

PROFILE

- 25.1 Shieldhill is a former mining village, located along a ridge top approximately 3 miles from Falkirk. The village can be divided into three distinct areas: the Main Street which runs along the ridge top and incorporates a range of different land uses; an area of post 1940’s local authority housing situated to the west of Cross Brae; and the extensive area of recent private sector development on the northern facing slope. This recent rapid expansion has raised its population to around 2,650, making it the largest village in the Council area.
- 25.2 In view of the extensive housebuilding which had taken place in the 1980s, the previous Local Plan aimed to consolidate this growth and prevent any further encroachment into the countryside.

KEY LOCAL ISSUES

- 25.3 The key issues for the village are:
 - The need to consolidate the large scale growth of the last 20 years; and
 - The need to improve the quantity and quality of open space provision.

LOCAL PLAN SUMMARY

- 25.4 The Local Plan proposes the following key provisions for Shieldhill:
 - No further outward growth of the village, with development confined to infill sites; and
 - The safeguarding and enhancement of open space to the north of Belmont Avenue as a recreational asset for the village.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

- 25.5 An area of land at Cross Brae is covered by a Tree Preservation Order. To the south of the Polmont Burn, is the California Wildlife Site and to the north is the Westquarter Burn Wildlife Site.

SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

Housing

- 25.6 Shieldhill has experienced a high level of housebuilding during the 1980s, with only limited commensurate growth in community facilities and services. A period of consolidation is now required, and further development, other than small infill sites, is not favoured.

25.7 Housing - Proposals and Opportunities - Housing Land Audit Sites

25.7.1	H.SHIE01	Anderson Crescent
	Site Area:	0.5 hectares
	Capacity:	9
	Developer:	Trafalgar Homes
	Status:	Under construction
	Comments:	Planning permission granted for residential development on 9 plots. Eight dwellinghouses have been constructed.

25.8 Housing - Proposals and Opportunities - New Allocations

25.8.1 H.SHIE02 Reddingmuirhead Road

Site Area:	0.9 hectares
Capacity:	Approx. 10
Developer:	Private
Status:	New Allocation
Comments:	Landscape impact, townscape, road safety and former mining activity are all important considerations for this site. Housing frontages on to Reddingmuirhead Road will be required with number of access points on to the main road minimised. The site will require a geotechnical survey and appropriate remediation strategy prepared in consultation with the Coal Authority. Any land which cannot be developed because of former mining activity shall be retained as incidental open space .

Recreation and Community Facilities

25.9 The area to the north of Belmont Drive and sloping down to the Westquarter Burn was allocated for open space purposes in the planning permission for the original village expansion, and in the previous Local Plan. However, it was never developed as such and has since been the subject of pressure for housing development. The Council remains committed to its retention and enhancement for recreational purposes.

25.10 Recreation and Community Facilities - Proposals and Opportunities

25.10.1 RC.SHIE01 Belmont Avenue

Opportunity:	Community Open Space/Recreation Area
Agency:	Falkirk Council/Private
Comments:	Large area of open space identified in the previous Local Plan for open space purposes. Appeal in relation to an application for housing development was dismissed in 2003. Possibility of development for informal recreation and access routes in partnership with landowner and the local community.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

25.11 The main businesses within the village are a few shops and services, the retention of which will be encouraged in accordance with Policy EP8. Shieldhill is in relatively close proximity to the main employment centres of the area, and there is little scope for further business growth within the village.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

Water and Drainage

25.12 There is spare capacity at Kinneil Kerse Waste Water Treatment Works and there are not thought to be any problems with water supply.

(Shieldhill is shown on Proposals Map 3: Falkirk, Larbert & Stenhousemuir)