

Project: **'Memories of Seven Lochs' Communities: A people's history'**.

Respondent: Tracy Smart

Year of Birth: 1975

Age: 48

Connection to project: Grew up in Easterhouse

Date of Interview: 04/09/23

Interviewer: Kathy Green

Recording Agreement: Yes

Information & Consent: Yes

Photographic Images: No

Length of Interview: 29 minutes 52 seconds

Location of Interview: Ruchazie

Recording Equipment: Zoom H4n (internal mics)







Time (from: mins/secs)	Description	Transcribed Extract (from- to: mins/secs)
0.00 – 00.31	Interviewer confirms respondents details and confirms she was brought up in Easterhouse, a Seven Lochs area.	
0.32 – 1.09	Respondent talks about her family, she tells us how many siblings she had and what her parents jobs were. She was born in England but came up to Easterhouse when she was 6 months old with her mum as her parents separated.	
	“My dad was a labourer and my mum, I’d say she was a machinist at that time, a sewing machinist.”	0.51 – 0.58
1.10	Respondent describes the home that she grew up in. She describes the helpful community they had at the time.	
	“Two bedroomed flat, one up and it was just two bedrooms, kitchen, toilet, living room. And it was a brilliant flat, absolutely brilliant, we knew all the neighbours, everybody knew us, but it wasn’t one of the ones you’d talk about, nothing like that but nah, it was, it was a brilliant square, like the kids all used to come out and play.”	1.19 – 1.36
	“Everybody helped each other, if somebody needed something, there was always, like when my mum had my little sister, everybody was always at the door, ‘Can we take the baby out? Can we take the baby out?’, ‘Take her, on you go.’ So there was always somebody, anybody needed anything, there was always someone to ask.”	1.40 – 1.55
2.00 – 2.15	Respondent talks about the issues in the community, she says there was a lack of jobs.	
	“Jobs, nobody could get a job, it was really hard, I can remember it, like struggling cause my mum was out of work after my sister was born and it was hard to get back into work I think, that was the main, what I can remember at that time, cause I was only little.”	2.00 – 2.15
2.16 – 4.10	Respondent talks about her nursery days, she tells us that everyone she went to nursery with went on to go to school with her also. She tells us that she doesn’t remember much about her primary school teachers and that she went to secondary school in England. She recalls her most vivid memory of school being from when she got taken to the nit-nurse	
	“Me and my daughter went up to Easterhouse the other week, about 4 weeks ago to see her Grandma, and we got off the bus at Loch End Road and I went, ‘Aw Kacy, that’s, that’s my nursery its still standing, look at it.’	2.24 – 2.52

	And she's like, 'what?', I went, 'It looks the exact same as when I went, I was there actually 45 year ago I went,' and she went, 'What?' I went, 'Aw naw that makes me feel old.' I never feel old until that point where I said, that makes me feel so old, but naw the nursery was absolutely fantastic."	
	"Nit-nurse, I can always remember getting took to the nit-nurse, not just like always getting sent down to the nit-nurse and the injections when it was time to go for your jag because me and another boy Robert we were the ones most terrified so we were always kept to the end, and there was a big staircase that you had to queue up to go. That is always what I remember, is the jags and the nit-nurse."	3.43 – 4.05
4.10 – 5.46	Respondent reminisces over the games she used to play outside with her friends. She goes over the rules from her favourite game, balls.	
	"Just used to love playing outside, see like hide and seek, chap door and run away, and tig and kerby. Balls was one of the ones we all loved like playing balls up against the wall, its like tennis , you'd two tennis balls and you'd songs that you don't to these and you could, there was all these different actions, putting them under your leg, behind your back. Brilliant."	4.15 – 4.36
	"You'd do like, 6 boys names you must remember and you'd do that with two hands and then when you were going to say the boys names, you'd do it with one hand so you'd say the 6 boys and then you'd say 5 girls, 4 colours, and there was also elastics aswell."	4.37 – 4.52
	"Boys had their football, we had our tennis balls, best ones were the, it was like spongey, naw the tennis balls usually went quite flat and you never got that bounce, but the spongey, I can't, like stress balls, that's, they're the best ones to play balls."	5.29 – 5.46
5.46 – 6.15	Respondent remembers her favourite food which was mince and tatties, and she also remembers eating 'strange food' as a child.	
	"Raw potato and raw sausage, and my mum used to let me eat it because if that was the only thing I was gong to eat, I was going to eat it. And it had to be link sausage it couldn't be square because I don't like square sausage, it had to be link, skin on aswell."	5.58 – 6.15
6.15 – 7.00	The interviewer asks about whether the respondent had any holidays, she recalls that her holidays were just going down to England to visit her dad during the school holidays and she doesn't remember ever going away or having local holidays. She sums up her childhood by saying it was brilliant and she loved it.	
7.00 – 9.30	Respondent tells us why growing up in Easterhouse was her favourite place. She loved how you never felt on your own. She goes on to tell us about being a teenager in Easterhouse in her day.	
	"It was just knowing everybody and always, you always had somebody, there was always somebody there, you never, you never felt alone, like if you were out playing, and you were on your own, there would always be somebody that showed up, you wouldn't be sitting there for hours on your own like a lost puppy. Somebody would always show up to play with you, even if you were just making mud pies."	7.03 – 7.24
	"On a Saturday, we used to go to The Project, it was behind St. Leonards Secondary School and it was like the half dome, they were like corrugated domes, like really long and it was a disco, every Friday and Saturday night, you used to have the younger one and after that you'd have the older one and we used to go to them every Friday or Saturday."	7.51 – 8.07
	"The only thing, I remember the summer games, summer holidays, because I would always miss out on the last week of the summer holidays because I was always down in England and that's when you got to like go	8.21 – 8.35

	away for the day and stuff, I would always miss out on that because I was always down in England at my dads.”	
	“In Bishoploch Primary School, that’s usually where it was, just in the, like the playground, just played all day, games, arts, crafts I says, but I would always miss out on the best part at the end, discos and going away for days because I was down in bloody England.”	8.45 – 8.59
	“I don’t know if it was council run, but there was always say about 5, 10, between 5, 10 leaders and I think mainly it was mums, from the community, mums and dads who had set it up, and I think it was because there’s nothing here for the kids to do during the summer, for there wasn’t any parks, there wasn’t like any swingparks or anything we could go to, so it was just, so they took us to like Bishoploch and that’s where we would like play games they had all the bats and balls and stuff.”	9.02 – 9.29
9.35 – 11.24	Respondent recalls the secondary school that she briefly went to before moving down to England. It was St. Leonards. She talks about St Leonards accidentally getting knocked down. She remembers her school discos.	
	“They were supposed to knock down, St, Loch End across the road from it, but naw it was St Leonards that got knocked down, I mean they went through the whole thing of the kids getting moved to different schools, it got emptied and then after it got knocked down I think they realised it, aye it was meant to be Loch End.”	10.23 – 10.40
	“We were only kids at the time and at that time I wouldn’t go and like the way kids would go and do it now they’d go and get drunk before, never done that, wait until after it and then you’d think, ‘Can we get somebody to get us a bottle of Merrydown, that was it was in they days. Naw they were pretty naff, boys one side girls the other side, and the girls in the corner dancing and the boys just going ‘Ohh.’”	11.00 – 11.24
11.26 – 11.52	Respondent talks about what she did after secondary school in England. She went to college but left partway through to move back up to Easterhouse to her mum and didn’t get back into college. After that she became a cleaner.	
11.55 – 12.57	Respondent remembers all the places that she lived between Scotland and England.	
	“Corpark Place, Easterhouse, that was a good, that was like a half cul-de-sac kind of and it had a big grassy bit in the middle, they did regenerate that and there was a kind of small park I think but it was never ever used.”	12.19 – 12.32
13.00 – 16.17	Respondent remembers the poverty that affected people back in her day, she talks about how community helps each other. She talks about the respect of younger people often referring to adults as either aunty or uncle.	
	“If you know your neighbours and you know them well everybody sticks together, anybody needs anything somebody will say, ‘well I’ve got this, do you want..?’ And it was the same in the olden days as the kids call it. Now it’s a bit harder because there’s a lot of new people and that coming in and you don’t really know, I mean I’ve known, like I’ve been in this place, this house, since 2009 and my neighbours are all good we all know. But we wouldn’t so much, well I don’t know, next door they gave me a load of baby stuff when their grandkids had grown up, when my grandson came they were like, ‘We don’t want to throw this out do you want it? Once you’re done with it, do what you want.’ We gave it to The Pantry cause we’d rather somebody else took it than.. so in that way aye, as long as you know them and everybody’s good to each other, you keep yourself to yourself, but if you know somebody and you know	13.10 – 14.02

	somebody's in need then you're going to try help them as much as you can without offending them."	
	"Everybody was your aunty and your uncle, didn't matter how they were, how well your mum knew them, they were your aunty and your uncle. You done something wrong and it was a clip, aye that was it was like when we were growing up."	14.27 – 14.38
16.19 – 17.55	Respondent tells us about what she likes to do for leisure now, she tells us that she likes to meet her friend in a café and also going to visit her mum, due to being sore she doesn't go out much. At home she enjoys reading and doing cross-stitching	
18.00 – 19.17	The respondent talks about the jobs that she has done, she has been a cleaner, worked in a childrens home in England and her favourite job was in a Petrol Station in England.	
19.20 – 20.09	Respondent talks about the main industries in the area. She talks about the Soapworks, but she doesn't know what they do.	
	"Queenslies got a lot of, all these different companies, warehouses and stuff, my brother, my son-in-law works, he just actually started a new job, another one of them! This is the third one in Queenslie hes had, but theres a lot of cash n carries, stuff like that over there, but Soapworks is the main one that I can remember from being little to still being there today, that and the shopping centre, that's the main things I remember from being small."	19.42 – 20.09
20.10 – 21.13	Respondent talks about the difference in availability in work now compared to before. She talks about her daughter and what she would like to do for her career.	
	"Theres different types but there's less aswell, it's a lot harder to get a job nowadays. My 23 year old, I think she was 3 years before she actually got a wee part time job. Nobody was willing to take her on. You've not got any experience."	20.16 – 20.30
21.14 – 23.59	Interviewer asks respondent whether she thinks the area has changed and she tells us that she does. She talks about how she thinks there is more new-builds rather than closes now. She says her sister didn't recognise the area in recent years.	
	"And there isn't anything there, where we stayed its just green, that's where the tram lines were supposed to be getting, and then they decided after the houses came down, not to do the tram lines which is the usual. But everything has changed. Even here, my mum lived in Blairloggie St, she moved down south after I had my eldest but if she hadn't moved she would have been getting moved anyway because they were pulling Blairloggie St down, she was in the T-Close, when she moved, they pulled the houses down, in Bothwell Street, but they've not actually done anything, so that's empty, there's nothing and I mean my eldest is 26 this year, so that's how long that's been sitting empty. Whereas Easterhouse, they've got, it, it does look brilliant up there. Probably the same people."	22.14 – 22.53
	"One of the ones who stayed in Tinas close, we called him Uncle Grubber, he was the last one to leave Canopy St. He refused to leave until he got the house that he wanted. He wasn't going to be just put into some shithole. And he got, he eventually got the house that he wanted, he was the only person in this street, everything else was all boarded up, he was the last one standing until he got what he wanted and he did get it."	22.55 – 23.18
	"The pitches are still there, behind the schools that we used to go and play, fight, we never used to fight we used to sit and watch them and have a laugh, tell them when the Police were coming."	23.52 – 23.59
24.00 – 25.44	Interviewer asked if the respondent can recall any community campaigns, respondent tells us she doesn't. She also tells us that she has	

	never been politically active. She talks about the media portrayal of her area, she says it is bad.	
	“Crap, its like, it’s a shithole, and that’s where all the scum, the East End is terrible, don’t go to the East End, go to the South Side go to the West End, go all there get nice houses and all that there, everybody comes from the same place. Everybody forgets where they, most of these political people and all that, the ones on the news, they forget where they came from. They probably came from the same place as us, they weren’t born with a silver spoon in their mouth, running about, snotty nosed, dirt in your fingers.”	24.08 – 24.35
25.48 – 29.45	Respondent describes herself as British/English but also that her home is in Scotland. She also says that she feels part of the wider Seven Lochs Area. She talks about the Seven Lochs area as a whole and how she thinks the land could be better used. She also discusses about how to improve community relations. She sums up her most important thing about Seven Lochs as a neighbourhood.	
	“Some of the changes are really good, some of them are really, I understand the ones with the Seven Lochs, where they’re doing all the Environmental gardens and stuff. I do agree with them, but I do think the land could be better used. More housing, like affordable housing and stuff, cause there’s a lot of green space, like over there that’s the path between Craigend, Easterhouse, eh , Craigend, Ruchazie is the path and it’s a big massive space and they have done a kind of nice bit but then the rest of its just overgrown because they’ve just put all the bloody voles in, moved the voles from one place to another place and then up here, to fix it. It’s just stupid, so they’re not allowed to build on those lands. Used to be a football pitch and that there, but I think the lands could be better used. Swing parks, even a car park, especially at school times, the two primary schools I don’t know how nobodys been killed yet. It is disgusting the amount of traffic parked and speeding at school times. It is horrible, really bad. But naw, it is getting better, the politicians are trying to get more funding and stuff, to help the communities, but I just don’t think its there.”	26.16 – 27.26
	“More community policeman again, the way it used to be, somebody who knows everybody, who is friendly and you can talk to them without feeling, ‘Aw I shouldn’t be talking to them because somebodys going to think I’m saying something.’ And just more things for the kids. I think communities now-a-days are what we are trying is more things for the kids, more things for us adults aswell, which is what The Pantry is doing. With our little clubs and our reading group once a month and I’m doing one tomorrow.”	27.45 – 28.11
	“Community, its knowing people, it’s the people that make Seven Lochs, it’s the people who have been here all these years, like the elderly, they’re the ones who can tell you what it was like when it first.”	29.05 – 29.16
29.45 – 29.52	Interviewer thanks respondent for sharing all her memories.	
   		
Communities Past & Futures Society cpandfs@outlook.com		