

Lochwinnoch CDT Open Public Meeting 30.03.2019

Communications Group

- Venue: The Annexe, Lochlip Road, Lochwinnoch, PA124AE
- Timings: 12-2pm
- Purpose: 1. To promote the work of the CDT and in particular highlight the water project
2. To gather community views on this and other projects to determine levels of support and development opportunities and challenges

The meeting was well attended by 53 people, 8 of them children under 12 (5 boys and 3 girls). The adult gender split was more or less even. The majority were aged 60+ but all age ranges were represented, apart from 18 – 30 year olds:

- 13 people aged 31-45 years
- 6 aged 46-60
- 20 aged 61-75
- 6 aged 75+

40 of those at the meeting live in Lochwinnoch, 4 nearby (within 10 miles) and the other one was a grandchild visiting from further away.

After a presentation giving an update on LCDT and progress to date, and explaining the format and purpose of the current consultation, people split themselves into 4 groups and worked round each of the 4 tables in turn. Each table was well facilitated by an LCDT Board member who recorded the following feedback:

What are the positives about Lochwinnoch- why do we choose to live here?

- The Loch; the water and water sports
- Size – just right; a village not a town; not growing bigger
- Conservation village; beautiful “chocolate box” village despite its industrial past
- Good community spirit; sense of belonging; people say “hello” to one another and to strangers; acceptance
- Mixed community with life-long residents and newcomers; good age balance between old and young; not snooty
- Good people – caring, sharing
- Cracking views
- Access to hills and water ; wind in your hair; lots of scope for outdoor activities
- Proximity and connections to Largs, Troon, Irvine, Glasgow and the airport – rail links
- Easy commute

- The school
- Childcare
- Local services and businesses – doctor, dentist, chemist, vet, library, Post office, Spar/grocer, newsagent, butcher, bakery
- No Bookie!
- Centre to the village
- Music
- 3 great pubs
- 12 places to have meetings including the Bowling club, Lochbar Leisure, Masonic hall, library, Castle Semple, Golf Club, The Annexe
- 3 active churches; 2 physical churches
- 40 different organisations and activities
- New Year dance
- Green spaces; RSPB Nature Reserve; Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
- Off the main road; Bypass means that traffic in the village is light; traffic lights too; good for pedestrians and cyclists
- Good walking – for people and dogs; lovely walks; green spaces
- Cycle path – Sustrans
- Heritage paths and signs
- Close to the golf course
- People feel strongly about things!
- Re-Mode
- Safety; low crime; community policing; good community relations
- Not much pollution
- Kids healthier and happier in green space
- Community garden
- Annexe activities
- Youth clubs, dance, BBs, Scouts
- Access to sports for both kids and adults
- Viewfield Rovers
- Cultural vibrancy –Arts Festival, music, etc

- Arts Festival and Gala Day – attended by 1,000+ people; for families; inter-generational
- Facebook and websites
- Active Community Council; good relationships with Community Council, Council, etc.
- Tourists but not too many
- Christmas lights
- L.E.A.P.

What are the challenges living in Lochwinnoch? What could be made better?

- Flooding – annual and no improvement; back water into Semple Loch to save houses further down; dredge river by bridge. Drains blocked – Johnshill, Mansfield Road
- Speed of traffic. Needs traffic calming, 20 m.p.h. limit and/or a one-way system; traffic management at the Cross; big vehicles on Lochlip Road
- Wider and better pavements and better pedestrian access would encourage people to walk. Pavements poor and puddles
- Too many cars; encourage car share, especially to station. Link to LEAP car club
- Close the streets to cars so that pedestrians take priority
- Parking at school
- Parking at station
- Car parking on Calder St and High St and abuse of parking. Challenge is how to police it – traffic warden? Cameras?
- Lack of disabled access
- Frequency of trains
- Bus service to Glasgow and Largs
- Shuttle bus could go to station when there are enough people if timed with the trains. This could be done by volunteer drivers (costs covered) rather than buying a community bus. Would there be insurance issues with this? Could a community owned bus be affordable and sustainable? Could we have community taxis?
- Bus drivers and timetables could be better; bus timetable information; guarantee people buses during the day for people who have a bus pass
- Incomers/ visitors help businesses in the village but need transport
- Private buses cause problems
- Playpark – we'd like an award winning, wooden one
- Lack of youth organisations
- Some streets are fine for children to play but mostly unfriendly

- Litter and dog mess; people not motivated to clean their own back doors. We could start a Litter Group
- Spar bins. We need recycling bins
- Waste – we need to canvas fish & chip shops and others not to use polystyrene
- Appearance of the Cross and Main Street. It was cleaner 14 years ago.
- Basic village maintenance; grounds maintenance and works could create jobs and employability
- Facilities suffering from lack of Council funding. Can we fill the gap e.g. bio-diversity officer, ranger, teaching assistants?
- Public toilets
- Support community garden
- Dark getting to station; it needs lighting
- Communication between groups in the village can be poor
- Lack of employment and local jobs; Water Abstraction Project could create income and employment
- Commuting village and risk of being a dormitory town
- Lack of response when dealing with or trying to speak to the Council
- Lack of tennis coaches
- Quality of sporting facilities
- Child obesity
- Childcare – other than granny
- Lack of youth engagement; need unprogrammed time and space for kids and more events and a youth club
- Activities are skewed towards the older generation with little for kids
- Lack of hangout spaces for kids and teenagers. Parents with teenagers need to get involved but they are all too busy working
- Chances for young people 11-18 years to interact and hold responsibility.
- Old people attack youth for “having everything” - but they don’t
- Some felt there is an “us vs them” mentality and lack of integration between “inners” and “outers”, some of it generational, some age/class.
- Divide in the village with same people involved. Challenge is how to breach the divides and get others involved.
- Where does the community come together? Recruit one or two young people to interact; encourage youth to stay

- We need a pot of money for 15-20 years to run training courses and signpost to other opportunities – to foster music talent. Business students could get involved in the project
- We need to list and promote attributes of Lochwinnoch – hipster village, defending the greenbelt
- Community Council mostly older

If resources (money) were available, what projects could enhance the village? What projects should LCDT focus on in the future? What would you like to see developed?

- Maintenance of McKillop, the Annexe, the playpark/skatepark
- Improving the condition of pavements
- Car parking
- Bus service - % subsidy to maintain existing service.
- Look at other transport options that will cater for young and old and tackle recognised isolation. Could we connect up to Car Club? Rickshaws?
- LA site
- Improve sports facilities, especially changing facilities
- Sports related structured recreation programme for kids and adults – it could involve the golf course, sailing club, bowling green, tennis court, and football. This could be an Active Communities post, plus coaches and mentors
- Pop-up shop/hub for local businesses to try out ideas/test the market
- Improve access to green spaces - Muirshiel Links (transport and pedestrian) – way marked off the road and integrated into the plans for Yearnstone Project
- Restore the bog at LM.R.P. Possible asset transfer
- Elderly Forum – previously Common Good Fund, now 7 partnerships
- Community garden needs funding to improve/maintain
- Plant area with wildflowers (second day for Linwood CDT) via Winterwatch. To improve space for wildlife. Scottish Ornithologist Club
- Lots of suggested groups – toddlers group; playgroup; lunch club; Historical Society; keep fit groups; parents group; choir; music groups; singing lessons
- School help; maintenance of instruments
- Tackle the digital divide by improving access in existing facilities and having free Wi-Fi available and coaching sessions (as before)
- Provide 1-2 bed properties (very few available) and sheltered housing in partnership with a Housing Association (lost 2 care homes)
- Accommodation for visitors marketed via tourist brochures. This could include AirBnBs

- Sponsored apprenticeships to provide youth employment
- Set up a Lochwinnoch Credit Union/access to Johnston CU as we need a better banking service
- Men's shed/tool library or hardware store. Tools via donations and shed clearances. "Fiddle & Fix" sessions at Remode. Look at Council owned sheds on the street. Men's Shed shouldn't be just for men. It should include co-operation and workshop space as there are makers in the village.
- Space for all – to hobby, learn, mentor
- Space for youth recording studio/hangout/music centre. Started in McKillop 15 years ago
- Space for 11-18 year olds; encourage more parents and teenagers to get involved. Youth pot of funding for them to use for projects
- Drop-in centre like Port Glasgow with social space for dementia carers, respite and a community café
- Meals on wheels
- Samba band
- Gym
- Dry ski slope
- Community orchard
- Lochwinnoch brand of gin - and ice cream
- Winnoch water – plain or tonic (to go with the gin)
- Hot desk/office space
- Integrate farmers with local market through subsidised food fayres (ask Joe)
- Tattie Swans (ask Joe)

Water extraction project: what are the upsides and downsides of developing this project? What would you like to see happening / not happening? How can we overcome any challenges?

Positives

- Generates shared income for the village
- Income for the village can support other community projects
- Profits will allow further investment in the village buildings and environment
- It makes use of an existing resource that might otherwise not get used
- Sustainable source
- Job creation – bottling, micro-brewery

- Branding promotes village
- Water fountain in village would cut down on plastic bottles
- Can use for drinking fountains for cyclists and walkers
- Environmental positives – fresh water; supply water directly on a large scale
- Adds interest and character to the village
- Heritage and learning
- Proximity to market

Opportunities

- Water-related businesses
- Artisan tonic water, branded as Lochwinnoch and creating jobs in the bottling plant
- Potential for community business
- “Lourdes” experience (on a smaller scale)
- Potential to pump out to the B760

Negatives

- Impact of tankers in terms of traffic – 3 tankers/day could increase to 6. Maybe Church St is not the best place for it?
- Difficulties of organisation
- What happens if the water extraction doesn't work?
- Potential noise?

Challenges

- Costs of the project
- Communication with the community about the project
- Management challenges
- Need for transparency
- Dealing with Renfrewshire Council
- Finding space for expansion if the project grows
- Space for light industry to advance ideas
- Risk of lack of market