



20 minute neighbourhood – a community perspective

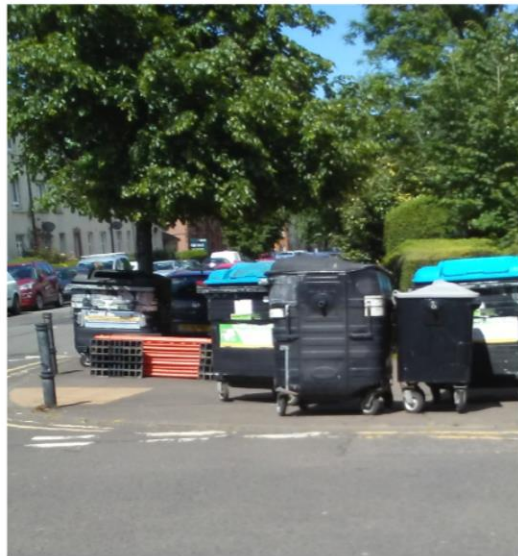
SURF March 2023

Living Streets - The UK Charity for everyday walking

- We want to inspire and support people to walk more
- We want pavements and footpaths that are pleasant and easy to walk on or wheel along

For more information, see our website

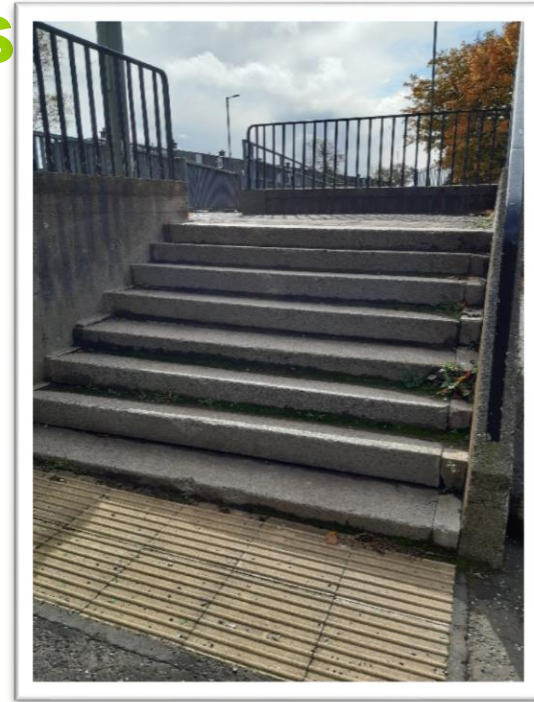
<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us>



20 minute neighbourhood - definitions

The 20-minute neighbourhood is the idea that people can meet their essential needs within a 20-minute walk.

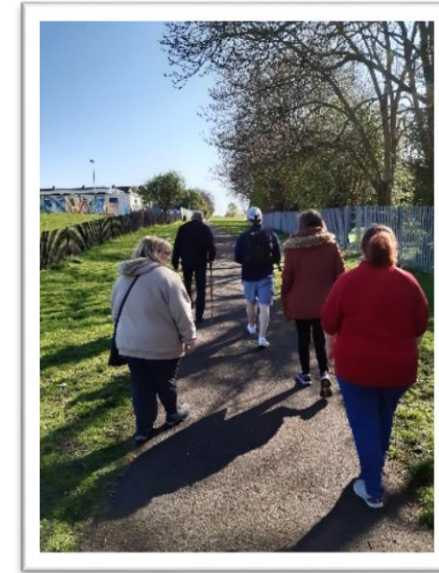
However, we define it as living locally, meaning that a person can reach all their essential needs on foot within a distance they are comfortable and willing to travel.



20 minute neighbourhoods – Great in theory

When you speak to people, they like the idea of living locally.

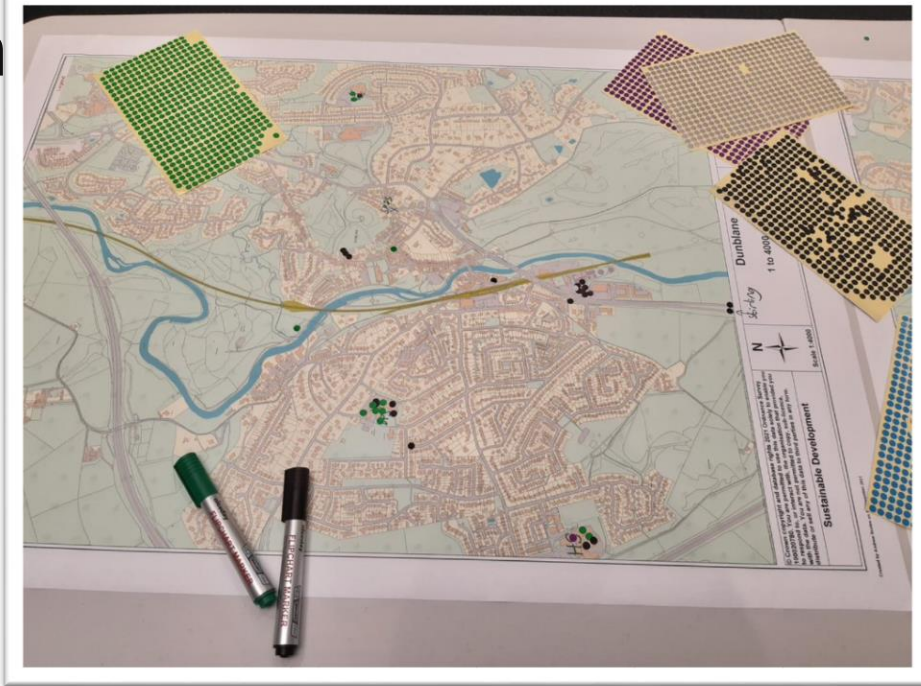
People understand there would be health benefits, it would be better for the planet and it would allow for local connectivity



Here's the “but”

However.....

When you speak to people about what their neighbourhood is like to live in, and how they live their lives. the picture is m



What we did

- community street audits
- Survey Monkey questionnaires
- youth workshops
- lots of meetings and discussions with
- partner organisations
- disability groups
- webinars
- conversations



What people told us – street audits

Pedestrian and disabled access can feel like, “an afterthought”

Lack of continuous pavement

Maintenance and care e.g. “areas which have been left to overgrow create a bad look for the community.”

“There’s a lack of safe crossing points”

The area around the main shops is hazardous,

“I would love to have more shops around the village.”

Lack of access to public transport



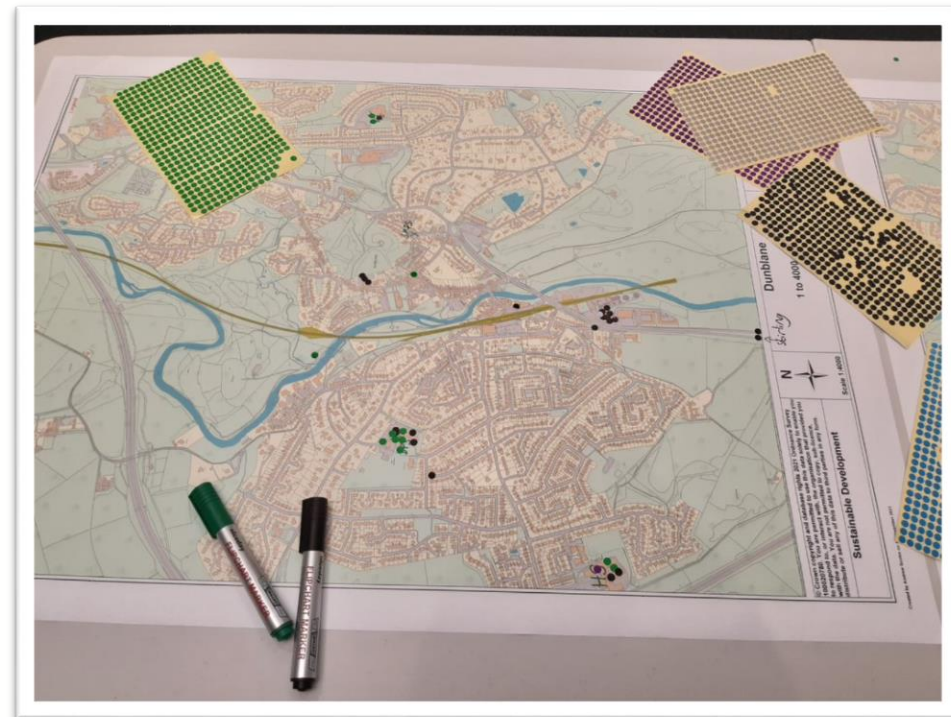
LIVING
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What people told us – workshops

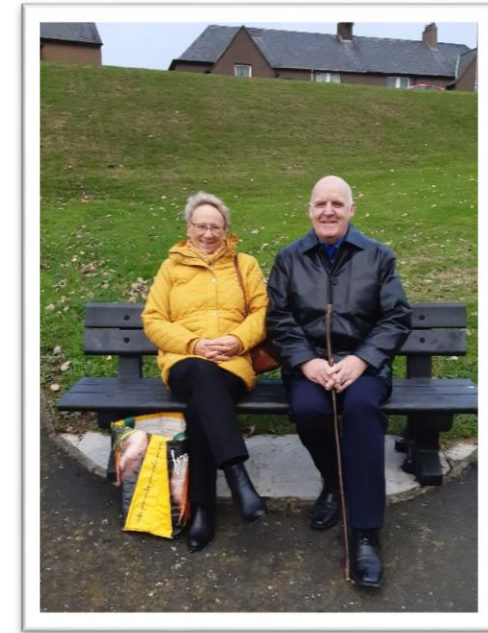
The workshop methodology was to ask people where they had been that week and how they had travelled there.

- Children already walk to school - we're driven almost everywhere else
- Teenagers go to a wide range of places, and walk almost everywhere.
- Adults walked in their neighbourhood, but drive to the supermarket.



Learning from communities

- “If you can’t walk the whole route, you can’t make the journey”
- “It’s so frustrating that we have lovely walks, but I can’t use them because of the steps...”
- “I would love to have more shops around the village.”
- “Mum says we don’t have time to have dinner and walk to the youth club.”



I wouldn't start from here

One of the biggest challenges is retrofitting – our communities are what they are.

How do we turn the communities that we live in, the places that we shop, the places where we work, into functioning 20 minute neighbourhoods?

Our findings indicate that this is complicated – it involves

- A detailed understanding of place
- Economics
- Lifestyle
- Working patterns
- Family structures





<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/8794/20-minute-neighbourhoods.pdf>

Thank you

For more information contact Kate or Anne -

kate.joester@livingstreets.org.uk

anne.docherty@livingstreets.org.uk

