

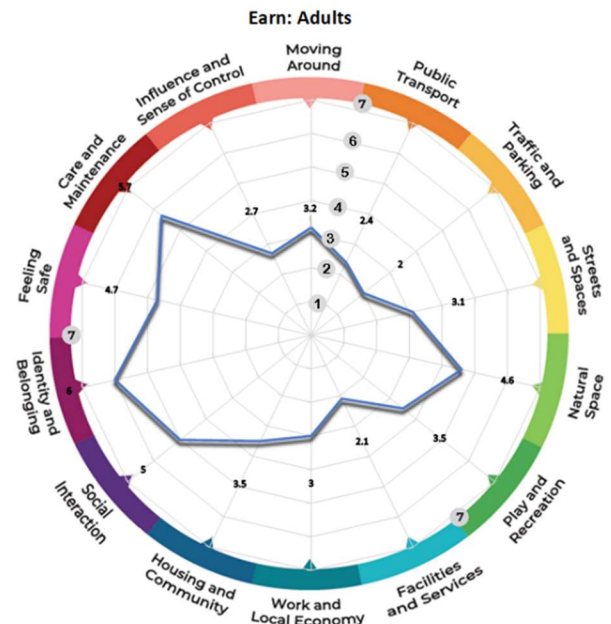
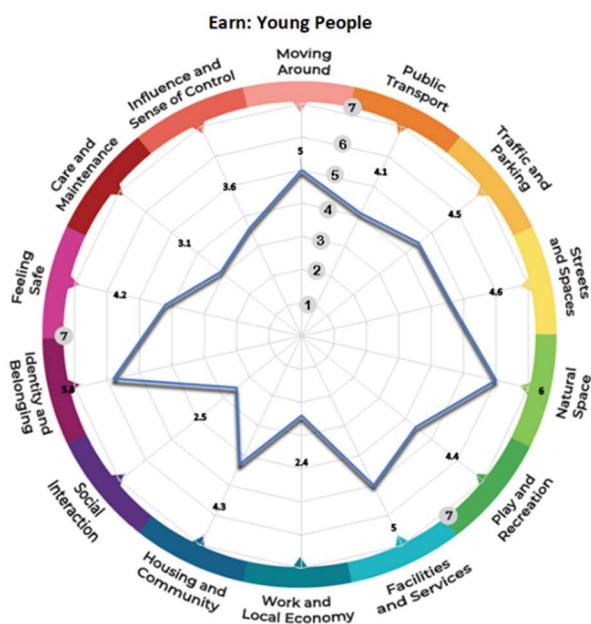
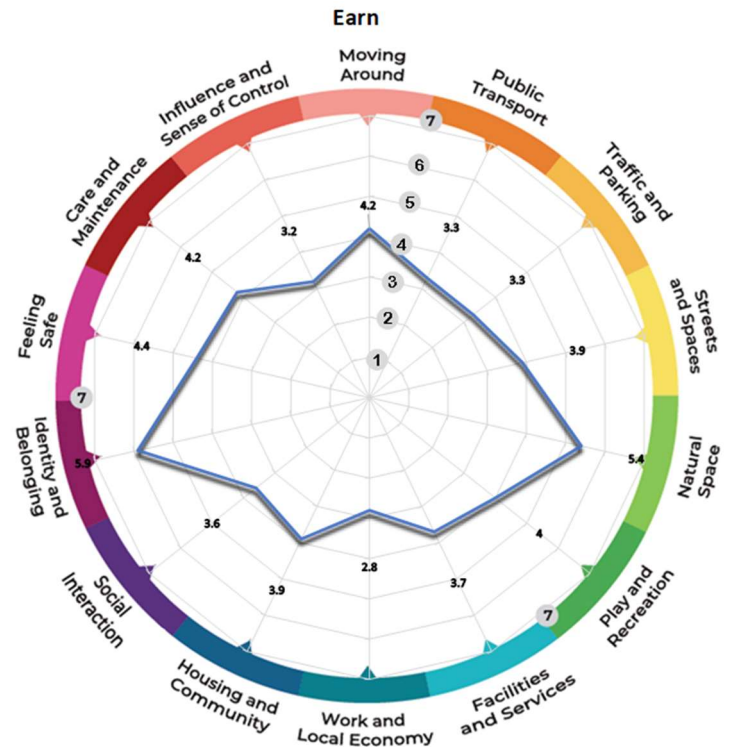
## 2. Earn Community Council Area

Earn Community Council area sits south of Perth and North of Kinross-shire ward, having Bridge of Earn at its heart with a large rural area including the villages of Forgandenny and Forteviot and the communities of Aberdalgie, Dron and Rhynd. The Community Council was actively engaged with Big Place Conversation process helping attend or organise events which included the local primary school, and local church, Oudenarde Community Cabin and the Institute with drop in sessions in Forgandenny, and Bridge of Earn Gala. A few students at Bertha Park High School also took part. Events reached 90 people with an additional 18 making submissions through the online survey.

Earn Community Council also carried out their own engagement exercise prior to the Big Place Conversation in 2019 with engagement events and 120 survey results returned (see [Earn Community Consultation 2020](#)). These results are referred to where relevant below along with actions that have been taken since.

During the engagement period the Health and Social Care Partnership (H&SCP) undertook an [intensive engagement exercise](#) with regards to provision of health services. Over 600 responses were received and the main points are indicated in the relevant paragraph below.

Note that Earn Community Council area includes an area within Kinross-shire ward. Comments relating to this area were raised by residents in Glenfarg and are included in the Kinross-shire report.



## 1. Moving Around

Within Bridge of Earn areas are walkable if able bodied as uneven paths, narrow footpaths and obstructing vegetation make it difficult for those with mobility needs, pushchairs or children cycling, an issue raised in the 2019 Conversation. Cycling within the village is made difficult due to traffic speed and lack of cycle paths and parked cars, leading pupils from Kintillo to avoid cycling to school. More cycle racks would also be of use. Paths segregated from traffic is wanted, with some reservations around shared use. Another problem area raised is the triangle at the junction with Old Edinburgh Road which is seen as confusing and dangerous with visibility difficulties for cyclists. Further afield, there are concerns about the safety of the Baiglie Straight active travel route, and overgrown vegetation across paths impeding walking on the B935 out of the village and also along the Deich Burn. The route to Perth too feels unsafe to walk or cycle due to the traffic.

Residents in Oudenarde need to walk to Bridge of Earn for services or a postbox along poorly lit footpaths, which are too narrow to push a buggy or walk side by side, issues that remain unchanged since the 2019 Conversation. Alexander Drive is a shared surface needing traffic calming measures. Residents are in the countryside but are not really able to access it safely with the farm track used by heavy vehicles.

In Forgandenny the walk to Bridge of Earn is important, made less enjoyable if going along the main road with no footpath. Traffic too makes getting about without a car feel unsafe in Forteviot and Rhynd.

Issues of parking on Main Street in Bridge of Earn, the lack of offroad cycle paths including between Bridge of Earn and Forgandenny, poor footpaths for wheelchair and pushchairs and the effective separation of Oudenarde were all raised previously in the 2019/2020 community conversation.

## 2. Public Transport

People like the Ember bus which now provides a connection between Dundee and Edinburgh, although the stop at the triangle noted above is. Children thought there were a good number of bus stops although the school bus stop was too far. High school students enjoy the free travel.

As in 2019 the main issues remain the frequency and timing of buses, with difficulties commuting and weekend and evening services to and from Perth a major complaint from people of all ages. The issue is compounded by the closure of the local surgery, as reaching a doctor's in Perth now requires two buses. The H&SCP survey found only 11% of residents take a bus to the GP, with 80% saying getting a bus is not easy. Oudenarde now has a bus service since 2019 although the bus to Oudenarde only runs twice during the day which does not allow parents to connect to Perth to meet their children.

Forgandenny is also connected to Perth by bus but due to infrequency of buses can mean a long wait to come home. In Forteviot the bus service is appreciated if not always easy to get to the final destination.

## 3. Traffic and Parking

Inconsiderate and congested parking is a common concern receiving the lowest place standard score amongst adults with impacts on everyone especially people with mobility issues. As in the 2019 Conversation problem areas in Bridge of Earn are centred on the school/shops section of main street together with speeding traffic. Children too

identified the amount of cars and speed of traffic on the main road, and the build up of traffic during school pick up and drop off. Parking also makes it difficult for the bus to Oudenarde to move down Back Street. Commuters driving to Bridge of Earn to bus or car share into Perth, cause congestion by parking on the A912 near the Ember bus stop and towards the M90, and also on the south side of the bridge out of the village towards Perth. Houses converted to flats in older parts of the village have also resulted in a greater number of cars requiring space.

The junction at the triangle was raised as an issue particularly for larger vehicles, exacerbated by parked cars. HGVs also cause an issue travelling through residential areas along Heughfield Road towards Forgandenny due to the weight limit on the B935 bridge over the railway. In Oudenarde the promised bridge over the railway is needed as an alternative access.

Proposed solutions for parking in Bridge of Earn include ensuring a supermarket in the Oudenarde development, introducing a one way system on Chaise Road and Manse Road and ensuring garages are suitable for and used as garages rather than storage. Commuter traffic needs could be met by a park and ride in the employment zone of the proposed Oudenarde expansion. Speeding traffic in Oudenarde currently should be addressed with a 20mph limit and speed signs of which there are currently none.

In Forgandenny traffic speed issues are on the approach from the west on the B935 where there is no warning for vehicles moving from a 60mph zone to 20mph. The 20mph itself often not adhered to. Parking is tight around the school, and there is limited parking at the village hall, with potential space across the road.

The speed and quantity of traffic through Forteviot is excessive with vehicles thought to be using it as a shortcut to avoid congestion at Broxden roundabout. Traffic through Rhynd is also an issue with the speed of vehicles contributing to feeling unsafe.

#### 4. Streets and Spaces

Existing buildings in the area such as the church, village inn, and The Institute in Bridge of Earn are valued with positive responses for local buildings also in Rhynd and Forteviot.

Flooding is also a significant concern (see “feeling safe” below)

#### 5. Natural Space

Villages in the area are well connected to nature with paths out to the wider countryside. Young people value the riverside walks and trees and wildlife in the area. Oudenarde is the main exception to this with the old hospital site fenced off and a shortage of open space.

Improvement suggestions include more trees, tackling invasive species on the Earn, and improving Burnside in Forgandenny.

#### 6. Play and Recreation

Children and young people in the area appreciate the existing formal and informal play opportunities and clubs including both Victory Park and Kintillo. They would however like more play equipment including monkey bars, swings, football posts with nets and climbing and jumping. Young people would also prefer not to have to go to Perth for sports and clubs. Provision for older children was not thought to be as good. There were

concerns about Victory Park in Bridge of Earn play equipment and flooding which is being addressed. In Forgandenny there is good playpark facility for younger children.

Better facilities for sports and pitches was suggested by older people, and the need to upgrade Victoria Park pavilion facilities. A few people also found it difficult to know what was going on. In Forteviot the village hall is the only facility.

In Oudenarde there is no play provision for children with issues around provision and land for play when the housing was first provided, with only the Green available for recreation. It was made clear that as the development proceeds that access to play needs to be considered.

## 7. Facilities and Amenities

The prevailing concern in Bridge of Earn and the wider area was around the loss of the GP service in 2019 and the limited provision at the nurses hub – with support for more services and extended days at the hub as well as better communication of its existence. The [H&SCP survey](#) found 60% of respondents aware of local blood tests but less awareness of other services. Only 38% of patients live within 5 miles of a GP with 80% driving to access the GP and only 3% walking or cycling. Only 55% of patients stated their health needs are being met by health facilities with less satisfaction from younger people. The main reasons for this result are difficulty getting appointments, transport and lack of a local service.

People in Bridge of Earn value having a pharmacy, co-op with post office and ATM, dentist, and mobile library. Children also value the school and its library, scouts/beavers and did value Kilgraston school summer camp which permanently closed in 2024. The lack of toilets was also raised, which was noted in the 2019 Conversation, toilets are available at the Institute but only when events are on.

Significant concern was raised about the school capacity and the need for planning to co-ordinate better with education. As in 2019, Oudenarde children continue having to bus to Perth despite the proximity of Dunbarney school and attend a range of secondary schools in Perth leading to a fragmented social life. Residents understood that facilities including a school would be built when they moved in but have not yet come forward. The need for a new primary school that serves the whole community was raised in 2019, with a suggestion to use Dunbarney school as a health centre.

A community garden in planters outside the Community Cabin in Oudenarde has been a success but further ambitions on the land behind the Cabin have been set back. The Cabin is currently a focal point for the community but is small and the mobile library only comes when children are in school.

In Forgandenny there is a strong desire for a local shop. The lack of shop or post office is a limiting factor on any further housing.

## 8. Work and Local Economy

Across the area while there are opportunities to volunteer and in Forgandenny there is local employment due to Strathallan School. Elsewhere however there are limited opportunities for local work and none for training. While in some smaller villages this is accepted there is concern in Bridge of Earn that it is just a commuting town. Access to work and training is made more difficult by the poor out of hours public transport and in Oudenarde this is especially so due to the lack of public transport and poor active travel connections to Bridge of Earn.

## 9. Housing and Community

Some people, including the respondents from Forteviot and Rhynd find the housing provision in the area adequate. Young people in particular like their community. However the vast majority have concerns about the mix of housing and how it is delivered. More bungalows and smaller housing for downsizing is the primary ask from residents in Bridge of Earn. The need to integrate affordable housing is also mentioned in Bridge of Earn but most apparent in Oudenarde. There is a clear request that planning better communicates with communities when delivering housing rather than priorities being developer led.

## 10. Social Contact

In Forgandenny and Forteviot there is felt adequate space for social contact with the halls being well used. In Bridge of Earn there are also opportunities to meet up, especially for older people, with social activities at the church and the Institute.

In Bridge of Earn however there is a need more informal spaces for seeing friends casually such as an all ages café within the village, with the only current café being outwith the village itself and only part time. The church refurbishment (now underway) offers an opportunity for a space, and other suggestions include a space in a health care facility or delivered as part of planning requirements. While children meet up at friends' houses they still would like shelter in parks to be able to meet outside in bad weather and young people felt the need for more cafes or social space. Youth drop in has started in Dunbarney Church.

In Oudenarde the Community Cabin and community garden since introduced is a lifeline to allow neighbours to build relationships, relationships being difficult for secondary students due to the poor transport, and for parents of young children who go to different schools.

## 11. Identity and Belonging

There is a feeling of pride across the settlements of their place, particularly of the friendly, community spirit. People including children, value the smaller nature of their place and express a desire to keep their villages that way. As in the 2019 Conversation a few commented that it took time to integrate and in Oudenarde, which is a neighbourhood of Bridge of Earn, the motorway, and access difficulties including walking through to the village lends to a feeling of separation.

## 12. Feeling Safe

While younger people and people in smaller villages mainly feel safe, adults in Bridge of Earn also pointed to a rise in graffiti and anti-social behaviour, and indicated a desire for a greater police presence. Younger children also felt concerned with teenage behaviour, reflected in other comments noting that there was little for youth in the village. Children also noted a need for lighting in parks and on the streets. The low level of lighting in Oudenarde in winter was also raised, and that only streets south of Clayton Road are gritted. Flooding is also an issue particularly the railway bridge and Back Street in Bridge of Earn, and in Oudenarde the area under the railway bridge regularly floods cutting off the community. Flooding coming off the fields is an issue in Forgandenny. Solutions proposed include ensuring a better understanding of the underlying soils (clay), and the need to retain gardens rather than convert them to parking, and the need to keep drains clear.

### 13. Care and Maintenance

There is consensus that the Brig In Bloom group do an excellent job. A few problem areas for litter were highlighted including the M90 slip roads along with a suggestion from children for more bins including Back Street and Victory Park in Bridge of Earn, the shops and along popular walking routes. Comments on the state of roads were generally positive except in Rhynd, although a need for, or issues with grit bins, were raised in Forteviot and Oudenarde. Dog fouling was also an issue in Oudenarde in the Green which is also a food growing space.

### 14. Influence and Sense of Control

Locally people feel they can make their views heard through the community council. Wider engagement by the Council however is less successful, with concerns about issues not being resolved or responded to, the number of consultations, reaching people who may not use the internet and the need for early engagement rather than consulting on a finished product. Children were mixed on whether they are listened to, with teenagers wanting to be asked about developments happening that affect them.