



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 Kinross-shire 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](#).

KINROSS-SHIRE WARD

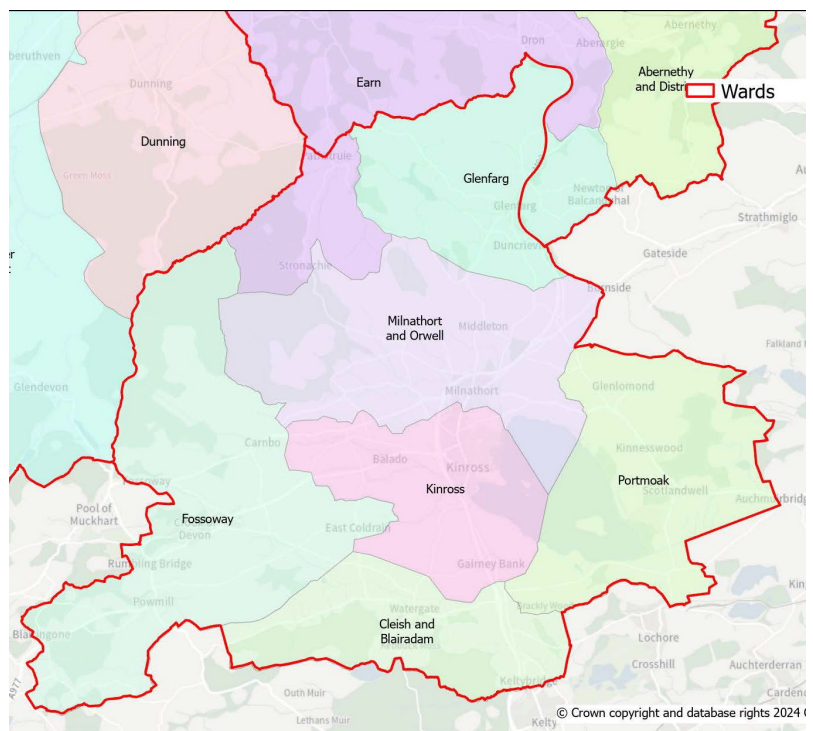
Kinross-shire covers a lowland area in the south of the Council area within the setting of the Ochil Hills and Lomond Hills. Kinross is the main focus for services and amenities alongside neighbouring Milnathort within Kinross-shire. The remaining settlements are villages which due to the proximity of the Council boundary, also value connections with Fife and Clackmannan-shire. Glenfarg community council area also has close links to Perth.

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.

- [Cleish & Blairadam](#)
- [Fossoway](#)
- [Glenfarg](#)
- [Kinross](#)
- [Milnathort & Orwell](#)
- [Portmoak](#)

We gained feedback from 560 people in the Kinross-shire area and carried out or attended 25 events in the community. The Kinross results also summarises the main points from the 2022 Sports consultation. We received feedback from the public at large as well as from the following groups:

- children and young people
- elderly
- representatives from community council, community development trust, and other community bodies
- disabled
- disadvantaged
- business representatives
- LGBTQI+
- Women issues

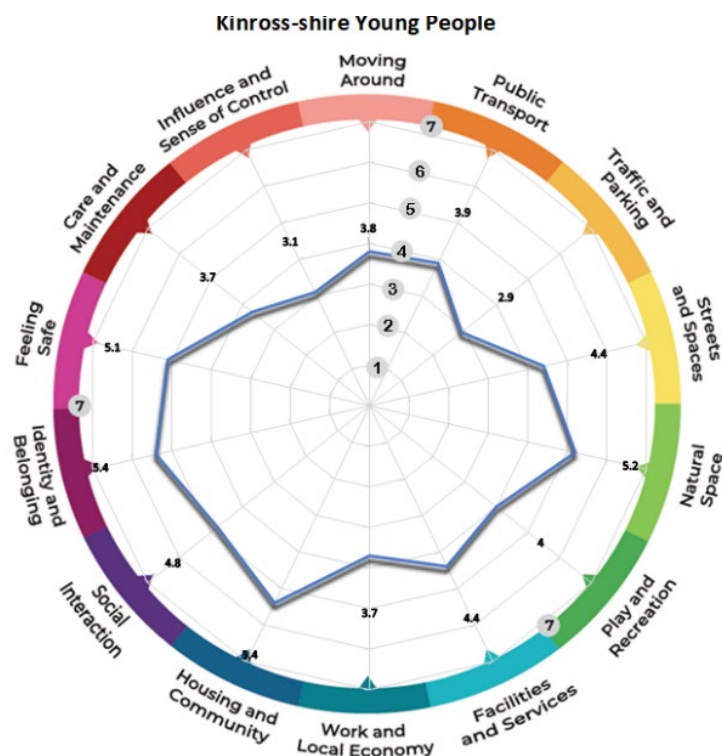
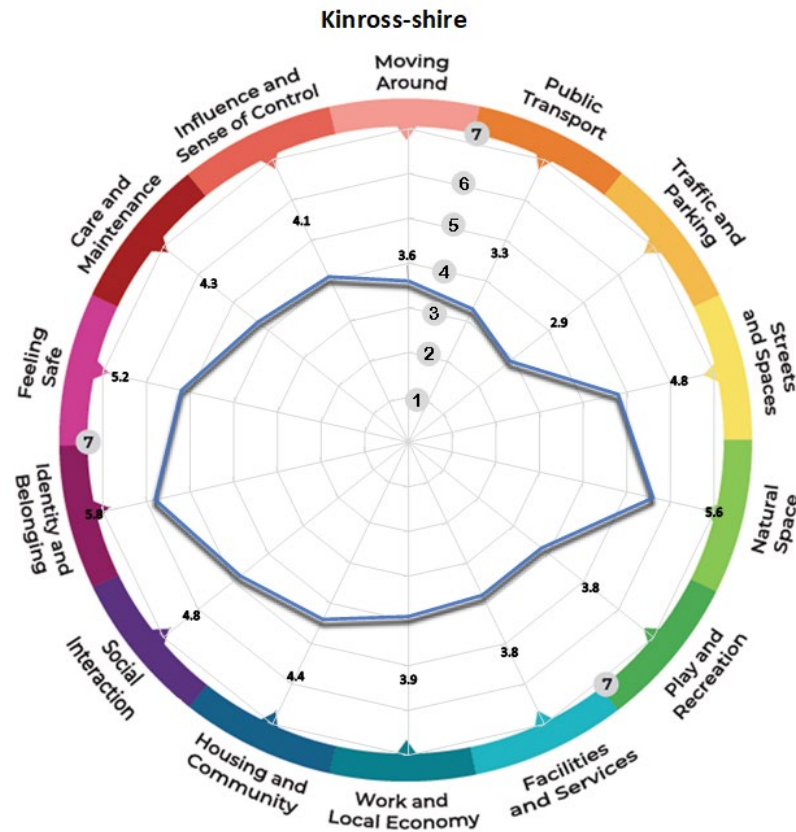


Results from the Culture & Sport Engagement consultation in 2022 supplement the findings of the Kinross-shire Big Place Conversation.

2. 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 Kinross-shire 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 (3.6)

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

- + Some good cycling routes in the area and recreational walking paths
- + We love the Loch Leven Heritage trail
- + Within towns we can walk to shops and services
- Cycling routes and walking paths are not connected
- We can't walk or cycle between villages
- Walking or cycling along A977 and A911 too dangerous
- Cycling in Kinross is too dangerous due to parked cars and traffic speeds
- We need more cycle paths
- Too dangerous to walk or cycle to school in rural areas
- Can't walk or cycle from villages to Kinross
- Hedges and vegetation need cut along pavements for pushchairs, wheelchairs and on walking friendly roads
- Paths are too narrow
- Not enough dropped kerbs or in the wrong place
- Bins on pavement make it difficult for disabled people to pass
- Paths and connections need signage

2. PUBLIC TRANSPORT (3.3)

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

- + Ember bus to Edinburgh and Dundee is good
- + Kinross Park and Ride is great and well used
- + Glenfarg community bus is excellent (nb this has now been extended to Fossoway villages)
- + Volunteer driver scheme is appreciated
- Public Transport is particularly important to older and disabled people. Need up to date timetables on bus shelters
- Not enough wheelchair spaces on buses especially if a group or someone already has a pushchair
- Need more reliable buses and more frequent, especially in rural areas.
- Poor evening or morning services mean a car is needed for commuting, school activities, health services, going out.
- Need a direct connection to Loch Leven Campus / health centre
- Need direct service to Glasgow, Dunfermline and Stirling
- Few (or no) taxis, expensive in rural areas and have to book days in advance
- Services focus on Council boundaries when we need to travel outside the area for closest facilities such as Alloa, Cowdenbeath, Glenrothes
- Poor connections to train services

3. TRAFFIC & PARKING (2.9)

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

- + Good parking in many villages
- Cars too fast through the village (all)
- Cars too fast on A977, A911, B9097, B996 the Muirs and High Street

- Pavement parking forces people, including wheelchair users onto the road
- Speeding cars and parked cars make crossings dangerous, especially for school children
- Parking at school pick up/ drop off times problematic
- Roads dangerous due to HGV traffic on A977, Springfield Road and through Kinross High Street
- Need appropriate measures to slow traffic down through villages
- Need more parking in Kinross and Milnathort

4. STREETS, SQUARES & BUILDINGS (4.8)

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

- + Village halls are valued and well used
- + Young people like the mix of old and new houses
- + Streets, spaces and buildings in towns and villages are attractive
- + We love Kirkgate Park
- Kinross High Street layout is confusing for drivers and pedestrians
- Flooding from blocked roadside drains or water bringing down soil off the hills.

5. NATURAL SPACES (5.6)

HOW WELL AM I CONNECTED TO NATURE IN MY PLACE?

- + We like the rural location of villages in the countryside with good access to the hills and forests
- + Lots of natural spaces to enjoy
- + Loch Leven and the Heritage Trail are especially valued
- Some villagers need to drive to access nature
- Less access to nature for less abled or with plans
- Important to protect trees, nature and wildlife

6. PLAY AND RECREATION (3.8)

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

- + Good opportunities for recreation in the wider area
- + Lots of recreation in the woods and hills
- + Volunteers do a great job with the village halls
- + Existing recreation facilities in Kinross, the swimming pool, youth hub, and MUGA are valued
- + Waulkmill Park, Wallace Park, Kirkgate park are enjoyed
- + Pool and leisure facilities and sports clubs in Kinross are important to the wider area
- + Young people enjoy natural spaces such as woods to play in
- Lack of social spaces in the rural area
- Young people want more benches and sheltered spaces in parks
- Equipment in parks need maintenance and updating
- MUGA in Kinross and spaces for community groups need to be open more to the public and after school.
- Cost is a barrier to recreation facilities in Kinross
- More play areas and a variety of equipment wanted e.g. basketball, monkey bars, netball, skating
- Not enough indoor recreation available outside of Kinross e.g. in village halls
- More leisure facilities for teenagers wanted
- Young children dislike play areas being taken over by teenagers
- Young people have to travel (by car) to activities in Kinross

7. FACILITIES & SERVICES (3.8)

WHAT IS MY PLACE LIKE FOR ACCESSING SERVICES WE NEED?

- + Library in Kinross and the mobile library are great
- + Village halls are well used and maintained
- No NHS dentist in Kinross-shire
- Only one supermarket in the area
- Existing food shopping is expensive, a budget supermarket would be good for competition
- Young people need places to meet when the weather is bad
- No bank in Kinross, no mobile post office or bank for villages
- Limited childcare in villages
- People in villages have to go to Kinross, or other centres for shopping and services.
- Hard to get a GP appointment
- Need a car to access services
- Community food growing wanted in Powmill and Glenfarg
- Need practical shops in Kinross e.g. clothing – including school clothes.

8. WORK & LOCAL ECONOMY (3.9)

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

- + Lots of volunteering opportunities in towns and villages
- + Limited job options in rural area
- + Have to travel for work
- + Work experience for young people through KYTHE and school
- Limited training and no college – link with Perth UHI suggested
- More local work opportunities wanted in villages
- In towns there are limited work or apprenticeship opportunities except for shops
- More sites for small local businesses needed
- o Could make more of the local history for tourism
- o Most people in villages commute or work from home.
- o Job opportunities in tourism, farm shops

9. HOUSING & COMMUNITY (4.4)

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

- + Young people like existing houses and new larger homes
- New houses are too large – need more smaller homes i.e. 2 bedroom for downsizing
- Need smaller affordable starter homes
- More social housing for families and disabled use needed
- More social housing needed in towns
- Lack of affordable housing in villages
- Lack of rental properties in villages
- Homes are not energy efficient and difficult to heat
- Concern about the increase of housing not taking capacity of services and facilities into account.

10. SOCIAL INTERACTION (4.8)

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

- + Young people like meeting friends in Kinross
- + Young people like KYTHE
- + In towns young people can meet at library, parks, cafes
- + In rural areas village halls are important spaces for socialising

- + Lots of cafes and places to meet in towns
- Limited places for socialising in rural areas especially with no or limited opening of pubs or cafes
- Not enough for teenagers to do
- Loch Leven campus could have better access for groups
- Poor transport impacts ability to have a night out
- Limited free sheltered spaces for young people to socialise
- Halls could be better used for informal socialising
- Young people in rural areas particularly would like more places to meet
- In rural areas people have to mostly travel to Kinross or other centres for socialising or clubs

11. IDENTITY & BELONGING (5.8)

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

- + People are proud of where they live
- + A good sense of community in villages with strong helpful communities
- + People are friendly and welcoming
- + Heritage of places is important
- + Farmers market and community events are important to people
- Not everyone feels part of their community
- o Maintain physical separation of neighbouring towns and villages to retain identity.

12. FEELING SAFE (5.2)

HOW SAFE DO I FEEL IN MY PLACE?

- + People generally feel safe generally in their homes and places (excluding traffic)
- + People look out for each other
- Road safety is the biggest safety issue
- Young people particularly feel unsafe in areas without street lighting
- Rural crime is an issue
- Young people don't always feel safe due to bullying
- Children feel less safe in parks and social areas when older young people around

13. CARE & MAINTENANCE (4.3)

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

- + Bloom groups and other volunteer groups do a great job across the area making places attractive and cared for
- Fly tipping is an issue across the rural area
- Vegetation encroaching on paths and walking/cycling friendly roads need cut back
- Flooding is an issue across the area, both blocked drains and water off hills
- Too much litter on roads from passing cars and in natural spaces
- More litter bins needed and need to be emptied more often
- Too much dog fouling
- More grit bins need
- Condition of pavements is poor and too many potholes on roads

14. INFLUENCE & SENSE OF CONTROL (4.1)

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

- + People feel they are listened to by their community councils
- + Consultation hub and having Council meetings available online are welcome
- + Councillors are available to people and community councils

- + Young people feel they can have their say at school
- Need a voice for gypsy travellers in Scottish Parliament
- Need more communication between community councils and young people.
- People, including some community councils, do not feel their opinion is reflected in planning decisions
- Communities generally do not feel listened to by the Council
- Getting action taken is difficult and takes too long
- Young people would like to be asked more and be involved in future plans
- Need to communicate with young people through schools, not on social media