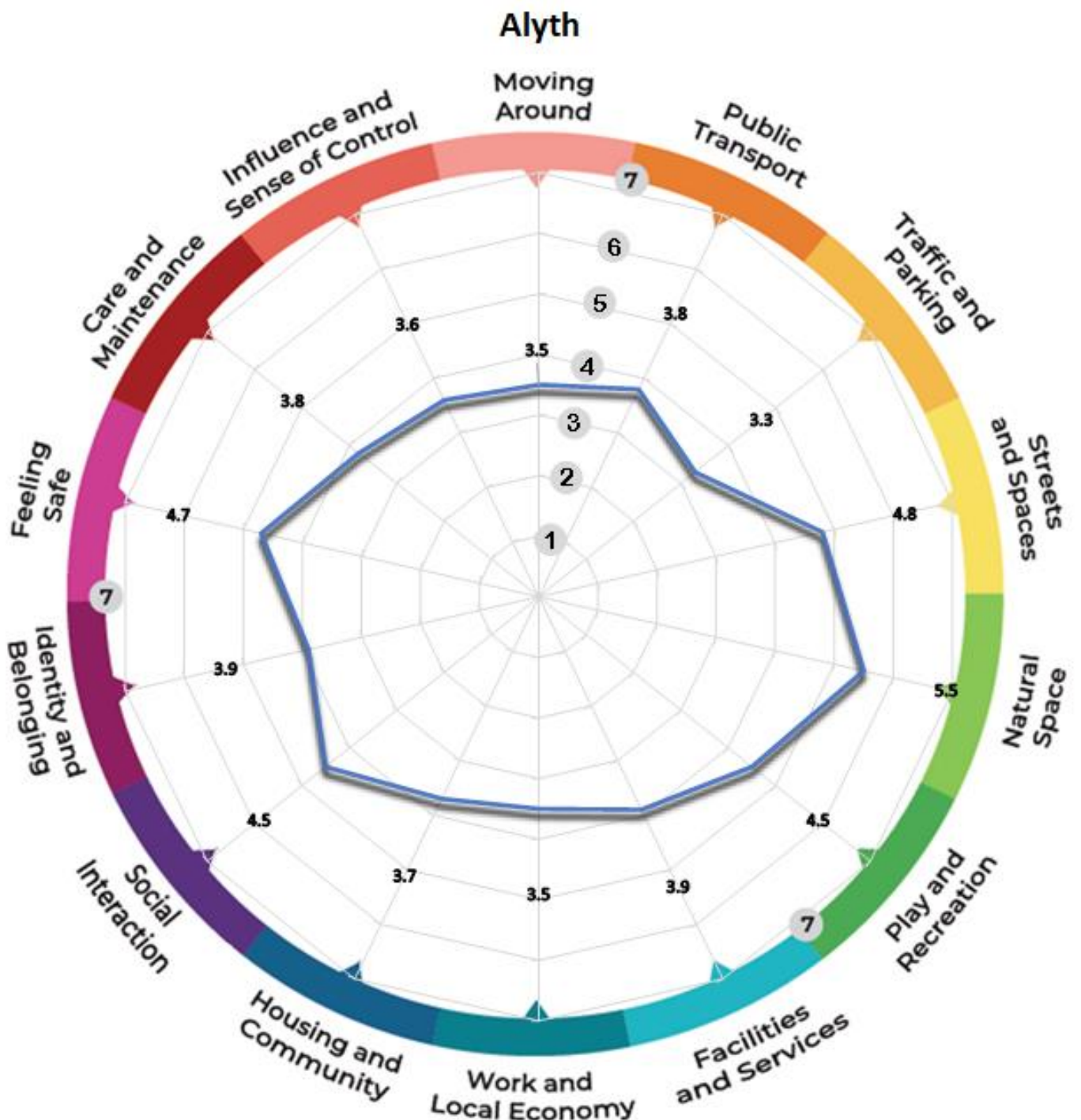


Community Council: Alyth

The Alyth Community Council is situated in eastern Perth and Kinross along the border with Angus Council. It is centred around the town of Alyth, which is situated between Blairgowrie and Kirriemuir along the A926. The area is primarily rural, with two settlements designated in the LDP: Alyth and New Alyth.

[Alyth's Community Action Plan](#) (2021-2026) should be read alongside the Big Place Conversation feedback summary for context and further detail on community priorities.

Feedback was received from 26 participants during Big Place Conversation in Alyth. This consisted of a drop-in event at Alyth Library, an online event, and several survey responses. The responses for Alyth Community Council area are mostly specific to Alyth, with some references to Pitcrocknie Village and the surrounding rural area. It is important to note that only 13 respondents participated in scoring the Place Standard topics shown below.



Moving Around

Positive comments focused on the great recreational walking and cycling routes in the area, and that there is good support for cyclists here. It was also noted that walking around in Alyth is considered easy, although poor access to paths and some buildings for wheelchair users was raised.

Negative feedback was primarily around the lack of a good-quality active travel network connecting nearby settlements (e.g. Meigle, Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie). Likewise, routes within Alyth could be improved to increase connectivity between key facilities and services.

Safety is the main barrier to people choosing active travel. On-road cycling can feel dangerous, and respondents suggest more traffic calming measures would help address this. It was also noted there is uncertainty as to whether cyclists or pedestrians have priority on shared paths, and that improved signage could help address this.

Public Transport

Positive feedback suggests there is adequate public transport provision, with regular bus services to key locations (e.g. Blairgowrie, Perth, Dundee) and good access to bus stops for residents in Alyth.

Negative feedback included timetables do not accommodate commuters, limited evening services, and long wait times between buses. There is also reported to be poor access to bus stops in the rural area and smaller settlements, such as Pitcrocknie Village.

Suggestions were to consider developing community shuttle buses to improve connectivity for smaller rural settlements, and that more buses should have bike storage to encourage active tourism in the area.

Traffic & Parking

Positive feedback for this topic was limited and focused on the availability of formal parking spaces in Alyth town centre, some that include EV charging points.

Feedback was mostly negative for this topic. Overall, formal parking in Alyth is limited, leading to on-street parking which causes congestion and can restrict access for traffic. Respondents suggest that new parking provision should be considered as the area continues to develop into a rural hub and tourist destination. New car parks should be considered on the edge of town and at vacant or derelict sites.

Other negative feedback focused on issues of speeding and the consistent presence of large industrial vehicles in the area. More traffic calming measures, such as expanding 40mph zones and designating more roads as cycle or pedestrian friendly were suggested.

Streets, Squares & Buildings

Streets, squares and buildings generally look to be in good condition. Some sites are an integral part of the heritage and character of places, such as the central square and Market Muir in Alyth. It has been noted that community groups, like Alyth in Bloom, play an important role in keeping the village looking beautiful.

Derelict sites were raised as an issue and it was suggested these should be utilised to avoid wasting assets and improve the look of the village. It was also noted that some residential

properties and commercial premises require some attention in order to improve overall place aesthetics.

Natural Spaces

It is easy to access good quality natural spaces in and around Alyth. The rural location provides a variety of nearby countryside sites, while Jubilee park, Den of Alyth, the Common and Market Muir provide easy access to nature for residents. Accessibility could be improved by upgrading the path network so people of all levels of mobility can use them. The installation of more seating and shelter was also suggested.

The Den of Alyth is an important natural space for both the community and biodiversity. Respondents suggest the community and council should collaborate to update the site's management plan and align this with the Community Action Plan.

It was also noted the community would like to see better planned implementation of Grow Wild grassland management changes. While some support the initiative for its biodiversity benefits, issues were raised regarding aesthetics, dog fouling, and loss of informal recreation space.

Play & Recreation

Positive feedback indicates there is a good provision of play and recreation opportunities in the area. There is a variety of activity groups, such as Alyth Youth Partnership, Rainbows, Brownies, music, drama and games clubs. Easy access to countryside, parks and other urban greenspaces provides a range of formal and informal opportunities. It was noted that the plans to develop a skate park in Alyth has been well received.

Negative comments were that there is high demand for some venues, and it can be difficult to book spaces for activities. It was also noted some groups struggle to get members, and that this could be improved by developing a central register to promote activities.

Facilities & Services

Respondents feel Alyth has adequate facilities and services to meet the needs of the current community. Essentials such as school, GP, small shop and library all located within town. The comments emphasise that facilities and services are adequate at providing for the current population, but any further growth in the area will require additional provision to maintain the current quality for residents.

It has been noted that local shops can be expensive and limited in what they stock, resulting in people travelling out of town for big grocery shops or to buy items such as clothing. Other negative feedback was that some assets in town are underutilised, with the museum, town hall, library and community wing mentioned. Consideration should be given to how these spaces are managed to maximise benefit for the community.

Some residents suggest that there could be more to attract visitors to the area and grow the local economy, such as restaurants or tourist attractions.

Work & Local Economy

There are limited employment opportunities in around Alyth, particularly for young people who are often required to move away for work. The comments highlight the need for both more local jobs and training opportunities. The cost of commercial properties and a need for financial support for small businesses were identified as barriers to new business in the area.

Respondents suggest Alyth should be grown into a rural economic hub. Incentives to stimulate economic growth should be given consideration during the preparation of the next LDP. Other suggestions include developing shared remote working spaces, business incubator hubs, and growing the tourism sector.

Positive feedback was that there is a strong volunteering community and plenty of opportunities to get involved with local projects.

Housing & Community

Much of the existing housing stock is reported to be old and energy inefficient, requiring retrofitting to make them environmentally sound, easy and affordable to heat.

There are also issues with a lack of affordable housing and rental opportunities, which have contributed to young people moving from the area. There are concerns that short term lets are driving higher prices and reducing opportunities for local.

Social Interaction

Positive comments indicate there is a good variety of venues, events, and activities to meet others for social contact. Furthermore, respondents regard Alyth as a friendly, welcoming and hospitable town, making it easy for people to socialise.

Some negative comments were received regarding restrictive costs of hiring venues for events and activities. It was suggested that some venues are underutilised, and these could be better managed to help meet demand for more affordable community spaces.

It was suggested that information sharing should be improved so more residents are aware of what opportunities are available. An online register should be considered, as well as notice boards in the community.

It was also noted that much of the social interaction that takes place occurs outdoors. More outdoor seating and sheltered areas were suggested to improve this.

Identity & Belonging

Residents generally feel proud to be from Alyth and surrounding area. This has been attributed to a rich local history and great sense of community spirit. This is evident through the hard work of local volunteers who bring people together and strive to make Alyth a better place.

Feeling Safe

The area reportedly feels safe and has low levels of crime or anti-social behaviour. As in other areas, anti-social behaviour is a problem with a minority of youth. The community is working to address this and suggest the council can help by developing more opportunities for young people in the area.

Care & Maintenance

Most respondents agree there are no major issues concerning care and maintenance. While buildings and public spaces are generally well maintained, some have deteriorated with time and could do with upgrading.

Responses highlight the difficulty of incentivising private owners to maintain their buildings. Similarly, there are several derelict sites in the area that bring down the quality of place and should be brought back to use. However, even identifying site owners can be challenging.

Other issues were raised around core path maintenance, litter, potholes, grass cutting and weeding. In particular, the community would like to see a collaborative approach to planning No Mow sites in the area.

Influence & Sense of Control

There is a strong presence of community groups who are actively working to improve the area. Feedback from the engagement suggests that there should be better co-ordination between groups, to better align under common goals while clarifying their distinct remits.

Some respondents would like to see more decision-making power and funding devolved to local groups for running services, but others are sceptical as to how local groups are governed. At the least, better co-ordination, collaboration and communication from PKC is required to support local initiatives.

The community would like more engagement on policy and projects that will impact them but are sceptical whether they will be listened to. This concern arises from a history of situations where Scottish Government intervene and overturn planning decisions.

Suggestions include developing a central list of contacts (PKC and key agencies) to assist groups undertaking projects, as well as a register of funding opportunities that explains what they are for, who is eligible, and how to apply.