

Supporting Statement for Closeburn Place Plan 2026 – 2030

January 2026

Introduction

Closeburn is a large community area with the population of 650 living in the main settlements of Closeburn, Park, Cample and Gatelawbridge and a host of farms and scattered single properties over 45 square miles. It's a working and aspiring community, friendly, and in a beautiful part of Dumfriesshire's Nithsdale.

This Local Place Plan is our collective vision for the future - shaped by the thoughts and desires of residents, businesses, young people, and community groups.

Local Place Plan Confirmation

To meet statutory requirements for Local Place Planning, this Statement confirms:

Both the Place Plan and this statement have been developed in accordance with:

- Government legislation: Town & Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021
- Scottish Government's Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans (LPP)
- Dumfries & Galloway Council's LPP Overview of Requirements.
- NPF4 and LDP2: Closeburn community specifically wish to:
 - Preserve and protect the Thornhill Uplands Regional Scenic Area, especially from wind farm intrusion. We want to see more hedges and tree planting of deciduous species.
 - Have more rural businesses with access to suitable local business premises and workshops
 - See more sustainable, energy efficient, environmentally friendly affordable houses in small groups for local residents
 - Improve access to sustainable transport with more active, safe travel walking and cycling routes including to adjoining villages

This statement is submitted on behalf of Closeburn Community Council and developed by Nith Valley LEAF Trust which is the Community Trust for Closeburn on behalf of the Closeburn residents.

Closeburn Place Plan has been funded by Dumfries and Galloway Council and delivered in the main by the voluntary efforts of Closeburn Community Council and NVLT.

Strategic Context

Closeburn Place Plan was developed having considered

- The National Planning Framework 4 (2023)
- Closeburn appears to have no Local Development Plan so this LPP is not seeking any changes.

The documents and publications below were also taken into consideration during development of our LPP.

- Closeburn Housing Need and Demand Assessment Report, by South of Scotland Community Housing, December 2024
- Closeburn Action Plan 2017

Community Engagement

Between August 2024 and July 2025, NVLT gathered the views of as many local people as possible.

Based on what local people said results were discussed at an engagement session in November 2024.

In December 2025 we held a 28-day consultation for the Draft Plan with its 28 day consultation notice with the Closeburn Community, surrounding communities (including Ae, Auldgirth, Keir, Penpont, Thornhill) and D&G Councillors (J Dempster, T. Bennetti, A. Woods) to comment on. We received 3 comments, all from Closeburn residents and included their positive ideas in the final Plan. These covered public buses, better in-community communications and working with adjoining communities.

We did not hold a final public session given the few comments received and as feedback suggest the community were comfortable with the draft plan. Lack of funds and the mid- winter timing were also relevant.

Impact on the Local Place Plan

Closeburn Place Plan does not suggest any changes for the next Local Development Plan (LDP3) although the LPP should be treated as a living document and residents will want to discuss new or developing issues in the future with D&G Council The main planning areas of concern raised were safe access within and beyond the area and housing.

Conclusion

Closeburn Place Plan sets out the issues and desires of our community and what we want to protect, improve, and develop. It's a practical tool to guide local action and influence decision-making at local and regional level.

We hope that this vision of this Local Place Plan speaks to people in the parish and without and that residents want to be a part of bringing it to life.

Contacts

For any further questions and ideas Closeburn Community Council and NVLT on the implementation of Closeburn Place Plan please contact

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