



Our Town. Our Future. Our Choice.

Our Aim

To make Linlithgow a better place to live and work, through a community led plan of action which provides services, amenities and/or financial support to local initiatives.

All across the UK communities large and small will face increasing challenges for decades to come. Challenges which need pro-active community action to ensure we can adapt. Challenges include reduced spending by local and national government on services and amenities in our community, reductions and restrictions on funding for local and voluntary action, the need to preserve and improve our environment, rising energy & food prices, a growing ageing population with increasing care and support needs, persistent health inequalities and rises in preventable diseases like diet-related illnesses; youth and long-term unemployment etc.

Whilst LCDT cannot solve all or any of these problems, we believe that active communities who think ahead and strive to take action now, will be the most successful in making some impact and adapting in a changing world.

However as a community we are well placed to meet these challenges through our environment, our people and our commitment to sustain Linlithgow as a great place to live and work.

To achieve our aim, we need to look at how we can become more self-sufficient, imaginative and enterprising to ensure we have greater control over our facilities and services. We believe in taking greater responsibility for making Linlithgow the sort of place we all want to live in.

Our Principles

- To build a Community that takes pride in and manages its local assets on behalf of the local community
- To capture and build community passion, enthusiasm, ideas and skills
- To ensure our work is financially and environmentally sustainable
- To work closely with local people and in partnership with local groups to complement and not to duplicate efforts already underway.

Our Community

Today the town is especially popular with commuters, not only because of its excellent transport links with Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling, but also because of the perceived quality of its schooling. West Lothian has one of the fastest growing and youngest populations in Scotland. The rate of increase of population from 1991 to 2011 was over 20%, higher than any other local authority and is projected to increase by 19% by 2035, compared with a national projected increase of 10%. The population aged under 16 is projected to increase by 13% over the 25 year period, however the largest area of growth will be in the older population, those of pensionable age, with a projected rise of 52%.

There are over 100 organisations in the town covering a range of interests, sports and leisure pursuits, catering for all age groups within the community. The proximity to the countryside and associated outdoor pursuits is another key attraction. However in spite of Linlithgow obviously being an attractive town to live in, we believe there are areas of need which would benefit from action. For example, there are people in the town who struggle to access suitable housing, or a job – or who do not have the sort of support they need to live independently and with dignity. And we need more sports and leisure facilities to cope with increasing demand, and improved paths to encourage people from cars to walking cycling and generally achieving a healthier lifestyle .

Our Priorities

Over the next 5-10 years we will focus on 5 priority areas implementing change through a range of projects. The following table outlines our priorities and some of the related projects already underway or being investigated

Children & Young People will benefit from having more jobs, training, sports and leisure opportunities. We strongly believe that more focus is needed to achieve this and therefore will work in partnership with youth groups and local businesses to deliver positive changes

- We are currently looking into the possibility of creating a play area at Kettilstoun for the convenience of leisure centre users and local residents
- As well as providing more sports facilities from which younger people will benefit, we wish to assist our younger generation to access greater work and training opportunities locally by developing a transition pathway from school to work

Older People possess a wealth of skills and experience. With a growing older population, we aim to provide opportunities for intergenerational activity and skills transfer, to working with older people to identify where potential opportunities exist

- In addition to creating more intergenerational activities, we will look to create more local activities for our older generation including greater volunteering opportunities for older people such as mentoring younger people and supporting frail elderly people.

Community Health & Wellbeing

We will look at projects and partnerships which can improve our health and enhance the general wellbeing of the community

- A key project is underway at Kettilstoun next to the leisure centre where we seek to deliver track, pitch and support building facilities for football, athletics, cycling and kayaking

Economic Vitality

Strong communities invest locally and in Linlithgow we are fortunate to have a Business Improvement District (BID) scheme developing. We will support the BID team in promoting a sustainable local economy and also help to form new social enterprises which generate income and profits which can be retained within the community

- We are partnering other local groups to investigate possibility of establishing a Business Centre / Community Hub sited locally to assist 2/3rds of our population who commute by providing technological facilities close to home
- We will investigate improving local services to identify opportunities to do it more effectively eg. taking over the operation of car parking sites
- We will support our high street and local businesses to become established through investing in local properties, providing low cost rents, complementing the work of BIDS.
- Linlithgow Futures Fund - an opportunity exists to establish a community fund as a pooled savings/investment fund to build a reserve and use this as leverage to attract more money, while also planning to spend on projects which will benefit the town and enhance the size of the fund.

Built and Natural Environment

We will explore options to create more affordable housing as well as improve the quality of our housing stock to reduce energy bills. We will also seek to protect and enhance our natural environment for the benefit of local people, visitors and to improve the wildlife and biodiversity

- Working in partnership with Transition Linlithgow, we will explore energy conservation and generation schemes which could provide a healthy income and reduce bills eg. a community energy company, district heating scheme etc.
- Working in partnership with the Community Council we will investigate options for more affordable housing in Linlithgow
- Investigating a possible renewable energy project which could provide a key community income generation source

Our Funding Strategy

Our funding strategy is designed to ensure we adhere to one of our key principles of ensuring our work is financially sustainable. Key features include:

- Being financially self-sufficient as an organisation by 2020
- Securing the necessary funding for projects through
 - traditional grant based funding applications
 - generating fund to supplement the loss of grant-based income to organisations in the town
 - taking out loans - where appropriate
- Identifying renewable energy projects which would provide both energy and income
- Seeking capital-grant assisted projects where possible
- Delivering projects which break-even or make a profit which will be returned to the Trust for further investment locally.
- Always obtain value for money in all purchases
- Using local trades and services where possible and practical

Our Trust

The town's residents created the Linlithgow Community Development Trust in 2012 and resulting projects are designed to benefit the local community of Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge. The Trust is a company limited by guarantee owned by members of the trust. Membership is open to everyone as defined within the Trust's constitution. The Trust is charged with ensuring that projects are delivered and operated on a sustainable basis with any profits re-invested into the same community.

Our Membership

Membership is free and personal liability is restricted to £1. Full and Associate membership can be taken out by anyone who lives locally or who supports the aims of the trust.

Our success depends on involving people who share our vision, principles and who will stand up for our community. We ultimately aim to increase our membership to 20% of the population by 2020.

Our Operating Model

The Community Development Trust is an inclusive organisation founded on financial sustainability, civic pride and an aspiration to engender a flourishing community. As an independent, community-owned, managed and led company, we are able to become involved in tackling various community needs, bringing community groups together and leading or partnering with others on specific projects. We operate through a number of

working groups, each focussing on a project priority. Each group is made up of at least one Board member who brings in skills and partnerships from the wider community. In our working groups we seek to capture the potential talent in the town that may not currently be being utilised.

Our Communications

- Quarterly Newsletter direct to our current members (email and printed as needed)
- Regular articles in the Black Bitch community newsletter
- Direct engagement with the community at local events such as the Farmers Market
- Meetings with different sectors of the community, for example meeting pupils at the Academy to discuss issues affecting young people of the town
- Facebook & Twitter social media postings
- Website
- Posters and leaflets
- Large scale community meetings
- Annual Social events
- Annual General Meeting

Our Partners We will work with various partners to achieve our objectives including:

- Local people
- Local organisations and groups
- Local businesses
- Community Council
- West Lothian Council
- Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Town Management Group
- Local politicians and councillors
- MPs and MSPs

We would like to know what you think about the ideas in this overview. To see how you can comment or contribute to the work of the Trust, please log onto www.trust-linlithgow.org.uk email hello@trust-linlithgow.org.uk or message us on our Facebook page. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gill Fawcitt

Chair of Linlithgow Community Development Trust