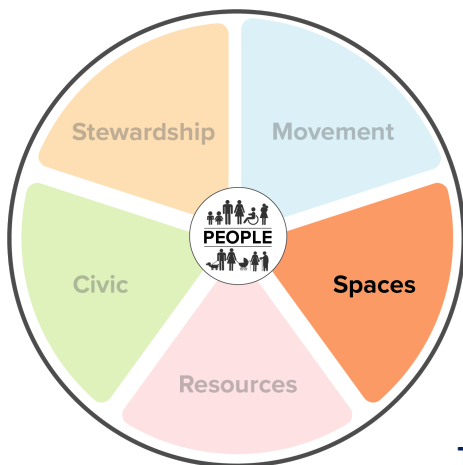


Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

Streets and Spaces: Impact on Clydebank's Community



Streets and spaces can have a positive impact on people when everyone can access:

- Buildings, streets and public spaces that create an attractive place to use, enjoy and interact with others.
- Streets and spaces that are well-connected, well-designed and maintained, providing multiple functions and amenities to meet the varying needs of different population groups.

This is why it is one of Scotland's Place and Wellbeing Outcomes.

The evidence tells us¹:



Walkable neighbourhoods have the potential to increase physical activity and social interactions.



Mental wellbeing and quality of life is higher if residents perceive their neighbourhood, including buildings, as attractive.



Green spaces need to be easily accessible on foot, by bike or affordable public transport.



Inadequate or poor spaces can lead to reduced social interactions.



Navigable streets and spaces allow people to move around easily, safely and access facilities and services.



Intergenerational connection and sharing of resources, including sharing community assets, can strengthen communities.



Vacant and derelict land can negatively impact on health.



Partnerships in place-making which involve communities can bring benefits that individual partners cannot achieve alone.

1. Source: [Evidence Behind Place Standard Tool & Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#)

Indicators for Streets and Spaces in West Dunbartonshire and Clydebank²

Percentage of adults who rated their neighbourhood as a 'very good place to live' (2020)

- 47% West Dunbartonshire
- 59% Scotland
- West Dunbartonshire consistently rated lower than Scotland for over past 10 years
- West Dunbartonshire 4th lowest local authority area in Scotland

Percentage of adults who agree with the statement 'There are places where people can meet up and socialise' in their neighbourhood (2019)

- 44% West Dunbartonshire
- 57% Scotland

Services / facilities available within 20 minutes of households (2021)	West Dunbartonshire	Clydebank
Primary healthcare	19%	20%
Pharmacy	65%	62%
Healthy food retail	55%	62%
Accessible public open space	98%	99%
Public transport	99%	99%
High frequency public transport	70%	64%
Primary school	76%	79%
Financial	95%	96%
Recreation and sports facilities	93%	94%
Social and cultural	87%	88%
Eating establishments	74%	79%
Superfast broadband	99%	98%

Population living within 500 metres of a derelict site (2022)

- 52% in West Dunbartonshire (5% decrease since 2019)
- 46% Clydebank (9% decrease since 2019)
- 58% Dumbarton / Alexandria (no change since 2019)

1. Data Sources: https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/; The Scottish Living Locally Data Portal (SLLDP) (arcgis.com).

What we heard from a range of communities, organisations and practitioners in Clydebank in 2023

Disconnect between town centre and much of Clydebank

A sense of disconnect between the town centre and much of Clydebank emerged in local discussions. This is considered to have an impact upon people's ability to access services and activities. However, it's unclear whether this is a longstanding issue or has emerged more recently with the development of Queens Quay and the opening of Clydebank Health and Care Centre, Clydebank Leisure Centre and the West of Scotland College campus.

Some of the factors cited as barriers include the cost of public transport to reach the town centre and the lack of well-designed and maintained routes from other parts of Clydebank that could encourage people to access the town centre by active travel.

“ More and more people are cut off from the town (centre) because they can't afford to get there, never mind have anything to spend if they did. (Local volunteer) ”

Town centre appearance

Conversations with groups generally indicated concern about the 'unattractiveness' of the town centre, with a worry that this drives the perception of Clydebank as a 'poor community' and encourages anti-social behaviour.

Whilst the town centre is recognised as a destination for numerous retail, leisure, health and support services, local conversations suggest that the appearance of the town centre discourages use and is a barrier to social interaction taking place amongst local people.

Suggestions on how the appearance of the town centre could be improved included:

- Maintenance of footpaths and pavements.
- Clearer signposting.
- Improved lighting.
- Addressing littering and dog fouling.
- Incorporating green space / gardens.
- Re-purposing derelict land for uses other than car parking.

Civic spaces

Local groups and organisations noted the potential for civic spaces within Clydebank to play an important role in encouraging social interaction and providing a positive sense of 'identity and belonging' amongst local people.

The civic spaces within the town centre are not currently viewed as attractive or appealing to use. However, groups indicated consideration of the following could change this:

- Include the opportunity to interact with heritage information to encourage local people to come to civic spaces and interact with others.
- Incorporate green spaces / gardens within them, providing a natural space to enjoy and connect with others.
- Regular maintenance and upkeep.
- Ensure civic spaces are affordable for hire to be used for activities such as concerts and marketplaces.

“ We need to find a way to encourage local groups and organisations to make use of the town's civic spaces and for local people to be involved in designing and maintaining them, so they can develop a feeling of ownership and responsibility for the town centre. (Local Charity worker) ”

Visit the [website](#) for more information on [Clydebank Project Town activity](#). Follow us on X (Twitter) [@place4wellbeing](#) to keep up to date with our latest news and place-based resources.