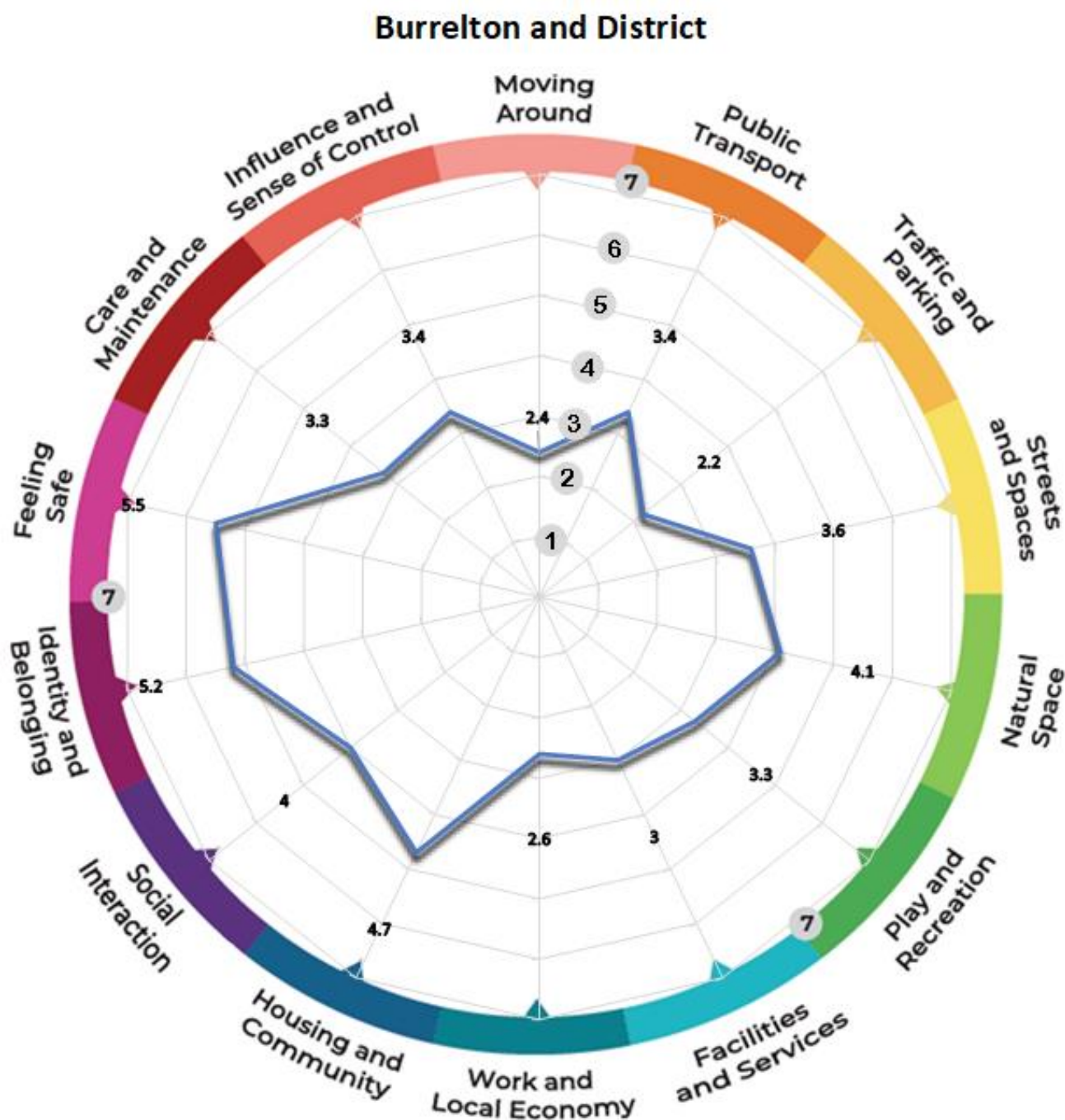*Community Council: Burrelton and District*

Burrelton and District Community Council area is located in central Eastern Perthshire, between Scone and Coupar Angus. This is a primarily rural area with five settlements designated in the Local Development Plan: Guildtown, Balbeggie, Kinrossie, Wolfhill, and Burrelton and Woodside.

The Big Place Conversation received 44 responses from the area, all of which participated in scoring the Place Standard topics shown below. This includes 7 primary school students from Guildtown.

## Burrelton and District

### Moving Around

Positive feedback indicates that walking around settlements is generally easy and there are good off-road walking routes connecting settlements. It was also noted that there are great recreational walking and cycling routes in the countryside.

Negative feedback focused on safety hazards for pedestrian and cyclists, including speeding, large industrial vehicles, as well as poor quality roads and paths. These are common issues both within and out with settlements across the area. It was also noted that cycling within settlements is difficult and dangerous due to lack of adequate cycling infrastructure.

Suggestions for this topic were to designate more cycle-friendly country roads (c-class) and introduce 40mph speed limits, improve the existing path network into an enhanced active travel network, as well as to make more paths wheelchair accessible. It was suggested that the active travel network should cater to all users by including more resting places for those with limited mobility, as well as more challenging biking routes.

### Public Transport

Positive comments were limited and focused on the benefit of having access to some bus services that provide connectivity with Perth, Blairgowrie and Dundee.

Feedback was primarily negative for this topic, with most agreeing the quality of public transport in the area is poor and private transport is the most convenient option. Buses are infrequent, evening services are limited, and timetabling does not accommodate commuters. It was also noted that there is a shortage of direct buses to key locations, with most taking long routes through the countryside to service rural areas.

Accessing buses is also difficult due to poor quality paths, the limited availability of bus stops in the rural area, and bus stops missing from key locations (e.g. Village Halls). Furthermore, a lack of seating and shelter at bus stops discourages people from using them.

Suggestions were to have more frequent services, better timetabling, more direct routes and improve access to bus stops.

### Traffic & Parking

Traffic and parking related safety hazards are a key concern in the area. This applies to both within settlements on the surrounding road network. The main issue raised were speeding, lack of safe crossings, consistent presence of large industrial vehicles, and poor road conditions. It was also noted that school pick up and drop offs were peak times for congestion. There is significant concern that the Cross Tay Link Road and new developments in the area will increase the volume of traffic, making these issues worse for local communities.

Parking is also an issue, with most locations reporting to need more formal parking. On-street parking is a common problem that obstructs pedestrians, causes congestion, and can block access for large vehicles. Respondents suggest that existing parking outside businesses and facilities should be better utilised and signposted to address the problem.

Suggestions include more traffic calming measures, safe crossing at key locations (e.g. schools), and more passing places on single track roads. It was also suggested that HGVs need to plan routes around residential areas to reduce noise, vibration, and safety concerns for residents.

### Streets, Squares & Buildings

Generally, places are reported to look good, and it is important to note that local community groups play an important role keeping up aesthetics by undertaking a range of activities, including litter picking and flower planting. Other positive comments were received regarding the attractive mix of old, new and historic buildings in the area. These are important for the character of places, but it was noted many are at risk of falling into disrepair and require maintenance.

Negative feedback focused on vacant and derelict sites in the area. These are considered wasted assets that bring down aesthetics. Communities would like to see these brought into use, whether for new business, housing, parking, or food growing opportunities.

### Natural Spaces

Positive feedback focused on the great natural spaces in the countryside, as well as good parks and other urban greenspaces providing access to nature within settlements.

Negative comments focused on poor accessibility due to poor path quality, with common issues being missing signage, gates obstructing, and overgrown vegetation. Conflict with landowners was also raised as an accessibility issue.

Suggestions include enhancing biodiversity in settlements, better promotion of existing nature trails, improving core paths links, as well as corridors for wildlife.

### Play & Recreation

Play and recreation provision in the area is reported to be ok at present, but residents have concerns around the capacity to cope with new development and population growth. It was noted that there are not many indoor play and recreation opportunities, despite there being ample spaces in Village or Church Halls. This was attributed to a shortage of volunteers to run them.

There are a good range of activities for adults in the area, with most locations reporting they are provided with free outdoor recreation (e.g. walking) or clubs hosted by community groups (e.g. games or yoga). There are also good opportunities for children, such as play parks and clubs, but a shortage of opportunities for young people. This is an issue reported across the area and it is compounded with public transport issues that limits access to opportunities.

### Facilities & Services

Positive comments identified Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus, Scone and Perth as key destinations for accessing facilities and services. In the area, there are small shops, local butchers, fish mongers, and mobile services that help meet the needs of residents.

Feedback was generally negative, with most agreeing access to facilities and services in the area is poor. This is primarily due to the rural location, as well as the transport related issues previously discussed. Essential services that are distinctly missing include: post offices, healthcare, mobile signal, recycling facilities, nurseries and wraparound care. The lack of a secondary school was also raised as an issue.

Across the area, respondents expressed concerns regarding the impact that the CTLR will have on bringing new development into the area. While this might include new facilities and services, improving access for local communities, there is concern that poorly planned development will only increase pressure on what is currently there. Respondents suggest there should be enough

new development to attract essential facilities and services, so long as this is not at the cost of rural village character.

Other suggestions were to expand mobile service provision (e.g. library), and to upgrade village or church halls to create multi-functional community spaces,

### Work & Local Economy

Employment opportunities are limited with only a few SME's in settlements and some agricultural work in the area, although this is mostly seasonal. Most residents commute elsewhere for work but acknowledge that this was accepted when choosing to live in the area. It was noted that there are a good range of volunteering opportunities in the area through various local groups and projects.

Respondents suggest that some villages may benefit from developing small commercial units to support local economic growth.

### Housing & Community

Regarding community, it is generally agreed there is a strong sense of community across the area. Neighbours are friendly and people come together to help each other. Residents want to help newcomers integrate with the community, and there are various activities, events and volunteering opportunities hosted to help towards this end.

However, an issue raised across various locations was the integration of social tenants who have been placed out of necessity, rather than choice. Recent social housing developments are reported to have increased anti-social behaviour, with incidents of drug dealers and ex-convicts being relocated under social housing schemes due to Council obligations. The community feels these schemes should prioritise locals who are on a waiting list, or that there should be a vetting process to give the limited opportunities to people who will want to integrate into community.

Regarding housing, positive feedback indicates a good mix of homes across Burrelton and District. It was noted that recent developments have improved the mix of housing type, affordability and tenure. Some residents welcome new development, for the potential to improve housing mix and increase population density, thereby attracting more facilities and services to the area.

On the other hand, negative comments were received around poor availability of affordable housing, rental opportunities, as well as small-scale properties such as flats and bungalows. However, there are significant concerns that new development and population growth will have a negative impact on rural character.

For new development to be welcomed and sustainable, it must complement older buildings and not create a divide by appearing out of keeping with the existing character. Furthermore, development should provide more community benefit such as delivering new or improved community facilities, parks, paths, and public transport links.

### Social Interaction

Due to active community groups and friendly neighbours, there is reported to be good opportunities for social interaction in the area. There are various events and activities that bring people together, including gala days, fairs, markets, and recreational clubs. These have

increased since the covid pandemic but it was noted that sharing information is a challenge. Respondents suggests there should be a central online resource for sharing information.

Negative feedback focused on limited community spaces for people to meet, both indoor and outdoor. It is important to residents that there are community hubs in larger settlements which are are easily accessible. Not only do these provide opportunities for social contact, but also serve as warm spaces in winter. In addition to indoor space, respondents suggest more outdoor seating and places to meet will help improve social contact for local residents.

### Identity & Belonging

Respondents generally feel proud to be from the area due to a strong sense of identity, heritage, and community spirit. It was also noted that the landscape plays an important role in the feelings of identity and belonging.

Respondents suggest local history and heritage could be better promoted to educate children, young people, visitors and other newcomers. It was suggested that stories of place should be celebrated by incorporating them into public art, events, and information boards.

### Feeling Safe

Residents generally feel safe across the area, with there being little reported crime or anti-social behaviour. The only significant safety concerns raised are those related to traffic. Poor lighting of public spaces was another concern, and respondents suggest this could be a quick fix to improve feelings of safety.

A few respondents reported a growing problem with anti-social behaviour, such as vandalism and public drinking. This was attributed to social housing tenants who have been relocated to the area, as well as young people who have little to do. There are concerns that if this is not addressed it will get worse. Police and community warden presence is limited, due to the area being generally safe, however it was suggested increased presence would help address the growing anti-social behaviour problem.

Flooding was also raised as a safety concern.

### Care & Maintenance

Positive feedback focused on the role community groups take to provide care and maintenance of places. Bloom Groups in particular were noted to play a crucial role in keeping villages looking lovely.

Feedback was mostly negative for this topic, with several common issues around care and maintenance being raised across the area. These include:

- Poor conditions of paths, pavements and roads
- Poor maintenance of grasslands and other vegetation (e.g. hedges and trees)
- Blocked drains leading to flooding
- Vacant and derelict sites requiring attention
- Maintenance requirements of old and historic buildings, including schools and village halls.
- Litter and dog fouling in parks and along paths.

## Influence & Sense of Control

The area benefits from active community groups who engage with residents and help influence change. Locals feel that they, not PKC, proactively maintain the village. The difficulty is when there are matters out of the community's control, then it can be difficult to influence change.

Respondents feel there is a serious lack of communication from PKC and that when residents do share concerns, they are often overruled or ignored. Engagement occurs but people stop participating because they feel nothing gets done. There is a common feeling that funding, and attention in general, is prioritised to Perth or low-income areas, while country villages are largely forgotten.

There is a need for better communication about what is happening in the area. Not everyone is active on social media, so different approaches are required to communicate effectively. Respondents suggest this would help improve working relations between local community groups and PKC.