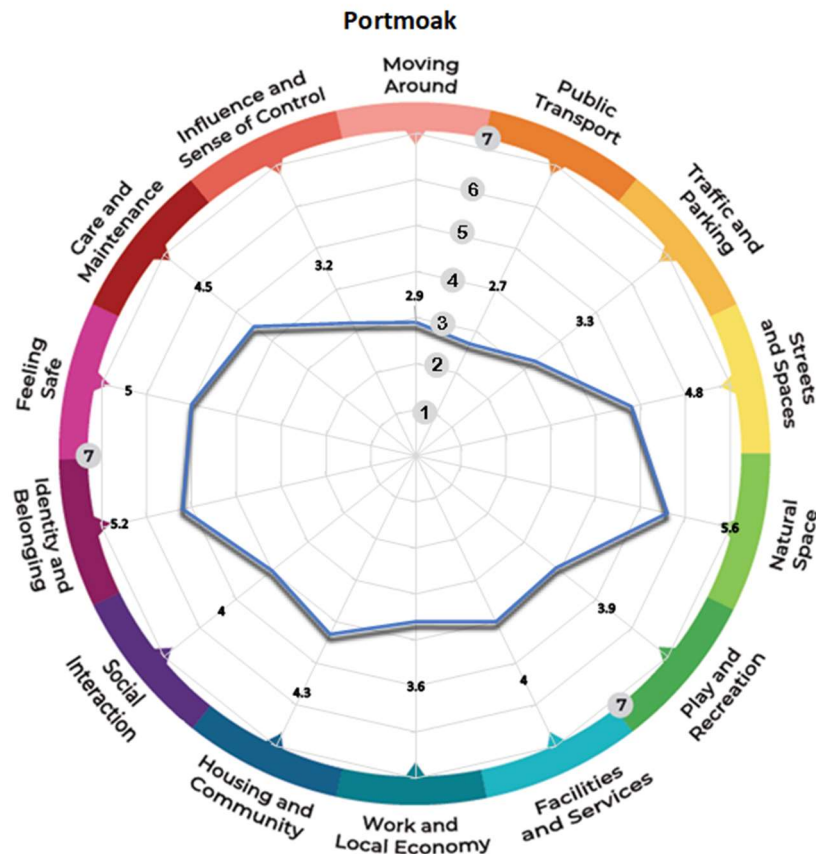


Community Council: Portmoak

Portmoak community council covers the south and east of the loch and villages with Bishop's Hill behind. A well attended drop in event was held in Portmoak Hall, and a conversation held at Portmoak primary. Together with the online survey 49 people contributed from Scotlandwell & Kilmagadwood, Kinnesswood, Glenlomond, Easter and Wester Balgedie, and rural locations.



1. Moving Around (2.9)

Walking and wheeling around Portmoak is, along with Public Transport the highest priority and received the lowest score in Kinross-shire. While children value the heritage trail and access to it at Grahamstone, and it is easy to walk and cycle within villages, the most pressing issue is the lack of connections between villages along the busy A911 which is too dangerous for cycling especially for children travelling to school or shop in Kinnesswood. Where there are paths they are often too narrow for wheelchairs or pushchairs or are overgrown with vegetation. This includes the poor connection between neighbouring villages of Scotlandwell and Kilmagadwood. One suggestion here is for a shared surface to force cars to slow. The B9097 and A911 out to Wester Bowhouse too are dangerous to walk or cycle along. In Wester Balgedie the lack of footpaths is exacerbated by a lack of street lights.

2. Public Transport (2.7)

Receiving the lowest score there are only a few buses each day between Kinross and Glenrothes. Few people take the bus as either they cannot walk to the bus stop, the times do not allow commuting, or getting home by public transport is not possible. Taxis too are difficult to get and must be booked days in advance. Due to the narrow roads, the existing buses also hold up traffic. Suggestions include smaller more frequent bus, a community bus or a service to Ballingry (or extending the Ballingry service to Kinross) to open up more transport options.

3. Traffic and Parking (3.3)

As well as traffic along the A911, speeding and an increase in heavy vehicles are also issues within all the villages. In Glenlomond only it was noted that traffic and improved since signs were introduced to Glenvale. In other villages crossing the road is dangerous. In Kinnesswood traffic calming measures are thought by some to not be effective, encourage speeding or damage cars. In Wester Bowhouse, a 40mph zone was agreed following a fatal accident but has not been implemented. In Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood, traffic is still too fast despite a 20mph limit, requiring enforcement or more measures.

Parking is an issue throughout the area except Glenlomond. In Kinnesswood school pick up and drop off is crowded, with people parking blocking views from driveways and junctions, and a general lack of parking in the area. More parking is also wanted in Scotlandwell, church hall parking is used as overflow for the hall – this is being explored for community ownership. More parking too is needed at the entrance to Portmoak Moss.

4. Streets and Spaces (4.8)

Valued places in the area include the school, church, hall, Loch Leven's Larder, the Kinnesswood shop, and the Well. The centre of Kinnesswood is older and the newer buildings thought to fit in. Roads in Kinnesswood are affected by poor road drainage and flooding off the hill, the Cobbles and Back Dykes Road badly affected; and the A911 floods between Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell. Flooding off Munduff Hill above Scotlandwell is also an issue as it brings silt and rubble down onto the road.

5. Natural Space (5.6)

Accessing beautiful natural spaces is easy from all the villages in Portmoak although there are some access restrictions on older paths across farms. The Moss, Bishop Hill, Kilmagad Wood, and the bird life on the loch are all valued and volunteer groups do great work improving Kilmagad Wood and on the Moss as does TRACKS maintaining the paths. Suggestions for enhancement include using field margins for biodiversity and planting on Bishop Hill and Munduff Hill to reduce flooding and erosion which affect Kinnesswood and Scotlandwell. More benches, picnic tables and places to sit outdoors would be welcome.

6. Play and Recreation (3.9)

Children like the parks and open spaces, biking in the hills and the basketball at school. The park in Kinnesswood is well equipped for play although the swings need fixing. More equipment for older children and a good football space are wanted. In Glenlomond the former bowling green is used for play and events, and there is good access to the

countryside. In Kinnesswood Stephen's field is popular for dog walking but there are no pubs or restaurants. Residents of Wester Balgedie noted there are lots of opportunities for recreation in the area but not in the village itself.

7. Facilities and Amenities (4)

While children like the clubs, library and pool in Kinross there are few services in Portmoak and other than the widely appreciated mobile library, accessing services requires a car trip to Kinross or Glenrothes. In the area there are few local shops, with only the small Kinnesswood shop and Lochend farm shop, and the Loch Leven farm shop towards Milnathort. People go to Kinross or Leslie for the doctor. There are issues with getting appointment at the doctors in Kinross, and there is a need for a pharmacy that opens on the weekend. Concerns that the Kinnesswood shop would close and the Scotlandwell inn not serving food have been allayed since the conversation. Purchase of the church was suggested for community use.

8. Work and Local Economy (3.6)

There are plenty of volunteering opportunities in the area and there is some work at the shops, and on farms, however there are few local jobs and businesses with many people commuting or working from home. There are not enough training options in the area either. One respondent suggested a local work hub.

9. Housing and community (4.3)

Throughout the area people think new homes are too big. Smaller homes are needed for starter homes and downsizing as well as better fitting with existing stock. This will also help locals stay in the area. More affordable housing should be provided and there are few houses to let. Children, as in other areas like big houses. Several people were concerned that development fit in with existing character, including use of bungalows. In Kinnesswood protecting Stephens Field from development is important, children thought there was enough housing in the area, and several people requested that existing village boundaries of Glenlomond, Kinnesswood, Scotlandwell and Kilmagadwood remain as they are.

10. Social Contact (4)

Children meet friends outside at the shop or at the park or each others houses. They would like more places to meet suggesting having a space in the hall to allow this or improving the parks. In Glenlomond Balgedie Toll inn is a valued social hub and used for meetings and evens. In Kinnesswood there is no pub or café in the village and a space for informal meeting is needed, the school hall is suggested for an informal meeting space or coffee mornings. In Scotlandwell there are more opportunities to meet with others through volunteer groups, scouts and brownies and badminton, although older children do not feel there are enough places to hang out with friends. Wester Balgedie there are not enough meeting places nearby.

11. Identity and Belonging (5.2)

People in all villages are proud of their place and the strong friendly communities with this category receiving the highest rating. Glenlomond is the best kept hamlet in Kinross-shire. The need to keep the villages of Scotlandwell and Kilmagadwood separate was noted.

12. Feeling Safe (5)

Most people including children feel safe in their villages generally with the exception of traffic issues and flooding. People in Easter Balgedie noted there have been some break ins and oil thefts, and farms have been subject to thefts. Young people noted the older teenagers on the lower pitch making them feel unsafe, as do people camping around the loch. Not being able to swim in the loch is disappointing.

13. Care and Maintenance (4.5)

Volunteers including the Bloom Group do a great job keeping spaces maintained, with the Moss, school and heritage trail well looked after. Residents in Glenlomond also put in a lot of work to their village.

Litter along the main roads is a priority issue, with local litter picks being carried out Silt washing off the hill is an issue in Easter Balgedie, Wester Balgedie, Kinnesswood, and Scotlandwell impacting on roads and drains which need to be swept and cleared more often.

Other places needing some care include vegetation around roadside mirrors, the Michael Bruce museum, the (closed) Scotlandwell shop, the curling pond hut at Portmoak Moss and Grahamstone Avenue where the gravel on the corner causes bikes to slide.

14. Influence and Sense of Control (3.2)

People feel it is easy to have their say through the community council, and like the Kinross-shire newsletter to help keep informed. There is less satisfaction with the Council listening to the community council or councillors, this extends to planning decisions, complaints on mypkc . People don't always know how to have their say, suggestions include not relying on social media for communication, empowering local groups to take action. It was noted that the LGBT community are also present outside of Perth.

Children feel that the school lets them have their say but would like to be involved more widely via the school. The pupil council could be used more to feed back to the school.