

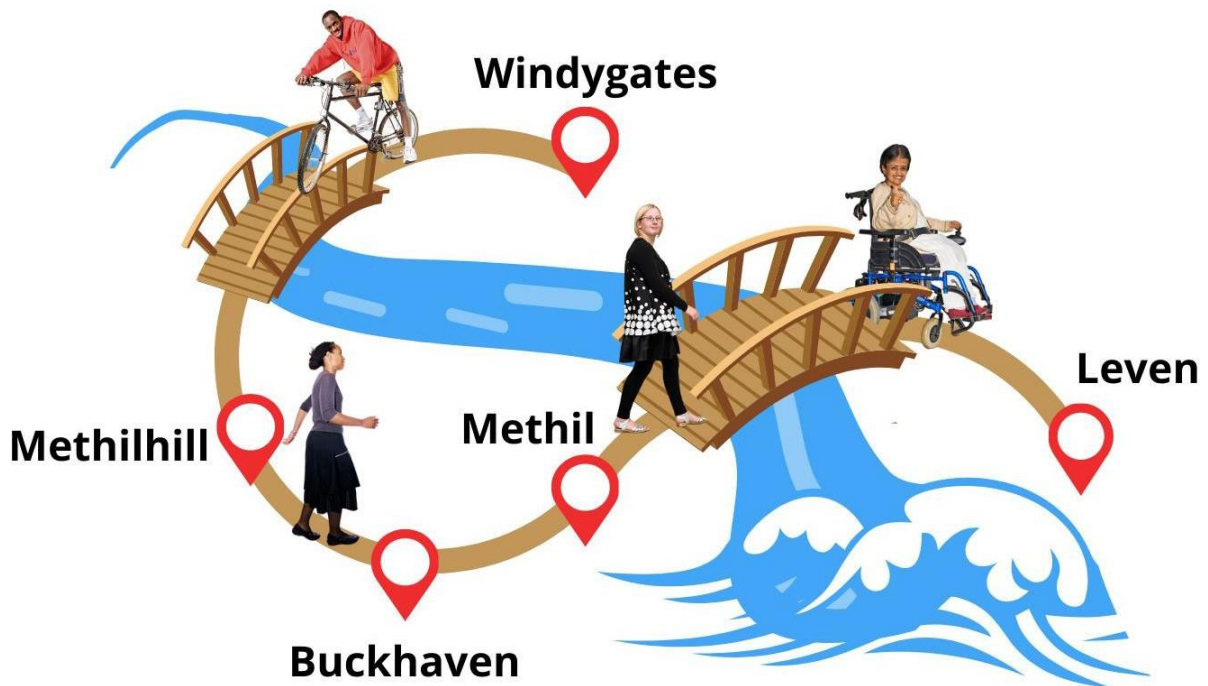


The Leven Connectivity Project

**A plan to support more people to
walk, wheel and cycle.**



What is this plan for?



This is a plan to make it easier for people to walk, wheel and cycle around the Levenmouth area.

It is part of the Leven Connectivity Project.

The project wants to make new paths and cycle ways along the River Leven and paths to connect people through Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill, Leven and Windygyates.

It also wants to make the river cleaner and safer.

It wants to use land that has been empty for a long time.



The plan has been developed by people from the local community, working with the Sustrans Communities Team.

They have thought of ideas to get more people to walk, wheel and cycle.



The project gets money from Places for Everyone, which Sustrans manage for Transport Scotland.



Levenmouth is a place where people have more difficulties in different parts of their life.



For example many of the people who live there do not have:

- enough money
- choices and chances
- resources – there might not be as many public services.



Many people in the Levenmouth area do not have a car and work near where they live.

How did we make the plan?



The Sustrans team brought community groups and organisations together to talk about active travel and:

- what skills and information do they have and what are they good at.
- who could help.
- what stops people from walking, wheeling or cycling.
- what would make it easier to walk, wheel or cycle.



All meetings were online because of coronavirus.



The Communities Team spoke to people who were:

- all different ages
- disabled people
- people who used the internet and people who did not use the internet.



Fife Centre for Equalities was part of the project and gave advice about including people and treating them equally.

A Community Steering Group was formed to make the plan happen.

A list of groups we spoke to is on pages 15-21 in the [main report](#).

The Communities Team supported the Steering Group by:



- finding ways to work so the group felt comfortable to talk about what they thought.



- talking to people before the meetings to find out how they use the internet.



- learning how to use Zoom to share information and to chat.
- using breakout rooms on Zoom so people could chat in smaller groups.



- having documents in easy read as much as possible.
- sending information to people with a learning disability before the meeting.



- having time at the start of the meeting for people to look at the information.



- having ways of working with young people using simple documents with pictures and questions.



- using conference calls to connect more than 2 people on the phone.



- having ways for people to say what they thought about documents after the meeting so they could do it in their own time.



- asking the group if these ways were working well.

What did people say was important?



- helping people to use and enjoy the area.
- having more things to do like fishing, picnicking and being in nature.



- helping people move through the area –
 - lighting on paths so areas could be used when it is dark.
 - signs so people know where they are and how to get to other areas.
 - good surfaces so people did not slip or fall.



- have a plan on how to look after the area and keep it in good order.



- stopping anti-social behaviour.

People are worried about young people behaving badly around the River Leven area.

What will success look like?

What will be different when the plan is finished?



- More people will come to the area and the river.
- It will be busy and visitors will come back.
- People will use the path network to travel to different areas.
- There will be lots of safe and fun events in the area that are not expensive.





- Lots of different people will use the area, all ages, all abilities.
- There will be a feeling of community – people get on well and feel they belong to the area.
- People are proud of the area



- People use the area to learn about nature, wildlife, and history.
- More young people will be involved in the project.



- The area will be safe and friendly.
- Better accessibility – good paths that are wheelchair-friendly, and signs, and information using dementia friendly colours.



- Places are kept clean and tidy and are well looked after.
There is less litter and people do not dump rubbish.



- The local community helps to look after the area.

People can volunteer and this will help them learn new skills, have routes to employment and support well-being.



- More local businesses, social enterprises and organisations are involved.
- Local schools will be involved in plans and work.

Schools can adopt areas along the path network.

What is most important to the Steering Group?



- Using local resources, organisations and businesses rather than bringing in people from outside the area.
- Including young people



- Activities should take place while the work in the plan is being planned.
- Local people should decide on the plan and be part of the work to make it happen.



- The Leven Programme partners should be involved.

There are 15 organisations.

They are listed on page 27 of the [main report](#).

What did we decide to do?



1. Have a group that represented the community and wants to work with other people and organisations.



2. Look at how to use outdoor space:

- make spaces we already have work better in places like the beach and the parks
- change spaces that are not being used, especially by the River Leven.



3. Make our path network better so it is accessible and clear.

Tell more people about it.



4. Have a community hub - an indoor space with a café and toilet facilities that anyone can use.



5. Make a community 'code of conduct'. This is a set of rules about how to use cycle ways, walkways and spaces.



6. Have ways to make sure the project areas are looked after – keeping them tidy, safe and pretty.

Make sure young people are part of this.



7. Have a communications campaign in the community.

This will tell lots of people what is happening.

The information could be about litter, active travel, and how to get involved.



8. Have an accessible programme of leisure events and activities that includes everyone.

It will help people connect with the area.



9. Support information and projects by the police and community that help people to stay safe.



10. Have better ways of dealing with waste, reporting people who dump their rubbish and make new ways to have less waste.



11. Have activities for young people including cycling and motorbikes.



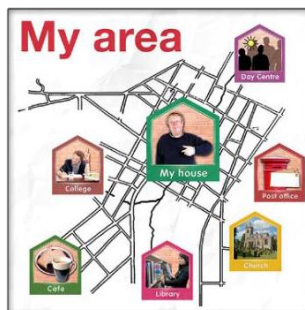
12. Have information boards, murals and trails that tell people about history, heritage and nature.



13. Make benches and find good spaces for them.



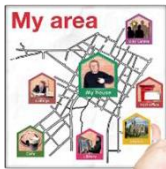
14. Find ways for people to learn about nature, wildlife, food growing and looking for wild food.



15. Find ways to link up areas around the River Leven.



16. Make tours, walks and bike rides for locals and visitors.



17. Have ways to turn spaces into nice places that people want to visit where there are things they want to do.



Have activities that make art to go into the new areas.



18. Have bicycles to hire or buy that are not expensive.



19. Make an area for different types of cycling like cycling down hills or cycling as fast as you can.

Have an area for skating and wheeling.



Work that keeps people physically safe like CCTV are not on this list because they are not work that the community organisation can do.

This is still work the community would like to see happen.

Information from young people



We asked young people what would support them to walk, wheel or cycle.

We would like to ask more young people what they want so we could make an action list.

Young people told us they wanted:



- More wide paths for walking and cycling.
- Making it safer, having better lighting to make the area look more friendly.



- A space to motorbike like a motorcycle track or indoor motorcycle space.



- More toilets down by the dam where we play.
- Outdoor play and spaces like an adventure park or assault courses with new, exciting equipment.
- Somewhere to meet friends, sit away from residential areas, build safe fire pits.





- Things to do that include cycling.
- Ways that young people can volunteer – particularly around cycling.
- Have easy to find information about cycling.

Have a space where young people go and have a person to talk to there.



- Training on how to fix bikes and keep them in good order.

Have places where bikes can be brought in to be fixed or marked.

How will we check work is going well?



This will be done by the organisations funding the projects, the secretariat and the steering group.

A secretariat is an admin team who organise and record meetings.

It will be checked against the 'What does success look like' outcomes on pages 8-10.

What will happen next?



The Coalfield Regeneration Trust will be the secretariat to the steering group.

They will support the steering group and other local organisations to make the work happen.

Recommendations for the steering group



Find ways for the work to be done using smaller groups called 'action subgroups'.

Decide:

- who is in charge of each bit of work
- who they will work with
- when the work will be done by
- what it will look like
- how we decide if it is working well.



Find ways to work with other people and organisations to get the work done.

Link with local Community Action Plan steering groups and see how they can work together.

Telling people what we are doing.



Over the summer of 2021 we want to tell people about the action plan and how the project is going.

This could be done:

- using display boards in the community
- having tea and cake events run by local people.

How do we get money for the projects?



We need to find funding sources to pay for the projects.

The Leven Programme funding group and The Coalfield Regeneration Trust will help with this.

How can I get more information?



The full report is on the Connectivity Project's website at:
https://www.theleven.org/media/1102/behaviour_change_community_action_plan.pdf



You can find more information at:
<https://www.theleven.org/projects/connectivity-project/>

If you would like to know more about the project or to get involved:

You can write to:



The Leven c/o David Patterson
Communities & Neighbourhoods
Fife Council
Buckhaven Burgh Chambers
1 College Street
Buckhaven KY8 1AB



You can email: theleven@sepa.org.uk

For information about this action plan email:

enid.trevett@coalfields-regen.org.uk



You can leave us a comment or direct message on our social media accounts:

Twitter - @TheLevenFife

Facebook - @TheLevenProgramme

Instagram - @thelevenfife

Thank you



Thanks to:

- We want to thank all the people, groups and organisations who supported the steering group and the Sustrans Communities Team.
- All Levenmouth people, young and old who took the time to tell us what they thought.
- Everyone who gave their time to be part of the Steering Group.
- The Sustrans Communities Team - Chrissy Sprinks, Daniel Prince and Susanne Mueller.