



# **Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin Community Action Plans**



# Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin Community Action Plans



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## 1 Introduction: Who has prepared these Community Action Plans?

These Community Action Plans (CAP) have been prepared by Coalburn Miners Welfare Charitable Society (CMWCS) and the Douglas St Bride's Community Group (DSBCG). These organisations have an established record in supporting and leading community action in Coalburn and Douglas. They have acted in consultation with other local groups including the Rural Development Trust, Healthy Valleys and Douglas and Glespin Community Council, through a project steering group. This study has been undertaken by consultants Urban Animation with support from CARES fund.

The two community organisations are being supported by Foundation Scotland, an independent charity with expertise in grant making and community engagement. Foundation Scotland works with communities and developers across Scotland to design and develop community benefit funds, primarily from commercial scale renewable projects. Foundation Scotland is set to manage at least one community benefit fund confirmed for the two communities, and potentially more.

## Why have Community Action Plans?

The Community Action Plans have been developed with the input from a wide cross section of the local communities. They bring together views of local people, businesses, community groups and enterprises and take account of South Lanarkshire Council plans and strategies.

The Community Action Plans set out a vision for the longer term (up to 15 years) with more detailed activity across themes or priorities for the next five years. They will be helpful in guiding community activity and supporting grant applications for projects.

Above all, they set out what local people would like to see happen in their communities over the coming years. Everyone with an interest in improving the communities of Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin should take account of the Community Action Plans.

In recent years there have been a number of positive changes in the area, including new housing at Coalburn, new schools at Douglas and Coalburn, the St Bride's Centre project, investment in the CMWS building and new businesses at the former Ramage factory in Glespin. The CAPs will help the communities build on these successes and address local needs.

## The Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin Communities now



Coalburn



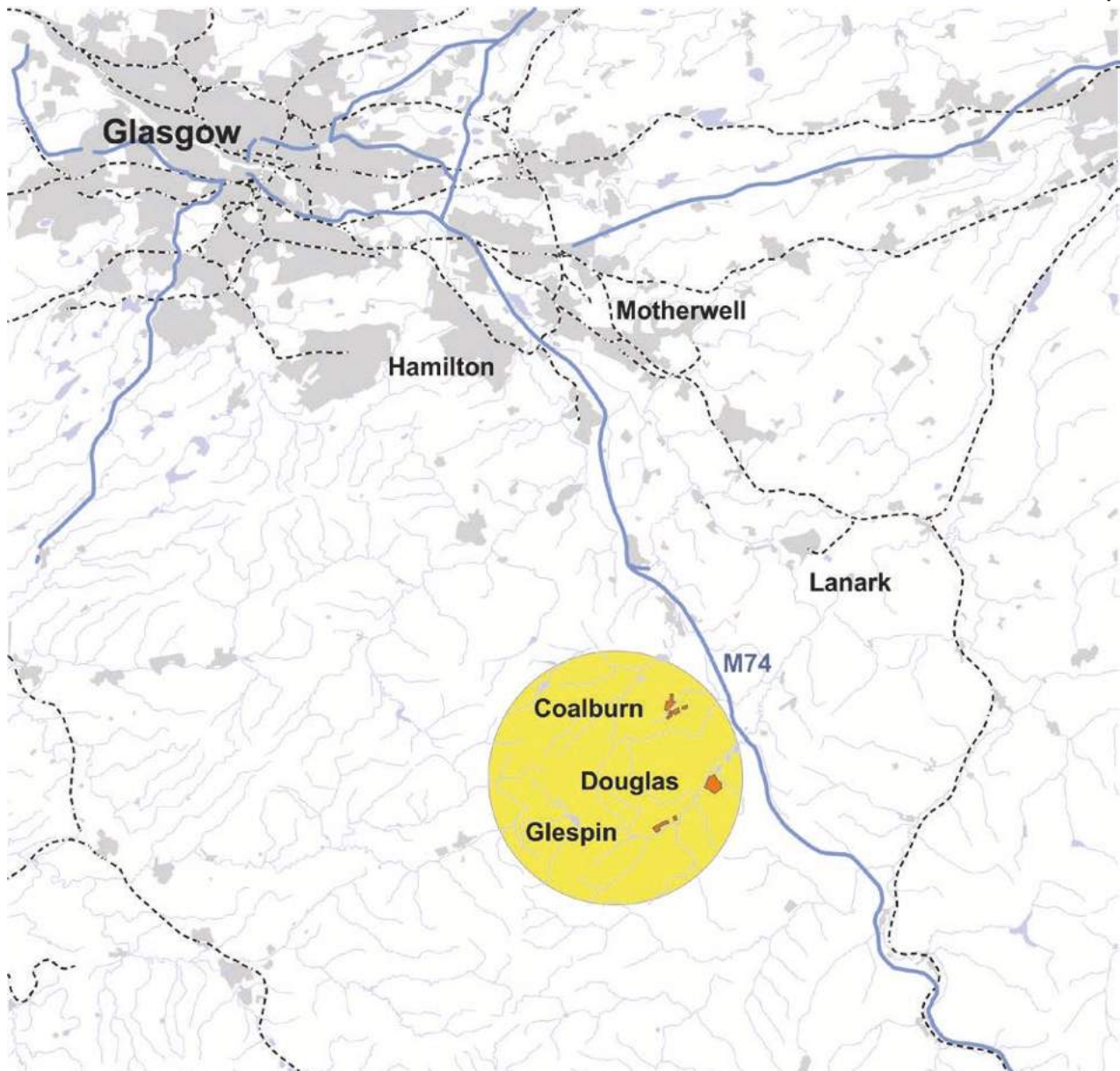
Douglas



Glespin



location map



The three villages are located a few miles apart in the central part of the South Lanarkshire Council area, just off the M74 corridor. The nearest large towns are Lesmahagow and Lanark, which provide services and facilities not available in the villages. Hamilton and Glasgow serve most other needs but are 21 and 33 miles away respectively.

Transport between these places by private car is convenient but public transport is less satisfactory due to infrequent services and difficulties with service timings and connections. For example, buses run only twice a day from Douglas to Hamilton, although there is an hourly service to Lanark.

Services to Lesmahagow (for onward connection to Hamilton and Glasgow) are problematic in terms of enabling commuters to get to work and back in the normal working day (9-5). The nearest rail services are neither convenient nor easily accessible, located at Lanark and Larkhall.

There are negative features associated with the split in accessibility which characterises the area. Commuter towns often lose local services, whilst those relying on public transport often find themselves excluded from access to services in larger towns in the wider area.

The villages grew significantly as firstly textile mills and then coal mining reached their peak in the 50s. With the decline of the coal mining industry, the area is in a period of ongoing transition. The closure of Ramage Distribution at Glespin in 2008 brought to an end 140 local jobs. New industries such as renewable energy are emerging (albeit with somewhat limited local employment opportunities) but other sources of employment are needed to sustain the villages. At Glespin, the former Ramage factory is again providing employment with seven businesses located there, some exploiting its good accessibility and bringing back jobs to the village.

The following data has been extracted from the Scottish Government's SIMD statistics. Broadly speaking, the geographical area which includes the villages has a population profile which is older than the national average. The percentage of people of pensionable age locally is 25.73, set against a national average of 19.81. On a more positive note, the percentage of children is just a little below the national average (16.55% versus 17.11%).

The working age population locally is 56.72% of the total, set against a national average of 63.08%. Unemployment is typically higher than the Scottish average. Average income is lower than Scotland as a whole and the percentage of working age people who are employment deprived is higher than national average (18% versus 12%).

Benefit claims are significantly higher than national averages:

- % age 16-24 claiming key benefits : 21.6% locally versus 12.7% nationally
- % age 25-49 claiming key benefits : 27% locally versus 15.4% nationally
- % age 50-64 claiming key benefits : 28.1% locally versus 19% nationally

Council tax banding and property sales information suggest there are a large number of properties with relatively low house prices: 62.34% of properties are within Band A, compared with just 21.61% nationally. In the higher value Council Tax bands F-H, there are only 1.42% of local properties compared to 12.54% across Scotland. Owner occupation of housing is comparably low and social renting comparably high.

Educational attainment is also lower than the national average.

Health indicators for the Lesmahagow community area (which includes the CAP area) suggest a local population which is on average less healthy than Scotland as a whole, beyond the younger age group, based upon a range of indicators:

- Bad or very bad health - aged under 25 : 0.2% locally versus 0.2% nationally
- Bad or very bad health - aged 25-64 : 3.84% locally versus 3.12% nationally
- Bad or very bad health - aged 65 plus : 3.5% locally versus 2.3% nationally
- Bad or very bad health - all ages : 7.6% locally versus 5.6% nationally

Hospital admissions for cancer, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular cases are lower than the national average, whilst admissions for respiratory and digestive complaints are higher.

It is important to note that there is a significant time lag on some of the available data and this should be refreshed to support future studies or bids for project funding as appropriate.

The Understanding Scotland's Places (USP) online resource (1) states that Douglas has a population of 1620, living in 730 households. It is categorised as an interdependent to independent town. In this category, towns have a relatively good number of assets in relation to their population. They have some diversity of jobs; and residents travel somewhat shorter distances to work and study, although some travel longer distances. These towns may attract people from neighbouring towns to access some of their assets and jobs but they are also reliant on larger towns for other services.

Douglas has a rich history dating back around 1000 years and retains many listed buildings in a large conservation area.

USP states that Coalburn has a population of 1303, living in 554 households. It is categorised as a Dependent to Interdependent town. In this category, towns have a relatively low number of assets in relation to their population, poor diversity of jobs and employment, and residents on the whole travel longer distances to work and study. They are reliant on neighbouring towns for some assets and jobs.

Coalburn still has visible reminders of its industrial past, with prominent bings located to the north of the village. Whilst some may consider these features unsightly, they are regarded warmly by many local residents as a reminder of Coalburn's heritage.

USP does not provide information on smaller villages such as Glespin. A population estimate of around 250 people (2) may be a little higher than at present, since South Lanarkshire Council introduced a no-letting and selected demolition policy on houses in its ownership in 2015.

Glespin has suffered recently from a fall in population and current Council letting policy does not bring with it a regeneration plan. However, the former Ramage factory and the recently reopened garden centre and cafe have brought new life and better prospects to the village.

### Sources :

- (1) USP statistics are drawn from the 2011 census
- (2) VASLan

Coalburn landscape and landmark bing from the M74





## 2 Engagement: what do the communities want?

At the heart of any good Community Action Plan is effective community engagement to ensure that the Plans genuinely reflect community aspirations. The engagement process conducted in order to prepare this plan is described below.

<b>Community audit</b>	Identify key organisations & individuals in each community (see accompanying lists)	January 2016
<b>One-to-ones</b>	Contact and meet key community groups, schools, landowners, businesses and local authority officers/members to raise awareness of the work, understand issues and aspirations, and build trust in the process	January-May 2016
<b>Online</b>	Launch facebook.com/CDG2016 with regular update posts, 'questions of the day', and exhibition content	March-June 2016
<b>Publicity</b>	Leaflet every household in each village to publicise community gatherings	March 2016
<b>Community gatherings</b>	Public workshop/drop-in in each village to identify future vision and actions, before preparation of draft Community Action Plans	March 2016
<b>Community exhibitions / drop-ins</b>	Public exhibitions in Coalburn and Douglas/Glespin to present and discuss draft proposals, before Community Action Plans are finalised	June/July 2016

### One-to-ones

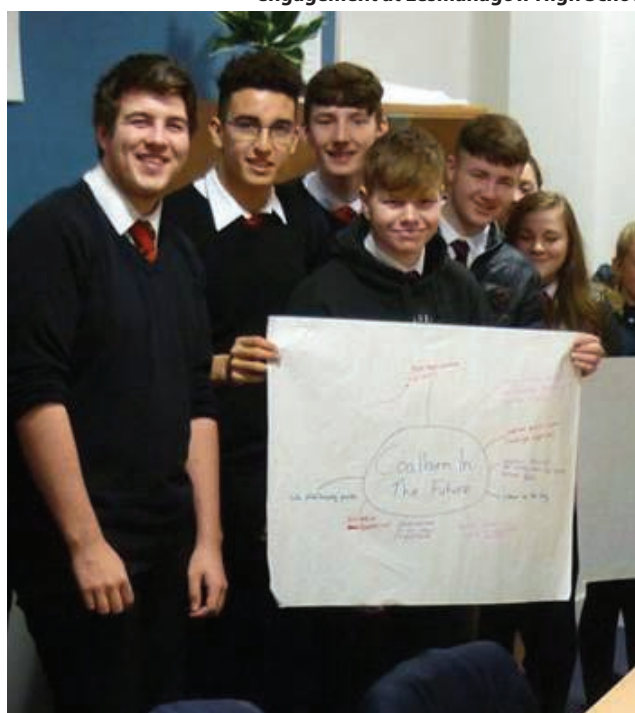
As well as interviews with a number of key individuals, the one-to-one discussions included sessions with:

- Coalburn Community Council
- Coalburn Primary School pupils (P7) who also presented at the Coalburn community gathering
- Douglas Community Council
- Douglas Primary School pupils (P5-P7)
- DSBCG
- Douglas Universal Connections (Boys Group, Girls Group, Users Group)
- Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn
- Lesmahagow High School pupils (S1-S6) who also presented at the Coalburn community gathering
- Coalburn Miners Welfare Charitable Society (CMWCS)

Each of these discussions were important as they gave us an insight into the main issues facing each village. The sessions with young people are particularly worthy of comment – their purpose was to make sure that young people had a say in the Community Action Plans.

We've included a summary on the next page.

engagement at Lesmahagow High School



## Coalburn: what did people say?

The community gathering in Coalburn in March 2016 was run as an evening workshop attended by over 60 people, kicked off by P7s from Coalburn Primary with their aspirations for the future of the village. The pupils had been working hard to write and rehearse a drama over the previous fortnight the tensions around play space and youth activities in the village, brilliantly performed on the night to make clear why they thought investment in a 3G pitch, youth club and wheelchair-friendly skatepark should be prioritised.



A pupil from Lesmahagow High School took the attendees through local teenagers' aspirations, developed by fellow Coalburn students at the school. He explained how their age group would like to see more local businesses, better bus routes, more use of

the CMWCS building, allotments, better signed walks, more child-friendly areas like playparks (with disabled access), better access to the N°9 bing - and free kebabs for everybody!

Having been set an inspiring vision by young folk, aspirations for the community were highlighted through group discussions and round table workshop sessions. The positive discussion illustrated the strength of the community spirit in the village.

Access to employment and more jobs featured highly, as did the need to spruce up public spaces in the village, improve streets and pavements, provide more accessible recreational activities for all ages, sheltered housing, and making the most of the CMWCS building, one-stop-shop and the Leisure Centre for community use - all of which would help make the village a more attractive place to live, so helping to bring investment and jobs. There was also an overwhelming desire to retain and celebrate the no.9 bing... "You know you're home when you see it!" said one person. "Coalburn's Eiffel Tower!" said another.

The draft Strategy and Action Plan was presented in an exhibition at the CMWCS building in late June and early July. A drop-in event in July was attended by 12 people and their views were added to other comments gathered during the exhibition. The response was broadly supportive.

Coalburn evening workshop

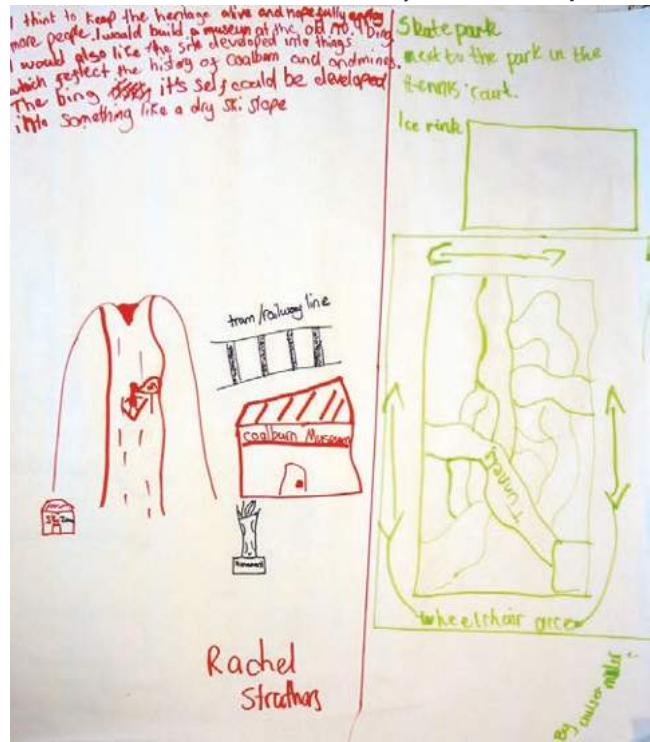




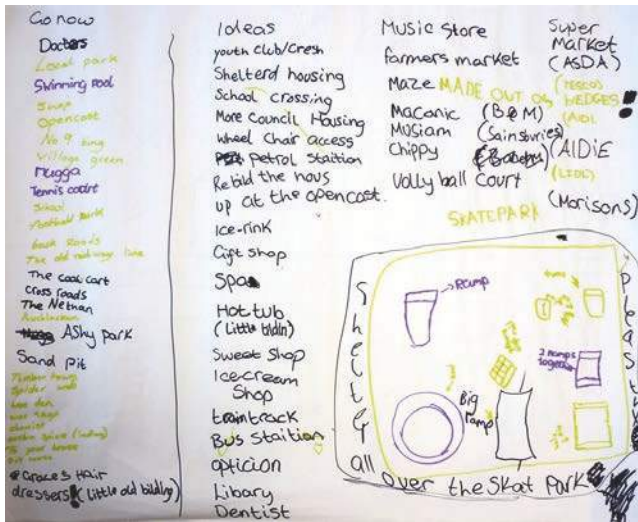
Coalburn drop-in session



Coalburn Primary School workshop results



Coalburn evening workshop ideas



Coalburn evening workshop



## Douglas: what did people say?

When young people at the Primary School and Universal Connections boys' and girls' groups were asked what they would like Douglas to be like in the future, they came up with a great range of ideas, many of which would help people of all ages (not in any particular order):



1. Lighting on the 3G pitch at Universal Connections so it can use it on winter evenings. Even better, a sports barn like the oversubscribed one in Muirkirk, with indoor courts and a gym.
2. Easy-to-access small grants for the local community, say up to £500. That would let Universal Connections get new gaming and programming software, tablets and sports equipment like cones, bibs and a new pingpong table. (What would your community group do with up to £500?)
3. More classes and training events in Universal Connections - and particularly activities for girls.
4. Do up the old school at the park, just inside the policies, as extra space for community groups like Scouts and Guides.
5. A minibus for young people to have trips at the weekend to the cinema in Hamilton and other places - so those who don't have access to a car can still get out.
6. Make the footpaths on Main Street less narrow.
7. Improve paths up into the hills - make them less muddy.
8. Clean up the old factory sites at the top of the village. Too much litter, too many needles. Ideally re-use the

- derelict land for a sports barn and swimming pool.
9. New benches and picnic tables at the ponds, with an information board and cutting back the vegetation at Castle Dangerous.
10. Make more of the museum - and of the village's history and culture.

At the community gathering in March 2016, attended by around 50 people, creating more jobs was the number one focus. No-one was under any illusion how hard that is to achieve. In quite a few conversations, it became clear that building factories or paying firms to come to the village isn't a long term solution. What's needed is a much more sensitive approach, improving the village in lots of different ways so that it becomes a better and more attractive place to live. More local jobs might follow, but many folk were realistic that many people will simply have to commute if they are to get to work.

So, how might the village be improved? Lots of ideas were put forward, all building on the many good things that the community already has to offer. Here's a selection of a few from folk of all ages:

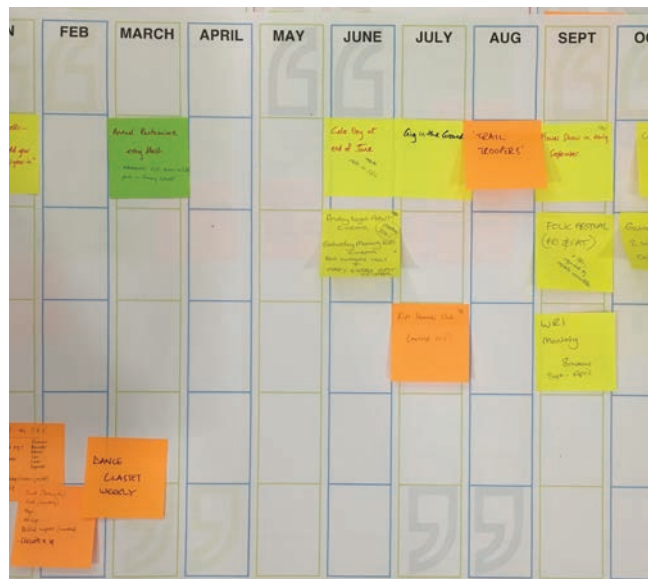
- Improve local footpaths up into the hills - drainage, signage, surfacing - for walking and offroad cycling.
- Widen the pavements on Main Street and help with maintenance of historic buildings.
- Make more of local history: interpretation boards by the Castle, open the museum more.
- Improve the Castle grounds - more benches, fewer weeds, that kind of thing.
- Small, easy-to-access grants for community organisations to buy kit and equipment.
- Keep vital organisations alive, particularly St Brides Centre and Universal Connections.
- Clean up the old plastic factories sites, then get them redeveloped in the long term.
- Help social enterprises like LEAF to get more young people into work.
- Support the REAL group to do more environmental improvements and activities like last year's Gig in the Grounds.
- Support the Play Park group to do its next project, an all-weather pitch next to the new play park.



## What's needed to make these things happen?

Two key things: money and volunteer time. The money might not be an issue if proposed windfarms in the area go ahead. More folk chipping in is needed, but how will that happen? By building a sense of community, enabling folk to come together and share ideas, skills, knowledge and interests.

The draft Strategy and Action Plan was presented in an exhibition at the St Bride's Centre in late June and early July. A drop-in event in July was attended by 18 people and their views were added to other comments gathered during the exhibition. The response was broadly supportive.



Douglas events calendar and workshop board created at schools workshop



## Glespin: what did people say?

Glespin is of course a much smaller community, with a population of around 250. At the community gathering of around a dozen people, a strong agenda emerged around needing to boost the population through a mix of short and long term actions, all designed to make the village more attractive for people to move to. Population decline is a big concern. People clearly like living in Glespin – not least because of the community spirit, the peace and quiet, and the good views.

Some of the ‘quick wins’ that people suggested included tidying up scruffy verges and derelict sites, slowing speeding traffic (especially heavy trucks), improving the look of the back path behind the Ayr Road houses, to continuing to attract more firms into the old Ramages site.

There were mixed views on the condition of Council-owned houses, but a unanimous view that the Council

needs to be more positive about Glespin, and more responsive to local views about its letting policy and maintenance of Council land, buildings, streets and pavements.

Longer term challenges included creating off-road parking for the upstairs flats along Ayr Road (e.g. by implementing the 2013 community garden scheme), improving broadband, getting rid of the sewage smell from the opencast, improving public transport, and redeveloping vacant sites for a range of house-types.

If all these things could be achieved, the idea was that the village could gradually increase its population by attracting new people, so helping to get more community life with the benefit of using the community hall more regularly and supporting its ongoing viability.

The Glespin Strategy and Action Plan was presented at the Douglas exhibition and drop-in event.



**Future Glespin**

bring your own idea!

**Do you want to make Glespin better?**  
**Are you interested how the village might change in the future?**  
**Have you got an idea you'd like to make happen?**

**Come along for a cuppa and help work out how. Everyone is welcome!**

**Wednesday 23rd March**  
**Glespin Community Hall**  
**Drop-in any time between 12pm-2pm**

Supported by Douglas & Glespin Community Council  
More information: Nick Wright 01505 352147 [nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk](mailto:nick@nickwrightplanning.co.uk)





## Facebook

The facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CDG2016](http://www.facebook.com/CDG2016) proved to be an ideal way to boost awareness of the project in each of three villages. Regular updates were posted during the main consultation period in March 2016, with 'questions of the day' to encourage discussion and reflection.

The page has around 140 Likes and remains online as a record and a forum for future discussion if required.





## 3 Making it happen

### Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin - Moving Forward

As we have seen, the three communities find themselves in an ongoing period of transition. Over-reliance on mining and older industries has left the villages struggling to find new sources of employment in recent times. Local services have been lost, some housing stock has been removed and depopulation is an issue at Glespin.

The challenge is for Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin to reinvent themselves for the current era - to emerge from their transition period with a sustainable future. The Community Action Plans are a first step. However, the dialogue which has built over the course of the exercise needs to continue to grow as the communities find their confidence and play more of a role in their own future.

The feedback from the engagement events has been positive - there is no shortage of good ideas for each village. The residents of Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin are proud of their communities and want to continue living there, working there and raising families there. Making it easy for people to take action to improve their communities would help to build resilience. The following CAP Strategy and Action Plans aim to achieve this.

In the past, Councils had access to greater resources for regenerating communities. South Lanarkshire Council has budget pressures to deal with and no shortage of priorities to balance. However, it still has a crucial role to play in the revitalisation of the villages. The communities need to work closely with the Council and make use of available resources such as the LEADER programme and the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) to achieve positive change. The Lanarkshire LEADER Local Development Strategy 2014-2020 has now been published its three themes are all relevant to Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin:

- Theme 1 - Developing Communities
- Theme 2 - Growing Business
- Theme 3 - Heritage, Culture and the Environment'

New opportunities are emerging, as other wind farm projects move forward (albeit the pace of growth has been affected by changing energy policy). Community benefit funds can be used as leverage to open up other funding sources. Ideally, the communities should seek to create assets or make investments which can provide sustainable sources of income (eg buildings which can be rented out) or reduce operating costs (eg reducing

**Dalquhandy Disposal Point - Wood Drying Plant under construction**



energy use in community owned premises). There are good examples of successful projects across Scotland, including local affordable housing, business units, retail and craft space, caravan parks, bunkhouses and so on. At Coalburn, significant development proposals by Cape Fleet for new housing, leisure and other uses at the north and east of the village could have a transformational impact.

It is important that new initiatives to prepare people for employment, improve training or encourage enterprise have a local focus. The current issues facing the villages are a result of over reliance on single industries or large employers. There is scope for growth in numerous employment sectors such as land based activities, renewable energy, industrial and distribution services (proximity to M74), tourism, recreation, leisure and arts/culture. Working with local landowners and employers (including wind farm companies), the emerging enterprise growth point at the former Ramage factory in Glespin and the M74 development opportunities at Poniel and Dalquhandy Disposal Point (DP) can help provide local solutions for local people.

There are a number of local schemes currently assisting individuals and businesses with training and employment opportunities. South Lanarkshire Jobspot ([southlanarkshirejobspot.org.uk](http://southlanarkshirejobspot.org.uk)) is an employability service for unemployed 16-29 year olds, offering skills, training and employment opportunities. It also assists employers with a wage subsidy scheme and operates the SSE-supported Widening Participation programme to improve employment and recruitment prospects. The South Lanarkshire Energy Academy ([energy@employmententerprise.co.uk](mailto:energy@employmententerprise.co.uk)) also offers specialist training and support for individuals and businesses to aid employment.

Co-operation and collaboration will be essential in every aspect of the Community Action Plans. In most cases, projects and initiatives will be led by one or more groups or bodies. In some case, many groups will need to work together. There will often be a need to work with the Council, landowners, businesses, public agencies such as SEPA or HES (Historic Environment Scotland) or existing interest groups. In some cases, new groups will need to form to take forward specific projects.

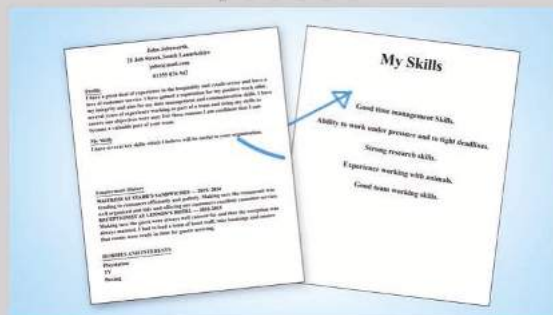


the former Ramage's premises at Glespin



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# Coalburn Douglas Glespin report input - action plans

## Overall strategy

These six action areas cut across all three villages. Village-specific actions are shown on subsequent pages.

### 1. Help people into work

Aims:

- Grow people's skills and confidence to access employment opportunities in the villages and further afield.
- More local employment opportunities within the villages and surrounding area, including former industrial sites and land around J11 of the M74.

How?

- Practical training, skills, employability initiatives, classes (e.g. Universal Connections, Douglas LEAF, Healthy Valleys)
- Promote affordable business premises and new development opportunities (e.g. former Ramages yard at Glespin and M74 development land at Poniel and Dalquhandy DP)
- Maximise opportunities to attract new industry through the area's direct access to/from the M74 motorway (Junctions 11 & 12) - one of the area's key assets in attracting inward investment e.g. Dewars Whisky Bond
- Maximise training/employability opportunities from all projects in the three villages (e.g. environmental improvements, path maintenance, construction projects)
- Make use of existing training, employment and recruitment support through South Lanarkshire Council's Jobspot, the Widening Participation scheme and the South Lanarkshire Energy Academy.

### 2. Improve local transport

Aim:

- Improve access to facilities, employment and recreational opportunities locally (Lanark, Lesmahagow, Muirkirk) and regionally (Motherwell, Wishaw, Hamilton, Glasgow).

- How?
- Rural Development Trust-led proposals for rural transport network.
- Enhance the rural transport network (via Rural Development Trust/SPT/others)

### 3. Improve quality of life, health and well-being

Aim:

- Work with Healthy Valleys Community Health Matters project to assist local people in managing their own health and becoming more active.
- Improve quality of environment in each village so that they are more pleasant and attractive places to live.
- Build on strengths and assets - places (e.g. heritage, greenspace, buildings, spaces) and people (e.g. community groups, businesses).
- Promote individual and community activities that support health and well-being.

How?

- See specific environmental improvements identified for each village.

### 4. Build community capacity

Aim:

- Work with Healthy Valleys and others to identify opportunities for increased participation by local people in existing or new community groups
- Ensure each local community is equipped to lead and deliver change.
- Develop/consolidate community anchor organisation in each village to lead and co-ordinate activity.
- Build capacity for community organisations to work with other organisations (other community groups, businesses, third sector organisations, housing associations and local authority).
- Encourage more volunteering to support community groups and link to health and well-being.



How?

- See specific proposals identified for each village.

## 5. Promote easy access to funding

Aim:

- Funding isn't everything, but it's important. Communities need to be able to access funds from sources such as LEADER (via the Council) and the potentially large sums of community benefit money flowing from wind farms - but there need to be systems in place to ensure fairness, accountability and transparency.

How?

- Liaise with the Council to identify potential projects for LEADER funding, which is currently available.
- Put principles in place for disbursement of funding to support implementation of Community Action Plans.
- All potential funding proposals need to demonstrate fit with the individual village's Community Action Plan and this strategy.
- Channel all applications for community benefit funds through a locally-focused single gateway.
- Create hierarchy of grant funding for community benefit money:
  - Small (e.g. up to £750): easy access grants, response within 1 month, no clawback, no other funding required, 1 page application form, up to 3 applications per organisation per year
  - Medium (e.g. £750-£15,000): normally up to 75% funding
  - Large (e.g. over £15,000): submit initial outline proposal then discuss in advance with funder before progressing to formal application.
- Establish (and gradually increase) an annual Participatory Budgeting fund for each village to empower local decision making.
- Support initiatives which connect people (to share expertise and knowledge) as well as specific physical, environmental or social projects.
- Support revenue/maintenance spend as well as capital projects.

- Support for knowledge /information exchange visits (eg via DTAS or Resilient Scotland programme).
- A 'Loan' or 'Challenge' Fund offering interest free loans to fledgling social enterprises, extending into schools and youth groups, based on Business Plans.
- Make support and advice available for all applicants (from funding bodies and/or VASLan).

## 6. Building sustainable community assets

Aim:

- The availability of potentially significant community benefit and other funding over the next 20 years offers an opportunity for the communities to invest in capital assets which can secure income sources on a long term basis. Greater self-reliance will help ensure a sustainable future.
- Making this a good place to do business, developing/ supporting community-owned enterprises and identifying, connecting and building on the six assets of a community :
  - Gifts people bring (their skills/abilities/interests)
  - Local associations
  - Supporting agencies
  - Exchange (monetary and informal economy)
  - Environment/landscape/place
  - shared stories (culture)
- Use emerging community right to buy and asset transfer mechanisms where appropriate to expand community participation, resilience and capacity.

**See specific proposals identified for each village overleaf.**

## COALBURN ACTION PLAN

[specific actions in addition to overall strategy]

	ACTION	SHORT (0-2 yrs)	MEDIUM (2-5 yrs)	LONG (5- 10 yrs)	LEAD PLAYERS	SUPPORTING PLAYERS
<b>1</b>	<b>Consolidate Miners Welfare and Leisure Centre as hubs of community activity</b>					
<b>a</b>	Open dialogue between Leisure Centre and Miners' Welfare Society management teams to ensure the two facilities integrate service provision, meet local needs and maximise use.	x	x	x	Miners Welfare/ Leisure Centre	SLC
<b>2</b>	<b>Miners Welfare...</b>					
<b>a</b>	Intensify use and expand appeal across local population to grow status as a viable social enterprise. (including close working with the bowling club)	x	x	x	Miners Welfare	Healthy Valleys/ SLC/ VASLan/ RDT
<b>b</b>	Consider additional uses such as youth activities and training (e.g. Universal Connections, uniformed groups), more display and storage space for Heritage Centre, meetings/business space, service delivery point, other uses in response to local demand	x	x	x	Miners Welfare/ Community groups	SLC/VASLan/ RDT
<b>c</b>	If more floorspace is needed, acquire site across Coalburn Road and use to facilitate expansion (e.g. relocate car parking and expand Miners Welfare building)		x	x	Miners Welfare	
<b>d</b>	Consider seeking funding for a development worker to support current and new activity	x	x		Miners Welfare	SLC, funding agencies
<b>e</b>	Continue to upgrade the Miners Welfare building and seek to sustain and promote as a vital local facility for the community and surrounding area.	x	x	x	Miners Welfare	Funding agencies
<b>3</b>	<b>Leisure Centre</b>					
<b>a</b>	Seek to retain and promote as vital local facility	x	x	x	SLC	Healthy Valleys
<b>b</b>	Replace tennis courts with new youth-friendly/disabled-access outdoor recreation provision (including skatepark)	x			SLC/ Community	
<b>c</b>	Upgrade pavilion		x		SLC/ Cape Fleet/ Community	
<b>4</b>	<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>					
<b>a</b>	Signposting / drainage / maintenance / interpretation on path network (walking, cycling and equestrian), linking to landmarks like Wallace Cave and over the hill to Douglas	x	x	x	Community/ Landowners	SLC
<b>b</b>	Seek retention of bings as landmarks, incorporate public art (see precedent images from Germany) and adventure play (e.g. bmx, trial bikes, aerial ropeways)		x		Community/Cape Fleet	SLC
<b>c</b>	Adventure activities on brownfield land of regional significance		x	x	Community/ Landowners/Cape Fleet	
<b>5</b>	<b>Village Spruce-up</b>					
<b>a</b>	Village Green / parks / open spaces – drainage, lighting, benches, annual planting maintenance	x	x	x	SLC/Community	
<b>b</b>	Verges / footways / paths – spring clean, drainage, maintenance	x	x	x	SLC/ Community	
<b>c</b>	More bus shelters	x			SLC/ SPT	Community



6	<b>Make the most of Cape Fleet Development proposals</b>			
a	Shopping list: range of housing (including sheltered housing), workshop/business space, path connections to village, retain bings, adventure activities	x		Cape Fleet/ Community



## DOUGLAS ACTION PLAN [specific actions in addition to overall strategy]

	ACTION	SHORT (0-2 yrs)	MEDIUM (2-5 yrs)	LONG (5- 10 yrs)	LEAD PLAYERS	SUPPORTING PLAYERS
<b>1</b>	<b>Develop St Brides Centre and Universal Connections as Community Hubs</b>					
	<b>St Brides Centre...</b>					
<b>a</b>	Focus for community activities, training, recreation, space for hire	x	x	x	SBC/ Community	Healthy Valleys
<b>b</b>	Acquire income-generating assets (e.g. Main Street shops, garden, other?)	x	x	x	SBC	Community
	<b>Universal Connections...</b>					
<b>c</b>	Focus for opportunities for young people: recreation, culture, skills/employability training	x	x	x	SLC/ UC/ Community	Healthy Valleys/ LEAF
<b>d</b>	Floodlighting on artificial pitch with maintenance budget	x			SLC/ UC	
<b>2</b>	<b>Main Street facelift: Continue where the THI stopped</b>					
<b>a</b>	Maintenance of historic buildings in historic core		x	x	Community/ HES	SLC
<b>b</b>	Develop gap sites / improve the appearance of buildings on Main Street / Ayr Road – gain speculative planning/listed building consents if owners are reluctant		x	x	Community/ HES	SLC
<b>c</b>	Former hotel building - seek new uses and redevelopment	x	x		Community/ Building owners	
<b>d</b>	Low speed environment along Main Street and historic core, better pedestrian environment, better public spaces		x	x	Community/ SLC	HES
<b>e</b>	Relocate/upgrade planters	x			SLC	
<b>3</b>	<b>Sport</b>					
<b>a</b>	New all weather sports pitch	x			Playpark Group	SLC
<b>b</b>	Floodlighting on artificial pitch at Universal Connections	x			SLC/ UC	
<b>4</b>	<b>Rural paths and recreation for locals/visitors</b>					
<b>a</b>	Castle policies/ponds/river – path improvements, maintenance, signage, interpretation	x	x	x	REAL Group/ Landowners/ Community	LEAF
<b>b</b>	Rural walking/cycling/equestrian network – hills to north and south, over to Coalburn, potential extension of River Ayr Way from Glenbuck through Douglas Valley to join up with proposed Clyde Valley Walkway extension from New Lanark to the Southern Upland Way.		x	x	SBC/ Community/ Local businesses landowners	LEAF
<b>c</b>	Develop an updated tourism strategy based on outdoor activities (walking, mountain biking and horse-riding) and heritage assets in Douglas Conservation Area.		x	x	SBC/ Community/ local businesses landowners	
<b>5</b>	<b>Factory sites</b>					
<b>a</b>	Spring clean, short term initiatives for recreation, arts & culture, youth provision etc	x			landowners/ SLC/ community	
<b>b</b>	Redevelop for allotments, buildings or as open space, subject/in conjunction with new housing?		x	x	landowners/ SLC/ community	



<b>6</b>	<b>Delivery organisations</b>					
	Establish community organisation to deliver projects such as Main Street facelift or factory sites delivery - e.g. a community development trust or SCIO which is able to hold financial assets	x	x			community landowners/ SLC/RDT/ Healthy Valleys



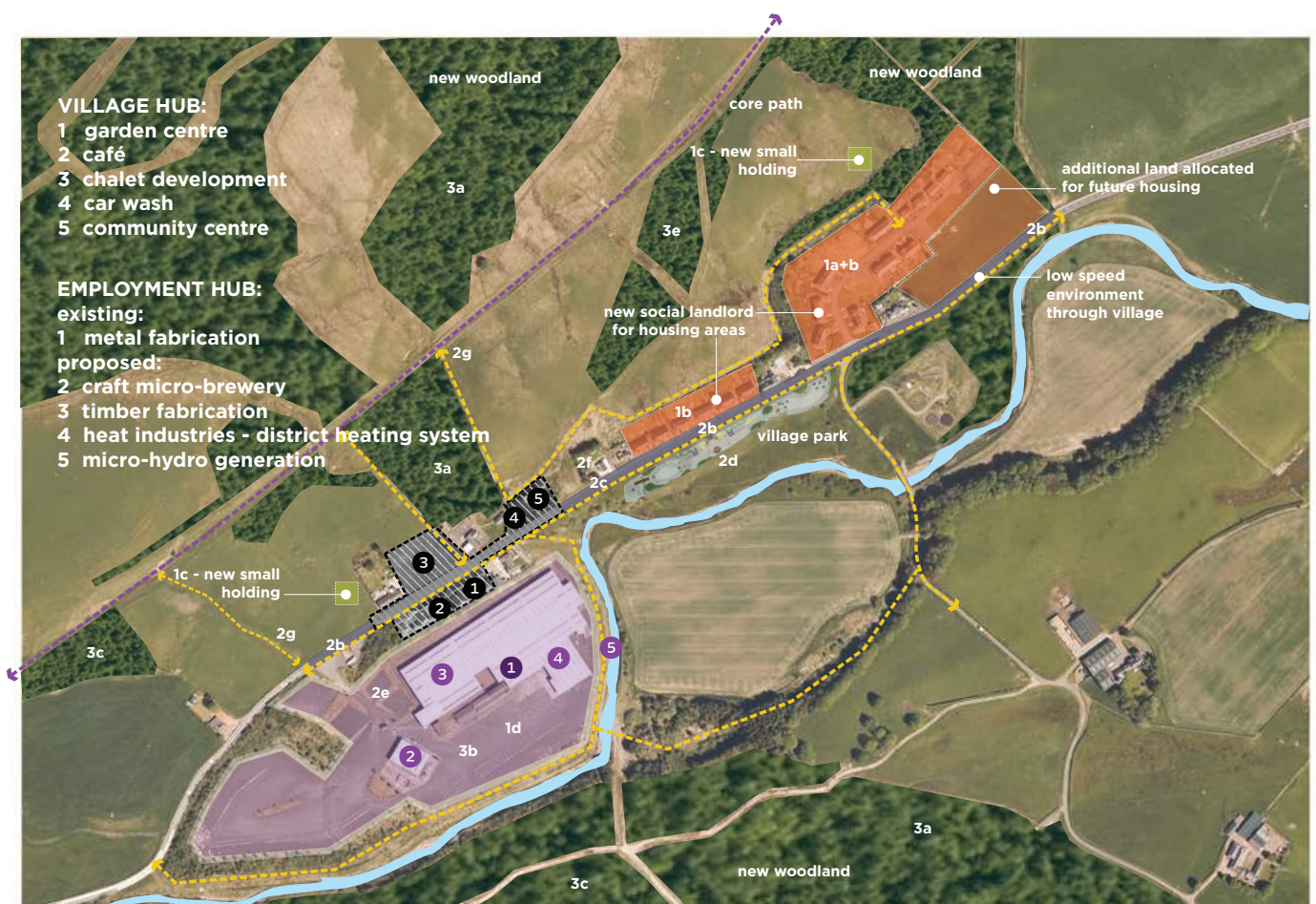
## GLESPIN ACTION PLAN

[specific actions in addition to overall strategy]

	ACTION	SHORT (0-2 yrs)	MEDIUM (2-5 yrs)	LONG (5-10 yrs)	LEAD PLAYERS	SUPPORTING PLAYERS
<b>1</b>	<b>Increase population</b>					
<b>a</b>	Review demolition/no lettings policy for empty homes, in light of much improved employment conditions. Seek to appoint specialist housing associations or charities/ social enterprises to take the properties on	x	x	x	SLC/ Housing Association etc	
<b>b</b>	Local letting policy to encourage people with local connections or who actively want to move to Glespin - in collaboration with local employers	x	x	x	SLC/ Housing Association etc	local employers
<b>c</b>	Encourage new smallholdings in and around the village (planning policy exception required).	x	x	x	Landowners/ community	SLC
<b>d</b>	Work with local employers to improve training and employment opportunities	x	x	x	Community/ local employers	SLC
<b>2</b>	<b>Improve quality of life</b>					
<b>a</b>	Control noxious emissions from sewage sludge	x	x	x	SLC/SEPA/ operators	community
<b>b</b>	Reduce vehicle speeds on Ayr Road (e.g. electronic speed signage followed up with design solution).	x			SLC/drivers	
<b>c</b>	Improve basic maintenance of verges and open space: grasscutting, litter, lighting.	x	x	x	SLC/ community	
<b>d</b>	Implement parking & environmental improvements opposite Ayr Road houses. (PLAN BASED ON UNIMPLEMENTED DESIGN)	x	x		SLC/ landowner/ community	
<b>e</b>	Maximise business occupancy at Ramages site.	x	x	x	building owners/tenants	SLC
<b>f</b>	Promote more uses for the village hall including practice space for bands	x	x		Community	
<b>g</b>	Develop links into the countryside from the café and garden centre for recreation, walking, cycling, equestrian activity, fishing etc	x	x		Community	SLC
<b>3</b>	<b>Employment and training</b>					
<b>a</b>	More productive use of the surrounding landscape as an economic resource as an overall ambition – food, fuel, raw materials etc	x	x	x	landowners and tenants/ LEAF/ local businesses	community



<b>b</b>	Encourage businesses to come to Glespin and stay by co-operating with current building owner and existing businesses	x	x		SLC/ local businesses/ owners of buildings and land	
<b>c</b>	Develop productive links with the surrounding landscape through action and training in forestry, agriculture, practical rural skills	x	x	x	SLC/ land owners/ local businesses	RDT
<b>d</b>	Promote intergenerational care in the village and relate this to businesses through crèche, employing retired folk etc	x	x		healthy Valleys/ VASLan/ local employers	community
<b>e</b>	Land reinstatement projects using native tree species	x	x	x	landowners/ Eadha Enterprises	community/ local businesses





## EXEMPLAR IMAGES OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS



**sustainable native woodland**



**woodlands for recreation**



**smallholding**



**smallholding**



**low speed environment - before**



**low speed environment - after**



**micro-craft brewery**



**micro-hydro power generation**





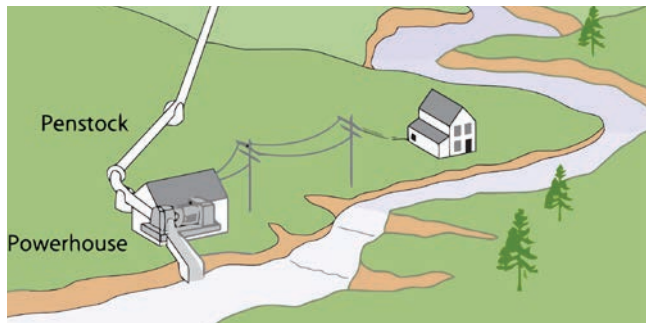
small-scale district heating system



biomass fuel types



artists workspace and creative studio



micro-hydro operating diagram



coal mining viewing tower



artwork on coal bing



landmark sculpture on coal bing



landmark sculpture on coal bing

## 4 Looking ahead

These Community Action Plans are all about what can be done to make Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin even better places in which to live, work and play. Each has challenges but most residents like living where they are and many have good ideas for making their places better. Some are already active in local groups while others have said they are interested in getting involved.

Positive change is always helped by good leadership. Sometimes it's helpful to have a single body or group tasking a lead. The Strategy and Action Plans in this report note that this approach will be appropriate for each of the settlements. However, the report also shows that good work is already being done by a variety of groups, organisations and businesses. Each has a role to play in leading their own projects but working hand in hand with others is likely to secure the greatest benefit.

The CAPs can be used by everyone in the community including local businesses, landowners, third sector organisations and public agencies including South Lanarkshire Council. They provide an agenda to support funding bids for existing and new projects. They should also influence the delivery of public services and the allocation of resources by the Council and others.

Finally, CAPs have a shelf life. We recommend that the progress of the ideas and proposals in this report are monitored and reviewed after three years. With commitment and hard work, we hope that the people of Coalburn, Douglas and Glespin can work with others to deliver positive change within that time period.

## 5 Appendix

### Organisations contacted

Thanks to the following organisations for their time and assistance in preparing these Community Plans.

Coalburn	Douglas	Glespin	Area wide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coalburn Church</li> <li>• Coalburn Community Council</li> <li>• Coalburn IOR Pipe band</li> <li>• Coalburn Miners Welfare</li> <li>• CMWCS</li> <li>• Accordion and Fiddle Club</li> <li>• Coalburn Miners Welfare / One Stop Shop</li> <li>• Coalburn Primary School</li> <li>• Coalburn Silver Band</li> <li>• Coalburn Swimming Pool</li> <li>• Clydesdale Housing Association</li> <li>• Cape Fleet (developers)</li> <li>• Darby &amp; Joan Club</li> <li>• Gala Day Committee</li> <li>• Jim Hamilton Heritage Centre</li> <li>• Lesmahagow High School</li> <li>• Lintfieldbank WRI</li> <li>• OAP Committee</li> <li>• Talamh Life Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Douglas Scout Group</li> <li>• Circuit Class</li> <li>• Clyde Valley Housing Association</li> <li>• Douglas and Angus Estate</li> <li>• Douglas Art Group</li> <li>• Douglas Community Council</li> <li>• Douglas Cubs &amp; Beavers</li> <li>• Douglas Curling Club</li> <li>• Douglas Explorers</li> <li>• Douglas Gala Day</li> <li>• Douglas Horticultural Society</li> <li>• Douglas Panto</li> <li>• Douglas Play Park Group</li> <li>• Douglas Primary School</li> <li>• Douglas Senior Citizens</li> <li>• Douglas St. Bride's Church</li> <li>• Douglasdale Folk Festival</li> <li>• Douglasdale REAL Group</li> <li>• Flower Arranging</li> <li>• Friends Of The Lady Home Hospital</li> <li>• Fusion Dance</li> <li>• Infinity School Of Dance</li> <li>• Lady Home Hospital</li> <li>• Lanark Grammar School</li> <li>• LEAF</li> <li>• Parent And Toddler Group</li> <li>• Rainbows &amp; Brownies</li> <li>• DSBCG</li> <li>• Scrib Tree</li> <li>• Universal Connections</li> <li>• West of Scotland HA</li> <li>• WRI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glespin Community Group</li> <li>• Glespin OAP Association</li> <li>• Stablestone Tearoom</li> <li>• Macfebmatal</li> <li>• Browns Food Group</li> <li>• Hazelside Farm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Douglasdale Medical Practice</li> <li>• Foundation Scotland</li> <li>• Healthy Valleys</li> <li>• Hometown Foundation</li> <li>• NHS Lanarkshire</li> <li>• South Lanarkshire Council</li> <li>• Rural Development Trust</li> <li>• VASLan</li> </ul>



