



Action planning for traditional town centres in West Lothian

LINLITHGOW consultation



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Please complete the attached feed back form and return to:

**West Lothian Council,
Development Planning,
FREEPOST SCO4880,
Linlithgow, EH49 0BR.**

For any further information please contact:

Laura Fleming on **01506 775410** or email **laura.fleming@westlothian.gov.uk**

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INTRODUCTION

West Lothian Council is committed to supporting the economic prosperity and vitality of the district's traditional towns. In November 2005 consultants were appointed to undertake advise on rolling out the Action Plan approach. The consultants carried out a 'health check' of the town centre that identified the main strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats. This process will help to identify and prioritise future actions for improvement.

Typically a good town centre will include a range of quality shops and other services, convenient car parking, a sense of security, an inviting pedestrian environment and quality public areas.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

The consultants identified opportunities and threats for Linlithgow town centre. The council is now seeking your views on the issues that were identified by the consultants. Your views are important and we would be grateful if you would complete the attached feedback form. This will allow us to draw up a comprehensive list of issues and opportunities in the town. To assist you coming to a view of what the priorities are for Linlithgow we have detailed below a summary of the consultants findings. The actions

suggested by the consultants may, or may not, in your view be the right solution. Please let us know what you think about these proposal and any other proposals that you think would help the vitality of the town.

This consultation exercise will inform and prioritise the selection of projects to use the capital budget already approved for town centres. The priorities will be laid out in the Linlithgow Action Plan.



CONSULTANT'S FINDINGS

The town has an interesting choice of shops serving resident as well as its tourism and visitor potential. Tesco at the Regent Centre and Sainsbury's and Aldi at Linlithgow Bridge provides food retailing. Local and independent retailers mainly meet non-food shopping although some national chain stores are present mainly Boots and M & Co. A new non-food retail development started trading during 2006 at Linlithgow Bridge. A range of multiples such as Homebase, Argos,

Au Naturelle and Acorn Pets occupy it. At present the overall vacancy rate is extremely low (1.0%) and is not an issue.

Train services operate from Linlithgow to Falkirk, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and Dunblane. The town is well served by local bus services, including a circular service operating within the town with long distance services to Edinburgh and Stirling. There are a number of dedicated off-street car parks, as well as limited on-street parking. A recent study considered options to improve car parking in the town centre.

The historic nature of the town centre of Linlithgow and the Palace is recognised by its designation as a conservation area. This has been completed by a series of improvements in the town centre, but the public realm must continue to be maintained for the town to benefit from increased visitors and tourism.

A survey among shoppers showed that the majority of respondents feel that there are currently inadequate car parking facilities in Linlithgow. Other areas of complaint relate to the volume of traffic on the High Street, while some would like to see a better range of shops.

Some people feel that Linlithgow has secured a role in terms of providing

a niche market with specialist shops. This role attracts visitors and tourists. Pavement surfaces need to be maintained to preserve the town's appearance and attraction. Signage should be improved to attract visitors. Finally, it is thought that town centre events are required to increase footfall in the town.

POSSIBLE PROJECTS

To address some of the issues that have been identified a number of projects may need to be implemented. These projects could include:

- Environmental improvements such as enhanced street furniture, street lighting and planters and pavements.
- Shop front improvements schemes to assist local businesses to upgrade the appearance of their premises.
- Improve the provision of car parking.
- Increase the number of events organised in the town centre.

NEXT STEPS

Your views on the main concerns for Linlithgow will be used to prioritise investment from the council's town centre project budget.