

Community Council: Auchtergaven

Auchtergaven Community Council is generally situated to the west of the A9 trunk road and includes the southern edge of the Highland Boundary Fault which dominates the topography in the area. The main village in the area is Bankfoot, close to the A9 with connections north to Dunkeld and south to Perth.

A place standard drop-in session was held in Bankfoot. A total of 10 people attended an event or responded to the place standard survey. This includes members of the community council.

1. Moving Around (-)

There are a mix of views regarding the ease to move around the local area. Some note that it is very easy to move around including getting round by bike and having great access available. Others note specific issues for moving around in Bankfoot including crossing Main Street due to fast moving traffic and lack of pedestrian crossing at the primary school.

Suggested improvements include connecting cycle and footpaths, improving local path network to make more user-friendly and accessible e.g. for less able walkers, horse riders, and connecting the community to 5 Mile Wood and Taymount Wood.

2. Public Transport (-)

Generally public transport is noted as being limited with particular issues highlighted around bus times, frequency of services, lack of evening/weekend services, cancelled services, lack of service from Perth via Stanley. Successive cuts to bus services are noted including the no.23 bus service. A comment also notes the lack of street lighting when using public transport at night.

Suggestions are made to improve the frequency of services including improving ability to use public transport for working and getting to Perth/Dunkeld.

3. Traffic & Parking (-)

Concerns are raised about the speed of traffic through Bankfoot (including large vehicles) as well as manoeuvring around parking cars. Lack of street lighting also highlighted as an issue, as well as engine idling at the primary school, and the reduction in winter maintenance through the village.

Suggested improvements include traffic calming measures and allow planning for parking spaces (especially for new buildings).

4. Streets, Squares & Buildings (-)

There is a mix of feeling regarding the condition of buildings in the area, with some expressing that most places are well kept whilst others note there are not many attractive public buildings in the village. The Old Bankfoot Inn is noted as a positive building whilst there is concern around derelict buildings in the village including the old church.

Suggestions for improvement including addressing the derelict old church building and improving the high street e.g. hanging baskets, Christmas lights.

5. Natural Spaces (-)

It is noted that there is a good network of paths in and around Bankfoot often used by walkers, dog walkers, cyclists and horse riders, and that it is easy to be immersed in nature. A number of

respondents highlight the balance that is struck between having good access to nature and limiting future development. At the church/community hall, concerns are raised by an individual that there is too much mowing and not enough wild areas/wildlife.

Suggestions for improvement include bridging the gap in missing links in the local path network (A9 sliproad, east end of Scots Wood back to the village) and avoiding further housing development being built in the area.

6. Play & Recreation (-)

There is a mix of feeling regarding the opportunities for play and recreation in the village. Some feel that there is a good selection of clubs (tennis, bowling, badminton, scouts, guides) as well as existing facilities being well maintained and welcoming, whilst others note that there is a lack of opportunities.

There is suggestion that Coronation Park could be improved to provide facilities for the whole community including young people with extra equipment. It is noted that a local group is looking at this and potential for more community members to get involved.

7. Facilities & Services (-)

It is recognised that the village is well served by existing facilities/services including mobile services. There are also concerns raised about environmental issues such as infrastructure being at capacity and therefore not being able to accommodate any new housing development.

8. Work & Local Economy (-)

Whilst there are various businesses employing people in the local area including opportunities for volunteering, employment opportunities are generally limited. Travelling to Perth/Dunkeld/Pitlochry on public transport considered to be a limiting factor.

Better advertising employment opportunities is a suggested improvement for the local economy.

9. Housing & Community (-)

It is considered that existing housing meets local needs and provides for a diverse community that has great spirit. It is also noted that there is a lack of affordable housing to rent/buy in the village.

It is suggested that affordable housing is needed in the village however this is highlighted as conflicting with environmental objectives for the existing village.

10. Social Interaction (-)

There are a number of local groups which are a positive feature in the community including Warm Spaces initiative and local shop. However it is noted that many local groups closed during COVID and didn't restart, and some existing groups could benefit from additional volunteering. The church community space is highlighted as a good albeit underused space.

A suggestion is for a dedicated group to allow for year-round social contact.

11. Identity & Belonging (-)

Generally there is a strong identity and sense of belonging in Bankfoot with respondents noting that they are proud of the village and all that it provides. One concern is the derelict house/site on Main Street which is unattractive.

In terms of improvement, it is noted that sometimes less is more and that only minor changes would be needed to improve the village.

12. Feeling Safe (-)

Generally there is a feeling of feeling safe in the village with noted concerns around school vandalism out of hours, lack of street lighting at the south end of the village/traffic speeding, and a suggestion to curb engine idling at the primary school.

Poor land management from surrounding farmland causing flooding issues/resident concerns. It is noted that a flood defence scheme was considered but not being progressed and that Scottish Water have fixed issues with sewage backing up.

13. Care & Maintenance (-)

Addressing derelict residential buildings in the village is highlighted as a key concern with the suggestion for the Council to help enforce action to be taken. The local spaces are noted as being very well looked after, with a suggestion to freshen up the play park.

A suggested improvement includes redeveloping derelict, brownfield sites in the village rather than on greenfield sites.

14. Influence & Sense of Control (-)

There is a community council in the village, with suggestions that meetings could be better attended by locals in the village/more frequent. Bankfoot also highlighted as not being good at asking for resources compared to other villages due to lack of volunteer time, missing out on funding as a result.