

LEADHILLS INFORMATION DAY

15th February 2pm – 7pm, Leadhills Village Hall

Summary of feedback

1. Communication

- Invitations sent to 13 invitees.
- Advert placed in Carlisle & Lanark Gazette.
- Notices posted on Community Notice Board.
- Information posted on www.leadhillsestate.co.uk.

2. Attendees

- 36 Leadhills residents.
- 2 Wanlockhead residents.
- 1 Elvanfoot resident.
- 1 Abington resident.

3. Feedback

Everyone was asked to fill in a questionnaire giving feedback. Alternatively, they could email enquiries@leadhillsestate.co.uk after the event. 12 questionnaires were filled in on the night. In addition, notes were taken at the event of verbal enquiries.

4. Main themes

- 4.1 Wish for clearer idea of path networks around the village and mapping these to encourage walkers.
- 4.2 Space for arts and crafts, tea room for village crafters to sell their crafts, which will encourage visitors to the area and offer employment opportunities.
- 4.3 Concern over windfarms spoiling historic areas and their proximity to the village.
- 4.4 Making the reservoir more accessible to locals and visitors, enhancing this area with picnic tables.
- 4.5 More information on planned maintenance of roads and flooding, to include spend/targets and timeline.

1. Feedback from questionnaires

What did you think about the exhibition today – did it meet your expectations?

#1	It has been informative.
#2	Very interesting and good to know about the estate's plans and to involve the village.
#3	Good overview of Estate plans. As a relatively new member of the community (3 years), I was pleased to see estate involvement. We had a very warm welcome and felt valued.
#4	Well received, messages written in PR speak. Plain English...what is being committed, when and what improvements will be made.
#5	Very informative – good summary of what the estate does and runs.
#6	It was informative and the proposals were positive. It was good to meet with Lord Hopetoun and hear his enthusiasm first hand.
#7	Yes – thought it might be re windfarm only.
#8	It's always good to talk and keep in touch.
#9	Yes, it's interesting and very informative.
#10	Very good and informative.
#11	Explanatory.
#12	Informative, yes meets expectations.
#13	Enhancing local wildlife, habitats and ecosystems is crucial and it's great to see so much input.

Lord Hopetoun and the Leadhills team very much enjoyed meeting residents and learning more about their aspirations for their village and the surrounding countryside. A number of actions were taken from feedback given verbally and in writing at the event. These are outlined below and the Estate has undertaken to arrange a further meeting in Spring 2019 when a full update will be provided.

If not, how could it be improved?

- #2 Other than the links with RHET what else are you going to do to engage the younger generation? Myself and my friend run the pre-school group and always keen to make the most of our surroundings. We'd love our own space.

We run Forest School outside the village, and use another member's garden to grow vegetables with the kids. We would welcome discussions on use of the estate 'space' to develop for the children and wider community.

We will arrange a meeting with the school to identify any opportunities to engage young people e.g. classroom talks.

We will also contact the pre-school group with an invitation to get in touch with any specific ideas they may have on how the Estate can support.

- #3 Some more details on plans as they were somewhat brief. Also, I was unfamiliar with some of the terminology used on the boards.

The team were on hand to answer any queries on the boards; however, we will be updating the website on a regular basis where there is an opportunity to add more detail.

- #4 More specific information on investment in Leadhills, trust to set specific targets. The boards make no specific mention of spend/targets/timelines/comms.

The first information session was to showcase what the Estate does on a rolling programme as well as specific initiatives that are planned for the next 12 months. This will provide a useful benchmark from which we can update at the next public exhibition in Spring 2019. We will be updating the website more regularly so we can capture our progress on an ongoing basis.

- #5 Some of the detail was unclear to me as I wasn't sure what the names of places related to, e.g. Glenfranka Reservoir.

"This can be difficult with some of the historical names of locations being replaced by local names. We have updated the map on the website Leadhills Estate with key places to help you identify the area"

- #7 It would have been useful to have a leaflet to take away.

A copy of the boards online on the Leadhills Estate website and available to print out. We will also be updating the website regularly. If anyone hasn't got access to the website, please contact us and we will send a print out of the boards.

Do you have any comments on the plans we have for Leadhills Estate?

#1 Would be great to have a craft shop and tea room, possible for arts and crafts. Lots of crafters in the village with no outlet for sales. This could help with increasing visitors to the village.

We would welcome more facilities or opportunities for children and families.

The Estate does not have any vacant premises in the village but would be pleased to facilitate where possible such as exploring grant funding. We will be meeting with the Community Council to discuss opportunities to work together to access resources.

#2 I would like the plan to improve/create a path network – there are so many wonderful places to get out. If possible as well as bigger walks for adults also family friendly walks and trails to interest children.

I am pleased that there are plans for a village path network. As a mum of four, access for children and pushchairs would be welcomed.

I think the reservoir can be utilised and made more accessible for local people.

Plans are underway with the Community Council on ideas for improving local paths/walks, including directional signage and / or information material.

With regards to employment would you consider taking on a modern apprentice or offer a work experience programme?

We currently have a trainee Gamekeeper at Leadhills Estate however this role tends to be for an individual who has been to college and comes to us to learn the practical skills. We will consider what scope there might be for work experience, however there are no opportunities at present.

As a Leadhills Trust tenant, I am keen to learn more about the planned maintenance programme.

We aim to keep on top of repairs and renewals on a proactive, planned basis as opposed to a reactive basis, although sometimes the weather can intervene! We will contact you directly regarding the programme for your property.

#5 We do occasionally have issues with sheep on the golf course. Would be good if this could be looked at if possible.

Following the meeting, the ground team have undertaken a site survey and have identified areas of fencing that needs maintenance, this will be completed in the coming weeks. We are also aware that sometimes gates are left open by walkers so we are planning to get some signs made to remind people to shut gates behind them. This will hopefully help keep the sheep off the golf course.

Would also be good if the various groups could work together – estate, golf club, ski club, railway, angling club – rather than in silos. Could be initiated by the estate?

This is a great idea and one we will explore with the Community Council who are the first point of contact in all communication between the Estate and the community.

The road between Abington and Leadhills has become dangerous since the trees have been cut down and there are a lack of safety fencing/barriers.

This is something that should be discussed with South Lanarkshire Council. A Council representative attended the information day and will receive this feedback document.

The cost of rental of the village hall makes it expensive to hire for local events and community projects.

The Estate does not own or manage the village hall, so this is something we cannot comment on.

With regards to the windfarms, we believe that currently any monies go directly to the Council instead of Leadhills Community. I believe that the community should benefit more.

This is something the developer is aware of and we know that they are considering ways in which the Community could benefit directly. A recent local survey conducted by the developer showed that the most popular choice was for such a fund to be administered locally, by the communities themselves.

#7 Would like to see in writing e.g. website plans for flooding, roads, path network around village and beyond.

The Estate will update the website with further details as our plans progress.

#8 You will need to deliver some of the suggested projects to win over the village.

Our plan is to complete these projects as well as exploring other options with the Community.

#9 Not persuaded that wind turbines will enhance the historic area. There are too many in the surrounding hills already.

Please make your views known on <https://iam.innogy.com/en/about-innogy/innogy-innovation-technology/renewables/onshore/harryburn-wind-farm>

#10 Not happy about the windfarm. We already have a lot in the area.

Please make your views known on <https://iam.innogy.com/en/about-innogy/innogy-innovation-technology/renewables/onshore/harryburn-wind-farm>

#11 To work with community in more details to support local ideas.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with the residents and progressing ideas to support the future of Leadhills.

#12 Help remove Wanlockhead's claim to being Scotland's highest village. Leadhills is the higher village and correctly recorded as such will improve & increase visitor numbers.

If anyone has ideas on what we can do to support this, we will certainly do our bit.

Feedback from open session

- Enquiry as to road repairs in Symington Street, including bridge over burn – **emergency repairs are underway.**
- Enquiry as to availability of stone aggregate for local tourism attraction – **we have identified where there may be some material which might be useful and have informed the group.**
- Enquiry as to purchase of additional garden ground – **this matter is being progressed.**
- Enquiry as to the potential for extension of Clyde walkway across estate land – **this will form part of our plan to promote pathways in the area.**
- Discussion re. septic tank servitude at Elvanfoot – **ongoing discussions continuing with the residents.**
- Outcome of mimulus peregrinus trial results – **awaiting an update and will post results on the website.**
- Visit to Hopetoun Archive to view information about Leadhills – **a visit to Hopetoun has been offered and we would be delighted to facilitate.**
- Update on ongoing sale of garden ground – **with the purchaser's solicitor to progress.**
- Discussion regarding ongoing letting of workspace - **this is being progressed with the resident concerned.**
- Enquiry as to support for reopening of public toilets – **support was previously offered by the Estate and not taken up – we will revisit with the Community Council.**
- Offer of links with primary school – **we will contact the school representative and explore opportunities.**
- Offer of opportunities through Lanarkshire LEADER – **contact made – once the project is underway a meeting will be arranged.**

