



# 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 Strathmore 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](#).

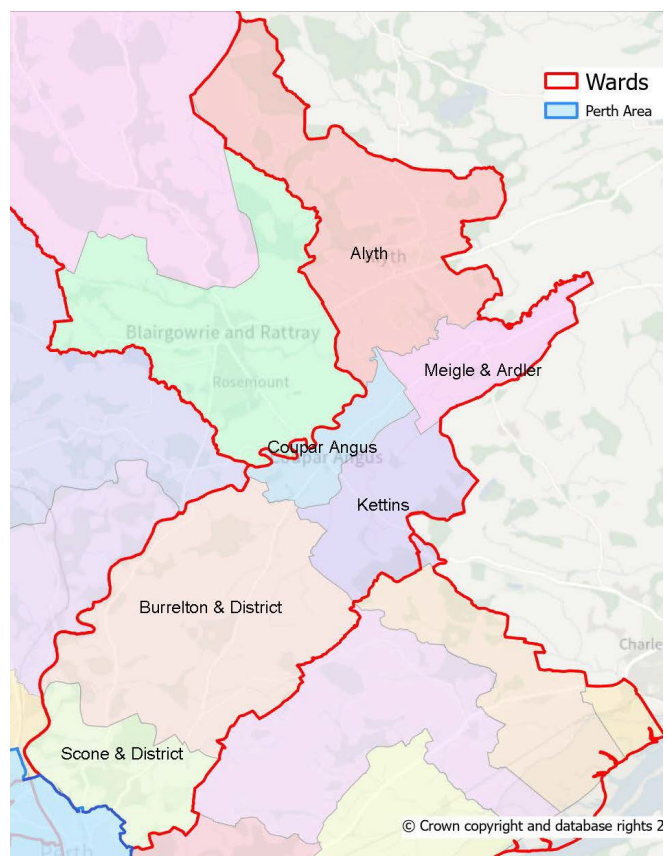
## STRATHMORE WARD

Strathmore is a large and primarily rural area, extending from the northeastern edge of Perth to the border with Angus Council. This report incorporates feedback from the five community council areas covering Strathmore. We have summarised comments for each of the Community Councils in the following reports available on the Big Place Conversation Results Page at [www.pkc.gov.uk/bigplaceconversation](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/bigplaceconversation).

- [Alyth](#)
- [Meigle and Ardler](#)
- [Coupar Angus](#)
- [Kettins](#)
- [Burrelton and District](#)
- [Scone and District](#)

A total of 142 participants from this ward contributed to the Big Place Conversation through the online survey of the 7 events in Strathmore including a conversation with pupils at Guildtown primary. These participants represented the following groups:

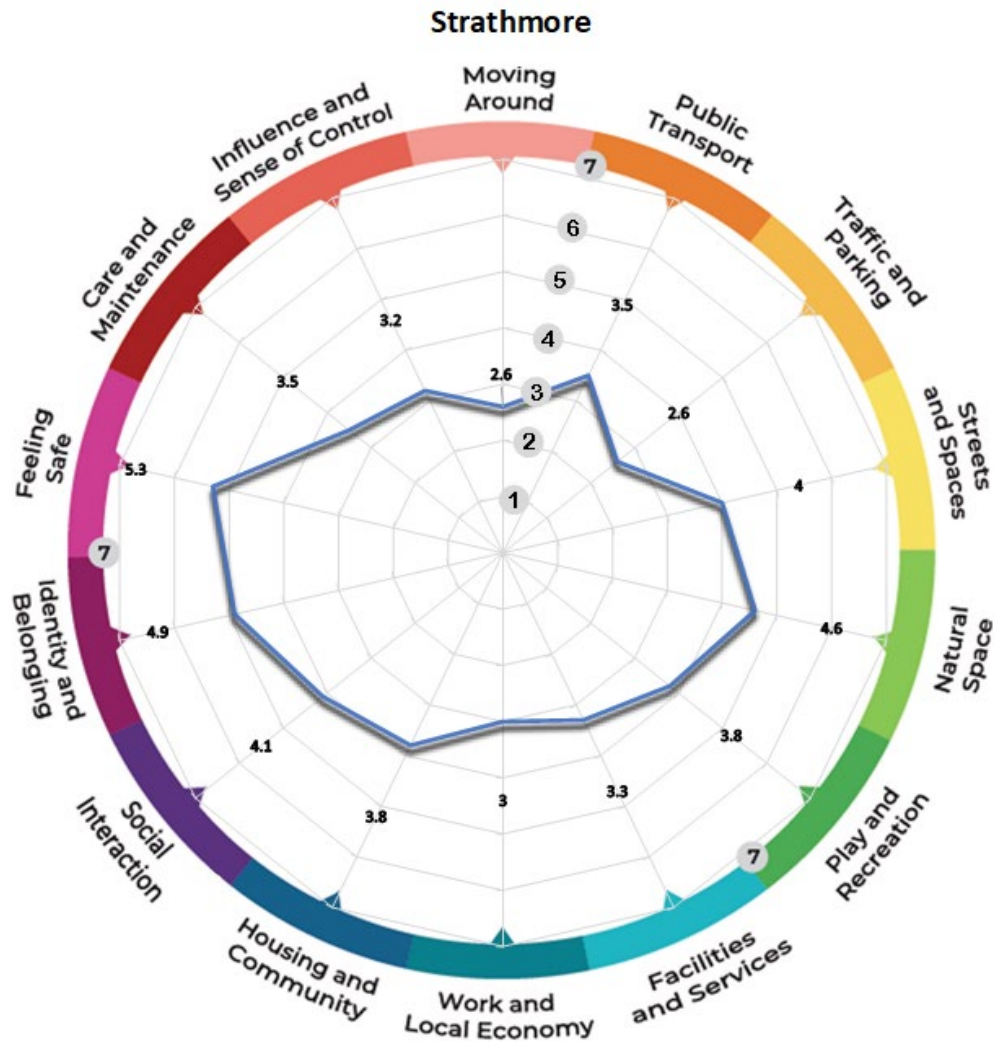
- Public at large
- Children and young people
- Disabled
- Women issues
- Elderly
- Community body
- Other interest group



## 2. AREA WIDE SUMMARY

### PLACE STANDARD SCORES

We used the [Place Standard](#) approach for our community engagement, a tool 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 Strathmore 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 (2.6)

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

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- + Some roads are walking and cycling friendly
- + Off-road active travel routes are available
- + Excellent recreational routes into the countryside
- + Settlements are generally easy to navigate on foot
- Poor-quality active travel networks within and between settlements
- Safety hazards, including speeding, large vehicles, and poor surface conditions
- Missing safe crossings in key areas (e.g. near schools, halls, shops)
- Pavements are often narrow, uneven, broken, or missing.
- Obstructions on pavements (e.g. parked cars, lampposts)
- Lack of outdoor seating for resting
- Paths and buildings are poorly accessible for wheelchair users
- Landowner disputes over access rights
- Winter walking is difficult due to insufficient pavement gritting
- Core paths require better maintenance, including surfacing, vegetation, and signage
- o Enhance core path network to create high-quality active travel routes
- o Expand and improve the active travel network as part of new development
- o Increase cycling infrastructure, such as lane separation, storage, and signage
- o Designate more roads as cycling and pedestrian friendly

### 2. PUBLIC TRANSPORT (3.5)

#### 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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- + Most residents can access regular buses to Perth, Blairgowrie, and Dundee
- + Free bus travel for young people and elderly encourages use
- Infrequent and unreliable bus services
- Lack of real-time updates on bus cancellations and delays
- Limited evening bus services
- Bus schedules do not suit commuters
- Services being reduced
- Long bus routes through rural areas
- Insufficient and poorly accessible bus stops
- Limited access to bus stops for wheelchair users
- High bus fares
- o Consider establishing a train halt or station in the area
- o Develop community transport schemes
- o Improve active travel links to bus stops
- o Add more seating, shelters, and live trackers at bus stops
- o Better integrate bus and train services, including flexible ticketing

### 3. TRAFFIC & PARKING (2.6)

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

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- + EV charging points available
- + Formal car parks are provided
- + Traffic calming measures are in place
- + 20mph speed limits are designated in residential areas
- Uncertainty about the impact of Cross-Tay Link Road and other developments
- Issues with speeding and large industrial vehicles
- Traffic congestion during school pick-up and drop-off times
- Frequent delays caused by roadworks
- Limited formal parking spaces
- On-street parking causes congestion and restricts access
- Inadequate parking for coaches
- Shortage of blue badge parking spaces
- o Implement additional traffic-calming measures and improve enforcement
- o Maximise use of existing car parks
- o Improve road markings and signage
- o Convert derelict sites into parking facilities
- o Introduce more formal free parking spaces
- o Develop bypasses to redirect industrial traffic away from residential areas
- o Improve school travel planning

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

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

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- + Streets and buildings are generally in good condition
- + Volunteers (e.g. In Blooms) enhance public spaces
- + Historic buildings and monuments add character
- + Urban greenery
- Vacant and derelict sites
- Improved maintenance required
- Listed Building status imposes restrictions
- o Secure funding for care and maintenance
- o Add more monuments and landmarks

#### **5. NATURAL SPACES (4.6)**

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

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- + Great natural assets and biodiversity across Strathmore
- + Existing path network provides good access to nature
- + Good-quality parks and urban greenspaces
- + Local biodiversity groups actively manage natural spaces
- Path quality and condition can limit accessibility
- Poor access for people with mobility challenges
- “No Mow” delivers benefits for biodiversity but not for communities
- Development pressure on greenbelt or designated open spaces
- o Update management plans for parks and nature-rich sites
- o Improve path quality with more seating and circular routes
- o Better promotion and signage for existing routes
- o Collaborate with communities for grassland management
- o Increase community growing opportunities

#### **6. PLAY & 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?

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- + Community and youth groups host events and activities
- + Availability of indoor venues (e.g. halls, churches)
- + Recreational walking and cycling routes
- + Variety of parks, play areas and sporting facilities across Strathmore
- Limited opportunities for young people
- Challenges sharing information about groups and activities
- Shortage of volunteers to run activities
- Costs for hiring indoor facilities can be restrictive
- Public transport restricts access to recreation
- Maintenance required for some sport and play equipment
- Loss of informal recreation space due to No Mow sites
- o Develop large indoor sports centre
- o Create free outdoor opportunities (e.g. exercise equipment, chess tables)
- o Establish a central online resource for sharing information on opportunities

## 7. FACILITIES & SERVICES (3.3)

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

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- + Facilities and services adequately meet the needs of the current population
- + Availability of mobile services to support rural areas
- + Central hubs for facilities and services (e.g. Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie, Perth, Dundee)
- Limited local facilities and services require residents to travel for access
- Increased demand from new developments and population growth
- Reduction or loss of facilities and services
- Poor healthcare service provision (e.g. GP, pharmacy, dentist)
- No local secondary school
- Limited nursery and wraparound childcare options
- Poor mobile and broadband service in rural areas
- o Increase public Wi-Fi provision
- o Limit residential development until facilities and services provision improves
- o Develop more commercial hubs to maintain rural character of settlements

## 8. WORK & LOCAL ECONOMY (3)

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

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- + Various volunteering opportunities with community groups and projects
- + Some local employment options
- Few local employment opportunities, leading to commuting
- Limited job diversity, with a focus on agriculture
- Prevalence of low paid and insecure jobs (e.g. 0-hour contracts)
- Lack of apprenticeships
- High commercial property costs
- o Expand tourism sector
- o Create spaces for remote working
- o Provide funding and support for new and existing local businesses
- o Repurpose vacant commercial properties for economic use

## 9. HOUSING & COMMUNITY (3.8)

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

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- + Strong sense of community across Strathmore
- + Good quality housing
- + A reasonable mix of housing type across the area

- Shortage of social and affordable housing
- Limited rental properties, flats and bungalow
- Young people leaving due to lack of suitable opportunities
- Aging housing stock requiring energy efficiency improvements
- High house prices
- Short term lets and holiday homes impact on housing market
- Concerns about losing rural character due to expansion
- o Prioritise development on brownfield sites
- o Focus on opportunities for retaining young people and families
- o Provide funding for energy efficiency improvements
- o Encourage self-build opportunities

## **10. SOCIAL INTERACTION (4.1)**

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

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- + Strong sense of community and neighbourliness
- + Active community groups, events and activities
- + Warm spaces and other good venues (e.g. halls, churches, pubs, cafes)
- + Outdoor spaces well-utilised for social contact
- Limited affordable venues for meetings and events
- Few outdoor seating and sheltered areas for socialising
- Inadequate indoor venues in rural areas
- Public transport issues limit access to social opportunities
- Risk of isolation for rural and elderly residents
- o Better management of existing community spaces
- o Develop more inclusive and free indoor community spaces
- o Create a centralised online resource for information on events and activities
- o Increase spaces and opportunities for young people

## **11. IDENTITY & BELONGING (4.9)**

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

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- + Strong local pride and community spirit
- + Welcoming community groups
- + Rich local history and unique identities across towns and villages
- Concerns that settlement expansion and population growth are altering local identity
- Community cohesion could be improved
- Local politics sometimes create divisions
- Integration of newcomers could be improved
- Not always easy to learn about local heritage
- o Host more community events and create facilities to bring people together
- o Share local heritage through information boards and public art
- o Improve networking and integration among community groups

## **12. FEELING SAFE (5.3)**

### **HOW SAFE SO I FEEL IN MY PLACE?**

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- + Residents across Strathmore feel safe where they live
- + Low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour
- + Community spirit contributes to feelings of safety
- Safety concerns related to transport
- Insufficient lighting on paths, at bus stops, and in parks

- Limited police presence
- Rising concerns about anti-social behaviour, particularly among groups of young people
- Vacant and derelict properties affecting safety perceptions
- Poor flood resilience
- o Provide more activities for young people
- o Install better lighting and consider creating lighting strategies
- o Increase police and community warden presence
- o Develop community resilience plans, including rapid response teams

### **13. CARE & MAINTENANCE (3.5)**

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

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- + Active community groups (e.g. In Blooms) take care of public spaces
- + Organised litter-picks
- + Public areas are generally well-maintained
- Issues with litter, fly-tipping, and dog-fouling
- No-mow grassland management changes
- Maintenance of paths, pavements and roads is inadequate
- Play and sporting equipment require better upkeep
- Vacant and derelict buildings remain neglected
- Private properties in disrepair may require maintenance grants
- Poor council response times
- Broken signage
- Insufficient drain clearance
- o Foster more collaboration between PKC and community groups
- o Increase the number of bins in public areas

### **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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- + Community Councils and groups engage residents on local matters
- + Children and young people have opportunities to share their views through schools
- + Information is shared online
- + Good communication from MSPs and Local Councillors
- Communities feel their input is not always acted upon
- National priorities often override local interests (e.g. planning decisions)
- Poor communication and accountability from PKC
- Perception that PKC focuses primarily on Perth
- Lack of clarity on who to contact for support or information
- Concerns around interests of community groups with non-democratic structures
- Complex community asset transfer processes
- o Create a central register of key contacts to support local projects
- o Develop centralised funding opportunities register
- o Devolve more decision-making power to local communities
- o Improve coordination between community groups
- o Improve information-sharing both online and offline.