

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

The 'CAP' is now half-way through its 5-year life. Its original Priorities identified with much public consultation 2022-23 were group into six Themes. This review has followed the same grouping of Priorities under Themes.

A '**paper update**' had already been done (by AS) and made available on the BCDT and RBBCC websites. This included a status update e.g.: 'on going', 'achieved', 'more action required', 'is this still a priority?' The update included a few additions to the original CAP:

Storm damage to the railway embankment; the need to create a new local Foodbank; and the impending disposale of the historic Burntisland church.

An **online Questionnaire** was hosted on the BCDT website and ran for 3 + weeks in June 2025. It was accessible by QR code and via the BCDT and RBBCC **websites**. It was publicised on the RBBCC and Burntisland **Facebook** pages, and on **public noticeboards** in the town centre and library. Direct emails advertising the survey were also sent to **Burntisland Community Groups** and to the **Key Stakeholders** named in the CAP.

The Questionnaire invited free text entries for all 6 THEMES.

Only two short specific enquiries were included:

- a. THEME 1: Environment – to assess support for possible changes in management of public greenspaces to support biodiversity
- b. THEME 4: Connectivity – to assess support for possible additional bus routes.

**Community engagement pop-ups** were held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of June at the Big Green Market event and on 21<sup>st</sup> June at the Civic Week Links event. At these, local people were encouraged to use the QR code, and comments were also taken in written form and transcribed afterwards to the online survey (by FM). Direct data entry to the survey via a laptop was also available at the BGM.

## RESULTS:

There were 84 respondents.

Some respondents made several comments/responses under the same Theme.

**All the existing Priorities are still supported for all six Themes.**

Some views and suggestions made under one Theme were moved to the more appropriate Theme, and some could have been included in more than one Theme. This reflects the difficulties that the original steering group had in classifying the Priorities under Themes in the 2023 CAP.

All responses were anonymous, though one person (non-resident) representing a key stakeholder, could be identified. Spelling and punctuation etc. were changed for legibility. One or two comments were a little unclear and were reproduced as written with a comment in brackets. Any comments by the editor (AS) are in [brackets.]

## WHAT'S NOTABLE OR NEW: A SUMMARY

A Theme based summary follows.

## THEME 1 Environment, Access & Recreation

**Concern over possible ticks in longer grass.** *[Information/editor's views (AS): Ticks transfer from other hosts to the grass e.g. from deer or hedgehogs. Therefore, longer grass on the Links is less unlikely to harbour ticks. However, this is a valid concern, especially for those exercising dogs on the Red Pond and in areas to the periphery of the town. Children's play areas should have mown grass. Paths should be mown through or around any longer grass in public areas. Walkers in country areas should take the appropriate precautions, including covering legs and arms if likely to be close to longer vegetation, and removing any ticks promptly.]*

**Dogs:** Continued concern over out-of-control dogs and a wish for a dog park.

A request for **more gull-proof bins**.

The **specific questions** showed most support for planting of **bulbs and wildflowers**, though there are also views against wildflowers in urban/suburban areas.

There is also support for planting of native trees & hedging, where neighbours agree. Most respondents also support a reduction in pesticide use.

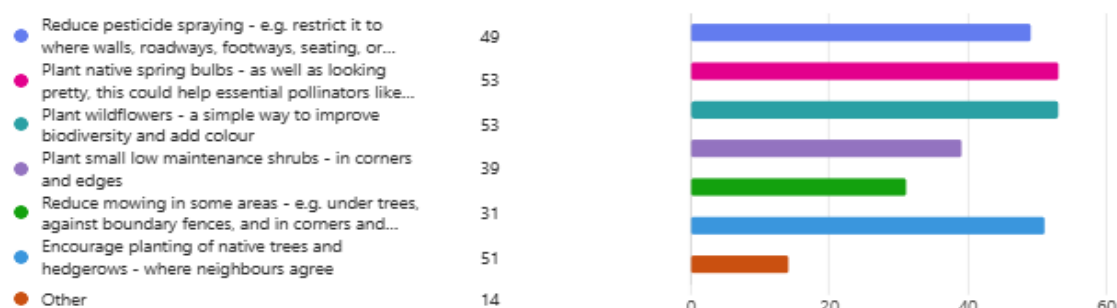
There was less support for low maintenance shrubs, and for reduced mowing.

Nothing would be taken forward without neighbour engagement.

A sensible stakeholder comment was for a **management plan** with regular inspections and monitoring.

**Additional suggestions** included: more fruit trees & allotments, rain gardens, and green-roofs on bus shelters etc.

1. Priority 2: 'Take more action on climate change, biodiversity and habitat protection': We are considering some small changes in the Council management of public green spaces (parks and wee green spaces about town). We think these could help create 'natural fringes' or 'nature corridors' for wildlife and look more appealing and interesting for residents. Which of these suggestions do you support? Choose as many of these suggestions as you wish. You can add your own suggestions too.



## THEME 2: Public Services

**Public toilets:** Though there was acknowledgment of improvements, the consensus is that improvements don't go far enough. Restricted opening hours, the 30p charge, and the lack of a Changing Places Toilet are concerns.

**Beacon Leisure Centre:** This facility is much appreciated and several people wished it had longer opening hours, especially early mornings. There are concerns over access for children to swimming lessons and water play.

**Pharmacy:** Despite some improvements in service, there is still dissatisfaction.

**Antisocial behaviour:** This is still a concern, particularly about **jet skiers** in the bay.

**Mental health services:** A few people mentioned this, including a possible 'men's shed' and addiction services.

### **THEME 3: Local Economy & Tourism**

**Post Office & banking:** The new banking hub is appreciated but a Post Office service remains a key Priority.

**Shows (Fair) duration review:** This remains a divisive issue but a key Priority to address.

**Car parking: Capacity** issues and the wish for a **station car park** remain key Priorities. There are concerns over mobile homes taking up capacity, especially in the Links car park.

**Motor homes facilities: Change of Priority:** Most did not wish any further space given over the motor homes unless at the old Roundhouse site and with a charge for use.

**High Street:** While the town is still thought 'vibrant' and 'a good place to be', there is a concern that the Co-op has a **supermarket monopoly**.

**Economy & Tourism:** Increasing jobs via **training and volunteering** was mentioned. There was a call for a **tourism strategy** for the town.

### **THEME 4: Connectivity, Roads, Traffic & Active Travel**

**Make railway station fully accessible:** This remains a top Priority.

**Improve transport services & links:** It was pointed out that it is often the most vulnerable people (young and older) who use buses most and are most affected by cancellations, and late running. However, slow services, restricted routes and operating hours put workers and others off using buses at all.

Other suggestions included: A **community bus** and a cross-Forth **ferry**.

#### **Specific questions:**

80% of 69 respondents said they would use a new bus route and a **direct service to Edinburgh** was the favourite Priority. Next priority routes are to both Park & Rides, and a direct route to Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline. A Cowdenbeath route was least popular.

6. If you would use a new bus service, which of these possible new service routes would you be most likely to use? Please rate these from 1 (I would use this service) to 5 (I would be unlikely to use this service):



## **THEME 5: Social & Community**

There were no major changes to Priorities.

**Activities for all:** There remains a wish for more activities, not just for children and young people, but also for older and socially isolated people. There may be a lack of awareness of what's already available.

Important distinctions were drawn between 'affordable housing' and '**social housing**', and between 'community consultation' and '**community engagement**'.

[A **Burntisland Local Place Plan** was validated by Fife Council in 2024.]

## **THEME 6: Heritage, Arts & Culture**

**An Arts & Crafts Hub:** This Priority should be expanded to include **Music and Performing arts**.

**Festivals, Events & Exhibitions:** Several people are keen to see further development, perhaps building on the existing Civic Week to become a Burntisland festival week.

**Heritage buildings:** Burntisland has several lovely buildings whose community use is restricted by accessibility and dilapidation. The **Burgh Chambers & Library** generated interest, as well as the historic **Burntisland parish church** at the Kirkgate. The **Music Hall** (Young Community Hall) was also mentioned and could perhaps fill the desire for a music and performing arts venue.

**Gap sites:** A couple of comments suggested these are not fully understood.

The **Burgh Buzz** received an appreciative comment.

## TRANSCRIPTION OF THE COMMENTS MADE

The full list of anonymised comments made, organised by Theme, is available separately on application to BCDT and RBBCC.

## THANKS

Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to respond. The comments were thoughtful and often insightful.

This mid-way Burntisland Community Action Plan (CAP) review was organised by a small group of volunteers from **Burntisland Community Development Trust** (BCDT) and **Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council** (RBBCC).

Thanks are due to: Flavia McIntosh (Chair of BCDT) for all the IT input; Anne Smith (Secretary of RBBCC) for the transcription of responses, editing and summarising; Kitty O'Connor (BCDT) and Jonna Lange (BCDT & RBBCC) who helped at the BGM consultation event with Flavia and Anne; Flavia and Anne consulted at the Civic Week event. Thank you to all for the collaborative working, ideas, and mutual support.

A full review of the CAP would be expected at the end of its 5-year life in 2028.

Burntisland Community Development Trust & Royal Burgh of Burntisland Community Council  
(10/07/25)