LDISSUE: LDMI16 Green Network

Name: Ms Carol-Ann Anderson 02888/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

#### Comment:

Creation of play areas within the woodland walkway between California and Wallacestone are the priority green network opportunities for this area.

#### Response:

Comment noted. The Falkirk Green Network GN14 opportunity identifies the Braes open space corridors as an opportunity for improvement in the Proposed Plan, although this is not speficially relating to the woodland east of California. There is provision in the Proposed Plan (GN25) for an outdoor learning site at Bellsrigg woodland, California.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr Ian Angus-Felton** 02902/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

#### Comment:

The cycle path infrastructure across the whole region needs improving. The roads are in a poor state and dangerous for cyclists. Prevent further house building in lower Braes to protect the existing green spaces.

### Response:

Cumulative impacts on the local road network, and other infrastructure were a key consideration in terms of the growth strategy for the Braes in LDP2, with the main areas of growth in the immediate local area continuing to be focused on existing sites at Maddiston East. The Proposed Plan seeks to identify a number of active travel opportunities, including new cycle routes across the Council area. Policies in the Proposed Plan also require new development to incorporate active travel connections.

Comments 1

Name: **Mr James Ashe** 02761/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

## Comment:

Helix is good, but care needed not to spoil it by trying to make it somewhere for everyone. Also there is an over concentration of resources some of the investment should have gone to other local green spaces, e.G. Callendar Park. Need to stop building houses on small green areas. There are many opportunities for improving the standard of local paths.

# Response:

The Falkirk Open Space Strategy sets out the main priorities for improvement of the green network, including areas of open space. The Strategy identifies local opportunities for enhancement, as well as strategic open spaces such as the Helix. The policies in LDP2 seek to ensure that opportunities for enhancement and provision can be secured, in part, through developer contributions.

Comments 1

Name: Ms Rachael Black 02912/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

## Comment:

Proposals for community growing spaces and outdoor learning opportunities sound appealing.

## Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: Blackness Area Community Council 00054/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

## Comment:

The John Muir Way (JMW) has been a great success, linking Blackness to Bo'ness and beyond, and increasing footfall through Blackness. There is an opportunity to link the JMW to Rouken Glen Garden Centre and Mannerston Farm Shop via the Strip and another old footpath. The section of B903 from the Strip to Blackness PS needs a footpath reinstated for the safety of children.

## Response:

Comments on opportunities for additional linkages to John Muir Way are noted. The John Muir Way continues to be a green network proposal in the Proposal Plan, reflecting the fact that opportunities for additional linkages and further route enhancement exist. These will be subject to further investigation.

Name: Mr Campbell Boyd 02483/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

#### Comment:

Paths should be linked up to form circular routes.

# Response:

Policies in the LDP seek to ensure that enhancements to the path network can be secured in conjunction with new development. The Core Path Plan, together with the Falkirk Open Space Strategy identify where opportunities exist for improvements.

Comments 1

Name: **M Bremner** 02919/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

### Comment:

Improving all parks and play areas would help create high quality places. Improvements to Zetland Park should be a priority.

# Response:

Zetland Park is identified as a key open space asset and a range of improvements are proposed.

Comments 1

Name: Brightons Community Council 00123/FLDP\_MIR/3002/003

### Comment:

The Grange Centre should be recognised as a catalyst for outdoor pursuits and added amenity. It is vital to create quality open space in new developments including rough areas for woodland and scrub, as opposed to manicured open space.

#### Response

Comment regarding the importance of the Grange Centre noted. New development is expected to deliver both active and passive open space on-site, or contribute to off-site improvements where appropriate. Provision of semi-natural open space such as woodland and scrub can form part of passive open space requirements where appropriate.

Comments 1

Name: Callendar Pharmacy 02887/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

## Comment:

The Town Centre needs to link to green network so that it can benefit from the additional visitors.

# Response:

Comment noted. The Proposed Plan notes opportunities to connect Falkirk Town Centre to the green network, not least the proposed green corridor linking to the Helix.

Comments 1

Name: Ms Kate Christie 02922/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

## Comment:

The area is well served by greenspace, which gives it its character and contributes to well being. Important to keep this level of greenspace and to prepare guidance so future development is respectful of the existing area.

# Response:

Comment noted. Policies in the Proposed Plan seek to ensure that green and blue infrastructure in enhanced and provided through new development. The Council will also prepare supplementary guidance on green infrastructure delivery.

Name: Ms Sinead Currie 02779/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

### Comment:

In Hill of Kinnaird there needs to be a large green space and community hub/resources. The small play parks offer limited opportunites for older children. A community hub would help keep teenagers entertained and stop damaging property in the estate.

### Response:

Hill of Kinnaird 2 is identified for mixed use development (housing/business/community) and provides an opportunity to address any shortfall in community uses which are identified in Kinnaird Village.

#### Comment

In Larbert and Stenhousemuir there should be lighting and cctv on paths and in green space so this can be used by the community in evening times.

### Response:

The design of footpaths should be appropriate to the location and intended use of the route. Security issues are a consideration in the design process.

Comments 2

Name: Mr Douglas Dewar 02893/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

### Comment:

Stirling Road, Forth Valley Royal grounds, Larbert Loch and Larbert Wood areas need to be kept as first class conservation sites.

# Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: **Susan Dyer** 00469/FLDP MIR/3001/003

### Comment:

It would be good to see green network opportunities which looked at imaginitive ways of re-using waste materials.

## Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: Falkirk Community Trust 01077/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

## Comment:

Support proposals for the green network, including inclusion of Helix, Callendar House/Park, Kinneil Estate and Muiravonside as tourism nodes. Highlight the importance of supporting infrastructure to the green network (e.G. Car parking, public transport, visitor amenities). LDP could be more explicit in supporting these types of development and services.

# Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: Ms Jennifer Forsyth 02903/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

# Comment:

The preservation of the grounds of Forth Valley Hospital and Larbert Woods is essential. It is of great importance to the area, an opportunity to encourage healthy living and a resource for children.

## Response:

The grounds of FVRH are subject to various designations and policies in the Proposed Plan which would offer protection from development which would adversely impact on the character or function of the site.

Name: Forth Ports Limited 00020/FLDP\_MIR/3002/001

#### Comment:

The Key Green Network Corridor identified in Fig. 3.3 crosses the docks however no public access is possible in this area and operational port land should be excluded from the network. The Green Network also includes the Firth of Forth SPA which does not need any further protection.

### Response:

The Green Network corridors are identified to indicate potential corridors which could include habitat and species routes and not necessarily routes with public access.

Comments 1

Name: Frank and Birgitta Fortune

00907/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

#### Comment:

Maintain green spaces and green belt in and around the Wallacestone and Sunnyside Road area. The existing field boundaries are well used by wildlife. Help to revitalise the hedgerows and maintain and improve the biodiversity would be welcome. More cycle routes and footpaths would be welcome across the board, allowing better connectivity and reducing need to use roads, and promoting tourism.

### Response:

The Proposed Plan does not include any housing sites within the Wallacestone and Sunnyside Road area due to concerns regarding road network capacity, road safety and overall accesibility. Policies in the Proposed Plan seek to encourage the provision of outdoor access and active travel modes in conjunction with new development. The Falkirk Open Space Strategy and the Core Path Plan set out the main priorities for improvement.

Comments 1

Name: Grangemouth (including Skinflats) Community Council

02723/FLDP MIR/3001/003

### Comment:

Completion of the Helix network missing link between the bottom af Icehouse Brae along Laurieston Road to join the stadium path network should be progressed. This would encourage people to access the Helix by active travel.

## Response:

Some improvements to pedestrian access along Laurieston Road will be made with the proposed road realignment between Icehouse Brae/Laurieston Road and the entrance to WH Malcolms under IN06 with a footway being constructed on the east of the re-aligned road. This will improve access to the pedestrian route along the south side of the stadium. Further opportunities for enhanced pedestrian provision will be considered.

Comments 1

Name: Ms Sandra Hallows

00888/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

## Comment:

Maintain the green landscape character along Standrigg Road. This is an important aspect for the communities already living in the area.

## Response:

Comment noted. LDP2 does not propose housing development within Wallacestone, including along Standrigg Road.

Comments 1

Name: Historic Environment Scotland

02656/FLDP MIR/3001/036

# Comment:

The identification of an Antonine Wall Trail and a community growing site at the walled garden in Kinneil Estate (site 0196) as green network opportunities is welcomed. Further engagement with HES and the relevant WHS partnership is encouraged as these proposals develop.

## Response:

Comment Noted. The Council is keen to engage with Historic Environment Scotland and the relevant WHS partnership as and when proposals develop.

Name: Mr Roddy Htet-Khin 00803/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

#### Comment:

Standrigg Road should be made part of the Green Network. The South facing fields are a popular cycle route.

#### Response:

Comment noted

Comments 1

Name: Mr Douglas Jardine 02894/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

#### Comment:

Guidance on new developments is a priority for green network opportunities.

### Response:

The Proposed Plan places a strong emphasis on placemaking.

Comments 1

Name: Lorna King 00846/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

#### Comment:

The upper road in Wallacestone offers outstanding and unparalleled views across the Forth valley and also eastwards across the rolling landscape to Linlithgow and the Forth Road Bridges. It also has a semi rural character which is of great value. This areas is so valuable and distinct within the Falkirk district that is worthy of a Local Landscape Area Designation. People come to use the area to star gaze, watch sunsets, look at the view, see the snow on the hills, dog walk from Wallacestone to California to Maddiston. I would like to see this area (and Muiravonside) valued for these specific qualities and actively promoted and used as a distinct recreation area.

### Response:

Comment noted. Whilst it is not considered that this area merits status a local landscape area, the Council's Supplementary Guidance SG09 'Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Designations' provides area specific guidelines to ensure that the visual and landscape impacts of development are properly considered through the planning application process. This is proposed to be carried forward into LDP2.

## Comment:

Regarding options for compensation for the loss of open space: the value of open space is discussed but the definition of value is not presented, it is therefore unclear if value refers to economic value, environmental value or intrinsic. It is also not clear who makes the judgement. I therefore do not agree that compensation for its loss should be reduced.

## Response:

Policy PE16 only permits the loss of open space in limited circumstances. One of those circumstances is that the loss would be compensated by qualitative improvements to other local areas of open space. The level of compensation would be required to be proportionate to the loss of the open space. Supplementary guidance - SG05 'Green Infrastructure and Development will provide further detail on how the compensation should be calculated.

Comments 2

Name: Larbert Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council 00432/FLDP\_MIR/3001/005

## Comment:

The only real open space available to residents is at Larbert Woods. No further building should be allowed to erode the woods further. Support for Preferred Option (3.27).

## Response:

Support noted. There are no development proposals for Larbert Woods in the Proposed Plan.

## Comment:

Poor level of open space found in Larbert and Stenhousemuir. Proper open space should be provided for all ages to enjoy. Support for Green Network Preferred Option (3.24).

## Response:

Support noted. The Open Space Strategy acknowledges there is still work to be done improving the quality of open space in Larbert and Stenhousemuir. The Proposed Plan contains two significant green network opportunities relating to the settlement, River Carron Corridor Improvements (GN06) and Larbert Open Space Corridors (GN17) which seek to improve the quality and function of these corridors. Whilst not detailed in the Proposed Plan, there may be further smaller scale projects which come forward during the life of the plan.

Name: Ms Elaine Mackie 02895/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

#### Comment:

Halt the house building, review road networks and upgrade existing green spaces and create new ones.

#### Response:

The population of Falkirk will continue to grow and the Proposed Plan aims to satisfy the projected population and household growth.

Comments 1

Name: Maddiston Community Council

00323/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

#### Comment:

Maddiston Community Council advise that the proposal for a possible community growing area at Muiravonside should reflect that this is already established by Maddiston Community Council. Figure 3.2 also identifies the opportunity for a growing area at California Road. This would be unlikely to gather community support. This area has drainage issues, which would not be an advantage in a growing area and is one of the few sports pitches in the area.

#### Response:

Comment noted. The design and exact location of community growing areas will be subject to further consultation and refinement. Comment noted in relation to Muiravonside.

Comments 1

Name: Mr Gordon McKean

02900/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

### Comment:

Bo'ness Foreshore could be made a more attractive place to visit, if it is not to be used for housing.

### Response:

Comment noted. The Council has already invested in some improvements such as path upgrading and wild flower seeding. There is potential for further improvements, as highlighted in the Open Space Strategy.

Comments 1

Name: I D McSpurtle

02901/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

# Comment:

Callendar Park is in a poor state and should be a priority for investment to turn it back into a 'destination' park.

## Response

Callendar Park and Wood is identified as green network opportunity in the Proposed Plan. Masterplans have also been prepared by the Falkirk Community Trust and Forestry Commission in which opportunities for improvement have been identified.

Comments 1

Name: Ms Louise Meikleham

02920/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

# Comment:

Local parks and heritage places like Callendar Park and House are key priorities for Falkirk.

## Response:

Comment noted. The Council has an adopted open space strategy which sets detailed priorities for the enhancement of parks across the Council area.

Comments 1

Name: Ms Alison Mitchell

02884/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

# Comment:

The greenspace at the Wallace Stone is in need of improvement.

## Response:

Comment noted. Wallacestone Park is identified in the Falkirk Open Space Strategy as an opportunity for improvement

Name: **MLFP** 02916/FLDP MIR/3001/002

## Comment:

Connectivity to the wider green network is important to encourage sustainable travel links as well as supporting people's ability to choose a range of active travel methods. If a development is within an area of greenspace, it is important to provide links to this area so that it can be enjoyed for a variety of leisure purposes.

#### Response:

Comment noted. Policy PE01 requires development to be designed to encourage the use of active travel and sustainable integrated transport.

Comments 1

Name: Mr Stuart Moss 02726/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

#### Comment:

The priority is that the green network remains green and not concrete grey.

### Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: Ogilvie Homes Ltd 00614/FLDP\_MIR/3004/006

# Comment:

Green Infrastructure and New Development - The proposed appraoch to consolodating existing green infrastructure within a single document is welcomed.

# Response:

Comments are noted and welcomed.

# Comment:

Open Space - the Council's proposal to update existing open space policy following the review of its Open Space Strategy is welcomed but any changes to policy should be consulted on during the preparation of relevant supplementary guidance and during a general review of developer contributions.

# Response:

Comment noted. The Council is keen to engage the housebuilding industry on future revisions to supplementary guidance documents, including those which set out developer contributions.

Comments 2

Name: Paths For All Partnership 00359/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

# Comment:

We welcome the recognition of the role that CSGN has in promoting active travel and healthier lifestyles. With Falkirk a key part of the CSGN this opportunity could be grasped with active travel routes linking CSGN, canals, main population areas and Falkirk's Greenspace. Combining these factors affords Falkirk the opportunity to be one of Scotland's premier areas for living an active, green lifestyle. This will increase Falkirk's desirability as a place to live as well as attracting new businesses.

## Response:

Comments are noted and welcomed.

Name: Persimmon Homes (East Scotland) Ltd

00712/FLDP\_MIR/3006/003

#### Comment:

The site at Standrigg Road can contribute towards improving the key green network corridor in the Braes and has the potential to deliver new outdoor learning and community growing sites as well as better integrating the Burnside Community Woodland into the network and enhancing the Gardrum Burn SINC. We support the intention to prepare supplementary guidance on incorporating green infrastructure into new development.

### Response:

Comments noted. The site is not identified for housing development in the Proposed Plan. The site would represent a substantial extension of the Wallacestone/Rumford urban area, which may create a precedent for further incremental growth along Standrigg Road.

Comments 1

Name: Philip C Smith Commercials

00145/FLDP\_MIR/3002/004

## Comment:

CSGN and Falkirk Greenspace - Identified green network corridors are supported as playing a key part in providing attractive places to live. Allocation of the site at Drove Loan (site 0115) will increase the number of people with direct access to the network.

## Response:

Comment noted. It is not clear how the allocation of the Drove Loan site would bring any significant benefit to the green network, or increase the number of people with access to the newtork.

Comments 1

Name: Jules Robinson

02906/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

### Comment:

Incentivise landowners to retain green spaces, encourage low density housing similar to the lowland croft scheme seen elsewhere

### Response:

The density of sites should be informed by their location and characteristics in order to ensure a satisfactory development mix and landscape fit. Housing in the countryside continues to be permissible only in specific circumstances, which include where there is a countryside need for the dwelling or business. Most new development is required to provide open space, either on or off-site, as well as contribute to the Falkirk Green Network.

Comments 1

Name: RSPB

00977/FLDP\_MIR/3001/001

## Comment:

The identification of access corridors along the Foreshore should be done with a caveat that any application must be accompanied by project specific information to inform an appropriate assessment. The link between Airth and Dunmore raises concerns for any impact on wintering birds. The consolidation of supplementary guidance on green infrastructure into one SG is welcomed although it should also be referenced from other SG to ensure it is part of the whole infrastructure requirement for a site rather than an afterthought. The committment to review and update the list of locally designated wildlife sites through the LDP2 process is welcomed.

# Response:

The requirement for project specific information to enable an approriate assessment to be undertaken has been added to the proposals schedule. Green infrastructure is an important part of the LDP and is identified in the Vision, Spatial Strategy and in Table 4.1 Potential Areas for Developer Contributions. The list of locally designated wildlife sites has been updated.

Comments 1

Name: Scottish Canals

00516/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

# Comment:

Canals should be at the heart of the placemaking strategy for the area wherever possible.

## Response:

Agreed. The role of canals in placemaking is referenced in the 'Place' section of the Spatial Strategy,

Name: Scottish Natural Heritage 00646/FLDP\_MIR/3002/002

### Comment:

The preferred option for Falkirk Greenspace/CSGN is supported, although north-south gaps in the green network are highlighted. Outdoor access may no longer be a viable option for the Bothkennar/Skinflats opportunity due to Firth of Forth SPA impacts. Opportunities for connections as part of the Falkirk Investment Zone are highlighted. Figure 3.2 should be amended to reflect that community growing sites can support biodiversity. Connections between some green network opportunities and the National Marine Plan are highlighted. The carrying forward and updating of SG on landscape character assessment is supported, as is the proposal to consolidate SG on green infrastructure, with Fife Council cited as an example. On open space, aligning policy with the Open Space Strategy is supported, although further clarity is sought on the preferred and alternative approaches to the loss of open space. In relation to soils, saltmarsh should be included as a carbon rich soil and a habitat that contributes to climate change adaptation. Preferred options for forestry and woodland, and protected habitats are supported. The water environment section should include reference to transitional waters under the Water Framework Directive.

### Response:

Comments noted. The issue with north-south linkages is recognised, and the Council is working to address this issue through detailed projects such as the Abboshaugh Bridge over the River Carron. The biodiversity value of community growing areas is acknowledged and the table has been amended accordingly. A new policy on marine planning is included in the Proposed Plan, and has links to other related policies in the plan. The approach to loss of open space is outlined in the relevant policy of the Proposed Plan, with further guidance to be provided through SG05 Green Infrastructure and New Development. Salt marsh has been recorded as a carbon rich soil in the relevant policy.

Comments 1

Name: SEPA (East Region) 00532/FLDP\_MIR/3002/002

### Comment:

Comments are made on current LDP green network policies:GN01 Green Network - recommend that reference is made to the blue network as well as green networkGN04 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows - recommend additional references to natural flood management and invasive speciesD14 Canals - support the policy but recommend minor wording changesRW04 Soils - support the policy but recommend its extension to all soils, signposting of relevant information and inclusion of policy on sustainable use of soils in development, while requiring carbon rich soils be identified as a constraint for site allocations.RW04 Water - support the policy but recommend wording on safeguarded riparian corridorsRW07 Air Quality - support reference to AQMAs but require that the policy is strengthened

### Response:

Comments noted and suggested amendments to LDP1 policies incorporated where appropriate into Proposed Plan policies.

### Comment:

References to the green network should be amended to refer to the green and blue network. References to Groundwater Dependent Terestrial Ecosystems are welcomed. References to the Falkirk Forestry and Woodland Strategy are welcomed. References should be made to natural flood risk management opportunities.

## Response:

The Proposed Plan recognises the role of blue networks in delivering climate change resilience, improved biodiversity, water quality and public access. Pg. 16, Para 3.10 states the blue network is "integral to the LDP2's vision and growth strategy". The Natural flood management opportunities are a matter for Forth Local Flood Risk Management Plan. Policy PE24 references Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Management Plans as a consideration in connection with relevant planning applications.

Comments 2

Name: Ms Marie Short 02917/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

## Comment:

All of the green network opportunities are a priority for my area.

# Response:

Comment noted.

Name: SportScotland 00330/FLDP\_MIR/3002/002

#### Comment:

Preferred option for Falkirk Greenspace is supported. Green network should be flexible in its approach and should not be narrowed down. Proposal to consolidate green infrastructure advice into a single SG is also supported, and should highlight the role of outdoor sports facilities. On open space, the preferred option is supported, on condition that open space policy is amended to align with SPP, as indicated under Issue 9. Clarity is needed on the role of the Open Space Strategy in relation to planning applications. Sportscotland would welcome further engagement on the preparation of the pitches strategy. Review of the policy on compensation payments is supported. It must be made clear to prospective developers that compensation may be required following loss of outdoor sports facilities.

#### Response:

Comments noted. Open space policy in the Proposed Plan has been updated to align with Scottish Planning Policy.

Comments 1

Name: Ms Fiona Stewart

02897/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

### Comment:

Carriden Woods in Bo'ness should be a priority.

### Response:

Carriden Woods are privately owned, and whilst an important part of the green network, they are not considered a priority for action in the Open Space Strategy.

Comments 1

Name: Stewart Milne Homes

00371/FLDP\_MIR/3001/003

### Comment:

Development of land at Stacks Farm, Bo'ness (sites 104, 105) would allow the creation of a new green network link between Antonine Wall WHS features to the east and west of Muirhouses.

### Response:

The site is not included as a proposal in the Proposed Plan. Development of the site is more likely to have a negative effective on the green network in the vicinity of Carriden Estate, and the benefits suggested by the developer are not clear.

Comments 1

Name: Stirling Council

00617/FLDP\_MIR/3001/002

## Comment:

Continuing support for the CSGN is welcomed, including the identification and promotion of green network opportunities and corridors that link with the Stirling Council area.

# Response:

Comment noted.

Comments 1

Name: Taylor Wimpey UK Limited

00198/FLDP\_MIR/3003/003

## Comment:

Support a review of the spatial extent of Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) set out in Alternative Option in 3.16. There is a need for this review at Roughlands (site 130) and Kirkton Farm (sites 127 & 129).

## Response:

The existing overall extent and scope of the Falkirk green network remains relevant and appropriate, and has been carried forward largely unchanged into the Proposed Plan. The list of detailed opportunities has been updated.

Name: Woodland Trust Scotland 00549/FLDP\_MIR/3001/001

# Comment:

The prominence given to green networks in the MIR is welcomed, as is the proposal to consolidate supplementary guidance on green infrastructure. The Forestry and Woodland Strategy, and the intention to embed the guidance into LDP2, is also welcomed.

# Response:

Support welcomed.

Comments 1

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Total no. of comments