



Using surveys and interviews, local people were asked what they thought about their neighbourhood. Questions focused on connection to the area, character of the area, community spirit, stories and memories, local history, special places, Covid experience, and ideas to improve the area. The responses informed this slideshow and further details of the survey can be found in our resource pack, which also includes useful documents about some of the area's history, including a heritage map.



Survey quotes:

- “Not the most glamorous but loads of 'wee gems”
- “It's like a little town within the city. ...”
- “A woman in a shop said to me that this was a bad area, but I find the people are really lovely.”



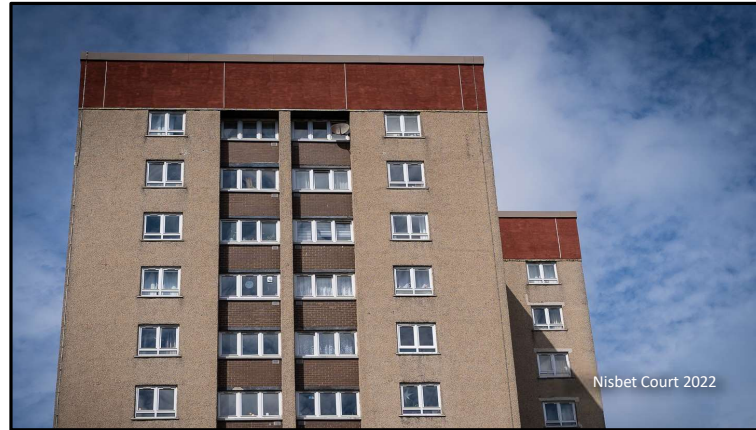
Lochend Park is one the areas key features.

Survey quote:

- “Lochend Park is my go to place to relax and chill out.”
- “The loch is an oasis of calm in the middle of the city”



Restalrig Village is the areas oldest settlement and one of Edinburgh's smallest Conservation Areas. It was surrounded by open fields and farmland until the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Developed as a residential suburb in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the area has a mix of housing. Nisbet Court was built in the 1960s.



Like many places it has social issues.

Survey quotes:

- “Lived here all my life, it's always had its problems.”



It has a sense of community.

Survey quotes:

- “Warm & Welcoming”
- “We used to get a Christmas tree for here [the open grass opposite Kemp’s Corner] every year, and have a ‘switching on the lights’ ceremony, with a local person as the ‘celebrity’. St Ninian’s and Craigentenny schools did a joint choir. Two to three thousand people used to come out to watch it. This went on until lockdown [in 2020 pandemic].”



Developed as a residential suburb in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the area has a mix of housing and greenspaces.



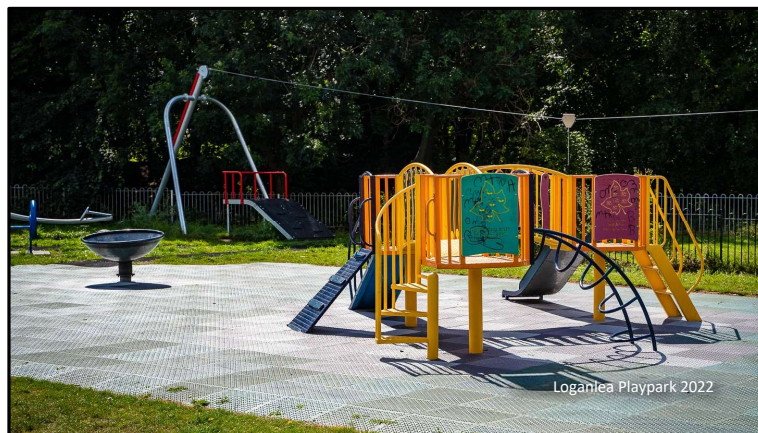
*People said this place had...*

- a suburban feel
- urban challenges
- increasing diversity
- a strong sense of community
- a unique & rich history





Where do we go? Special places...



There's places for children to play.



There's community activities and support at places like The Ripple and Craigentenny Community Centre.



Located next to Lochend Park, Easter Road Stadium has been home to the Hibernian Football Club since 1893.



The area has allotments and community gardens.



Pubs aren't just about drinking, they can also provide social spaces for people who don't wish to join more organised and formal places.

The Bunch o' Roses Pub in Restalrig Village. In the days when there was a large railway depot nearby it was, common for some of the workmen to sneak off for a quick pint. However, their managers were often doing the same thing. Whenever the managers were in having a drink the landlord would put a bunch of roses in the window to warn the workmen to stay away, and that's how the pub got its name!

Survey quote:

- "The orchard behind [The Bunch of Roses pub] was a place that kids used to go for chorying

(stealing) apples. It had about 12 trees; once we'd jumped the fence and the pub opened and he set his dog on us."

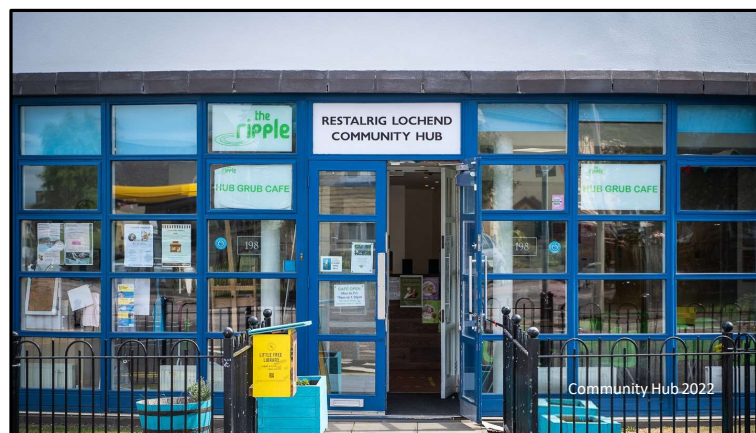




With all its greenspaces the area has lots of wildlife.



The walkways and parks are places for wild-flowers too.



The Ripple provides an important community hub with a wide range of support and activities as well as a community café.

*We go to...*

- parks
- allotments
- shops, pubs, sport
- wildlife
- community centres
- local events





What do we know and remember? We asked people for their stories, memories and history (including the older history and people's personal reminiscences). Their responses, whether through the Survey Monkey, extended interviews or short conversations on our outreach walks, gave us great insight into the richness of this history. More about this in the Resource Pack.



People remembered shops of childhood as well as local trades people. The two women in the picture worked at the Newsagents in the background and the man is 'Jimmy the Milkman'. There was a dairy just round the corner and milk and fresh rolls were delivered to the local houses. Groceries could also be delivered. Many older children got weekend or holiday jobs doing local deliveries. Opposite this shop was Kemp's Grocers, it became so well-known that even today it is known as Kemp's Corner.

Survey quotes:

- "The fish and chip shop selling pokes of chips for 6pence. If I had less money they gave you a poke of batter."
- "This first shop in 'the Village' used to be Ali and Ash's shop. He must have been in his 70s and they

were so involved in the community.”



Painting from Restalrig Kirk, now St Margaret's, showing the area around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as rural.

Survey quote:

- “Restalrig was still a village (surrounded by Edinburgh!) ... with the church being next door there was much going on, the tradition of poor-oot or Scatter of coins after a wedding was still alive in those days, as a kid it was obviously one of my favourites.”





The Munro Factory, built in 1897, employed many local women and made homespun tweeds, Shetland knitwear, and fancy hosiery. They also produced, the then fashionable, knitted ties for men which were very popular locally.

The firm was established in 1880 (as **Munro and Company**) by William Munro and the world-famous *Argyle Sock* was originated by this firm in 1895.

The firm pioneered knitted outerwear for women, using the finest woollen yarns. Cashmere was first introduced by them in 1902.

Survey quotes:

- “Lots of young women worked in Munrospun factory across road from school. They were always lovely to us kids. I recall waiting with my pal for the factory bell to ring so we could walk home up Smokey Brae with them. When one was getting married it was always a great event watching the hen party.”



St Triduana is one of Scotland's oldest saints. Her story is lost to time but legend says she travelled from Constantinople with St Rule when he brought the bones of St Andrew to Scotland in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Apparently she caught the attention of Nechtan, King of the Picts, who told her he loved her for her beautiful eyes. Not wanting to become his wife, she is said to have plucked out her eyes and given them to him on a twig! She later lived at Restalrig, where she is buried, and the local spring here became associated with cures for eye ailments. This healing spring still exists inside her Chapel at St Margaret's Parish Church in the village of Restalrig.

A church has been recorded on the site of St Triduana's Chapel since the 1100s, and fragments of earlier buildings have been identified. James III ordered construction of St Triduana's Aisle in around 1477. It was

completed about 10 years later, and the church was given collegiate status as the Deanery of Restalrig. This Catholic church was destroyed during the Protestant Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and wasn't rebuilt until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was re-established as a protestant Church of Scotland, now known as St Margaret's.



A view of Craigentenny Castle showing the area as it was in 1860, when it was part of a working farm. It was originally a typical 17<sup>th</sup> century laird's house built for the Nisbets of Dean. In 1760 it was purchased by William Miller, a wealthy Edinburgh Seed Merchant. His grandson, William Henry Miller (1789-1848), a Scottish book collector and English parliamentarian for Newcastle Under Lyme, who died at Craigentenny House and was buried nearby. The spot is marked by a large mausoleum decorated with finely sculptured friezes and known locally as the 'Craigentenny Marbles'. Being unmarried and having no children, the house went to a relative who had it extended and modernized in 1869.

Local gossip said he was a "changeling", hermaphrodite or a woman in disguise but this is now thought to be unlikely and part of a 'whispering campaign' to discredit the family. This campaign is said to have been

started by the Edinburgh Quaker community as they were angry at Miller's family, who were all Quakers, and their attempts to take over the congregation.



St Margaret's holy well in Restalrig was once a place of pilgrimage, due to its water's medicinal properties. Its tiny Gothic well house was a miniature copy of the older St Triduana's Chapel. It was moved to its present site, in Holyrood Park, as its original site was in the way of St Margaret's Railway Works, built by the North British Railway Company in the 1850s. Because of its historical significance, the well-house was carefully dismantled and rebuilt in its new home by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. With the redevelopment of the Meadowbank Sports Centre (which replaced the railway works) in the 2020s, locals are working with Edinburgh Council to make sure the original site of the well is preserved.



A view of the 'Craigentenny Meadows' painted in 1885. The Craigentenny Meadows was an innovative plan to process Edinburgh's raw sewage by using it to irrigate a series of fields through a system of ditches, channels and sluice gates. The lush grass that grew on the well fertilized fields was then cut and used to feed the city's dairy cattle. The small sign instructs people not to walk on the grass, for obvious reasons (jobbies).



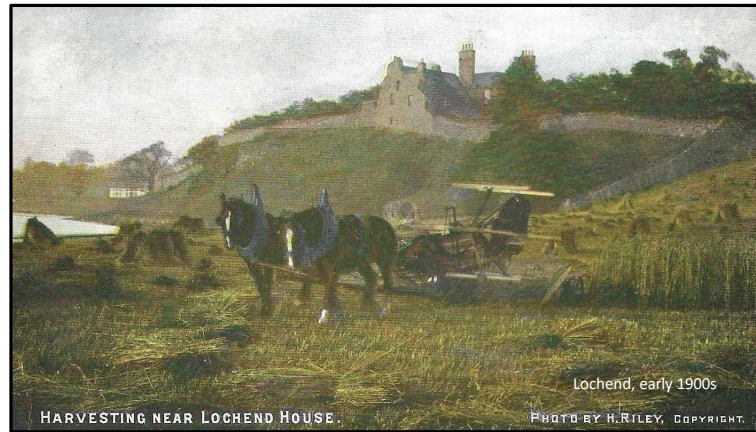


This photo shows a group of women from Smith's Bakery at Hawkhill. The bakery was built on the defunct Hawkhill Quarry and was later bought over by Sunblest, a larger national company. Locals remember the old bakery well – a large, red brick building, it was operated in shifts so it ran 24 hours a day. This not only meant the air constantly smelt of freshly baked bread, it also meant its walls were a cosy place for kids to lean against in cold weather!

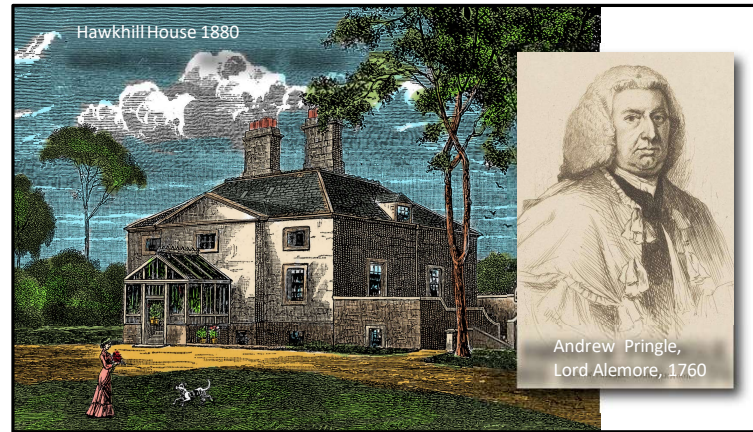
The bakery was demolished in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century to make way for flats. A new access road was built and called Bethlehem Way, as the name Bethlehem means 'house of bread' in Hebrew.

Survey quote:

- “When some of our members were wee they said if they turned up early enough to go out with the delivery vans, they earned themselves pocket money and treats from the bakery.”
- “When I lived with my grandparents, my grandad worked at Sunblest bakery. He used to bring home wee tiny mini loafs shaped, wholemeal Hovis loaves they baked in mini tins. They must have sold them, they were yon size with the word Hovis engraved in the bread.”



The area of Lochend was open farmland until after the First World War (1914-1918). At this date large areas of land in and around Edinburgh were still owned by noble families, such as the Earl of Moray, and wealthy institutions, such as the Heriot's Trust, and rented out.



Hawkhill House was built in 1757 for Andrew Pringle (died 1776). Pringle was an Advocate who later served as the Sheriff of Wigtown and the Sheriff of Selkirk before being made Solicitor General for Scotland. He was given the judicial title of Lord Alemore when he was appointed Lord of Session in 1759. In retirement he was a keen amateur astronomer and built a private observatory near his house at Hawkhill. The house was demolished in 1966 to make way for new flats.



A drawing of Lochend Loch looking towards Hawkhill. On the right is Lochend House before it was remodeled to include a Victorian. To the left of the picture is the distinctive beehive shape of the Doocot (dove cot), while in the distance you can see the domed astronomical observatory at Hawkhill built by Lord Alesmere. It sits on the hill of Hawkhill before it got quarried away.



James Dunbar's Aerated Water factory near Easter Road Stadium. Dunbar's company was established in 1868 and one of its early factories was located at the top of Easter Road, in an area called Maryfield. The company relocated to this purpose-built factory around the time of the First World War (1914-1918). The company was bought over in the 1970s and the factory buildings are now a small business park.

Aerated water is the early name for carbonated or soda water. Here at Dunbar's they added fruit cordials to make drinks such as lemonade and limeade. They also made ginger beer, which they sold in stoneware bottles.

Survey quote:

- “Dunbars juice factory, I remember up the back o the park, by the railways where there were kennels. We used to hang about there. The laddies would climb over the wall and steal the juice and we’d all sit in the park and drink it.”



Photo showing bomb damage from the Second World War.  
At 11.20pm on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1942, four 500lb bombs fell in Craigentenny, destroying homes and killing several people.





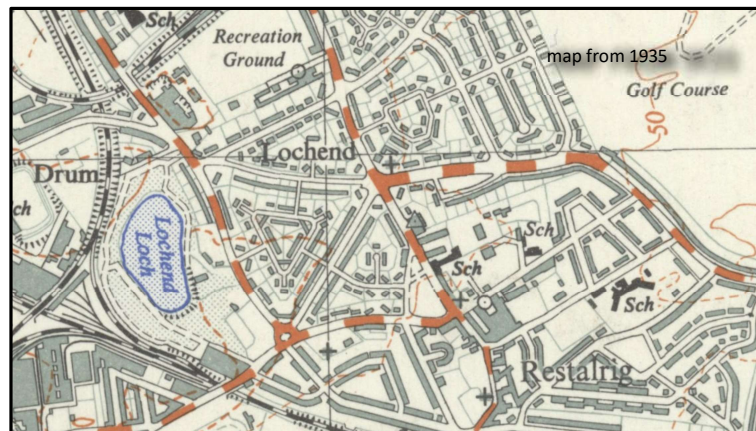
The new tower blocks of Nisbet Court and Hawkhill Court, built in 1977; in the foreground is the Hawkhill Recreation Ground. Earlier ‘tenement’ style council housing built in 1925, located at Restalrig Road and Lochend Avenue – note how the road doesn’t appear to be surfaced!

Survey quotes:

- “When the Kirkgate [in Leith] got knocked down, people got housed here, to get houses with indoor toilets in the 1920s and 30s. It was radical then to get an indoor toilet!!”
- “I remember when they (grandparents) moved into the new flats at Nisbet Court in the 70s, 71 or thereabouts... They were well kept then, really well kept. My nana used to wrap up her rubbish in newspaper, tie it with a string before putting it down the communal rubbish chute on the landing and

they took turn passing a card round about washing the stair.”

- “We played in the gardens but mainly in the streets. Peevers, roller skates, bikes. Tug, hide and seek, rounders and kick the can.”



A 1935 map of Lochend. As a new residential suburb, the area also has lots of new schools.



Marionville House was built for the Misses Ramsay in the 1760s who ran a successful milliner business in Edinburgh's Old Town. For a short time, it was occupied by Captain James Macrae, of the Irish Carabiners. He had to flee the country in 1790 after killing his friend, Sir George Ramsay, in a duel at Musselburgh Links. Co-founder of the British Mineralogical Society, Patrick Dudgeon FRSE (1817-1895), was born here. When he died he left his mineral collection of over 3,500 items to what is now the National Museum of Scotland.

Locals remember that in the 1970s-1980s, as the Presbytery for St Ninian's Catholic Church next door, it was a place of welcome and nourishment for homeless people and many other 'outsiders', thanks to Father Jock Dalrymple.



Craigentenny Castle began as a typical 17<sup>th</sup> century laird's house. Its appearance today is the result of a grand 1860s 'makeover' in the fashionable baronial style. Over the years it has been owned by many families, most notably the Nisbets of Dean from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, when it passed to the Miller family. It was bought from the Millers by Edinburgh City Council in the 1930s, who opened it as Scotland's first community centre in 1937.

With its mix of services and activities for all ages, accommodating a wide variety of local social welfare groups, it set the pattern for all of Scotland's future community centres. One of its early groups that met there was the 'Cheery Bees', who were for 50 years an enormous source of support, friendship and fun for local women. You can read more about them in our resource pack. Craigentenny Castle is still a

community centre today.



The Eastern General Hospital was built on the site of the Leith Poorhouse. Opening in 1908, it was the last Poorhouse to be built in Scotland. Pictured is one of its administrative buildings.

The Eastern General Hospital operated from 1930-2007 before being closed and demolished to make way for housing. Some of the new street names, such as Fleming Way and Latta Place, reflect its medical heritage. The original memorial plaque of the Leith Poorhouse can also be found on the modern housing estate.

The Scottish Poor Law Act of 1845 reformed the provision of poor relief in Scotland, which saw the building of many purpose-built Poorhouses. Just one of many Acts over the years, more information on

the 800 year history of poor relief in Scotland can be found at  
[www.workhouses.org.uk/Scotland](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Scotland)  
[www.workhouses.org.uk/Leith](http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Leith)  
[www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish\\_poorhouse](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_poorhouse)



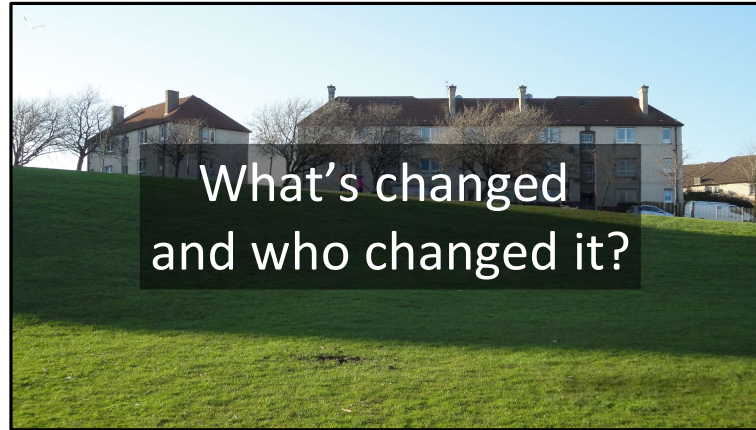


Although the line of the road has changed slightly, this is what you would have seen if you'd been standing on Lochend Road South near the entrance to Lochend Castle Barns looking north. The building to the right is Lochend Cottage. The large white building, known as Lochside Cottage, is where the roundabout with Sleigh Drive is now – note that even in 1922 it still has a thatched roof. Behind it, to the right, you can see part of a grey building through the trees; that is Hawkhill Villas, which still stand today!

*People in our survey mentioned...*

- significant people, events and places
- the impact of two world wars
- historic industries
- the place as a microcosm of Scotland
- lives improved from living here

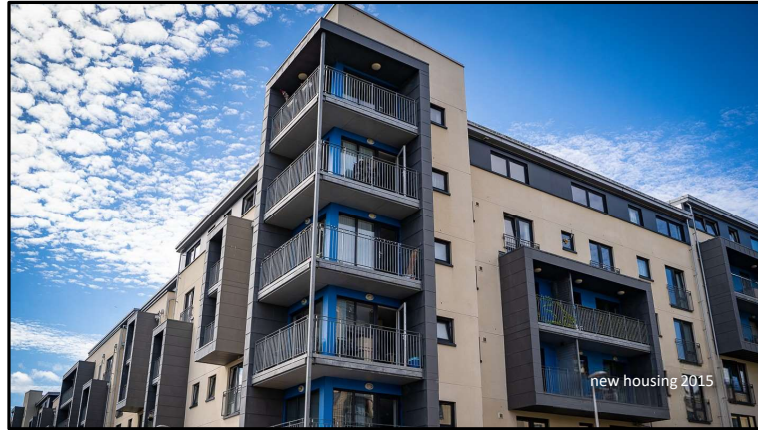




What's changed and who changed it? Times of major change include Ewan Aitken's time as local Minister and as councillor, ultimately leader of the City Council, who made a major impact on the area. Covid is another. We also see the impact of many local activists over the decades, who brought about new resources and the Hub which stands today.



Joan Robertson with Ewan Aitken, former Minister of St Margaret's Church and Leader of City of Edinburgh Council, now CEO of Cyrenians, co-founder and Board Member of the Ripple Project: a key champion of the area who brought about many improvements.



The area has seen lots of new housing developments. Many of these are built on old industrial sites.



Working in conjunction with the City of Edinburgh Council, local residents can support and inform changes in the area. One example is the Meadows Yard Local Nature Reserve on Fillyside Road.

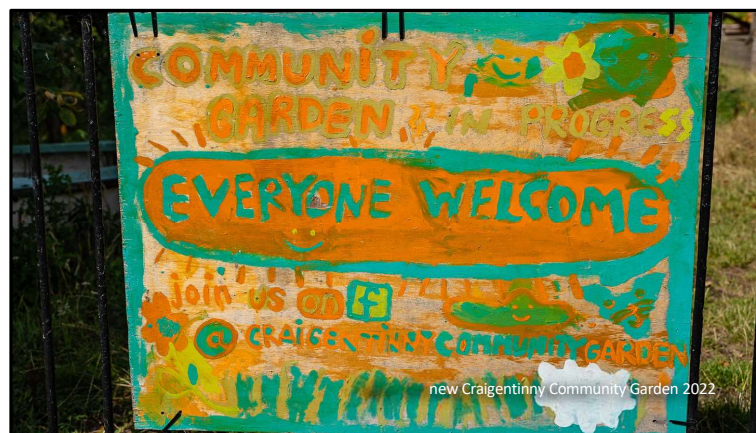


During the Covid Lockdown of 2020, many of us saw our local streets change.



During the Covid Lockdowns of 2020, our parks were very quiet. It was a time when many people felt very isolated and lonely.





Some of the area's neglected spaces have been transformed into Community Gardens.

Survey quote:

- “The [Lochend] Secret Garden started up as Carr Gomm workers who ran this new facility. They wanted to integrate the residents there into the community, and wanted an activity that brings people together: gardening. They wanted something that would help the whole community and not be focussed just on the Carr Gomm residents.”



Survey quote:

- "We did a lot of work around here at Kemp's Corner...We got the traffic to slow down, as they [i.e. traffic] used to hammer down here."
- "Interestingly some of the reasons for the work was problems with residents getting annoyed with what the children were doing. If you talked with the kids though, the reasons they congregated there, near Kemp's Corner was it was where they felt safe!!...We got CCTV put in, and interestingly, the kids stayed, as the CCTV made them feel even safer. I couldn't persuade the residents that the reason they [the kids] gather in big groups isn't to make others feel unsafe, but that *they* feel unsafe!!!! An interesting dynamic."



Survey quote:

- "... on the whole there is more people that are hardworking, kind and caring neighbours that care about the area."



Survey quote:

- “The international culture of people living around. You can see people from a lot of nationalities which is really fascinating and inspire.”
- ”Modern Lochend is diverse too so the only thing we all have in common is we're 'Lochenders' and of course Hibs... I regularly see all the kids from obviously different ethnic backgrounds playing together and bringing the mums together, again all they have in common is they're neighbours.”

*People told us they could see...*

- better facilities
- better community engagement
- less crime/anti-social behaviour
- improving housing & safety
- a more welcoming community





Use the following slides to discuss your wishes and hopes for the future. What has changed since this slideshow was made in 2022? Do you think the area has got better or worse?

Some ideas from our survey:

- “Reintroduce the store vans, the milk van, fish van and rag and bone, if only as an experiment, also the mobile Library.”
- “Give the Sleigh Drive roundabout some character with a statue commemorating multicultural communities.”
- “Address the littering, fly tipping and dog shit.”

- “It would be nice to have more small shops and cafes or nice places to go.”
- “A place... for teenagers... They need a place to be to feel safe. To just be.”
- “Help people to make the most of their outdoor space and get some pride into keeping gardens nice with a prize garden scheme and some help to buy trees, shrubs and perennials.”
- “Making cross generational activities possible. ... A sense of belonging can come from a sense of ownership over the immediate environment and give a vested interest in continuing with it.”

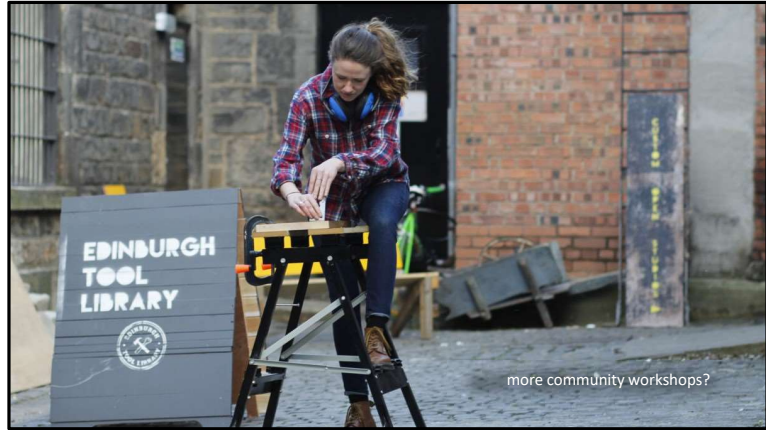






















*And now, over to you...*

- how can we make our area better?
- what would better look like?



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