age and 19.0% is aged 80 plus.

Lenzie’s population is aging and according to a recent Lenzie Community development Trust document many elderly people are living in homes which are too big for them. Most homes, particularly new build are larger homes with 4 or 5 bedrooms. Simply put there are few smaller homes being built and more older people trying to buy them.

In the younger age group, there is a similar but different problem. Most green spaces in Lenzie are located on the Western side of Kirkintilloch Road. These include Lenzie Moss, Boghead Wood, Christine’s Way, and Ingleside

It is estimated that the area around Whitegates Park has a population of over 3,000 people, 25% of whom are under 18. Without having to cross a main road, and/or travel some distance there is nowhere for children to learn to ride a bike, run and play, and similarly there is no green space area within walkable distance for those less able, indeed most of the trees around are in people’s private gardens

Source of above data - Community Insight profile for ‘Lenzie’ area DTA Scotland Report created 16 June 2023

Lenzie Local Place Plan

Vision

Our vision is to establish a comprehensive, safe and accessible walkway and cycleway in Lenzie that aligns with Scotland's National Planning Framework 4(NPF4). This initiative aims to promote sustainable transport, enhance community well-being, and foster environmental stewardship.

Aim

The aim is to create, expand or upgrade a Walkway-Cycleway up to 2.5 km long in the Whitegates Park area and possibly beyond creating a unique resource for local children, families and older adults to use, thus improving health and wellbeing across the local community

A guiding principle of the decision-making was to ensure the reduction of green space in the East of Lenzie due to the potential building of a new school on Whitegates park would not cause the loss of the existing pathways. LCC has verified that this plan should not negatively impact on plans to create a new school but could indeed make a better experience for not only the local community but for the school pupils.

This project seeks to build on the paths already in place - the old Strathkelvin Railway Path to name but one, a historically significant right of way whose connectivity was destroyed by the development of Initiative Road. Previously, the Strathkelvin Railway Path crossed Woodilee Road and extended to Chryston along the path. The area featured several interconnected paths that walkers and cyclists could easily access. At that time, users could traverse through an arch of the railway viaduct to join another railway path heading for Chryston.

The Eastern part of Lenzie was home to a number of railway tracks carrying trains travelling in two directions and transporting a range of goods. Two typical trains are shown below travelling along the track towards Whitegates and onwards to Kirkintilloch or Milton of Campsie. The picture on the right shows a train crossing the level crossing with white gates, near the junction with Boghead Road. Hence the name of the local area. The park in the background is Woodhead Park.



Pictures courtesy of Kirkintilloch Library

There are other factors which encouraged the idea of developing and improving the existing pathways in Whitegates Park and the surrounding area. The development of Initiative Road and the aerial pictures which then emerged helped to show the possibilities which existed due to the development of Initiative Road alongside The Larkfield area and Whitegates park. This picture of the new landscape helped LCC and the community to envisage the creation of a network of pathways/Together with the updating of existing pathways this could offer local people and those from further afield a landscape which would encourage exercise in the form of both walking and cycling for all ages. This was not a blank canvas but adding to an existing canvas. The basis shape was there.

Wherever there were trees in a loop there was a path already in existence or the basics were already there.



(picture above courtesy of Kirkintilloch Initiative)



The Whitegates football park has a path all the way round it, as is common with football parks. There is a connecting path along the line of trees at the Larkfield end of the football park to the Strathkelvin Railway Path. And there is a connecting path from the Parkview Court end to the other end of Strathkelvin Railway Path where it joins Monklands Avenue. There are several connecting paths in that area. This is a cooks' tour in pictures of the proposed walkway



The pictures above and below were taken by Drena O'Malley, Hamilton O'Malley and Murdoch Wilson during a walk aimed to familiarise Murdoch with the vagaries of all the little pathways already existing in this area. This walk also included the old Strathkelvin Railway Path. We also had permission from Deafblind Scotland to photograph their ground, existing fences, and where the fence ends. This shows overgrown land which is visible from Deafblind Scotland's path.

Throughout this document - unless otherwise credited - pictures were taken by the authors, or they have the necessary permissions to use same.

Beside Football Park



Choose an option-Left



Parkview Court



Entering Railway Path



Railway path ongoing



Garngaber in sight



Garngaber Avenue



Behind DbS Fence



Further pathway opportunities

Apart from existing pathways there are other pieces of land which may be able to be used as a pathway. Deafblind Scotland may consider allowing a pathway on their land if it provides opportunities for deafblind people to ride a tricycle or tandem for a reasonable distance.

At the moment they can only ride tricycles in their own car park which is very restrictive and too small to try a tandem. If we are able to create new pathways then deafblind people and other disabled people could benefit.

The land behind the fence could also be brought into public use. Let's maximise the benefits.

This place plan is a blueprint for forming a useful looped pathway in the Whitegates area but in truth the sky is the limit if we use our imagination

Overgrown land



DbS Fence to North



The Local Place Plan

Lenzie Community Council has over the years regularly discussed what could be done to improve the accessible paths for walkers, and particularly the young cyclist in Lenzie. Across the east side of Lenzie there are few options for cycling in a relaxed manner. Two or three members of Lenzie Community Council are themselves keen cyclists and many others in the community, including members of the local cycling Club Lenzie Velo have also fed into the discussions.

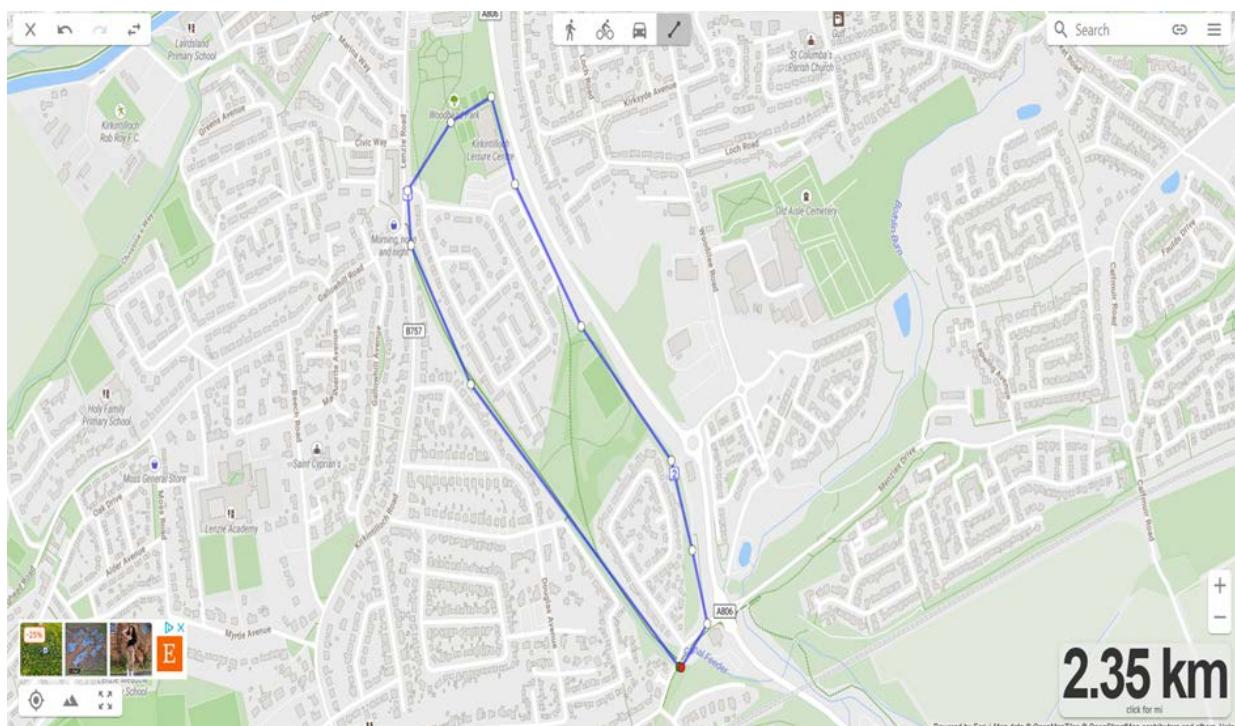
This plan was prepared after seeking the views of local residents regarding a Local Place plan to create a Walkway-Cycleway at the regular Community Information and engagement days held in various venues in Lenzie over the past year

At an LCC meeting last year when the attendees were given two choices for the subject of a LPP (1) Senior Co-housing or (2) a Walkway-Cycleway the support for both was equal in terms of votes cast. Lenzie Community Development Trust (LCDT) is currently working on the need for Senior Co-Housing. Both aims were seen as both necessary and important to the community.

Two members of LCC drafted the LPP but all members of LCC have contributed to the plan plus all the residents who contributed at the information and engagement days.

The primary objective of the Lenzie Local Place Plan (LPP) is to establish a traffic-free Walkway-Cycleway around Whitegates Park area and beyond, creating a distinctive looped pathway for local children, older adults, and families to enjoy at their leisure. The path could develop incrementally after establishing the basic paths to include some of the smaller paths currently used every day by people living locally to Whitegates Park. The initial and main loop could be 2.38 km long, and longer if use Woodhead Park.

Map of Whitegates Walkway – Cycle Path One Loop measuring 2.35 Kilometres



<https://onthegomap.com/#/create>

Note – The above loop includes a potential section of path entering Woodhead Park and using the existing paths to return to Monkland Avenue and then to the Strathkelvin Railway Path

Two Ordnance Survey Maps of the Area for Orientation



Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database right 2026

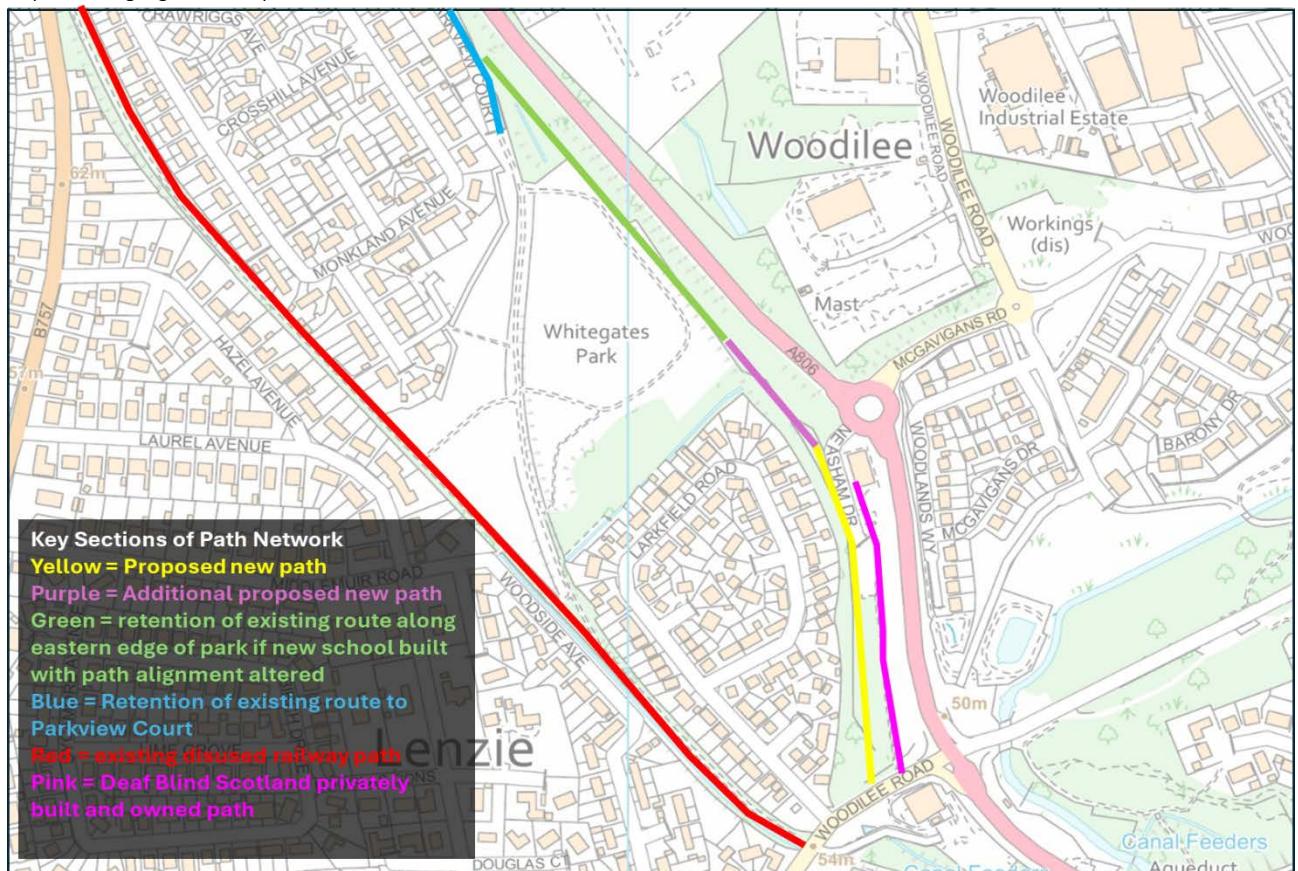


Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database right 2026

Map Showing the Status of Various Sections of the Path



<https://www.google.com/maps/search/Kirkintilloch+UK>



<https://www.google.com/maps/search/Kirkintilloch+UK>



Lenzie Community Council Boundaries source <https://www.communitycouncils.scot/community-council-finder> Contains Ordnance Survey data @Crown copyright and database right 2026

The current route shown extends into Kirkintilloch CC area. However depending on how Whitegates Park is developed or otherwise the route could – if necessary - be shortened to travel along Parkview Avenue. Kirkintilloch Community Council is supportive of the route extending into their area.

This LPP proposes to address the lack of easily accessible green space within the area of Lenzie bounded by Initiative Road in the East, Kirkintilloch Road in the West, Garngaber Avenue in the South, and Monklands Ave in the North. This is particularly to address the lack of a cycleway for children to gain skills in riding a scooter or bicycle; to allow older people and others to have a place to ride or walk in safe green surroundings; and to enable young families to get out and about together in green space which is right on their doorstep. This would be a popular resource as the canal is to both walkers and cyclists.

Engagement

Lenzie Community Council and Lenzie Community Development Trust regularly work together to provide information and consultation opportunities within the community of Lenzie. The Whitegates Walkway-Cycleway has featured in several community information sessions over the past two years explaining the proposal and taking comments. Lenzie Community Council meetings are open to the public each time they meet and regularly residents attend LCC meetings. Minutes of LCC meetings are put on the LCC website.

Pictures from several Joint Lenzie Community Council and Lenzie Community Development Trust Engagement Events held during 2024/2025



Policy Context

Other Community Plans

LCC have discussed the Cycleway/Walkway with Kirkintilloch Community Council (KCC) as the eventual route may enter part of KCCs catchment area. KCC discussed the proposal at a KCC meeting and are very supportive of the proposed Cycleway/Walkway. See Appendix 3

LCC have discussed this plan with Mel Newbould NCN Development Manager, Planning Sustrans Scotland and she stated Sustrans are very supportive of this project, See appendix 2

Several policies within Scotland's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) directly support and influence the creation of a cycleway or walkway in Lenzie.

Key NPF4 Policies Supporting Active Travel Infrastructure

1. Policy 13: Sustainable Transport

- Encourages developments that prioritise walking, wheeling, and cycling.

- Supports proposals that provide direct, safe, and segregated links to local facilities via active travel networks.
- Advocates for the integration of transport modes and the provision of low or zero-emission vehicle and cycle charging points. scotways.com+5Scottish Government+5Scottish Government+5
-

2. Policy 15: Local Living and 20-Minute Neighbourhoods

- Promotes the development of neighbourhoods where daily needs can be met within a 20-minute walk or cycle.
- Supports the creation of high-quality, accessible, mixed-use neighbourhoods with sustainable transport links. SPICe Spotlight | Solas air SPICe+1Scottish Government+1Scottish Government

3. Policy 20: Blue and Green Infrastructure

- Encourages the integration of blue and green infrastructure in development proposals.
- Supports the enhancement of existing networks and the creation of new ones, including active travel routes. Scottish Government+3Scottish Government+3Scottish Government+3scotways.com

4. National Walking, Cycling, and Wheeling Network

- Designated as a national development, this network aims to create connected routes suitable for a range of users.
- Supports the development of new or upgraded routes that facilitate both short and longer-distance journeys. Scottish Government+1scotways.com+1

Actions

Actions	Timescale	Lead
Secured support from Sustrans	June 2025	
Submit the Local Place Plan to EDC	December 2025	
Work in Partnership with EDC to identify funding sources	November 2026	
Specify the composition and layout of the Walkway-Cycleway	June 2026	
Invite tenders to complete the specified work	July 2026	
Review tenders and select a company to complete the work	September 2026	
Work Starts	October 2026	
Work completed and Cycleway officially opened	March 2027	

Planning Implications

The **Lenzie Local Place Plan (LPP)**, focused on developing a traffic-free Walkway-Cycleway around Whitegates Park, directly supports several tiers of planning policy and strategy relevant to East Dunbartonshire. Here's how it aligns with each:

1. National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) – *Scotland's spatial strategy*

The LPP is well aligned with key NPF4 policies, including:

- **Policy 13: Sustainable Transport**
 - The plan prioritizes walking and cycling infrastructure by creating a safe, traffic-free loop accessible to all age groups.
 - It enhances connectivity in an area previously fragmented by road developments.
- **Policy 15: Local Living and 20-Minute Neighbourhoods**
 - The walkway/cycleway provides accessible green space within walking/cycling distance for over 3,000 residents, enabling local travel and recreation.
 - This supports the broader goal of self-sufficient, walkable neighbourhoods.
- **Policy 20: Blue and Green Infrastructure**
 - The plan improves existing green infrastructure by upgrading underused or damaged paths and integrating them into a broader green network.
- **National Walking, Cycling, and Wheeling Network**
 - The proposal enhances links to existing routes like the Strathkelvin Railway Path and connects to regional active travel networks.

2. Local Development Plan (LDP) – East Dunbartonshire Council

Although not explicitly referenced in the document, the LPP aligns with core LDP themes such as:

- **Active travel promotion** – Encouraging non-motorised modes of transport.
- **Health and wellbeing** – Providing accessible outdoor recreation supports physical and mental health.
- **Sustainable placemaking** – Reuses former transport corridors (e.g. Strathkelvin Railway Path) and integrates infrastructure with new developments (like the proposed secondary school).
- **Addressing infrastructure gaps** – Especially in East Lenzie where green and cycling amenities are currently lacking.

3. East Dunbartonshire Locality Plans or Community Planning Objectives

While no specific locality plan is named, the LPP complements wider **community planning goals** by:

- **Promoting inclusivity** – Offering accessible outdoor space for children, older adults, and those with mobility limitations.
- **Addressing inequality** – The east of Lenzie has fewer green amenities compared to the west; this plan aims to balance that.
- **Supporting co-production** – Developed with resident input through community information days, meetings, and social media engagement.

Conclusion

The Lenzie LPP is a well-targeted, community-driven initiative that:

- Fulfils key priorities of NPF4,
- Advances LDP goals around sustainable development and active travel, and
- Aligns with local aspirations for improved quality of life, health, and connectivity.

Delivery

There are no changes required to planning policy for this LPP

On at least one part of the Walkway-Cycleway a solar powered footfall counter will be installed to measure the usage of the route.

The community will stay involved by using the Walkway-Cycleway regularly and being invited to be involved in maintenance tasks such as litter picks.

Document Creator and Owner

This document was prepared by members of the Lenzie Community Council

Lenzie Community Council

The statutory purposes of community Councils are set out in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 which states: “The general purpose of a Community Council shall be to ascertain, co-ordinate and express to the local authority for its area and to public authorities, the views of the community which it represents. Also to take such action in the interests of that community as appears to be expedient and practical” In meeting these purposes, LCC provides means whereby the people of the area are able to voice their opinions on any matter affecting the welfare, environment, development and amenity of the area and LCC conveys these views as appropriate to the local authority and other local bodies.

Lenzie Community Council meets monthly on the third Wednesday of every month and there is a standing invitation in place for local residents to attend the meeting to bring information on issues of interest to them

LCC organises local events for local people to take part in. One is a Lenzie Jog which takes place on 2nd January each year and three distances are offered for runners using the existing walkway referred to above. 500 local people of all ages normally take part. This event has been on offer to Lenzie residents for more than 40 years. We work with Kirkintilloch Olympians to offer this event.

Every two years we organise a Gala or Community Festival where local talent can entertain Lenzie residents. LCC also has arranged a local Christmas Lights switch-on in recent years with help from local businesses.

LCC also comments monthly on planning applications in the area of LCC interest. We have a planning convener who submits his comments to the full LCC team before submission to the EDC Planning department

These are just a few examples of the normal activity of LCC

Appendix 1

Below is a copy of the pre-submission information notice evidencing the Lenzie Community Council's intention to submit a LPP.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Elisa Meza Noguez <elisa.meza-noguez@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>

To: Drena O'Malley <comalleydom@yahoo.co.uk>; Jack Cook <jack_ed_cook@hotmail.com>; murdoch.wilson57@gmail.com <murdoch.wilson57@gmail.com>

Cc: Richard Todd <Richard.Todd@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>; Stewart McNally <Stewart.McNally@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday 21 March 2025 at 17:05:01 GMT

Subject: [Official] : RE: Local Place Plan for Lenzie from Lenzie Community Council

Dear Drena,

Thank you for your email. I'm glad to hear Lenzie Community Council is moving forward with their Local Place Plan, and we've registered your intention to submit. We'd be happy to support you through the process.

As we're currently at the Evidence Report stage for LDP3, the final registration deadline remains flexible, but coordination is key to ensure a smooth process. For your reference, I've attached a checklist with the key requirements for registration.

I'd also like to mention that we are supporting Waterside Community Council with their LPP, and they've expressed interest in coordinating with Lenzie on key related topics.

It may be helpful to arrange a meeting to discuss the next steps and any further questions you may have. Would you be available for a conversation in the first weeks of April? Please let me know your availability, and we can find a suitable time.

Looking forward to working with you!

Kind regards,

Elisa Meza Noguez

Economic Development & Place Policy Officer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Development Plan** <Development.Plan@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>

Date: Tue, 16 Sep 2025 at 14:20

Subject: [Official] : RE: LDP3 – Call for Ideas and Sites Consultation Walkway/Cycleway

To: Murdoch Wilson <murdoch.wilson57@gmail.com>, Drena O'Malley

<omalleydom@yahoo.co.uk>

Hi Drena,

I can confirm we have received your submission for consideration.

Many thanks,

Richard Todd

Land Planning Policy – Policy Planner

richard.todd@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

Record of when and to whom the Information Notice was sent (required local councillors and community councils).

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Drena O'Malley <omalleydom@yahoo.co.uk>

To: Gillian Renwick <gillian.renwick@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>; Willie Paterson <willie.paterson@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>; Stewart McNally <stewart.mcnally@eastdunbarton.gov.uk>; Murdoch Wilson <murdoch.wilson57@gmail.com>; Aileen Mundy <aileen.mundy@hotmail.com>; Tom Gray <tom.gray@myphone.coop>; Jack Cook <jack_ed_cook@hotmail.com>; Fiona Kirkland <fkirkland2012@gmail.com>; Laura Henderson <illustrate_laura@hotmail.com>; Drena O'Malley <omalleydom@yahoo.co.uk>; Chris Gilroy <gilroy_chris@hotmail.com>; Kenny French <kenny@kenwil.co.uk>; Cordy Waterside-CC <waterside-cc@outlook.com>

Sent: Wednesday 3 December 2025 at 14:22:21 GMT

Subject: Lenzie Community Council Local Place Plan Whitegates Walkway-Cyclepath

Dear Colleagues

Attached please find Lenzie Community Council Local Place Plan re Whitegates Walkway-Cyclepath we have been working on for the past year. I am delighted to say it is now available for your consideration and hopefully your support as we seek to bring a new facility to local people.

Best wishes

Drena O'Malley

Appendix 2

Email of support from SUSTRANS

RE: Creating a Cycleway/Walkway in Lenzie

Mel Newbould <Mel.Newbould@sustrans.org.uk>

Thu 5 Jun, 14:54

Hi Murdoch,

Thank you for providing such a detailed proposal for Lenzie Community Council's plans around Whitegates Park, and apologies for the time it's taken to reply.

Sustrans would very much support the upgrade of the Strathkelvin Railway Path to support more walking, cycling, and wheeling between Lenzie, Kirkintilloch and beyond.

As I'm sure you're aware, the section of the Strathkelvin Railway Path between Kirkintilloch and Strathblane is part of the National Cycle Network (NCN), and we're keen to extend the NCN 755 route at both ends to connect to NCN 7 around Drymen, and NCN 75 at Coatbridge.

In our Network Development Plan the proposed NCN 755 extension follows the Strathkelvin Railway Path to connect Lenzie, Moodiesburn and Glenboig to the NCN, with the aim of linking these localities to both NCN 754 (Forth and Clyde Canal) at Kirkintilloch and NCN 75 at Coatbridge.

The section between Kirkintilloch and Glenboig looks like it would be reasonably deliverable, as it largely follows a former railway line and appears to be a core path. It would also connect a substantial population to the NCN. The Places for Everyone programme previously funded a feasibility study to look at upgrading the Moodiesburn – Glenboig section, but we haven't been able to find out if this project was progressed into design or construction, so anything you know about the condition of the path would be much appreciated.

It would also be good to know more about the discussions between Lenzie Community Council and East Dunbartonshire Council about the route if you're able to share more information, and I'm happy to have a meeting to discuss this opportunity further.

Many thanks,

Mel

Mel Newbould (she/her)

NCN Development Manager, Planning Sustrans Scotland

07866 143 824 Mel Newbould (Mel.Newbould@sustrans.org.uk)

1 Exchange Crescent | Conference Square | Edinburgh | EH3 8RA

Dear Sustrans

The Lenzie Community Council is creating the attached proposal for a Local Place Plane to create a small cycleway/walkway in Lenzie to allow young children to learn to cycle safely. Would you be happy to provide the community council with an email or letter of support for this plan please? This would help the likelihood of the plan being accepted by East Dunbartonshire Council.

Best Wishes Murdoch Wilson Lenzie Community Council

Appendix 3

- On 5 May 2025, at 08:54, Your Kirky <contactyourkirky@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Drena,

KCC discussed your proposal at its meeting on 28th April. All members were very supportive and welcomed the idea, thinking it would be a very worthwhile thing to have. It was also suggested that we would be happy to work in partnership to develop this if that was deemed beneficial to you.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Kind regards

Nigel