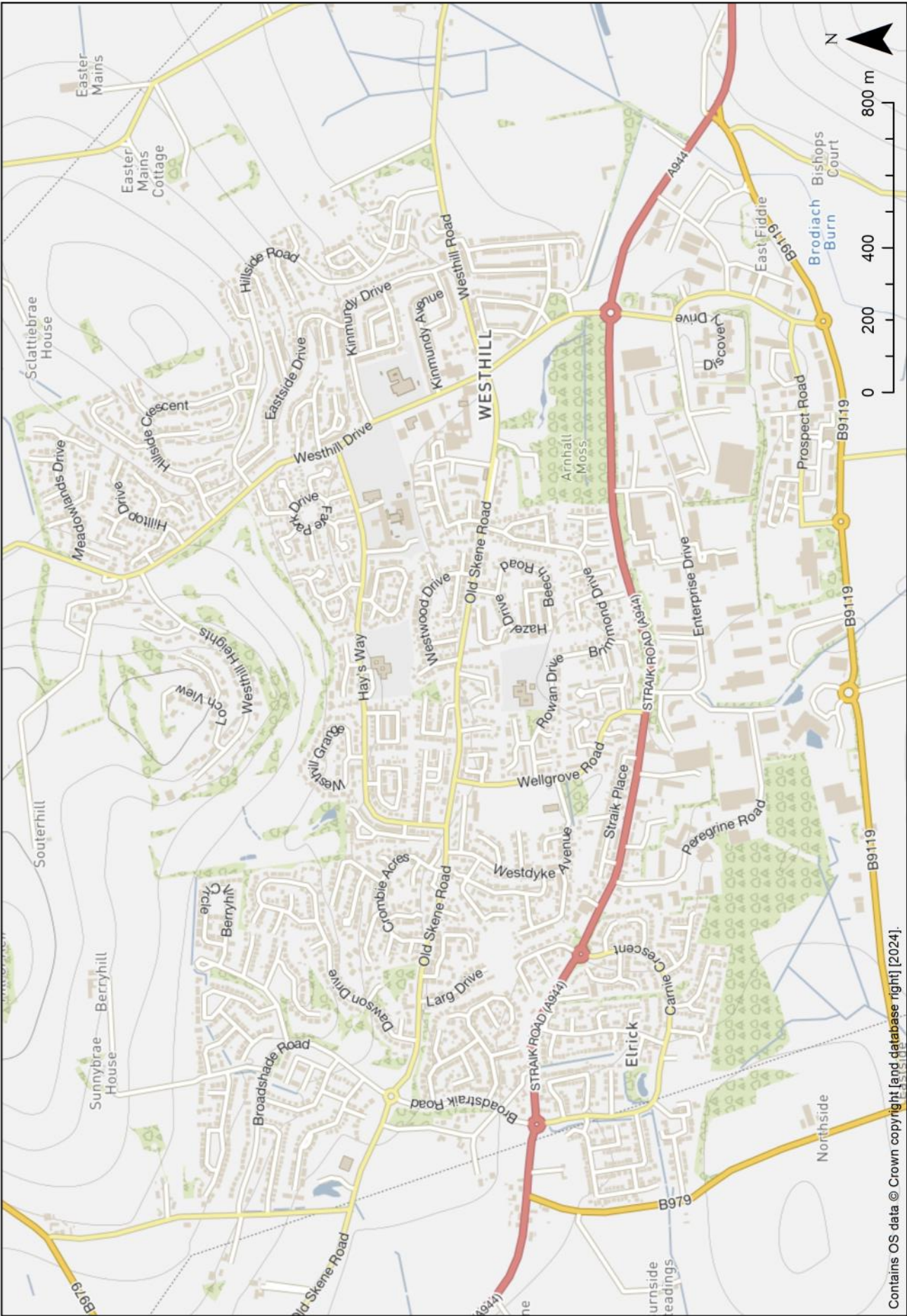




Westhill & Elrick Community Action Plan 2024-2029



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This Community Action Plan (CAP) has been prepared under the auspices of Westhill & Elrick Community Council (WECC). It is intended to be a live plan which will be kept under constant review as actions, projects and initiatives develop and are completed, as new information comes to light through further community engagement and as circumstances change.

The Community Action Plan is based on an online survey and meetings with a number of focus groups representing communities of interest during 2023 and 2024. The findings of the consultation exercises were further validated at a two day event held in Westhill Shopping Centre in April 2024. The consultation gathered opinions from people of all ages and areas of the community.

This CAP sets out the challenges and issues facing the Westhill & Elrick community with actions to address these. Some of the actions are steps towards a bigger project and may require future in-depth community engagement.

This document shows you the resulting plan which has been agreed with Aberdeenshire Council for beginning to address our community's top priorities.

For each priority, or issue, it has been agreed which organisations/departments need to be involved, and over the coming months what resources will be required and target dates set for completion.

All the ideas in this Action Plan came from the community. The table at the back shows those ideas that can be taken forward by the community on its own, those which require help from an external partner and those which can only be taken forward by one or more external agencies, which can provide moral, technical and possibly financial support.

It is recommended that this Action Plan has a maximum lifespan of 5 years. Some projects may be completed quickly whilst others may take much longer but all should be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are still relevant.

It is important that this plan is seen by all interested parties, both within the local community and the other partners that may be able to assist with the implementation of any actions set out in the table.



Westhill & Elrick Key Facts

The community of Westhill and Elrick lies about 6 miles west of the centre of Aberdeen. It is just west of the boundary between the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Council areas and is within the Garioch Area of Aberdeenshire.

Data used in this introduction is as at 2021 and published by Aberdeenshire Council.

In 2021, the population of Westhill and Elrick was 11,705. The demographic profile of the population is very similar to Aberdeenshire as a whole. 19% of the population is under 16, 62% between 16 and 64 and 19% is 65 and over, including 3.5% of the population which is over 80.

The median household income is £52,516 which is 31% higher than the average for Aberdeenshire. Unemployment is just 1.1% which is lower than the Aberdeenshire average.

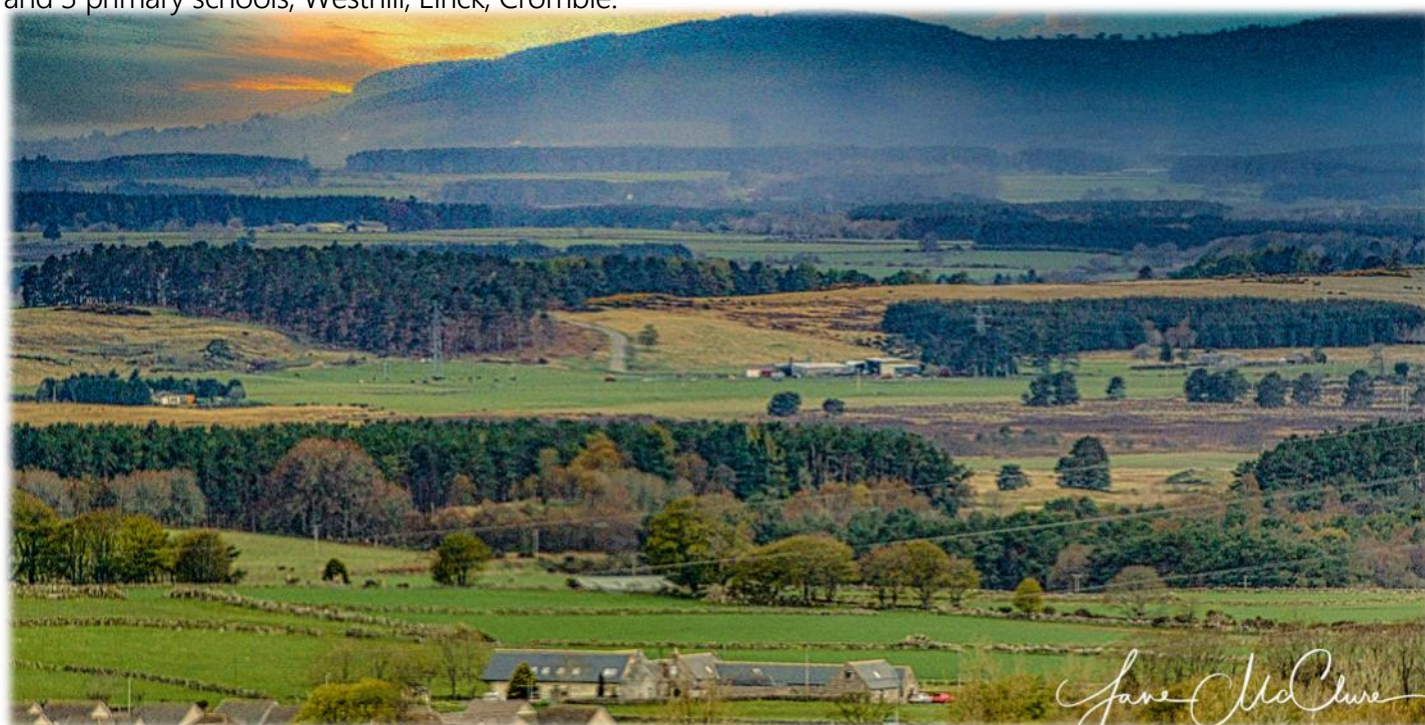
The average house price is £256,121 which is 15% higher than the average for Aberdeenshire. However, the percentage of houses within the lower council tax bands is well below the Aberdeenshire average and the percentage of houses in the higher council tax bands is well above the Aberdeenshire average.

Westhill has a secondary school, Westhill Academy and 3 primary schools; Westhill, Elrick, Crombie.

There are nurseries attached to each and a public library integrated within the Westhill Primary School building.

The community is also served by a community centre integrated into the academy, sports pitches at the academy, primary schools, Westdyke and Lawsondale which both also have pavilions. There is an all weather pitch at Carnie. There is a 25m swimming pool. There is a large community hall called Ashdale Hall, and two church buildings with associated community spaces.

In terms of retail, there is a selection of shops, some of which serve a wider area. The shopping centre in the centre of Westhill has around 20 units including a Marks & Spencer, hairdressers, opticians, gift and card shops, a delicatessen, fast food, cafes, bistro, a local supermarket, pharmacy, bargain store and post office. There are more units just west of the main shopping centre. In the Arnhall area, south of the A944, there is a sizeable Tesco with associated filling station and a Costco which draws its custom from a large catchment. There are also new DIY type stores. There is a local convenience store attached to a filling station and garage in Elrick and planning permission has been granted for another at the Western end of the community.



There are small office units above the shops at the centre and extensive employment premises on the south side of the A944.

For medical care, there is a medical practice with several GPs and associated health services, including one of the two dental surgeries and another pharmacy next door.

The community is served by several bus services which together provide a regular bus service into the centre of Aberdeen, a journey which takes between 40 - 50 minutes, at a frequency of between 15 and 30 minutes.

Westhill is linked to Aberdeen by the A944, which is mostly dual carriageway. There is a cycle track to Aberdeen as well. A few minutes along the A944 is the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route which means that easy access can be made around Aberdeen and to link to the main roads which radiate from the city, heading south, west, north west and north. It is therefore very well connected to the strategic road network.

Westhill & Elrick has a community council, WECC. There are a range of community organisations, too numerous to list here.

History of Westhill

In 2019, to mark the unveiling of the Sculpture at the entrance to Westhill a brief history was published in 3 instalments of the Westhill Bulletin.

The name Westhill dates back to 1859 when John Anderson from Strichen bought the two neighbouring estates of Wester Kinmundy and Blackhills. In the early 1960s Westhill was still a tiny hamlet of Skene, with fewer than 100 residents, mainly living in a few small farms and crofts.

It was local solicitor Ronald Dean who proposed in 1963 that the expanse of fields might support something other than crops and livestock. With the backing of the former Aberdeen District Council and the Secretary of State for Scotland, and the financial support of the Ashdale Land and Property Company, he sowed the seeds of a new settlement.

The first of the new-builds, from the Persley Development Company, appeared in the autumn of 1968 in Arnhall Crescent. In 1971 the population was close to five hundred; ten years later it would be nearer 5,000. Westhill was proving a magnet for young families determined to get on the property ladder, an influx accelerated by the oil boom.



Kinmundy Lodge by local artist Kate Lumsden

History of Westhill *continued*

Community spirit was quickly evident with the formation of the Westhill and District Residents Association in 1972. Part of the driver was a lack of amenities; the growth of housing had outstripped the provision of retail, recreational and social facilities. Transport pressures saw major road works in January 1973 including realignment of what is now Old Skene Road. That year community infrastructure was delivered. A pre-fabricated Ashdale Hall was built on the site of the current Hall; a site (albeit temporary) for a Royal Bank of Scotland; and a health clinic next to Denman Park.

Westhill Primary School, the first of three primary schools, came in 1974. The golf course and Westhill Inn opened in 1976; the same year the first industrial land was occupied, just 1.5 acres taken by Kingswells Body Builders. Westhill Academy opened in 1979 and Denman Park was established in the same year.

Shops in Westhill started with Berriedale, run by the Kinghorn family from 1959 mainly as a newsagent, with a Post Office added in 1976. A VG store was built opposite Berriedale in the building that is now Bridges Nursery. That was the first new shop until the first phase of Westhill Shopping Centre with eight shops and offices above was completed in 1980.

By end of the 1970s, Westhill, the town, had arrived. It was described as the Garden Suburb of Aberdeen city. It would have lots of open spaces, landscaping and pedestrian walkways and play areas to cater for the young families which would predominate the scene for a long time to come.

In the early 1980s, Gordon District Council gave the go ahead for what was described in the Press as the first "factory"— a 20,000 square foot development from Ashdale Land and Property at Westhill Industrial Estate, built on speculation, and capable of being broken into units. In 1981 the ecumenical Trinity Church was dedicated. Also Elrick Primary School opened in the same year.

In 1982 Westhill Golf Club, formed in 1977, opened its spectacular hilltop clubhouse. At the time the club had around 600 members with membership fees of £25 for locals.

In 1985 plans for a health centre went before the Council. Grampian Health Board had picked a site on Westhill Drive to house dental services, a district nurse and midwife, as well as a social work office. A separate application was made for medical centre with six consulting rooms on a neighbouring spot.

By this point the population had reached 10,000.



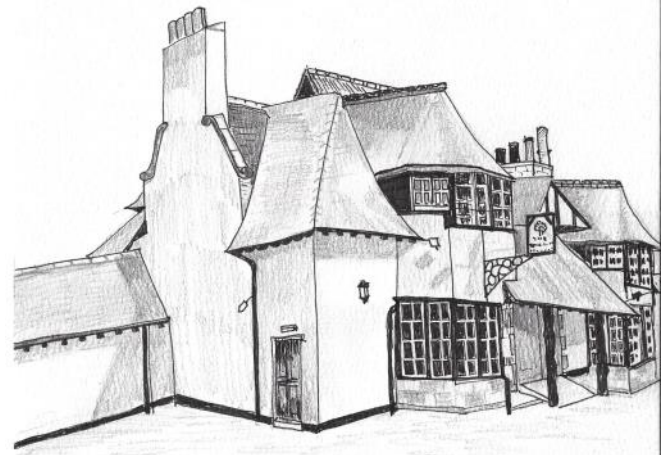
In 1993, HRH Princess Anne opened the new Ashdale Hall and the £1.7 million Westhill Swimming Pool. The 25 metre pool was a joint venture between Westhill and District Swimming Pool Association, Gordon District Council, Grampian Regional Council and the Scottish Sports Council. A public campaign, launched five years earlier, raised almost £60,000 towards it. This was only the second pool in Scotland to feature a moveable floor, which improved disabled access.

The 'Don't Move Westhill Campaign' - As part of the local government re-organisation, it was announced in July 1993 that Westhill was to become part of the City of Aberdeen instead of the new Aberdeenshire unitary authority. A committee of Westhill residents was quickly formed to oppose this. They organised a petition in favour of keeping Westhill out of the City and 98% of the population signed it. MPs from all the major parties supported the campaign and by February 1994 the government agreed that Westhill would become part of the new Aberdeenshire Council.

In 1994 plans were lodged for 3,000 homes on seven sites ringing Westhill, a 10-15 year £240 million vision. Proposed locations included land north of the golf club and to the east of Lawsondale. The majority of homes were earmarked for the fields between A944 and B9119 – what would eventually become a zone for subsea companies.



Market at Ashdale Hall by local artist Kate Lumsden



The Broadstraik Inn by local artist Kate Lumsden

As Westhill and Elrick entered the new millennium it was about to undergo dramatic industrial expansion.

Land to the south became home to oil service companies — in particular those specialising in subsea work. Arnhall Business Park was occupied by businesses such as of Bibby Offshore, Subsea 7, Technip UK and Schlumberger. Street names like Discovery Drive, Prospect Road, and Endeavour Drive reflected the pioneering spirit.

New housing continued to appear. Elrick extended westwards as sites next to Carnie Woods and north of Broadstraik Road at Broadshade were developed.

With the growth of the town and its business parks came new shops and restaurants. Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Aldi arrived within a few years of each other, combining with Costco to make Westhill a regional shopping destination. Restaurants appeared to the west side of the shopping centre. The Westhill Hotel was totally redeveloped and re-opened in 2006 as Holiday Inn Aberdeen West. The Broadstraik Inn at Elrick was refurbished and opened in 2023.

A new larger Health Centre was opened opposite the Tesco store in 2005.

Monthly Local Produce Markets are held outside the Ashdale Hall.

History of Westhill *continued*

As part of creating a 'green oasis' in the centre of Westhill, Denman Park was given a makeover, with the addition of new paths, a section of wild meadow, public artwork, and even outdoor gym equipment. Denman Park is attached to Arnhall Moss which in it's own right was designated as Aberdeenshire's first Local Nature Reserve in 1992. Arnall Moss is one of just two designated Local Nature Reserves in Aberdeenshire, the other being The Waters of Philorth in Fraserburgh.

Pedestrian crossings were installed on Westhill Drive and Old Skene Road.

The Westhill & District Residents Association, which had been running since 1972, was re-formed as the Westhill & Elrick Community Council in 2008. This gave the group more statutory rights on consultation etc.

The library was incorporated into Westhill Primary School in 2011 and the old library building behind the swimming pool was taken over by the Westhill & District Men's Shed via a Community Asset Transfer. It was the first Men's Shed to open in Scotland and has spawned many others.

The Westhill Episcopal Church built a new church on land at Broadshade Farm in 2013 and named it Westhill Community Church. It includes a café and meeting rooms for hire.

In 2015 the Westhill Shopping Centre was revamped with extra parking and units, which drew tenants like Home Bargains and Costa.

House-building at Broadshade was completed in 2016 and that signalled the end of major housing developments in the Westhill area. The population has risen to around 12000. Major improvements to the roads system around Westhill are likely to be required before plans for any further expansion are approved.

Connectivity was improved with the opening of the long-awaited Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) road in December 2018. Around this time Aberdeen Football Club built the training facilities and pavilion at the Kingsford site beside the A944 in Aberdeen City.

The Westhill Orbital Trail, a 12.7km circuit of Westhill connecting a series of roads, was established in 2021 response to the community's 'lock-down' experience. It is a well-used route. tracks and paths on the edge of Westhill with two new links at the Westhill Golf Club and Lawsonsedale Woods, with another at Carnie Woods.



The Process



During 2023 the Community Action Plan (CAP) steering group from the WECC consulted the community by way of an online survey and meeting with focus groups representing communities of interest on how changes and improvements can be made in Westhill and Elrick. To further validate the results of the consultation they held a drop-by event at Westhill Shopping Centre on the 19th and 20th April 2024 where residents were able to see the results of the consultation and have their say on the emerging themes. Further validation was sought at a "Lazy Sunday" event in Denman Park in June 2024.

The responses gave valuable insight to help inform the CAP. This action plan will have a lifespan of 5 years.

The steering group prepared and circulated a list of questions via an online survey along with a number of focus groups.



TOTAL UNIQUE HOUSEHOLDS

4,901*



140

**SURVEY RESPONSES
RECEIVED**



130+

**REACHED VIA FOCUS
GROUPS**

** Source: Aberdeenshire Council Open Space Audit 2024 Settlement Summary*

The survey results were collated and analysed and several themes emerged. These themes were presented at drop-by events in April and June 2024. Residents were invited to meet the CAP Steering Group and feedback on the results and key themes from the survey.



The survey results in detail are available via the link below or on request by contacting WECC at planningwecc@gmail.com

[CAP Documents](#)

Recent Aberdeenshire Council-led consultation

Aberdeenshire Council conducted a Strategic Needs Assessment of Westhill in 2019. It suggests that Westhill residents generally experience better outcomes than those living elsewhere in Aberdeenshire and Scotland. On average, they are more likely to be employed, economically active, earn higher salaries, have high level vocational qualifications, belong to a high 'social grade', live longer, healthier lives, experience fewer instances of crime and related disorder than those living elsewhere. Westhill also has its challenges for example; accommodating population growth in light of geographical restrictions on the town; potential for 'diseconomies' associated with greater density to limit growth e.g. traffic congestion, high housing costs; over reliance on, and dominance of oil and gas sector with the potential for job losses should the oil price enter another prolonged period of downward momentum.

This Strategic Needs Assessment was published just before some major events which would probably have a bearing on any update. These include the Covid 19 pandemic which has changed working practices, especially for office based jobs; major fluctuations in price of oil and gas caused by the war in Ukraine; the declaration of a climate emergency which may shorten the life of the North Sea oil and gas industry whilst accelerating opportunities in renewable energy.

More details and the Strategic Needs Assessment 2019 report can be found at: [Westhill Strategic Needs Assessment 2019](#)

In September 2022 Aberdeenshire Council conducted a Town Centre Health Check for Westhill. For the most part the findings and conclusions match up with the feed-back on WECC's Place Standard survey and subsequent discussion groups. Of particular interest is that, for community, seating areas to congregate came out as the most mentioned aspect for improvement. It also featured in the priorities for business. Leisure and play facilities also featured, also improved vibrancy in the evening and events in the town centre. Community responses had pavement quality in the top five issues for improvement and the same for businesses along with pavement cleanliness. Priorities in community responses also included traffic flow, which is assumed to mean in and access/entry to the shopping centre car park. These results match the WECC exercise and should help to steer action planning.

The Town Centre Health Check report mentions that observations show the care and maintenance of buildings to be good and that this was reflected through the feedback. The WECC survey findings differ from this. Perhaps some further exploration will be required.

More details and the Westhill Town Centre Health Check 2022 report can be found at: [Westhill Town Centre Health Check 2022](#)



The Feedback

There was a reasonably high level of satisfaction across all of the issues that were explored through the Place Standard Survey and other engagement exercises. Other evidence shows Westhill and Elrick in a positive light.

Suggestions for improvement: Key Themes

There was strong agreement between most responses, which fell into one of the six key themes listed below. An additional theme emerged relating to communication which was highlighted through the CAP process itself.

- Outdoors
- Green Transport
- Sports & Recreation
- Facilities
- Community Activities
- Young People's Voices
- Communication

Many of the ideas put forward have been noted as either capable of being taken forward by the community themselves, or progressed by the community in association with an external partner or partners, or projects that can only be undertaken by external partners.



The Feedback



Outdoors

The Outdoors theme has been split into two subsections; 'Outdoor Meeting Spaces' and 'Footpaths'

Outdoor Meeting Spaces

There was interest in taking forward various projects related to outdoor meeting spaces, play parks, footpaths, benches, and Denman Park.

Projects which can be taken forward by the community themselves:

- Audit of current benches & tables in public places
- Audit existing footpaths, dropped kerbs, open spaces, play parks
- Set out a proforma to capture consistent information, allocate to volunteers to walk and record.
- Major Playpark Project - Convene meeting of interested parties to explore this in more detail to look at need, possible locations, type of playpark, willingness to join a project team.
- Plan a site visit to the new playpark at Hazelhead to get ideas

Projects which will require action by the community in association with outside partners:

- Establish places for benches and covered areas, i.e.
 - * Shopping Centre
 - * Open/Green Spaces
- Plan new benches tables including style and location, cost, discuss with planning and consider what consultation needed.
- Seats on path behind Crombie school, between Hays way and Westhill Academy would be great especially at the playpark.
- Improvements to Denman Park and Carnie Woods
- Improvements to Playpark at Keir Circle
- A major playpark development similar to Hazelhead Park
- Establish a location for Allotments and Community Garden

Projects which will require action by an external agency:

- Maintain and cut tree height levels.

Footpaths

The Orbital Trail is well used and appreciated. There is concern relating to drainage issues on some sections and address subsidence in the area of the sculpture.

Projects which can be taken forward by the community themselves:

- Approach communities of interest for feedback on getting about Westhill

Projects which will require action by the community in association with outside partners:

- Access Aberdeenshire Council's GIS, (Geographic Information Systems), to gather local geographic data to help identify the geographic location of features such as adopted paths and green space.
- Develop series of Trails to encourage outdoor interest and exercise for example:
 - * Edible Trails
 - * Historical/Heritage Trails
- Develop Footpaths beyond Westhill e.g. North and East to Brimmond

Projects which will require action by an external agency:

- Grass cutting and overhanging vegetation

Projects which will require action by the community in association with outside partners:

- Road Safety Awareness including all road users
- Develop Cycle routes within and beyond Westhill

Projects which will require action by an external agency:

- Improve the reliability of public transport.
- buses are not reliable, often cancelled and running late
- a bus to Inverurie.
- Replace aging/faded 30 mph signs
- Westhill Drive needs more safe crossings and slow down signs
- the turn off to Hays Way speed bumps would be good
- flashing 30mph speed signs on Old Skene Road
- Grass cutting to improve visibility and access.



Green Transport

Getting about Westhill & Elrick is reported as fairly good as served by a regular bus service by Stagecoach, however there are many ideas which could make getting about easier.

Projects which can be taken forward by the community themselves:

- Share concerns raised regarding Public Transport, reliability, routes and information with PTU/Stagecoach perhaps at Bus Forum
- EV Charging points - review availability and publicise.
- Increase awareness of A2B

The Feedback



Sports & Recreation

Projects which can be taken forward by the community themselves:

- Audit of all the sports groups and the use of facilities
- Maintenance/ Appearance
- Identify Buildings and
- Establish Ownership
- Exercise classes for seniors.
- Walking group for all ages

Projects which will require action by the community in association with outside partners:

- Keep the Swimming Pool open
- Better promotion of opportunity for young people to join the golf club.
- Establish need for a New Sports Centre

FACILITIES



Facilities

Comments around the general appearance and lack of cleanliness of the town. Place looks tired, in particular the Shopping Centre which is privately owned. Access to Public Toilets in the town was a frequent concern.

Projects which can be taken forward by the community themselves:

- Share feedback from the consultation relating to Westhill Shopping Centre with the Shopping Centre Management
- Mapping Exercise highlighting places participating in Comfort Arrangement (access to Public Toilets) Scheme.

Projects which will require action by the community in association with outside partners:

- Explore alternative options such as fully sustainable toilets.
- Public Art Project at the Elrick End of Westhill to build a Sculpture or some way of creating a gateway/welcome to what is felt is a 'forgotten' area of the town.

Projects which will require action by an external agency:

- Shops and other facilities at the Western end of the Town.
- Fix potholes.



Community Activities

There is interest in adult learning opportunities and more activities for young and older people.

More work needs to be done to establish what is available locally and what the community would like to have access to.

Projects which can be taken forward by the community themselves:

- Conduct a survey of needs and possible providers
- Establish what activities and facilities they would like to see in Westhill and then develop plan(s)
- Share feedback with local venues to encourage them to collaborate and host a music event



Young People's Voices

Young people voiced their concerns around anti-social behaviour, vandalism, and bullying. Westhill would benefit from more provision for young people supported by trained youth (detached) workers and maybe projects similar to the Kincardine & Mearns Youth Clubs initiative which is addressing mental health concerns of young people and the need for safe social spaces. Opportunities that are available need to be more widely promoted to encourage uptake such as the Golf Club offering membership to young people to learn the sport.



Communication

Whilst 'Communication' was not identified as a key theme in the circulation paper, it is clear as identified through the challenges encountered in trying to reach the population of Westhill and Elrick during the CAP process itself and the round table discussion during this Stakeholder Meeting that there is a need to identify and develop a central point for information sharing.

Stakeholder Meeting

A Stakeholder Meeting was held on Wednesday 26th June 2024 between members of the Westhill & Elrick CAP Steering Group and Aberdeenshire Council Officers including representatives from the Landscaping Departments, Environment Sustainability and Planning and Garioch Area Office.

Other stakeholders unable to attend were updated of the outcome of the meeting.



Outdoors

Outdoor Spaces



There were a number of actions highlighted as community initiatives it was helpful to note the intended activity as opportunities to collaborate and share work currently being undertaken by members of the Westhill Sports Hub in particular research relating to getting about by bicycle. Going forward reports/outcomes of pieces of research will be shared with the WECC to reduce duplication and encourage collaboration. Links and connections made through the CAP process will provide more opportunities for information sharing around projects and activities being undertaken across the community.

The restoration work in Denman Park was recognised as an example of the community's commitment to sustainability.



The possibility of creating allotments and/or a community garden in Westhill highlighted the challenges of finding suitable land and engaging community organisations. However, such a project would align with the AC Food Strategy and there are some good examples of work developing allotments in other areas.

The maintenance and management of trees featured as a potential action. Where this relates to trees on land which is local authority responsibility this would be deemed part of ongoing business as usual. However, it is noted that these issues could relate to land under the management of Factors or civil disputes. This is raised as for information only and not as a CAP Action.



Footpaths

The Westhill Orbital Trail is a 12.7km circuit of Westhill connecting a series of roads, tracks and paths on the edge of Westhill with two new links at the Westhill Golf Club and Lawsondale Woods, with another at Carnie Woods. Established in 2021 response to the community's 'lock-down' experience, it is a well-used route.



There is interest in further initiatives to take the footpath network into country side around Westhill, for example to the north and east and linking to Brimmond Hill. The next step will be to open discussions with Landowners and Community Groups to initiate New Path proposals.

Themed Trails create healthy recreation and transportation opportunities by providing people of all ages with attractive, safe, accessible and low or no-cost places to cycle and walk. Trails help people of all ages incorporate exercise into their daily routines by connecting them with places they want or need to go. The benefits of public health and wellness of communities that encourage physical activity by making use of local path networks are widely recognised. Aberdeenshire Council Natural Environment and Heritage Teams, the Ranger Service, and local groups can offer advice on developing edible trails, heritage trails, and biodiversity guidance for green spaces.

Again general maintenance such as grass cutting and overhanging vegetation was raised as an issue. Where this relates to land which is local authority responsibility this would be deemed part of ongoing business as usual. However, it is noted that these issues could relate to land under the management of Factors or civil disputes.

There is scope to explore developing an approach to make it easier for communities to undertake activities to make improvements themselves however there needs to be clarity on process and responsibility.

Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services are looking to develop messaging to help communities maintain their public spaces themselves

Green Transport

The WECC are encouraged to arrange to meet with the Public Transport Unit (PTU) to discuss the feedback relating to Public Transport and its reliability, routes and information.

WECC and the Active Travel Team will explore ways of promoting the availability and location of electric vehicle charging points, the A2B service and initiatives such as cycle buses. There are Apps available which can help locate EV charging points in the local area; Zap Map (<https://www.zap-map.com/>) is one example. There are two new EV charging points located at Westhill Academy and Swimming Pool. AC Sports Hub are piloting a School Cycle Bus initiative later this year.



Trishaws

Concerns were raised about the poor driving behaviour, speeding, and lack of respect for crossings in Westhill, and the need for education, awareness, and enforcement. Elrick Primary School will introduce 'Parking Buddies' to remind parents and guardians to park safely around the school.

Commitment was made to review road safety concerns. A stakeholder working group is to be established with the Road Safety Unit, other partners including the Aberdeenshire Council Garioch Area Office, WECC, PTA, Schools, Road Safety Team, AC Area Office, Police Scotland.

A number of projects listed that would need to be undertaken by an external party where deemed helpful in informing the Integrated Travel Town Project and Sustainable Travel Plan. The roll out of the 20mph policy is expected to be seen in June 2025.

Sports & Recreation



Outdoor Gym Equipment

In early 2024, WECC initiated a Student Project in partnership with RGU to gather data in relation to the provision of facilities in Westhill and Aberdeen City. There are plans to further engage RGU students for an in-depth study on sports facility needs in Westhill .



Westhill Swimming Pool

WECC, LLA Communities Leisure Officers, and others shared their ambitions and progress on developing a sports hub, and a major play park in Westhill, and the need for community involvement, funding, and peer support.

Facilities

As there were significant responses relating to Westhill Shopping Centre, the WECC intend to reach out and offer to share relevant feedback from the consultation with the Shopping Centre Management .

To address the concerns over access to Public Toilets in the town, AC Facilities Management are keen to develop the Comfort Arrangement Scheme to increase public access to toilets across communities. In addition, WECC will raise the possibility of reinstating public toilet facilities with Westhill Shopping Centre.



Connecting with Aberdeenshire Council Arts, Heritage & Libraries and CLD departments, the community to explore the possibility of a Public Art Gateway Project. A public art project in Westhill will need community involvement, funding, and peer support.

Potholes - Where this relates to roads which are local authority responsibility this would be deemed part of ongoing business as usual.



Trishaws



Westhill Shopping Centre

Community Activities

The potential for community-led initiatives and partnerships to address the considered lack of evening and day classes, and other activities for different age groups in Westhill was recognised. Support from LLA, Garioch Area Office, and CLD would be available to help the community set up and run their own evening and day classes, youth clubs, and other activities, maintaining the support as required.

Young People's Voices

It was highlighted that there is a need to engage young people in community activities, with a focus on understanding their interests and involving them in meaningful projects. Discussions included the development of community activities that resonate with young people, aiming to foster a sense of ownership and participation among the youth.

With regard to the reported anti-social behaviour issues, it was stressed that there is the need for parental awareness and responsibility in addressing disruptive behaviour among young people, suggesting that a multi-agency approach is essential for effective community safety.

The CLD Team will explore setting up a youth-led group to address antisocial behaviour.

Ongoing multi-agency work to address the responsibilities and effects of anti-social behaviour to be continued along with plans to organise a multi-agency event for parents to understand developmental changes in teenagers.



Westhill Academy & Community Centre

Communication

The need for better local communication emerged through the CAP process itself. It is clear as identified through the challenges encountered by the CAP steering group in trying to reach the population of Westhill and Elrick. There is a need to identify and develop a central point for information sharing. "We are Inverurie" was highlighted as a strong example, however, it was understood that there needs to be a level of capacity to develop and maintain something similar. "We are Inverurie" is the Business Improvement District (BID) along with partners. Currently, Westhill does not have a local business association. It may be worth exploring if there is local support for a Westhill Business Association.



Trig Point

Action Plan

There are a number of actions that can be taken forward from these themes. The timescale will vary: some may be short-term; some may take up to 5 years or longer to bring to fruition. However, support from the community of Westhill & Elrick will be vital. The community will need to play its part in making these points work for the people and taking them forward in ways that perhaps cannot currently be foreseen.

KEY: Short-Term -1-2 years • Medium Term 2-5 years • Long -Term 5+ Years

Theme	Short-Term Actions	Medium-Term Actions	Long-Term Actions	Partners
Outdoors Outdoor Meeting Spaces <i>Establish places for benches and covered areas</i>	<p>Conduct an audit of the current benches and tables in public spaces, and the existing footpaths, dropped curbs, open spaces, and play parks in Westhill.</p> <p>Arrange site visits to the path behind Crombie School and the play park at Keir Circle to assess the need for improvements.</p> <p>Share reports/outcomes of pieces of research with the WECC to reduce duplication and encourage collaboration.</p>			<p>WECC</p> <p>Landscape Services, WECC</p>
Major Playpark Project	<p>Convene meeting of interested parties to explore this in more detail to look at need, possible locations, type of playpark, willingness to join a project team</p> <p>Plan a site visit to the new playpark at Hazelhead to get ideas.</p>			<p>WECC</p> <p>WECC</p> <p>WECC, Education and local schools</p>
Community Garden/Allotments	<p>Do some research on what the community are looking for in terms of a community garden or allotment project. Connect with the Food Strategy and Environment & Sustainability Teams to explore how this potential project could be supported.</p>	<p>Undertake research on what the community are looking for in terms of a major play park project. Engage with the three local Primary Schools.</p>		WECC

Theme	Short-Term Actions	Medium-Term Actions	Long-Term Actions	Partners
Outdoors (cont.) Footpaths Themed Trails	<p>Undertake some research with local communities of interest about how easy it is to get in around Westhill on foot.</p> <p>Engage with the Natural Environment Team, the AC Heritage Team, the Ranger Service, and local groups on developing edible trails, heritage trails, and biodiversity advice for green spaces</p> <p>Establish Community Council's level of access to AC GIS</p>			<p>WECC</p> <p>WECC, Natural Environment Team, Heritage Team, Ranger Service</p> <p>WECC, AC Area Office</p> <p>WECC, Ranger Service, AC Outdoor Access</p> <p>AC, AC Landscape</p>
New Paths Maintenance	<p>Develop messaging to help communities maintain their public spaces themselves</p>	<p>Open discussions with Landowners and Community Groups to initiate New Path proposals</p>		
Green Transport Public Transport Issues Promoting Choice Road Safety	<p>Provide feedback to the PTU and the bus forum on the reliability and routes of the bus service in Westhill.</p> <p>Promote the availability and location of electric vehicle charging points, the A2B service and initiatives such as cycle buses.</p> <p>Organise a round table group of stakeholders to discuss the specific road safety issues in Westhill and the possible solutions.</p>			<p>WECC</p> <p>WECC, Active Travel Team</p> <p>WECC, PTA, Schools, Road Safety Team, AC Area Office, Police Scotland (AC Road Dept TBC)</p>

Theme	Short-Term Actions	Medium-Term Actions	Long-Term Actions	Partners
Sports & Recreation	Further engage RGU students for an in-depth study on sports facility needs in Westhill	Establish need for a Sports Hub in Westhill		WECC, RGU WECC, LLA,
Facilities	Share community feedback from the consultation relating to Westhill Shopping Centre with the Shopping Centre Management. Discuss with shopping centre owners about reinstating public toilet facilities.	Connect with AC Arts, Heritage & Libraries department to explore the possibility of a Public Art Gateway Project		WECC, M Core WECC WECC, CLD, AC Arts, Heritage & Libraries
Community Activities	Conduct a survey of needs and possible providers Support the community to set up and run their own evening and day classes, youth clubs, and other activities, and to maintain the support as needed.	Establish what activities and facilities they would like to see in Westhill and then develop plan(s)		WECC WECC, Other Community Groups/providers LLA, Area Office and CLD

Theme	Short-Term Actions	Medium-Term Actions	Long-Term Actions	Partners
Young People's Voices	<p>Explore setting up a youth-led group to create safe social spaces and address antisocial behaviour</p> <p>Continue the multi-agency work to address the responsibilities and effects of anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>Organise a multi-agency event for parents to help understand developmental changes in teenagers</p>		<p>CLD Team</p> <p>Academy, PTA, Police Scotland, GIRFEC group</p> <p>Academy, PTA, CLD, GIRFEC</p>
Communication	<p>Investigate digital solutions for a centralised community information source</p> <p>Reach out to local businesses to ascertain whether there is interest in creating a local business association</p>			<p>WECC</p> <p>WECC, Garioch Area Office, possibly AC Economic Development</p>

Community Action Plan

This information can now guide the community and Community Planning Partners in drawing up detailed action plans to implement the top priorities as well as addressing the other issues which have been identified. For each priority or issue this will involve agreeing who should be involved, what resources will be needed and target dates for completion. It is hoped that this process will be driven by representatives of the community with support – moral, technical and financial – from the relevant Partners.

It is important that this booklet is seen by all concerned as an account of the community's views at the time of the latest consultation, and that it will have to be regularly updated. As some projects are completed, other issues will arise and take their place in future versions of the community plan.

It is recommended that this plan has a maximum life of five years

Thanks are due to
Westhill & Elrick Community Council,
Gordon Prentice,,
Kate Lumsden,
Heather Cook,
Westhill Academy,
Aberdeenshire Council Garioch Area Office,
Garioch Area Committee,.

For further information contact
Westhill & Elrick Community Council
Email: planningwecc@gmail.com

