

**SALINE & STEELEND
COMMUNITY FUTURES
COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY
REPORT**

May 2011



the coalfields
regeneration trust

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This survey was carried out using the guidelines and templates provided by the Small Town and Rural Development Group as part of their Community Futures Programme.

1. Introduction

Background

This report summarises the findings of the *Community Views Survey* carried out in Saline and Steelend district, including Upper Steelend, Kinnedar Park and Cowstrandburn in March and April 2011.

The survey was carried out as part of the *Community Futures* participatory process that will help to inform the preparation of our Saline and Steelend Community Action Plan.

To complete the Plan, additional consultation has been carried out through interviews with individuals and groups representative of the community and through a Community Futures event.

Survey Organisation

The survey has been carried out by the **Saline, Steelend and District Community Futures Steering Group** which brings together representatives from a number of local groups under the umbrella of the **Saline Environmental Group**.

The steering group organised the distribution and collection of the survey with the assistance of a number of local volunteers. We are grateful to all for the work that has led to such a fantastic response.

Survey analysis was carried out by the STAR Development Group.

Survey Response

A total of 301 responses were received from 713 households.

5 - 11	2
12 - 17	6
18 - 24	3
25 - 44	52
45 - 59	81
60 - 69	72
70+	50
Didn't say age	35
TOTAL	301

Female	117
Male	86
Didn't say M or F	65
Both (couple)	33
TOTAL	301

2. What do you like about Saline, Steelend and District ?
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Like	% Of Responses
Nature of the villages and the area	50%
Surrounding countryside, views and walks	44%
People and community spirit	44%
Local facilities and services	21%
Community events, groups and facilities	18%
Location	17%

2.1 The nature of the area - peaceful, safe, clean, rural and historic

There was a strong appreciation of the quality of the villages and the area. In particular, people appreciated the peace and quiet, and the safety in which to bring up a family. The “village feel” was mentioned, as was the sense of history.

Quotes

“picturesque, peaceful and quiet”

“it is a nice size, not too big, not too busy - quite peaceful”

“has maintained a country village atmosphere”

“it’s lovely for little children to be brought up here”

“relatively crime free”

“no real problems with vandalism or hooligans etc”

“peaceful country living”

“quiet and clean streets”

“I have lived here all my life and think it is a great place for families”

“the village is kept very clean and tidy”

“it has an interesting history and numerous points of interest - e.g watchtower, old mine remains etc”

“harmony between old and new buildings”

2.2 Surrounding countryside, views and walks

People in the area value the surrounding open countryside, the views in all directions, and the walks out into the countryside as well as some of the local walks - particularly the Glen walk.

Breakdown of comments

Nice views and scenery	42%
Countryside and open spaces	36%
Walks	16%
The Glen	6%

Quotes

“nice quiet area with loads of space for walking”

“lots of places to walk the dogs”

“glorious views all round”

“I like the fresh country air”

“green fields and hills”

“The surrounding views are magnificent and there are plenty of places to walk”

“views from top of main street to the Ochils”

“I like the situation amid such lovely scenery”

“A lovely glen with lots of flora and fauna”

2.3 People and Community Spirit

The friendliness of the community, the fact that people look out for each other, and community spirit are all factors that people like about the area. Also several mentioned that it is their home, and that they have family here - reflecting the fact that there are still a few who have lived here all their lives. However, there is a healthy mix of people - new to the area as well as long term residents.

Breakdown of comments

Good neighbours and friendly people	58%
Community spirit and pride	27%
Home and family	12%
Mix of people	3%

Quotes

“I like that people ‘look out’ for each other without interfering”

“a good community spirit in the village, despite it turning into a dormitory for commuters”

“where we live we know all the neighbours and they look out for each other” (Kinnedar Park)

“the community spirit and friendliness of people”

“a lot of people care about the parish”

“friendly people - always someone to have a chat with”

“there is a strong sense of community with many people in the area having family ties”

“some old fashioned community spirit still remains”

“it’s homely, quiet and friendly....everyone gathers round in a crisis”

“it is home to me and always will be”

“nice mix of residents from different backgrounds”

2.4 Local facilities and services

The primary school, shop, post office and church are all much appreciated. Also the access to medical services in Oakley, and the prescription delivery service. Even the bus service is appreciated by some!

Breakdown of comments

School	35%
Shop	24%
Post office	22%
Church	12%
Medical & prescription service	5%
Bus service	2%

Quotes

“great primary school”

“nice small school”

“having the shop and post office is very important”

“the Saline general store is handy, friendly and was the hub of community in bad snow weather”

“an active church community”

“the bus service - whilst we might want a more frequent service, we are more fortunate that many rural places”

2.5 Community events, groups and activities

People like the range of events that goes on, adding to the atmosphere of village life. They also appreciate the groups and activities at the community centre, social club, golf club and church.

Breakdown of comments

Events (galas, art exhibition, bonfire, flower show etc)	49%
Community groups and volunteers	18%
Golf club	15%
Community Centre	9%
Play and recreation areas	9%

Quotes

“the annual gala and bonfire night are good family events”

“well organised functions and celebrations”

“Interesting local events, especially the art exhibition”

“the friendly golf club”

“all groups and interests seem well catered for”

“the Father Christmas visit for the children each year”

“has many groups and activities available for those willing to participate”

2.6 Location

The convenient location, with easy access by to neighbouring towns and further afield to the cities of Stirling, Dundee and Edinburgh.

Quotes

“location is good, being accessible (by car) to the M90 and also convenient for Stirling”

“good access to main routes and towns”

“central for Dunfermline and Alloa”

“well situated within easy travelling distance of several main towns”

“within easy reach of the Motorway network thus making commuting easy”

3. What do you NOT like about Saline, Steelend and District?

Dislike	% of responses
Poor public transport	41.5%
Lack of and poor services	37%
Traffic, parking and road safety	27%
Condition of village environment	27%
Lack of social facilities and activities	25%
Roads condition and maintenance	20%
Lack of safe footpaths, cycle ways & bridleways	11%
Nothing	3%
Open cast mining/wind turbines	2%

3.1 Public Transport

The bus service is thought to be particularly poor. The main issues of concern are the lack of an adequate evening and early morning bus service, lack of buses on a Sunday, and the high cost of fares. People also commented that a direct bus to Dunfermline would be an improvement, instead of going through Oakley. It was pointed out that it was difficult to avoid using cars without an adequate public transport service. Lack of a good bus service prevents access to work, services, recreation and entertainment.

Quotes

Isolation - not having a good bus service to Upper Steelend. Fares are expensive.

Need a car - not very green

Poor bus service leading to youths hanging around with nowhere to go and nothing to do

Bus service, although changed slightly, still does not cater for evening needs

Very poor public bus service early morning to Dunfermline

The lack of buses in the evening is very isolating

I rely on buses to get to hospital and missed last bus once - had to get a taxi which is very expensive

Lack of public transport in the evenings

Being so isolated from amenities and having leave really early to get to work as there is only a bus an hour

Keep changing bus routes

No bus service at night - hard for young people

3.2 Lack of Local Services/Poor Services

The closure of the local hotel is felt strongly. Not only as a place for a drink or a meal, but as a social meeting hub for the community. Although the village store in Saline is appreciated, it was felt that there could be more variety of shops in the village. In Steelend, the lack of a shop at all is of concern, particularly for people who are less able to get out.

Under the heading of public services, people commented about the lack of a regular police presence in the village, lack of attention from Fife Council, inadequate recycling provision in some areas, street lighting not repaired, and lack of public toilets.

Poor broadband and mobile coverage are an issue, along with an unreliable electricity supply in some areas. Not being able to get fuel or cash locally is a problem.

Breakdown of comments

Pub/hotel/café	37%
Shops	27%
Public services	19%
Broadband, mobile and electricity	10%
Other - fuel, cash machine	7%

Quotes

Loss of local hotel = no hub of the village. Golf Club good but not same atmosphere

Lack of a pub - a village pub, like the Church, is an integral part of a community

No pub or café to meet friends

Lack of family friendly local pub

I would like the shop to expand its stock, although I think they did a great job during the worst of the snow

We do not have a shop at Steelend

There are no shops and even if there was, there is no footpath to walk safely to them from our area (Kinnedar Park)

I stay in Kinnedar Park and I'm afraid there is nothing to bring me into Saline now

Always seem to be at the bottom of the list of things to be done in West Fife villages

Saline is 6 miles from Dunfermline not 600 miles from civilization - I feel we get very little support from the Authorities

Lack of police/Council effort to control excessive speeding

Not enough police patrols

Poor infrastructure - unreliable electricity supply, slow broadband and poor pedestrian routes

Frequent power cuts and absence of broadband

Lack of recycling collections unless living on main road

No petrol station near us

No mains gas in Kinnedar Park

3.3 Traffic, parking and road safety

There is real concern over the speed of traffic coming through the villages, and the volume of heavy goods vehicles thundering through. Parking along the Main Street, and vehicles parked on the pavement exacerbates the problem as pedestrians have to walk on the road, often with children or buggies. There is also concern over parking at Oakley Road and the traffic congestion in this area when children are being dropped at school. The existing traffic calming measures do not appear to be adequate for dealing with heavy lorries in particular.

Breakdown of comments

Speeding and heavy vehicles	57%
Parking on Main street/pavements	17%
Parking & congestion at school	13%
Existing traffic calming	13%

Quotes

Excessive truck movement from Kelty based haulage companies using Saline as a short cut

Speeding motorists - useless traffic calming measures

Vase number of speeding lorries passing through

Being a through route for far too many contractors trucks none of whose drivers apparently can read a speedometer.

Not so much the volume of heavy traffic but the speed they go through the village

B914 through Upper Steelend - speeding traffic - some seem to confuse it with racing track!

People parking on pavements. We can't get buggy and prams past and my children have to walk past ON THE ROAD!!

I disagree with all the cars parked across from the school. When coming down main street and want to turn left for Oakley, it's very difficult to see traffic coming towards you.

There is a parking area at the bottom of the school at the turning circle but this is used by the teachers - it would be nice to have somewhere safe to park.

3.4 Condition of Village Environment

The amount of litter and dog dirt lying around the villages and open spaces is of great concern. People felt that more should be done to stop litter and dog dirt being left in the first place, as well as the need to clean it up. The derelict Saline Hotel, and the surrounding site, is an eyesore at the west entrance to the village, and after over a year is also becoming an environmental health concern.

The children's play areas in North Street and Upper Kinnedar are run down and in need of repair and attention. Although there are some lovely open spaces in the villages, there was a view that these were blighted by some neglected gardens, vacant sites, and lack of

Breakdown of comments

Litter and dog dirt	42%
Saline hotel site	20%
Play areas	16%
Gardens and open spaces	12%
Other areas - fly tipping, outside the shop, community centre	10%

Quotes

Irresponsible dog owners allowing dogs to foul footpaths, other peoples gardens and public grassed areas

Lack of bins along Cemetery Road for dog fouling

Amount of litter on streets and down Glen

Litter is really upsetting in village and surrounding areas

Village is very run down in recent years

Former hotel looks awful for visitors and would not tempt them to stay

Dilapidated state of the hotel building and site - it is now an eyesore

The hotel eyesore is an absolute disgrace - already there are concerns over vermin

Run down swing park - litter in park and beer bottles

I really hate the childrens play park at Upper Kinneddar - it needs upgrading and dog fouling notices

Poor upkeep of play area - overflowing bins and broken climbing frame

Poor equipment in Upper Kinneddar play park and North Road

There hasn't been a street sweeper here for a long time

Outside the general store is untidy

Garden eyesores - looks like a dumping ground

A lot of areas need attention e.g. the Football ground and surroundings at start of Steelend Steelend Community centre - white elephant

3.5 Need for better social facilities and activities

The main concern under this heading was "nothing for youngsters to do". The lack of a well attended youth club or other activities for older children and teenagers was related to the

concern over increasing anti-social behavior particularly in the school playground and at North Road skate park/play area. The loss of an evening bus service also has an impact on young people's ability to make use of neighbouring facilities.

Some respondents commented on the difficulty of getting new people to volunteer and help out with community activities.

The lack of affordable housing was mentioned too (see separate Housing Needs Survey), as was the potential for the Saline Community Centre to be used more.

Breakdown of comments

Lack of activities and facilities for youngsters	53%
Lack of volunteers	15%
Need for affordable housing	14%
Anti social behavior involving teenagers	12%
Under use of community centre	6%

Quotes

Not enough going on for the younger generation, particularly teenagers.

Nothing for teenagers and children to do which does not cost money, especially during school holidays

There seems to be a lack of "things" to occupy the interests of older children

No childrens groups for boys - eg BB or Scouts

I do not like the anti social behavior that has recently become a problem with a few teenagers

Groups of youths drinking in the Cemetery car park

Misuse of the football park - youngsters on motor cross bikes roaring around

Lack of volunteers to help with community projects - the "someone should do something about this" kind of people who aren't willing to help.

People that ask for activities to happen but are not prepared to get involved

Lack of local authority housing for couples starting out and the elderly

Lack of housing for rent especially for the elderly

An empty community centre that could be used more - ask local surgery to hold a surgery there one day a week for folk that can't get out due to disability or transport issues

3.6 Road Conditions and Maintenance

The dangerous condition of several stretches of road in and around the village was commented on. The road in Steelend, and the stretch between Steelend and Saline were of particular concern. Potholes on the Loch Road were also mentioned, and the bad bend on the Oakley road.

The last two severe winters have had a huge impact in Saline and Steelend, with people being stranded for several. Roads and pavements need prompt clearing to ensure that this situation does not arise again.

Quotes

Lack of maintenance on main and estate roads

Terrible roads in winter - not always gritted

During recent bad weather it was impossible to walk on footpaths because of deep and hard packed snow - very dangerous walking on road.

Village gets cut off when bad weather comes - no support, little gritting

I walk most days to Steelend and the left hand side is a disgrace - the hedges need trimming back and drains need clearing

Terrible potholes in part of Loch road

3.7 Lack of safe paths, cycleways and bridleways

The danger of walking or cycling on the roads around the area was highlighted, and people wished there were more safe routes out into the surrounding countryside and to connect with neighbouring villages, particularly Oakley where walkers and cyclists could join the Sustrans route between Alloa and Dunfermline. The lack of safe access routes adds to the feeling of isolation. These concerns are also shared by horse riders in the area.

Overhanging branches on the pavement between Saline and Steelend make walking or cycling along this stretch particularly dangerous.

Quotes

Walks not linked up

Lack of traffic free walking

We are finding it less accessible to safe country walks because of the amount of traffic

Road to Oakley is unsafe for pedestrians or cyclists

No pavement from Oakley to Saline

No safe cycleway to the cycle track at Oakley

Shortage of good safe paths for walking/cycling

Danger of walking on narrow roads outside village

No horse riding, dog walking or cycling tracks apart from the Glen walk which is only for walking and too short

The pathway between Saline and Steelend is narrow and the speeding lorries thundering past is quite frightening. Also the bushes are often overgrown which forces you nearer the roadway.

Parts of Saline Glen are unsafe to walk

3.8 Nothing

Some folk said there was nothing they did not like about Saline and Steelend!

3.9 Open cast mining and wind turbines

There is a bit of concern about the impact of opening up mines and the increasing demand for wind turbines for renewable energy.

Quotes

Always the threat of wind turbines

Risk of open cast starting in the locality

4. What would make Saline, Steelend and district a better place to live, work or visit?
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Improvement	% of responses
Improved services for locals and visitors	35.5%
Community activities & facilities	31%
Better public transport	27%
Village environment improved	20%
Network of safe paths and cycle routes	16%
Traffic Management, Parking and Road Safety	10%
Public services – broadband, electricity, mobile reception, recycling, police, medical services, school/nursery, postal deliveries	10%
Road repairs and maintenance	9%
Housing and employment	8%

4.1 Improved facilities for locals and visitors

Breakdown of comments

The hotel in Saline is sorely missed. There is a strong desire to find a way to bring the social heart back into the community, while also providing somewhere to stop and eat for visitors and passers-by.

A greater choice of shops locally would be welcomed. For visitors, an information centre and public toilets would be great.

A pub, cafe or restaurant	61%
Better choice of shops in Saline and Steelend	23%
Information/visitor centre	7%
Toilets	5%
Other - fuel, cash	4%

Quotes

If you could work a miracle and get the pub back. It really was a great centre and gave heart to the community.

A tea room/bistro bar - especially for visitors and passing trade

A meeting point for people to socially gather, such as a café or pub

A good friendly hotel offering hot meals

Better shopping choices

A good mini supermarket

A farm shop or a way to purchase local produce

A mobile van, say, with groceries, bread, milk - not everyone can shop on line

In time, a decent visitor centre with cafe

Better communication to residents and visitors what's on, what is available and where to visit in the surrounding area

The district has a long and diverse history - visitors would welcome a display board (s)

A map at the Bus turning circle regarding short walks for visitors

4.2 Community activities and facilities

More attention should be paid to the needs of young people in the area. There is strong support for more activities and for teenagers and older children, which could include the provision of a “multi court” area. There is also a need to improve the existing play and recreation areas for all

ages - play parks for the children, and perhaps a bowling green for older folk. Some thought that the community centre could be better used, if the charges were lower and other activities and classes were put on. In particular there were suggestions about activities for older people to keep fit and active, and also ideas about how to help care for the older and more isolated members of the community.

There is also a need to make sure that people know what is already available, and there were suggestions about reviving the village newsletter, a prominent village noticeboard, or/and a village website. All of this would depend on more people getting involved to help - and there were several pleas for more volunteers!

Breakdown of comments

Somewhere to go and something to do for teenagers and older children	36%
Improve and develop recreation areas - parks, play areas, bowling green	32%
More use of the community centre	14%
Better provision of information (website, newsletter, notice board)	8%
More people volunteering	6%
More activities and support for older people	4%

Quotes

A local kids football team giving the local kids a challenge
Better facilities in the park on North Road - nothing has been renewed for 20 years
All weather astro turf court for football, basketball etc
Upgrade of local parks - the one in Steelend has no swings
A better developed play area like the Limekilns Park
Build all weather multi activity sports ground in Gala Park
More use of the community centre - it seems to be closed a lot of the time
Use of community centre at much reduced prices
Greater use of community centre for sports to encourage young people
Organising a van to go round dialy and bring papers and odds and ends for old people
More help for the elderly e.g visiting, lunch club, social activities etc
A "bums off seats" walking group for senior citizens
More promotion of events in the village - if you don't visit the local shops very often you miss out on advertised events etc
A comprehensive schedule of village activities
Restart the newsletter but include the dates for various events and activities
Bring back community week.... Or bits of it
More volunteers to take an interest in the efforts of the few

4.3 Better public transport

This is a major issue - the current lack of provision is a drawback for young people for the elderly, for those without cars and those that are trying to use their cars less. Although there was appreciation that recent improvements had been made, there is a lot of support for a better evening service in particular, and some suggestions about community led solutions.

Quotes

Better public transport connecting with other services in town
A better bus service in the evening for the sake of the young people so they could get into town

A good regular bus service that links up sensibly with other service in Dunfermline
A better bus service which serves Saline direct from Dunfermline and not through Oakley
A regular bus service could encourage people to settle in area
Better bus service to at least the same level as Valleyfield and Blairhall
Better public transport to reduce dependency on cars for trips to other West Fife villages
A community minibus
Car share scheme/minibus for commuters and people attending evening events in Dunfermline

4.4 Village environment and open spaces

There is a general view that the area is getting messier and more “run down”. The tidy country village is becoming littered and dirty. Specific problem areas such as the Saline Hotel site, the bus turning circle, and the recycling bins are eyesores which give a poor impression of the villages. There were several suggestions including a volunteer clean up and projects to improve the bus turning circle.

Breakdown of comments

Flowers, tubs and gardens	41%
Less litter and dog mess	30%
Saline Hotel site	8.5%
A community garden	7.5%
Open spaces maintained	7%
Car park & main street tidied	6%

Quotes

Back to a nice clean place
People stop dropping litter!
A community day to collect litter finishing with a barbeque
Dog poo being lifted by owners - dog warden visits - need dog bins
Keep tidy - private and council gardens!
I think the area would be enhanced with additional summer plantings along the main road
Use of trees to produce colour and fruits making the village more attractive
Council owned common garden areas properly looked after
Why don't we have a community garden for vegetables etc where everyone can help?
Flower beds and grass areas cut and tidied
If the bus turning point and surrounding area was tidied up on a regular basis.. gives the wrong impression to people arriving by bus or car
A project to improve the image of the Main street and bus circle
Improvement to the landscaping at car park area
Improvement in the appearance of the garage site
Improve the untidy area around the middle shop
Something done soon with Saline Hotel as it is an eyesore

4.5 Network of safe paths and cycle routes

Saline and Steelend are surrounded by open fields, Saline Hill, the wooded glen and magnificent views, and yet it is impossible to walk or cycle into the countryside without using busy roads. There is strong support for developing off road walks around Saline into the countryside, as well as improvements to the walk in Saline Glen - which has some very precarious sections. However, the main priority is for a safe walking and cycling route to Oakley, which would enable access, without a car, to local services not just in Oakley but in Dunfermline and Alloa too.

Breakdown of comments

Safe route to Oakley & other villages	52%
Off road countryside paths	32%
Improve Saline Glen	12%
Pavement between Saline & Steelend	4%

Quotes

More access to the surrounding countryside by means of footpaths, stiles, rights of way

Upgrade of Glen path and the glen given back to the people of Saline

There should be a few walks of short distances for locals and visitors

A better safe path network so we could go for walks with the children

We should have paths linking the village with outlying communities and surrounding countryside

A secure walk between Saline and Oakley

Footpath to Oakley would allow one to walk to shops, doctor, dentist etc

Footpath/cycle path to Oakley and Gowkhill

A safe path linking Kinneddar Park to Saline and Oakley

More off road routes for walking, cycling and horseriding

A better path network so we can go for walks with the children

Trimming back of hedgerows on pavement between Steelend and Saline

4.6 Traffic management, parking and road safety

Dealing with speeding traffic, particularly heavy vehicles, is a priority. Generally speaking, people feel that the current traffic calming measures are ineffectual for heavy lorries. Damaged road surfaces and pavements also contribute to concerns about road safety.

Parking is an issue that needs resolved, for safety reasons. As there is no specific parking area on the main street, vehicles often park on the pavements to keep the road clear. However, this pushes pedestrians onto the road - particularly the most vulnerable - with children, prams or in wheelchairs. The other parking issue is in relation to the school, where the lack of dedicated parking for staff means that they have to use the small area at the bus turning circle, so there is nowhere for parents to park to drop off/pick up children other than on Oakley Road - this is unsatisfactory for residents. Everyone involved would like a solution to this problem.

Breakdown of comments

Improve traffic calming measures	78%
Road and pavement repairs	12%
Parking controlled	10%

Quotes

Speed tables to calm traffic for both Saline and Steelend

More effective traffic calming but NOT speed bumps

Restrict HGV use of "rat run"

Somewhere safe to park when accessing the school

Action against "speeders" and inconsiderate "parkers"

Measures to reduce on street parking- both short and long term (village store, post office) and overnight

Restrict parking to one side at shop

More police presence to stop speeding lorries

Less heavy vehicles on main street - 50+ lorries per day!

*Speed limit lowered to 40mph or less between Saline and Steelend
Speed limit on main Oakley to Saline road*

4.9 Improved public services

Broadband, electricity supply, recycling, lighting, mains gas, police presence, access to medical services, postal deliveries..... better services would improve quality of life in the area.

Quotes

Better police presence

Faster broadband

Less power cuts

Better electricity supply

Mains gas at Kinneddar Park

Post delivery could be much improved - ie in the morning instead of afternoon

4.7 Road repairs and maintenance

Most of the responses related to repairing the road surface between Saline and Steelend, and in Steelend itself. There was also an emphasis on the need for winter clearing of snow, to reduce isolation and dangerous conditions.

Quotes

Better road maintenance - fix potholes

Roads and pavements regularly cleaned

Resurfacing road between Saline and Steelend

Better gritting in winter on all roads, and High Steelend

During winter, if the roads were kept clear we would be able to go to work

4.8 Housing & Employment

There is seen to be a need for further housing in the village with the emphasis on more affordable housing to rent or buy, both for elderly and for young couples/families. Linked to this, people see the need for more local employment, which has fallen away since the demise of the hotel and shops, and skills training.

Quotes

Better range of housing to attract young people and families

Some smaller houses or perhaps sheltered housing for elderly

Sheltered housing for elderly. Many oldies would prefer to stay within Saline/Steelend

Provision of limited number of affordable homes for young local residents

Some workshop facilities to enable young folk to develop skills

A community garden could offer training/skills for work

More industry in the area

5. What projects & actions would you like to see developed first?
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PRIORITY	
Facilities for teenagers and children	25%
Public transport	23%
Road repairs	23%
Improve paths and cycle routes	16%
Traffic calming and parking	15.5%
Hotel/pub/café and shopping	12%
Village improvements	11%
Affordable housing	11%
Better public services	10%
Local information	5%

5.1 Facilities for teenagers and children

This was the top priority. There should be more activities and facilities for teenagers, and the condition and equipment of the existing play parks should be tackled.

Quotes

Things for older children/teenagers to do

Some more entertainment for the young people at the moment there is nothing

Fenced area with surface for football, basketball, tennis

Build new community centre at football field at Oakley Road ... with football/tennis Astro turf to be shared with the school

Park upgraded at Upper Kinnedar/Oaklea

The play park in North Road badly needs a new fence at the front and updating of play facilities

Playpark at Steelend upgraded with swings (promised more than a year ago)

5.2 Public transport

Better evening service in particular, and a direct route to Dunfermline. Maybe the community could provide a solution in the meantime?

Quotes

Bus service - why do Steelend and Saline have to go all round the houses in Oakley?

Bus times extended to an evening service

Improve evening frequency and reduce cost of bus service

Bus service more regular

Bus service - a more frequent service via Wellwood would encourage more people to use the bus Minibus for use by village and run by volunteer drivers

5.3 Road repairs & winter maintenance

The stretch of road from Saline to Steelend is in most need of repair, due to damage caused (probably) by the large number of heavy goods vehicles passing through. The roads in Steelend itself are also thought to be in need of repair.

Quotes

*The main road between Saline and Steelend which has been disintegrating since last year
Road surfaces done properly in Steelend
Potholes filled in on Loch Road and Steelend
An improvement in the local Councils response to clearing the roads and pavements during extreme winter weather*

5.4 Improve paths and cycle routes

A safe walking and cycling route to Oakley from Saline is the top priority, which would help people to get to work, to services and to recreation without getting in their cars. There was also a lot of support for improving access to the countryside and the Glen walk.

Quotes

*Footpath from Saline to Oakley - there's nowhere safe to walk just now
Footpaths/cyclepaths (cycling on main road out of village is hazardous for adults - wouldn't let kids even attempt it!)
Firstly, I would like to see a footpath between Saline and Oakley
Having a proper footpath all the way round the park - it's very wet underfoot
Well marked accessible footpaths around the village and into the countryside
Repair footpath in Saline Glen*

5.5 Traffic calming and parking

Improved measures to reduce speeding are needed - there is not much confidence in the existing traffic calming. Parking on the pavements and parking at the school needs to be looked at.

Quotes

*I would like to see speed limit between Saline and Steelend lowered to 40mph
Sort out traffic calming on Main Street - unilluminated traffic islands coupled with on-street parking needs sorted out before someone is hurt
Slow down the traffic on the main road through the village
Traffic calming should be introduced before the entrance to the grass park on West Road where children are coming and going
I would like a blitz on car parking as was done in Oakley a few years ago
A parking area created for cars dropping and collecting children to school*

5.6 A hotel/pub or cafe and better shops

The loss of the hotel is felt strongly both as a social hub and as a visitor facility. The community should explore what can be done to encourage new enterprise or to set up a community owned facility. Any opportunity to improve the range of shopping facilities, including perhaps a mobile shop, should be supported.

Quotes

*A good pub/café/restaurant e.g. Inn at Carnock. This should be a viable investment for private enterprise
A social centre other than the golf club
More shops i.e. a local bakers, grocery store
Improved shopping to cut down on travel*

5.7 Village improvements

Clearing up the old hotel site, dealing with dogs/dog owners, and a general tidy up around the village are the main priorities. There should also be a comprehensive plan for dealing with the unsightly locations that spoil the beauty and attraction of the villages.

Quotes

Site of Saline Hotel restored to a respectable condition

Get Planning to insist that the now vacant hotel is either demolished or developed

A regular major litter pick and maintenance of circulation areas

Clean up the main street

Unsightly gardens - possible a group who would be willing to tend them

Bus turning point tidied up - a seat and more floral displays

Look after what we already have - general tidiness and maintenance of streets and parks

5.8 Affordable housing

Strong support for small scale, affordable housing to rent or buy for both elderly folks and for young people struggling to get started.

Quotes

Integrated old folks housing and affordable housing to buy or rent for young folk

Housing for elderly and young families allowing family generations to stay in the villages

Affordable housing - shared equity?

New homes which will encourage more shops

5.9 Better public services

The main bug bears were lack of adequate police presence (at specific times), poor broadband, unreliable electricity and lighting. Lack of mains gas and recycling services in some areas. There were also several suggestions that the community could do more to provide support for elderly residents - a volunteer visiting scheme, or lunch club.

Quotes

Broadband internet - get the Saline exchange working again

Higher police profile esp Fri/Sat nights

Mains gas in Kinnedar Park

Develop more facilities for elderly - like a lunch club

A van for old folk so they don't feel so isolated

More people to volunteer to do small tasks for less able

5.10 Better local information

A return of the newsletter with information about activities and events in one place, as well as a prominent noticeboard for local groups. Visitors would benefit from local information, and perhaps a map.

Quotes

Better information on what's going on (if you work full time you haven't got a clue what's going on in the village)

Information for visitors - walks and heritage

APPENDIX: SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Q1 What do you like about Saline and Steelend District?

WHAT WE LIKE	% OF TOTAL RESPONSES	% OF COMMENTS UNDER THIS HEADING
Nature of villages & area	50%	
• Peaceful & quiet		52%
• Safe		20%
• Village feel		15%
• Clean and tidy		8%
• History and character		5%
Surrounding countryside, views and walks	44%	
• Nice views & scenery		42%
• Countryside and open spaces		36%
• Walks		16%
• The Glen		6%
People and Community Spirit	44%	
• Good neighbours and friendly people		58%
• Community spirit/pride		27%
• Home & family		12%
• Mix of people		3%
Local facilities and services	21%	
• School		35%
• Shop		24%
• Post Office		22%
• Church		12%
• Medical and prescription service		5%
• Bus		2%
Community events, groups and facilities	18%	
• Events (galas, art exhibition, bonfire, flower show)		49%
• Community groups and volunteers		18%
• Golf Club		15%
• Community centre		9%
• Play areas and open space		9%
Location	17%	
• Convenient for towns, road and rail links		100%

Q2 What do you not like about Saline and Steelend District?

Poor public transport	41.5%	
• Including lack of evening and early morning service, Sunday, and high cost		100%
Lack of and poor services	37%	
• Pub/hotel/café		37%
• Shops		27%
• Public services (Police, Council, recycling, Doctor, street lighting, toilets)		19%
• Broadband & electricity		10%
• Other – fuel, cash machine		7%
Traffic, parking and road safety	27%	
• Speeding & heavy vehicles		57%
• Parking on Main Street/pavements		17%
• Parking/congestion at school		13%
• Existing traffic calming		13%
Condition of village environment	27%	
• Litter and dog dirt		42%
• Saline Hotel		20%
• Play areas		16%
• Gardens & open spaces		12%
• Other – fly tipping, shop, community centre, water works		10%
Lack of social facilities and activities	25%	
• Lack of activities for youngsters		53%
• Lack of volunteers and community spirit		15%
• Need for affordable housing		14%
• Anti-social behaviour – teenagers		12%
• Poor use of community centre		6%
Roads condition and maintenance	20%	
• Lack of winter clearing – roads and pavements		50%
• Road condition – potholes, verges (Steelend, Loch Road)		50%
Lack of safe footpaths, cycle ways & bridleways	11%	
Including access to Oakley, Kinnedar, Steelend and linking with other communities or countryside		100%
Nothing	3%	
Open cast mining/wind turbines	2%	

Q3 What would make Saline and Steelend District better?

Improved services for locals and visitors	35.5%	
• A pub, cafe or restaurant		61%
• Better variety of shops in Saline and Steelend		23%
• Information/visitor centre		7%
• Toilets		5%
• Other – fuel, cash		4%
Community Activities & Facilities	31%	
• Somewhere and something to do for teenagers and older children		36%
• Upgrade and develop recreation areas – parks, play areas, bowling green		32%
• More use of the community centre		14%
• Better provision of information (website, newsletter, notice board)		8%
• More people volunteering		7%
• More activities and support for older people		4%
Better public transport	27%	
• Later, earlier, cheaper		100%
Village environment improved	20%	
• Flowers, tubs and gardens		41%
• Less litter and dog mess		30%
• Sort the Saline Hotel site		8.5%
• A community garden		7.5%
• Open spaces maintained		7%
• Car park & main street tidied		6%
Network of safe paths and cycle routes	16%	
• Safe route to Oakley & villages		52%
• Off road countryside paths		32%
• Improve Saline Glen		12%
• Pavement between Saline & Steelend		4%
Traffic Management and Road Safety	33%	
• Improve traffic calming measures		78%
• Road and pavement repairs		12%
• Parking controlled		12%
Improved public services	10%	
Road repairs and maintenance	9%	
Housing and employment	8%	

Q4 What should happen first?

Community facilities and activities	25%	
• Activities and facilities for teenagers/young		39%
• Improvements to play areas		37%
• Increase use of Community Centre		9%
• Other – develop the Church, after school club, more volunteers		5%
Improve public transport	23%	
• Lobby for later and earlier buses, and cheaper fares		97%
• Community minibus		3%
Repair and maintain the roads	23%	
• In particular, the Saline to Steelend stretch, and plan for clearing winter snow & ice		
Safe paths and cycle ways	16%	
• Provide safe path/cycle way to Oakley		64%
• Improve access in the Glen		25%
• Pavement between Saline and Steelend		11%
Traffic calming and parking	15.5%	
• Improve traffic calming measures particularly on Main Street and West Road		80%
• Regulate parking on pavements and at school		20%
Hotel/pub/café and shopping	12%	
• A cafe, restaurant or pub		53%
• More variety of shops		39%
• Other – visitor information, toilets		8%
Village Environment improvements	11%	
• Get Saline Hotel sorted		38%
• Have a village tidy up		26%
• Deal with dog dirt and fly tipping		26%
• More floral displays		10%
Affordable Housing for young and old	11%	
Better public services	10%	
• Police presence		29%
• Lighting and electricity		20%
• Broadband		14%
• Recycling		14%
• Other – mobile van, doctor surgery, mains gas, support for elderly		23%
More information about local activities etc	5%	