

Placemaking guide

Contents

Placemaking guide.....	1
Understanding the character of Perth & Kinross	3
Vision for Placemaking.....	6
Vision for buildings and new development	9
Vision for roads, streets and civic spaces	14
Vision for greenspaces.....	23
Vision for rivers, burns and lochs	33
Vision for My Space	40
Problems and answers.....	42
Sir Patrick Geddes.....	44

This online guide gathers together the latest best practice on managing and improving places from Scotland, the UK and Europe. It aims to help residents, businesses, politicians and professionals work together to find out more about public spaces, the design of new development and the creation of place.



Town and village centres, residential streets and country roads, parks and playgrounds, paths and pavements, countryside, buildings and car parks, together with the backdrop of landscape are vital to creating the quality of place in Perth and Kinross. They are part of our everyday lives, supporting transport, tourism, and business.

Placemaking in Perth and Kinross is not a "painting by numbers" exercise where standard solutions can be applied and copied. In fact that is one of the problems. The only standard the guide advocates is one of quality. The goal is to turn spaces into places; places that show that someone, somewhere cares for them, and believes they matter.

What the guide does therefore is provide information to help us make the links, and think how best to make improvements needed through:

- An understanding of what makes Perth and Kinross Special
- A shared vision for improvement
- The tools to do the job.

The guide has been based as much as possible on the traditions of Perth and Kinross. In particular it picks up the approach of [Sir Patrick Geddes](#), who was a forefather of the modern environmental movement, spent his childhood in Perth and on Kinnoull Hill.

Understanding the character of Perth & Kinross

The section provides vital reading and reference to help stop Perth and Kinross turning into an anywhere place no different from any other part of Scotland, or the UK.



To maintain and improve the identity and character of Perth and Kinross we need to understand what makes it special and how it works.

There is a wealth of information available on Perth and Kinross; its landscape, its economy and its city, towns and settlements. In this section of the guide you will find an introduction and summaries of many of those sources. But you can also study spaces and places themselves using your own powers of observation and reason.

Making Perth & Kinross distinctive

Places and spaces look different and are different. Often this is because they have been created to do different jobs and have a different history. A village that was founded 1000 years ago or more, is different in form and appearance to one that was created in the 18th century, or a residential estate built today. We need to ensure they all function well. We need to ensure they are attractive.

- To make Perth and Kinross distinctive we need to make it look more like itself, and less like anywhere else.
- We should seek the best ideas available but avoid unimaginative copying from other areas.
- We should be enterprising and inventive, and be proud of what we have.

Damaging the character

Poor quality maintenance, improvement or new development can damage that character. Examples include:

- Damaging unspoilt countryside with excessive signs and advertising, using inappropriate materials
- Replicating poor quality buildings can be found anywhere in the UK that do nothing to enhance the special character of Perth and Kinross

- Opting for things that look stylish today, but look tired and commonplace tomorrow
- Turning characterful main streets, the hearts of our communities, into corridors for cars.

Failing to understand how Perth and Kinross works has other risks:

- Housing becoming unsuitable for modern lifestyles
- Greenspace failing to meet our expectations for quality of life leading to falling property values
- Difficulties for businesses in going about their day to day work
- People not being able to lead reasonable lifestyles
- Loss of trade, wealth and jobs.

Understanding landscape, loch and river

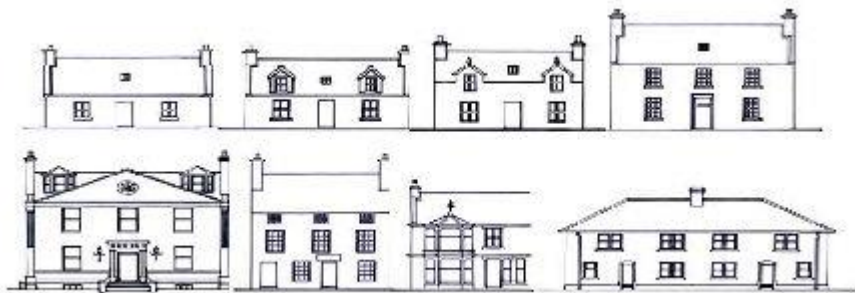
Perth and Kinross's exceptionally diverse range landscape with 16 different types, ranging from sea to sub-alpine, is in itself very unusual in Great Britain.

- View the  [Understanding landscape, loch and river booklet \[607kb\]](#)

Understanding settlements, streets, buildings and materials

This section of the guide traces the history of the development of Perth and Kinross from the pre-history to the present. It has developed in a series of layers, with each generation contributing something that influences the next. Most of what we see of Perth and Kinross was created after about 1700. It was designed around farming, with planned roads, villages, and market towns all part of that system. However life has moved on substantially since then, and we are putting roads and settlements to very different purposes.

Some settlements are planned, and laid out on a grid with straight roads sometimes with important buildings lying on axis, the ancient settlements have irregular winding roads that radiate outwards from a central point, and sometimes are larger central space. These features define the character of the settlement.



There are comparatively few styles of building; many are government by rules of proportion and are built from local stone, with local detailing. They have a strong influence on sense of place. There is the potential to develop a tradition of high quality contemporary Perth and Kinross architecture.

But probably the thing that makes the biggest difference to the look of Perth and Kinross is the use of local materials for building, walling, roofing, fencing and so on. Up till the arrival of faster, cheaper transport in the form of first the railways and later motor lorries, local communities were built with local stone.

For more information, view [Understanding the character of Perth and Kinross](#)

Understanding the economy

Buildings, space and settlements are shaped by the economy. The current knowledge and tourism based economy is very dependent on a high quality environment and public realm to attract both the tourists and knowledge workers that are its lifeblood.

- Find out more about [Understanding the Economy](#).

Understanding people

An ancient and enterprising people that were instrumental in the foundation of the Scottish nation and have contributed to world history.

- Find out more about [Understanding the People](#).

Downloads

- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17882&p=0>
- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1160&p=0>
- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1204&p=0>

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Vision for Placemaking

There is a big national drive on to improve the quality of place to help: provide a better quality of life for all people adopt healthier lifestyles combat climate change encourage jobs and tourism protect the environment and encouraging wildlife create warm, friendly communities and places with a strong identity of which we can be proud.

These objectives are of vital importance to the success of Perth and Kinross. Our aim is to bring about a vision of a quality of place of which we can be proud to say - nae place mair braw!

Scotland's finest new concert hall



Beautifully cared for villages



Sma' glen - a beautiful natural landscape steeped in memories



How public space links with the Council's corporate plan objectives

The national agendas are strongly reflected in the objectives of our Council's Corporate Plan.

- **Objective 1:** A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment
- **Objective 2:** Healthy, Caring Communities

- **Objective 3:** A Prosperous, Sustainable, Inclusive Economy
- **Objective 4:** Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens
- **Objective 5:** Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities

Quality of place and space, and the movement and life they support, play a key role in delivering the objectives of the [Corporate plan](#) and other national and local policies.

Find out more about  [Placemaking guide policies \[259kb\]](#).

Working as a team and the need for balanced decisions

This guide is here to help people develop common goals and work together to achieve them. The different groups that need to be involved include:

- **Public sector:** Perth and Kinross Council, Community Councils, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, the Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage,
- **Private sector:** local shops and businesses, national and international companies
- **Politicians and community leaders:** at both national and local level.
- **Professionals:** including architects, engineers, landscape architects, planner
- **Voluntary sector:** bloom groups, friends of parks
- **Individuals:** residents, visitors

Balanced decisions

Delivering multi-functional, quality public spaces requires skill, knowledge and thought. It is not a question of applying guidance and standards, but of making balanced decisions that reflect local needs. To do this is a challenge that has defeated many local authorities across the UK. For a comprehensive information on the subject see: [Balanced decision making and team work](#)

Remember, we all have both a responsibility and the authority to deliver the Council's corporate plan, and turning Perth and Kinross into a place that is the finest of all.

Link	Think
Policies, people and place	Function and attractiveness
Environment, society and	Movement and

economy	place
	Opportunity and risk
	Today and tomorrow

Downloads

- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=17039&p=0>
- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11080&p=0>

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Vision for buildings and new development

Perth and Kinross promotes innovative, sustainable development of new buildings, retention and reuse of the best of our existing buildings through high quality development that enhances local character and respects its context.



Perth Concert Hall is an iconic, landmark building and is an associated open space which respects its context.

Introduction

The design quality of our buildings and public spaces is fundamentally important.

They set the scene for our lives and help to create positive environments that nurture and inspire us, as individuals and as communities. Good design supports our economy and meets the challenge of creating a dynamic Perth and Kinross with a strong visual identity and sustainable future.

Perth & Kinross Council believes that high standards in architecture and design should be promoted. High standards of design are inclusive and should be afforded to all users of buildings and spaces no matter their perceived importance. Positive environments are created from distinctive architectural forms and spaces.

The Scottish Executive through its 'Policy on Architecture for Scotland' and subsequent 'Designing Places' and 'Designing Streets Policy Statements', Scottish Planning Policies and a variety of Planning Advice Notes, has placed design at the forefront of the planning process.

These documents re-emphasise that design is a material consideration in determining planning applications. Development in Scotland is managed using a plan led system, which sets out what can be built and in which locations. Perth and Kinross Council operates under the TAYplan and its own local development framework consisting of a Structure Plan and

Local Plans.

Perth and Kinross Council has a key role to play in encouraging applicants to improve standards of design. When a planning application is made, the design quality of the proposal is amongst the matters assessed by the Council.

The Placemaking Guide provides applicants with information and advice on the local context to be considered in maintaining buildings and developing design proposals and will be used in the determination of planning applications.

Maintaining and improving the quality of the built environment is not solely the responsibility of the Council. Owners and have a responsibility to maintain their buildings and spaces. Developers and designers have a responsibility to ensure that alterations and new development is sustainable of an appropriate quality that recognises local context.

The following design principles identify the objectives of Perth & Kinross Council in achieving consistent, high standards in design. The associated design chapters provide the context and guidance on how to put these principles into action, including relevant examples.

Principles

Principle 1

- To maintain and improve the identity and character of Perth and Kinross

All development proposals must be able to identify and capture the character and essence of a place.

Designers have a key role to play in conserving and enhancing the characteristics which give value in our built heritage such as identifiable settlement patterns, architectural form and landscape. New development or alterations which are sensitively designed with a sound understanding of immediate and surrounding context are more likely to be enjoyed, cared for and valued.



Stanley Mills, Stanley

Principle 2

- To encourage innovation and sustainability in design

The quality of our architecture and of our urban and rural places is vital to the perception of Perth and Kinross as a place of imagination, creativity and innovation. Sustainable outcomes can be achieved through contemporary, sensitively integrated, well designed and efficient developments, which positively enhance our built environment and help stimulate local economies.



Rock House, Loch Tay

Using existing onsite timber and stone, this award winning contemporary, sustainable home, has been designed with careful consideration to its context through form and finish.



Cedar House, Logiealmond

Built within budget ethos; this award winning building shows how appreciation for context and a subtle application of high quality building materials are two basic elements to get right

for a well considered design solution whilst not having to cost the world. (We are awaiting better images)

Principle 3

- To encourage well connected welcoming places

A well thought out design must have well connected routes which provide access for all forms of transport and help define the boundaries between public, semi-public and private space thereby helping to create safe, secure and welcoming places.



Muirton, Perth

Shared surfacing, which includes clear boundaries, movement choices, natural surveillance and retention of landscape features

By applying these principles, Perth & Kinross Council aims to raise the standard of design quality in the built environment when determining planning applications and advocate best practice, to ensure that Perth and Kinross is a welcoming, successful and creative place.

Summary - Sustainable Development

Perth & Kinross Council believes sustainable development is achieved through a close relationship between conservation, regeneration and innovation, balancing dynamic change on the one hand with conservation on the other; creating a place recognised for its heritage but also for its vision and vitality.

Successful building design involves particular skills and applicants are always recommended to employ the services of skilled design professionals including architects, urban designers, engineers and landscape architects to give advice on appropriate design solutions to any given project.

Those involved in the development process should follow the process in 'Part 1 - Background, Vision & Process' in order to demonstrate an understanding and how they have been considered in reaching a design solution.

Perth & Kinross Council aims to advocate best practice and raise the standards of design quality in the built environment by applying the principles contained within through planning policy and consideration of planning applications to ensure that Perth and Kinross remains a welcoming, successful and sustainable place.

Vision for roads, streets and civic spaces

There is a huge range of roads, streets and civic spaces, that perform many different functions: enabling children to get to school, and adults to get to work, providing a route to see friends and loved ones, or a trip to the shops, making a delivery. Walking the dog, or going for a jog. The use is not only for movement but as a places too. The challenge is to bring these interests into balance, so that people and businesses are as free as possible to do the things they need to do, in a safe, attractive environment.

A sense of fun and freedom

Guides on roads and public spaces can be the dullest documents imaginable. Sometimes the focus is so much on preventing accidents that the opportunities that roads and the public space are forgotten. Sometimes it is finances that are the issue; and it is true this will always be a problem. Many of the ideas in this guide are expensive to bring about, but if we do not have an idea of what we could do, then we risk not doing anything. So let's raise our sights and aim to create in Perth and Kinross the public spaces that will provide a setting to help us live our lives out to the full.

In this section, you can view information on:

- [Town squares centres and squares](#)
- [Residential and other urban streets](#)
- [Main streets](#)
- [Junctions in towns and villages](#)
- [Public transport](#)
- [Village streets](#)
- [Paths and cycle routes](#)
- [Rural roads](#)

Town centres and squares

Town centres and squares are spaces at the hearts of our communities. They reflect the pride and enterprise of local citizens. They need to be easy to get to, safe to use and attractive.



These places need to be able to compete with out-of-town shopping centres. They need to be:

- Attractive
- Distinctive
- Safe
- Successful
- Accessible (by the whole community including people with disabilities, and by public transport)

Ideas of town centres and squares from Europe and elsewhere

- Being proud - the town centre is a symbol of the vitality of the community - it can advertise
- Putting pedestrians first - it is pedestrians that spend the money - they need to be looked after if the shopping area is to thrive.
- Encouraging activity and enjoyment: including street artists, festivals, cafe tables, food, street markets, places to sit, play areas: people attract people. People need to be invited to slow down, stop and enjoy the place - rather than speed through. This is why the city of Perth has is an accredited Cittaslow status and Perth and Kinross is the UK's first Cittaslow supporter details
- Introducing high quality lighting schemes, including decorative street lighting and the lighting of select buildings and trees.
- Public art, including fountains, celebration of local history, events and characters, landscaping.
- Reducing noise 20 mph speed restrictions to reduce noise and make it easier and safer to cross from one side of the street to the other

- Avoiding the need for large surface level car parks, by providing high quality, frequent public transport services, and networks of attractive walking and cycling routes make getting to the shops easy.



A change in the pattern of the paving in this small high street helps to slow traffic. It is a place to visit in its own right - not just somewhere on the way.

Main streets

Main streets are the true gateways, to our settlements. They comprise much of what people see of an urban area; they are the arteries that keep the settlement vibrant, but they are also places; for dwellings, schools, hospitals, shops, offices and factories; sometimes they are the most prestigious places of all. The increase in traffic over the years has brought to many of these main streets severance, noise, pollution, and dirt and danger. They present the most difficult problems to tackle.



Objectives include:

- Providing a prestigious, congestion free route into town that presents a good image.
- Providing an attractive, pleasant, and safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Providing efficient routes for public transport
- Providing space for businesses to be able to carry out their activities, including deliveries

Ideas of main streets from Europe and elsewhere

- Balancing movement and place functions
- Providing more space for activities other than through traffic - often it is the junctions that hold up traffic not the width of the road between them.



Options being used include:

- Placing a central median down the road so that pedestrians can cross anywhere,
- Using some of the space to provide on-street parking mixed with trees
- Narrowing lane width
- Creating shared spaces
- Slowing the speed of traffic to 20mph or lower, in order to cut noise to levels that allow conversation, and to reduce the danger to pedestrians and cyclists. The impact on journey times can be negligible.
- Providing high quality street and decorative lighting
- Minimising clutter
- Boulevard style main street - similar to the Dunkeld Road, Perth.
- A channelised main street with central median - the narrow lanes allow smooth flow of traffic but discourage excess speed. The median makes the task of crossing the road much easier for pedestrians who only have to judge one line of traffic at a time.
- Space reallocated - this was once a bleak, local shopping street with four lanes of fast traffic. A redesign changed this to 2 lanes for civilised traffic, and introduced trees and on-street parking for shoppers. Over ten years the growth in the trees has transformed the attractiveness and viability of this shopping area.

Residential and other urban streets

Residential streets are, above all other things, places for people. They need to provide a pleasant, quiet environment, where children are safe.



Challenges include:

- Managing the space made available for parked cars - and balancing this with greenspace in the street. There is a growing trend to trade front gardens for off-road parking: much to the detriment of quality of life.
- Ensuring traffic speeds and volumes are sufficiently low to protect children who may not have the capacity to judge moving traffic.
- Providing safe, attractive walking and cycling routes to key community facilities such as shops, schools and surgeries, and of course bus stops.
- Restoring to children some of the freedom they have lost over the past decades.

Ideas of residential and urban streets from Europe and elsewhere

- Play streets - actually a UK idea from the 1930s - traffic banned during the day time to provide children with a safe place to play.
- Traffic-calmed streets - aimed at keeping traffic speeds below 20mph and discouraging through-traffic.
- DIY Streets - a Home zone on the cheap
- Home zones - designed to be safe enough for children to be out on the street
- Shared space - similar concept to Home zone
- Autonomous vehicle speed control
- Quality lighting, to give people the confidence to go out at night, as well as to create an attractive night-time environment.
- Communal underground waste bins - to eliminate the clutter of wheeled bins in the street

- Car parking arranged at an angle or at 90 degrees, to make more efficient use of the roadspace, save people from wanting to use gardens as parking areas, and helping to stop speeding traffic.
- Protecting front gardens at risk turned into concreted parking areas.



1. This is a road outside a school - it has been narrowed, and drivers are left in no doubt that this is a place for children.
2. Streets don't have to look like through-routes; careful design and planting can allow traffic access while creating a sense of place.
3. Underground refuse and recycling facilities.

Junctions in towns and villages

They are essential for getting around either on foot or by car. They are often the thing that limits the vehicle flow on a road system. They also tend to be the places where accidents happen. They are important places in their own right, and are sometimes the setting for some of the finest buildings in an area, with builders over the centuries making the most of the opportunity to show off their skills.

As traffic levels have increased junctions have suffered. Many have become unattractive and cluttered, and measures that were intended to make junctions safer for pedestrians including guardrails have been called into question. The design of junctions has sometimes downplayed the needs of pedestrians. A queue of traffic looks much more dramatic than a crowd of pedestrians huddled in the rain waiting for the green man. And this is often reflected in public opinion, and campaigns for something to be done - council must tackle congestion etc. Yet it is the pedestrians who by walking rather than using their cars who are doing just that.

Ideas of junctions from Europe and elsewhere



1.

2.

3.

1. A raised junction slows traffic and makes life easy for wheelchair users. It also provides a direct crossing route for pedestrians.
2. Small roundabouts enable efficient movement of traffic around the junction. They are relatively safe and can be created with minimum clutter.
3. This is a shared space junction. The usual clutter has been replaced by fountains. What would have looked like a piece of motorway surrounded by buildings instead looks like an important local business centre; which is exactly what it is.

Village Streets

Changes in village life over the past century has seen the village change from a balanced working community into a dormitory providing accommodation for people working in nearby towns and cities. Through traffic has increased massively, bring noise and pollution. Buildings were commonly built right up against the road edge and have been badly affected.



The challenge is to provide a civilised environment, that encourages people to recognise the village street as a place first and as a movement corridor second.

Public transport; buses and Park + Ride

Quality bus services enable many more people to travel than if we were totally reliant on car use. They make far more efficient use of the space available, both on the roads and in the centres of towns and villages by eliminating the need for large car parks and can be used by everyone: young and old, as well as people who are disabled.



Waiting is one of the least pleasant aspects of using buses, but there are many things that can be done to make the experience more pleasant.

Ideas of public transport from Europe and elsewhere

- High quality bus shelters
- High quality buses that permit easy access for wheelchair users
- Count-down indicators on bus stops - that tell you how long to wait until the next service
- Information points at bus stops including maps, local amenities, contact numbers
- Divertible buses / on-demand services

Paths and cycle routes



To help reduce congestion, tackle global warming, and improve health, people should have a choice of attractive, secure and direct walking routes to nearby shops, schools, places of work, parks and leisure facilities. In new developments the opportunity should be taken to develop a segregated walking and cycling network that complements the existing settlement. The routes need to be carried through right to the destination, and that can involve looking at the way space is divided up with towns and villages, as well as the design of junctions.

There should be a range of leisure walking and cycling routes in and around towns and villages: where possible these should be on segregated or 'quiet routes'. The core paths

plans are bringing this into effect.

"Core paths are intended to give people reasonable access to their local area while taking account of land management needs. They should cater for all non-motorised forms of access such as walking, horse riding, cycling and paddling or sailing on water. Motor assisted vehicles designed for people with disabilities are included here too. Not all core paths will be suitable for all users but everyone should have a choice of routes available to them locally."

Rural roads

For most people the experience they obtain of Perth and Kinross's stunning natural landscapes is through the use of the rural road network. It is important therefore that these roads should look as natural and unspoilt as possible. Urban features should be avoided. Councils across the UK are often put under pressure to put in lines and signs, and provide warning notices and so forth, where people think a road is dangerous.



Problems can arise when a road is made to look safer than it actually is; it can lead to people taking less care, and making drivers more confident to speed. Problems arise when the road looks safer than it actually is, The freedom to use the roads is one of our basic freedoms, and with that freedom comes responsibilities and duties. The law gives drivers a duty to take the road as they find it, and to have regard to their own safety and that of other road users. There is no law that requires motorists to warn of dangers of which they are already aware.

Ideas of rural roads from Europe and elsewhere

- Keeping road signs to a minimum - only signing hazards that are not obvious to responsible drivers.
- Removing centre and edge lining - reducing drivers confidence to speed
- Not installing kerbs
- Making sure lighting, if it is installed, avoids creating light pollution.
- Using low-noise road surfaces on more heavily trafficked routes
- Providing footpaths away from the road edge, rather than footways right next to the road and its fast moving traffic.

Vision for greenspaces

This considers all types of greenspace public parks, private gardens and countryside, and the potential to increase value for both biodiversity and use by people.

Perth and Kinross has arguably some of the finest greenspaces in the UK including:

- The North Inch and South Inch in Perth.
- The Birks of Aberfeldy, renown due to its links with Rabbe Burns.
- [MacRosty park](#) in Crieff, holder of the prestigious Green Flag.
- It also has a number of smaller greenspaces which represent the best of their type.



There are also many magnificent gardens including both those which are open to the public, and private gardens which may delight passers by. It is easy to overlook the role that the open spaces of Perth and Kinross play in our lives, from providing places to meet and spend time or play during the course of the day, to providing the setting for major community events.


There is a wide range of different types and sizes of space. Scottish policy is set out in SPP11 and further advice is given in the [Scottish Government: Note 65 Planning advice \(Opens in a new window\)](#) which identifies the importance of providing a hierarchy of open spaces that can meet peoples' varying needs. We need to ensure our greenspaces perform a clearly defined function, are fit for purpose, and are well used. This applies to new development as well as to existing settlements.

The vision

Make the most of greenspace. These actions will help us achieve the objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The 3 key principles are:

Principle		Description
Provide for nature		Environmental sustainability Provide for a range of habitats for wildlife Link habitats together
Provide for people		Economic and social sustainability Face the greenspace Provide access to and within the greenspace Encourage activity

		Provide amenity and interest
Maintain		Physical sustainability Design and build to last Good maintenance - funding of up keep is more important than capital Involving the community and encourage use

The types of greenspace

Click on the links for more information on each type of greenspace.

Public parks and gardens	Private gardens or grounds	Amenity greenspaces
Playspace	Sports areas	Green corridors
Natural / semi natural greenspace	Other functional greenspace	

The types of greenspace referred to above follow the [Scottish Government: Planning advice note 65 \(Opens in a new window\)](#). In addition, spaces managed by Perth and Kinross Council are grouped in the following hierarchy;

- Regional importance - they should be renowned across Scotland and play a part in drawing visitors into Perth and Kinross.
- Settlement importance - they should be of importance to the community within the whole settlement
- Neighbourhood importance - they should be able to provide something special that adds to the distinctiveness of the neighbourhood within a settlement
- Local importance - they should provide access to greenspace close to home, with a range of local facilities that reflect local need. The routes to the greenspaces should be safe for all to use.

Public parks and gardens

"Areas of land normally enclosed, designed, constructed, managed and maintained as a public park or garden."



Provide for nature

- Environmental sustainability
- Provide for a range of habitats for wildlife.
- Manage to maximise range of habitats, including different types of grassland, such as unmanaged, flower meadow, right through to bowling green standard.
- Plant native species in hedges and borders where appropriate
- Avoid using biocides
- Link habitats together to create wildlife corridors
- Recycling trimmings and cuttings, using recycled products
- Use tree planting to help improve air quality.



Provide for people

- Economic and social sustainability
- Face the greenspace
- Make sure that buildings and communities face on to greenspace, rather than back on to it.
- Encourage activity and life
- Events
- Education
- Activities for mental health and physical activity
- Provide access to and within greenspace
- Make sure there is greenspace within easy reach of where people live and work.
- Provide safe attractive routes.
- Provide routes suitable for people who are disabled.
- Range of routes for different users
- Provide decent signage and attractive entrances
- Provide amenity and interest
- Park furniture such as benches
- Nearby toilets or comfort scheme

- Encourage nearby facilities such as cafe's or shops -all of which can increase use. Think about public art
- Provide play areas, sports pitches to meet and match the demand
- Provide a range of opportunities for physical exercise - play for children - or even play areas for adults
- Spaces for for relaxation, recuperation and quiet enjoyment

Maintain

The quality of public parks and gardens is all to do with inspired but practical design followed by devoted maintenance. It makes the difference between something that is exceptional and something that gets ignored. Quality maintenance creates a feeling of care and security, all of which encourage use. Dilapidation and neglect create fear.

- Physical sustainability
- keep litter under control
- sort out graffiti and vandalism
- put resources into maintenance first, and capital improvements second.

We also work to the Green Flag Scheme for the major parks. There are eight criteria under this scheme.

- A welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Clean and well maintained
- Conservation and heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing
- Management
- Sustainability

Private gardens or grounds

"Areas of land normally enclosed and associated with a house or institution and reserved for private use."

Private gardens and grounds contribute immensely to the enjoyment of the public spaces, and the sense of place. In streets they can provide interest and even charm and intrigue. Gardens in urban areas are also valuable in increasing biodiversity. The Council does not have direct responsibility for private gardens, but as a community and as individuals we have both responsibility and power.



Provide for nature

- Private gardens and grounds are the major natural environment in urban areas, and can support a wide range of animals and wildlife if looked after in the right way, such as by planting some native species of tree, shrubs or flowers.
- Don't turn front gardens into hard surfaced car parking areas.



Provide for people

Front gardens should add to the charm of street, and the pride of an area. Attractive front gardens makes walking more of a pleasure too.

- Don't seal-off gardens with 6 ft fences. They are ugly, prevent surveillance and can create a sense of fear - and require planning permission where they face the road.



Maintain

- Use powers to tackle untidy land and buildings
- Encourage quality gardens using award schemes
- Ensure that the routes to major tourist attractions are themselves attractive, and show Perth and Kinross at its best.

Amenity greenspace

Landscaped areas providing visual amenity or separating different buildings or land uses for environmental, visual or safety reasons i.e. road verges or greenspace in business parks, and used for a variety of informal or

social activities such as sunbathing, picnics or kickabouts.

There are many pieces of amenity greenspace that are of little value, and are a cost to the community. Key principles are: provide for nature; provide for people; maintain and manage, and in addition:

- Make sure the space has a value
- Re-design it
- Let the community run it
- Sell it or let it for use, for example, as a garden.

Playspace for children and teenagers

Areas providing safe and accessible opportunities for children's play, usually linked to housing areas.

In the UK, playspaces are normally separated from the rest of the community often being put in the corner of a park. The play facilities used to be very formal: a small collection of play equipment set into concrete.



The the best play areas today are designed and landscaped for a wide range of activities. The facilities provided allow children to play in a more imaginative and less structured way. In Europe there play areas can be found in the middle of streets, right at the very heart of communities.

Principles:

- provide a range of active and imaginative play equipment for the full range of children who are likely to use it.
- consider the needs of disabled children
- provide a stimulating play environment in a landscaped setting - that is fun to use, and pleasant to look at.
- make sure play areas are over-looked
- access - make sure that children can get safely from where they live to where they play
- playing in the street - consider the possibility of play streets and home zones.

Sports areas

Large and generally flat areas of grassland or specially designed surfaces, used primarily for designated sports i.e. playing fields, golf courses, tennis courts, bowling greens; areas which are generally bookable.



- Provide a range of sports areas based on an assessment of local community needs, and an audit of existing facilities their needs as part of a long term Playing Pitch Strategy
- All weather surfaces
- Provide lighting that does not cause light pollution
- Provide amenities including well maintained changing facilities
- Give the chance for local communities and clubs to manage their own facilities.
- Keep the equipment well maintained, and the surfaces, such as goalmouths
- Think carefully about car parking - it can rob an area of valuable greenspace, and may discourage walking and cycling.

Green corridors

Routes including canals, river corridors and old railway lines, linking different areas within a town or city as part of a designated and managed network and used for walking, cycling or horse riding, or linking towns and cities to their surrounding countryside or country parks. These may link green spaces together.



- Develop a network of off-road routes for walking and cycling that provides an attractive alternative to vehicle use
- Ensure the routes are linked to town centres
- Provide for people in wheelchairs.
- Consider surfacing - ranging from tarmac through to crushed stone
- Keep litter free

- Carefully designed and landscaped with attractive alignments, and good visibility
- Lit where needed
- Vegetation kept clear of the path
- Link habitats - an isolated habitat is worth far less to wildlife than one linked to others and ideally the surrounding countryside.

Natural / semi-natural greenspaces

Areas of undeveloped or previously developed land with residual natural habitats or which have been planted or colonised by vegetation and wildlife, including woodland and wetland areas. Perth excels with the finest natural greenspaces in the country such as The Birks of Aberfeldy and the falls of Moness.

These greenspaces are under a careful management regime that maximises their value to both nature and people.

Provide for nature



These greenspaces are under a sensitive management regime that aims to maximise the value and diversity of habitats.

Provide for people

- Range of circular walks
- Interpretation and education
- Viewpoints
- Parking and access
- Safety - warnings for hidden danger
- Routes for cyclists, horse-riders as well as disabled persons, children and people of varying levels of fitness

Other functional greenspaces

Other functional greenspaces include allotments, churchyards and cemeteries.

Provide for nature



- Manage the spaces to provide for wildlife and minimise the use of pesticides.
- Consider green graveyards

Provide for people



- Landscape interest
- Historic interest

Provide an attractive environment

- Consider creating some graveyards that are more like gardens.

It is possible for cemeteries There is a wide range of cemeteries, The Scottish tradition is for somber cemeteries, but this example from Denmark shows that they can be created to be more like gardens as well as remembrance.

Trees and woodland

Perth and Kinross is home to trees that are exceptional by world standards; including the world's tallest hedge, and the oldest tree in Europe. Trees do not live forever, and if we are to maintain this beauty then each generation needs to plant trees.

Protecting the trees:

- Species suitable for location
- Street trees
- Avenue Trees
- Parkland Trees
- Woodland

Downloads

- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11075&p=0>
- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11074&p=0>

Download a free [Adobe PDF Reader](#) to view PDF files.

Vision for rivers, burns and lochs

The vision is to make the most of rivers, burns and lochs summary provide for nature provide for people reduce flood risk maintain.

Introduction

The landscape of Perth and Kinross has been formed by ice and water and the resulting lochs, rivers and burns have provided livelihoods for local folk for thousands of years. Water has provided power for industry in watermills and latterly hydro-electric power, as well as aiding the cloth making and dyeing industries.

Water is an important wildlife habitat and plays a major role in drawing tourists to the area. Communities are realising the value of looking after natural water and the huge benefits and enjoyment that can follow.

The Vision - "nae place mair braw"


Perth and Kinross already has some of the finest lochs and rivers in the UK including:




- Loch Earn
- The River Garry
- Glen Lyon
- Falls of Moness
- Glen Lednoch
- The river frontage in Perth - finest of any town in Scotland

Perth and Kinross has the opportunity to make more of its rivers burns and lochs through excellent design, management and maintenance. These could bring an unrivalled benefit to the community as well as provide rich habitats for wildlife.

Make the most of rivers, burns and lochs

The following four principles will help us achieve the vision:

Provide for nature	Environmental sustainability Use a river basin management approach to the care of water. Encourage natural rivers, burns and lochs. Prevent or intercept pollution - reduce run off Maintain a natural look	
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<p>Provide for people</p>	<p>Provide for activity (fishing, canoeing, etc)</p> <p>Economic and social sustainability</p> <p>Face the water</p> <p>Provide access</p> <p>Create interest and amenity</p> <p>Celebrate crossings: bridges and fords</p>	
<p>Reduce flood risk</p>	<p>Tackle flooding at source and throughout the catchment</p> <p>Use sustainable drainage measures</p> <p>Don't build on land at risk from flooding (SPP7)</p> <p>If there is a problem with flooding that can't be solved by these measures then:</p> <p>Use natural engineering measures</p> <p>Use local materials</p> <p>Use natural land-forms</p> <p>Don't interfere with the equilibrium of the river and keep it natural.</p>	
<p>Maintenance</p>	<p>Remove litter</p> <p>Remove man made materials from river beds and loch shores - eg bricks, concrete blocks</p> <p>By following these principles we can achieve the objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A Safe, Secure and Welcoming Environment · Healthy, Caring Communities · A Prosperous, Sustainable, Inclusive Economy · Educated, Responsible and Informed Citizens · Confident, Active and Inclusive Communities <p>For further details please see the  Vision for rivers, burns and lochs booklet [3Mb].</p>	

Actions

Provide for nature

Water is essential to Scotland's 90,000 species. Rivers, burns and lochs provide vital habitats, and link everything wildlife together in a continuous chain. Their importance to nature cannot be understated. However water is under threat from pollution, over-drainage, and interference.

To provide for nature we need natural rivers and burns. Features to be looked for include:



Gravel beds provide a breeding ground for fish and invertebrates, pools and riffles form naturally and provide a ladder by which fish can navigate, the riffles oxygenate the water, the pools provide deeper water. A natural river will also form meanders.



This small section of burn is a barrier to wildlife. A 40 metre section with a depth of water less than 10 cm is sufficient to stop most fish. For further details please view the [📄 Vision for rivers, burns and lochs booklet \[3Mb\]](#).

Provide for people

People are naturally attracted to water, and the rivers, burns and lochs of Perth and Kinross are one of the main reasons why people visit the area, bringing in the best part of half a billion pounds in tourist income.

Encouraging safe use

Safety is an important issue, and sometimes it can be an emotive one with talk of fencing and warning signs. People have a right to enter water under the The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. A huge amount of fun and enjoyment can be had from water, but there are risks for the unwary and for the reckless.

People are under a duty to have regard to their own safety, and it is not the responsibility of anyone other than themselves to stop them undertaking reckless acts. The council will try to warn people where there is hidden danger. But there is a balance to be struck. There is no point in cluttering town and countryside with signs warning people of dangers of which they are already aware.

Young children are generally not aware of risks, and do need to be protected. Rule 4 of the Highway Code states that "Young children should not be out alone on the pavement or road". Similarly young children should not be out alone in the vicinity of water.

Face the water

Even though properties fronting water are worth as much as 20 percent more, most properties back on to water. The same can be said for communities. Very few make much use of their natural assets.



This burn has been turned from an asset into a problem. It has been hemmed in, its banks have been artificially steepened. The burn is now a nuisance, and there may be times when it is a threat.



Bourton on the Water in the south of England is a very popular tourist destination in England, bringing an estimated 250,000 people a year. The river is the focal point of the village. Each successive generation has worked to enhance its beauty.



A village in Yorkshire where the housing faces on to the river, and great care is taken over the maintenance of the public realm.



The houses in Dunning face the water too. A little more maintenance and a small amount of investment would turn this section of the Dunning burn into a truly beautiful location.

Provide amenity



The river frontage in York heaves with people. Rivers can be turned into magnets for people with the aid of some additional amenities such as restaurants, pubs or cafes. There are some important opportunities to be had in Perth and Kinross.

For further details please view the  [Vision for rivers, burns and lochs booklet \[3Mb\]](#).

Reduce flood risk

In the past flooding was dealt with where it happened, generally by raising walls or encasing watercourses in concrete. Today the Scottish Environment Protection Agency advocate sustainable flood management.

- Flooding is tackled by looking at the whole catchment: from source to sea
- The measures taken protect and work with natural systems and habitats, such as flood plains and wetlands and the dynamics of a river
- Soft engineering techniques are used in preference to hard engineering.

Soft engineering - using natural processes to do the work for us and addressing the problems of flooding by tackling them at source. Much of this revolves around trying to slow the flow of water down a catchment, and making sure that the river can use its natural floodplain. Reducing the peak flow by a few percent can prevent a damaging flood. Measures include:

- Replanting upland gully woodlands
- Restoring wetlands
- Planting new woodlands, and reversing the over-drainage of forestry plantations.
- Protecting banks with natural materials or vegetation.
- Using siphon outlets used instead of conventional piped outlets.

In some areas however we have developed on flood plains, even with historic settlements

Flood defence

Scotland has a legacy of damaged watercourses. It is a mark of past generations treating water as a liability rather than an asset.



Too many watercourses have been buried in underground culverts or set in concrete channels, as illustrated above on the left. However, it is possible to provide effective drainage and an attractive environment.

Perth and Kinross has some of the best examples of flood defence schemes in the UK.



The flood protection scheme that stops the Tay from inundating the centre of Perth looks like the entrance to a stately home. It is actually a reinforced wall that can hold back Great Britain's most powerful river - at its peak the river can fill an olympic size swimming pool in one second.

Techniques are available to manage flood risk, without damaging the environment.

Maintain well

Rivers, burns and lochs are best left alone - they have done quite well by themselves since the last ice age!

All bodies of water will naturally fill with silt over periods of hundreds or thousands of years. It does not follow that we have to interfere with this natural process. Dredging does immense damage to a natural habitat, and should be carefully thought through before being attempted.

Litter collection



Water is an effective litter trap, and all the time people discard their waste, arrangements will be needed for litter picking to be in place.

Bricks and rubble



Concrete and brick dumped on the edge of a loch - it will take around 1000 years for natural erosion to take care of this. It is important that the shores of lochs and the beds of rivers and burns contain nothing other than natural local materials.

- For further details please view the  [Vision for rivers, burn and lochs booklet \[3Mb\]](#).

Vision for My Space

Everyone should feel that they are part of Perth and Kinross and have a role to play in making it a better, more attractive place in which to live and work.

Be a part of Perth and Kinross

"Perth and Kinross - a place where people and communities are nurtured and supported."

Many citizens in Perth and Kinross already do take an active role in shaping their public spaces. If you are not doing so already, here are some ideas.

Direct action

If there is something that needs doing - can you do it?

Working with others

- [Take a Pride in Perthshire](#)

In many parts of Perth and Kinross there are now groups that work in partnership with the Council to improve the local public spaces. There is always a need for ideas, volunteers and practical enthusiasm.

If there is no group in your area, could you work with other people locally to form one?

Placecheck

Think about running a [Placecheck](#).

You can find out what's happening where you live or work and how to get involved by clicking on the links below.

If there is nothing listed there may be an opportunity for you to organise something. Contact your [Community Councils](#).

Wikipedia: Aberfeldy (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Abernethy (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Abernyte (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Aberuthven (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Almondbank (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Alyth (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Auchterarder (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Ballinluig (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Bankfoot (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Birnam (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Blackford (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Blair Atholl (Opens in a new window)

new window)	new window)	a new window)
Wikipedia: Blairgowrie and Rattray (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Braco (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Bridge of Earn (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Burrelton (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Comrie (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Coupar Angus (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Crieff (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Crook of Devon (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Dunkeld (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Dunning (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Errol (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Forgandenny (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Gleneagles (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Glenfarg (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Inchture (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Invergowrie (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Kenmore (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Killicrankie (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Kinloch Rannoch (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Kinross (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Kirkmichael (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Luncarty (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Meikle (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Meikleour (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Methven (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Milnathort (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Muthill (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: Patrick Geddes (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Pitlochry (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Scone (Opens in a new window)
Wikipedia: St Fillans (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Stanley (Opens in a new window)	Wikipedia: Wolfhill


Problems and answers

The problems or answers section deals with special that may crop up such as from litter, untidy land and buildings, fences, and so on; plus advice on small scale problems such as front garden car parking

If you have a particular problem or question about a public space, you may find an answer here. It can be important to think beyond a particular problem. For example:

- What is the true cause of the problem?
- Does the solution to one problem create problems elsewhere?

	PKC website links	Public Space Management Guide (PSMG)
Advertising		PSMG - Advertising
Air quality	Information on air pollution	
Bins left on the street		
Blocked pavements	Information about obstructed pavements	
Bus shelters		PSMG - Bus shelters
Chewing gum		PSMG - Chewing gum
Clutter		PSMG - Clutter
Crime		
Disabled persons access	Information about equality and diversity	
Dog fouling		
Dumped vehicles	Information about dumped vehicles	
Fear		
Fences		PSMG - Hedges and fences
Fly tipping		
Graffiti		
Hedges	Information about obstructed pavements	PSMG - Hedges and fences
Lighting	Information about lighting	

Litter		
Noise		
Parking		 PSMG - Parking [648kb]
Public art		
Rats - pests	Information about pest control	
Shop fronts and improvement grants		
Untidy or derelict land and buildings		
Vehicular entrances		
Verges	Information about verge maintenance	
Walls and dykes		PSMG - Walls and dykes

Sir Patrick Geddes

Resident of Perth from 1857, student of the Perth Academy and of the university of life of Perth and Kinross.

Sir Patrick Geddes, biologist, botanist, sociologist, forefather of community-led regeneration, student of the Perth Academy and philosopher of Kinnoull Hill has been enjoying something of a revival. In this modern age of fragmented specialisms and lack of joined up thinking, Geddes is an inspiration. "He took life as his subject and refused to subdivide it".

The view from Kinnoull Hill, of the distant mountains, the fertile lowlands, the market towns, the city of Perth, all linked by the silvery Tay to the sea and the world beyond shows us and showed Geddes how everything joins together.

Geddes also coined the clarion call of the environmental movement - "**Think Global, Act Local**" - except that he did it the best part of 100 years ago.

This guide brings forward Geddes philosophy to the present time. And in that we are now in the age of information and increasingly dependent on nurturing a knowledge economy, it is appropriate that this guide follows the Scottish academic traditions which Geddes espoused: of inter-disciplinary generalism and democratic intellectualism, that were to exercise such a powerful influence on the 20th century.

There is so much to be gained when specialist areas of knowledge are allowed to mix and synthesise, and where the public are fully involved. There are very sound legal, financial and practical reasons for taking this approach.

Though this guide covers many different specialisms, they all combine together to create public space. Though this guide is about public space, it is life that is the goal. And as Geddes said - "by leaves we live".

Downloads

- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11022&p=0>
- <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11092&p=0>

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