



Community Enterprise



Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg Community Action Plan

Client: HEG Community Group

Title: Research Report for a Community Action
Plan

Date : 16th September 2015

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Background

Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg Community Group (HEG) is working with Foundation Scotland, to manage community benefit funds which will come to the local community through the Torrance Windfarm project and from Harthill Wind Limited. The funds will bring in an expected £48,600 annual income and it is possible the amount will increase as other windfarms begin. In order to ensure the best use of this money and that it is used in a way that meets the needs of the area the HEG Community Group will develop a Community Action Plan which will identify the key themes and specific projects that will be adopted within the area over the next 10 years. To assist with the research and writing the Action Plan, the HEG Community Group has commissioned the services of Community Enterprise.

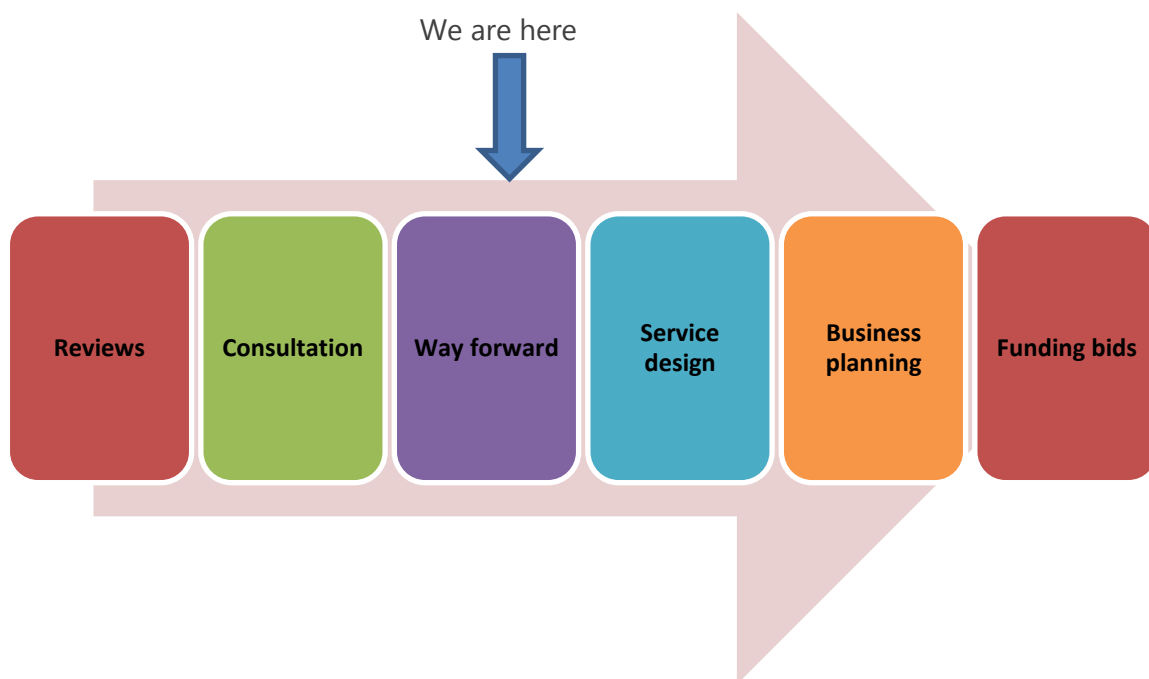
The community consultation will inform a Research Report and based on the findings of this research, a 10 Year Community Action Plan will be developed and distributed throughout the community.

Community consultation took place between June and September 2015. The consultation methods are described below.

Methodology

Community engagement is a critical part of preparing a Community Action Plan and a wide range of methods were used to ensure everyone had an opportunity to share their views. The programme included a mix of both traditional and innovative methods of engagement:

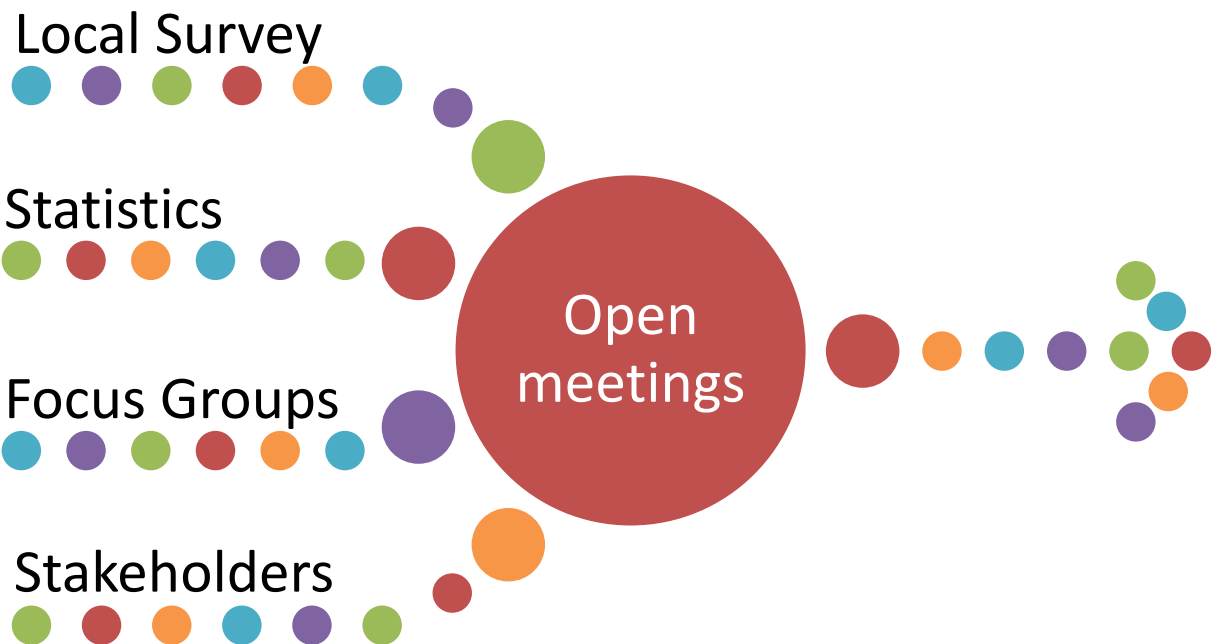
- Conversations with local people on 2 separate occasions at Gala Week.
- Open Meetings: 3 meetings were held, one during the day and two in the evening. The meetings included group discussions and one to one feedback.
- A community survey: a survey was produced and widely distributed both online and in paper format.
- Focus groups: four focus groups were organised, with children from the Alexander Peden Primary School, parents from one of the Mums & Toddlers groups in Greenrigg, older people at the Old Time Dancing Group at the Community Education Centre and young people who are youth leaders at the Youth Group.
- Facebook: The Harthill Community Help Facebook page was used to encourage participation in the open meetings, to promote the survey and the photo competition across the area. The Facebook page has 1560 'likes'
- Photography Competition: a competition was held encouraging anyone under 18 to submit images of their community highlighting what they liked and didn't like.
- Stakeholders A small number of key stakeholders including leaders from statutory services, the local authority, the schools and local groups were also consulted



Methodology

Engaging the local community is a critical part of any Community Action Plan. Community Enterprise carried out extensive and highly participative research from June to September 2015 ensuring that as many people as possible in Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg had an opportunity to share their views. Our programme included time spent getting to know the area, encouraging engagement and building a presence in the community. An outline of the methodology for the community research and engagement is as follows:

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<i>Gala Week</i>	During Gala week conversations were had at both the opening ceremony on the 5 th June and at Gala Day on 13 th June. Local residents were asked about the good things, the challenges and what improvements should be made to the area.
<i>Public Meetings</i>	Three public meetings were held in June 2015, in Eastfield, Harthill and Greenrigg. One of the meetings was held during the day, and the other two in the evening to include as many people as possible. The meetings included group discussions around likes and dislikes, priorities for improvements and what to spend the community funds on. Further participation in the consultation and HEG Community group was actively encouraged.
<i>Community Survey</i>	One survey was prepared to gather more quantifiable feedback from local people. This was made available online and distributed and promoted through a variety of local networks, through Facebook and newsletters. Hard copies were placed in key areas around the town, including the Senior Citizens Centre. The HEG Community Group helped to promote the survey on the ground. Detailed consideration was given to each of the questions on the surveys to ensure that they were both 'open ended' to give room for local people to share their

	thoughts, yet structured to ensure that suggestions could be ranked by popularity. At all points in the survey, there was an option for respondents to elaborate.
Focus Groups	Four focus groups were held in the community to gather initial feedback from residents on what they like about Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg what they would like to see change and the solutions to those challenges. Focus groups were held with: Local parents of young children Youth Group Leaders (under 18) Older People at the Old Time Dancing Group Children at Greenrigg Primary School
Facebook	The Harthill Help Facebook page has been used as a means to promote the community consultation and to encourage participation
Photography Competition	A photography competition was held where children and young people were invited to submit images of 'our community' highlighting what they liked and didn't like about the area. 10 photos were submitted.
Stakeholder Interviews	Interviews took place with a small number of key stakeholders with an interest in Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg who make an important contribution locally and have a working knowledge of the area. This included officials from statutory services, the local authority and community groups. For a full list of interviewees, refer to Appendix 1. Specific ideas emerging from the research were explored as were the challenges and possible solutions including how the different stakeholders may work together.
Final Public Meeting	A final public meeting will take place in early October to disseminate the findings of the research and identify any priorities that the community felt could be applied to the potential projects or areas of need.

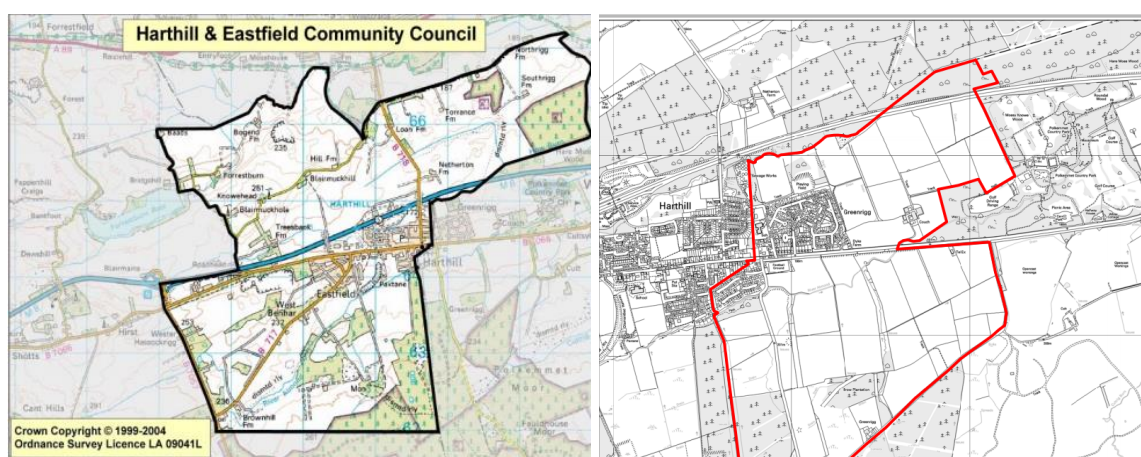
Demographics and Statistics

Geography

The Harthill and Eastfield Community Council area is part of North Lanarkshire council and the area borders closely with West Lothian Council area. As such, the Greenrigg Community Council area is part of West Lothian Council, though immediately adjacent to Harthill and Eastfield. The whole area lies halfway between Edinburgh and Glasgow and the nearest major towns are Bathgate and Livingston and the small town of Whitburn lies about 2.5 miles east.

Major towns in North Lanarkshire include Wishaw, Airdrie, Motherwell, Coatbridge, and Bellshill. Major towns in West Lothian include Livingston, Linlithgow, Bathgate, and Broxburn.

Though Harthill and Eastfield geographically lie within the boundaries of a different community council to Greenrigg, given their extremely close proximity, the community group represents all three communities.



Intermediate Zones and Datazones

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) measures the level of deprivation at the local 'data zone' level in Scotland. It identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivations. There are 4 intermediate zones that make up the Harthill and Eastfield area and 1 intermediate datazone that makes up the Greenrigg area.

Population

The Harthill and Eastfield datazone numbers are S01004755, S01004741, S01004762, and S01004753. The total population of the datazones put together is 2,586. The majority of the population are of working age and there is a slightly larger population of pensioners than children.

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Datazone	Total Population	% children	% working age	% pension age
S01004755	673	19.32	59.29	21.40
S01004741	587	15.5	62.35	22.15
S01004762	605	16.03	59.01	24.96
S01004753	721	16.37	66.71	16.92

Greenrigg has a total population of 1,452. Approximately 23% of the population are children, 61% are of working age, and 16% are of pension age.

Furthermore, according to Census Scotland 2011, which encompasses in its statistics, Harthill, Eastfield, and the area of Greenrigg running from West to East Main Street crossing into West Lothian up to Dyke Circle, 32.7% of the population is single (never married or never registered as a same-sex civil partnership) and 45.1% of the population is married.

Housing

100% of the population live in a household. 18.7% of people under 65 live in a one-person household and there are 14.3% of people living in a one person household that are over the age of 65. 8.9% are lone parents with dependent children, 4.9% are lone parents with non-dependent children, approximately 16% are married or co-habiting couples with dependent children and approximately 26% are married or co-habiting couples with non-dependent children.

Health

According to Census Scotland 2011, 45.1% of people's general health in the area is 'very good', 29.1% is 'good', 16.9% is 'fair', 7% is bad, and 2% is very bad. These numbers indicate that general health of the area is similar to the Scottish average.

Education

77.6% of 16 to 17 year olds living in the area are in education. In 64.5% of households, no one aged 16 to 64 has a highest level of qualification of Level 2 or above and no person aged 16-18 is a full-time student.

Economy

The majority of the population at 66.9% is economically active. 11.6% work part-time and 41.6% work full-time. The most common industries of work for those in employment are wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (23.5%), manufacturing (15.7%), construction (10.8%), and human health and social work services (10.1%). Additionally, the most common occupations include:

- Process, plant and machine operatives (18.2%)
- Elementary occupations (17.7%)
- Skilled trades occupations (13.6%)
- Sales and customer service occupations (12%)
- Administrative and secretarial occupations (10.4%)
- Caring, leisure and other service occupations (8.2%)

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- Associate professional and technical occupations (7.8%)
- Managers, directors and senior officials (6.2%)
- Professional occupations (5.8%)

74.3% get to work by car (including passengers, car pools, and taxis), 9.3% travel by bus, 7.1% by foot, and 7.2% mainly work from home.

Harthill and Eastfield

Datazone S01004755

- 20% of the population in this datazone is income deprived compared to the North Lanarkshire average of 17%
- 21% of the working age population are employment deprived compared to 16% of the North Lanarkshire average of 16%
- 26% of the population between ages 25 and 49 claim benefits compared to the North Lanarkshire average of 19%
- 6.3% of the population between ages 16 and 24 claim benefits compared to the North Lanarkshire average of 17.6%
- The total number of pupils in primary school is 56 and the total in secondary school is 36
- According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking in 2012, income, employment, education, geographic access, crime and housing all ranked between 20% and 100% on the deprivation scale. However, for health, the datazone ranked between 10% and 15% on the deprivation scale.

Datazone S01004741

- 21% of the population in this datazone is income deprived
- 18% of the working age population is employment deprived
- 21.7% of people aged 25 to 49 claim benefits and 21.4% of people aged 16 to 24 claim benefits
- The total number of pupils in primary school is 41 and the total in secondary school is 24
- According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking in 2012, income ranked at the very bottom percentile on the scale between 20% and 100%. Employment, health, geographic access, housing and crime ranked above 20% on the deprivation scale. However, education ranked under 5% on the deprivation scale.

Datazone S01004762

- 17% of the population, the same as the North Lanarkshire average, is income deprived in this datazone
- 19% of the working age population is employment deprived
- 25.5% of people aged 25 to 49 claim benefits and 12.2% of people aged 16 to 24 claim benefits
- The total number of pupils in primary school is 45 and the total in secondary school is 34
- According to Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking in 2012, the datazone ranked above 20% on the deprivation scale in all domains (income, employment, education, health, geographic access, housing, and crime.)

Datazone S01004753

- 23% of the population in this datazone is income deprived
- 28% of the working age population is employment deprived
- 29.5% of people aged 25 to 49 claim benefits and 19% of people aged 16 to 24 claim benefits
- The total number of pupils in primary school is 48 and the total in secondary school is 45
- According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking in 2012, the area ranks between 20% and 100% on the deprivation scale for geographic access, housing and crime. For income it ranks between 15% and 20% and for health it ranks between 10% and 15% on the deprivation scale. For employment it ranks between 5% and 10% and for education it ranks in the 5% most deprived areas of Scotland.

Greenrigg

- 12% of the population is income deprived compared to the West Lothian average of 13%
- 14% of the working age population is employment deprived compared to the West Lothian average of 12%
- Approximately 18% of people aged 25 to 49 claim benefits and approximately 10% of people aged 16 to 24 claim benefits
- The total number of pupils in primary school is 148 and the total in secondary school is 98
- According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation ranking in 2012, Greenrigg ranks between 20% and 100% on the deprivation scale in all domains (income, employment, education, geographic access, and crime) except for in health where it ranks between 15% and 20%.

Communications Campaign and Engagement

The consultation has strived to ensure that a wide representation from the community is reflected in the research gathered. This has been done through the use of various communications methods including:

- Social media – the Harthill Community Help Facebook page was used to advertise the open meetings, the survey, the photo competition and the final public meeting
- PR – press releases were submitted to the West Lothian Courier, the Wishaw Press and local radio station – Radio GBX, to advertise the consultation and the dates of the open meetings in June
- Emails were sent to a community database of key contacts within the local third sector as well as local community groups and churches advising them of the consultation and asking them to advise their clients, members and service users
- Posters and flyers were left at key community locations including shops, High Street businesses, the ice-cream van, the community education centre and schools, advertising the open meetings and the survey

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Photography Competition

Children and young people submitted 10 photographs which captured 'My Community' for them. The winner from the 4-8 age group was Bailey Thomson age 8 for his picture of the statue of the miner.



The prize for the 8-12 age group went to Liam Quinn age 10 for his action shot of the youth group.



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Community Consultation

Gala Week

Conversations took place with local people outside the entrance to the local park on the evening of the opening ceremony and again in the park on Gala Day. Flyers were distributed advertising the open meetings and the online link to the survey.

On the whole people liked living in the area and comments included:



Things people would like to see in the community included:

1. A swing park for young children – nearly all of the people that we spoke to said that there used to be a swing park in Harthill, but it was removed. The only swing parks for young children are in Greenrigg or further afield
2. Swimming pool and more physical activity for the children
3. 3G pitch – currently the pitches are under used due to weather conditions, which cause them to often be too flooded to play on. There has been talk of putting in a 3G at Alexander Peden Primary, but the school has said that this has to come from the community - it cannot come from the school

Other points made were that public transport links to West Lothian are far better than to North Lanarkshire. Most people go to parts of West Lothian rather than North Lanarkshire because of this.

Whitburn's got a skate park -we never seem to get anything like that.

More activity in the community, especially for young people and older people but under 65s. We leave the area to find activities- both clubs and days out

4. More stuff like this gala
5. Needs tidying up a wee bit (visitor)
6. IT equipment for the Girls' Brigade (leader)

[Type text]

Public Meetings



Three open meetings were held in late June in the afternoon and evening to ensure both those working and not working could attend. There was one meeting scheduled in each community area.

The meetings included group discussions around themes: what's good about the area; key challenges; what could be done to make things better; what community funds could be spent on.

The discussion points which came up most regularly are shown below. The full list of issues raised can be found in Appendix 2 at the back of this report.

What's good about the area?

- Good community spirit and neighbours
- Family Connections
- Gala day
- Good schools

Key challenges

- 2 different local authority areas
- Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg are 3 separate communities
- Poor facilities and services i.e. lack of shops, pubs, bank, police station and library
- No play park
- Road safety
- Dog fouling and litter

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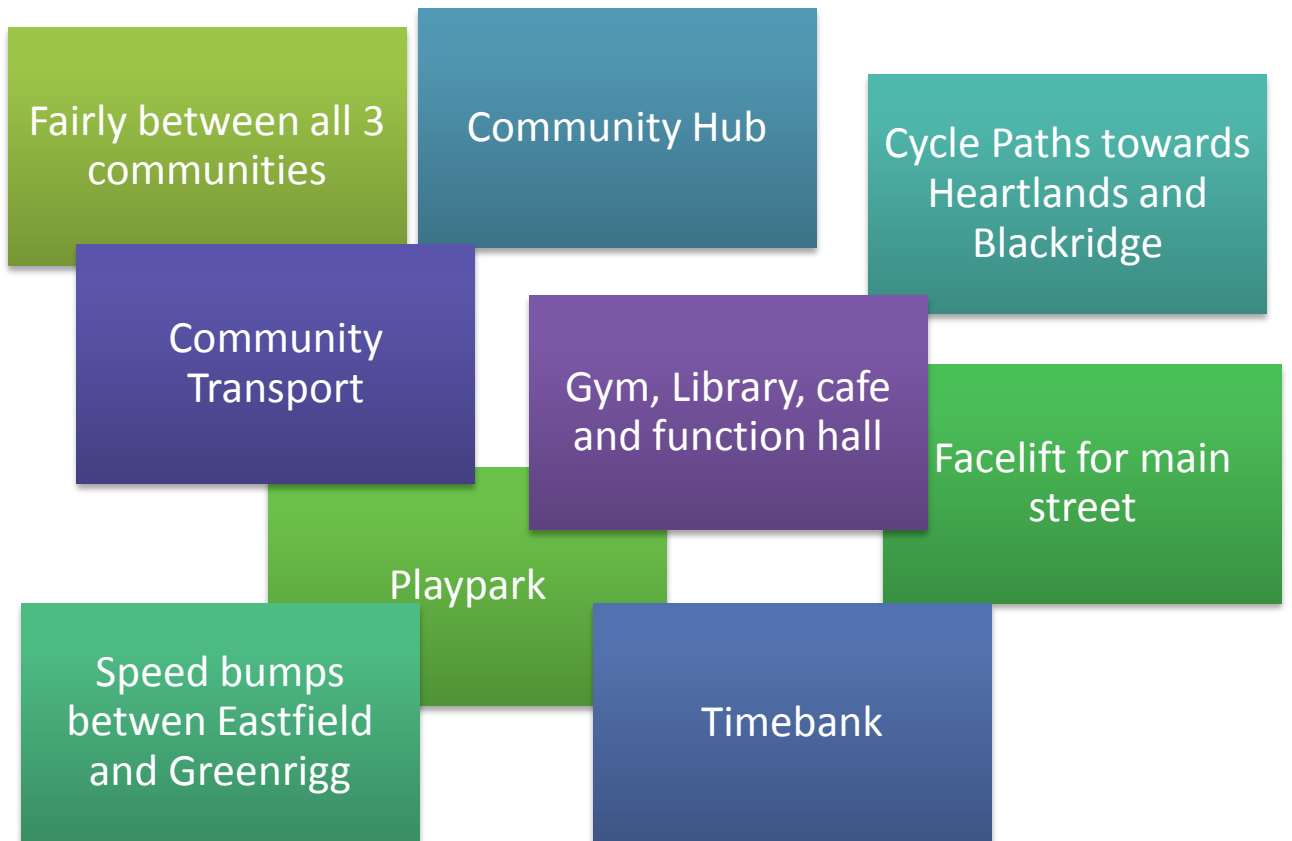


What can be done to make life better in HEG?

- Improved transport links
- Safer roads
- Central community centre
- Better green spaces
- Sheltered housing
- Sports facilities
- Develop industrial estate to attract new businesses and create jobs

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How can community funds be spent?



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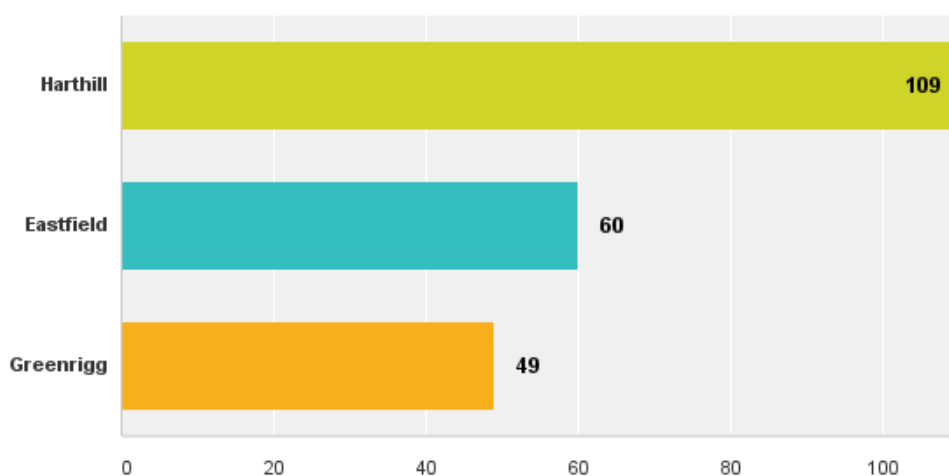
Community Surveys

Survey Analysis

The survey was made available online and distributed and promoted through a variety of local networks, through Facebook, newsletters and flyers. Hard copies were placed in key areas around the town, including the Senior Citizens Centre. The HEG Community Group helped to promote the survey on the ground. It was completed by 220 residents of Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg. Over 50% of the contributors are resident in Harthill.

Q1 Where do you live?

Answered: 218 Skipped: 2



45.5% of respondents were male and 54.5% female

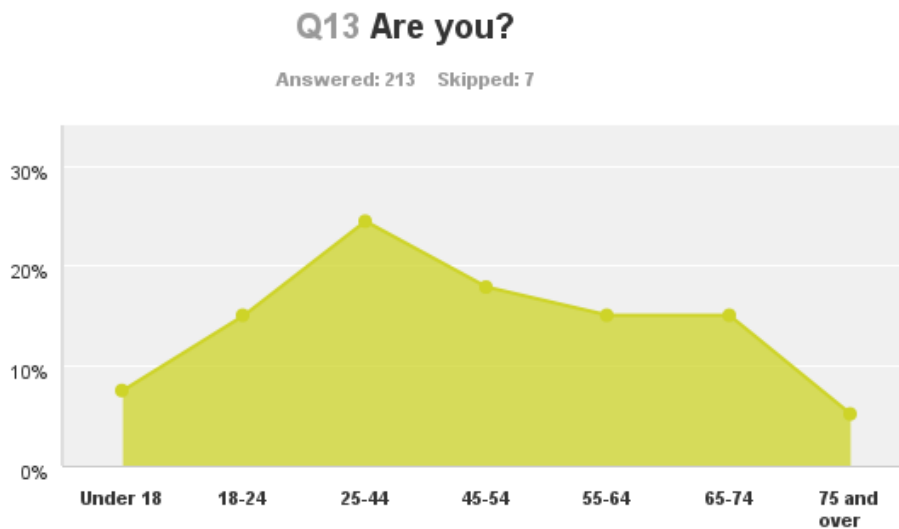
Number of Male and Female Respondents

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	45.5%	96
Female	54.5%	115

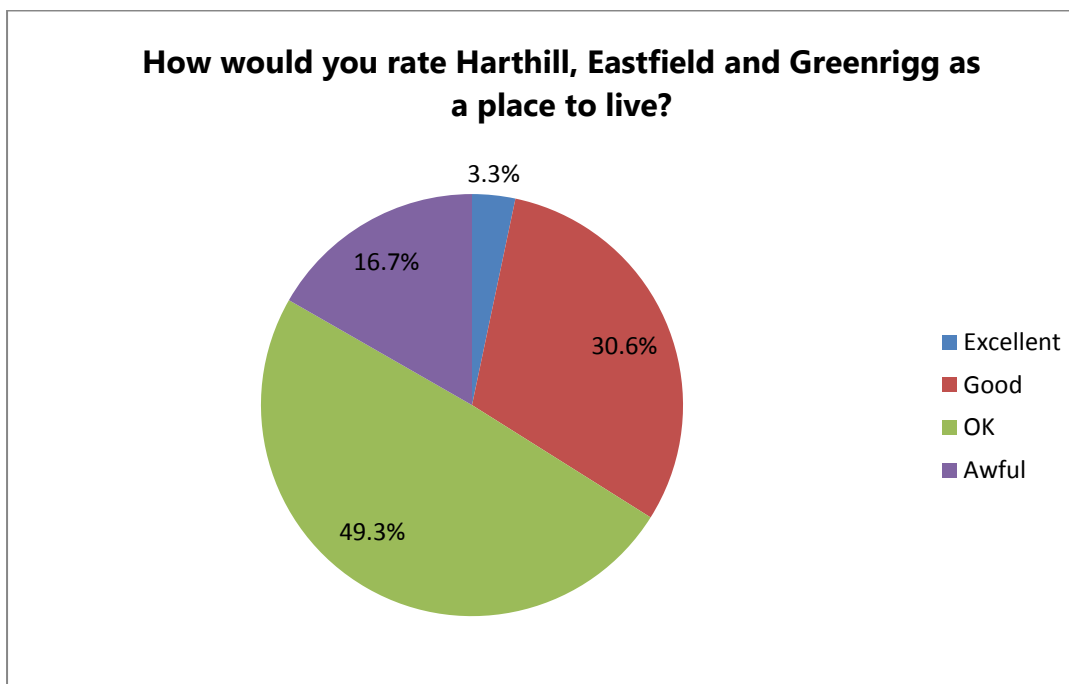
9 people skipped this question

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There was an even distribution of age groups with the largest percentage of respondents between 25-44 years old.

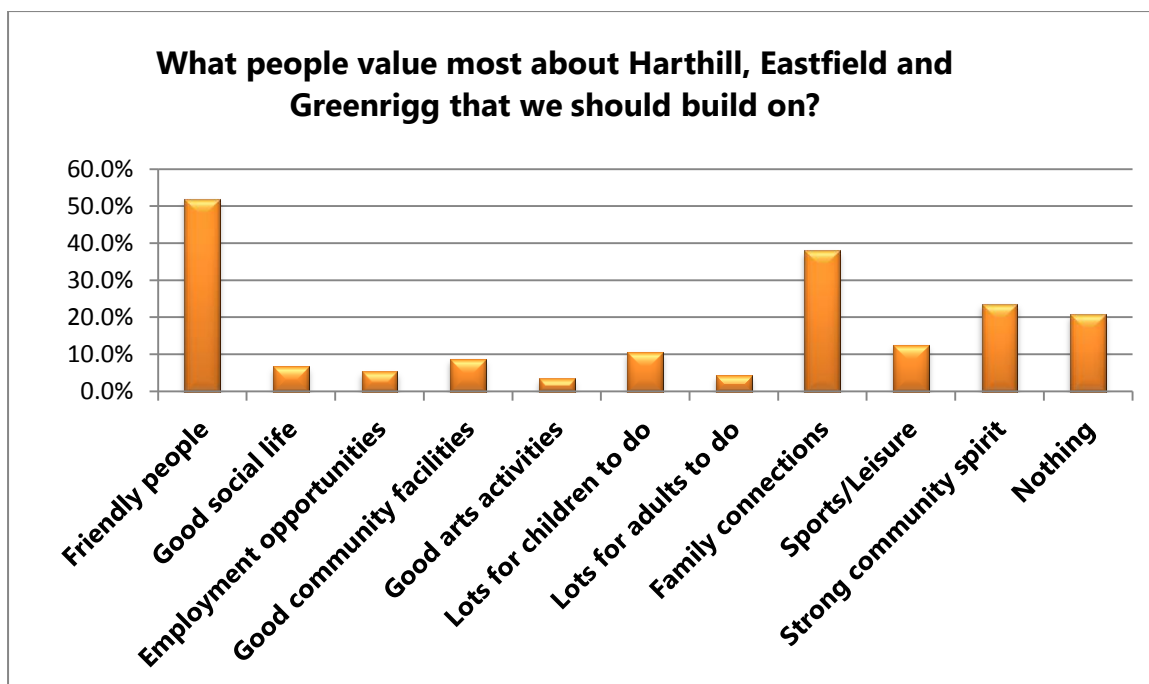


When asked how people rated the area as a place to live, the largest number of people (49%) rated it as OK, 31% as good, 17% awful and 3% as excellent.



Overwhelming people value the friendly people, family connections and strong community spirit in the area. Unfortunately, 21% of people also claim to value nothing.

[Type text]



When asked what is missing in the area the most popular suggestion was activities for children and young people. The table below shows the groups of suggestions in order of popularity with a sample of comments. There were 101 comments made in total and the remainder of comments can be found in Appendix 3.

Suggestions	Number of mentions	Sample of comments
More activities for children and young people	44	<i>Places for kids and family enjoyment A good park to suit children of all ages Kids' activities especially during the school holidays A proper play park for the children Safe swing parks Something for younger people to do there is nowhere for them to go.</i>
A multi-purpose community hub	19	<i>A community centre which can accommodate everyone Severe lack of community facilities A community centre with lots of functions e.g. library and gym Community facilities are ok but they are in 3 areas. We could do with something in the middle of town bringing everyone together especially families.</i>
More activities for adults	12	<i>Tea Room dance classes, theatre classes and photography Social events for the elderly Dancing, sewing and craft classes Very little provision made for older people</i>

[Type text]

		<i>I feel very isolated – no way of meeting people Everything, nothing for anyone of all ages to do</i>
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When people were asked what they would like to see improved in the area, the most popular answers were:

Better Local Facilities 70%

Better Youth Facilities 54%

Facilities for Families 40%

The least popular suggestion was 'More Learning and Volunteering Opportunities' with only 17% of people selecting this option.

There were 46 comments made many of which are a repeat of the suggestions above other than:

- Regeneration of Main Street. Improve external conditions of some buildings. Create a pleasant seating area . Plant trees. Clear ugly brown sites e.g West Main Street near Coop. Improve health by creating a pleasant walk beside the River Almond with benches at intervals so people can enjoy the view over the moors. Clear and maintain paths that already exist but are now overgrown and unusable
- Heritage Centre
- Advertise better the things that are on in Harthill
- An attempt to stop local shops from perishing as as the West Main Street shopping area is disappearing at an alarming rate. Harthill, Eastfield and Greenrigg will be a ghost town very soon for instance local social drinking have disappeared at the rate of 87% 7 pubs and clubs have shut leaving one pub to serve a population of 3,900. Shotts have at least 10 pubs and clubs left serving 8,000 populations so all finance leaves the village and the shutting of the royal bank was a major blow.
- Further comments can be found in Appendix 4

Respondents were asked for suggestions on how this could be achieved and some of the 103 comments included:

- Ask for Lottery Funds and Scottish Parliament - I feel Harthill is left out
- Closer and more open and transparent work with the council
- Email bulletins about what is happening community noticeboard employment ideas for youth
- Community transport scheme to get to shopping, hospital, friends etc.
- Community car scheme?
- I feel the community is split between the three areas. Why not try to bring people together. Youth can be a problem but only because they need things to do

[Type text]

The remaining comments are included in Appendix 5

Respondents either agree or agree strongly that using wind farm money to make the improvements in the area will:

- Make people feel less isolated (143 people)
- Contribute to the local economy (138 people)
- Bring the community together (119 people)
- Encourage residents to take pride in their area (119 people)

There were 28 comments some of which are included below and the remainder can be found in Appendix 6.

- It is not good to concentrate on the three areas. Need to be a single community. Maybe need a new name for the three communities together
- Harthill feels like an isolated weird place that people drive past on the M8 but don't know about really. Needs a positive identity
- HEG is a very strong knit community, I feel using the money wisely within the community would be very beneficial.
- Reducing apathy which is terrible here
- The use of these funds is not widely known and therefore on groups utilising the use of said funds are aware of their impact.

When asked 23% of respondents said that they take part in the local community and 77% said that they do not. There were 45 comments some of which are below and the remainder can be found in Appendix 7.

- I have done a few courses through the community centre
- Unsure of any activities available
- Gala Day
- I am a member of a few local groups i.e. ECAG, BY&AC Eastfield Arts and Crafts and HEG group
- Part of the HAPPI group
- Sequin dancing
- Tenants and Residents Association

39% of respondents **are** keen to get more involved in the community, 55% are not sure and 11% would not want to get involved. There were 62 comments of the sort of things people want to do and they include:

[Type text]

- Organising film nights
- Arts and film making
- Community events
- Music and concerts
- Highland dancing
- When I was younger, there was a play scheme. I would happily help run this, there was all kinds of activities on during summer holidays and day trips at a small cost to the individual. The community would love this.
- Run a community cafe
- Clean ups

The full list of suggestions can be found in Appendix 8.

47 people said that they would be interested in becoming a member of the HEG Community Group although only 9 left their contact details. On the separate contacts sheet those people are indicated.

Further Comments:

- Improve children's play park
- Thank you
- A community Hub or something like this can benefit this community and bring more people in daily contact through a multitude of groups. Also benefits and services could be localized instead of always having to go out with the village for these services
- A thorough tidy up of shop fronts, replace bus shelters, and above all, re design the layout of mini roundabout at bottom of Old Eastfield St. Cars seldom slow down enough coming from either direction.
- Legacy centre is a great way to spend money
- Stayed in Greenrigg all my days, about time something was done for the kids, juniors and the adults. Nothing here no community like it was when I was younger.
- Love to help but no time
- I live in Argyll Court and although the council didn't adopt our road I feel the entrance into our road should be repaired as it has been neglected for years meaning it is becoming difficult for us to enter. I would like the people who live on the main street coming into Harthill to take more responsibility for their gardens and I think that the council should be encouraging people to take more of a pride in their gardens. The council should also help by uplifting rubbish from people who have limited finances for free.

[Type text]

Focus Groups

Old Time Dancing Group

The group has been going for over 20 years and regularly attracts 20-25 attendees from the local area as well as from further afield in North Lanarkshire and West Lothian.



Challenges in the area?

- Bus service
- No bank
- No post office
- Lack of things you really need
- Car parked on pavements
- Community Education Centre has no kitchen for functions
- Only thing for older people is the dancing
- Lots of people have drifted away because there is nothing here

What is missing?

- Sports centre
- Community Hub
- Swimming pool
- Need something for the young ones

[Type text]

What could improve the area?

- A tidy up – the west end of Miller Street is a disgrace – litter and weeds
- On the road to the services the trees are too big and it is dark and feels unsafe. The trees need cutting back

If a Community Hub was built where should it be and what should be included?

- It could be built on the ground opposite the Community Education Centre where the old school used to be. That would be central for all 3 communities.
- It should have facilities for young children – there is nothing here
- Soft play
- Café
- Swimming baths
- Library

Young People's Focus Group

There were 6 young people at the focus group all aged between 12 and 16 years.

What is good about the area?

"Nothing"

What would help make it better?

- Skate park
- Play park with more for younger children (2-3 year olds)
- New Harthill park/Improving the one that is already there
- To have the trampolines back
- Bigger bomb shelter at Eastfield Park
- A new flying fox – current one is not safe

If a new community centre was built, what would you like to see in it?

Gym	Library
Dance Studio	Events for all ages e.g. arts events
Big Trampolines	Theatre
Swimming Pool	Games centre (video game consoles etc.)
Indoor/outdoor football	Basketball gym
Pool/snooker	Tennis courts

[Type text]

Badminton

Children's Focus Group

A focus group with approximately 30 children from P1 to P7 was held to discuss what they would like to have in a new community centre. The following are suggestions made by the group:

Better food	3G pitch	Swim park
Football goals	Gymnastics with gymnastics rings	Swimming pool – swim lessons – pool parties
Skate park	Paintball	Cycling track
Laser tag	Go karts	Dirt track
Stunt track	Sweet shops	Pool/snooker
Obstacle course	Soft play	Video games room
Trampolines	Dance studio	Airspace
Hot tub	Climbing frame	Crafts
Library	Outdoor space	Legos
Nerf shooting range	Sky diving	Bowling
Ice skating	Roller skating	Roller coaster
Minecraft station	Sumo wrestling	Golf
Climbing wall	Diving board	Tennis Court
Netball	Cinema	Ball pit

Parent's Focus Group

There were 5 participants at the Mother and Toddler Group. They group meets 3 times a week in the community wing of Greenrigg Primary School.

[Type text]

Challenges in the area?

- Bus links
- Not enough for teenagers
- Swing parks – need improving and the one behind Greenrigg Primary has no straight path to make it easily accessible with a pram
- There is a divide between the children in Greenrigg and the children in Harthill/Eastfield

What is missing?

- Swing parks
- Community Building/Hub that caters to everybody – no type of centre or even Church hall in Greenrigg
- No local shops – The co-op in Harthill is one of the closest and it's very expensive to do all shopping there
- Skatepark for young people
- No access to a cycle path from Greenrigg

What would improve the area?

- Renovation of community wing in Greenrigg primary
- A centre for everyone
- Safe pedestrian access for children crossing the road from Baillie Avenue

If a Community Hub was built where should it be and what should be included?

- The group suggested the open green space behind Greenrigg primary. A portacabin across the road is also no longer used



- The group felt the community hub should be in Greenrigg because Harthill already have more facilities
- It should have facilities and services for all ages
- Multi-function rooms that can be used for arts and crafts, after school clubs etc.
- Café with a dining room
- Computer room/computer classes
- Dance studio
- Recording/sound studio
- Cinema club – have a room with a projector to watch films
- A good example is the Fauldhouse community hub

Other Notes

- Bus links are a particular issue for getting to shops – e.g. no bus from the Armadale train station to get to the new ASDA built near there
- The group felt that Greenrigg should be given their share of the wind farm money to invest in Greenrigg.

[Type text]

Individual Stakeholder interviews

A number of stakeholders were called for a telephone interview. Their full contact details are available in Appendix 1.

Key challenges in the area

- Deprivation
- Getting people to work together – people can be quick to be negative but aren't willing to help
- Lack of facilities and things for people to do – lack of sport facilities – children need to go to Shotts, which is a barrier to many
- Boredom → Vandalism → Crime
- Bus links/Transport costs
- Applying common sense between the 3 communities
- The new sign 'Welcome to Harthill' excludes Eastfield and should be positioned at the beginning of Eastfield. We should be thinking whole village not splitting it up.
- People need a reality check that there are never going to be big supermarkets or specialist shops in the village because the population isn't large enough
- Deprivation
- Keeping kids amused – not enough for them to do
- It is difficult to motivate people to get involved in the community because this is all alien to them. Their attitude is that 'we get nothing here'. People like to have a moan but if you can ignite their interest they stop moaning.
- There is a terrible attitude in Greenrigg that the council never does anything for them. Yet when you make a suggestion about for instance a bottle bank, no one wants it near their house.
- Road safety is a big concern and WL council are going to undertake a traffic survey and look at a new crossing in Greenrigg
- Public transport – buses don't go from Greenrigg to Whitburn and the West Lothian Wanderer doesn't go to Greenrigg

Key priorities

- Providing facilities and things for people to do
- Working still to get a 3G pitch near the school – now been quoted for cost of £15,000 and have set up a sports council
- The village really lacks any sheltered housing so, people either leave or you have elderly people living, on their own in 3 bed houses with big gardens
- The whole village needs a facelift
- Putting money into the youth organisations that already exist
- General tidiness of the village – money to put into allowing people to do this

Thoughts about community hub

- Main barriers are facilities, location and the commitment of people to see it through
- I would agree in principal with the hub idea – it needs to be located centrally and people can walk. The village is only 1.5 miles in length.

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- The halls that already exist are not used as best as they can and worries that if something new is built these places will suffer
- A multi-use community hub would satisfy most of the community.
- It would be a good idea but needs to be central as people don't want to walk
- There would be no barriers to opening a hub
- Look at the Blackridge Craiginn Centre

How to bring people together

- Harthill and Eastfield are closer than Greenrigg because of the school
- Gala day, Annual Flower show and McMillan coffee day (fundraising event) bring everyone together
- More whole village events would help bring people together – in particular important to get people involved, give them a sense of ownership
- The Gala Day brings people from all three areas together
- Within the St. Andrews Church they work to bring girls and women together from all three areas
- There has always been a “them and us” approach, which the interviewee does not think will ever go away. The only way she can see getting rid of this is to take away the boundaries.
- Not sure how to address this other than, again, removing the boundaries. However, she likes to think they are managing to overcome this
- Coming from the voluntary sector, the interviewee believes they always try to include everyone
- The hub needs to be based in Harthill as it is central. There is land next to the Alexander Peden Primary School which is currently owned by a farmer Mr Lindsay and there are possible shared uses of the school grounds (not yet discussed) in return for shared use of the hub.
- Another possibility is the junior football club ground as it may not be around for much longer because they are short of fund. Eastfield would not be a good location

Addressing “backwater status”

- Has felt this very much – tried to organise a trip for students to a museum in Glasgow or Edinburgh – couldn't source transport because of location whereas some councils get it for free
- Unsure how to address this

Funding

- There should be a partnership with both local authorities
- If a new Community Hub were to be built then it is likely that Culture NL will look at the Community Education Centre and the Senior Citizens Centre being closed and therefore, may allocate some funding for day to day running of the hub.
- West Lothian Council would support a joint venture with the community and North Lanarkshire Council.

Other Comments

- The HEG Group should have been set up as a Development Trust however, they preferred Limited by Guarantee status. The interviewee thinks that local authorities, Scottish government and funders would be much more likely to support a trust. A Development trust could also exert its influence on bus companies.
- Greenrigg may just want their split of the cash.
- There should be a separate panel for decision making
- Miro grants for existing community groups should continue

How are the Needs prioritised?

At the meeting held with the HEG Community Group on 23rd September 2015, those present were asked to discuss the various projects noted, and to prioritise those suggested.

The basis of discussion came from the research taken from the surveys, focus groups and stakeholder discussions with the broad projects discussed including:

Multipurpose Community Hub Run locally not by LA	Run by the community for the community. Centrally located with space for activities for all ages, a social area, and possible replacement of lost services such as a library, cashpoint machine. Possible play park, small gym.
Playpark	Supply an upgrade to all playparks
Community Events	More events to bring the communities together
Developing new group and Supporting existing groups	Constituted groups only are welcome to apply for a grant
Community Transport	To libraries and hospitals swimming baths – shopping trips for all ages, sports activities
Environmental	Mainstreet facelift/clean up and improving green areas

Final Public Meeting

A final public meeting was held at Eastfield Community Hall on Wednesday 7th October, the purpose of which was to present the research findings to the public and invite final feedback and discussion.



Thirty three people attended the meeting, together with representatives from the HEG Group.

A brief summary of the findings was presented outlining what people like about the area, and what people thought could be improved.

The following was the list of project ideas that had come from the research; not all ideas were presented, only those that had been the most "popular":

- A multi-purpose community hub
- New swing parks
- Speed bumps on the mainstreet at Greenrigg
- Social events for the elderly including tea dances, sewing and craft classes
- More whole village events
- Community clean up events
- More Christmas lights
- Outdoor gyms



Taken from all the ideas in the consultation six themes were presented for discussion:

Theme 1: Multipurpose Community Hub

Theme 2: Playparks

Theme 3: Community Events








Theme 4: Developing new groups & supporting existing groups

Theme 5: Community Transport

Theme 6: Environment

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People were then asked to vote on those that they thought were the best ideas or would work best in their community. They were given 3 stickers and they were asked to place the stickers on the priorities which mattered to them most. The votes are shown below in order of preference, from most popular, as follows:

Multi-Purpose Community Hub
  (34)
Playparks
 (25)
Environment
 (18)
Developing new groups & supporting existing groups
 (7)
Community Transport
 (5)
Community Events
 (1)

The attendees then split into two groups and brainstormed what they would like to see in a Community Hub building internally and externally. Their suggestions on the page below.

[Type text]

Externally

Possible locations:

- Paxtane Farm
 - Old School (Harthill PS)
 - Harthill Public Park
-
- Tennis Court/All weather pitch
 - Like Craig Inn Blackridge
 - Car parking
 - Lighting
 - Security (well lit)
 - Friendship tables/seats/ picnic tables
 - Garden/allotments (raised beds)
 - Adventure play area (skateboard)
 - Bins
 - Bike shelters
 - Eco building
 - Solar panels
 - Bright walls (not grey)
 - War memorial
 - Disability awareness

Internally

- Softball
- Café
- Sports hall
- Computer room
- Library
- Function hall
- Kitchen
- Reception
- Toilet
- Storage rooms
- Lockers/showers
- Indoor bowling
- Eco building
- Bright and colourful
- Smaller rooms for activities and possibly welfare advice shop
- Single story building
- Music studio – soundproofing?

Appendices

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Interviews

Name	Organisation
Cllr Charles Cefferty	Elected Member, North Lanarkshire Council
Anne Donaldson	Gala Committee and Girls Brigade
Jim Dickson	Councillor, Whitburn and Blackburn Ward
Alec Kennedy	Session Clark, St Andrew's Church and Boys Brigade
Arlene Hamilton	Alexander Peden Primary School

Appendix 2: Responses from Public Meetings

HEG – EASTFIELD OPEN MEETING – TUESDAY 23RD JUNE

Good things to build on in HEG

- Gala Day
- Neighbours
- Petrol Station
- Strong community – ways of people getting together
- Protect local shops
- Shops – takes people out
- Facilities are good but can be improved (don't meet modern need).
- Needs a central Hub
- Old folks centre – great but needs increased
- Old folk dancing
 - Good no of volunteers
 - Passionate about dancing
- Reduction in core grant for groups mean they can't pay reasonable rent

Key challenges in HEG?

- Poor infrastructure
 - Lack of shops
 - Lack of pubs – facilities to socialise
 - Loss of bank
 - No Police Station
- Nothing for elderly people
- No swing park – antisocial behaviour
 - Need to go to Whitburn for the play park

[Type text]

- Litter
 - People (children not taking a pride in the area + vandalism)
 - Happened when swing park removed
- Lack of facilities for older youth
- More houses
 - Growing population
 - But these are often commuters
- Not enough services and facilities
- Need to generate wealth
- Poor main street – people travel to Whitburn
- Apathy
- Rat race – fast road – accidents
- There is no Eastfield community – split in two
- Dormitory town
- Harthill – “back end of never, never land”, “always misses out on investment”
- “Need to keep the village alive”
- Lack of volunteers
- Current facilities don’t meet the modern needs
- Volunteers & facilities = biggest challenges but also key to improved community
- Don’t know what’s available locally
- Money leaving the village
- No OAP activity/service locally – no one turns up- providing transport doesn’t make a huge difference
- Most local groups subsidised – facilities need to find £ from elsewhere

How could community funds be spent?

- Get the main street looking good, do up shops, regenerate town centre - Important for first impressions and drawing people in x2
- Community Bank
- Swimming Pool
- Play park/Skate park
- Getting our services back –Police, Bank etc.
- Community Pub
- Protect the community centre (Eastfield) especially as a youth facility
- Information
- Purpose built facility housing
 - Library services
 - Multifunctional space
 - Central Hub – Sports, OAP’s etc. – run for the community by the community
- To bring us into the 21st Century
- New small businesses
- Older youth group development
- Apathy – need to develop a volunteers programme (Time Bank)
- District (?) Local traders working together

[Type text]

HEG – HARTHILL OPEN MEETING – WEDNESDAY 24TH JUNE

Good things to build on in HEG?

- Good bakers
- Public park – needs equipment
- Library
- Sheltered Housing
- Safe area for young people – Outdoor Pursuits
- Town walk
- Waste ground at Almond – needs cleared
- Resurface car park at co-op
- Clean up brown sites
- Shop front regeneration
- Transport to
 - Service Station
 - Wishaw General
 - Livingston after 6pm
- Access to Bus Services at M8 junction to Edinburgh/Glasgow
- Security door at V. Road – open at all times
- Community spirit
- Generous responses to appeals (Cash)
- Good schools
- Family connections

Key challenges in HEG

- No play park equipment for all age groups
- No Bank, No ATM
- Poor public transport, especially for disabled and family groups
- Poor library service
- No proper Post Office facilities
- Main street needing overhaul
- Dog poo & litter
- No transport to hospitals
 - Wishaw General
 - St Johns
- HEG – 3 district communities
- Rent “One Stop Shop” closed or demolished
- No Police presence

What could be done to make life better in HEG

- Library
- Better green space
 - Trees
 - Equipment
- Cheaper Electricity
- Sheltered Housing – people having to move out

[Type text]

- Supervised motorbikes – current issue with motorbikes
- Indoor facilities e.g. sport, gym, etc
- Speed restriction on Westcraigs Road and Main Street
- Empty phone box – what to do with it
- Swimming pool/Sauna/Jacuzzi
- Central Community Hub x 2
 - IT – on line for older people
 - Dancing
 - Quiet Room
 - Library
 - Bank
 - Post Office
 - Shops
- Community Centre to be developed to ensure better usage (Better advertising)
- Community Bank – Credit Union
- Workshop to give young people practical skills
- New play park (for all ages)
- Outdoor Gyms
- Better bus links to North Lanarkshire
- Attracting major supermarkets to area
- Develop industrial estate to attract new job opportunities
- Re-open M8 access at services
- All weather football pitch with lighting
- More services for elderly people
- Use empty premises for community groups (i.e. crafts)
- No ATM at former Bank

How could community funds be spent?

- Subsidising use of park – football
- Provide a play park for all ages (there is an existing park group!) x2
- Investment in developing Main Street
- Investment in community facilities with
 - Post Office
 - Bank
 - Health Centre etc.
- More Christmas lights
- New pavements/roads, especially Main Street
- Seating in the Main Street
- Trees and planters
- Café – attractive community café
- War Memorial
- Trees as a wind break at Albert Road
- Community transport
- Lobbying
- Uneven Pavements – see council
- Smaller bin lorry

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HEG - GREENRIGG OPEN MEETING NOTES – THURSDAY 25TH JUNE

Good things to build on in HEG?

- Expand Eastfield/Benhar Youth Club/Local Church Group
- Build on good transport links
- Build on community spirit/social events
- Build on new business i.e. new shop-frames-example
- Better school facilities for Greenrigg Primary School
- Better facilities for groups after school hours

Key challenges in HEG?

- School facilities/condition
- Two different local authorities (them & us)
- Lack of community groups for Greenrigg
- Services for all:- Adults and Children
- Transport services
- No sheltered/residential care
- Road safety:- No crossing, No speed control
- Dog fouling
- Divide between Health Services

What could be done to make life better in HEG?

- Postcode causes difficulty when ordering, delivering, insurance quotes, booking a taxi.
- Improved transport links in all areas x2
- Safer roads for the community
- Inclusion for all x2
- Social opportunities for elderly and vulnerable adults
- Transport to assist i.e. Healthy Living Project
- Community bus
- School facilities that complement the fantastic children that attend it and the staff, parents/carers and supportive community.
- Central community centre for all
- Shops all occupied –decent supermarket
- More shops in all areas rather than only in centre
- Introduce fitness facilities as there are none in the area
- Improved facilities for community centre i.e. kitchen

How could community funds be spent?

- They should be spent fairly across HEG
- Community Centre x2
 - Multiple facilities
 - Gym
 - Library

[Type text]

- Café
- Function Hall
- A social Hub to cater for all ages/interest/needs
- Road crossing at Greenrigg – Priority!
- Cycle paths towards Heartlands & Blackridge
- Improve park areas that already exist
- Effective use of waste land that is a health and safety risk to children!
- Improved parking around football park
- Speed bumps & limits from Eastfield to Greerigg *Through road for all vehicles when there are accidents on the M8....SAFETY!*
- Auto Bank
- Youth – increase in facilities, outdoors and indoors
- Village facelift
 - Signage in shops
 - Better parking
- Sheltered Housing

Appendix 3

Survey Results

What do you feel is missing in the area?

- Swimming pool, gym room, tea room dance classes, theatre classes, photography. Encourage young people and have competitions all year round for school children and adults.
- Facilities for the children
- Good leisure centre for both adults and children.
- Swimming pool, cinema, social events for the elderly, improved play area for kids
- There should be a serious investment in facilities for all kids and teenagers to get them off the streets i.e. a 3G Pitch or basketball court even a skate park with a better community centre which can accommodate everybody
- Jobs for our own people and not for Polish
- Places for the children to play
- Social life for older people, play park for children
- Activities for children. Safety and cleanliness in the surrounding areas around the school. Uneven pavement surfaces. Road crossing on main road for children to access Greenrigg Primary.
- Multi-purpose community centre - ie library, computers, sports hall and local services
- Traffic calming measures
- Good pubs and meeting places
- Everything
- Good pubs
- Places for children to play. Activities for children to do
- Nothing for adults e.g. sports centre swimming /keep fit/evening classes for adults
- Jobs for youth and parks for kids
- Stuff to do
- Lots, nothing to do here and parks are rubbish

[Type text]

- Employment and shops, things to do, green space
- Jobs
- We feel a bit missed out, off the beaten track. We are laughed at a bit - it always snows in Harthill. Not somewhere people will come to visit, somewhere people pass by at 70 miles an hour
- Things for young people to do.
- Though good the buildings need fixed up. Need a high quality facility.
- Better green space. Better shops
- Sports centre
- Kids clubs/activities
- A children's swing park in Harthill, sports and leisure facilities!!!
- There is a lack of facilities for the children and also no real focal point that everyone could get involved in.
- Employment opportunities, community facilities for both children and adults
- A swing park with facilities for children. A Sports and Leisure Centre with facilities for older people. There is nothing of interest in Harthill for people of the older generation especially during the long winter. Dancing, Sewing and Craft classes would be nice to attend. Ramblers. There is no social life whatsoever!!
- Better children play parks and more activities for kids
- Safe children friendly play areas.
- Something for kids and teens to do
- Places for Kids and family's enjoyment, kids play and activities,
- Community facilities are OK but they are in three areas. could do with being in the middle of town, bringing everyone together especially families
- Local services eg. A bank , a MAIN post office as we have to travel to Whitburn or Shotts to access some services. a police station. No facilities for the youth of the village to meet, converse or exercise.no direct bus service to Wishaw General at visiting times. Very little provision made for older people
- Thing for children, things for adults and community spirits
- Facilities for the whole community. From the young to the old as there is virtually nothing in the community
- A good swing park. Internet facilities in the area. Free wi fi.
- A multipurpose centre where the whole village can meet and use
- Soft play park for kids do up the horrible mainstreet
- A good park to suit kids of all ages
- A good park & a leisure centre.
- Things to do. Local Activities for adults n kids
- A sports centre with lots of different facilities
- A community centre with lots of functions eg a Gym or library
- Better transport links required
- Defo a swing park ..what happened to the one we were getting
- Things for children to do
- Place for the teenagers to go, swimming, play park.

Appendix 4

Survey Results

What would you most like to see improved?

- Traffic calming
- Parks
- Everything, there is nothing here really
- Swing parks for children to go and play
- Employment
- Parks and open space
- Better parks
- Everything
- Getting together. Community events
- Better transport to hospitals
- Outdoor space,
- Jobs is most important or people move away
- Shops
- More facilities for the youth and up and coming generations
- Community hub for everyone not three, one in each area causes division
- Soft play nice town centre with a local hub
- Shops town centre soft play area
- Regeneration of Main Street. Improve external conditions of some buildings. Create a pleasant seating area . Plant trees. Clear ugly brown sites e.g West Main Street near Coop. Improve health by creating a pleasant walk beside the River Almond with benches at intervals so people can enjoy the view over the moors. Clear and maintain paths that already exist but are now overgrown and unusable
- Soft play
- Horrible town centre
- Jobs
- One giant facility where Harthill can hold functions. Have social time , events are always on etc
- Community transport and do up the mainstreet
- Heritage centre
- Hospital transport
- Sports centre
- Better shops on the main street, very depressing
- Parks are rubbish no busses to hospitals - very poor transport if you don't have a car
- Green space more shops especially local small shops
- Better town centre
- Advertise better the things that are on in Harthill
- Proper post office. Cashpoint.
- Raods, potholes and drains
- Access to the eastbound side of the M8
- An attempt to stop local shops from perishing as the west main street shopping area is disappearing at an alarming and at this rate Harthill Eastfield and Greenrigg will be a ghost town very soon for instance local social drinking have disappeared at the rate of 87% 7 pubs and clubs have shut leaving one pub to serve a population of 3,900

[Type text]

shots have at least 10 pubs and clubs left serving 8,000 population so all finance leaves the village and the shutting of the royal bank was a major blow. Economical and Environmental Initiatives.

Appendix 5

Survey Results – Q8

- If people had their own facilities in their own village it would be wonderful for grannies and granddads to take children to swim and a meeting place to make new friends.
- Get people to look after their gardens Nicer main street
- Better transport
- We need jobs here so work creation and new businesses
- Need more businesses here
- Need clean up volunteers
- It is not good to concentrate on the three areas. Need to be a single community. Maybe need a new name for the three communities together
- We need jobs for the youth
- Harthill feels like an isolated weird place that people drive past on the M8 but don't know about really. Needs a positive identity
- We need jobs and employment
- Jobs needed
- HEG is a very strong knit community, I feel using the money wisely within the community would be very beneficial.
- Years ago the local junior football team used to have football schools for children which were quite successful. The facilities have since fell into disrepair as a result of lack of money and support from the community. By upgrading the facilities the soccer schools could be set up again which would create a focal point for the kids and help improve their health at the same time.
- My answers all depend on what the money is used for.
- Need more jobs and more businesses
- Need to improve the main street
- It's time that the windfarm owners did something useful with the monies, instead of washing their hands and helping the communities instead.
- Local history group
- Reducing apathy which is terrible here
- Better parks and a community litter pick regularly
- Expand local business
- Need more local businesses
- Very apathetic bunch need to get more involved. I include myself in this
- People don't talk to each other - especially incomers in the new houses
- This seems negative. However money alone is not the answer. People make a community and only by getting together to press North Lanarkshire Council to

[Type text]

provide substantial investment can any of the above be realised. However, many of the objects would take some time to implement and as in any community will come too late for many older residents. We must follow this through but it is essential that the future will see changes and increased opportunities for the young people in our community.

- The use of these funds are not widely known and therefore on groups utilising the use of said funds are aware of their impact.
- Only by ensuring that the money is spent for the benefit of everyone in the village will it improve community spirit. As a result, no long term positive effect can be anticipated as it'll prove impossible to "please" all the residents at the same time.
Good Luck
- It may put a bit of pride and respect for our community back into people

Appendix 6

Survey Results

What do you take part in?

- I used to do line dancing but it stopped because the lady was ill
- First aid, sign language and computer course
- Done a few courses through the community centre
- Unsure of any activities available.
- Husband plays bowls
- Gala day
- None to suit my age group
- Take my nephew out
- Dancing
- Activities at the centre
- Cycling with friends
- A walking group or a group which arranges trips
- Cooking
- Gala day stuff, school activities, dancing at community centre
- Youth worker
- Local church
- Gala day
- Sunday school leader, Scripture union leader in after school club, horticultural society flower show, lunch club volunteer, member of community council
- Gala day, girls brigade, lunch club
- I am a member of a few local groups ie;ECAG, BY&AC Eastfield Arts and Crafts and HEG group
- Mums getting together
- Local flute band
- Youth club, church,
- Toddlers
- Part of the Happi group
- Children's club.

[Type text]

- Eastfield arts and crafts local church
- I'm the chairperson of a group called HaPPI which is raising money to build our kids a playpark
- Attend community toddler group.
- Community groups, youth club
- Church activities and diet class.
- Helping out
- Volunteering
- Drinking and shopping
- Socialise
- Dancing
- Dancing
- Member of church and guild, helping out with sunday school and youth activities run by church members, eg fun nights and messy church nights. Volunteer helper at lunch club.
- Used to dance in the community centre but no able to now
- Sequin dancing
- Yes. Community Council and HEG Community Group
- Just joined HEG Community Group
- HEG and local centre
- Tenants and Residents Association
- Arts and crafts and anything that does go on in the village , I try to support I am a director of ECAG

Appendix 7

Survey Results

Are you interested in taking part in more community activities and if so what?

- More courses like health and safety, food hygiene, courses at night for the people who are working
- Anything relating to children's activities.
- Don't know what to do
- Cooking
- Gardening and film
- Fitness classes, horse riding lessons
- Dependant on what is offered
- Volunteering
- Organising film nights
- Arts and film making
- More dancing and physical activity for older people
- Community events
- Meeting with others
- Arts and crafts
- Music
- Music and concerts
- Swimming
- Bootcamp

[Type text]

- Socialising
- Cooking
- Art and crafts
- Landscaping
- Music
- Not sure
- Youth leader maybe if I had help
- Gardening
- Gentle sport for older people
- Highland dancing
- Sport and anything for my kids to do
- Art club
- Cycling
- Keep fit
- Children's activities
- Dont know. Not very sure what is happening
- Dancing
- When I was younger, there was a play scheme. I would happily help run this, there was all kinds of activities on during summer holidays and day trips at a small cost to the individual. The community would love this.
- Sports clubs - walking group
- Sports, leisure
- More on offer for families with younger kids
- Informally meet friends for hobbies
- Football coaching
- I would like to volunteer at more elderly social clubs
- I would love to have more activities for children so they can enjoy their village more. Also it would be great if there was a small gym locally, a lot of people would make great use of it and more people would enjoy not having to travel miles to get to a gym to stay healthy.
- My children would enjoy clubs during summer and most definitely an outdoor play area
- Work with older people
- Art and craft. Exercise for older people. Dance class.
- Would love to but don't know how
- Run a community cafe
- Clean ups
- Socialise, get to know more people
- Not sure at moment as nothing exists. Would need to think but I am retired so time is not a problem.
- Swimming
- To use whatever skills I may have
- 6Things for elderly e.g. arts and crafts. Swim, keep fit classes for the disabled
- Visiting housebound transport to hospitals
- Computer classes. Facilities for keep fit classes
- Help where I can

- be involved in local history groups and libraries is possible as library mobile van is shameful in this day and age as it cannot help blind villagers in any way
- Leisure activities
- Toddlers or youth groups pensioners clubs, anything like that

Appendix 7

Survey Results

Skills people have which, they would like to share with the community

- First Aid support. Link with the local primary.
- Traffic calming
- Gardening
- Gardening and building
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Construction. Can help young people learn skills
- Gardening
- I am a film buff
- Painting
- Dog walking
- Football coaching
- Knitting
- Driving or gardening
- Guitar
- Gardening and landscaping
- Walking
- Dance tuition
- Would like to help the younger community and to help take them off the streets.
- I'm going on to study occupational therapy. Using this to help others in the community.
- Arts and crafts , sewing
- Art
- I love writing, would like to run a local radio station
- Belly dancing and Spanish
- Dog grooming
- I teach dancing but in another area
- Catering, art, befriending
- I'm an author (non-fiction) have worked extensively in museums and am computer literate if that's any help
- lots of historical skills and family history skills and blind tech skills
- Sewing crotchet knitting , card making, jewellery making