

community
enterprise

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Broxburn and Uphall

Our Community | Our Choice | Our Vision

July 2018



About the Project

Broxburn and Uphall is a vibrant and changing community. Lots of great things have already happened in the area. There is huge potential here to build on that success and we need new ideas and effective ways to implement them. We wanted to hear the views of all residents about what the priorities should be for Broxburn and Uphall over the next 5 years and whether the town should have a Development Trust to lead on initiatives.

What We Did

- A Statistical analysis of the area
- An Asset Map of facilities and spaces
- Two visits to the Open Door Cafe : 40 people engaged
- Session at a Coffee Morning : 37 people engaged
- Open Meeting 6th May : 17 people engaged
- Canvassing of views on the street. 3 visits to different areas : 56 people engaged
- One to one interviews with some key individuals
- Survey : 360 individual responses. 318 additional people represented (as well as answers of 100 / 900 / Scout Group / School not included in numbers)
- Children's session and family focus group : 20 people

Total contributors to research circa : 850
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What We Found Out

Our Assets : A Strong Community

- Broxburn and Uphall has a very **stable population**, with the vast majority having stayed here for over 10 years and many much longer. In addition, 68% say they expect to be still living here in 10 years. In the survey 52% scored the area a 4 or 5 out of 5 as a place to live. This indicates a community that is relatively content and improvements are likely to strengthen this stability.
- When asked what was the most positive thing about the community, the highest proportion of people (65%) said “**friendly people**” which chimes with the relatively high satisfaction rates. This was reiterated in the open meetings where representative comment was that there was “a reasonably good community spirit”
- There was a substantial level of detailed responses in the survey when asked if people have skills – this is a community with real hidden talents and an **asset and skill base** that can be tapped into to develop projects.
- Transport was consistently viewed as a positive element with good linkages within and outwith the community
- A **shared industrial past** was noted as a unifying factor in open meetings and in the survey



Needs

- Lacks a sense of community. No heart / division between Uphall and Broxburn / Merging new residents and existing population.

“Can be an anonymous town with no character or identity. It's no bonny” / “Could be anywhere. No sense of community. There is no heart. No identity”

- Need to improve town centre – run down and unappealing. Consistent throughout.
- Facilities and spaces – needs unifying drop in flexible space that is different from letting meeting rooms

Is this central hub / different places / better use of existing facilities. Town square type gathering space.

- Services for people – older population and youth
- Communication

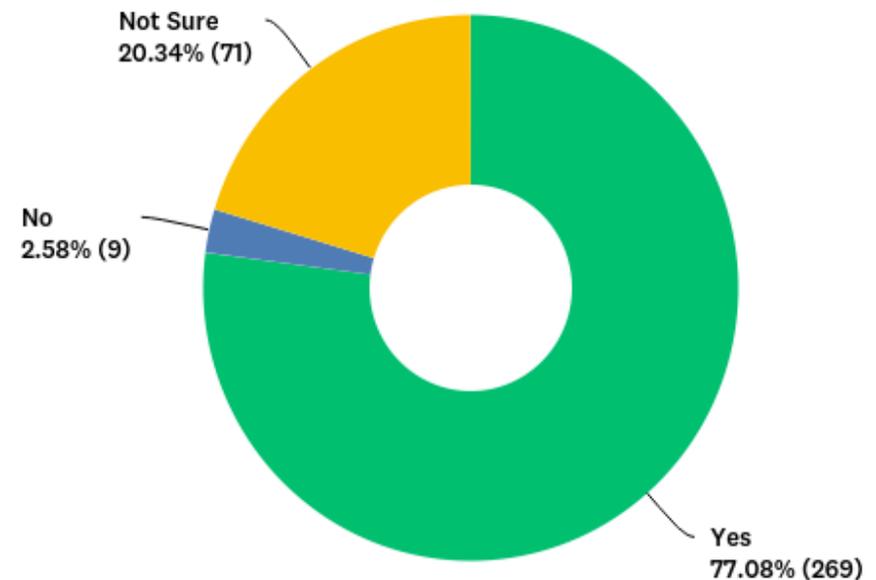
There was a consistent feeling in open meetings and focus groups that there was a lot going on in the community but that most people are unaware of it.

There was a demand in the survey for a community newsletter and better noticeboards.

Most of the group were surprised to hear that there is so much going on: “I don't know about any of this” / “I had no idea there was so much going on”

What About A Development Trust?

- 29 people said they would be interested in serving on a board.
- 49 people said they would want to help with projects
- 108 said they wanted to be kept up to date with progress
- 20 wanted to help with fundraising
- 73 left their contact details and a whole range of suggested skills were added



Themes Under a Single Vision

Vision : Our vision is that Broxburn and Uphall will be a united, strong, beautiful, empowered place that local people of all ages and abilities are increasingly proud of and involved in.

A vibrant town Centre

A heart and hub for the community to bring people together and reduce isolation

Services from the cradle to the grave

Our Community in Control

Next Steps for the Development Trust

The Steering group should evolve into an embryonic development trust, in consultation with the Development Trust Association Scotland.

Steps:

1. Approach DTAS officer for support
2. Hold special steering group meeting with DTAS to initiate the discussion
3. Open public meeting to launch the concept
4. Elect small steering group as an embryonic trust

5. Broxburn and Uphall Development Trust becomes a provisional member (free and with benefits)
 6. Legal support from DTAS and others
 7. Incorporate the company
 8. In year one start to grow the membership
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A Sense of Partnership



Project Priorities

	Themes			
Projects	Vibrant Town Centre	A Heart and Hub	Services for All	Community in Control
Short term	Planters and street furniture	Create Virtual community hub	Youth engagement worker	Set up Development Trust
	Town Square appraisal	Small drop in cafes (Open Door model)	Negotiate subsidised entry to leisure	Establish youth panel
	Branded signage and town gateways	Information hubs	Welcome pack for new residents	Undertake study visits
Medium term	Town centre upgrade plan with BUTA	Green space development at St Nicholas	Youth hub	Communication Plan
	Community owned bistro	Growing suite of community events	Befriending scheme for isolated people	Community Newsletter
	Co-working space at Scotmid	Welcome pack for new residents		Whats on website
Long term	Create town square/village green at Argyll Ct	Industrial heritage project	Health and Social Care Co-operative	Be go-to entity for consultation
	Arts and cultural hub	Signage and links to the canal		Pan West Lothian Dev Trust Alliance
	Inward investment for new retail	Access to the bings		Regular community appraisal