Who is WAT IF?
WAT IF? is made up of our members, some of whom stand as Trustees and some who are involved in volunteering on projects.
Since October 2014 there has been a full time development officer who works to implement the community action plan, and is the first point of contact for the Trust: Jemma can be contacted at jemma@watif.scot

How can you get involved?
There are lots of different projects going on, all which need volunteers with different skills. Some need practical hands on volunteers, while some need keen minds to campaign on issues like healthcare and transport. If you are interested in getting involved speak to Jemma on 07539 430 734.

How is WAT IF funded?
WAT IF? has funding from an agreement with Muirhall Windfarm Extension Ltd. The Trust also applies for grants for specific projects, and has had awards from Levenseat and Renewable Energy Fund.

How can you apply for a WAT IF grant?
WAT IF? allocates 20% of the community benefit funds to the grant schemes. You can apply anytime for up to £500 through the small grant scheme and twice a year up to £2,500 is awarded in the large grant scheme. See more details at www.watif.scot.

Auchengray Church Centre awarded £2,500
The first Large Grant has been awarded to Auchengray Church Centre for their project to restore the stained glass window and brickwork at the church. The ACC Trust has worked very hard in the last year to raise money for the extensive works and WAT IF? are very pleased to support their project.

Woolfords Car Park complete!
The car park works have now been finished at Woolfords; the boundary wall is repaired, there is a new stockproof fence and the car park has been completely resurfaced.
The Woolfords Village Association was awarded a small grant to get the car park lined, which has really finished off the project!
We want to say a big thank you to everyone for the patience and cooperation shown during the works.
Community Action Plan Updates

The 5 themes come from the Community Action Plan which was created based on the response of the community consultation in 2012/2013. You can see the action plan at: www.watif.scot.

Theme 1: Roads and Transport
Jemma has recently met with the South Lanarkshire Council Roads Manager for the WAT IF? area and there are now plans in place for temporary repairs on a few sections which have been continually highlighted as particularly bad. These include the junction just after Auchengray heading towards Carnwath, and the road verge approaching Woolfords from West Calder. These will be patched this year and then put into the full works programme for permanent repair next year. Unfortunately in April the bus which used to run once a month to Hamilton was stopped—this was not a council decision, the company itself stopped operating. This is a sore loss for all who used the service, and we did approach SPT and the council to see if they could replace it, but the MyBusRural service only covers as far as Lanark on a single journey. We are continuing to work with Fauldhouse Development Trust to try to establish a sustainable community transport alternative into West Lothian.

Theme 2: Green Spaces and Heritage
Work continues on the main heritage trail between Tarbrax and Woolfords, investigating viable options for improving the walking conditions. We are also looking at funding options for creating pathway links into West Lothian, potentially through the two new wind developments at PearieLaw and Harburnhead. This will open up off-road routes into Harburn and West Calder, linking up to the work that West Calder and Harburn Development Trust are undertaking in their areas.

Theme 3: Village Enhancement and Facilities
Work is now complete at Woolfords car park, with a new surface, marked parking bays, a new fence and repaired boundary wall; it really finishes off the Woolfords Village Hall project. Local residents have once again got involved to further enhance the area with a small grant being awarded for containers and hardy plants for the village hall grounds. A small grant has also been awarded for landscape improvements around Tarbrax Village Hall, and on Sunday July 12th the management team and Trustees of WAT IF? held their first ‘Community Work Day’ to strim the grass around the hall, plant up new planters and repaint the fence. It really makes such a difference and it’s now easier to maintain the grass and landscape.

Theme 4: Community Activities
We are currently still in discussions with South Lanarkshire Council regarding the community land behind Auchengray Primary School; the land is very boggy and would need substantial drainage works to even get a decent access into the site. The land is still being assessed whilst other options are considered for community growing land.

Theme 5: Services and Communications
The Broadband Technical Survey has been complete and the final report submitted to the Board of Trustees—this has allowed the Trust to see exactly what the current situation is and what options are available for improvement. We are still working with Farrpoint consultancy and they have recommended that the most viable and sustainable option is ‘Build and Benefit’ which will involve working with BT; this is a new concept and so discussions are still ongoing, and we will keep the communities updated on progress.

WAT IF? is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC043606)