

WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK OF CAMBUSLANG?

Cambuslang Community Survey 2015

Cambuslang Community Council



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Cambuslang Community Council welcome comments on this report, further ideas for the proposed Community Strategy and offers to be involved. Please contact CambuslangComCo@aol.com or phone 07973 744807.

Cambuslang Community Council, October 2015

Cambuslang Community Survey 2015

SUMMARY

The Cambuslang Community Survey was run from June to August 2015 with the aim of finding out what people think of Cambuslang and what needs to be improved. The Survey achieved 1,090 responses, equivalent to 10.4% of the registered electorate in the Cambuslang Community Council area.

What do people like about Cambuslang? A striking finding is the community spirit of Cambuslang; half of the respondents feel that they are living in a friendly neighbourhood / community. Many people are also involved in community organisations. For the majority of people, the accessibility of Cambuslang is seen as a positive aspect of the town. The parks and green environment are also valued but are seen as threatened by development.

What do people not like about Cambuslang? The most important conclusion of the survey is the huge public dissatisfaction with Cambuslang Main Street. Two-thirds of respondents are unhappy with the appearance and layout of the Main Street, and almost 70% are critical of the limited range of shops.

Among the specific issues of concern: the current layout of the Main Street is widely regarded as a mistake; parking is a key source of dissatisfaction; the range of shops on the Main Street is too limited; and the large trolley waste bins are unsightly and contribute to the drab appearance of the street.

Other concerns are the level of crime and anti-social behaviour and lack of visible police presence, the lack of sports/leisure facilities, and the level of traffic congestion.

How do people find out what's happening in Cambuslang? Family and friends are the main source of information. For young and working-age groups, social media and the internet are important. The Rutherglen Reformer is also an important information source, as are clubs, churches and other community groups.

What are the priorities for improvement? Over 1,800 suggestions were made for economic, social and environmental improvements to Cambuslang. The priorities are:

1. improve the appearance and attraction of the Main Street;
2. improve and diversify the retail environment;
3. address public concerns about crime;
4. develop new sports/leisure facilities for different age groups;
5. address public concerns about traffic congestion;
6. improve the protection and provision of greenspace in the area;
7. increase community engagement and cohesion.

Where do we go from here?

In response to the survey results, Cambuslang Community Council propose to start the process of developing a new Community Strategy in partnership with our elected members, South Lanarkshire Council, other public bodies, clubs, churches, associations and the wider community.

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WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK OF CAMBUSLANG?

1. THE CAMBUSLANG COMMUNITY SURVEY 2015

The Cambuslang Community Survey was launched by Cambuslang Community Council at Summerfest on 20 June 2015 and ran for just over two months, closing on 31 August 2015. The aim was to give the Community Council a better idea of what people think of Cambuslang and what needs to be improved.

The survey was available online via a Survey Monkey website, advertised via Facebook, the internet, the Rutherglen Reformer and posters in many of the Main Street shops. Paper copies were made available in Cambuslang Library, the Cambuslang Institute, Eastfield Community Centre, Kids Club Whitlawburn, Nisa, McCallums Café, the Tea Bay, The John Fairweather, Cambuslang Parish Church, St Brides Church and Cambuslang Baptist Church. Surveys were also completed with interviewers at Summerfest, the Cambuslang Park Family Fun Day and in Aldi and Morrison. With the help of our elected representatives (MP, MSP and SLC Councillors), the survey was promoted heavily through social media, as well as through Facebook sites like All About Cambuslang. Many clubs and associations circulated the survey to their members. Universal Connections promoted the survey to young people using the UC centre and in local schools.

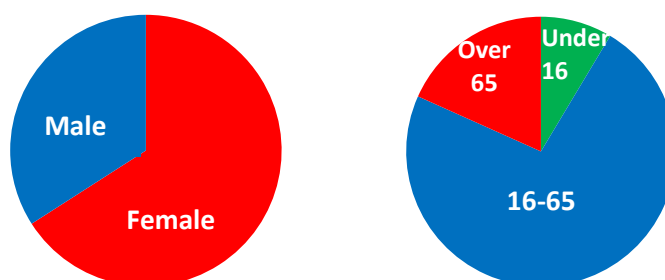
As a result, the Survey achieved 1,090 responses, thought to be a record for a community survey in Scotland. The number of respondents is equivalent to 10.4% of the registered electorate in the Cambuslang Community Council area.

The survey asked seven main questions:

1. What do you like about Cambuslang?
2. What do you not like about Cambuslang?
3. What do you think are the most important changes to improve Cambuslang?
4. Where do you get most of your information on what's happening in Cambuslang?
5. Are you involved in any clubs, associations, churches or other groups in Cambuslang?
6. Are you interested in being involved in any community projects to improve Cambuslang?
7. How long have you lived in Cambuslang?

The survey also recorded personal information on the gender and age of the respondents. For those who provided these details (56%), the breakdown of respondents by age/gender is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Gender and age-breakdown of survey respondents



Further details are shown in Table 1, with comparisons of the survey population with the age/gender structure for the Cambuslang population as a whole. The survey is very well balanced by age, but less so by gender. The largest group of respondents were working-age women, accounting for over half of respondents. Men of working-age were under-represented in the survey compared to the population as a whole. Younger people were somewhat under-represented, and older people the reverse. There are, however, sizeable numbers of respondents in every age/gender category to provide a sufficiently broad representation of views of every part of the population.

Table 1: Age/gender breakdown of survey respondents

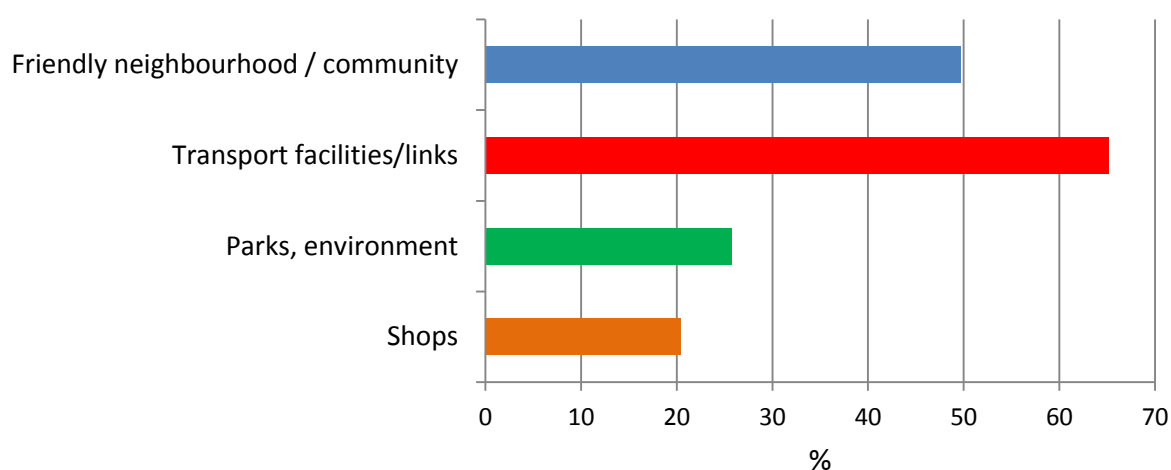
	16 or under	17-65	Over 65	Total	%	Cambuslang ¹
Female	40	545	116	701	65.8	51.8
Male	50	233	79	362	34.0	48.3
Other	2	0	0	2	0.2	
Total	92	778	195	1065		
% of total	8.6	73.1	18.3			
Cambuslang¹	14.9	71.5	13.6			

Lastly, it should be noted that the survey focused on issues in the Cambuslang Community Council area which covers Cambuslang West, including Eastfield, Whitlawburn and part of Cairns. Some respondents also talked about the issues facing Halfway, Westburn and Newton, many of which are the same as those discussed in this survey report.

2. WHAT DO PEOPLE LIKE ABOUT CAMBUSLANG? COMMUNITY SPIRIT & ACCESSIBILITY

The most striking positive feature about Cambuslang in the survey is its community spirit. Half of the respondents said they liked the sense of a friendly neighbourhood / community in the area (see Figure 2). As one noted: *"Cambuslang people are friendly - everyone in the old community knows their neighbours and looks out for each other."*

Figure 2: What do you like about Cambuslang?

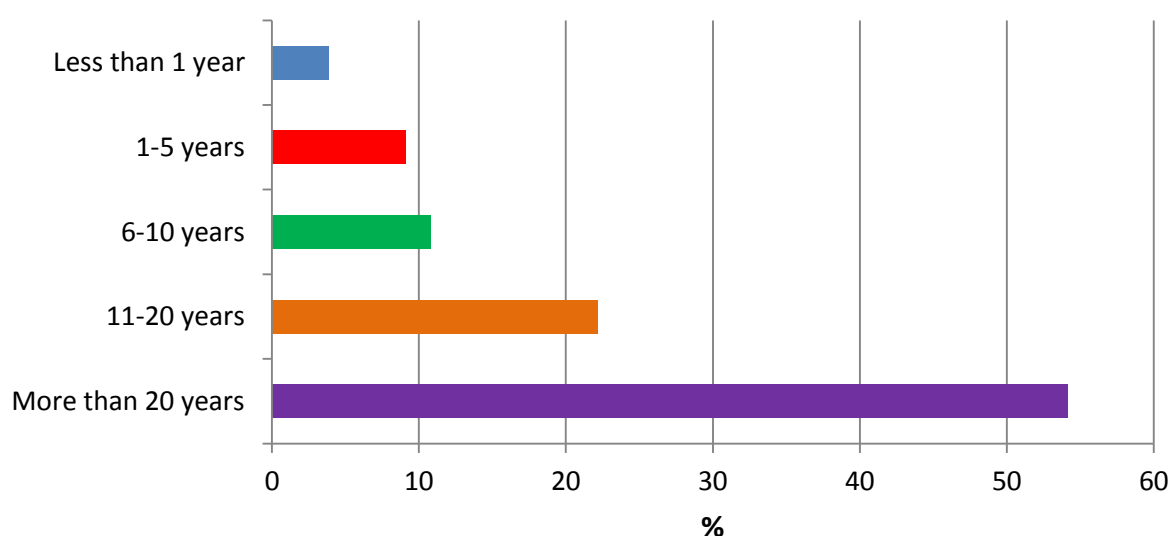


¹ Source: *Population Area Profile for Cambuslang*, South Lanarkshire Council. Figures for Cambuslang exclude the 0-5 age group.

Cambuslang has clearly got strong community networks. The answers to another survey question (on involvement in community groups) showed that almost half of the respondents are involved in clubs, church groups or associations of some kind, and many are involved in two or three groups.² Family and friends are also important sources of information about what is happening in the area.

The community spirit may be related to the fact that many people have deep roots in the area (see Figure 3). Over three-quarters of respondents have lived in Cambuslang for more than 10 years and 54 percent have lived here for more than 20 years, so are well qualified to comment in changes in Cambuslang over time. Many people said they were born in the town.³ Despite the many problems discussed below, there is strong sense of attachment to Cambuslang, best summed up by this comment from one long-standing resident of Cambuslang *“It’s the best place in the world - it’s my hometown and even when I’m a millionaire I’ll always live here!”*

Figure 3: How long have you lived in Cambuslang?



For over 60% of people responding to the survey, the accessibility of Cambuslang is seen as a very positive aspect of the town. The good transport connections, with two stations and frequent rail services, several bus services and proximity to the M74 are valued. Not all the assessments of transportation are good: for older people, in particular, the lack of a bus service to East Kilbride, or a fast bus service into the centre of Glasgow, are clearly problematic. It can also be difficult to get from Newton and Whitlawburn to the Main Street using public transport. Traffic congestion is increasingly becoming a major concern (see below).

A third factor rated as positive about Cambuslang (by a quarter of respondents) is the green environment, notably the parks. Friends of Cambuslang Park were praised for the work done in restoring the main public park: typical quotes are *“great work being done at the park”*, *“Cambuslang*

² The data are not sufficiently precise to make comparisons with the national picture, but the Scottish Household Survey records 28% of men and 31% of women volunteering in a 12-month period, suggesting community engagement may be higher than elsewhere.

³ This supports the findings of migration research in the UK, which shows that South Lanarkshire has one of the lowest rates of population changing address in the UK. Source: Champion T (2005) *Population movement within the UK*, Office for National Statistics.

Park is lovely” and *“well done for the sterling job”*. Other parks like Holmhills Wood Community Park and the walkway/cycle path along the River Clyde are also mentioned positively in some responses, as are community events taking place in the parks such as Project 31.

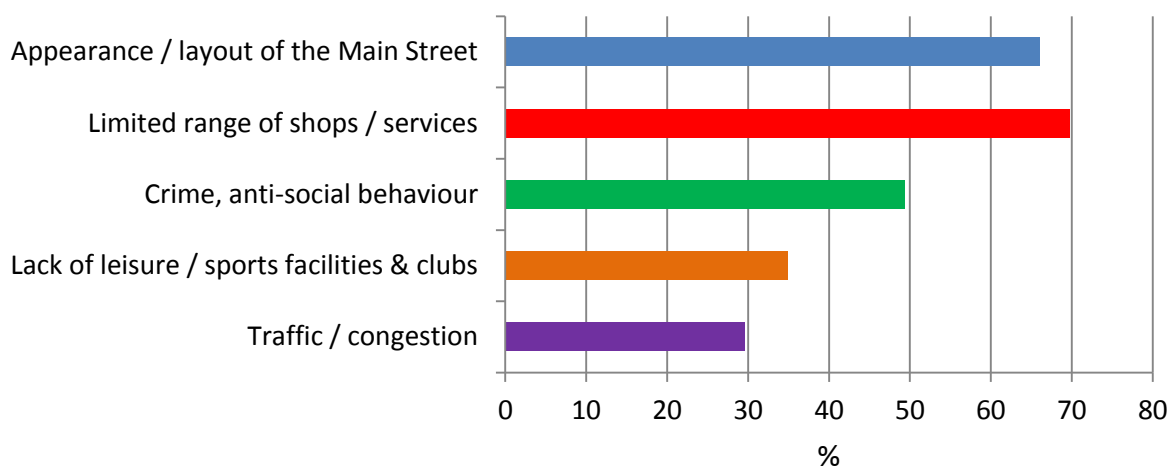
However, there is major concern at greenspace being under threat due to rapid population growth and new housing development in the area.⁴ Respondents were worried at the continued erosion of the Green Belt and concerned that the many new housing developments in the area (e.g. Drumsagard, Newton) are not being accompanied by investment in greenspace.⁵ As one respondent put it: *“With the increased housing developments the parks are crucial but always are an afterthought by councils and developers. And it is left to well-meaning people in the community giving their time free of charge which helps maintain those dear green spaces.”*

Lastly, apart from the shops (rated positively by 20% of respondents), the other issues mentioned by respondents as aspects they like are Cambuslang Library and the Universal Connections youth centre.

3. WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE? FRESH THINKING NEEDED FOR CAMBUSLANG MAIN STREET

Turning now to the challenges that we face – what people don’t like about Cambuslang and what needs to improve – the findings are stark, with a long list of issues needing urgent attention (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: What do you not like about Cambuslang?



⁴ According to census data, Cambuslang’s population rose by 4,941 between 2001 and 2011. Source: *General Register Office for Scotland*. This seems set to continue as the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan projects an additional 2,753 households for the Rutherglen and Cambuslang area by 2029; using the 2011 census average of 2.3 people per household, this implies an additional 6,300 people over the next 15 years. Source: *Clydeplan Strategic Housing Estimates*, 2015.

⁵ At 2.5 hectares per 1,000 population, Cambuslang/Rutherglen have one of the lowest provisions of amenity greenspace in South Lanarkshire. Source: *South Lanarkshire Council Draft Greenspace Strategy 2010*.

The most important conclusion of the survey is the huge public dissatisfaction with Cambuslang Main Street. Two-thirds of respondents are unhappy with the appearance and layout of the Main Street, and almost 70% are critical of the limited range of shops. Bearing in mind that many survey respondents have long-standing experience of the area, the following quotes give some sense of the disillusionment and despair with the state of the town centre felt by many people.

"I avoid the Main St due to layout and lack of parking on the street. Shops need a facelift."

"The Main Street is disastrous. There was a chance to create something attractive in the recent past but Cambuslang Gate was built instead - the unlet units speak volumes."

"I don't meet friends or ask my relatives here anymore. There is nothing to look at or go to. I go into Glasgow or E/K and meet up now."

"Cambuslang is a great place to live but the Main Street looks deprived."

"It is such a pity our Main Street looks so unloved and that we don't have so many decent independent shops anymore."

"There is lack of a place that is the central place in the community e.g. village green, town square; there is no focal point for the community."

"The Main Street is a mess, very shabby looking and I never go. I much prefer Burnside or even Rutherglen."

"The north side of the Main Street which used to have rose bushes is now a sad sight. The street looks grubby and down at heel with graffiti, chewing gum etc."

"I have lived in Cambuslang for over 70 years. The town I once was proud of has dramatically changed. The main street is not user friendly, parking is non-existent as council workers generally use all the parking spaces (behind Subway) The Main Street is tired and run down, and if you're a pensioner like me its near impossible to stop in your car."

3.1 The current layout of the Main Street is widely regarded as a mistake

Among the 1,090 respondents, virtually no-one had anything positive to say about the layout of the Main Street. The starting point is a lack of coherence in the retail layout, with shops situated in four separate, poorly connected parts of the Main Street. The central pedestrian crossing continues to be seen as confusing, especially for older residents. The crossings at the Greenlees Road/Main Street and West Coats Road/Main Street junctions are also seen as dangerous at certain times of the day. Businesses are unhappy with the lack of passing trade from through traffic and the fact that motorists cannot stop for an impulse purchase. They criticise the narrow design of a shopping lane that is immediately blocked by a stationary bus. Provision for disabled people is regarded as minimal. This quote sums up the view of many survey respondents:

"I think that for both people driving and walking the roads are not very cleverly thought out. There is a lack of places to cross the street, and too few parking and drop-off points on the Main Street for the size of community and its facilities."

The quality of the pavement was also heavily criticised, especially by older people. Some local business people were despairing about the number of times the paving needed to be repaired and the perceived poor quality of its construction.

3.2 Parking is a key source of dissatisfaction

Parking problems were cited by 254 respondents as a factor in their negative assessment of the Main Street. The main problem is that the permitted parking time of 30 minutes is too short for shoppers. Hairdressers, estate agents, café owners, dentists, opticians and others all feel that they are losing custom because people cannot park for longer than half an hour. Traffic wardens are seen as over-zealous, penalising even minor overruns with tickets. This quote sums up a widespread feeling:

“It's hard to use local shops because on-street parking is limited and there is no scope to wait for a space, so you have to drive the long way round again. The temptation is to give up and go to the supermarket instead.”

The parking problem on the Main Street is part of a wider perceived problem of parking in the area. Many respondents noted how the pressure on parking has increased over the past decade with the growth in housing in areas around Cambuslang; much larger numbers of people are using streets around the Main Street for ‘park and ride’ – leaving their cars near the station to commute by train.⁶ Residents of West Coats Road, Douglas Drive, Hamilton Drive, North Avenue, Wellshot Drive and Beech Avenue are finding their streets used for commuter parking from early in the morning. The same is true of the car park at Cherry Tree Court. Compared with a decade ago, it is now less easy for local people to park close to the south side of the Main Street, which reduces daytime footfall and acts as a disincentive to using the shops. This inevitably depresses investment and diversity, favouring evening and night-time uses over daytime ones.

3.3 The range of shops on the Main Street is too limited

The biggest criticism in the survey was about the limited range of shops, many respondents making unfavourable comparisons with the past. Comments generally focused on the number of vacant shops and the fact that some units in Cambuslang Gate have never been occupied. There were also strong views about the imbalance on the Main Street between the large number of pubs and fast-food takeaways and the limited range of shops serving daytime shoppers (see above). Especially among elderly people or those without cars, the main concerns were the lack of a greengrocer, local supermarket (in the former Spar/Scotmid unit) or clothes/shoe shops. The need for more family restaurants was also mentioned frequently. The relocation of the post office away from the centre of the Main Street, which became known towards the end of the survey period, also attracted very unfavourable comment; it was argued that a post office needs to be at the heart of a town centre. Many people remarked on the need for a new strategy: *“The main streets need some investment or lower rates to attract more shops and a greater variety of shops.”*

It should be noted that not all the comments on the shops were negative. As noted above, 20% of respondents replied that the shops were what they liked about Cambuslang. Also, many of those who were critical said that they valued the shops we do have, and recognised that shopkeepers have a tough time given retail trends and the problems of Cambuslang Main Street. Particularly valued are the longer-standing independent businesses (such as Hugh Black & Sons Butchers, McCallums Café and Cinnamon) and the commitment shown to the town by newer businesses (such as The John

⁶ The number of people using Cambuslang Station each year has increased by almost 300,000 over the period 2002-3 to 2013-14. Source: *Office of Road and Rail* – data on station usage based on ticket sales.

Fairweather, Karen's Ice Cream, Pandora's Box and The Tea Bay). Some respondents also recognised that shoppers are themselves partly responsible for not supporting the Main Street businesses, preferring to shop online or use supermarkets for convenience.

3.4 Drab appearance and unsightly waste bins

Another aspect of the Main Street which attracted significant criticism is its perceived dreary appearance, lacking a coherent colour scheme and attractive features. Negative comparisons with Burnside were made frequently, focusing on the lack of floral displays except in the centre of the road and outside the Black Bull. A major source of concern is the use of large trolley waste bins, which are positioned all along the Main Street and are regarded as creating a very poor impression of the town, especially as some are often open and liable to spill rubbish. As one respondent said:

"Who would want to shop or even think about opening a shop in a main street cluttered with smelly industrial size wheelie bins? What on earth are the local council thinking about to have allowed our main street to be blighted in this way? There is no doubt that this is now the worst street in South Lanarkshire and the few remaining shops must be having a real struggle to survive. The people of Cambuslang deserve much better than this, and removing these bins should be a priority and would immediately enhance the look of the area."

For local businesses, this is a challenge. They are required to use commercial contractors for waste disposal, often expensively, and to meet recycling obligations. Many do not have alternative places to site their bins at present.

4. CRIME, ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, LEISURE FACILITIES AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION

4.1 Crime and anti-social behaviour

In third place among issues of concern of people in Cambuslang, the survey recorded almost half of respondents unhappy with crime and anti-social behaviour. Key issues are:

- house and car burglaries – which are perceived to be high and increasing;⁷
- graffiti, often remaining uncleared for weeks or months (the graffiti on the walls and waste bins on the Main Street from Summerfest were cited as an example);
- vandalism and anti-social behaviour;
- litter, especially close to Cathkin and Stonelaw high schools when lunch food and packaging is often thrown away in the street; and
- dog mess on the streets and in the parks.

⁷ There were 3,111 crimes and offences recorded in Cambuslang in 2013/14. The rate for Cambuslang (106.4 per 1000 people) is significantly higher than the rate for South Lanarkshire as a whole (81.1). The difference is particularly marked for the crimes of house-breaking, anti-social behaviour and offences linked to health and wellbeing (e.g. drug and alcohol misuse). Trends in public order in Cambuslang have fluctuated annually over the past five years but most were higher in 2014 than in 2010 (especially violence, anti-social behaviour and health/wellbeing-linked crimes). Source: *Public Order and Community Safety Profile for Cambuslang*, South Lanarkshire Council. These data, though, may be out-of-date; according to local police reports to Cambuslang Community Council, most categories of crime are now said to be falling.

Many people concerned about this issue were unhappy about the closure of the local police station on Greenlees Road and the lack of police visibility through regular foot patrols, especially in the evening on the Main Street and the need for some security monitoring. One respondent said:

“drunks and groups of kids hang about the Main Street urinating in close doors destroying private property. Outdoor drinking behind the shops. Why is this not monitored? CCTV must capture who is responsible for the vandalism taking place in broad daylight.”

Police were felt, by some, to be responding to reported incidents rather than having an active strategy and regular visible presence to prevent anti-social behaviour.

4.2 Sports and leisure facilities

Over a third of respondents cited lack of access to sports/leisure facilities as important issues. While the quality of the Lifestyles facility at Eastfield was praised, it was seen as either inaccessible or unaffordable for a significant number of respondents. Many noted that public investment in sports and leisure facilities has not kept pace with the growth in population of the area as this quote illustrates: *“Our community is getting bigger by the day yet we have no sports centre, or youth clubs to keep our kids off the street.”*

This applies, in particular, to those living east of the town centre many of whom would like to see investment in facilities serving Cairns, Vicarland, Westburn, Newton, Drumsagard and Halfway. Peter Brownlee Park was suggested as a suitable site.

A priority for many respondents is provision of football pitches; the lack of a 3G pitch was noted numerous times and is felt to be constraining the development of the sport and the expansion of local clubs. Some argued that better provision would reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour.⁸

Another deficit is considered to be the provision of soft-play or similar for younger children. The quality of the Kids Club Whitlawburn was praised, but it was felt that the same sort of facility should be available in the centre of Cambuslang. For older children and young people, Universal Connections was regarded positively although several respondents thought it should be housed in better and larger premises with greater visibility.

4.3 Traffic congestion

Traffic congestion was highlighted as a problem by almost 30% of respondents. This was attributed to the increased housing density in the area and the construction of the M74.⁹ The following quote sums up the view of many: *“Cambuslang went from reasonable traffic levels to very high when the motorway was introduced.”* Apart from the junctions of the Main Street with Greenlees Road and West Coats Road mentioned above, the main problems with traffic for respondents are:

⁸ A 3G football pitch is currently being developed as part of school rebuilding in Newton, although it is not clear whether this will address the needs expressed by local clubs.

⁹ In its assessment of the impact of the M74 on traffic, the Scottish Government predicted that traffic on Cambuslang Road east of Dukes Road would increase by 15% (Source: <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2005/03/20752/53471>) The UK Department of Transport has three traffic flow monitoring points in the Cambuslang area – at Bridge Street, Eastfield and Halfway Boulevard – which show an increase in average daily traffic of 3-4% over the 2011-2014 period (representing up to 1,000 additional vehicles per day since the M74 extension was opened). A further traffic monitoring point on the Cathkin Bypass at Cathkin records an increase of 14% (+2,000 vehicles) per day over the 2011-14 period. Source: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/traffic-counts/>

- traffic over Cambuslang Bridge to and from the motorway and along Clydeford Road, especially in the evenings;
- the volume and speed of traffic along Greenlees Road;
- rat-run traffic through Croft Road and Johnson Drive;
- rat-run traffic along Brownside Road (especially in the area of West Coats School) and Stewarton Drive.

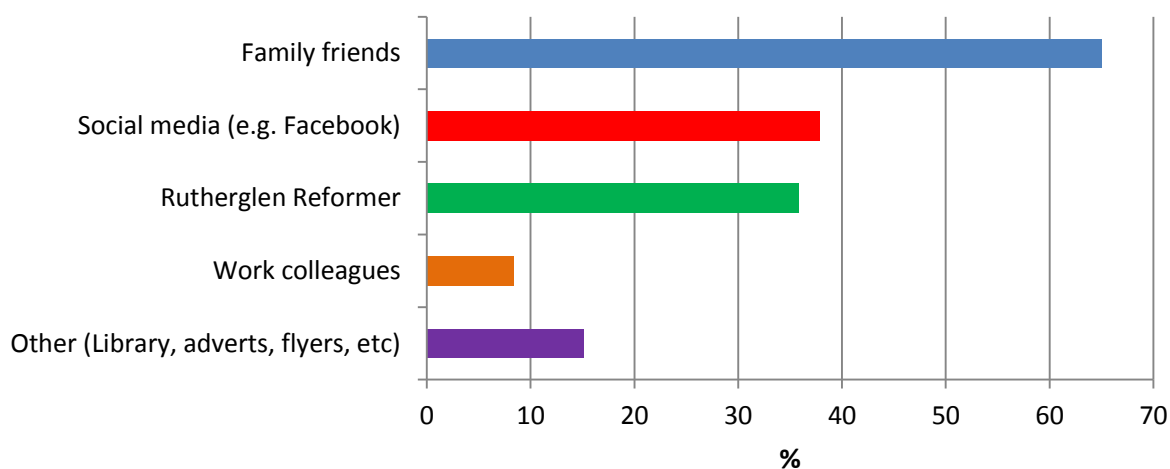
The concerns about traffic have been heightened by the changes to school bus services (extending the qualifying distance for bus transport from 2 to 3 miles from the school) which are anticipated to require either more people to use their own cars to take children to school or children to be walking longer distances to school along routes that are not regarded as safe.

5 HOW DO PEOPLE FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN CAMBUSLANG?

The survey asked about the information sources used by respondents for finding out what is happening in the area (see Figure 5). For almost 65% of respondents, family/friends are the main source – reinforcing the point made above about the strength of community networks in Cambuslang. For young people and working-age adults, social media and the internet were mentioned by 38% of respondents, especially the Facebook site All About Cambuslang and other local sites. The Rutherglen Reformer is a similarly important source (for 36% of respondents), particularly for older people who lack access to the Internet or feel more comfortable with printed media. Lastly, the important role of clubs, churches and associations (also Cambuslang Library) should be noted.

Despite – or because of - this diversity of information sources, a significant number of respondents felt that they were uninformed or under-informed about what is happening in Cambuslang, suggesting that there may be scope for new, expanded or different information sources reaching a larger audience.

Figure 5: Where do you get most of your information on what's happening in Cambuslang?



6 LOOKING FORWARD: PRIORITIES AND SCOPE FOR CHANGE

The survey asked participants to list their priorities for change in Cambuslang. Over 1,800 suggestions were made for economic, social and environment improvements. Most sought to address the problems identified above with constructive ideas. The following boxes bring together the priorities which had significant support from respondents to the survey.

Priority 1: Improve the appearance and attraction of the Main Street -

- relocate or provide shelters for waste bins
- provide more flowers and planters in the Main Street
- erect welcome signs at the entrances to Cambuslang / Main Street
- introduce a new parking strategy on the Main Street and associated car parks serving the needs of retailers and customers with more time for free parking
- ensure cleaner town centre with prompt removal of graffiti and litter
- improve appearance of current shops with better and standard/coherent facades
- disguise empty shops with artistic facades
- create a park-and-ride facility for commuters (also for office workers) away from the Main Street to create more space
- reinstate public toilets on/near the Main Street
- re-lay pavement with stronger base to reduce maintenance and accidents
- develop a new, community-based vision for the layout of the Main Street including a focal point for civic events and recreation of 'village' atmosphere

Priority 2: Improve and diversify the retail environment -

- address the vacant premises through reduced rates and promotion
- restrict any new pubs and takeaways where provision is already extensive
- prioritise uses such as family-friendly restaurants, a centrally located supermarket, fresh fruit/vegetable shops, and shoe/clothing shops

Priority 3: Address public concerns about crime -

- re-open police station or create an alternative local and accessible police base within the community
- increase police presence and visible patrols, especially in the Main Street in the evenings to reduce anti-social behaviour
- consider CCTV on the Main Street to reduce anti-social behaviour
- increase control/monitoring of litter and dog fouling

Priority 4: Develop new sports/leisure facilities -

- provide soft-play centre and play areas for young children in town centre
- provide new sports facilities serving the centre and east of Cambuslang
- create a 3G football pitch for local clubs
- expand Universal Connections to provide more facilities/activities for teenagers

Priority 5: Address public concern about traffic congestion -

- restrict traffic flows and introduce measures to reduce traffic speed on Greenlees Road
- establish traffic calming measures to reduce rat-run traffic in Johnson Drive/Croft Road and Brownside Road (especially at West Coats School) and Stewarton Drive
- review layout of pedestrian crossings at Main Street junctions with West Coats Road and Greenlees Road
- review layout of crossing at the centre of the Main Street (as part of long-term planning of new Main Street layout)

Priority 6: Improve greenspace in the area -

- preserve the greenspace from development
- increase provision of parks and greenspace in new areas of housing
- develop other parks to the standard of Cambuslang Park

Priority 7: Increase community engagement and cohesion -

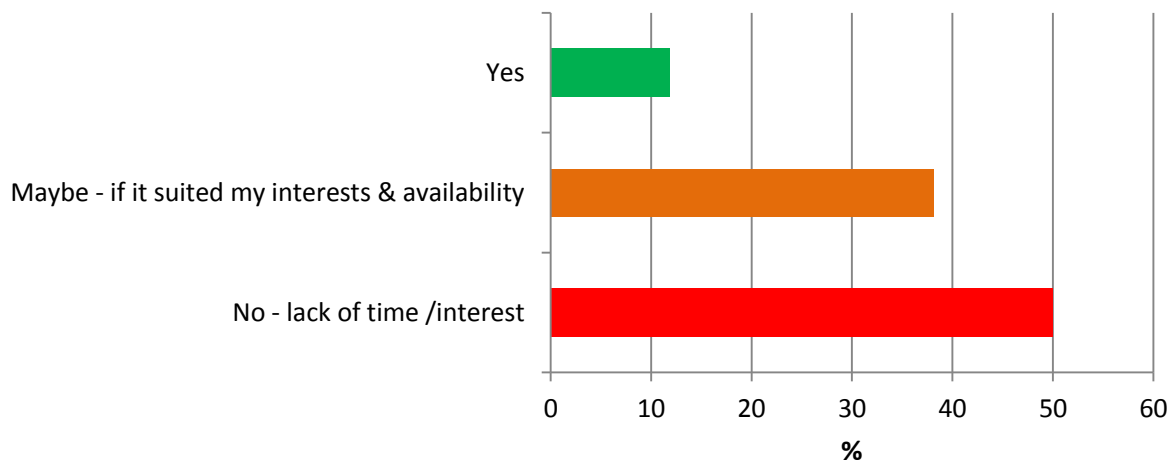
- involve community more in decisions made about the area
- organise more gala days and public events (of the type held in Cambuslang Park)
- develop better community facilities such as a community cinema

This is a wide-ranging and ambitious agenda of improvements. Some of the issues could be dealt with relatively easily over the short term with sufficient community commitment and support from relevant partners such as South Lanarkshire Council. Others are long-term aspirations especially at a time of cuts in public spending but are nevertheless important parts of any vision for improving Cambuslang. They also depend on the state of the economy, the health of the labour market and the ability of central and local government to deal with fundamental social problems affecting the area.

Central to making progress on many issues is a willingness for local people to become involved. In this respect, the survey found evidence of a strong interest in community engagement (see Figure 6): half of the survey respondents were willing to at least consider becoming involved in community projects to improve Cambuslang. Almost 120 people said they would be prepared to become involved and a further 380 were interested in doing so if it suited their interests and availability.

This is a huge resource on which to draw and bears out the above findings on the community spirit of the area. It is also consistent with Scottish Government and South Lanarkshire Council policies on community engagement and local empowerment (such as the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) and represents a real source of local capital.

Figure 6: Are you interested in being involved in any community projects to improve Cambuslang?



7 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

This survey has identified what people think is good and bad about Cambuslang and what needs to be improved. The results will not be surprising to many people, and the obvious question is whether this survey will make any difference. Cambuslang Community Council are determined that the survey should not just be another paper document that is left on the shelf but serves as impetus for change.

The first step is to develop the priorities for change into a Community Strategy which is practical and feasible. As mentioned several times above, a strategy needs to begin with a vision for the future of Cambuslang that commands support from across the community and to identify a series of actions over the short, medium and long terms that can translate the vision into practice. Cambuslang Community Council propose to start the process of developing such a strategy in partnership with our elected members, South Lanarkshire Council, other public bodies, clubs, churches, associations, the business and voluntary sectors, and the wider community.

If you are interested in being involved and helping to change Cambuslang for the better, please get in touch with the Community Council !