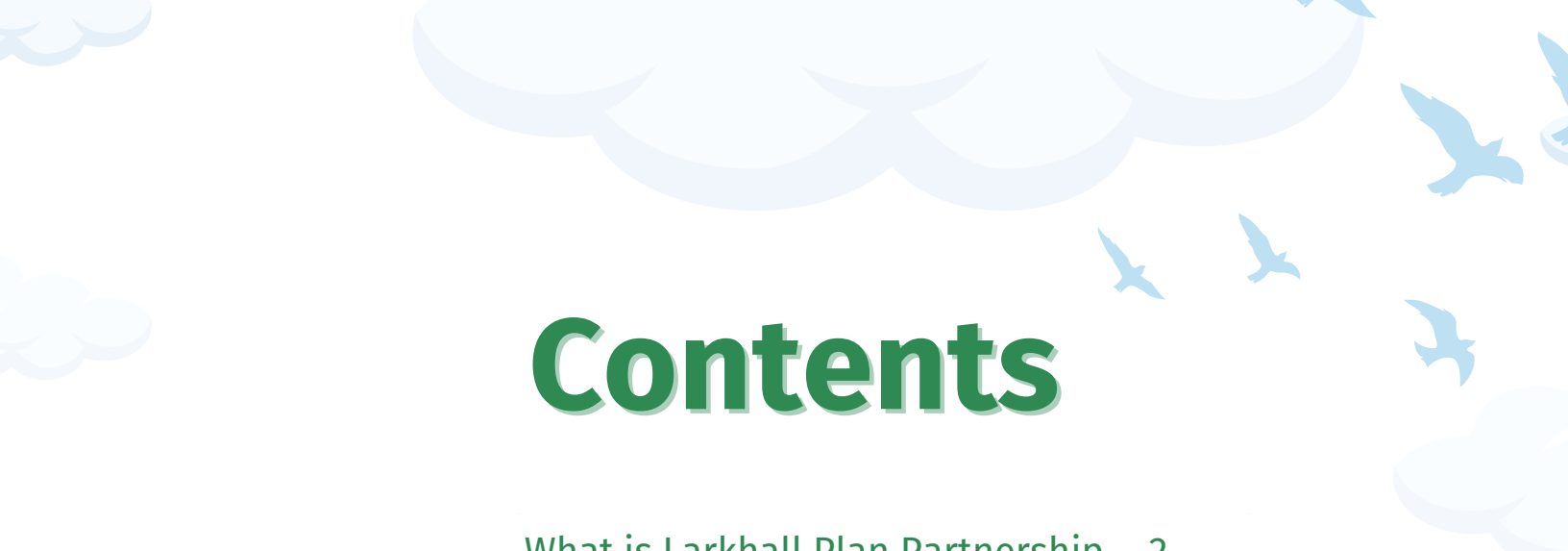


Larkhall Community Survey 2025 Results





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What is Larkhall Plan Partnership?

Larkhall Plan Partnership is a collaboration of charities, community groups, volunteers, and the public sector, bringing new opportunities to our town and putting community voices at the heart of decision making.

Our Mission

We bring the voices of people in Larkhall to decision makers so communities have input into the decisions that affect them.

Our Vision

We want Larkhall to be a place where every resident feels proud to live or work in the town and is optimistic about the future.



visit: larkhallplanpartnership.org.uk

2025 Survey

Our survey ran between 28th April and 9th June 2025 and residents were invited to take part online or with paper copies which were added to the online results database.

We received 1,656 responses, which is roughly 12% of the eligible population, giving us a wealth of information about what Larkhall residents think about their town and local services. We received a huge range of comments and opinions which highlighted the challenges we face and also the incredible community spirit residents feel living in Larkhall.

Our survey coincided with the Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse Scottish Parliamentary by-election and we used this as an opportunity to engage with the candidates who supported our survey and the wider work of Larkhall Plan Partnership.

We have been able to draw comparisons between the 2019 survey data and we can see where ratings for services or amenities have increased or decreased. We have also been able to view the responses by age group and we can report how different age categories feel about Larkhall. In these sections we have selected data where we can see interesting trends in the comparisons with age groups or the 2019 survey.

Our survey covers five themes which reflect various aspects of living in Larkhall:

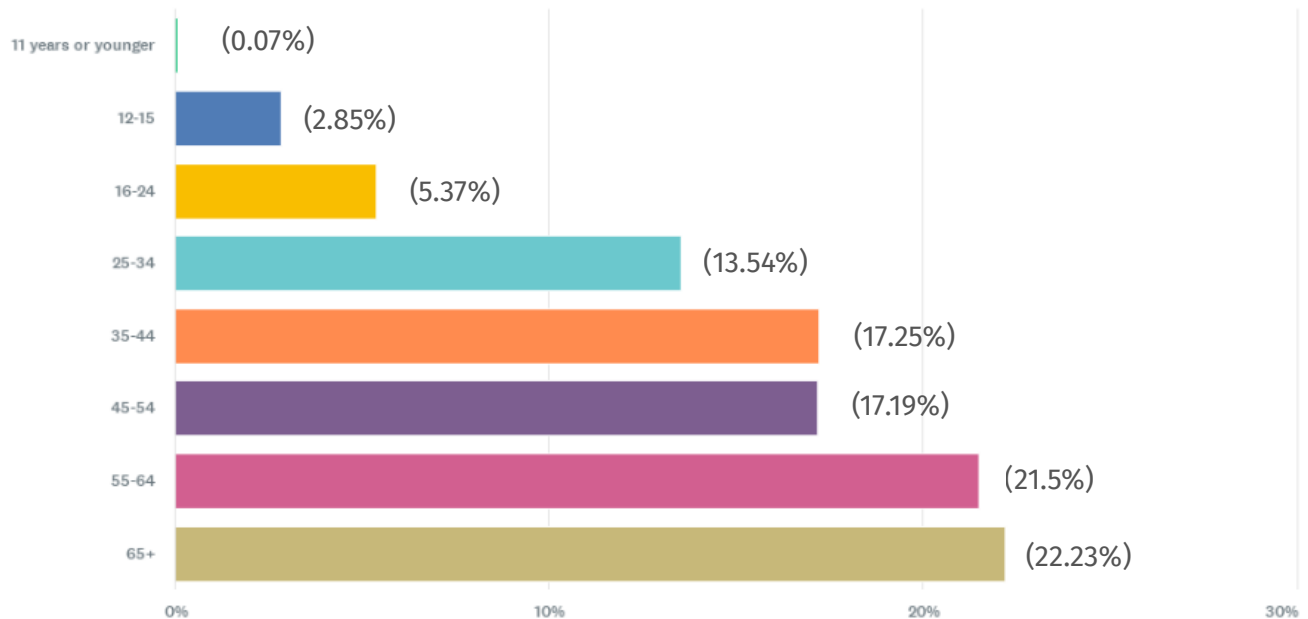


Who filled in our survey?

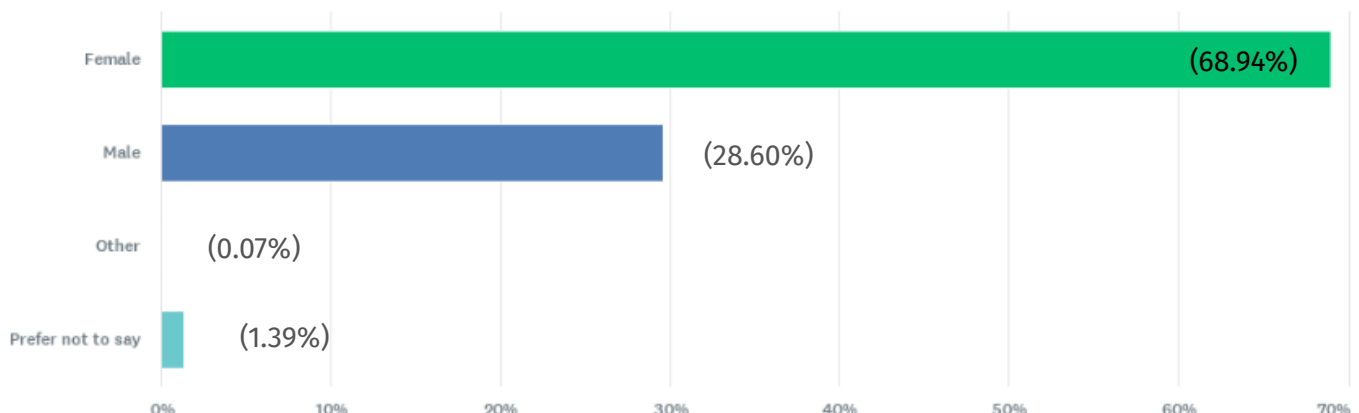
Let's look at the demographic information of the survey responses. We asked people to first tell us their age group.

Q3 1507 responses

What age group are you?



We then asked people to tell us their gender.





Key Stats

Our Town

- 94% of respondents said they are happy or very happy with Larkhall as a place to live.
- 88% of respondents said they are proud to be from Larkhall.
- 84% of respondents said the town centre is good or excellent.

Health and Wellbeing

- We asked respondents to tell us 3 things which impacts their health and wellbeing and the top answer is not doing enough exercise.
- 84% of respondents said their overall health was good or excellent.
- 54% of respondents rated GP's as good or excellent.

Local Services

- 74% of respondents rated sports and leisure facilities as poor or very poor.
- 43% of respondents rated street cleaning as good or excellent; and 54% rated household waste and recycling as good or excellent.
- We asked respondents to tell us 3 things which they think will reduce fly tipping and the top answer is better access to waste disposal services.

Our Connectivity

- We asked respondents to tell us their main use of public transport and 36% told us they don't use public transport.
- 62% of respondents rated public transport as good or excellent.
- 51% of respondents make journeys by active travel (walking, cycling etc).



Community

- 15% of respondents told us they volunteer.
- The majority of respondents (72%) said they are not part of a community group or activity.
- We asked respondents to pick 3 reasons which prevent them from both volunteering and being part of a community group or activity and the top reason for both is not having enough time.

Our Town



We asked residents about life in Larkhall and to rate our town’s spaces and amenities. A positive rating means respondents said it is ‘good’ or ‘excellent’; a negative rating means they said it is ‘poor’ or ‘very poor’.



Town amenities	Positive rating	Negative rating
Town centre	82%	18%
Parks/open spaces	57%	39%
Public footpaths	46%	53%
Roads	25%	74%

88% of respondents said they are proud to be from Larkhall

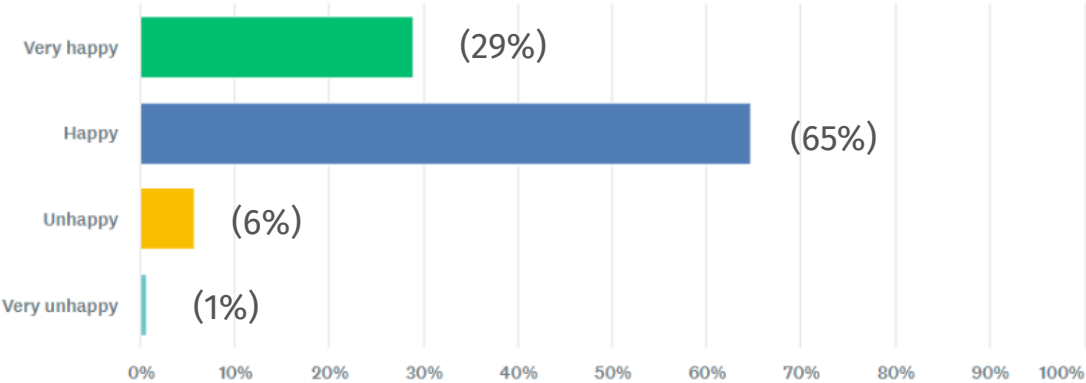
Residents told us what they would like to see in our parks and green spaces:

More walking routes	44%
More playgrounds	38%
More plants, flowers, trees	38%
More seating	32%

More sports pitches	26%
A dog park	24%
Information boards about heritage, nature, wildlife	17%
A skate park	16%
More cycling paths	11%

Overall, how happy are you with Larkhall as a place to live?

Answered: 1,426 Skipped: 231



Comparison with 2019

Question	2019 data	2025 data	Change since 2019
How do you feel about living in Larkhall?	• 89% positive rating • 11% negative rating	• 94% positive rating • 7% negative rating	• Positive rating ↑ 5% • Negative rating ↓ 4%
How do you rate Larkhall's parks and open spaces?	• 52% positive rating • 48% negative rating	• 57% positive rating • 39% negative rating	• Positive rating ↑ 5% • Negative rating ↓ 9%
How do you rate footpaths in Larkhall?	• 53% positive rating • 47% negative rating	• 46% positive rating • 53% negative rating	• Positive rating ↓ 7% • Negative rating ↑ 6%
How do you rate roads in Larkhall?	• 44% positive rating • 56% negative rating	• 25% positive rating • 74% negative rating	• Positive rating ↓ 19% • Negative rating ↑ 18%

What did residents tell us about our town?

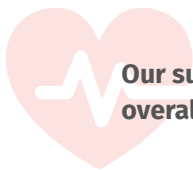
At the end of our survey we asked respondents if they had any additional comments. See pages 16 and 17 for a more detailed breakdown of what people said.



Comparison of age groups

- Different generations view parks open spaces differently:
 - 28% of people aged 11-15 view parks and open spaces negatively.
 - 46% of 16-34 gave a negative rating.
 - 32% 55+ gave a negative rating
 - 40% of 35-54 gave a negative rating.
 - Generations view footpaths slightly differently:
 - 60% of people aged 55+ gave a negative rating
 - 47% of 35-54 gave a negative rating
 - 36% of 16-34 gave a negative rating
 - 23% of 11-15 gave a negative rating
 - Roads are viewed negatively across generations:
 - 75% of people aged 55+ view roads negatively
 - 69% of 35-54 view roads negatively
 - 66% of 16-34 view roads negatively
 - 56% of 11-15 view roads negatively
-
- All age groups view the town centre overwhelmingly positively.

Health and Wellbeing



Our survey asked people to rate their overall health.

Excellent	19%
Good	65%
Poor	12%
Very poor	1%

We asked residents to rate health services in Larkhall (ratings exclude ‘don’t know’):

Service	Positive rating	Negative rating
Dentists	61%	22%
GP’s	54%	41%
Larkhall Health Centre (Low Pleasance)	56%	10%
Support for people in recovery from gambling addiction	3%	13%
Support for people with disabilities	14%	29%
Support for unpaid carers	7%	22%
Support for people in recovery from alcohol or drug addictions	6%	15%

We asked residents to pick the top three factors which impact their health and wellbeing:

Not doing enough exercise	45%
Worrying about finances or the cost of living	39%
Stress from work, school or relationships	35%
Managing a long term health condition	33%
Not having access to the right treatment or care	27%
Not eating healthy food	24%
Feeling lonely or isolated	12%
Other	7%



Comparison with 2019

Service	2019 data	2025 data	Change since 2019
GP's	69% positive rating 31% negative rating	54% positive rating 41% negative rating	- Positive rating 15% - Negative rating 10%
Dentists	81% positive rating 19% negative rating	61%positive rating 22% negative rating	- Positive rating 20% - Negative rating 3%
Support for people with disabilities	24% negative rating	29% negative rating	Negative rating 5%
Support for unpaid carers	22% negative rating	22% negative rating	No change

Comparison of Age Groups

There are differences in the factors impacting our health and wellbeing across generations.

- Loneliness:
 - 20% of people aged 11-15
 - 18% of 16-34
 - 10% of 35-54
 - 9% of 55+
 - Not accessing the right treatment or care:
 - 13% of 11-15
 - 14% of 16-34
 - 22% of 35-54
 - 33% of 55+
- Worrying about finances and the cost of living :
 - 10% of 11-15
 - 48% of 16-34
 - 43% of 35-54
 - 27% of 55+
 - Stress from work, school or relationships impact their health:
 - 58% of 11-15
 - 47% of 16-34
 - 45% of 35-54
 - 14% of 55+

People of all age groups view their health positively.

What did residents tell us about health and wellbeing?

It is a struggle to get GP appointments and the system to book appointments and the wait times are frustrating

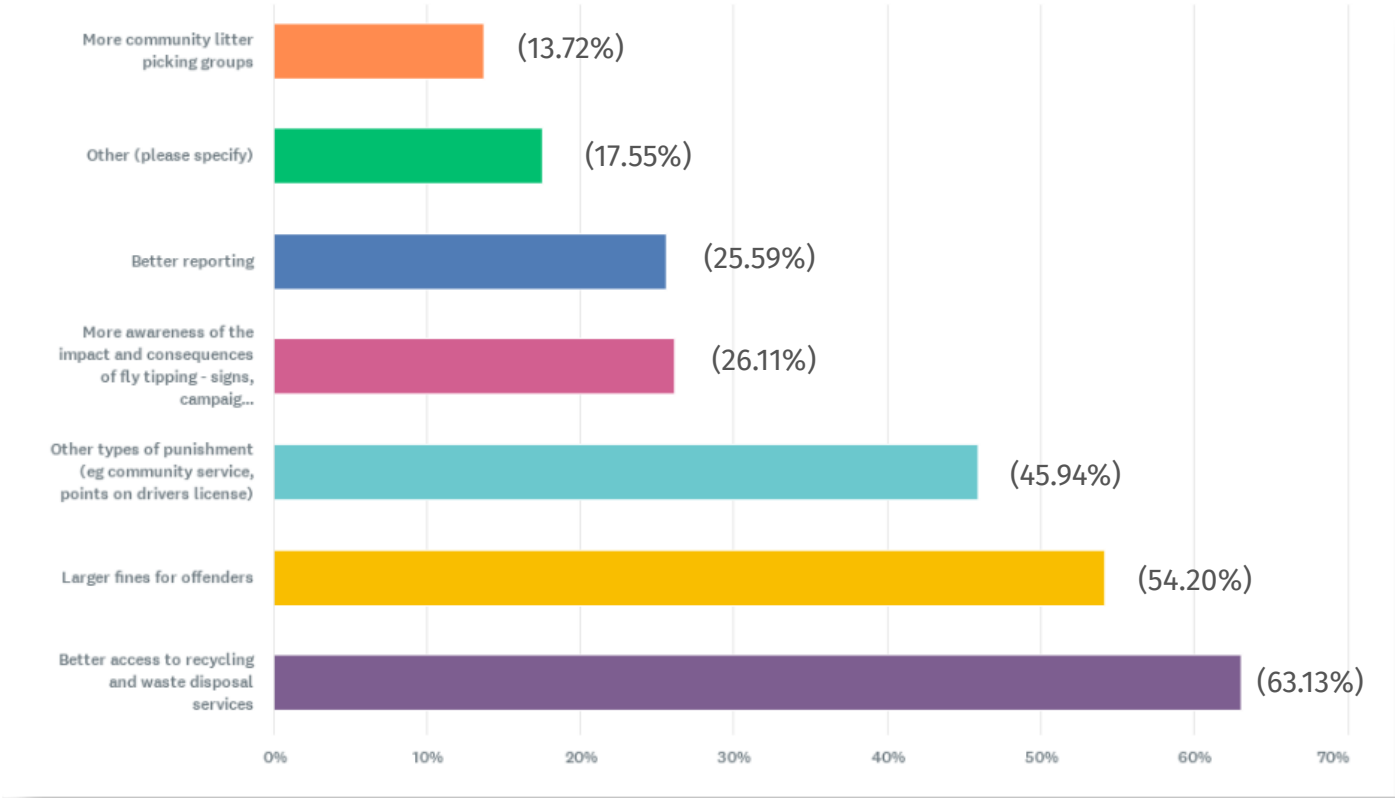


Local Services



Service	Positive rating	Negative rating	Service	Positive rating	Negative rating
Schools	70%	9%	Policing	39%	42%
Household and waste recycling	54%	41%	Sports and leisure facilities	21%	74%
Public recycling and waste collection (public bins etc)	51%	42%	Social work services for adults/older people	13%	23%
Housing	47%	27%	Social work services for children and young people	12%	18%
Street cleaning	43%	54%			
Libraries	42%	39%			

We asked residents what measures they think would reduce fly-tipping:



What did residents tell us about local services?



Comparison of Age Groups

There are generational differences when it comes to measures to reduce fly-tipping:

- More community litter picking groups:
 - 50% of people aged 11-15
 - 16% of 16-24
 - 12% of 35-54
 - 9% of 55+
- More awareness of the impact:
 - 37% of people aged 11-15
 - 26% of 55+
 - 23% of 35-54
 - 17% of 16-34
- Larger fines:
 - 54% of people aged 55+
 - 46% of 35-54
 - 45% of 11-15
 - 43% of 16-34

Comparison with 2019

Service	2019 data	2025 data	Change since 2019
Sports and leisure facilities	• 43% positive rating • 52% negative rating	• 21% positive rating • 74% negative rating	• Positive rating ↓ 22% • Negative rating ↑ 22%
Schools	• 75% positive rating	• 70% positive rating	• Positive rating ↓ 5%
Housing	• 50% positive rating • 20% negative rating	• 47% positive rating • 27% negative rating	• Positive rating ↓ 3% • Negative rating ↑ 7%
Libraries	• 54% positive rating	• 42% positive rating	• Positive rating ↓ 12%
Street cleaning	• 61% positive rating	• 43% positive rating	• Positive rating ↓ 18%
Household waste and recycling	• 81% positive rating	• 54% positive rating	• Positive rating ↓ 27%

Our Connectivity



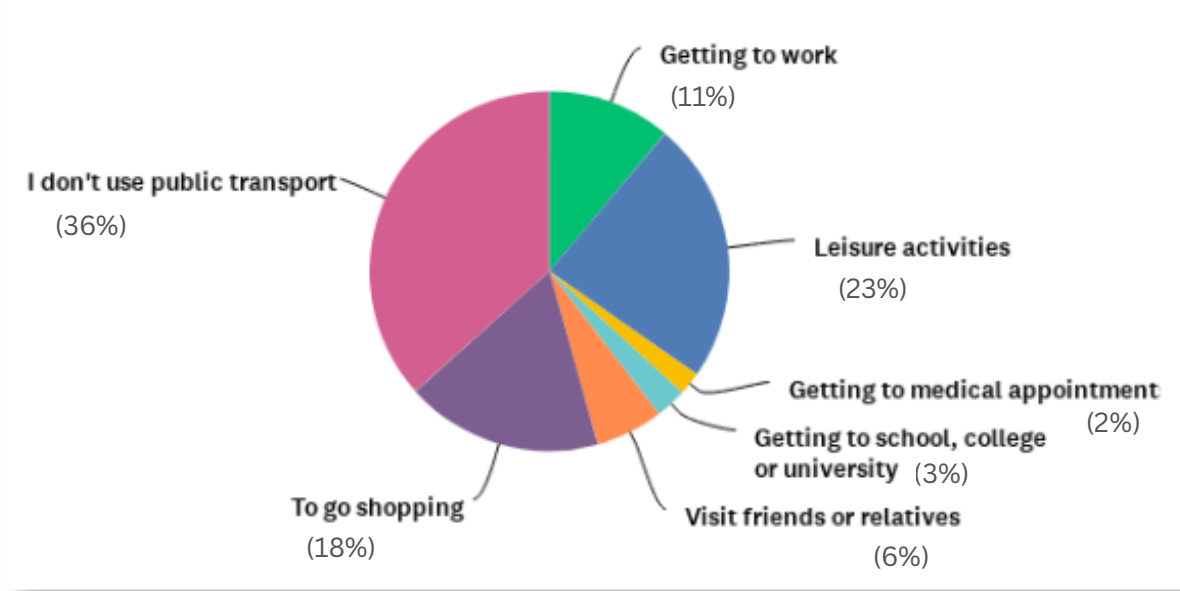
We asked residents to rate public transport (excluding people who said they don't use it):

Excellent	10%
Good	52%
Poor	10%
Very poor	4%

Active travel means making more of our journeys by walking, cycling etc. Residents are split on journeys made with active travel:

I do not make journeys by active travel	51%
I make journeys by active travel	49%

We asked respondents what they mainly use public transport for:



We asked residents to pick three things that would encourage them to use active travel:

Feeling safer when out	49%
More cycle or walking paths in green spaces or countryside	46%
More pedestrianised spaces in the town	31%

More cycle paths in the town	23%
More cycling or walking groups	15%
Help to access equipment	11%

Comparison of age groups

- People aged 35-54 were most likely not to use public transport.
- People aged 55+ are slightly more likely to give public transport a positive rating.
- People aged 11-15 were most likely to say feeling safer when out would encourage them to make more journeys by active travel: 72% of 11-15; 38% of 16-34; 38% of 35-54; 41% of 55+.

Comparison with 2019

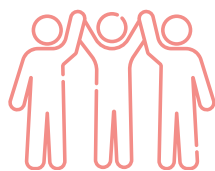
Decrease of 12% in positive rating for public transport – 74% rated it positively in 2019.

What did residents tell us about our connectivity?

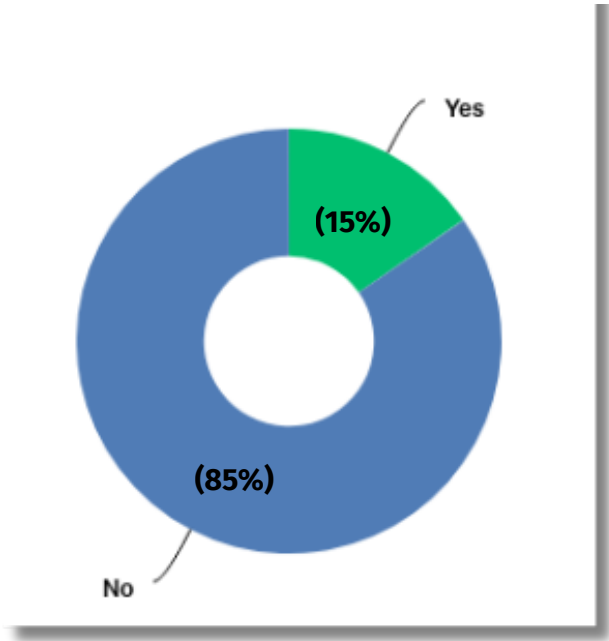
There is no direct bus route from Larkhall to Glasgow



Community



We asked respondents if they volunteer:



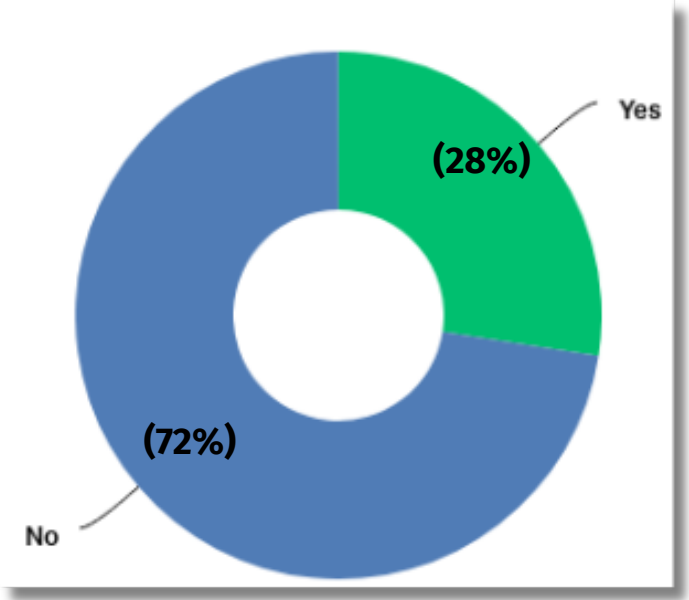
We asked residents to pick the three most relevant factors that prevent them from volunteering:

I don't have enough time	64%
I have caring responsibilities	23%
I don't know what is available	22%
I struggle with physical health conditions	18%
I don't feel confident enough	18%
I struggle with mental health conditions	11%
I don't have access to transport	5%

We asked residents to pick three most relevant factors which prevent them from being part of a community group or activity:

I don't have enough time	54%
I don't know what is available	40%
I don't feel confident enough	22%
I have caring responsibilities	17%
I struggle with physical health conditions	16%
I struggle with mental health conditions	10%
I don't have access to transport	4%

We asked respondents if they are a member of a community group or activity:



Comparison of Age Groups

There are generational differences when it comes to volunteering and community activities:

- People who told us they volunteer by age:
 - 15% of 35-54
 - 14% of 55+
 - 12% of 16-34
 - 13% of 11-15
- People who told us they would like to volunteer by age:
 - 27% of 11-15
 - 16% of 16-34
 - 12% of 35-54
 - 10% of 55+

There are also generational differences when it comes to the factors which prevent people from volunteering:

- Caring responsibilities:
 - 20% of 35-54
 - 16% of 55+
 - 14% of 16-34
 - 24% of 11-15
- Struggles with their mental health:
 - 10% of 35-54
 - 6% of 55+
 - 8% of 16-34
 - 7% of 11-16
- Don't know what volunteer opportunities are available:
 - 45% of 11-15
 - 20% of 16-34
 - 13% of 35-54
 - 15% of 55+
- Don't feel confident enough:
 - 38% of 11-15
 - 18% of 16-34
 - 11% of 35-54
 - 11% of 55+



What did people tell us about community and volunteering?

There is a strong feeling of community spirit in the town and residents are friendly and welcoming

Many people pointed out the value and success of charities and community groups in the town

There is a negative external perception of the town due to sectarianism and the marches are inconvenient and attract anti-social behaviour

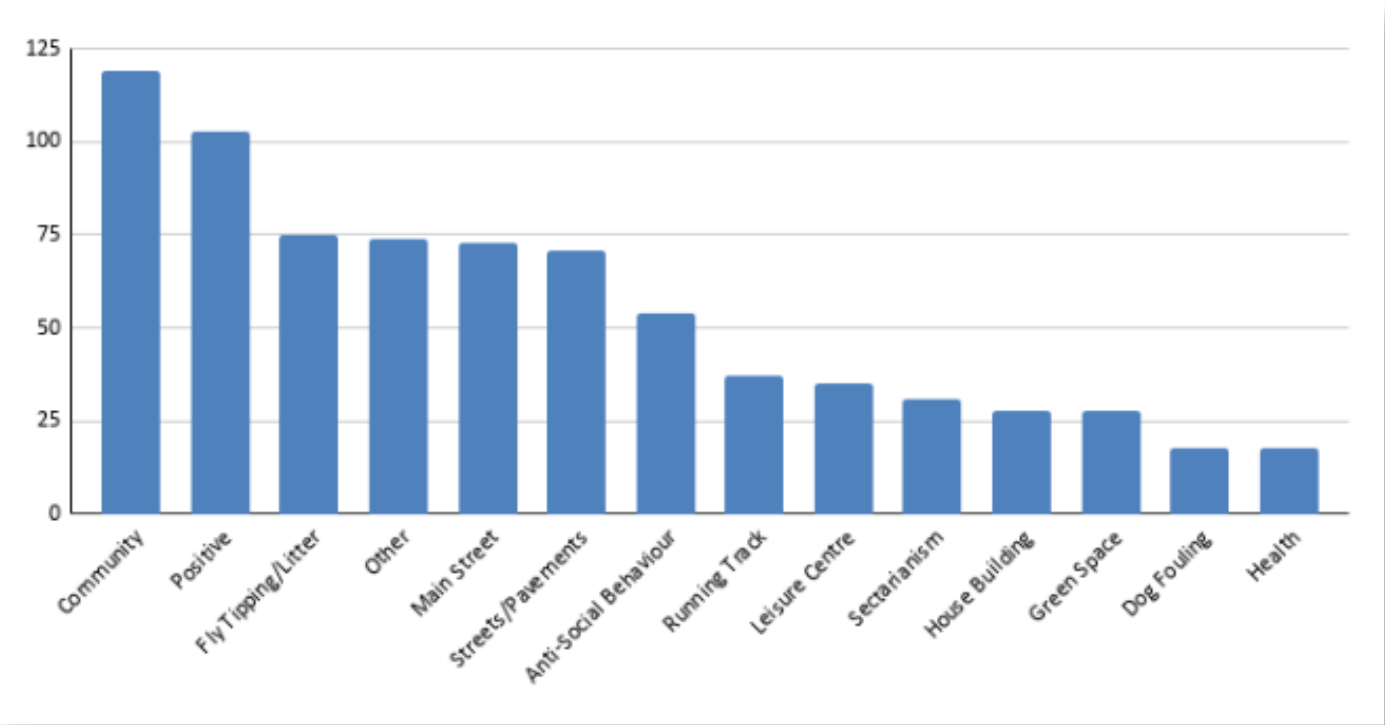
There are problems of anti-social behaviour including alcohol and drug use, and disrespect shown by young people

There are problems with e-bikes and e-scooters being used dangerously on streets and pavements

Community spaces in the town have closed and there no halls for events and activities

Additional Comments

Respondents had the opportunity to leave any additional comments on the topics covered in the survey.

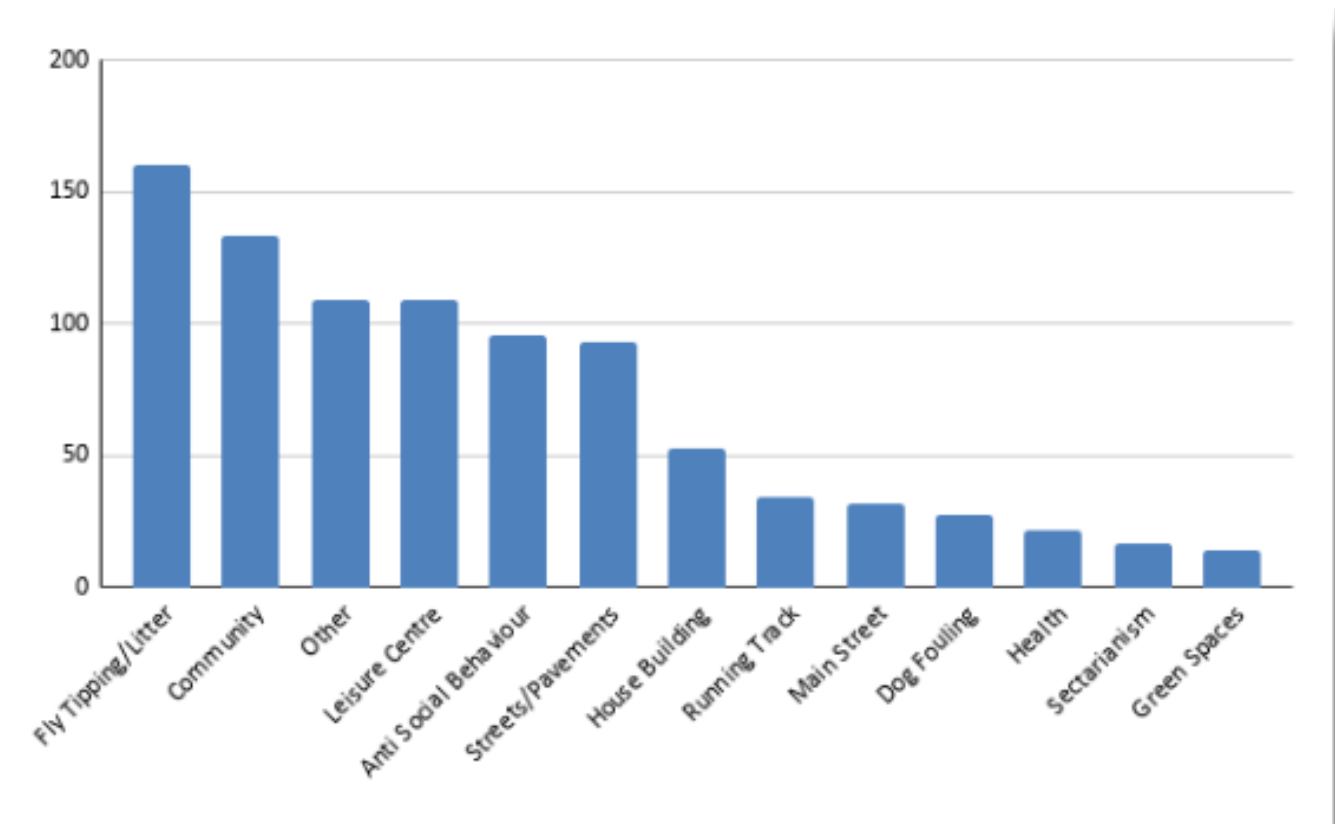


Community spaces
or activities - 119
Positive comments - 103
Fly tipping or litter - 75
Other - 74
Main street - 73
Streets/pavements - 71
Anti-social behaviour - 54

Running track - 37
Leisure centre - 35
Sectarianism - 31
Green spaces - 28
House building - 28
Dog fouling - 18
Health - 18

Future Issues

We asked residents what they think will be the most important issues for Larkhall in the next few years.



Fly tipping or litter - 160

Community spaces
or activities - 133

Other - 109

Leisure centre - 109

Anti-social behaviour - 96

Streets/pavements - 93

House building - 53

Running track - 34

Main street - 32

Dog fouling - 28

Health - 22

Sectarianism - 17

Green spaces - 14

Positive Comments

“Fantastic place to live. Love the community aspect: gala day, Christmas lights switch on, remembrance Sunday walks etc.”

“A real community. Where people look out for neighbours and friends.”

“Larkhall is a great community, they seem to all pull together to help one another. Lived here all my life and I have nothing but fond memories growing up here.”

“Moved to Larkhall 4 years ago and would never leave now. Love the sense of community here. It’s safe, clean and pleasant.”

“It’s great that the new Leisure Centre is going to be built.”

“I am proud to live in Larkhall. I moved here from Stonehouse 10 years ago and absolutely love it here. I like the quietness of my home and the hustle and bustle of main street - Larkhall has everything a person needs.”

Next Steps

Using the data from our survey, we have created an Action Plan to address the issues and challenges that have come from the responses. This identifies which organisation or level of government is responsible and accountable for the service or issue. Where Larkhall Plan Partnership can find solutions, we will always work together to do so; for challenges that are the responsibility of local or national governments, we will represent local views and hold politicians and decision-makers accountable.

Following our survey in summer 2025, we have been working hard on projects and campaigns to represent the interests of communities, all based on what you have told us is important to you:

- We've supported the new owners of Trinity Parish Church to bring the church back into use as a community facility.
- You told us where the pavements were in most need of repair and we sent this information to the head of roads at South Lanarkshire Council.
- We led the demonstration alongside local politicians when Bank of Scotland closed the last bank branch in our town. We continue to work with elected members and partners to find a solution to bring banking services back to our town.
- We are having ongoing discussions about funding for an upgraded running track.
- We continue to represent local people at South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Forum so the voices of patients are heard when healthcare decisions are made.
- After a successful campaign to secure additional funding for Larkhall's new leisure centre, we continue to represent the community's views and hold South Lanarkshire Council to their promises as the construction begins.
- We are working on a project to develop King Street as a community space in our town centre to encourage community events and also to be a pleasant place to sit and relax.
- Before the Scottish Parliamentary election, we created a Larkhall manifesto based on our survey results. We contacted all candidates to ask for their support and to hear what they would do for our town, if elected.

The data from our surveys is essential to all these projects. It gives us the evidence we need to help convince funders and decision makers to invest and find solutions to the issues raised.

If you have any questions about our survey or our work please email officelcglarkhall@gmail.com or visit www.larkhallplanpartnership.org.uk.



What you can do Now

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead



If you have issues with Council services, contact one of the **Larkhall Councillors** who can help you. Visit: www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/councillors

You can influence health and social care services and share your lived experience with **South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Forum**. Visit: www.slhscp.org.uk/info/10/get_involved or email: lqa@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk



Discover Local Activities and Volunteering



Larkhall YMCA Harriers is one of Scotland's longest established Running and Athletics Clubs

Visit: <https://larkhallymcaharriers.org/>

Email: contactus@larkhallymcaharriers.org



LARKHALL
DISTRICT
VOLUNTEER
GROUP

LDVG offers a wide range of weekly activities and volunteering opportunities.

Visit: ldvg.org.uk/ or call 01698 888893

Email: admin@ldvg.org.uk



Larkhall Community Growers is about growing people. Visit the community garden in Hareleeshill.

Visit: www.larkhallcommunitygrowers.com/

Call: 07864782228 or email: officelcglarkhall@gmail.com





Discover groups and activities at **Hareleeshill Community Hub**.

Visit: www.hareleeshillcommunityhub.co.uk/ or Email: hchlarkhall@gmail.com



Larkhall Community Council meets monthly in Larkhall Acadmeny.

Email: larkhallcc@yahoo.com or visit: <https://www.facebook.com/NewLarkhallCC>



Larkhall Universal Connections is part of South Lanarkshire's Youth, Family Community Learning Service. They have regular groups and activities at 23/25 Union Street, Larkhall, United Kingdom, ML9 1DX.



Strutherhill and Birkenshaw (SAB) Action Group are a team of locals in this area planning events and activities for their local community. Email: sabactiongrouppopop@outlook.com or visit Chalmers Parish Church, 51 Robert Smillie Crescent, Larkhall.



Visit **Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire** for more information about the local third sector in South Lanarkshire and to discover more volunteering opportunities.

Office: 128 Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0EW

Telephone: 01698 300390

Email: office@vaslan.org.uk





www.larkhallplanpartnership.org.uk