

### Community Council: Errol

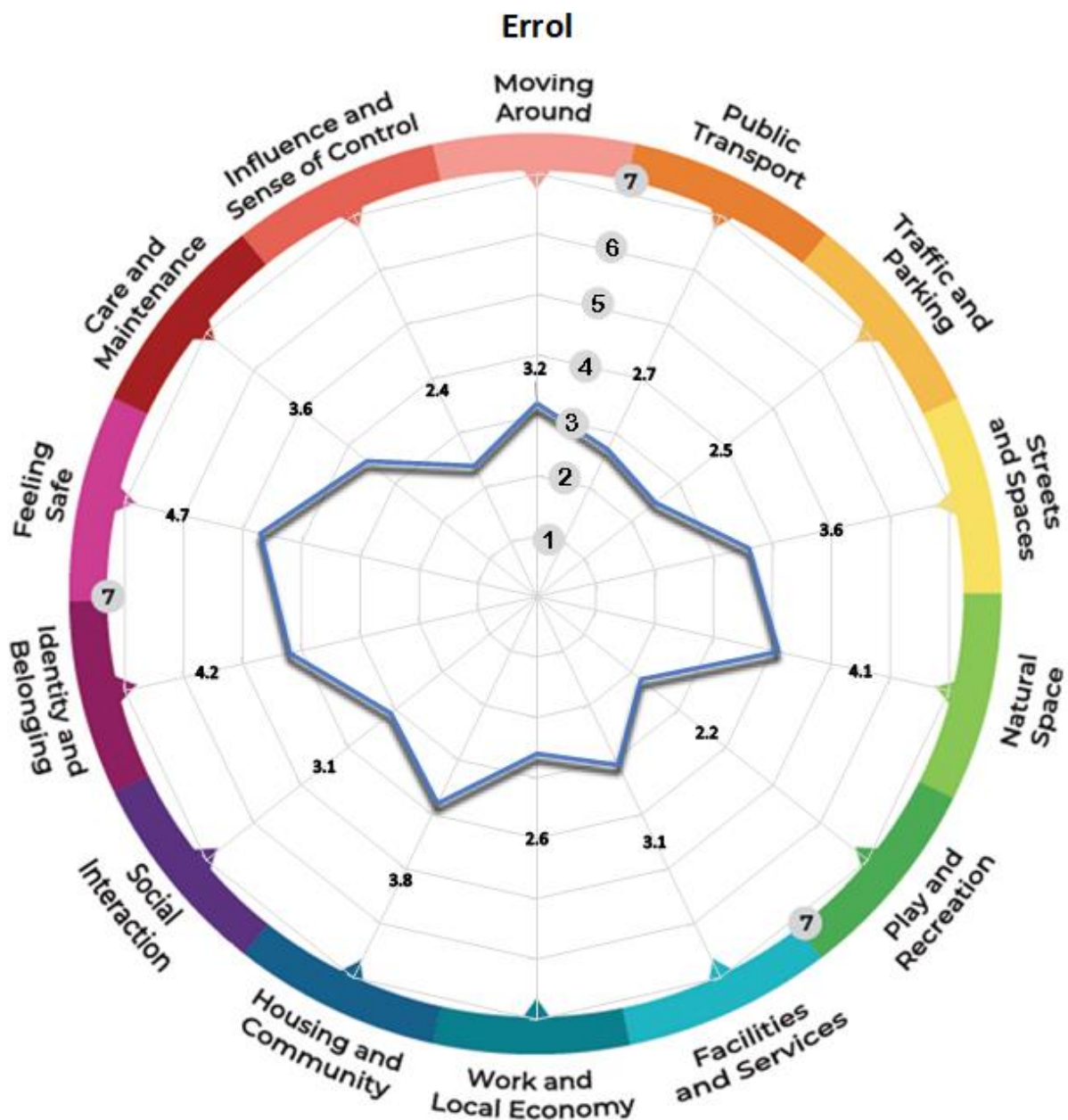
Errol Community Council area is situated along the north shore of River Tay, midway between Perth and Dundee. It is centred around the village Errol, a principal settlement in the Carse of Gowrie. There are several small settlements here, only two of which are designated in the LDP: Errol and Errol Airfield and Grange. Feedback was received from both places during the BPC, as well as Westown and Errol Station.

There is currently no Community Action Plan covering the area, but the Community Council actively took part in delivering the BPC to gather information that will inform the development of a community plan.

There were 62 respondents from the area, including six children and two young people. The Big Place Conversation here consisted of:

- Drop-in stall at Errol Gala Day
- Public event at Errol Village Hall
- Errol Primary School workshop, and
- Online survey responses

Only 45 participants took part in scoring the place standard topics shown below, and this includes six children.



## Moving Around

Positive feedback was received regarding good provision of pleasant routes in the area for walking and cycling, such as Mhari's Walk and the path from Errol to Inchcoonans. Most respondents also agree that the path network around Errol is good and makes moving around easy within the settlement.

Negative comments focus on the danger of on-road cycling, both in and out with settlements. This is due to traffic volume, speeding, and large industrial vehicles. These issues present major safety concerns for children cycling in the area. Overall, there is a poor-quality active travel network, with other reported issues including narrow pavement, poor surfacing, overgrown vegetation, lack of safe crossings and not enough seating.

Given the spread of villages across the rural area, it is not easy to walk or cycle between settlements. The distance, coupled with traffic problems and lack of an off-road active travel network, leads most residents to choose private transport.

Suggestions were to introduce a bypass and develop an active travel network with Errol as the central hub. Respondents also suggested links between Errol and Grange need improvement.

## Public Transport

Overall, public transport provision in the area is regarded as poor.

Positive comments were received regarding the Ember bus, which is regarded as a good service accessible to residents for city travel. Free bus travel was also raised as a good incentive for choosing public transport.

Negative feedback included concerns around the reliability, cost and scheduling of bus services. In particular, the timetabling could be improved in the morning for commuters and in the evening for those coming back from Perth or Dundee. Issues around the quality and accessibility of bus stops were also raised, with poor lighting and lack of sheltered stops among them. Furthermore, some residents cannot access a bus stop within walking distance (e.g. Errol Station).

Residents would like to see a more frequent and reliable bus service, suggesting that community transport options should be considered. The development of a train station or halt in the Carse of Gowrie was also suggested to improve access to Perth and Dundee.

## Traffic & Parking

No positive comments were received regarding traffic and parking for this area.

Negative comments report there is a high volume of traffic (especially on weekends), frequent issue of speeding vehicles, and consistent presence of industrial vehicles in the area. HGVs travelling to industrial premises near Grange have a significant impact on the wellbeing of residents.

Errol village centre is considered a major problem, due to a high volume of traffic passing through and the issue of on-street parking, which leads to congestion and creates safety hazards for pedestrians. The lack of formal parking spaces in Errol was a key issue raised.

Overall, there is significant concern that new development will increase problems relating to traffic and parking. This must be addressed if growth is expected in the area. Suggestions include the introduction of new traffic calming measures, better utilisation of existing car parks

and a bypass to reduce traffic through the village. Dedicated HGV access to industrial sites in Grange and formal HGV parking spaces away from residential areas were also suggested.

### Streets, Squares & Buildings

Positive feedback was received for the historic buildings and monuments in the area, including the church, cemetery, cross, Bruch Hall, and Old Commercial Hotel. Furthermore, the clay buildings in Errol were identified as a core part of its identity and heritage.

Respondents agree that the beautiful buildings and monuments in Errol village centre are detracted from by congestion caused by traffic and parking. Other negative comments were received regarding vacant and derelict properties in need of regeneration, as well as buildings in need of maintenance.

Residents of Errol Airfield and Grange raised the issue of adjacent industrial premises, suggesting this should not expand further and there should be better separation of residential and industrial zones.

Other suggestions included redeveloping The Cross and Bruce Hall to make them more attractive and deliver more community benefit.

### Natural Spaces

Respondents agree that there is an abundance of natural space around Errol that is easy to access.

Residents outside of Errol feel they have poor access to the surrounding countryside, referring to issues reported under Moving Around and Traffic and Parking. There is also reported to be a lack of multi-functional urban greenspace within these areas.

Respondents would like to see more natural areas and open spaces designated for protection against development in the next LDP. They would like to see existing open spaces improved and better utilised as community spaces, suggesting this could be achieved by developing allotments, increasing biodiversity, and improving active travel links. Better access to the River Tay from Errol was also suggested.

### Play & Recreation

Play and Recreation was the lowest scoring topic in this area.

Positive comments were received regarding the Errol Bowling Club and Errol Public Park. The siting of the primary school next to the park was mentioned as a great benefit for children.

Negative feedback focuses on the lack of venues and activities available to young people, leading them to hang out in spaces for children (e.g. play parks), raising concerns for anti-social behaviour. An issue raised by young people was that the skatepark is often used by toddlers and children, which restricts how much use they have of it. Young people suggest there should be separate areas in the park for children and young people.

Other negative comments were received around the poor condition of the MUGA, flooding issues at Errol Park, and the impact of no-mow on informal recreation space.

The community suggest that the Village Hall should be better utilised to host groups and activities that suit a better range of ages and interests. Furthermore, most respondents agree that Errol should be improved as a rural hub for activities by upgrading the park (e.g. exercise equipment or tennis courts) and developing an indoor leisure facility.

## Facilities & Services

Errol is the main hub for accessing facilities and services in the area. Positive comments were received regarding the village shop, primary school, and recycling facilities here. It was also mentioned the community benefits from good access to fresh local produce.

Outside of Errol, access to facilities and services is poor. Residents are required to travel to Errol, Perth or Dundee. Poor access to library, retail, broadband, post office, banking and healthcare services were all noted. Healthcare provision is a key issue, with the lack of dentist being the most received comment. Furthermore, the GP is located outside of Errol and is not easily accessible by public transport. It was also raised that there is no secondary school, which adversely impacts young people due to longer commutes.

Respondents suggest that Errol should be developed into a rural hub, with new and upgraded facilities, and better transport connections. Other suggestions include increasing mobile services (e.g. post office, banking and library) and improving digital connectivity.

## Work & Local Economy

There was limited positive feedback, but three comments suggest there are some local businesses that provide opportunities for work, training and volunteering.

The feedback received was mainly negative, with most respondents agreeing there are limited opportunities locally. High costs of renting business space was raised as a barrier to new enterprises. Respondents feel the area is a commuter belt for Perth and Dundee.

Suggestions here include better support for existing businesses and start-ups, increasing tourism, and improving flexibility of planning to allow properties to change classification to mixed-use.

## Housing & Community

Positive comments highlight there is a diverse local community, with a good mix of age and cultures.

Negative feedback focuses on housing availability, with most respondents agreeing there is a poor mix of housing type, tenure and affordability. The lack of affordable and social housing is a key issue across the area. Older housing stock that is difficult to heat and has issues with damp was also raised.

Residents in Errol Conservation Area highlighted the difficulty of gaining permission for essential energy upgrades due to planning restrictions. In general, respondents across the area would like to see better support and a simpler planning process for making home energy improvements.

Residents would like to see a more cohesive approach to development planning across the area. While some growth is required to attract facilities and services, this should not come at the cost of the existing rural character. Planning should also look to limit industrial expansion adjacent to residential areas. Better quality, more energy-efficient housing was also suggested.

## Social Interaction

Positive feedback was received regarding the good range of opportunities in Errol for social contact, including the village hall, church, school, pub, café, bowling green and park. Other comments highlight the important role local businesses have in bringing people together and

supporting the community feel. Those mentioned were the Lass of Gowrie, Pickled Peacock and Cairn O'Mhor.

Negative comments were received regarding the limited availability of social opportunities outside Errol. Residents of Grange and Errol Station report a poor provision of spaces for social activities. Transport issues were raised again as a barrier to accessing opportunities in Errol.

Residents suggest most socialising occurs outdoors, therefore more seating and shelter should be available. One group suggested there should be a system for donating benches to help increase provision.

### Identity & Belonging

Positive comments were received regarding the great sense of community spirit and rich history in the area. There are good community events that bring people together and help newcomers integrate. People enjoy learning the history of the area, as this makes them feel proud and part of the place.

Some negative feedback was received regarding rural settlements in the area, which are reported to feel separate from Errol and have a lesser sense community spirit.

Feedback suggests there should be more spaces and activities for different age groups, more community events and projects, and more information available in public spaces to raise awareness of local history.

### Feeling Safe

Respondents from across all settlements in the area report to feel safe where they live.

Negative feedback primarily focused on the transport related safety hazards previously covered. Poor lighting and derelict buildings were also common concerns across the area. Some cases of antisocial behaviour were reported, with hotspots identified as the mud-hut in Errol Park and outside the of pubs. School children don't feel safe in the park at night due to young people drinking and smoking. They report finding hazardous waste near play items (e.g. drug paraphernalia and broken glass).

Primary school children suggest that solar lights along the path would make them feel safer at night.

### Care & Maintenance

Positive comments focused on the great job local volunteers do to maintain paths and generally keep places looking good. Take Pride in Errol was specifically praised for their work.

Many negative comments were received for this topic, with common issues of litter, dog-fouling, and poor maintenance of roads, pavements and paths reported across the area. Litter is a significant issue near Errol Airfield and Grange due to the Sunday Market. Other common issues were the maintenance requirements of some private properties, as well as vacant, derelict, and older buildings. Blocked drains contributing to flooding was also raised.

PKC's no-mow scheme is generally regarded as a detriment to place quality, with verges, paths and greenspaces looking unkept. Furthermore, no-mow areas are reported to be hotspots for litter and dog-fouling, while also reducing availability of informal recreation space.

Residents of Errol suggest it is important that the historic clay houses should be properly maintained, and grants should be available given their importance. Better co-ordination of local

groups providing care and maintenance in the area was also suggested to help manage volunteer resources efficiently.

### Influence & Sense of Control

Positive feedback was received regarding the Community Council's role in providing opportunities for people to have their say. Likewise, children highlighted that the school's Parent Council asks for their input on matters affecting them. However, children also reported that they do not feel their opinions are valued as much due to their age, despite their own unique perspective of places.

Adults also do not feel listened to, with reports of complaints put to PKC being ignored or disregarded as non-issues. Overall, the community is sceptical about their influence and control over future development in the area.

Other negative comments received highlight that there is no residents group for Errol Station, or centralised climate action group in the area. Accessing information was also raised as a problem.

The most agreed suggestion is to encourage locals to take responsibility for the area and participate in volunteering or engagement activities. Respondents also suggest they would like more devolved decision-making power, increased awareness of Community Council and other community groups, and improved access to information.