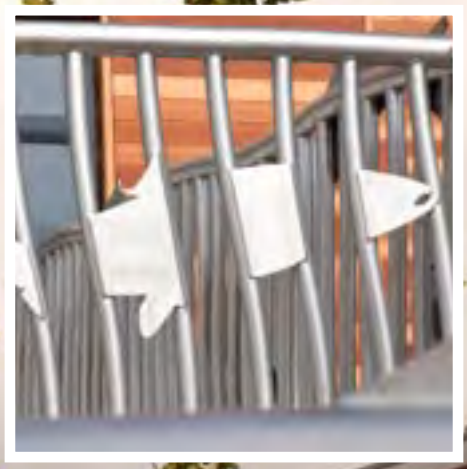


Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead Community Action Plan

2021-2030

falkirk
COMMUNITY PLANNING
PARTNERSHIP

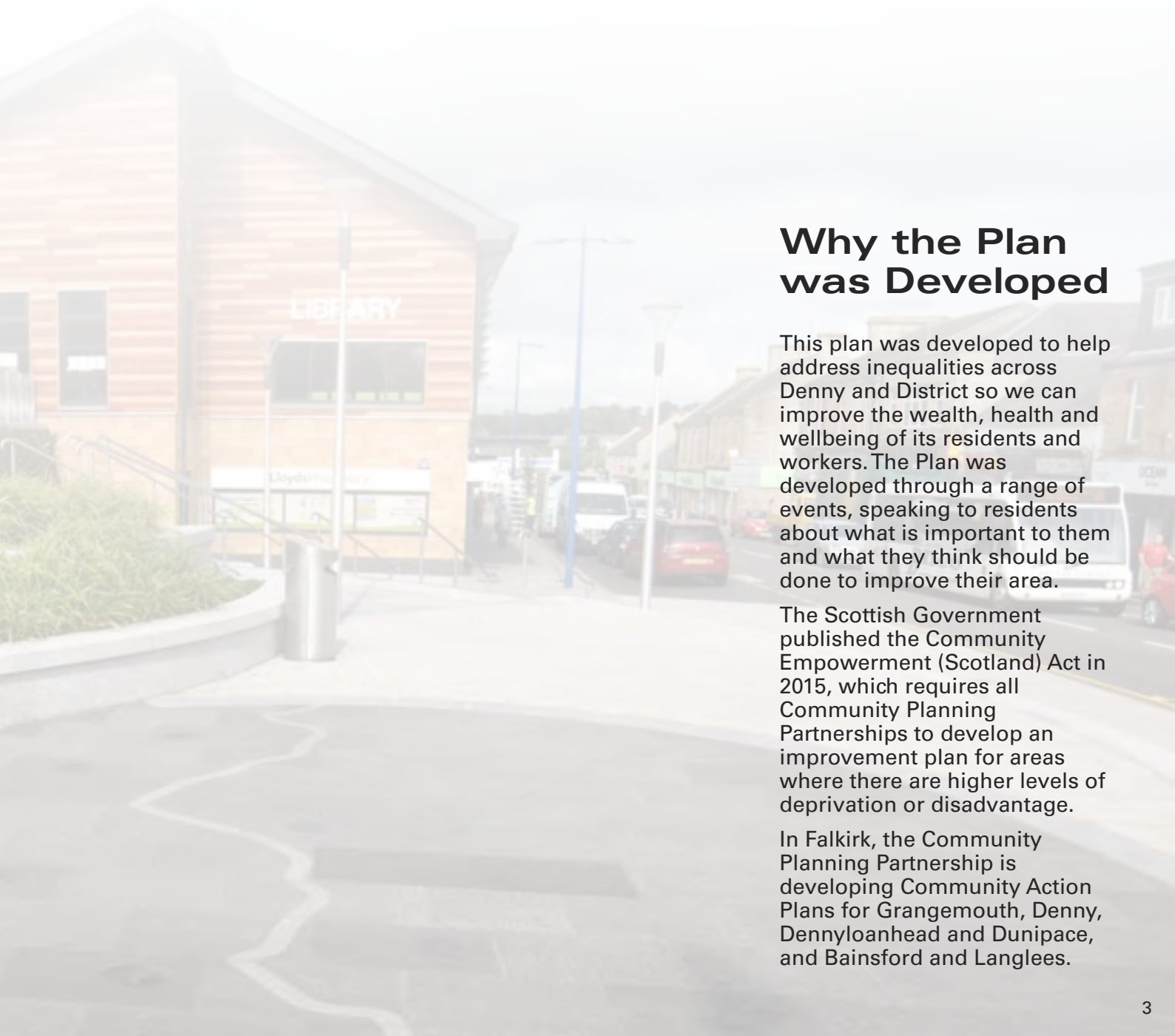
Introduction

The areas of Denny, Dennyloanhead and Dunipace sit within the West Locality of Falkirk. Each area has a proud industrial history but this has declined considerably over the years which has led to a lack of employment opportunities and increased inequalities. The area has high unemployment and child poverty rates.

The community is located within the Falkirk West locality and is composed of four zones:

- *Denny - Nethermains (4,077)*
- *Dunipace (3,191)*
- *Fankerton, Stoneywood & Denny Town (5,021)*
- *Head of Muir and Dennyloanhead (3,049)*

Much of the data contained within this Plan is derived from a community profile compiled by Public Health Scotland (PHS), which is broken down into the four zones listed above.



Why the Plan was Developed

This plan was developed to help address inequalities across Denny and District so we can improve the wealth, health and wellbeing of its residents and workers. The Plan was developed through a range of events, speaking to residents about what is important to them and what they think should be done to improve their area.

The Scottish Government published the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act in 2015, which requires all Community Planning Partnerships to develop an improvement plan for areas where there are higher levels of deprivation or disadvantage.

In Falkirk, the Community Planning Partnership is developing Community Action Plans for Grangemouth, Denny, Dennyloanhead and Dunipace, and Bainsford and Langlees.

The Community Planning Partnership

This Plan has been developed by the Denny Community Network as a working group on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership. The Community Planning Partnership is the term used in each Local Authority area to describe the joint-planning and priority-setting of local public and third sector organisations, alongside community groups. These organisations work together so they can share their local knowledge and resources to get the best outcomes for the people living there.

In Falkirk partners include:

- *CVS Falkirk*
- *Falkirk Community Trust (prior to 31 March 2022)*
- *Falkirk Council*
- *Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership*
- *Forth Valley College*
- *Local Community groups*
- *NatureScot*
- *NHS Forth Valley*
- *Police Scotland*
- *Scottish Enterprise*
- *Scottish Fire and Rescue Service*
- *Scottish National Heritage*
- *SESTran*
- *Skills Development Scotland*
- *Visit Scotland*

About Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead

We have a proud industrial history, contributing to the wool, iron, paper and brickworks industries. Our area has a combined population of around 15,000 people, and was once the site of Herbertshire Castle, on the northern side of the River Carron. Herbertshire Castle Park, known locally as the Gala Park, is home to a variety of facilities such as football pitches, a basketball court and a play area for young children and families.

Despite being a key industrial hub for the British economy during the industrial era, the decline of key industries has had a detrimental impact on our local economy, and as a result we experience many inequalities in areas such as health and employment.

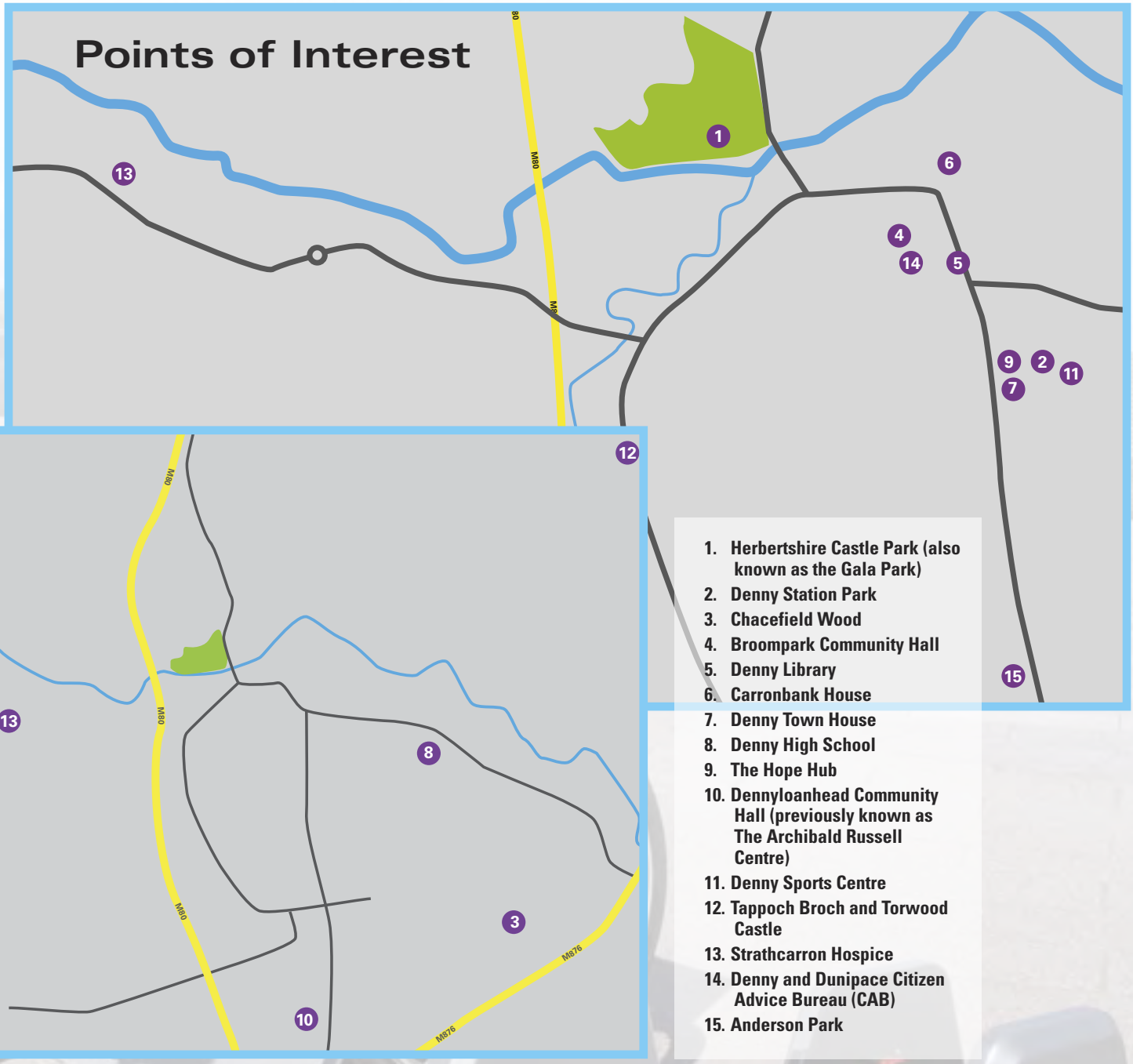
Our population has increased over the last 10 years due to expanding housing developments, and there is a higher percentage of older people living here.

Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead Volunteers

Community organisations and volunteers have been central to the development of this plan and to the improvements that we have seen in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead in recent years. Volunteers will play an important part in delivering the action plan and it is important we recognise this contribution to the local economy and to the wellbeing of the community. We must ensure that volunteering is accessible, diverse and open, in order to do this we will follow and be led by the Volunteering For All Framework.

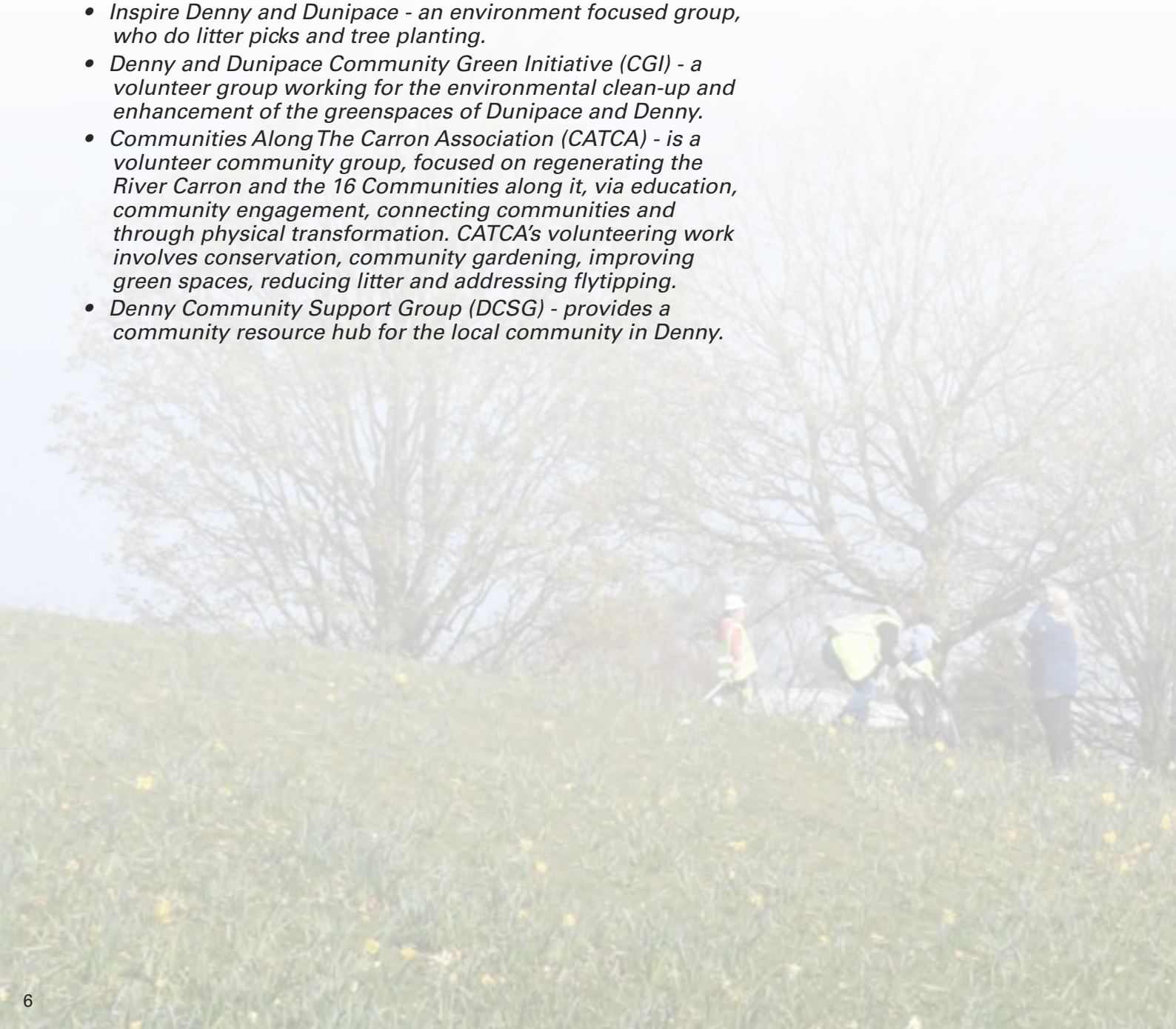
As well as volunteers and community organisations delivering services that improve where we live and work, we will promote the value of volunteering to individuals that are facing multiple barriers. Volunteering can be used as a pathway to a positive destination and has been proven to improve wellbeing so is important to help reduce some of the inequalities faced by the community. The Community Action Plan will ensure that organisations are able to work together to identify suitable volunteering opportunities and to promote the value of volunteering to individuals and to the wider community.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead, who make such a valuable contribution to our community.



Local Community Groups

- *Denny Baptist Church – a family-friendly church that regularly holds community events. Invested in helping to improve the wellbeing of people of all ages in Denny and the surrounding area.*
- *Denny and Dunipace YMCA – Aim to provide and support quality, sustainable programmes for young people in Denny and Dunipace in line with identified local needs.*
- *Denny and Dunipace Heritage Society – brings together people who are interested in researching, recording, preserving and protecting the historical, archaeological and architectural heritage of the area.*
- *Denny and Bonnybridge Men's Shed – community run workshops where men can come together to pursue hobbies, work on projects and chat with other people in the community.*
- *SMART Denny – a local charity with aims to reduce energy use in the town and tackle fuel poverty.*
- *Inspire Denny and Dunipace - an environment focused group, who do litter picks and tree planting.*
- *Denny and Dunipace Community Green Initiative (CGI) - a volunteer group working for the environmental clean-up and enhancement of the greenspaces of Dunipace and Denny.*
- *Communities Along The Carron Association (CATCA) - is a volunteer community group, focused on regenerating the River Carron and the 16 Communities along it, via education, community engagement, connecting communities and through physical transformation. CATCA's volunteering work involves conservation, community gardening, improving green spaces, reducing litter and addressing flytipping.*
- *Denny Community Support Group (DCSG) - provides a community resource hub for the local community in Denny.*



March 2020 – 2022
Covid 19 pandemic response

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

Early 2018
Online Consultation

2018
School Workshops

August 2018
Your Place Your View Consultation

Spring 2019
School Workshops

Summer 2019
Community Event

November/December 2019
Programme of Workshops

November 2021
DDD CAP Working Group reconvened

Early 2022
Community Choices grants awarded in Denny and District

April 2022
Publication of Denny, Dunipace& Dennyloanhead Community Action Plan

What people like

People like the green spaces in the area

They are generally satisfied with healthcare provision

People like their local area but feel not enough is done to celebrate it

People are impressed with the range of activities on offer at the Archibald Russell Centre and library

People feel safe in their area

Young people think there are good walking and cycling routes along the canal which lead to other attractions, such as the Falkirk Wheel

Pupils from Denny High school enjoy visiting places, such as Chacefield Wood and Herbertshire Castle Park

What people don't like

Roads and pavements are not well maintained

There is some anti-social behaviour in the area

Public transport can be unreliable and too expensive

People feel there is a lack of jobs in the local area

There are too many takeaways and not enough restaurants for families

There are not enough bank ATMs available locally

There is an appetite for community engagement amongst many residents but many feel their views are not taken on board

Recent Developments

- *The regeneration of Denny town centre is the result of extensive consultation with the public. The multi-million-pound investment includes a modern library, free public Wi-Fi and ten new custom designed shop units.*
- *CGI accessed LEADER funding to develop a Masterplan for Herbertshire Castle Park (The Gala Park). Phase 1 of the Masterplan delivery was carried out with further LEADER funding and in collaboration with CGI, Falkirk Council and the Green Network Trust. A steering group of local users and interests was established to inform users and the local community of progress and gather feedback. Phase 1 saw a range of projects being implemented in the park, including car park improvements, disabled parking bays and cycle rack installation; improvements to the accessibility of footpaths and the installation of low level lights. Three viewing platforms were installed, complete with accessible picnic tables and a series of benches were installed in the park. Environmental improvements were made including an improved cycle path to Fankerton Glen as well as tree management and new tree planting. A series of 6 information panels were installed highlighting information about the park and the local area. The next step, Phase 2, the installation of a pump track is underway with funding secured.*

Community Choices

Community-led decision-making around the funding of services and facilities is a key element in ensuring that local people have a sense of ownership in their community. The area has seen significant investment from two rounds of grant-based Community Choices – Falkirk Council's innovative participatory budgeting programme, run in conjunction with Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership. The programme offers funding through small grants and place-based capital grants, which are awarded via a public vote.

During Phase 1 and 2, in 2021/2, the following groups in Denny and District received Community Choices funding:

- *St Vincent de Paul, Denny - £1,000*
- *51st Dennyloanhead Scout Group - £1,200*
- *SMART Denny - £1,500*
- *Albany Court - £1,356.88*
- *Denny and Dunipace Community Green Initiative - £38,117*
- *Strathcarron Hospice - £4,800*
- *Dunipace FC - £129,000*
- *Denny & Dunipace YMCA - £40,000*

Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead Profile

A Word on Data

In many of the following service delivery areas, data specific to Denny and District is not readily available in a way that is reportable within this Community Action Plan (CAP). The actions and data contained in the CAP have been identified through discussion with colleagues across the Community Planning Partnership. Where actions don't contain specific numerical data these have been included because the issues raised have been identified based on the professional insight and experience of service providers and the community's residents. The CAP will be monitored on an ongoing basis. As part of this, we will look to provide updates of Denny-specific data where this is possible.

- *While there is variation in deprivation across Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead, it is comparable to or less than Falkirk and the national average. However, Dunipace experiences slightly more deprivation than Falkirk as a whole.*
- *There is considerable variation across the community in terms of housing, income and the environment with similarities existing between areas.*
  - *Nethermains and Dunipace have higher proportions of households in tax bands A-C, single occupancy households, and people receiving out of work benefits than Falkirk and Scotland. Conversely, the figures for Fankerton, Stoneywood & Denny Town and Head of Muir & Dennyloanhead for these indicators are lower than Falkirk and Scotland.*
  - *75% of people living in Dunipace live within 500 metres of a derelict site and 0% in Head of Muir and Dennyloanhead. This compares to 25% in Falkirk and 30% in Scotland.*
  - *The crime rate is 6 times higher in Dunipace than in Head of Muir and Dennyloanhead. Dunipace is the only area in the Plan that has a higher crime rate than the Falkirk or Scotland averages.*
- *There are disparities in premature mortality between areas of the community.*
  - *In Denny and District, Nethermains has the highest rate of deaths aged 15-44 and is higher than the Falkirk and Scotland averages. While we are talking about small numbers, the Nethermains rate is 12 times higher than Fankerton, Stoneywood and Denny Town.*
  - *Premature deaths from coronary heart disease (CHD) are higher in Denny and District than in Falkirk and Scotland.*
  - *There is a four-year difference in male life expectancy across Denny and District, which is lowest in Dunipace.*
- *Healthy living varies across the community.*
  - *On the whole Denny, Dennyloanhead and Dunipace is comparable or better than Falkirk and Scotland on ill health and behaviour measures although there are differences between areas.*
  - *The rate of asthma hospitalisations is higher than Falkirk and Scotland averages in Nethermains and Dunipace and across the community this ranges from 17.3 to 129 per 100,000.*
  - *Fankerton, Stoneywood and Denny Town has the highest rate of COPD hospitalisations and road traffic accident casualties. Rates are higher than the Falkirk and Scotland rates for both indicators.*
- *There are high levels of child poverty in Nethermains compared to Falkirk and Scotland. 27.3% of children live in poverty, double the proportion of Head of Muir and Dennyloanhead.*

Poverty:

Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead are places where opportunities, power and wealth are shared equally.

What local people said:

- *It is difficult to understand poverty unless it has been directly experienced.*
- *Food banks should be advertised better so people in need are more aware of them.*
- *Residents in Denny feel there is a lack of training and development opportunities within the area.*
- *There are not enough banks in the area, people already in hardship have to travel too far to access banks/ATM machines.*
- *People feel business rates in the area are too high.*
- *There is a need for training and skills projects to match the local economy.*

What we know:

- *The population in receipt of out of work benefits has recently increased for all areas. It has consistently been higher in Nethermains and Dunipace than in Falkirk and the other parts of the Denny district.*
- *Denny has higher levels of unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in line with the rest of Falkirk*
- *Denny has higher levels of children living in low-income households compared to Falkirk and Scotland.*
- *Nethermains has generally had a higher percentage of children living in poverty than Falkirk and other areas within the community. There has always been a considerable gap between it and Head of Muir & Dennyloanhead.*
- *Recent cost-of-living increases and the substantial rise in fuel costs have placed additional stress on families.*

Recent Developments

At the time of going to print, the UK is experiencing a cost-of-living crisis. Fuel and food prices have soared recently, and a huge proportion of the population is struggling to cope with the increases. Recent changes to income tax and National Insurance, as well as Council Tax increases, will exacerbate the price increases.

This cost-of-living crisis requires to be addressed at a national level. Both the Scottish Government and the UK Government need to address this crisis. The local initiatives mentioned in this Community Action Plan will not be able to mitigate a crisis of this scale on their own.

However, as was the case during the lockdowns of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the communities of Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead will step up and pull together to help those in need.

Priorities to address together:

- *People are struggling financially, due to Covid-19 and recent cost of living rises, including fuel: More work needs to be done to strengthen networks of support within communities so people who are struggling are aware of where they can receive support.*
- *Related issues are affordability of public transport, and incurring debts linked to delays in payment of Universal Credit.*
- *An inclusive local economy: people are concerned about training and job opportunities, and high levels of deprivation.*
- *Service providers need to work together to tackle the child poverty figures for Denny and District as part of the Falkirk Poverty Strategy.*
- *Community organisations in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead need supported to help people access essential goods and services.*

What will be different in 10 years?

- *Work will continue, within the Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead communities, to stall the rise in poverty rates, and people in poverty will have access to a wider range of community support.*
- *Community health and wealth building will be at the heart of all services and support to local communities in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead.*
- *Initiatives funded through Community Choices will have a significant impact in Denny and District in tackling poverty, inequality and social isolation.*

Addressing Poverty Action Plan

No.	*Action*	*Who will be involved*	*This will be achieved by:*
1.	Further develop the community led food pantry, the role of the Community Food Worker, subscriptions service and local volunteers.	Communities, Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley	2022/23
2.	Expand the food pantry service by opening a second food pantry at the other side of Denny (Nethermains).	Communities, Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley	2022/23
3.	Explore additional community projects to address food poverty, such as cooking on a budget, community kitchens, training on hygiene, nutrition and allergens etc.	Communities, NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Community Trust Denny Support Group, Denny Baptist Church, Denny and District Network, Falkirk Council	2023/24
4.	Consider local energy-efficiency education, for example keeping heat in homes, energy-efficient cooking etc.	Communities, NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Council, SMART Denny	2024
5.	Consider sustainable food projects, such as community growing, reducing food waste, local and seasonal food education etc., and explore funding options for these initiatives.	Communities, NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Council, Food Futures, Denny YMCA, Stoneywood Care	2023/24
6.	Investigate local training needs, and design local projects with local communities	Communities, Falkirk Council, CVS, Skills Development Scotland	2022/23
7.	Work with communities to combat negative perceptions of those in poverty, and consider local events related to Challenge Poverty Week	Communities, Denny Support Group, Denny and district network, Poverty Alliance, SMART Denny	2022/23
8.	Continue to develop ways to expand digital inclusion, particularly for young people, such as creating safe digital spaces, coding, peer support, tackling online bullying.	Denny YMCA, CVS Falkirk, SMART Denny	2022/23
9.	Continue to develop ways to address fuel poverty in Denny	Communities, Denny Support Group, Denny and district network, Poverty Alliance, SMART Denny	2022/23
10.	Continue to develop ways to address child poverty in Denny, such as providing food during the school holidays	Communities, Denny Support Group, Denny and district network, Poverty Alliance	2022/23

Health Inequalities

People in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead will lead long, active and healthy lives, and families are supported.

What local people said:

- *Some residents were shocked by the poor health outcomes of people living in the area.*
- *Allotment sites to supplement growing healthy foods which can help healthy living*
- *Need better support mechanisms for the elderly and vulnerable*
- *Not enough affordable leisure centres/sporting facilities in the area for young people and their families.*
- *Too many takeaways in the area and not enough local restaurants for families.*
- *Make use of local open space for recreational activities for young people.*
- *More activities to promote good mental health for children and young people.*
- *Young people should be educated about mental health*

What we know

- *Although rates have fluctuated over the years, more recently the rate of deaths aged 15-44 has been increasing in Denny and District. However, the rate in Dunipace has recently decreased following a steady rise.*
- *In Nethermains and Dunipace the rate of asthma hospitalisations is higher than in Falkirk and Scotland.*
- *Hospital admissions due to alcohol and drugs remain too high in Denny and District.*
- *Nethermains has a higher number of alcohol related hospital admissions compared to Falkirk and Scotland.*
- *Children in Denny have poorer outcomes when it comes to dental health.*
- *There are high levels of prescribed medication for anxiety, depression, and psychosis (2018).*
- *Suicide rates across the Falkirk area, including Denny and District, remain a concern.*
- *Dunipace has consistently had the highest rate of emergency hospital admissions and general hospital admissions, including people aged over 65 years.*
- *Recent cost-of-living increases and the substantial rise in fuel costs have placed additional stress on families.*

Recent Developments:

- *Recent improvements to the Gala Park were designed with inclusivity in mind. New benches are wheelchair accessible, with one end being designed to make transitioning from a wheelchair to the bench as smooth as possible. The picnic tables have an area that a wheelchair user can fit in with able bodied users and not feel excluded at both ends of the bench, so that a wheelchair user can choose whether to look at river or the park. The gradient of the footpath was changed to be compliant, and 4 new wheelchair accessible parking bays were provided by increasing the size and design of the carpark.*
- *At the time of going to print, it has just been announced that public swimming is to re-open at Denny High School, for the first time since Covid restrictions.*

Priorities to address together:

- *Mental health is a concern in the area as is substance use, so additional barriers should be prioritised.*
- *Community-based initiatives need continued support as an important means to help people in recovery from substance use and their families.*
- *There is a lack of affordable options for leisure and sports activities.*
- *People should have access to affordable healthy and nutritious food.*
- *There is an absence of a Changing Places Toilet in the Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead area. It would be good to have such a facility located in the Gala Park.*

What will be different in 10 years?

- *Local people are healthier and able to make informed choices about their health.*
- *Young people will be more active and healthier because of improved options for healthy food and exercise.*
- *People with additional barriers have access to the services they need.*
- *Frontline service providers will be trained to support people affected by substance use in a way that reduces stigma.*
- *Initiatives funded through Community Choices will have a significant impact in Denny and District in tackling poverty, inequality and social isolation.*

Health Inequalities Actions

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
11.	Continue to develop the preventative project for substance Use run by Forth Valley Recovery Community	Communities, Alcohol and Drug Partnership, NHS Forth Valley, Forth Valley Recovery Community	2022/23
12.	Identify whether there is need for a local family support group related to substance use	Communities, Alcohol and Drug Partnership	2024
13.	Map out available mental health services in the area, and access for people in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead	Communities, Falkirk Council, NHS Forth Valley	2022/23
14.	Develop an approach for involving people with lived experience of poorer mental health outcomes in service design	Communities, NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership	2022/23
15.	Scope need for local pilot project around social isolation, focussing on older and young people	Communities, NHS Forth Valley, Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership	2024
16.	Map out existing buildings, resources and health related groups and services operating within the area	Communities, NHS Health Improvement, Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership	2022/23
17.	Consider options to improve access and participation of exercise and sports, e.g. sports taster sessions for young people or outdoor gyms.	Communities, Falkirk Community Trust	2022/23
18.	Identify and scope need for walking groups or health walks	Communities, Falkirk Council, NHS Health Improvement	2024
19.	Explore development of a Child Health Week, co-produced with young people	Communities, Local schools, Falkirk Council, NHS Forth valley	2024
20.	Scope out the need and consider options for installing a Changing Places Toilet in the Denny area, e.g. at the Gala Park.	Communities, NHS Health Improvement, Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership	2023/24

Community Transport

Transport in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead is affordable, accessible and reliable. Our transport infrastructure is integrated, sustainable, efficient and reliable.

What local people said

- *Transport infrastructure is poor.*
- *Traffic lights at Denny Cross don't work properly.*
- *The roads in the area are not well maintained.*
- *Public transport isn't very reliable and is generally too expensive.*
- *Residents in Denny argued there should be a bus service to the hospital.*
- *Not enough dropped kerbs in the area which makes it difficult for some people to get around.*
- *A community transport model would help address some of the problems with public transport in the area.*
- *Extra cycle paths would be beneficial*
- *Options such as a family card, subsidised travel, or a nominal fare would be helpful.*
- *Use of or access to electric cars would be beneficial.*
- *The lack of adequate public transport is also contributing to social isolation and loneliness.*

What we know

- *Denny has higher levels of people claiming disability allowance in comparison to the Falkirk average.*
- *There are high levels of child poverty, benefit claimants, and low weekly earnings in Denny and District, so is important to have affordable transport options.*
- *There is no separate cycle route to Stirling from Denny, despite it being a relatively short distance away.*

Recent Developments

- *CATCA was responsible for bringing Cycling Without Age (CWA) to Scotland and forming the national Cycling Without Age Scotland organisation - which aims to enable elderly care home residents get out in their community by bike with volunteers cycling on a trishaw). The Denny Chapter of CWA take people out on specially designed electric passenger vehicles and Trishaws. They train people to ride these and connect them with people who are lonely and need to get outdoors.*
- *CGI have worked to replace the 2 metal bridges in Denny.*
- *A Sustrans funded consultation was undertaken in Feb 2021 about the feasibility to build an off road foothpath/cycle path from Denny to the Falkirk Wheel.*
- *Plans to complete the Denny Easter Access Road (DEAR) have recently been approved, which will help alleviate congestion at Denny Cross. Work is due to commence in November 2022.*

Priorities to address together:

- *Transport Infrastructure: a modern and inclusive transport system which suits the needs of local residents.*
- *The Local Transport Strategy (LTS) will be refreshed to include public transport (bus and rail) as well as active travel (walking and cycling). Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead residents will be consulted on this process.*
- *Access to a variety of transport options: people should have access to good quality options for walking, cycling, and public transport.*
- *We need more access to electric charging points to facilitate the increase in electric car ownership.*
- *Denny and District need to be better connected to neighbouring areas such as Bonnybridge, Camelon and Bannockburn in Stirlingshire.*

What will be different in 10 years?

- *Cycling will be accessible to all residents living in the area.*
- *Public transport will be more reliable and affordable.*
- *There will be more electric cars and less petrol and diesel vehicles.*
- *Improved roads and pathways will allow for safer cycling and walking routes.*
- *The introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the Denny area will help to improve road safety.*
- *Congestion at Denny Cross will be minimized due to DEAR.*

Community Transport

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
21.	Identify and scope the need for improvements to cycling infrastructure. This could include a bike library, bike share schemes, bike station etc.	Communities, Forth Valley Environmental Link, Falkirk Council	2022/23
22.	Carry out an audit of streets and paths to ensure there are good quality cycling paths and well-lit streets	Falkirk Council	2024
23.	Raise awareness of local issues relating to public transport.	Communities, Falkirk Council Place Services, Sestran	2022/23
24.	Investigate accessibility and affordability of public transport within the local area	Communities, Falkirk Council Place Services, Sestran	2024
25.	Identify and scope need for community car provision or other community transport options, such as Cycling Without Age	Communities, Falkirk Council Place Services, Sestran	2024
26.	Ensure local transport projects in the area are publicised so the community can be involved	Communities, Falkirk Council Place Services, Sestran	2022/23
27.	Improve connectivity for walkers and cyclists by upgrading roads and pathways to neighboring communities such as Bonnybridge, Camelon and even into Stirling.	Falkirk Council Place Services	2022/23

Building Safe and Empowered Communities

Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead are inclusive, empowered and resilient places where residents feel safe in their communities.

What local people said

- *Some people don't feel safe walking around the area due to the rise in anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and vandalism.*
- *Lack of community identity viewed as a significant problem.*
- *Community events need to be advertised better so more people can participate in the local decision-making process.*
- *Closure of local police station seen as an issue for some people.*
- *Suggestion that one of the empty buildings in the area could be used as a Community Hub to aid inclusion and provide a safe space for local residents.*
- *Some people in the area report having been subject to homophobic abuse.*
- *Teenagers drinking in parks at the weekend can be intimidating.*
- *There is a feeling amongst young people that their voices aren't listened to.*
- *We would feel safer in our community if we knew more people by name.*
- *Hate crimes need to be taken more seriously.*

What we know

- *The crime rate in all areas has been steadily decreasing in recent years, with the exception of Dunipace where rates have seen a sharp increase since 2016/17.*
- *75% of people living in Dunipace live within 500 metres of a derelict site. This compares to 25% in Falkirk and 30% in Scotland.*
- *In 2018 crime rates in Denny were higher than the whole Western locality and Falkirk.*
- *In 2018 Denny accounted for 28% of all crimes committed in the Western locality.*
- *In 2018 threatening/abusive behaviour accounted for around 25% of all crimes committed within Denny.*

Recent Developments

- *New cameras in Denny town centre use artificial intelligence software to identify suspects around the clock. These cameras are highly sophisticated and identify suspicious behaviour and flag it up to a human operator.*

Priorities to address together:

- *Residents from Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead want their communities to feel more welcoming and safer for everyone.*
- *The people of Denny and District want to be more involved in future engagement exercises so there is greater insight from people within the area.*
- *Residents want the amount of crime in Denny and District to be reduced.*

What will be different in 10 years?

- *Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead will be more inclusive places to live.*
- *There will be less anti-social behaviour in the area and people will feel safe in their communities.*
- *The people of Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead will be empowered to take part in decisions about their town, and more people will be involved in the development and delivery of local services.*
- *There will be a wide variety of community groups involved in ongoing consultations regarding improvements to the area.*
- *Innovative funding programmes, such as Community Choices, will mean that the people of Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead will have a more direct say on how Council funding is allocated in their community.*

Safe and Empowered Communities

No.	Action	Who will be involved	This will be achieved by:
26.	Develop a local community safety panel to identify and tackle local issues in partnership, such as scams and home safety, fire safety, internet security etc.	Communities, CVS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Falkirk Council, CSREC, Falkirk equalities and rights group, Local Tenants and Residents groups	2022/23
27.	Develop a litter strategy in partnership across all community organisations	Communities, Falkirk Council Place Services, Inspire Denny & Dunipace, CATCA, CGI	2024
28.	Establish more local community events encouraging community cohesion and 'getting to know your neighbours', that celebrate the towns of Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead	Communities, Falkirk Council	2024
29.	Investigate the need for provision of local youth services, particularly for older youths	Communities, Falkirk Council	2022/23
30.	Introduce a campaign for increased youth involvement in community activities	Communities, Falkirk Council	2024

Next Steps

Monitoring this plan

This Action Plan shows what will be done to improve outcomes in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead over the next 10 years. Each action will be jointly delivered by different organisations within the Community Planning Partnership and members of the local community.

A Performance Management Framework will be developed so each action is monitored, and indicators will be developed by the working group responsible for each action. These groups will develop indicators and targets so change can be measured, and the community can see this change.

This plan will be monitored and reported on annually so trends and progress can be measured.

Getting involved

This plan is for anyone who lives or works in Denny, Dunipace and Dennyloanhead. The actions in this plan will be jointly delivered by organisations within the Community Planning Partnership, local community groups, members of the local community and anyone else that wants to be involved.

If you are interested in discussing what is in this plan, or want to get involved in any way, please contact the Community Planning Partnership at **communityplanning@falkirk.gov.uk**.

falkirk
COMMUNITY PLANNING
PARTNERSHIP

April 2022