

BIG PLACE CONVERSATION 2023

WARD SUMMARY: ALMOND & EARN

December 2024



# THE BIG PLACE CONVERSATION

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2023 Perth & Kinross Council carried out a large scale community engagement called the Big Place Conversation. We asked communities what is good about their place and what could be improved. The main purpose of these conversations was to help shape the next Local Development Plan and our [Mobility Strategy](#). The evidence however is valuable for teams throughout the Council and for communities to help them with their own local plans.

This report provides a summary of area wide and common ideas across the community councils that make up the Highland Ward. Summary reports are also available for the whole of Perth and Kinross and for each Community Council. Community Council reports provide greater detail of specific issues, often to settlement level. All reports are available on the Big Place Conversation [Results Page](#).

### ALMOND & EARN WARD

Almond & Earn Ward covers an area southeast, southwest and west of Perth. These are largely rural areas with proximity to Perth with the sizeable towns of Abernethy, Bridge of Earn and Methven supplemented by smaller rural villages.

The ward includes the following Community Councils. We have summarised comments for each of the Community Councils in the following reports available on the Big Place Conversation Results Page available at [www.pkc.gov.uk/bigplaceconversation](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/bigplaceconversation).

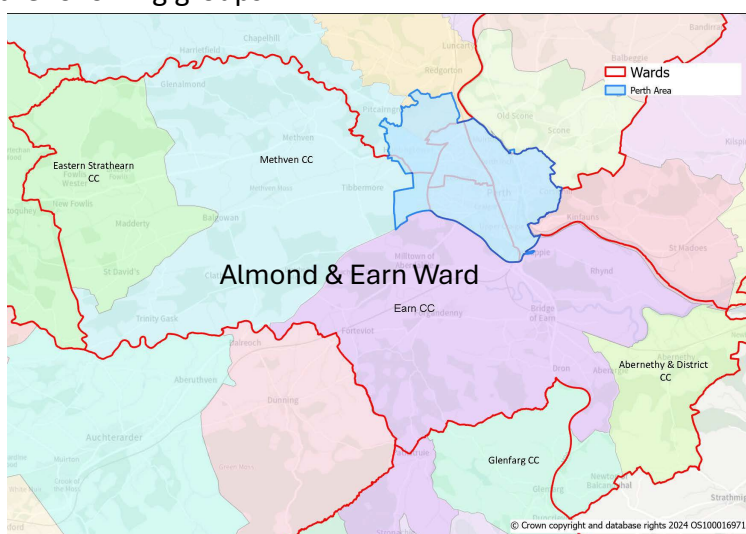
- [Abernethy & District](#)
- [Earn](#)
- [Methven](#)
- [Eastern Strathearn](#)

Methven community council spans Almond & Earn, Strathtay ward and the greater Perth area. This report only includes comments relating to this ward. However the separate community council report covers the whole of Methven CC. Similarly Eastern Strathearn community council area spans both Almond & Earn and Strathearn wards. Due to the limited number of comments relevant to this ward, all comments are addressed in the Strathearn ward report. We received feedback from 133 people and carried out or attended 13 events in the Almond & Earn ward including two primary school sessions. Comments were from the public at large and the following groups:

- children and young people
- older people
- representatives from community council and other community bodies
- disabled
- disadvantaged
- business representatives
- LGBTQI+
- Women's issues

Results from other recent consultations are available for Almond and Earn ward and supplement the findings of the Big Place Conversation

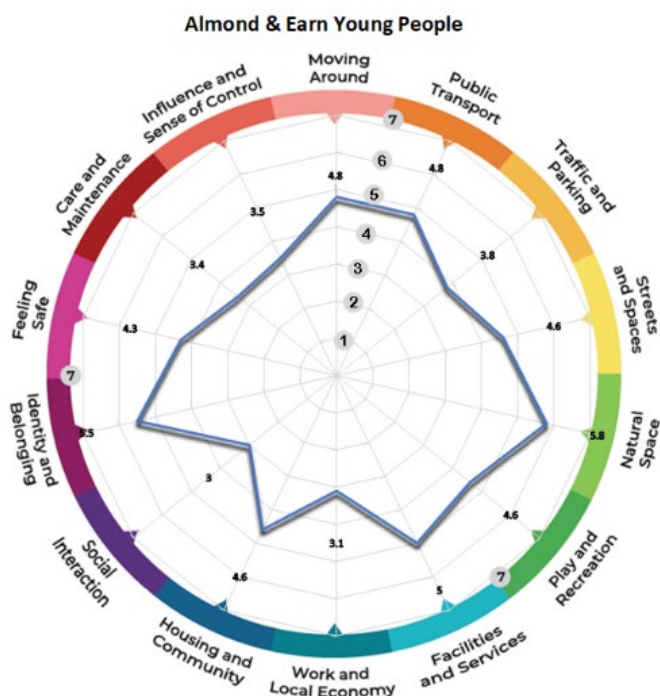
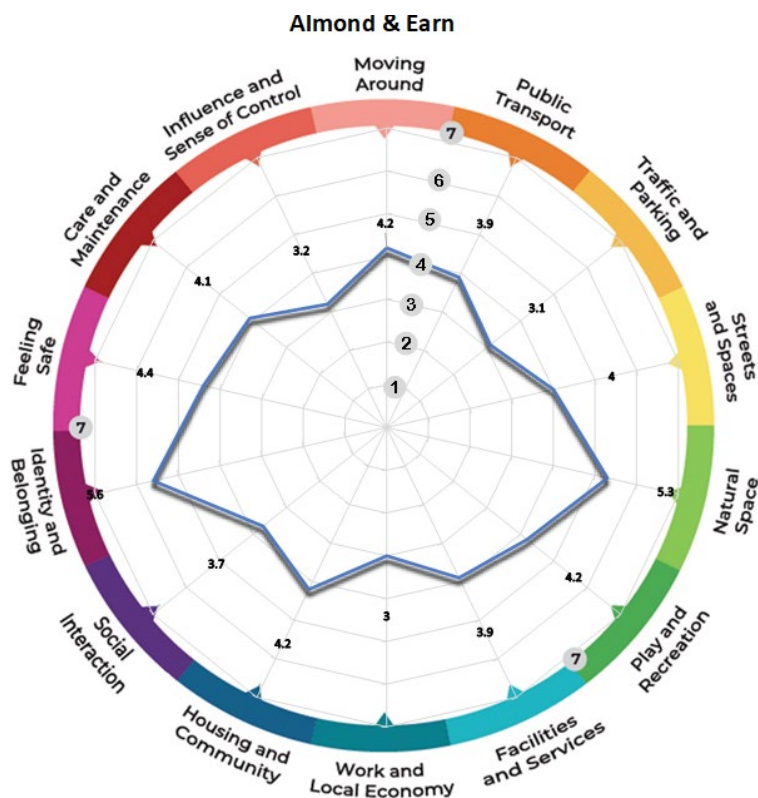
- [Earn Community Consultation 2020](#)
- [Bridge of Earn Survey Analysis Patient Survey Results](#)



# 1. AREA WIDE SUMMARY

## PLACE STANDARD SCORES

We used the [Place Standard](#) approach for our community engagement, which is widely used across Scotland. The Place Standard includes questions on 14 themes. Participants provide comments and scores out of 7 for each theme. Seven is where the least improvement is needed, and 1 the most. Note that due to the tailored nature of conversations not all participants completed scores.



## SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK AT WARD LEVEL

This section includes a summary of issues noted that relate to the wider area of the Highland Ward and issues common across the community council areas. Place standard scores are given for each category. Comments are recorded as positive (+), negative (-) or suggestions (o).

### 1. MOVING AROUND (4.2)

HOW EASY IS IT TO WALK, WHEEL OR CYCLE TO PLACES I NEED TO AND WANT TO GO?

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- + Good recreational walking outside of villages
- + Young people often walk and cycle within villages to school
- Footpaths are too narrow for wheelchairs, pushchairs or for children to cycle
- Condition of paths makes movement difficult for those with mobility needs
- Verges are too overgrown on cycling and walking friendly roads making them dangerous
- Paths overgrown narrowing footpaths further
- Need offroad cycling and walking to connect villages especially linking to Bridge of Earn and to Perth
- Young people with further to go find cycling to school too dangerous

### 2. PUBLIC TRANSPORT (3.9)

HOW EASY IS IT TO GET TO WHERE I NEED TO OR WANT TO GO BY BUS, TRAIN, OR OTHER FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

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- + Ember bus is great
- + Young people like free travel
- Need more evening and weekend buses
- People often use car to drive to Broxden for connections or the bus only goes to Broxden
- Difficulties getting to the doctor on public transport
- Buses not always reliable

### 3. TRAFFIC & PARKING (3.1)

HOW DOES TRAFFIC AND PARKING AFFECT ME WHEN I AM OUT AND ABOUT IN MY PLACE?

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- Traffic too fast on walking and cycling friendly roads
- Inconsiderate, illegal parking at schools and shops make it difficult for mobility users
- Parked cars in centre make it difficult for buses and emergency vehicles
- More parking provision needed in villages
- Traffic too fast through villages
- Traffic during school run is an issue
- Parking congestion for the ember bus and car sharing in Bridge of Earn significant concern

### 4. STREETS, SQUARES & BUILDINGS (4)

WHAT ARE THE STREETS, SQUARES, AND BUILDINGS LIKE IN MY PLACE?

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- + Lots of valued buildings valued by adults and young people
- + Bloom groups and home owners do great work to maintain the appearance of places.
- + Young people like being in a small settlement

## 5. NATURAL SPACES (5.3)

### HOW WELL AM I CONNECTED TO NATURE IN MY PLACE?

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- + Natural space close by is valued
- + Plenty of access to the countryside and walks
- + Children like the riverside walks, woods
- Access to nature not available to all, including accessibility issues and from Oudenarde.

## 6. PLAY & RECREATION (5.3)

### WHAT ARE THE SPACES (PARKS, PITCHES ETC) LIKE FOR PLAY, RECREATION, SPORT, AND SPENDING TIME WITH FRIENDS IN AND AROUND MY PLACE?

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- + Lots of good play facilities in some centres
- + Natural areas valued for recreation
- Need more for older children
- Nowhere for children to socialise in poor weather
- Need better facilities for sports/pitches
- More play equipment wanted – including better provision for girls
- Existing sports facilities needs to be fit for use e.g. football nets and lines.
- Have to go to Perth for a lot of activities and clubs
- Not enough play provision in new developments and Oudenarde.

## 7. FACILITIES & SERVICES (3.9)

### WHAT IS MY PLACE LIKE FOR ACCESSING SERVICES WE NEED?

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- + Mobile library service appreciated
- + Existing shops and services in villages are valued
- Primary education provision needs to be reviewed
- Lack of GP in Bridge of Earn and limited services at the hub a significant issue
- Need better co-ordination between planning and health/education
- Insufficient or expensive food shopping in villages. Forgardennya and Oudenarde need a shop.
- Need to travel to Perth or elsewhere for retail and other services.

## 8. WORK & LOCAL ECONOMY (3)

### ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO WORK, TRAIN OR VOLUNTEER LOCALLY?

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- Few local job opportunities without commuting
- Local jobs available limited to schools and shops
- Access to work – especially evening work – affected by transport issues
- Some volunteer opportunities through Bloom, RVS.

## 9. HOUSING & COMMUNITY (4.2)

### DO THE HOMES IN MY AREA SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY?

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- + Mix of house sizes thought appropriate in Methven
- Elsewhere smaller houses are needed for downsizing and independent living
- Generally more affordable housing needed, and integrated into developments
- More affordable rentals needed
- More social housing needed
- Need for communities to determine priorities for homes rather than developers
- Oudenarde masterplan needs to be reviewed

## 10. SOCIAL INTERACTION (3.7)

ARE THERE PLACES WHERE I CAN GO TO MEET AND TALK WITH FRIENDS AND OTHER PEOPLE?

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- + Bridge of Earn and Methven Galas are liked by everyone
- Clubs, events, hubs, the Cabin in Oudenarde and halls are important places for people to meet and socialise
- No café in Bridge of Earn, elsewhere cafes or inns are small or part time
- Few informal places to meet friends
- Young people meet in friends houses or at parks
- Young people would like more shelter in parks for bad weather
- Young people would like an indoor youth space to meet
- o Suggestion to require community space provision in planning

## 11. IDENTITY & BELONGING (5.5)

HOW PROUD DO I FEEL ABOUT MY PLACE, AND DO I FEEL I BELONG?

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- + People feel proud of their place
- + People are friendly and willing to help each other
- Not everyone feels well integrated in their community
- Some people would like more information about what is happening

## 12. FEELING SAFE (4.4)

HOW SAFE DO I FEEL IN MY PLACE?

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- + People feel safe in their place - with the caveat of traffic and flooding. Smaller villages feeling the safest.
- Flooding issues in most settlements, from blocked drains or run off from fields
- Not everyone feels safe with antisocial behaviour in Bridge of Earn
- Greater police presence or community wardens would make places feel safer
- Young people feel less safe at night and would like more lighting

## 13. CARE & MAINTENANCE (4.1)

ARE THERE SPACES OR BUILDINGS THAT NEED CLEANING UP OR FIXING IN THE AREA?

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- + In Bloom groups do a great job
- Litter an issue at the M90 slips roads and on popular walking routes and parks
- Grit bins in Foteviot needed and need maintenance in Oudenarde
- More bins needed and some need emptied more often
- Young people would like to be involved more in litter picks

## 14. INFLUENCE & SENSE OF CONTROL (3.2)

WHEN THINGS HAPPEN IN MY PLACE, HOW EASY IS IT FOR ME TO SAY WHAT I THINK AND BE LISTENED TO?

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- + Young people feel listened to at school
- + People can have their say in the community council
- Social media should not be relied on for consultation
- People like, and some people need, paper copies – and posting address should be provided.
- Young people do not feel listened to outside of school and would like to be involved in discussions on matters that affect them
- Consultations need to involve communities, not just invite comment on a finished framework