Balerno Local Place Plan

Balerno Community Council

August 2026

Executive Summary

This Local Place Plan has been prepared by Balerno Community Council under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. It has been developed with regard to the City of Edinburgh's CityPlan 2030 and National Planning Framework 4 and sets out the community's priorities for the period 2030 - 2040.

Building on the vision established in the 2019 Community Plan, the Local Place Plan reflects extensive community engagement undertaken during 2025 and 2026, together with evidence from recent local studies, including the Deanpark Primary School Parent Council traffic report. It provides an updated, community-led framework to inform future planning, investment and regeneration.

Balerno is recognised as a distinctive village with a strong identity, exceptional natural surroundings and a vibrant community. Its location at the gateway to the Pentland Hills, together with its heritage, green spaces, schools and community facilities, are widely valued by residents and form the foundation of the Plan's vision.

Image of Balerno Farner's market

The principal message emerging from community engagement is that Balerno should focus on improving existing infrastructure and services rather than accommodating significant expansion. Residents place a high priority on protecting the Green Belt, safeguarding the village's landscape setting and character, and ensuring that investment is directed towards community facilities, sustainable transport, accessibility and environmental enhancement.

The Local Place Plan sets out a shared vision for a resilient and sustainable Balerno that protects its unique character while responding to future needs. It provides a clear framework to guide planning decisions and investment, ensuring that future development enhances the village, supports local communities and preserves the qualities that make Balerno a distinctive and valued place to live, work and visit.

Balerno Local Place Plan 2026

The Local Place Plan proposes a coordinated programme of improvements centred around eight key themes.

Protecting Balerno's Character remains a fundamental priority. The community wishes to safeguard the Green Belt, conserve the historic village centre, protect and enhance the Conservation Area and ensure that future development respects the scale, heritage and rural setting that make Balerno unique. Investment should focus on regeneration, brownfield opportunities and improving existing neighbourhoods rather than outward expansion.

Enhancing Green Infrastructure is seen as essential to residents' quality of life. Proposals include creating better connected walking routes, improving parks and play spaces, enhancing the Water of Leith corridor, developing the Ravelrig Walled Garden as a community asset and a comprehensive network of accessible paths.

Investing in Community Infrastructure is another key aspiration. The community supports the creation of a modern multi-purpose community hub, improved facilities for young people, enhanced health and wellbeing provision, a transformed library and improvements to Balerno's Main Street to create a safer, more attractive and vibrant village centre.

Education remains one of the community's highest priorities. There is strong support for the redevelopment or major refurbishment of Balerno High School as a modern community campus, together with safer access to schools, improved sports and community facilities, and measures to address congestion around Dean Park Primary School.

Transport and Movement proposals seek to create a village where walking, wheeling and cycling become easier and safer. Priorities include improved pedestrian crossings, safer routes to schools, enhanced pavements and cycle infrastructure, better public transport connections, improved parking management and longer-term aspirations for improved rail connectivity.

Recognising the importance of the **Pentland Hills**, the Plan requests improved safer walking access from Balerno, sensitive path improvements within the Pentlands , and better signage and visitor facilities while protecting the landscape, biodiversity and rural character that define this nationally important environment.

The Local Place Plan also recognises the opportunity presented by the future restoration of **Ravelrig Quarry**. Community engagement identified four preferences and a recognise that further engagement will be necessary.

Finally, the Plan recognises that high-quality **digital infrastructure** has become an essential part of modern community life. Improved broadband, resilient mobile connectivity and future-proof digital infrastructure will support residents, businesses, education and community resilience.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 1
Vision Statement 5
Registration Checklist 7
Introduction 7
Community Engagement 10
Introduction to Themes / Summary Proposals 12
Theme Area 1: Green Belt – Development – Housing 16
Theme Area 2: Infrastructure – Green Spaces 18
Theme Area 3: Infrastructure - Digital 22
Theme Area 4: Infrastructure – Social 25
Theme Area 5: Education 30
Theme Area 6: Transport and Movement 34
Theme Area 7: Pentland Hills 37
Theme Area 8: Ravelrig Quarry 41
Appendices 43
Appendix A Tabular NPF4 compliance matrix 45
Appendix B Full list of Community Proposals 49

Vision Statement

2031/2040 Vision for Balerno:

The vision is that Balerno will remain a distinctive village with a strong sense of community, surrounded by exceptional natural landscapes and valued heritage. We will shape a sustainable future that protects our environment, supports local businesses, improves connections, and ensures that growth is matched by the infrastructure, and services people need. Together we will create a welcoming, inclusive and resilient place where people of all ages can live, work and enjoy the unique character of Balerno for generations to come.

What Makes Balerno Special?

Gateway to the Pentland Hills – A unique location on the edge of the Pentland Hills Regional Park, providing outstanding opportunities for walking, cycling, outdoor recreation and access to nature.

Picture: Fishing on Harlaw reservoir

Access to green spaces and recreation – Parks, play areas, sports facilities, the Water of Leith Walkway and nearby reservoirs provide opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles.

Picture: Deanpark playpark

Outstanding natural environment – The Water of Leith, Bavelaw Burn, surrounding farmland, woodland and open green spaces create a rich landscape that supports biodiversity and contributes to residents' health and wellbeing.

Picture: Water of Leith

A place that values its environment - Balerno has a long tradition of caring for its surroundings through community action, environmental stewardship and support for local initiatives.

Rich history and heritage – Balerno's historic Main Street, Conservation Area, former mills, Malleny House and Bavelaw Castle, and local landmarks tell the story of a village with a unique cultural heritage.

Picture: Malleny House

A thriving local centre – Independent shops, pubs, cafés, hotels, the Farmers' Market and local businesses contribute to a vibrant village centre and local economy.

Picture: Balerno Farmer's Market

A true village identity – Despite being part of the City of Edinburgh, Balerno has retained a strong and distinctive village character with a proud sense of community and belonging**.**

Picture: Balerno Main Street

Strong community partnerships – Local organisations work together to improve the village, creating opportunities for residents to shape the future of Balerno.

Picture: Balerno Christmas Lights

Looking to the Future

Building on these strengths, the Local Place Plan seeks to ensure that future growth:

- protects Balerno's village identity and landscape setting;
- delivers infrastructure alongside new development;
- improves walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport;
- enhances community facilities and local services;
- supports local businesses and sustainable tourism;
- protects biodiversity and responds to climate change; and
- ensures Balerno remains an inclusive, healthy and welcoming place for people of all ages.

Registration Checklist

The following table outlines how this document meets the criteria of validity for registration of a Local Place Plan.

	Registration required		Where found	Additional Information
1	A copy of the finalised Local Place Plan.	✓	This document	
2	Confirmation of the Community Body's status.	✓	p9 - Introduction	The Community Body submitting this LPP is Balerno Community Council.
3	Contact details for your organisation.	✓	Here	Balerno Community Council – Balernocc@gmail.com
4	A map of the boundary of the Local Place Plan.	✓	P9 - Introduction	The boundary plan is contiguous with the boundaries of the Balerno Community Council.
5	A statement explaining how the Local Place Plan has regard to National Planning Framework, the Local Development Plan and Locality Plan.	✓	p9 – Introduction p55 – Appendix A	Appendix A sets out regard to National Planning Framework
6	Statement of your proposals as to the development or use of land or building.	✓	p21 – Themes p59 – Appendix B	Preferred proposals are summarised and highlighted and then fully listed in Appendix B
7	A map showing proposals for development or use of land or building.	✓	p21 – Themes	Maps are outlines next to each proposal where relevant.
	Evidence of compliance with the requirements of regulation 4.			
8	Before submission of your plan make sure you have sent an Information Notice and copy of the proposed Local Place Plan to all relevant councillors and Community Councils.	✓	Completed	The information notice ran from Friday 7th August 2026 to Wednesday 9th September 2026
9	Records of when and to whom the Information Notice was sent (required local councillors and Community Councils).	✓	Additional documents	
10	Evidence of level of community support for the Local Place Plan.	✓	Additional documents	During the consultation the Working Group undertook two public meetings, questionnaires, and met with key stakeholders. Responses are laid out in full.
11	Copies of additional relevant documents as appropriate.	✓		

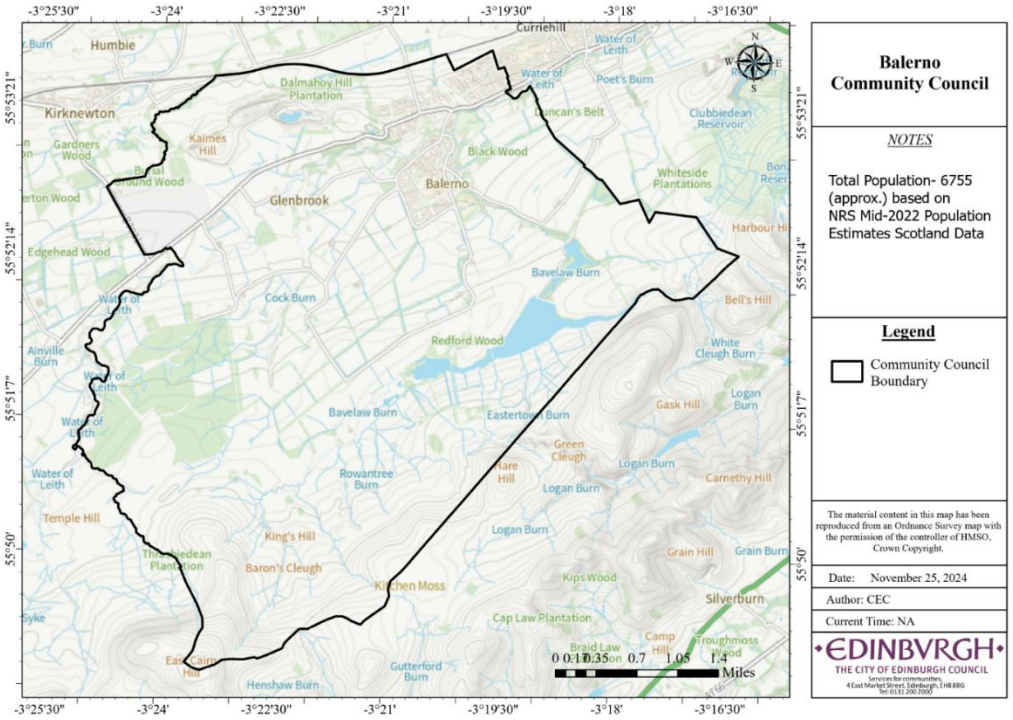
Introduction

This is the Balerno Local Place Plan 2026 (the Plan) prepared in accordance with s15A of and Sch 19 to the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The time frame which the Plan will cover is 2031 to 2040 as part of the Edinburgh Local Development Plan.

This Plan is made by the Balerno Community Council (the Council), the Council having noted that Local Place Plans are authorised by s 15A of and Sch 19 to the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by s14 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. In preparing this Plan the Council, as required by para 1(4)(a) to Sch 19 referred to, has had regard in particular both to CityPlan2030 as the relevant local development plan and also to National Planning Framework 4.

The Plan has been prepared by Balerno Community Council (the Council) following consultation with the Balerno community (the community) over the spring and summer of 2026.

The Council is the most local representative body for the area to which the Plan applies, which is the area shown.



A Local Place Plan in Scotland is a community-led, registered document that sets out proposals for the development and use of land in a specific local area, in this case Balerno. Its purpose is to empower the Balerno community to voice its aspirations for Balerno's future, highlighting local needs regarding land, buildings, and development. Once registered with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), which is the local planning authority, the Balerno Local Place Plan must be taken into account by CEC when it develops its local development plan, CityPlan2040.

The Council has engaged with the Balerno community to identify priorities, through a public consultation both electronic and hard copy, and through public meetings and engagement at public event. The results of that engagement form the basis of this Plan

The Plan sets out the community's priorities for the future.

The Council is satisfied that there is a broad shared vision and a sense of belonging for everybody in Balerno.

In setting out what Balerno is, the Council have tried to reflect as accurately as it can what is going on.

The purpose of this Local Place Plan is:

- To help the Community Council and Edinburgh City Council consider the impact of planning applications on our local community.
- To inform City of Edinburgh Council's review of the Local Development Plan.
- To influence investment by The City of Edinburgh Council and Pentland Hills Regional Park Joint Committee, other public bodies, funders, landowners and businesses in ways that support our local community.

In preparing this plan the Council aims to encourage improvement in the quality of life of the community. We would like to encourage the community at large to continue involvement in identifying what needs to be done and in helping to achieve the changes sought.

Balerno Community Council
2026

Acknowledgements

The preparation of the Balerno Local Place Plan 2030/2040 was facilitated by the Balerno Community Council through a locally formed Place Plan Working Group. The Community Council would like to thank everyone who gave their time to engage with the development of this plan. We thank the Community Team of Edinburgh Council and Planning Aid Scotland for the training and support they provided.

Community Engagement

Background Previous Engagement and Findings

In recording the views of the community, the Council is satisfied that there is a broad shared vision and a sense of belonging for everybody in Balerno.

In producing this Local Place Plan, the council has taken account of previous community plans: the Council's Community Plan published in 2019, expressed in 'Our Village Our Community' document; and a public consultation undertaken by Balerno Village Trust in 2025.

The consultation process

The Council has engaged with the Balerno community to identify priorities. The results of that engagement form the basis of this Plan

Questionnaire: A total of approximately 256 responses were received to the community questionnaire survey. Respondents included residents of varying ages, with a mix of those living and/or working in Balerno. The survey gathered views on infrastructure, services, environment, transport, economic development, and community wellbeing to inform key themes to develop.

A public meeting, held in March 2026 chaired by Planning Aid Scotland, and involved communication of the Local Place Plan process and standing within a Local Development Plan.

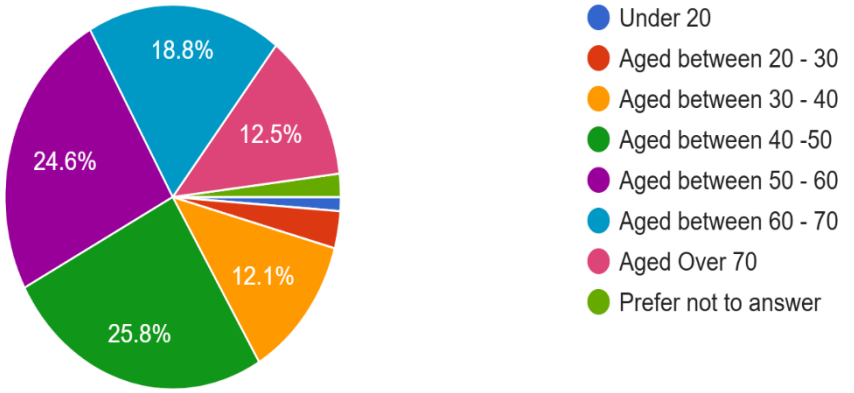


Chart: Pie chart showing age demographic of respondent to questionnaire

Engagement continued as Community Council members engaged members of the public at the local Farmer's markets in the Main Street of Balerno on four separate occasions. Additional meetings were held with local groups and key stakeholders in education.

A Public meeting in July was attended by 150 and chaired by Planning Aid Scotland. It was convened after the analysis of the engagement. Proposals were presented to permit preferences to be identified.

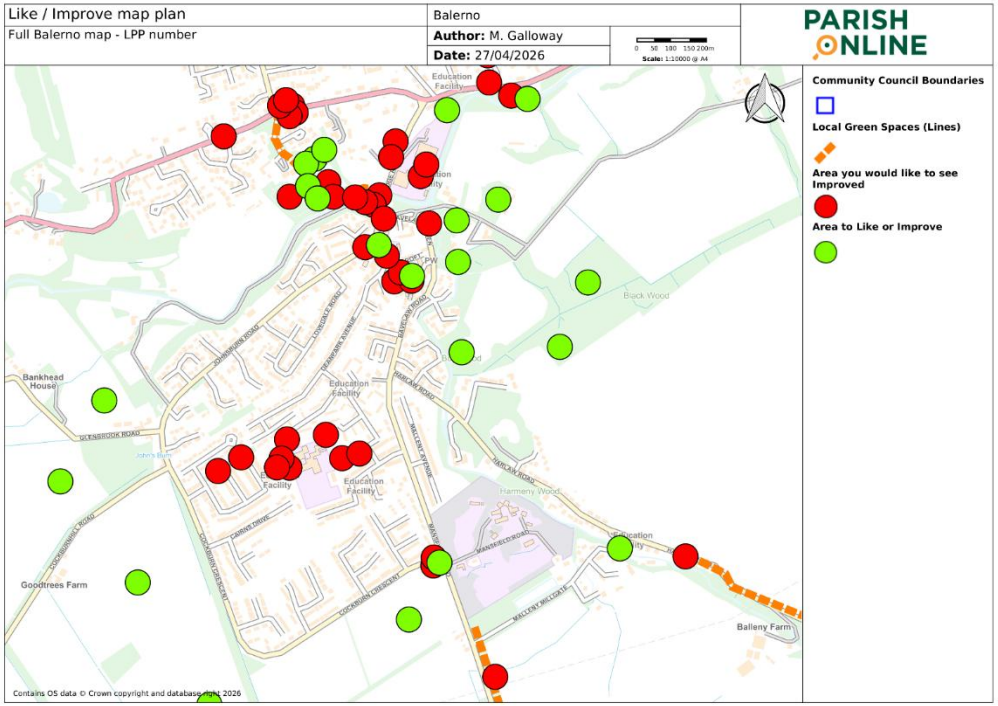
The survey responses submitted following the meeting indicates a strong sense of place and community in Balerno, with clear priorities centred on protecting its environmental assets while addressing infrastructure and service pressures. The findings demonstrate broad alignment with sustainable development principles, particularly in relation to active travel, environmental protection, and community well-being.

A working group has endeavoured to ensure the consultation has been wide, deep, and meaningful and the aim is for the final plan to be as representative and inclusive as possible.

Picture: Community public meeting discussing LPP

Picture (Above): Engagement at Farmer's market

Map (right): A dot map of Balerno was used to identify areas people liked and those they would like improved.



Introduction to Themes / Summary Proposals

Below summarises the key preferences for the themes, which have been derived from the community engagement. A selection are highlighted in the next sections, but a full list of the proposals for each theme can be found in the Appendix B.

Theme 1: Green Belt, Housing & Development

GB1	Adopt a "Regeneration First, Expansion Last" Policy: Explicitly reject erosion of the Green Belt.
GB2	Formal Presumption Against Development to protect Green Belt.
GB3	Focus Investment on Existing Infrastructure. Priority Areas: High School; Healthcare; Transport improvements.

Theme 2: Infrastructure – Green Spaces

GS1	Improve path between Ravelrig/Walled Garden and Bridge Road.
GS2	Improvement of the Water of Leith Path and extension further upstream into the village.
GS6	Improvements in Marchbank Park.
GS9	Improve roundabout at the foot of Johnsburn Road/ Bridge Road.

Theme 3: Infrastructure – Digital

D1	Ensure 100% high speed broadband coverage across Balerno.
D2	Mobile Coverage Improvement.
D3	Introduce a local policy requiring better Co-ordination between providers.
D7	Environmentally Sensitive Rollout Guidelines: Avoid large-scale developments like data centres.

Theme 4: Infrastructure – Social

S1	Create Community Hub.
S3	Library transformation: Expand or relocate to larger space Community programming.
S4	Health & Wellbeing improvements.
S5	Access & Safety improvements.
S6	Balerno Main Street: Install controlled access. Access only allowed for: disable badge holders; deliveries; emergency services.

Theme 5: Education

Balerno High School

E1	Strategic Option: New Build vs Major Refurbishment: Conduct a feasibility study comparing: Full rebuild or Deep retrofit/modernisation.
E2	Transform into a "Community Hub School".
E3	Transport safety and redesign: Enforce parking controls; pedestrian crossings/ lights.
E5	Accessibility and Inclusion Improvements.

Deanpark Primary School

E10	Edinburgh School Safe Streets – Consult on the introduction of designated drop-off and pick-up zones away from the school gates.
E15	Provide an assisted pedestrian crossing or school crossing patrol.
E16	Investigate the role of a safety officer or traffic warden during peak times.
E18	Improve and expand play areas in and around the school .

Theme 6: Transport & Movement

T2	Installation of pedestrian crossing at junction of Lanark Road/ Ravelrig Road.
T6	Reduced speed limits and traffic calming measures.
T8	Improvements to bus services.

Theme 7: Pentlands

P1	Create a formal proposal for a safe off-road walking and cycling route linking Balerno with Pentlands.
P2	Support a programme of incremental path upgrades within the Pentlands
P5	Resist any development that would erode the Landscape, biodiversity and rural character qualities.
P8	Support a local management approach for the Pentlands

Theme 8: Ravelrig Quarry

R1	Rewilded Country Park
R2	Nature + Recreation Hybrid Park
R3	Landscape-Led Adventure Destination
R4	Ecological Reserve with Limited Access

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Across all responses and proposals, several consistent priorities emerge:

- Improved **transport infrastructure**, particularly active travel and public transport

  Across Green Spaces, Education, Transport and & Movement and the Pentlands Theme areas the community repeatedly requested improvements to active and safe travel and public transport improvements.

- Protection and enhancement of **green spaces, Conservation Area, and the Green Belt**

  The community spoke strongly about the desire to protect and enhance the Green Belt, Conservation Area, and green spaces to protect the elements they value in Balerno, which combined make Balerno special.

- Increased provision for **young people and community facilities**

  There was a strong desire for improved community facilities. The reduction of community access and facilities within the High School is something has affected the community as a whole.

- Support for a **vibrant local economy**

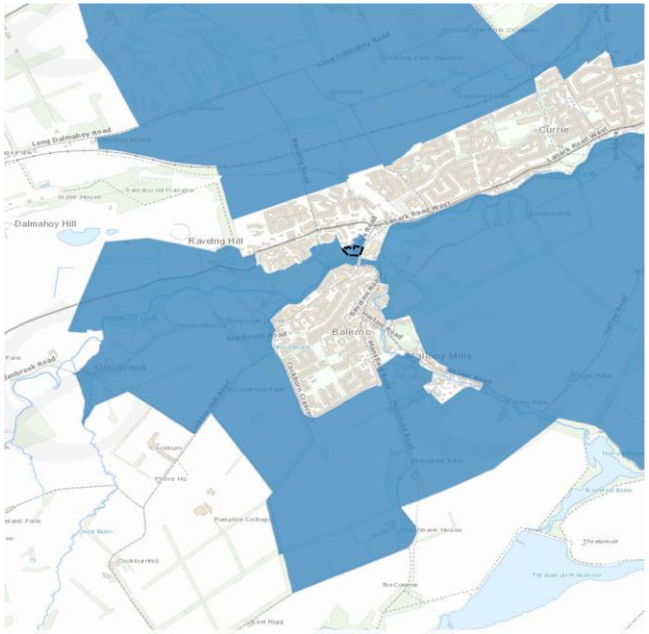
- Measures to improve **road safety and traffic management**

  Community engagement responses highlighted undeniable concerns over safety of children and elderly people. As Balerno has grown the road network is under strain with increased vehicle movement. Areas around Deanpark Primary, Lanark Road West and Bridge Road were identified as key areas.

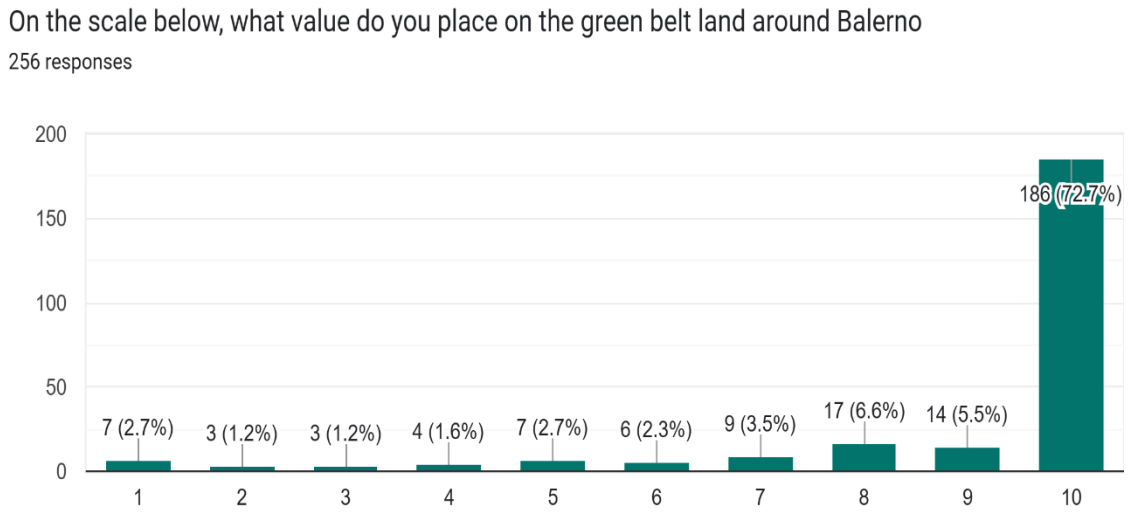
Theme Area 1: Green Belt – Development – Housing

The map shows the current area designated as Green belt (shown in blue) in the City Plan 2030.

The proposal in this Local Plan recommends no changes of this area but does suggest a strengthening of the boundaries.



Source: City of Edinburgh Council Mapping
https://data.edinburghcouncilmaps.info/datasets/cityofedinburgh::green-belt/explore)



Graph: Community engagement response showing value placed on Green Belt

Summary

- There is overwhelming support for maintenance of the Green Belt around Balerno. Responses from the questionnaire show the community highly value the green belt.
- There is a prevailing view that regeneration should not extend to any expansion of the built environment.
- Having said that there is also serious concern about the absence of necessary infrastructure (e.g. schools, medical facilities).

The Community highlighted three priorities from the engagement:

Reference	Proposal	Reason why important
GB2	Formal Presumption Against Development to protect Green Belt - Reinforce "no development stance".	The community feels strongly against any development in Green Belt designated land, as this would impact on the rural village identity and risk the history and heritage of Balerno.
GB3	Focus Investment on Existing Infrastructure. Priority Areas: High School; Healthcare; Transport improvements.	In connection with proposals under Education, it is recognised that the school facilities are needing replaced. The community would like focus to be on replacing the schools, healthcare and transport.
GB1	Adopt a "Regeneration First, Expansion Last" Policy: Prioritise Upgrading existing Brownfield redevelopment. Brownfield developments are built on land that has already been developed, including vacant or derelict land, and unused buildings. Explicitly rejecting erosion of the Green Belt.	Community Engagement identified a desire for existing brownfield sites to be used for redevelopment.

Other proposals regarding Green Belt, Housing, and Development are detailed in the Appendix.

Theme Area 2: Infrastructure – Green Spaces

Balerno is surrounded by a number of greenspaces and sits within two miles of the Pentland Hills Regional Park. It has two main planned recreational areas, Malleny Park (home to Currie Rugby Club and Edinburgh Council's 3G pitch) and Marchbank Park (adjacent to Deanpark Primary School). A third site - locally referred to as "the Bing" was created on top of an old industrial site.

There are two playparks in the village - the largest is in Marchbank Park adjacent to Deanpark Primary School, with a smaller playpark created within the Kingfisher Park development off Somerville Road.

Picture: Malleny Gardens greenhouse

In addition to the main sites referred to above, Balerno is also home to Malleny Gardens, owned by the National Trust, which contains a walled garden of historical significance alongside a Georgian Manor House which is currently not open to the public.

Other greenspaces of significance in Balerno include the Ravelrig Walled garden, which was originally part of the grounds of Ravelrig House.

Map: Showing locations of existing playparks

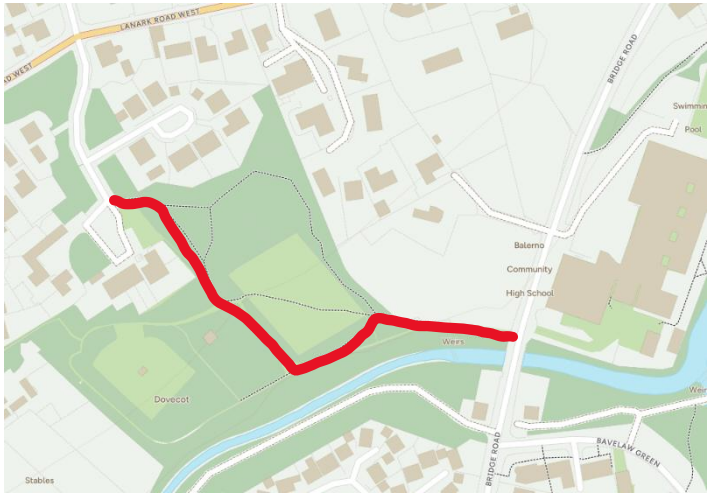
Community feedback indicates that people are keen for greenspaces to be protected maintained and enhanced, with improvements to the amenities that people can expect and experience within them.

They would like to see key paths improved and safe walking and cycling routes established to allow them to access and enjoy these spaces.

Following public consultation there were three key proposals that emerged:

1. Improve the path between the Ravelrig Estate, the Walled Garden and Bridge Road (GS1)

Proposal: The community would like to see the path between Ravelrig Wynd and Bridge Road developed and the old walled garden of the Ravelrig Estate developed as a site for community use (shown in red on map).



Map: Showing path from Ravelrig Wynd and Bridge Road

Why this is needed:
Over recent years much of the new housing development in the village has been to the north side of the village along Lanark Road West. The only path that links these areas with the main centre of the village and both schools has a poor surface, is unlit and only useable in fine dry weather.
Within this area there is also a Historic Walled Garden, which in effect was left over after housing was built on all suitable parts of the estate. The community has a keen interest in this site and would like to see it used for community benefit.

Picture: Ravelrig Walled Garden

What the community said:

"A proper path from Ravelrig Gait to Bridge Road. Most of the year it's a muddy mess."

"A community garden in the old walled garden would be an amazing community resource."

"The old Ravelrig estate has potential to provide space for dog walking, running or just relaxing in a park."

2. Improve Marchbank Park (GS6)

Proposal:
The community would like to see Marchbank Park improved and developed for the community, including clearer signage of paths, more benches, outdoor gym equipment, creation of a structure for carers to sit under and playpark improvements.

Why this is needed:
Adjacent to Dean Park Primary School, Marchbank Park is the main park in Balerno and contains the main playpark for the Village.
It was created 50 years ago as part of the first expansion south of the village known locally as "The Bells Estate". It is managed by the City of Edinburgh Council and has Fields in Trust status. Facilities in the park are currently limited, there is a set of football goals, solid paths, which can flood in the winter, three benches and two picnic tables. Marchbank Park houses the main playpark of the village, however, play equipment is centred on younger children and there is nothing for older children/teenagers.

Picture: Deanpark Playpark

What the community said:

"Balerno is surrounded by greenery but if you look closer there's a limited space where people can enjoy it."

"The paths are terrible, there's no lampposts if you want to go for a walk in winter months, there are not many benches where older and younger could sit and chat."

"The only park is in Marchbank area which is not local for many. There is also a need for more local playparks for children."

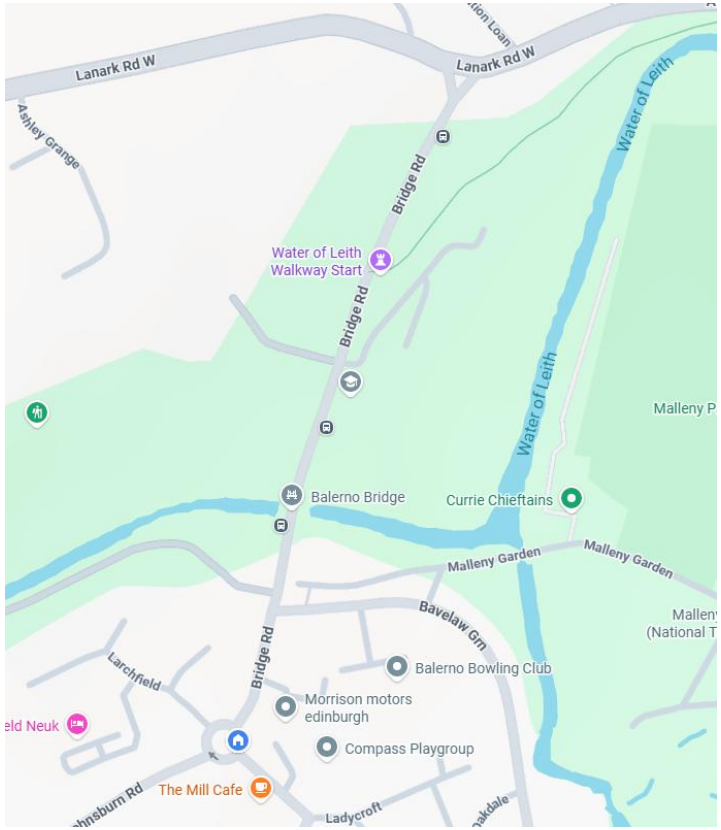
3. Improvement of the Water of Leith Path and signposted further upstream into the village (GS2)

Proposal:
The community would like to see the Water of Leith Path signposted into the village and improved, preferably with lighting.

Why this is needed:
The Water of Leith has played an important role in the development of Balerno, initially driving the paper mills that provided the main employment in the village. The Water of Leith pathway originally housed the railway that served the village. In more recent times a popular footpath has been created which links Balerno to Leith along a 13-mile footpath.
The current footpath ends at Bridge Road, a seven-minute walk on a busy main road from the village centre. The route into the historic village centre and local shops/restaurants is not clear. During the winter the path can be quite dark, and the provision of lighting would enable it to feel safer year-round.

What the community said:

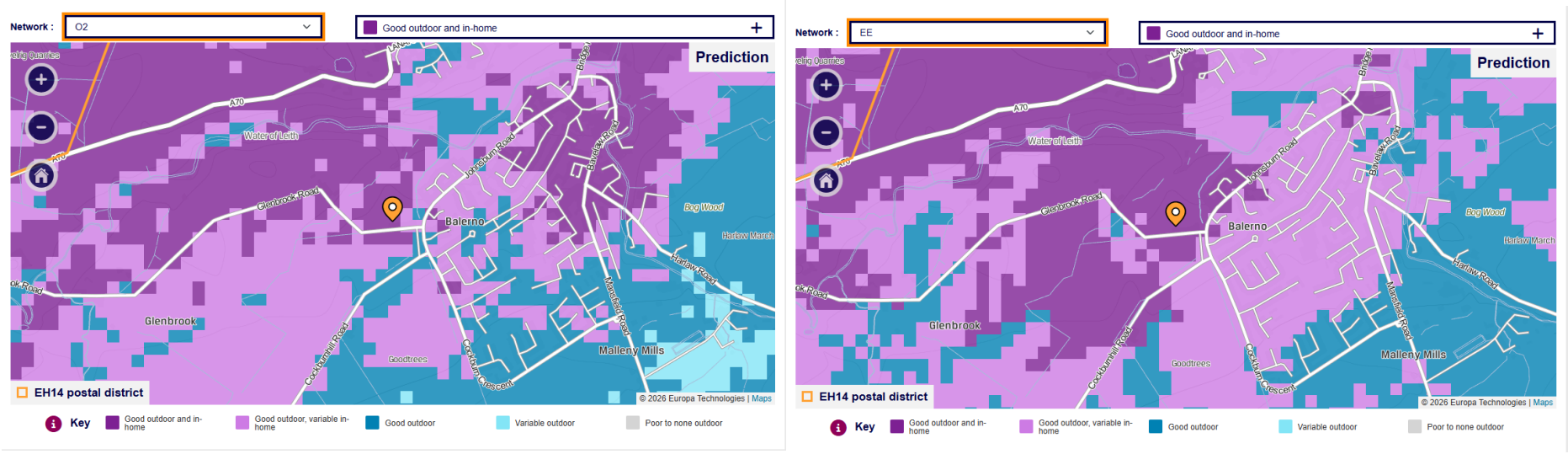
> *"I enjoy cycling but avoid cycling on roads. I like cycling with my children, but I feel very nervous doing this, especially if we are trying to access Harlaw, Threipmuir and the water of Leith."*
> *"Better lighting along the Water of Leith walkway."*



Map: Water of Leith

Theme Area 3: Infrastructure - Digital

Digital Infrastructure is key for the local community. Situated 10 miles outside of Edinburgh, with an average commute of 1 hour, many residents rely on high-speed Broadband to work part of the week from home. Whilst the quality of Broadband and Mobile coverage is good and most residents have a choice of provider; there are some areas where there are gaps.
The maps below indicate the patchy or poorer quality of mobile coverage in Balerno.



Map: Showing Mobile coverage around Balerno. Source: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/mobile-coverage-checker

Whilst the community is supportive of improvements to digital infrastructure, they would like this done in a way that does not adversely impact the quality of pavements or roads in the area.

Following public consultation there were four key proposals that emerged:

1. Introduce a local policy requiring: Co-ordination between providers; shared trenching and ducts; Alignment with road resurfacing schedules; Stronger standards for road/ pavement reinstatement

Proposal: The community would like to see better coordination between providers when roads and pavements are required to be dug up and better reinforcement for pavements and roads to be reinstated.

Why this is needed:
Balerno was one of the first areas to receive City Fibre Broadband, however there were significant issues which resulted in both delays and poor-quality repairs to the pavements some of which still remain today.

What the community said:

"Just fix the roads and pavements properly when damaged like we pay for."

"Roads to be reinstated to new condition. Potholes are often at sites of roadworks."

2. Ensure 100% coverage across Balerno; Prioritise currently under served streets; Require providers to publish clear rollout timelines

Proposal: The community would like to see high speed Broadband available in all areas of Balerno.

Why this is needed:
Whilst most people in Balerno have access to a number of providers, there are exceptions to this. Whilst the city fibre roll-out covered most areas of the village, it was not taken beyond the main core. There are a number of houses at both Glenbrook Village and Steading that don't currently have adequate broadband, groups of farm properties were not covered and also the area on Harlaw Road beyond the bridge was not connected.

What the community said:

"Fibre optic broadband in all areas of Balerno."

"There are still areas e.g. Glenbrook with limited fibre broadband. Residents of Harlaw Road also missed out on city fibre."

"A choice of providers - currently heavily reliant on Virgin Broadband and service is often interrupted."

3. **Mobile Coverage Improvement Plan: Work with telecom providers to identify signal "Black Spots"; Install targeted small-scale masts or boosters.**

Proposal: The community would like to see Mobile phone coverage improved in the area and greater infrastructure sharing between networks.

Why this is needed:
Mobile phones are essential for everyday life, from speaking to people to checking bus times. Within Balerno only two providers EE and O2 provide 5G coverage sufficient for indoor use in Balerno https://www.signalchecker.co.uk/balerno.

What the community said:

"mobile coverage within Balerno village can be inconsistent, so improvements in this area would be beneficial."

"*Improved mobile phone network coverage and high speed/fibre broadband for everyone."*

4. Environmentally sensitive rollout guidelines: Underground cabling where possible ; Careful placement of masts ; Avoid large-scale developments like data centres.

Proposal: The rural nature and greenspaces are key to the village environment and the community are not in favour of pylons and large-scale developments such as data centres.

Why this is needed:
Balerno is a rural village surrounded by Edinburgh's greenbelt and local countryside area.
It is recognised there will be an intensification of electricity infrastructure or introduction of renewable energy development within the landscape. This could alter the rural character of the landscape; the community would like to ensure there are careful siting of cabling infrastructure and associated planting strategies.

What the community said:

"No data centre that would harm environmental and wildlife."

"No AI data centres anyway near Balerno."

"No more development the roads are congested no data centres."

Theme Area 4: Infrastructure – Social

Balerno is a village, situated on the outskirts of Edinburgh. As a community it rural in nature.

Community is important to people in the village, driven by highly skilled and committed community volunteers and anchor organisations such as Balerno Community Council and Balerno Village Trust (BVT). The success of our community is the result of input and effort of countless local organisations.

Community spaces are also important to the people of Balerno. In 2023, Balerno Village Trust and Balerno Community Council consulted with the community over the future of the local Police Station which had been closed for ten years. This led to the Police Station being acquired and redeveloped for community benefit.

Following public consultation there were five key proposals that emerged, others are listed below:

1. **Access & Safety improvements**:

Implement: Safe school travel plan (Cycling & walking routes);
Parking redesign near schools;
Better disabled access to key sites: Community centre; Balerno High School; Library

Proposal: The community would like to see better disabled access to community facilities for all users, including safe walking routes, parking and disabled access to key sites.

Picture: Balerno Community Centre

Why this is needed:
Finding parking spaces in the village can often be difficult with the two main carparks often full for most of the day and surrounding roads busy. Journeys to school can be difficult – the spread of the village has led to many houses outwith reasonable walking distance for children resulting in increased car journeys. Disabled access to sites is often non-existent – for example the Balerno Community Centre is not accessible to wheelchairs or buggies.

What the community said:

"Safer paths and more disabled walkways."

"Disabled access for independent disabled people. Those who do not have someone with them."

"Parking can be a bit difficult. We walk from our home but can appreciate that older residents may not be able to do so."

2. **Health & Wellbeing improvements**: Deliver: Community gym; Outdoor fitness equipment in parks

Proposal: The community would like to see more opportunities for fitness including a community gym and outdoor fitness equipment.

Why this is needed:
The nearest mainstream Edinburgh Leisure Centre to Balerno is over 6 miles away in Dalry and 45 minutes by public transport. Whilst there are nearer private facilities (e.g Oriam at Heriot-Watt, three miles), these are not always affordable to everyone in the community.
In the past Balerno High School was open for public swimming in the evenings, however due to the new School in Currie this is no longer open to the community.

What the community said:
"A gym in the village would be great." *"Upgrade school plus more facilities for outside people to use like gym swimming for public."*

"A gym like that at Currie built for pupil and community use."

"Marchbank Park is our only park and there is little investment in this. More seating areas, a bigger play park and places for people to meet outdoors. I would like to see gym equipment installed around the park."

3. **Library transformation**: Expand or relocate to larger space: Add - Co-working/ study areas; Workshops (skills, crafts, digital); Community programming

Proposal: The community would like to see the Library in Balerno transformed with co-working/study areas and space for workshop and community programming.

Why this is needed:
The current Library in Balerno is two rooms in the annex of the old Primary School, it stocks a small section of books, is only open limited hours (32 hours per week including two evenings and Saturday).

What the community said:
"Library hours increased." *"Local library which is very small."* *"The library could be greatly improved."*

4. **Balerno Main Street**: **Install controlled access**. Access only allowed for: disabled badge holders; deliveries (time restricted); emergency services.

Proposal: The community would like to see controlled access onto Main Street, and this restricted to disable badge holders, deliveries during reasonable times and emergency services.

Why this is needed:
In recent years we have experienced a gradual change within the Main Street such that it is now becoming a vibrant centre of hospitality within the village, with Bars and restaurants the principal businesses in the street. This change does add pressure to parking issues in the village particularly in the evenings or nursery pickup times.

Picture: Balerno Main Street, parking

From the questionnaire there were some 66 responses highlighting respondents concerns about the presence of vehicles within the pedestrian zone. The overwhelming desire is for enforcement of the pedestrian zone, some advocating a complete ban on cars with others acknowledging the needs of delivery drivers, emergency vehicles, residents and those who are blue badge holders.

What the community said:
"Penalising the many people who park on Main Street." *"Main Street, pedestrian area enforced."*

5. **Create Community Hub**: Develop (or upgrade a central hub that includes - gym; youth space; café/social area. Workshop rooms

Proposal: the community would like to see developed a community hub to bring a number of services together (Gym, youth space, workshop rooms)

Why this is needed:
Balerno Village Trust's purchase of Balerno Police Station and transformation into a community hub has been very much welcomed and supported by the community, however development of this site is limited to what charitable funds can be obtained. Whilst there is a demand for youth provision in the village, the funding available for this is limited due to the social demographics of the area. Currie Rugby club is developing plans for a new Gym, however again these plans are dependent on charitable funding.

What the community said:

> *"I'm excited about the development of the police station and hope this will help to provide a new community hub with opportunities for community connection and enrichment."*

Theme Area 5: Education

Secondary Education – Balerno High School

Balerno High School opened in 1984 and has a current operating capacity of 850-900 students. Balerno High School roll projection is 892 for 2026 against a planned capacity of 924, with a roll projection of 900 in 2034. It was recently awarded by UNICEF a Gold Rights Respecting award. In 2018 City of Edinburgh Council proposed Balerno High School be rebuilt, on its existing site, with a capacity of 1200 pupils[1]. That proposal was however replaced in 2022 with proposals for a retrofit. An increasing school enrolment, an aging building, increased maintenance costs are putting stress on the educational capacity.

By 2040 Balerno High School will be 60 years old, and the community is strongly in favour of the full rebuild of the school.
With increasing schools roll, this is also placing pressures on the traffic and pedestrian activity, highlighted by residents in the survey.

This Local Place Plan, accordingly, seeks the council to consider and make proposals on a new Balerno High School.

Picture: Balerno High School

[1] Balerno Community High School: Workshop held on Monday 22 January 2018

Proposal Ref	Proposal	Why is this needed?	What the community said:
E1	**New Build vs Major Refurbishment**: Conduct a feasibility study comparing: Full rebuild (preferred by majority) or Deep retrofit/modernisation.	Balerno High School is reaching capacity for enrolment. The projection is to exceed capacity by 2034. The building is over 42 years old and maintenance costs are increasing.	"Balerno high school is run down and depressing. " "As school is aged, ideally new school built." "Demolished and rebuilt as it is an eye sore."
E2	Transform into a "**Community Hub School**": Design or retrofit to include: Public access gym & fitness suite; Upgraded swimming pool; Multi-use sports hall available to community use.	There is a strong desire amongst the residents to improve community access and facilities in the school. This is something that has been lost over the past five years.	"Preferably new school built, with community facilities, so retained close to village." "should be used more by the entire community, investment in these spaces is needed."
E3	**Transport safety and redesign**: Introduce safer drop-off zones: Enforce parking controls; pedestrian crossings/ lights. Expand Walking & cycling infrastructure.	With increased pupil numbers, there is extra pressure on both pedestrian and vehicle movement.	"Cars … parking at the school gates dangerously." "numerous cars parking on the "Keep Clear School" markings." "A proper crossing outside the School on Bridge Road, as exiting children currently mix with traffic flows in a hazardous way."
E5	**Accessibility and Inclusion Improvements**: Fully Accessible campus design; Dedicated ASN/ special support facilities; inclusive changing and learning environments.	As a gold standard school it would be expected to respect the rights of those less able children to access all areas of the school.	"BHS is not in a good state of repair. It lacks some accessibility features like a lift to all floors." "Better support."

Primary Education – Deanpark Primary School

Picture (above): Deanpark Primary School

Summary of Proposal

This proposal focuses on improving the experience and safety of pupils, parents, and staff at Dean Park Primary School. It addresses significant concerns around unsafe and congested parking during drop-off and pick-up times, as well as longer-term pressures from a growing population and outdated school infrastructure. The proposal combines traffic management solutions with longer-term considerations such as additional school provision and expanded play spaces. It supports work by the Parent Council in their recent traffic survey.

Local Context

Dean Park Primary School was built in 1972 and is the only primary school in Balerno. Balerno is experiencing population growth, resulting in increased pressure on school capacity and surrounding infrastructure. The current school building has been described as outdated and "not fit for purpose," although the quality of teaching is highly regarded. Projections suggest that its 546 capacity will be inadequate by 2028 with projections indicating numbers of 548 in 2028 to 678 in 2034.

Community feedback highlights Dean Park Primary School traffic as a key area of concern. Parking conditions during drop-off and pick-up times were described as "diabolical," with issues including congestion, unsafe road use, and limited pedestrian safety. Narrow streets around the school further exacerbate traffic and safety challenges.

Picture (Below): Showing parking issues around school

Objectives

- Improve safety for children and families travelling to and from school
- Reduce traffic congestion and unsafe parking behaviours
- Encourage active travel such as walking and cycling
- Address long-term capacity and infrastructure needs for primary education in Balerno
- Enhance outdoor play opportunities for children

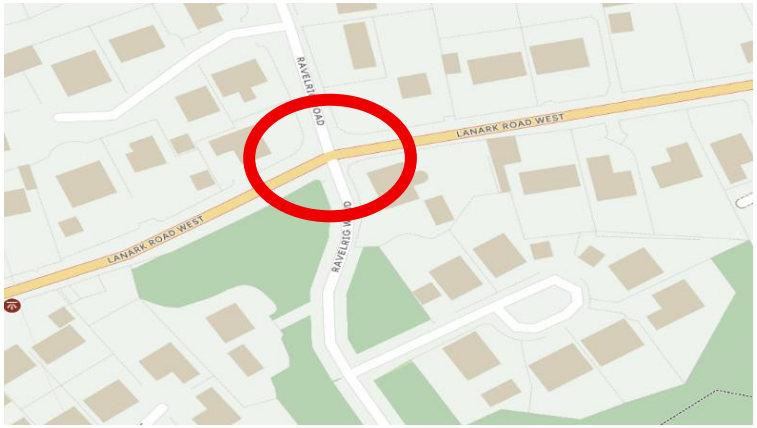
Proposal Ref	Proposal	Reasons Why	Community Comments
E10	**Edinburgh School Safe Streets** – Consult on the introduction of designated drop-off and pick-up zones away from the school gates. In conjunction with Parent Council Traffic survey.	Improve child safety and reduce accident risk. Promote healthier lifestyles through active travel. Reduce traffic congestion and environmental impact.	"Restrict access to cars during school drop off hours. A similar scheme is in place in some of the city centre schools." "Cars banned within a certain radius of the school." "… a stronger focus on reducing car drop-offs by improving safe walking and cycling routes, encouraging pupils to travel to school more sustainably."
E15	Provide an assisted pedestrian crossing or school crossing patrol.	Improve child safety and reduce accident risk. Promote healthier lifestyles through active travel.	"No car zones at particular times, lollipop crossings, encouragement to walk to school." "Zebra crossing or school crossing lollipop people added specifically around the high school areas."
E18	Improve and expand play areas in and around the school to support children's wellbeing and throughout Balerno.	Enhance children's wellbeing through better play facilities.	"Upgrade the school's grounds so pupils do not have to use grass area outside the school."

Theme Area 6: Transport and Movement

The Local Place Plan identifies transport, movement and accessibility as key priorities for the future of **Balerno**. Community responses indicate a strong desire for a safer, more accessible and better-connected village, where walking, wheeling and public transport are more practical for everyday journeys, while traffic impacts are managed in a way that protects residential amenity and village character.

Vision
Balerno should function as a village where people of all ages and abilities can move safely and conveniently, with priority given to walking, wheeling, public transport and road safety. Future transport improvements should support access to schools, local services, community facilities, the village centre and wider regional connections.

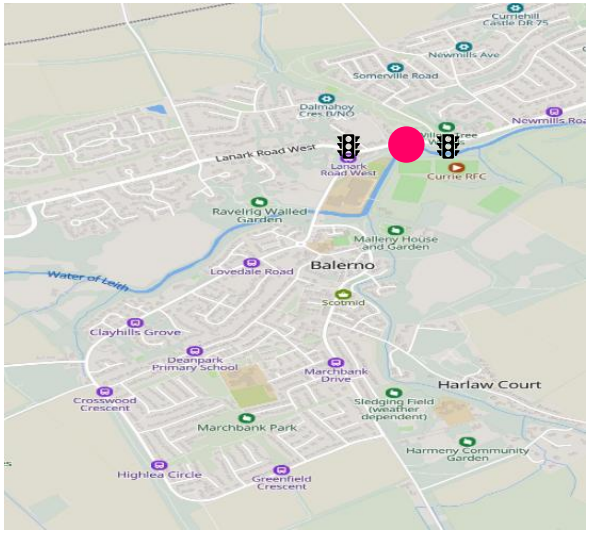
Proposal Ref	Proposal	Reasons Why	What the Community said:
T2	Proposal to review traffic flow at junction of Lanark Road/ Ravelrig Road with view to installation of pedestrian crossing.	With new developments at Ravelrig more people are crossing Lanark Road West. A safe crossing will encourage greater active travel and reduce risk of injury.	*"Difficult to see cars coming from west. Could do with a crossing for kids."* *"Crossing over this road by Ravelrig road to the other side to allow children to cross currently cars and trucks speed down this road."*
T6	20mph-plus safety package focused on problem routes: Johnsburn Road; Cockburn Crescent. 30mph speed limit along: Glenbrook Road; Cockburn farm Road. Traffic calming areas; Mansfield Rd.	These rural roads are used regularly by pedestrians. For safety the speed limit should be reduced.	*"Reduce the speed limits."* *"This creates a serious safety risk — both for children crossing and for residents pulling out of driveways. At current speeds, it feels like it's only a matter of time before someone is injured."*
T8	A new bus service to Livingston St John's hospital, serving Balerno, Ratho, Kirknewton, and East Calder. Reintroduction of the X44 service and Extension of 45 to Balerno and new bus stop on Lanark Road West.	A service to Livingston via other villages would facilitate ability to use public transport for hospital appointments and service access to other public transport facilities. To support this a new bus stop could be placed on Lanark Road West to service the new developments at Somerville road.	*"A bus that actually goes west from Balerno, for hospital access."* *"Reintroduction of X44 bus service and introduction of another bus route through Bruntsfield (or extension of 45 bus route to include Balerno)."* *"We are still waiting for the bus stop that was planned on Lanark Road West adjacent to the Cala Estate entrance."*



Map: Proposed site of pedestrian crossing (T2)

Map: Proposed extension of 20mph (Pink highlight) 30mph (Yellow highlight) (T6)

Map: Proposed Bus stop (Red dot), existing stops (Purple) (T8)



Theme Area 7: Pentland Hills

The **Pentland Hills** form one of Balerno's defining landscape assets and are highly valued by residents for walking, cycling, informal recreation, wildlife, scenery and wellbeing. The **Harlaw Reservoir** and **Threipmuir Reservoir** area functions as an important gateway between Balerno and the wider Pentlands.

Consultation responses show strong support for improving access to the Pentlands, particularly through safe off-road walking and cycling links, better path quality, clearer wayfinding and modest visitor facilities.

At the same time, respondents consistently emphasised that the Pentlands' open landscape, rural character, biodiversity and tranquillity should be protected from overdevelopment.

Policy Objective

To strengthen Balerno's connection with the **Pentland Hills** by improving safe access and enjoyment in ways that protect landscape quality, biodiversity and the area's distinctive rural character.

Picture: Pentland Hills

Local Place Plan Policy
Development, investment and land management proposals affecting Balerno's relationship with the **Pentland Hills** should support the following principles:

Proposal 1. Create a formal proposal for a safe off-road walking and cycling route linking Balerno with both Harlaw and Threipmuir reservoirs. (P1)

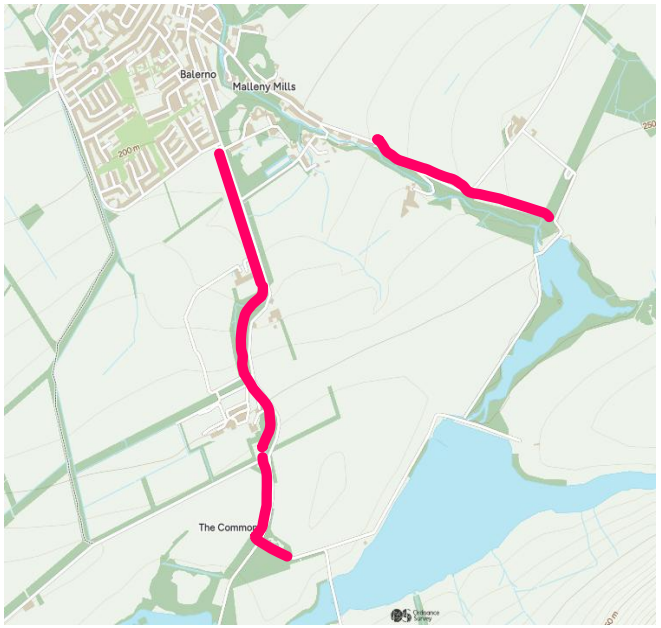
Priority should be given to creating and improving safe, attractive and accessible walking, wheeling, cycling, and riding routes between Balerno and the **Harlaw Reservoir / Threipmuir Reservoir** gateway.

This should include:

- safe off-road links;
- improved crossings where roads interrupt routes;
- better connections from residential areas, schools and village facilities;
- path design that is inclusive for a wide range of users, including families, older people and less confident walkers or cyclists.

In connection with this, but within the Pentlands: Path quality and wayfinding
A continuing programme of path maintenance and incremental improvement should be supported. Measures should include:

- drainage, surfacing and erosion repair;
- better route definition where paths are unclear;
- low-key signage, route marking and walking-time information;
- interpretation that promotes understanding of landscape, heritage, ecology and responsible access.



Map: Showing proposed safe walking/ cycling routes to Harlaw and Threipmuir resevoirs

Why is this needed?
There was a strong support from the community to create safe, well-connected active travel link between Balerno and the Pentlands. The current route uses rural roads which are deemed dangerous. Provision of safe routes will encourage access for residents and visitors, while protecting the landscape and natural environment.

What the Community said:

"*Better walk ways for disabled people.*"

"*Better paths to help access by walking / cycling to the Hills, Better paths within the Pentland Hills, Way marked routes."*

"Purpose made pathways to allow people to enjoy the hills in a responsible manner."

Proposal 2: Landscape, biodiversity and rural character - Resist any development that would urbanise, visually intrude upon or cumulatively erode the Landscape, biodiversity and rural character qualities (P5)

Proposals should protect and enhance the special qualities of the **Pentland Hills**, including:

- open views and skyline character;
- habitats, woodland and biodiversity;
- the sense of tranquillity and escape from the urban area;
- the overall rural and natural setting.

Development that would urbanise, visually intrude upon or cumulatively erode these qualities should be resisted.

Why is this needed?

A high value is placed on the Pentlands by residents of Balerno, its scenery, nature and tranquillity, by the community. It is something they wish to see preserved.

What the Community said:

"*A wild place where nature and biodiversity is protected."*

"Wildlife, native flora and fauna, and overall biodiversity should be protected. This includes preserving natural habitats, supporting ecosystem diversity, and preventing any development or activity that would disrupt or degrade the local environment."

"I want it preserved, protected, and nothing even remotely commercial permitted."

Proposal 3: Recreation management (P8)

The plan Supports a local management approach for the Pentlands based on designated camping areas only (if any); no fires / no disposable barbecues; seasonal ranger enforcement; clearer visitor information.
Recreational use of the Pentlands should be managed to minimise damage to landscape and habitats.
Support should be given to:

- responsible access information;
- ranger presence or local management measures where appropriate;
- camping controls based on designated areas, clear rules and fire prevention;
- provision of fire controls to prevent wildfires spreading. Increased resilience measures to support protection of the flora and fauna from wildfires;
- measures to reduce litter, path erosion and visitor pressure at sensitive locations.

Why is this needed?
Many respondents commented on the mess left by camping activities, and the risk posed by wildfire. In recognising the needs of campers, stronger management and action is supported to ensure the Pentlands can be enjoyed by all. With recent wildfires affecting other wild areas there is a desire to ensure there are resilient plans in place to protect the Pentlands.

What the Community said:
"*Rangers to ensure people clean up after themselves."*

"More monitoring to ensure the people who use them respect the environment."

"Responsible camping only, no fires."

Theme Area 8: Ravelrig Quarry

Summary

Ravelrig Quarry is a site to the northwest of Balerno village. The quarry will be operational until 2050. There is currently no prospect that it would be extended beyond that date. Reinstatement of the site at closure would be the responsibility of the operator, currently Tarmac UK.

Balerno residents showed strong support for nature-based restoration through rewilding, woodland and grassland, with high demand for public access with some interest in destination leisure uses including climbing etc.

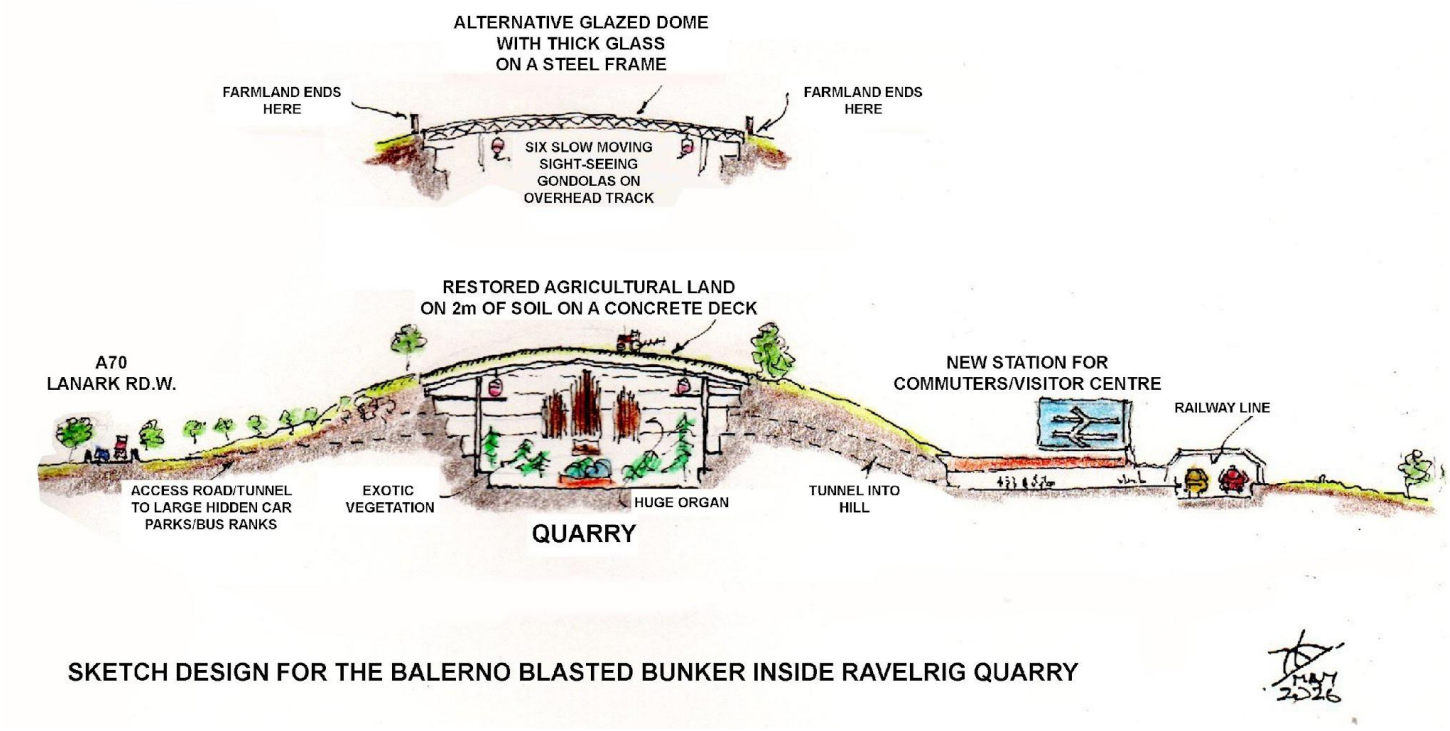
There was strong opposition to landfill and housing development, and concern to ensure management and legal guarantees of restoration.

The proposals represent the opinions given by residents. It is recognised this is the first stage of a further discussion whilst the quarry is still operational.

Ref	Proposal	Why it works
R1 **(Rewilding Approach)**	**Rewilded Country Park** **Core features:** • Native woodland, wildflower meadows, wetlands; • Walking & cycling paths; • Viewpoints and seating areas; • Limited infrastructure (car park, signage).	• Matches strongest public consensus; • Protects green belt character; • Lower long-term impact.
R2 **(Balanced Approach)**	**Nature + Recreation Hybrid Park** **Core features:** • Rewilded zones (biodiversity priority areas); • Managed parkland for access; • Trails for walking, cycling, MTB; • Small-scale facilities (café, toilets); • Dog-friendly zones.	• Meets both nature and recreation demands; • Inclusive and community-focused; • Still environmentally sensitive.
R3 **(Controlled Development)**	**Landscape-Led Adventure Destination** **Core features:** ○ Adventure activities; • Add: ○ Trails; ○ Water feature (lake); ○ Small visitor hub.	• Captures economic benefits; • Aligns with nearby activity hubs; • Supported by a vocal minority.
R4 **(Purist Approach)**	**Ecological Reserve with Limited Access** **Core features:** • Minimal intervention; • Habitat restoration priority; • Restricted but controlled access.	• Maximises biodiversity; Downside: • Doesn't meet strong demand for recreation.

Balerno's Blasted Bunker"

For further discussion, we did have a sketch proposal for development of the site, following Landscape-Led Adventure Destination (R3) proposal. To develop the quarry and make Balerno a destination for visitors, Based on the Eden Project, Cornwall.



Picture Courtesy of BBC. Eden Project, Cornwall

Appendices

A. Tabular NPF 4 Compliance matrix
B. Appendix B Full list of Community Proposals
    - Proposals: Green Belt – Housing – Development
    - Proposals: Infrastructure - Green Spaces
    - Proposals: Infrastructure – Social
    - Proposals: Infrastructure – Digital
    - Proposals: Education
    - Proposals: Transport & Movement
    - Proposals: Pentlands

Appendix A Tabular National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) compliance matrix

Here is a **tabular NPF4 compliance matrix** as part of a Local Place Plan evidence base. It aligns each evidence statement with relevant policies and clearly articulates the compliance/justification.

NPF4 Compliance Matrix – Balerno Local Place Plan Evidence

Ref	Evidence Statement	Key Findings (Summary)	Relevant NPF4 Policies	Compliance / Policy Alignment
1	Road safety and traffic management are a significant community concern	Widespread concerns about speeding, congestion, and safety near schools and key routes	13 (Sustainable Transport); 14 (Design, Quality and Place); 15 (Local Living)	Supports interventions to reduce car dominance, improve road safety, and prioritise pedestrian movement in line with sustainable and place-based design principles
2	Strong demand for improved walking and cycling infrastructure	High level of support for safer, connected active travel routes	13 (Sustainable Transport); 15 (Local Living)	Aligns with prioritisation of walking, wheeling, and cycling, and improved connectivity within 20-minute neighbourhoods
3	Public transport provision is widely perceived as inadequate	Concerns about reliability, frequency, and connectivity	13 (Sustainable Transport); 15 (Local Living)	Reinforces need to enhance public transport to reduce reliance on private vehicles and support sustainable travel patterns
4	Parking pressures affect the village centre and school areas	Parking constraints impacting safety and accessibility	13 (Sustainable Transport);	Supports balanced parking strategies integrated with placemaking and safer street design

Ref	Evidence Statement	Key Findings (Summary)	Relevant NPF4 Policies	Compliance / Policy Alignment
			14 (Design, Quality and Place)	
5	Need for expanded and improved community facilities	Schools and community spaces under pressure; need for additional provision	15 (Local Living); 18 (Infrastructure First); 21 (Play, Recreation and Sport)	Aligns with requirement to ensure infrastructure provision keeps pace with development and supports local access to services
6	Provision for young people is insufficient	Lack of youth facilities and social/recreational opportunities	15 (Local Living); 21 (Play, Recreation and Sport)	Supports inclusive place-making and provision of facilities for all age groups
7	Protection and enhancement of green spaces is a key priority	Strong value placed on parks, open spaces, and biodiversity	3 (Biodiversity); 6 (Forestry, Woodland and Trees); 20 (Blue and Green Infrastructure)	Aligns with safeguarding and enhancing green infrastructure networks and biodiversity
8	Strong support for preserving the Green Belt	Clear preference to reject development and protect landscape character	8 (Green Belts); 14 (Design, Quality and Place)	Supports spatial strategy directing development to appropriate locations while protecting settlement identity

Ref	Evidence Statement	Key Findings (Summary)	Relevant NPF4 Policies	Compliance / Policy Alignment
9	Support for a vibrant and diverse local economy	Demand for broader retail and service offer; support for local businesses	15 (Local Living); 26 (Business and Industry); 27 (City, Town, Local Centres)	Aligns with strengthening local centres, supporting economic resilience and mixed-use communities
10	General support for climate change and sustainability measures	Support for EV infrastructure, sustainable transport, low-carbon development	1 (Climate and Nature Crises); 2 (Climate Mitigation and Adaptation); 13 (Sustainable Transport)	Demonstrates alignment with net zero objectives and embedding climate considerations in development
11	Safety and wellbeing generally positive with specific concerns	Traffic safety and lighting identified as key issues	14 (Design, Quality and Place); 15 (Local Living)	Supports creation of safe, inclusive, and well-designed places that promote wellbeing
12	Reliable digital connectivity is important	Need for improved broadband and digital infrastructure	18 (Infrastructure First); 30 (Digital Infrastructure)	Aligns with recognition of digital infrastructure as essential to sustainable and economically viable communities
13	Access to the Pentland Hills is highly valued	Strong support for access, recreation, and environmental protection	4 (Natural Places); 20 (Blue and Green Infrastructure);	Supports protection of natural assets while enabling responsible access and recreation

Ref	Evidence Statement	Key Findings (Summary)	Relevant NPF4 Policies	Compliance / Policy Alignment
			21 (Play, Recreation and Sport)	
14	Strong alignment with sustainable place-making principles	Cross-cutting support for sustainable transport, environment, and community infrastructure	1 (Climate and Nature Crises); 13 (Sustainable Transport); 14 (Design, Quality and Place); 15 (Local Living)	Demonstrates overall consistency with NPF4 spatial strategy and place-based planning principles

- This matrix demonstrates how the community-derived evidence aligns with the spatial principles and policy framework set out in National Planning Framework 4.
- The findings show strong consistency between local priorities and national policy objectives, particularly in relation to **sustainable transport, climate action, green infrastructure, and local living**.
- The evidence base can therefore be considered to provide robust community support for policy-compliant place-based interventions.

Appendix B Full list of Community Proposals

Appendix E.1 Proposals: Green Belt – Housing – Development

Reference	Proposal
GB1	Adopt a “Regeneration First, Expansion Last” Policy: Prioritise Upgrading existing Brownfield redevelopment. Explicitly limit outward growth of Green Belt.
GB2	Formal Presumption Against Development to protect Green Belt - Reinforce "no development stance".
GB3	Focus Investment on Existing Infrastructure. Priority Areas: High School; Healthcare; Transport improvements.
GB4	Housing Strategy - Brownfield-Only Housing Policy.
GB5	The community want to see No Development Without Capacity: Schools; Roads; healthcare must: Exist first or be delivered upfront prior to development.
GB6	Comments were received regarding the planning process, and they would want to see it being more Transparent and Inclusive in its Engagement. Widely communicated consultation; Offline + Online Engagement; Clear explanation of decisions.
GB7	Balerno Conservation Area Appraisal. Balerno is designated as a Conservation area in Edinburgh. The last appraisal was in 2000. The Community value to “village feel” and rich history and would like it strengthened and enhanced to protect this.

Appendix E.2 – Proposals: Infrastructure - Green Spaces

Reference	Proposal
GS1	Improve path between Ravelrig/Walled Garden and Bridge Road and develop the Ravelrig Walled Garden as a community garden/park.
GS2	Improvement of the Water of Leith Path and extension further upstream into the village.
GS3	Improvement of paths in woodland area between Harlaw Road and Balerno High School and gate access to Malleny Estate and Gardens.
GS4	Improvement of path by creation of a bridge in the shelterbelt by Cockburn Crescent by the bus shelter.
GS5	Path improved between the park at the back of Malleny Avenue to Harlaw Road.
GS6	Improvements in Marchbank Park; Clearer signage of paths; more benches; Outdoor gym equipment; BBQ facility; structure for carers to sit under; Playpark improvements.
GS7	Improvements to the park between Deanpark Gardens and Dean Park Avenue: Benches; Fruit trees; playpark.
GS8	New playpark or bike track on Harlaw Road Bing.
GS9	Roundabout at the foot of Johnsburn Road/ Bridge Road - Remove the concrete and add additional greenery.
GS10	New Playpark near the Rugby Club.

Appendix E.3 – Proposals: Infrastructure – Social

Reference	Proposal
S1	Create Community Hub: Develop (or upgrade a central hub that includes - gym; youth space; café/social area. Workshop rooms.
S2	Youth Strategy: Establish Youth club and drop-in centre; Outdoor facilities. Partner with schools and community groups.
S3	Library transformation: Expand or relocate to larger space: Add - Co-working/ study areas; Workshops (skills, crafts, digital); Community programming.
S4	Health & Wellbeing improvements: Deliver: Community gym; Outdoor fitness equipment in parks.
S5	Access & Safety improvements: Implement: safe school travel plan Cycling & walking routes); Parking redesign near schools; Better disabled access to key sites: Community centre; Balerno High School; Library.
S6	Balerno Main Street: Install controlled access. Access only allowed for: disable badge holders; deliveries (time restricted); emergency services.
S7	Balerno Main Street: Access & Safety Improvements: Clarify layout & signage to Main Street.
S8	Balerno Main Street - Enhance Public Space: Add Seating / planters / café space.

Appendix E.4 – Proposals: Infrastructure – Digital

Reference	Proposal
D1	Ensure 100% coverage across Balerno; Prioritise currently under served streets; Require providers to publish clear rollout timelines.
D2	Mobile Coverage Improvement Plan: Work with telecom providers to identify signal "Black Spots"; Install targeted small-scale masts or boosters. Encourage infrastructure sharing between networks.
D3	Introduce a local policy requiring: Co-ordination between providers; shared trenching and ducts; Alignment with road resurfacing schedules; Stronger standards for road/ pavement reinstatement.
D4	Reliability & Resilience Standards: Encourage/ require providers to: Improve network redundancy; Harden infrastructure against weather disruptions; Explore backup solutions for vulnerable areas.
D5	Increase market competition: Support infrastructure like open-access fibre networks; Make it easier for multiple ISP to operate locally.
D6	Targeted public wi-fi Zones: Introduce public wi-fi in: Village centre; Community hubs.
D7	Environmentally Sensitive Rollout Guidelines: Underground cabling where possible; Careful placement of masts; Avoid large-scale developments like data centres.
D8	Ongoing Upgrade Commitment: Ensure infrastructure keeps pace with future tech (5G → 6G → beyond); Regular reviews every 5 years.

Appendix E.5 – Proposals: Education

Balerno High School		
Reference	**Proposal**	**Reason why**

E1	**Strategic Option: New Build vs Major Refurbishment**
	• Conduct a **feasibility study** comparing:
	  ○ Full rebuild (preferred by majority)
	  ○ Deep retrofit/modernisation
		1. Strong demand for Rebuild or Major Refurbishment
		• **Ensure outcome delivers:**
		  ○ Modern learning environments
		  ○ Long-term cost efficiency
		  ○ Parity with nearby schools
		
		The most dominant view: the school is **outdated, worn out, and "falling apart."** Many responses explicitly call for a **full rebuild**. Others would accept a **deep refurbishment**, but not minor fixes.

E2	Transform into a "Community Hub School": Design or retrofit to include: Public access gym & fitness suite; Upgraded swimming pool; Multi-use sports hall available to community use.	**Community access and use** • A strong desire was expressed that the school should become a **Community Hub.** Many want Facilities open after hours for: **Fitness classes**, **Adult sports** and Events. Frustration was expressed about **limited or reduced access (e.g. pool closure)**.
E3	Transport safety and redesign: Introduce safer drop-off zones: Enforce parking controls; pedestrian crossings/ lights. Expand Walking & cycling infrastructure.	**Traffic, transport, and safety issues** • Major concerns about **School buses blocking main road (Bridge Road)** • **Dangerous congestion** at pick-up/drop-off places. • Additional issues particularly include **Illegal parking** (zigzag areas and disabled bays); a • **Lack of safe crossings.** • A **Poor Active Travel** infrastructure was noted.

E4	Sports & Wellbeing Investment: New or upgraded: Swimming pool; Gym (dual school/ community use; Multiple sports facilities beyond rugby/ football. Add learning spaces; well-being/ mental health areas.	**Desire for better sports and community facilities** • Requests included: **New/updated swimming pool** and **Gym** which should also be open to the public. **Criticism** was made about **management by Edinburgh Leisure. Comment** was received about the need for **more diverse sports** (not just rugby or football).
E5	Accessibility and Inclusion Improvements: Fully Accessible campus design; Dedicated ASN/ special support facilities; inclusive changing and learning environments.	**Accessibility and inclusion** • There is a **Need** for: **Better disabled access (especially changing rooms)** and **Specialist provision (e.g., ASN/autism support).**

E6	Sustainability Plans: Replace single gazing with efficient systems. Introduce: Renewable heating; energy efficient lighting. Embed sustainability into learning spaces.	**Sustainability Plan**
		• Replace single glazing with efficient systems
		• Introduce:
		  ○ Renewable heating (e.g., heat pumps)
		  ○ Energy-efficient lighting
		• Embed sustainability into learning spaces

E7	Maintenance & Management Reform. Implement: Planned preventative maintenance programme; Regular condition audits. Improve: Responsiveness to infrastructure.	**General maintenance and upkeep** • Even without a rebuild: there is a need for **Better, stronger maintenance culture**, to include **cleaning, repairs, and preventative maintenance.** There is a **feeling** that the school has been **neglected over time.**

E8	Capacity & Future Proofing: Ensure school is large enough for future population growth; Flexible for evolving (vocational, digital and practical skills).	**Capacity & Future-Proofing**
		• Ensure school is:
		  ○ Large enough for future population growth
		  ○ Flexible for evolving curriculum (vocational + digital + practical skills)

Deanpark Primary School	
Reference	**Proposal**
E10	Edinburgh School Safe Streets – Consult on the introduction of designated drop-off and pick-up zones away from the school gates. In conjunction with Parent Council Traffic survey.
E11	Explore implementation of a temporary car-free zone during peak school times.
E12	New crossing at Deanpark Gardens and Deanpark Place.
E13	Increase signage and road markings to improve awareness and compliance.
E14	Consider a one-way traffic system around the school on Deanpark Way. If instigated, then a crossing is essential.
E15	Provide an assisted pedestrian crossing or school crossing patrol.
E16	Investigate the role of a safety officer or traffic warden during peak times.
E17	Assess the feasibility of a second primary school in the lower Balerno area to accommodate population growth.
E18	Improve and expand play areas in and around the school to support children's wellbeing and throughout Balerno.

Appendix E.6 – Proposals: Transport & Movement

Reference	Proposal
T1	Undertake road pedestrian crossing survey for installation of zebra crossing on: Bridge Road for the crossing islands; and Bavelaw Road / Bridge Road junction.
T2	Proposal to review traffic flow at junction of Lanark Road/ Ravelrig Road with view to installation of pedestrian crossing.
T3	Propose upgrade of path from Ravelrig Wynd to Bridge Road, past Walled Garden.
T4	Review and new markings on cycle lane on Bridge Road.
T5	A Local Place Plan could support a Main Street access and public realm strategy.
T6	20mph-plus safety package focused on problem routes: Johnsburn Road; Cockburn Crescent. 30mph speed limit along: Glenbrook Road; Cockburn farm Road. Traffic calming areas; Mansfield Road.
T7	improved pavement condition, maintenance and accessibility; widening of pavements where feasible in locations with high pedestrian use.
T8	Propose the review of a potential bus service to Livingston, serving Balerno, Ratho, Kirknewton, and East Calder. X44 and Extension of 45.
T9	The commencement of a review into a new Railway station at Balerno.
T10	Targeted parking management: evidence-led parking management around schools, local facilities and visitor pressure points; management measures that improve turnover, reduce obstruction and protect residential amenity; parking solutions that are proportionate and sensitive to village character.

Appendix E.7 – Proposals: Pentlands

Reference	Proposal
P1	Create a formal proposal for a safe off-road walking and cycling route linking Balerno with Harlaw Reservoir and Threipmuir Reservoir.
P2	Support a programme of incremental path upgrades rather than major new infrastructure.
P3	Install a coordinated network of: (1) route markers from Balerno to the hills; (2) walking-time signage; (3) low-key interpretation on ecology, heritage and responsible access.
P4	Low-impact visitor facilities at gateway locations. Facilities such as toilets; bike parking; seating; modest seasonal refreshment provision.
P5	Resist any development that would urbanise, visually intrude upon or cumulatively erode the Landscape, biodiversity and rural character qualities.
P6	Recreational use of the Pentlands should be managed to minimise damage to landscape and habitats.
P7	Parking management measures at Harlaw Reservoir and Threipmuir Reservoir should prioritise managing congestion and protecting local access rather than maximising revenue.
P8	Support a local management approach for the Pentlands based on designated camping areas only (if any); no fires / no disposable barbecues; seasonal ranger enforcement; clearer visitor information.