

**ABERFELDY, DULL & WEEM  
COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

**COMMUNITY VIEWS  
SURVEY REPORT**

**August 2024**

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**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

This report summarises the findings of the community survey conducted as part of the community engagement and stakeholder consultation undertaken in the Summer of 2024.

Other elements of the community action planning process included:

- Stakeholder meetings and interviews
- A business survey
- Preparation of a community profile
- A Community Futures feedback and prioritisation event

The process has been guided by a steering group including representatives from Aberfeldy Development Trust, Aberfeldy Community Council, Dull & Weem Community Council, Warm Connections/Aberfeldy Parish Church, the Birks Cinema, Climate Café, Healthiest Town, Town Hall/Locus Centre, Tay Valley Connections and other volunteers.

STAR Development Group provided their expertise and guidance in community action planning and Perth & Kinross Council also contributed some valuable support to the steering group.

### 1.2 Survey Organisation

The survey questionnaire was based on a template and guidance provided by STAR Development Group with input from the steering group. The form was designed by local business EMB Graphics.

The survey was carried out as a household survey with a team of around 18 survey volunteers distributing survey forms to approximately 1200 households in the area and returning to collect these. Some of the outlying areas were not reached by the volunteers, but these were encouraged to complete the survey online.

The survey form was also available in the Birks Cinema, the Library and the Locus Centre and was promoted at the farmers' market and in local cafes. The online survey link and QR codes were promoted on the survey form, posters, the school, the Quair and through Facebook and with local groups.

The Breathe youth project also helped by carrying out the survey with some young people who attended their summer activities.

### 1.3 Survey Response

A total of 557 completed community views surveys were received - 218 from the household distribution, 331 online, and 8 from the Breathe project.

#### Responses by age

Age range	Paper	Online	Breathe	TOTAL
0 - 15	13	7	4	24
16 - 29	9	12	4	25
30 - 44	20	54		74
45 - 59	36	117		153
60 - 74	65	114		179
75+	72	23		95
Did not say	3	4		7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>557</b>

Although there is a spread of responses across age ranges there were significantly more responses from the older age ranges than from children and young people. This is typical in this type of household survey, as it tends to be older adults and retired people who have more time to respond.

We aim to balance the views with younger age population by working with local schools to encourage young people to contribute through survey and project work.

The results of this will be reported separately.

#### Responses by area

Area	Paper	Online	Breathe	TOTAL
Aberfeldy	171	212	4	387
Dull & Weem	37	63	4	104
Did not say	3	3		6
Elsewhere	7	53		60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>557</b>

The survey was hand delivered by volunteers to 1200 households across the Aberfeldy, Dull & Weem communities. The 2011 Census states that there are 218 households in Dull & Weem and 1007 in Aberfeldy - giving a total of 1225.

The 2011 Census (the most recent available at time of writing) shows that around 10% of properties in Aberfeldy are empty or 2<sup>nd</sup> homes, and around 24% of properties in Dull & Weem.

**Responses from 'elsewhere'**

Mid Atholl CC			Loch Tay and Glenlyon CC		
Strathtay		7	Fortingall		7
Grandtully		5	Garth		3
Logierait		3	Glen Lyon		2
Pitnacree		1	Lawers		2
Ballinluig		1	Coshieville		1
Mid Atholl		1	Keltneyburn		1
			Fearnan		1
Kenmore and District CC		3	Glengoulandie		1
Perth & Kinross			Wider Scotland		
Dunkeld		1			
Pitlochry		1	2nd/holiday home		8
Tummel		1			
Crieff		1			
Blairgowrie		1			
Amulree		1			
Rannoch		1			

11% of the respondents said they lived 'elsewhere' than Aberfeldy, Dull & Weem.

The table shows where those responses came from, with the majority from the neighbouring Mid Atholl Community Council, Loch Tay and Glen Lyon Community Council, and Kenmore and District Community Council areas. Some also came from visitors to the caravan park, or people who said they had connections or a second home in the area.

These are valuable responses as they give a view from those who use Aberfeldy as a centre for accessing services and recreation.

## 2. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LIVING HERE?

WHAT PEOPLE LIKE	%age of responses
Community spirit	72%
Countryside, views & nature	58%
Community groups, activities, facilities	39%
Outdoor activities	36%
Sense of place	34%
Public services	30%
Local economy	29%
Location	8%
Everything	2%

### 2.1 Community Spirit

Over 70% of respondents said they liked the community spirit, including the friendliness of the people, the welcoming and mixed community and the way that people help and care for others.

#### Quotes

*“Sense of community, friendliness, people go out of their way to help others*

*It is a very friendly town, the community is good, everyone helps everyone*

*The sense of belonging and feeling of safety within a turbulent world*

*The passionate people – there are lots of people who make things happen here*

*The growth in different people of different races and backgrounds now living in the town*

*We moved here purely because the local community felt so strong and welcoming”*

## 2.2 Countryside, Views and Nature

Nearly 60% of respondents said they like the beautiful countryside, rural setting and proximity to nature. Specific mention was made of the river and the loch, the mountains and the forests. Also noted was the open space, the lack of pollution and the abundance of wildlife in the area.

### Breakdown of comments

Views & beauty	46.7%
River & Loch Tay	13.9%
Fresh air/lack of pollution	10.7%
Mountains & trees	10.7%
The Birks	9.0%
Wildlife	9.0%

### Quotes

*"I like the natural resources – the river, the hills, the Birks*

*Stunning natural beauty inspires us and uplifts us every day*

*I like how little light pollution there is and the fresh air*

*Another lovely view around every corner – mountains, rivers, lochs to feed the soul and exercise the body*

*Its true natural beauty"*

## 2.3 Community Groups, Activities and Facilities

Many comments in the survey reflected on the range of local voluntary groups and organisations and the activities and services they provide for residents of all ages. Of particular mention was the Birks Cinema, which gained over 40% of the comments under this theme for the role it provides not only as a cinema but as venue and support for other groups.

### Breakdown of comments

The Birks Cinema	40.8%
Variety of clubs, groups, activities	28.4%
The church & its activities	9.2%
Activities & support for elderly	6.9%
Community events	3.9%
Town Hall	3.9%

Feldy in Flower	3.9%
Activities for children/youth	3.0%

### Quotes

*“The Birks as a support for all the community and groups*

*A plethora of activities for young and old*

*The willingness of those who can get involved in the community and create things like the Cinema, the Town Hall and the new walking trail – thank you*

*A staggering number of volunteers in all areas*

*Fantastic community networks with thriving groups serving the community*

*Various groups that work hard to keep Aberfeldy beautiful, tidy and healthy*

*Different interest groups that are passionate about causes that benefit the wider community*

*Very grateful for the help given to pensioners by so many volunteers”*

## **2.4 Outdoor Activities**

Respondents appreciated the surrounding countryside not only for its scenic beauty but also for the many opportunities it provides for outdoor activities. People said the area is well served with paths and trails, many of which are maintained by the Upper Tay Paths group of volunteers. The new Feldy-Roo trail at the riverside is a much appreciated addition, and the range of local sports clubs too – e.g. golf, rugby, cricket, football, tennis.

### Breakdown of comments

Paths & trails for walking & running	59.2%
Sports clubs & facilities	15.8%
Feldy-Roo trail	13.2%
Cycling routes	6.6%
Canoeing & kayaking	5.3%

### Quotes

*“Excellent walks in the vicinity both sides of the river*

*Lots of outdoor activities to do*

*Outdoors opportunities (walking, cycling, kayaking, canoeing) and the community that comes with that – for all ages*



*The natural environment is stunning and there are fun activities from Bounce Around to kayaking available for kids.*

*The new Feldy-Roo path is great especially for prams and has been such a great improvement and we use it regularly"*

## 2.5 Sense of Place

The character of the community – its sense of place – is what a lot of people like. This includes the peace and quiet and low crime compared with other areas, the compact size and easy access to facilities. It has a good size of population, and well balanced with tourism while retaining its working heritage and sense of history.

### Breakdown of comments

Peaceful & quiet	36.0%
Good size & population	20.7%
Safe/low crime	18.0%
Everything walkable	10.8%
Not too touristy	8.1%
Sense of history	6.3%

### Quotes

*"Small, working rural town, unlike Pitlochry, not wholly dominated by tourism*

*We love living here because of the "village" feel*

*Clean, safe, peaceful and safe for children*

*Very good balance of tourism and local life*

*I like the size of the community, and its where I have many friends and family".*

## 2.6 Public Services

Nearly one third of respondents commented on the good range and quality of public services provided for Aberfeldy, Dull and Weem. This is high compared to many rural areas, and particular mention was often made of the range of medical services, the accessible GP service, as well as the Breadalbane Campus facilities, the schools and the library.

Breakdown of comments

Medical services (doctor, dentist, optician, podiatrist)	26.6%
Campus facilities/pool	26.6%
Schools & nursery	14.9%
Library	12.8%
Transport links/community bus	7.4%
Recycling/tip & waste collection	5.3%
Broadband	4.3%
Care service/homes	2.1%

Quotes

*"We like that it is within walking distance to a health centre, dentist, optician and chemist*

*There is no problem getting a doctor's appointment and their treatment is always first class*

*We appear to have better access to GPs than many other places*

*Amazing amenities for a relatively small rural town – good Co-op, fuel station, bakery, doctors, garage, pharmacy, pool, gym*

*I like that we have a secondary school and modern sports facilities*

*Very good refuse collection, well run amenity/recycling site, winter de-icing of roads and pavements"*

**2.7 Local Economy**

The range of cafés in the town is popular, as well as local shops for essential supplies. Some businesses got special mention, including the Watermill and the charity Thrift Shop. People enjoy the monthly farmers' market and other opportunities to buy local produce.

Breakdown of comments

Cafés	32.1%
Local shops (Co-op, baker, butcher, Handam, chemist)	27.2%
Watermill	12.3%
Thrift Shop	9.9%
Local produce/farmers market	9.9%
Garage	4.9%
Pubs	3.7%

### Quotes

*“Small community – good shops, cafes etc and the Thrift Shop!*

*It is one of the few communities within 30 miles that has done a very good job of surviving rampant tourism*

*That almost all the shops are owned by independent and local businesses*

*Excellent coffee shops*

*Quality locally owned businesses are good”*

## **2.8 Location**

Nearly 8% of respondents appreciated the location of Aberfeldy – that it is rural but still accessible to larger towns and cities.

### Quotes

*“The rural location, being surrounded by hills but also centrally placed for access to cities*

*Driveable to central belt cities is an attraction”.*

## **2.9 Everything**

Some people just like everything about the area.

### 3. WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT LIVING HERE?

Dislike	% of Responses
Transport and travel	34%
Roads, traffic and parking	30%
Housing and development	30%
Local economy/town centre	27%
Lack of/loss of services	19%
Anti-social behaviour	18%
Community activities etc	13%
Environmental concerns	10%
Nothing	7%

#### 3.1 Transport and Travel

Over one third of respondents were concerned about public transport – in particular the inadequate local bus service and lack of connectivity with wider bus and rail services. Added to this are the difficulties for active travel options, particularly between Aberfeldy and the outlying villages – Dull, Weem, Camserney and Kenmore being mentioned.

##### Breakdown of comments

Inadequate bus service & connections	64.3%
Poor walking & cycling infrastructure	23.2%
Lack of rail service	8.9%
Lack of taxi service	3.6%

##### Quotes

*“Erosion of public transport forcing people to use cars more often*

*Lack of bus services – big issue for commuters from Perth to work here*

*It would be useful if the bus services to Pitlochry tied in better with the trains to and from Edinburgh & Glasgow*

*Lack of usable public transport, the train gets into Pitlochry 5 minutes after the last bus leaves for Aberfeldy*

*Very very poor transport – worst I have seen in a rural area, especially after school hours and in evening.*

*The fact that you are unable to walk or cycle safely along the road to Aberfeldy (Dull & Weem response)*

*Could do with a pathway all the way to Aberfeldy for safety reasons (Dull & Weem response)*

*Not so great for bike travel*

*You can feel cut off unless you have your own transport"*

### 3.2 Roads, Traffic and Parking

Respondents (both as road users and pedestrians) voiced concerns about the state of the local roads and traffic issues locally. Road safety is compromised by speeding traffic, the volume of traffic and the number of HGV vehicles and motorbikes, added to by the parking situation. Many people mentioned the lack of appropriate parking in Aberfeldy both for locals and visitors to the town.

#### Breakdown of comments

State of roads, potholes etc	27.5%
Speeding traffic	23.1%
Lack of parking in Aberfeldy	22.0%
Volume of traffic/congestion	13.2%
HGVs/lorries/motorbikes	9.9%
Illegal/inconsiderate parking	4.4%

#### Quotes

*"The amount of heavy transport that is forced to use the town and the speed of cars in the area*

*Traffic speeding, especially on Kenmore Street*

*The driving is shocking, speeding, parking anywhere, lorries coming through the town and driving on the pavements. The risk is high of an accident on the main street.*

*Pothole city on Dunkeld Street*

*The state of the roads, they are positively dangerous and way worse than normal coming out of winter.*

*Streets are a mess with potholes, litter and a load of dog mess.*

*The speed of traffic through Weem; this area desperately needs traffic calming measures for safety of residents, walkers, cyclists and motorists.*

*Generally wheelchair access around the area could be better with a few tweaks"*

### 3.3 Housing and Development

The biggest single issue for respondents to the survey was the lack of affordable homes to buy or let, for people who work or want to work here. A contributing factor is seen to be the lack of control on 2<sup>nd</sup> homes and properties being used as short term holiday accommodation. There were also a number of concerns about the negative impact of large developments, and Taymouth Castle was mentioned specifically. Some people did not like what they viewed as inconsistent planning decisions which put restrictions on small residential developments whilst allowing larger ones.

#### Breakdown of comments

Lack of affordable housing to buy & rent	56.4%
Too many 2nd homes/holiday lets	23.1%
Inappropriate developments/Taymouth Castle	14.1%
Planning decisions/constraints	6.4%

#### Quotes

*“Abundance of Airbnb/holiday/second homes – are destroying the area so much of us have called home our entire lives*

*Seems to be a lack of housing for the young, so they can’t stay here. We need more Council housing built.*

*Lack of affordable housing is a major problem, not just for local youngsters hoping to stay where they have been brought up, it is also a significant drag on the local economy.*

*Too many new housing estates that would be more suited to the outskirts of Glasgow or Edinburgh – why not smaller schemes with more diversity*

*PKC’s poor development control, especially of holiday homes and lochside*

*All the 2<sup>nd</sup> homes in outlying villages which lead to tiny communities*

*The selling of large chunks to foreign investors who don’t understand the area.*

*The rules and regulations and delays in trying to improve your own house and garden, by PKC”*

### 3.4 Local Economy/Town Centre

Although respondents appreciated the local shops and cafés, they also commented that there is a lack of choice, and this leads to high prices. The number of empty shops is also worrying and adds to the slightly ‘run down’ look of the town centre, along with messy pavements outside the shops. A number of respondents would like a wider choice of pubs and restaurants, as the existing ones all seem very similar, and

there is nothing at all in Weem. Lack of jobs and training, and the difficulty of finding local tradesmen are also issues of concern.

#### Breakdown of comments

Lack of choice & expensive shopping	44.0%
Empty shops & buildings	20.0%
Poor choice of pubs & restaurants	13.3%
Messy pavements outside shops	10.7%
Lack of jobs/training for young	6.7%
Difficulty in finding local tradesmen	5.3%

#### Quotes

*“Food and fuel prices are expensive compared to other towns. The Co-op has trouble maintaining stock levels in the summer*

*Surplus of cafés and lack of shoe shop, clothes shopping*

*Too many shops have closed down so the high street is starting to look abandoned.*

*All the pubs are the same and never feel very welcoming*

*Identical ‘football’ pubs and nowhere else to meet/eat/drink*

*Lack of convivial evening space, all of the pubs are ‘sports’ pubs and are not to everyone’s tastes. A wider choice of ‘evening economy’ would be very nice.*

*I don’t like how the cleanliness of the town centre has deteriorated – Aberfeldy used to be spotless – pavements swept daily by the shopkeepers, not a weed or litter in sight*

*The Square looks too bare, most of the time it just looks empty. Perhaps benches would help give more of a feel to it.*

*No tradesmen available – all working for the big landowners!”*

### **3.5 Lack of/Loss of Services**

Respondents were concerned at the erosion of local services, all vital to the wellbeing of the population, with the closure of banks and the cottage hospital being top of the list. The lack of a police presence and the increasing concerns about anti-social behaviour are next. Many people also noted that there is no local medical service at night and weekends.

#### Breakdown of comments

Banks	24.5%
Hospital care	20.8%

Police presence	15.1%
Out of hours medical care	13.2%
Childcare	9.4%
NHS Dentist	7.5%
Toilets	5.7%
Reliable internet	3.8%

### Quotes

*“Loss of high street banks*

*I worry that important community services are reducing (we’ve already lost the hospital, banks etc) we need to retain the Post Office, Library.*

*Need to go further afield for hospital and dental appointments e.g. Ninewells*

*Lack of police presence especially as we head into the stag night season.*

*The fact we have no doctors on call after 6pm and all weekend. Having to wait for a doctor from Perth is totally unacceptable.*

*Limited offering from Live Active, regularly closing due to staff shortages.*

*Increasingly feeling isolated from transport and medical facilities”*

## **3.6 Anti-social Behaviour**

Although the area is generally felt to be peaceful, there is concern about certain elements of anti-social (and indeed criminal) behaviour. The top of the list is dog fouling and dogs not being controlled, with people also saying there are not enough bins. The increase in drugs, drinking and rowdy behaviour is also a growing concern, with this being linked to the reduced police presence.

### Breakdown of comments

Dog fouling & control	50.0%
Litter	27.4%
Drugs & drunken behaviour	17.7%
Excess noise	4.8%

### Quotes

*“Poor behaviour by a minority of dog owners in clearing up after their pets*



*Walking around Aberfeldy with a pram you are constantly dodging dog poo!*

*There is a litter problem in Aberfeldy. I regularly clear it up but find it builds up as quickly as I pick it!*

*The amount of drug misuse and people selling drugs in the community*

*Drugs are a much bigger problem here but it seems ignored and there is not enough police presence to combat it effectively*

*Seems to be some anti-social behaviour according to social media posts*

*Dunkeld Street can be very noisy and some revellers do not respect local property or residents."*

### 3.7 Community Matters

Although one of the most appreciated aspects of life here is the good range of community activity and groups, there was some concern that there are more limited opportunities for children and young people. A lack of somewhere for young people to meet in the evenings was commented on and the desire for an indoor space for children's play was also mentioned, as was the lack of groups meeting in the evening making it more difficult for working folk to meet. It was also said that activities at the Breadalbane Campus can be unreliable, a source of some frustration.

Some respondents felt that despite the many groups and volunteers there was a lack of community leadership and a common vision to guide decision making. The lack of co-ordination also extends to availability of information to find out what is going on, except on social media.

#### Breakdown of comments

Lack of activities/facilities for children/young people	40.5%
Lack of local vision/decision making/leadership	24.3%
Activities/facilities at Campus	16.2%
Lack of evening activities/groups	10.8%
Lack of integrated/accessible community information	8.1%

#### Quotes

*"Too small an offering for children's activities with many families travelling to Perth*

*Leisure facilities are limited, only a small number of fitness classes provided.*

*Very little for kids to do in the evenings, and transport so bad doesn't help.*

*There is nowhere to go over the winter on a rainy day with younger children*

*Poor communication for anyone not on Facebook regarding anything that is going on*

*Difficult to find out how things work if you are new*

*Community Council could do with some fresh blood and ideas"*

### 3.8 Environmental Concerns

A range of issues were raised in relation to the risks and potential loss of the environmental assets which makes the area so special and valued.

#### Breakdown of comments

Land management/land use	27.3%
Flood & pollution risks	18.2%
Loss of biodiversity due to development	18.2%
Need for more paths/signage	18.2%
Damage by beavers	9.1%
Light pollution	9.1%

#### Quotes

*"We are at very high risk of environmental destruction due to the projects at Taymouth Castle*

*Historical environmental damage of sheep farming, deer stalking and grouse shooting*

*The shooting estates that impact on the local wildlife*

*Lack of access to river up valley, Glen Lyon – should be a path to enjoy river.*

*I worry about how our natural heritage will be preserved*

*Beavers messing up the paths and felling trees across them*

*I am sad about the loss of habitat in the Cow Park"*

### 3.10 Nothing

7% of respondents found nothing to dislike about the area.

#### Quotes

*"A day out of Aberfeldy is a day wasted!*

*What's not to like? I enjoy it all – it's a great place to live"*

## 5 WHAT WOULD MAKE IT BETTER TO LIVE IN, WORK IN OR VISIT?

Improvement	% of Responses
Parking, roads and traffic	33%
Local economy	32%
Housing and development	31%
Services	25%
Environment and access	25%
Public transport	23%
Community activities/facilities	18%
Town centre/built environment	16%

### 5.1 Parking, Roads and Traffic

The top three improvements – parking, roads and traffic; local economy; and housing and development – all received around the same support, just under a third of respondents.

Top of the list was improvements to parking, roads and traffic. Much of the concern focussed on safety issues, with parking issues leading to congestion which in turn is seen as a road hazard.

There were many suggestions of parking solutions, a popular one being to reinstate parking in the Square. Suggested solutions to reducing speeding traffic included traffic calming measures and more police presence at key times.

#### Breakdown of comments

Improve parking	36.9%
Road repairs/improvements	25.2%
Reduce speeding traffic	13.6%
Improve pavements	12.6%
Less HGV traffic and motorbikes	8.7%
Dualling of A9	2.9%

#### Quotes

*“More off street parking/re-design of Moness Terrace car park to create more spaces?”*

*More car parking in town or edge of town – e.g. triangle at bottom of Mill Brae*

*Designated parking for motorbikes in the square so that they don't get ticketed/fined. Bikers love coming here!*

*Traffic speed controls rigorously enforced in all parts of the town, especially the A827 and the Crieff Road*

*30mph for places like Weem that have houses on the road.*

*Widen the pavement out beyond the Distillery and reduce traffic speed at least as far as Strathtay Lodges*

*Better marked disabled parking in town*

*Disabled/wheelchair friendly pavements and door thresholds*

*Less cars more bikes in town, including bike racks"*

## 5.2 Local Economy

People would like more choice of shops, particularly for affordable food and fuel – an alternative to the current options. Having the empty shops occupied would add to the vibrancy of the town and bring more visitors as well as serving local people with a wider range of goods.

Comments under this heading also related to the lack of choice of pubs and restaurants as it is said that the current ones have the same 'sports bar' ambiance, which is not to everyone's taste.

Jobs, training and support to encourage new/existing businesses would also help to develop a healthy mixed economy in the area.

### Breakdown of comments

More choice of shops/fuel & better prices	46.1%
More choice of pubs/restaurants	21.3%
Jobs/training for young people	16.9%
Business support	9.0%
Shops etc open more days	4.5%
A hostel or campsite	2.2%

### Quotes

*"More local shops – deli, shoes, clothes etc – alternative to have to always do shopping in Co-op*

*Cheaper supermarkets like Lidl or Aldi and cheaper fuel – we are held to ransom by Co-op and Asda!*

*A good wine bar*

*Better quality restaurants and bar/bistros for evening. A community arts venue.*

*A 'local rate' scheme for shops and businesses to offer reduced rates for locals compared to tourists.*

*Jobs for younger generation so they don't move away, or we'll become an ageing town*

*A range of jobs with security and progression to help encourage younger people to stay and raise their families*

*Possible funding to help more people train for free to create larger pool of local workers*

*Lower rent for businesses means less closed shops*

*Encouragement for business to grow in Aberfeldy and prioritise local skill before outsourcing*

*Short term leases in the empty shops for people to try them out*

*Affordable small business/industrial units to allow folk to set up business"*

### **5.3 Housing and Development**

The highest number of comments overall was for one single improvement – more affordable homes to rent or buy. Respondents often related this issue as key to improving and sustaining many other aspects of the community.

#### Breakdown of comments

More affordable homes to buy & rent	78.3%
Control of 2nd homes/holiday lets	18.1%
Better planning decisions	3.6%

#### Quotes

*"Housing that is affordable to buy or rent for young (and not so young) people who want to come and work here*

*Setting up affordable housing schemes that ensure locals are not priced out of the area that many have lived in for most of their lives*

*Make sure that any developments can fully justify the harm they will cause to nature – the development at Taymouth Castle should never have been permitted.*

*Homes for 200 locals/young folk and returners would make a huge difference"*

## 5.4 Local Services

According to respondents, having respectable, well signposted public toilets would improve the visitor offering, as well as being helpful for locals. Also important is ensuring the existing health services are maintained, and if possible find a way to provide out of hours and small hospital services locally.

### Breakdown of comments

Public toilets	26.7%
Health services (out of hours etc/hospital)	25.3%
Police & anti-social behaviour	24.0%
Banking facility	16.0%
Fibre broadband	4.0%
NHS dentist	4.0%

### Quotes

*“A decent public toilet - the one down by the park is not a good advert for Aberfeldy*

*Public toilets, especially for attracting visitors back spending money in the local shops*

*Restoration of Cottage Hospital/step down facility*

*Easier access to hospitals, travelling to Ninewells is too far*

*Police presence to sort out the drugs and anti-social behaviour issues*

*A banking hub or pop up banking ‘help’ from several banks to help people with their online banking issues”*

## 5.5 Environment and Access

While the efforts of the Upper Tay Paths group are greatly appreciated, further improvements suggested mainly focussed on connectivity of the outlying villages by foot or cycle, and also connecting to Kenmore.

A further bugbear for respondents is dog fouling and litter, and there were many suggestions of taking stronger action against perpetrators, as well as providing more bins. There were also proposals for ways to improve biodiversity and support a greener community.

### Breakdown of comments

Develop more paths & cycle routes	39.2%
Deal with dog fouling/litter	26.6%

More bins/poo bins	10.1%
Improve biodiversity	8.9%
Flood measures	8.9%
Community garden/allotments	3.8%
Community energy scheme	2.5%

### Quotes

*“Fully segregated all abilities cycle paths linking all the settlements would be a gamechanger in terms of rural transport*

*More easy off road cycling for accessing shopping and services in Aberfeldy*

*Safe cycle routes connecting the villages*

*Everyone pick up litter and weed outside their home and place of work. In 24 hours the town would look better. Encourage a day a month to do this.*

*Path between Weem and Aberfeldy needs to be made smoother so I could use my mobility scooter to get to Aberfeldy independently*

*Clean up the dog dirt, and fine those responsible. Encourage reporting of litter and vandalism – especially broken glass on the river banks.*

*Replace dog bins that have been removed over the years and introduce more.*

*A district heating system combatting fuel poverty and powered by community owned renewable energy scheme”*

## **5.6 Public Transport**

Finding a solution to the lack of co-ordination between buses and train services would be a priority for many – especially those travelling for work, training or health services.

### Breakdown of comments

More co-ordinated buses	41.7%
More frequent bus routes	38.9%
Bus links to hospital/college in Perth/Dundee	13.9%
More taxi services	2.8%
A train station	2.8%

Quotes

*“More access to public transport – regular times and no long waits between bus transfers to Kenmore, Crieff, Pitlochry or Perth*

*Push for co-ordination of bus timetables so that there are buses which actually connect with the main train services from Pitlochry*

*More frequent direct bus services to Pitlochry to connect to trains – it’s daft having to change at Ballinluig*

*Provide transport to and from college so people can gain qualifications without a daily expedition*

*Maybe a community bus for college and work?*

*More frequent and easier to understand bus service”*

**5.7 Community Activities/Facilities etc.**

A priority for many young families is to have more affordable childcare in the area, to allow parents to work. More activities for children and young people were also requested, as well as improved fitness activities at the Campus (or elsewhere).

Several people noted that it would be good to have an information hub (e.g. a community website) where all events, groups and activities were kept up to date.

Breakdown of comments

More childcare/nursery places	25.5%
More activities for children/young people	21.3%
Fitness/gym facilities/activities	21.3%
More community events	8.5%
Better community leadership/decision making	8.5%
Co-ordination & information	8.5%
Arts/heritage/culture facility	6.4%

Quotes

*“Better childcare for after school and school hours*

*After school childcare that is affordable for families not on high incomes*

*An activity hub for teenagers (not linked to religion/church) especially through autumn/winter – indoor climbing wall/bike park spaces?*

*Baby classes or soft play things would be great*



*Sort the problems out with the Campus leisure centre, if it's closed or can't be relied on to be open, that is no good for anyone.*

*More access to the facilities in Breadalbane Academy for the community*

*Community Council to be more active to address the key issues affecting residents*

*An Aberfeldy website that brings together all of the local things that are going on to make sure people know about them*

*Better communication and co-ordination of events happening – a town calendar so things don't clash*

*Advertise events and what's going on other than online. A large space in Tourist centre or Co-op, including 'free listings' and job listings"*

## 5.8 Town Centre Improvements

Proposals here were about making Aberfeldy town centre more presentable, welcoming and attractive.

### Breakdown of Comments

Improve empty shops/shop fronts	29.8%
Cleaner streets/pavements	23.4%
Improve look/use of Square	19.1%
Signage/map	17.0%
More flowers/trees/planting	10.6%

### Quotes

*"Spruce the town up a little – looking a bit run down*

*Fill and use the empty shops. It's such a shame and doesn't add to the aesthetic of the town.*

*Clean and weed/rubbish free pavements and public areas*

*Clean up our pavements and roads – they need a good sweep and weeds cleared. The town is messy and not a good advert for tourists.*

*Put out a call for businesses to keep their frontage clean and tidy.*

*Better signage for things that are already in town (Birks, walks, cinema, park, toilets in local centre, Watermill) everything that is obvious to locals but tourists have no idea where they are!*

*More benches, places to sit, and a green space somewhere in town.*

*Better use of the Square, it is quite uninspiring to look at."*

## 6. WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION – BIG AND SMALL?

We asked “What are your priorities for action – a small thing we could try and do soon, and a big thing to work on?”. Here are all the priorities – small and big – and the number of times they were mentioned by respondents.

<b>THEME 1 : PARKING, TRAFFIC AND ROADS</b>	<b>HOW MANY TIMES</b>
More/better parking	44
Traffic calming – bumps, crossings, speed limit, lights	40
Repair roads	33
Improve cycle routes	15
Repair/improve pavements	11
Repair the ‘wobbly bridge’	10
Disabled parking	8
Reduce heavy vehicles/HGVs	7
Reduce street lighting	4
Repair/improve Wade's bridge	4
Repair/improve pedestrian bridge (Square/Watermill)	3
Bike lock ups/E bikes	2
Reduce loud motorbikes	1
A9 dualled	1
<b>Total comments under this theme</b>	<b>183</b>

<b>THEME 2: HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>HOW MANY TIMES</b>
Provide more affordable housing to let & rent	118
Control number of second homes/holiday lets	18
Develop use of the empty hospital & church building	9
Control/liaise with DLC on impact of Taymouth Castle development	8
Provide housing for elderly people	7
Energy efficiency improvements to housing	5
More information on planning applications/decisions	1
<b>Total comments under this theme</b>	<b>166</b>

<b>THEME 3: SERVICES AND TRANSPORT</b>	<b>HOW MANY TIMES</b>
Improvements to bus service (more buses/co-ordination/on time)	68
A banking hub	20
Health services (cottage hospital/out of hours/NHS dentist)	20
Public toilets	19
Police/CCTV/warden service	17
Taxi/community transport /Demand Response Transport scheme	9
Social care/care for elderly	7
Bottle bank/glass recycling in Weem	3
Railway station	2
Public Wi-Fi	1
<b>Total comments under this theme</b>	<b>166</b>

<b>THEME 4: ENVIRONMENT AND ACCESS</b>	<b>HOW MANY TIMES</b>
Deal with dog fouling	31
Deal with litter/litter picking	21
Maintain/improve paths & access rights	19
Tidy weeds & verges	15
More bins & dog bins (especially on Feldy-Roo trail)	13
More rewilding & biodiversity	10
Improve path Dull – Weem - Aberfeldy	9
Flood scheme/measures	9
More flowers/floral displays	7
Community renewable energy/district heating	6
Greener town – plastic free etc	6
Allotments/community garden/garden competition	4
Protect trees	3
Relocate beavers	2
Tool share	2
Benches	2
EV chargers	2
<b>Total comments under this theme</b>	<b>161</b>

<b>THEME 5: LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOWN CENTRE</b>	<b>HOW MANY TIMES</b>
Clean up streets/pavements/shop fronts	37
Improve the look & use of the Square	22
Use of the empty shops/shop windows	18
More varied choice of shops (e.g. clothes/gifts etc)	15
Support for businesses to start/develop	10
Encourage & promote tourism	10
Wider choice of pubs/restaurants	8
Signposting/map in town	8
Promote/use local shops e.g. loyalty scheme	8
Local food/produce	6
More jobs & training	5
Water fountains	2
Shop in Weem	1
<b>Total comments under this theme</b>	<b>150</b>

<b>THEME 6: COMMUNITY, RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>	<b>HOW MANY TIMES</b>
Community information (co-ordinated/accessible)	25
More childcare/nursery provision	13
More community events/festivals etc	12
More for young people to do/places to go	11
Improve provision at Live Active gym/campus	10
Clubs/activities for children	8
Improve/repair play equipment	8
More cohesive/groups working together	8
Support the Birks Cinema	5
Support Healthiest Town	4
Support the Sports Hub project	3
Develop more community arts	3
More classes & activities	3
Promote Gaelic culture	2
Information/interpretation of historic sites	2
Community hub in Weem	1
Use of Griffin Community Fund for the future	1
Community sauna	1
<b>Total comments under this theme</b>	<b>120</b>

## 7 OUR VISION FOR ABERFELDY, DULL AND WEEM

We asked “What is your ideal Vision for the future of your community – the best you can imagine it will be in 10 years’ time?”

The responses are summarised into four Vision Statements, with supporting quotes from the survey responses:

**A community for everyone – with homes for all ages and incomes, businesses and jobs that sustain us, services and support that make life better.**

*“An open, welcoming community with opportunities for all to live, work and thrive”*

*“Where people of all ages can afford to live and can find worthwhile employment”*

*“A thriving working town that encourages small local business, supports the rural and farming community. Providing a caring and integrated community for old and young alike”*

*“Housing will be affordable and there will be progressive well paid careers for local people”*

*“Multi-generational friendships and support, a place that welcomes visitors, a place where people are healthy, with free and easy access to the beautiful surroundings”*

*“With increased affordable housing and incentives to attract new businesses, a rising population offering a variety of interests to bring tourists and residents”*

*“It’s a safe and nurturing place for all to be able to realise their potential”*

*“Inclusive place to live for all, regardless of how much money they have”*

*“A happy community that always integrates everybody in all things”*

*“A thriving, friendly community with enough housing of all types for those working and living here”*

*“A good balance of ‘indigenous’ locals and incomers, residential opportunities are equitable, the shops are fully occupied; residents are connected with the natural surroundings and interact respectfully”*

*“Continuing to maintain services, medical, educational and transport”*

*“Sustained and flourishing local services - child care, social care, doctors, library, cinema, transport”*

**A thriving, busy place that welcomes visitors and provides them with a quality experience, but is not wholly dependent on tourism or over-run by it.**

*"Thriving town centre – may need to attract more tourists"*

*"A vibrant , thriving community with a large enough permanent population to support the local businesses, supplemented by tourists spending time and money here"*

*"Just a place that is nice to live in and work in, welcoming visitors and looks cared for"*

*"Not to become overcrowded, for the local people not to get lost in the progress happening around"*

*"A vibrant, well looked after and clean town centre which will want visitors to stop and explore the town"*

*"A relaxed yet bustling place, with a strong community, with respect for other people and the environment"*

*"Continued rural community without any more heavy industrialisation – we need to keep the area attractive to visitors at all times of the year"*

*"A vibrant and litter free community with a thriving high street serving local needs as well as for visitors"*

**A sustainable and caring community – in control of its own future, making decisions and taking actions that benefit both people and nature.**

*"Vibrant, unique, authentic, self-sufficient, everyone in good work. Optimistic, excited"*

*"A great balance of sustainable year round enterprises, tourism and environmental preservation powered by community owned renewable energy"*

*"A town that is known for its commitment to healthy, green and sustainable living"*

*"Sustainable, diverse, active, caring community in an area where beauty and nature is prioritised"*

*"A kind, happy, and healthy place for all"*

*"To have a community that works together to make things happen"*

*"A thriving, well connected community where all people can live with dignity in harmony with our beautiful natural environment"*

*"A strong community that is led from within the community building ethical and sustainable lives for ourselves"*

*"A community that works together in a more beneficial and sustainable way instead of in separate bubbles with different agendas"*

*"A community that protects and nurtures the landscape and nature we are blessed with"*

**Retaining the character that makes this place so special – building on our strong community spirit and important heritage**

*"The vision would build on the community spirit, supporting local businesses, art and culture"*

*"Essentially more of the same – all that makes it what it is – no desire for bigger or bolder"*

*"Consolidate and expand what is already in place to maximise appeal"*

*"A slightly better version of what we have now, with a younger demographic encouraged by employment and small business opportunities"*

*"I hope that the land will not be taken up with houses for the well off and that Aberfeldy will maintain its 'country' feel"*

*"It's lovely – don't change it, just make sure the less well-off can make use of and feel welcome to all the facilities and opportunities in the area"*

*"I hope it does not change too much. It looks after the very old (like me), I have had a very happy life here for many years"*

*"I hope it is as friendly and helpful as it was when I first moved here"*

*"That the town will continue to thrive, but not grow too big or it will lose its charm and all that is unique"*

*"May Aberfeldy continue to be a place where everyone is welcome, and full of smiles"*