



Project town - Rutherglen – what we are hearing in our communities

As part of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme's [data journey](#) in 2022-2024, a Community Link Lead in each Project Town connected with local practitioners and representatives of local groups, organisations and services.

A comprehensive quantitative data exercise had already indicated that some groups in Rutherglen face particularly significant inequalities relating to life expectancy variances between neighbourhoods; the proportion of people living close to derelict sites; children living in poverty; people on low incomes and receiving out of work benefits; and people with a problem substance use involving alcohol

This exercise aims to bring the above data to life and understand Rutherglen residents' experience of the place they live, work and relax. The information gathered will be fed into Steering Group meetings and [Place and Wellbeing Assessments](#), and be continually reviewed for the duration of the Programme.



This infographic summarises some of the key things we are hearing as they relate to the [Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#).

The principles of equality, net-zero emissions and sustainability underpin all of these themes.

You can read more, including the process for identifying the ideas captured in this infographic, in a report here: [Community Link Lead Report](#)
You can find out more about the [quantitative data profile](#) here.



Mental Health with links to financial wellbeing and the impact of the cost of living crisis widely seen as local issue.

Carers and the role of carers within Rutherglen emerges as a priority along with the support and services available to them.

The **quality of land and open spaces** is mentioned across communities in Rutherglen.

Community empowerment can be achieved through bringing people and services together and through **joint working**.

Movement

Public transport
Active travel
Traffic and parking

Generally there is much positivity around the public transport links within Rutherglen, with frequent services and a range of options from the Main Street. Public transport through the town could be improved along with links to health services in South Lanarkshire.

Connectivity to transport links could be improved in some communities with the maintenance of paths to access services and addressing some safety concerns.

Spaces

Streets and spaces
Natural spaces
Play and recreation

There are large areas of free and open spaces within Rutherglen, including green spaces. However, in some areas, the quality rather than quantity of spaces is the issue. Contaminated land and perceived links to ill health and the impact on mental health is raised. This importance of place of mental health and wellbeing is raised frequently.

The emergence of land use and the proximity to derelict sites for a significant proportion of the population makes Rutherglen unique within the towns of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing programme.

“There is an abundance of green space but it is the quality of it that is the problem”

Resources

Services and support
Work and economy
Housing and community

Mental health and the links to financial wellbeing is raised as a concern requiring resources and support locally. There is a desire to support ideas for creative and preventative approaches to tackling mental health issues in the community

Carers and supporting carers has also emerged as a priority with some services reportedly not restarting since pre-pandemic.

A strong desire also exists for joint working and for improving engagement processes with statutory services and resources already present in the community

Civic

Identity and
belonging
Feeling safe

There is a sense of pride and feeling of belonging in Rutherglen. The number of volunteers is essential for providing local services. Pride and enthusiasm also exists in relation to celebrating 900 years as a Royal Burgh in 2026. Within some communities there is a concern over aspects of community safety, with low –level lighting, anti-social behaviour in open spaces and underpasses and connectivity to town centre highlighted. Safety concerns about open spaces and the impact of contaminated land are also raised.

Stewardship

Care and
maintenance
Influence and
control

A strong history of community-led development and action exists and influence over decision making is strong in particular areas of Rutherglen. People report that they value meaningful engagement and want to support the improvement of communication from statutory services and be involved in decision making that impacts their lives.

"Now it's time to stop and take action and all do our part. Let's make Burnhill free of fly tipping and take pride in the area we come from."

Learning

Across the seven Shaping Places for Wellbeing project towns, we have identified some key learning from our conversations:

- Communities value joint working and partnership approaches.
- Communities want strong communications between all stakeholders.
- Collective decision making by all stakeholders will strengthen partnerships.

