

# USING PLANNING POLICIES AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO DELIVER SUSTAINABLE GREENSPACES AND WOODLANDS

DOUGLAS WORRALL

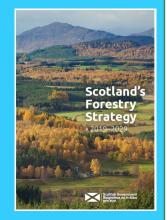
Operations Director, Green Action Trust

## KNITTING TOGETHER POLICIES AND STRATEGIES



#### **National**

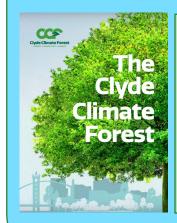






## Regional

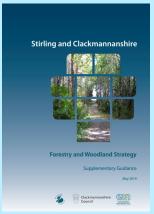




Forth Climate Forest

#### Local





Open space strategies & many other local policies

#### Delivery

**Decision Makers** 

Incentives / money

Landowners

#### PULLING TOGETHER PARNTERSHIPS



**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT** 

SCOTTISH FORESTRY
NATURE SCOT
SEPA
HEALTH BOARDS
OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES** 

**OTHER FUNDERS:** 

LANDFILL TAX
CHARITABLE TRUSTS
LOTTERY FUNDING
GREEN INVESTMENT
FUTURE WOODLANDS SCOTLAND

NGO's:

GAT WT TCV RSPB SWT CWA

SKILLS, EDUCATION & TRAINING

**UNIVERSITIES** 

PRIVATE SECTOR

FARMERS
FORESTRY COMPANIES
BUSINESSES
OTHER LANDOWNERS /
MANAGERS

**COMMUNITY GROUPS** 

FORESTRY AND LAND SCOTLAND

# EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS DELIVERED WITHIN THE CSGN









- 1. PUBLIC AGENCY Larbert Woods, Falkirk
- 2. LOCAL AUTHORITY Lionthorn, Falkirk
- 3. COMMUNITY Dalrymple, East Ayrshire









# Former Royal Scottish National Hospital Project began 2010

- Significant new development of Forth Valley Hospital
- Neighbouring housing developments
- Historic Larbert house
- 30 ha of neglected woodland and greenspace.

#### Planning context:

- Local Development Plan
- Falkirk Greenspace Strategy
- Scottish Forestry Strategy health priority

#### Opportunity identified:

 Delivery of significant health related outcomes (for both local residents and hospital patients and staff) by creating high quality greenspace.





#### Partnership with:

- NHS Forth Valley(landowner)
- Falkirk Council
- Ian White Associates
- Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT)
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Scottish Lowland Forest District (SLFD)

#### Delivered by:

- Ian White Associates Masterplanning
- CSFT & SLFD Woodland management and access improvements undertaken 2012
- SLFD (FLS) Long term management, maintenance and engagement.

#### Funded by:

- Section 75 Developer contributions
- Forestry Commission Scotland Woodland In and Around Towns
- NHS Forth Valley
- SLFD / FLS







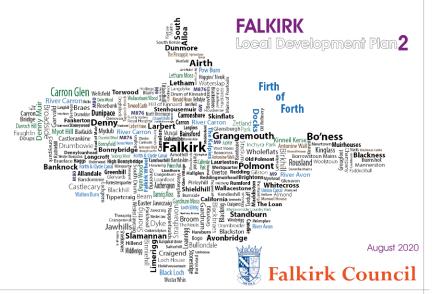
Woodland Management and Access Works Completed 2012.

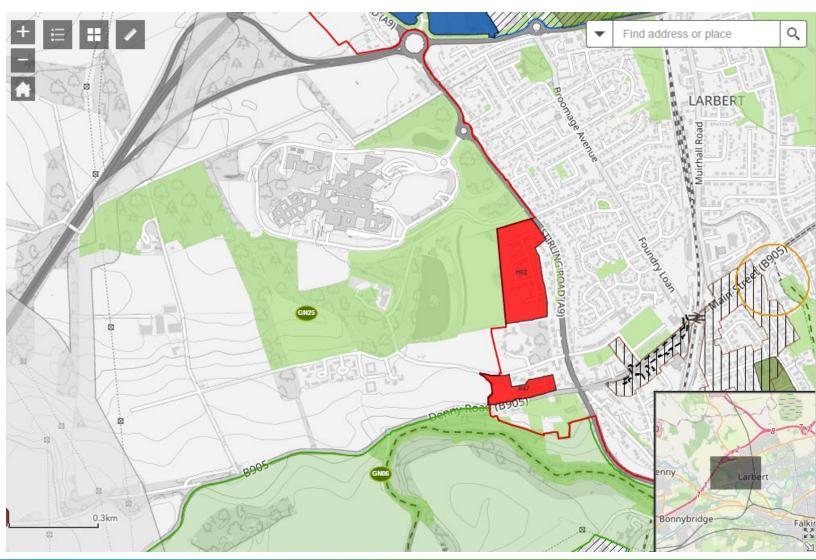






Current Local Development Plan (2020)





FALKIRK

**Inemajoleved** 

Plan

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Document

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#### Place and Environment - Natural Environment

#### PE16 Protection of Open Space

- Development which will result in the loss of open space will only be permitted where:
- There is no adverse effect on the character or appearance of the area, particularly through the loss of amenity space planned as an integral part of a development;
- There will be no significant adverse effect on the overall recreational provision in the local area, taking account of the Council's open space standards (as defined within the Open Space Strategy), or the loss will be compensated for by qualitative improvements to other open space in the local area commensurate with its recreational value. Guidance on how loss of open space should be compensated is set out in Supplementary Guidance SG05 'Green Infrastructure and New Development';
- The area is not of significant ecological value;
- Connectivity within, and functionality of, the wider green network is not threatened and public access routes in or adjacent to the open space will be safeguarded.
- Where development would also involve the loss of outdoor sports facilities, it must additionally be demonstrated that:
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as an outdoor sports facility; or
- The proposed development involves a minor part of the outdoor sports facility which would not affect its use and potential for sport and training; or

- The outdoor sports facility which would be lost would be replaced by a new facility of comparable or greater benefit for sport and in a location which is convenient for its users, or by the upgrading of an existing outdoor sports facility to provide a better quality facility either within the same site or at another location which is convenient for its users and which maintains or improves the overall playing capacity in the area; or
- The Council's pitch strategy and consultation with Sportscotland has shown that there is a clear excess of provision to meet current and anticipated demand in the area, and that the site could be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision.



#### Appendix 1 - Proposals and Opportunities Schedule Green and Blue Network

The Proposals and Opportunities Schedule is an index of all proposed development sites (housing, mixed use and business), infrastructure proposals, and green network opportunities within LDP2. Housing capacity figures are based on planning permissions or masterplans where available. Otherwise they are based on a broad assessment and should be regarded as indicative (see Policy HC04). Figures relate to the total capacity of the site, which may differ from the expected output during the plan period. The LDP does not generally include sites of less than 10 units, although these still contribute to the housing land supply. Site comments include basic guidance on site status, character, constraints, design and infrastructure requirements. However, they are not intended to be comprehensive, and may change over time. When establishing the detailed requirements for any particular site, reference should be made to all relevant LDP policies and supplementary guidance, and consultation should be undertaken with the Council.

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LDP Ref.	Opportunit
GN25	Outdoor Le
	Gree LDP Ref.

Green and Blue Network			
LDP Ref.	Opportunity	Green Network Component	Comments
GN25	Outdoor Learning Sites	Various	Developing a network of outdoor learning sites is an aspiration of the Falkirk Greenspace Strategy.  A programme of masterplans will be developed with local communities and other relevant stakeholders, including landowners identifying ways of maximising opportunities for outdoor learning within local parks and open spaces.  Opportunities for the creation of outdoor learning sites exist at:  • Callendar Park and Woods, Falkirk  • Dollar Park, Falkirk  • Falkirk Community Hospital,  • Summerford, Falkirk  • Zetland Park, Grangemouth  • Kinneil Foreshore Local Nature Reserve, Bo'ness  • Douglas Park, Bo'ness  • Polmont Woods, Polmont  • Gala Park, Denny  • Bonnyfield Local Nature Reserve, Bonnybridge  • Forth Valley Royal Hospital woodland, Larbert  • Carron Dams Local Nature Reserve, Stenhousemuir;  • Limerigg Wood  • The Rumlie, Slamannan; and  • Bellsrigg Woodland, California/Shieldhill.  In respect of the Kinneil Foreshore LNR, for permission to be granted, proposals must be accompanied by project-specific information to inform a Habitats Regulations Appraisal.  This will allow Falkirk Council to complete a Habitats Regulations Appraisal, including appropriate assessment if required, demonstrating that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Firth of Forth SPA or the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Bay Complex pSPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

(1 of 3)

LDP Ref.

Opportunity

Component LDP2 PDF Link:

Schedule Link:

Zoom to

Green Network

Appendix 1 Link: More info

Outdoor Learning Site

GN25 Forth Valley Royal Hospital Woodland

GN25

Various

More info

More info

GN25 Forth Valley Royal Hospital Woodland Outdoor Learning Site



Former Colliery Site and disused blaes pitches Project began 2009

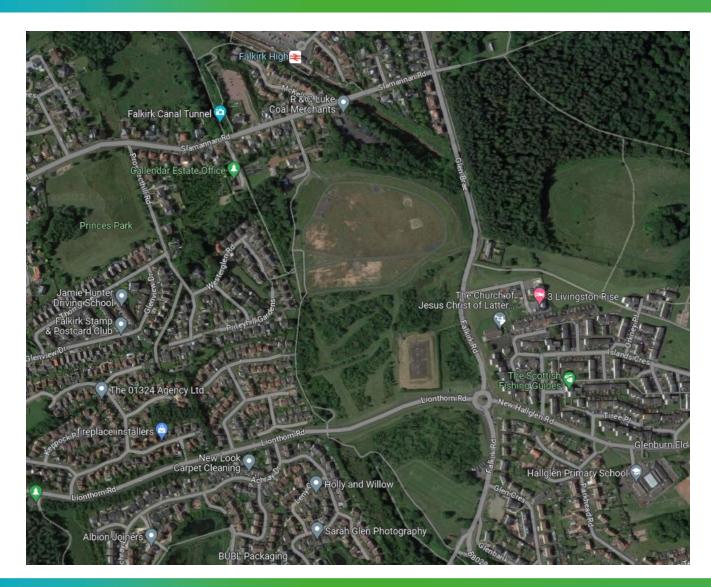
- Effectively "Vacant and Derelict" since 1980's
- Registered as V&DL in 2015.
- Neighbouring residential development to the West
- 10 ha of potential woodland and greenspace.

#### Planning context:

- Local Development Plan
- Openspace & Greenspace Strategies
- Central Scotland Green Network
- Vacant and Derelict Land

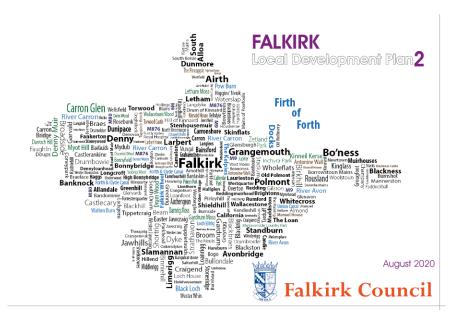
#### Opportunity identified:

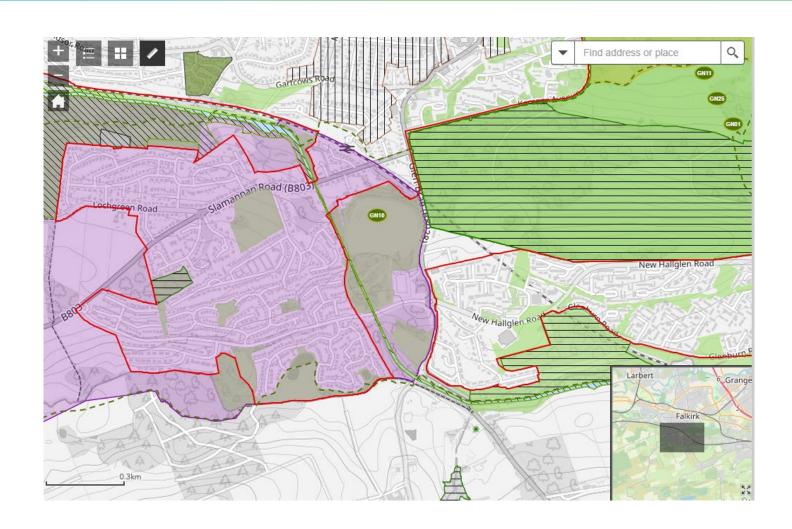
 Creation of significant new muti-functional greenspace for local communities and removal of VDL blight.





Current Local Development Plan (2020)





**FALKIRK** 

Development

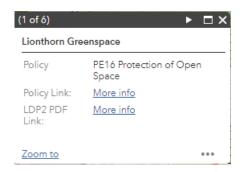
Plan

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Document Link









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- The outdoor sports facility which would be lost would be replaced by a new facility of comparable or greater benefit for sport and in a location which is convenient for its users, or by the upgrading of an existing outdoor sports facility to provide a better quality facility either within the same site or at another location which is convenient for its users and which maintains or improves the overall playing capacity in the area; or
- The Council's pitch strategy and consultation with Sportscotland has shown that there is a clear excess of provision to meet current and anticipated demand in the area, and that the site could be developed without detriment to the overall quality of provision.





GN10 Lionthorn Policy Bing		
LDP Ref.	GN10	
Opportunity	GN10 Lionthorn Policy Bing	
reen Network omponent	South Falkirk	
DP2 PDF Link:	More info	
Appendix 1 Link:	More info	
Schedule Link:	More info	

Zoom to

#### Appendix 1 - Proposals and Opportunities Schedule Green and Blue Network

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	Gree	een and Blue Network		
	LDP Ref.	Opportunity	Green Network Component	Comments
7		Lionthorn Policy Bing	South Falkirk	Opportunity to develop new recreational greenspace on blaes playing fields, building on tree planting, habitat creation and access works previously carried out through Lionthorn Greenspace Project.



#### Partnership with:

- Falkirk Council
- Green Action Trust
- Local Communities (but quiet voice)

#### Delivered in multiple phases by:

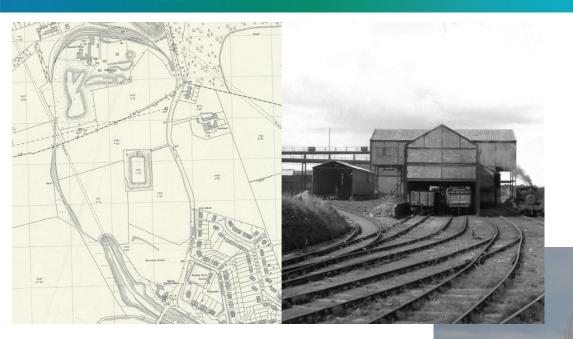
- Green Action Trust capital works and early maintenance
- Falkirk Council long term management and maintenance.

#### Funded by:

- Section 75 Developer contributions
- Falkirk Council
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Falkirk Environment Trust (Landfill Tax)
- Veolia (Landfill Tax)
- Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Programme







1960

2022





#### Former Grazing fields Project began 2015

- Private ownership
- Control of land passed to community group –
   Dalrymple, Skeldon & Hollybush Project for peppercorn rent
- 3.5 ha of potential woodland and greenspace.

#### Planning context:

- Community Led Action Planning
- Local Development Plan & Supplementary Guidance
- Central Scotland Green Network

#### Opportunity identified:

 Community empowerment through creation of significant new muti-functional greenspace and woodland for local community benefit.

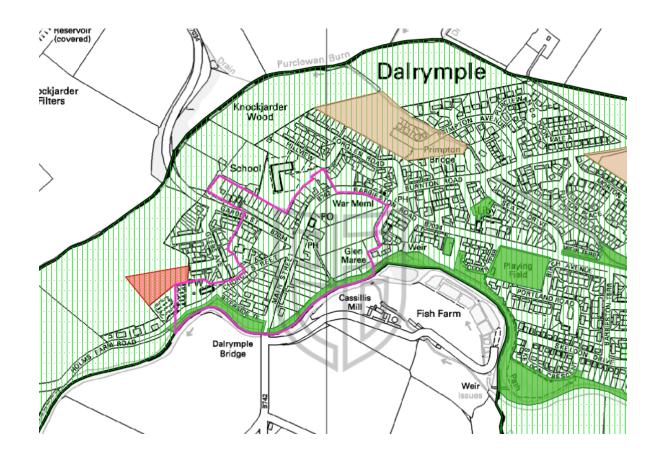






# East Ayrshire Local Development Plan Context:

- Sensitive Landscape Area
- Phase 1 Conservation area
- Phase 2 Out with settlement boundary





#### Partnership with:

- CSGNT / Green Action Trust
- Community Group

#### Delivered in 2 phases by:

- CSGNT / GAT— capital works
- Community Group long term management and maintenance.

#### Funded by:

- EB Scotland (Landfill Tax)
- WREN (Landfill Tax)
- SUEZ Community Trust (Landfill Tax)
- East Ayrshire Council
- CSGNT / GAT
- Nature Scot (Nature Restoration Fund)





Planning issues still a hinderance to project delivery, despite supportive policies.

**Economy and Skills** 

Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer Alexander McPhee ACMA



Head of Planning and Economic Development: Michael Keane

Direct Dial: (01563) 576767 Fax: (01563) 554592 Email: michael.keane@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Postal address: EAC Planning & Economic Development, PO Box 26191, Kilmarnock, KA1 9DX

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (as amended by The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)
(Scotland) Regulations 2013

Application Reference Number: 17/1114/PP

TO: Ms Anne Fairlie Dalrymple Community Landscape Project

per

Gillian Barrie CSGNT

Hillhouseridge

Shottskirk Road

Shotts Scotland

ML7 4JS

REFUSAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION

With reference to your application validated on **5th February 2018** for planning permission under the abovementioned Act and Regulations for the following development:

Change of use to community garden, play area, seating and events area and shelter as indicated in the plans:



Phase 1 completed 2019.







Phase 2 underway 2023.





# Progress and Challenges



1980's

Now









40 years of environmental regeneration across the Central Belt

# Progress and challenges



## Challenges:

## Progress:

- Woodland cover increased
- More accessible woodland and greenspaces
- Know what works & how to deliver change
- Environment no longer a "fringe" issue
- Significantly greater emphasis and support within planning policies

- Less interest in Stewardship; maintenance and management still not a priority
- Consistent support needed (funding)
- Are we aiming high enough with our targets and policies?
- Are we accurately recording woodland, tree and biodiversity loss?
- Skills & capacity shortage in the sector

## Thank You.



#### **CONTACT:**

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