5. WELL BEING: ACTIVE TRAVEL

Key Principles

- **Active travel provision should be fully integrated into the design process** from the outset rather than retrofitted at a late stage.

- **Development proposals should provide safe, convenient and direct links** to the existing active travel network and to schools, community facilities, local amenities, and public transport.

- **Active travel routes should cater for different types of users** (such as walkers, cyclists and those with limited mobility or sensory impairments) as appropriate.

- **Where appropriate, development proposals should provide additional infrastructure** such as seating, signage, cycle parking, showers etc.

- **Severance or impediments to active travel routes by development must be avoided** or overcome with appropriately designed schemes.

- **Development proposals should be accompanied by an access plan** showing existing and proposed routes, and specification.

- **The specification of new and upgraded routes should be appropriate** to the location, the type of user and the level of anticipated use.

Key LDP Policies

|	
PE01	Placemaking
PE13	Green and Blue Network
PE22	The Water Environment
INF02	Developer Contributions
IR05	Travel Hierarchy and Travel Assessment
IR06	Active Travel
IR07	Bus Travel

Good Practice

Falkirk Access Network: As winner of Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood in 2019, the Falkirk area has a very extensive hierarchy of routes from the core paths, set out in the Core Paths Plan, down to more minor right of ways, and informal paths. It is critical that that developers demonstrate an understanding of the network and how they can contribute to it. Image: The Helix


Access Plans: These should show the routes of all existing paths, including formal routes and desire lines, on or adjacent to the site; the routes of new paths and how they link into the wider path network, and other facilities; details of proposed path specification; and details of the phasing of path works and future maintenance. Access Plans should be integrated into landscape plans, masterplans and travel plans, produced as part of the transport assessment. Image: Masterplan for Mungal Cauldhame Farm, Falkirk
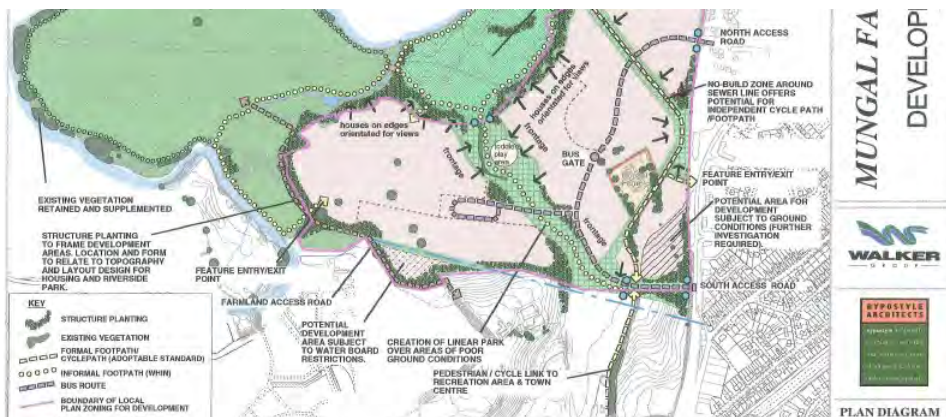
Path Specification: The specification of paths, including their width, construction, surfacing, drainage and gradient should be tailored to the location, intended users, and likely type and level of use. In most instances, the Council will look for a tarmac surfacing for paths likely to attract even moderate levels of use, since whin dust paths can deteriorate and cause maintenance issues.

The Drum, Bo'ness - main route linking paths and housing

Mungal, Falkirk - informal whin dust path

Bo'ness Foreshore - mown grass path

Attractive Routes: People can be encouraged to walk and cycle by paths set within an attractive setting. Linear open spaces, such as green corridors, can help enhance active travel routes and emphasise existing features like burns, trees, and hedgerows. Images: Lionthorn Community Woodlands, Falkirk (top), Kinnaird, Larbert (middle) and Mungal, Falkirk (bottom).
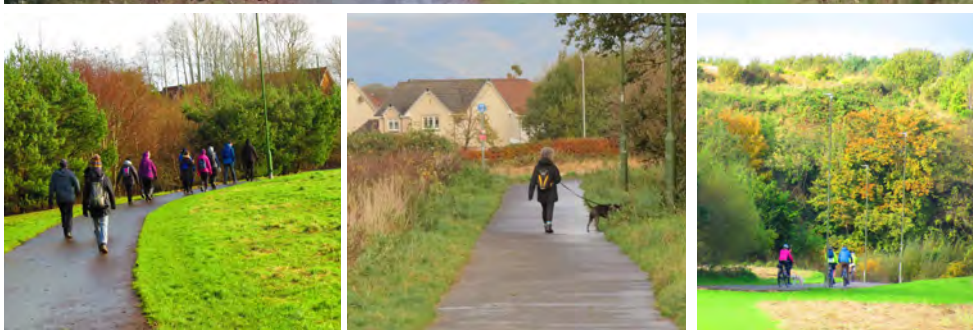
Legible Routes: Well placed signage can help people make aware of the most direct route to local facilities and public transport connections.

Safe and Secure Routes: Active travel routes should feel safe, having clear sightlines, entrance and exit points while being well-lit and overlooked. Image: Mydub 2, Denny (bottom, left) and Canavan Court/Park, Falkirk (bottom, right)

Direct and Connected Routes: Routes should be direct and, if appropriate, follow natural desire lines. Development should connect seamlessly to active travel routes to form a permeable and logical network. Suitable crossing facilities should be provided where routes meet the public road network. Images: Mungal, Falkirk (top) and Bo'ness -Blackness Foreshore path improvements (bottom)
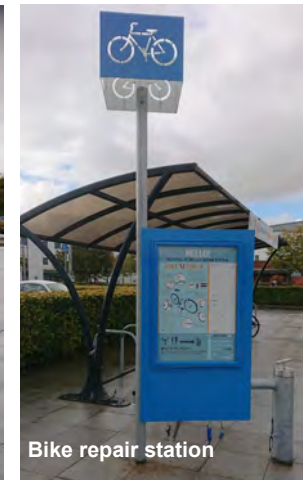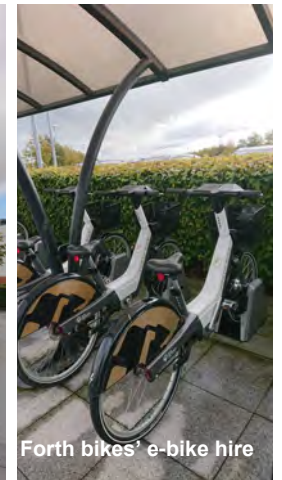
Supporting Infrastructure: Bike storage, changing facilities, good drainage, seating, information boards, good maintenance, public art, cleanliness, lighting etc. can contribute to user comfort. Images: Forth Valley Royal Hospital, Larbert (top left to right) and Forth and Clyde Canal, Falkirk (bottom)
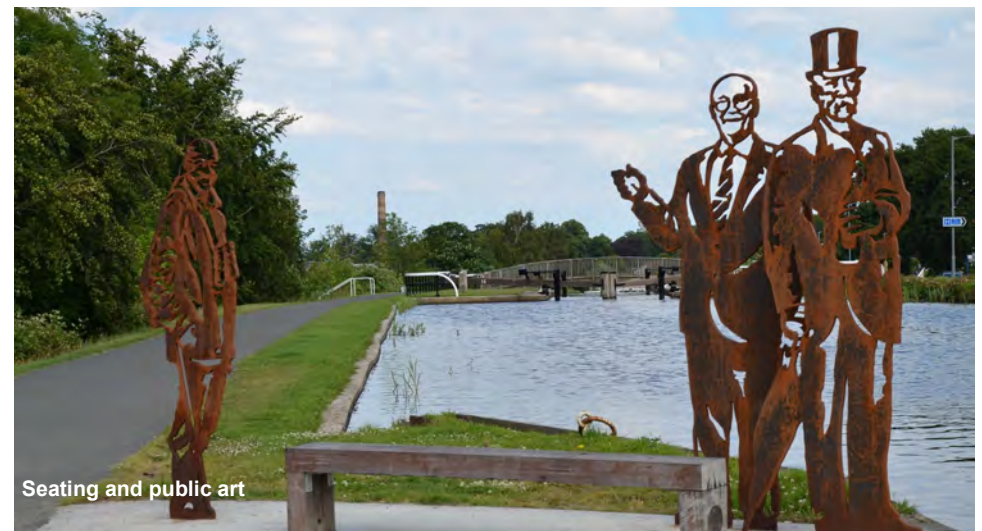

Before

After

Information board

Bike repair station

Forth bikes' e-bike hire

Seating and public art

Inclusive design: Aspects such as path width, gradient, camber, surface, steps, signs, visitor information etc. should be designed to make spaces accessible for the widest range of people as appropriate. Inclusive design is underpinned by the Equalities Act 2010.

Path Diversions: Where an access route is to be temporarily disrupted by development, an alternative route should be provided for the duration of construction works with satisfactory reinstatement on completion. Image: path diversion notice

Other Useful Guidance

Designing Streets

Core Path Plan

Cycling by Design 2010

Falkirk Green Space Strategy

Falkirk Area Disability Access Panel

Inclusive Design Hub website

SUSTRANS

SG02- Neighbourhood Design Guidance

6. WELL BEING: COMMUNITY GROWING

Key Principles

- **Access to community growing space should be explored** as an integral part of the masterplanning process for new residential developments of 200 homes or more. This may involve on-site provision or contributions to off-site space.

- **Options for providing community growing space in a development will depend on a range of considerations** but may include internal courtyards, rooftops, balconies, green walls, allotments and community growing spaces, land within large open spaces, grass verges, grounds of community facilities, and vacant or derelict sites.

- **Demand for community growing space in the locality should be taken into account.** Falkirk Council is required to establish and maintain a list of people requesting an allotment plot in the area. Consulting the Council to establish levels of demand will help establish the type and size of facility needed.

- **The suitability of any particular site for community growing should be carefully assessed,** including such factors as character of the area, access, ground/soil conditions, sun and wind exposure, security, water supply and future management.

- Consideration of how development can contribute to community growing should take account the Council's **Community Food Growing Strategy** and **Allotments Action Plan**.

Key LDP Policies

PE01   Placemaking

PE13   Green and Blue Network

PE17   Open Space and New Development

INF02   Developer Contributions