

Community Engagement Plan River Park Project

November 2023



Acknowledgements

We express our gratitude to numerous local residents, community groups, enterprises, and entities for dedicating significant effort and passion towards the creation of this plan. We extend special thanks to the volunteers hailing from local charitable institutions and the Levenmouth Connectivity Steering Group (LCSG), composed of local individuals and representatives, who played a crucial role in ensuring that the plan's development process reached a diverse array of people from the Levenmouth area.

The Leven Programme is made up of 15 partners: SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency), Scottish Enterprise, NatureScot, Fife Council, Sustrans, Scottish Water, Fife College, Forth Rivers Trust, Green Action Trust, Diageo, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Historic Environment Scotland, Zero Waste Scotland, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, The Coal Authority.
Commissioned by: Lead partners for environmental and generational change, Green Action Trust

Delivered by: Icecream Architecture

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	2	6.0 Appendices	88
1.0 Introduction	4	6.1 Plans and Reports	88
1.1 Engagement	6	6.2 Engagement Process	89
1.2 Summary of Reach	10	Community Workshops & Events	90
1.3 Project Themes	11	6.3 Engagement Results	92
2.0 Key Engagement Findings	12	6.4 Stakeholder Analysis	98
2.1 Challenges and Aspirations Summary	14	6.5 Collaborative Delivery Citations	108
2.2 Potential future projects identified	17	6.6 Costs for Project Strands	109
3.0 Context	20	Mills - Costs	110
3.1 Background Research	20	Movement - Costs	111
3.2 Local factors	24	Community - Costs	112
3.3 Stakeholder Analysis	25	Craft - Costs	113
3.4 Personas	30		
4.0 Project Strands	37		
4.1 Mills	39		
4.2 Movement	47		
4.3 Community	58		
4.4 Craft	69		
5.0 Making it happen	79		
5.1 Resources	81		
5.2 Collaborative delivery	82		
5.3 Monitoring, review and evaluation	86		

1.0 Introduction

The Community Engagement Plan outlines the strategy for engaging and empowering the communities of Levenmouth through the River Park project Development Phase. This plan has been delivered by icecream architecture and forms part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund Stage 2 application in May 2024 for the River Park Project.

To create a delivery phase plan that is as community-led and inclusive as possible, the aims, aspirations and challenges that have the highest priority to the communities of Levenmouth have been identified. The engagement activities carried out as part of this plan have focused on understanding the needs of Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill, Leven, and Windygates and how these towns can be empowered through the community's inclusion in projects under the Leven Programme. We have linked these projects to local aspirations, values, and desires for the future, enabling a clearer understanding of what people might look for from the River Park project in the next four years and beyond. The plan also identifies and defines further projects and initiatives highlighted by these communities that would benefit the local area and its people.

This community engagement plan is intended to serve as a guide for the communities of Levenmouth, supporting them to

make things happen. It outlines a set of projects and strategies to realise the goals identified by local people for the River Park regeneration project.

It is the overall aim of the River Park Project that the projects within it will be community-led and be self-sustaining. For this to happen, community voices need to be listened to, and they need to be supported in the provision of resources, guidance and funding.

The Levenmouth area is large and diverse, with various sizable communities, each having individual wants, needs, and viewpoints. Many of the projects in this plan are ambitious. Some may happen quickly. Others will take several years and require numerous collaborations. Still, by bringing community groups together and utilising the energy and resources available, the River Park can provide a wealth of opportunities. Improving the lives of those who live, visit, and use the River Park.

1.1 Engagement

This section outlines the engagement processes carried out to inform this plan.

This Community Engagement Plan builds on the extensive community engagement work previously undertaken as part of the Leven Programme. The engagement for this plan identified community aspirations, capacities, and opportunities in transforming the River Park. This information will be used to facilitate community empowerment and community-led projects during its delivery phase. Including local groups in the delivery of the River Park project is essential to its success, and in return the project has the potential to meet many local aspirations and become a source of pride for the community.

Engagement informing this plan took place from May - September 2023. Engagement methods comprised the creation/distribution of a **survey**, attending a number of **community events**, facilitating and co-facilitating **tailored events and workshops** for specific target groups, attending community **steering group meetings**, and **one-to-one meetings** with **groups**, **stakeholders**, and **individuals** connected to relevant community groups.

Key lines of questioning

From the outset of the project, a defined line of questioning was established to encourage conversation and build understanding based on the needs of the community. The key lines of questioning were based on the following:

- *What is unique and important about living in Levenmouth? How is the River Park area viewed by the community?*
- *What do people know about the Leven Programme, and do local people feel included in it currently?*
- *What types of activities/projects would the community like to see happen at the future River Park?*
- *What are key aspirations/ambitions/goals for local organisations over the next five years?*
- *How much capacity do local people and local groups/organisations have to deliver projects?*
- *What support would local groups need to be involved in new projects?*



Assortment of photos from various engagement events conducted between May and September 2023

Engagement process

In-Person Engagement

A person-centred approach was practised when engaging the communities of Levenmouth, and engagement was tailored to target a range of diverse groups.

On-street engagement was delivered to gauge overall understanding and reception of the project and its connected initiatives. Larger community events combining numerous smaller local groups (such as the Methilhill Gala and CLEAR Community Garden Open Day) were attended to engage the public, connect with community groups, and promote the project and connected initiatives.

To engage with specific groups, targeted events were coordinated using existing community organisations. Providing co-hosting opportunities for target groups in the area, and representatives from groups and organisations were engaged consistently throughout the project through one-to-one meetings virtually and in-person.

A full list of the groups and engagement activities is available in the appendix to this report.



CLEAR Open Day, August 2023

Project Consultant information sharing

Project consultants working on adjacent projects collaborated to host workshops, events, walks, and steering group meetings. Regular consultant meet-ups provided an awareness of connected projects and key insights from engagement with the community, as well as each consultant's unique background research on existing features, including industry, infrastructure, recreational activity in the area and existing group networks.

Survey

The online survey was promoted on local Facebook groups, the Leven Programme social media channels, a press release circulated through Green Action Trust and through community group and project stakeholder email lists and networks. Paper copies of the survey and submission boxes were made available in three local spaces: Buckhaven Library, Methil Library and the Centre in Leven. The survey was also promoted through a QR code and paper copies at public-facing events attended by icecream architecture.

There was a total of 71 responses to the survey: 43 responses were made directly through the online survey, 28 responses were gathered at in-person events, workshops or meetings.

People of Levenmouth, let's talk!

Tell us how you want to shape the River Leven Park!

The River Leven Parks plan has been developed to improve the space between the Levenmouth towns and create opportunities for local people to transform the area.

Now, it's time to **tell us how you want to be involved:**

Speak to us at
Methil Community Garden Open Day
 Kirkland Drive, KY8 3HX
Saturday, 24th of June, 11am-2pm

For a chat please contact Rachael:
 rachael@icecreamarchitecture.com
 or 0141 548 1170

The Leven
 Making the River Park
theleven.org/projects/river-leven-park/

1.2 Summary of Reach



328

Total individuals engaged



7

Community events



41

Groups engaged

64

Number of engagement days

71

Survey responses

34

Young people engaged

8258

Online facebook accounts reached

895

Survey link clicks on facebook

9

Target groups

20

Community meetings

31

Goals identified for local groups

26

Groups interested in taking part in projects

47

Suggestions

33

Individuals interested in joining a group to deliver projects

1.3 Project Themes

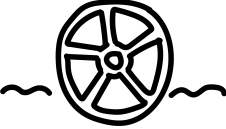
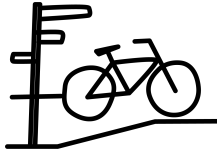
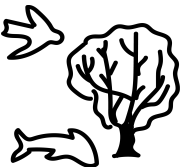

Throughout this document four themes are referred to; 'mills', 'movement', 'craft', and 'community'.

These themes have been outlined by the lead partners of the Leven Programme and have been informed by the Levenmouth Connectivity Masterplan, Leven Programme Heritage Framework and National Lottery Heritage Fund priority outcomes.

For the creation of this plan, the four themes were adapted and used as a framework for categorising the wide range of projects already taking place during the development phase of the Leven Programme, alongside future project ideas, initiatives and areas of interest.

The themes were used when communicating the River Park projects to community members during the engagement process.

They are also used throughout this plan, to group existing and future projects, ideas and initiatives by theme and interest.

<p>Mills</p> 	<p>heritage, history, archaeology</p>
<p>Movement</p> 	<p>active travel (walking, cycling, wheeling), sports, exercise, outdoor activities, recreational activities</p>
<p>Craft</p> 	<p>skills sharing, training, trade skills, arts and crafts, learning activities, gardening, horticulture, biodiversity</p>
<p>Community</p> 	<p>gathering spaces, social activities, play, health and wellbeing, community support, social care</p>

2.0 Key Engagement Findings

This section outlines key insights gathered from community engagement carried out through this project.



BBQ, Blether and a Band event, August 2023

Community members want to see more activities in the area.

Overall, those engaged were enthusiastic about the possibility of new projects, activities and infrastructure at the River Park. In particular, there was an interest in active travel, outdoor activities, skills-sharing, social activities and wellbeing activities.

Of the themes individuals stated they were interested in:

	<p>28% were interested in 'Mills' Including heritage, history, archaeology</p>
	<p>71% were interested in 'Movement' Including active travel (walking, cycling, wheeling, etc.), sports, outdoor activities</p>
	<p>51% were interested in 'Craft' Including skills sharing, training, trade skills, arts and crafts, learning activities, gardening, horticulture, biodiversity</p>
	<p>59% were interested in 'Community' Including gathering spaces, social activities, play, health and wellbeing, community support, social care</p>

Data from the survey, respondents were able to select multiple themes. The data is non-inclusive of, but correlates with, conversations and qualitative data from in-person engagement.

Levenmouth already has a lot of active smaller groups, but there is a lack of activities for young people

People feel that the **community has a lot to offer** in terms of skills, knowledge, and spirit, and there are **a lot of smaller groups already active** in the community, in particular social and support groups.

However, feedback was that there was a particular **lack of activities for teenagers and young people**.

“Young people need a [hangout] space to call their own”

Groups would benefit from support, funding and capacity building to expand and ensure longevity

The smaller groups in the area are generally for specific support issues or activities (e.g. craft groups, toddler groups, running groups etc), and people felt these were vulnerable in terms of smaller funding pots/membership numbers/relying on one or two key members to keep the group going.

Larger community groups/organisations with a clearer management structure reported that they **struggle to get new volunteers** and that **key volunteers are at capacity**, meaning the organisation is at capacity and unable to expand without new volunteers or staff members.

It was felt that having more paid positions in local groups would be highly beneficial to allow more people to become involved, particularly **those who don't have the time or resources to volunteer**.



Quickfire engagement site visit, May 2023

Perception of the River Park area

At the River Park, people generally felt this was a place for walking but not much else; people said things like “it’s a wasteland” and “there’s nothing there”. There were suggestions to create more/better places for people to meet and for social activities, such as picnic tables, hangout spaces, wildlife areas, active travel infrastructure and local heritage activities.

“There’s loads of interesting stuff in the area. Need to foster local pride and amazement in our past and the warrior spirit of the local people.”

Involve the community

Repeated concern was expressed for **community involvement in decision-making and access to opportunities.**

Levenmouth is a diverse community with many harder-to-reach groups, and it was stressed that these people shouldn’t be left out. Community members emphasised that disengaged young people, women-focused groups, and disability groups are particularly important in building community buy-in and fostering a sense of the Leven Programme and River Park belonging to the community.

“I think it’s a wonderful project which could bring together many different parts of the community”



Women and Girls Event MCCI, July 2023

2.1 Challenges and Aspirations Summary

Summary of Key challenges identified

- Community feeling included in decision making
- Access to funding resources for less established groups
- Lack of support for gendered groups
- Lack of activities for young people and teenagers, particularly those disengaged in school
- Lack of financial support for individuals to engage in initiatives
- Lack of investment in facilities in the west end of the River Park area.
- Antisocial behaviour within the community

Key Aspirations identified

- Opportunities for employment, training and education
- More social well-being activities (community-led)
- Collaborative ownership of the River Park between local organisations
- Equal access to facilities between the Levenmouth communities
- Reestablish local heritage knowledge
- Increase visitor and tourism attraction
- Increase sense of pride in the area
- Revive the natural environment of the River Park
- Support young people and re-route antisocial behaviour

Community members were asked what **support their organisation/groups needed to achieve their goals.**

Responses included:

- Support from the Leven Programme in terms of funding
- How to assess funds available
- Appropriate referrals, funding, opportunities for young people and families, experience, community inclusion, and activities based on young people's needs
- Community partnerships with other organisations
- Finding the right people, access to locations and funding to purchase materials
- We need advice and guidance from projects and the council
- We need to develop relationships and have integration
- More people to volunteer, places to plant trees
- We need more people involved

Community members were asked what their **organisation/groups goals were for the next 5 years.**

Responses included:

- More adults and children actively travelling by walking and wheeling.
- Support young people and families affected by substance abuse
- We are hoping to reach more communities
- Develop outdoor learning and engagement in the community
- 'back to nature' project, foraging and drumming workshops, etc. We have funding but keen for long-term involvement
- Hoping to open up more outdoor play space, maybe an outdoor pop-up cinema and picnics

Further details of the key aspirations and goals of the community groups and individuals can be found in the appendix of this plan, with specific reference to group skills and current capacity.

2.2 Potential future projects identified

Alongside 'Existing projects' that have been developed during the Development Phase, the Community Engagement Plan has identified through the community engagement process a set of Project Strands that will support community involvement over the course of the Delivery Phase. These have been included within section 4.0 Project Strands. Interpretation Projects are featured in the Interpretation Masterplan.

Project theme	Infrastructure projects	Project suggestions identified through community engagement
<p data-bbox="197 959 280 994">Mills</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="450 890 853 922">■ Mill Lade Heritage trails <li data-bbox="450 970 913 1050">■ Opening up of Kirkland Mill Lade <li data-bbox="450 1098 913 1177">■ Hidden Heritage Project to identify missing heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="994 683 2056 762">■ An online digital archive of local stories, photos, audio recordings, etc., to preserve local history (Interpretation) <li data-bbox="994 802 1895 882">■ The digitisation of a heritage trail through the River Park (Interpretation) <li data-bbox="994 890 2074 970">■ An accessible space to display, present, share stories and heritage at the River Park. (Interpretation) <li data-bbox="994 1010 2067 1137">■ Heritage Centre as a hub, including display boards and a moveable set of tools in the community for presenting and sharing the heritage story. <li data-bbox="994 1177 2089 1305">■ A project to activate the built/'missing' heritage at the park, so that when people use the park, they know they are surrounded by history. <li data-bbox="994 1345 1928 1425">■ Intergenerational activities to pass on heritage, eg. youth theatre-led dramatisation of heritage stories

<p>Movement</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Accessibility project (platforms and boardwalks) ■ Access routes ■ Outdoor learning and play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regular ParkRun event (weekly) ■ Larger community run, for example, a 10k event for a local charity ■ Health walks lead by community members ■ Community cycles/bike maintenance skills ■ Women's cycle group ■ Facilities for outdoor sports and recreational activities (e.g. multi-use pitch, equipment for loan like bowls, badminton, etc.) ■ Ensure all infrastructure and future projects are accessible to as many as possible. E.g. create a steering group for accessibility
<p>Craft</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Community growing spots ■ Training and skill learning (identified in the Habitat Action Plan) ■ Outdoor-based health activities ■ Learning about species in the river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Park 'safari' to identify biodiversity and species (interpretation) ■ Learning materials at the park (for families and schools) (interpretation) ■ Biodiversity/horticulture skills programme ■ Heritage craft skills programme e.g. traditional skills such as stone carving, woodwork, ceramics, working with linen, etc. ■ Community-influenced benches - could be built and designed by local people, passing on craft and trade skills

Community



- Community Hub equipped with amenities for various groups
- Cafe
- Community Garden and allotment space
- An engagement station: a quarterly or monthly pop-up engagement station that is managed by people invested in the delivery of the project. The information would be available for the public at the engagement station, offering them a chance to ask questions and have face-to-face interaction with project stakeholders and obtain feedback
- Picnic tables and hangout spot
- Tea in the Park events and BBQs
- Outdoor cinema
- Empower young people to create their own initiatives, through training and support
- Graffiti wall/public co-created artworks

3.0 Context

This part of the plan provides context for the Levenmouth area, the demographics social and economic factors that impact the lives of the people.

It also outlines the community groups operating in the area, outlining who they are and their needs.



Map showing the Connectivity Project area, Iglu Studios.

3.1 Background Research

The River Park is part of the River Leven Connectivity Project, which focuses on benefitting the areas in and around Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill, Leven and Windygates; the Levenmouth communities surrounding the River Park.

“Historically, the catchment sustained several hundred mills and factories and was home to a proud population of miners and workers in manufacturing industries; it was the engine of Mid-Fife, towns and communities grew around and along it. Today, the area has pockets of severe deprivation and much of it is economically stagnant. With a population often disconnected from the natural environment there are serious problems associated with poor health and wellbeing.”

Green Action Trust (GAT) - Community Engagement Plan Development for the River Park Project, Consultants Brief 2023

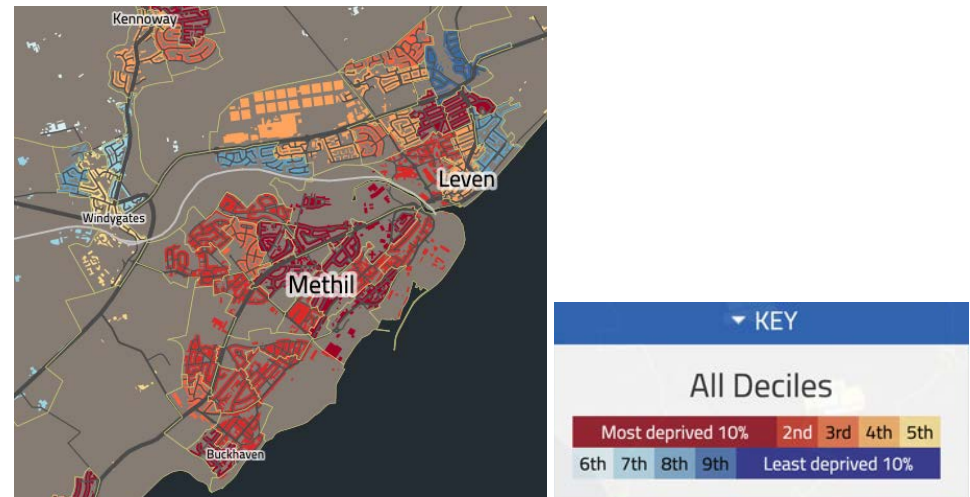
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) Data

SIMD is a tool by the Scottish Government used to identify areas of relatively high deprivation in Scotland. SIMD divides Scotland into almost 7000 small 'data zones', measuring seven categories in each: income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing. Essentially, this tool considers resources and opportunities as well as financial income.

The accompanying images show areas in and around the River Park. Notably, much of Methil, Methilhill, Buckhaven and Leven are generally in the highest 10% or 20% 'most deprived' data zones. More specifically, these areas show high levels of deprivation in terms of income, employment, health and education. However, most of these areas are in the least deprived 50% of Scottish data zones for the geographic access indicator (travel times to schools, shops, surgeries, etc, and broadband access). It is also important to note that not every person in a data zone area of higher deprivation zone will be experiencing high levels of deprivation.



Data from SIMD 2020, <https://simd.scot/#/simd2020/>



Data from SIMD 2020 <https://simd.scot/#/simd2020/>

Population

The Levenmouth area is home to **37,347 people (estimate)**.

Source: [Mid-Year Population Estimates, National Records of Scotland \[2021\]](#)

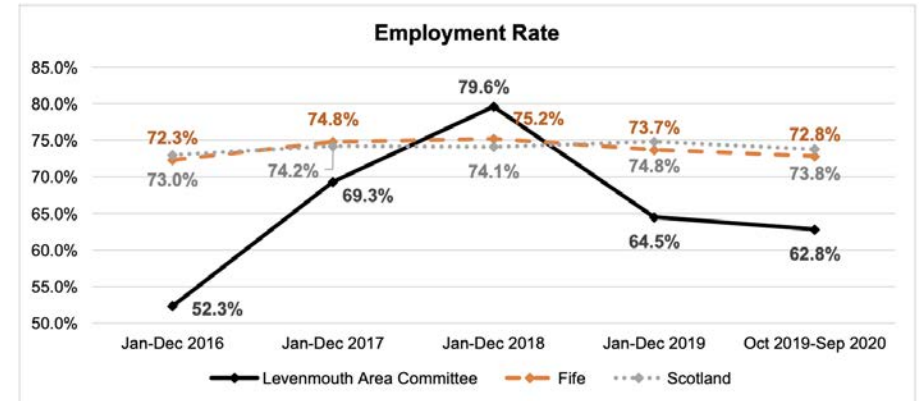
- Windygates
1,790 Population [2021] – Estimate
- Leven
9,440 Population [2021] – Estimate
- Methil
10,930 Population [2021] – Estimate
- Buckhaven
4,100 Population [2021] – Estimate

Source: [city population](#)

Population Structure	Levenmouth Area	Fife
Aged 0-15	17.3%	17%
Aged 16-64	59.8%	61.8%
Aged 65 +	22.9%	21.2%

Source: [Mid-Year Population Estimates, National Records of Scotland \[2021\]](#)

Employment

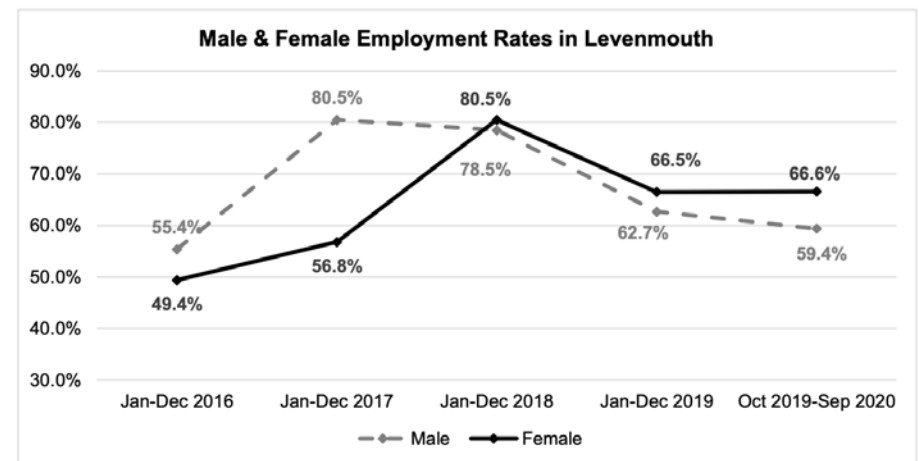


Source: ONS Annual Population Survey Geography: Levenmouth Area Committee

Fife Council Business & Employability

2

Infographic Source: [Fife Council Business % Employability, Levenmouth 2021 Profile](#)



Source: ONS Annual Population Survey Geography: Levenmouth Area Committee

Infographic Source: [Fife Council Business % Employability, Levenmouth 2021 Profile](#)

Employment by Sector 2019:

Sector	Levenmouth	Fife	% of Fife total
A : Agriculture, forestry & fishing*	1,000	4,500	22.2%
B : Mining and quarrying	0	250	0.0%
C : Manufacturing	1,500	14,000	10.7%
D : Electricity, gas, steam & air conditioning supply	0	350	0.0%
E : Water supply; sewerage, waste mgmt & remediation	25	1,000	2.5%
F : Construction	400	7,000	5.7%
G : Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of motor vehicles	1,250	20,000	6.3%
H : Transportation & Storage	800	6,000	13.3%
I : Accommodation & Food Service activities	500	10,000	5.0%
J : Information & Communication	45	4,000	1.1%
K : Financial & Insurance activities	50	3,000	1.7%
L : Real estate activities	45	1,250	3.6%
M : Professional, scientific & technical activities	400	7,000	5.7%
N : Administrative & support service activities	400	7,000	5.7%
O : Public Admin, Defence; Social Security	175	12,000	1.5%
P : Education	800	13,000	6.2%
Q : Human health & social work activities	1,750	19,000	9.2%
R : Arts, entertainment & recreation	225	4,000	5.6%
S : Other service activities	200	3,500	5.7%

Infographic Source: [Fife Council Business & Employability, Levenmouth Economic Profile 2021](#)

Economic activity

The proportion of people who are economically inactive (those who are neither in employment nor unemployed) in Levenmouth is 10 percentage points higher than the Fife and Scottish averages and the highest proportion of Fife's committee areas.

The proportion of Levenmouth's working-age population with no qualifications is significantly higher than both the Scottish and Fife averages and is the highest of all Fife's committee areas.

Source: [Fife Council Business & Employability, Levenmouth Economic Profile 2021](#)

Housing statistics in the area show that there is an above-average number of single parents. There is also concern regarding older people finding adequate, supported housing for their needs.

Source: Methil/Methilhill Community Action Plan 2016-2021

Provision of unpaid care

Not providing care: 89.7%

Providing 1 to 19 hours of care a week: 5%

Providing 20 to 34 hours of care a week: 1.1%

Providing 35 to 49 hours of care a week: 0.9%

Providing 50 or more hours of care a week: 3.2%

3.2 Local factors

Landscape

It is recognised that local people in towns such as Buckhaven, Methil, Methilhill, Leven and Windygates have suffered significant long-term deprivation on multiple indices alongside the social consequences typical of this deprivation (source: Data from SIMD 2020 <https://simd.scot/#/simd2020/>). Developments over time - including the closure of mines and mills, reduced employment, policy and funding decisions, etc. - have contributed to this situation or failed to address it.

The communities surrounding the River Park have varying levels of access to amenities and services based on their geographic location. Some residents living on the west side of the River Park reported feeling a sense of inequality as they live further away from the beach, accessible green spaces, newer housing developments, and community services. While these common assumptions are currently being addressed, there remains a general sense of discontent regarding the level of interest in the west side of the park from outside consultants, initiatives etc.

Antisocial behaviour

Antisocial behaviour has been noted as an issue in the area. Community meetings, comments on social media forums and relevant reports indicate that young people who are not engaged in school or local activities display the most antisocial behaviour. Representatives in the community speculate that this is due to a lack of access to recreational activities for young people in the area. There have been many attempts by community stakeholders to address this deficit, attempting to engage young people in outdoor leisure activities, training and skills development; however, there remains a challenge in reaching and maintaining the interest of these young people.

See the [Behavioural Change Action Plan](#) to learn more about how this is being addressed.

3.3 Stakeholder Analysis

The Levenmouth communities are extremely active, with groups operating in and across the towns. Each group or organisation contains its own set of stakeholders, goals and objectives. These have broken down into groups to understand better how they can all work together.

Category	Local Organisations and Groups
Community councils, Local resident groups, steering groups and religious organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methil Community Council - Buckhaven and Denbeath Community Council - Leven Community Council - Largo and Area Community Council - Windygates Community Council - Kennoway Community Council - East Wemyss and McDuff Community Council - Steelworks tenants association - Rotary Club of Buckhaven and Methil - Levenmouth Connectivity Steering Group - Buckhaven Baptist Church - Methilhill and Denbeath Parish Church - St Kenneth's Parish Church - Leven Parish Church - Let's Walk and Talk Groups
Heritage/history organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The History Group - Friends of Methil Heritage - Levenmouth Heritage Partnership - Buckhaven Library and Museum

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doon the Dam - Fife Historic Buildings Trust - Buckhaven Heritage Regeneration Project - Fife Heritage Railway - Sporting Memories - Methil Heritage Centre (OnFife)
Environmental organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CLEAR Buckhaven and Methil - Bats Wood (SCID) - Levenmouth Academy Outdoor Learning - Greener Kirkcaldy - FCCT Tree Warden (Fife Tree Warden Scheme) - SRUC Elmwood College - Horticulture Department, and Wildlife & Conservation Management Department. - Levenmouth Whale Project - Silverburn Park - Happy Beaches - Back to Nature - Dandelion Project
Women-focused organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women on Wednesdays (WOW) - Knitting Together - Methil Mum's Coffee Morning
Support organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DAPL -Drugs, Alcohol & Psychotherapies Limited - WRAP - Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty - Andy's Man's Club - Bereavement Support Group - Fife Centre for Equalities - Democracy Collaborative - Salvation Army

Children and family groups, and family support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCCI - Children and Young Peoples Community Nursing - Leven Child Development Centre - Buckhaven Nursery - Methil Parent and Toddlers Group - Homestart Levenmouth - Fife Gingerbread - Rainbows
Youth groups, and youth support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSYV - Youth Task Force - EASYP / Levenmouth Youth Hub - Buckhind Players - Scouts/Guides - Clued-up
Disability/additional needs support organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robert Gough Resource Centre - Autism Rocks Fife - Disabilities Fife - STAND - Dementia Friendly Fife
Policing and Safety organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leven Area Safer Communities - Police Scotland Police Volunteers
Sports and recreational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kingdom Off Road - East Fife Community Football Club - Fife Park Run - Kennoway Pump Track - Methil Sea Cadets - Fife Mountain Bike Community - Enigma Gymnastics Group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roller Disco - Leven Las Vegas Running Club - MyBus Community Transport (Scoonie Bowling Pavilion) - Burns off Seats - Levenmouth Community Cycle Club - The Studio/Expressions School of Dance - Buckhaven & Methil Miners' Brass Band - The Shed Bayview & the Shed Kennoway - District Dog Training Group
Event/Festivals/Open Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methilhill Gala - Buckhaven Gala - SGN H100
Hospitality, food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hame Fae Hame - Levenmouth Foodbank - Safe Haven Cafe - Buckhynd Community Bakery
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levenmouth local tourism association (Welcome to Levenmouth) - Fife Tourism Partnership
Training, education, enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Trades Hub - BRAG - Fife council levenmouth CLD (Community Learning & Development) - Workers Education Union - Levenmouth Workers Forum - Fifers for the Community - The Thrift Club - Largo Communities Together

<p>Schools/Nurseries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levenmouth Academy - Parkhill Primary School - Mountfleurie Primary School - St Agatha's RC Primary - Viewforth Nursery School - Aberhill Primary School - Paxton Nursery School - Balcurvie Primary School - Buckhaven Primary School - Denbeath Primary School - Hyndhead School Woodlands Family Nurture Centre
<p>Partners and stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Action Trust - Fife Coast and Countryside Trust - Coalfields Regeneration Project - The CORRA Foundation - SEPA - Scottish Enterprise - Nature Scot - Fife Council - Sustrans - Scottish Water - Fife College - Forth Rivers Trust - Diageo - Keep Scotland Beautiful - Historic Environment Scotland - Zero Waste Scotland - The Coal Authority - Levenmouth Local Tourism Association - Fife Historic Buildings Trust

Community groups' involvement in the River Park project

Of the engaged groups, 18 groups **have capacity**, and 17 groups **have limited capacity** to be involved in the delivery of projects.

Individuals

10 individual community members stated they **had the capacity** to be involved in the delivery of projects.

Additionally, **a total of 18 individual** community members stated they **were interested** but **had limited capacity** to be involved in the delivery of projects.

Four individuals said they were **interested but not sure how to be involved** in the delivery of the project.

There are many different types of people within these groups and organisations that vary in cultural, economic, and social background. These people may be part of a target group, which represents a specific group or audience that a company, organisation, or individual aims to engage with.

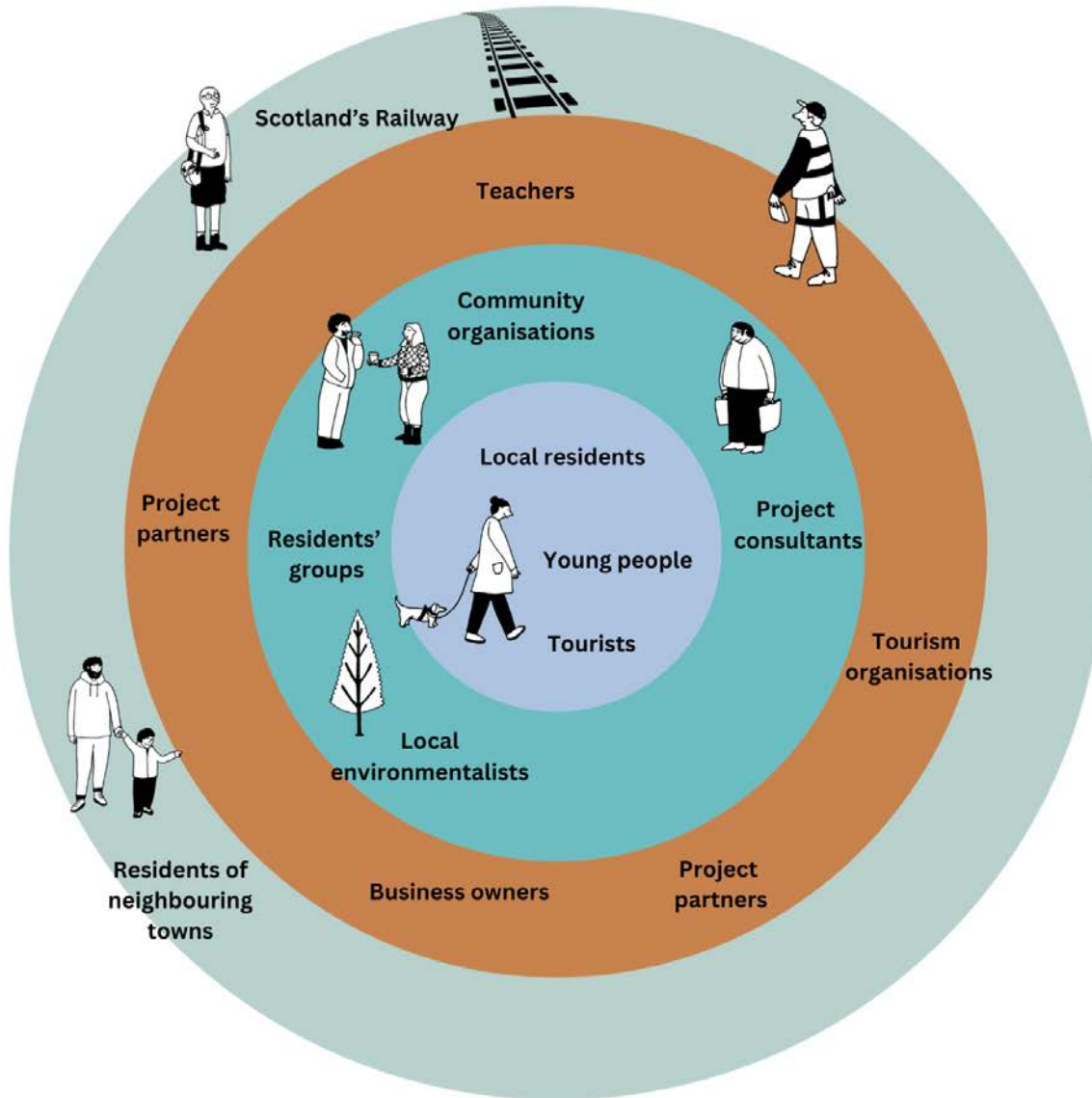
Key target groups in the Levenmouth area were identified to effectively and inclusively engage all demographics. A target group refers to a specific population segment that a communication or engagement initiative aims to reach, influence, or involve. These groups are not only defined by demographics such as age, gender, and location but also by shared characteristics, interests, needs, and behaviours.

Who are the identified Target Groups in Levenmouth?

- **Young people outside of schools;** this refers to 20% of young people not attending school or engaging in school-related activities
- **Young people engaged in schools**
- **Local residents** - This includes a diverse range of residents with mitigating factors including socio-economic impacts, proximity to facilities and services, opportunities and employment

- **Jobseekers** - this refers to those who are unemployed and seeking employment opportunities
- **Tourists and visitors** - this includes new tourists and visitors who will be travelling to the area with the new railway line
- **Local community organisations and groups** - this includes charity and community-led groups, also those who are stakeholders in this project
- **Healthcare providers** - this includes medical practices, centres, and care providers
- **Government and local authorities** - this includes Fife council and partners in this project
- **Minority groups** - this includes people with refugee status, and those who have immigrated to the area including the Ukranian community
- **Culture and art enthusiasts** - this includes heritage, history, and art and craft groups
- **Gendered groups** - this includes groups that offer support to women and girls, and those those who identify as diverse genders
- **Vulnerable groups** - this includes people with additional needs and elderly people, and those suffering from mental health issues and addiction issues
- **Business owners**

What is each stakeholder's proximity to the use of the River Park?



A Stakeholder in the centre of the Stakeholder Circle is a primary user of the River Park. Stakeholders further from the centre have less specific connections and are less likely to use the River Park, but should still be informed and integrated within projects for the Delivery Phase.

3.4 Personas

To better understand how the delivery of this project will impact the lives of local people, these six personas were created to represent individuals living across the Levenmouth area. While these personas are not real people, they represent the target groups in the community and possess a mixture of shared and individual characteristics identified through engagement with local groups and individuals. Getting to know the persona characters and considering how the different aspects of the River Park might impact their lives can create a shared understanding of how these projects and proposals can affect real people.

These imagined community members are featured throughout the next chapter of this document, '4.0 Project Strands' and their key aspirations are listed alongside them.

Personas

1	Ryan	Disengaged in education/Interested in dirt bikes
2	Ann	Engaged in heritage-focused activities
3	Paul	Mental health counsellor
4	Gemma	Search for learning opportunities related to biodiversity and heritage
5	Katarzyna	Looking for opportunities to socialise and find support
6	Maggie	Promoter of the area

1.



Name: Ryan

Age: 17

Occupation: Student - disengaged in school/not attending.

Backstory: Ryan lives in Methilhill with his mother and three younger siblings. Secondary school at the Levenmouth Academy is challenging as he struggles with his subjects and finds it difficult to be excited about them. He enjoys being with his friends outside of school, as he has known them since they were young. He is beginning to get worried about what he'll do when he leaves school – he is certain he does not want an office job or to go on to college but is keen on practical, hands-on activities like woodwork and building. He has recently joined the Community Trade Hub.

Hobbies: Gaming, football, listening to music, dirt biking

Key aspirations:

1. Opportunities in the community for employment, training, and education
2. Support young people and re-route antisocial behaviour
3. Equal access to facilities across the River Park area.
4. More social and well-being activities through community-led operations

Challenges: there is not much to do for teenagers locally; he gets in trouble for loitering and what is considered anti-social behaviour. Limited access to jobs or work experience. He has difficulty getting to football games because his mum doesn't drive, and there is a lack of transport in the area.

2.



Name: Ann

Age: 70

Occupation: Retired

Backstory: Ann has lived in Buckhaven her whole life. Ann enjoys gardening and line dancing with her friends. When Ann retired, she found she had more time to explore other interests, including history and heritage. She has three grandchildren and two daughters who live nearby, but they are busy often. She wants to pursue her hobbies and start projects where she can share her local knowledge with future generations. She is a member of the Methil History Group but wants to branch out to wider areas in Levenmouth and gather more participants.

Hobbies: Gardening, line dancing, bingo and walking

Key aspirations:

1. Reestablish the local heritage of the River Park area
2. Increase visitors and tourist attractions
3. Revive the natural environment, improving biodiversity and habitat
4. Collaborative ownership of the River Park between local organisations

Challenges: Keeping in touch with people, organising meet-ups, online outreach

3.



Name: Paul

Age: 45

Occupation: Mental Health Counsellor

Backstory: Paul moved to Leven after meeting his wife, originally from the area. He has worked as a counsellor in the Levenmouth community for 15 years and understands the dynamics of the local community as he has worked with lots of different people. His role can be quite stressful at times, and he has two children, so he must have a good work/life balance. He wants to help make Leven a better place for future generations and is keen to get involved in community-led projects to make this happen and connect with others.

Hobbies: Walking, running, canoeing, and playing guitar

Key aspirations:

1. More social and well-being activities through community-led operations
2. Equal access to facilities across the River Park area
3. Collaborative ownership of the River Park between local organisations

Challenges: Keeping active whilst getting older, being around like-minded people, mental health activities to ensure a positive work/life balance, keeping his kids active and engaged in extracurricular activities.

4.



Name: Gemma

Age: 36

Occupation: Marketing Manager - works from home

Backstory: Gemma grew up in Methil and moved to study in Edinburgh, where she settled and built her family. She moved back a few months ago to the area with her family so that her two kids (two and six years old) can grow in a low urban environment with easy access to natural features. She and her husband love the outdoors. They are looking to take part in nature-focused activities and foraging. They are interested in learning and protecting local biodiversity as well as connecting with the local heritage and history, building a legacy for their kids and taking part in community life.

Hobbies: Hiking, Gardening, Baking

Key aspirations:

1. Collaborative ownership of the River Park between local organisations.
2. Reestablish the local heritage of the River Park area
3. More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations
4. Revive the natural environment, improving biodiversity and habitat

Challenges: Staying in touch with friends from Edinburgh, meeting new people her age in Levenmouth, getting active outdoors, keeping kids engaged in nature, passing on her pride in Levenmouth to them, activities for kids.

5.



Name: Katarzyna

Age: 32

Occupation: Full-time carer for her son

Backstory: Katarzyna initially moved to Scotland from Poland for her studies. She's been living in Windygates for five years as she struggled to find an affordable flat elsewhere and enjoys being close to the sea. She is now a full-time carer for her son, who has additional needs and feels she has not yet integrated into the community. While she knows many local community groups, she would like more mother with children with additional needs groups. She wants to see more accessible pathways in the local area as she sometimes struggles with uneven pavements and building entrances, which impact her son's wheelchair access.

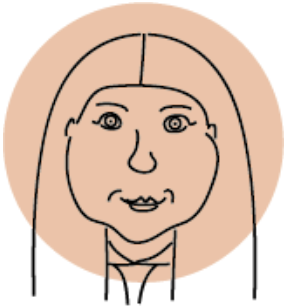
Hobbies: Katarzyna does not have a lot of spare time, however, she enjoys painting in the evenings.

Key aspirations:

1. More social and well-being activities through community-led operations
2. Equal access to facilities across the River Park area
3. Collaborative ownership of the River Park between local organisations.

Challenges: Cost of living, medical expenses, socialising, finding community groups with similar interests and circumstances.

6.



Name: Maggie

Age: 24

Occupation: Software developer

Backstory: Maggie moved back home to save for a few years after attending Dundee College. She works from home most days and feels isolated as there is a lack of people her age in the area. She is considering leaving Leven and moving to Glasgow to have a better social life, but she loves the locals. She wishes her friends could return to the area, but they argue there aren't a lot of fun activities.

Dreams: To buy an affordable house, to have local activities for people her age, to have more events happening in the area, for a local space where she can take part in outdoor activities.

Key aspirations:

1. Opportunities in the community for employment, training, and education
2. More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations
3. Increase visitors and tourist attractions

Challenges: Isolation, feeling like she is missing out on fun, lack of opportunity to learn new things and meet new people.

4.0 Project Strands

This section outlines projects that should be developed at the River Park.



BBQ, Blether and a Band event, August 2023

The following recommendations aim to establish a series of projects in the River Park, led and directed by the community. These projects will provide community groups and local residents with access to training facilities, and resources to continually generate further community benefits and initiatives in the future.

All suggested projects listed below have been developed directly from community input and have the potential to benefit various groups and demographics within the Levenmouth community.

Some suggested projects can be community-led from the start, and others require collaboration either with a consultant to deliver the project or by empowering a community group or groups to deliver and lead and enable others to get involved and facilitate training.

The projects are listed within the four project themes: Mills, Movement, Craft and Community, although some projects are relevant to multiple themes.

The community groups listed alongside each project have expressed interest and capacity to lead, co-lead or participate in the projects. However, it is understood that each project requires support, further discussion and in-depth conversation and collaboration to make things happen and ensure that the community groups are fully included, involved and empowered throughout the process.

This priority and capacity scale is used throughout the suggested projects below. It indicates how the project relates to the priorities of community groups identified through engagement and in what capacity named groups could be involved in the project.

Priority within the community?	1. Elements of project referenced by some groups	2. Occasionally referenced by some groups	3. Projects of this nature referenced occasionally, lightly relates to community priorities	4. Projects of this nature referenced regularly, lightly relates to community priorities	5. Specific project referenced regularly, directly relates to community priorities
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Capacity of named groups	1. Elements of project referenced by some groups	2. Would participate, but not involved project organisation	3. Needs support to partake in project organisation	4. Need support or capacity to lead	5. Groups are ready to lead, have capacity
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It should be noted that although groups have stated interest or capacity to lead some projects, the details of this require further in-depth discussion with specific groups involved, and contingencies in the case of changing group capacities or priorities. In general, community groups and public authority agencies were supportive and anticipated their involvement; however, they could not project their own capacity with complete certainty over the 4 years of the Delivery Phase.

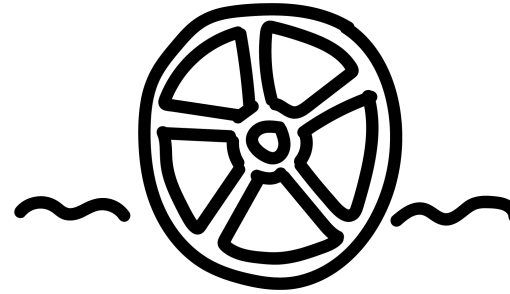
4.1 Mills

Mills refers to the industrial, community and natural history and heritage of the area and covers projects such as social history projects, excavation works, and heritage trails. There are separate projects related to archaeology and the heritage of the Mills within the wider proposed programme for the River Park. All these projects should be considered in relation to each other.

Context

The Levenmouth area in Fife, Scotland, has a rich history regarding mills and industry. It has been a centre for various industrial activities, including milling, coal mining, and manufacturing. These industries employed a significant proportion of the population and supported the local economy, providing opportunities for residents. Among the successful industrial activities were the textile mills specialising in flax and linen, coal mining, paper pulping/saw-milling, shipbuilding and various other engineering industries.

Like many other industrial areas, the Levenmouth region experienced a decline and transformation of its industries over the years. Changes in technology, shifts in market demand, and economic challenges led to many traditional mills and



industries closing. This decline had significant social and economic impacts on the local communities, reducing opportunities for work and creating pockets of severe deprivation.

More recently, efforts have been made to revitalise the Levenmouth area through diversification and the establishment of new industries. The area's proximity to major transportation routes and its natural resources continue to attract investments in various sectors, including renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.

Mills - Projects

Intergenerational Viral Videos

Methil Heritage Centre was opened by the community in 1991 and is currently managed by OnFife. Friends of Methil Heritage and others have been compiling history exhibits throughout the years, including much information on the history of areas within the River Park. Since covid, the centre has been temporarily closed however there is now a dedicated, part-time, team member working to understand and develop its potential.

With a need locally to represent the heritage for young people, an inter-generational project with a focus on youth theatre could dramatise versions of local stories in the format of memes, viral videos, parodies and topical content. These would act as an invite for younger people to engage with their local heritage and signpost them to local heritage activities in and around the River Park. Stories of local entrepreneurial spirit (eg Central Farmers) and recent community life, would put forward a positive narrative of Levenmouth for young people.



Buckhind Players performance rehearsal

Aims and objectives

- Transmission of heritage knowledge and pride between generations
- Creative and fun presentation and preservation of local history.

Output

- A series of media co-produced between older and younger generations, eg. videos, memes, audio clips

Key organisations involved

- Buckhind Players - Youth Theatre
- Friends of Methil Heritage
- OnFife -(library and heritage centre resources)
- Levenmouth Heritage Partnership
- Levenmouth Local Tourism Association
- Gaelic in Fife (Fife council)

Priority:	1	2	3	4. Projects referenced regularly	5
Capacity:	1	2	3. Needs support to partake	4	5

Delivery timeline: Levenmouth Heritage - Viral Videos	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Local Coordinator/Dramatist-1 day per week																
Story development and youth theatre workshops																
Promotion																
8x Volunteers' Time (Developing Heritage Short Stories)																

Meditation among the Mills

Unlike bygone years, the River Park now provides a calmer space to escape the daily grind from the buzz of the villages and towns around it. Among the remnants of older buildings and spaces, which would've buzzed with activity back then, there is an opportunity to create designated areas for wellbeing sessions, yoga classes, informal meditation or even outdoor classrooms.

These are imagined as spaces with little intervention or infrastructural change, but maintained to allow for usage and the addition of interpretation to tell the story of the place. One space considered for this was the 'Kirkland School' ruin.



Women and Girls Yoga Event, MCCI, July 2023

Aims and objectives

- Calm and attractive space created, encouraging use of the park for leisure and wellbeing.
- People learning about and accessing the heritage of heritage spaces through varied activities.

Output

- Programme of wellbeing events in the River Park
- Enlivening of heritage buildings/ruins for community activities.

Key organisations involved

Andy's Man's Club
 MCCI
 Methil Parent and Toddler Group
 Fife Gingerbread
 Levenmouth Scouts and Girlguides,
 Bums Off Seats

Priority			3.Relates to community priorities		
Capacity			3.Needs support to partake		

Delivery timeline: Meditation among the Mills	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Programme of yoga and meditation among the memories																
Maintenance of Spaces (Equipment)																
4x Volunteers' Time (Maintenance)																

Mills - Impact

This part of the plan describes how the projects in the table above, impact the lives of the local people, told through the narratives of the relevant personas.

<div data-bbox="114 395 365 671" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="383 347 454 379" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Ann</p> </div> <div data-bbox="394 421 940 750" data-label="Text"> <p>"I had been struggling to keep in touch with other heritage enthusiasts in the area but now that there is going to be a heritage centre, we can meet regularly and find out what is happening. I'm really glad these previous stories are getting preserved."</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="958 347 1341 383" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Key aspirations reached</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1059 395 1839 426" data-label="Text"> <p>Collaborative ownership of the river park between local organisations</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1041 438 1883 494" data-label="Figure"> </div> <div data-bbox="1189 520 1731 552" data-label="Text"> <p>Reestablish local heritage of the river park area</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1041 568 1883 624" data-label="Figure"> </div> <div data-bbox="1202 639 1632 668" data-label="Text"> <p>Increase visitor and tourism attraction</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1041 684 1883 740" data-label="Figure"> </div>
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<div data-bbox="114 879 365 1155" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="383 882 519 916" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Gemma</p> </div> <div data-bbox="380 957 934 1244" data-label="Text"> <p>"The videos I have seen and shared about the school dances make me so happy and remind me why I wanted to move home to Levenmouth. I want my kids to be proud of this place, the stories being told by a young person makes them feel part of their history!"</p> </div>	<div data-bbox="958 849 1341 885" data-label="Section-Header"> <p>Key aspirations reached</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1048 898 1843 930" data-label="Text"> <p>Collaborative ownership of the river park between local organisations</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1030 944 1883 1000" data-label="Figure"> </div> <div data-bbox="1180 1027 1731 1059" data-label="Text"> <p>Reestablish local heritage of the river park area</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1030 1075 1883 1131" data-label="Figure"> </div> <div data-bbox="1048 1161 1868 1193" data-label="Text"> <p>More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1030 1209 1883 1265" data-label="Figure"> </div> <div data-bbox="1086 1295 1836 1329" data-label="Text"> <p>Revive the natural environment including biodiversity and habitat</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1030 1345 1883 1401" data-label="Figure"> </div>
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Mills - Best practice

Mills Restoration Project: Birse Community Trust

Description

The mill restoration project undertaken by the Birse Community Trust is one of the few Scottish examples of watermill-powered industry. The original buildings were built in the late 18th century and have been faithfully restored by members of this community and historic building societies.

The ownership of these buildings was taken over by the trust in 1999, and they represent extremely rare examples of the region's industrial heritage. Recent repair work was carried out by local craftspeople and volunteers to restore a weir from which a 250m mill lade powers a saw-mill and turning mill. The project is kept alive by local craftspeople eager to maintain the skills and traditions of the area and those extremely proud of their town's heritage.

They engage critically and in-depth with their past and are keen to share that knowledge. They have published books

about their local histories and anthologies of significant community actors and their town's own connection to the Caribbean slave trade.

Under their possession are three workshops in varying states of operation. A saw mill, a woodturning workshop and a bucket factory. In addition to this, they have also taken over a well-preserved 'souters' workshop (scots for bootmaker).

The bucket workshop, in particular, is open to the public, where locals and tourists can see how craftspeople in the past interacted with this form of power. The artisans and tour guides who run these facilities sell traditional products made using locally milled timber at a reasonable price.

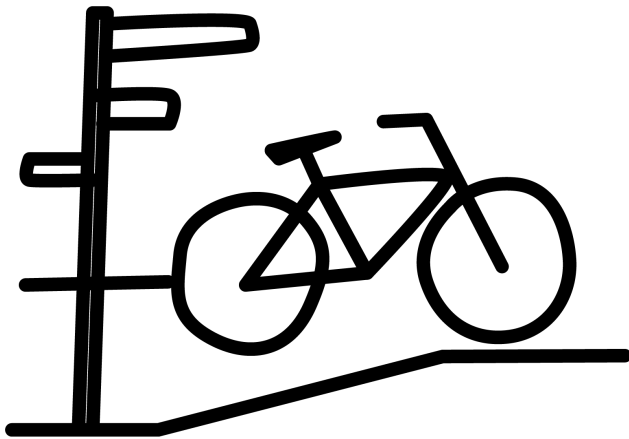
They have good relationships with local businesses and inspire goodwill amongst lots of other organisations. Described by one MP as one of the most effective rural community initiatives.



[Photos from the Birse Community Trust website]

4.2 Movement

The Movement framework refers to connectivity to the River Park, the landscape, and its heritage for the communities in the Levenmouth area, including active travel, trails, platforms and waterways.



Context

The River Leven has long provided the communities of Levenmouth with many uses, this framework initiative seeks to reestablish accessible connectivity routes for public groups to engage with the river once more.



Crossing of the Leven, site visit, May 2023

In the past, the River Leven has provided for fishing, transportation of products through its waterways, industrial activities like watermills and steam-powered mills, and recreational activities like boating, swimming, and picnicking along its banks. The River Leven became intertwined with the cultural identity of the Levenmouth community. It inspired art, literature, and local traditions, creating a sense of place and belonging.

Movement - Projects

Local Health and Heritage Walks, Mill Race Festival

The River Park is already used by some people for regular exercise as it provides lengthy routes within a natural habitat. These routes, however, are currently disjointed and not maintained. As this changes with the introduction of improved routes and infrastructure, the River Park holds an opportunity to become a recognised place for activity, exercise and health walks incorporating local heritage. With the coordination of events to kick-start activities and in turn, change the perception of the River Park, community individuals can build confidence and capacity to schedule and promote these events. Working with health and exercise organisations, events would be hosted seasonally and annually to build the identity of the River Park locally as an active space for wellbeing and as a destination for an annual festival/run.



River Park, August 2023

Aims and objectives

- Encourage regular use of the River Park routes, for social and exercise benefits
- Bring groups together to celebrate the heritage of the River Park
- Promote the River Park regionally and nationally.

Outputs

- Regular Health Walks and Park Run events
- Increased Walk Leaders locally
- Initiate an annual festival in the River Park

Key organisations involved

Parkrun Fife, Leven Las Vegas Running Club, Active Fife Communities Team (Bums Off Seats), Together Levenmouth (Brag Enterprises), Greener Kirkcaldy, Medical Practices,

Priority	1.	2.	3.	4. Projects of this nature referenced regularly	5.
Capacity	1.	2.	3.	4.	5. Ready to lead

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Programming Events/Runs/Health Walks with partner organisations																
Training Local Walk Leaders, Risk Assessment etc																
Mill Race at the River Park (festival)																
Annual Festival Equipment																
Annual Festival Promotion																
Volunteer Time (walk leaders)																

Activities for Everyone

The River Park should become a space that offers activities for everyone. With a small kit of new and second-hand game equipment, any green space can be used for ad-hoc, informal games. This kit should be maintained and kept by a local group or at the Engagement Station/Community Hub and made accessible for groups and individuals to use.



Women and Girls Yoga Event, MCCI, July 2023

Aims and objectives

- Ensure the River Park is inclusive and engaging for all visitors
- Encourage regular use of the River Park for leisure and exercise

Output

- Creation of games kit and informal playing green.

Key organisations involved

STAND, MCCI, MyBusCT

Priority	1.	2.	3. Lightly relates to community priorities	4.	5.
Capacity	1.	2.	3. Needs support to partake	4.	5.

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Games kit (bowls, skittles, lawn tennis, petanque, rounders, giant chess)																
Marking out/maintaining informal playing Greens																
Promotion around the Community																
2 Volunteers' Time over 3 years																

Levenmouth Access Panel for Routes and Platforms

There is an opportunity to work with Disabilities Fife and potentially other local groups focused on access needs to establish an Access Panel, which would support the development of infrastructure and events for the River Park and across Levenmouth. The panel would provide feedback, local insights and the ability to promote projects or queries with their local networks. The panel meets to discuss key questions with consultants and project staff, to ensure River Park developments remain as accessible as possible, and that the community is heard. This will involve the recruitment and management of the Access Panel to meet and consider developments at key design junctures throughout the Delivery Phase.



STAND (Striving Towards A New Day) meeting, October 2023

Aims and objectives

- To continually ensure that the River Park events, infrastructure, projects and communications are accessible to as many as possible.

Output

- A Panel of community members available to advise on the accessibility needs of future users of the River Park and its' projects.








Key organisations involved

- Disabilities Fife
- STAND
- Robert Gough Resource Centre
- Autism Rocks Fife
- Dementia Friendly Fife

Priority	1.	2.	3.	4.	5. Specifically referenced regularly
Capacity	1.	2.	3.	4. Needs support or capacity to lead	5.

	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Delivery timeline																
Recruitment of local people with accessibility awareness and lived-experience																
Management and regular meeting facilitation/site visits, transport costs																
Transport/taxi costs for site visits																
Room Hire for 4 in-person meetings																

Movement - Impact

<p>Katarzyna</p>  <p>“Taking my son out on walks is something that helps us both feel better. More accessible walking and wheeling routes in the scenic parts of the park would mean we can do this and it is close by!</p> <p>More resources for an Access Panel that supports exercise would be so great for us. I know that more involvement in design decision around the park would definitely benefit the 20% of people with additional needs who live in Fife.”</p>	<p>Key aspirations</p> <p>More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations</p>  <p>Equal access to facilities across the River Park area</p> 
<p>Paul</p>  <p>“I love running and being active, it helps me relieve my stress when I am having a difficult time. I usually run alone, but it would be great to meet new people through my hobby. I also have been thinking of starting a walking group as a method of therapy for people like my clients, but I’m not sure where to start. It would be great for us to have a goal to work towards, we could raise money for a mental health charity at the same time. “</p>	<p>Key aspirations</p> <p>More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations</p>  <p>Equal access to facilities across the River Park area</p>  <p>Collaborative ownership of the river park between local organisations</p> 



Gemma

"The kit of activities is great for me - when it's a sunny day I can bring the kids to the park for a couple of hours and don't have to worry about bringing lots of things to keep them occupied!"

Key aspirations reached

More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations



Equal access to facilities across the River Park area



Movement - Barriers

- Environmental impact
- Heritage preservation
- Community engagement
- Accessibility
- Balancing development with preservation
- Funding and resources

Movement - Best Practice

The Clay Pits: Scottish Canals

Description

The clay pits are an element of the wider Scottish canals regeneration programme, the work done in this project, however, is of particular relevance to this project in its engineering scope, community linkages and overall successfully achieved aims for the project.

This particular project stretches from Firhill Stadium to Applecross Wharf in Glasgow next to the headquarters of Scottish Canals.

The clay pits along the canal were excavated to service the old ceramics businesses along the canal. In recent decades these pits were part of a derelict brownfield site in the ostensibly deprived north of Glasgow.

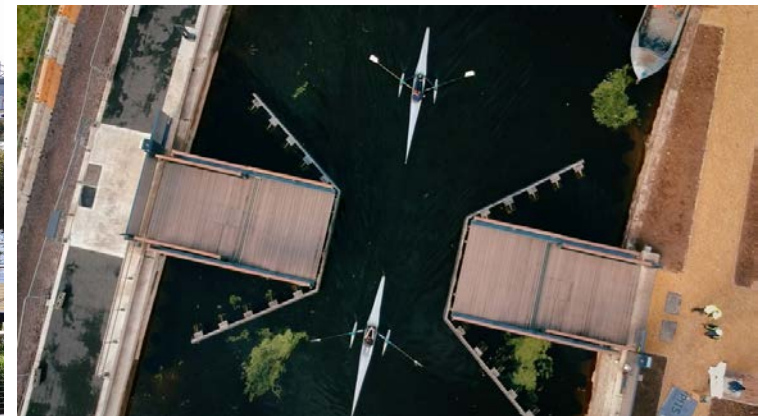
This regeneration project included the creation of multiple trails around the site, a northside section of the walkway, a new

navigable bridge, and local access from the canal to Garscube Road.

The inclusion of a northern walkway and bridge is significant for the area as previous access to the canal path used to be limited and not well connected to the longer south-side active travel path - running the length of the canal, thereby reducing north-sides residents' easy access to this public resource.

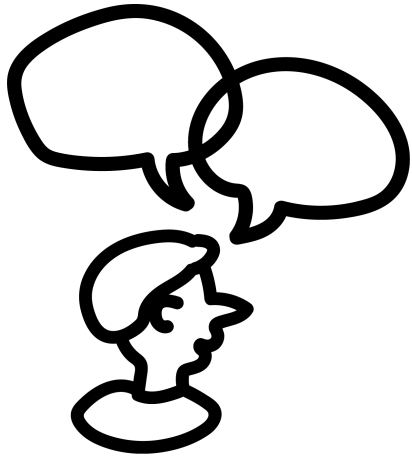
The Glasgow Claypits friends of the LNR are an active community group in the area seeking to facilitate access to this space. This group is essential in the maintenance of the nature reserve, organising monthly open clean-up sessions, and keeping the canal and surrounding trails clear from debris. There is a network of footpaths, with information boards and signage to ensure you don't get lost!

It acts as a space where a local forest and outdoor education school is based and offers childcare and education to locals in the area. This section of the canal hosts fishing workshops, where residents are taught about biodiversity and how to fish the canal sustainably.



[Photos courtesy of LNR friends of Hamiltonhill Claypits, Scottish Canals, Nature Scot, Project Scotland, reGlasgow, Sustrans Scotland]

4.3 Community



Context

The communities of Levenmouth are historically linked through their shared relationships to the river Leven. The river acts as a dividing line on the landscape, and interconnectivity between the two banks is limited. Large distances between crossings segment the areas and isolate neighbours.

Historically, settlements were based near the banks but have witnessed the creation of town centres moving further away from one another and the area surrounding the river as a space for industry. Efforts to create a shared regional identity are hindered by a lack of an expanded inter-town commons where residents from each of the towns can connect. As expected in areas with high levels of deprivation community involvement in local projects is limited and prioritising engagement with the hardest-to-reach demographics is a driving factor of this project.

Community - Projects

River Park Engagement Station

The Engagement Station (ES) is a transient hub space for the community that can act as an instant hub within the River Park from the outset of the Delivery Stage. It could be a converted shipping container that can be relocated within the park throughout the 4 years of the project and find a permanent home once the Community Hub is opened.

As soon as the ES is installed, it will provide a central point for the River Park project where project staff and local groups can run a programme of events and begin to populate the park with managed activities. This is crucial for a quick means to test projects and events and allows the community to see changes and view the River Park as an active space, while longer-term projects such as infrastructural works are being developed and built.

Aims and objectives

- To provide a public-facing presence for the River Park project.
- To quickly inhabit the park and create a presence there.
- To provide a space for groups to use within the park.



Photo from Doon the Beach, Stevenston, Facebook

Output

A pop-up engagement container that is open on a quarterly basis and hosted by community groups, project consultants or stakeholders with knowledge of the project and the communities.

Key organisations involved

- GAT or local organisation to manage
- All groups can contribute information
- Local organisations could use it for free
- Leven Programme partners would use it as a base for engagement/events.

Priority	1.	2.	3.	4.	5. Specifically referenced regularly
Capacity	1.	2.	3.	4.	5. Ready to lead

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Design and procurement, installation of ES																
Recruitment, training for Local Coordinator																
Local Coordinator 2days per week																
Procurement of Info and engagement exhibition																
Promotion of Launch and ongoing Events																
Ongoing Events Programme																
8x Volunteers' Time																

Outdoor Community Cinema

Outdoor cinema screenings have already proved successful events in Levenmouth, albeit so far outside of the River Park. This project aims to make the Outdoor Cinema a staple summer activity with a curated series of community-created, national archival footage, heritage and blockbuster screenings.

Initially, these screenings would be ad-hoc with the intention that the River Park would gather the required equipment and team skills to schedule and promote these events each year. Initially, these would be run on the Hub site (or Engagement Station site) with portaloos and other facilities rented, graduating to permanent facilities with the arrival of the hub. Events could be multiple daytime and evening events.



Outdoor Cinema event, July 2023

Aims and objectives

- To include all communities in cinema activities and heritage film events
- To change the perception of the River Park as a destination for large events
- To establish the hub location for events.

Output

- 9 free-to-attend curated events at the River Park

Key organisations involved

- Levenmouth CLD
- Clued up
- MCCI
- OnFife

			lightly relates to community priorities		
Priority					
Capacity			Needs support to partake		

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Screen and equipment purchase	Yellow															
Recruitment, training for Local Coordinator	Yellow	Yellow														
Local Coordinator/Curator 1 day per week	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow				
Site preparation for pop-up events, portaloos, film license		Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow					
Promotion		Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow					
6x Volunteers' Time		Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow					

Heritage Picnics and BBQs

2023 saw fledgling Picnic and BBQ events run successfully throughout Levenmouth, including Doon the Dam's event within the River Park itself. These brought many community groups and individuals together. Groups expressed a desire for a programme of events within key River Park spaces that re-engaged people with the river and the mill heritage.

With access to healthy food being a concern in the community, there is an opportunity to build on these events to foster cooking skills alongside the heritage events. Over time, permanent seating, picnic tables and preparation/cooking spaces, designed and built with/by the community would enable these community events, animate public spaces and bolster the River Park as a space for community gatherings into the future.



BBQ, Blether and a Band event, August 2023

Aims and objectives

- To empower local groups to create a programme of regular community and family events at the park.
- To create additional park furniture designed and delivered by community groups.

Output

- Outdoor food-centred events in the River Park
- Community built seating, park furniture etc for events

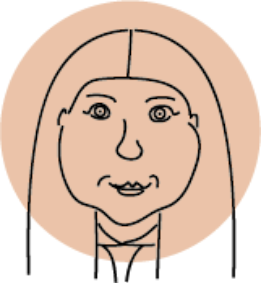






Key organisations involved

Doon the Dam, Levenmouth Foodbank, Rotary Club, Fife Heritage Railway / CLEAR / Hame fae Hame
 CTH & Youth Task Force

Priority					Specifically referenced regularly
Capacity			Needs support to partake		

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Equipment Hire + Food/Catering (4 events per year)																
Promotion																
Management, Design, Construction, Installation of benches/event space																
Larch timber and accessories for 8 benches/tables																
8x Volunteers' Time																

Community - Impact

<p>Maggie</p>  <p>“I feel like there could be more activities locally to attract my friends from Glasgow and Edinburgh when they want to get out of the city. If there was an outdoor cinema event in the park, my friends would come and visit more, and I could also meet new people if I got involved in shaping new activities in the park!”</p>	<p>Key aspirations</p> <p>Opportunities for community in employment, training, and education</p>  <p>More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations</p>  <p>Increase visitor and tourism attraction</p> 
<p>Paul</p>  <p>“The ‘engagement station’ is exactly what we need. Lots of my colleagues have been asking what and when things will be happening. This would give them a chance to ask these questions and get answers. It would also help to encourage people to use the park, where they normally wouldn’t”</p>	<p>Key aspirations</p> <p>Equal access to facilities across the River Park area</p>  <p>Collaborative ownership of the river park between local organisations</p> 

Community - Barriers

- Long-term project funding
- Community Engagement
- Maintenance budgets
- Placement of infrastructure
- Accessibility

Community - Best Practice

The Heeley Trust

The Heeley Trusts People's park is the UK oldest community park and has done a lot of great work to maintain its existence for so long.

The project formed in 1996 when a community group in Sheffield took over derelict land that was destined to be part of a highway project. The group took over management of the 4 hectare site in 1997 which became Heeley Millennium Park managed by the Trust for the public benefit within the area of Heeley and Lowfield in Sheffield.

The Trust describes itself as 'a community-led anchor organisation, working hard to improve the environment, opportunities and prospects of our neighbourhood.'

Some notable projects it has undertaken include the creation of the regionally important millennium boulder, as Sheffield is often regarded as the heart of the UK's rock climbing community. They work consistently with local artists to improve the grounds; adding murals, public installations, and various outreach programs.

The People's park hosts several community festivals throughout the year, working with different community groups and engaging with many different types of projects.

Improving digital literacy amongst elderly residents, operating a community bike shop acting not only as a source of income for the group but also as an opportunity for upskilling local young people and putting them through bicycle mechanic qualifications.

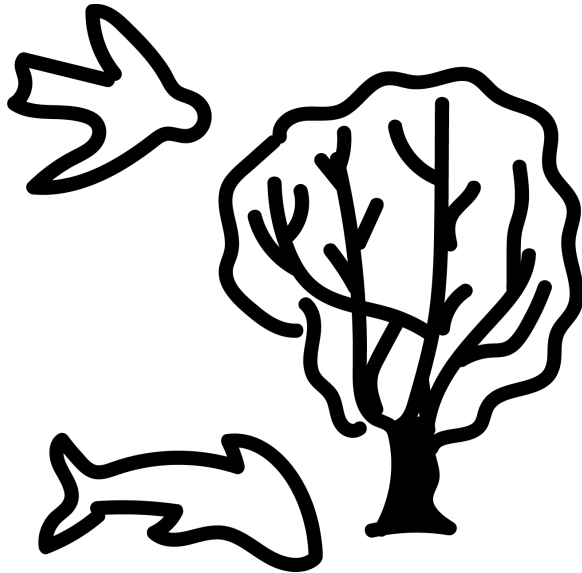
It works with residents, local groups, schools and agencies to strengthen community cohesion through youth training, community and environmental projects to 'link people, land and buildings and make a sustained change to the place we live.

The group has taken over the lease of several peripheral buildings from which they gain the majority of their funding by the action of leasing out units. They have recently renovated an old school to be used as artist studios.



Photos from, Electric pedals, A Different Gear, The Big Boulder.co.uk and Nesta Foundation's websites

4.4 Craft



Context

'Craft' in this context is the development, maintenance and expression of productive skills. Levenmouth has a proud and rich industrial history, with many traditional and modern skillsets within its communities. Craft is currently used as one of the main ways of maintaining community groups in the area; many community groups focus on skills building for community members, and the creation of assets for the community, for example local trade skills, community growing spaces, etc.

The area has experienced sustained rates of high unemployment and therefore, the creation of jobs and enterprise is of high importance to this project and the success of the River Park.

Craft - Projects

Building Biodiversity and Habitats

There is a community of growers and organised growing activities going from strength to strength in various groups across Levenmouth. The River Park provides lots of open space and an opportunity for these skills to be honed and shared. Existing groups, however, are working to capacity and they require capacity-building to increase leadership, have more trained volunteers, access to growing spaces and the basic facilities and equipment required to foster a community garden and other growing spaces/ planting maintenance across the River Park.

There is an opportunity to assemble a 'Ground Force Team' to support planting, habitat rebuilding, natural play spaces and maintenance as each area of groundwork is completed during the development of routes, gateways and platforms allowing a timeline of bite-size and larger-scale projects for the Team to achieve. Over 4 years, this group should be supported to establish a dedicated growing space within the River Park, skills development in Habitat Action Plans/Forrest, Outdoor Leadership Awards and signposting to further employment and opportunities.



Site Visit, Levenmouth Academy Outdoor Learning, May 2023

Aims and objectives

- To engage more people in community growing, gardening and horticulture.
- To build capacity in existing gardening/growing/horticulture groups.
- To provide routes to further employment opportunities

Output

- Active growing group and space in the River Park.
- Ongoing volunteer-led, maintenance and improvement of the River Park

Key organisations involved

CLEAR, EASYP/Fife Employability and Education Services, Levenmouth Academy, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, Forth River Trust, SEPA

Priority:					Specifically referenced regularly
Capacity:				Needs support or capacity to lead	

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Feasibility Study for projects and growing space																
Recruitment and Capacity Building for GroundForce Team																
Quarterly Materials and Equipment Budget																
Volunteer Time (Securing and developing allotment)																
18x Volunteers' Time (maintenance)																

Craft and Trade Skills

The proportion of people who are economically inactive in Levenmouth is 10 percentage points higher than the Fife and Scottish averages. The River Park provides an opportunity for skills development for all ages and especially recruitment of NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people.

An introductory programme of heritage, crafts and trade skills would offer opportunities to understand crafts, test skills and inspire practical learning, by supporting small construction and crafts projects within the River Park. After a local skills audit to engage workshop leaders, a 6-month programme of introductory sessions would be delivered, (eg. stonework, carving, horticulture, sign painting, ironmongery, furniture building, willow-building,)



Stone Carving workshop, icecream architecture for Maybole Regen Project 2023



CLEAR Buckhaven Community Garden, May 2023

Aims and objectives

- For young people to gain skills and knowledge about a wide range of practical employability skills.
- To provide introductions to heritage skills and trades.

Output

- A 6-month employability programme, including heritage trade skills training workshops, craft skills workshops, and horticulture training.

Key organisations involved

EASYP/Fife Employability and Education Services, Community Trade Hub, Stone Inspired (Kirkcaldy), Jim Shears (Gateside), Fife Historic Buildings Trust

Priority				Projects of this nature referenced regularly	
Capacity			Would participate		

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Local Skills Audit + Project Management, Recruitment																
Workshops with Levenmouth Academy: 12x skills workshops with craftsperson.																
Workshops with Employability Clients: 12x skills workshops with craftsperson.																
8x Volunteers' Time																
Materials for projects																

Active Leadership Training for Young People

A significant number of young people who were active and interested in making Levenmouth a better place consider the River Park a no-go area due to safety concerns, a lack of managed activity and no specific place to spend considerable time.

Through a programme of youth leadership training with a focus on future heritage and culminating in a co-design and build project of a positive space for teenagers, young people would begin to change these perceptions themselves. A graffiti wall and youth bandstand were mooted by young people, though an ideas generation process followed by co-design would be required to ensure ideas are youth-led. With guidance, seed funding could be grown by the youth group to develop larger, higher-impact projects within the River Park.

Aims and objectives

- To empower young people to create projects and initiatives in the park

Output

- Facilitated design-thinking and leadership training sessions for young people.
- Physical outputs are designed and developed in collaboration with young people through the design-thinking process.



Levenmouth Academy Outdoor Learning, September 2023










Key organisations involved

Police Scotland Youth Volunteers/Youth Taskforce,
 CluedUP
 EASYP
 Levenmouth Youth Hub

Priority			lightly relates to community priorities		
Capacity			Needs support to partake		

Delivery timeline	Y1 Q1	Y1 Q2	Y1 Q3	Y1 Q4	Y2 Q1	Y2 Q2	Y2 Q3	Y2 Q4	Y3 Q1	Y3 Q2	Y3 Q3	Y3 Q4	Y4 Q1	Y4 Q2	Y4 Q3	Y4 Q4
Recruitment and Promotion	█															
Ideas Generation/Design Thinking sessions with youth groups (facilitated)	█															
Leadership Training (incl community development, building a team, developing funding applications, design)		█	█													
Room Hire		█	█													
Seed Funding provided			█													
Project 1: eg. Graffiti Wall (to be decided by young people through design thinking session)				█												
Building Future Heritage through identity					█											
Project 2 eg Bandstand/Pavilion structure					█	█	█	█								
Funding needed for transport (x 12 Volunteers)	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█								

Craft - Impact

<p>Ann</p>  <p>"I am very interested in the growing gardens that will be at the River Park. It will help me meet new people and stay connected while doing activities that I love."</p>	<p>Key aspirations</p> <p>Revive the natural environment including biodiversity and habitat</p> 
<p>Paul</p>  <p>"My kids will greatly benefit from learning about the species in the River Park. They love animals and learning in creative ways, so I look forward to bringing them to the park and engaging in the volunteering activities."</p>	<p>Key aspirations</p> <p>More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations</p> 
<p>Ryan</p>  <p>"It would be cool to create better places to hang out with my pals, we could create something we'd use as we designed it ourselves. I think I'm underestimated in school so it would feel good to prove that I can make a change in my local area, even if I don't want to go to college. Having leadership training would be good for me, especially if I start my own business one day."</p>	<p>Key aspirations</p> <p>Opportunities for the community in employment, training, and education</p>  <p>Support young people and reroute antisocial behaviour</p>  <p>Equal access to facilities across the River Park area.</p>  <p>More social and wellbeing activities through community-led operations</p> 

Craft - Barriers

- Accessibility
- Cost of equipment
- Procurement of teachers/facilitators
- Suitable facilities
- Concern of competition with existing tradespeople
- Community engagement

Craft - Best practice

Huntly Eco-Bothy Project

The Eco-Bothy project on Greenmyre farm was taken on by the Huntly Development Trust and was renovated by both trust volunteers and professional tradespeople. The site has been transformed from a once dilapidated rural cottage into a multifunctional modern community facility. The space is rented out at reduced rates to local groups and businesses.

It is part of a larger project within Greenmyre farm which describes itself as ambitiously rural.

In celebration of this rurality, the space is often host to traditional skills and crafts workshops aimed at both appreciation of heritage and improving employment prospects. This is a sister project to more work the group do in the town of Huntly proper and there are many crossovers in terms of reach and objectives.

Active travel is promoted in the region surrounding the bothy by the development of mountain bike paths from the site to the surrounding hills. To further support this, the Bothy also acts as an e-bike locker hub.

They have improved the biodiversity on the site by developing sheltered microclimates and planting over 5000 native trees which can be accessed through a network of roughly mown biodiverse walking paths through the maturing forest. They have also contributed to pond clearing/creation which in addition to ecosystem services also recreationally serves the community by offering fishing, paddle boarding and pond dipping.

The space and the surrounding grounds are now a hub upon which crafts, traditional skills, artist events and various other workshops take place.

Photos from Press and Journal, Huntly Development Trust



5.0 Making it happen

This part of the plan explains how the previously outlined projects can be developed. The key aspirations of each project should remain prevalent when considering how to take them forward, as they will help to balance and maximise the community benefit. The below actions serve as a guide but may change depending on stakeholders' and community groups' capacity for involvement.

5.1 Resources



River Park, August 2023

This project hopes to secure funding for its Delivery Phase, which would be used for creating the physical and community infrastructure planned for the project delivery; however, as with the vast majority of these projects, having the resources for effective maintenance and asset impact maximisation should be a key factor to consider before implementation.

Securing diverse funding sources and an understanding of what sources exist is a great way of ensuring that projects can be maintained. This also creates driving incentives and metrics to aim for and record from the start of projects and, as projects age, allows them to plan and broaden their scope and goals. Resources in this context are often much more than financial; the Levenmouth area is very fortunate to have a number of community groups interested in taking on responsibility for the delivery of some of the projects. As it stands, the ecosystem of community actors to develop this project requires capacity-building and greater formalisation to manage these responsibilities effectively.

Creating connections and partnerships with local businesses, tradespeople and educational institutions is a great way of improving the resilience of projects. They can assist in devising new avenues of use, sustained use of project resources, and use of local services and supplies can increase word-of-mouth advertising for projects, and goodwill towards project outcomes. Opportunities for finding/utilising resources can be favourable new policies, and nature-based tourist attractions e.g. species re-introductions for longer-term project strategies.

5.2 Collaborative delivery



Site Visit, Levenmouth Academy Outdoor Learning, May 2023

The delivery of this project is being undertaken by the Green Action Trust in collaboration with 14 other partners, including Fife Coast & Countryside Trust, Fife Council, NHS Fife, Historic Environment Scotland, SEPA, and Coalfields Regeneration Trust-led Community Steering Group and others. With so many partners involved in one project, collaboration and consultation are proving the key to the success of the project. Bolstering the already established communication channels between partners and the community will be crucial

throughout the development of the River Park. This could become a challenge when some partners move more quickly than others, resulting in uneven outcomes.

Momentum is important for this project and regular check-in public consultations and engagement events are essential to maintain long-term support for the project throughout the implementation stage.

Open communication channels between partners and community groups/organisations could be very helpful in this project; some organisations may want to donate resources to the project, so effective distribution of information and open calls will aid in securing these advantageous gifts.

Collaboration with local organisations improves placemaking and could help the project achieve more buy-in and, ultimately, more support for the longer-term aims of the project.

In the scenario of community management, there are many benefits associated with the community taking ownership of these new assets, often more effectively managing them for public benefit.

These groups are often highly democratic, being closely accountable to their community and can work towards a broader range of goals than those able to be set by a council (Hopman et al., 2021). For community management groups, ideas that seem contentious in different management structures can be more sensitively implemented. A potential example of where this may be effective within the River Park is Levenmouth's motorbike community (a very popular local past-time in the area).

“Community asset ownership is often spurred by communities wanting to see and be actively involved in better things for their local area. While the private sector might focus on balance sheets and returns, local communities can steward assets in community ownership now and in the long-term to increase pride in place, retain as much money in the local economy as possible, and generate a range of positive social outcomes”, (Tom Archer et al, 2019).

Another potential benefit is an emphasis on engagement with biodiversity. A recent Scottish example of this is the purchase of Treucheen forest by the Inchinnan Development Trust. After purchasing the forest land, a treasured community landmark rich with folklore, the forest was opened up for the first time in decades, allowing people to go in and spend time in the

nationally rare habitat. Most of the work was done by local volunteers, friends of the trust and local contractors. The walkways were designed to make the wood accessible for those with limited mobility. (Community Land Scotland, 2023)

Community ownership can potentially reduce the burden of paperwork that would be otherwise required to implement changes on the land. With no requirement to seek land-owner permissions, planning processes can become much more streamlined. This can allow community groups to have much greater freedom to put up structures and create growing areas and leisure facilities in response to community needs. The intrinsic risk of developing community projects on leased land is removed, and longer-term projects can then be developed.

This kind of asset distribution can often inspire a great deal of goodwill with locals, causing more people to give their time to participate in events. Activities that might ordinarily be out of reach, given operating budgets, are much more likely to occur with a large enough volunteer base. Volunteering inspires a feeling of ownership over a project (Samanthi Theminiulle et al 2022) and if nurtured can stimulate high levels of sustained engagement.

In traditional non-profit ownership models these feelings break down after a period of time if the organisation is not shaped in the way that was initially envisioned. (Jeremy Ainsworth, 2020) Care must be taken in the structuring of these bodies so that volunteers are all given an equal voice in decision-making in order to maintain the volunteer support required for the continuation of project delivery. The benefits of volunteering are numerous and have a measurable public benefit (Fujiwara et al,2014) and providing opportunities for volunteering should equally be seen as thus.

What this model does give is opportunities for individuals, potentially excluded from regular employment, the opportunity to learn skills, improve their health, and social well-being and for communities to experiment with new ideas.

Jobs which are created from this type of community-owned project are disproportionately more likely to go to individuals who were previously unemployed, multiplying the public value of these roles beyond their nominal salary (Tom Archer et al, 2019).

Job creation, however, should not be the only or primary metric by which the success of these projects should be measured. Community-owned assets drastically improve

community capacity and enable another bow string for service providers, including those in both the private, public and third sector.

By compiling benefits such as increased local economies (Gross Value Added), increased expenditure, job opportunities and benefits achieved through volunteering hours, it has been proposed that an average community-owned asset can provide public benefits of over **£70,000 per annum** (Tom Archer et al, 2019).

There are concerns that already established community body organisations can be ill-equipped to take on the new roles associated with becoming asset managers which can interfere with the work that they already take on. This problem is often associated with projects that take on a rapid transfer of assets, for instance, to block the private sale of a site of local significance. This project benefits from the fact that these facilities are new and any potential groups will be formed for this express purpose and have the time to develop the structures, skills and personnel to take on these tasks.

In terms of future longevity, community-owned assets also have the potential of becoming Green Social Prescribing program partners, which can become a source of both long term

funding and social benefits by prescribing locals to spend time in the space.

Community-owned assets are likely to be used more intensively than otherwise and are, therefore, able to generate more income than would otherwise be expected from other ownership models. This is not a suggestion that community ownership is any sort of a panacea to third-sector financing woes. There is however an incentive for asset value maximisation within community ownership, which can often allow for more intensive development.

This, coupled with the social, environmental and distributed health improvements that involvement in community-managed projects brings to its members, is another potential benefit that could be gained from community ownership in this context.

Long-term maintenance strategies will need to be upheld as community hubs/centres in areas with a high deprivation index are of particular risk when it comes to evaluations of their financial health. Their public impact is, however, disproportionately high (Tom Archer et al, 2019).

Assets maintain community groups. It allows them to grow, provides a base and resources that can facilitate them to access a larger variety of grants and also provides sources of income. Through the letting of units, creation of community cafes, and acting as a start-up space for fledgling local enterprises, community assets can work for their communities and provide long term social and economic benefits.

If community ownership of both the proposed hub and land were to be pursued the designs of these packages and plans of use should be carefully considered to allow the community organisation the best chance of solvency. The impact to the community in terms of involvement, potential for upskilling and community place making should seem to be very attractive.

5.3 Monitoring, review and evaluation



BBQ, Band and a Blether event, August 2023

Progress on implementing the projects in this plan and the impact of the projects on community life, should be monitored and evaluated using evaluation tools and strategies:

- Each project should have information available to the organisations involved and the public groups updated on the Leven Programme communication channels (website, social media and magazine/ newsletter)
- Digital surveys and questionnaires will monitor satisfaction and participation of the local community, external stakeholders and funders.
- Focus group discussions will help maintain up-to-date with project impact, challenges and successes from the perspectives of the local community
- Observations and site visits, supported by the delivery of the mobile 'engagement station', will assist in monitoring project activities, progress and identify any issues or deviations from the planned activities.
- The community engagement plan should be reviewed annually and after 4 years, to review and update the objectives and action areas in line with any new stakeholders or operations undertaken by local groups.

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Plans and Reports

The following plans and reports have informed our project and are incorporated into this plan.

Neighbourhood Plans

- Buckhaven Community Action Plan 2018 – 2023
- [Buckhaven Spatial Masterplan 2018 - 2023](#)
- Locality Plans as per the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- [Plan 4 Levenmouth Area, Local Community Plan 2019 - 2022](#)

Community Led Action Plans

- East Wemyss and McDuff Community Action Plan 2019 - 2024
- Kennoway Community Action Plan 2018 - 2023
- Methil/Methilhill Community Action Plan 2016 - 2021

Know Levenmouth Area

Key research reports about the area:

- Levenmouth Area Profile
- Levenmouth Area Local Strategic Assessment (2022) DRAFT

- Fife Local Area Economic Profile June 2022

River Park Project Plans

Key relevant reports produced through the Leven Programme:

- [Nature Networks Masterplan Storymap](#) - 2023
- Levenmouth Connectivity Project Community Engagement Report and Plan - 2023
- Levenmouth Connectivity Project Updated Behaviour Change Action Plan - 2023
- [Leven Programme Heritage Framework - 2022-2032](#)
- [The Leven Connectivity Project - Behaviour Change Community Action Plan - 2021](#)
- [Levenmouth Active Travel and River Park Concept Design Engagement Report - 2020](#)
- [Levenmouth Active Travel and River Park Concept Design masterplan Report - 2020, \[pages 1-20\]\(#\), \[pages 21-54\]\(#\), \[pages 55-70\]\(#\)](#)

6.2 Engagement Process

Methodology

A person-centred approach was practiced when engaging the communities of Levenmouth to ensure a tailored communication format was provided to diverse groups.

This included

- Flexibility with outreach; this included harder to reach individuals who were **not** involved in any organisation or group
- Using accessible and coherent language and communication channels; the communication to public groups was clear and tailored to specific groups. For example, women and girls activities were marketed through women and girl facebook groups and individuals working with this demographic e.g. *Women on Wednesdays*. Disabilities Fife was also involved to ensure written outreach was accessible in font, colour and tone.
- Person-centred approach; all events attended included activities related to well-being, creativity, or learning, this included yoga, arts and crafts, or heritage-related show

and tell. Collaborative mind-mapping was the method of gathering feedback from participants which ensured community members felt part of the decision-making process.

- Providing updates and information; each event heard a request for more information from project stakeholders which were then presented to the public aimed to provide consequently. Many engaged individuals requested sources of information online as well as in person at specific events. Some also suggested through the door paper updates for those who did not use online platforms.

Results

These methodologies were successful in effectively reaching harder-to-reach groups, ensuring an inclusive methodology was applied.

Where events were off-site or outside of a short walking distance, transport was offered to be covered to ensure attendees could be accommodated for, this includes buses for students from the Levenmouth Academy.

Things to consider

- Locals may not have the financial means to attend events outside of their local area, this can be addressed by hosting events at existing venues nearer to their home
- Locals may feel more comfortable attending events co-led by existing groups including CLEAR, MCCI or Disabilities Fife.
- Young people who are not engaged in schools are harder-to-reach, so it is best to collaborate with existing organisations who engage with these groups. These include: Community Trades Hub, Youth Task Force, Kingdom Off Road, PSYV, and Clued Up.
- Gendered groups exist within the community and members may feel more comfortable engaging with their gendered demographic including Andy's Men's Club for men and women on Wednesdays.

Community Workshops & Events

The Development Phase engaged a total of 328 individuals through either direct engagement or through a group representative.



Event Title	Description	Partners/Audience	Date
Site visits and Initial Meetings	Walk through river parks area, connecting with collaborating partners	Coalfields Regeneration trust, Levenmouth Academy Outdoor Learning, CLEAR team, Disabilities Fife, Police Scotland	03.05.2023
Quickfire Engagement	On-street engagement, visits to community groups, context gathering	Kennoway Pump Track, Youth Task Force, Local Primary Schools, Disabilities Fife, Greener Kirkcaldy, CLEAR, general public	15.05.2023
Steering Group Committee Meetings	The Levenmouth Community Steering Group (LCSG), led by Enid Trevett from Coalfields Regeneration Trust provided local context, updates, and feedback at the Centre in Leven	Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Kingdom Offroad, CORRA, CLEAR, ARC, Community Trade Hub, STAND and more	various
Methilhill Gala	The Methilhill Gala provided an opportunity to meet with groups and organisations to discuss their needs and capacity	Safer Communities, PSYV, Doon the Dam, MCCI, Expressions School of Dance/the studio, Nurseries, General Public	03.06.2023
CLEAR Community Open Day	The CLEAR Community Garden Open Day provided an opportunity to meet with groups and organisations to discuss their needs and capacity.	General public, Knitting Together, the Food Bank, Friends of Levenmouth, The Salvation Army, The Shed and more	24.06.2023
Outdoor Cinema	Levenmouth CLD team hosted an outdoor cinema for local residents of the Methilhill area	Women on Wednesdays, Fife Council, Levenmouth Rail Link, general public	26.07.2023
Women and Girls Event at MCCI	A women/girls event at MCCI, engaged local women and girls on wellbeing, safety and social elements in outdoor places.	Fife Council, MCCI, General public	29.07.2023
BBQ, Blether and a Band	Community BBQ led by GAT to bring project consultants and stakeholders together in the Garden at the Centre in Leven	GAT, Fife Council, all project partners	03.08.2023
H100 BBQ	The H100 was held in Levenmouth and presented an opportunity to share project findings to date with the community, and gather feedback.	General public, various community actors and organisations	13.08.2023
Online Survey	Online Questionnaire available from the 21st June - 31st July	General public, various community organisations	31.07.2023
One-to-one meetings	Representatives from groups and organisations were engaged consistently throughout the Familiarisation stage of the project through one-to-one meetings virtually and in-person	Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Levenmouth Academy Outdoor Learning, CLEAR team, Disabilities Fife, Police Scotland, Corra Foundation, Levenmouth Local Tourism Association, FCCT, Archaeology Scotland, Iglu studio, etc	various

6.3 Engagement Results

The Engagement process undertaken by icecream architecture

Engagement took place from May - September 2023 and engagement methods comprised a digital online survey, attending a number of community events, tailored events and workshops for specific target groups, community steering group meetings, and one-to-one meetings.

The Online Survey: to identify needs and capacity for local groups and individuals

The survey was promoted on Facebook groups, through a press release circulated through Green Action Trust, and through community network groups with identified community and project stakeholders.

Paper copies were distributed in three local spaces through collection boxes including Buckhaven Library, Methil Library and the Centre in Leven. These attracted no responses.

The survey was promoted through a QR code and paper copies at all public-facing events.

A total of 71 respondents replied to the survey.

Of the respondents

- 43 responses were made through the online survey
- 28 responses were gathered at in-person events, workshops or meetings

Locality

Of the respondents who submitted their local area:

- 16.3% were from Buckhaven
- 23.3% were from Methil
- 9.3% were from Methilhill
- 44.2% were from Leven
- 7% were from Windygates
- 9.3% were from Kennoway
- 2.3% were from Denbeath
- 2.3% were from East Wemyss
- 2.3% were from Rosyth
- 2.3% were from Cameronbridge
- 2.3% were from Coaltown

Respondent type

- 37 respondents were categorised as individuals (people who weren't connected to a local community group)
- 34 respondents were part of a local group/organisation

Interest in joining projects

Below are the responses to the question “**what is your capacity to get involved in different parts of the River Park Project?**”.

People responded as an individual (not on behalf of their group if any).

- 14 said Interested and have capacity
- 4 said Some capacity but need guidance
- 26 said Limited capacity but interested
- 7 said Interested but not sure how to be involved
- 3 said no capacity

Below are the responses to the question “**Would you be interested in joining a local group or organisation who was involved in the delivery phase of the project?**”. People responded as an individual (not on behalf of their group if any).

- 41 said yes
- 5 said maybe
- 5 said no

Of the themes, individuals stated they were interested in

- 28.2% in Mills: heritage, history, archaeology
- 71.8% in Movement: active travel (walking, cycling, wheeling etc), sports, outdoor activities
- 51.3% in Craft: skills sharing and learning, gardening, horticulture and biodiversity, trade skills, arts and crafts

- 59% in Community: community gathering spaces, social activities, play, health and wellbeing, community support and social care

Additional themes include

- 2.6% in Picnic areas, wildlife areas
- 2.6% in Nature Restoration

When asked if respondents felt their community already had these activities

- 57.1% said yes
- 34.4% said no
- 8.6% said no, and suggested the following;
 - Not enough information on local heritage
 - Archaeology is massive - there's loads of interesting stuff in the area. Need to foster local pride and amazement in our past & the warrior spirit of the local people. There's amazing Bronze Age and Pictish archeology nearby. The kids do need some hangout spaces - like weatherproof indestructible shelters that can't be destroyed. Might look a bit brutalist in concrete but could be painted: place to gather safely and call their own. Lots of the most

'troubled youths' have very difficult home lives so a safe space that's theirs is key.

- Safe and accessible pedestrian routes to greenspace. Often to access wooded/greenspace areas and walkways you need to cross busy roads that don't cater to pedestrians - more foot-friendly traffic management measures are needed eg. Traffic lights, zebra crossings, especially over the standing stone road
- No real cycle paths NOT on roads in the town
- Access to the river

When asked "What is your capacity to get involved in different parts of the River Park Project?"

- 33.3% individuals stated they were Interested and have capacity
- 46.3% individuals stated that they had limited capacity but interested
- 17.9% individuals stated that they had some capacity but need guidance
- 2.6% stated that they had no capacity
- 25.6% stated that they were interested but not sure how to be involved

Many people named skills or expertise that they could use in the delivery or support of the projects, they include:

- Event organiser
- Volunteers, social care, voluntary sector
- Dry stone waller
- Lobbying; conservation, natural history, governance, management, volunteer recruitment, consultation, IT
- Tourism, Cycling, Walking
- Health and Safety, Policies, Home Crafts, Volunteering, Organising, Gardening, Landscaping of Planting
- Active Travel Team, Feasibility Studies
- Designing Travel Schemes
- Project planning and delivery
- Team building, knowledge about the area
- Ecology ecosystems, Education, Wildlife
- Horticulture, Design, Tree planting and Maintenance

For respondents who were part of organisations and answered questions related to their organisations needs and capacity:

When asked, which of the four themes **is most suited for your organisation, if any?**

- Mills - 19%
- Movement - 71.4%
- Craft - 47.6%
- Community - 42.9%

Additional themes related to specific organisations included:

- Tourism 4.8%
- Environmental Education 4.8%

Additional suggestions for the park

“Make the river a destination, weekend markets & food trucks. Picnic tables & bbq areas”

“I think it's a wonderful project which could bring together many different parts of the community, (fifers are a dour lot so you'll get some negatives ignore them) I would also contact the schools little or you gets kids learning and helping out is a good idea also gets parents involved, also scouts and guides”

“Interpretation panels”

“I think it is fantastic!”

“With the rail line expected to bring in visitors and regular users, there needs to be well kept areas, encouraging bio diversity, things to see, focal points, areas of interest, overall an uplift to encourage community involvement and engagement.”

Community members were asked what their organisations/groups goals were for the next 5 years to understand how they could be aligned with the projects across the River Park. Some of those goals included:

“More adults and children actively travelling by walking and wheeling. Looking at the missing active travel and sustainable likes from Leven to Kennoway - shared use paths, repurposing old paths, maintenance of existing paths.”

“Set up and grow a 5k parkrun event”

“Support young people and families affected by substance use”

“To get as many men out there talking and using the clubs. Our

aim is to prevent more men taking their own lives. We are hoping to reach more communities may this be surrounding towns” - *Andy’s Man’s Club*

“Grow the trees and forest / Develop outdoor learning and engagement in the community.”

“‘Back to nature’ project, foraging workshops, drumming workshops etc. have got funding for this to make it accessible. Keen for long term involvement. 5 years is a positive for them.”

“MCCI hoping to get ownership of the land, once it’s fixed (damage from mines) - Hoping to open up a dog park, outdoor cinema, more outdoor play space.”

What support does your organisation need to achieve these goals? Responses include

- *Help from the organisation*
- *how to assess funds available*
- *appropriate referrals, funding, opportunities for young*

people and families, experience, community inclusion, activities based on young people's needs

- *Funding applied for through the Lottery*
- *Community Partners*
- *None, we just need to know potential routes*
- *Finding the right people, access to locations and funding to purchase stone and tools.*
- *Information on the project to help promote it*
- *We are a group of volunteers and would need advice and guidance from projects and council.*
- *We need to develop relationships and have integration*
- *Happy to get involved in local projects.*
- *Safer well maintained off road travel routes*
- *Partnerships with other organisations, funding.*
- *Land, some minimal funding, support*
- *More people to volunteer. Places to plant trees. We are encouraged to grow our own local tree stock but do not always have places to plant them so this is important to find new places. Ongoing tree care and maintenance.*
- *more people involved*

Group meetings

Overall findings from the group meetings

- Committee members are concerned for gendered community groups who have less heard voices and less high profile presence in the community
- Antisocial behaviour among young people is a critical concern in the Levenmouth area. Representatives from organisations who seek to engage these groups of young people state that this is caused by lack of activities and opportunities for outlets in recreational areas
- Suggests to challenge this by providing recreational activities including Dirt Bike or high impact activities
- The opportunity for young people to join the Community Trade Hub and obtain a trade for employment are limited by their educational qualifications in maths and english, how do we aid this?
- Funding is a primary issues for community-led groups and organisations. There is a participatory budget available for groups but how to distribute this evenly and viably is something that needs to be addressed and supported

6.4 Stakeholder Analysis

The overall engagement throughout the project found that community members consistently requested a clear channel of communication and information about the multiple projects happening.

The Leven programme is a multifaceted project with multiple initiatives and developments happening at once, many of which present an opportunity for public engagement. The level of outreach can deter community involvement as they receive too much information and not through one source.

Engagement found that many of the local communities felt confused and unsure about what projects they could be involved in when events were happening, and to what end.

Relationships with key stakeholders in the community were developed which served as a diverse network of communication streams and access to harder-to-reach groups. The amount of messaging to these public groups going forward should be monitored carefully and minimised where possible. This may involve GAT or SEPA utilising the existing database to inform them of one source of information to maintain positive relationships and commit to clear and cohesive messaging with the public.

Of 90 groups contacted, the 43 groups below were engaged with further:

Andy's Man Club
Bat's wood (SCID)
Buckhaven Library and Museum
Children and young peoples community nursing
CLEAR
Clued-up Project
Community Trade Hub
CORRA Foundation
Disabilities Fife
FCCT Tree Warden (Fife Tree Warden Scheme) + SRUC
Horticulture Students
Fife Heritage Railway
Greener Kirkcaldy
Kennoway Pump Track
Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle Club
Knit together Methil / knitting together
Largo Communities Together
Leven area safer communities
Leven Scout Group
Levenmouth Academy
Levenmouth Foodbank / Friends of Levenmouth
Levenmouth Local Tourism Association
MCCI - Methilhill children's initiative
Methil and Buckhaven rotary club
Methil heritage centre (closed since covid)
Methil history group - heritage group
Methil Sea Cadets
Methilhill and Denbeath Parish Church
Methilhill gala
Methilhill Primary School
MybusCT
Parkrun fife / park run fife
PSYV Levenmouth
Rotary Club of Buckhaven and Methil / local councillor
Silverburn park
Sporting memories
STAND
Steelworks brae tenants association
Stone Inspired
The Shed at Bayview
The Studio / Expressions School of Dance
Women on Wednesdays
Wrap - welfare, reform and anti-poverty groups
Youth Task Force

Stakeholder and community groups in Levenmouth

Stakeholder Group	Specific groups	Impact <i>(how much does the project impact them)</i>	What is important to the stakeholder group? / goals identified.	Key concerns	How could the stakeholder contribute to the project?	Strategy for engaging the stakeholder?
Charity organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CLEAR - Kingdom Off Road - Greener Kirkcaldy - Homestart Levenmouth - Levenmouth Foodbank - BRAG - Fife Gingerbread - Salvation Army 	High	<p>CLEAR: Maintaining funding income, supporting volunteers and members,</p> <p>Greener Kirkcaldy: expanding resources to the River Park, bike training and dr. bike, cycle rides, cookery classes, gardening, event facilitation, knowledge of local issues relating to active travel</p> <p>Kingdom Offroad: To help reduce illegal motorcycling and quad bike use by providing a safer, controlled legal environment for people to ride/encourage a better perception of organisation and activities</p>	<p>CLEAR: Concerned about the large scale housing developments proposed (e.g. west of Campus) with the coming of the railway - careful planning required, particularly for biodiversity and drainage.</p> <p>All: Concerns about attaining funding</p>	<p>CLEAR: Growing gardens, capacity-building training, well-being support at the River Park and for the hub, management of the hub</p>	Quarterly round-table meetings to inform organisations about developments and viable sustainable management
Community-led organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levenmouth Community Cycle Club - The Studio/Expressions School of Dance - Buckhaven & Methil Miners' 	Medium	Increasing member numbers, supporting members in resources and facilities, transport costs, spaces and upskilling existing volunteers	Community groups are outshaded by larger organisations, stigma of assumption to the services provided by	Community groups with skills in training can utilise the facilities in the park including cycle and walking routes, growing	Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and

	<p>Brass Band</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methil and Buckhaven rotary club - Rotary Club of Buckhaven and Methil - The Shed Bayview & the Shed Kennoway - Levenmouth Workers Forum - District Dog Training Group - Fifers for the Community - Levenmouth Photography - The Thrift Club - Largo Communities Together 			<p><i>the groups, accessing funding that has already been allocated to larger organisations with larger recognition and more numbers</i></p>	<p><i>gardens, etc.</i></p>	<p><i>opportunities for public involvement</i></p>
<p>Local resident groups /councils and family support centres</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levenmouth Community Council - Levenmouth Connectivity Steering Group - Woodlands Family Nurture Centre - Robert Gough Resource Centre - Steelworks brig tenants association - DAPL -Drugs, Alcohol & Psychotherapies Limited - WRAP - Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty - Food Insecurity Groups - Andy's Man's Club - Bereavement Support Group - Windygates Community 	<p><i>Medium</i></p>	<p><i>Ensuring residents are included in decision-making of developments, access and proximity to facilities, having voices heard</i></p>	<p><i>Residents and community groups are excluded in design of River Park facilities, lack of investment in housing for local groups</i></p>	<p><i>Local knowledge, new generations to use the parks,</i></p>	<p><i>Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement</i></p>

	<p>Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buckhaven and Denbeath Community Council - Steelworks Brae 					
Heritage/history organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Heritage Friends - Buckhaven Library and Museum - Doon the Dam - Fife Historic Buildings Trust - Buckhaven Heritage Regeneration Project 	High	<p>The Heritage Friends:</p> <p>To have an established space hosting information for residents and visitors, to develop an archive of historical and heritage narratives, to establish archaeology artefacts related to the local area, to celebrate unique history of the communities, to increase tourism appeal, to develop heritage trails</p>	<p>Lack of guidance, support and resources to complete archaeology activities, lack of engagement from local community members, lack of stories</p>	<p>Provide archives from existing historical projects with key sites for heritage and narratives of stories from local people.</p> <p>Provide local knowledge furthering archaeology digs and research for the area</p>	<p>Quarterly round-table meetings with relevant consultants to establish routes for specific heritage and historical-related projects</p>
Environmental organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FCCT Tree Warden (Fife Tree Warden Scheme) + SRUC Horticulture Student - bats wood (SCID) - Levenmouth Whale Project - Silverburn Park - Happy Beaches - Back to Nature 	High	<p>FCCT Tree Warden:</p> <p>Plant 6,000,000 trees across Fife, improve our woodlands, green spaces and community access and engagement,</p>	<p>Find more people to volunteer. Places to plant trees. We are encouraged to grow our own local tree stock but do not always have places to plant them so this is important to find new places. Ongoing tree care and maintenance.</p> <p>Decrease vandalism and litter and pollution to the rivers</p>	<p>Horticulture, design, tree planting and maintenance</p>	<p>Quarterly round-table meetings with relevant consultants to establish</p>

Women organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knitting Together - Women on Wednesdays (WOW) - Methil Mum's Coffee Morning - Rainbows 	Medium	To have gendered representation in decision-making, to feel safe and comfortable at the River Park, to feel adequately represented and supported in all project aspects, toilet and seating access along the River Park routes,	Many women's groups in the communities of Levenmouth have lower profiles that need to be consulted or heard. There is nowhere to sit along the River Park for vulnerable people who may struggle to walk for extended periods of time, many women's voices are overshadowed and activities do not cater to the needs of women and girls, rendering them disengaged in activities at the park	Inclusive representation from gendered voices which identify key areas in development, including safety concerns, facilities and inclusive activities	Quarterly round-table meetings with relevant consultants GAT, SEPA, and ARC Architects. Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement
Refugee organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fife Centre for Equalities - Democracy Collaborative 	Low	To provide adequate support facilities to communities in need including english lessons, domestic resources			Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement
Youth organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSYV - Youth Task Force - EASYP / Levenmouth Youth Hub - Buckhaven Players 	High	To provide an opportunity to young people for involvement, PSYV: support and training engagement in leadership	Anti-social behaviour takes place due to lack of resources, facilities and opportunities. Limited engagement /	Support and managing initiatives for other young people, recruitment of peers, knowledge of barriers to youth	Quarterly round-table meetings with relevant consultants GAT, SEPA, and ARC Architects, also stakeholders involved in

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scouts/Guides - Clued up 		<p>skills, upskilling and community roles, to minimise anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Clued Up: Support young people and families affected by substance use</p>	attendance, more tailored activities to suit the needs of the young people.	engagement, ambassador skills	the long-term management of the River Park.
Policing and Safety organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leven Area Safer Communities - Youth Task Force 	Medium	Ensuring communities are as safe as possible	Anti-social behaviour, vandalism, crime	Training and skill-sharing to youth or community groups	Invitation to attend quarterly round-table meetings with local community groups and project stakeholders
Sports organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Fife Community Football Club - Fife Park Run - Kennoway Pump Track - Methil Sea Cadets - Sporting memories - Fife Mountain Bike Community - Enigma Gymnastics Group - Roller Disco - Leven Las Vegas 	High				Invitation to attend quarterly round-table meetings with local community groups and project stakeholders
Event/Festivals /Open Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methilhill Gala - Buckhaven Gala - SGN H100 	Low				
Hospitality, leisure and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home Fae Home 	Low				Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an

businesses						updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement
Children and young peoples support organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MCCI - Children and Young Peoples Community Nursing - Leven Child Development Centre - Buckhaven Nursery - Methil Parent and Toddlers Group 	Medium	<p>MCCI: To obtain a new space with advanced facilities for members</p> <p>Children and Young Peoples Community Nursing: to sustain staff and recruitment / increase and improve play facilities in and around the Levenmouth area</p>	MCCI: Vandalism, lack of staff and lack of support from funding initiatives	Trained to deliver activities/events for children	Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement
Training and education organisations and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Trades Hub - Fife council Levenmouth CLD (Community Learning & Development) - Workers Education Union 	High			Community Trades Hub: Upskilling and training in trade skills. Opportunities for young people to be involved in meaningful construction projects and improvements to local infrastructure.	Quarterly round-table meetings with relevant consultants GAT, SEPA, and ARC Architects. Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement
Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levenmouth Academy - Parkhill Primary School - Mountfleurie Primary School - St Agatha's R C Primary - Viewforth Nursery School - Aberhill Primary School 	Low	Levenmouth Academy: Develop outdoor learning and engagement in the community. / Encourage forest and outdoor leadership Awards. Attain	Barriers to pupils cycling to school include not having bike locks and bikes being stolen or vandalised by other pupils. Lack of	Education, bridging the gap between outside activities and schools. Engagement through partnered initiatives e.g. CLEAR and Levenmouth	Quarterly round-table meetings with relevant consultants GAT, SEPA, and ARC Architects. Information and feedback event at one

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paxton Nursery School - Balcurvie Primary School - Buckhaven Primary School - Denbeath Primary School - Hyndhead School 		<p><i>small grants. More support for nature restoration.</i></p> <p><i>Partnerships between schools and other organisations, funding.</i></p>	<p><i>attendance or engagement at schools after primary school</i></p>	Academy	<p><i>site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement</i></p>
Project consultants, Partners and stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ARC Architects - Iglu Studio - Archaeology Scotland - Plincke - Fife Coast and Countryside Trust - RaeburnFarquharBowen - Coalfields Regeneration Project - The CORRA Foundation - Green Action Trust - SEPA - Scottish Enterprise - Nature Scot - Fife Council - Sustrans - Scottish Water - Fife College - Forth Rivers Trust - Diageo - Keep Scotland Beautiful - Historic Environment Scotland - Zero Waste Scotland - The Coal Authority - Levenmouth Local Tourism Association 	High	<p><i>Carry out an assessment and feasibility studies on different aspects of the River Park development including sustainable and viable opportunities for communities,</i></p>	<p><i>Barriers engaging with local communities and/or harder-to-reach groups in consultation processes. Gathering accurate feedback, managing expectations, leveraging existing networks for communications</i></p>	<p><i>Master plans, strategies, and evidence for funding opportunities to develop the River Park. Provide engagement opportunities to the public / release information to local communities to gather feedback and ensure correct assessments are underway</i></p>	<p><i>Continuation of monthly update meetings / Quarterly round-table meetings with relevant community groups,</i></p>

	- Fife Historic Building Trust					
Infrastructure organisations	- MybusCT	Low	<i>Build a Petanque court at Scoonie Bowling Club</i>	<i>Funding applied for through the Lottery</i>	<i>A petanque court at the River Park managed by the organisations</i>	<i>Quarterly round-table meetings with all consultants. Feedback sessions every 6 months to ensure proposed designs and developments are inclusive and accessible.</i>
Disability/additional needs support organisations	- Autism Rocks Fife - Disabilities Fife - STAND - Dementia Friendly Fife	High	<i>To ensure inclusivity in all of the park development including routes, walkways, signage, wayfinding, facilities and operations / Increased support and acknowledgement, social meetings/building networks</i>	<i>Accessibility / Stigma and bias, exclusion from aspects of project delivery, barriers to attend in-person meetings or consultation events</i>	<i>Signmaking at the local library, foraging, community-led walks, heritage walks, dementia accessibility, involvement in/attend events</i>	<i>Quarterly round-table meetings with all consultants. Feedback sessions every 6 months to ensure proposed designs and developments are inclusive and accessible.</i>
Social, Religious and recreational organisations and groups	- Safe Haven Cafe - Buckhaven baptist church - Methilhill and Denbeath Parish Church - St Kenneth's Parish Church - Leven Parish Church - Bums off Seats - Let's Walk and Talk Group	Low				<i>Information and feedback event at one site every 6 months, an updated webpage with key information and opportunities for public involvement</i>

6.5 Collaborative Delivery Citations

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Daniel Fujiwara, Laura Kudrna, Paul Dolan, 2014

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/304899/Quantifying_and_valuing_the_wellbeing_impacts_of_sport_and_culture.pdf

6.6 Costs for Project Strands

Each project strand has been costed against likely market costs for the delivery of that project strand. The total costs and estimated volunteer time per Theme is detailed below:

Theme	Total Estimated Cost	Total Estimated Volunteer Time
Mills	£24,700.00	£6,400
Movement	£27,490	£21,760
Community	£140,130.00	£35,520
Craft	£89,500	£48,960
Total	£281,820.00	£112,640

The following 4 tables outline the estimated cost of each Project Strand. The Total Cost of each is exclusive of Volunteer Time which is totalled separately.

Mills - Costs

Description of Task	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF Cost Heading	Total Cost	Is VAT likely?
Levenmouth Heritage - Viral Videos	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£17,300.00	
Local Coordinator/Dramatist-1day per week	12 months x 3days per week x £25k	£15,000	Other	Recruitment		N
Story development and youth theatre workshops	Room Rental, props and equipment	£1,500	Activity	Event costs		N
Promotion	Social media boosted posts, posters	£800	Other	Publicity and promotion		Y
8x Volunteers' Time (Developing Heritage Short Stories)	8 workshops x 3hrs x £20 x 8	£3,840	Other	Volunteer time		N
Meditation among the Mills	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF Cost Heading	£7,400.00	
Programme of yoga and meditation among the memories	Facilitator 10x £500 per day	£5,000	Activity	Professional Fees		Y
Maintenance of Spaces (Equipment)	8 sessions x £300	£2,400	Activity	Equipment and materials		Y
4x Volunteers' Time (Maintenance)	8 sessions x 4hrs x £20 x 4	£2,560	Other	Volunteer time		N
Mills Projects - Total Cost					£24,700.00	
Volunteer (in-kind support)		£6,400				

Movement - Costs

Description of Task	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF Cost Heading	Total Cost	Is VAT likely?
Local Health and Heritage Walks, Mill Race Festival	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£18,700	
Programming Events/Runs/Health Walks with partner organisations	Facilitator 5x £500 per day	£2,500	Activity	Professional Fees		Y
Training Local Walk Leaders, Risk Assessment etc	3 cohorts x £500per	£1,500	Activity	Training for volunteers		N
Mill Race at the River Park (festival)	6 volunteers x 40hrs x £20ph	£4,800	Other	Volunteer time		N
Annual Festival Equipment	£4000 x 3 years	£12,000	Activity	Equipment and materials		Y
Annual Festival Promotion	£900 x 3 years	£2,700	Activity	Publicity and promotion		Y
Volunteer Time (walk leaders)	6 volunteers x 40hrs x £20ph	£4,800	Other	Volunteer time		N
Activities for everyone	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£7,700	
Games kit (bowls, skittles, lawn tennis, petanque, rounders, giant chess)	Equipment purchase	£3,200	Activity	Equipment and materials		Y
Marking out/maintaining informal playing Greens	3 years x annual marking and summer maintenance	£3,600	Activity	Equipment and materials		Y
Promotion around the Community	3 years x £300	£900	Other	Publicity and promotion		N
2 Volunteers' Time over 3 years	3 years x 2 volunteers x 12hrs x £20ph	£9,600	Other	Volunteer time		N
Levenmouth Access Panel for Routes and Platforms	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£1,090.00	
Recruitment of local people with accessibility awareness and lived-experience	Materials for promotion (including social media boosted posts)	£450	Other	Publicity and promotion		Y
Management and regular meeting facilitation/site visits, transport costs	8 meetings x 2hrs x 8 volunteers x £20	£2,560	Other	Volunteer time		N
Transport/taxi costs for site visits	2x 8 members x £30	£480	Activity	Travel and expenses for volunteers		Y
Room Hire for 4 in-person meetings	4x £40	£160	Activity	Travel and expenses for volunteers		Y
Movement Projects - Total Cost					£27,490	
Volunteer (in-kind support)		£21,760				

Community - Costs

Description of Task	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF Cost Heading	Total Cost	Is VAT likely?
River Park Engagement Station (ES)	Cost description	Proposed Cost: £73,400	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£73,400.00	
Design and procurement, installation of ES	Purchase and installation of converted shipping container	£18,000	Capital	Other costs		Y
Recruitment, training for Local Coordinator	Facilitator 8x £500 per day	£4,000	Activity	Professional Fees		Y
Local Coordinator 2days per week	2 years x 2days per week x £25k	£20,000	Other	Recruitment		N
Procurement of Info and engagement exhibition	Graphic Design and Printing	£5,000	Activity	equipment and materials		Y
Promotion of Launch and ongoing Events	6x £50, x 8 quarters	£2,400	Other	Publicity and promotion		Y
Ongoing Events Programme	Budget 6 events x £500, x 8 quarters	£24,000	Activity	Event costs		Y
8x Volunteers' Time	6x events x 2hrs x £20ph x 6 quarters	£11,520	Other	Volunteer time		N
Outdoor Community Cinema	Cost description	Proposed Cost: £26,900	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£27,000.00	
Screen and equipment purchase	Screen purchase	£5,000	Capital	Equipment and materials		Y
Recruitment, training for Local Coordinator	Facilitator 5x £500 per day	£2,500	Activity	Professional Fees		Y
Local Coordinator/Curator 1day per week	3 years x 1day per week x £25k	£15,000	Other	Recruitment		N
Site preparation for pop-up events, portaloos, film license	9x £450 per event	£4,050	Activity	Event costs		Y
Promotion	9x £50 per event	£450	Other	Publicity and promotion		Y
6x Volunteers' Time	6x 12hrs x £20ph x 6 quarters	£8,640	Other	Volunteer time		N
Heritage Picnics and BBQs	Cost description	Proposed Cost: £38,640	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£38,640.00	
Equipment Hire + Food/Catering (4 events per year)	16 events x £600	£9,600	Other	Event costs		Y
Promotion	16x £40 Social Media boosting	£640	Other	Publicity and promotion		Y
Management, Design, Construction, Installation of benches/event space	Designer/Manufacturer fee	£22,400	Capital	professional fees (capital work)		Y
Larch timber and accessories for 8 benches/tables	Materials	£6,000	Capital	Other costs		Y
8x Volunteers' Time	16 events x 5hrs x £20ph	£12,800	Other	Volunteer time		
Community Projects - Total Cost					£140,130.00	
Volunteer (in-kind support)		£35,520				

Craft - Costs

Description of Task	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF Cost Heading	Total Cost	Is VAT likely?
					£32,600	
Building biodiversity and habitats	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading		
Feasibility Study for projects and growing space	Facilitator 5x £500 per day	£2,500	Other	Professional Fees		Y
Recruitment and Capacity Building for GroundForce Team	Facilitator 15x £500 per day	£7,500	Other	Professional Fees		Y
Quarterly Materials and Equipment Budget	£2200 x 8 quarters	£17,600	Activity	equipment and materials		Y
Volunteer Time (Securing and developing allotment)	6 volunteers x 40hrs x £20ph	£4,800	Other	Volunteer time		N
Allotment Setup Costs	Seed Fund	£5,000	Other	Community grants		
18x Volunteers' Time (maintenance)	18 volunteers x 40hrs x £20ph	£14,400	Other	Volunteer time		N
Craft and Trade Skills	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£23,800	
Local Skills Audit + Project Management, Recruitment	14x £500 per day	£7,000	Activity	Professional Fees		Y
Workshops with Levenmouth Academy: 12x skills workshops with craftsman.	12x Craftsman fee £500 per day	£6,000	Activity	Professional Fees		N
Workshops with Employability Clients: 12x skills workshops with craftsman.	12x Craftsman fee £500 per day	£6,000	Activity	Professional Fees		N
8x Volunteers' Time	8 volunteers x 24 workshops x 4hrs x £20ph	£15,360	Other	Volunteer time		N
Materials for projects	24x £200	£4,800	Capital	equipment and materials		Y
Active Leadership Training for Young People	Cost description	Proposed Cost	NLHF cost type	NLHF cost heading	£33,100	
Recruitment and Promotion	Social Media Posts	£600	Other	Publicity and promotion		Y
Ideas Generation/Design Thinking sessions with youth groups (facilitated)	Facilitator 5x £500 per day	£5,000	Activity	Training for volunteers		Y
Leadership Training (incl community development, building a team, developing funding applications, design)	Facilitator 20x £500 per day	£10,000	Activity	Training for volunteers		Y
Seed Funding provided	Seed fund for group(s)	£15,000	Other	Community grants		N
Project 1: eg. Graffiti Wall (to be decided by young people through design thinking session)	12 volunteers x 20hrs x £20ph	£4,800	Other	Volunteer time		N
Building Future Heritage through identity	Facilitator 5x £500 per day	£2,500	Activity	Training for volunteers		Y
Project 2 eg Bandstand/Pavilion structure	12 volunteers x 40hrs x £20ph	£9,600	Other	Volunteer time		N
Funding needed for transport (x 12 Volunteers)	12 volunteers x £5 trip x 30 sessions	£1,800	Activity	Travel and expenses for volu...		N
Projects - Craft Cost					£89,500	
Volunteer (in-kind support)		£48,960				