

Community Council: Kenmore and District

The Kenmore and District Community Council area incorporates the eastern and southern edge of Loch Tay including Kenmore, and nearby villages Ardtalnaig and Acharn. The area includes the re-development project at Taymouth Castle, Taymouth Marina and the new Scottish Crannog Centre.

A drop-in place standard session was held in Kenmore. The drop-in session was well attended (25+), one written response was submitted.

1. Moving Around (-)

Moving around is more difficult without a car. Roads are generally busy with dangerous conditions for walking and cycling. The less-busy roads to be safe to access for walking and cycling including in Kenmore.

Suggestions for improvement include improved walking and cycling facilities including off road routes, and traffic calming measures.

2. Public Transport (-)

There is some recognition that the area is rural and service provision will be limited with expectation to predominantly use private cars. Maintaining current public transport noted as being important and can be useful for longer journeys elsewhere but you need to drive to get a train – for example – first.

Suggested improvements include increased EV and e-bike charging infrastructure.

3. Traffic & Parking (-)

Rural roads to/from Kenmore are noted as bendy and narrow with evidence of collisions. Parking in the village also noted as getting more difficult due to loss of parking spaces. One respondent notes that they are unaffected by traffic.

4. Streets, Squares & Buildings (-)

Generally the area is regarded as high quality with a mixture of buildings and features both within the villages and in the surrounding area. Kenmore in particular is noted as being a beautiful historic village and well looked after. Development on the outskirts is considered to be sensitively sited not visible from key places in the surrounding area.

Suggested improvements include having strong planning protections in place in relation to new development in Kenmore and surrounding local area.

5. Natural Spaces (-)

The area is generally considered well connected to nature, there is an abundance of wildlife and there are excellent opportunities for nature-based recreation. The impact of new development is noted as a concern including around Loch Tay where there are significant development pressures. It is noted that there are also instances of there not being enough parking to access Loch Tay, and examples of access being improved/ lost in Kenmore from the wider Taymouth Castle redevelopment.

Suggested improvements include ensuring that the loch is not over-exploited from development, and restricting motorised vehicles on the loch.

6. Play & Recreation (-)

Generally there is recognition that the area provides many opportunities for play and recreation including for walking, running, kayaking, and swimming. Risks from new development also highlighted as a concern including along Loch Tay. Access restrictions to walking paths through the Taymouth Castle area as a result of construction works also highlighted.

Suggested improvements include maintaining existing access for recreational activities including at the lochside and restricting motorised vehicles on the loch.

7. Facilities & Services (-)

As the area is rural, access to services is dependent on getting to bigger settlements e.g. Aberfeldy. Generally existing facilities and services are considered sufficient, excepting hospital provision which is more difficult to get to. Mobile signal is considered to be good, however there is poor broadband for some residents.

There is a strong feeling of concern towards losing local facilities such as the shop/post office, as well as a lack of public toilets. There are some concerned at the loss of facilities in Kenmore arising from the Taymouth Castle redevelopment and subsequent loss of workers in the local economy.

Suggested improvements include improved broadband service, improved provision of public toilets in Kenmore, and reopening of village shop.

8. Work & Local Economy (-)

Key concerns highlighted around lack of housing generally, younger people moving away due to limited/no access to affordable housing and lack of jobs, and difficulty in starting new businesses. It is noted that there are jobs available in Aberfeldy and Pitlochry.

Suggested improvements include delivering more housing which is affordable, supporting the younger generation to stay in the area including more and diverse job availability, and having a conversation about the impact of the Taymouth Castle redevelopment project on the local economy including jobs.

9. Housing & Community (-)

There are key concerns highlighted around lack of affordable housing, fuel poverty being an issue, too many second/holiday homes, and lack of long-term rental properties. The lack of available housing is having a significant impact on the local economy and ability to fill jobs/allow for volunteering opportunities. Renting in Kenmore is noted as being very difficult due to costs but also lack of properties available.

Suggested improvements include delivering more affordable housing across the area including for young people/families/workers/local people and restricting second homes and holiday accommodation.

10. Social Interaction (-)

There is a mix of feeling regarding the opportunities to meet up with others in the area. Some identify range of different places and opportunities to have social contact (often through organised events/activities) whereas others note that opportunities are limited including the loss of existing facilities such as hotels/shops.

Suggested improvements include making it easier for people to start/grow business/activities in the area.

11. Identity & Belonging (-)

There is a strong feeling of identify and belonging for respondents across the area including proximity to outdoors and activity within Kenmore village.

12. Feeling Safe (-)

Generally feel safe in the local area, however the return of the local police officer(s) would improve this.

13. Care & Maintenance (-)

It is noted that the services provided by PKC are very good, with excellent refuse collection services. Suggested improvements include improved road maintenance along the back road into Kenmore.

14. Influence & Sense of Control (-)

For big developments such as Taymouth Castle redevelopment project, more engagement with the community is needed to explore range of issues including impact on local economy.