

Shaping Places for Wellbeing Programme

Traffic and Parking: Impact on Clydebank's Community



Traffic and parking can have a positive impact on people when everyone can benefit from:

- reducing traffic and traffic speeds in the community.
- traffic management and design, where traffic and car parking do not dominate or prevent other uses of space and car parking is prioritised for those who don't have other options.

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

The evidence tells us¹:



Motorised transport can increase risk of accidental injury and disrupt communities.



Motorised transport has potential to reduce levels of physical activity and social interaction.



The volume and speed of traffic can be detrimental to health.



Motorised transport has potential to increase air and noise pollution and greenhouse gases.



Parking should be prioritised for people who don't have other options.



People in deprived areas can be exposed to higher levels of air and noise pollution.



Some parking interventions are associated with positive impacts on car km reduction, modal shift or car ownership.



Park and Ride as a parking intervention was generally found to increase vehicle kms when located close to destinations.



Traffic infrastructure design can inhibit access to amenities, services, goods and communities.



Investing in better streets and spaces for walking can provide a competitive return compared to other transport projects.

1. Sources: [Evidence Behind Place Standard Tool & Place and Wellbeing Outcomes](#); [Climate X Change: Reducing Car Use Through Parking Policies](#)

Traffic rates in West Dunbartonshire²

0.41 billion vehicle miles were travelled on roads in West Dunbartonshire in 2022

33% of households in West Dunbartonshire **do not have access to a car** (2019)

66% of households in social rented housing in West Dunbartonshire **do not have access to a car** (2019)

The **most deprived areas** have **35% higher road traffic accident casualties** than West Dunbartonshire as a whole (2019)

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



Traffic and traffic speeds

Speeding is a concern within Clydebank neighbourhoods. People within communities would like to see traffic monitoring (CCTV) and the installation of traffic calming measures, e.g. chicanes, road humps and reduced speed limits.

There are concerns that drivers disregard signage within Safe School areas (20mph speed limit) and that traffic congestion on local roads is often due the large number of 'drop offs' within school zones.

An increase in Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) due to the expanding online retail market is felt to have impacted on traffic within local neighbourhoods. There is concern that the 'time sensitive drop' pressure on delivery drivers results in speeding and illegal parking that causes obstruction to pedestrians and other road users. There are concerns that LGV delivery drivers do not have the same controls as other 'professional drivers' and that this impacts on their driving hours and competency.



'Glasgow are trialing banning cars from schools, maybe West Dunbartonshire Council should look at that as well, maybe save a kids life.' (Clydebank Parent)



Impact near schools

Concern was expressed in relation to the volume of traffic and dangerous / inconsiderate parking around schools and early years centres in Clydebank which impacts on children and young people, including:

- Congestion, plus dangerous and inconsiderate parking causing poor visibility and increasing the likelihood of traffic accidents.
- The impact of air pollution on children's health, especially from engine idling.
- Safety concerns discourage parents from allowing their children to engage in active travel to school.
- Parents not engaging with traffic enforcement measures at schools reduces the effectiveness of road safety education messages for children and young people.

2. Data sources: Dept of Transport, Road Traffic Stats; [SHS Data Explorer](#); West Dunbartonshire Council Citizens Panel Survey (Spring 2023).

The work of West Dunbartonshire Council targeting local education hubs with awareness raising campaigns about air pollution caused by engine idling and implementing targeted, traffic calming solutions is valued by local people who are aware of it.



Car parking and priorities

There is no shortage of free parking within Clydebank town centre. Those with access to a car value the free parking opportunity, especially near transport hubs, as it enables them to access public transport to Glasgow city centre and other popular recreational and retail destinations. However, this offers no financial benefit for people from households without access to a car, often on much lower incomes.

Poor maintenance of some car parks in the town centre was highlighted, and this was recognised as an important issue for people with a disability or limited mobility.

Local discussions about travel to the Clydebank Health and Care Centre highlighted a demand for more disabled parking at this location and general support for parking to be prioritised for those with no other option.

17% of Citizen Panel would like to see an increase in disabled parking bays. (2023)

The lack of maintenance and use of derelict land for car parking in the town centre was also considered to have an impact on feelings of safety at key locations, including travel hubs.

Reference was also made to parking issues concentrated within specific neighbourhoods, where housing was built at time of much lower car ownership. As a result of growing car ownership, the traffic management design no longer prevents the dominance of car parking within these neighbourhoods. This contributes to safety concerns for road users and pedestrians and local tensions, including:

- Congestion and parking cause poor visibility which contributes to older adults feeling less confident and parents being concerned for their children's safety around roads.
- Deterioration of central reservation greenspace due to illegal parking.
- Some residents with driveways park on the street contributing to reduced on street parking availability and tension with neighbours.
- Car school drop offs causing further congestion and inconvenience for people living in streets close to schools.



'The Clyde Shopping Centre multi-storey is in really poor repair. I don't feel safe using the lift or back stairwells. It looks neglected.' (Wellbeing Group member)





Parking enforcement

The need for parking enforcement was highlighted as an issue in local conversations, with both safety concerns and consideration for others being highlighted. It is felt that there is currently a lack of parking enforcement and uncertainty on who is responsible for parking enforcement.

36% of Citizen Panel would like to see parking enforcement (2023)

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Pavement sandwich boards and illegal parking on the pavement have seen canes been caught in car undercarriages. There needs to be stronger local awareness to challenges on pavements for people with visual impairments.’ (Visual impairment charity volunteer)

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Reference was made to dangerous and inconsiderate parking, including:

- Pavement parking presents barriers and dangers to pedestrians, especially wheelchair users, people with mobility issues and visual impairments, and people with prams.
- Parking in designated bays for blue badge holders impacts on people with mobility and health issues accessing support and services.
- Parking in taxi ranks impacts on those with no access to a car seeking to access a taxi and a loss of income for professional drivers.

With high levels of poverty and low levels of car ownership in Clydebank, the availability of car parking is understandably not a priority for much of the population. However, given the most deprived local areas have 35% higher road traffic accident casualties, this is an important issue for many people and provides context to the road safety concerns highlighted in local discussions. It would be useful to consider the issues raised in this briefing along with the Movement related briefings on ‘Active Travel’ and ‘Public Transport’ for Clydebank.

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.