

## Community Council: Pitlochry and Moulin

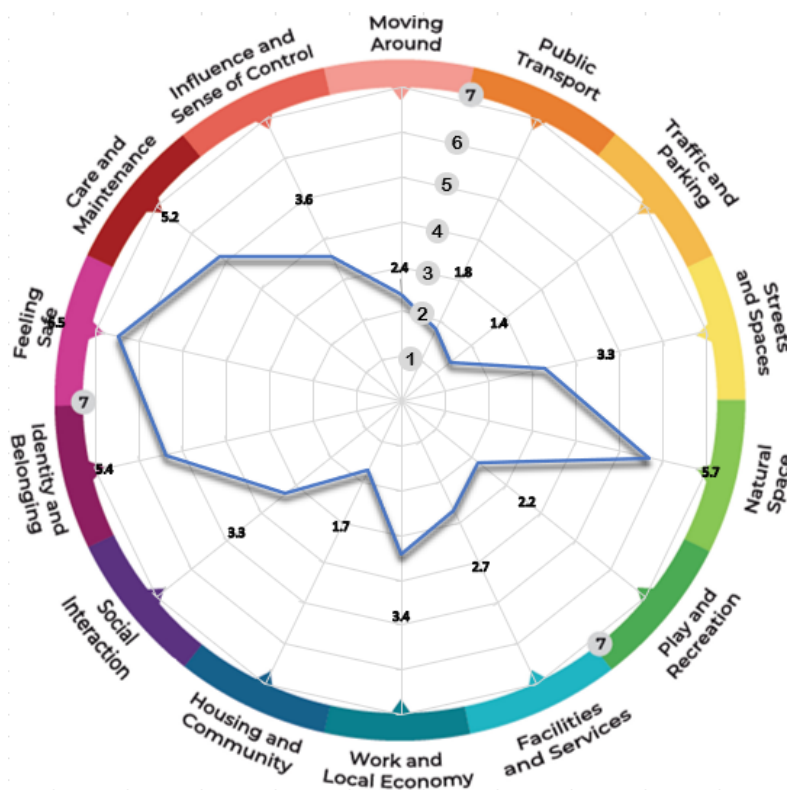
Pitlochry and Moulin Community Council area covers the main settlement of Pitlochry and Moulin, along with outlying villages including Croftinloan, Donavour, Ballyoukan, and East Haugh. The River Tummel is a notable feature within the area as well as the A9 trunk road and Highland railway line providing connections to the north and south. The area is a popular visitor destination. Transport Scotland have plans for A9-dualling in the area.

A place standard event was held in Pitlochry, as well as a drop-in session with pupils at Pitlochry High School. We also held a place standard with the Highland Housing Network Group where there were representatives from Pitlochry CAT. A total of 52 people attended an event or responded to the survey, including 20 children aged between 12-16. A Community Action Plan (2022-2027) has been prepared by Pitlochry Community Action Trust.

### Place Standard Scores

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.

**Pitlochry and Moulin Community Council Place Standard Scores**



#### 1. Moving Around (2.4)

Positive features mentioned included excellent opportunities for walking and wheeling (for abled bodied people) however the topography in the area can be challenging. Reference was made to issues highlighted in the Pitlochry Community Action Plan.

Suggestions included improvement around bike facilities and infrastructure, general accessibility for buggies, wheelchairs and electric scooters, lack of pavements in some places, and issues with parking /bins on paths. Some also noted that they felt unsafe walking and cycling around including concerns for school pupils and the elderly population. Difficulty walking and cycling to other places e.g. Perth, also noted.

## 2. Public Transport (1.8)

Positive features mentioned include good connectivity to big cities by train and overall network is good for both buses and trains. Positive experiences noted of existing services particularly from young people. Access to public transport is mixed for those living in rural areas, in particular usually a need to use car first to get to a station/stop.

Suggestions for improvement included improving public transport timetables and more services which don't currently serve commuters or those attending events later in the day. Opportunities to have (electric) shuttle buses would improve situation as well as later services and improved transport hub. Improving bike storage facilities at stations and on buses/trains also noted. Improvements in public transport highlighted as helping to reduce need to use car.

## 3. Traffic & Parking (1.4)

Traffic and parking generally expressed as an issue for Pitlochry including issues around too much traffic (tourists and visitors), congestion in the town centre, at the COOP shop, and at the school, as well as residential areas. Traffic also noted as being sometimes too fast with too many cars parked on roads.

Improvements suggested included restricting access to the centre, more tourist parking on outskirts of town/shuttle buses, improved traffic and parking management/enforced including ticketing. Some suggestions were made for increased time for free parking, and additional parking in town centre including for disabled users. Issue with timber logging route(s) in the local area were also noted.

## 4. Streets, Squares & Buildings (3.3)

Positive features included there being lots of heritage buildings in the town and examples of local investment in and repurposing older buildings (e.g. dentist, Moulin Heritage centre).

Suggested improvements included addressing publicly and privately owned buildings in the town including landmarks and derelict buildings, street cleaning, incorporating a defined public space in Pitlochry centre, incentivising building maintenance.

## 5. Natural Spaces (5.7)

This was identified as a strongly positive feature in the area including access to lots of natural spaces including for walking and experiencing nature/wildlife, and an excellent local paths group. Particularly notable places included Ben Vrackie, Faskally, and Black Spout.

Suggestions for improving experiences of natural places included improved signage for walks and dog-walkers and access to funding for community-based initiatives. There is mixed opinion around increased parking for visitors and the impact this would have.

## 6. Play & Recreation (2.2)

Positive features identified in the community include lots of groups and options for play and recreation particularly from young people, the work of the Pavilion Users Group, and

improvements to some play parks by the community. Young people also particularly enjoyed access to informal opportunities for recreation e.g. swimming in the river/Loch Garry.

Improvements suggested included better provision of a wide range of facilities for young people (e.g. skate park, basketball court), improvements to existing facilities (e.g. Recreation ground, Leisure Centre, Campus), combining services at one facility, better public transport to/from Aberfeldy for after-school activities, a junior park run, allotments/community growing space(s), and a community space for locals that isn't a coffee shop.

### 7. Facilities & Services (2.7)

Positive features included good range of places for eating out. Some respondents were positive about the range of local services but not necessarily enough to meet demand. A campus approach was suggested as a hub for delivering public services.

Improvements suggested across a range of services/facilities including the school, doctor surgery, dentist, hospital, library, wider offering of visitor and local shop and supermarket provision, public toilets, allotment/community garden provision, budget hotel. Young people in particular highlighted lack of facilities for their demographic including retail offer, cinema, bigger swimming pool, more entertainment options. A local energy solution was also noted a potential positive improvement for the area.

### 8. Work & Local Economy (3.4)

Positive features included lots of volunteering opportunities, the Rotatory Work Experience Programme, and the Men's Shed. School-aged young people did note that there were a range of part-time jobs available, and pay was generally good.

There were mixed views about availability of jobs, however there was a consensual view that the job market was compounded by a lack of housing, particularly for key worker jobs. Employment in the area was also noted as being dominated by tourism and hospitality sectors as well as school-leavers moving elsewhere (e.g. cities) for employment/other opportunities.

Suggested improvements included increasing affordable housing provision, improving training opportunities, increasing professional-based employment opportunities, improving opportunities for young people, improving childcare availability, and building cheap business units.

### 9. Housing & Community (1.7)

There were mixed views about the adequacy of the housing stock/supply. Of those suggesting demand is not being met, a range of housing options were suggested including lower cost rental, smaller homes for downsizing, smaller starter homes, affordable homes, accessible homes, key worker homes.

There was recognition that new housing development is constrained by environmental factors such as flood risk, topography, and availability of land. A number of potential housing sites suggested for consideration, and it was suggested that landowners could help play a role in housing supply. It was noted that short term lets, holiday accommodation and second homes have a negative impact on the housing situation.

Suggested improvements included improvements to EPCs of existing housing stock, improving maintenance/appearance of existing housing stock including affordable units, retaining new

housing for locals, higher taxes on holiday homes, and introducing site for dealing with camper van waste.

#### 10. Social Interaction (3.3)

There were a number of positive features identified including Moulin Hotel coffee morning, Men's Shed, War memorial gardens, mothers and toddlers' group, youth club and the bowling club.

Improvements suggested to improve social interaction included more (indoor) places for meeting including for young people, a central social hub, more spaces for community groups, improving public transport availability, and improved recreational and cultural facilities. It was also noted that a Community Asset Transfer request had been rejected.

#### 11. Identity & Belonging (5.4)

There were strong positive experiences about living in the area with a range of events/features identified including the Highland Games and community bonfire. Living in the area as a family was identified as a positive feature as well as the experience of lots of volunteer/community groups. There were mixed views about the balance of maintaining traditions vs modern way of living in the town, with some young people noting that they didn't feel connected to the area.

Suggestions for improvement included willingness to connect to community living, supporting wider appreciation of heritage of local area, introducing more modern way of life into the town as a way to keep young people in the area, and better representation for the Community Council.

#### 12. Feeling Safe (6.5)

There were generally positive experiences of feeling safe in the area. Some young people noted concerns around anti-social behaviour in the evenings particularly in the town centre. Concerns around environmental safety linked to heatwaves, droughts and wildfires in the local area was highlighted.

There was a suggestion for the return of a community police officer to improve the feeling of safety as well as stronger protection against sources of potential wildfires.

#### 13. Care & Maintenance (5.2)

There was a mix of feeling regarding care and maintenance of the area, with some considering reasonable efforts are being made whilst others consider much improvement is needed. Positive features highlighted included Pitlochry in Bloom and general appearance of the town including older buildings where care has been made.

Suggestions for improvement included the introduction of a reuse shop, improving campervan facilities, additional EV charging points, improving the appearance of key buildings within the town (centre), general street cleaning of litter, and re-use of unused buildings. An issue was raised about littering at the side of the A9 and the impact from tourists on the appearance of the area.

The potential to generate income for the community from initiatives was highlighted.

#### 14. Influence & Sense of Control (3.6)

Generally, a feeling from respondents that engagement with the community could be improved with a number of examples given. Continuous and early involvement was suggested, and a need

to consider more coordinated council service provision. Some also highlighted improvements needed in terms of the relationship between the community council and the wider community.

Pitlochry Community Action Plan highlighted as a key focus for what the community wants to improve across a range of issues, and for the Council to help deliver on the CAP. Local media highlighted as a useful way to inform the wider community.