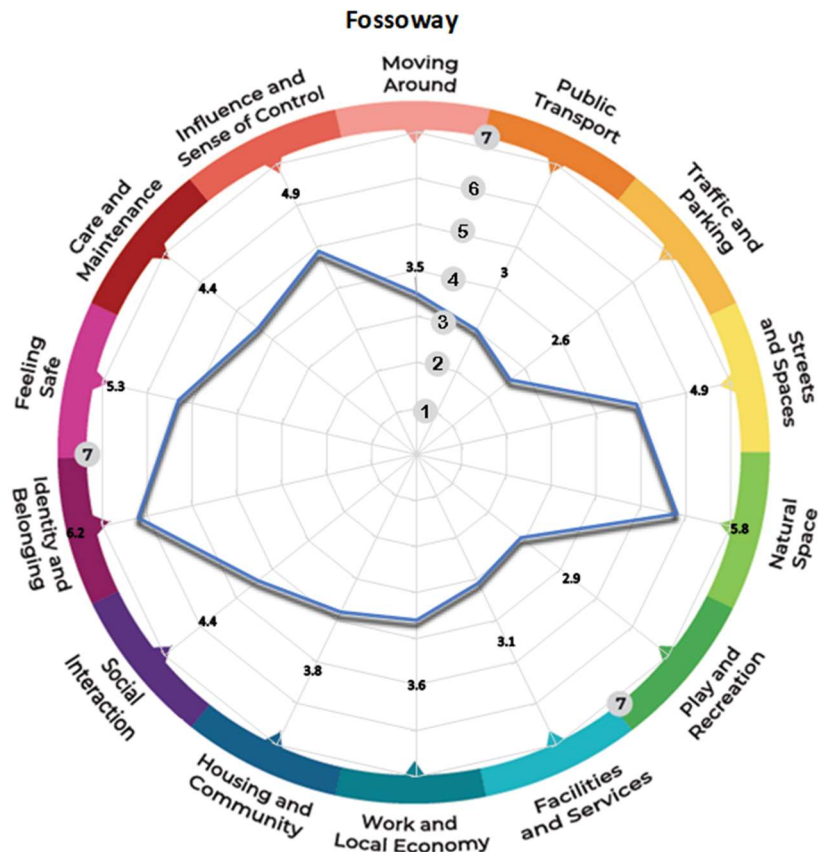


Community Council: Fossoway

Fossoway Community Council area covers a large rural area west of Kinross from Carnbo in the east to Blairingone in the west. Fossoway primary school is situated in Crook of Devon. Fossoway carried out 3 public events and an event with Fossoway primary school with additional comments from High School students, and residents attending events in Kinross together with 19 online responses. In total 106 people contributed to the Fossoway conversation.



1. Moving Around (3.5)

Significant concern was expressed about the lack of footpaths into and between villages and attractions and the lack of safe cycling routes, or cycle routes and core paths that did not connect to schools and other communities. While some quiet back roads are safer, 40mph on Aldie road was thought too fast for a pedestrian friendly road - farmers were also concerned that cyclists on this road were too fast and unaware of farm traffic. Overgrown verges combine with speeding traffic to impact these routes. Missing connections include Powmill to Blairingone, Carnbo to the village hall and to Gelvan Road, Powmill to Crook of Devon, and from Crook of Devon to Kinross, particularly at the junction 6 roundabout. Young people were concerned about the danger of cycling along the heavily trafficked A977 including on pavements, also affected by overgrown hedges. The main ask from children was for safer routes to walk and cycling to school. Overgrown vegetation is generally an issue affecting users especially where there are mobility issues. Potholes on Naemoor Road exacerbate this for young people.

Suggestions for improvement include increased signage for existing paths, making Carnbo a 30mph zone, 30mph zones for cycling/walking friendly roads, use of disused railway lines for offroad cycle routes.

2. Public Transport (3.1)

The Kinross Park & Ride is valuable and well used. People appreciate the volunteer driver service but this is limited by 24 hour notice required.

Area wide public transport is considered poor with sporadic buses and poor communication. Carnbo is not served by any public transport except for school buses. This makes it challenging to access healthcare and services including hospitals. People note the difficulty in getting direct to where they want to go including Kinross campus and health centre, Stirling, Alloa, and Glasgow. Buses also provide a limited evening service making it difficult for workers, and young people accessing after school activities. Taxis are also limited or unavailable

Suggestions include live bus timetable information at bus stops, a bus stop at Aldie Road/A977 and a call for a community bus service reflecting the success of the Glenfarg service.

3. Traffic and Parking (2.6)

Traffic and Parking received the lowest place standard score. The speed of traffic on the A977 is an issue throughout the area, both through and outwith villages and also holds true for Carnbo on the A91 and on the A823 through Rumbling Bridge. Walking and cycling is made unsafe, with a feeling of villages split by the road due to unsafe crossing points. This is exacerbated by an increase in heavy vehicles and at rush hour. Greater warning of entry into the village speed zones are needed at Powmill (east) and Carnbo. Blind spots were noted in Powmill at Mill Gardens, A977/A823 and Aldie Rd/A977, and heading south to the bridge in Rumbling Bridge. A blind summit is noted in Powmill on the A823 650m south of the A977 where cars need to be slowed, an extension of the 30mph zone down the A823 to outside the first houses was suggested.. 20mph zone was also suggested at Solsgirth Farm.

Due to the location of the school, parking for Fossoy Primary is a major issue in Crook of Devon, both causing congestion at school times, and also the location of the parking making it dangerous for pupils to walk to the school, although parking at the village hall is thought to be safe. Disabled people noted the new traffic lights at the school road were welcomed. Parking for the gorge at Rumbling Bridge is also an issue with people parking on the bridge rather than the car park. Signage, and bollards on the bridge were common suggestions.

4. Streets and Spaces (5.1)

The village Halls are appreciated in Carnbo, Crook of Devon, and Powmill as is the Milk Bar in Powmill, by all ages. Moubray Hall in Powmill does need maintenance. Other landmarks in Crook of Devon and Drum include the church cross, village pump, community orchard, mill and witches maze. Although there is a lack of an outdoor civic space. The bird hide in Tethyknowe was singled out by young people for repair.

5. Natural Space (6)

People, appreciate being surrounded by nature both through the path network, and close to villages with an associated desire to protect what is there. Rumbling Bridge Gorge and Craigton Wood in particular identified for protection. Other valued spaces include walks along the Devon, Penney's wood, Lendrick Muir, Lambhill Wood and the duck pond near Blairingone. Views of the hills are especially important but in Carnbo access to nature requires transport. Better access for less abled and safer connections to natural spaces is also needed including the Gorge and the woods at Blairingone, and the introduction of interpretation thought desirable. More trees, more nature restoration would be welcomed by younger people and the public at large.

6. Play and Recreation (2.8)

In the area there are thought to be good opportunities for play and recreation with many clubs in Kinross, Dunfermline or Dollar, although buses do not run late enough for after school activities. Children appreciate the space in the countryside for recreation and trees. However play and recreation received one of the lowest scores. Both youth and the public at large recognise that there needs to be more available in poor weather for young people, such as shelters from the rain and more open use of the village halls. The park in Blairingone is thought to need updating, although the forest area is well used by children, and in Carnbo there is no park. In Rumbling Bridge the children enjoy the park and swimming in the gorge, although would still like to have play equipment with swings and the slope on the football pitch levelled out. In Crook of Devon Waulkmill Park and the Tennis club and bowling club appreciated by the other villages, although facilities are needing maintenance. Upgrades are suggested for Waulkmill Park, nets for the goals, facilities other than football such as basketball or skating, and another tennis court; and more play areas are wanted including one in Drum. Children also enjoy playing and swimming at the Scout camp where play equipment would be welcome. Young people also suggested making better use of the hall for indoor sports. There is thought to be less available for older children and teenagers, raised in Crook of Devon and Powmill. In Powmill the park and play park are appreciated by all and is used for events as well as play.

For adults halls are important for recreation, in Carnbo the hall is well used, but in Blairingone this is private - work is ongoing to purchase this by the community. In Powmill the hall is a good space but is underused with a need to identify potential users. There is plenty of walking nearby but no social clubs in the area such as a pub; there is a golf course at Muckhart and entertainment at Dollar and Tillicoultry. There is no hall in Rumbling Bridge.

7. Facilities and Services (3.1)

With limited facilities in the area, transport is required to other centres for most shopping, services, clubs and activities, most notably Kinross but also Alloa, Dollar, and Stirling. The mobile library is appreciated by all ages but there is no mobile bank, and now no bank in Kinross. Shopping in Kinross and at the village shops is also thought expensive. Difficulty getting GP appointments in Kinross, access to NHS dentists and the lack of wrap around childcare in Crook of Devon were also raised. Lack of services like childcare and social care mean people may need to move away. Village halls, and the committees that run them are appreciated. Suggestions for better use of village

halls in the area include work hubs and pop up restaurants; and children would like somewhere indoors with seating and wifi to meet friends in bad weather.

In Blairingone the loss of the primary school was raised along with a lack of a shop. In Carnbo, along with the lack of mobile services (except for a fish van) there is no post box, play park, recycling, mains gas or waste water, despite the proximity to Kinross. In Crook of Devon & Drum there is a shop with post office and garage, two well run community halls, and a pub which people would like to open more than just on weekends. Suggestions include a café in the church hall, and more shops. Powmill also has a shop and hall, and the Milk Bar café. Use of facilities further away are split between Dollar and Kinross, including children's activities, a limited pharmacy in Dollar and difficulty transitioning between health services due to being covered by different health boards. In Powmill community food growing or allotment is wanted with a suggested area being explored. Like the smaller villages there is no shop, mains gas or waste water. People go to Aloa or Dollar for shopping. Children would like a bus service allowing them to access Kinross and Stirling and would appreciate a shop.

8. Work and Local Economy (3.4)

While there are good volunteering opportunities in the area, there are few opportunities for employment in or close to most of the villages, apart from temporary agricultural work with most people homeworking or commuting, a problem if unable to travel independently. In Carnbo it is noted that this leads to young people moving away for work. Farm shops, tourism, farming and the Milk Bar provide some opportunities but the Milk Bar has struggled to maintain staff. Area wide there is a desire to keep the employment allocations in the development plan, with one business unable to find premises in Kinross-shire. In Powmill the mixed "business with associated residential" designation has not worked satisfactorily. More tourism in the area was suggested but concern raised in Rumbling Bridge due to impacts on parking and facilities.

9. Housing and Community (4)

There was a clear message through the area that there is a need for smaller housing both as starter homes and for downsizing to allow people to stay in the area. The lack of affordable housing and homes for rent being provided in the area also means younger people are priced out of the area. Accessible/adapted housing is also needed. In Powmill it was noted that there needs to be the facilities and schooling available to meet any new housing needs. In Powmill, while the land off Aldie Road behind the Milk Bar is not appropriate for housing, expansion of the village boundary to provide a mixed use allocation was suggested.

10. Social Contact (4.7)

Across the area there are limited opportunities to meet, reflecting the limited facilities available cited above. While villages halls in Carnbo and Crook of Devon are well used for community run events, there are fewer places for impromptu meeting up. In Carnbo this happens on the mobile library, or at the shop Crook of Devon. The pub in Crook of Devon is only open on weekends and the Milk Bar closes at 5pm. Young people meet in parks, each others' homes and at the facilities in Kinross, but would like somewhere to meet when the weather is bad. Suggestions include longer opening hours for the pub and a café in Crook of Devon, and better use of the hall in Powmill such as for a coffee morning. More places for children and teenagers is also needed especially in poor

weather. And in good weather better provision of benches and facilities for all ages to meet would be welcome.

11. Identity and Belonging (6.3)

People are proud of their village, with a good sense of community and nice, friendly, helpful people and this topic received the highest score. People like their views and the rural nature of the area, and in Carnbo there is a proud history of the school and hall, Carnbo being runner up for friendliest village in Scotland. Children too were proud and wanted to mention their tennis coach. Bloom groups, the Kinross farmers market.

12. Feeling Safe (5.5)

People feel safe in their homes across the area with the primary concern being road safety. More visible policing was however thought needed in Crook of Devon and Powmill. Children in Crook of Devon and some groups felt unlit paths made them feel unsafe. Other concerns include the slippery nature of the river path, concerns about children swimming in the River Devon, rural crime, including theft of ATVs. Drainage issues were noted on the A977 opposite the Milk Bar due to blocked drains, and of houses in Mill Garden backing onto field.

13. Care and Maintenance (4.4)

People are enthusiastic about the work done by Powmill Bloom and Crook & Drum Growing Together to keep the villages looking In Bloom Groups in Powmill and Crook of Devon & Drum. Volunteers also clean and maintain the hall in Carnbo, and the park in Powmill is clean and well maintained by Powmill Bloom. Litter is an issue from passing cars in Carnbo, on the A977 through villages and on Naemoor Road, at the Gypsy/Travellers site and fly tipping was raised as an issue in rural areas. Vegetation encroaching on paths, verges and overgrown hedges impeding visibility for vehicles (see traffic and parking) is a common thread in the area. Winter maintenance is an issue in such a rural area with additional grit bins required in Powmill (hall, A977/Aldie Road, Golf Road/Aldie Road, Aldie Road at Craiglawhill Farm corner), a broken pipe in Powmill freezing on the road, issues with winter maintenance of single tack roads, such as Aldie Road which is a school bus route but is not snow ploughed.

14. Influence and Sense of Control (5.3)

People across the area appreciate their community council and feel they can have their say and be listened to whether through the community council, church, PTA or Fossoway Gathering. People in Crook of Devon & Drum appreciate Council support for community groups, and in Powmill the availability of Councillors and other Council officers is welcomed. The ability to participate in Council meetings through hybrid meetings is also appreciated. However many felt it difficult to be heard by the Council, with the Council being too Perth centric and the Kinross-shire Area Committee too Kinross centric. Getting action taken on issues is also seen as taking too long. Suggestions to improve participation include having a calendar of committees to access papers more easily, communicating with children via the school rather than social media, and being able to contribute privately to community council meetings.