Shetland Islands Council

APIC
A Place in Childhood



The Children and Teenagers' Living Well Locally Plan for the North Mainland, Shetland

2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 This document, the Children and Teenagers' Living Well Locally Plan for the North Mainland Shetland, contains the output of 2 weeks of engagement with all six schools, and serves as the first step in identifying the actions required to ensure that the North Mainland, as a place, can meet the needs of its children and teenagers as far as possible. This plan should form part of all initial considerations of all stakeholders who are looking to undertake work in the North Mainland of Shetland to ensure that the needs of children and young people can be met or aligned with as far as possible, at every opportunity.

1.2 This plan should be considered as a foundational document in understanding the broader place context for the North Mainland from both a child and community perspective. This is based on the principle that through understanding and prioritising the needs of children and young people, we can create local places which work better for everyone, including the elderly and those with mobility issues.

1.3 As this document has interdepartmental and cross sectoral actions, we consider that the **responsibility for implementation sits across multiple place-based stakeholder groups, made up of a mix of both local authority officers, community stakeholders and any other relevant associated organisations**. This will reduce the risk of actions becoming siloed into specific departments and support ongoing community engagement, as well as supporting shared ownership of accountability to the children. The plan was commissioned by the Shetland Islands Council Planning Department.

2. The Project

2.1 In January 2026, A Place in Childhood worked with local children and teenagers to create **the Children's Living Well Locally Plan for the North Mainland, Shetland**. The purpose of the engagement was:

- To develop an informed understanding of what young people like and dislike about their place.
- Understand how they move around and through their place.
- Identify any barriers to movement; and
- Identify opportunities to improve their place.

2.2 APiC worked with approximately 56 local children and teenagers from North Roe (13), Ollaberry (13), Urafirth (19), Mossbank (24), Lunnasting (15), Brae Primary (22) and Brae Secondary (12).

2.3 **A follow-up 1.5-hour Showcase Event and workshop was held on the 30th January 2026** at Brae Hall. Approximately 6 children from each school involved in the project presented their plans to key stakeholders in the Council and beyond, who have the influence to make some of the priorities and improvements in the plan happen. Attendees can be noted in section 4 of this document and were happy to continue to participate as future working group members for the plan.

2.4 T**he draft plans were shared with all six schools** for validation by participants**, with no objections raised**.

2.5 **An online stakeholder workshop was convened on the 17 March** to review and discuss the final plans, including three showcase attendees, and another council officer with an interest in the findings (also included in section 4 of this document).

2.6 This document contains the outputs from the Engagement and includes an updated Action Plan and a Policy Map identifying the policy opportunities for utilising the plan to inform the multiple departmental and third-party decisions relating to place, community, and economic development in the North Mainland.

3. Recognising and Protecting the Unique Character of the North Mainland

3.1 The following are things and assets that local children and young people across the North Mainland articulated as being of vital importance to their lives. Each is visible in their individual settlement plans and should be understood and protected by all those supporting implementation:

● **Our landscapes and dramatic natural places** — including beaches, cliffs, crofts, hills, burns, fields and historic sites such as Eshaness and Fethaland — which shape how we play, learn and grow up. These are not just scenery; they are part of our everyday lives.

● **Our freedom and independence** — the ability to walk, cycle, roam and explore from a young age. Many of us travel independently to school, youth club, friends' houses and beaches. This freedom is part of what makes growing up here special.

● **Our close-knit communities** — where people know each other, look out for one another, and share halls, youth clubs, football pitches and community events. We value the volunteers and community groups who help keep these places going.

● **Our culture of practical skills and resilience** — where young people grow up learning through doing. From crofting and fishing to fixing bikes, playing outdoors in all weather, and navigating rural terrain, we develop strong life skills early.

● **Our outdoor play worlds** — where fields, trees, beaches and school "new areas" become climbing spaces, dens, football pitches and gathering spots. These are not formal playgrounds, but imaginative, everyday places of play.

● **Our strong connection to nature and wildlife** — including nesting birds, marine life, farmland and biodiversity. We see ourselves as caretakers of these places and want development to protect them.

● **Our local schools as community anchors** — small schools where everyone knows each other, where outdoor learning is valued, and where keeping enrolment strong matters for the survival of the area.

● **Our valued but fragile local infrastructure** — including small shops, bus routes, halls, football pitches, youth clubs and leisure facilities. When these are lost, the impact is deeply felt.

● **Our sense that change must be careful and balanced** — we recognise the need for housing, jobs and facilities, but not at the expense of landscape, safety, or community character.

● **Our desire to stay** — many of us want to return as adults, even if we go away for a bit. For that to be possible, there must be housing, jobs, education and services that make long-term life here viable.

4. Children's Living Well Locally Priorities for the North Mainland, Shetland (consolidated)

4.1 Below is a summary of the priorities grouped into themes, with some initial Council and Community stakeholders who we felt would be beneficial to attend the Showcase Event. This is not an exhaustive list and should serve as an overview of the key priorities identified across the North Mainland as a whole.

4.2 **Protecting Landscape, Nature & Local Character**

- Protect beaches, wildlife, crofts, historic sites and dramatic landscapes (e.g. Eshaness, Fethaland, Braewick, Lubba Beach).
- Keep areas clean and reduce litter, especially in busy or tourist areas.
- Protect nesting birds and wildlife with clearer signage.
- Manage tourism so it doesn't damage nature or overwhelm single-track roads.
- Plant more trees for play, shelter and biodiversity.
- Support growing projects (fruit, vegetables, planting in school and community).
- Ensure new housing is careful, limited, and fits the character of the place.
- Protect the strong sense of close community and not "change too much."

Underlying theme: Change is welcome — but only if it strengthens, not erodes, what makes these places special.

3.3 Safer Roads, Pavements & Transport Connections

- Cars driving too fast near homes and schools.
- Dangerous main roads without crossings or pavements.
- Need for one continuous safe pavement/path instead of repeated crossings.
- Clearer signage to slow traffic.
- Better bus provision (e.g. reinstating 3:15 bus; better inter-town buses).
- Safer walking and cycling routes between schools, halls and housing.
- Pavements and lighting where there are none.
- Better college transport (early buses are a barrier).
- Bridge/path connections (e.g. canal bridge; Phillipston path).
- Airport access issues (North Mainland access concerns).

Underlying theme: Independence depends on safe movement. Where transport fails, opportunity shrinks.

3.4 Play Spaces & Outdoor Recreation

- Upgrade and maintain play equipment (slippy surfaces, old climbing frames, worn equipment).
- More accessible equipment (bucket swings, monkey bars, trampolines).
- Safer surfaces (rubberised ground instead of concrete).
- Higher fences so balls aren't lost into unsafe areas.
- Bigger climbing walls, BMX tracks, skate parks.
- Better football pitches (even ground, year-round goals).
- Protect and improve beloved spaces (e.g. school "new area").
- Toy libraries at beaches (spades, buckets).
- More benches and picnic tables near parks and beaches.
- Indoor play spaces or soft play for winter.

Underlying theme: Play matters at every age — and provision often hasn't kept up with wear, weather, or growing older children.

3.5 . Indoor Spaces & Places to Hang Out (Especially for Teenagers)

- More indoor activities for winter.

- Youth spaces that feel “right for our age.”
- Keep funding for existing youth spaces.
- Bring back important buildings (Fraser Peterson Centre).
- Community halls and youth clubs supported and coordinated better.
- Indoor activity centres (climbing wall, swimming, affordable multi-activity).
- Ice rink (with regional draw).
- Independent cinema.
- Arcade, laser tag, skate facilities.
- Cafés in neighbourhoods, not just town centres.
- Affordable, youth-friendly food places.
- 24-hour café/supermarket for shift workers.

Underlying theme: Older young people need autonomy, warmth, affordability, and somewhere they feel welcome.

3.6. Local Shops, Food & Everyday Facilities

- Reopening or creating small local shops.
- Affordable food options designed for young people.
- Basic facilities (public toilets, cafés, places to eat).
- Free evening meal provision.
- 24-hour food access.
- More bins (dog waste and general litter).
- Public toilets near parks.

Underlying theme: Everyday infrastructure shapes dignity and belonging. Small facilities make big differences.

3.7 . Education, Learning & Youth Opportunity

- More practical, outdoor and creative learning.
- Update school libraries.
- Better Academy library provision.
- More college/university classes locally.
- More chances to meet pupils from other schools.
- Walking clubs to reduce loneliness.
- Support youth club timing so more can attend.
- Children want to be heard in decision-making.

Underlying theme: Education isn’t just curriculum — it’s access, enrichment, connection and voice.

3.8 Sports & Structured Activity

- 25m swimming pool for training.
- Better swimming facilities locally (avoid travelling).
- Badminton courts.
- BMX tracks.
- Ice rink (regional training opportunity).
- Keep local football pitches.
- Activity centres with structured sports options.

Underlying theme: Talented young people are travelling because facilities don’t match ambition.

3.9 Healthcare & Essential Services

- Bigger, better hospital for Shetland.
- Less need to travel to Aberdeen for treatment.
- Accessible location (e.g. central island).
- Improved health services generally.

Underlying theme: Security and fairness — access to care shouldn’t require leaving the island.

3.10 Housing & Keeping Communities Viable

- More housing — but not too much.

- Mix of house types for families.
- Housing that doesn't damage nature.
- More families to keep schools open.
- More local jobs so young people can stay.

Underlying theme: Sustainability of small communities depends on balanced growth.

3.11. Tourism & Visitor Management

- Safer management of coaches and campervans.
- Better signage for visitors.
- Protect farmland and private spaces.
- Prevent damage to wildlife.
- Help visitors understand terrain and risks.

Underlying theme: Visitors are welcome — unmanaged tourism is not.

5. Showcase Attendees and Potential Working Group

5.1 A number of key stakeholders attended the Showcase Event where the children were able to provide an in-depth overview of their priorities. The attendees have been noted below as the first step in progressing action on the priorities identified in the plans. This may also serve as a way of identifying the relevant members of any future working group who may be responsible for delivering the priorities of the plan in the short, medium and long term.

Showcase Event attendees		
Name	**Email**	**Organisation**
[redacted]	[redacted]	SIC Roads Service
[redacted]	[redacted]	Shetland Islands Council - Community Planning and Development
[redacted]	[redacted]	Community Work, SIC
[redacted]	[redacted]	Councillor
[redacted]	[redacted]	Shetland Islands Council
[redacted]	[redacted]	Brae Rural Energy Hub CIC
[redacted]	[redacted]	Shetland Islands Council
[redacted]	[redacted]	Sport and Leisure / SIC
[redacted]	[redacted]	Delting Community Council

6. Key Priorities and Actions identified in the Showcase Event

6.1 The Showcase Event served as an opportunity for the children involved in creating their plans to discuss their key priorities with the stakeholders. Below is a summary of the key actions and next steps identified as part of the Showcase.

Ref	Priority	Key Contact	Action	Delivery Timescales (Short 0-6m, Medium 6m-12m and Long Term 12m +	Related Priorities	Updates
KA1.	Safer Roads & Transport	SIC Roads & Transport	Reinstate the 3:15 school bus from Mossbank to Brae. Since its removal, children are walking along a dangerous road to get home, with some not attending school in bad weather.	Short (0–6 months)	3.3	Action taken. Bus reinstated at 3:25 (10 minutes later). Children can remain at school until then.
KA2.	Safer Roads & Transport	SIC Roads & Transport	Create a continuous, safe pavement or path connecting schools, halls and housing in Mossbank, replacing the current dangerous series of road crossings with no lighting or safe crossing points.	Medium (6–12 months)	3.3	SYSTRA Active Travel audit/plan is being created. Expected to identify this route as a priority connection. Councillors and council are aware and recognise the need for priority action.
KA3.	Safer Roads & Transport	SIC Roads & Transport; Community Councils	Introduce traffic calming measures (signage and speed reduction) at key locations near schools and homes across the North Mainland, particularly Leaside, Sandside, Urafirth and North Roe.	Short (0–6 months)	3.3	Council aware and recognised as a priority. Updates expected via the SysTrans audit process.
KA4.	Transport & Further Education Access	SIC Transport; UHI Shetland	Review and improve college transport provision from the North Mainland to reduce the barrier to further education caused by early bus times and the distance to Lerwick.	Medium (6–12 months)	3.3, 3.7	New bus timetable being introduced across Shetland, including Sunday services, which should address some issues. Public transport remains a barrier to education and further education. To be clarified how young people were consulted in the timetabling process.
KA5.	Play Spaces & Outdoor Recreation	SIC Sport, Facilities and Leisure; Community Councils	Upgrade and improve play equipment across North Mainland settlements including Mossbank, Lunnasting, Ollaberry, Urafirth and North Roe. Address unsafe surfaces, worn equipment and low fencing, and involve children in the design of replacement provision.	Medium (6–12 months)	3.4	
KA6.	Outdoor Learning & Play	SIC Education; Brae Junior High School	Protect and improve the school new area at Brae. Install accessible paths or provide wellies to ensure children can access this valued outdoor learning and play space year-round, including in wet conditions.	Short (0–6 months)	3.4	Scalpings laid to help with drainage. Additional consideration: supervision is a significant challenge at Brae due to the size of the play area, making it difficult to supervise children at lunchtime. This should be noted as a key consideration of this action.
KA7.	Sports & Recreation	SIC Sport, Facilities and Leisure	Retain and improve local football pitches, particularly the Brae pitch currently under threat. Loss of this facility would require children to travel to Lerwick or Aith for training and matches.	Short (0–6 months)	3.4, 3.8	Pitch has been reinstated for the time being. Plans for a new school are in progress. Key action going forward will be to communicate clearly with young people about plans and ensure contingency provision is in place during construction.
KA8.	Outdoor Spaces & Seating	SIC Sport, Facilities and Leisure; SIC Youth Services;	Install additional benches, picnic tables and seating near parks, beaches and community spaces across the North Mainland, including Mossbank Beach, Lunnasting play park and Ollaberry.	Short (0–6 months)	3.4, 3.6	Some provision may be possible through youth services. A key action includes engage community groups to involve young people in

		Ability Shetland; Community Groups; NCDC; Volunteer Action Shetland (VAS):				identifying the best locations, drawing on their direct experience of where they play.
KA9.	Indoor Spaces & Teenager Provision	SIC Sport, Facilities and Leisure; Mossbank Community Council; NCDC; Volunteer Action Shetland (VAS):	Explore option for providing community leisure facilities comparable to those previously offered at the Fraser Peterson Centre, Mossbank Hall, as a community leisure facility providing sports, activities, food and social space for all ages.	Long (12 months+)	3.5	Various after-school clubs and small projects exist (e.g. Brae Badminton Club) but need clearer communication and coordination to communicate opportunities. A community liaison role could offer a solution to consolidate and coordinate the programme. A youth equivalent of the NCDC was suggested.
KA10.	Youth Club Provision	SIC Youth Services; Ability Shetland; Community Councils	Review timing and programming of youth clubs across the North Mainland to maximise attendance, particularly in North Roe where scheduling conflicts reduce participation. Ensure provision feels relevant and age-appropriate for teenagers.	Short (0–6 months)	3.5, 3.7	Community minibus model highlighted as a valued resource. Reinstating it was suggested, particularly to support schools doing more together across Northmavine — currently prevented by transport costs (e.g. school football league). Rural transport models from Orkney referenced. Volunteer Action Shetland has opportunities but these need to be more clearly communicated.
KA11.	Local Shops & Food Access	SIC Economic Development; Community Councils and Groups;	Explore options for reinstating or creating small local shops in Mossbank, Lunnasting and North Roe. Even a basic shop selling food and essentials would significantly improve daily life for families, particularly those without cars.	Long (12 months+)	3.6	Treated as a long-term aspiration rather than a near-term action. Mobile shops suggested as one option. Economic development grants available but tend to support buildings/sustainability rather than operational longevity. Children value existing shops as important community anchors.
KA12.	Public Toilets & Basic Facilities	Community Groups; Volunteer Action Shetland (VAS):	Improve public toilet provision near play parks and beaches across the North Mainland. In Lunnasting, the nearest toilet is at the ferry terminal, requiring children to walk a significant distance during play.	Medium (6–12 months)	3.6	There are a couple of public toilets across North Mainland, but many closed due to high running costs and volunteer fatigue. No specific action currently in place. Still an aspiration — important for young people to stay out and play for longer.
KA13.	Visitor Signage & Wildlife Protection	SIC Planning; NatureScot; Community Councils	Develop and install clear visitor signage at key sites including Eshaness, Fethaland, Hillswick and North Roe to protect wildlife (including nesting birds), farmland and private land, and to keep visitors safe near cliffs and difficult terrain.	Medium (6–12 months)	3.1, 3.11	Children expressed a strong desire to make the signs themselves. Wildlife/natural heritage protection element to be strengthened — children raised concerns about eggs being crushed on beaches and animals being disturbed. Opportunity to work with relevant council departments to bring back community-made signage.
KA14.	Tourism Management	SIC Roads and Transport; Shetland.org; Lerwick Port Authority (LPA)	Develop a visitor management strategy for the North Mainland to address the impact of coaches and campervans on single-track roads, particularly at Eshaness and Hillswick during summer.	Medium (6–12 months)	3.11	Significant issue discussed. Solutions explored include cycle paths in key areas. Discussions around engaging cruise ships about coach conduct and understanding the best route to do this – potentially via the Port Authority. Ensuring pre-planned routes and timings to reduce unpredictable bunching of

						traffic, particularly in Eshaness and Hillswick during summer could be a solution.
KA15.	Tree Planting & Growing Projects	SIC Education; Community Groups; Shetland Amenity Trust; Volunteer Action Shetland (VAS):	Support tree planting and community growing projects in school grounds and community spaces across the North Mainland. Children across all six schools identified trees and growing as priorities for biodiversity, play and learning.	Short (0–6 months)	3.1, 3.4	Shetland Amenity Trust is a key stakeholder and already engage with schools. The North Mainland Plan will be forwarded to them for awareness.
KA16.	Further Education & Local Opportunity	SIC Economic Development; UHI Shetland	Explore opportunities to increase the range of college and university classes available locally in Brae and the wider North Mainland, reducing the barrier to further education for young people.	Long (12 months+)	3.7	Acknowledged as complex due to staffing challenges. Key action: better promotion of existing free courses and opportunities to young people. Closely linked to KA4 (transport).
KA17.	Cross-School Connections	SIC Education; Schools	Create more opportunities for children from different North Mainland schools to meet and work together, building connections across the community and reducing social isolation in smaller schools.	Short (0–6 months)	3.7	Linked directly to KA9 and KA10 — same solutions apply (community facilities, transport, youth club timings).
KA18.	Sports Facilities	SIC Sport, Facilities and Leisure;	Review sports and leisure provision accessible to North Mainland children without requiring travel to Lerwick, and identify opportunities to develop local swimming, BMX and structured sports provision.	Long (12 months+)	3.8	Several easy wins identified. Council aware that North Mainland is the most physically remote part of Shetland. Creative use of existing spaces being explored. Grants available and council supportive of community-led approaches.
KA19.	Housing & Community Sustainability	SIC Housing; SIC Planning; NCDC	Ensure any new housing development across the North Mainland is carefully planned, mixed in type, and sensitively sited to support school roll sustainability and community viability without damaging the natural or social character of individual settlements.	Long (12 months+)	3.10	NCDC has community housing underway, including renovation of the old school at Valleyfield with modular units. Shetland Council supporting community-led housing. Local place plans will help guide future development.
KA20.	Healthcare & Essential Services	NHS Shetland; SIC Education;	Use this plan to support advocacy for improved hospital and health services for Shetland, ensuring North Mainland families can access healthcare without the need to travel to Aberdeen.	Long (12 months+)	3.9	Adults on the call noted that health service provision in North Mainland is actually relatively good. Key action: better communicate what health services are available locally and highlight their value to young people.

7. Policies, plans and activities relevant to implementation.

7.1 Noted below are a range of policy and plan documents and key groups which can utilise the plan document as it aligns closely with their aims and objectives. These policy, plans and groups will also be crucial in delivering some of the actions identified in this plan.

Organisation	Sector	Policy/Plans/Strategies	Lead Contact	Alignment/Opportunity
Shetland Islands Council	**Planning**	Local Development Plans	[redacted]	This Plan can contribute to the aims of LDP through identifying key priorities and actions which support the LDP objective of supporting better access across the Islands, supporting sustainable and active transport solutions, such as by foot, cycle and public transport, and enabling people to access services, employment and other opportunities. The Plan provides a direct insight as to what the key issues of place are across the North Mainland for children and teenagers and can serve to provide deeper focus as to the key planning issues which exist in the area including, planning for recreation needs, housing, sustainable transport, community development, economic growth, biodiversity and sustainability
		Plan Shetland (the next LDP)		The Plan provides a foundation for ongoing engagement with children and teenagers to establish further insights as to what are the key issues relating to the North Mainland as a place which Plan Shetland can address which can inform the Proposed Plan document. This would also align with duties under the most recent Planning (Scotland) Act which requires the Planning Authority to consult with children and young people on the Proposed Plan document, or another appropriate stage of plan development.
		Local Place Plans	[redacted]	The Plan provides a rich and detailed picture of place from the perspectives of children, including how each place relates to each other in the broader context of a rural area. We consider that this Plan can serve as a strong foundation from which any Local Place Plan can be built.
		Play Sufficiency Assessment		The Plans identify that some play areas and other spaces where play takes place require some additional interventions to make them the best they can be. This includes diversification and upgrading of equipment, supporting accessibility and further maintenance. This plan can serve as an evidence base to inform the context of how children feel about the places they play in the local area, including the play parks, but also places like beaches and piers.
	Roads	Roads Planning Priorities	[redacted]	

	Transport	Shetland Transport Strategy 2022-2042 Development	[redacted]	The Plan identifies key issues relating to pavements, public transport and active travel which can be utilised as a starting point for conversations with children and the community about the key interventions required to support active lifestyles and private vehicle journeys as far as possible.
		Shetland Transport Strategy Refresh 2018-2028		
		Shetland Active Travel Strategy 2021-2026		
Amenity Trust	**Planting**	Tree Planting	[redacted]	The Plan identifies the children's ambition for further tree planting in each of their areas, acknowledging the benefits of tree planting for biodiversity, shelter belts and for recreation and enjoyment.
	Bods	Bods	[redacted]	
Community Councils		Ongoing meetings		

8. Conclusion and next steps

8.1 The aim of this document is to provide a starting point for anyone engaging in place-based projects in North Mainland to gain an understanding of the perspective and ambitions of the children living across the area. The Plan outlines the priorities for action and seeks to actively identify opportunities for alignment with additional ongoing projects and offer information to feed into policy development and support interventions.

8.2 This plan also serves as a starting point for long-term engagement with children and teenagers living in the area, with opportunities to revisit the plans in years to come to identify changes in the area and update priorities. Furthermore, the creation and implementation of the plan offers stakeholders a legacy for communication and engagement with children and teenagers to support their participation in decision-making that affects their lives, and aligns with the Council's duties under the UNCRC, which was recently adopted into Scottish law.

9. Appendices

9.1 The following appendices provide each school's plan for their specific area which consists of a map and a list of priorities drawn together by the participating pupils. The maps provide an outline of the tour designed by the participants and contains information relating to their experiences of the area. The maps can be used to provide depth and context to the priorities identified by the children and teenagers and provide insight as to the experience of growing up in the different areas of the North Mainland.

- Brae Junior High School 22 pupils from Primary 6 and 13 from S1– Local Living Plan
- Mossbank Primary School 30 pupils from across the school involved– Local Living Plan
- Lunnasting Primary School 30 pupils from across the school involved – Local Living Plan
- Urafirth Primary School all pupils involved– Local Living Plan
- Ollaberry Primary School all pupils involved – Local Living Plan
- North Roe Primary School all pupils involved – Local Living Plan

Brae Pupils' Local Living Plan: What we think of the local area

Key **What's Important / Good?** **What's Missing / Could be Better?** **Things to Change**













Our homes and houses across Brae and the North Mainland are really important to us.

We like living in Brae because it feels connected but still close to nature.

Ronas Hill and the surrounding landscape are important to us.

The walks are important but can be confusing for people who don't know the area.

We would like more variety in housing so different people can live in Brae. It's important we don't lose the nature we love, though.

The community halls are important places where things happen.

Some people drive through Voe really fast!

The play parks in Brae are important places to play and meet friends.

Some play equipment in Brae feels old or needs updated.

We would like clear communication about changes to play and sports spaces, and to be involved in the decisions about removing equipment.





The beaches around Brae are really important to us. We go to lots of different beaches for playing, exploring, and finding shells.

We would like more trees and green spaces to be protected and added to.

The Co-op is an important place because it's where we can get food and things we need.

The astro turf feels like a place we can't really use freely.

We're sad that the football pitch is being dug up because we used it a lot. There aren't many alternatives, so it's frustrating.

We would like better access to sports facilities locally.





The youth club is an important place for some young people.

Some of us prefer hanging out at friends' houses instead of youth club.

The school is one of the most important places in Brae.

The new area at school is muddy, so we're often not allowed to go in it.



Some people feel Brae already has enough things, and others feel it doesn't. There's not so much to do indoors during bad weather.

The bus routes are important for getting around, especially for young people.

The police station, fire station, and care home are important places in Brae.

The swimming pool and leisure facilities are important places for us.

The shops, cafés, and takeaways in Brae are important social places.

We would like to be able to use the school woods more often. We would like better ways to manage mud so outdoor learning can still happen.

We would like more places to hang out that don't cost much money. These could be places like arcades, climbing walls, laser tag, or indoor play spaces.

The petrol station and garage are important for getting around.

Local businesses like Blue Shell and E&M Plant are important because people work there.

We would like better transport connections so travelling isn't such a big deal.

The health centre and pharmacy are important places because people need them.

We like places like Frankies, the Chinese takeaway, and cafés.



Some shops and places in Brae don't feel aimed at young people.

Food options that are affordable and welcoming to young people feel limited.

We would like affordable food places that feel welcoming to young people.



We love the wildlife around Muckle Roe and the walks out there. We like places like the Hams of Muckle Roe because they feel special and remote. It's also great for camping.

The ferry terminal is an important place for travelling and waiting together. We like playing, fishing, and hanging out while waiting for the ferry.

We would like safer, clearer routes for walking and cycling around Brae.

Travelling to Lerwick for college, activities, or services feels like a barrier and can be annoying.

We would like easier access to education, training, and opportunities locally.



Muckle Roe Hall and the marina are important places for events and meeting people.

The hospital in Shetland is important for everyone, even though it's far away.

Our hospital can't do a lot of things. it's too small and rundown to serve the whole of Shetland. Having to travel to Aberdeen for treatment feels stressful and worrying.

We would like better healthcare facilities for Shetland as a whole.

Our Priorities for Local Improvement:

Primary Pupils

Brae, Muckle Roe and Voe are very special places with lots of amazing natural landscapes, wildlife and nature. There are lots of amazing beaches, places to play and go camping. We feel really safe walking, cycling and moving around Brae and Muckle Roe, although the Main Road in Voe is very fast and can feel dangerous. We really like the New Area at school, but we wish it wasn't so muddy there after the rain so we could play in it more. While there is lots for us to do, it would be good to have some more activities for when the weather isn't good in winter so we don't have to go all the way to Lerwick.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **Having the right kind of housing without changing the area** - We think the area could have more houses, but not loads. We would like a mix of different kinds of houses so more people and families can live here, but we don't want it to change the nature of the area because we like it the way it is.

2. **Protecting nature and green spaces -** We really like nature, trees, and being outside. The new area at school is one of our favourite places, and we love playing and climbing in it. We would like more trees and for nature to be protected, not taken away.

3. **Being able to use the new area more often -** We love the new area, but we're not allowed in it much because it gets muddy. We would like ways to still use it in bad weather, like having wellies at school or better paths, because it's one of our favourite places to play and learn.

4. **Better play equipment at school and in Brae -** We would like new playground equipment, especially for bigger children. The flying fox had to be taken away because of safety reasons, but we would like to be involved in deciding what replaces it. We would also like a better slide and more interesting equipment.

5. **Keeping places to play sports locally -** We're really upset that the football pitch is being dug up. It's better than the multi-court and we use it a lot. If it's gone, we have to travel to Lerwick or Aith to train, which isn't fair. We would like to keep places to play sports in Brae.

6. **More practical and creative learning -** We talked about things like volcanoes, science experiments, and learning through doing. We would like more practical learning opportunities that link to the outdoors and the new area at school.

7. **Looking after people and services** - We care about people being looked after. We talked about hospitals and health services and think they should be improved, even if that doesn't mean having a hospital in Brae itself.

Secondary Pupils

Brae, Muckle Roe and Voe are important place for us, but as we get older there isn't much to do that feels aimed at us. A lot of the things we want are about independence, affordability, and having reasons to stay in the North Mainland instead of always having to go to Lerwick or leave Shetland.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **More places to hang out that feel right for our age -** There isn't much to do locally for teenagers. Youth club exists, but a lot of us don't go because it doesn't really feel like it's for us. Many of us mostly hang out at each other's houses, like garages that have been set up as social spaces. We would like places that feel welcoming and appropriate for our age. We could have more indoor activities for bad weather, like a skate park, climbing wall, arcade, laser tag, or similar. Winter can be boring, and there's not much to do locally.

2. **More affordable food options -** We want cheap, affordable food that's designed for us. That's why places like McDonald's, Greggs, smoothie shops, and sweet shops would be good. It's not so much about food specifically — it's about places we can afford and feel welcome in.

3. **More shops and services that young people actually use -** We would like more variety in shops and services, like eye care (e.g. Specsavers), clothes shops, and places that sell things we actually want. Travelling to Lerwick for everything feels like a barrier.

4. **Better access to education and training -** We would like more college and university classes based in Brae or the North Mainland. Having to go to Lerwick puts people off, especially when transport and travel time are added in.

5. **Improving transport and connections Travel is a big issue -** We talked about wanting another airport in the North Mainland so it's easier to get on and off the island, especially in bad weather. It takes a long time to get to Sumburgh, and that affects opportunities.

6. **Keeping and reusing important buildings -** Places like the Fraser Peterson Centre used to exist and people remember them. We would like important buildings to be reused rather than left unused or lost.

7. **Better healthcare for Shetland -** We think Shetland needs a bigger, better hospital overall. The current hospital feels run down, and too many people have to go to Aberdeen for treatment. Even if it's not in Brae, it should be somewhere accessible, like Tingwall so it's in the middle of the island.

Mossbank Pupils' Local Living Plan: What we think of the local area

Key **What's Important / Good?** **What's Missing / Could be Better?** **Things to Change**

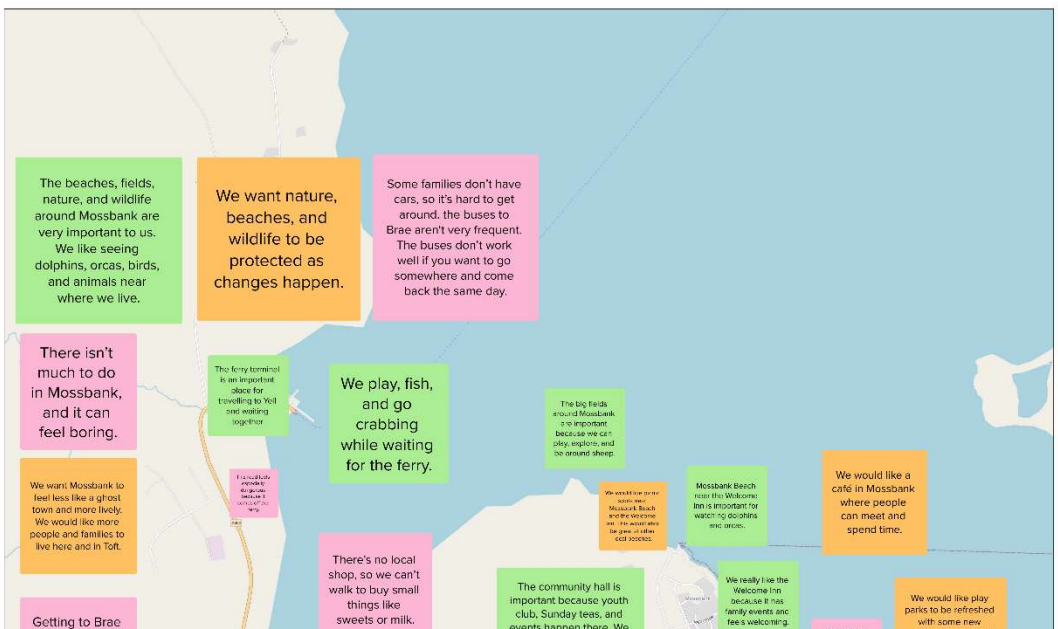




























Our Priorities for Local Improvement:

Mossbank, Firth, and Toft are made up of lots of different places, like Sandside, Leaside, Maidenfield, Hammersgarth, Mossbank, and Toft, and each of these places has its own identity. Even though they are close together and walkable, they don't feel like the same place, and that matters to us. For this work, we talked about them together as Mossbank and Firth so no one was left out.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **Having more places to go and things to do locally** - There isn't much to do in Mossbank and it can feel very quiet and boring. We would like more fun things to do so the area feels more alive. We talked about things like cafés, shops, and indoor places to go, especially when the weather is bad.
2. **A local shop is really important** - The shop at the garage used to be really important and now it's closed. We can't walk to buy small things like sweets, milk, or food anymore. Even a small shop that sells basic and healthy food would make a big difference. Having to go to Brae, Voe, or Lerwick feels like a big trip, especially for families without cars.
3. **Better transport and getting home from school safely -** We would really like the 3:15 bus home from school to be brought back. Since it stopped running, some children have to walk along a dangerous road to get home. When the weather is bad, some children don't come to school at all because it isn't safe to walk.
4. **Safer pavements and walking routes -** The pavements between the school, Leaside, and Sandside are confusing and unsafe. We have to cross the main road lots of times, and there are no crossings, lights, or clear safe routes. We would like one long, safe pavement or path that connects the school, the hall, Sandside, and Leaside without having to keep crossing the road.
5. **Cars driving too fast near where we live -** We feel quite safe walking and cycling near our houses most of the time, but some cars go far too fast, especially in places like Leaside and Sandside. This is worse because the road comes straight off the ferry, so cars speed up. We would like more signs, speed bumps, and reminders that children are walking and playing here.
6. **Improving play parks and outdoor spaces** - We like our play parks, but we think they could be upgraded. Some equipment is slippy and greasy, like the flying fox, and needs safer surfaces. We would like some new equipment as well, because we've been using the same things for a long time and we get bored of them.
7. **More places to sit and spend time outside** - We would like more picnic tables, benches, and places to sit, especially near the play parks, the multi-court, and Mossbank Beach. It would be nice to have places to sit near the Welcome Inn in summer when families are there.
8. **Bringing back the Fraser Peterson Centre -** The Fraser Peterson Centre used to be a really important leisure centre, and now it's just a ruined, dangerous building. We would really like it to be brought back as a place for sports, games, parties, and cafés – something like the Clickimin, but in Mossbank.
9. **Making Mossbank feel less like a ghost town** - Mossbank can feel empty and quiet, like nothing is happening. We would like more people, more activity, and more reasons to be out and about so it feels lively again.
10. **Protecting nature, beaches, and wildlife -** We really like our beaches, fields, animals, and wildlife, and it's important to us that these are protected. We want Mossbank to change in ways that don't damage nature or the places we love.

Lunnasting Pupils' Local Living Plan: What we think of the local area

Key **What's Important / Good?** **What's Missing / Could be Better?** **Things to Change**













Animals and crofting are important parts of our lives.

We would like more picnic benches in different places around the community.

Lunna is important because of its history, wildlife, and beautiful landscape. We like going here for whale watching, beaches, and seeing the old farmhouse.

We like finding crystals on the beach at Lunna.

We want to keep Lunnasting safe, friendly, and somewhere we can come back to as adults.

Some tourists climb fences, damage things, or don't realise how dangerous the cliffs are. They also sometimes come on our land and peer in our windows. There aren't enough signs to help visitors stay safe and respect the area.

We would like visitors to respect gates, animals, and private spaces. We think more signs to help tourists know where to go and how to stay safe would help.

We like seeing wildlife like dolphins, orcas, seals, whales, and basking sharks (even though they look at bit scary!)

Some play equipment doesn't have soft ground underneath it.

Balls get kicked out of the play park and into areas with rams, which is dangerous.

Some football goals are only put out in summer and don't have nets.

We would like a public toilet near the play park.

We would like football goals with nets that stay up all year.

We would like a bin with a lid at the play park, or for it to be emptied more often.

We would like more trees, flowers, and planting in the school and community.

The school garden is really important and one of our favourite places to be. We like helping with the gardening and growing things especially in the polytunnels and greenhouses where we have grapes in the summer! We also like playing hide and seek and catchy between the sheds in the garden, and going through the tunnel, climbing hills, the big tree, and wandering peerie pathways.

Our school is one of the most important places for us. We like the mud kitchen, pots, pans, and loose parts in the playground.

The play park near the beach is an important place for us to play. We like playing catchy at the play park and near the older people's housing.

The beach at Lunnasting is really important to us. We like it because of the tunnels, stones, and places to explore.

There isn't a public toilet near the play park anymore. Rubbish blows around because the bin doesn't have a lid.

The bin at the play park doesn't get emptied enough.

The play park fence is too low in places.

We would like a higher fence at the play park so balls don't get lost.

We would like the water butt in the garden to be fixed so we can use it.

We would like new books for the school library.

Some play equipment at school is old, broken, or needs fixing. For example, the mud kitchen needs repaired and updated. There also used to be monkey bars at school, but they're gone and we miss them.

We would like new play equipment like monkey bars and a spinny cup.

We would like the mud kitchen and playground ecuipment to be repaired or replaced. We would also like the bike shelter to be fixed.

The ferry pier is an important place for us. We like to fish and play here while we wait.

We would like more soft, rubbery ground under play equipment so it doesn't hurt when we fall.

We would like more loose play equipment like hoops, sticks, and things we can move around.

The local shop was a very important place to us

We would love the local shop to open again someday.

The school bike shelter roof needs cleaned and fixed.

The water butt in the school garden needs fixed.

The marina is fun to play on and has a hill we like to roll down.

We would like a peerie pier somewhere close for people with little boats and fishing hobbies.

We love the hall because so much happens there, like youth club, parties, dances, and events. The gym is also great.

We used to use the shop or the hall toilets, but the shop is closed and the hall isn't always open.

Gonfirth Beach is especially full of rubbish after storms.

We would like a small café in Vidlin that's the right size for the community.

Some beaches have fishing industry litter like rope and pipes.

We would like help to clean up beach litter, especially fishing waste.













Our Priorities for Local Improvement:

Lunnasting is a very special place and has a very close community, which is really important to us. We like that we can walk everywhere, that people look out for each other, and that there are lots of places to play, explore, and spend time outside. We want to protect what makes Lunnasting feel like home, while making some changes that would make everyday life better for children, young people, and visitors.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **Protecting Lunnasting and its close community -** Lunnasting is a very special place with a strong sense of community, and this is something we want to protect. We don't want the area to change too much or lose what makes it feel safe and friendly. Lots of us would like to move back to Lunnasting as adults. We love that we can walk everywhere and feel connected to the place, and we want that to still be possible in the future.
2. **Improving play spaces -** There are lots of places to play, but some equipment needs cleaned, fixed, or updated. We would like new equipment such as a spinny cup in the play park, fixing older equipment, and having football goals in place all year round, not just in summer. Also, having a public toilet next to the play park would make it better. Just now we have to walk all the way down the big hill to the ferry terminal, which isn't always practical. The bin at the play park also needs to be emptied more often because rubbish blows around in the wind. We think a bin with a door or lid would help stop litter spreading.
3. **Softer ground in school and play areas -** We would like softer ground surfaces in the school grounds and play areas, because there is a lot of concrete and it really hurts when we fall. We talked about having more of the rubbery, bouncy surface under equipment so it feels more child-friendly and safer.
4. **A higher fence at the play park -** The fence at the play park needs to be higher so that balls and play equipment don't get kicked out and lost, especially into areas where it isn't safe to go.
5. **More opportunities for growing and planting -** We would like more chances to grow vegetables and fruit and to plant more trees in the community. We really like gardening and planting, especially in and around the school.
6. **More signs to help tourists and protect places -** We would like more signs to help tourists understand where they should and shouldn't go. This would help protect wildlife, stop people disturbing private spaces, and keep visitors safe near cliffs, steep banks, and farmland.
7. **A local shop is very important to us** - The shop was very special and important to us, and we were really sad when it closed. We would love to see the shop open again someday, because it was a place to meet, play, and feel welcome.
8. **A small café in Vidlin could be good -** We think a café at Lunna Kirk in Vidlin could be really good. It could be open all year round, maybe wildlife- or sea-themed, and the right size for the community. We talked about it being similar to places like Fjara or the Dowry in Lerwick.
9. **Updating the school library -** The school library has been cleaned up recently, but we would like new books so it feels more exciting and up to date.
10. **A small pier for local boats –** It would be nice to have a small pier in Vidlin for people with little boats who like fishing as a hobby.

Urafirth Pupils' Local Living Plan: What we think of the local area

Key **What's Important / Good?** **What's Missing / Could be Better?** **Things to Change**



























Our Priorities for Local Improvement:

Urafirth and the wider Northmavine area are very special places to grow up. We have amazing beaches, dramatic landscapes, lots of wildlife, and a strong sense of history and community. Places like Eshaness, Hillswick, Tangwick, and our beaches are important to us, and we feel lucky to live somewhere so beautiful. Below are our priorities for making Urafirth and Northmavine safer, better cared for, and even more enjoyable for everyone who lives here and visits.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **Protecting our landscape, heritage, and wildlife -** We have lots of beautiful and important places, including Eshaness, our beaches, crofts, and historic sites. These places matter to us and we want them to be protected and looked after so they stay special for the future.
2. **Safer roads for walking and cycling -** We like walking and cycling, but some roads feel unsafe, especially between Urafirth Primary School, Hillswick, and nearby housing areas like Stucca. Cars, buses, campervans, and lorries sometimes drive too fast. We would like clearer signs to slow traffic down, and pavements or footpaths in busy areas so we can travel safely.
3. **Managing tourism so it works for everyone -** We understand that visitors are important, but in summer some places get very busy, especially Eshaness and Hillswick. Large coaches on single-track roads feel dangerous, and campervans take up a lot of parking space. We would like better management of traffic and parking so visitors and local people can share the space more safely.
4. **Less litter in popular places -** We care a lot about nature and wildlife, but we notice litter in busy spots after people visit, especially around Eshaness Café, the Lighthouse, and some beaches. We would like more bins in the right places, and for people to take responsibility for cleaning up after themselves.
5. **Protecting nesting birds and animals -** We know that birds like terns nest on our beaches, but some people don't realise and accidentally walk on nests. We would like clearer signs to help protect wildlife and stop animals being disturbed or harmed.
6. **Improving play spaces at Eshaness Café and school areas** - We really like Eshaness Café and the space around it, but the climbing frame is getting old, slippy, and worn because of the weather. We would like improvements like a bigger climbing wall, a swing, and safer equipment. We would also like better solutions around football areas at school, so balls don't end up in younger children's play spaces.
7. **More child-friendly information about our area -** We like learning about history and heritage, but some information boards are faded, scratched, or hard to read. We would like signs to be updated and made more child-friendly, with clearer writing and information that's easier for bairns to understand.
8. **Supporting community spaces that matter to us -** Places like Tangwick Haa, the community halls, and Johnny Notion's Bod are important to us because they show who we are and bring people together. We want these places to stay supported and well looked after.
9. **Small ideas that would make a big difference -** We would love simple ideas like a strong toy library at the beach with spades and buckets, especially at places like Braewick and West Ayre Beach. Small changes like this would make playing at the beach even better.

Ollaberry Pupils' Local Living Plan: What we think of the local area

Key What's Important / Good? | What's Missing / Could be Better? | Things to Change































Our Priorities for Local Improvement:

Ollaberry is a really good place to grow up. We love our school, the Adventure, the play park, the beaches, and being surrounded by nature and wildlife. We have a lot of freedom to move around, we feel safe most of the time, and the community feels close and supportive. Below are our priorities for making Ollaberry an even better place for everyone in our community, now and in the future.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **Better and more accessible play equipment at the play park** - The play park is very fun and an important place for us, but we would like it to be more accessible and have more things to play on. We would like equipment like monkey bars, a roundabout, a trampoline, and a big bucket swing. We also think wooden steps up to the flying fox would make it safer and less slippy for everyone.
2. **More trees and flowers around Ollaberry -** We really like trees because we can climb them, play in them, and they give shelter from the wind. We would like more trees and flowers around Ollaberry, including near the play park and school, to make it nicer to spend time outside and to support wildlife and biodiversity.
3. **Less litter on the beaches -** The beaches are some of our favourite places, especially Lubba Beach and the rocky beach near the kirk. We love swimming, crabbing, rock pooling, and collecting sea glass. We don't like seeing litter on the beaches, especially plastic and fishing waste, and we would like this to be reduced so the beaches stay clean and safe for animals.
4. **Safer roads and slower traffic -** Most drivers are careful around us, but some cars drive too fast. We would like cars to slow down more in certain places so that we feel safer walking and cycling around Ollaberry.
5. **More things to do locally so we don't always have to travel to Brae -** We often have to go to Brae to do things like swimming or activities after school, which is quite far and usually needs a car or bus. We would like more things to do in Ollaberry itself, such as sports or activities in the hall, so we can spend more time locally.
6. **More places to eat, hang out, and meet people -** We would like a café or more places to eat and spend time together in Ollaberry. Having somewhere warm and welcoming to go would make it easier to meet friends and feel connected as a community.
7. **Careful new housing in the right places -** We think Ollaberry could have more houses so new people can move in, as long as they are built in safe places and don't overcrowd the area or change how Ollaberry feels. It's important to us that any new housing fits in with the place we love.
8. **More local opportunities for the future -** When we talked about the future, we said we would like more interesting jobs in Ollaberry so we can stay living here when we grow up. Having opportunities locally would help keep the community strong.

North Roe Pupils' Local Living Plan: What we think of the local area

Key **What's Important / Good?** **What's Missing / Could be Better?** **Things to Change**



















Our Priorities for Local Improvement:

North Roe is a very special place to grow up. We have amazing landscapes, strong connections to history and heritage, and a close community where many families have lived for generations. We have lots of freedom to explore, play outside, and spend time in nature, and we really value that. At the same time, there are some small but important changes that would make North Roe safer, more supportive, and easier to live in for children, young people, and families.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. **Protecting North Roe's landscape, heritage, and character -** We have beautiful places, important history, and strong connections to the land, including crofts, hills, beaches, and historic sites like Fethaland. We want these to be protected so North Roe doesn't lose what makes it special. We want change to be careful and respectful, not too much or too fast.
2. **Helping visitors stay safe and respect the area -** We like that people want to visit North Roe, but sometimes visitors don't realise how difficult the terrain is. People get cars or bikes stuck, leave gates open, or go walking in places that aren't safe. We would like better information or signs to help visitors understand where it's safe to go and how to look after the area.
3. **Safer roads for walking and cycling -** We like walking and cycling and feel confident doing this from a young age, but some cars, buses, tractors, and quads go too fast. There are very few pavements and almost no streetlights, so it can feel dangerous, especially in winter. We would like drivers to slow down and for safer walking or cycling routes where possible.
4. **Supporting youth club and community activities -** We really like going to youth club at the community hall, but sometimes it clashes with swimming lessons or other activities. It would be good if timings could be looked at so more of us can go and the youth club can keep going.
5. **More trees for play, shelter, and biodiversity -** We love trees and nature and would like more trees around North Roe. Trees give us places to play, shelter from the wind, and help wildlife and biodiversity.
6. **Better play spaces for different ages -** We like the school play park, but we would like more variety, such as a swing and individual seesaw. We would also like a better, more even pitch for playing football, as the current space is small and uneven.
7. **Indoor places to go when the weather is bad -** When the weather is bad, there aren't many places to go. We would really like an indoor play space or soft play so we can still meet and play in winter.
8. **Basic local facilities to support daily life -** There isn't a shop, café, or public toilet in North Roe. Even small facilities like a basic shop, somewhere to eat, or a toilet would make a big difference for families and visitors.
9. **Keeping the school and community strong -** We would like more families and children to live in North Roe so the school can stay open. We think having more houses could help, as long as it doesn't change the area too much or take away from what makes North Roe special.
10. **More chances to meet children from other schools -** We would like more opportunities to meet pupils from other schools in Northmavine, because we think it would be good for us socially and help us feel less isolated. We know buses are expensive, but we think this is still important.