Ralston for everyone!

Ralston Local Place Plan

April 2026

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Acknowledgements

Thank you to the many local people and organisations who helped to created this Local Place Plan.

Preparation of the Plan was co-ordinated by Ralston Community Council (email: admin@ralstoncommunitycouncil.org) with support from St Mark's Church, Ralston Primary School and Parent Council, Ralston Golf Club, Nick Wright Planning and Alex Docherty.

We are grateful to Renfrewshire Council for their financial support which made this Plan possible.

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2	Community Sports Centre playing fields - selected individual drawings from Ralston Primary School
3	Community Sports Centre playing fields - combined plans from Ralston Primary School
4	December 2025 community event
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1 Introduction

This community-led Plan is our shared agenda for the next 5-10 years, designed to guide what we do as a community and to influence planning policy, public services and private investment.

About this Plan

The aims of the Plan are to:

- **Support community action** - for example, helping us to access funding and resources by demonstrating community support for local priorities and how they help deliver national agendas locally.
- **Improve public services** - as an evidence base to inform decision-making on transport, planning, recreation, community infrastructure and other public services.
- **Demonstrate consensus** - on agreed community priorities, so that we can quickly move to action as and when resources and support become available.

The Plan is based on community engagement in late 2026 and early 2025, as described in chapter 2. Our vision for the community's future is summarised in chapter 3. Three priority action areas to deliver that vision - greenspace and environment, getting about, and activities and facilities - are described in chapter 4. Implementation of the Plan is covered in Chapter 5. Useful background, such as transcriptions of engagement comments, can be seen in the Appendices.

The Plan covers the Ralston Community Council area, on the eastern edge of Paisley. Map 1 on the next page shows the area covered by the Plan, comprising residential neighbourhoods with farmland and golf courses to the south and north.

Ralston

Ralston lies on the eastern edge of Paisley, extending east to the boundary between Renfrewshire and Glasgow. It is a predominantly residential neighbourhood which sits astride Glasgow Road, the old main road between Glasgow and Paisley. Although most traffic now uses the M8 motorway to the north of Ralston, Glasgow Road remains the key bus corridor between Glasgow and Paisley.

The community has a number of popular local facilities (see Map 1):

- Shopping parade at Penilee Road with a grocer and pharmacy
- Ralston Primary School and Nursery
- St Mark's Church and community cafe (an important social/ community venue in addition to its ecclesiastical role)
- Ralston Community Sports Centre with a gym, outdoor artificial football pitch, and activity programme organised by the Community Council (open most weekday evenings and weekends during the day)
- Ralston Community Centre
- Ralston Library (open 3 days a week)
- Golf club, two bowling clubs, scout hall, masonic hall
- Small playground at the Community Centre, with a larger playground and BMX track in Barshaw Park, on the north western edge of Ralston
- Railway stations close by at Hawkhead, Crookston and Hillington West

Map 1

Ralston and the Place Plan boundary

The boundary of the Community Council and Local Place Plan is shown in red

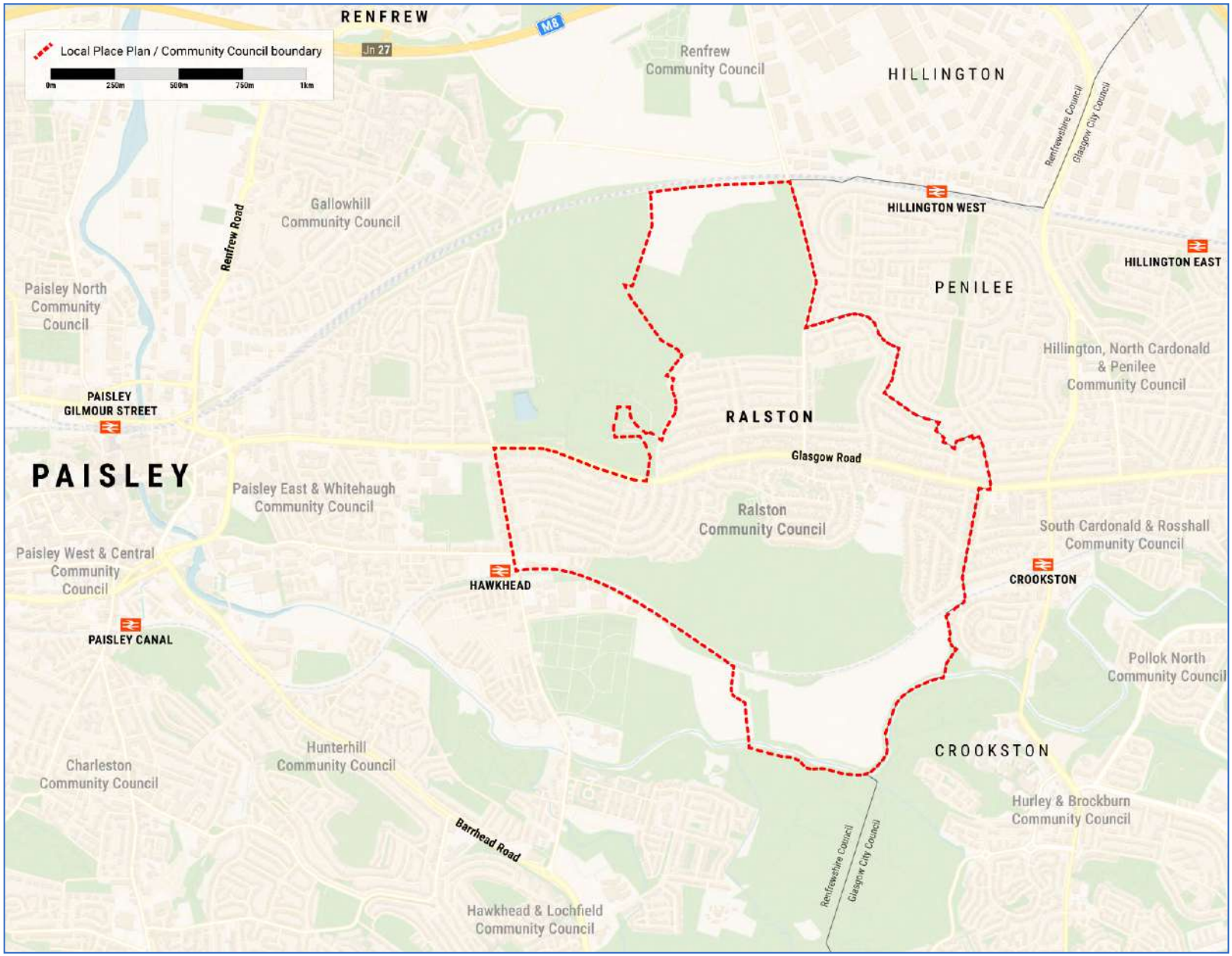


The community has a strong sense of identity. We have an active Community Council - Ralston Community Council - which, as well as being the voice of the local community, organises a popular programme of recreational activities and works with other groups to organise events like the Summer Fayre.

There are a wide range of other active organisations which organise events and activities including St Mark's Church, Ralston Primary Parent Council, Ralston Skills (youth football), Scouts, Guides, Mothers and Toddlers and many more. The community's online events calendar gives a good flavour.

In the wider area (see Map 2), Paisley town centre is approximately 1½ miles (2.5km) to the west along Glasgow Road, and Cardonald neighbourhood centre (in Glasgow) is approximately 1 mile (1.5km) to the east.

Map 2 **The wider area**



Most of Ralston is within 1 mile (1.5km) of a supermarket. The catchment secondary schools are Paisley Grammar School (on Glasgow Road towards Paisley town centre, moving to a new site on Renfrew Road in 2026) and St Andrews Academy (more distant at Barrhead Road). The 'facilities and activities' action area in chapter 4 has more information about local facilities.

The nearest railway stations are Crookston and Hawkhead on the Glasgow Central / Paisley Canal line (half-hourly service Mondays to Saturdays, hourly on Sundays).

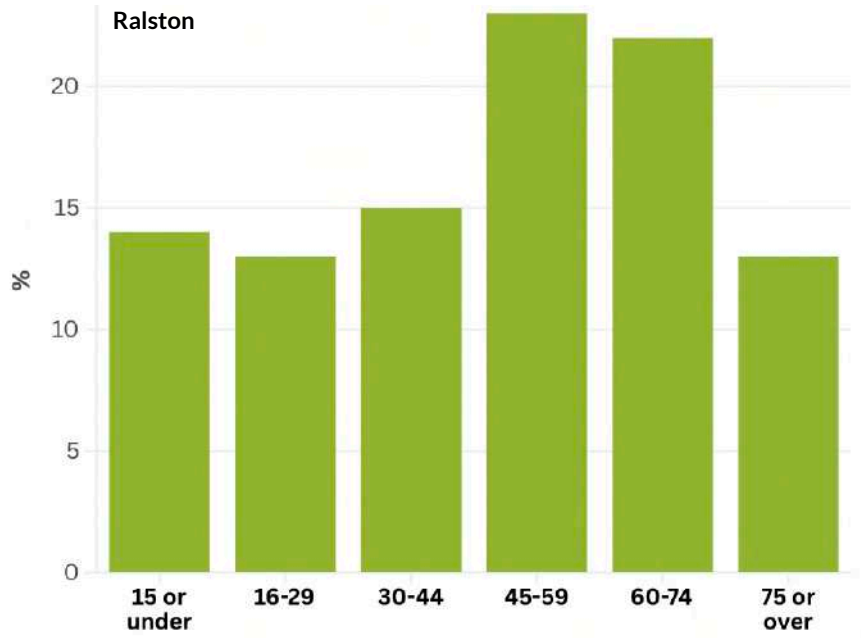
Our population was around 4,600 at the last census in 2022, a slight decline from 4,900 at the 2011 census and 5,000 at the 2001 census.

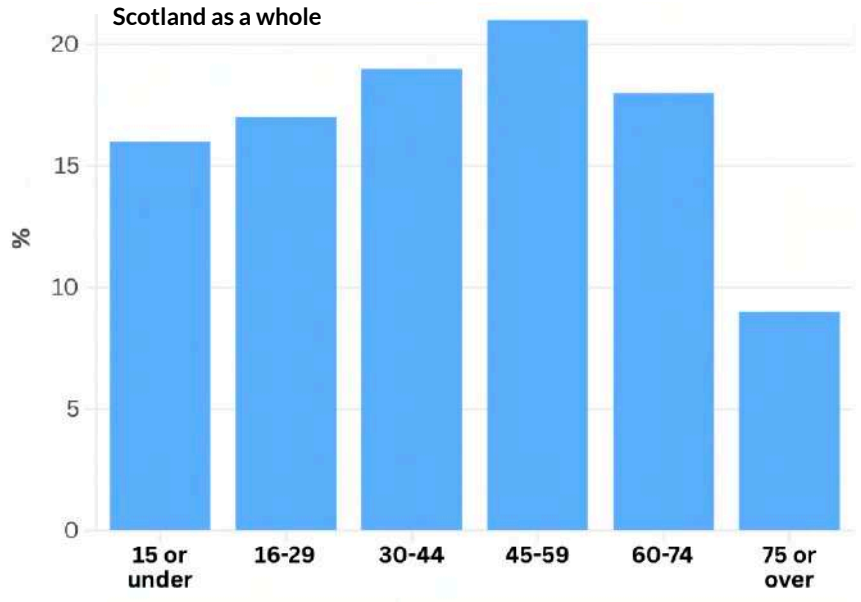
We have fewer younger people than the Scottish average (especially in the 16-29 age group): 42% of our population are aged under 45 compared to 52% across Scotland. Conversely, 58% of our population is aged 45 or over, compared to 48% across Scotland. The graphs on the right contain a more detailed comparison of age distribution in Ralston and Scotland.

People ages

Ralston (above, in green) & Scotland (below, in blue)

Source: 2022 Census





2 How we got here

How we prepared this Plan

Preparation of the Plan took place between Autumn 2025 and Spring 2026. It comprised three stages of community engagement; all work was undertaken in line with the National Standards for Community Engagement and the Scottish Government's draft How To Guide on Local Place Plans, with an emphasis on openness and transparency.

Stage 1: Aspirations September-October 2025

The initial stage of work focused on gathering ideas and identifying community priorities. It comprised a number of activities:

- A steering group of people from local community organisations to steer and promote community engagement.
- A community survey delivered to all households in the Community Council area (see pages 9-10).
- A stall at the Summer Fayre to launch the survey and gather views.
- Sessions at local primary and secondary schools (see page 11).
- Dedicated Local Place Plan webpages on the Community Council website at www.ralstoncommunitycouncil.org/lpp-news. The initial page explained Local Place Plans with examples from elsewhere and contained an email signup form and contact details. The pages were updated as the Plan was prepared to act as an online information hub.

Community survey

Reproduced in full in Appendix 1



Stage 2: From aspirations to action November-December 2025

The results of the community survey and schools work were published online (see summary overleaf and Appendix 1). They suggested clear priorities. Those priorities were reviewed and potential actions fleshed out at the Tree-mendous community festival in December 2025, as explained in a short report published on the Local Place Plan webpages (see Appendix 4).

Stage 3: Plan February-April 2026

Based on the results from Stages 1 and 2, a draft Plan was published for the community to check and improve. Leaflets were delivered to every household explaining how to view the Plan and provide feedback (online, paper Plan/form in the Library, at a drop-in event, or by phone/email). The written responses can be seen in Appendix 5.

The Plan was then updated in discussion with the steering group, and endorsed by the Community Council at a public meeting before being submitted to Renfrewshire Council for registration.

Summer Fayre *August 2025*



Tree-mendous *December 2025*



Community aspirations

The community survey, schools sessions and community events paint a fascinating picture of the community as it is now, and also of our aspirations for the future.

Community survey results

The survey was delivered to all households in the Community Council area and was also available online. The survey itself is contained in the full report in Appendix 1, which includes information on who responded to the survey.

The responses make fascinating reading, revealing what we like about our community and what could be improved. Full transcriptions of everyone's comments can seen in the survey report document (Appendix 1).

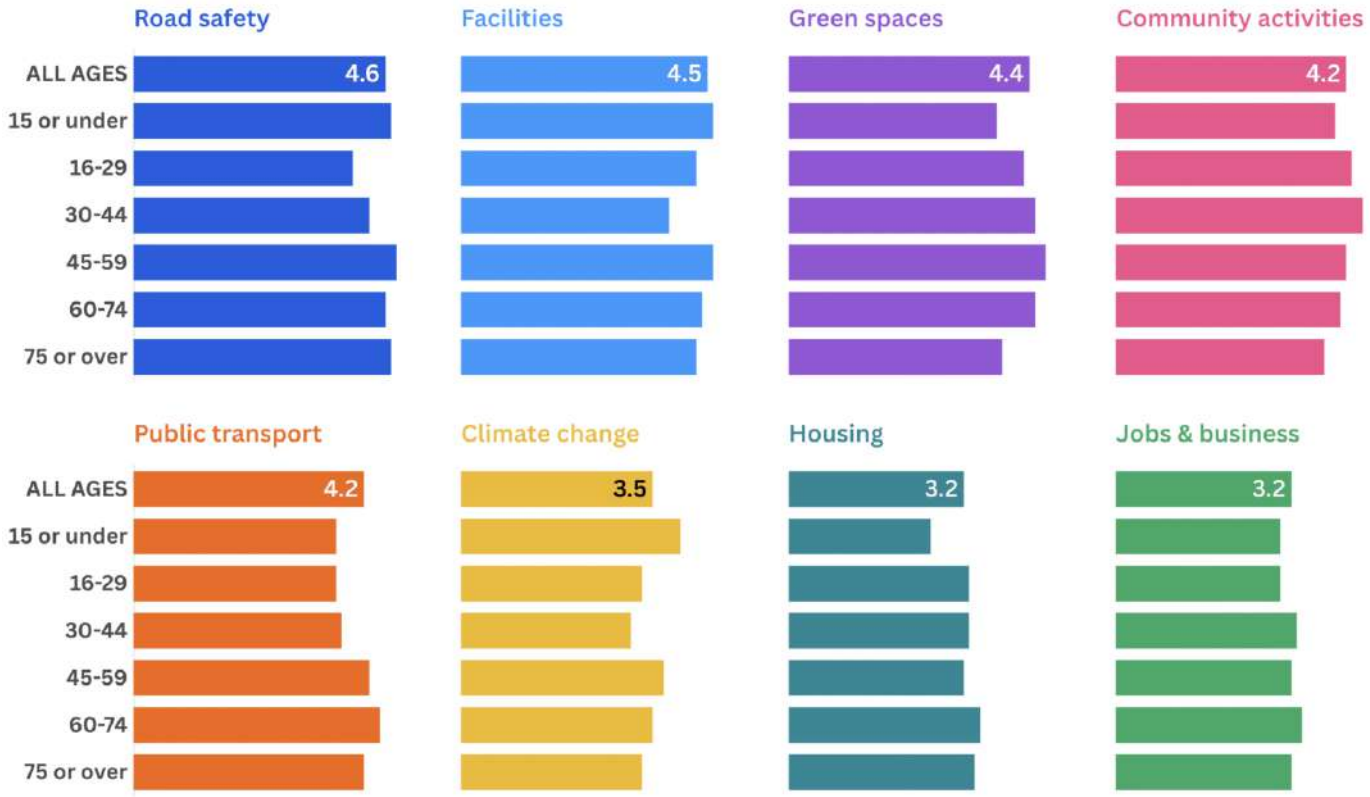
The graphics on these pages contain a summary.

Community survey report *see Appendix 1*



Community issues

Survey respondents were asked to score the importance of a number of issues that the local community faces, on a scale of 1-5 where 5 is most important. Over 200 people responded. There are some subtle nuances between different age groups. For more information and transcriptions of comments, see Appendix 1 (section 3).



What do people like about Ralston?

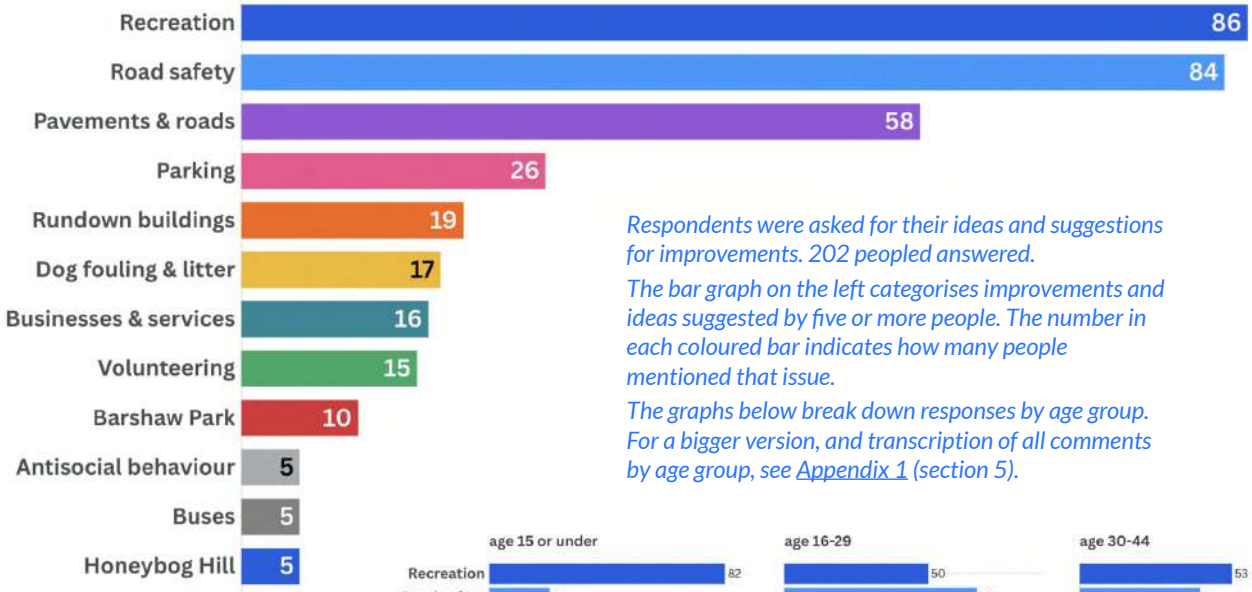
Survey respondents were asked what they like about Ralston. The bubble diagram below summarises the main "likes". 199 people answered the question.

Sizes of circles are proportionate to the numbers of people who mentioned a particular "like", with the number of respondents shown in each circle (some suggested more than one "like").

For more information and transcriptions of comments by age group, see Appendix 1 (section 4).



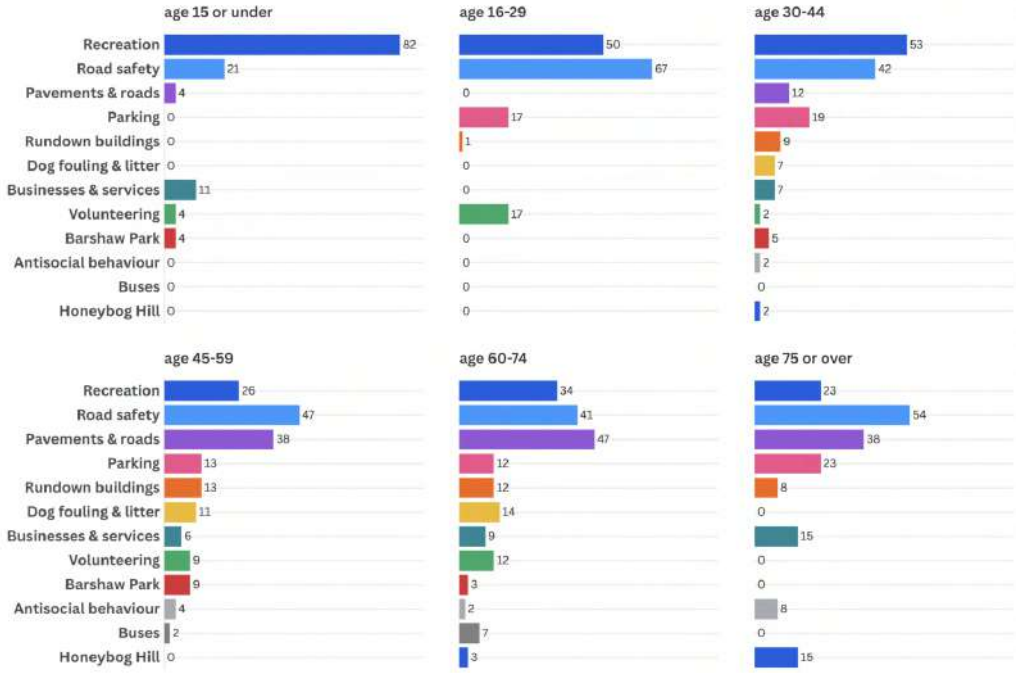
What could be better?



Respondents were asked for their ideas and suggestions for improvements. 202 peopled answered.

The bar graph on the left categorises improvements and ideas suggested by five or more people. The number in each coloured bar indicates how many people mentioned that issue.

The graphs below break down responses by age group. For a bigger version, and transcription of all comments by age group, see Appendix 1 (section 5).



Total responses: 202 responses. Aged 15 or under: 28 responses. Aged 16-29: 6 responses. Aged 30-44: 43 responses. Aged 45-59: 53 responses. Aged 60-74: 58 responses. Aged 75 or over: 13 responses.

Young people

Young people are the future of the community and the ones who will be here for the longest, so we worked with local schoolchildren to understand what they would like for the future of Ralston.

Secondary pupils

In a classroom session with a giant map of Ralston, 14 Ralston students from Paisley Grammar School years S1-S6 shared these thoughts (in no particular order) in a discussion session.

Road safety

- Two most dangerous roads are Penilee Road (traffic coming fast downhill from Hillington into Ralston, near Primary School and route into Honeybog Hill) and Glasgow Road (wide, few crossing points)
- Road safety is a big concern.
- Both roads need more crossing points - e.g. at bus stops and near Barshaw Park on Glasgow Road, near Primary School on Penilee Road
- Many of us get around by bike, but cycling isn't safe on Penilee Rd and Glasgow Rd. A bike lane along Glasgow Road to get to Barshaw Park would be good, plus crossings (e.g. over Penilee Road near primary school)
- Traffic lights - the green man doesn't appear for pedestrians until there is no traffic. Why not reverse it? i.e. red traffic light and green man as the norm

Play parks

- Poor provision for older kids - e.g. small playpark at Community Centre has a sign saying no children over 8
- Open up the Primary School playground for public use
- Barshaw Park is further away, full of young kids and doesn't feel safe at night

Indoor youth space

- We'd like a space of our own - older people have lots of places they can go, but young people don't (the Masonic Hall was suggested). The community café is nice but not really our space.

"The fields" and "the pitches" - behind the sports centre and primary school

- We use the fields (grassy area) for Summer Fayre, dog walking, flatter walking than Honeybog Hill etc - our only sizeable green space, but a wasted opportunity: could do with a second grass pitch, mini playpark (especially for older children), potentially other things too
- The pitches (astro) - staff turn a blind eye to them climbing the fence and using the pitches. Nearly everybody has climbed the fence. There's enough light from the school on dark evenings. A gate or turnstile in the fence would be good. It was suggested that the gate may be to keep bikes out.

Honeybog Hill

- Everyone knows it and has been there
- Nice for going for a walk, walking dogs, feeling of space, openness, green and grassy - complements Barshaw Park (which is busier, more closed in)
- Some of us would rather go to the park if we were to go alone.
- Don't build on it!

Sense of community

- Strong sense of community - we often meet people we know on the street.

Golf Club / St Mirren training ground

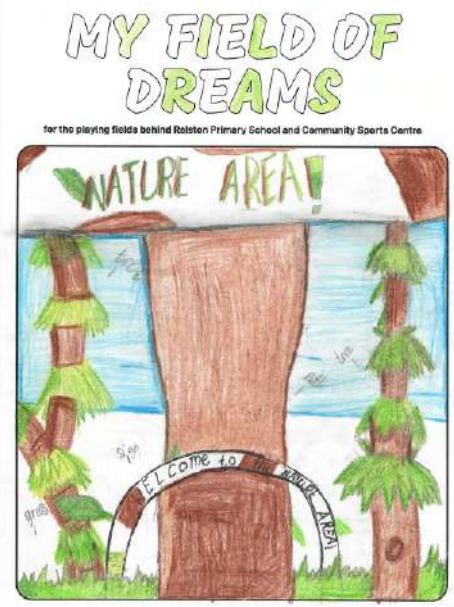
- Golf Club feels part of community: lots of local members, community events in the club house (everyone had been in)
- St Mirren does not feel part of the community: no access, no Ralston people

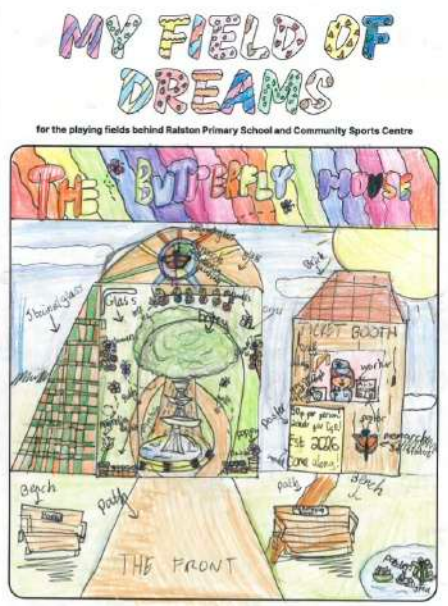
Primary pupils

All P4-P7 pupils at Ralston Primary School, the only school within the Local Place Plan area, spent time producing ideas for an area which was frequently mentioned in community survey responses - the former playing fields to the rear of the Primary School, adjacent to the Community Sports Centre off Penilee Road. This area is now largely mown grass, open to the public and used for occasional events, and includes an artificial football pitch.

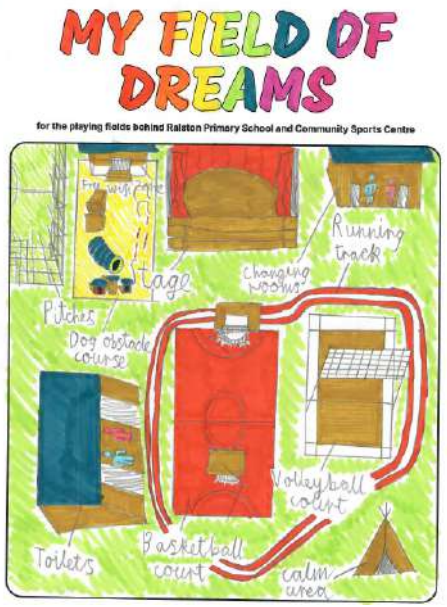
Since the children were familiar with this area, their participation was focused specifically on its future potential.

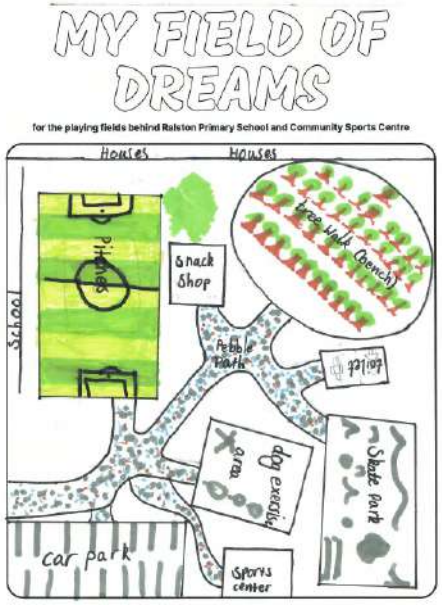
Firstly, every P4-P7 pupil created a drawings of their "Field of Dreams" based on the former playing fields. A few are shown on the right. A bigger selection of the 200+ drawings can be seen in Appendix 2.











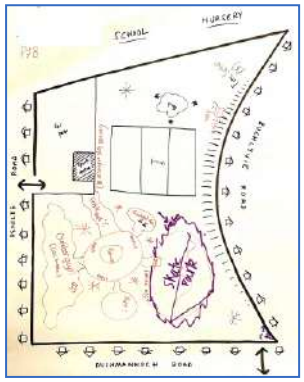


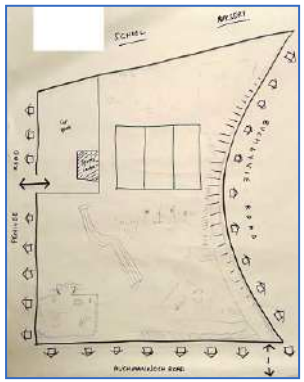
Secondly, selected P4-P7 pupils went through all 200+ individual drawings to identify the most popular suggestions, plus any particularly exciting or unique ideas.

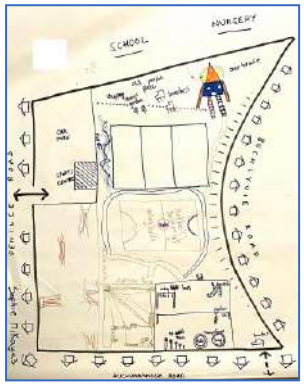
Working in four small groups, each group then produced a big map of what the playing fields could look like in the future, taking those popular suggestions and particularly exciting or unique ideas as their starting points.

The four maps summarise all the popular ideas for the former playing fields from their age group, including paths, seats and benches, trees and flowers, a pond, play facilities for different age groups, outdoor gym, skatepark and sports courts.

Click on any of the drawings on the right to see higher resolution versions, which are also included in Appendix 3.









Ralston Primary School 's proposals for the Penilee Road playing fields

Click on any drawing to see higher resolution versions

The bigger picture

Whilst this Plan is rooted in our community aspirations, it also reflects planning policy aims of creating sustainable, liveable and productive places as expressed in the two parts of the 'statutory development plan'.

National Planning Framework 4

NPF4 (2023) contains spatial principles (see box) and six qualities of successful places (Annex D), which are delivered through national planning policies.

There are 33 national planning policies. Two are particularly relevant in relation to this Local Place Plan:

- Just transition
- Conserving & recycling assets
- 'Local Living'
- Compact urban growth
- Rebalanced development
- Rural revitalisation

- *Policy 8: Green Belt* seeks to avoid suburbanisation of the countryside using strict criteria, including restricting development, having a rationale for not locating elsewhere, and not undermining the purpose of the green belt.
- *Policy 15: Local Living and 20 Minute Neighbourhoods* promotes the application of the Place Principle (see right) and neighbourhoods where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably by walking, wheeling or cycling or using sustainable transport options.

Renfrewshire Local Development Plan

Policies in the 2021 Local Development Plan (LDP) include:

- *Policy 1: Green Belt* - Map E of the LDP shows the Green Belt boundary, which includes Ralston Golf Club course and all agricultural land in the Community Council area (including Honeybog Hill referred to on page 11 and marked on Map 1, page 5). The Green Belt policy wording has been superseded by Policy 8 in NPF4 (above).
- *Policy P5: Green/Blue Network* - development which protects, maintains or enhances "green/blue networks", including open space, will generally be supported.
- *Policy P6: Open Space* - areas of valuable and functional open space, recreation provision and amenity space, as shown on LDP Map E, will be protected. This includes the playing fields around Ralston Community Sports Centre off Penilee Road, Ralston Bowling Club and the St Mirren training grounds.

In addition, the LDP (page 54) states that "*providing opportunities for local communities to become more involved in the planning, development and enhancement of their places is strongly supported… Local Place Plans provide the opportunity for local communities to develop, shape and become actively involved in enhancing their places.*"

Other policy agendas

The Plan also aims to implement:

- The National Performance Framework's overarching objectives - tackling **c**limate change, improving health and wellbeing, nurturing sustainable & resilient communities and so on.
- The Place Principle - described by the Scottish Government as "*the overarching context for place-based working in Scotland*", its role is to guide collaborative working by the public sector, service providers and communities. This is at the heart of this Plan's vision, as described on the next page.
- Renfrewshire Community Plan's priorities, including income and health inequalities and the climate emergency.
- Renfrewshire Local Transport Strategy's principles, particularly its focus on active travel and public transport.

3 Our vision for Ralston

Our vision for Ralston is an exemplar 'Local Living' / 20 Minute Neighbourhood, where all stakeholders - residents, community organisations, businesses and public bodies - work to deliver the Scottish Government's six qualities of successful places.

In other words, we want to lead collaborative implementation of national policy agendas in our local community, so creating an exemplar sustainable neighbourhood which works for our community and as a model for others.

We have the ingredients in terms of active stakeholders, environmental quality, climate change action and the building blocks of sustainable 'Local Living', as the graphic on the right and Map 3 overleaf show.

What we need to do is work together for common purpose to deliver national agendas locally through the actions described in section 4, in line with the Place Principle (see page 14).



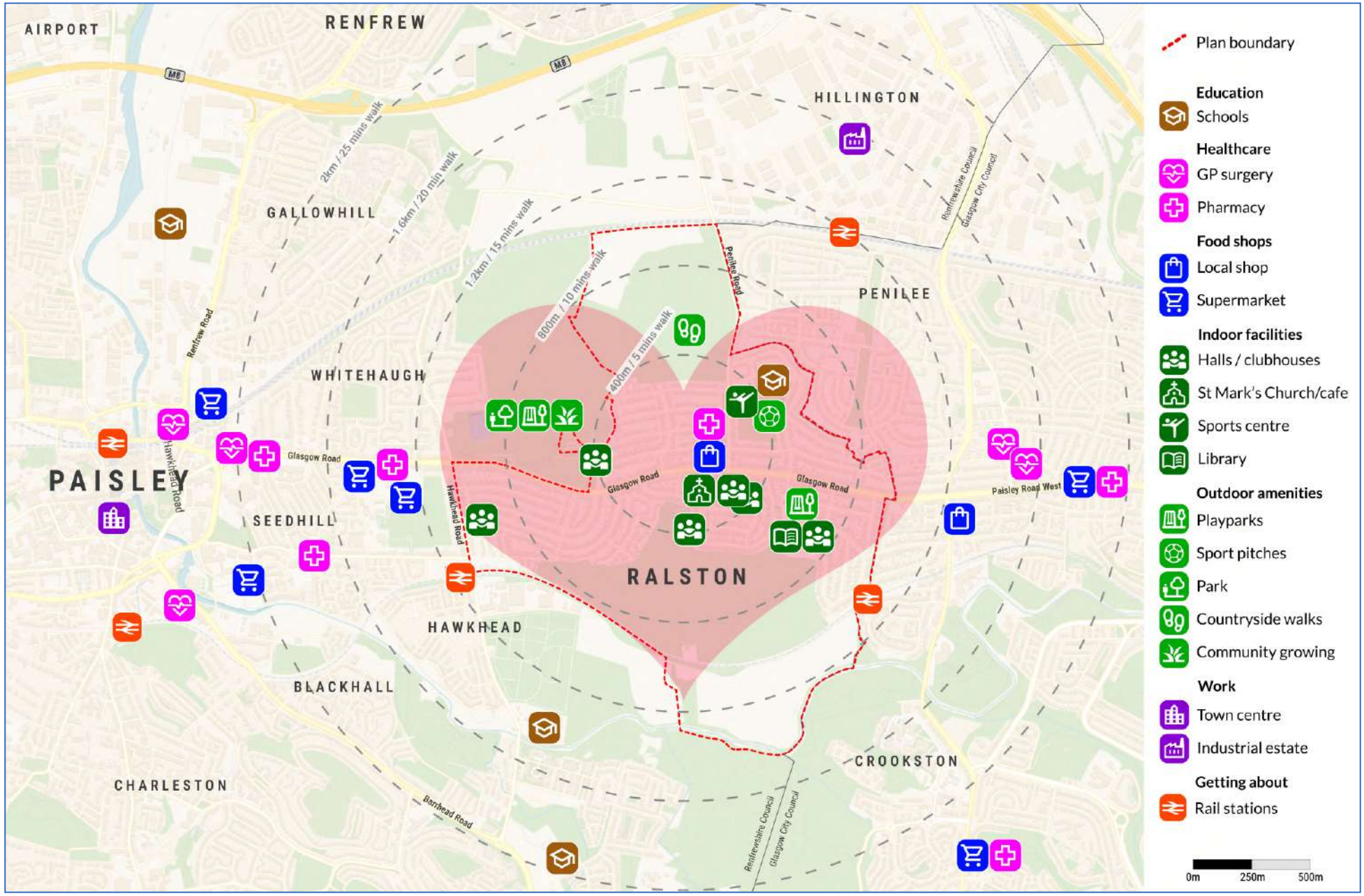
Local stakeholders

Fit between national & local aspirations

national aspirations

local aspirations	SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES "Local Living" Inclusive growth Sustainable demographics Community empowerment	HEALTH & WELLBEING Healthy lifestyles Active communities Health, social care & wellbeing services	CLIMATE CHANGE Net zero Habitat restoration
Environment & greenspace	✓	✓	✓
Getting about	✓	✓	✓
Activities & facilities	✓	✓	✓

Map 3 **'Local Living' facilities & amenities in & around Ralston** *Applying the Scottish Government's Local Living concept*



4 Action areas

This chapter describes the actions needed to deliver the vision in the previous chapter:



Environment and greenspace p.18

1. Protect the Green Belt
2. Improve access to synthetic pitch and upgrades
3. Enhance open space around the Community Sports Centre
4. Tidy up derelict and neglected premises



Getting about p.20

5. Make Glasgow Road, Penilee Road and Hawkhead Road safer for pedestrians and cyclists
6. Make pavements safe and accessible for all users
7. Bus service improvements
8. Create safe cycling and walking links to other places



Activities and facilities p.24

9. Keep and make more of the Community Sports Centre
10. Improve playpark provision
11. Keep and make more of the Library and Community Centre

Environment & greenspace

The importance of a good quality environment is embodied in NPF4's six qualities of successful places - particularly that they are healthy, pleasant, distinctive, sustainable and adaptable.

The built environment, public spaces and the surrounding Green Belt should all be cared for in ways that help build an exemplar sustainable community in Ralston, including tackling urgent long term issues like climate change.

Our priorities to achieve this are:

1. Protect the Green Belt (this page)
2. Improve synthetic pitch and open space at the Community Sports Centre (page 19)
3. Enhance open space around the Community Sports Centre (page 19)
4. Tidy up derelict and neglected premises (page 20)

See Map 4 on page 20 for locations.

In addition, the impacts of climate change are of concern to many in the local community - for example, ensuring that infrastructure is future-proofed against flood and heat damage, and that garden ground remains as planted areas rather than non-porous hardstanding. The Plan does not propose specific actions, but we urge Renfrewshire Council to address this issue in the next Local Development Plan (see page 28).

1. Protect the Green Belt

Why? Because the Green Belt offers important open space for biodiversity and wellbeing for residents in Ralston and Penilee. Many local people are strongly opposed to any loss of Green Belt for development. This reflects national opinion: a recent APRS survey revealed that 85% of respondents in Scotland considered Green Belt protection important.

The future of Honeybog Hill (see Map 4, page 20) is a particular concern locally because:

- The hill's elevated topography makes it an important part of Ralston's landscape setting and skyline.
- It is well used by people exercising their access rights under the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, providing the local community with valuable access to green space for health and well-being.
- The hill is valuable for biodiversity. A June 2025 survey found 51 plant species, 10 insect species and 7 bird species. There are regular sightings of mammals.
- More flooding is a major concern for homes to the south due to poor drainage.
- The community and local authority have successfully opposed developments in the past; developers are now interested again.

What needs to happen?

- Continued protection of the established Green Belt against development in line with NPF4 Policy 8 (see page 14 above), including Honeybog Hill and Green Belt areas. *Council, Scottish Government Reporters, Community Council*
- Designate informal footpath network on Honeybog Hill as Core Paths (see Map 4), given lack of Core Paths in Ralston. *Council*
- Improved paths/entrances, woodland planting and biodiversity enhancements, particularly on Council-owned area. *Council, private landowners, Forestry and Land Scotland*
- Access rights should be exercised respectfully and in line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. *Local community*



Honeybog Hill
Image: Matthew Smith, Mill Renfrewshire

2. Improve access to synthetic pitch & upgrades

Why? The synthetic pitch at the Community Sports Centre is a well-used local asset within an area of public open space (see Map 4 on page 20).

The pitch is commonly used by local children during evenings and weekends, yet there is no safe easy access. It also has potential for greater use for sports camps during summer holidays.

Synthetic pitches have a finite lifespan. This 3G pitch is now 15 years old and needs to be replaced. There is an opportunity to upgrade it to a higher quality multi-sport surface.

What needs to happen?

- QUICK WIN Enable safe access to the artificial pitch at evenings and weekends when not booked for club use. *OneRen, Council*
- QUICK WIN Organise sports camps in summer holidays, in conjunction with the successful community-run activity programme in the Sports Centre. *Community Council, OneRen*
- Plan for replacement of the artificial pitch with a multi-sports surface. *OneRen, Council*

For actions relating to the Community Sports Centre building itself, see item 9 on page 24.

3. Enhance the open space around the Community Sports Centre

Why? The extensive grassy area around the synthetic pitch - a former school playing field - has huge potential to offer far more benefit to the local community (see Map 4 on page 20).

With this in mind, pupils at the adjoining Primary School prepared proposals for its future as described above on pages 12 and 13. Their "Field of Dreams" proposals effectively form the brief for how the former playing field could be enhanced for all age groups - with a mix of paths, seats and benches, trees and flowers, a pond, play facilities for different ages, outdoor gym, running track, skatepark and multi-use sports courts.

The first step towards this would be for the community and OneRen / Renfrewshire Council to prepare a costed design, building on pupils' ideas, with continued community engagement. The proposals should ensure that local groups such as Ralston Skills continue to have access, as well as addressing existing and potential issues of parking, access, drainage, impact on neighbours, child safety and underground water supply tank in northern section. The costed design should then be used as a basis for which to seek capital and maintenance funding, and individual elements could be implemented as opportunities arise.

Implementing the improvements would be transformational for the community as a whole, creating an enhanced outdoor recreational amenity which would offer health and wellbeing opportunities for all ages, including for residents of Penilee.

What needs to happen?

- QUICK WIN Prepare a feasibility study / costed design for the wider green space - a collaborative exercise between OneRen / Renfrewshire Council and the local community, taking the Primary School pupils' "Field of Dreams" proposals as the starting point, in order to create a costed design for which funding can be sought. *OneRen, Council, Community Council*

For action relating to the Community Sports Centre building itself, see action 9 on page 24.

For play areas, see action 10 (page 25).

King George V Playing Fields, Portree

Community buyout of underused Council-owned playing field to create new fit-for-purpose recreational facilities. More information here.



4. Tidy up derelict and neglected premises

Why? Prominent neglected premises (see Map 4 on right) are dragging the community down - particularly commercial premises at the former Hamiltons Garage site backing onto Roffey Park Road, where the building is no longer watertight and external areas are used to store scrap (see image below).

The impact of dereliction on health and wellbeing is well-established, for example through research by the Scottish Land Commission.

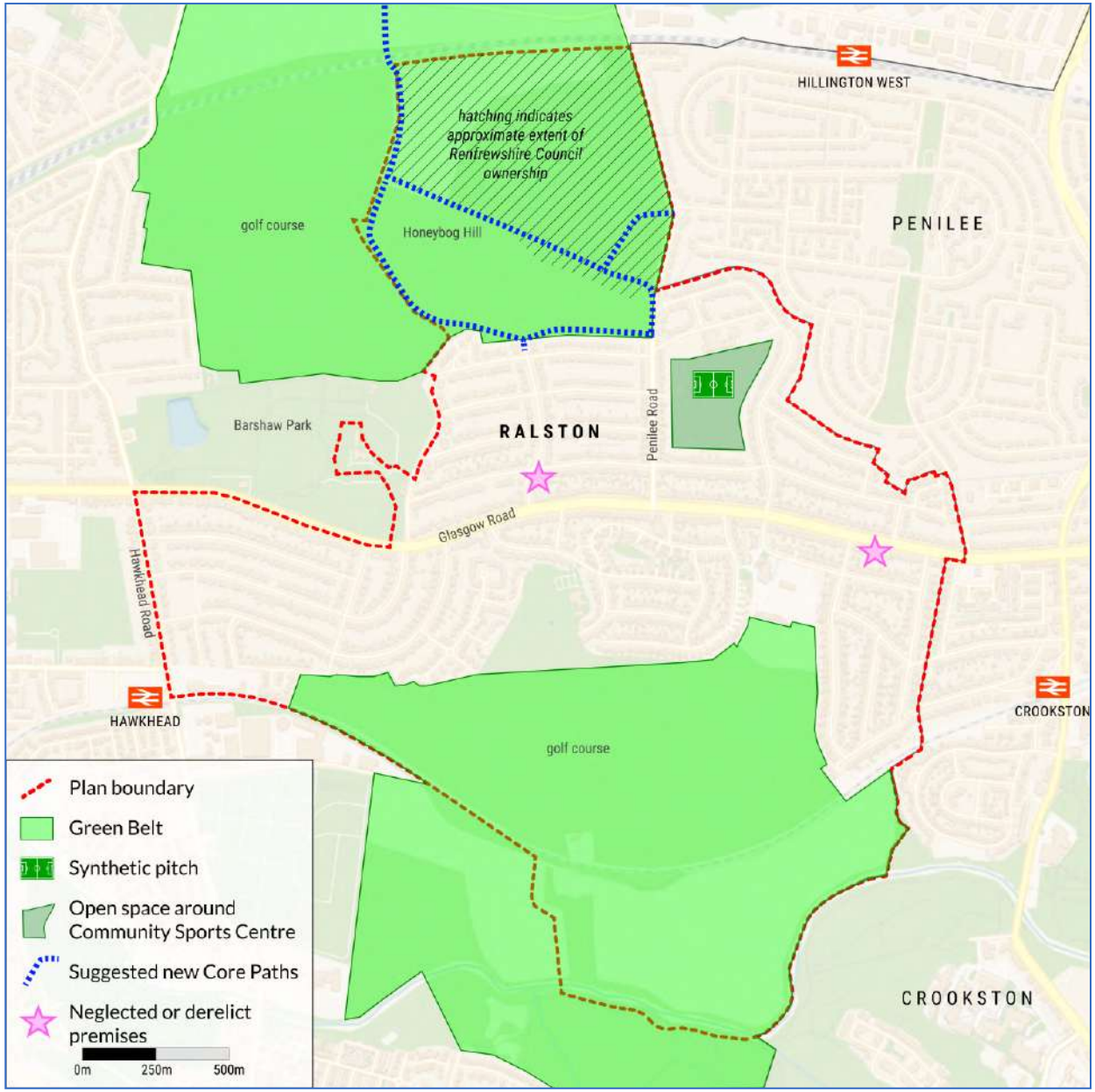
What needs to happen?

- QUICK WIN Tidy/secure premises and/or bring them back into productive use. *Owners*
- QUICK WIN Encourage owners to tidy up premises, and consider serving Section 179 Notice requiring proper maintenance of land. *Council*
- Rezone the site for use as care home or housing for older people. *Council*



Roffey Park Road

Map 4 **Environment and greenspace**



Getting about

Being able to move around safety and conveniently without a car is important for all age groups - especially in the context of the climate crisis and national traffic reduction objectives.

It is embodied in NPF4's six qualities of successful places, particularly that they are healthy, connected and sustainable.

Our priorities to achieve safe and convenient movement are:

5. Make Glasgow Road, Penilee Road and Hawkhead Road safer for pedestrians and cyclists (this page)
6. Make pavements safe and accessible for all users (see next page).
7. Bus service improvements (see next page).
8. Create safe cycling and walking links to other places (see next page).

See Map 5 on page 23 for locations.

5. Improve road safety on Glasgow Road, Penilee Road and around Hawkhead Road

Why? Each is hazardous in different ways:

- ***Glasgow Road*** is four lanes wide. Its width encourages speeding and make it difficult to cross, particularly for older or disabled people and children. There are only 2 pedestrians crossings in the 2km between Hawkhead Road and Crookston Road.
- ***Penilee Road*** varies between a narrow and poorly sighted 60mph road without verge or footway to a wide 30mph residential section with a high incidence of speeding traffic.
- ***Hawkhead Road*** has considerable traffic as a cross-town route to the M8, with road safety concerns at Barshaw Park entrance by the Hawkhead Road / Glasgow Road junction. A related concern is the impact of rat running traffic on the streets east of Hawkhead Road: Newtyle, Gartmore, Lanfine and Alton Roads. Newtyle Road is a particular issue because of its narrow 5 metre width and the number of parked cars.



Junction of Glasgow Road and Hawkhead Road
Image: Google Maps

What needs to happen?

- Speed reduction & safety measures on each road, such as vehicle activated radar signs or average speed cameras. *Council*
- More crossings on Glasgow Road particularly near the Community Centre / Library and bus stops. *Council*
- Create safe walking/cycling provision along each road corridor, ensuring that vehicles are not displaced onto side streets due to congestion. *Council*
- Repair rail bridge / road on Penilee Road and enforce HGV ban. *Council*, *Network Rail* QUICK WIN
- Better signage to encourage responsible pavement parking on Penilee Road. *Council* QUICK WIN
- Crossing on Hawkhead road near station. *Council*
- Ensure the Council's current Hawkhead Road Corridor Study caters for the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and residents as well as through traffic, and includes analysis and proposals of adjacent streets to east of Hawkhead Road (Newtyle, Gartmore, Lanfine and Alton Roads). *Council* QUICK WIN

See also action 8 overleaf relating to walking and cycling networks, and Map 5 on page 23.

6. Make pavements accessible & safe for all

Why? Many footways are hazardous for older or disabled people due to:

- Damage from overgrown street trees and roots (see Map 5, page 23).
- Untreated snow and ice lying on footways in the winter.
- Vehicles obstructing pavements around in busy places at peak times.

What needs to happen?

- Replace overgrown street trees and repair footways, as on Allanton Avenue in 2023 (see Map 5). *Council*
- Review pavement/road damage generally and repair as necessary. *Council*

QUICK WIN

- Increase winter gritting of pavements. *Council*

QUICK WIN

- Stop hazardous parking at peak times at the School & Community Sports Centre. *Drivers, Community Sports Centre, OneRen, Parent Council, School*



Example of pavement damage at Netherdale Road

7. Bus service improvements

Why? Many residents are reliant on public transport. Glasgow Road is an important bus corridor between Paisley and Glasgow, but the reliability of some services and access to Braehead and RAH/QEUH hospitals are poor, whilst the discontinuation of services through the Clyde Tunnel means that access across the river is poor.

What needs to happen?

- Explore ways of improving bus reliability, regularity, frequency and timekeeping. *Bus operators, SPT, Council*
- Consider reinstating direct services from Paisley through the Clyde Tunnel. *Bus operators, SPT, Council*



Image: McGIll's Buses

8. Create safe cycling & walking links to other places

Why? Although relatively well connected to Paisley and Glasgow city centre by public transport, cycling links are poor. Immediately on leaving the Community Council area, cycling towards Paisley (including to catchment secondary schools), Glasgow, Braehead or Renfrew (including nearby Arkleston Farm Shop) involves negotiating busy roads with no cycle infrastructure.

This prohibits residents from cycling to school, work or for other trips as much as they would wish, despite the national policy agenda to promote active travel.

What needs to happen?

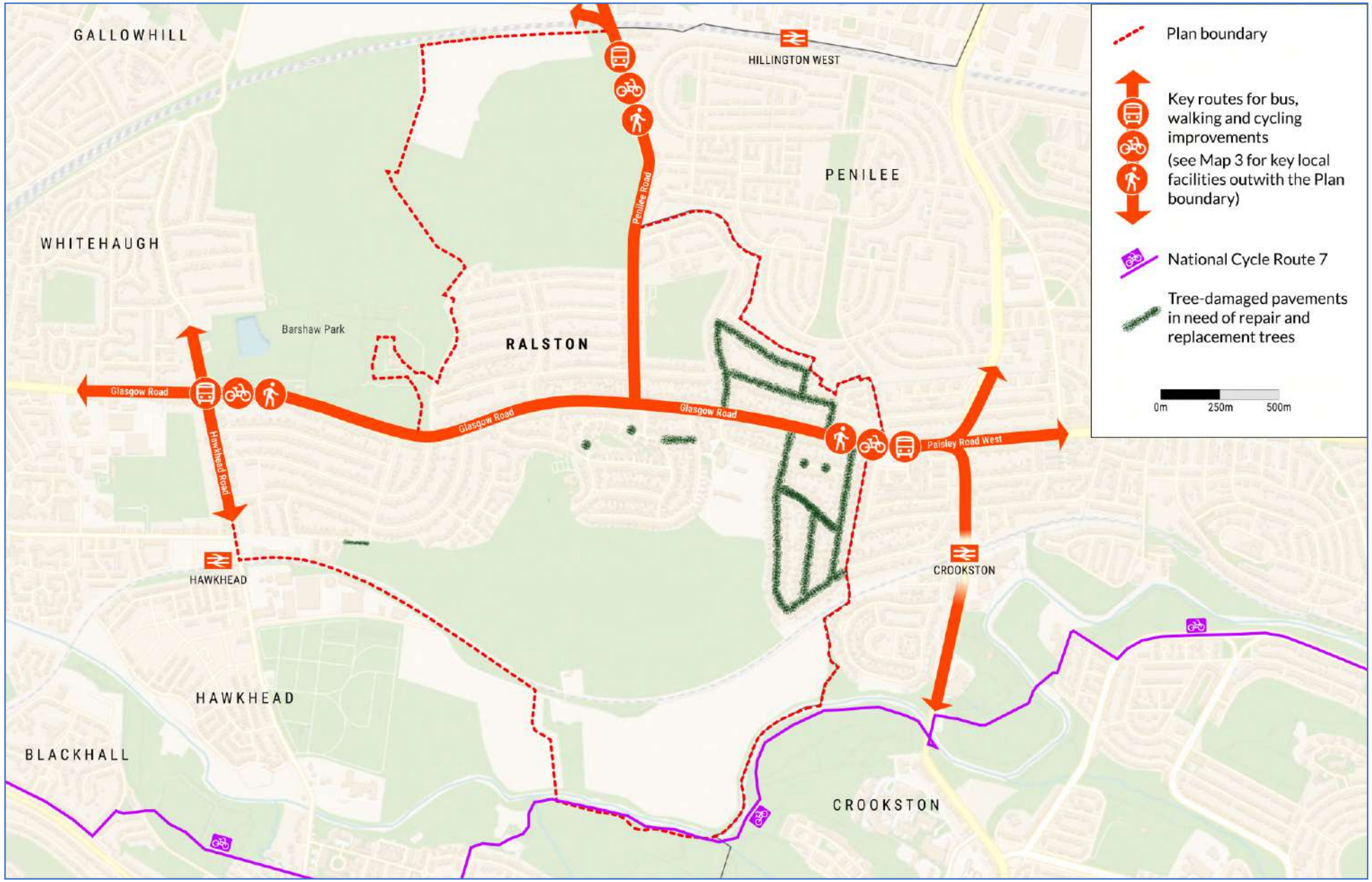
- Improve strategic connections to Paisley (including to secondary schools, Glasgow, Braehead, Renfrew and the National Cycle Network. *Council, Glasgow City Council, Sustrans, Scottish Government*

See also action 5 on page 21, and Map 5 on page 23.



Image: TfL

Map 5 **Getting about**



Activities & facilities

Having good community facilities, and a range of activities taking place to make the most of their potential, is an important part of community life in Ralston - and it fits with the Scottish Government's "Local Living" concept (see page 14 above).

Our priorities to achieve this are:

9. Keep and make more of the Community Sports Centre (this page)
10. Improve playpark provision (page 25)
11. Keep and make more of the Library and Community Centre (page 25)

See Map 5 on page 26 for locations.

9. Keep and make more of the Community Sports Centre

Why? The Community Sports Centre is a great asset for the community. It hosts a very popular community-run physical activity programme which has organised over 1,000 low-cost classes over the last three years (with funding from Engage Renfrewshire). The community is keen to organise more activities, on a self-funding basis, as the classes are full.

But the Sports Centre needs a makeover. The building itself is increasingly dilapidated, with over due maintenance needed on toilets, showers, heating, window blinds and gym equipment. The opening hours are a constraint on increased use - particularly not opening until 5pm on weekdays and not at all on Fridays.

In the medium to long term, there is an opportunity for significant investment in the Community Sports Centre and the open space around it (see action 3 on page 19).



Community Sports Centre *Image: OneRen*

What needs to happen?

- Collaborative approach to improving management and investment (see also action 2 on page 19 about the synthetic pitch). *OneRen, Community Council* QUICK WIN
- Longer opening hours to enable more classes, public access and summer clubs. *OneRen, Community Council* QUICK WIN
- New playpark (see also action 3, page 25). *Council, OneRen*
- Explore new models for significant investment in the building and playing field (see also action 3 on page 19). *Council, OneRen, community*

Nethercraigs, Glasgow

Community buyout of sports facility from Glasgow Life to lever in investment and create a multi-sport / recreational hub - incorporating football, disability sport, gym and community activities. More here.



Image: Glasgow Times / Colin Mearns, Newsquest

10. Improve playpark provision

Why? Playparks are thin on the ground in Ralston, and non-existent for teenagers.

The only public playpark in the Community Council area is a small one outside the Community Centre, equipped for younger children (see image below).

Barshaw Park, to the west of Ralston, has a larger more modern play area; but it is over 1.5km from some parts of Ralston and is again geared more towards younger children.



Existing playpark at Ralston Community Centre

What needs to happen?

QUICK WIN

- Upgrade existing play area at the Community Centre. *Council*
- Create new play area at the Community Sports Centre (see action 3 on page 19 and action 9 on page 24). *Council*, *OneRen*

11. Keep & make more of Library & Community Centre

Why? The Library and Community Centre are both valued and well-used community facilities on Allanton Avenue. Retention of both facilities is a priority. Ideally this would be accompanied by an extension of opening hours at the Library, which is only open 3 days a week. This could involve a volunteer scheme to ease costs.

What needs to happen?

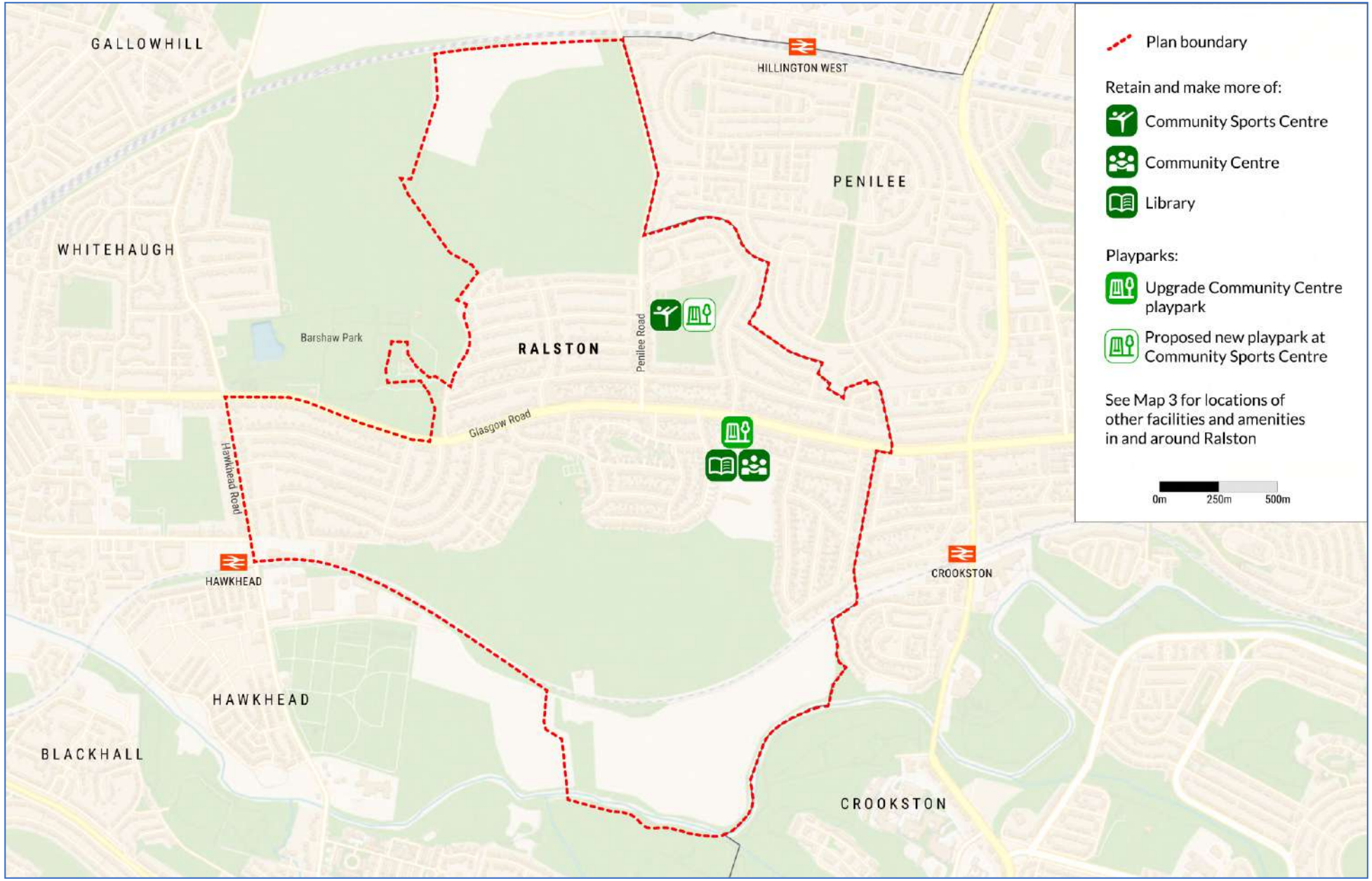
QUICK WIN

- Retain Library & Community Centre. *Council*, *OneRen*
- Extend Library opening times at lunchtimes and on additional days, investigating volunteer support. *Council*, *OneRen*
- Explore internal connecting door between Library and Community Centre to enable shared use of toilets etc. *Council*, *OneRen*



Image: OneRen

Map 6 **Activities and facilities**



5 Making it happen

Rather than trying to achieve everything, this Plan focuses on our priorities. It is ambitious, but it is also achievable with resources and support. It could take 5 or even 10 years to deliver. Everything depends on securing resources and the collaboration of others.

Although there are some quick wins that the community can lead, most of the priorities in this Plan will need support - especially from the Council and OneRen, given their central role in the community and service delivery.

Not everything in the Plan will be deliverable. The Community Council, as volunteers, and its partners have limited resources. Some aspirations may be impractical for unforeseen reasons; others may not secure the necessary resources or external support.

Part of the purpose of the Plan is to help secure resources and support for actions or indeed alternative solutions that can deliver the Plan's vision to the benefit of the community.

If other proposals emerge which help to deliver the Plan's vision in chapter 3, they should be supported.

Partner support

A key purpose of this Plan is to secure that collaborative support by demonstrating to potential partners that their support to deliver this Plan will help them deliver their agendas too. That applies to Renfrewshire Council, OneRen, funders and others mentioned against the actions in section 4.

For example, supporting the community to deliver more activities in the Community Sports Centre and explore new models of management and investment will enable public bodies to deliver their agendas of supporting communities and improving health and wellbeing.

As this and other Local Place Plans are prepared across Renfrewshire, we hope that public bodies will use the evidence from all of the Plans to guide spending and service delivery, and to lobby for enabling support from other partners like the Scottish Government and SPT.

Our message to all our partners is: with your active participation and support, we can work together to deliver our shared agendas on the ground.

Delivery arrangements

How will we as a community organise ourselves to deliver, monitor and future review of the Plan?

1. The Community Council will advocate and champion the Plan with the stakeholders listed in section 4.
2. Progress with delivery should be reported on as a regular standing item on Community Council meeting agendas.
3. The Community Council, as volunteers, may decide to prioritise certain actions in the plan over others.
4. The Community Council may consider appointing Associate Members to support the Plan's delivery, for example young people aged under 16.
5. For the Plan's bigger ticket items, the Community Council may establish collaborative working arrangements - e.g. with OneRen and Renfrewshire Council to progress investment in the Community Sports Centre and playing field.
6. The Community Council will review the Plan after approximately 5 years.

Planning policy & development management

Not all of this Plan's aspirations relate to statutory land use planning. But it does contain some proposals which we hope the Council will support (a) in the next Local Development Plan and (b) in determining planning applications and exercising other regulatory powers.

Suggestions for the next Renfrewshire Local Development Plan are summarised in the table on the right, where appropriate, together with reasons (as required by Schedule 19 of the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019).

Environment and greenspace	Suggestion - *and rationale*	More details
1. **Protect the Green Belt**	Maintain Green Belt protection for the areas identified in the 2021 Local Development Plan - *to support delivery of NPF4 Policy 8*	page 18
2. **Improve access to synthetic pitch and upgrades**	n/a	page 19
3. **Enhance open space around the Community Sports Centre**	Identify as a proposal for enhancement of the open space and sports facilities - *to improve local facilities & greenspace*	page 19
4. **Tidy up neglected premises**	Serve Section 179 Notice on derelict site(s) and identify the site as a priority in the Local Development Plan, e.g. for care home or older people's housing - *to improve amenity & wellbeing, bring back land into productive use, and provide specialist housing which is lacking*	page 20
Getting about	Suggestion - *and rationale*	
5. **Make Glasgow Road, Penilee Road and Hawkhead Road safer for pedestrians and cyclists**	Identify as important transport corridors where active travel safety improvements are needed - *for safety, health & climate change*	page 21
6. **Make pavements safe and accessible for all users**	n/a	page 22
7. **Bus service improvements**	n/a	page 22
8. **Create safe cycling and walking links to other places**	Identify as part of wider active travel network where safety improvements are needed - *for safety, health & climate change*	page 22
Activities and facilities	Suggestion - *and rationale*	
9. **Keep and make more of the Community Sports Centre**	Identify as a proposal for enhancement of sports facilities - *to improve local facilities*	page 24
10. **Improve playpark provision**	Identify as key 'Local Living' assets which should be retained - *to support deliver of NPF4 Policy 15: Local Living*	page 25
11. **Keep and make more of the Library and Community Centre**	Identify as key 'Local Living' assets which should be retained - *to support deliver of NPF4 Policy 15: Local Living*	page 25

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