



Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee

West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
LIVINGSTON
EH54 6FF

17 February 2023

A physical meeting of the **Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee** of West Lothian Council will be held within the **Thistle Suite, Armadale Partnership Centre, Armadale** on **Friday 24 February 2023 at 2:00pm**.

For Chief Executive

BUSINESS

Public Session

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. Confirm Draft Minutes of Meeting of Armadale and Blackridge Local Area Committee held on Tuesday 29 November 2022 (herewith)
5. Spaces for People Consultation - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
6. Police Scotland Ward Report - Report by Police Scotland (herewith)
7. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Report - Report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (herewith)

8. Housing, Customer and Building Services - Report by Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services (herewith)
9. Services Update - NETS, Land and Countryside - Report by Head of Operational Services (herewith)
10. Community Regeneration Update - Report by Depute Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development (herewith)
11. Workplan (herewith)

Public Items for Decision

12. Timetable of Meetings 2023-2024 (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 ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE held within THISTLE SUITE, ARMADALE PARTNERSHIP CENTRE, ARMADALE, on 29 NOVEMBER 2022.

Present – Councillors Andrew McGuire (Chair), Stuart Borrowman and Lynda Kenna

In Attendance

Elaine Cook, Lead Officer, West Lothian Council

Dougie Grierson, Community Regeneration Team Leader, West Lothian Council

Sergeant Lee Brodie, Police Scotland

Lorraine Donnelly, Area Housing Manager, West Lothian Council

Simon Scott, Open Space and Cemeteries Manager, West Lothian Council

Christopher Nelson, Income Maximisation Manager, West Lothian Council

Steven Turnbull, West Lothian Food Network Co-ordinator, West Lothian Foodbank

John McKee, Armadale Community Council

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 11 - Pensioners' Groups Christmas Fund Allocations - Councillor Borrowman declared that he was of an age where he could benefit from attending the Blackridge, Westrigg and Westcraigs OAP Association Christmas event referred to in the report.

2. MINUTE

The Committee confirmed the Minute of its Meeting held on 30 August 2022. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

3. ARMADALE RESOURCE CENTRE PRESENTATION

The committee received a very informative presentation (copies of which had been circulated) from Steven Turnbull, Food Network Co-ordinator, West Lothian Foodbank on the creation of the new Armadale Resource Centre on South Street, Armadale.

Steven spoke passionately about the Foodbank's drive to end poverty and hunger. His presentation provided members with an overview of the various services and supports that would be provided from the new Armadale Resource Centre to help people in the ward who were living below the poverty line or were at risk of falling below the poverty line. The presentation concluded that together, the Resource Centre would ensure no one in Armadale & Blackridge went hungry and that people experienced a healthier, better and more equitable life.

Decision

To note the terms of the detailed and informative presentation.

4. POLICE WARD REPORT

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

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

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

5. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WARD REPORT

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

It was recommended that members note and provide comment on the report.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

6. HOUSING, CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

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 Armadale & Blackridge ward.

It was recommended that the committee note Housing, Customer and Building Service activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 2 – 1 July to 30 September 2022.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

7. SERVICE UPDATE - NETS, LAND AND 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 NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 July to 30 September 2022.

It was recommended that the committee:

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work; and

2. Advise of any areas that required further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

Decision

To note the terms of the report.

8. 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.

9. 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 Armadale & Blackridge 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. Four groups in the Armadale & Blackridge 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.

10. COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated)

by the Head of Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration providing an update on the Community Wealth Building Teams activity within the ward and, in particular, the work of the local planning group, the Armadale Regeneration Group (ARG) and its partners.

It was recommended that the members:

1. Note the continuing work of the Armadale Regeneration Group;
2. Note the preparation for future engagement with the community and delivery of holiday provision for young people and families within the ward;
3. Note the work undertaken from the Dale Hub in providing a range of activities for the community; and
4. Note the updates for Access2employment and Business Gateway.

Decision

To note the terms of the report

11. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE 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
21 February 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

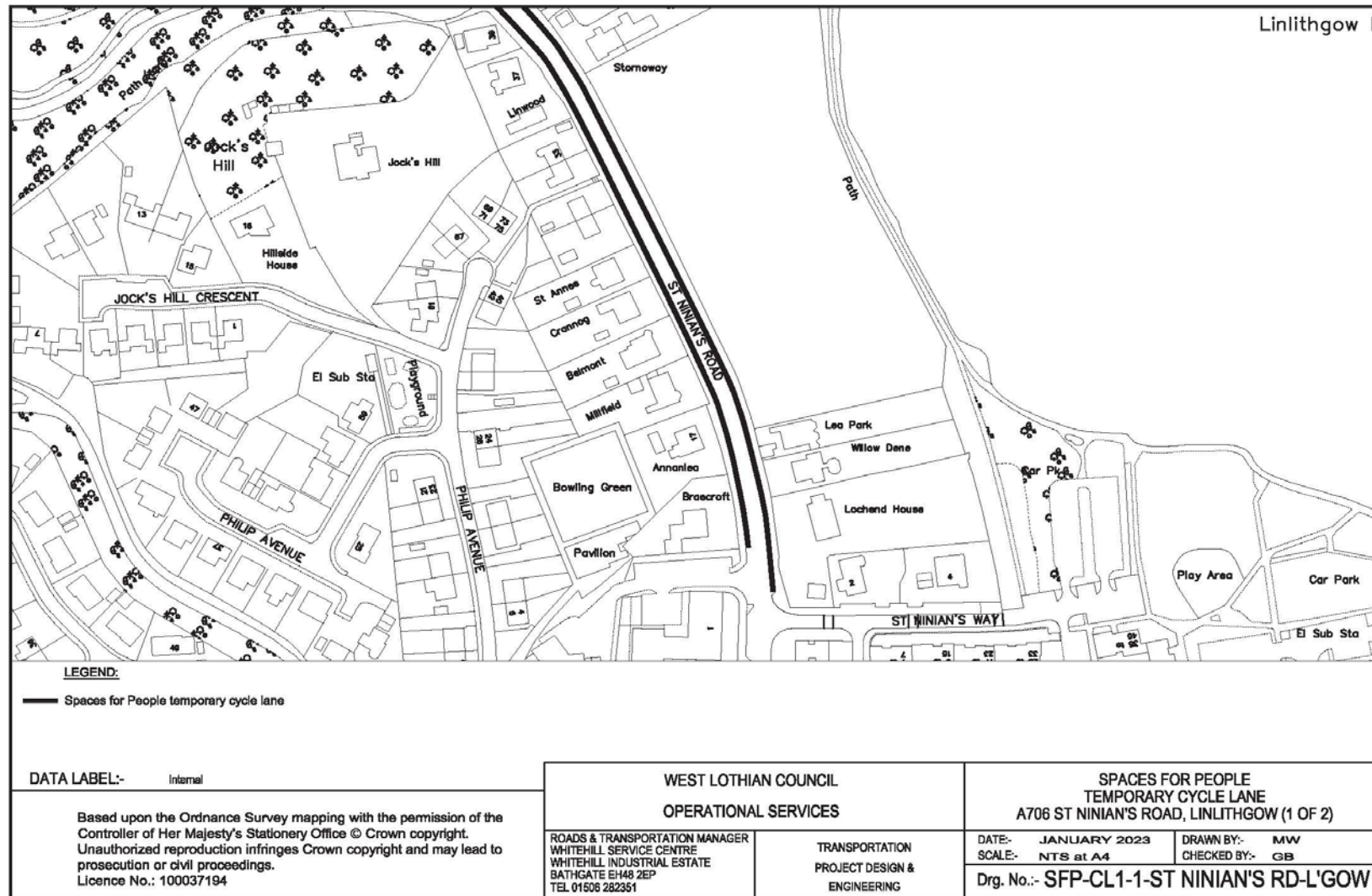
AMENDMENT

"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."

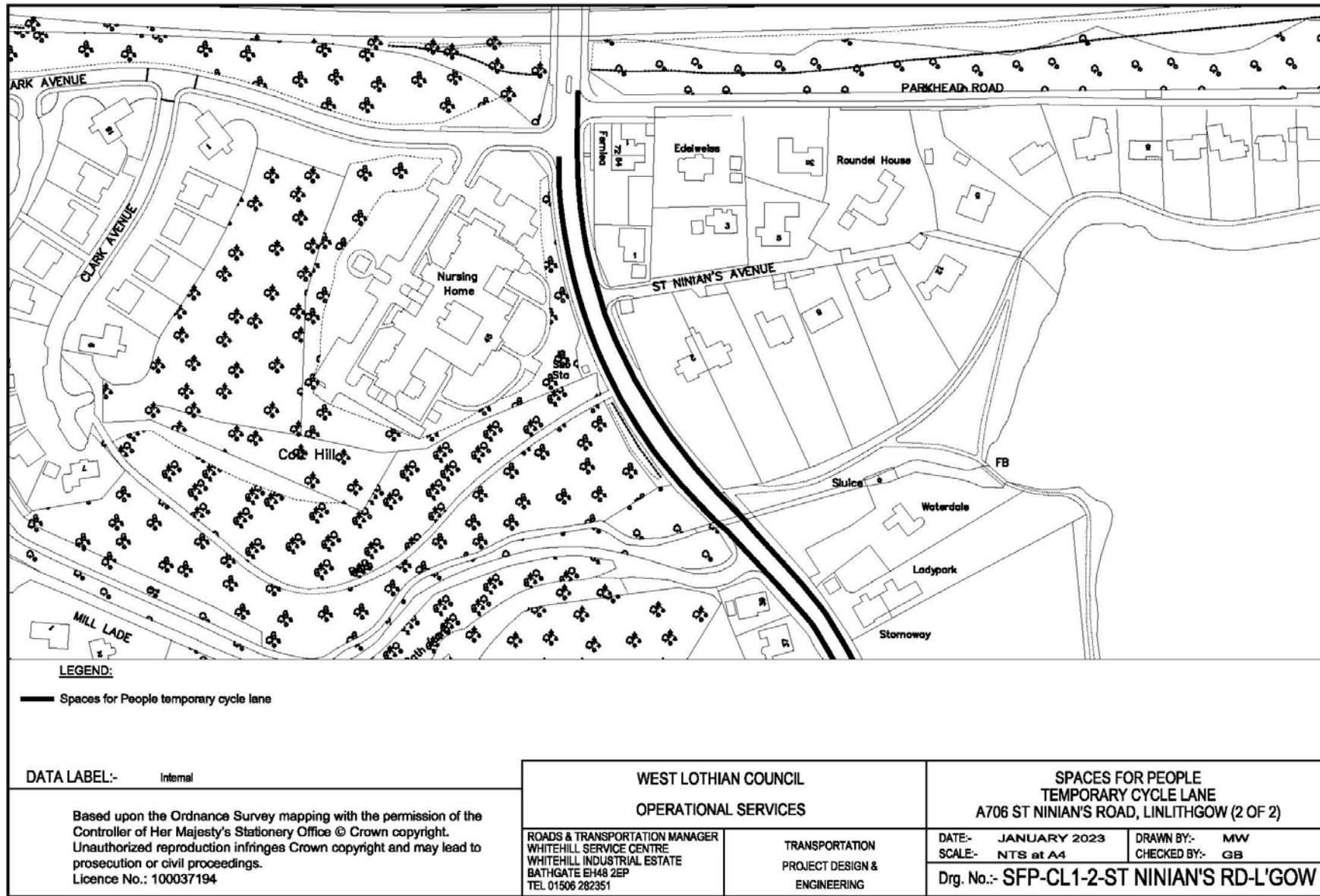
Councillor Janet Campbell

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

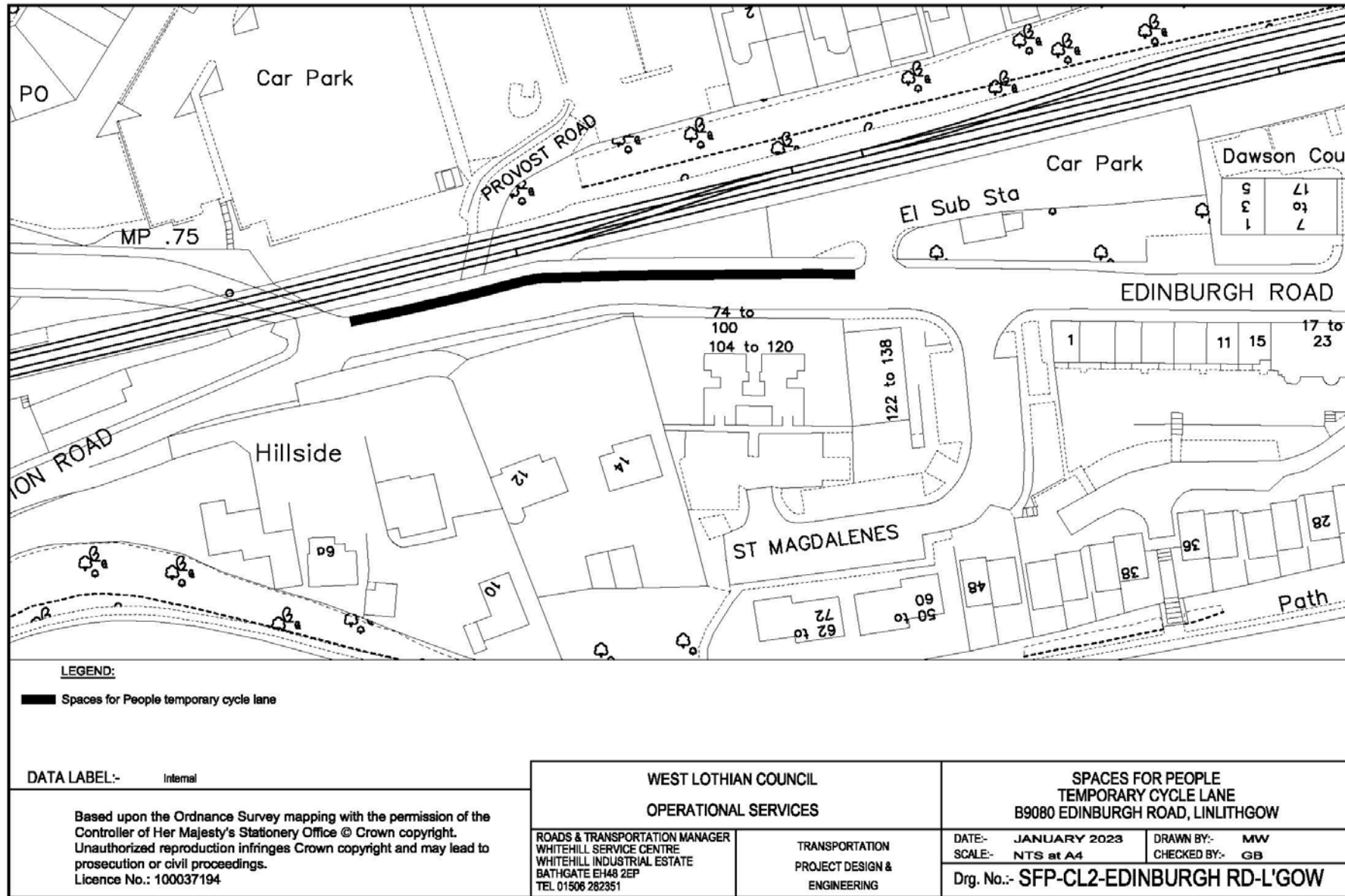
SFP-CL1-1-ST NINIAN'S RD-L'GOW



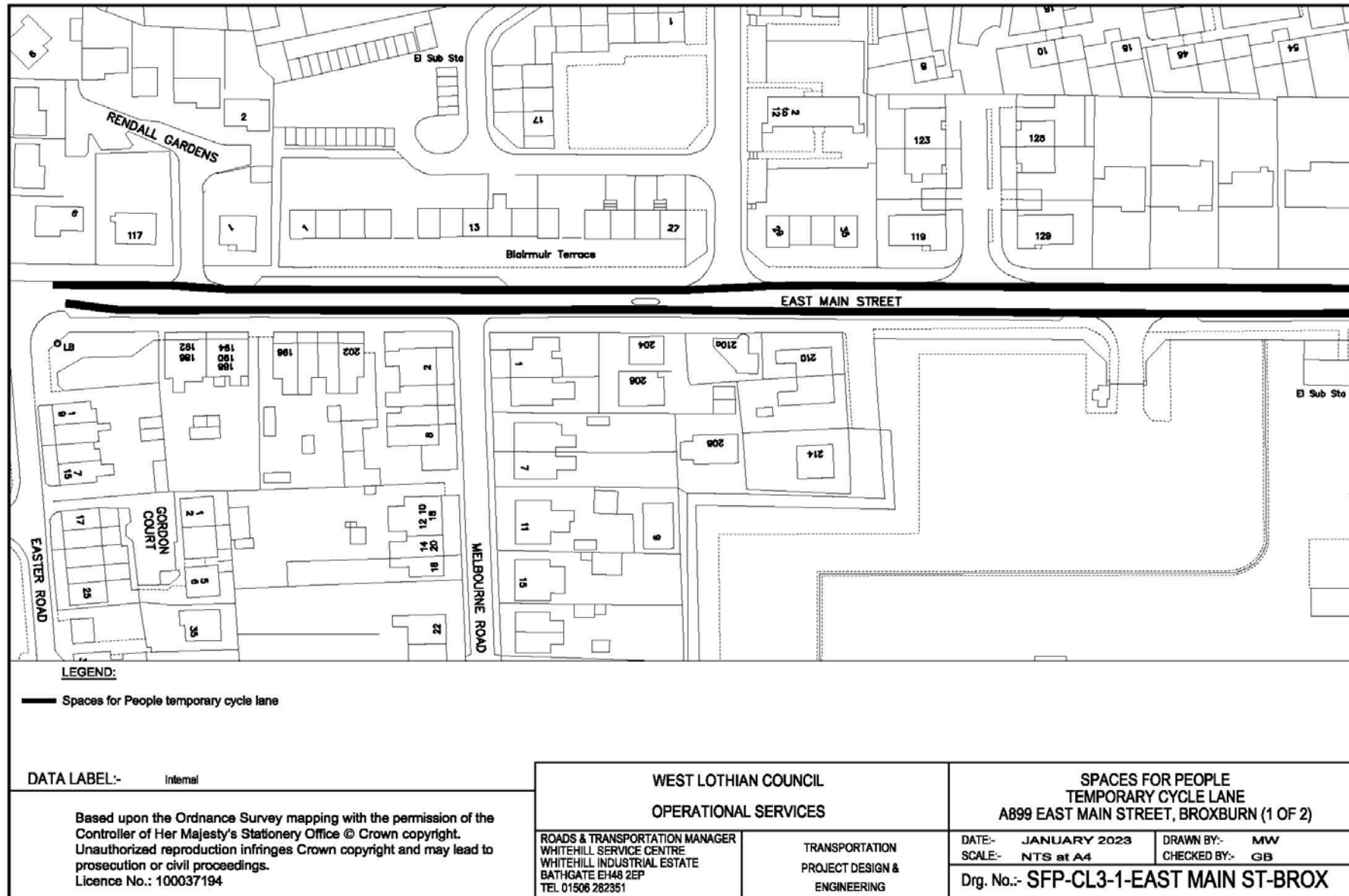
SFP-CL1-2-ST NINIAN'S RD- RD-L'GOW



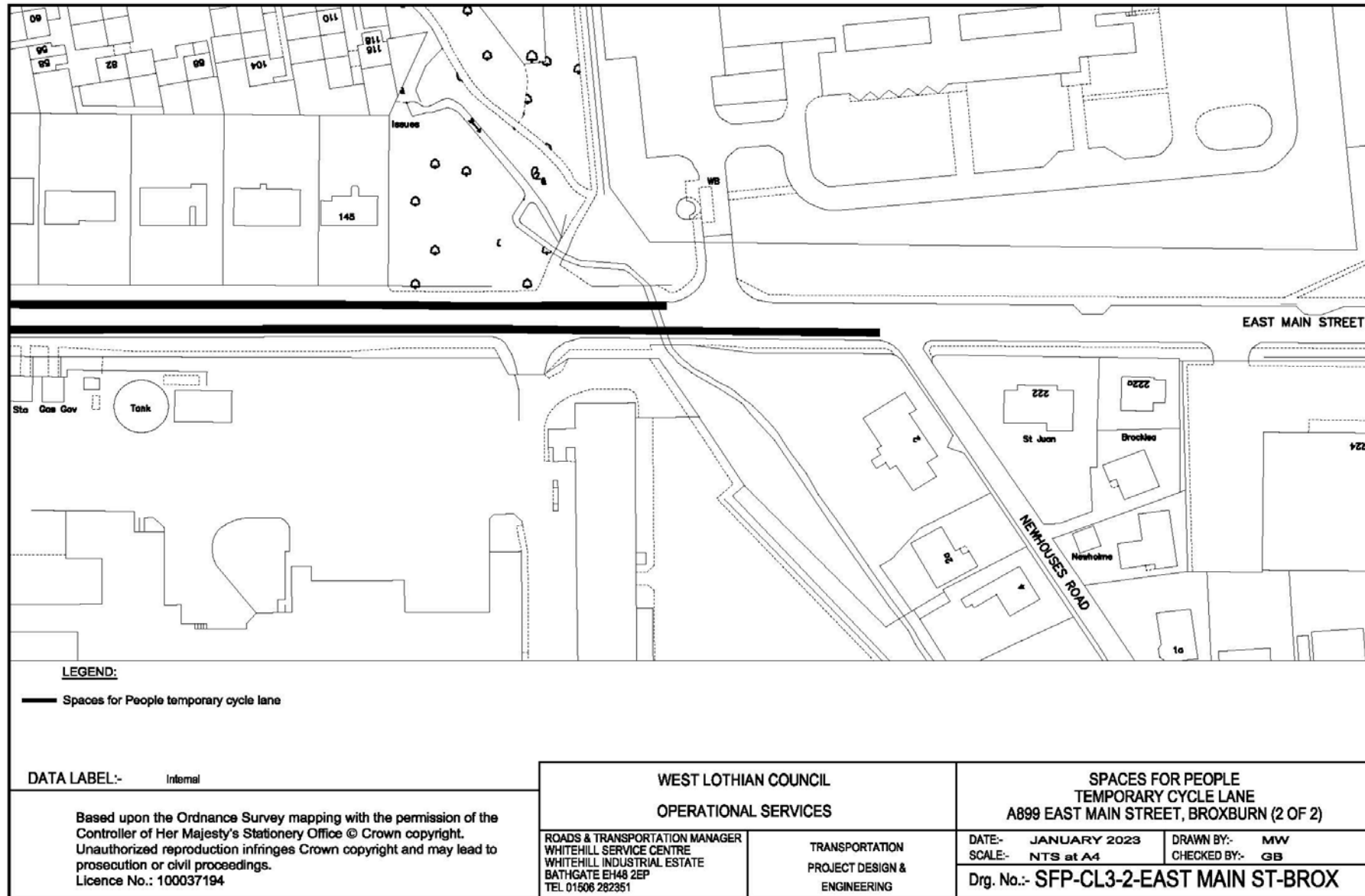
SFP-CL2-EDINBURGH RD-L'GOW



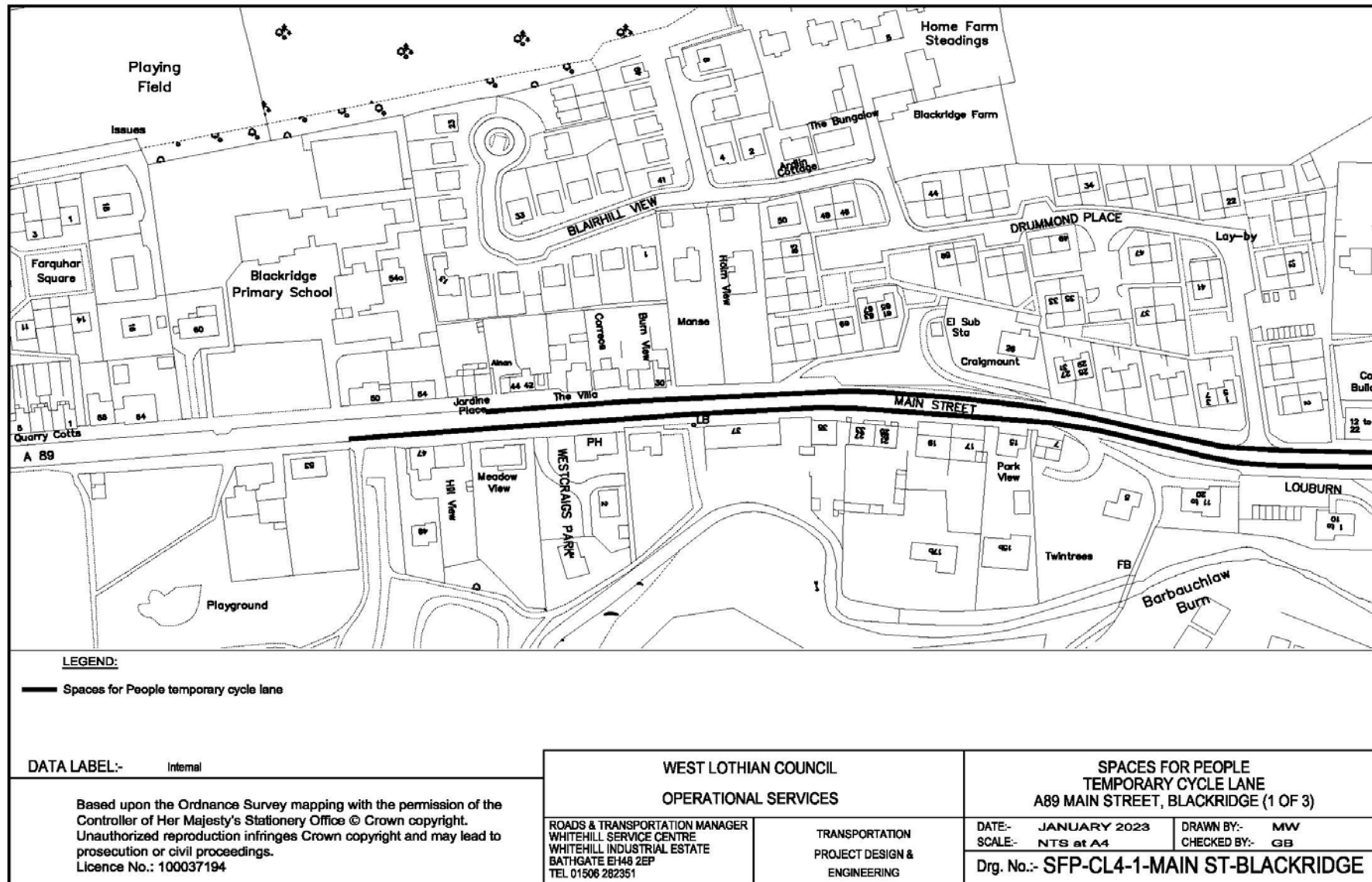
SFP-CL3-1-EAST MAIN ST-BROX



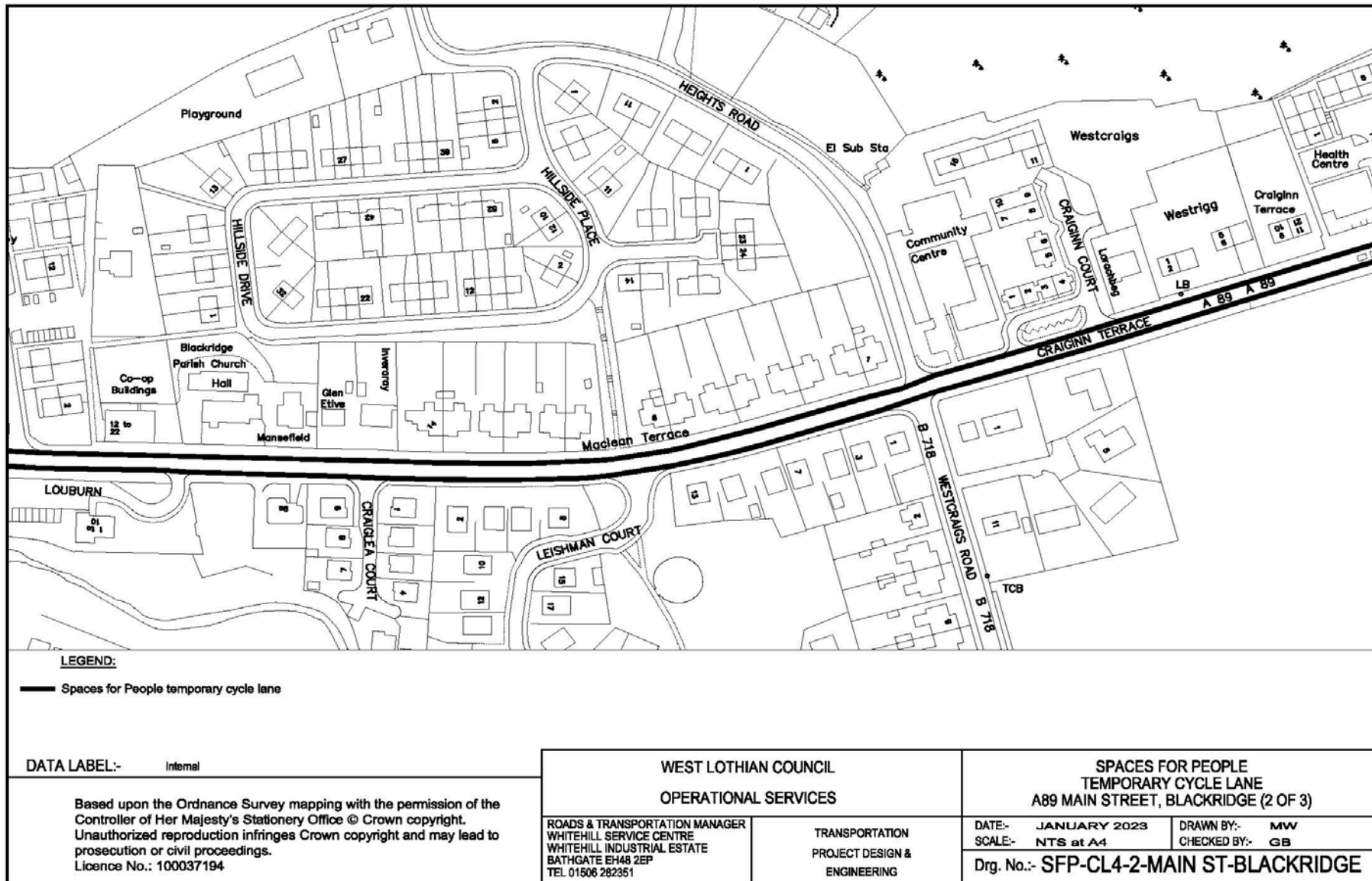
SFP-CL3-2-EAST MAIN ST- BROX



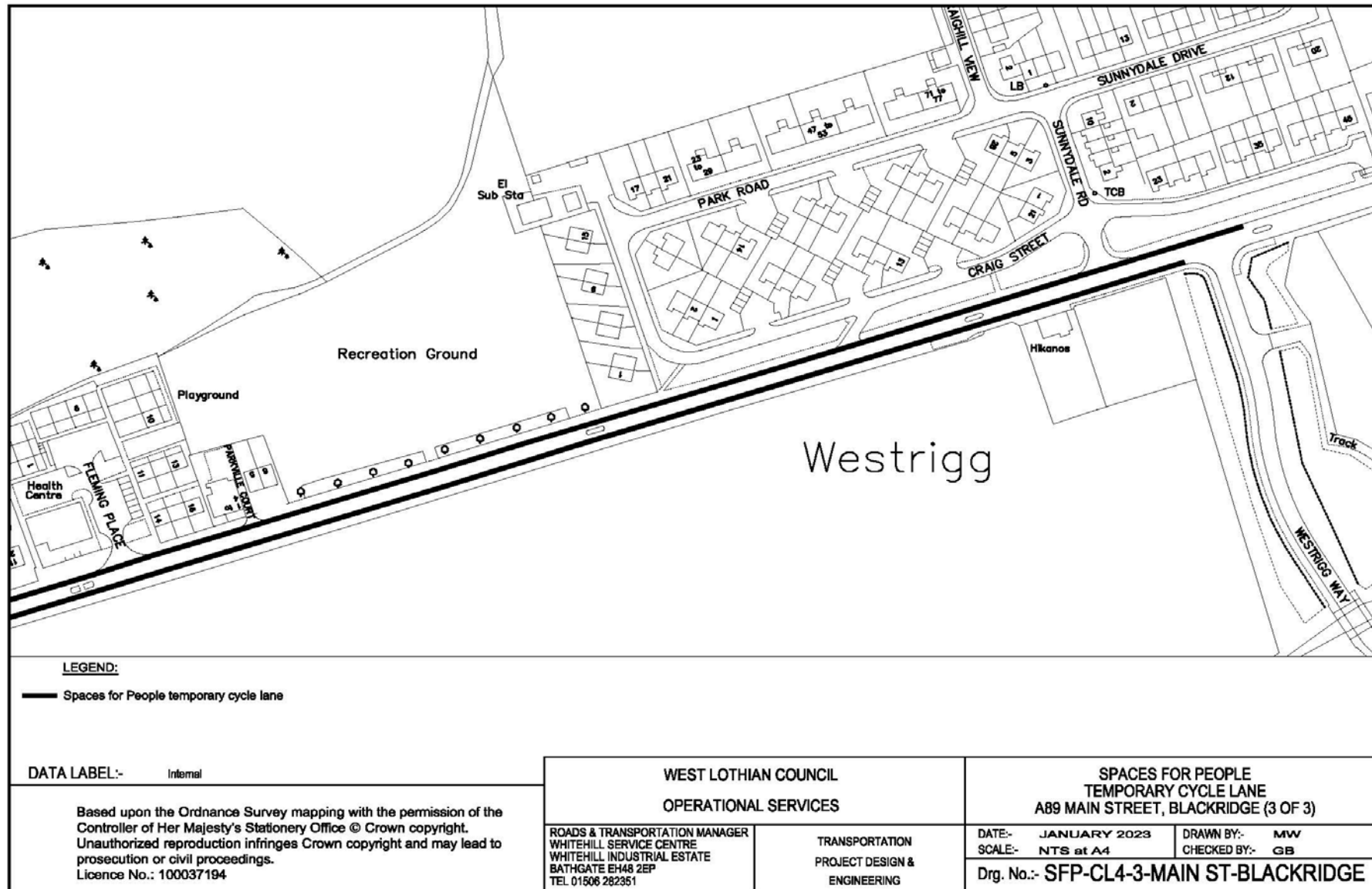
SFP-CL4-1-MAIN ST-
BLACKRIDGE



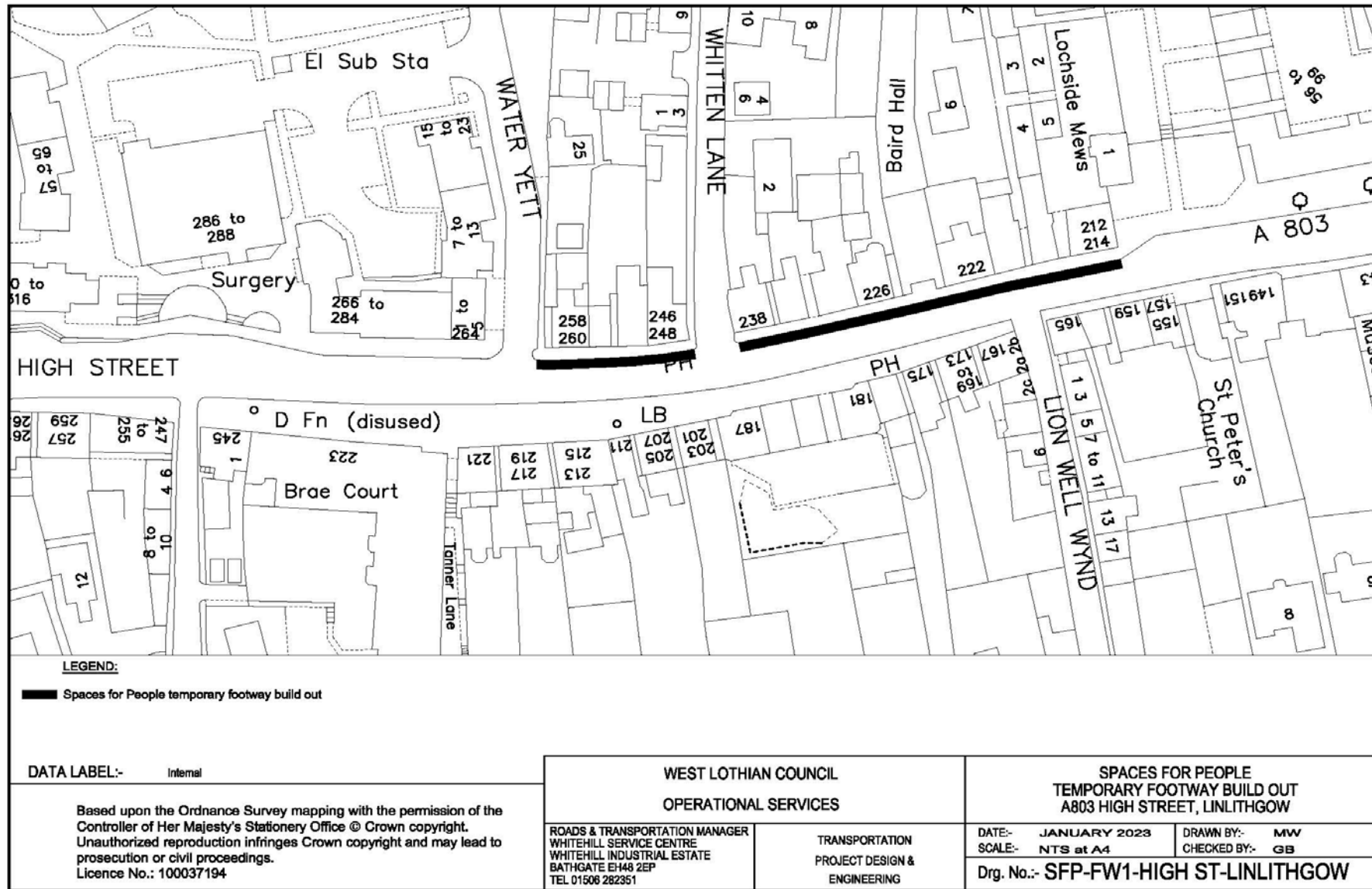
SFP-CL4-2-MAIN ST-
BLACKRIDGE



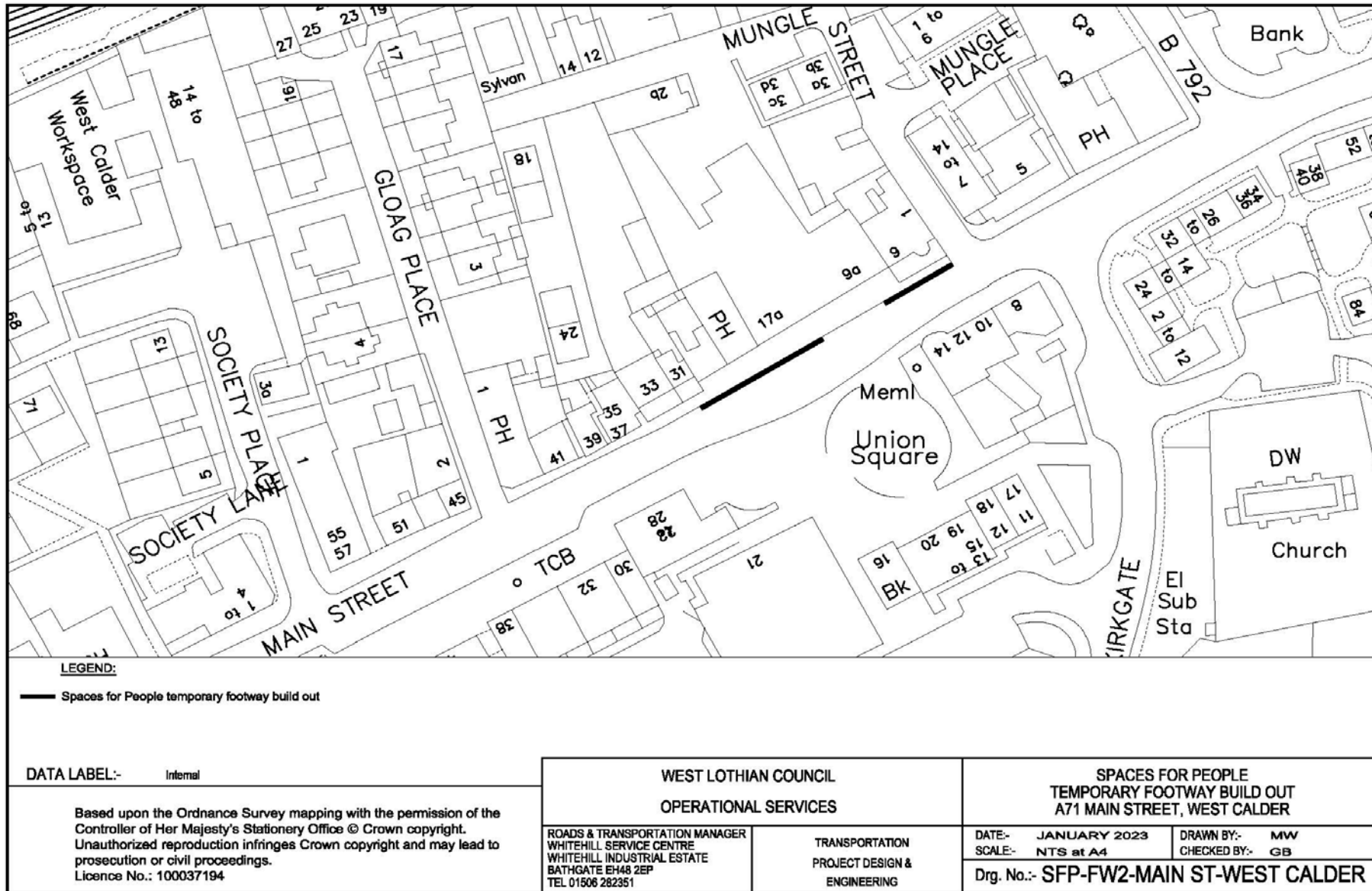
SFP-CL4-3-MAIN ST-
BLACKRIDGE



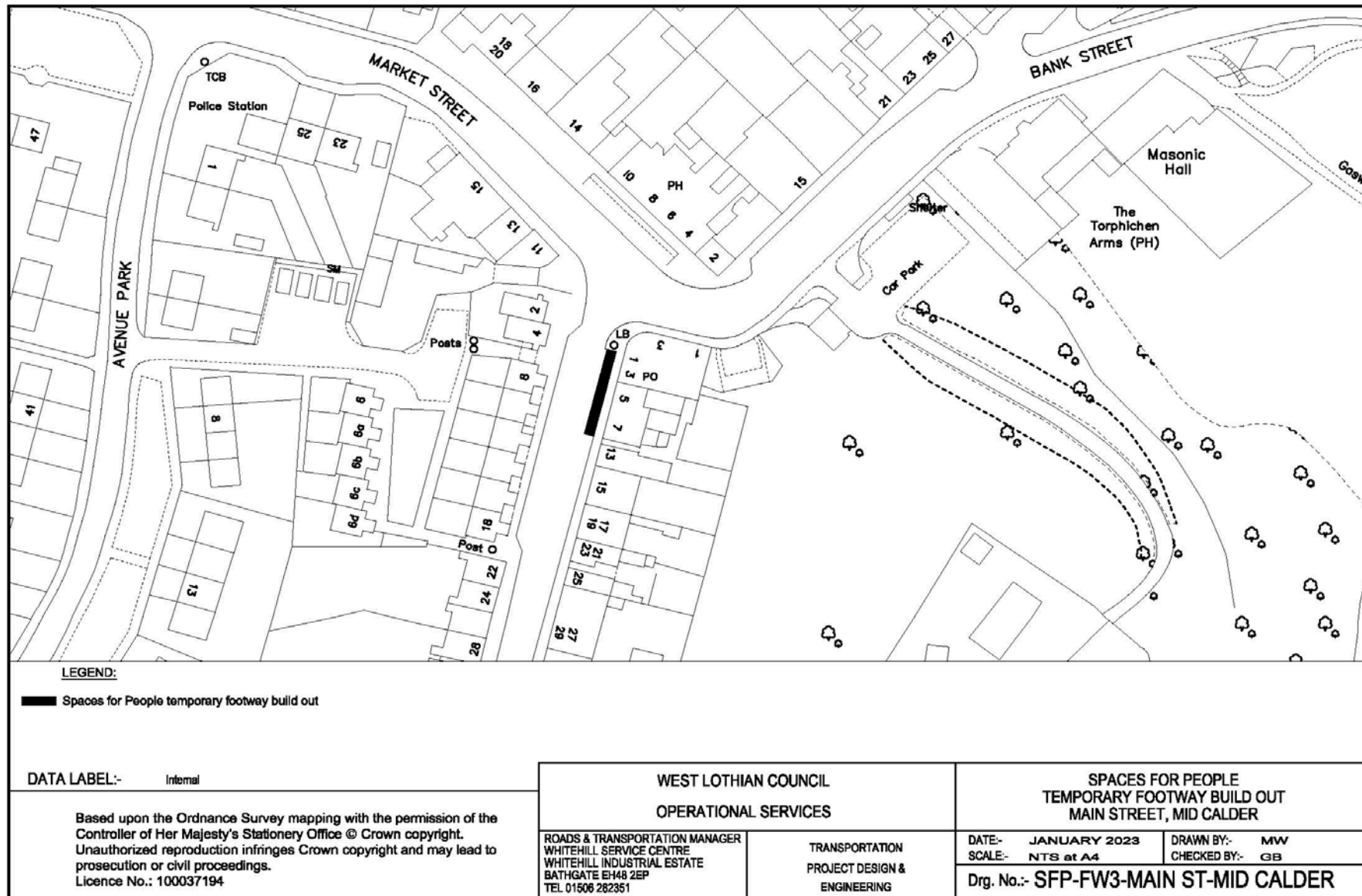
SFP-FW1-HIGH ST-
LINLITHGOW



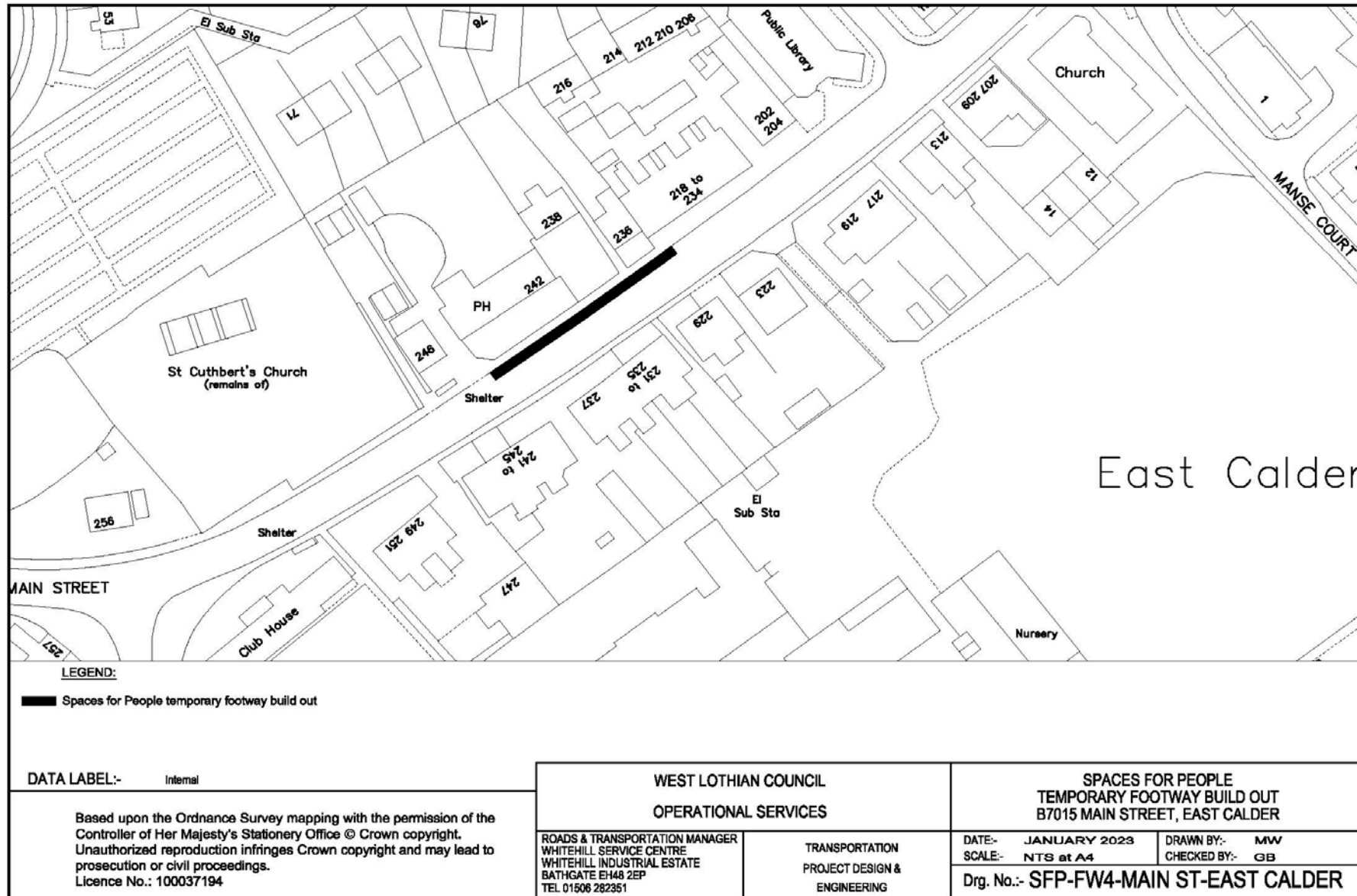
SFP-FW2-MAIN ST- WEST CALDER



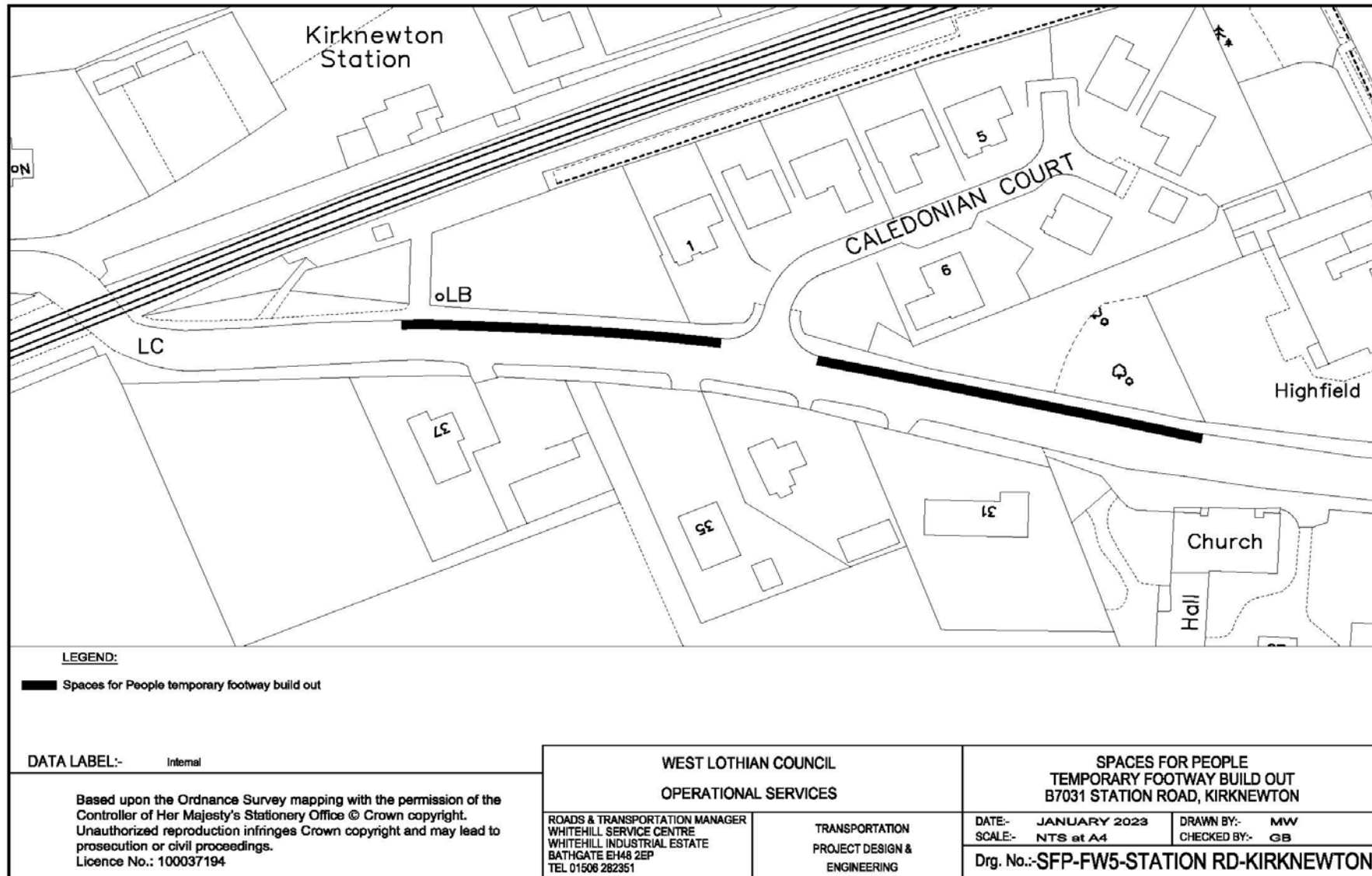
SFP-FW3-MAIN ST-MID CALDER



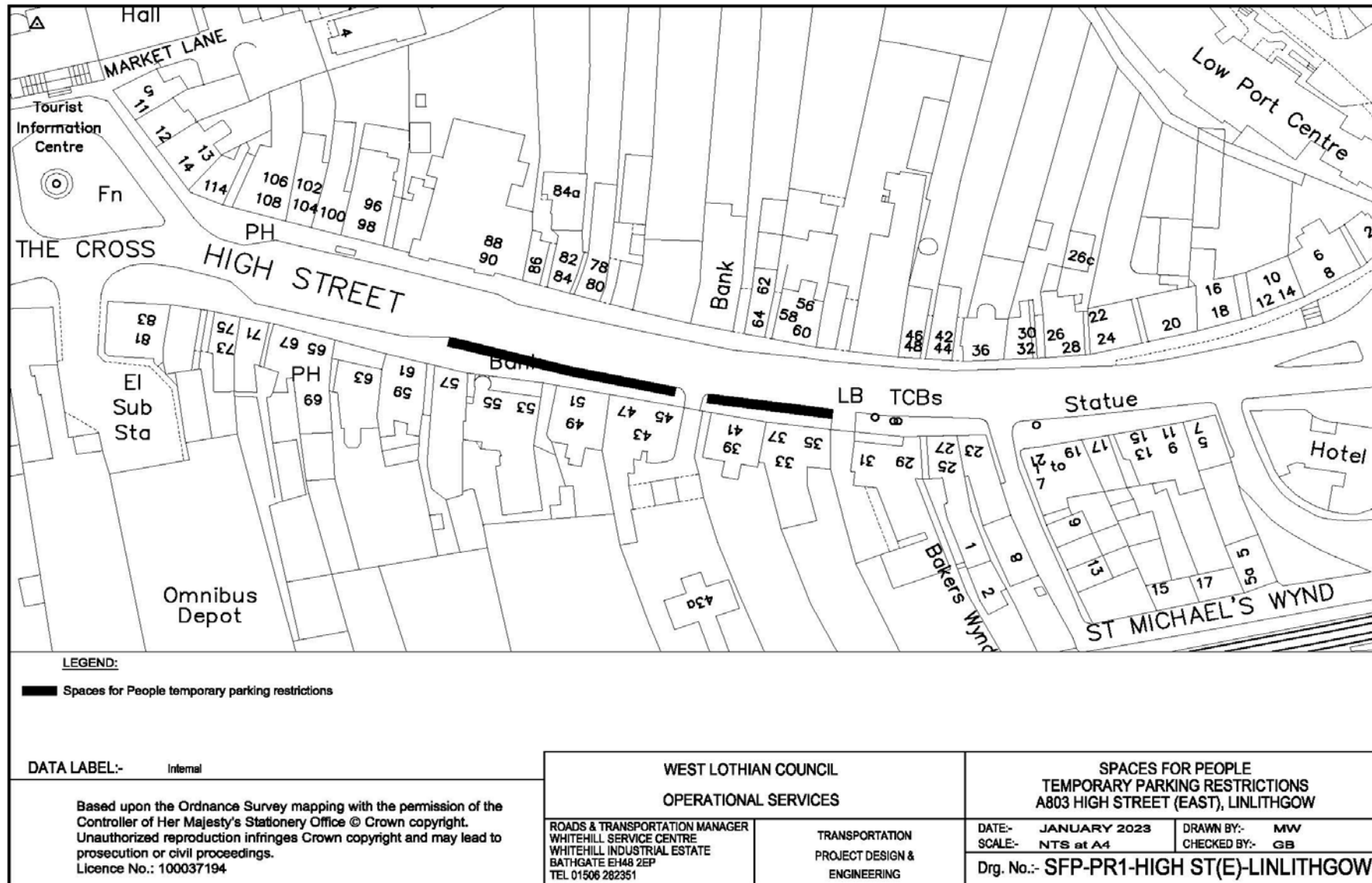
SFP-FW4-MAIN ST-EAST CALDER



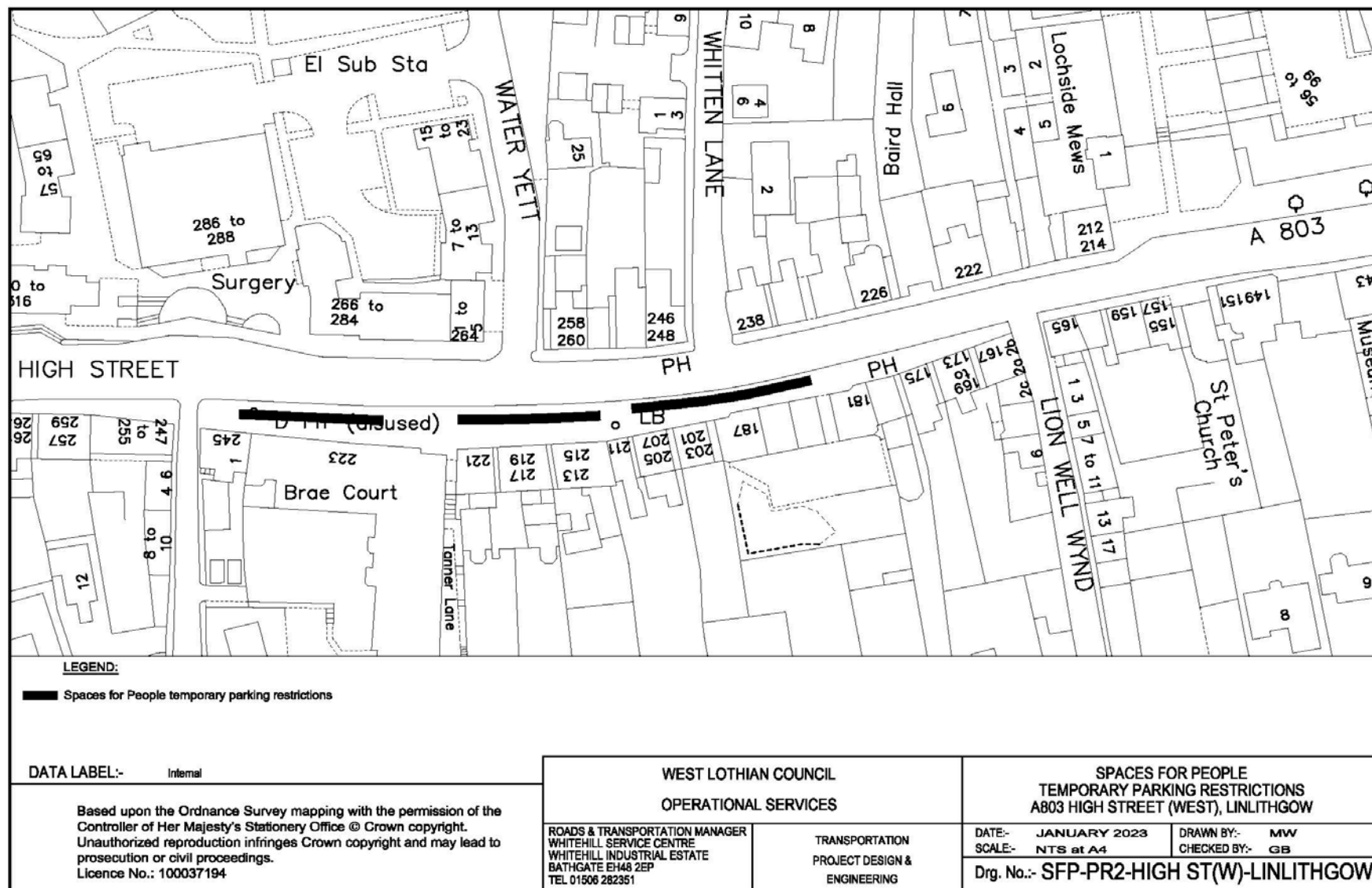
SFP-FW5-STATION RD-
KIRKNEWTON



SFP-PR1-HIGH ST(E)-
LINLITHGOW



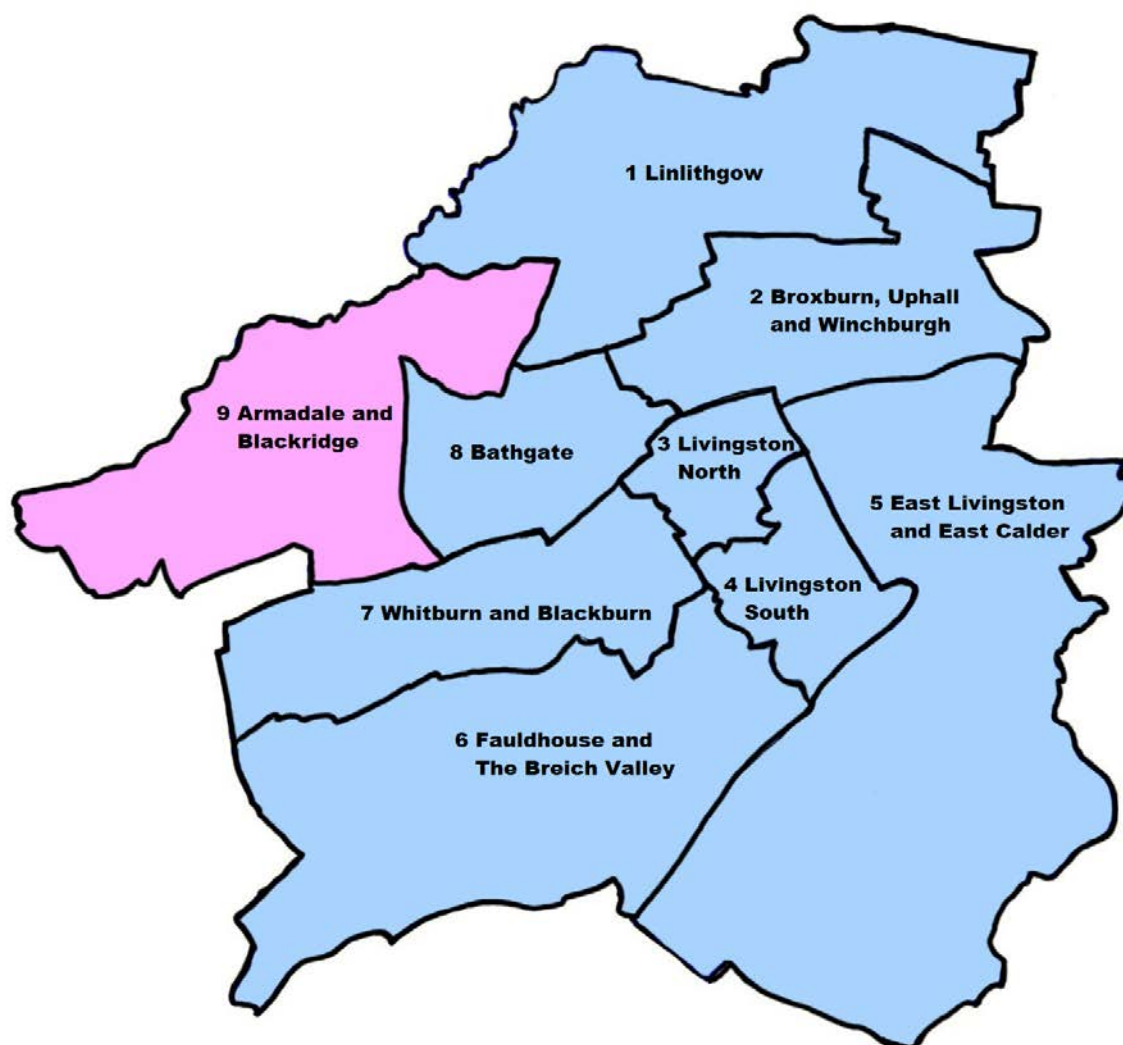
SFP-PR2-HIGH ST(W)-LINLITHGOW





West Lothian Area Command

Lothian and Scottish Borders



Ward 9 Armadale & Blackridge Multi Member Ward Report Quarter 3 – 2022/2023

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.

Armadale and Blackridge Community Engagement Priorities:

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

Armadale and Blackridge Community Officers

PC Sean Henderson

PC Callum Rennie

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.

Community officers also carried out visits to the Armadale Food Bank and Armadale Shed offering appropriate advice on crime prevention and highlighting other agencies should assistance be required.

- **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.

Armadale continues to be a problematic area in regards ASB through the use of off road bikes. Initiatives are being progressed along with Forestry and Land services as well as Safer Neighbourhood Teams to address this issue once those responsible are identified.

Community officers have been conducting patrols where available engaging with youths at the in both Armadale and Blackridge. 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 various classes regarding ASB, Hate crime and Fireworks/bonfire night safety.

- **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 ward area.

Several inputs were delivered to schools in the Armadale area concerning road safety.

- **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



ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE MULTI-MEMBER WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

REPORT BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

B. RECOMMENDATION

Committee members are invited to note and provide comment on the Armadale and Blackridge 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) Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Quarterly Report

Following the publication of the Armadale and Blackridge 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 Armadale and Blackridge Ward 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 Armadale and Blackridge 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.

Scott Watson

Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

January 2023

Appendix 1 Armadale and Blackridge Multi-Member Ward Report



West Lothian Council Area

Ward Performance Report

Quarter 3 2022/23

Armadale and Blackridge Ward

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

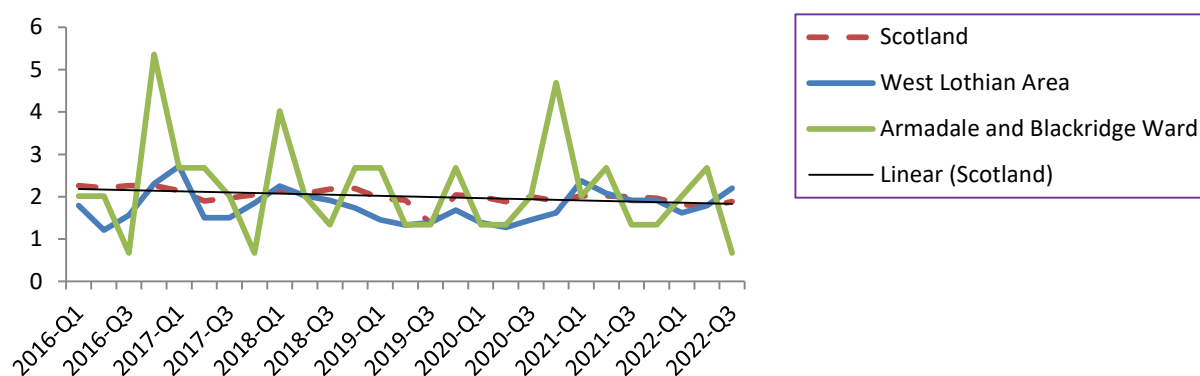
Welcome to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Ward Performance Report. This performance report is designed to provide citizens, stakeholders and partners with information relating to ward based activity undertaken by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

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.

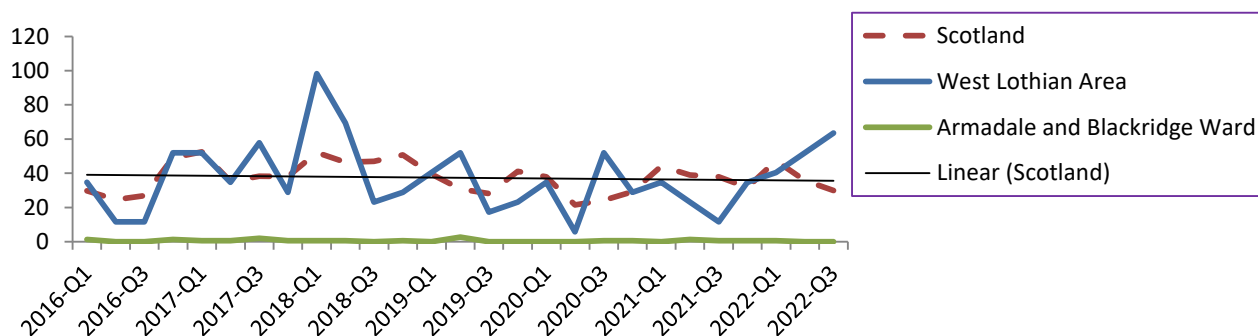
However, regardless of statistical anomalies, emerging patterns and trends in fire related incidents and events can assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Planning Partners plan and implement preventative intervention initiatives to target reducing fire related incidents and events.

Accidental Dwelling Fires Per 10,000 head of population



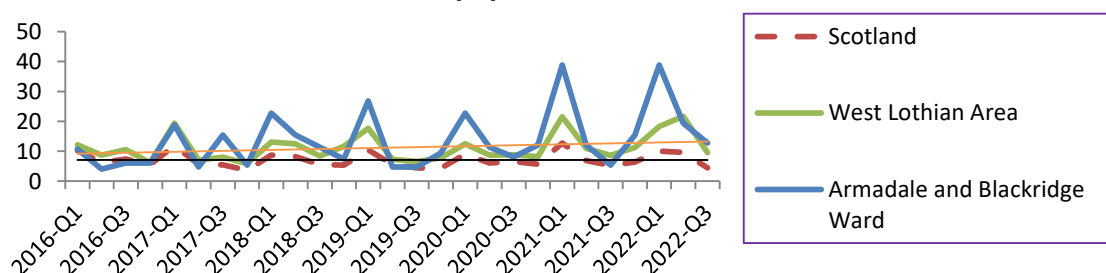
During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 1 accidental dwelling fires in comparison to 2 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

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



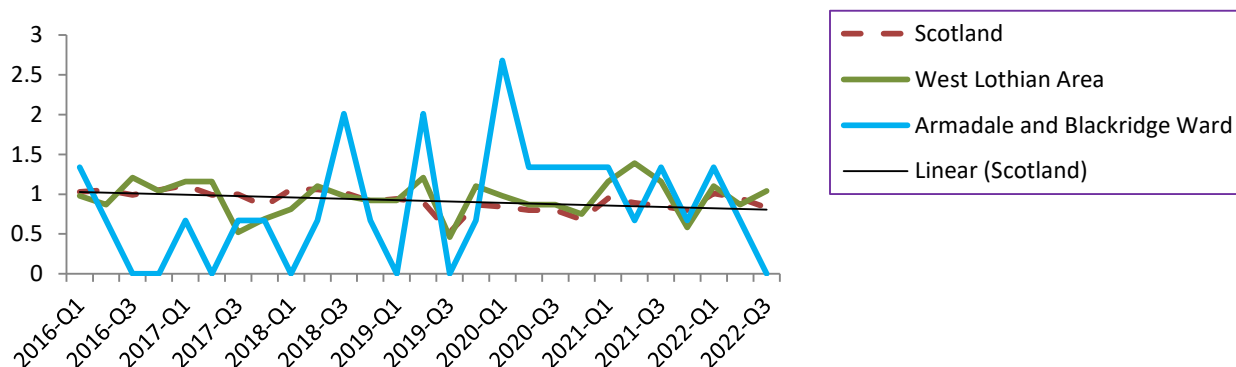
During the 2022-23 year to date reporting period SFRS have dealt with 0 Casualties and Fatalities due to fire in comparison to 1 Casualties and Fatalities during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

Deliberate Fires Per 10,000 head of population



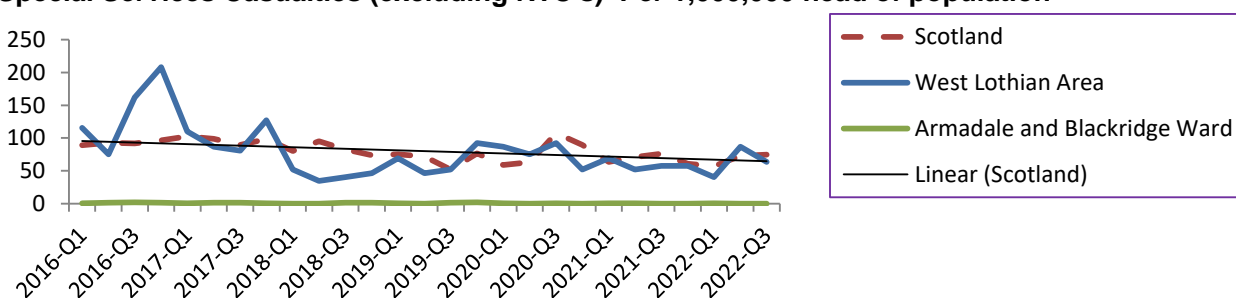
SFRS have dealt with 19 Deliberate fire incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 8 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

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



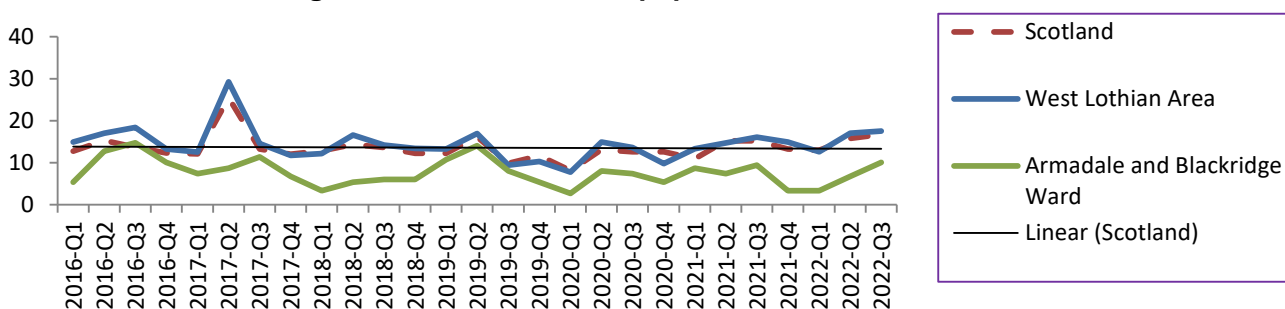
SFRS have dealt with 0 non domestic fire incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 2 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

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



SFRS have dealt with 0 casualties from Special Services during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 0 during 2020-21 year to date reporting period.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Per 10,000 head of population

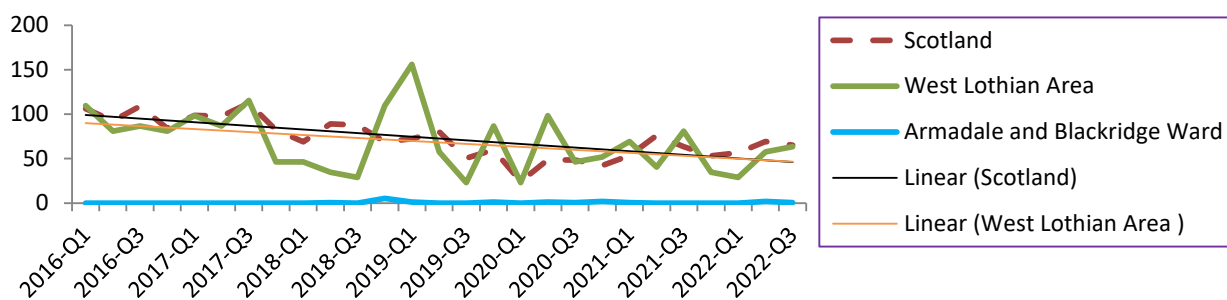


SFRS have dealt with 15 UFAS incidents during 2022-23 year to date reporting period in comparison to 14 during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

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 1 Casualties and 0 Fatalities from RTC's in comparison to 0 Casualties and Fatalities during 2021-22 year to date reporting period.

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



ARMADALE & BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

HOUSING CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

REPORT BY INTERIM HEAD OF HOUSING CUSTOMER AND BUILDING SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the service activities within the Armadale & Blackridge ward.

B. RECOMMENDATION

The Local Area Committee is asked to note Housing, Customer and Building Services activity as detailed in the ward report for the period Quarter 3 - 1st October to 31st December 2022.

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)	Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 Housing (Scotland) Act 2010
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None
IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	There is no impact
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	There are positive impact on the following SOA indicators: SOA4 – we live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities SOA8 – we make the most effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	None
VII Consideration at Housing Services PDSP	No
VIII Other consultations	None

D. TERMS OF REPORT

D1. Housing Performance Information

The purpose of this report is to provide the Local Area Committee with an overview of the activities of Housing, Customer and Building Services, specific to the Armadale & Blackridge ward.

To ensure that council tenancies are being re-let as quickly as possible and that we are meeting our duty under homeless legislation, the Housing Team has continued to prioritise resources to complete the letting process for both temporary and mainstream properties.

Table 1: Property Void & Let Performance: Mainstream Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2022	%	Nov 2022	%	Dec 2022	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	0	0%	1	14.3%	1	100%	55%
2-4 wks	1	50%	1	14.3%	0	0%	30%
4+ wks	1	50%	5	71.4%	0	0%	15%
Total Lets	2	100%	7	100%	1	100%	100%

Table 2: Property Void & Let Performance: Temporary Tenancies

Void Period	Oct 2022	%	Nov 2022	%	Dec 2022	%	WL Target %
0-2 wks	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	55%
2-4 wks	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%	30%
4+ wks	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	15%
Total Lets	1	100%	0	0%	1	100%	100%

Delays in re-letting can occur for a variety of reasons - the type or location of the property, the completion of void work or the identification of additional works not visible during the initial inspection. Ensuring that vulnerable persons are appropriately supported through the viewing and sign up process can also add to timeframes. Some of our applicants have specific support requirements which require detailed planning and co-ordination by both social work and housing services prior to tenancy commencement.

There are 39 policy voids in the ward for this period, 8 more than last reporting period.

Table 3: Policy Voids

Void period	Number of properties	PV reasons
<4 weeks	5	1 – flood 1 – structural 3 - buybacks
4 – 12 weeks	4	1 – buyback 1 – dampness 2 – property upgrades
13 – 16 weeks	10	1 – flood 1 – held for legal purposes 1 – health & safety 1 – structural 1 – asbestos removal 2 – buybacks 3 – property upgrades
26+ weeks	20	1 – health & safety 1 – woodworm 3 – held for decant 4 – property upgrades 11 – capital programme

D2. Arrears

For the Armadale and Blackridge ward the collection rate for the year to date in Quarter 3 remains excellent at 97.2%. Armadale and Blackridge has collected £5,115,303 vs a charge of £5,264,685.

The overall increased arrears in comparison to last year are as a result of Full-Service Universal Credit being introduced in West Lothian from May 2018, along with other Welfare Benefit reforms and the current economic climate.

In the same week last year Armadale and Blackridge ward had 381 Universal Credit (UC) households in arrears. Since then the number of UC households in arrears has increased by 11.8%.

The number of tenancies in arrears in this ward has increased by 91 since last year. Small debt cases (£300 or less), account for 54.2% of households.

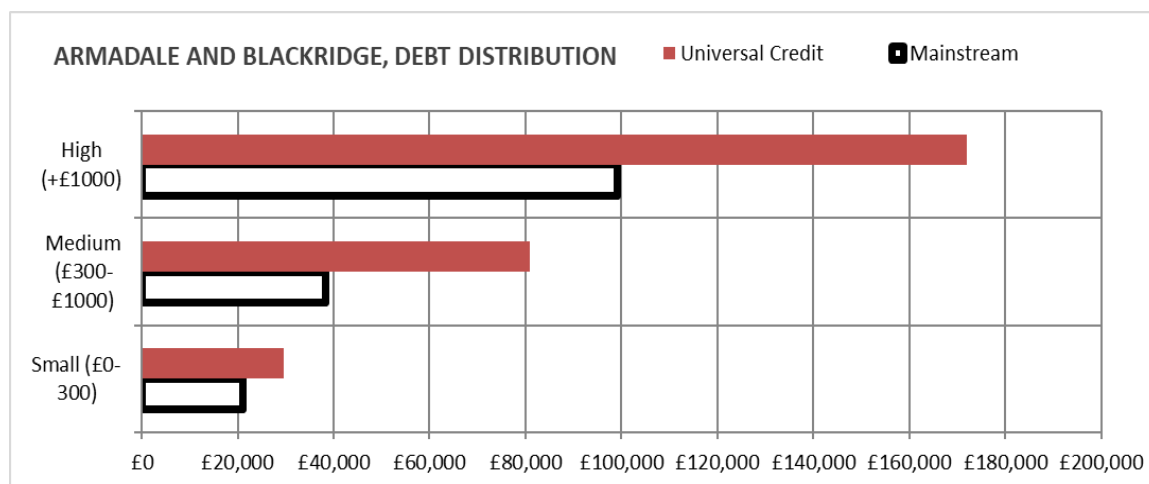
There are 112 serious arrears cases (+£1000 in arrears). These cases are 15.5% of all households in arrears in this area, containing 61.5% of the debt.

The arrears position for Armadale and Blackridge Quarter 3 is £441,245. This is an increase of £77,467 on last year's position. The West Lothian overall position is currently £4,305,323.

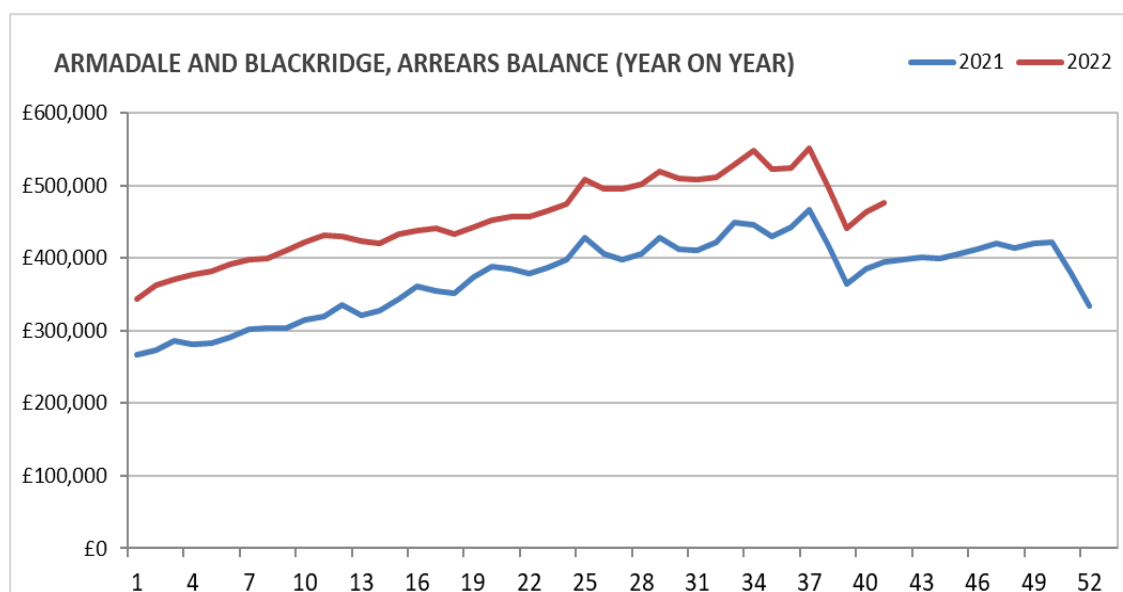
During the course of this year we plan to focus on the following:

- Making best use of resources by considering communicating more with customers through SMS, email and telephone

- Benchmarking with other local authorities to ensure we identify and consider implementing any best practice
- Performance Monitoring and Reporting will be reviewed and where appropriate streamlined to ensure information is meaningful and robust to assist with improving rent arrears due.
- Promote alternative payment methods, particularly the Tenant's Self-Service Portal

Table 4: Debt Distribution**Table 5: Arrears Banding**

Arrears Banding	2021/22 (WK39)				2022/23 (WK39)			
	Mainstream		UC		Mainstream		UC	
	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases	Balance	Cases
£0.01 to £99.99	£4,450	93	£3,373	63	£6,199	114	£3,969	68
£100.00 to £299.99	£13,614	65	£21,015	115	£15,008	78	£25,690	132
£300.00 to £499.99	£15,348	39	£23,017	61	£14,981	38	£29,716	75
£500.00 to £749.99	£9,781	16	£25,088	41	£10,431	17	£30,334	50
£750.00 to £999.99	£4,390	5	£26,282	30	£12,827	15	£20,859	24
£1000.00 to £1999.99	£26,682	21	£73,531	52	£22,012	16	£67,230	48
£2000+	£48,342	12	£68,865	19	£77,143	19	£104,849	29
Group Total	£122,608	251	£241,170	381	£158,599	297	£282,646	426
Movement					(+) £35,991	(+) 46	(+) £41,476	(+) 45
Overall Total			£363,778	632			£441,245	723
Overall Movement							(+) £77,467	(+) 91

Table 6: Arrears Balance**D3. Armadale Area Team Activity**

During Quarter 3, there was an unprecedented number of properties affected due to flooding throughout the district. As a result, officers have been working closely with Housing, Strategy & Development and Building Services and engaging with tenants to provide alternative accommodation and support.

Officers have also continued to work with colleagues in Building Services, engaging with tenants to ensure that health and safety work has been completed and all necessary compliance work is undertaken in tenancies to ensure that these meet legislative requirements. As a result, we have identified a number of tenants requiring support.

Officers have also been continuing to arrange decants and liaise with tenants in Burns Avenue to support them in moving out of their tenancies and return again once the capital programme work has been completed. Regular meetings also continue to take place.

Rent arrears continues to be a weekly focused task for the team and they continue to work with all our tenants offering support, advice and assistance. Such assistance includes referrals for money and debt advice, benefit health checks, completion of income and expenditure to help set up a sustainable payment plan and where appropriate, assist with applications for Discretionary Housing Payments.

D4. Capital Programme and New Build Council Housing

To date, the Council has had 47 new build completions and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) have had 52 completions in the ward.

Table 7: New Build Activity

WLC New Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of houses handed over	Site Completion
WLC	Bathville Cross Phase 4	3	April 2016	3	June 2022

RSL Build Activity	Site	No of units	Site Start	No. of Houses Handed Over	Site Completion
Cairn Housing Association	Craiginn Terrace, Blackridge	27	April 2021	0	March 2023

Table 8: Refurbishment & Investment

Street	Contract	Site Start	Update
Anderson Avenue	Roof & roughcast replacement	August 2021	Ongoing land dispute delaying last remaining property.
Bathville Phase 5	Regeneration	Phase 5 – October 2020	Fire safety measures taking place on temporary handrails at north elevation staircase. Access to owner's property required to complete statutory compliance fire door and window installation – contact attempts ongoing. Continuation of works to staircases and preparation works to balcony walkway progressing - customer access required. Awaiting installation date for fencing works, lighting to be reinstated and aerial works to be completed after render works. Door systems and number signage to be installed / fitted. SGN to complete lower service works January 2023. Top soil and grass seed applied in all areas and germinating. Low maintenance shrubs planted and bark installed. Base coat installed on road and footpaths and temporary walkway adjustment for 7 Station Road.
Burns Avenue	Orlit Upgrade	November 2021	Work continuing in the area. Seventeen properties have been completed with tenants having returned to their mainstream addresses. Building Services are currently working on a further 4 properties and 2 further properties have been terminated.
Drummond Place	Roof & Roughcasting	2020/2021	All properties now complete.
Strathlogie	Heating, roof & roughcast replacement	September 2020	To date, 4 tenants have agreed to storage batteries. Anti-Poverty Service (Energy) are currently supporting tenants to ensure they are on correct tariffs.

D5. Tenant Participation

To coincide with our new Tenant and Customer Partnership Strategy, the number of tenant meetings has been reduced from 72 a year to 38. This ensures that the information brought to the meetings is of value to both customers and officers.

A hybrid approach to our TP meetings continues, with the majority of meetings being digital.

Tenant Participation Development Working Group: tenant panel members and TP officers meet monthly. This quarter, a focus on the new expenses process and funding for new tenant groups took place.

Editorial panel: A review of the tenant's handbook and Landlord Report was completed. Another successful edition of the Winter tenant's news was published.

Social Media: There are currently 343 members on the TP Facebook page. There is a steady increase of tenants joining the page after a letter was developed with the tenant's panel chair to welcome new members. This letter is sent to tenants who states they are interested in joining TP through the new tenant survey.

Tenants Panel: This Quarter, tenant members met with senior management and were provided with an update for each service area.

TP Strategy: This Quarter has seen the launch of the new 5-year Tenant and Customer Participation strategy and action plan. This sets out the goals for TP over the next year and makes sure we have something to keep us on track to meeting our objectives.

D6. Safer Neighbourhood Council Officer Ward Information

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers continue to work across the nine multi member ward areas as an integral part of the Community Safety Unit, as part of their working remit to reduce noise and antisocial behaviour (ASB). Partnership working involves the local housing team, council officer within the SNT and officers from Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service all working together to tackle antisocial behaviour. When necessary, the partners will liaise with voluntary organisations including West Lothian Youth Action Project, mental health advisory workers and private landlords in order to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Armadale Ward Data

Quarter 3 data is unavailable at this time. Information will be shared at a later date when this becomes available.

Table 9: Cases and Incidents

<i>Cases and Incidents</i>	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Incidents reported to SNT	32	31	23	33	23	25
Number of active cases	11	5	4	5	5	5
Number of resolved cases	1	3	2	1	3	0

Table 10 provides an overview of the types of incidents that are being reported to the SNT

Incident Categories	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
ASB Part 2 Complaint	12	20	18	28	15	15
ASB Part 5 Noise Complaint	13	9	4	2	4	4
Dog Barking	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENV Health Complaint	0	0	0	2	1	1
Non ASB Noise Complaint	1	0	0	0	0	2
SST Section 3 Tenancy Management	2	2	1	1	3	3
Youth Disorder	1	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised Encampment	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	29	31	23	33	23	25

Table 11: The following table provides numbers of ASBO that are current in ward and compared to all of West Lothian.

ASBO	<i>Q1</i>	<i>Q2</i>
Number of ASBO's current	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>
All of West Lothian	<i>7 plus 1 Interim</i>	<i>8 plus 1 Interim</i>
Age of perpetrator	<i>26 and 52</i>	<i>27 and 53</i>

Table 12: The following table provides number of all active cases and total number of incidents for West Lothian

West Lothian	<i>Apr</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun</i>	<i>Jul</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sep</i>
Total Number of Active Cases	45	47	51	61	51	58
Total Number of Incidents	309	339	324	326	333	229

E. CONCLUSION

Housing staff have adapted well to working hybrid arrangements and further embraced new ways of working whilst continuing to support vulnerable customers in our communities. In addition, officers have continued to provide advice and support on a range of issues such as anti-social behaviour, moving into new homes, financial issues and working with Building Services to ensure essential compliance work is progressed in tenants' homes to keep them safe.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None

Contact Person: Lorraine Donnelly, Housing Manager,
Housing, Customer and Building Services

Email; lorraine.donnelly@westlothian.gov.uk

Tel: 01506 284056 / 077677 54008

Julie Whitelaw

Interim Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services

24th February 2023



ARMADALE & BLACKRIDGE 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 NETs, Land & Countryside Services teams for the period 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022.

B. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested to:

1. Note the work carried out to date and future planned work.
2. Advise of any areas that require further investigation or inclusion in future work plans.

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

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. All grass areas that required a one-off cut have been 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 there were ten grounds maintenance related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Bonfire Enquiries	2	0
Complaint Grounds Maintenance	3	0
Drainage Flooding Grass Areas	1	0
Fencing Enquiries	0	1
Grass Area Damaged	1	0
Grass Cutting Enquiries	0	1
Grass Highway Verges	0	2
Hedge Cutting Enquiries	1	1
Shrub Bed Enquiries	0	2
Shrub Bed Overhanging Path	0	2
Sports Facility Enquiries	1	0
Weeds on Paths or Roads	1	0
Total	10	9

D3 Garden Maintenance Scheme

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 related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Garden Maintenance General Enquiries	2	5
Garden Maintenance Grass Not Cut	0	3
Garden Maintenance Hedge Cutting	2	0
Total	4	8

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. We 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 61 cleaner communities related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Complaint Street Cleansing	1	0
Dead Animals	2	5
Dog Bin New Request For Bin	1	0
Dog Fouled Grass Open Space	0	2
Dog Fouled Kids Play Area	1	0
Dog Fouling on Paths Roads	7	6
Dog No Fouling Sign Request	0	1
Fly Posting	1	0
Fly Tipping Dumping	21	18
Glass on Paths or Open Spaces	0	2
Litter Bin Burnt Damaged	1	0
Litter General Enquiries	1	4
Litter Paths Roads Verges	4	1
Needles Syringes Abandoned	0	1
Street Sweeping Enquiries	3	4
Vehicle Abandoned	18	12
Total	61	56

Fly Tipping Enquiries (Full Year)

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Illegal Fly Tipping/Dumping	89	125	164	127	136

Environmental Community Action

Officers continue to deal with enquiries relating to fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles and general enquiries. There were 21 enquiries relating to fly tipping for the period compared to 18 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 and kept in a private drive 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 Notice issued in Armadale & Blackridge for fly tipping for the period of 1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022, for the same period in 2021, there was no (0) FPN issued for fly tipping.

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	£11,924.74		
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			£47,076.81		

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		Item 9
6	37	7.72	63.64	£3,239.38		
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			£41,936.85		

D5 Parks and Woodland

In total there were 19 Parks and Woodland related enquiry received during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Tree Advice or Consultations	6	0
Tree Affecting Public Utility	0	1
Tree Branches Overhanging	5	2
Tree Enquiries General	7	1
Tree Leaves Causing Problems	1	1
Total	19	5

	2022	2021
Access Rights Way Core Paths	1	0
Total	1	0

Ranger Service Update

No. Rights Of Way / Core Path / Patrols carried out (hours)	10
No. Access enquiries	1

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 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, delivering two lessons to P5 pupils in Armadale Primary School. Lessons began with a classroom mapping activity on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC), followed by a SOAC-themed obstacle course.

The Ranger Service held one of the monthly Volunteer Ranger Service sessions in Blackmoss Nature Park in October, which was also attended by members of the Friends of the Blackmoss group. Part of the meadow area was scythed and raked as part of grassland management within the Park.

The Ranger Service are due to meet in January to discuss volunteering opportunities for 2023, and are working with the Ecology & Biodiversity team to create a task plan for Blackmoss Nature Park. This will help the Friends of the Blackmoss group and the Ranger Service to plan in sessions and carry out tasks on site.

The monthly Volunteer Ranger Service (VRS) sessions will resume in February or March 2023, once site locations and tasks have been finalised.

The Ranger Service continue to assist different organisations wishing to run events across West Lothian and within the Country Parks and other greenspaces, including running clubs and orienteering groups.

Access

The service continues 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, so as to move enquiries forward and process new ones.

The Ranger Service received one new access enquiry within this time period, concerning a fence being built near part of the National Cycle Route 75. A site visit was carried out and it was found that the fence was built on private land and did not affect access to the Cycle Route. The customer was contacted and advised of this.

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. 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. For the reporting period, Ecology and Biodiversity team received 264 planning applications for Ecological comments of which 20 were specific to Armadale and Blackridge.

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 the 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 with input where required from West Lothian Council staff.

Nature Restoration Fund projects

- Black Moss - Officers are reviewing the existing management plan and preparing an action list and plan for the site including the Nature Park and surrounding woods in collaboration with the Ranger Service and Open Space officers. The plan will outline the intention for the site highlighting the constraints and potential challenges.

D6 Open Space and Cemeteries

Bridgehouse Play Area - Refurbishment works are now complete and the play area is open to the public. The new equipment offers additional play value with weather proof, accessible surfacing.

Hillside Drive Grass Capital Works Park Improvement, Blackridge - Works on site are now complete and the new, accessible path is open to the public. Some outstanding snags will be completed before spring time and will include tidying up the mounds and grass reinstatement.

Watson Park Capital Works Park Improvement, Armadale – Works have now started in the park and will include new asphalt paths, seating, tree planting and car park resurfacing. The main landscaping works should be complete by mid-February. The play lining works have been postponed until the springtime due to poor weather.

Open Space Enquiries

There were two open space related enquiries were received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Childrens Play Enquiries	2	1
Total	2	1

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 Enquiries

There were 38 cemetery related enquiries received and dealt with during this reporting period.

	2022	2021
Cemeteries General Enquiries	7	2
Complaint Cemeteries & Burials	1	0
Lair Enquiries	1	4
Lair Sunken or Uneven	0	2
Memorial/ Headstone Works	10	6
New Interment Booking	12	10
Purchase of Interment Lair	7	4
Total	38	28

E CONCLUSION

Item 9

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: Simon Scott, Open Space & Cemeteries Manager,
Whitehill Service Centre, SimonScott@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack

Head of Operational Services

21 February 2023

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC**ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE****COMMUNITY REGENERATION UPDATE****REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, EDUCATION, PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report is to update members on the Community Wealth Building Teams activity within the Armadale and Blackridge Ward. In particular the work of the Armadale Regeneration Group, and the work to engage with the community around the Local Outcome Improvement (LOIP) pillars and local priorities.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the members:

1. note the continuing work of the Armadale Regeneration Group (ARG);
2. note the community engagement carried out within the area;
3. note the new Community Connections project that is being planned for Armadale;
4. note the new projects undertaken from Play Works Armadale (The Dale Hub), formally Family and Community Development West Lothian;
5. note the update from the Street Tree project and why it is no longer feasible to be delivered.

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)	Community regeneration reinforces the council's commitment to community planning at a local level.
III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.

IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators	Performance indicators relating to the activity within the plans are captured within the set of regeneration key performance indicators.
V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are better educated and have access to increased and better-quality learning and employment opportunities. - We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities. - We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities. - We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built environment.
VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Activities will be funded from existing budgets or external sources.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Annual updates on regeneration plans will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership board.
VIII Other consultations	None.

D. TERMS OF THE REPORT

D.1 Background

The report updates the committee on work to support the communities in the Armadale and Blackridge ward by the Community Wealth Building Team and its partners, with a particular focus on the town of Armadale. Armadale is one of the 13 areas covered by 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 a priority due to being within the bottom 20% of data zones in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

D.2 Armadale's Regeneration Group (ARG)

The ARG are continuing to hold their monthly meetings from Play Works Armadale (The Dale Hub) with a range of services and partners invited to attend. A new structure to the meetings that partners have welcomed has seen presentations from services on specific projects being delivered. The January meeting saw a presentation from the Climate Action Network and helped provide narrative to how Climate Action discussions can be implemented within our communities. Future presentations include The Advice Shop, Housing, The Armadale Shed and Play Works Armadale with more being planned.

A standing item on the Armadale Community Council's agenda is an update on Community Regeneration. The Community Regeneration Officer (CRO) attends the meeting regular to provide this update to ensure that information is shared between the ARG and the community council. Support is also being provided to the community council regarding Town Centre Fund projects to ensure these are delivered within the timescales of the fund.

The Community Wealth Building Team have carried out engagement in Armadale during January and have utilised face to face practices to have meaningful conversations with the community. An online survey has also been developed to cast a wider reach to the community. A visual display capturing views from the community was situated in the Armadale Partnership Centre, this allowed people to complete a paper survey without the pressure of needing to talk to someone and posting this in a sealed box.

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

This information will help Community Planning Partners and local Action Group to plan appropriately going forward and align local and county wide priorities.

D.3 Community Connections – Armadale

Community Connection drop-ins have been rolled out in various locations within West Lothian using a phased approach. Armadale was part of phase four which is about to begin. Community Connections is a service that aims to provide support to individuals on numerous issues including advice on benefits, employment, housing, health etc. The project is supported by a range of partners and services who all work with the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). Locations for the drop-in sessions have been discussed with partners and services to best place the drop-in session that will have the most benefit to the community. It has been agreed to trial the sessions in the Mayfield area which is in the top 20% of deprivation. The venue for the drop-in will be Play Works Armadale (The Dale Hub) and will be delivered on Thursdays afternoons during the Pantry sessions commencing on 16 March 2023. Promotional materials will be available in the next few weeks to ensure that the project is well promoted within the community.

D.4 Play Works Armadale (The Dale Hub)

Family and Community Development West Lothian (FCDWL) are now trading as Play Works with The Dale Hub now being known as Play Works Armadale. This new name highlights that play is at the heart of what they do.

A new project aimed at food insecurity has been developed utilising funding from the

Food Network. The project is delivered over two four week blocks with six parents attending per group. The group learn new nutritional and cost-effective recipes for their family in a social environment with play sessions included so that children and their parents are able to attend and eat a hot healthy meal together every Thursday. In order to remove transport as a barrier for families from Westfield attending nursery collection and transport is provided as part of the project. At the end of the four-week block the participants are able to keep the air fryer so that they can continue to cook food at home more economically using the recipes they have learnt.

Due to the success of the first baby massage programme delivered last year, a new six-week course is being delivered with six mothers and babies attending. Further referrals are being received from health visitors resulting in the demand for an additional course required. Baby massage has been evidenced as an excellent tool for new mums to form and connect deep rooted attachment with their baby. Baby massage not only aids digestion, reduces crying, improves sleep but also enables parents to build their confidence in parenting. As a result of the mothers from the first baby massage course being receptive to continuing with a social group a Play Babies group has started. This has enabled continued support to maintain and build upon their friendships reducing anxiety and social isolation. The group helps parents to bond and play with their babies and build confidence.

Armada Street Project

The original project proposal to reinstate trees along the main streets in Armadale was reported to the Local Area Committee in October 2019, and was awarded £28,000. A further proposal was brought to the Local Area Committee in February of 2021 requesting a further £28,000 for the project. The increase cost had arisen due to issues with the existing tree pits and contractor fees. It was agreed to award funding to the project resulting in £56,000 being made available. Due to considerable rises in costs, issues with the existing tree pits and the drainage requirements needed, the projected costs for this project have risen further and has rendered the project unfeasible. A total of £7,587 has been spent on the project, this leaves a balance of £48,413.

Armadale Community Council have been in discussion with officers over alternative options and are looking at 'identity street art' placed at strategic locations entering the town. Locations are currently being identified and the Community Council will work with both the Town Centre Manager and Community Regeneration Officer to progress the project. Designs for the art work have been completed and will be sent out to various community groups for their views. Advertisement consent for all locations will be applied for and advice from the relevant council departments will be sought.

E. CONCLUSION

Meetings continue to be delivered monthly from Play Works Armadale (The Dale Hub) with different services providing a presentation each month. These presentations help share and spot light specific projects aimed at tackling and reducing a range of inequalities. An update from each meeting is taken to the Community Council to help with the sharing of information. Engagement within the community has been carried out with this being used to help identify priorities and set new actions to work towards. The engagement has also been used to help align the priorities for the LOIP. Support

is being provided to the Community Council to deliver a newly identified project benefiting the town.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: None

Contact Person:

Michelle Kirkbright, Community Regeneration Officer
michelle.kirkbright@westlothian.gov.uk

Clare Stewart, Manager, Community Wealth Building Team
clare.stewart@westlothian.gov.uk

Elaine Cook

Deputy Chief Executive, Education, Planning and Economic Development

24 February 2023

	Issue	Purpose	Lead Officer	Date	Referral
1	Housing Report	Quarterly update on housing issues	Lorraine Donnelly	April 2023	No
2	Police/NRT Report	Quarterly update on Police/NRT activity	TBC	April 2023	No
3	Nets, Land and Countryside Services	Quarterly update on Nets, Land and Countryside Services	Simon Soctt	April 2023	No
4	Scottish Fire & Rescue	To provide a quarterly update	Paul Harvey	April 2023	No
5	Community Regeneration	Update on progress towards Armadale Regeneration Plan	Michelle Kirkbright	April 2023	No
6	Work Plan	Provide an update on report dates due for the year	Michelle Kirkbright	April 2023	No
7	Armadale Academy	To provide an update on performance and activity	TBC	September 2023	No
8	St Kentigern's Academy	To provide an update on performance and activity	Andrew Sharkey	April 2023	No
9	Advice Shop	To provide an annual update on activity on the ward	Nahid Hanif	2023	No
11	Town Centre Improvement Fund	To provide the committee with details of projects funded through the Scottish Government TCIF	Michelle Kirkbright	TBC	No
12	Food Growing Strategy	To provide information on the new West Lothian Food Growing Strategy	Carol Campbell	April 2023	No
13	Pensioners Christmas Fund	To advise the committee of the number of beneficiaries eligible within the ward	Michelle Kirkbright	TBC	No

DATA LABEL: Public

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

Reports to committee officer by 12 noon	Agenda Issue	Meeting Date	Venue
Tues 22 August 2023	Wed 23 August 2023	Tuesday 29 August 2023	Armadale Partnership Centre
Tues 24 October 2023	Wed 25 October 2023	Tuesday 31 October 2023	Armadale Partnership Centre
Tues 20 February 2024	Wed 21 February 2024	Tuesday 27 February 2024	Armadale Partnership Centre
Tues 16 April 2024	Wed 17 April 2024	Tuesday 23 April 2024	Armadale Partnership Centre

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