

Valleyfield Community Action Plan 2016-2021



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Introduction

- **Over 250** residents views are represented in this report from the 111 community surveys that were completed
- **54** people attended the Coalfields Community Futures Open Event

Coalfields Community Futures

The Coalfields Community Futures Programme is an approach to local community planning and sustainable community development that aims to encourage active citizenship and build local democracy. It enables communities to devise a community action plan which makes a case for the things that the community thinks are important and wishes to make happen.

The process builds on existing processes of community action research to identify local needs and priorities, using residents as co-researchers. We work with local residents and groups to develop a common sense of purpose and assist them to produce a deliverable community action plan.

To support the action planning process the community receive a Participatory Budget which is available to local constituted community or voluntary groups.

This budget enables the community to fund small projects that are identified by the community through the results of the household surveys, stakeholder interviews and the Open Event. These funded projects are aimed at being soon, seen and successful.

Valleyfield Community Action Plan

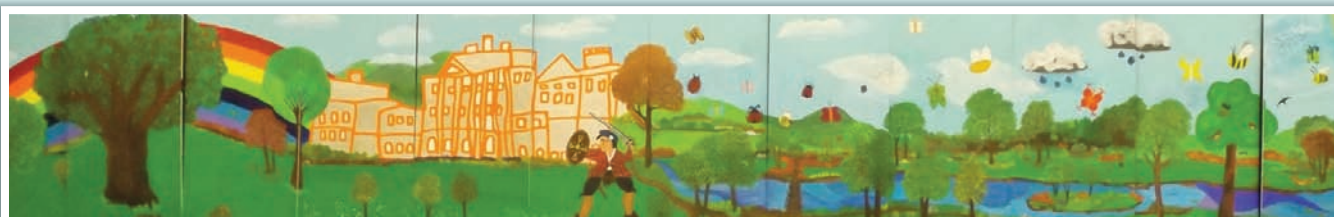
The Action Plan summarises community views and information about:

- **Our community now**
- **Vision for Valleyfield**
- **Priority Themes and Actions**

Valleyfield Community Futures Steering Group

The Steering Group brought together representatives from High Valleyfield Community Council, Valleyfield Heritage Group and Valleyfield Boxing Club.

Thank you to everyone who took part in helping Valleyfield plan for a bright future.



Our Community Now

Background

This Profile has been produced to give an insight into the Valleyfield area. It is part of a wider Community Futures process being delivered by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust across Scotland's coalfield communities to assist them reflect on what is good and what could be improved and how.

Valleyfield, overlooking the Forth, is split by the B9037 which links to Dunfermline. Low Valleyfield was built on the shore of the old hamlet of Valleyfield, which between 1663 and 1760 was a Burgh of Barony.

During the period in which the Valleyfield Estate was owned by Sir Robert Preston, the acclaimed landscape gardener Humphry Repton was employed to design a number of features on the estate. The famous Repton Garden was one of his projects and there is still evidence of the Repton artifacts, along with some rare and invaluable natural habitats in Valleyfield Wood.

To the north of the wood, Riding for the Disabled provides an important amenity. Preston also dabbled in mining, and he sank three pits on Preston Island, just off Torry Bay. These were later to be abandoned following a fatal explosion in 1811.

Preston Island was a conspicuous landmark relied upon by navigators. Today it is an important industrial archaeological site where visitors can see mediaeval mining and salt industry buildings. It can be accessed via Scottish Power's ash lagoons. Other former Valleyfield industries include brick, tile and pottery works, along with weaving of cotton goods for Glasgow manufacturers and table linen for the Dunfermline market.

High Valleyfield came into being in the early 1900s with the expansion of the local coal mining industry. The Valleyfield pit disaster of 1939 claimed the lives of 35 miners. In July 1978 the Valleyfield pit closed, the site today being marked by a monument. High Valleyfield has a number of businesses, along with a community centre, miners' welfare club, council offices and health centre.

Low Valleyfield offers visitors fine walks through the ash lagoons with their thriving wildlife. The whole area around this site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest with protected species such as red squirrels and wild orchids to be seen.



Population

The population resident in the area is 1,810 with just over 1,100 of working age. The population by age breakdown broadly follows that of Scotland as a whole although the population of those aged 0-15 is higher at almost 21% as against just over 17% in Scotland as a whole.

Source: Mid year Estimates (ONS) 2013

Housing

The spread of household size broadly reflects the picture for Scotland as a whole with the highest being married households at almost 28%. When it comes to lone parent families there is an increase in the % which is almost twice as high as the Scottish average at 13% (Scotland 7.2%)

Source: Census 2011

Health

The number of people living with a limiting long term illness is markedly higher in Valleyfield at 28.2% than Scotland as a whole at 19.6%. Source Census 2011

Valleyfield has a doctors' surgery with 3 doctors, a practice nurse as well as district nurses. There is also access to ante-natal and child assessment care. Other services include access to a podiatrist and dentist. There is a crèche running in the Valleyfield Community Centre.

Employment and the Economy

More people are economically active (57.6%) than inactive (42.4%).

The number economically active is much lower in Scotland as a whole (69%), partly as a result of the high numbers of people with limiting long-term illness. In relation to self employed figures Valleyfield has 2.9%, much lower than Scotland as a whole at 7.5%.

Source: Census 2011

Education and Training

The % of households where no one aged 16-74 has qualifications is significantly higher than Scotland as a whole, with Valleyfield figures of almost 45% and Scotland at almost 27%.

Source: Census 2011

West Fife Enterprise supports local people, especially young people with training and development towards becoming work ready, as well as organising work placements for local employers.



Social and Community

Valleyfield is made up of High Valleyfield and Low Valleyfield, each with their own Community Council. There are a wide range of activities held locally including Valleyfield Heritage Project, karate, football, boxing, bingo on Friday and Monday night, Support Group, Lunch Club, Citizens Club (monthly), Never in Club, Ladies Club, Angling Club, Gala committee who organise a Fun Day in summer and a Xmas party for the kids, Bowling Club and Breakfast Club. The area has several shops including a Co op, several children's play areas and the local St Serf's Church. The Valleyfield Community Centre hosts many of the local clubs activities as well as the Library and Local Office. There are also annual guided walks through Valleyfield Woods that are very popular and draw people from outside the community. There is also a Riding for the Disabled stables operating locally.

Environment

Valleyfield is well located for access to nature through an extensive path network. Valleyfield Woods is a popular area for local people as well as visitors to the area. The natural environment has strong links to the rich cultural and industrial heritage that can be found in and around Valleyfield.

Transport

Public transport is good with bus services to Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline and to Kelty. There is also a service to Stirling and to Kincardine which links to a limited stop Glasgow service.

Car parking is said to be terrible with many cars parking on pavements.

Community Action Plan: Considerations

From stakeholder interviews, it is clear that the community spirit is strong, with local people working hard to support itself and its environment. There is a feeling that an increase in Police presence would help and there are real concerns over incidents of underage drinking and the negative impact this is having on the village as a whole.



A shared vision for the future

Valleyfield thrives on its community spirit. We will continue to encourage all residents, local groups and businesses alike to work together to create a clean, safe and vibrant community that cares for its residents from the very young to the very old.

There are activities to enrich the lives of everyone in the village.

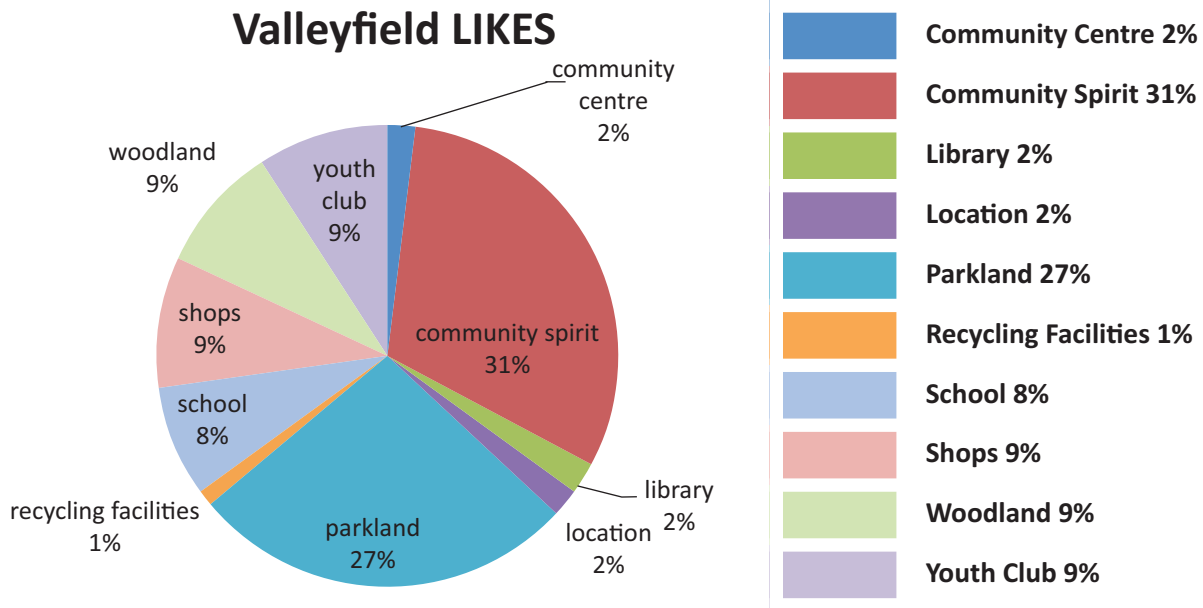
The local environment is welcoming, well kept and enjoyed by all. With a good network of local paths, people enjoy getting out and enjoying nature.

Our rich heritage can be enjoyed through good interpretation and guided walks.

Our local community centre is a popular place for people to meet and interact. We will work together to communicate freely and effectively, keeping a calendar of events to encourage participation and involvement by the whole community.



From the Community Survey we can see what Valleyfield Likes



‘friendly people’

‘good facilities for a small village’

‘everyone knows one another, friendly, good school in the village’

‘some clubs to attend, good doctors, library, Co op and Post Office’

‘Good community spirit’

‘Good woodland walks like Valleyfield Woods’

‘I like the peace and quiet of the place’

‘well located for Dunfermline’

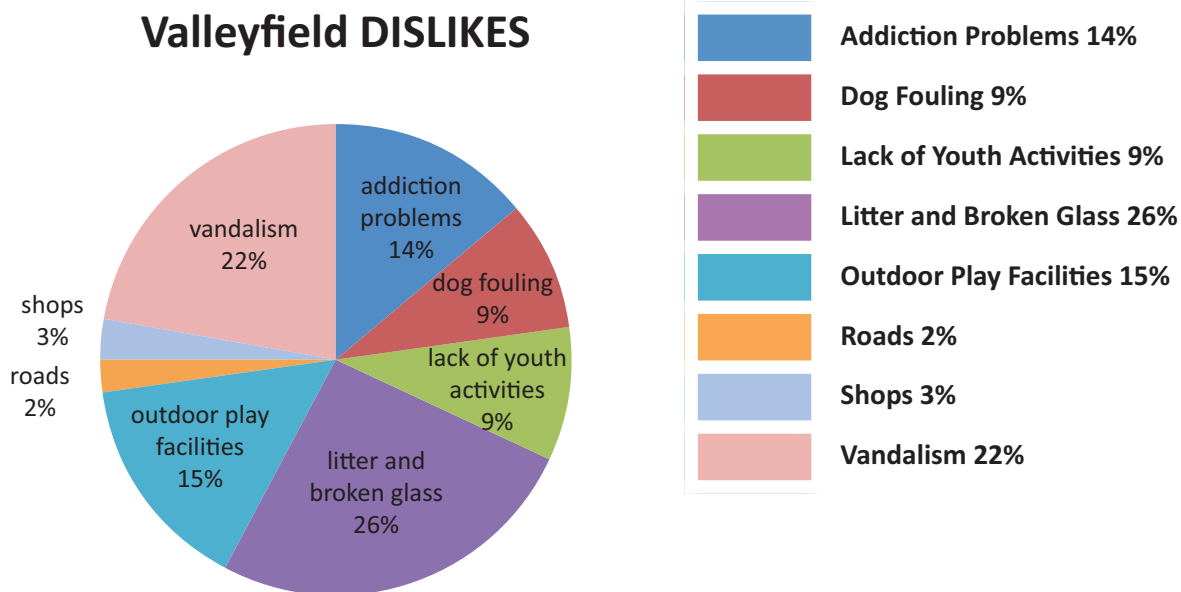
‘very good neighbours’

‘Well situated with woodland and all the different walks’

‘The school’



From the Community Survey we can see what Valleyfield Dislikes



‘people who dump litter for others to pick up’

‘Vandalism in some areas’

‘People who don’t pick up after dog fouling and who let their dog run loose’

‘isolated older folk’

‘Lack of facilities and organisations for the youth in the village’

‘litter and broken glass’

‘not enough equipment in the park’

‘It will be better when we get the train station’

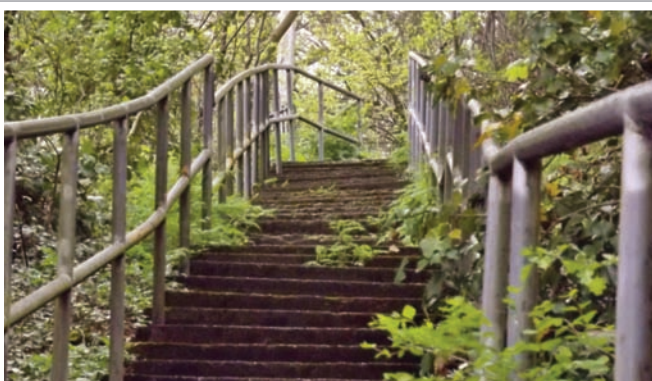
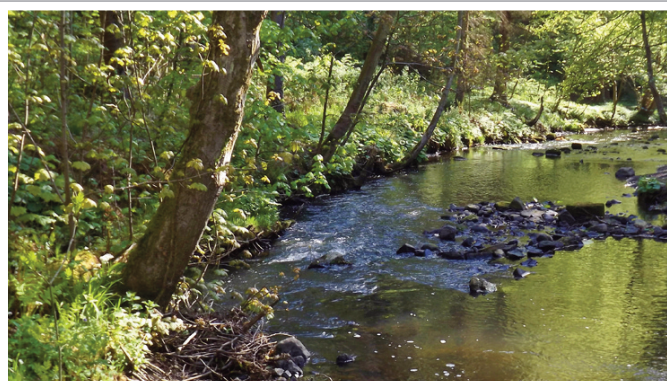


These are the main strategies and priorities the community will work towards achieving in partnership with public agencies and other supporters

THEME 1: An Inclusive Community

This theme is an essential aspect of building social capital in a community. It's the glue that holds communities together and there are some fundamentals that require to be in place for it to grow and develop. There is a need to ensure that there is good, clear and effective communication between people, organisations and service providers to make sure that people are being listened to and that their needs are being met. Inclusive communities also require good, open and honest relationships between people and groups. We will do this through ongoing engagement and activities with an enthusiasm for partnership working at all levels.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
Support for our annual community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make sure annual events are well publicised. ● Secure funding to continue our annual events. ● Set up an events committee to encourage groups to work together.
A community noticeboard for Valleyfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Source funding for noticeboard. ● Identify best location for the siting of a community noticeboard. ● Work with Fife Council to agree planning permission and install the noticeboard.
Improve our path network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Carry out a mapping exercise to identify where path repairs are needed and where new paths could be created.
More activities for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seek support from Fife Council Community Learning Team. ● Find out about other successful family initiatives.
More activities for older folk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seek support from Fife Council Community Learning Team.
Improve communication between groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Make sure best use is being made of all social media and web links between community groups. ● Set up a community calendar for groups to use to promote community activities. ● Newsletter for Valleyfield.
Potential partners	User Groups, Community Councils, Fife Council, Valleyfield Old Folks.



THEME 2: Enterprise and Energy

We need to work closely with Fife Council and other service providers to ensure that the issues raised by people throughout this process are not forgotten but duly considered, prioritised and acted upon. Progress may be made more readily where there is an opportunity for the community and the service providers to take their full share of responsibility for making our community cleaner, greener, more enterprising and better connected.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
A passenger rail connection to Alloa, Dunfermline and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact SESTrans/Network Rail to find out about the possibility of having a passenger rail link in Valleyfield. • Work with neighbouring communities to lobby for this.
More training and access to job opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with West Fife Enterprises to research opportunities for more training and jobs. • Work with Fife Council regarding opportunities for young apprenticeships.
Halt plans for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local environmental groups to lobby against the use of UCG. • Research opportunities for renewable energy initiatives, especially hydro. • Source funding to carry out a feasibility study for a local renewables initiative.
Promote new Credit Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use communication links through social media sites, community noticeboards and newsletters to promote the Credit Union. • Work with Fife Council to use its website and other communication routes to promote the Credit Union to the community.
Housing developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate potential for affordable, social housing development sites within the village and surrounding areas. • Investigate opportunities for self-build by the community.
Potential Partners	Network Rail, Fife Council, Community Councils, Community Centre.



THEME 3: Young People

Our young people are the future. We need to provide them with safe, secure opportunities to grow and learn so they can become responsible citizens, caring for, and being a key part of our community. We need to recognise them as individuals and help them develop their skills and interests, encouraging them to stay and contribute to a positive future for our community.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
Security CCTV for school and play areas eg astro-turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Fife Council on this issue and find out what the opportunities are for fitting CCTV at the school.
More activities for teenagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek support from Fife Council Community Learning Team. • Find out about other successful teenage initiatives.
More activities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek support from Fife Council Community Learning Team. • Find out about other successful youth initiatives.
Improve public transport links to access college and jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out the best way to lobby for improved bus services to improve connections to education and jobs.
Erect lights for skate park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Fife Council to take this forward.
Safeguard children with better road safety signs near parks and activity areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify locations for signage and work with Fife Council to take this forward.
Potential Partners	Fife Council – Education, Community Centre, Stagecoach, Transport, Community Councils, Fife Council.



THEME 4: Village Appearance

Valleyfield is determined to make the most of our local facilities and amenities, create a safe local environment and promote our historical, industrial and natural heritage. Valleyfield is located in an area of Fife that is rich in natural beauty, biodiversity as well as having good paths and cycleways.

We have achieved a lot and there is much still to be done to make the local green spaces fit for purpose and designed in a way where they can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone.

Priorities	Actions required to take priorities forward
Clean up our village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more littering and fly tipping. Organise regular community clean up events locally. Liaise with Fife Council regarding bag collection after the clean up activities. Liaise with Fife Council in relation to dealing with dog fouling.
More police presence in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Police Scotland to look at ways of increasing police presence in Valleyfield.
Improve our parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with appropriate organisations to carry out a community mapping exercise looking at greenspace and how it can be well designed to fit the needs of everyone.
Improve the entrance and exit to Valleyfield for a more attractive welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valleyfield Heritage Trust has taken on ownership of a gateway building with plans to enhance the visitor experience and for local residents too. Develop partnerships with appropriate organisations to make the most of this opportunity.
Enhance the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with appropriate organisations to carry out a community mapping exercise looking at the local natural environment and how it can be best managed in order to fit the needs of everyone.
Floral enhancements for Valleyfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with local businesses regarding sponsorship of hanging baskets / floral displays. Work together with Fife Council on this.
Potential Partners	Fife Council, Police Scotland, Community Councils, Valleyfield Heritage Project, Local Businesses, Local Residents.



Early Actions funded through Participatory Budget

Applicant	Name of Project
Valleyfield Youth Football Club Youth Section	Valleyfield Youth Development Soccer
Valleyfield Heritage Project	Valleyfield Heritage Illustrated and Newsletter
St Serf's Parent Council	New Equipment
Valleyfield Children's Gala	Resources for Events
Valleyfield Community Club	New toilets and showers
High Valleyfield Miners Amateur Boxing Club	New Equipment
Valleyfield Community Club	Refurbishment
Valleyfield Support Group	New Equipment
Tiny Tots (Valleyfield Heritage Project)	New Equipment
Valleyfield Amateur Football Club	New Kit
Valleyfield Lunch Club	Valleyfield Lunch Club Resources
High Valleyfield Community Council	Newsletter

MAKING THE LINKS TO THE FIFE COMMUNITY PLAN

Fife's Community Plan 2011-2020 sets out three high level outcomes, each with a number of long term outcomes towards which the partnership groups will work alongside other key groups. Fife's Community Planning Partners have signed up to these shared outcomes. Lead partnership groups will work together with the people and communities of Fife to deliver these objectives, with each partner providing a unique and valued contribution.

Fife Community Plan High Level Outcomes	Valleyfield Community Action Plan Themes
Reducing Inequalities Increasing Employment Tackling Climate Change	An Inclusive Community Enterprise and Energy Young People Village Appearance

Making it Happen

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Valleyfield over the next 5 years as identified by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a period of 6 months, June to November 2015.

The Plan contains

- A summary of the Valleyfield Community Profile
- Our main Likes and Dislikes expressed in the community survey
- Our Vision Statement for Valleyfield
- The main themes and priorities for taking action
- Information on how to get involved or just be kept informed

The Community Action Plan is not just for the few but for everyone, we hope you will read it, consider its content and help toward making it work by taking action where you are, in whatever way you can. If everyone did something positive for their community every day, then what a difference that would make!

Many thanks go to all those who took their time to share their views, to the volunteers and participants who made the Open Day a great success and to St Serf's Primary School that enabled our young people to have their say.

Thanks also go to members of the steering group who contributed the images in this Community Action Plan.

To find out more information about the Action Plan or to volunteer with any projects please contact us through our Facebook Page:

Valleyfield Futures Action Group



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