



Listen to Linthwaite action plan

February 2023



Listen to Linthwaite and Cowlersley - turning our conversations into action

What we did in Linthwaite and Cowlersley

In May 2019, volunteers from Pride in Linthwaite worked with the Colne Valley and Golcar Ward Councillors and staff from Kirklees Council to speak to people from across Linthwaite and Cowlersley about what life is like there. 258 people took part in conversations across the 2 villages in a variety of different places such as online, in the streets, at local schools such as Cowlersley Junior School and in local cafés such as Rudi's Retreat. The results from [Listen to Linthwaite](#) and [Listen to Cowlersley](#) were published in September 2019.

Progress then stalled due to the pandemic and lockdown measures. In summer 2022 Pride in Linthwaite created further opportunities for local people to get involved. More people in Linthwaite shared what they think about the area. They added some new things that were missed earlier, and shared their views on the priorities for action. The group organised six workshops, along with visits to local venues, events and schools. 473 people responded, 214 of which were online. People who shared their views in person did so at one of the 6 public drop-in sessions held across Cowlersley and Linthwaite in places such as Cowlersley Community Out of School Club, The UCHM, The Sair, at the Linthwaite Leadboilers Festival or outside the Premier Store on Manchester Road, and at visits to local junior schools.



Both Listen to Linthwaite and Listen to Cowlersley were led by Pride in Linthwaite in partnership with Kirklees Council. The aim was to better understand what life in both

villages is like for the people who work, visit or live there and understand what is missing from these communities as well as what their aspirations might be. The Place Standard conversations helped us to seek and gather the opinions from residents and talk about the communities of Linthwaite and Cowlersley in a wide ranging way.

Listen to Linthwaite overview & Results summary with full data

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/listen-to-linthwaite>

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2019/09/10/listen-to-linthwaite-results>

Pride in Linthwaite website & social media links

<https://prideinlinthwaite.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/PrideInLinthwaite>

About Linthwaite

Linthwaite is a rural village in Colne Valley Ward in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

Population

5,425 Total population (2020 ONS estimate)

2,715 Male

2,709 Female

1,035 Age under 16

823 Age 16 to 29

1,052 Age 30 to 44

1,584 Age 45 to 64

933 Age 65 plus

5,072 White British (2011 ONS Census)

Number and type of households

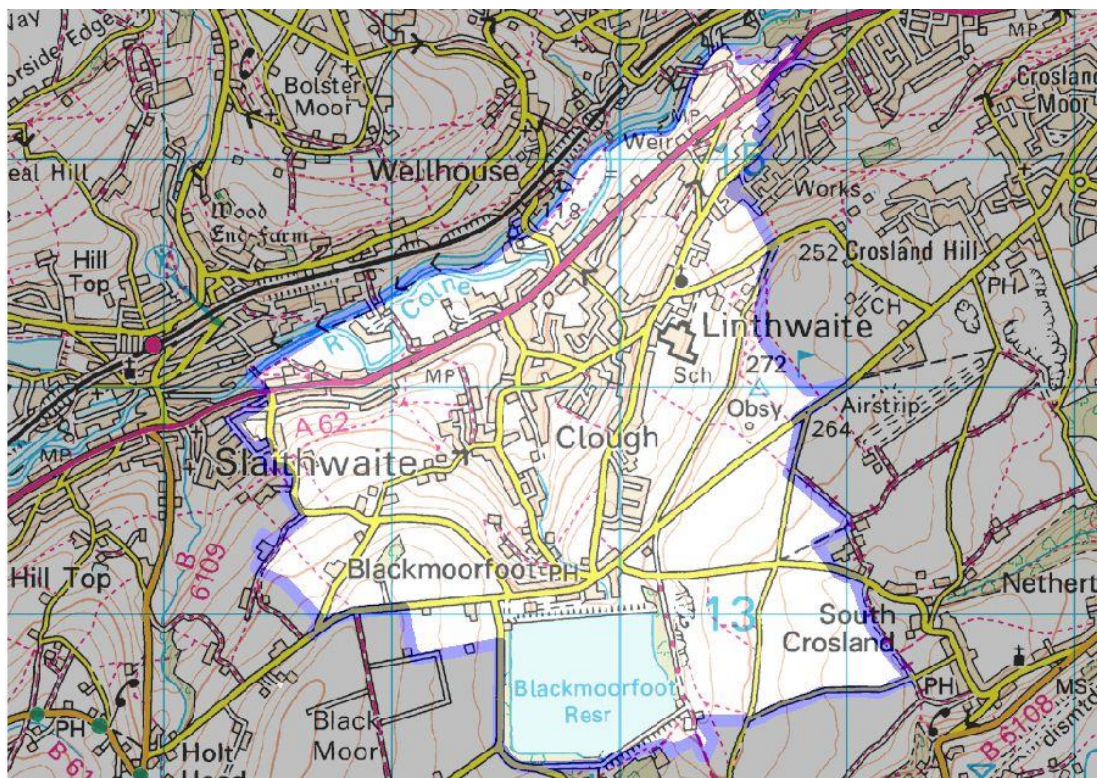
2251 Total households (ONS 2011 census)

1710 Owner occupiers

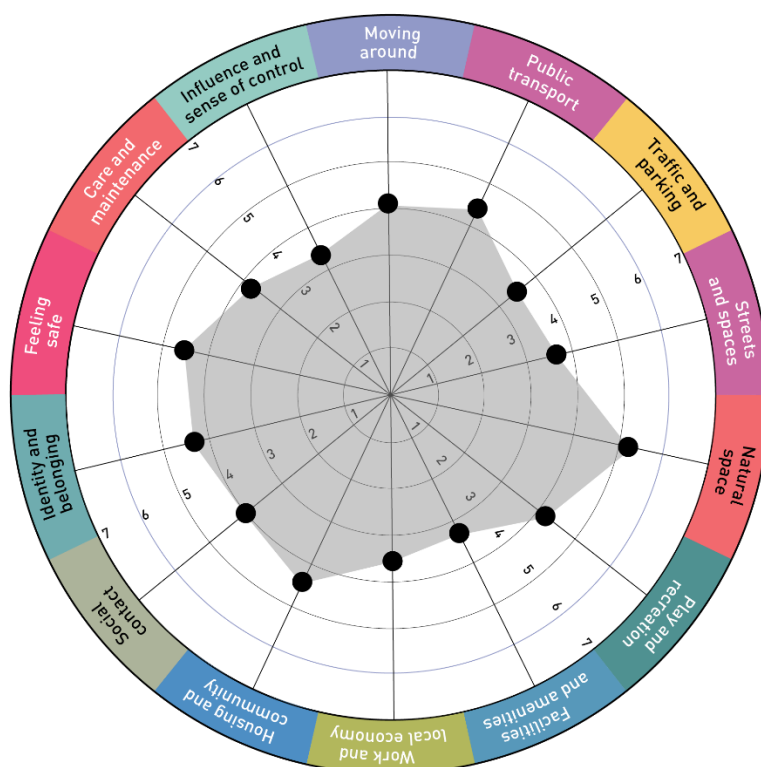
135 Social rented properties

376 Private rented properties

914 Single person households (Council Tax 2022)



Listen to Linthwaite results



How people in Linthwaite and Cowlersley scored their place, on a scale of 1 to 7, whilst talking about 14 different themes, and how many comments we received about each of these themes.

Theme	Average score overall	Range of scores received	Number of comments made
Moving around	4.1	1 to 7	81
Public transport	4.4	1 to 7	76
Traffic and parking	3.5	1 to 7	87
Streets and spaces	3.7	1 to 6	78
Natural space	5.2	1 to 7	69
Play and recreation	4.2	1 to 7	68
Facilities and amenities	3.3	1 to 7	103
Work and local economy	3.8	1 to 7	54
Housing and community	4.4	1 to 7	65
Social contact	4	1 to 7	79
Identity and belonging	4.3	1 to 7	61
Feeling safe	4.6	1 to 7	68
Care and maintenance	3.8	1 to 7	70
Influence and sense of control	3.4	1 to 7	48

Full results, including information about how different people responded, are available at: [Listen to Linthwaite](#)

Strengths in Linthwaite

Natural Space

The amazing countryside is Linthwaite's best feature, with spectacular views. People are concerned that housing developments are reducing the accessible natural spaces, for example off Hoyle Ing and above Heath Road. There are also issues with quad bike users, mountain bike users, inconsiderate dog owners, rubbish and smashed bottles thrown into the waterways.

Suggestions from participants about Natural Spaces

Seating and rest areas on the canal, reservoir and public footpaths near Heights, Downing Street and High House Edge. Give over more of the village green on Royd House Lane to wildlife or a community garden. More bins for dog waste.

Feeling Safe

Overall people feel safe but there are concerns about vandalism and anti social behaviour, especially around Manchester Road at night. People feel that crime has increased recently (and problems are magnified on Facebook). Walking on Manchester Road by the shops is intimidating for some due to youths hanging about. Many people (of all ages) commented that they don't feel safe at night and wouldn't go out at night. It's rare to see Police in the area and there are no preventative measures.

Suggestions from participants about Feeling Safe

Community Police patrol at night. Preventative work with schools, promoting social responsibility. The karate club have offered to work with Colne Valley High School and young people.

Public Transport

Frequent bus service (though less frequent to the top of Linthwaite) and various routes. Poor services in an evening, weekends and bank holidays. Some services are not reliable for getting to work in the town centre. Poor transport links to areas other than via Manchester Road and to Manchester. It's expensive to use, especially for families. Metro don't enforce use of disabled seating areas on buses. Old transport stock is slow, dirty, packed and unpleasant. Bus stops are conveniently located but there is a lack of bus shelters.

Suggestions from participants about Public Transport

Evening and weekend bus services to Heights, Blackmoorfoot, Upper Clough, as well as A62. Circular bus route to link up Linthwaite. Bus services to Lockwood and Slaithwaite train stations. Cycle racks buses. Lower fares.

Challenges and issues in Linthwaite

Facilities and Amenities

Very little facilities for the number of houses. Too many takeaways. People have to travel to other areas for Doctors, chemist, supermarket, fresh food shops, library. Lack of public toilets (toilets at the Business Park are poor). There are no cafes to meet friends or hang out after school. Shopping in Linthwaite isn't pleasurable.

Suggestions from participants about Facilities and Amenities

Regenerate key areas. More variety of shops, fresh food, GP. Community hub or centre with café. Public toilets.

Influence and Sense of Control

People want to be asked for their views more regularly - and these activities should reach more people. Many said that they don't feel listened to. Feedback from local councillors is appreciated. Pride in Linthwaite has helped to give the area a local voice. Despite negative aspects to social media, it has been a good way to get local people involved in things and to share local issues.

Suggestions from participants about Influence and Sense of Control

Regular meetings to bring people together to discuss ways forward.

Traffic and Parking

Parking is a major issue in Linthwaite. Lack of customer parking on Manchester Road means the shops are not used and is why the shops don't get let often. Parking on double yellow lines on Manchester Road. Speeding on Gillroyd Lane and Manchester Road between Linthwaite and Slaithwaite. Lack of speed cameras. Dangerous parking on Waingate, Causeway Side, Clough, Hoyle Ing. Not enough parking for new build houses. Gardens are being turned into parking spaces, which has a negative effect on wildlife and surface water drainage.

Suggestions from participants about Traffic and Parking

Pay and Display parking - council could rent the spare land at Colne Valley Business Park. Disabled parking bays by shops. One way systems around schools, and crossings. Use double yellow lines, traffic calming and single file parking. No parking at bottom of Slant Gate. Zebra or pelican crossing on Manchester Road. Parking near the dentist - ask Royal Oak for permission. Sign to restrict lorries. Parking warden.

Summaries of all the themes, and the full responses from participants, are available at:

[Listen to Linthwaite](#)

Ideas and actions

Following the initial engagement in 2019 and the subsequent re-engagement in 2022, Pride In Linthwaite have analysed the feedback offered by people in Linthwaite identifying actions that are both deliverable and beneficial to the local community. Some actions have already been taken, others are ongoing, and some will be long term aims. Pride in Linthwaite will keep the community updated on progress through their website and social media accounts.

Action plan

Completed - **Ongoing**

Action	Theme	Concern	Details/ suggestions (made by respondents)	Actions being progressed and agreed or expected outcomes	Funding	Leads or Partners
1	Play and Recreation	Lack of good quality playable spaces for young people in Linthwaite.	People specifically mentioned outdated equipment, graffiti, unsafe equipment.	Causeway Crescent Park has been updated through the Kirklees Playable Spaces programme	£86,250 Kirklees Council Playable Spaces + £10,719.00 Colne Valley Ward Budget	Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Pride In Linthwaite to work with the local schools and Kirklees Parks Team
2	Play and Recreation, Moving Around	Not enough disabled access to local parks	There are not enough parks locally that have disabled access	Disabled access has been improved at Spa Park and Causeway Crescent Park	£86,250 Kirklees Council Playable Spaces + £10,719.00 Members local project fund Spa Park - £3,100 from Colne Valley Ward Budget	Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Pride In Linthwaite worked with the local schools, Friends of Spa Park and Kirklees Parks Team
3	Moving Around	Canal towpath is too damaged	People wanted to see the canal towpath updated and resurfaced.	Canal towpath has now been resurfaced from Huddersfield to Slaithwaite	Funded by WYCA and Canal and River Trust	Canal and River Trust

4	Feeling Safe, Traffic and Parking, Moving Around	Speeding Traffic	Specifically on Manchester Road, Cowlersley Lane, Gilroyd Lane and Blackmoorfoot Road	Speed Indicator devices have been installed on key roads across the Colne Valley to encourage behaviour change and record data to lobby for a speed camera if data shows one is needed	£5760 from Colne Valley Ward Budget	Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Kirklees Highways
5	Care and Maintenance	Disposing of glass in Linthwaite can be difficult	People commented that the closest bottle bins are too far away for some people and as there is no longer door step glass collections recycling or disposing of glass can be difficult	Kirklees Environment Service is investigating additional recycling facilities in Kirklees, including doorstep glass collection.	Kirklees Council	Kirklees Waste Service
6	Public Transport	Lack of bus shelter at Heights	Some comments requested a bus shelter and seating at Heights	There is a Bus Shelter at Heights		WYCA/First
7	Work and Local Economy	Poor internet connection in Linthwaite and Cowlersley	This effected peoples ability to run successful businesses from the area	City Fibre are installing Fibre Optic cabling in Linthwaite. Keep up to date on their progress here: www.cityfibre.com/home		Kirklees Council, CityFibre
8	Identity and Sense of Belonging	People commented that they wanted some welcome to Linthwaite signs	People commented that they wanted some welcome to Linthwaite signs	Welcome To Linthwaite Road Signs have been installed.		Colne Valley Ward Councillors, Kirklees Highways
9	Care and Maintenance	There aren't enough litter bins around Linthwaite	People wanted to see more street litter bins	Pride In Linthwaite and Colne Valley Ward Councillors have installed more bins across Linthwaite on the bin collection route		Colne Valley Ward Councillors, Pride In Linthwaite and Kirklees Waste Services
10	Influence and Sense of Control	Its hard to find out what's going on	Particularly if people struggle to access the internet.	Community notice boards have been installed at the top of Linthwaite (on Gilroyd Lane) and at the bottom of Linthwaite (on Manchester Road)		Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Pride In Linthwaite

11	Natural Space, Facilities and Amenities	Lack of access to fresh fruit and veg in Linthwaite	People also commented that they wanted to see more trees being planted	Pride In Linthwaite are creating a community Orchard at Fieldshead Park, Upper Clough Road, Linthwaite.	Costs - Materials: £388.98 Fruit Trees and Bark Chips: £669 Funded by - Ward Budgets: £528.98 Donations from Woodland Trust & NCS: £529	Pride in Linthwaite and KC Parks Volunteer Coordinator
12	Public Transport	Poor public transport option in Linthwaite	People shared that whilst busses along Manchester road are regular enough they are too unreliable, expensive, uncomfortable and untidy, and they don't serve the area of Linthwaite at the top of the Hill (Gilroyd, the Heights and Cowlersley Lane) regularly enough	Colne Valley Ward Councillors to continue to raise need for improved public transport in appropriate settings such as the West Yorkshire Transport Committee		Colne Valley Ward Councillors
13	Feeling Safe, Play and Recreation	Nerves around ASB from Young people / Tackling local ASB in Linthwaite from Teenagers	Many people shared that they can occasionally feel intimidated by groups of young people congregating	Pride In Linthwaite have created a local activity taster scheme for young people to encourage them to spend their time in alternative ways and show case local recreational businesses. Including, hiring a portable 'games unit' for young people in Linthwaite and Cowlersley to provide engagement opportunity for WY Police to meet and speak to local young people, whilst also giving young people	Thornton and Ross Fund - £3600 (lasts until April 2024)	Pride In Linthwaite

				positive experiences. To find out more please contact Pride in Linthwaite		
14	Moving Around, Traffic and Parking, Feeling Safe	Speeding cars around schools	People suggested speed bumps and one way systems as well as 20 mph zones	As a result of the findings from the recently commissioned Speed Limit Review, Kirklees Highways have bid for funding to undertake a review of road safety outside all schools in Kirklees. This will include Ardron and Clough schools. Consideration of the appropriateness of implementing all measures, including a 20mph zone, School Streets, physical traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, will all form part of that assessment		Kirklees Highways
15	Play and Recreation, Feeling Safe, Facilities and Amenities, Social Contact, Identity and Belonging, Housing and Community,	Lack of Linthwaite based youth club. Lack of community space in Linthwaite. Lack of Library in Linthwaite. Lack of local parent and toddler group. Desire for a local art Hub. Create some publicly accessible toilets in Linthwaite. Organise a food support scheme for Linthwaite.	A lot of people in Linthwaite shared feedback around the lack of community benefit space within Linthwaite that could be used for a range of activities such as parent toddler groups, baby weigh clinics, food support, youth clubs or a library etc.	Fund the running costs for a community centre in Linthwaite, inc. rent, management, utility bills etc, for 1 year. During which time the committee would be expected to make the community centre self-sustaining in normal circumstances.	Accommodation Rent: £14,000 Management Service: £15,000 Equipment: £ Weekly Youth Club: £10,640.00 Initial advertising: £ Total: £39,640 To be funded by the Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite to work with Anchor Network and TSL to support a committee to step forward to manage the facility. Pride In Linthwaite to find Volunteers, TSL, Anchors and Kirklees 3 rd Sector Team to help group set up.
16	Play and Recreation.	Lack of local knowledge of local groups, activities, job	People said that they are sure there is lots going on, they just don't know about it	Create/improve publicity of local groups, events and activities through Pride In Linthwaite website. Support local businesses to advertise openings	Cost for Website: £3000	Pride In Linthwaite

	Work and Local Economy.	opportunities and child care providers		<p>locally. Fund professional development of a 'what's on page', 'opportunities page' and a local business page (promote childcare and dog walkers locally etc) on Pride In Linthwaite website</p> <p>Also hire billboard space to promote and signpost to the new website as well as add information to local notice boards.</p>	<p>Cost for billboard: £1400</p> <p>Cost for design: £100 (to be designed by local student)</p> <p>Total: £4500</p> <p>50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund = £2250</p> <p>Other 50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund</p>	
17	Care and Maintenance	Dog fouling	There is too much dog fouling in Linthwaite	<p>Run an awareness raising campaign, giving out branded Pride In Linthwaite dog poo bag holders to dog owners across Linthwaite and Cowlersley. Run a dog owner event in Linthwaite and one in Cowlersley to raise awareness around responsible dog ownership.</p> <p>Also do a call out for local street ambassadors who might be willing to look after and maintain bag dispensers on their street.</p>	<p>Poo bags and holders: £172.61</p> <p>The events: £1,974</p> <p>20 Dispensers and bags: £1500 + £388.50 = £1888.50</p> <p>Total: £4,035.12</p> <p>50% Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund = £2,017.56</p> <p>Other 50% from Golcar Ward Place</p>	Pride In Linthwaite

					Standard Investment Fund	
18	Moving Around, Traffic and Parking, Feeling Safe	Speeding cars around schools	People suggested speed bumps and one way systems as well as 20 mph zones	Purchase some child shaped anti-speeding road bollards for schools to use to raise awareness of motorists. (4 bollards for each school)	Colne Valley Place Standard Investment Fund - £4,338.96	Pride In Linthwaite, Linthwaite Clough, Linthwaite Ardron.
19	Work and Local Economy, Facilities and Amenities	People commented that Linthwaite can be a difficult place to purchase fresh food and to support local SMEs	Some people suggested a monthly farmers market could host fresh produce and support local sole traders and SMEs	Plan to set up a local monthly pop up market between Linthwaite and Cowlersley. Work with Kirklees Parks Team to identify a potential in each village, commission a contractor to organise each market day on an annual basis, and promote each market. Success of the scheme will be determined by the ability of the market to become largely self sufficient. Stall holders will need to pay for a space that the contractors then take as a wage for organising going forward.	Council Sourced Contractor: £1920 License: £126 Marketing: £200 Total = £2,246 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund = £1,123 Other 50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite
20	Care and Maintenance, Streets and Spaces, Natural Space	There is too much litter around Linthwaite	There is too much litter for people to enjoy the streets and natural spaces around Linthwaite	Pride In Linthwaite plan to organise a local litter picking scheme. Purchase branded bin bags and litter pickers that members of the public can borrow to do their own litter picks. Plan to speak to Kirklees Waste Team about options around collection. To avoid needing to arrange collection each time and thus take officer time, could branded bin bags be collected from	Litter pickers – £500 Branded Bin Bags - £219.50 Total = £719.50 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place	Pride In Linthwaite, Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Kirklees Waste Team

				next to litter bins on the street as part of the normal collection route? Similar to the Litter Heroes scheme run by Leeds Council?	Standard Investment Fund = £359.75 Other 50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	
21	Influence and Sense of Control	Many people shared that they didn't know how to get involved in local community action or make change		Organise and host a Colne Valley Ward Community Partnership meeting that brings together active citizens and community groups to share ideals, projects, learning and to encourage partnerships across the community	£0	Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Kirklees Democracy Service
22	Care and Maintenance, Work and Local Economy	Appearance of Linthwaite Highstreet	A lot of people felt that the appearance of the Highstreet in Linthwaite is unpleasant, which drives away new businesses and makes Linthwaite a less pleasant place to spend time.	Engage with local shop owners about the potential to develop a uniform shop front scheme that Pride In Linthwaite encourage shop owners to buy in to. Pride In Linthwaite would work with a designer to create a scheme that the shop owners are on board with and the use Place Standard Investment Fund to fund half of costs for refurbishment of shop fronts, with the shops themselves funding the other half of costs.	50% Colne Valley Place Standard Investment Fund 50% investment from individual shops hopefully	Pride In Linthwaite
23	Moving Around, Traffic and Parking	Noise and Air pollution on Manchester Road	Cars on Manchester Road are too noisy and cause air pollution. Suggestions made are around installing moss on the walls on Manchester road to improve air quality.	Colne Valley Ward Councillors to engage with Kirklees Transportation Team to investigate options and possibilities around reducing air and noise pollution on Manchester Road.	Tbc	Colne Valley Ward Councillors
24	Moving Around	There aren't enough cycling		TBC	TBC	TBC

		routes in Linthwaite				
25	Moving around	There aren't enough traffic protected walking routes in Linthwaite		Fund the creation of a local history trail with accompanying walkers are welcome style leaflet that will guide people around historic sites in Linthwaite and Cowlersley, utilising off road paths wherever possible, also highlighting local cafes and pubs along the route to support businesses. Leaflet to be accessed from local shops and Pride In Linthwaite.	50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund 50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite to work with local residents interested in History and potentially groups like the Huddersfield History Society
26	Feeling Safe	Concerns raised about ASB in the evening and opportunistic crime, as well as reference to violent crime in the area		Support the creation of a local neighbourhood watch scheme(s)		Pr, Safer Kirklees & West Yorkshire Police
27	Feeling Safe, Play and Recreation	Nerves around ASB from Young people / Tackling local ASB in Linthwaite from Teenagers	Many people shared that they can occasionally feel intimidated by groups of young people congregating	Create a local activity taster scheme for young people to encourage them to spend their time in alternative ways and show case local recreational businesses. Including, hiring a portable 'games unit' for young people in Linthwaite and Cowlersley to provide engagement opportunity for WY Police to meet and speak to local young people, whilst also giving young people positive experiences.	£3600 total for a year 2024 – 2025 50% CV Place Standard Investment Fund - £1800 50% Golcar Place Standard Investment Fund - £1800	Pride In Linthwaite
28	Feeling Safe	Concerns around theft from homes and vehicles		Run a home safety and vehicle safety campaign		
29	Facilities and Amenities	There aren't enough disabled friendly toilets	We could use the Wheelmate and Restrooms app	Promote Wheelmate and Restroom apps through Pride In Linthwaite website and social media		

		and changing spaces in Linthwaite				
30	Traffic and Parking	There isn't enough Parking in Linthwaite	This stops people using the local shops, which in turns keeps the shops away from Linthwaite.	Identify spaces to create a car park/ways of increasing available parking to then open conversations with Kirklees Council Highways and Transportation scheme depending on location.	TBC	Pride In Linthwaite, Colne Valley Ward Councillors
31	Traffic and Parking	Environmental damage caused by turning gardens in to parking spots	Due to the lack of parking new homes across Linthwaite, many people have to turn their gardens in to parking spaces which contributes to flooding and climate change	Promote nature friendly parking options through Pride In Linthwaite website and social media		Pride In Linthwaite
32	Traffic and Parking	There isn't enough disabled parking near the shops in Linthwaite	This makes it harder for disabled people to access the local shops	Colne Valley Ward Councillors to consider working with the Kirklees Highways team to design a scheme to address this issue and advertise a Traffic Regulation Order. This TRO and any objections or supporting statements expressed with then be considered.	Circa £10,000 in staff time, legal costs and road markings (dependent on number of bays). No guarantee that the TRO will be approved but costs remain.	Colne Valley Ward Councillors and Kirklees Highways
33	Work and Local Economy	Some comments highlighted that there is no business network in Linthwaite		Develop a stronger relationship and support the Colne Valley Business Network more – promoting the CVBN through social media and website		Pride In Linthwaite & Colne Valley Ward Councillors
34	Natural Space	Lack of high quality outdoor space and seating		Create a community garden and picnic area	Tbc	Pride In Linthwaite

35	Influence and sense of Control	Many people shared that they didn't know how to get involved in local community action or make change		Advertise Cllr surgeries in Linthwaite through the Pride In Linthwaite social media and website		Pride In Linthwaite, Colne Valley Ward Councillors
36	Influence and Sense of Control	Many people shared that they didn't know how to get involved in local community action or make change		Make and install cllr suggestion boxes around the village for people to drop their ideas and feedback in to		
37	Influence and Sense of Control			Hold another Place Standard Engagement in the future		
38	Public Transport	The bus service doesn't connect communities across the Colne Valley very well	Buses largely run in to Huddersfield and back out along Manchester Road, meaning that travelling from Linthwaite to Golcar or Outlane can be difficult	Investigate options around commissioning a local stopper bus to run a circular route connecting the Colne Valley and Golcar Wards. When this has been piloted in the past the service has not been sufficiently utilised to make it sustainable. So investigate alternatives too.	TBC 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund 50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite
39	Public Transport, Moving Around	Connectivity within Linthwaite and across the Valley can be difficult. Some people also shared that the hills make cycling in the area difficult	A suggestion was made to encourage the use of E-bikes	Investigate commissioning an organisation to run an E-Bike rental or free trail scheme for residents of Linthwaite and Cowlersley	TBC 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund 50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	

40	Care and Maintenance, Moving around, Streets and Spaces	Access routes to the Canal are often overgrown and unusable	People wanted to be able to access the canal more but the access routes from Manchester road are often overgrown	Clear access routes to the Canal	Tbc	Pride In Linthwaite and KC Parks Volunteer Coordinator
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Get involved

To get involved or find out more, please contact:

Key contact name: Liz Quinn

Key contact organisation: Pride in Linthwaite

Email: prideinlinthwaite@outlook.com

Website: www.prideinlinthwaite.com

This document and more information is available online at:

www.HowGoodIsOurPlace.org.uk