

# Listen to Cowlersley action plan

February 2023



# Listen to Linthwaite and Cowlersley - turning our conversations into action

## What we did in Linthwaite and Cowlersley

In May 2019, volunteers from Pride in Linthwaite worked with the Colne Valley and Golcar Ward Councillors and staff from Kirklees Council to speak to people from across Linthwaite and Cowlersley about what life is like there. 258 people took part in conversations across the 2 villages in a variety of different places such as online, in the streets, at local schools such as Cowlersley Junior School and in local cafés such as Rudi's Retreat. The results from [Listen to Linthwaite](#) and [Listen to Cowlersley](#) were published in September 2019.

Progress then stalled due to the pandemic and lockdown measures. In summer 2022 Pride in Linthwaite created further opportunities for local people to get involved. More people in Linthwaite shared what they think about the area. They added some new things that were missed earlier, and shared their views on the priorities for action. The group organised six workshops, along with visits to local venues, events and schools. 473 people responded, 214 of which were online. People who shared their views in person did so at one of the 6 public drop-in sessions held across Cowlersley and Linthwaite in places such as Cowlersley Community Out of School Club, The UCHM, The Sair, at the Linthwaite Leadboilers Festival or outside the Premier Store on Manchester Road, and at visits to local junior schools.



Both Listen to Linthwaite and Listen to Cowlersley were led by Pride in Linthwaite in partnership with Kirklees Council. The aim was to better understand what life in both villages is like for the people who work, visit or live there and understand what is missing from these communities as well as what their aspirations might be. The Place Standard

conversations helped us to seek and gather the opinions from residents and talk about the communities of Linthwaite and Cowlersley in a wide ranging way.

**Listen to Cowlersley overview & Results summary with full data**

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/listen-to-cowlersley>

<https://howgoodisourplace.org.uk/2019/09/10/listen-to-cowlersley-results>

**Pride in Linthwaite website & social media links**

<https://prideinlinthwaite.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/PrideInLinthwaite>

## About Cowlersley

Cowlersley is a rural village in the Golcar Ward in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire.

### Population

2,511	Total population (2020 ONS estimate)
1,228	Male
1,283	Female
557	Age under 16
426	Age 16 to 29
480	Age 30 to 44
689	Age 45 to 64
384	Age 65 plus
2,154	White British (ONS Census 2011)

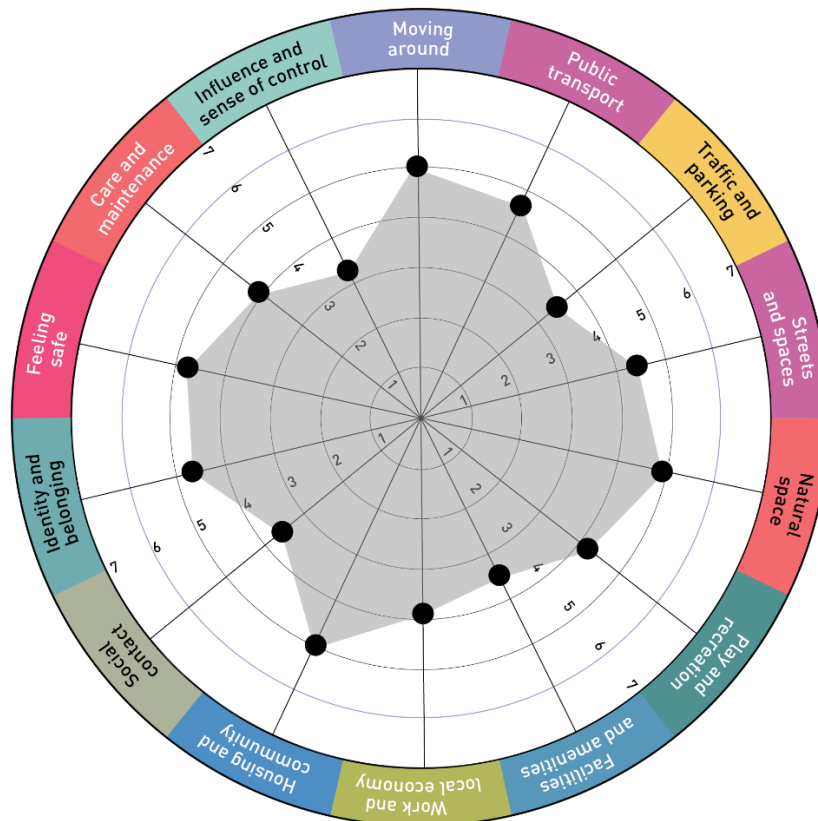
### Number and type of households

1011	Total households (ONS 2011 census)
705	Owner occupiers
122	Social rented properties
163	Private rented properties
440	Single person households (Council Tax 2022)



This information is from the Kirklees Observatory: <https://observatory.kirklees.gov.uk/>

## Listen to Cowlersley results



How people in [place name] scored their place, on a scale of 1 to 7, whilst talking about 14 different themes, and how many comments we received about each of these themes.

Theme	Average score overall	Range of scores received	Number of comments made
Moving around	3.8	1 to 7	19
Public transport	4.7	1 to 7	14
Traffic and parking	3.5	1 to 7	22
Streets and spaces	4.4	1 to 7	21
Natural space	4.9	1 to 7	17
Play and recreation	4.2	1 to 7	17
Facilities and amenities	3.5	1 to 7	23
Work and local economy	3.9	1 to 7	15
Housing and community	5.1	2 to 7	15
Social contact	3.6	1 to 6	16
Identity and belonging	4.7	1 to 7	16
Feeling safe	4.8	1 to 7	17
Care and maintenance	4.2	1 to 7	17
Influence and sense of control	3.3	1 to 7	13

Full results, including information about how different people responded, are available at: [Listen to Cowlersley](#)

## **Strengths in Cowlersley**

### **Housing and Community**

A great mix of housing types, from social housing right through to large detached housing - it's a mixed community which works well. There are very few houses with decent sized gardens though. Cowlersley is now very built up, so any more housing would negatively impact on the green spaces. The estate could do with a good tidy up of the gardens and a clear up of the rubbish on the streets. New builds on The Heights are small and expensive, with too much tarmac.

### **Suggestions from participants about Housing and Community**

Stop new house building on green belt land.

### **Natural Space**

People appreciate the natural spaces such as Jubilee Park, Coronation Park and local woods. Broad Oak Park is a great space for children to play and is looked after by locals. Participants said they are concerned that green spaces are being lost to house building. The woodlands are not accessible for those with mobility issues, although there are some benches and flower boxes. Public parks are full of glass and litter, overflowing bins, overgrown paths and anti social behaviour by young people (drink, drugs, music, swearing).

### **Suggestions from participants about Natural Space**

More spaces for teenagers to engage in sports. A free outdoor exercise facility or adventurous outdoor space that can be used by people of all ages. More allotments. More green community spaces on council owned land.

### **Feeling Safe**

On the whole, people feel safe. Cowlersley is a close knit community where people look out for one another. There are gangs of young people who intimidate residents and there is drug dealing and opportunistic crime, such as car theft. Walking alone at night in some parts of the village does not feel safe for some. One person mentioned Bonfire Night and New Year's Eve as times when you do not feel safe at home, due to fireworks being let off.

### **Suggestions from participants about Feeling Safe**

Police presence and a crackdown on drug dealing.

## **Challenges and issues in Cowlersley**

### **Influence and Sense of Control**

People commented that they are not given opportunity to take part in decision making. They are not sure how they would find out this information or who to contact about it, and wouldn't know how to go about helping make a change for the better. Some don't feel that the council, health services or housing associations work with the local community to understand their needs or make people feel involved. There were a number of comments that people are not listened to.

### **Suggestions from participants about Influence and Sense of Control**

More ways for residents to have their say and get involved with current issues. Involve young people so they have a sense of pride in the village and themselves. A local community group, with meetings in an evening or on weekends, everyone invited.

### **Facilities and Amenities**

Cowlersley is lacking amenities - there's one shop, a garage, a takeaway and a hairdressers. There's no village centre, but it's close to Milnsbridge. Travel to neighbouring villages is necessary for most things and there is an additional cost for people. Participants said it's a real shame that there is no library and there are no parent and toddler groups. There's a high number of takeaways in surrounding areas.

### **Suggestions from participants about Facilities and Amenities**

Places for people to meet up: café, pub, restaurant. Developments should include new shops, amenities and community space. Spruce up Milnsbridge.

### **Traffic and Parking**

"Parking is a nightmare." Parking on Cowlersley Lane makes it extremely dangerous to pull out from side roads (Windsor Road, Ladybower Avenue). It's hard for pushchairs as cars are often parked on dropped kerbs. Speed of traffic on Manchester Road from Cowlersley lights. Manchester Road is a big barrier to access between Cowlersley and Milnsbridge. Traffic through the centre of Milnsbridge is an issue and lack of parking and poor parking makes it worse.

### **Suggestions from participants about Traffic and Parking**

Double yellow lines on the corners of Cowlersley Lane. Speed humps in the Manse Drive area. One way system from Cowlersley Lane along Manse Drive and Warneford Road. Explore Royal Horticulture Society solutions for both parking and nature in front gardens. Off street parking for residents and get rid of on street parking on Cowlersley Lane. Parking warden. Patrols and crossings by the schools. Parking area in Milnsbridge centre.

Summaries of all the themes, and the full responses from participants, are available at:

[Listen to Cowlersley](#)

## Ideas and actions

Following the initial engagement in 2019 and the subsequent re-engagement in 2022, Pride In Linthwaite have analysed the feedback offered by people in Linthwaite identifying actions that are both deliverable and beneficial to the local community. Some actions have already been taken, others are ongoing, and some will be long term aims. Pride in Linthwaite will keep the community updated on progress through their website and social media accounts.

### Action plan

**Completed** - **Ongoing**

Action	Theme	Concern	Details/suggestions (made by residents)	Actions being progressed and agreed or expected outcomes	Funding	Leads or Partners
1	Moving Around	Canal towpath is too damaged	People wanted to see the canal towpath updated and resurfaced.	The Canal towpath has been resurfaced from Huddersfield to Slaithwaite	Funded by WYCA and Canal and River Trust	Canal and River Trust
2	Feeling Safe, Traffic and Parking, Moving Around	Speeding Traffic	Specifically on Manchester Road, Cowlersley Lane, Gilroyd Lane and Blackmoorfoot Road	Speed Indicator devices have been installed on key roads in Cowlersley (and across Golcar Ward) to encourage behaviour change and record data to lobby for a speed camera if data shows one is needed	Golcar Ward Budget - £2,880	Golcar Ward Councillors and Kirklees Highways
3	Care and Maintenance	Disposing of glass in Linthwaite can be difficult	People commented that the closest bottle bins are too far away for some people and as there is no longer door step glass collections recycling or disposing of glass can be difficult	Kirklees Environment Service is investigating additional recycling facilities in Kirklees, including doorstep glass collection.	Kirklees Council	Kirklees Waste Service
4	Work and Local Economy	Poor internet connection in	This effected peoples ability to run	City Fibre are installing Fibre Optic cabling in Cowlersley. Find out more		Kirklees Council, CityFibre



		Linthwaite and Cowlersley	successful businesses from the area	and stay up to date here: <a href="http://www.cityfibre.com/home">www.cityfibre.com/home</a>		
5	Care and Maintenance	There aren't enough litter bins around Cowlersley	People wanted to see more street litter bins	Pride in Linthwaite and Golcar Ward Councillors have installed more litter bins along the collection route		Golcar Ward Councillors, Pride In Linthwaite and Kirklees Waste Services
6	Public Transport	Poor public transport option in Cowlersley	People shared that whilst busses along Manchester road are regular enough they are too unreliable, expensive, uncomfortable and untidy, and they don't serve the area of Cowlersley at the top of the Hill (Cowlersley Lane leading on to Gilroyd Lane) regularly enough	Councillors to continue to raise need for improved public transport in appropriate settings such as the West Yorkshire Transport Committee		Pride in Linthwaite
7	Feeling Safe, Play and Recreation	Nerves around ASB from Young people / Tackling local ASB in Linthwaite from Teenagers	Many people shared that they can occasionally feel intimidated by groups of young people congregating	Create a local activity taster scheme for young people to encourage them to spend their time in alternative ways and show case local recreational businesses. Including, hiring a portable 'games unit' for young people in Linthwaite and Cowlersley to provide engagement opportunity for WY Police to meet and speak to local young people, whilst also giving young people positive experiences.	Thornton and Ross Fund - £3600 (funded until April 2024)	Pride In Linthwaite
8	Moving Around, Traffic and Parking, Feeling Safe	Speeding cars around schools	People suggested speed bumps and one way systems as well as 20 mph zones	As a result of the findings from the recently commissioned Speed Limit Review, Kirklees Highways have bid for funding to undertake a review of road safety outside all schools in Kirklees.		Kirklees Highways

				This will include Woodside Green school. Consideration of the appropriateness of implementing all measures, including a 20mph zone, School Streets, physical traffic calming measures such as speed bumps, will all form part of that assessment		
9	Play and Recreation. Work and Local Economy.	Lack of local knowledge of local groups, activities, job opportunities and child care providers	People said that they are sure there is lots going on, they just don't know about it	Create/improve publicity of local groups, events and activities through Pride In Linthwaite website. Support local businesses to advertise openings locally. Fund a professional development of a 'what's on page', 'opportunities page' and a local business page (promote childcare and dog walkers locally etc) on Pride In Linthwaite website Also hire billboard space to promote and signpost to the new website and include printed out information in local notice boards.	Cost for Website: £3000  Cost for billboard: £1400  Cost for design: £100 (to be designed by local student)  Total: £4500  50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund = £2250  Other 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite
10	Play and Recreation, Feeling Safe	People felt that there wasn't enough youth activities in Cowlersley	There is an existing youth club at Cowlersley Community Out of School Club.	Promote and support existing youth provision at Cowlersley community out of school club (CCOOSC). CCOOSC need more games, music equipment, craft resources and staffing support.	Advertising in part addressed through Pride In Linthwaite Website (action 7)  Games - £60	Cowlersley Community Out of School Club

					<p>Portable speaker - £40  Game system - £150  Guitars - £60  Microphone stand £20  Craft resources £100</p> <p>Community worker 5hrs a week for 12 months - £3,510</p> <p>Half a laptop for community worker - £100</p> <p>Total: £4,040 from Golcar Place Standard Investment Fund</p>	
11	Work and Local Economy, Facilities and Amenities	People commented that Cowlersley can be a difficult place to purchase fresh food and to support local SMEs	Cowlersley Community Out of School Club have recently launched a 'Bread and Butter Thing' hub and were already running a community food fair share scheme	Support the developing 'Bread and Butter Thing' scheme to be run from Cowlersley Community Out of School Club. And support the existing community food share programme. Cowlersley Community Out of School club said they need 5hrs a week community support worker help for these and they need some equipment	<p>Sack cart or trolley - £60  2 folding tables - £60  Outdoor pantry store - £150  Community worker 5hrs a week for 12 months - £3,510  Half a laptop for community worker - £100</p> <p>Total from Golcar Ward Place</p>	Cowlersley Community Out of School club

					Standard Investment Fund = £3,880	
12	Care and Maintenance	Dog fouling	There is too much dog fouling in Cowlersley	Run an awareness raising campaign, giving out branded Pride In Linthwaite dog poo bag holders to dog owners across Linthwaite and Cowlersley. Run a dog owner event in Linthwaite and one in Cowlersley to raise awareness around responsible dog ownership. Also do a call out for local street ambassadors who might be willing to look after and maintain bag dispensers on their street.	Poo bags and holders: £172.61 The events: £1,974 20 Dispensers and bags: £1500 + £388.50 = £1888.50 Total: £4,035.12  50% Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund = £2,017.56  Other 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite
13	Moving Around, Traffic and Parking, Feeling Safe	Speeding cars around schools	People suggested speed bumps and one way systems as well as 20 mph zones	Purchase up to 4 child shaped anti-speeding road bollards to raise awareness.	Golcar Place Standard Investment Fund - £2,264.48	Pride In Linthwaite, Woodside Green Primary School
14	Work and Local Economy, Facilities and Amenities	People commented that Cowlersley can be a difficult place to purchase fresh food and to support local SMEs	Some people suggested a monthly farmers market could host fresh produce and support local sole traders and SMEs	Plan to set up a local monthly pop up market between Linthwaite and Cowlersley. Work with Kirklees Parks Team to identify a potential in each village, commission a contractor to organise each market day on an annual basis, and promote each market.	Council Sourced Contractor: £1920 License: £126 Marketing: £200  Total = £2,246  50% from Golcar Ward Place	Pride In Linthwaite

				Success of the scheme will be determined by the ability of the market to become largely self sufficient. Stall holders will need to pay for a space that the contractors then take as a wage for organising going forward.	Standard Investment Fund = £1,123  Other 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	
15	Care and Maintenance, Streets and Spaces, Natural Space	There is too much litter around Cowlersley	There is too much litter for people to enjoy the streets and natural spaces around Cowlersley	Pride In Linthwaite plan to organise a local litter picking scheme. Purchase branded bin bags and litter pickers that members of the public can borrow to do their own litter picks. Plan to speak to Kirklees Waste Team about options around collection. To avoid needing to arrange collection each time and thus take officer time, could branded bin bags be collected from next to litter bins on the street as part of the normal collection route? Similar to the Litter Heroes scheme run by Leeds Council?	Litter pickers – £500  Branded Bin Bags - £219.50  Total = £719.50  50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund = £359.75  Other 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite, Golcar Ward Councillors and Kirklees Waste Team
16	Play and Recreation	There aren't enough natural play spaces in Cowlersley	People said they would like to see more or improved natural play spaces in Cowlersley	Golcar Councillors to identify a park in Cowlersley (either Kinder Ave or Jubilee Park) for Playable Spaces improvement at the next opportunity, contribute from Place Standard Investment Fund to improve scheme, including disabled access, natural play, benches/youth shelter.	roughly £80,000 Kirklees Council Playable Spaces (TBC dependent on design) + £30,000 Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund contribution for improved scheme	Golcar Ward Councillors and Kirklees Parks

17	Social Contact	Some people felt there was no community space in Cowlersley	There is the Cowlersley community Out of School Club who operate as a community space	Promote and support Cowlersley Community Out of School Club through social media and website	Addressed through improving the Pride in Linthwaite website (Action 7)	Pride In Linthwaite
18	Identity and Sense of Belonging	Some people said they would like to see some 'Welcome to Cowlersley' Signs (similar to Linthwaite) be installed	This could also address the previously incorrectly installed 'Birthplace of Harold Wilson Signage' to add to Cowlersley's identity and sense of belonging.	Investigate options around installing Welcome To Cowlersley Road Signs that are the same theme as the Welcome to Linthwaite signs.	TBC	Golcar Ward Councillors and Kirklees Highways
19	Traffic and Parking	Road safety on Manse and Warneford Drive	People shared that there is insufficient parking on Manse and Warneford Drive which leads to pavement parking and unsafe roads. Some people suggested installing more car parking, others suggested a one way system or 20mph zone. Another suggested a mirror for joining Cowlersley Lane was needed	Golcar Ward Councillors to engage with Kirklees Highways around options to improve road safety on Manse and Warneford Drive	tbc	Golcar Councillors
20	Moving Around, Traffic and Parking	Noise and Air pollution on Manchester Road	Cars on Manchester Road are too noisy and cause air pollution. Suggestions made are around installing moss on the walls on Manchester road to improve air quality.	Golcar Councillors to engage with Kirklees Transportation Team to investigate options and possibilities around reducing air and noise pollution on Manchester Road.	Tbc	Golcar Councillors

21	Moving Around	There aren't enough cycling routes in Cowlersley		Tbc	Tbc	Tbc
22	Moving around	There aren't enough traffic protected walking routes in Cowlersley		Fund the creation of a local history trail with accompanying walkers are welcome style leaflet that will guide people around historic sites in Linthwaite and Cowlersley, utilising off road paths wherever possible, also highlighting local cafes and pubs along the route to support businesses. Leaflet to be accessed from local shops and Pride In Linthwaite.	50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund 50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite to work with local residents interested in History and potentially groups like the Huddersfield History Society
23	Feeling Safe	Concerns raised about ASB in the evening and opportunistic crime, as well as reference to violent crime in the area		Support the creation of a local neighbourhood watch scheme	£0	Pride In Linthwaite, Safer Kirklees & West Yorkshire Police
24	Feeling Safe, Play and Recreation	Nerves around ASB from Young people / Tackling local ASB in Linthwaite from Teenagers	Many people shared that they can occasionally feel intimidated by groups of young people congregating	Create a local activity taster scheme for young people to encourage them to spend their time in alternative ways and show case local recreational businesses. Including, hiring a portable 'games unit' for young people in Linthwaite and Cowlersley to provide engagement opportunity for WY Police to meet and speak to local young people, whilst also giving young people positive experiences.	£3600 total for a year 2024 – 2025  50% CV Place Standard Investment Fund - £1800 50% Golcar Place Standard Investment Fund - £1800	Pride In Linthwaite
25	Feeling Safe	Concerns around theft from homes and vehicles		Run a home safety and vehicle safety campaign		Pride In Linthwaite, Safer Kirklees and WY Police

26	Facilities and Amenities	There aren't enough disabled friendly toilets and changing spaces in Linthwaite	We could use the Wheelmate and Restrooms app	Promote Wheelmate and Restroom apps through Pride In Linthwaite website and social media		Pride In Linthwaite
27	Traffic and Parking	Environmental damage caused by turning gardens in to parking spots	Due to the lack of parking new homes across Linthwaite, many people have to turn their gardens in to parking spaces which contributes to flooding and climate change	Promote nature friendly parking options through Pride In Linthwaite website and social media		Pride In Linthwaite
28	Work and Local Economy	Some comments highlighted that there is no business network in Cowlersley		Develop a stronger relationship and support the Colne Valley Business Network more – promoting the CVBN through social media and website		Pride In Linthwaite
29	Public Transport	The bus service doesn't connect communities across the Colne Valley very well	Buses largely run in to Huddersfield and back out along Manchester Road, meaning that travelling from Linthwaite to Golcar or Outlane can be difficult	Investigate options around commissioning a local stopper bus to run a circular route connecting the Colne Valley and Golcar Wards. When this has been piloted in the past the service has not been sufficiently utilised to make it sustainable. So investigate alternatives too.	TBC 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund  50% from Golcar Ward Place Standard Investment Fund	Pride In Linthwaite
30	Public Transport, Moving Around	Connectivity within Cowlersley and across the Valley can be difficult. Some people also shared that the hills make cycling	A suggestion was made to encourage the use of E-bikes	Investigate commissioning an organisation to run an E-Bike rental or free trail scheme for residents of Linthwaite and Cowlersley	TBC 50% from Colne Valley Ward Place Standard Investment Fund 50% from Golcar Ward Place	Pride In Linthwaite



		in the area difficult			Standard Investment Fund	
31	Care and Maintenance, Moving around, Streets and Spaces	Access routes to the Canal are often overgrown and unusable	People wanted to be able to access the canal more but the access routes from Manchester road are often overgrown	Clear access routes to the Canal		Pride In Linthwaite and Kirklees Parks Team

### Get involved

To get involved or find out more, please contact:

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This document and more information is available online at:

[www.HowGoodIsOurPlace.org.uk](http://www.HowGoodIsOurPlace.org.uk)