

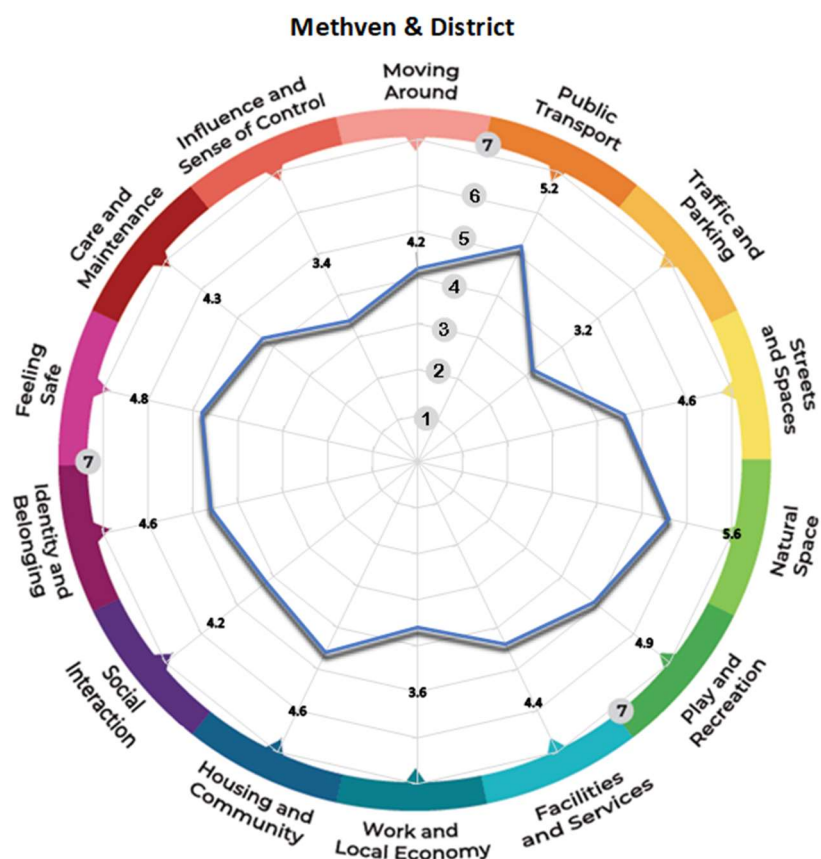
## Methven & District Community Council

Methven & District Community Council area falls within Almond & Earn and Strathtay wards. Part of the area is also considered as part of the greater Perth. The Community Council area includes Methven, Lochty, Almondbank, Pitcairngreen, Logiealmond, Clathy, Clathymore, Almondbank, Huntingtower, and Ruthvenfield along with planned new development at Perth West and Almond Valley and a large rural area. The neighbourhoods of Perth West and Almondbank, Huntingtower & Ruthvenfield fall within the greater Perth area and have been identified as Perth local living neighbourhoods. Separate reports on these neighbourhoods will be produced as part of the Perth City report. See the appendix for more information on these areas.

For ease of reference this report covers the conversations and responses from the whole community council area.

In Methven village a conversation was held at the warm spaces day with local people along with a conversation at Methven Primary and an older student from a conversation held at Bertha Park High School. A drop in event was also held in Pitcairngreen, a discussion with ESOL class in Perth and additional drop in sessions as part of the Perth consultation along with online submissions. In total 37 people contributed to the discussion.

Note that due to the tailored nature of conversations not all participants completed scores, this includes drop in events. Note that place standard scores are out of 7. Seven is where the least improvement is needed, and 1 the most.



### 1. Moving Around (4.2)

Children emphasised the ease of walking and cycling to school within the village except for narrow paths in the older parts of Methven and the need for more light controlled crossings. Pavements are in a bad condition, making them dangerous for older people, and overgrown vegetation also hampering pavements. Outside of the village adults noted the difficulty of narrow paths outside of the village and were concerned with not being able to walk or cycle to Perth or other villages safely with strong support for a cycleway to Perth along the A85. Children liked recreational cycling from the village, noting that paths in the Den need to be improved and are not accessible for all due to stairs. The adults noted a popular core path being blocked by the landowner.

In Pitcairngreen and the surrounding area issues include single sided and narrow pavements, traffic speeding, narrow roads at points, insufficient core path network and poorly enforced right of way in places, nowhere to take shelter in rainy conditions, and paths badly affected by winter weather.

Suggested improvements include a cycling path to Bertha Park high school from Almondbank area, additional walking routes in the local area, drainage/surface work required on some paths due to winter weather damage, and traffic calming measures including traffic lights at Almondbank bridge and one way system around Pitcairngreen.

Others comment that the route 77 path is welcomed for getting into Inveralmond and Perth city centre by bike, but some issues with pedestrian safety. The path along A85 needs widened, and segregated cycle provision is sought (particularly along A85). There is dangerous traffic on College Mill Road (needs a pavement) and the other side of the pedestrian bridge.

### 2. Public Transport (5.2)

The bus through Methven is well and children appreciate the regular service. However the service reduction to 1 per hour is being felt. The bus also does not go to Broxden for connections or Glover Street doctors requiring increased car use. Alternative transport is also problematic, taxis from Perth charge for the distance travelled to pickup and the volunteer transport to the friendship hub has stopped. Concerns from children include the need for information on cancellations aside from the app, along with vandalised seats and timetables and feeling unsafe due to drunk people.

At the Pitcairngreen event Bus services generally considered good in the local area with regular service for Almondbank and Pitcairngreen to Perth which provides access to a wide range of services/facilities. It is highlighted that there are limited bus services in the evening e.g. for college students and a need for cheaper bus transport.

From Huntingtower there is an hourly service and at limited times and you need to walk 10-15 mins to get to more regular services from Tesco, Crieff road and it lacks a direct route to Broxden. At the time the service for Huntingtowerfield was due to cease. Bus service is not frequent enough for Almondbank in the evenings, and service is slow, uncomfortable and expensive.

### 3. Traffic and Parking (3.2)

The speed of traffic through Methven is a dominant issue with both adults and children, despite existing signs and speedbumps. More traffic calming and a 20mph zone are considered necessary with children finding it unsafe to cross in the middle section of the main road and requiring a crossing to the park. Inconsiderate and illegal parking is

also a common issue particularly near the shop and parking on corners making it unsafe to pull out. Children proposed parking on the main road to be on one side only. Everyone thought more parking was needed, as Use by the public of the Methven Arms car park leaving no room for customers or staff.

Traffic is generally considered to be an issue in Pitcairngreen including speeding through the village, large vehicles speeding, parked cars causing dangerous situations crossing the road, HGV centre at Dalcrue bringing large vehicles through the village, pavements being too narrow, number of near misses due to poor driving, and unsafe conditions for cyclists. Previous A9 dualling roadworks also caused traffic issues in the village. Parking is also noted as an issue with existing on-street parking impeding large vehicles and no public parking being available for visitors who want to visit the area.

At Huntingtowerfield, there is a need to improve the state of the road and reduce HGV traffic. A one-way system on Huntingtower brae and Castle brae, and street lighting between East and West Huntingtower is also sought. In Almondbank comments seek warning signs on College Mill Road and the other side of the pedestrian bridge 20mph limit and warning signs on Bridgetown Brae.

#### 4. Streets and Spaces (4.6)

Children appreciate the older buildings in Methven such as the church and the big house on the hill, as well as the newer houses with coloured doors. Children like being in a small village that is easy to navigate and being able to play in the street. Adult comments include a request that street lighting not be on all night.

Pitcairngreen and the local area notable features include the 'green', traditional pub, neolithic cairn, monument, and shops. It is noted that there is no local map of area including paths with a suggested improvement to include this locally to help visitors navigate the area for walks. Improving path surfaces around the monument is also highlighted.

There was also a suggestion to improve roads between Huntingtowerfield, past the school and up towards the castle. Almondbank war memorial needs attention and some information on the history of the area for visitors using route 77.

#### 5. Natural Space (5.8)

People value the wildlife in their gardens in Methven and in the Den and woods, and Bertha Park loch is also well used. More fruit trees and flowers would be appreciated with one comment supportive of wider planting and rewilding. Litter and broken bottles in the den were negatives along with children feeling unsafe due to motorbikes on paths at Berth Park.

In the Pitcairngreen area access to nature is highlighted as a positive for the local area including good walks and cycling in the village, easy to get into the countryside with a mixture of farmland and woodland, rewilding areas on the green, and red squirrels in local woods. Lack of diversity in local parks is highlighted as an issue with these only catering for young children and football players. Suggested improvements include activities for older children and young people, and extended path network and improved facilities for all users. A suggestion is noted in the rural area for less burning heather, rewilding the hills and planting trees.

In the Almondbank area people feel it is well connected to nature, with nice for walks, but lade should be better maintained, and whilst communal private greenspaces which

were bought residents were mostly improved, the ones behind Almond grove /way have double fences, and are not well looked after. The Gelly wood and Bertha Park wood is particularly well used but could do with a management plan to halt degradation.

#### 6. Play and Recreation (4.9)

Children in Methven enjoy the natural resources, and tennis court, skatepark and basketball but wanted more play equipment for older primary age children such as monkey bars along with better access to the tennis court, improved skating and bmx facilities and a local netball court. Children make the best of informal outdoor spaces too and appreciate the youth shelter which they would like expanded. Children would like somewhere (free) to hang out indoors in bad weather, and there are few clubs with Girl Guides recently moving to Perth. Adults too would like to have more community classes such as arts and crafts and computing.

A number of issues are highlighted in relation to play and recreation opportunities in the Pitcairngreen area including lack of diverse sports facilities (other than football), no indoor sport available, playground is not usable in the dark as there is no lighting, grass now being mown on the 'green', and lack of opportunities for older children particularly during school holidays. Suggested improvements include improved play area with equipment for disabled users, lighting at the school playground, more diverse opportunities available (not just male-dominated sports), and facilities for children and young in the holiday period and after school.

There is a lack of playspaces in West Huntingtower and Huntingtowerfield, and at Almondbank there is desire to improve the pitch and remove fencing.

#### 7. Facilities and Amenities (4.4)

Both adults and children want a bigger more affordable shop in Methven. Secondary pupils noted that facilities had been lost recently in Methven. The lack of a doctor is also felt, with a nurses hub suggested.

Both the primary school and mobile library seen as good facilities/services in the local area. However, it is noted that there are only a limited number of services within Pitcairngreen village. A suggestion is made for a community group.

West Huntingtower has problems with a high water table and septic tanks and the opportunity to connect with local sewers would be great. Difficulties accessing doctors' appointments is an issue. Lots of services and facilities are in Perth, and the public transport is poor.

#### 8. Work and Local Economy (3.6)

Some jobs are available at local businesses in Methven, with shops, garage and sawmill. It was noted that volunteer work was always carried out by older people.

In the area generally there are limited job opportunities locally but available in Perth, with a need for better public transport to access them.

#### 9. Housing and Community (4.6)

People in Methven thought that mix of housing size was about right with good quality housing and a mix of old and new houses. It was noted however that there was a need for more social and affordable housing and it was difficult to get a house locally. Children also thought more flats were needed. More housing is not wanted due to the impact on school capacity.

The housing options in the Pitcairngreen area are generally good with a range from pensioner bungalows to large private houses. The community is also considered to be usually friendly. In terms of future development, a suggestion is made for a handful of bungalows/sheltered housing and small number of starter homes. Potential flood risk at the Gelly Burn is highlighted which may impact on existing houses if the West End fields are developed.

At Huntingtower there is good energy efficiency, and control of heating in new build.

#### 10. Social Contact (4.2)

Opportunities exist for meeting people in Methven at the hub and friendship club and the gala - and duck race - is well attended. Children felt they had options to meet up in good weather but want an indoor space or the current shelter improved for bad weather.

There are examples of people connecting in Pitcairngreen including the village church, village newsletter, bowling club, two pubs, café, village hall. However it is noted that there is nothing to join the whole community together, with the suggestion of a community group to assist.

The football pitch in Almondbank used to be much used but fencing limits that now. Provision of playspaces in West Huntingtower and Huntingtowerfield would improve contact, whilst generally improving public transport would help.

#### 11. Identity and Belonging (4.6)

Methven has a good community feel, with people helping each other and pulling together. The newer housing is perhaps less integrated and students noting that some housing felt more isolated.

There is generally a good 'community' in Pitcairngreen and people like living in the area, however there is nothing to bring the whole community together. There are previous instances of unwelcoming behaviour in the community however this has reduced due to incomers/younger people in the village. A suggestion is made for a community group to encompass all the local areas including Almondbank, Pitcairngreen, Lochty and Bridgeton.

One comment mentioned that it is difficult as you need to travel for lots of daily activities, and another sought more community spaces and activities. Almondbank is considered a good place to live, but there is need to make more of local history.

#### 12. Feeling Safe (4.8)

Flooding from the fields in Methven is a real issue, flowing down the A85 and causing flooding in houses. Flooding has also increased from the area of new housing which used to be a field. While children and young people felt safe and that adults were helpful, however after dark Methven felt less safe, with other incidents of drinking or mental health.

People in the Pitcairngreen area considered it to be very safe. While generally there was a mixed response with drugs, alcohol and poverty cited as issues.

#### 13. Care and Maintenance (4.3)

Flooding in Methven is exacerbated by drains not being cleared. Within town graffiti and litter is not an issue but in litter, broken glass and so on is an issue in the woods and

park, more bins are also needed at bus stops. On roads there are potholes leading out of Methven, and damage at James Road from HGVs.

There is a local group that looks after Pitcairngreen village green however paths in the surrounding area can get overgrown in the summer.

In the Almondbank area, the lade is in a poor condition due to lack of maintenance (choking/silting issues). Improvement to signage and surface on College Mill Road is sought, and flooding issues are also mentioned.

#### 14. Influence and Sense of Control (3.4)

Adults in Methven felt they needed a better idea of who to talk to in the Council for different issues. Children felt they were listened to at school and would like to be consulted about changes to the park.

The Pitcairngreen Village newsletter is highlighted as a good way to reach the community however it is noted that there is no community group for the area which can mean it is difficult to reach the community. The lack of a vision for a net zero future or for climate change is highlighted as an issue, the community currently only has some recycling bins and a bus service. A suggestion is made for a community group to support across a number of themes in the community.

In the Almondbank area mixed views were put across with more consultation, and helpful Community Council and Councillors, but there are difficulties getting action on some matters, and it is difficult to influence planning decisions.

## **Appendix: Perth City Local Living Neighbourhoods**

A different approach has been taken for Perth City, as the ward and community council areas do not always reflect the settlement, nor the neighbourhoods within it. Rather than using Community Council areas, because Scottish Government National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) says LDPs should support local living/20-minute neighbourhoods it was considered that identifying local living areas within Perth city (taking account of Community Council areas where possible) would be a better focus for analysis. Almondbank, Huntingtower and Ruthvenfield, was one of the local living areas identified within Methven, Perth West was the other, the map overleaf shows how Perth City was split into local living areas for the BPC analysis.

### **Almondbank, Huntingtower and Ruthvenfield**

This area lies partially within Methven & District Community Council area which is active and Tulloch Community Council area which is not currently active. This area lies to the west of the A9 and includes the substantial employment area within the Inveralmond Industrial estate to the east, as well as the existing Huntingtower, Ruthvenfield communities and Almondbank village to the west. The Strategic Development Area of Almond valley lies within it and is planned for between 704 and 1,000 new homes, whilst the northern part of the Strategic Development Area of Perth West also lies within this Local Living area.

### **Perth West**

This area lies within the active Methven & District Community Council area. Perth West is a planned new residential community on the edge of Perth City estimated for between 2,210 and 3,450 new homes, 25 hectares of employment land, 2 local employment and community focussed centres, land for medical centre and 2 double stream primaries and cemetery provision. It includes most of the Strategic Development Area of Perth West, but not the northern part. There are very few existing households within this area, and no development has come forward within this area. There is an in-principle permission for the southern part of Perth West. It is bounded by the A9 to the east and the south and has a rural aspect to the west including West Lamberkine Wood. It is not unsurprising that no comments were received for this area, but hopefully in time it will emerge as an important new community of Perth.

