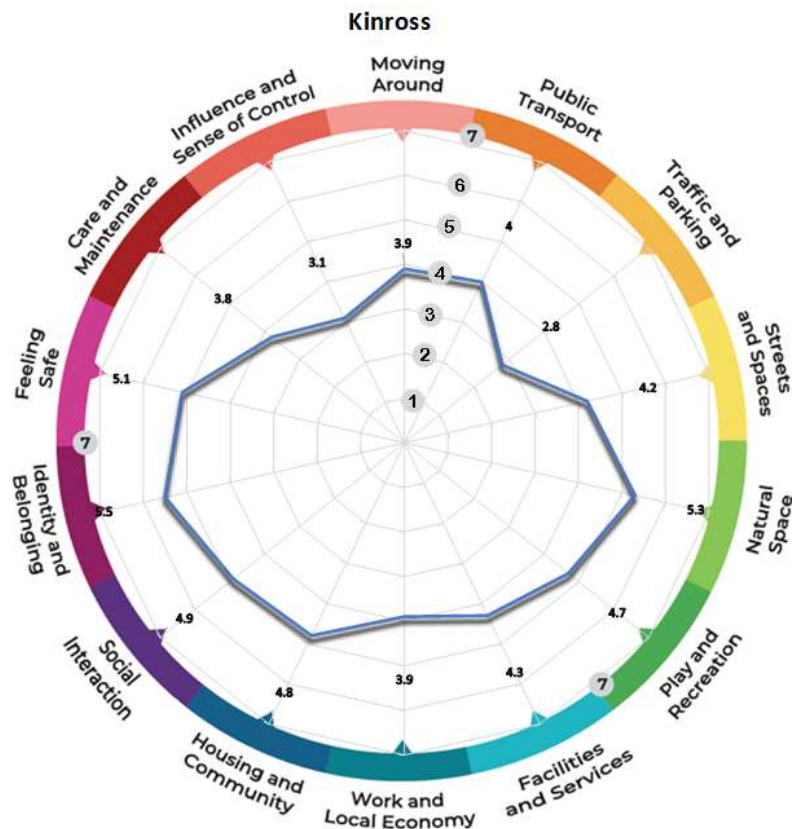


Community Council: Kinross

In Kinross there was limited attendance at formal events but significant participation through drop in events and the online survey. Place Standard conversations were also held with primary and secondary pupils and the KYTHE youth drop in. Conversations with disabled groups were held in Kinross with participants from Kinross and the wider area. In total 102 people from Kinross participated in the conversation.

While there was not full attendance at the place standard event there was sufficient input from the online survey and school events to provide an indication of scores.



1. Moving Around (3.9)

Young people find that walking around Kinross is generally good with the ability to walk to most facilities although noting footpaths narrow in places, and difficulty crossing the Muirs especially at Springfield Road. Young people highlighted the narrow road to the Kirkgate park. While there is a good network of paths, for disabled and older people walking is more difficult with narrow footpaths (Springfield Road, Gallowhill Road, south High Street), potholes in pavements, a need for more dropped kerbs especially at junctions and in new housing – or dropped kerbs in the wrong place requiring going onto the road. Loch Leven campus entrance is often flooded making access difficult. Wheelchair users are particularly impacted by cars parked on pavements, footpaths

which are not level, steep dropped kerbs such as outside Greens hotel, and the ramp to Sainsbury's which is inaccessible due to steps at the bottom. Wider pavements would allow for dropped kerbs without impacting wheelchair users.

In Balado there is a need for a path between Balado itself and Balado crossroads. And it was noted that there are no paths to allow safe walking or cycling to villages outside Kinross.

While young people thought cycling was good, with the Heritage trail, and the old railway line near David Park, there is a need to make cycling safer including for cycling to school. This is reflected in adult comments agreeing that the main roads are not safe for cycling. Suggestions include fewer cars, wider paths and dedicated cycle paths, connecting cycle routes, cutting back overhanging vegetation, and more cycle racks including at the park and ride.

2. Public Transport (4)

Buses to Edinburgh and Dundee from the Park and Ride are good and appreciated not just by people in Kinross but in outlying villages too if with a reduced service. However there are plenty of improvements required for buses to be used more. Frequency and timing of buses is an issue with infrequent buses to UHI, Perth and Edinburgh; and poor evening services from Edinburgh, Perth, Halbeath, and a limited Sunday timetable. Destinations and connections discourage users, with no bus from Balado to Kinross P&R, no direct link to UHI, Dunfermline, Bathgate, Stirling or Cowdenbeath where the closest bank is, and having to change at Broxden for Perth. People would also like better connection to trains south of Kinross.

Young people and older people noted issues with timetables, with the bus app not always aligning, information screens at stops not working, inconsistent seasonal changes to timetables, poor consideration of the timing of connections. It is noted that the number of the front of the bus is not always visible, and online booking does not work for those with limited visibility. Reliability has also been an issue. It should be noted that Glenfarg community bus now connects Perth and Kinross as well as the recent addition of out to Tillicoultry and the Kinross-shire villages.

3. Traffic and Parking (2.8)

Traffic and Parking received the lowest score from participants. In Balado, the speed of traffic on the A977 is increasingly dangerous for both pedestrians crossing and pulling out of the village. A 30mph limit is required here.

In Kinross speeding traffic, and HGVs are a problem along the Muirs, Springfield Road and High Street and the bridge over South Queich. While crossing at the signalled junction to the High School is easy, it is more dangerous at Springfield Road and at Sainsbury's due to turning cars. HGVs still use High Street rather than the bypass, an issue exacerbated by parking here reducing the street to one lane.

Suggestions for improvement include better signposting of the bypass, better signposting in the town centre, making south High Street one way, installing a crossing on the Muirs at Springfield Road, better enforcement of existing speed limits or control measures on south High Street. Children noted a need for a "children playing" sign in Acremoar Drive/Dalwhamie Street.

Parking in Kinross and particularly the shortage of parking in the centre, the most significant issue for Kinross. Issues include parking on pavements impeding wheelchair users and young people, parking on the Muirs and High Street south restricting these to one lane, and reducing visibility at junctions, school buses parking on the Muirs, problems with drop off at Kinross Primary with parents parking on station road rather than using the drop off. Confusion still reigns in the shared surface on the High Street with a lack of signage, particularly for those coming out of Mill Street and making crossing dangerous.

4. Streets and Spaces (4.2)

There is generally a good standard of streets, spaces and buildings in Kinross, with the High Street looking good (notwithstanding issues above) although with young people thinking shop fronts looked tired. One suggestion for the High Street is to replace the bollards with planters. Young people also appreciate Kirkgate park and the monument. Concerns primarily centre around the industrial centre to the south, bridgend, the BCA site and the carwash site. Ideas for the BCA site include avoiding light/sound pollution, not letting fast food frame the view of the loch, improving greenspace without duplicating existing retail.

5. Natural Space (5.3)

People of all ages value the natural spaces available to them in and around Kinross, with the loch and heritage trail, parks, woods, and golf courses. While this received one of the highest scores, concerns raised include algae in Loch Leven, litter on beaches and in natural areas. Suggested improvements include better information on how to get to walks, more nature in town, protecting and planting trees, better use of loch for recreation or outdoor education.

6. Play and Recreation (4.7)

Children and young people like the availability of sports facilities and other clubs such as KYTHE in the area as well as natural areas for recreation including the loch, Kirkgate park including the zip wires and Myres Park. The pool, campus sports, skatepark and curling are good and appreciated by everyone, although the MUGA at the campus needs to be more open for public use and the tennis court is not available to the public. A sports consultation in Kinross identified the cost and access to the leisure centre as barriers to participation to individuals and clubs. Primary schools are an opportunity to increase involvement. Older children would like more entertainment though, and more leisure facilities such as a cinema or trampoline park and more play areas for children. Improvements for existing play areas include fixing the tower in Kirkgate, more gymnastic/monkey bars, and having softer surfaces in play areas.

7. Facilities and Amenities (4.3)

Children and young people like their schools and the library. Adults like the independent shops, and farmers market but would like, as would children, practical shops for clothes. Sainsbury's is thought not big enough and both this and Green's thought too expensive. A discount supermarket would be widely welcomed for competition. Health services in the town are appreciated but difficulty in getting a doctor's appointment, the lack of an NHS dentist are priority issues with concern also over waiting times and cost of private dentists and provision of lack of mental health care. The loss of banking in the town was raised by disabled people as cash points are difficult to use requiring a

trip to Perth. Children also raised the lack of an A&E and private school. Some suggestions for the High School from older children include more places to sit and lunchtime, and better mental health provision and action on bullying.

8. Work and Local Economy (3.9)

While young people thought there were good work and volunteering opportunities, these are confined to shops, and restaurants with more limited opportunities for under 16s. Adults also thought there were some but limited work opportunities with a need for more local employment. Opportunities include having employment – not just retail – at the BCA site, more local jobs, more small business accommodation, and capitalising on tourism.

9. Housing and Community (4.8)

Young people in Kinross and Balado want bigger homes, while the main issue for adults was affordability, more properly affordable homes, more social housing and rental properties. Concern was also raised about ensuring that the number of houses built should be able to be supported by facilities and amenities. Suggestions include including affordable housing in the BCA site, retaining the Kinross boundary at Davis Park and retaining the separation between Milnathort and Kinross.

10. Social Contact (4.9)

Children and young people can meet with friends in parks, cafes or at KYTHE , but feel there are fewer places to meet new people, with a lack of free, sheltered places to meet. Adults too generally feel there are plenty of places to meet especially in cafes with lots of clubs, and the day centre. It was noted that a lot of clubs that stopped over Covid have not started up again, and the beer garden which was welcoming of everyone is missed. Disabled people thought better use could be made of the campus for groups, with limited access, a charge for community groups, despite being the best for disabled access.

11. Identity and Belonging (5.5)

People in Balado and Kinross are proud of their place giving this category the highest score. There are lovely places to live with lots to do such as farmers markets and festivals, with a good community spirit. Children would welcome more festivals.

12. Feeling safe (5.1)

While people generally feel safe in Kinross a few thought a greater police presence was required, lighting of some paths and concerns of behaviour. Young people and particularly LGBTQIA+ young people felt less safe with bullying, and spaces at night such as the skatepark and Keystore especially at night feeling unsafe with older teenagers around. Younger children felt unsafe in woods, and at the skatepark due to teenage behaviour.

In Balado lighting is also needed on the entrance to the village.

13. Care and Maintenance (3.8)

While most people thought buildings were generally well maintained, the low score given to care and maintenance relates largely to litter, potholes and dog fouling. Problem areas include litter around the campus, the woods, at the pier, and overflowing bins at the parks, and glass in Kirkgate park and the skatepark. Children also noted

graffiti at the primary school and swimming pool. Kirkgate park maintenance is needed, and a few run down areas such as the BCA site, the old betting shop in Causeway and the railing on the bridge over the M90. Road gullies also need to be kept clear to prevent flooding. The Kinross recycling centre is appreciated but there needs to be disabled access.

14. Influence and Sense of Control (3.1)

As is common elsewhere children and young people felt they were not listened to or asked for their opinion, suggesting surveys should be shared via the school and noted that while facebook is good for community information, not many young people use it. High School students felt the student council could be more proactive and noted. Amongst adults views were mixed with concern around planning decisions not addressing local concerns.