

Local Place Plan Results 2023

What is a Local Place Plan?

Local Place Plans (LPPs) offer communities the opportunity to produce a plan for their area expressing their aspirations and ambitions for future change.

They are produced by the community, the Council and its partners who will be available to provide support, advice and guidance. The Council's Local Place team will discuss the level of support your group requires when they meet to discuss your communities aspirations and ambitions.

They focus on the community's proposals for the development and use of land and provide a new opportunity for communities to feed into the planning system with ideas and proposals.

Local Place Plans are more than just a plan:

They can help communities understand what they want to be like in the future and help to develop a positive community identity

They can help develop local connections and collaborations and develop community capacity and improve social capital

They can support community aspirations on the big challenges for a future Scotland, such as responding to the global climate emergency and tackling inequalities

They are an opportunity for real, community-based change

(Dumfries and Galloway Council)

Newton Stewart Initiative has taken on the task of creating a Local Place Plan for Newton Stewart (incorporating Minnigaff) in 2023

Local Place planning was introduced in 2019 by the Scottish government to empower a community-led approach to town planning and development. The Local Place Plan will be registered with D&G Council to help shape and input into local development in Newton Stewart and will also provide a vision for the community of Newton Stewart and how we would like it to be in the future.

These survey results are from the first initial survey aimed at gaining views on priorities and targets within Newton Stewart for the purpose of developing a Local Place Plan for the town.

The generic information gathered in this survey helps the team get indications of potential gaps for further action. This is to ensure all voices in the community have an opportunity to be heard.

We held a drop in at McMillan Hall on 28th February which was attended by 40 people over the course of the day. We held a further drop in at NSI in the evening and had an online form which was accessible.

As well as the survey being filled in we created 12 boards around the room looking at different topics and allowed people to share their views on post it notes under the various headings.

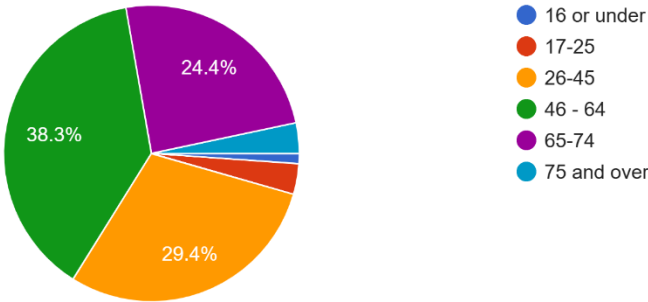
These topics included:

- Natural Space
- Play and Recreation
- Housing and Community
- Social Interaction
- Care and maintenance
- Work and local economy
- Influence and Sense of Control
- Public Transport
- Safety
- Identity
- Moving around
- Traffic and Parking
- Any other views?

All of these post it notes were then typed up into an Excel spreadsheet.

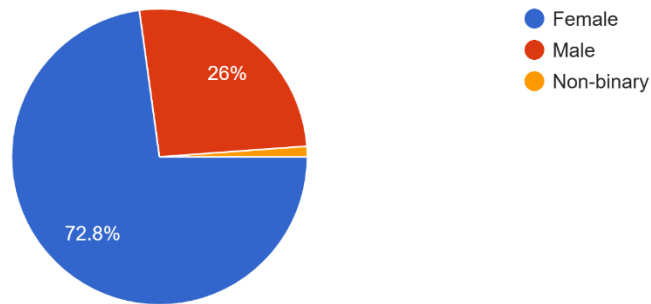
Below are the demographics based on age and gender through the surveys of which we had 180 responses.

What is your age
180 responses



Gender

173 responses



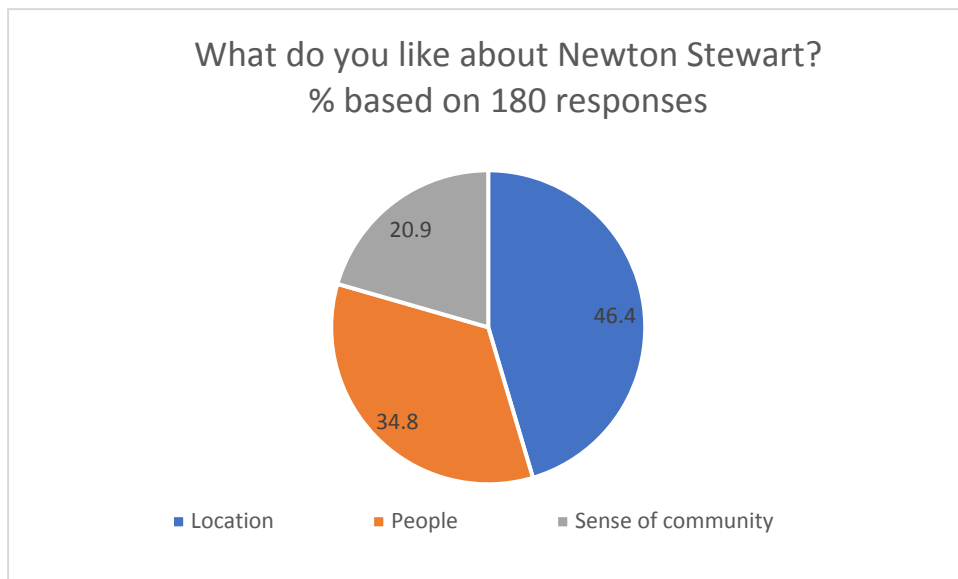
We created a basic survey to gather information from the residents of the town. These questions are as follows

Questions asked

- 1) What do you like about Newton Stewart
- 2) What do you think the challenges for Newton Stewart are?
- 3) What should be the priorities for Newton Stewart moving forward?

Based on the post it notes from the drop ins and surveys filled in we compiled a spreadsheet with the following as the most popular answers

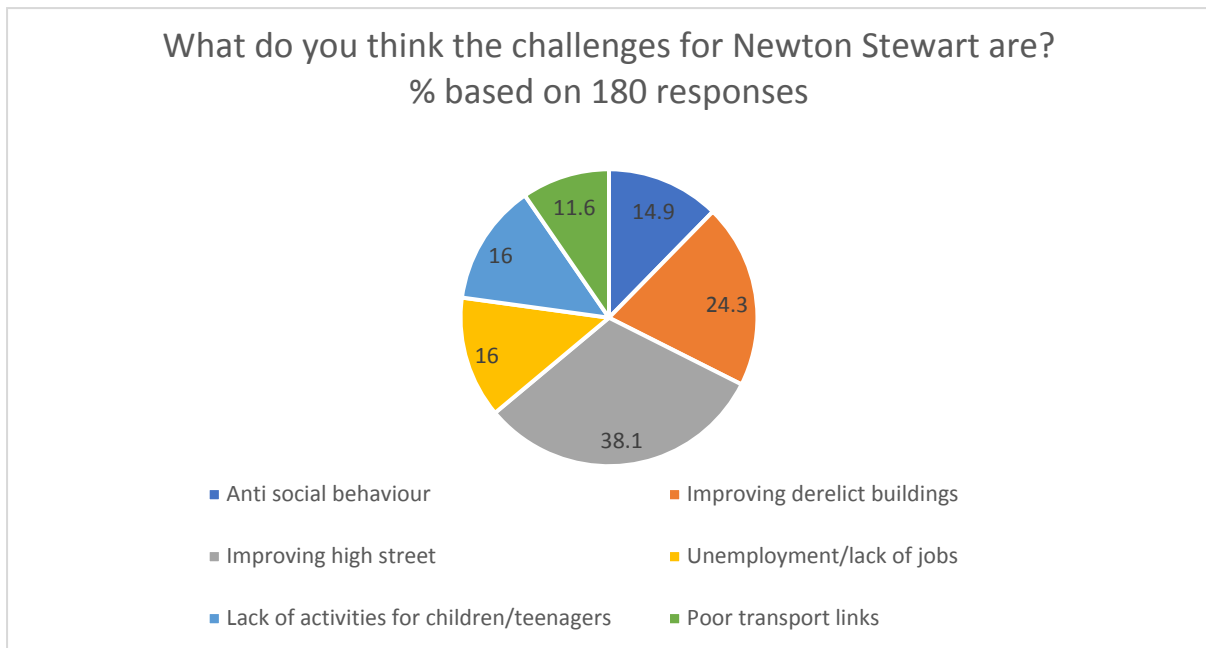
- 1) What do you like about Newton Stewart?



Summary

- 46% love the location
- 35% love the people in the area
- 20% love the sense of community

2) What do you think the challenges for Newton Stewart are?

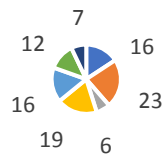


Summary

- Improving the high street is the main challenge in Newton Stewart currently with 38% of responses
- 24% of people mentioned improving the derelict buildings in the area such as the Grapes Hotel and the Galloway Arms
- 16% of people felt that unemployment/lack of jobs as well as a lack of activities for children and teenagers were a challenge within the community
- 14% of people stated anti social behaviour was a concern
- 11% of people cited poor transport links as a challenge

3) What should be the priorities for Newton Stewart moving forward?

What should be the priorities for Newton Stewart? % based on 177 responses



- Regeneration of the town
- Encourage businesses to the town and business development
- Bringing back tourists
- Brightening up the main street
- Do something with empty buildings eg Grapes & Galloway Arms
- More opportunities and activities for younger people
- Transport links need improving

Summary

- 23% of respondents felt that the priorities for the town should be encouraging businesses to the town and business development
- 19% felt that brightening up the main street should be a priority
- 16% of respondents felt that town regeneration was important and the same % wanted something done about the empty buildings such as the Grapes and Galloway Arms
- 12% felt that there should be more opportunities and activities for younger people
- 7% of people felt that transport links need improving

Overall Summary

183 responses were recorded from in person drop ins and online forms. The majority of respondents felt that the location, people and sense of community were what they liked most about the town. The responses to the challenges and priorities varied significantly, depending on the age and respondents circumstances. The main challenge for the town is improving the high street and sorting out the empty buildings/derelict buildings. The main priority that respondents felt was needed for the town was encouraging businesses to the town and business development

What happens next?

There are 6 stages of the Local Place Plan that needs to be done before registering it with the council. The first two stages involved planning and preparation and evidence collecting. We are currently at stage 3.

The third stage of creating your Local Place Plan is to engage with your local community to determine priorities and objectives. This stage may run in parallel with the desktop research to source background information.

We have the evidence to show what the needs of residents in the town are and by working together we can begin to create a plan moving forward.

Once you have decided your community's priorities, the next step is to agree an approach to tackle these. You should think about:

- What needs to change?
- What needs to stop happening?
- What is working that needs to be supported?
- How will we know if we've been successful

In order to do this it would be great to have a steering group made up of individuals from various groups to drive this forward. Once the priorities and objectives have been decided we move onto the next step

Once you have prepared your Local Place Plan, you will need to publish it for consultation. As this is required to meet the legal requirements, we would advise that you meet with your Local Place Team.

This will provide you with an opportunity to discuss your plans for consulting.

One of the legal requirements involves sending a notice to each councillor for your area and to each community council whose area is within or adjacent to it. This will need to happen before you consult on your Local Place Plan.

The notice will need to provide a brief description of the content and purpose of the proposed Local Place Plan and information on how, to who representations can be submitted to and by what date.

You will need to consult for a period of at least 28 days. The level of consultation should be proportionate and representative of your community. You should adopt a variety of methods of consultation to ensure inclusivity.

Once the Local Place Plan has been drawn up, there is a final meeting and it will be submitted to the council.

You can find out more about the stages of the Local Place Plan here

[https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/26957/Preparing-your-Local-Place-Plan/pdf/Step by Step Guide to LPPs March 2023 1.pdf?m=638143832336070000](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/26957/Preparing-your-Local-Place-Plan/pdf/Step%20by%20Step%20Guide%20to%20LPPs%20March%202023%201.pdf?m=638143832336070000)

Any questions?