



Bathgate Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

28 February 2023

A physical meeting of the **Bathgate Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Conference Room 14/15, Bathgate Partnership Centre, South Bridge Street, Bathgate** on **Monday 6 March 2023 at 10:00am**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interests they have in the items of business for consideration at the meeting, identifying the relevant agenda items and the nature of their interests.
3. Order of Business, including notice of urgent business, declarations of interest in any urgent business and consideration of reports for information.

The Chair will invite members to identify any such reports they wish to have fully considered, which failing they will be taken as read and their recommendations approved.

4. Minutes -

Public Session

- (a) Confirm Draft Minute of Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2022 (herewith).
 - (b) Confirm Draft Minute of Special Meeting of the Committee held on 6 February 2023 (herewith).
5. Police Ward Report - report by Police Scotland (herewith).

DATA LABEL: Public

6. Fire Service Ward Report - report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith).
7. Housing, Customer and Building Services - report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith).
8. Service Update: NETS, Land and Countryside - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
9. Spaces for People Consultation - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
10. Bathgate Flooding Issues - report by Head of Operational Services (herewith).
11. Report on Local Planning and Partnership Activity - report by Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development (herewith).
12. Timetable of Meetings 2023/24 (for approval) (herewith).
13. Workplan (herewith).

NOTE **For further information please contact Lorraine McGrorty on 01506 281609 or email lorraine.mcgrorty@westlothian.gov.uk**



CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (2021)

This form is a reminder and an aid. It is not a substitute for understanding the Code of Conduct and guidance.

Interests must be declared at the meeting, in public.

Look at every item of business and consider if there is a connection.

If you see a connection, decide if it amounts to an interest by applying the objective test.

The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection does not amount to an interest then you have nothing to declare and no reason to withdraw.

If the connection amounts to an interest, declare it as soon as possible and leave the meeting when the agenda item comes up.

When you declare an interest, identify the agenda item and give enough information so that the public understands what it is and why you are declaring it.

Even if the connection does not amount to an interest you can make a statement about it for the purposes of transparency.

More detailed information is on the next page.

Look at each item on the agenda, consider if there is a “connection”, take advice if necessary from appropriate officers in plenty of time. A connection is any link between the item of business and:-

- you
- a person you are associated with (e.g., employer, business partner, domestic partner, family member)
- a body or organisation you are associated with (e.g., outside body, community group, charity)

Anything in your Register of Interests is a connection unless one of the following exceptions applies.

A connection does not exist where:-

- you are a council tax payer, a rate payer, or a council house tenant, including at budget-setting meetings
- services delivered to the public are being considered, including at budget-setting meetings
- councillors’ remuneration, expenses, support services or pensions are being considered
- you are on an outside body through a council appointment or nomination unless it is for regulatory business or you have a personal conflict due to your connections, actions or legal obligations
- you hold a view in advance on a policy issue, have discussed that view, have expressed that view in public, or have asked for support for it

If you see a connection then you have to decide if it is an “interest” by applying the objective test. The objective test is whether or not a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard your connection to a particular matter as being so significant that it would be considered as being likely to influence your discussion or decision-making.

If the connection amounts to an interest then:-

- declare the interest in enough detail that members of the public will understand what it is
- leave the meeting room (physical or online) when that item is being considered
- do not contact colleagues participating in the item of business

Even if decide your connection is not an interest you can voluntarily make a statement about it for the record and for the purposes of transparency.

The relevant documents are:-

- [Councillors’ Code of Conduct, part 5](#)
- [Standards Commission Guidance, paragraphs 129-166](#)
- [Advice note for councillors on how to declare interests](#)

If you require assistance, contact:-

- James Millar, Interim Monitoring Officer and Governance Manager, 01506 281613, james.millar@westlothian.gov.uk
- Carol Johnston, Chief Solicitor and Depute Monitoring Officer, 01506 281626, carol.johnston@westlothian.gov.uk
- Committee Services Team, 01506 281604, 01506 281621
committee.services@westlothian.gov.uk

January 2022

MINUTE of MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 14 NOVEMBER 2022.

Present – Councillors Harry Cartmill (Chair), William Boyle and Pauline Stafford

Apologies – Councillor Tony Pearson

In attendance -

Carol Johnston, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council

Sergeant Mike Harte, Police Scotland

Pat McArdle, Acting Grounds Maintenance Manager, West Lothian Council

Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Christopher Nelson, Income Maximisation Manager, West Lothian Council

Ronnie McLeod, Bathgate Community Council

Donald Stavert, Bathgate Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 11 - (COVID-19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund) – Councillor Stafford declared a connection in that she was the named lead on a new community garden project and one of the areas of land being explored for the garden was mentioned within the report. Should committee be minded to move towards making decisions about distributing unallocated funds, Councillor Stafford would declare an interest at that stage, withdraw from the meeting and take no part in the decision.

2. MINUTE

The committee confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 29 August 2022. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. POLICE WARD REPORT

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland which provided an update on performance, activities and issues across the ward for the period to 1 October 2022.

The Committee was invited to note the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

4. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WARD REPORT

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Scottish Fire & Rescue Service providing an update on activity across the ward to 30 September 2022.

The committee was asked to note and provide comment on the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report.

Decision

To note the content of the report

5. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services advising members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land and Countryside teams for the period 1 July to 30 September 2022.

It was recommended that the Committee:

1. Notes the work carried out by the service within the local area; and
2. Advise of any areas that required further information or investigation.

The committee called for a joint report on the legal position and powers of West Lothian Council regarding fly-tipping on vacant land near Linkston Way.

Decision

To note the terms of the report

6. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES UPDATE

The Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing an overview of the service activities within the Bathgate ward for the period Quarter 2 - 1 July to 30 September 2022.

The committee was invited to note the service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period 1 July to 30 September 2022.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. ANTI-POVERTY SERVICE UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Head of Finance and Property Services informing of the work undertaken by the Anti-Poverty Services from April 2021 to March 2022.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

1. The Anti-Poverty Service provision in the ward; and
2. The impact provision was having in terms of supporting the outcomes of the Community Planning Partnership's Anti-Poverty Strategy 2018-21.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. PLACE BASED INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022 TOWN CENTRE CAPITAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development to invite the committee to consider the allocation of an additional £8,846.20 available to support the Place Based Investment Fund Town Centre Fund projects and to agree the allocation as set out in the report.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Notes that the Council Executive on 21 June 2022 agreed an additional £8,846.20 to support projects in the ward;
2. Notes the three-step process to be used to decide the allocation;;
3. Agrees to award funding as set out in the report;
4. Notes that some of the funding costs remained as estimates and delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development Regeneration to finalise award amounts within the overall value of the funding available within the ward;
5. Notes that as projects were implemented the detail and associated costs might change and so delegates the Head of Planning, Economic Development Regeneration to agree such changes and to re-allocate any money that became available as a result to other projects in the ward, both so long as projects remained within the aims, purposes and overall intent of the original applications and approvals; and
6. Note the terms and conditions associated to the awarding of grants as set out in the report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

9. COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Lead Officer providing the committee with an update on the projects allocated funding from the £150,000 COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund approved by the committee on 14 December 2021 together with an update on projects from the original list that were to be funded from resources available under the Town Centre Management Fund.

It was recommended that the committee:

- (a) Notes the update on the approved projects;
- (b) Agrees the work for phase 2 of the upgrade of the path from Little Boghead; and
- (c) Notes that £20,000 remained unallocated and could be redistributed.

Decision

- (I) To approve the terms of the report.
- (II) To call a special meeting of the committee in early 2023 once final costings for Phase 2 of the Little Boghead were known in order to consider distribution of the remaining funds for the ward.

10. PENSIONERS' GROUPS CHRISTMAS FUND ALLOCATIONS 2022-23

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development advising of the final allocations made from the Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund 2022-23 to groups in the Bathgate Ward, Livingston-wide groups and West Lothian-wide groups. The report asked committee to note that applicants were offered, as they were in 2020 and 2021, an additional option of a pre-prepared chilled meal as an alternative to a direct grant award.

It was recommended that the committee notes:

- 1. Eight groups in the Bathgate ward would be supported through the Pensioners' Christmas Fund 2022-23; and
- 2. The continued inclusion of a pre-prepared meal option.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

11. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION ACTIVITY

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration which provided an overview of the economic development, regeneration and local partners activities within the Bathgate ward during the reporting period.

It was recommended that committee notes the content of the report.

Decision

To note the content of the report

12. WORKPLAN

A copy of the workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within CONFERENCE ROOM 14/15, BATHGATE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, SOUTH BRIDGE STREET, BATHGATE, on 6 FEBRUARY 2023.

Present – Councillors Harry Cartmill (Chair), William Boyle and Pauline Stafford

Apologies – Councillor Tony Pearson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. COVID-19 LOCAL RECOVERY AND RENEWAL FUND

The committee considered a report by the Local Area Committee Lead Officer (copies of which had been circulated) providing an update on the projects allocated funding from the £150,000 Covid-19 Recovery and Renewal Fund approved by the committee on 14th December 2021 and inviting the reallocation of available funding due to project B41 being undeliverable.

It was recommended that the committee:

- (a) Notes the update on the approved projects;
- (b) Notes that £20,000 remained unallocated and could be redistributed; and
- (c) Agrees which project(s) listed in Appendices 1 and 2 to the report should be supported from the £20,000.

Having heard the Lead Officer reiterate that funds could only be awarded to the original list of projects presented to committee in December 2021, members agreed to request that a report on potential solutions to the issue of bin storage at key areas in the town be presented to a future meeting for consideration.

Decision

- (a) To note the terms of the report.
- (b) To approve the award of the unallocated funding as follows:-
 - B26 – Award an additional £1500.
 - B9 – Award £8000 with the shop area at Elizabeth Drive, Boghall, to be prioritised.
 - B30 – Award £10,5000 and increase the maximum shop front grant available in the town from £750 to £2000.



**POLICE
SCOTLAND**

Keeping people safe

POILEAS ALBA

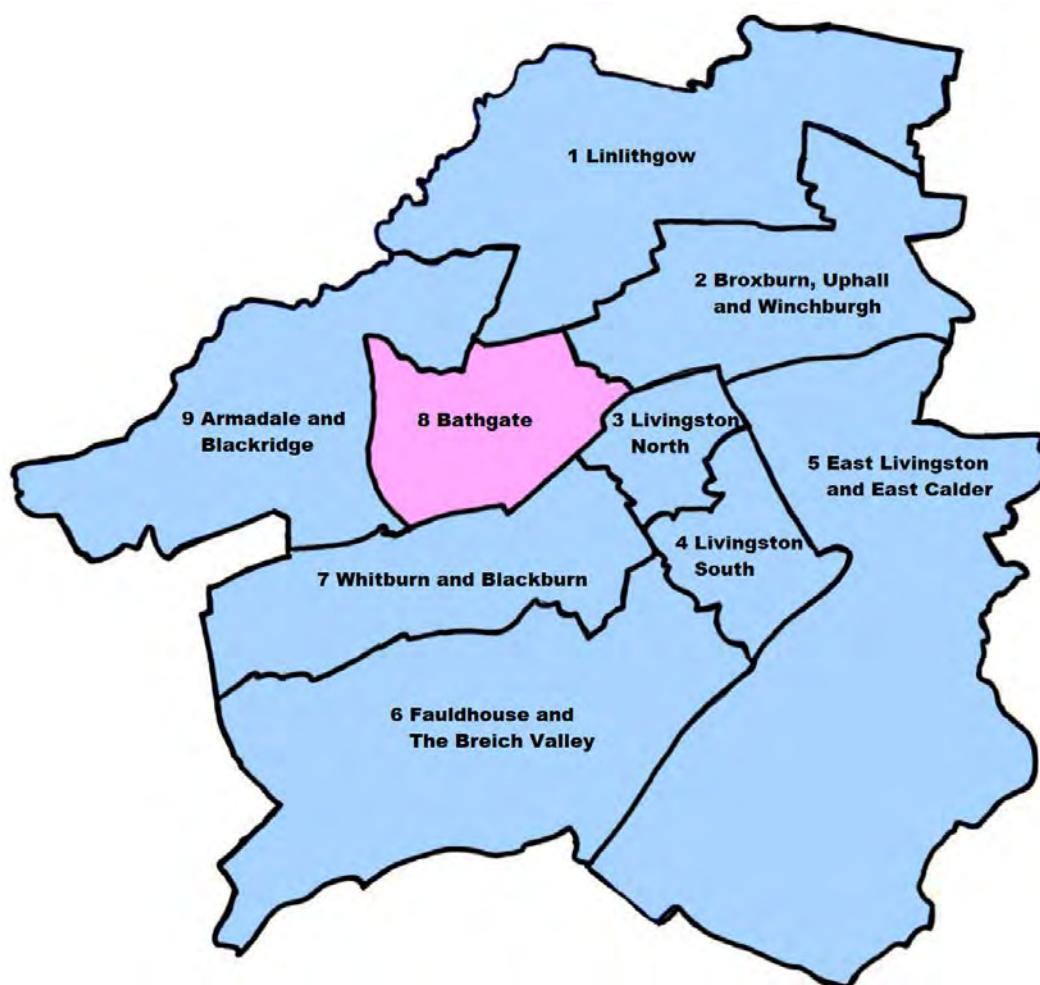
OFFICIAL

Item No. 5



West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 8 Bathgate Multi Member Ward Report Quarter 3 – 2022/2023

OFFICIAL

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an update on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31st December 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the content of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; and working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance relative to the same period in 2021 set out in the report.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger; we take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None.
VIII	Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Introduction:

This document is intended to provide a summary of the performance of West Lothian Area Command for the reporting period of Quarter 3 2022/2023. The report references the police priorities within the Local Police Plan for West Lothian 2020-2023, namely:

- Protecting The Most Vulnerable People
- Reducing Violence and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reducing Acquisitive Crime
- Improving Road Safety
- Tackling Serious and Organised Crime

The data provided in this report is for information purposes to allow Partnership Members to conduct their scrutiny responsibilities.

Bathgate Community Engagement Priorities:

- Violence, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Acquisitive Crime
- Road Safety

Bathgate Community Officers

PC Graeme Comrie

PC Francis Sinnet

Executive Summary:

Officers in West Lothian have been focused to delivering, with our key partners, our Local Policing Priorities, and meeting our commitment to Keep People Safe.

During Q3, West Lothian PSYV volunteered at a number of events throughout the county, including Linlithgow Torchlight procession, Stoneyburn Santa parade, Remembrance Sunday Events as well as helping staff at the Scottish Owl Centre with some painting work! As a result the group amassed a combined 288 volunteering hours during the quarter as well as the groups youth volunteers attending weekly Friday sessions.

Recruitment for the group also took place during Q3, with 9 new youth volunteers joining the group during Q3. The group also welcomed a new adult volunteer to the group during Q3.

- **Protecting the most vulnerable people**

Domestic abuse crimes is an area of focus in terms of providing confidence to report, undertaking professional investigations, providing victim support, pursuing perpetrators and managing offenders.

The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) has two main approaches. The “Right to Ask” is open to anyone who has concerns about a new partner’s abusive past or has concerns about another person’s new partner. The “Power to Tell” is when we receive information or intelligence about the safety of a person who may be at risk, this information is thereafter disclosed to the person concerned so they are able to make informed decisions about their personal safety. During Q3, there was **48** applications in the last Quarter (**169** YTD), this is a **64%** increase on the same period last year and highlights the ongoing commitment to keeping people safe.

The ACAST mental health triage system is still widely utilised by officers when appropriate. By the end of Q3, this service was utilised 60 times providing support and advice to individuals suffering from a mental health crisis.

We again promoted the Banking protocol this quarter – a highly effective tool in the fight against fraudsters who target the most vulnerable in our communities through impersonation, courier and romance fraud. Through vigilance and in-house training, bank staff are in the ideal position to identify customers at risk and contact police with concerns. This is crucial in assisting vulnerable persons but also prevents stolen monies funding other illegal activities including drug dealing, human trafficking and terrorism.

During Q3 there has been 7 reported banking protocol related crimes, where vulnerable person/s have been targeted and circumstances have been reported to the Police. The majority of these are still under investigation.

In Q3, West Lothian PSYV volunteers were provided IAMME Peer Education training in respect of disability Hate Crime. IAMME are the charity who also provide the keep safe initiative, which is in place within West Lothian. The training provided the volunteers with a clear understanding of what disability hate crime is, albeit the principles learned are transferable to other social groups.

During October as part of Hate Crime Awareness Week and Black History Month, Police Scotland focused on the importance of reporting all incidents of physical and verbal abuse including all forms of hate, racism, homophobia, sexism and misogyny, and discrimination of any kind is utterly deplorable and unacceptable. It has no place in society.

Police Scotland officers are engaging in a rolling programme regards the carriage of Naloxone which has been used over 100 times on individuals who were at risk of death through overdose. This medication can also be carried by members of the public and is not restricted under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

- **Reducing Violence and Anti-Social behaviour**

We continue to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour in its various forms with our partners.

During Q3, we promoted “That Guy Campaign” during the annual 16 days of action in relation to violence against woman and girls. We promoted this by working with local partners, utilising Social Media, with featured videos. We worked with both Armadale and Bathgate Junior football teams to promote this initiative during matches in December.

During this campaign, Police Scotland, along with partner agencies, participated in a parade from Howden Park Centre to West Lothian Civic Centre. This was followed by a rally to mark the start of campaign in an effort to raise awareness. Throughout the 16 days, we carried out joint engagement events along with West Lothian DASAT and West Lothian Woman’s Aid. Bystander, Consent and Sextortion inputs were delivered by Officers to 200 students at both West Lothian and Oatridge Colleges.

Guy Fawkes events took place during Q3. A number of preventative activities took place in the run up to the 5th of November including numerous intervention inputs to primary, secondary and college students within West Lothian, some of which were conducted jointly with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The promotion of both Crimestoppers and Fearless campaigns were shared via Facebook, Twitter and the Neighbourhood Alert system as well as posters and letters being distributed to schools and other public buildings.

Following on from this, at the beginning of November, local community officers conducted Hi-Viz patrols in hotspot areas and joint patrols were also conducted along with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Any bonfires constructed outwith safety parameters were dismantled before the night commenced, thus resulting in less incidents as the evening progressed. There were two incidents of note during the course of the evening in Blackburn and Bathgate respectively, which resulted in one male being traced and charged with a firework related offence.

In a continuation from Q2, a further day of action was carried out along with Lothian County Buses during Q3. Known as 'Gateway Checks' officers used the bus network from outlying towns and villages that were destined for our larger town centres such as Livingston and Bathgate where regular complaints of youth ASB are being reported. Officers positively interacted with young people whilst using the bus network.

Bathgate continues to be a problematic area in regards fires and ASB within the area of Balbardie Park. Several bins appear to have been stolen from a nearby school whilst closed for the Christmas period. Taken to the park and set alight. Owing to this advice supplied to council regards bin security especially in holiday periods to prevent similar incidents.

Community officers have been conducting patrols where available engaging with youths at the Boghall drop in centre, Moorehouse School and Bathgate Academy. Patrols have also been conducted at various primary schools during drop off/pick up times owing to complaints received from parents. In the lead up to bonfire night presentations were delivered to P7 classes regarding ASB, Hate crime and Fireworks/bonfire night safety.

Joint visits with Council Safer Neighbourhood Team to address ASB reports regards specific tenants were carried out in efforts to resolve issues.

- **Reducing Acquisitive Crime**

Dealing with Acquisitive Crime to protect people by reducing the impacts of theft on individuals and communities remains a priority.

During Q3 the Police Business Resilience team at the Scottish Business Resilience Centre in Linlithgow have been involved in a large number of businesses attended and discussions about keeping their businesses safe and providing community hubs where messages can be shared, particularly with the elderly and vulnerable customers. Discussion about scammers and door to door criminals were highlighted. Additional to this, Police officers provided foot patrols and face to face positive engagement with the businesses in the community.

During the quarter, we have experienced a number of Theft Housebreakings focused on targeting unoccupied houses to steal jewellery and cars as well as businesses for their takings. During one theft housing breaking, a travelling recidivist offender known to travel the length of the country was apprehended whilst committing this crime and reports to COPFS.

Further incidents where domestic dwellings were targeted for their high value vehicles resulted in and extensive investigation where a number of these vehicles were recovered by officers a short time after the theft. A positive line of enquiry is ongoing to identify the SOCG involved. One of the accused was identified and arrested as being involved with other similar thefts in various other areas within Edinburgh and the Lothians. During another incident a further male was arrested for two domestic HB's and six businesses HB's.

Also a locus within West Lothian was identified and the recovery of a large quantity of high valued power tools, Jet Ski and associated trailer, along with 5 quad bikes having been successful secured and named suspects identified.

As a result Community Officers undertook community surgeries in Broxburn, Livingston and Bathgate, providing the community with advice on how to protect their property.

During October, our Preventions and Interventions Officer along with partner agencies, attended the 'Safe at Sky Roadshow', an initiative run by Sky to afford their staff the opportunity to receive personal safety advice along with crime prevention. Advice on securing property along with vehicle crime was provided to staff at both Livingston campus's over two days.

Within December, Police in conjunction with trading standards and Scottish Fire and Rescue attended at Dobbie's, Livingston, where crime prevention and fire safety advice, including door step crime, was provided to visitors.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland alert scheme continues to be utilised encouraging those living in our communities to report any suspicious activity witnessed in their area. As always, all suspicious activity can be reported via 101, the 'contact us' form on the Police Scotland internet page or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

- **Improving Road Safety**

Road safety is a priority for the police and local authority. Officers in West Lothian work in partnership with the council to address road safety issues and educate the public to prevent incidents from occurring.

Sadly Q3 we saw one fatality in West Lothian. Extensive enquiries are also still ongoing into previous fatalities from 2021/22 which is unfortunately reducing abilities to engage with the usual speeding initiatives.

We will continue to support the Roads Policing campaign calendar during 2022/23. During Q3, we supported the Tyre safety week, Fatal 4 National Speed Operation, National Get Ready for winter, Operation Drive Insured, Brake Road Safety Week and Festive Drink/Drive Campaign.

During Q3, a day of action was carried out in relation off road bikes in various locations in West Lothian. Although no offences were detected on the day, a significant officer presence resulted in disruption to those intent on using off road vehicles in a dangerous manner.

Furthermore, regular complaints of off road vehicles within public parks causing damage, resulted in local community officers along with West Lothian PSYV conducting letter drops within the respective neighbourhoods in order to raise awareness as well as encouraging local communities to report those responsible.

Training on the newly acquired speed detection equipment will commence soon whereby community officers will be in a position to address complaints of speeding within the Bathgate ward area.

- **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

Drugs supply has a close link to Organised Crime Groups (OCG), and is a blight on any community. We focus to those who bring harm to our communities, and particularly those who are involved in drugs supply, cultivation/production and the sale and distribution in particular, but not exclusively, of Class A drugs.

Towards the end of November, intelligence was received from a member of the public in relation to a possible large scale cultivation at an industrial unit within Livingston. Extensive enquiries were undertaken by Proactive CID resulting in a warrant being issued to be executed at the address. Within the unit a large scale cannabis cultivation was detected with an approximate street value of £1.4 million. There is a positive line of enquiry and further investigation is being conducted to trace the suspects responsible.

Whilst on high visibility mobile patrol, officers observed suspicious activity in relation to a vehicle and its occupants. Further investigation resulted in the seizure of approximately £40,000 in cash from the vehicle, both occupants reported for MDA offences.

During a welfare check on an elderly female officers received intelligence that a male within the property was in possession of various offensive weapons. On attendance it was established that the male was involved in a drug making set up within the address. A subsequent investigation resulted in a 27 year old local male being reported to COPFS for MDA. Further investigation is ongoing in relation to the offensive weapons.

During Q3 West Lothian Pro-Active Crime Team in respect to the Blackburn Initiative connected to drug supply within the Blackburn area have carried out a number of hits and they have seized 11 weapons, total value of drugs recovered £52,600 and total value of cash recovered £28,927.89.

West Lothian Pro-active Crime Team continue to develop and carry out enforcement on members of organised crime groups based in West Lothian (Operation Wingman) that are involved in the supply of controlled drugs. By the end of Q3, Op Wingman removed over £889,669.00 worth of drugs from West Lothian streets, along with nearly £136,195.00 in cash along with numerous items linked to proceeds of crime.

During Q3, the Police Scotland Counter Terrorism Liaison officer engaged with West Lothian Trading Standards requesting assistance with "Call Blockers" for the elderly residents in Linlithgow care home who have been victim of phone scam/frauds. This collaboration is currently ongoing with a view to potentially expanding the roll out of these call blockers.

In October, Police Scotland re-launched 'Fearless' in West Lothian with an event held at West Lothian College where a large number of partner agencies were in attendance. Fearless is part of the independent charity Crimestoppers and is a site where young people can visit and can access non-judgemental information and advice about crime and criminality. The site also offers young people a safe place to give information about crime 100% anonymously. In the coming months, Police Scotland will be promoting various 'Fearless' campaigns through various means as well as encouraging young people to report information using the Fearless website.

Please note: Police Scotland have recently migrated to a new data source as its single source of truth for our reporting requirements. During the transition it was identified that significant improvements could be made to the completeness and accuracy of our geo-spatial data. Over the last eight to nine months we have been developing, deploying and quality assuring a number of processes that would improve these data. We are now in the final stages of the transition process and working on the outputs required at MMW and datazone levels. We hope to launch revised products in the next couple of months. Subsequently, MMW figures will be unavailable until validity checks have been completed.

Data Label: Public



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BATHGATE MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Bathgate Local Area Committee on the activity within the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward for the period up to 31st December 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Committee members are invited to note and provide comment on the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being honest, open and accountable • Focusing on our customers' needs • Making best use of our resources • Working in partnership
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Quarterly reports on the Multi-member Ward Operational Plans are being produced to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan, which is a statutory requirement of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	WL CPP SOA Performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA1304_13 Number of deliberate fires per 100,000 population SOA1304_14 Number of accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	The council contributes to directly and in partnership to the delivery of the Ward Plan
VII Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII Consultations	West Lothian Citizen's Panel Survey, July 2014.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Quarterly reports on the Multi-Member Ward Operational Plans have been produced by SFRS to ensure delivery of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2021, which is a requirement under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, Section 41E.

D.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Operational Plan, the Local Senior Officer for Falkirk and West Lothian has produced a Performance Report detailing activity against the key priorities.

The key priorities within the Bathgate area are as follows:

Continuous Priority

- Local Risk Management and Preparedness.

High Priority

- Reduction of Dwelling Fires
- Reduction in Fire Fatalities and Casualties
- Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Medium Priority

- Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Property
- Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies. (excluding RTCs)
- Reduction in RTC Fatalities and Casualties.

E. CONCLUSION

The Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Performance Report aligns to the key priorities of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for West Lothian 2021, the West Lothian Strategic Assessment of Community Safety and continues with the excellent partnership working on Community Safety, which is evident in West Lothian.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Alasdair Fowlie

Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

January 2023

Appendix 1 Bathgate Multi-Member Ward Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 3 2022/23

Bathgate

DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

Introduction

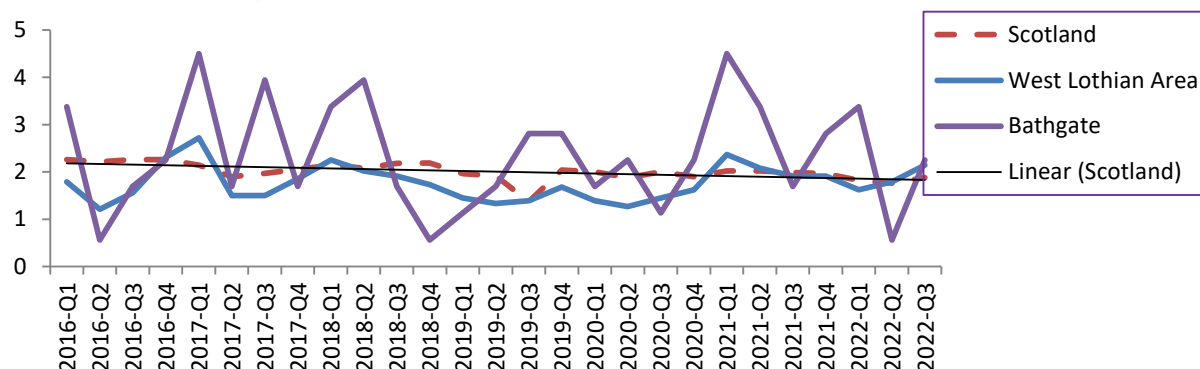
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition to historical ward based activity, this performance report provides information on the historic activity in the West Lothian Council area and Scotland. To allow benchmarking to be undertaken, the units of measurement in the performance graphs in the report are based on incidents/events per head of population.

Whilst using historic statistical benchmarking data, consideration must be taken of the somewhat random nature of fire related incidents and events, and how this can pose difficulties in interpreting emerging patterns and trends. This is of specific relevance where ward level data is analysed due to the relatively small number of actual incidents/events that occur in ward areas.

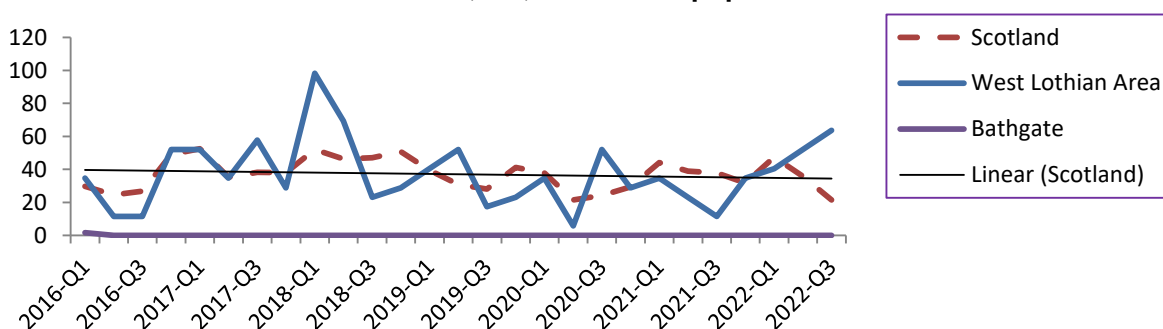
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



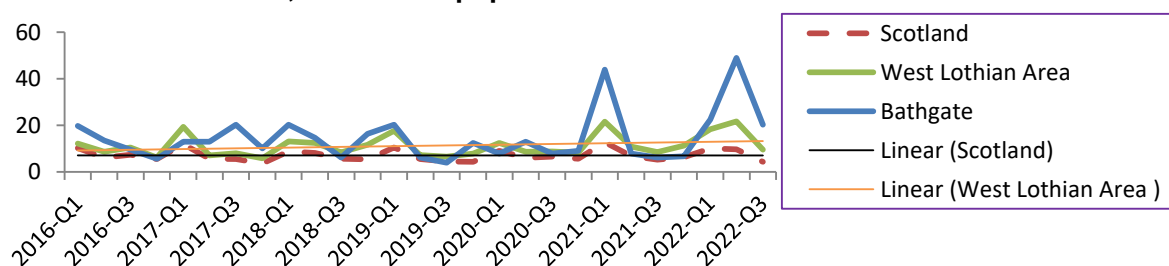
During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 4 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 3 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Fire Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



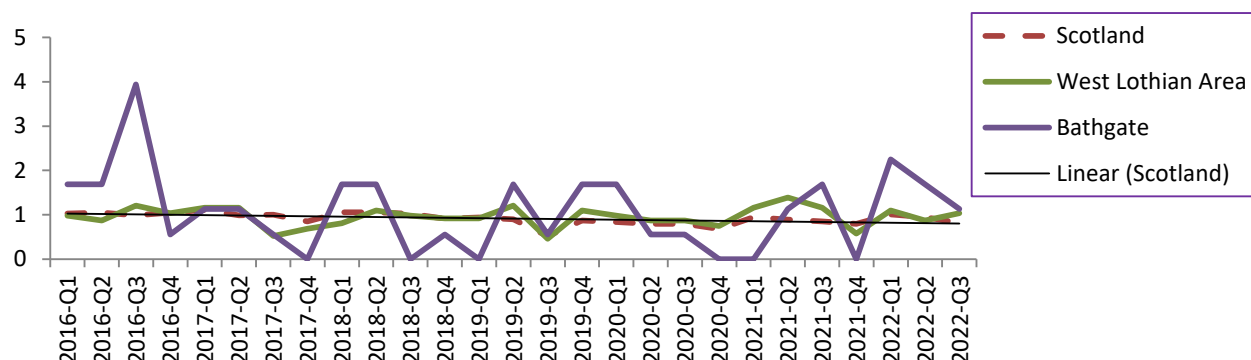
During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 0 Casualties and Fatalities during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



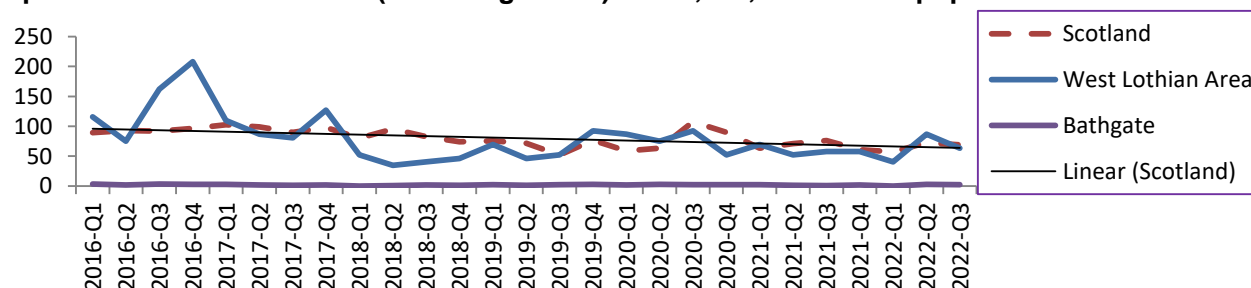
SFRS have dealt with 36 Deliberate fire incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 11 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Fires In Non Domestic Property Per 10,000 head of population



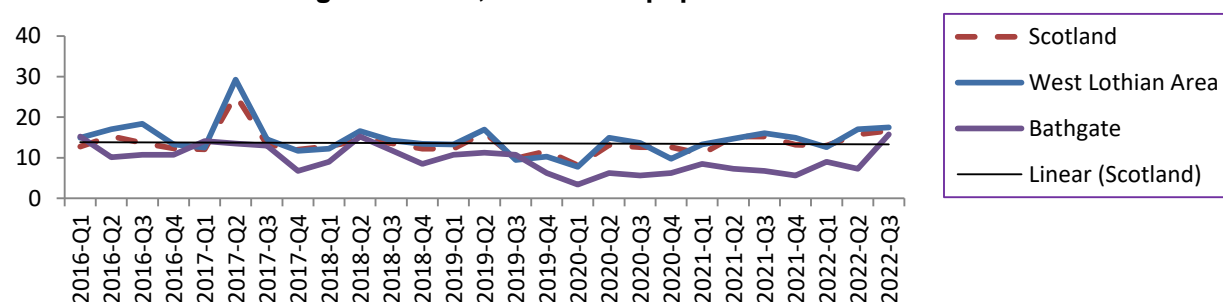
SFRS have dealt with 2 non domestic fire incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 3 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Special Services Casualties (excluding RTC's) Per 1,000,000 head of population



SFRS have dealt with 4 casualties from Special Services during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

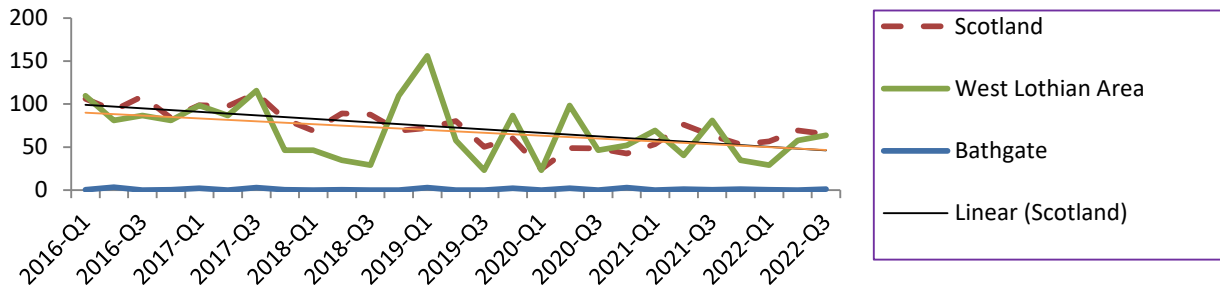


SFRS have dealt with 28 UFAS incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 12 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Additional Comments

SFRS is committed to '*Working Together for a Safer Scotland*' and to engage with business partners to reduce demand from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS).

RTC Casualties and Fatalities Per 1,000,000 head of population



During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 2 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise members of the recent activity of the NET's, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to:

1. Note the work carried out by the service within the local area.
2. Advise of any areas that require further information or investigation.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	Relates to items 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger & 12 – We value and enjoy our built environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	In line with available revenue and capital budgets
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	None

D1 Terms of Report

The report covers the activity for the period 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022.

D2 Grounds Maintenance Routine Works

Grass cutting of open spaces was completed in Mid-October, with all grass areas that required a one-off cut being completed.

The weed spraying programme also finished in October.

Our winter works programme of open space hedge cutting and shrub bed maintenance started in early November and will carry on until early April.

Grounds Maintenance and Cleansing Services will provide a number of staff to cover the Winter Maintenance gritting programme.

Enquiries are being dealt with on a daily basis.

Grounds Maintenance Enquiries

In total 22 ground maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Bench or Seat Enquiries	0	1
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	2	0
Enforcement Officer Enquiries	2	1
Fencing Enquiries	2	0
Grass Area Damaged	0	1
Grass Cutting Enquiries	1	1
Grass Highway Verges	1	0
Ground Ownership Enquiries	1	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	4	3
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	2	5
Public Park Enquiries	1	1
Shrub Bed Enquiries	2	1
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	4	2
Weeds General Enquiries	0	3
Total	22	20

Garden Maintenance Routine Works

The Garden Maintenance Scheme grass cutting was completed along with the Garden Maintenance hedge cutting by the end of October.

Garden Maintenance Enquiries

In total there were four garden maintenance enquiries received and dealt during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Complaint Garden Maintenance	0	2
Garden Maintenance Change Of Address	0	1
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	0	4

Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	2	2
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	2	4
Total	4	13

D4 Cleaner Communities Routine Works

Staff continue to carry out routine works of emptying street litter/ dog waste bins, litter picking and sweeping of footpaths and road channels while dealing with enquiries as they arise.

Officers continue to work with volunteer's litter picking within the Ward and have assisted with arranging the uplift of bags and debris that they have collected.

The NETs team continue to deal with fly tipping enquiries and removing fly tipping from Council ground.

Street Cleansing staff resources at this time of year are directed towards leaf clearance throughout West Lothian. Leaves are lifted from footpaths and roadways using mechanical sweepers and target known areas of concern and react to enquiries that come in from the public within available resources.

Over the coming winter period when required Street Cleansing staff will assist Roads with winter maintenance. During these periods the Street Cleansing Service will be reduced.

Cleaner Communities Enquiries

In total 108 cleaner communities enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Dead Animals	6	5
Dog Bin New Request for Bin	1	1
Dog Bin Overflowing	0	2
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	2	3
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	10	16
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	0	1
Fly Posting	3	0
Fly Tipping Dumping	51	34
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	2	0
Graffiti Non Offensive	1	0
Graffiti Racist or Offensive	0	1
Litter Bin New Request For Bin	2	0
Litter Bin Overflowing	0	1
Litter General Enquiries	1	1
Litter Paths Roads Verges	11	8
Needles/Syringes Abandoned	1	0
Street Sweeping Enquiries	5	8
Trolleys Abandoned/Dumped	1	2
Trolleys Dumped in Livingston	0	1
Vehicles Abandoned	11	13
Total	108	97

Fly Tipping Enquiries (January-December)

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	179	166	201	161	149

Environmental Community Action

The Education, Engagement and Enforcement Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries. There were 51 enquiries in relation to fly tipping for the period compared to 34 for the same period in 2021.

In dealing with abandoned vehicles, Officers have gained compliance from vehicle owners with said vehicles getting removed from public highways or getting taxed in most cases. Where appropriate, requests have been sent to WLC contractors for removal. However, there are instances where vehicle owners are not compliant and result to moving their vehicles between streets. When presented with such tactics, officers have resulted to contacting the DVLA and VOSA for support.

Officers have also had to educate members of the public that their vehicles with a SORN marker needs to be off public roads or kept on private land where they have the landowner's permission or inside a garage. This is a scenario that has occurred quite frequently of late.

Throughout West Lothian, officers continue to engage with volunteering groups, attend regeneration group meetings and render the necessary assistance needed to encourage the exercise they currently perform.

There was No (0) Fixed Penalty Notices issued in Ward 8 for the period 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022. For the same period in 2021, there was No (0) Fixed Penalty Notices issued within the Ward.

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022

Please note the table below for 2022 covers the period of strike action when any Fly tipping would have been taken direct to the contractor's site instead of the Councils transfer station, and is not included in the figures below.

Wards	Number of Fly Tipping Enquiries	% of enquiries relating to Ward	Total Tonnage all wards	Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	Contractor removal of Fly Tipping	Removal of Asbestos
1	14	3.08	71.44	£1,451.71		
2	53	11.67	71.44	£5,495.75		
3	49	10.79	71.44	£5,080.98		
4	115	25.33	71.44	£11,924.98		
5	90	19.82	71.44	£9,332.41		
6	24	5.29	71.44	£2,488.64		
7	37	8.15	71.44	£3,836.66		
8	51	11.23	71.44	£5,288.36		
9	21	4.63	71.44	£2,177.56		
TOTAL	454			£47,077.05		

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021

Wards	Number of Fly Tipping Enquiries	% of enquiries relating to Ward	Total Tonnage all wards	Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	Contractor removal of Fly Tipping	Removal of Asbestos
1	15	3.13	63.64	£1,313.26		
2	65	13.57	63.64	£5,690.80		
3	77	16.08	63.64	£6,741.41		
4	71	14.82	63.64	£6,216.11		
5	126	26.30	63.64	£11,031.41		
6	37	7.72	63.64	£3,329.38		
7	36	7.52	63.64	£3,151.83		
8	34	7.10	63.64	£2,976.73		
9	18	3.76	63.64	£1,575.92		
TOTAL	479			£42,026.85		

Fly-tipping at the Linkston Way site in Bathgate

Our Educational and Engagement Team has been working over the last six - seven months on creating a dialogue with the land owner/developer of the vacant plot on Linkston Way in relation to fly-tipping.

Ryden Properties is the principal developer and responsible for arranging the day-to-day contact over the site on behalf of their client. Ryden will not confirm who the client is but from a land search obtained by WLC from the Scottish Land Register 'CEDAR (MAPLE OAK) LTD' is listed as the current land owner.

Various site visits have taken place and evidence of fly-tipping logged in Confirm enquiries, though no identifying evidence has ever been recovered.

The team previously deployed a remote 'motion triggered camera', but this was found to be ineffective as most instances occurred after dark and the camera became 'blinded' by vehicle lights. Issues surrounding the use of this type of camera were also problematic due to GDPR and the secure storage of any footage as the 'SD Card' could not be encrypted.

After engaging with Ryden, it became clear that no factor had been appointed by the land owner or site developer and it 'may' have been the assumption that West Lothian Council would actively maintain removing litter and fly-tipping.

Ryden approached the Council to assist in locating a contractor to clear the site on behalf of their client's behalf. The team assisted them in providing a list of factors and suitable contractors to undertake a site clean-up.

To our knowledge, a contractor has been appointed and the date for work to take place is to occur before the beginning of March.

At this point, we also advised Ryden about putting in place mitigation measures to stop the re-occurrence of fly-tipping once a site clean-up has taken place.

Reports to WLC of Fly-tipping over the past 12 months February 2022 - February 2023

- 10 logged via Confirm
- 6 direct emails to Cleaner Communities
- 3 from member services on behalf of elected members

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total there were 19 Tree and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Tree Advice or Consultations	2	2
Tree Ash Dieback Disease	1	0
Tree Blocking Light	1	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	5	3
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	2	0
Tree Enquiries General	6	8
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	2	5
Total	19	19

	2022	2021
Access Rights Way Core Paths	1	0
Country Park General Enquiries	1	0
Country Park Forestry or Woods	0	1
Total	2	1

Tree and Woodland Management

Ash Dieback Disease

Areas in and around Bathgate have been selected for Ash dieback felling, mainly on the A roads heading in to Bathgate A800, A89, A7066. These have been identified as having a significant number of ash trees affected by Ash Dieback Disease within the verge owned or maintained by the council. A plan is in place for these to be felled within the next few months. This will require traffic management in order to undertake the work in a safe manner and will cause some disruption to the road network.

Tree Inventory and Safety Inspections

These continue to be rolled out across the council owned / managed land. All areas have been zoned according to usage or other factors.

Ravencraig Wood

Work to remove old redundant fences and tree shelters has continued at Ravencraig with two members of staff on casual contracts assisted by the Community Payback Team.

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	8
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The Assistant Ranger contracts, funded by NatureScot, ended on 31 October. The Ranger Service thank them for their work to raise awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and their help to deliver the 2022 activities programme. A breakdown of their achievements from July-October across West Lothian is shown below.

Total Patrols – 660km
 Total events – 45
 Total schools visited – 39
 Total school lessons – 79
 Total members of public engaged with – 4000+

They visited 18 schools in October, including St.Columbas, Windyknowe and Simpsons Primary Schools, where they delivered a total of nine Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) themed lessons.

The Assistant Rangers carried out multiple patrols of Ravenscraig in October, where they litter picked and removed several bags of rubbish, and ‘turned over’ many fire sites.

The monthly Volunteer Ranger Service (VRS) sessions will resume in March 2023. The Ranger Service will be working in partnership with five ‘Friends of’ groups in 2023 (including the Friends of Little Boghead Nature Park), who will help to look after their local sites. Volunteering opportunities will be advertised on the West Lothian Council Facebook page in early 2023.

The Ranger team are trialling the use of Eventbrite as a booking system for volunteer sessions. The sessions can be found at <https://wlcrangerservice.eventbrite.com>

The Ranger Service are due to submit updated information on the three Country Parks and volunteering opportunities in January, for the Spring edition of the West Lothian Bulletin. These updates will include completed and ongoing projects within the Parks.

The Ranger Service continue to assist different organisations wishing to run events within the Country Parks and wider West Lothian.

Little Boghead Nature Park

The Ranger Service led two volunteer sessions at Little Boghead Nature Park in October in partnership with the Friends of Little Boghead group and the Volunteer Ranger Service. Volunteers helped to hand scythe the meadow area, cut back turf to widen the paths and litter pick the site.

The Ranger Service have planned in four Ranger-led volunteering sessions for the Nature Park in 2023, with tasks including removing pond debris, vegetation management, widening paths and building hibernacula for amphibians and reptiles for over-winter. These sessions will be open to members of the public to join and will be listed on the Eventbrite page for WLC Ranger Service, listed above.

Access

The Rangers continue to review all West Lothian planning applications for access implications, and submit comments to Planning Services.

The Access Ranger post has been filled, and the Ranger team are in the process of talking through existing access issues and the format for submitting planning comments with the Access Ranger, to move enquiries forward and process new ones.

There was one new enquiry received during this time, concerning damaged signage at Little Boghead Nature Park. The signs were picked up by the Ranger team and found to have rotting legs. These will be repaired and reinstalled this year. Any access enquiries should continue to be reported through the 'Report it > Core Paths & Rights of Way' section on the Council's website.

Ecology and Biodiversity

Ecology and Biodiversity Officers participated in further co design workshops on "Nature Networks" and "30x30" led by NatureScot. Nature networks and 30 x 30 are two key mechanisms being put forward to meet Scottish Biodiversity Strategy objectives. These workshops were to steer and inform how Scotland should be taking forward protection of important habitats and species and how to best secure positive effects for biodiversity in line with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (draft published in December 2022 with further consultation expected Spring 2023). We plan to use this to help inform the forthcoming West Lothian LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan).

Planning – Officers continue to provide input to planning applications, to ensure that legislation for the protection of wildlife, and policies and processes to safeguard the environment are followed. This ranges from written responses, to meetings with Planning Officers and developers to discuss particular concerns (for example with regard to protected species). This type of proactive working with developers and the Planning team should encourage better results for local environments and wildlife in future applications.

Officers have been involved in assisting the Flood team in site surveys and ecological advice for planned works to prevent flooding within Bathgate Cemetery. There are multiple constraints that need to be considered as part of the design.

WLC Climate Emergency Fund projects

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) – the consultants are writing up reports on their mapping work, which will be used to inform the overall LBAP. Ecology and Biodiversity officers have begun contacting other potential stakeholders in West Lothian.
- Tree-Time West Lothian was successfully launched with a large golden weeping willow planted in the grounds of Almondvale Park near West Lothian Council Civic Centre, Livingston on 30 November. Tree Time is an initiative to help increase tree planting in West Lothian by offering a way of commemorating a loved one's life, marking a child's birth, celebrating a special anniversary or just to show how much a person cares about trees and/or West Lothian as a place. A number of larger tree tags explaining the scheme and advertising the importance of trees to climate change and biodiversity have been placed throughout West Lothian and postcards have been left in strategic locations too. The scheme will be reviewed in a year's time but will function relatively independently through our partner Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) with input where required from West Lothian Council staff.
- Wee forest Scheme – Boghall – Officers have been working with our partners Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) to finalise plans for the installation of West Lothian's fourth wee forest as part of the climate emergency funding. The trees have been ordered and the intention is for ELGT to deliver the scheme mid-March working with local schools (to be confirmed).

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Windyknowe Park, Bathgate – The first phase of works is scheduled to start on 27 February. This includes new entrances, paths and seat installation. Quotes are waited for removing the existing goals and installing new multi-goals. The goals will incorporate a basketball hoop in order to maintain the size of the existing playing area (rather than reduce this area to accommodate a separate basketball hoop).

Balbardie Park, Bathgate – Work is on site to improve the path network in the north-west corner of the park. Completion is expected before the end of February.

Open Space Enquiries

There were three Open Space enquiries for this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Childrens Play Enquiries	2	2
Glass or Litter In Play Areas	1	0
Safety Issues In Play Areas	0	1
Total	3	3

Cemeteries Routine Works

Routine grass cutting and weed control tasks have been completed. Seasonal maintenance works and lair reinstatement and burial duties are ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquires

There were 97 Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Cemeteries General Enquiries	20	10
Cemetery Property Vandalised	1	0
Family History Searches	1	0
Lair Enquiries	4	10
Lair Sunken or Uneven	2	1
Memorial/ Headstone Works	21	35
New Interment Booking	37	30
Purchase of Interment Lair	10	17
War Memorial Enquiries	1	1
Total	97	104

E CONCLUSION

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries.

The Open Space Capital Programme is progressing as scheduled.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Pat McArdle, Whitehill Service Centre, Bathgate 01506 284616,
Pat.McArdle@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
06 March 2023

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SERVICE UPDATE – NETS, LAND & COUNTRYSIDE

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

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Ground Ownership Enquiries	1	1
Grounds Property Vandalised	4	3
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Public Park Enquiries	1	1
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5	90	19.82	71.44	£9,332.41		
6	24	5.29	71.44	£2,488.64		
7	37	8.15	71.44	£3,836.66		
8	51	11.23	71.44	£5,288.36		
9	21	4.63	71.44	£2,177.56		
TOTAL	454			£47,077.05		

Costs for fly tipping for the period 1 October 2021 – 31 December 2021

Wards	Number of Fly Tipping Enquiries	% of enquiries relating to Ward	Total Tonnage all wards	Cost of disposal including costs for NETs team/vehicles	Contractor removal of Fly Tipping	Removal of Asbestos
1	15	3.13	63.64	£1,313.26		
2	65	13.57	63.64	£5,690.80		
3	77	16.08	63.64	£6,741.41		
4	71	14.82	63.64	£6,216.11		
5	126	26.30	63.64	£11,031.41		
6	37	7.72	63.64	£3,329.38		
7	36	7.52	63.64	£3,151.83		
8	34	7.10	63.64	£2,976.73		
9	18	3.76	63.64	£1,575.92		
TOTAL	479			£42,026.85		

Fly-tipping at the Linkston Way site in Bathgate

Our Educational and Engagement Team has been working over the last six - seven months on creating a dialogue with the land owner/developer of the vacant plot on Linkston Way in relation to fly-tipping.

Ryden Properties is the principal developer and responsible for arranging the day-to-day contact over the site on behalf of their client. Ryden will not confirm who the client is but from a land search obtained by WLC from the Scottish Land Register 'CEDAR (MAPLE OAK) LTD' is listed as the current land owner.

Various site visits have taken place and evidence of fly-tipping logged in Confirm enquiries, though no identifying evidence has ever been recovered.

The team previously deployed a remote 'motion triggered camera', but this was found to be ineffective as most instances occurred after dark and the camera became 'blinded' by vehicle lights. Issues surrounding the use of this type of camera were also problematic due to GDPR and the secure storage of any footage as the 'SD Card' could not be encrypted.

After engaging with Ryden, it became clear that no factor had been appointed by the land owner or site developer and it 'may' have been the assumption that West Lothian Council would actively maintain removing litter and fly-tipping.

Ryden approached the Council to assist in locating a contractor to clear the site on behalf of their client's behalf. The team assisted them in providing a list of factors and suitable contractors to undertake a site clean-up.

To our knowledge, a contractor has been appointed and the date for work to take place is to occur before the beginning of March.

At this point, we also advised Ryden about putting in place mitigation measures to stop the re-occurrence of fly-tipping once a site clean-up has taken place.

Reports to WLC of Fly-tipping over the past 12 months February 2022 - February 2023

- 10 logged via Confirm
- 6 direct emails to Cleaner Communities
- 3 from member services on behalf of elected members

Legal powers available to West Lothian Council in relation to fly-tipping

Most of the legal powers available to local authorities to tackle the issue of fly-tipping are set out in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Act).

The Act creates various offences in relation to the mishandling of controlled waste, in summary making it:-

- an offence to deposit controlled waste, without a licence
- an offence to treat, keep or dispose of controlled waste except in accordance with a waste management licence
- an offence to keep or manage controlled waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health

The Act gives local authorities power to issue fixed penalty notices to individuals who have acted contrary to its provisions.

Local authorities have an obligation to ensure publicly accessible land, for which *they* are responsible, is kept clear of litter and refuse, and to keep roads clean, but in respect of land it does not own, has some powers under the Act to require the occupier, or owner, to remove unlawfully deposited waste within a specific timeframe.

In exercising such powers, authorities can serve notices on the occupier of land requiring them to remove waste which has been unlawfully deposited there, or to take specified steps, within a period of not less than 21 days. The authority can also specify steps that the occupier must take, within the same timeframe, to eliminate/reduce the consequences of the unauthorised waste disposal. Where an occupier fails to comply with a notice, the authority can remove the waste itself, and recover its expenses in doing so from the occupier.

The occupier can appeal to the Sheriff Court. The Court can quash the notice in the event that it is not satisfied of its requirements.

If an authority requires information in order to discharge its functions in relation to any of its powers, then, the Act, give power to serve any person with a notice requiring them to provide that information.

There is also power under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 allowing an authority to given notice requiring maintenance of land to be undertaken.

There are provisions under other legislation which may be used in particular circumstances beyond those in the Act, however, they are not necessarily relevant to instances of fly tipping, and so are not covered here. They relate to removal and seizing of vehicles, and pest control which may be applicable depending upon the circumstances at fly tipping locations.

As it stands we are in conversation with the landowner and trust he will carry out their commitments.

If a future event was to occur and where the full powers of the law were an option we would need to speak to Legal Services for advice and take into account resources and cost implications.

D5 Parks and Woodland

Parks and Woodland Enquiries

In total there were 19 Tree and Woodland related enquiries were received during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Tree Advice or Consultations	2	2
Tree Ash Dieback Disease	1	0
Tree Blocking Light	1	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	5	3
Tree Dangerous or Unsafe	2	0
Tree Enquiries General	6	8
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	2	5
Total	19	19

	2022	2021
Access Rights Way Core Paths	1	0
Country Park General Enquiries	1	0
Country Park Forestry or Woods	0	1
Total	2	1

Tree and Woodland Management

Ash Dieback Disease

Areas in and around Bathgate have been selected for Ash dieback felling, mainly on the A roads heading in to Bathgate A800, A89, A7066. These have been identified as having a significant number of ash trees affected by Ash Dieback Disease within the verge owned or maintained by the council. A plan is in place for these to be felled within the next few months. This will require traffic management in order to undertake the work in a safe manner and will cause some disruption to the road network.

Tree Inventory and Safety Inspections

These continue to be rolled out across the council owned / managed land. All areas have been zoned according to usage or other factors.

Ravencraig Wood

Work to remove old redundant fences and tree shelters has continued at Ravencraig with two members of staff on casual contracts assisted by the Community Payback Team.

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	8
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The Assistant Ranger contracts, funded by NatureScot, ended on 31 October. The Ranger Service thank them for their work to raise awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and their help to deliver the 2022 activities programme. A breakdown of their achievements from July-October across West Lothian is shown below.

Total Patrols – 660km

Total events – 45

Total schools visited – 39

Total school lessons – 79

Total members of public engaged with – 4000+

They visited 18 schools in October, including St.Columbas, Windyknowe and Simpsons Primary Schools, where they delivered a total of nine Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC) themed lessons.

The Assistant Rangers carried out multiple patrols of Ravenraig in October, where they litter picked and removed several bags of rubbish, and ‘turned over’ many fire sites.

The monthly Volunteer Ranger Service (VRS) sessions will resume in March 2023. The Ranger Service will be working in partnership with five ‘Friends of’ groups in 2023 (including the Friends of Little Boghead Nature Park), who will help to look after their local sites. Volunteering opportunities will be advertised on the West Lothian Council Facebook page in early 2023.

The Ranger team are trialling the use of Eventbrite as a booking system for volunteer sessions. The sessions can be found at <https://wlcangerservice.eventbrite.com>

The Ranger Service are due to submit updated information on the three Country Parks and volunteering opportunities in January, for the Spring edition of the West Lothian Bulletin. These updates will include completed and ongoing projects within the Parks.

The Ranger Service continue to assist different organisations wishing to run events within the Country Parks and wider West Lothian.

Little Boghead Nature Park

The Ranger Service led two volunteer sessions at Little Boghead Nature Park in October in partnership with the Friends of Little Boghead group and the Volunteer Ranger Service. Volunteers helped to hand scythe the meadow area, cut back turf to widen the paths and litter pick the site.

The Ranger Service have planned in four Ranger-led volunteering sessions for the Nature Park in 2023, with tasks including removing pond debris, vegetation management, widening paths and building hibernacula for amphibians and reptiles for over-winter. These sessions will be open to members of the public to join and will be listed on the Eventbrite page for WLC Ranger Service, listed above.

Access

The Rangers continue to review all West Lothian planning applications for access implications, and submit comments to Planning Services.

The Access Ranger post has been filled, and the Ranger team are in the process of talking through existing access issues and the format for submitting planning comments with the Access Ranger, to move enquiries forward and process new ones. There was one new enquiry received during this time, concerning damaged signage at Little Boghead Nature Park. The signs were picked up by the Ranger team and found to have rotting legs. These will be repaired and reinstalled this year. Any access enquiries should continue to be reported through the 'Report it > Core Paths & Rights of Way' section on the Council's website.

Ecology and Biodiversity

Ecology and Biodiversity Officers participated in further co design workshops on "Nature Networks" and "30x30" led by NatureScot. Nature networks and 30 x 30 are two key mechanisms being put forward to meet Scottish Biodiversity Strategy objectives. These workshops were to steer and inform how Scotland should be taking forward protection of important habitats and species and how to best secure positive effects for biodiversity in line with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (draft published in December 2022 with further consultation expected Spring 2023). We plan to use this to help inform the forthcoming West Lothian LBAP (Local Biodiversity Action Plan).

Planning – Officers continue to provide input to planning applications, to ensure that legislation for the protection of wildlife, and policies and processes to safeguard the environment are followed. This ranges from written responses, to meetings with Planning Officers and developers to discuss particular concerns (for example with regard to protected species). This type of proactive working with developers and the Planning team should encourage better results for local environments and wildlife in future applications.

Officers have been involved in assisting the Flood team in site surveys and ecological advice for planned works to prevent flooding within Bathgate Cemetery. There are multiple constraints that need to be considered as part of the design.

WLC Climate Emergency Fund projects

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) – the consultants are writing up reports on their mapping work, which will be used to inform the overall LBAP. Ecology and Biodiversity officers have begun contacting other potential stakeholders in West Lothian.
- Tree-Time West Lothian was successfully launched with a large golden weeping willow planted in the grounds of Almondvale Park near West Lothian Council Civic Centre, Livingston on 30 November. Tree Time is an initiative to help increase tree planting in West Lothian by offering a way of commemorating a loved one's life, marking a child's birth, celebrating a special anniversary or just to show how much a person cares about trees and/or West Lothian as a place. A number of larger tree tags explaining the scheme and advertising the importance of trees to climate change and biodiversity have been placed throughout West Lothian and postcards have been left in strategic locations too. The scheme will be reviewed in a year's time but will function relatively independently through our partner Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) with input where required from West Lothian Council staff.
- Wee forest Scheme – Boghall – Officers have been working with our partners Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT) to finalise plans for the installation of West Lothian's fourth wee forest as part of the climate emergency funding. The trees have been ordered and the intention is for ELGT to deliver the scheme mid-March working with local schools (to be confirmed).

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Windyknowe Park, Bathgate – The first phase of works is scheduled to start on 27 February. This includes new entrances, paths and seat installation. Quotes are waited for removing the existing goals and installing new multi-goals. The goals will incorporate a basketball hoop in order to maintain the size of the existing playing area (rather than reduce this area to accommodate a separate basketball hoop).

Balbardie Park, Bathgate – Work is on site to improve the path network in the north-west corner of the park. Completion is expected before the end of February.

Open Space Enquiries

There were three Open Space enquiries for this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Childrens Play Enquiries	2	2
Glass or Litter In Play Areas	1	0
Safety Issues In Play Areas	0	1
Total	3	3

Cemeteries Routine Works

Routine grass cutting and weed control tasks have been completed. Seasonal maintenance works and lair reinstatement and burial duties are ongoing across the cemetery estates.

Cemeteries Enquires

There were 97 Cemeteries enquiries for this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Cemeteries General Enquiries	20	10
Cemetery Property Vandalised	1	0
Family History Searches	1	0
Lair Enquiries	4	10
Lair Sunken or Uneven	2	1
Memorial/ Headstone Works	21	35
New Interment Booking	37	30
Purchase of Interment Lair	10	17
War Memorial Enquiries	1	1
Total	97	104

E CONCLUSION

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries.

The Open Space Capital Programme is progressing as scheduled.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Open Space Strategy

Capital Programme

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person: Pat McArdle, Whitehill Service Centre, Bathgate 01506 284616,
Pat.McArdle@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
06 March 2023

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

SPACES FOR PEOPLE CONSULTATION

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to consult with the Local Area Committee (LAC) in accordance with the amendment approved by Council on 22 November 2022. The approved amendment provides an opportunity for the committee to provide feedback on whether the council's remaining temporary Spaces for People measures should be permanently retained or removed.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the LAC

1. Notes the contents of this report and provides any appropriate feedback on the remaining temporary Spaces for People measures contained within this report; and
2. Notes that Officers will report back to a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainability PDSP with any feedback received.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	None.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	None.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None.

VII Consideration at PDSP None.

VIII Other consultations None.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

On the 22 November 2022 the Council considered a report in relation to the consultation carried out with statutory and public consultees on the remaining Spaces for People (SfP) measures that were introduced during the Covid19 pandemic. The report provided information gathered on the remaining SfP measures to allow Council to decide on whether the SfP measures should be retained or removed.

The Council debated a motion and an amendment on the Spaces for People programme, both are set out in Appendix 1. Council approved the terms of the amendment but with the requirement for a future report to be taken to the Environment and Sustainability PDSP with any feedback received from Local Area Committees. A link to the report referred to in the amendment (22 November 2022) is provided in section F of this report.

D.2 Spaces for People – Previous consultations

In the background references of this report, there are two previous reports presented to Council which detail the work carried out for the SfP programme. These reports detail the consultation work that has also been carried out, however the following information summarises the temporary SfP measures which remain at the present time and should be removed or retained.

D.2.1 Spaces for People – Parking suspensions

Parking suspensions were installed through the SfP programme to provide more space on the footway for all footway users. The two footway parking suspensions on the East Loanings, High Street, Linlithgow (numbers 33 to 41 and 43 to 57) had a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) in place through the pandemic to prevent footway parking which has since expired on the 26 April 2022.

At the West Loanings in Linlithgow, temporary rubber kerbing and reflective bollards were installed to reduce the generous car parking bays to provide more space for footway users at the rear of the parking bays, no TTRO was required.

The east loaning parking in Linlithgow is the only measure that requires statutory consultation due to the existing pre-Covid permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that is in place to permit parking on the footway.

Should the decision be taken to remove the original East Loaning parking in Linlithgow officers would revoke the existing permanent TRO and then remove the signs and road markings that are currently in place.

The West Loaning parking at 183-245 High Street, Linlithgow should return to the pre-Covid conditions as there is adequate space to permit parking and the movement of pedestrians. There was no change to the existing TRO through the SfP programme, temporary bollards and kerbs were installed to formalise the existing parking arrangements.

D.2.2 Spaces for People – Footway build outs and advisory cycle lanes

The SfP footway build-outs were installed to provide more space for people to pass each other on narrow footways and pinch points. These footway widenings were installed at High Street in Linlithgow, Main Street in East Calder, Main Street in Mid Calder, Main Street West Calder, and Station Road in Kirknewton. These are constructed with temporary surfacing, temporary kerbing and removable reflective bollards.

The cycle lanes were installed in May 2021 in Linlithgow (B9080 Edinburgh Road and A706 St Ninians Road), Broxburn (A899 East Main Street) and Blackridge (A89 through the town). This SfP package of work involved road markings to denote advisory cycle lanes and temporary bollards in areas where suitable to segregate cyclists and motorised vehicles. The temporary bollards were removed from the Blackridge scheme shortly after installation.

The frontagers' directly affected by the footway build-outs and the advisory cycle lanes installed as part of the SfP programme were consulted, however this was a public consultation and not a statutory consultation.

From the footway widening build-out frontage consultation, the locations at East Calder and Kirknewton were more positive in terms of retention of the measures. Opinion on all other footway build-outs at Linlithgow, West Calder and Mid Calder were that they be removed.

Should it be considered that the footway build-outs are retained then funding would be required to be made available to design and construct these measures permanently which would include concrete kerbing, new drainage systems and formal footway surfacing to the appropriate standards.

From the advisory cycle lane frontage consultation, the opinion was that they should all be removed from the responses received. It should be noted however that the removal of the advisory cycle lane measures would be against national strategies and guidance on promoting active travel.

It should be noted that all the cycle lane measures that were installed as part of the SfP measures are advisory, vehicles can park on them and as a result, cyclists will cycle around parked vehicles.

The B9080 Edinburgh Road in Linlithgow advisory cycle lane was installed to assist cyclists cycling uphill out of Linlithgow on the carriageway that was narrowed by existing on-street parking. This parking was relocated to the opposite side of the carriageway allowing additional space for eastbound vehicles to pass slow moving uphill cyclists. This was deemed by officers as an appropriate alteration to existing conditions. Should this be retained then the appropriate traffic regulation orders would have to be promoted.

On the A706 St Ninians Road, the advisory cycle lane outside residential properties on the west side with on-street parking could be removed, however the east side could remain due to lower numbers of on-street parking. Similarly, this scheme could remain in its entirety and consideration could be given to removing the temporary bollards and kerbs but keeping the advisory road markings in position.

The A89 East Main Street in Broxburn advisory cycle lane measures involved an extension of the existing cycle lane features. Consideration could be given to removing the temporary bollards and kerbs but keeping the advisory road markings in position.

Finally, the A89 through Blackridge consists of advisory road markings only which not only promotes active travel through the town but visually assists in slowing vehicle speeds, particularly when entering in the wide carriageway section from Armadale.

Drawings of the remaining SfP measures highlighted above are shown in Appendix 2.

E. CONCLUSION

The information contained within this report will allow the Local Area Committee to consider whether the remaining temporary SfP measures should be retained or removed. Feedback provided by the committee will assist officers in preparing a future report deciding which measures should be retained and which measures should be removed.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Spaces for People – Feedback on engagement with communities and stakeholders report to Council on the 15 March 2022:

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%93rz%8C>

Spaces for People – Consultation feedback report to Council on the 22 November 2022:

<https://coins.westlothian.gov.uk/coins/viewDoc.asp?c=e%97%9Di%97i%7D%8B>

Appendices : 2

Appendix 1 – Motion and Amendment from Council meeting on 22 November 2022

Appendix 2 – Drawings showing the remaining temporary Spaces for People measures

Contact Person: Gordon Brown, Roads and Transportation Manager

email: gordon.brown@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
6 March 2023

APPENDIX 1 – MOTION AND AMENDMENT FROM COUNCIL MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2022

MOTION

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL LABOUR GROUP

Notice of Motion from Councillor Tom Conn
for the Council meeting on 22nd November 2022

Item 14 – Spaces for People Consultation Feedback

Council notes the recommendations set out in the officer's report.

Council also notes that the Scottish Government's Active Travel (AT) budget has been growing year on year since its inception, doubling to £80m pa in 2018/19 and currently £150m pa in 2022/23. The Bute House Agreement committed to increase the AT budget to at least £320m pa, or 10% of the total transport budget by 2024/25.

With this background and recognising that as a Council we need to improve the environment which increases walking, wheeling and cycling activities within our built environment. Indeed, Transport Scotland defines and sets out its commitment to active travel as *“a vision of enabling walking, wheeling and cycling to be the most popular mode of travel, everyday journeys. We want to make Scotland's towns and cities friendlier, safer, and more accessible for people of all ages and abilities.”*

In further consideration of how improvements can be taken forward Council agrees that;

in Linlithgow the east Loaning parking existing permanent TRO should be revoked to remove the permitted footway parking to improve pedestrian movement on this footway for both residents and visitors, (cost estimate £6000); make permanent the B9080 temporary cycleway to make this stretch of road safer for both cyclists and drivers; remove the cycle lane on the west side of St. Ninian's Road (cost estimate £7,500) but retain the cycle lane on the east side and remove the existing temporary measure and review the design and drainage of the extended footway in the High Street with a view to making it permanent to improve pedestrian movement for both residents and visitors

In Station Road, Kirknewton that the footway “build outs” are made permanent (cost estimate £25,000).

In Main Street, East Calder that the footway “build outs” are made permanent (cost estimate £15,000).

All of the above to be developed as projects within the Active Travel programme as funding becomes available through Transport Scotland.

All other temporary footway build outs are removed.

The advisory cycle lanes in Blackridge and Broxburn are retained, however any temporary kerbing and bollards are removed.



Councillor Tom Conn

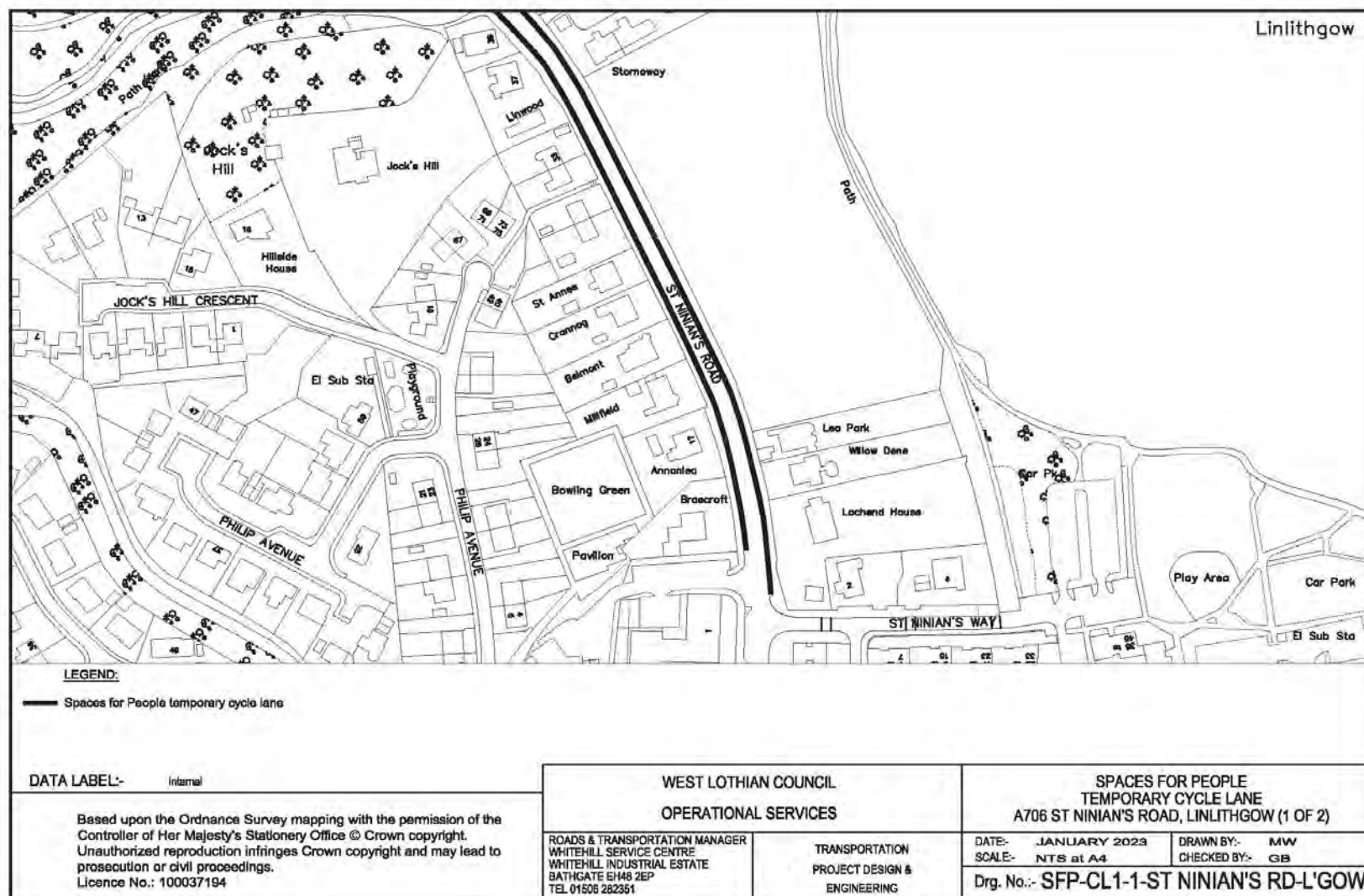
AMENDMENT

"Whilst we agree with some of the measures indicated, we further agree it should be presented to a relevant PDSP for proper discussion and proper scrutiny. This council agrees that in consulting with the people of West Lothian with regard to the S4P programme we have not gone far enough, as evidenced by the poor returns shown in Appendix 1. We therefore move that this report is not agreed today but goes back to all of the LACS, to all community councils in West Lothian, and to all elected members, with a view to a further report being brought back to the next Environment PDSP that is scheduled."

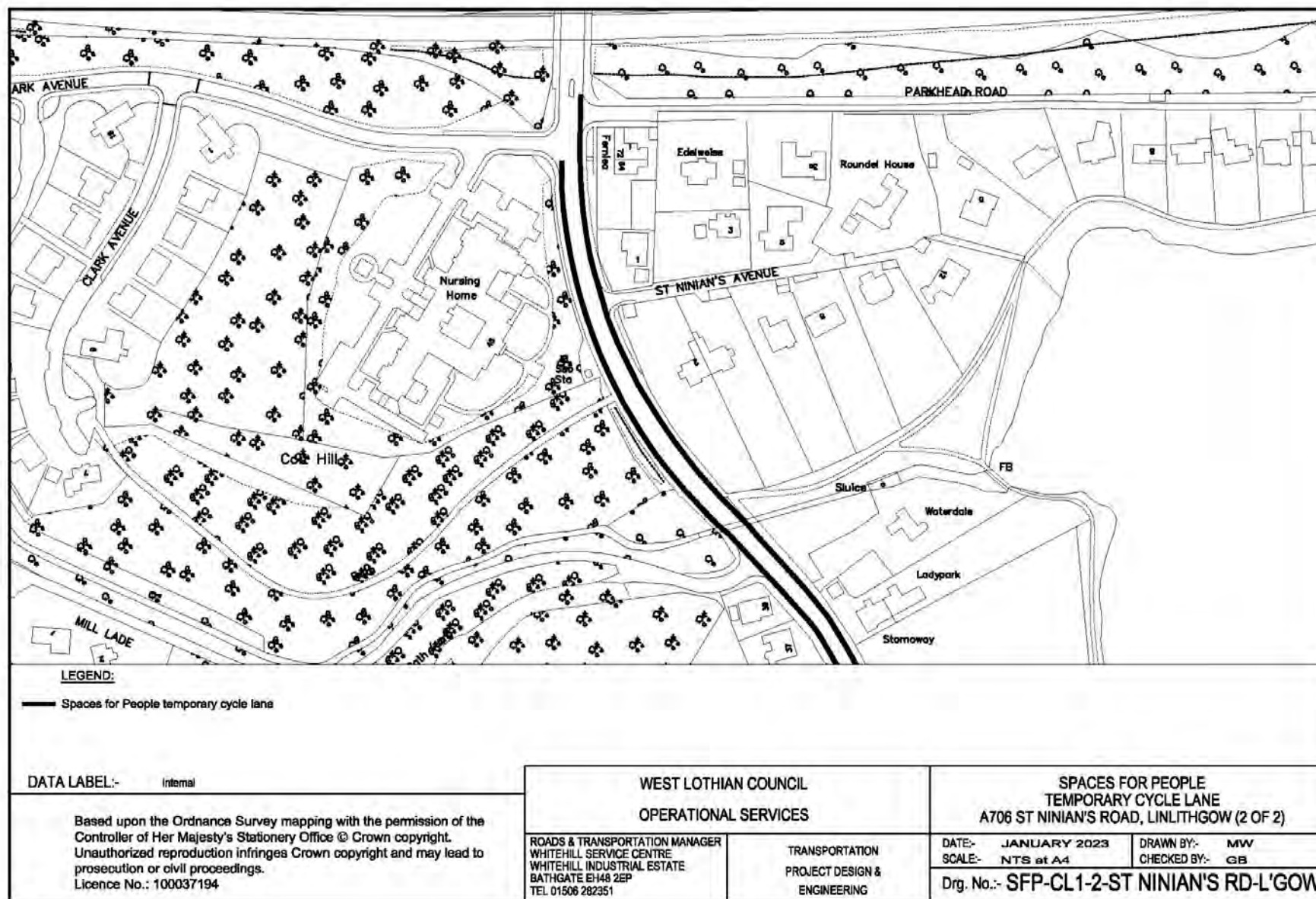
Councillor Janet Campbell

APPENDIX 2 – DRAWINGS SHOWING THE REMAINING TEMPORARY SPACES FOR PEOPLE MEASURES

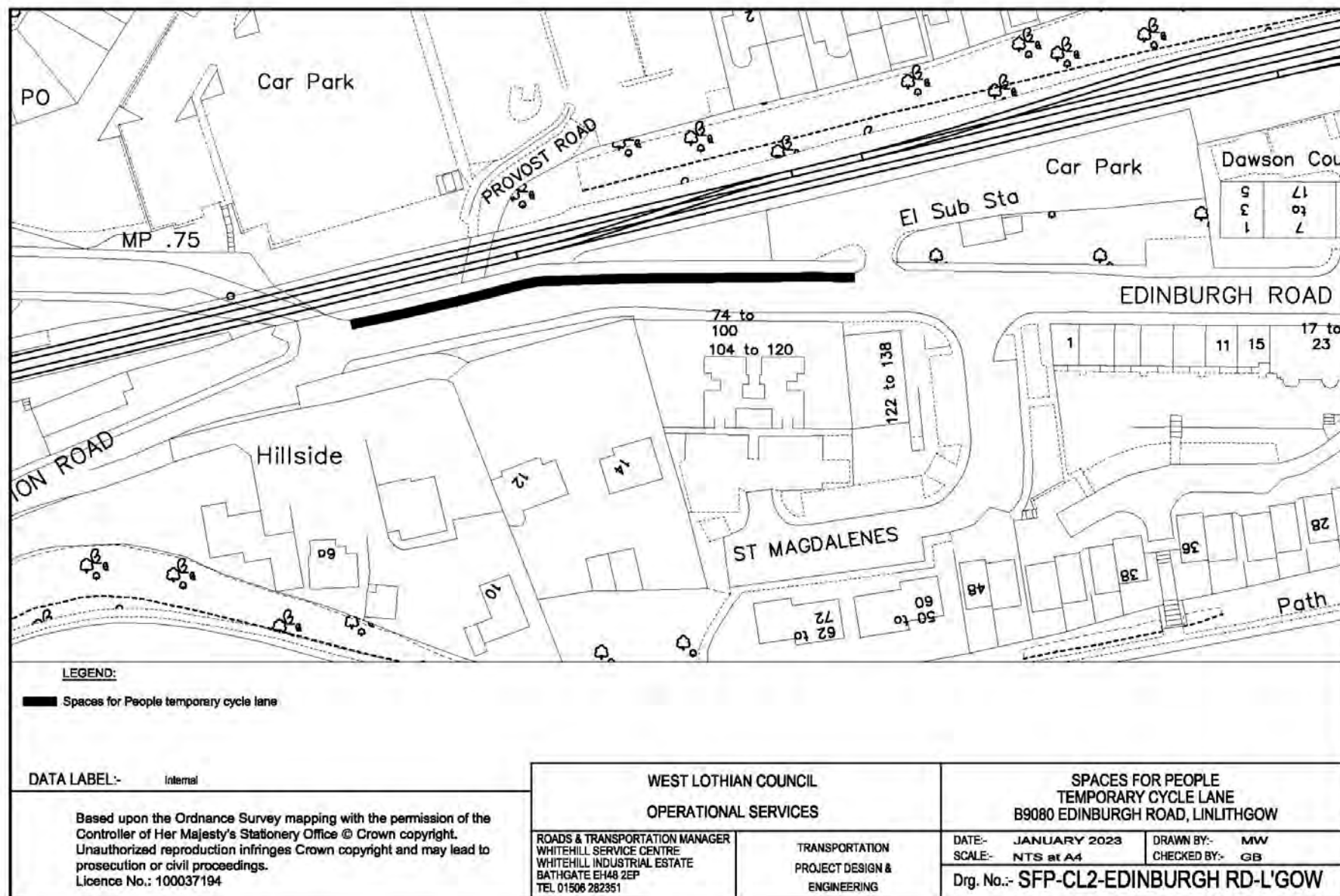
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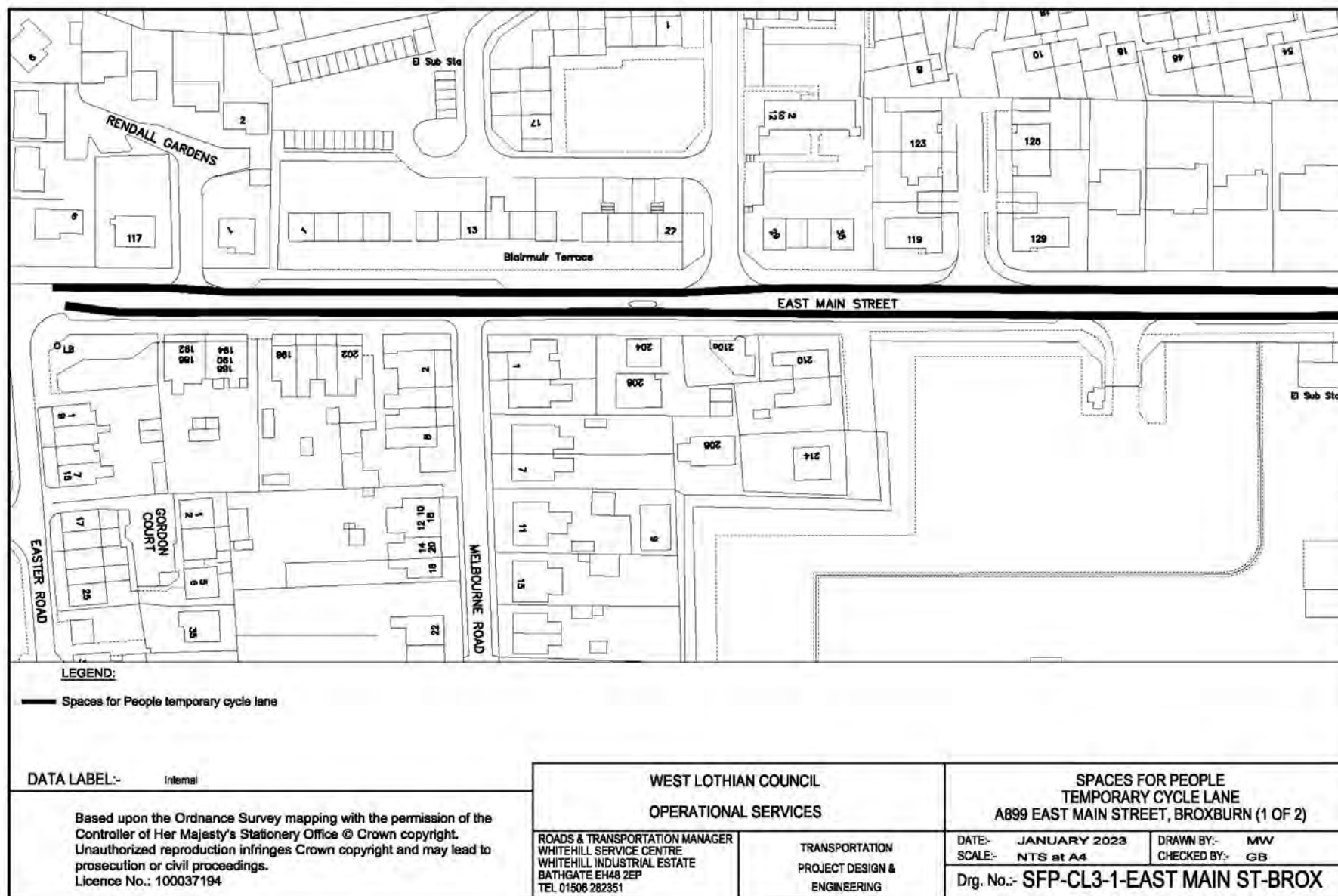
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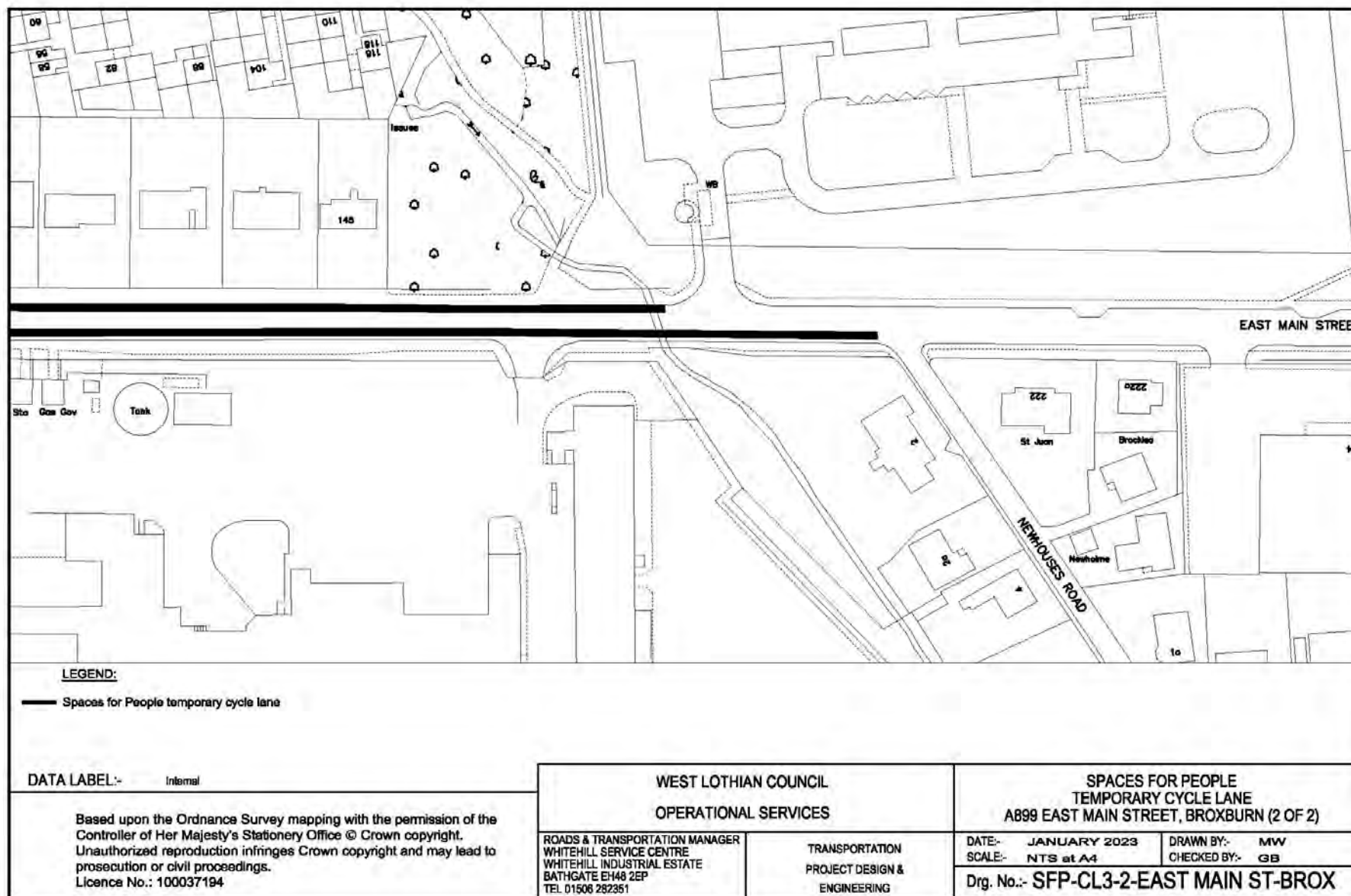
SFP-CL2-EDINBURGH RD-L'GOW



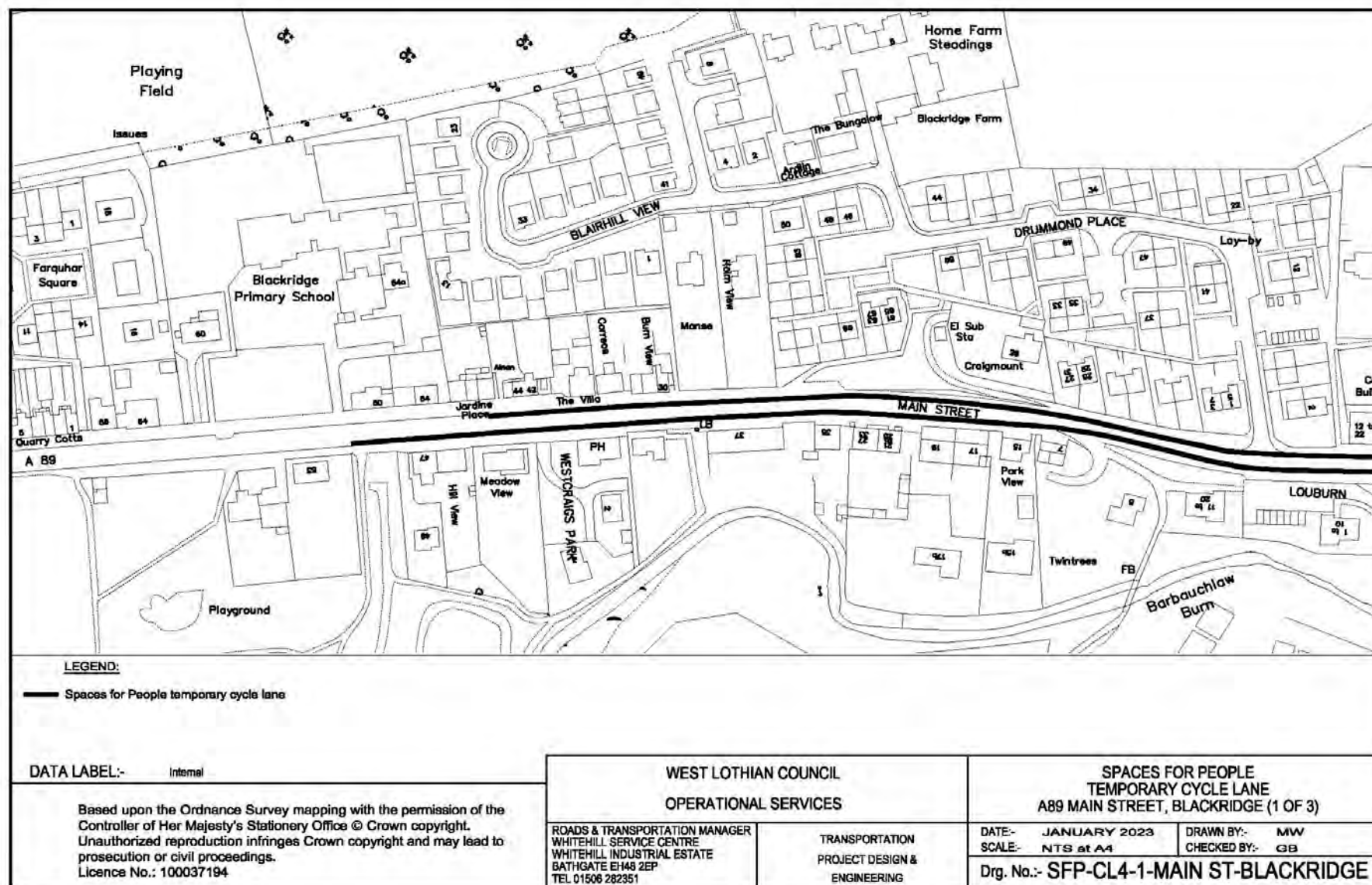
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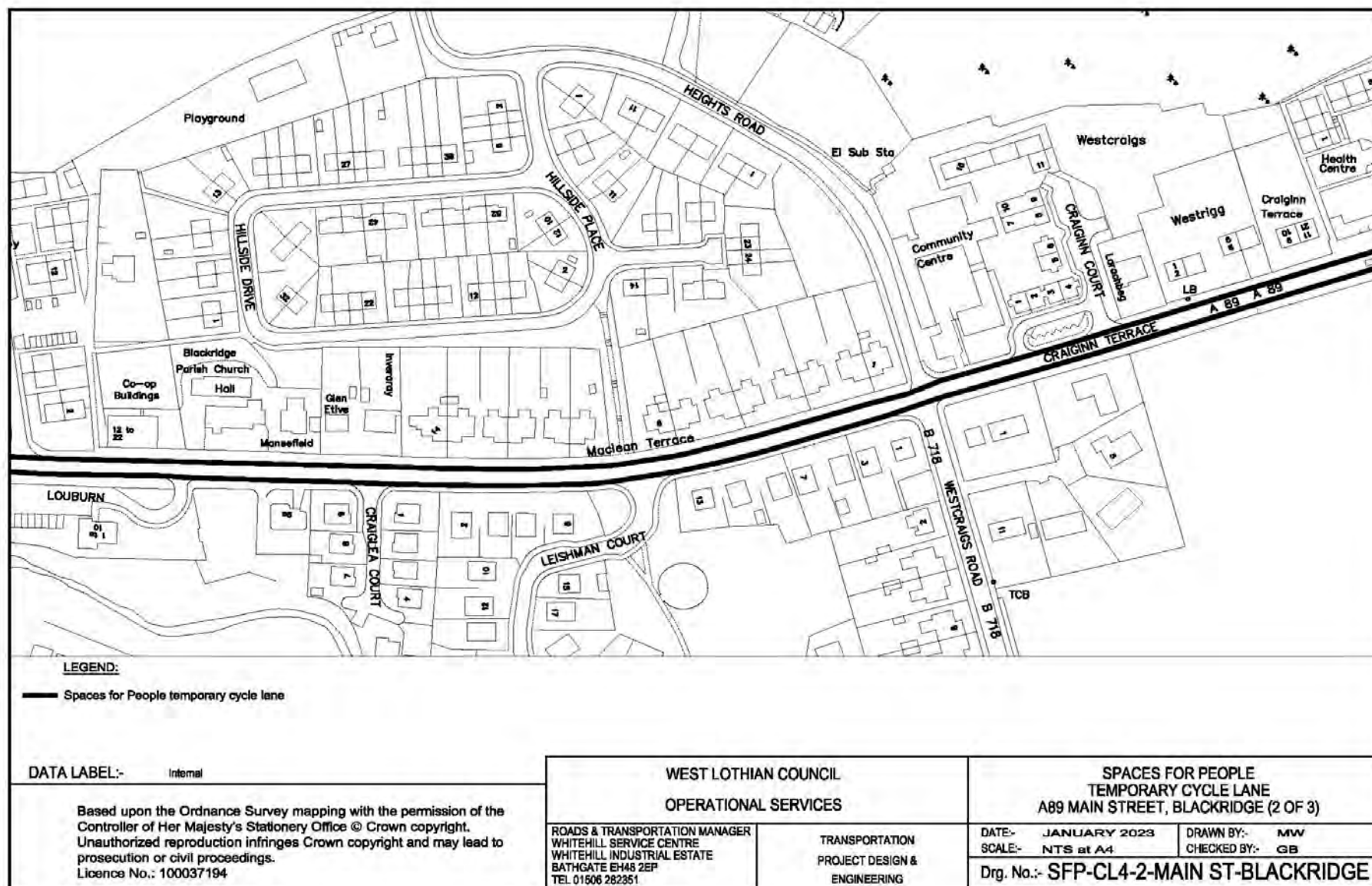
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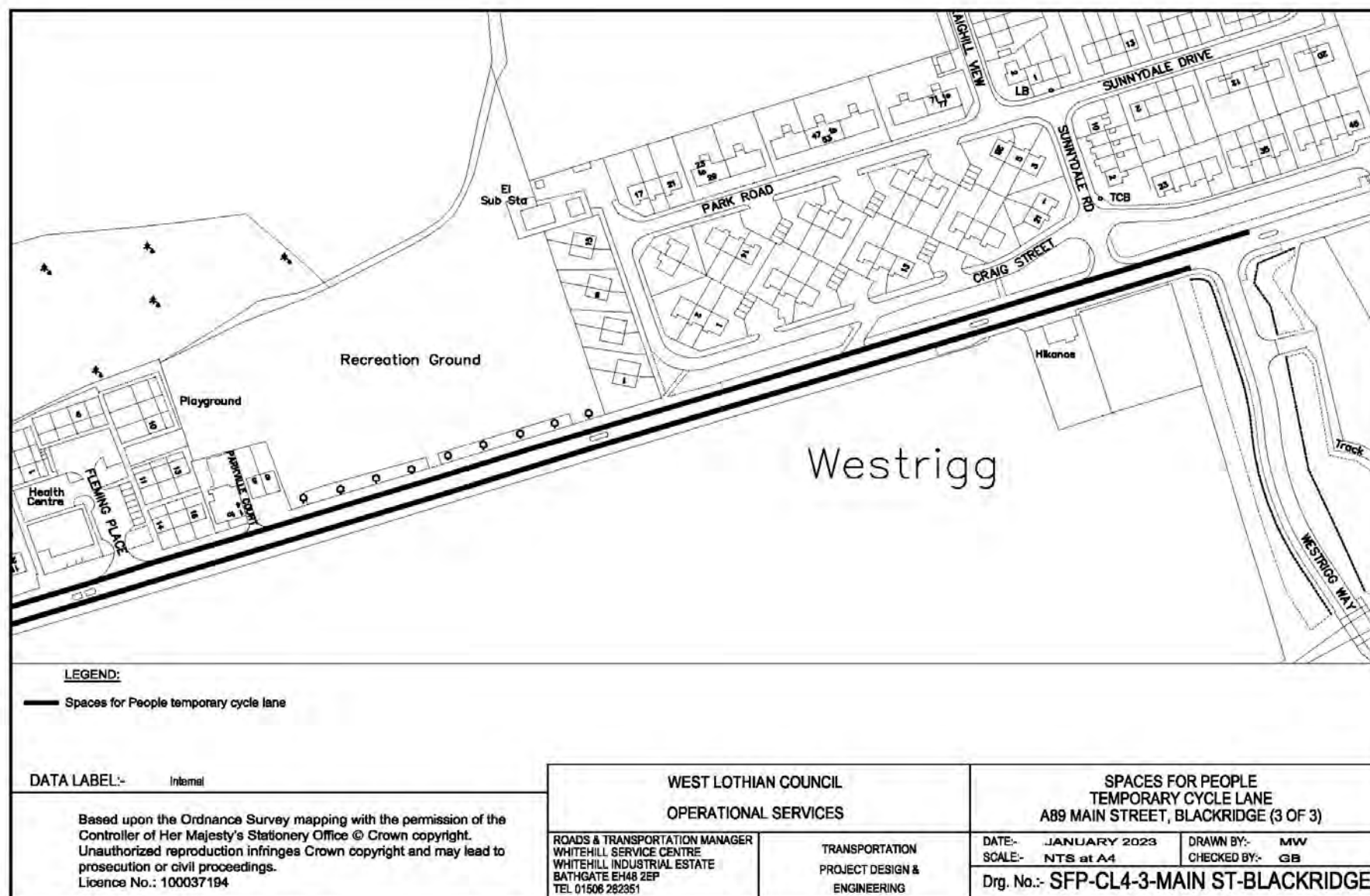
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BLACKRIDGE



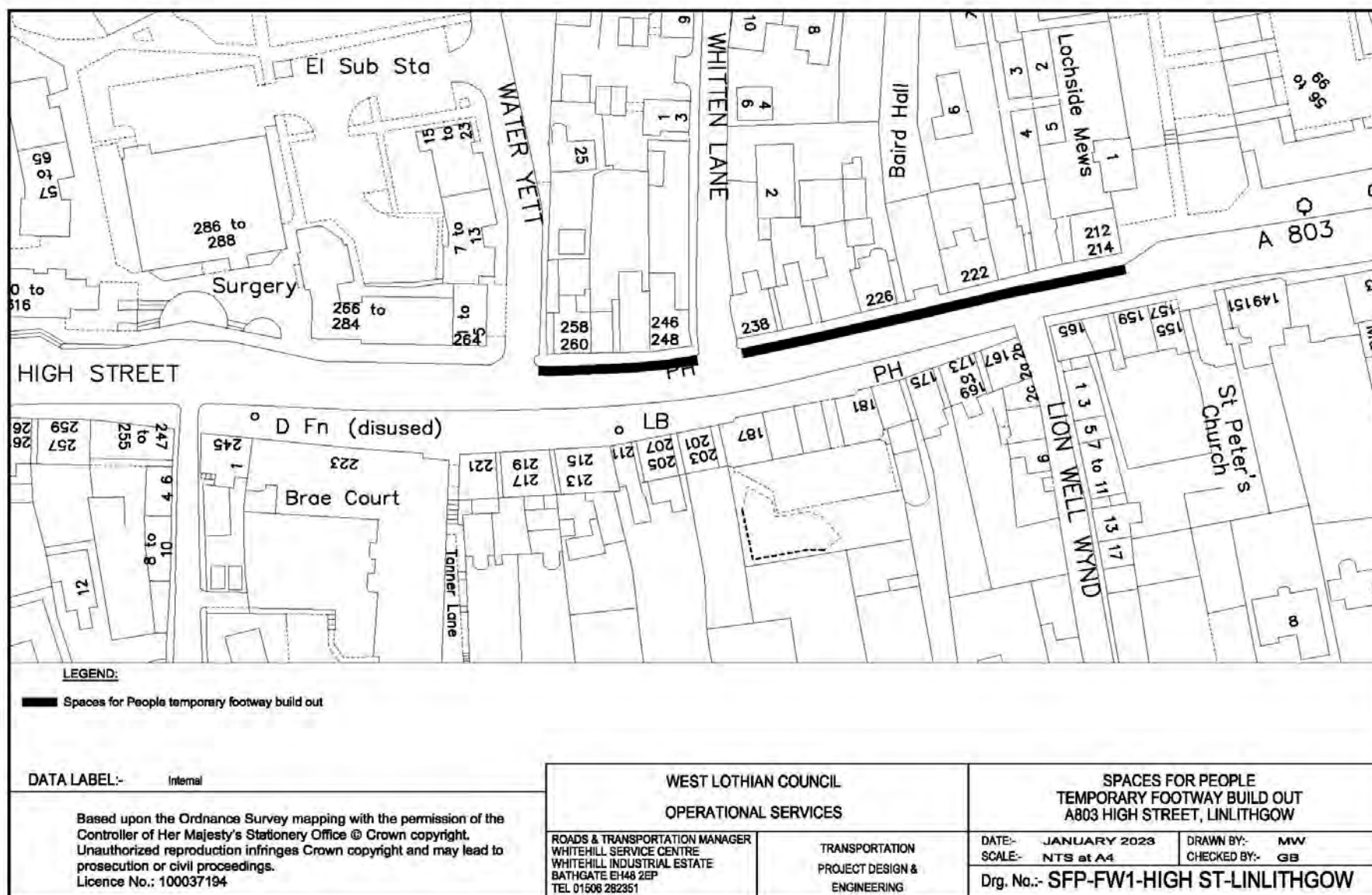
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BLACKRIDGE



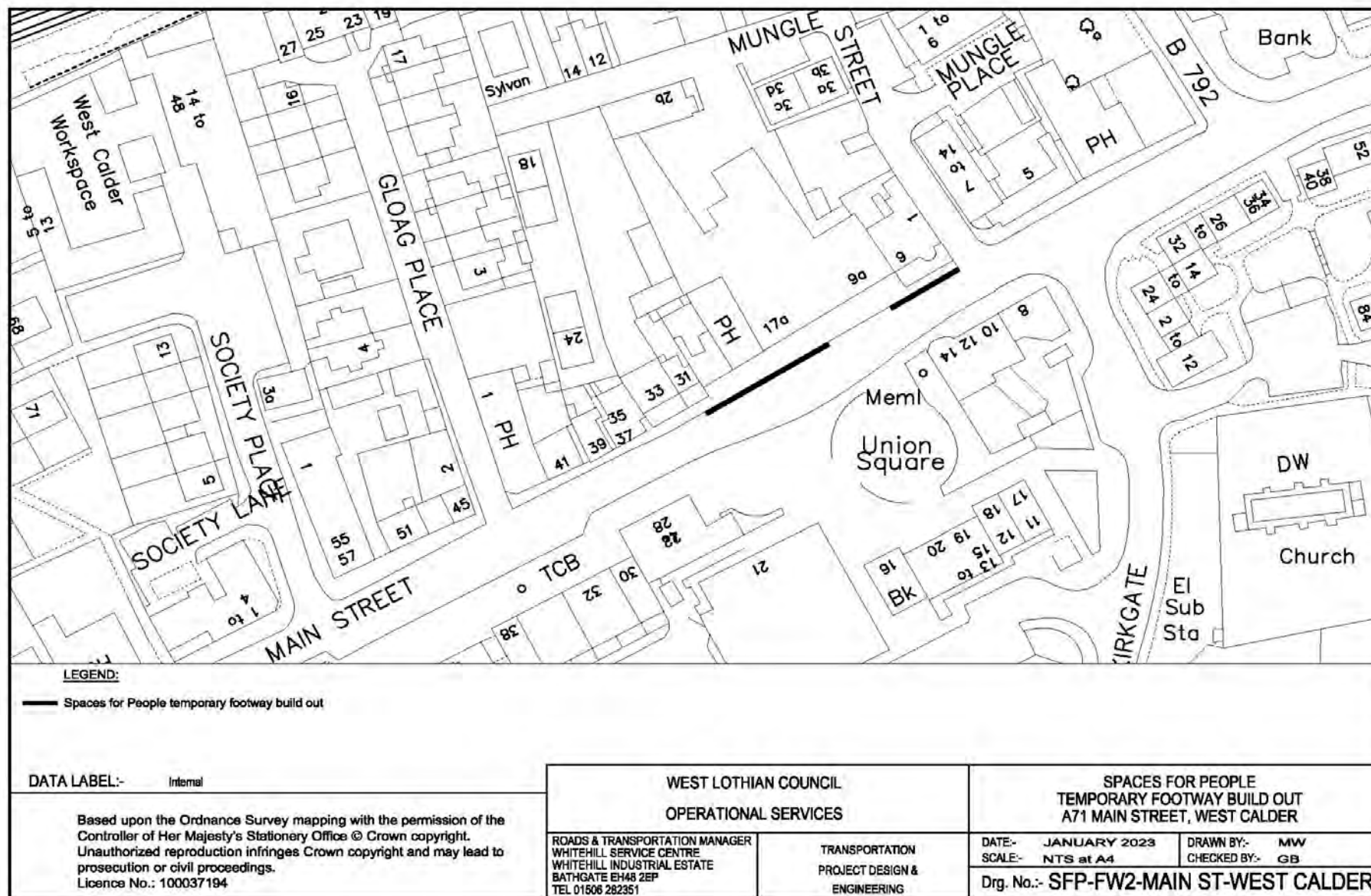
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BLACKRIDGE



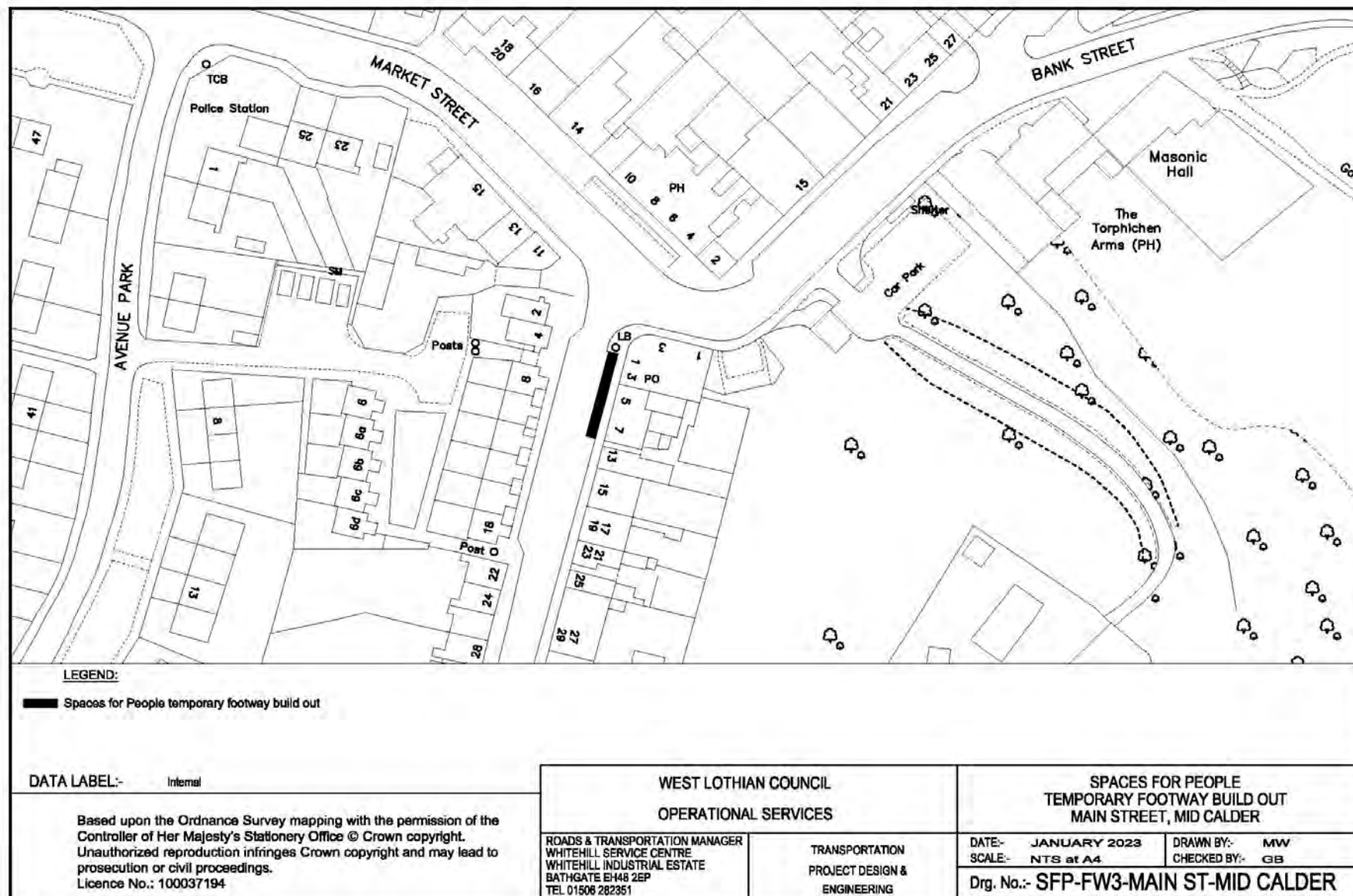
SFP-FW1-HIGH ST-
LINLITHGOW



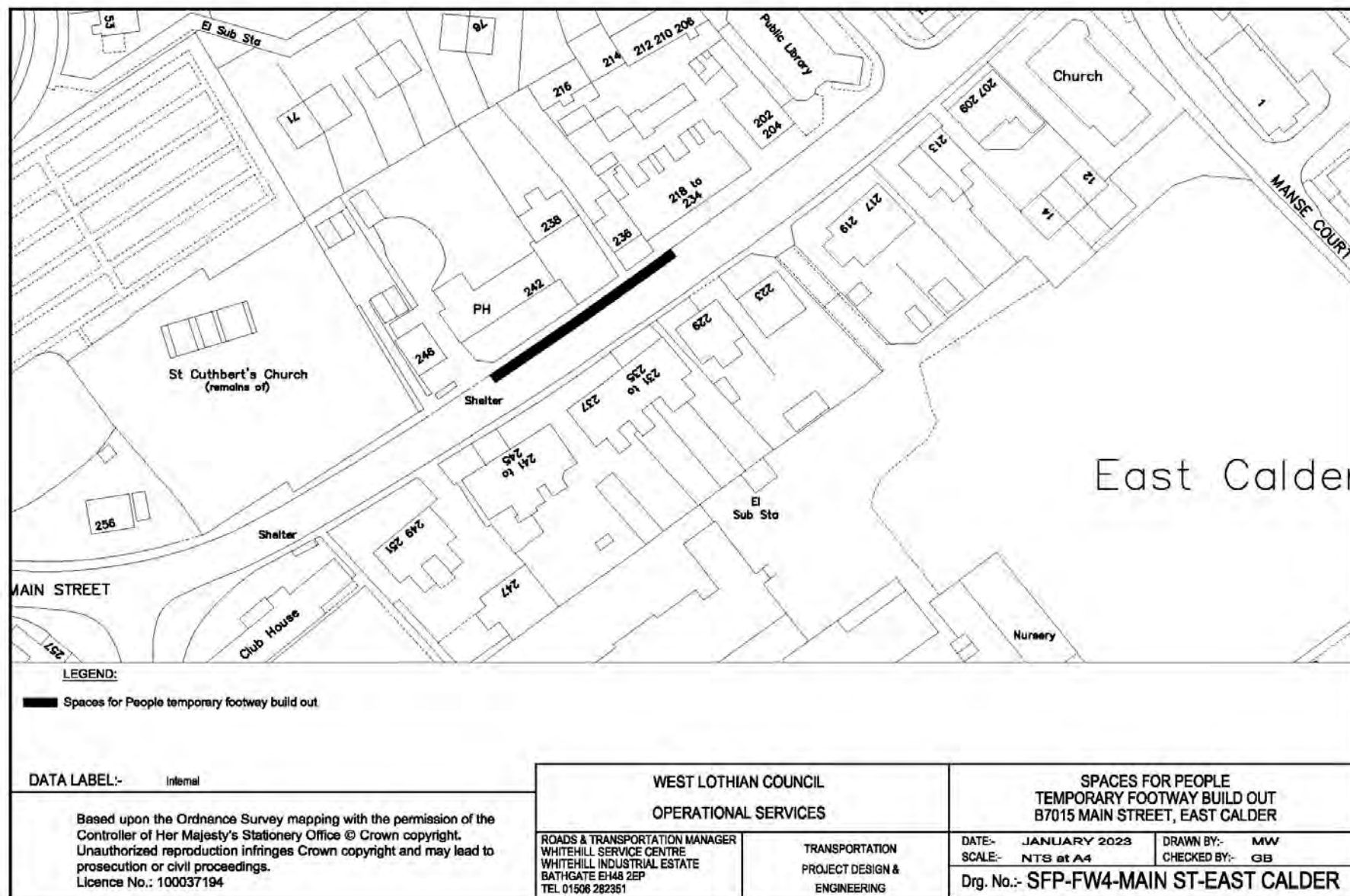
SFP-FW2-MAIN ST- WEST CALDER



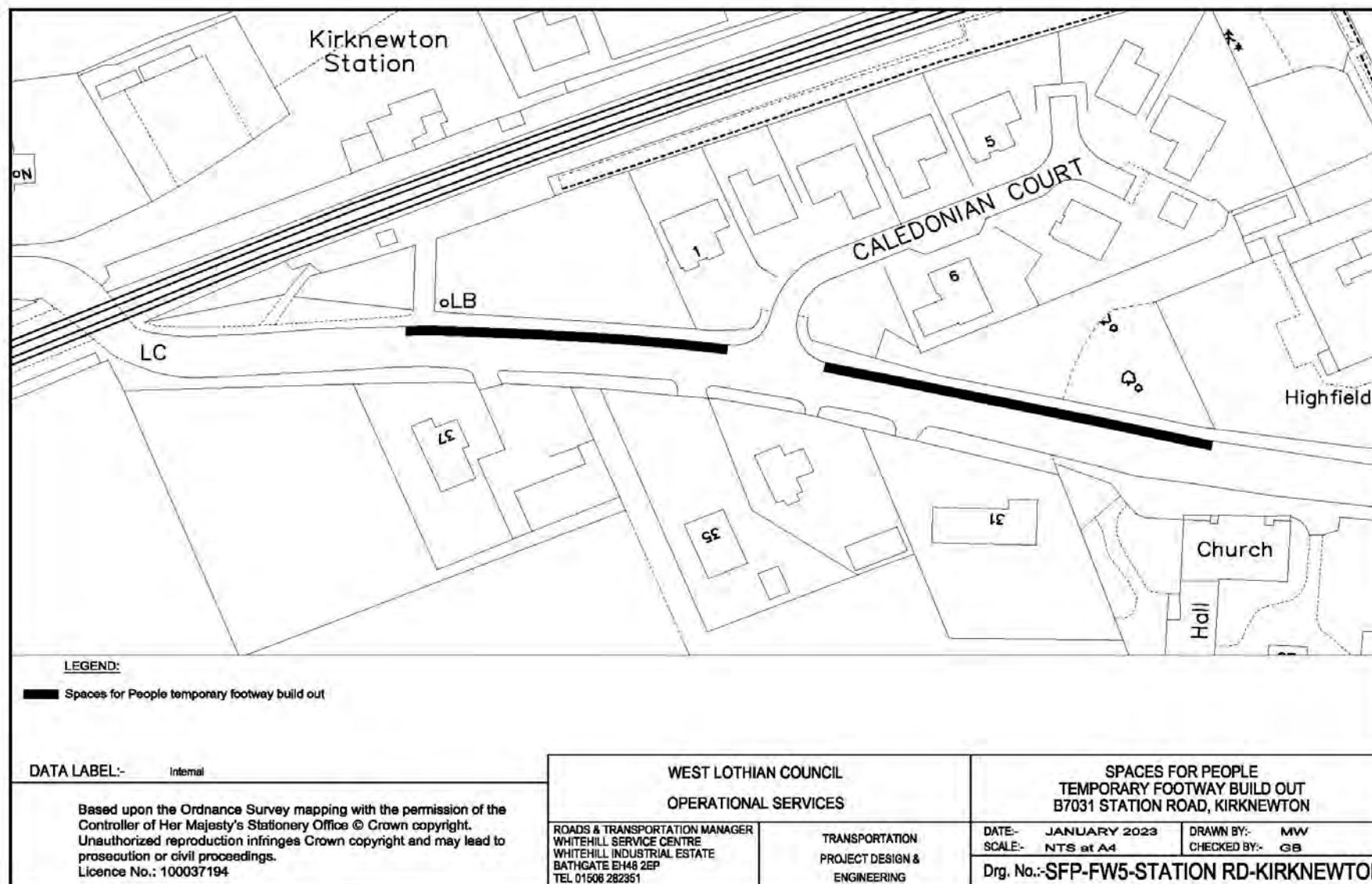
SFP-FW3-MAIN ST-MID CALDER



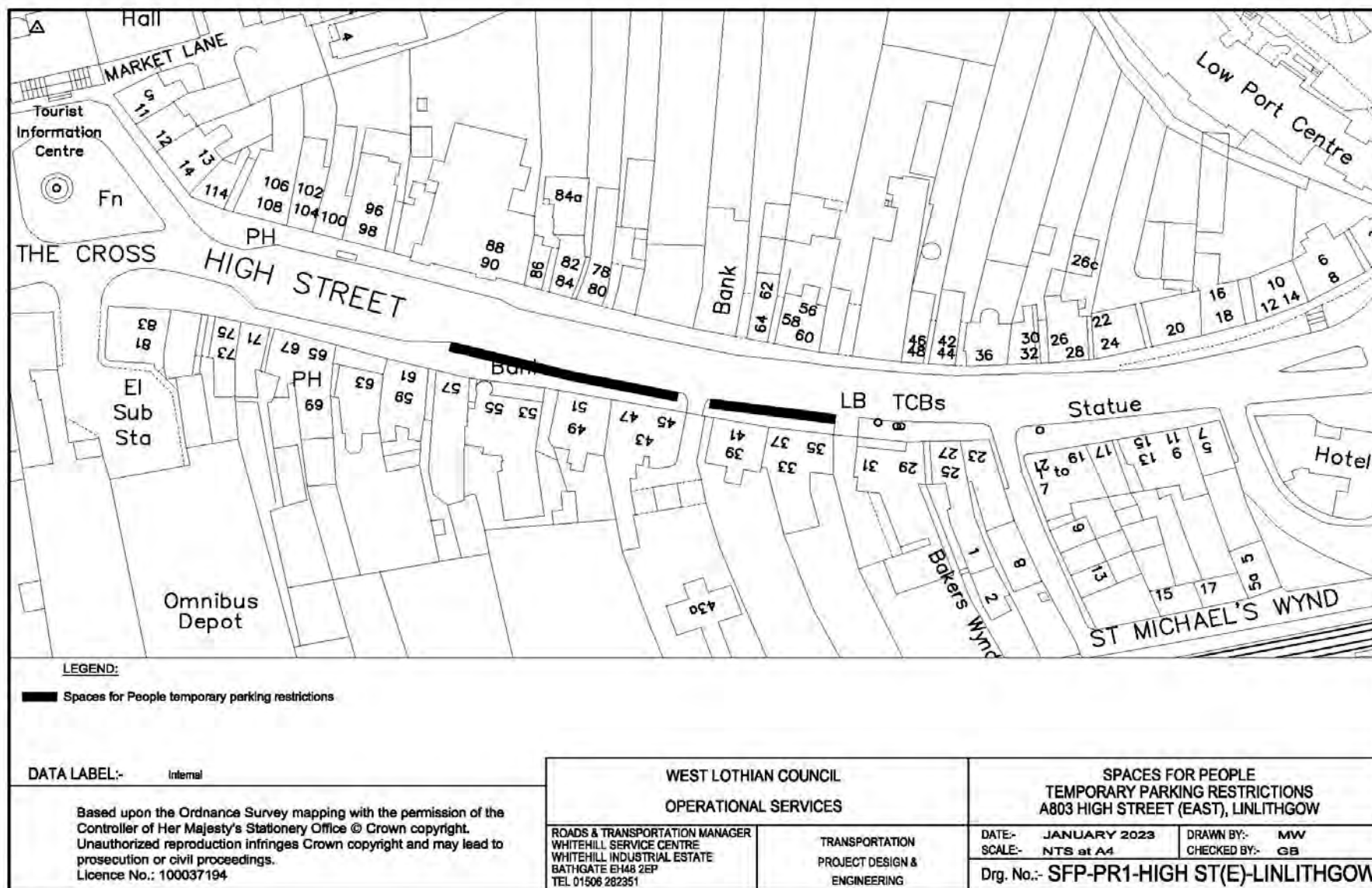
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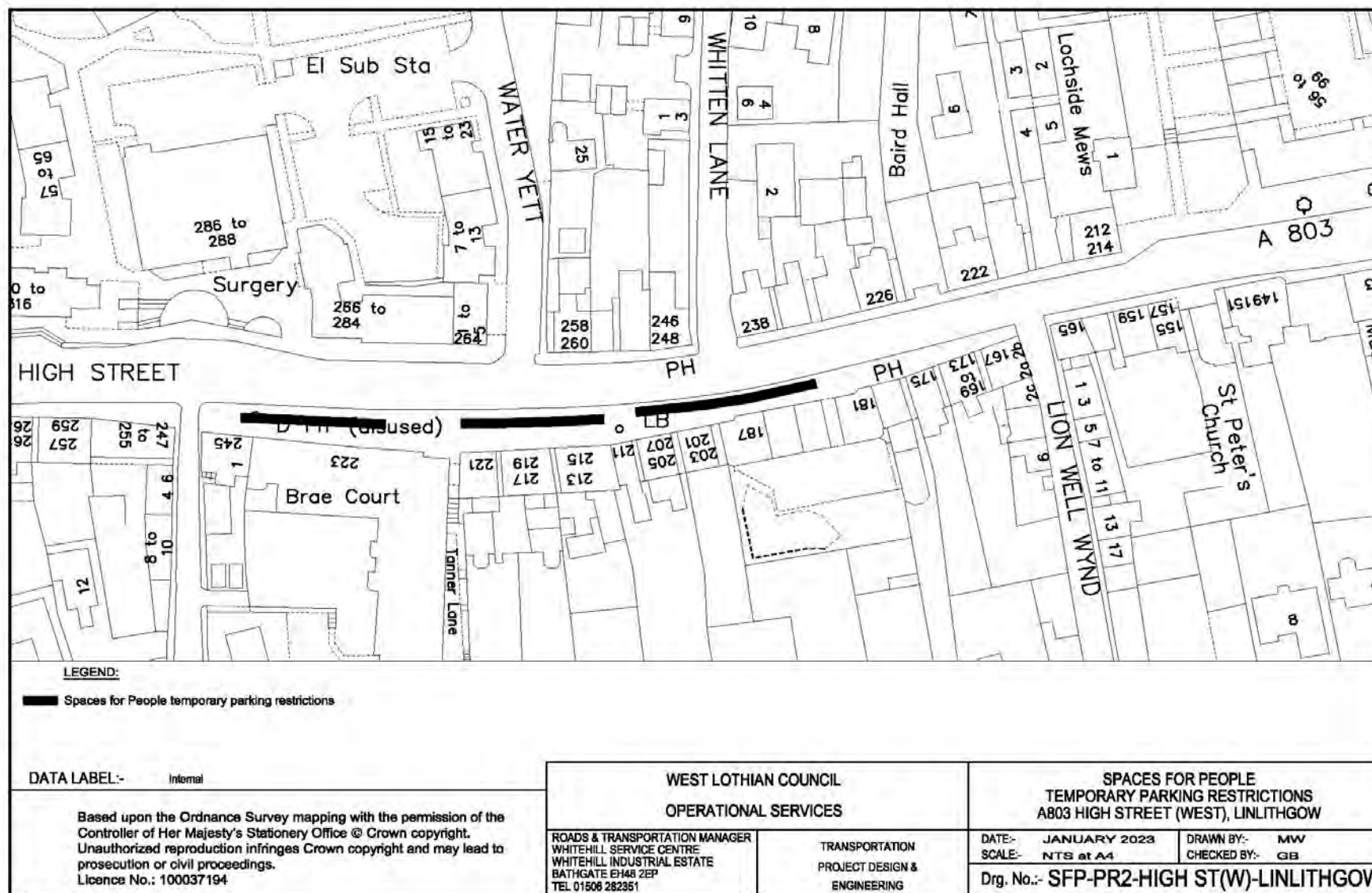
SFP-FW5-STATION RD-
KIRKNEWTON



SFP-PR1-HIGH ST(E)-
LINLITHGOW



SFP-PR2-HIGH ST(W)-LINLITHGOW





BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

BATHGATE FLOODING ISSUES

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Area Committee (LAC) of the flooding experienced throughout Bathgate on the 30 December 2022 and the work being carried out to manage flood risk.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the LAC notes the report and actions taken to manage flood risk in Bathgate.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	<p>Policy – (2022 – 2028) Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan.</p> <p>Legal - The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.</p>
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<p>SOA 4. We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities.</p> <p>SOA 8. We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.</p>

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| VI | Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property) | <p>Financial: Scottish Government's contribution to Cycle 2 (2022 – 2028) Local Flood Risk Management Plan actions is to be confirmed. The Council's contribution will be funded through the Roads Related Assets capital budget.</p> <p>Bathgate Meadows Nature Park project will be funded by the Scottish Government's Water Environment Fund (WEF) administered by SEPA and through Sustrans (Scotland) 'Places for Everyone' programme, subject to their programme processes. A bid has also been made for National Lottery Heritage Fund.</p> |
| VII | Consideration at PDSP | None. |
| VIII | Other consultations | None. |

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

Officers were requested to bring a report to the LAC in response to queries raised by the Bathgate Community Council regarding flood events throughout Bathgate around 30 December, 2022.

Flooding affected many areas in West Lothian at the end of 2022, when after weeks of low temperatures and frozen ground, ice melt and rainfall led to saturated ground and high-water table. Data from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) rain gauges at Slamannan and Harperigg reflect this with 70% of December's rain falling over the last week of the month. The intensity of the rainfall on the 29th December equated to 35.6mm of rain falling at the Slamannan rain gauge, this equates to 27% of December monthly rainfall. Similarly, Harperigg rain gauge experienced 36mm equating to 29% of December monthly rainfall. This level of precipitation, combined with the intensity, inevitably led to flooded surface water drains and sewers leading to the increased surface water run-off seen in Bathgate on the 29th and 30th December 2022. In spite of this, West Lothian Council did not receive any reports of internal flooding to residential or non-residential properties from this event.

D.2 Flood Risk Management Plans

Under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, cyclic Local Flood Risk Management Plans are produced every 6 years. 'The Plan' identifies priority areas and suitable actions to manage the flood risk to properties in these areas. Bathgate is a flood risk priority area for West Lothian Council. For more information please refer to our website: [Update on Flood Risk Management - West Lothian Council](#)

The Local Flood Risk Management Plan sets out details of who will be responsible for implementing actions, a timetable of when actions will be delivered, a description of the co-ordination requirements and funding arrangements. This is a 6-year cyclical plan with interim reports provided after 3 years.

1. By publishing the Plan, individuals and local communities are provided with information that allows them to better manage their own responsibilities. Everyone can take action with the confidence of what others are doing and with the clear knowledge of when they are undertaking these actions.

The Cycle 1 Local Plan (2016 – 2022) identified the requirement for a river flood study for the Bog Burn, Boghead Burn and Bathgate Water. This study was augmented with output from the Scottish Water Integrated Catchment study to include surface water and sewer flood risk. West Lothian Council appointed consultants (ARUP) to carry out the Bathgate Flood study which was completed in March 2022.

In Cycle 2 of the Local Plan the following actions have been identified to help reduce flood risk:
 - Inspection and maintenance, self-help, emergency plans/response, awareness raising, planning policies, flood forecasting, sewer flood risk assessment & flood study (which has since been completed, 2022). In addition, there are activities included in the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 that are undertaken by each local authority across the Local Plan District (LPD). The main activities that have a significant effect and should be considered in conjunction with the plan are:

- Section 18 & 59: Work of clearance and repair. Based on an assessment of the condition of a body of water, local authorities must prepare a schedule of clearance and repair works that would substantially reduce the risk of flooding of land. Under s.59 of the Act, the local authority must carry out the works in the Section 18 Schedule if it considers that this will contribute to the implementation of actions in the Plan, but that these works will not affect the implementation of actions in this Plan.
- Section 56: A local authority may do anything which it considers will contribute to the implementation of actions in the Plan or is necessary to reduce the risk of a flood which is likely to occur imminently and have serious adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage or economic activity in its area. This may include carrying out flood protection works, which may not be identified as actions in the Plan.

Other related statutory duties include those within the Roads Scotland Act (1984) which includes responsibilities for road drainage and water on roads.

D.3 Bathgate Cemetery, Glasgow Road

On Friday 30 December 2022 during the most recent flood event, Bathgate Cemetery succumbed to flooding similar to the flooding which occurred in December 2020. This flooding was a combination of both out of bank flows from Bathgate Water but also by the accumulation of surface water runoff from higher areas of ground within the cemetery.

Unfortunately, the work adjacent to burn has taken some time to plan and initiate due to a number of factors; in part to the requirement for various licences including Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) license (required to work close to water), and protected species surveys. The council was also been advised by our Biodiversity Officer that works should not be completed between March to September due to the sensitivity of these protected species. In addition, the Flood Team has saw unprecedented staff changes which is impacted progress.

Works are currently on site to construct the bund to help mitigate future river flooding and is due to be completed early March 2022. The purpose of the bund is to the direct flood water to a point downstream in an effort to reduce the risk.

Meadow Park, Bathgate

- D.4** During the same event, Meadow Park, which is part of the floodplain for the Bathgate Water functioned as expected and was affected by river flooding.

Meadow Park is a low-lying area adjacent to a watercourse, this forms part of the floodplain. In times of spate, water is likely to spill into this area which may impact its recreational use for short periods of time until water recedes.

The Council's Cycle 2 (2022-2028) Local Flood Risk Management Plan has identified Meadow Park as an area where there may be an opportunity for natural flood management due to storage of floodwater within the floodplain of the Bathgate Water. This area is included in the design of Bathgate Meadows Nature Park project.

D.5 Bathgate Meadows Nature Park

Formerly Bathgate Water Regeneration project, this project aims to improve the environment of the area which the Bathgate Water runs through from Blackburn Road to Glasgow Road.

Originally planned to restore the Bog Burn, making it a functional part of the landscape and environment. It has since developed into a wider project to make the area more accessible to the local community and improving its ability to support a range of functions from helping manage surface water run off to supporting a wider variety of local wildlife. Also, creating better-quality amenity and green space, with improved pathways and walking routes.

The performance of the Boghead Burn and Bog Burn flood lagoons is also being considered to assess whether improvements can be made as part of the design.

D.6 Roads, Sewers & Footpath Flooding

Heavy rainfall onto already saturated ground has led to roads and footpaths being inundated with surface water run-off. Scottish Water sewer capacity can get overwhelmed quickly, meaning gullies are unable to convey surface water effectively, for example flooding at Windyknowe Park and South Mid Street, Bathgate. Both of these issues are being jointly investigated by the Council's Roads Maintenance Officers and Scottish Water.

Drainage systems have a finite capacity, during periods of intense or prolonged rainfall these systems become overwhelmed and are unable to convey water quickly – often leading to water ponding on impermeable surfaces. Scottish Water, as part of their actions within the Cycle 2 Local Flood Risk Management Plan are set to investigate this further.

An integrated Catchment Study has been undertaken by Scottish Water in an effort to better understand the complicated interactions that occur between the ground drainage systems (including natural watercourses) and manmade, below-ground drainage systems (including road drains and sewers).

E. CONCLUSION

Works are currently underway on the Bathgate Cemetery and are due to be completed by March. Upon completion, this will help to mitigate the risk of flooding from the river.

Bathgate Meadows is an on-going project which seeks to improve the amenity and environmental benefits of the watercourse and catchment. West Lothian Council will keep Bathgate Community Council updated on the progress. Issues regarding water quality, flooding

and the performance of the flood lagoons will be considered as design of Bathgate Meadows Nature Park is developed. This project aims to provide benefits to the environment in the area in which all can enjoy.

Flood management will improve for the individuals, communities and businesses at risk across Bathgate and further afield through the risk-based and plan-led approach of Local Flood Risk Management Plans.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

Scottish Water (2019) Bathgate Integrated Catchment Study - Catchment Flood Assessment.

Cycle 2 Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District, published by Lead Local Authority Falkirk Council, due February 2023.

Appendices/Attachments: None

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Jim Jack
Head of Operational Services
6 March 2023

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT ON LOCAL PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, PLANNING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the economic development, regeneration and local partners activities within the Bathgate ward during the reporting period.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Local Area Committee notes the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I	Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; providing equality of opportunities; developing employees; making best use of our resources; working in partnership
II	Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Appropriate assessment will be carried out as deemed required.
III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	This supports the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement and other plans, in particular the Economic Recovery Plan.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	There are various sources of funding that support many of these activities.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	None
VIII	Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D.1 Background

The report updates the committee on the work of the Economic Development and the Community Wealth Building Team and its partners to support communities in Bathgate, one of 13 areas covered by the local plans required by the Scottish Government as part of their Community Empowerment approach and reported through the Community Planning Partnership.

These areas were identified as priority areas due to being within the bottom 20% of data zones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.

D.2 Jim Walker (Bathgate) Partnership Centre

The Jim Walker Partnership Centre is open to customers with some services still operating an appointment system such as the Customer Information Services, Registration and the Advice Shop. Footfall from October 2022 to end of January 2023 was 23,882. Since the return in January 2023 the number of staffs back and working in the building has increased.

Customer Information Services continue to operate an appointment system dealing U22 applications, blue badge applications, council tax enquiries, housing enquiries, waste management enquiries and many more council related enquiries. Customer can phone the dedicated Appointment Line Phone Number and book appointment to speak to an Advisor (01506 280150).

Simpson Library is fully open offering customers the opportunity to sit and read a newspaper or book, along with browsing for books or using the public access PCs or using the library for study time. Customers can download the Cloud App within the library, allowing them to issue and return books via their mobile phone.

Bookbug sessions are running twice a month. Class visits are taking place from local primary schools and schools are keen on participating in library activities with various clubs running such as Jigsaw Club, Calming and Colouring Club, Lego Club and a new book group as well. Posters advertising clubs are online and on notice boards within the centre. In December 2022, library staff ran various events for children including a film show and Christmas bauble making.

Self-service days are in operation from 8.30am-8pm (Wednesday) and 9-10am (Saturday) where customers can use the self-service terminal for issuing and returning books. Photocopying or customer printing can be done by staff. Digital Resources are still available to customers.

The Bathgate payment office remains open for customers to continue to make payments to rent and council tax accounts. From 1 October 2022 to 31 January 2023, 6,045 payment transactions were made and £713,919.38 in income taken.

Staff continue to pay out Scottish Welfare Fund – Crisis Grant Payments (173 payments in reporting period) and we are now paying out Social Policy Payments (472 payments) for Social Policy clients. Payments were previously paid out from Bathgate Social Work Centre prior to its closure. Ukrainian Refugee Payments also continue to be made although this has lessened in volume.

Bathgate Community Centre is fully open and continuing to see more groups returning along with some new groups, including a drama group on a Sunday

morning. We have seen an increase in birthday parties taking place on a Sunday Afternoon and the return of the Rev Jimmy Liddle Community Church on a Sunday evening.

Bathgate Playgroup continue to provide morning sessions to under 3-year old from Monday to Friday. Simply Play after school club returned after the school holidays and operate on Monday to Friday afternoon.

Bathgate Registration Office continue to offer an appointment system for customers, this is only for customers to sign/pick up registration certificates. Other Registration Services are continuing to be done over the phone.

The Advice Shop are continuing to offer their services over the phone and have introduced MacMillan Cancer Appointments and PIP/DLA appointments within the centre. Recently they have introduced a drop-in service on a Thursday morning. MacMillan Cancer also offer their appointments within the Macmillan Hub within Simpson Library Bathgate on a Wednesday.

Adult Learning operate classes within the Partnership Centre, some take place during the day and some are in the evening.

The vacant café facility within the centre has been subject to a recent tender exercise, and at the time of writing, Property Services have advised no further confirmation at this stage.

D.3 Boghall Drop in Centre

The Boghall Drop in Centre continues to provide support to the local community in Boghall. Its recent activities during the reporting period have included the following all undertaken since last update in November 2022.

The Town Centre Manager has continued to be an active point of contact for the centre and its staff, should they be looking for support or advice on operational or fundraising opportunities.

There have also been a number of weekly clubs, trips and other activities running from the building during the period of this reporting:

- BDIC playgroup (Tues-Thurs) although this ceased due to unsuccessful funding bids
- Tuesday Club – primary p1-3
- Wednesday Club – primary p4-7
- Friday Club - secondary age (primary 7 to S6)
- Homework club – primary aged based sessions
- Elf Academy (arts and crafts workshops)- for primary kids – weekly in November and December 2022
- Photography Club – weekly activity for those aged 8+ years
- Pensioner's Festive Dinner & Entertainment – 67 attendance. 28 Meals delivered.
- Christmas Parties, four age group session, from 13 - 16 December 2022.
- Christmas Fayre, Breakfast with Santa and Santa's Grotto
- Over 50's Dance through the Decades event: 67 attendance.
- Valentine's Discos - Primary 1 to 3; and for Primary 4 to 7.
- February Lunch Club – free provision.
- Weekly Cooking with the Volunteers Club.

The next monthly over 50's night will be held in late February 2023 and will be a Dinner and Dance event.

Boghall Drop-In Centre has been providing a community based local facility (referred to as a 'warm welcome') initially on a Friday, where residents can drop in for safe companionship, a chat, and perhaps some light refreshments available. This has initially had average attendance of eight. This has recently changed to run from Monday through to Friday each week.

D.4 Community Engagement in Boghall

The Community Wealth Building Team has started to carry out engagement in Boghall during January and February. They have worked closely with Boghall Drop-In to complete engagement forms and have meaningful conversations with the community. An online survey has also been developed to cast a wider reach to the community.

The engagement is both to support the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in both confirming the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) as well as updating the local plans. The pillars that make up the LOIP are:

- Creating Skills and Jobs
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Creating affordable and Sustainable Housing
- Creating Net Zero Carbon Communities

Once complete this information will help Community Planning Partners and local planning going forward and align local and county wide priorities.

D.5 Bathgate Town Centre

Bathgate town centre acts as a community focal point for local services, amenities and employment. The town centre is subject to a quarterly occupancy survey as one measure of its relative vitality and viability. At the time of reporting (January 2023) the occupancy level was around 92% (vacancy 8%). To provide context this remains favourable to national averages of 10% and above.

The Council facilitated Bathgate Town Centre Management Group continues to meet on a regular (monthly) basis, usually ten times per annum, and acts as a forum to discuss town centre related issues and to identify potential improvement projects and initiatives.

D.6 Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

Fairtrade Fortnight is taking place this year from Monday 27 February to Sunday 12 March 2023. The key campaign message this year from the Fairtrade Foundation, is a simple one: making the small switch to Fairtrade supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet. The campaign is expected to be supported across the Bathgate ward, in a variety of ways including: large screen/banner displays in the Partnership Centre, and school educational activities.

E. CONCLUSION

Bathgate Local Area Committee is asked to note the activities taking place across Bathgate ward by the Council's Economic Development, Community Wealth

Building Team and local partners.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Persons:

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Nairn Pearson, Town Centre Manager, Economic Development,

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Elaine Cook, Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning, Economic Development

Date of Meeting: 06 March 2023

DATA LABEL: Public

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE**TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2023-2024**

Reports to committee officer by 12 noon	Agenda Issue	Meeting Date	Room
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Monday 7 August 2023	Tuesday 8 August 2023	Monday 14 August 2023	The Jim Walker Partnership Centre
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Monday 6 November 2022	Tuesday 7 November 2023	Monday 13 November 2023	The Jim Walker Partnership Centre
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Monday 26 February 2024	Tuesday 27 February 2024	Monday 4 March 2024	The Jim Walker Partnership Centre
Monday 3 June 2024	Tuesday 4 June 2024	Monday 10 June 2024	The Jim Walker Partnership Centre

All meetings will be held at 9:30am unless otherwise advised

BATHGATE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE Workplan November 2022

	Agenda Item	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date
1	Police Scotland ward update	Quarterly Update	Sgt Michael Harte	All meetings
2	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service ward update	Quarterly Update	Paul Harvey	All meetings
3	Housing ward update	Quarterly Update	Graeme McKee	All meetings
4	NETs Land and Countryside Services ward update	Quarterly Update	Pat McArdle	All meetings
5	Economic Development and Regeneration ward update	Quarterly Update	Dougie Grierson	All meetings
6	General Services Capital Programme - Bathgate Update	Annual Update	Donald Forrest/Carol Johnston	August 2023
7	Place Based Investment Programme, Town Centre Capital Fund 2022/23	Update report	Dougie Grierson	As required
8	COVID 19 Local Recovery and Renewal Fund update	Update report	Carol Johnston	As required.
9	Anti-Poverty Service Update	Annual Update	Christopher Nelson	November 2023
10	Pensioners Xmas Allocation	Annual update	TBC	November 2023