



Braehead Community

ACTIVE TRAVEL ACTION PLAN 2018

**ACTIVE
TRAVEL HUB**
STIRLING



Produced by

in partnership with



**Forth
Environment
Link**
LINKING PEOPLE AND
THE ENVIRONMENT





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Summary and background

This action plan has been created with the input of your community, to benefit your community. Through surveys, conversations and focus groups, we have learned about what people who live and work in Bræhead think about walking and cycling. We have combined these experiences with our own knowledge and experience of active travel in Stirling, to create a set of recommendations that can be used by anybody in the community who wants to contribute towards making Stirling a Cycle Friendly City. The plan is designed to offer practical and achievable steps that can be taken by community councils, schools, groups, families or individuals to help overcome barriers to walking and cycling.

The data collected through consultation will be shared directly with Stirling Council's Active Travel team. There are many ways that groups and individuals can get involved in promoting active travel, learning new skills and making connections with others. This plan has a list of practical recommendations to overcome barriers to active travel within your community. **To provide the best chance of making an impact, we advise strongly that interested parties come together and form an active travel steering group. Forming a group would open up opportunities to apply for funding from various sources that could help the community to make real changes and improvements that could benefit all who live and work in the area.** Stirling Active Travel Hub (Stirling AT Hub/The Hub) can help to facilitate this.

Why promote active travel in your community?

Walking or cycling for everyday journeys (active travel) offers benefits to both individuals and their community. Some of the most significant benefits are:

- **Healthier and happier communities**

Walking and cycling are fantastic forms of exercise that greatly improve both physical and mental health. It is important that communities feel able to build active travel into their daily routines, given that physical inactivity contributes to over 2,500 early deaths in Scotland each year.

- **Safe routes to schools and nursery**

All Stirling Council schools and nurseries are in the process of implementing new school travel plans. Every plan emphasises the importance of increasing walking and cycling. An environment that supports active travel to school offers huge physical, psychological and environmental benefits to the pupils, their families and the wider community.

- **Better places to live and work**

Active travel can make your community a more attractive and safer place to live by reducing the number of short journeys made by car. Fewer cars mean less congestion, easier journeys and roads that are safer for all road users. This will also improve air quality, which will help to improve the health of everybody in the community.

WHO WE ARE

Forth Environment Link & Stirling Active Travel Hub

Forth Environment Link (FEL) works with communities on a range of environmental, active travel and local food issues. FEL's vision is to link people and the environment for a greener, healthier future. With funding from Transport Scotland, FEL has operated the Stirling AT Hub since early 2013. The hub is there to support anyone who wants to build more active journeys into their everyday lives. We can assist with route planning, bike trails, events, training and advice – all of our services are free of charge and accessible to all.

Links to existing plans and policies

This action plan is designed to complement existing community plans. With many common goals and outcomes, it would be sensible to communicate and collaborate as much as possible in our actions.

Stirling Council – “Walking and Cycling to a Healthier Stirling” (2017)

- To increase the percentage of people walking and cycling in Stirling
- To increase the percentage of children and students walking and cycling to/from places of education in Stirling



Braehead Primary School Travel Plan – December 2017

- Encourage more active travel - increase the number of pupils walking, cycling and scooting to school from 67% to 75% by June 2018
- Promote the use of Park & Stride for parents – increase the number of pupils who participate in Park & Stride from 11% to 15% by June 2018
- Promote road safety with all pupils – raise awareness of all pupils to issues around road safety
- Promote the use of Park & Stride for staff – encourage staff to participate in Park & Stride from 0% to 6% by June 2018



Braehead Community Action Plan 2014-2019

- Increase the number of cycle paths and improve current provision
- Work with the school to reduce volume of traffic at the school gates; promote active travel
- Encourage active travel within the community, focusing on community centres, churches and groups



TACTRAN Active Travel Audit (August 2017)

- Address the lack of online information on walking and cycling specifically relating to the Braehead area, e.g. through developing the Braehead Community Council website
- Further the use of websites such as Ride With GPS and Facebook to identify and promote leisure-based walking in and around Braehead
- Provide on-street maps and signage
- Provide path upgrades where needed, suitable for all users
- Implement improvements/cycling facilities on Broom Road and Pike Road

Community consultation

Over the last few months the Stirling AT Hub has collected the views of people living and working in Braehead through Stirling AT Hub events, parents' evenings at Braehead Primary School, meetings with Braehead Community Council and Braehead Community Garden.

Top five concerns raised in Braehead

- 1** Traffic
(amount and speeding)
- 2** Infrastructure
(lack of dedicated - especially traffic-free - active travel facilities)
- 3** Crossing points
(lack of, and safety concerns over existing crossings)
- 4** Quality of infrastructure
(e.g. litter, dog mess, potholes)
- 5** Safety
(while walking and cycling)

Top three most helpful activities to encourage cycling

From the 130 question responses, the top three 'helpful' or 'very helpful' activities were:

- 1** Cycle training for children
- 2** Dr Bike - free bike check ups
- 3** Bike maintenance sessions

183
FACE **FACE**
TO
interactions

155
SURVEYS

144
comments

Dr Bike
worked on
12 bikes

Survey responses

Of the 155 survey responses:

40%

don't have access to a bike

36%

would like to make everyday journeys by bike, but currently don't

52%

currently walk for everyday journeys at least once a week

83%

taking part in the consultation was their first interaction with FEL/Stirling AT Hub

“Barriers to cycling for me are the fear/danger of cars when cycling on the road. There is a lack of safe, thoughtful, and convenient cycling infrastructure which would help lessen the danger of regular cycling for commuting or pleasure.”

“Fast cars not stopping for crossing at the corner of Springfield Road and Broom Road.”

One of the most significant barriers to active travel in Braehead seems to be the amount and behaviour of motorised traffic in the area. Speeding was mentioned as a concern on almost all of the main routes: Springfield Road; Linden Avenue; Broom Road; Shirra's Brae. Speeding and heavy traffic are obviously concerning for everyone wanting to travel actively in the community, but especially so when this is taking place around the primary school and on the main routes into the city centre.

“Secure storage - I'd like to buy an electric cargo trike, but don't have a secure garage to store it in.”

“...providing sensible and ample bike parking/storage facilities.”

Secure storage for bikes, whether at home or in the community, can be a challenge and a real barrier to cycling for everyday journeys. This is where the nextbike UK public hire scheme could offer benefits to some residents, as this removes the burden of having to store and maintain a bicycle. A nextbike UK station, along with some new/additional cycle parking facilities could make cycle journeys more convenient and attractive.

“A number of years ago Braehead & Broomridge CDT set off on a mission to get our local residents healthier. Braehead is a perfect location to pursue an active travel agenda and we're delighted to be working with partners to achieve this. The CDT is engaged with both TACTRAN and Stirling Council to fill in the gaps in our already impressive cycling and walking infrastructure. We have an ambition to create a vibrant, connected community which flourishes as a key part of 21st century Stirling with healthy, happy residents. We have a great track record of success and we want to add to that by making our community one of the first active travel communities in Stirling. Working with partners, including FEL and the Stirling AT Hub, will be key to delivering our ambition.”

Councillor Chris Kane

There has been a strong response to this work from the Braehead community, especially from the primary school and the Braehead & Broomridge Community Development Trust (CDT). Braehead is in a strong position to encourage further active travel, due to its location, existing infrastructure, the level of engagement evident from the TACTRAN audit, the school travel plan and this study.

Infrastructure issues

- **Access to Stirling City Centre:** Routes for active journeys into the city centre are quite challenging, despite the short distance that needs to be covered.

“An underpass exists below Craig’s roundabout; this divides the opinion of stakeholders.”

“Lack of joined up/segregated cycle paths away from main roads.”
- **General quality and lighting** – The shared-use paths in between the housing estates are particularly rough in places, making access more challenging for everybody. Additional street lighting could make certain routes safer and more attractive to use throughout the year.

“The condition of a number of paths in the Braehead/Broomridge area is poor due to age of surfacing.”

“The farm road next to railway is too dark at night and there are no pavements”
- **Shirra’s Brae:** This road was regularly mentioned as a challenge, due to the steepness of the hill, the speed of traffic, irresponsible parking near the school entrance, poor lighting and a lack of safe crossing points. Lighting is required at the rear entrance to Braehead Primary School from Shirra’s Brae to make this route more attractive and safer.

“The children need to cross the road halfway up Shirra’s Brae (on hill near Easter Livilands). Despite speed bumps cars travel quite fast and the cars appear from nowhere round corners. Would love a pedestrian crossing.”

“Walking down Shirra’s Brae road is VERY dark especially now the gate has been moved closer to the corner. Any chance of a light on the corner?”
- **Braehead Primary School:** There is heavy traffic at pick-up and drop-off times, especially around the North Parish Church and Carrick Court entrances to the school. This is off-putting for allowing children to walk or cycle to the school, key to achieving outcomes set out in the school travel plan and the *Braehead Community Action Plan*.

“Cars parked over lowered kerb at shop in Springfield Road. Young People cannot see past them. Also very congested at church.”

“Badly parked cars, drivers stopping to let children across the road when unsafe.”
- **nextbike UK:** Braehead is an obvious gap in the nextbike UK network. Nearby stations in Bannockburn and St Ninians would provide useful end-to-end support for local journeys, as well as for trips into the city centre. This would increase access to bikes for those who do not have the means to own, maintain or store one.

“[Braehead & Broomridge CDT] are keen to be a part of the Nextbike programme; we’re very excited by the electric bikes coming to Stirling and want to be a part of that. We want people to be active in commuting in, out and around the community.” *Councillor Chris Kane*

This is a summary of some features that could be improved, reflecting comments collected through consultation and the experiences of Stirling AT Hub, Stirling Council and Cycling UK staff that are familiar with the network. There are also observations from the TACTRAN audit included in **ORANGE**.

Recommendations

This Action Plan should contribute towards the **"Plan of Action"** component of Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly Community Award.

ISSUE	ACTION	CYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AWARD CRITERIA
Lack of promotion of existing routes and infrastructure; desire for Dr Bike	Pop-up Stirling AT Hub sessions with Dr Bike; free maps and route planning; led walking and cycling events, e.g. Braehead Heritage Trail	Barriers Needs & Opportunities
Concerns around safe routes to schools; desire to increase active travel and improve road safety	School to implement travel plan actions: Park & Stride; promoting road safety, and increasing active travel levels to 75% by June 2018	Community Engagement Partnership & Stakeholder Working
Reports of traffic offences around main routes through Braehead and lack of crossing points	Work with Police Scotland and Stirling Council to establish opportunities for implementing new/improved traffic calming, speed reduction campaign, crossing points	Barriers Needs & Opportunities
Limited access to secure storage of bikes; gap in nextbike UK network coverage	Explore opportunities for nextbike UK and e-bike share schemes to operate in Braehead	Barriers Needs & Opportunities Partnership & Stakeholder Working
Limited connectivity and poor state of repair of existing facilities – Braehead Active Travel Network	Aspire to achieving strategic network outlined in Fig 9b of TACTRAN Active Travel Audit; new and improved facilities	Barriers Needs & Opportunities



WHO?

WHAT?

FUNDING?

Stirling AT Hub, Recycle-a-bike; Braehead & Broomridge CDT

Stirling AT Hub to organise pop-up hubs and rides/walks as part of outreach programme 2018/19; build on established partnerships

These services will be provided free of charge, as part of the Hub's funded outreach activities.

Braehead Primary School, Stirling AT Hub, Stirling Council

Liaise with Stirling Council and Stirling AT Hub if any further training or guidance needed;
Contact Jennifer Abernethy (abernethyj@stirling.gov.uk)

Please contact Stirling AT Hub for the latest information on the different funding sources available

Police Scotland, Stirling Council, Braehead Primary School, Braehead & Broomridge CDT

Liaise with appropriate Stirling Council and Police Scotland teams and local councillors to explore opportunities to improve drivers' behaviour in the area and make the environment more attractive and safer for active travel

Please contact Stirling AT Hub for the latest information on the different funding sources available

Stirling AT Hub, Braehead & Broomridge CDT, Stirling Council

Assess suitability for inclusion in 2018/19 projects including possible bikeshare expansion and e-bike share scheme

Please contact Stirling AT Hub for the latest information on the different funding sources available

Stirling Council, TACTRAN, Braehead & Broomridge CDT, Braehead Community Council

Continue pressure to implement high-level actions set out in TACTRAN Active Travel Audit, creating a more coherent active travel network for Braehead and increased connectivity to surrounding communities, especially into city centre

Please contact Stirling AT Hub for the latest information on the different funding sources available

Next steps

This Active Travel Action Plan offers some suggestions of the barriers faced by the community, and some actions which may help to overcome them. While some of these actions are undeniably large, especially around infrastructure, there are things that every individual can do to contribute towards making Stirling a more active, healthier and greener place to live and work.

Small changes can make a big difference; from learning a new skill to helping report problems you encounter or taking part in activities with like-minded individuals to apply for funding - there is something for everyone to get involved in. Here are some useful places to get started:

I WANT TO...	WHO CAN HELP?	PHONE / EMAIL / WEBSITE
Work with others in my community to secure funding for active travel improvements	There is funding available for communities who want to see changes in infrastructure, or gain access to training and activities. The Stirling AT Hub can help to bring people together to form a steering group who can work towards Cycling Scotland Cycle Friendly Community Award and assist with funding applications	01786 474160 stirlingath@forthenvironmentlink.org More info on award: cycling.scot/our-programmes/ cycle-friendly/community Details of funding opportunities will be on this page when the fund is open
Comment on existing and/or future walking and cycling infrastructure (paths, crossing points etc)	Speak to the Stirling AT Hub at Stirling train station or via contact details. They will collect comments and pass on queries to Stirling Council	01786 474160 stirlingath@forthenvironmentlink.org stirlingactivetravelhub.org
Report a problem with roads, pavements or paths in my community	Contact Stirling Council online. Forms exist for reporting all manner of environmental problems	01786 404040 info@stirling.gov.uk my.stirling.gov.uk/forms/
Get my bike repaired and/or learn how to fix it myself	Stirling AT Hub and Recyke-a-bike regularly hold free Dr Bike sessions and Mug O' Tea and a Spanner evening classes to teach basic bike repair skills	01786 474160 stirlingath@forthenvironmentlink.org To book: eventbrite.co.uk and search for 'Stirling Active Travel Hub'
Walk or cycle as part of a group	Stirling AT Hub and Active Stirling have regular walking and cycling events suitable for all abilities	walking@activestirling.org.uk activestirling.org.uk/walking

National Active Travel Delivery Partners

Sustrans

"The national walking and cycling charity."
sustrans.org.uk



Cycling UK

"The national cycling charity. Our mission is to enable millions more people to cycle"
cyclinguk.org



Cycling Scotland

"Cycling Scotland is the nation's cycling organisation. We help create and deliver opportunities and an environment so anyone anywhere in Scotland can cycle easily and safely."
cycling.scot



Energy Saving Trust

"From planning your journey with any mode of transports to living with an electric car, our experts' tips should be your first stop to achieving a greener journey."
energysavingtrust.org.uk



Paths for All

"We want to get Scotland walking, everyone, everyday, everywhere."
pathsforall.org.uk



Forth Environment Link

"Forth Environment Link (FEL) works with communities on a range of environmental, active travel and local food issues. FEL's vision is to link people and the environment for a greener, healthier future"
forthenvironmentlink.org



Living Streets

"The UK charity for everyday walking. We want a nation where walking is the natural choice for everyday local journeys."
livingstreets.org.uk





**ACTIVE
TRAVEL HUB**
STIRLING

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