

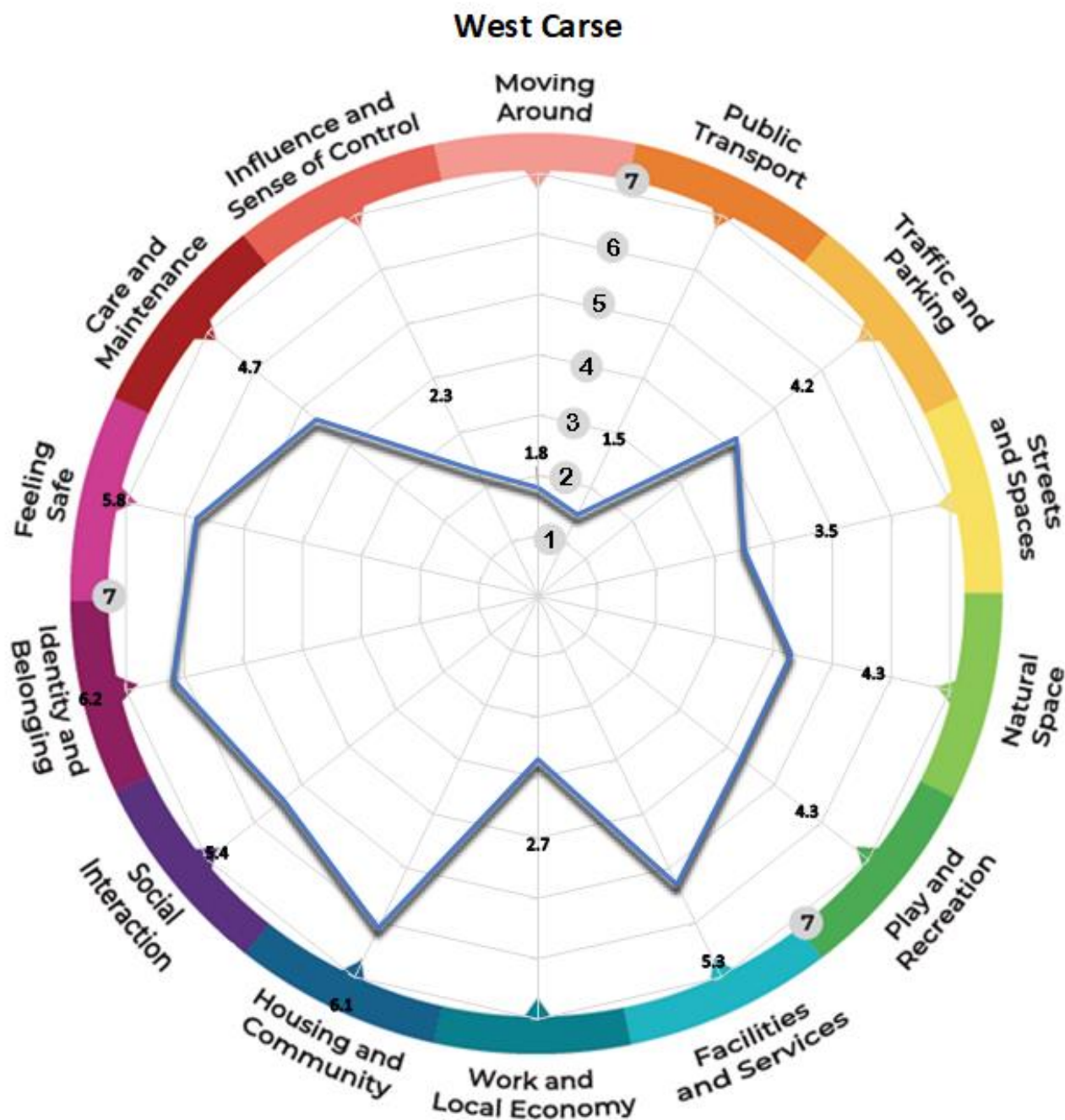
### Community Council: West Carse

West Carse is situated along the north bank of River Tay to the east of Perth. This is a primarily rural area, with several small villages and hamlets, as well as three designated settlements in the LDP: Kinfauns, Chapelhill, and St. Madoes and Glencarse. There is currently no community action plan for this area.

The Big Place Conversation here consisted of a public event at Madoch Centre, drop-in events at Glendoick Garden Centre and with local youth groups, as well as several survey responses. Feedback was received from 30 participants regarding Kinfauns, St. Madoes and Glencarse. This included representatives from the following groups:

- General public
- Children and young people
- Elderly
- Community Council, and
- Women interest groups

Only 13 participants participated in scoring the place standard topics shown below.



## Moving Around

Positive feedback was received for the core path network in the area, which is well used by residents for exercise, dog-walking and socialising. It is important that new development does not fragment or reduce the quality of core paths, instead it should improve connections and accessibility.

Active travel around settlements is often easy, where there are pavements. West Kinfauns, for example, does not have any pavement along the main road, posing a major safety concern for residents that discourages walking or cycling.

Active travel between settlements does not feel safe and is not always feasible given this is a rural area with a wide spread of settlements. Other negative comments mentioned narrow roads, HGVs and poor surface conditions were other barriers to active travel. Furthermore, drivers and cyclists swerving to avoid potholes was raised as a serious safety concern.

Respondents suggest there should be more off-road active travel routes connecting settlements and linking with Perth. Improved routes to Errol were also suggested, as this is a hub for facilities and services. Where off-road routes are not possible, there should be clearer separation of cycle lanes (e.g. using armadillos) and more traffic calming measures, including pedestrian-friendly road signage. Furthermore, it is important to distinguish who has priority when a cycle lane intended to be shared with walking pedestrians. Young people also suggested route surfaces should be suitable for skating or scootering.

## Public Transport

Positive feedback was received regarding the Ember bus service that can be accessed from St. Madoes. This provides direct links to Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow at a reasonable cost.

Respondents agree bus services are poor and unreliable in West Carse. These are usually every hour or less, with frequent cancellations. Timetables do not accommodate morning commuters or residents returning from an evening in the city. Scheduling around events is also poorly coordinated, if at all. Furthermore, buses themselves are reported to be of older stock and in poor condition. Accessibility of bus stops is another barrier to use. Bus stops on the outskirts of settlements or in rural areas often have no path to them, are poorly lit and mostly unsheltered.

There are no train stations in the Carse of Gowrie, despite train lines running through. A train halt was suggested to improve access to cities, but others report trains are too expensive and the focus should be on improving bus services.

Other suggestions include developing a car share scheme at the new park and ride development in West Kinfauns and expanding the Ember bus service. Respondents, particularly young people, also recommend modernising buses with Wi-Fi, chargers and bike racks.

## Traffic & Parking

Negative feedback for this topic focused on issues of speeding on backroads, consistent presence of HGVs and large agricultural vehicles, as well as poor road conditions. On-street parking causing congestion was another issue in some settlements, due to lack of formal parking. This was reported to be worse in St. Madoes, and at key locations such as parks, halls and shops.

Suggestions include extending 20mph zones, introducing more traffic calming measures in settlements, as well as safe crossings at key locations (e.g. schools and community facilities). Respondents also would like to see better communication of traffic impact assessments and mitigation plans when new major development is planned.

### Streets, Squares & Buildings

Positive feedback was received regarding the scenic landscape and the important role local community groups (e.g. In Bloom groups) play in keeping places looking good.

Negative comments concern vacant or derelict properties in the area that bring down overall aesthetics and pose safety risks due to young people using them as spaces to meet.

Respondents suggest new developments should not block landscape views of existing residents.

### Natural Spaces

West Carse is surrounded by countryside with plenty of nature, giving residents good access to natural spaces, including hills, forests, fields and the River Tay. There are good levels of biodiversity within settlements, as evident by St. Madoes becoming one of the first biodiversity villages in the UK.

Most the area is designated greenbelt in LDP2, and residents want this to continue to be safeguarded. Likewise, designated open spaces within settlements should remain protected. However, it was noted that respondents feel sceptical of the protection afforded by these designations, with the major Morris Leslie development at West Kinfauns given as an example where permission was granted on designated open space.

Respondents suggest there should be an improved core path network through the area, with more connections, better surfacing and increased seating to improve accessibility. They would also like improvements to urban greenspaces that enhance biodiversity and increase multi-functionality (e.g. through food growing opportunities). There should be more investment in the area for biodiversity enhancing projects, including green active travel routes. Delivering these through new development contributions was suggested.

### Play & Recreation

Positive feedback focused on the great recreational countryside walks in the area (e.g. Inchyra), as well as excellent range of activities available for a variety of age groups at the Madoch Centre. St. Madoes is regarded as having good provision of opportunities, including a large play park young people and small play parks for children.

Young people report that there are not enough exciting and challenging play activities for them and so these spaces are used to hang out, rather than play. Young girls feel there is a lack of opportunities for them in the area, as football pitches are considered gender restrictive. It was also noted that young people in the area previously campaigned for a skate park in at St. Madoes and have expressed there is still demand for this.

Other negative feedback was that play and recreation provision in smaller settlements is very limited and in some cases (e.g. West Kinfauns) there are no formal play opportunities. It was also mentioned that people using parks and core paths as informal bike tracks was damaging surfaces and causing collisions.

Respondents suggest it is crucial that new development incorporates play provision so that all children and young people can easily access opportunities from home. Development of formal bike tracks and a skatepark were also suggested.

### Facilities & Services

Positive feedback for this topic highlights the proximity to Perth provides reasonable access to a good range of facilities and services. Although these are limited within West Carse, most respondents agree this was accepted when moving here and they do not want to lose the rural village character. Village shops were also mentioned as being essential lifelines for communities.

Negative comments were received regarding accessibility and quality of healthcare services, the lack of a secondary school in the area, and issues with poor public transport provision.

Suggestions include increase mobile services (e.g. library and post office), developing a mini-supermarket in Glencarse and building this into a local hub for other missing facilities and services (e.g. hair dressers and barbers). It is important that rural village character is maintained, but that access to essential facilities and services is improved.

### Work & Local Economy

Respondents across West Carse agree there are limited employment opportunities and most who live here commute for work. Issues with bus timetabling restricting access to opportunities was raised again.

There are a small number of local employers (e.g. pubs, cafés and shops) with more small businesses starting up in the area. Small businesses should be better supported and promoted to help grow the local economy and provide more employment opportunities.

### Housing & Community

Respondents report there to be a poor mix of housing type, tenure and affordability in the area. Small rentals (e.g. flats or bungalows) were specifically mentioned as being difficult to find at a reasonable price. The lack of small-scale, affordable housing is leading young people to move from the area, having a long-term impact on the population's demographic.

Other negative comments were received regarding old housing stock that is poorly insulated and expensive to heat, as well as homes not being connected to main gas lines.

Respondents suggest there should be more affordable and social housing that prioritises locals who require this to remain a part of their community, particularly young people. It is also important that affordable and social housing is of good-quality design, so as not to create a divide in the community between the more and less affluent. Furthermore, while new development that improves the housing mix would be welcomed, this should not come at the cost of losing rural village character or greenbelt.

### Social Interaction

Positive feedback was received regarding the Madoch Centre, as this is highly regarded for the range of social opportunities it offers. Parks, paths and other outdoor spaces are also well-used for socialising. More outdoor seating and sheltered areas for people to stop and talk comfortably was recommended.

Generally, community facilities and other places for socialising in the area are limited. Respondents expressed demand for more venues where groups can meet and host activities. It

was suggested that new development incorporate new indoor and outdoor opportunities for social contact to help meet the needs of the future population.

### Identity & Belonging

Generally, people feel very proud to come from West Carse and this is attributed to a strong sense of community, identity, heritage and culture. Respondents suggest this could be improved by making more information about local history available in public spaces.

There are concerns that the current sense of identity and belonging will diminish if the area develops the wrong way, or if the current community moves away due to the issues raised not being addressed.

### Feeling Safe

Respondents generally agree that overall the area feels safe, except for traffic related safety concerns. There are some reports of anti-social behaviour in parks and issues of hazardous waste (e.g. vapes and broken glass).

Some areas where street lighting is poor can also make residents feel unsafe and it is important that there is appropriate lighting at key locations and along paths to access public transport.

### Care & Maintenance

Positive comments were received regarding the work residents and community groups undertake to maintain places, including organising litter picks and cleaning of private roads.

Negative feedback received focused on litter, dog-fouling, invasive species and poor condition of paths, pavements and roads. Incidents of increased litter from construction sites were reported and respondents suggest better monitoring of this issue at new developments.

Suggestions include more frequent bin collections, introduction of a bottle return scheme, and stricter enforcement of penalties.

### Influence & Sense of Control

Respondents highlight there are opportunities to have their say through local councillors, the Community Council and on the community Facebook page. However, respondents are sceptical as to whether their say is acted on. For example, the community at West Kinfauns has been trying to get pavement along the main road for over 20 years with no success.

There is major concern that the planning system does not give enough weighting to community responses to applications. Furthermore, there is scepticism of the planning system due to a history of planning applications being overruled by the national government. It is important that preparation of LDP3 is collaborative and gives serious weighting to community input.

It was suggested that there should be more assets brought into community ownership, so locals can have control over the future of their place. Walnut Grove at West Kinfauns was a specific site referenced.