



## Bridge of Earn Community Council - Community Conversation

January 2020

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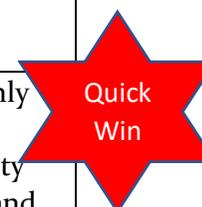
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## Executive Summary – Key Priorities and Possible Actions

The table below summaries the key actions which people would like to see as a result of the first Earn Community Conversation.

Lead players and possible actions have also been suggested but are purely at the discretion of Earn Community Council.

Action	Lead players	First steps/ Quick wins
A new doctor's surgery/ healthcare facility for Bridge of Earn e.g. minor ailments, district nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community</li> <li>NHS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring key players together to plan an innovative fit for the future GP and health care provision for Bridge of Earn</li> <li>Involve the community in designing and possibly delivering the solution</li> </ul>
Sharing news and information – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletter in paper form</li> <li>Notice boards at Wicks of Baigle Rd</li> <li>Ways of creating inclusive conversations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Council</li> <li>community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seeking funding to provide a local bi-monthly newsletter</li> <li>develop a Community Council or community website where people can get information and possibly have a two-way dialogue (continue conversation)</li> <li>enable further consultation on specific topics</li> </ul>
No public toilet facilities in Main Street Bridge of Earn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>local businesses</li> <li>PKC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a comfort scheme in operation which could be extended?</li> </ul>
Public Transport Bus services – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oudenarde – none at present</li> <li>Rural parts of the area in general</li> </ul> Train halt – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enable commuting without using cars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community</li> <li>Bus companies</li> <li>Community Council</li>   <li>Network Rail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult local people on most needed routes and times</li> <li>Negotiate with bus companies re extending existing routes initially, adding new routes in future</li> <li>Explore process for developing a case for a halt</li> </ul>



<p>Taxi services –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only one taxi service available</li> </ul> <p>Cycle paths –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connecting villages to enable cycling and walking (particularly to Forgandenny)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustrans</li> <li>• PKC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audit existing provision and prepare action plan</li> </ul>
<p>Pavements –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop people parking on them/ bad parking generally (Co-op/school in particular)</li> <li>• Better surfaces and accessibility for elderly, disabled, prams, scooters, cyclists and the visually impaired</li> <li>• Street lighting to Oudenarde</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PKC</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Disability and older people’s organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic management plan for village to take account of speeding traffic as well</li> <li>• Considerate parking scheme (many primary schools have initiatives)</li> <li>• Accessibility audit of pavements and paths to inform an action plan</li> <li>• Revisit plans for Oudenarde</li> </ul>
<p>Spaces for the community generally to meet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More family events</li> <li>• Youth clubs (age appropriate)</li> <li>• Gym facilities</li> <li>• Coffee shop type meeting spaces</li> <li>• Community or farmer’s market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• PKC</li> <li>• Local businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map existing events</li> <li>• Plan new initiatives to fill any gaps</li> <li>• Encourage businesses to look at ways of addressing expressed needs</li> </ul>
<p>Green spaces –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victory Park – not attractive to teenagers</li> <li>• Problem with dog fouling</li> <li>• Generally, improve the spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PKC</li> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with community including young people to research need and plan improvements</li> <li>• Review current dog fouling measures and see if something new can be tried</li> </ul>
<p>Provision for young people –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local primary school for all including Oudenarde</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PKC – education and youth services</li> <li>• Live Active</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult education plans for school and discuss with local Councillors in first instance</li> <li>• Highlight issues</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable all secondary school pupils to go to a local school together</li> <li>• Youth activities for children of different age groups in Oudenarde, Bridge of Earn and other smaller communities</li> <li>• Play park for Oudenarde</li> <li>• A skate park for young people</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with church youth initiatives to kick start youth activities</li> <li>• Play park for Oudenarde on PKC land i.e. permanent</li> <li>• Community initiative to develop/ bring people together</li> </ul>
<p>Shops and local services –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern about the future of the shop in Forgandenny</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shop owners</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult existing owners re their plans with a view to securing a longer-term future</li> <li>• Consider community buy-out/ ownership</li> </ul>
<p>Housing –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shortage of pensioner housing</li> <li>• Shortage of affordable housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PKC</li> <li>• Hillcrest and other Housing Associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map existing plans</li> <li>• Research needs further</li> <li>• Develop plans, possibly in conjunction with health care development</li> </ul>
<p>Create a community owned vehicle to develop future plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community</li> <li>• Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS -advice)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at establishing a development trust or similar vehicle to further social, economic and environmental plans for Bridge of Earn. It may be that other, smaller communities under the umbrella of Earn Community Council wish to consider similar vehicles e.g. Forgandenny should the community wish to explore ownership of the village shop</li> </ul>

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*“The task of local and national government should be to promote citizenship, to facilitate and enable participation, and to make decisions which are influenced and informed by it. ...Government must facilitate and help the strong and growing movement around participative forms of consultation and engagement. Strong local democracy needs to be informed by local preferences and choices, there will need to be many more opportunities for deliberation and dialogue and this means ensuring that communities are not just listened to, but they are heard, and that there is a clear line of sight to the actions that follow.” (Interim Report, COSLA Commission. April 2014)<sup>1</sup>*

## 1. Introduction

Earn Community Council (ECC) secured funding to begin a dialogue with local people to try to find out what local priorities are for improving life for those living in the area with a view to preparing plans to address issues identified. Sandra Macaskill of CaskieCo was appointed in July 2019 to prepare plans and carry out the conversation. This report documents the process and outcomes of the first Earn Community Conversation.

## 2. The aims of the Conversation...

Earn Community Council aimed to talk to local people to find out their views on the area and how it can be shaped to meet the future needs of a growing community. The Earn Community Council area covers Aberdalgie, Bridge of Earn/Kintillo, Dron, Forgandenny, Forteviot and Rhynd. Each is an individual community although it comes under the jurisdiction of Earn Community Council for the purposes of local authority consultation.

## 3. Developing a consultation plan

The ECC covers a large area to the south of the city of Perth with a number of small communities, the largest of which is Bridge of Earn. A meeting of key “ambassadors” was held on 16 July to plan the best way to access as many local people as possible and decide on the best means to use to do this. The **key “ambassadors”** represented over 40 local groups, councillors, businesses, housing associations, schools, churches as well as all the groups using the Institute in Bridge of Earn. Dunbarney Primary School supported the conversation by allowing us to put up a display and talk to parents as they

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<sup>1</sup> Consultation Practices within Scottish Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships. The Consultation Initiative/ Improvement Service 2014

attended an event in the school one evening. Local churches and Councillors were very active in enabling meetings and encouraging local contacts to participate.

The intension was to **work through local groups** and officers of various agencies to encourage people to complete a questionnaire and participate in a series of local meetings. The Community Council had previously used the Scottish Government's Place Standard Tool so it was agreed to continue to base the consultation around this. The Tool is very comprehensive covering 14 different aspects of life from public transport to facilities and amenities and natural space.

A **questionnaire** based on the Place Standard Tool was prepared in paper form and on an electronic platform (Survey Monkey). To avoid clashing with the summer holiday period this was opened on 16 August 19 with a plan to promote it through local groups supported by key "ambassadors." Paper copies were made available to groups and links to the survey were circulated through local newsletters and mailings. People attending events (below) were also invited to complete questionnaires.

A **survey/consultation session** was planned to speak to young people in the area and contact was made with Bertha Park High School, a newly opened facility serving S1 and S2 pupil across the area. Staff at the school were quite stretched as it was a new facility and eventually a youth support worker agreed to conduct a short survey with some of the young people from the Oundenarde part of the area which he had contact with. Sadly, the returns were very poor so of little use in informing the conversation.

**Talking to people face to face** was seen as important to the exercise, together with going to each part of the community council area. A series of consultation meetings was arranged and methods for delivering facilitated, interactive discussion sessions prepared. The following sessions were delivered:

- 16 September 19 – Co-op Main Street, Bridge of Earn (street survey)
- 16 September 19 – The Institute, Bridge of Earn (public meeting)
- 16 September 19 – Dunbarney Church, Bridge of Earn (public meeting)
- 28 September 19 – Oudenarde Cabin (public meeting)
- 28 September 19 – Forgardenny Play Park opening (piggy backed on event)

## 4. The Community Conversation

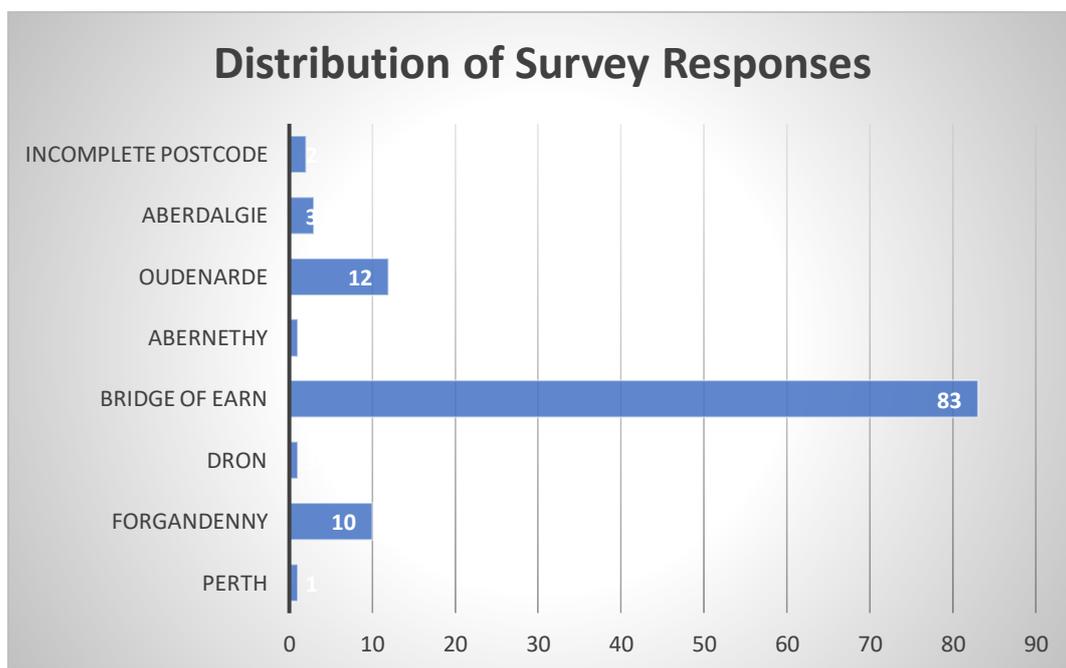
The conversation was carried out between August and October 2019, with five face to face sessions and 122 questionnaires returned either in hard copy or online. Despite the large number of key ambassadors and efforts to contact and cajole people, returns were disappointing both in terms of questionnaires and people attending events with the exception of the opening of the play park in Forgardenny. It is worthy of note that the Consultation Institute/Improvement Service Report on Consultation Practices within

Local Authorities and Community Planning Partnerships notes that there can be too much consultation and that there can be more benefit from the process of participation.

Having said that, there is still a significant body of learning from the conversations had and the questionnaires returned. It is worth pointing out here that by default the focus of responses was on Bridge of Earn itself rather than the wider Earn Community Council area. Speaking to people it became apparent that each micro community has its own issues/priorities with Forteviot reporting that they will carry out their own survey to determine need.

#### 4.1 Who responded to the survey?

One hundred and twenty people responded to the questionnaire with all returns entered onto the Survey Monkey platform from which the following analysis is taken. 110 gave postcodes so it was possible to determine which part of the area they lived in. The majority of returns came from Bridge of Earn village itself with those from Oudenarde counted separately as there was particular interest in ensuring responses from this part of the village. Forgandenny had ten returns but Forteviot and Rhynd recorded no returns. Perth is technically out with the Earn Community Council area and two people didn't give full postcode information.

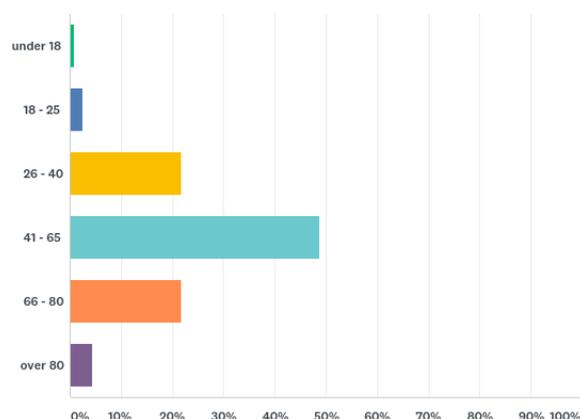


Analysis of postcode data from returns

The age breakdown of respondents was mainly adults almost 50% being aged between 41 and 65 years, 22% were aged 26 – 40 years and a further 22% were 66 – 80 years. Less

than 1% were under 18 and just under 3% were between 18 and 25. As mentioned earlier a survey was prepared for secondary school pupils at Berth Park High School and living in Oudenarde but it only produced three returns with little or no data so these have not been included.

Q3 Please tell us your age group (if you don't mind)



Age break down of respondents from survey data

## 4.2 What do people like about Bridge of Earn?

The general consensus is that:

*“It is a lovely village with great local amenities such as shop, pubs, restaurants, pharmacy, Dentist and until very recently Doctors. We have a great local park and are situated close to the M90 that makes commuting to work easy.”<sup>2</sup>*

*“In a rural village location, yet close to Perth and its central situation makes it easy to reach other major cities. I like the scenic aspects too. I like the sense of community. I like showing off our village to tourists and visitors to the area.”<sup>3</sup>*

A word cloud of all the responses to this question can be seen below with the largest words the most frequently mentioned. The **sense of community** was most mentioned with 35 out of 120 respondents to that question, that’s almost 30%.

- 23% highlighted beautiful scenery and green space
- 22% mentioned friendly folk
- 17% thought transport links and amenities were good

<sup>2</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q1 What do you like about Bridge of Earn?

<sup>3</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q1 What do you like about Bridge of Earn?

Q1 What do you like about Bridge of Earn?



There were however some indications that things are changing with comments such as:

*“Increasingly less to be honest, thinking of a move at the moment. However, the efforts of Brig in Bloom should be applauded.”<sup>4</sup>*

*“I’ve always loved the area. But recently families have been letting their kids “Go Feral” which in turn they think they can wreck the place and cause vandalism.”<sup>5</sup>*

### 4.3 Is there anything people would change about Bridge of Earn?

Q4 Is there anything you would change about Bridge of Earn?



The word cloud above highlights the key issues raised by people with the **GP/doctors surgery** which closed at very short notice in August 2019 relocating 3,500 local patients to practices all around Perth and the **isolation of the Oudenarde** area of Bridge of Earn.

*“Needs its own GP surgery back. School catchment should include village environs – including Oudenarde appreciate that outlying areas – Craigend and Rhynd e.g. may need to be re-assigned, but catchments appear to be getting fragmented”<sup>6</sup>*

<sup>4</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q1 What do you like about Bridge of Earn?

<sup>5</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q1 What do you like about Bridge of Earn?

<sup>6</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q4 Is there anything you would change about Bridge of Earn

*“Build a new Health Centre and village hub in the centre of the village e.g. where Dunbarney School is and build a new school in Oudenarde.”<sup>7</sup>*

*“... the loss of the GP surgery is extremely sad and makes it very difficult for our elderly residents and those who don’t drive with young children”<sup>8</sup>*

Dunbarney Primary School is very highly regarded but **doesn’t accommodate children from Oudenarde** and they are bussed to Inchview Primary School a considerable distance away (3.3 miles). Secondary school pupils attend various schools in Perth with the **new S1 and S2 children from Oudenrade bussed to Berth Park High School** on the north side of the city (8.5 miles). Overall this gives children and young people growing up in Bridge of Earn/ Oudenarde a fragmented experience of life with school and home life quite separate and friendship and activity groups more difficult to maintain.

*“Needs much more facilities for children and young people. I have lived here for 25+ years and in that time the village has almost tripled in size but we don’t seem to have any additional facilities.”<sup>9</sup>*

*“Play park at Oudenarde. Bus route at Oudenarde. We are completely abandoned here.”<sup>10</sup>*

There is a general consensus among responses to the survey that *“as the village grows we need places and activities to pull the village together”* particularly Bridge of Earn and Oudenarde which is actually part of the village but separated by the motorway and a railway line giving the impression of being an isolated settlement on its own. An extract from the submission of one longstanding resident summed it up as follows:

*“I have been here 10 years and am bewildered at how the people in my ‘neck of the woods’ are **treated as second class citizens. No primary school...** how astonishing that these children are not permitted access to the only school in their area. I’d change that immediately. What a terrible message to give children. There are **no accessible post boxes** in my area. I’d change that. There is **no bus services**. I’d change that immediately - it’s incredible that Clayton road is not on a bus route. There are **no accessible shops for those with mobility issues**. I’d change that. There is **no play park**. I have lost count of the amount of tiny children running about the streets*

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<sup>7</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q4 Is there anything you would change about Bridge of Earn

<sup>8</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q4 Is there anything you would change about Bridge of Earn

<sup>9</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q4 Is there anything you would change about Bridge of Earn

<sup>10</sup> Earn Community Conversation – Survey response Q4 Is there anything you would change about Bridge of Earn

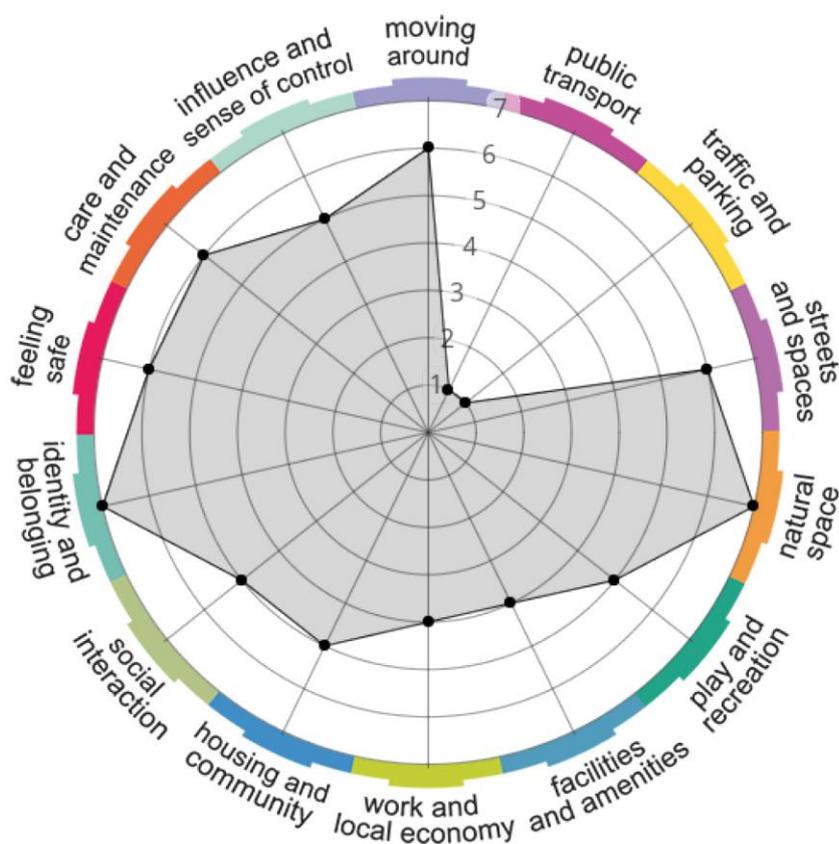
*or playing in the building site behind Clayton Road. I'd change that. Children need safe play areas. There are **no church or community services** such as a hall."*

A temporary community cabin has recently been put in Oudenarde (October 2019) to provide a focal point for people to meet and organise activities from but this has few resources and has largely been left for people to do themselves.

There are a number of other issues highlighted and these are summarised in the following section under the Place Standard element of the questionnaire

## 5. Place Standard –

### 5.1 Summary across all parts of the Community Council area



The Scottish Government's Place Standard Tool was used as the basis for gathering information and views on what Bridge of Earn Community Council area is like to live in and what changes could be made to improve the quality of life for those living there.

The overall summary shows that in terms of public transport; traffic and parking there is a great deal of scope for improvement with each scoring 1 out of 7. Most people have

to travel out of the area to work as there are few local employment opportunities; facilities and amenities such as GP surgery/ health care score a 4 which again leaves considerable room for improvement.

## 5.2 Moving Around

Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?

Rating 6

Comments:

- Parking at the Primary School (Dunbarney) is very congested with the Co-op across the road further compounding this and making it dangerous for children
- There is a lack of off-road cycle paths and foot paths e.g. between Bridge of Earn and Forgandenny making it difficult to get between communities without a car
- Public transport links are not good, particularly to Oudenarde with no travel to work transport. School pupils are bussed to schools out with the area
- The walking route from Oudenarde to the village is not good for children (not overlooked) – better lighting is needed
- No good pathways or pavements for disabled/ wheelchair users or prams

## 5.3 Public Transport

Does public transport meet my needs?

Rating 1

Comments:

- Oudenarde and Forgandenny not well served by public transport – people would use their cars less if this was improved
- More scheduled buses needed, particularly since there is no doctor surgery and people have to travel to Perth
- Evening and weekend services are very poor particularly if working in Perth and trying to get home
- Young people have to use taxis
- Requires URGENT attention

## 5.4 Traffic and Parking

Do traffic and Parking arrangements allow people to move safely and meet community's needs?

Rating 1

**Comment:**

- Parking in the Main Street of Bridge of Earn is dreadful – particularly at the Co-op and Primary School where it can be very dangerous for pupils
- The village needs a car park
- Traffic moves very quickly through the village – an accident waiting to happen

## 5.5 Streets and Spaces

Do buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?

Rating 6

**Comment:**

- Bring in Bloom is great for the village and makes it look great
- All park and sports venues are well kept if a little dated, although dog fouling can sometimes be an issue in grassy areas
- Buildings and houses are generally well maintained

## 5.6 Natural Space

Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?

Rating 7

**Comment:**

- Generally excellent outdoor space although lack of pavements and cycle paths, particularly between villages can be a problem
- In Oudenarde there is a lot of fenced off land for development which is not maintained and unsightly

## 5.7 Play and Recreation

Do I have access to a range of spaces and opportunities for play and recreation?

Rating 5

**Comment:**

- There are some facilities for recreation: e.g. the Institute and Park in Bridge of Earn
- Very little in Oudenarde where they would like a park and more facilities for teenagers
- Many people would like a café in the village for informal gathering and coffee
- Parks could do with updating
- Dog fouling can be an issue

## 5.8 Facilities and Amenities

Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?

**Rating 4**

**Comment:**

- The recent loss of the doctor's surgery has been a major blow to the village and people would like to see proper health facilities reinstated in Bridge of Earn (GP, warfarin, diabetes and chiropody clinics locally would be great)
- A new primary school in Oudenarde serving the whole community and use the existing school site for a new fit for purpose health facility
- A coffee shop or meeting place was suggested by many people
- There are no public toilets
- There is nothing in Oudenarde except the new cabin which has only recently been installed

## 5.9 Work and Local Economy

Is there an active local economy and opportunity to access good quality work?

**Rating 4**

**Comment:**

- Not many opportunities to work locally but Bridge of Earn is commuting distance from Perth and other places such as Stirling, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Fife
- Poor transport links make travel to work by public transport difficult
- Employment is limited to school and farms

## 5.10 Housing and Community

Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?

Rating 5

Comment:

- There is a shortage of pensioner's houses
- More affordable housing is required
- Reasonable mix of housing types with much more housing planned but little or no supporting infrastructure, particularly in Oudenarde
- Developers seem to be dictating the build priorities rather than building communities to live in

## 5.11 Social Interaction

Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?

Rating 5

Comment:

- There are church halls and the Institute in Bridge of Earn, halls and churches in other villages such as Forgandenny
- There is a shortage of coffee shops (Bridge of Earn) and a pub or gathering place in Forgandenny
- Not many restaurants
- Very little for young people and young adults to do, places to meet

## 5.12 Identity and Belonging

Does the place have a positive identity and do I feel I belong?

Rating 7

Comment:

- Yes, Brig in Bloom contributes to a positive identity and a sense of pride when prizes are won
- There are mixed views on the extent to which locals and incomers mix and gel – more social events might enable this to happen

- People in Oudenarde feel isolated from the rest of the village and there seems to be little positive identity there

### 5.13 Feeling Safe

Do I feel safe?

Rating 6

Comment:

- Apart from improving street lighting, people generally feel safe and there is a low crime rate
- The route to the village from Oudenarde doesn't feel safe at night time as it is poorly lit and not overlooked

### 5.14 Care and Maintenance

Are buildings and spaces well cared for?

Rating 6

Comment:

- Generally, yes. Things are well kept and the Brig in Bloom competition installs a sense of pride and belonging
- Council facilities are poorly cared for

### 5.15 Influence and Sense of Control

Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?

Rating 5

Comment:

- There are mixed views as to whether people are listened to
- People talked of needing more local information on what's going on to participate more fully

- Not everyone uses Facebook and other social media – a local newsletter could help communication

## 5.16 Priorities for Action – main issues and priorities

What are the main issues and priorities for change that you have identified?

Comment:

- Reinstatement or redevelopment of a GP surgery and other health care facilities for the whole area
- An improved bus service to enable people to get to work and back, travel home at night and at weekends
- Something for teenagers to do (skatepark, BMX) needs testing out – could there be a temporary one in Oudenarde?
- Look at traffic congestions at the school and Co-op
- Plan future facilities for Oudenarde

## 5.17 Priorities for Action – what action could be taken?

What actions should be taken?

Comment:

- Discuss options with NHS for someone else to develop provision (building) which they could rent and provide services from
- Oudenarde – seek funding to review plans for the area, reinvigorate impetus to build houses and proper infrastructure/ facilities for the area
- Review public transport arrangements for the area, particularly Oudenarde
- Build a new primary school in Oudenarde for the whole village so all the kids go to school together and use old school site for a new health care facility

Four areas fall below a score of 5, Public Transport, Traffic and Parking, Facilities and Amenities and Work and the Local Economy suggesting that they are the most significant priorities to be addressed in the first instance.

## 6. Feedback from Dunbarney Church Public Meeting



**Church fit  
for 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century**

Community  
social Events  
(cross  
section of  
interests)

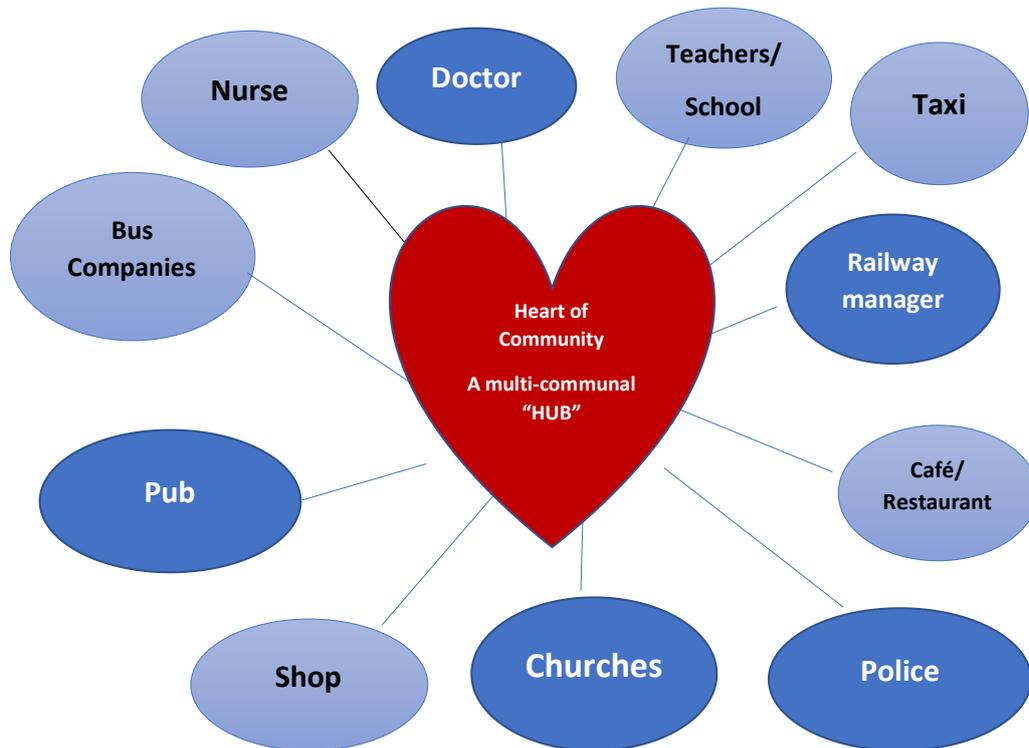
**Information  
point/hub/  
Newsletter**

**Café/  
coffee  
shop**

**School for  
Oudenarde**

**Car Park and  
Square**

**Health  
Centre in the  
right place**



## 7. General Comments/Lessons from the first Earn Community Conversation

- 7.1. This was a relatively large brush consultation covering quite a large geography with one principle village
- 7.2. The Scottish Government’s Place Standard Tool covers all aspects of life and therefore takes time to get detailed responses from those who engage with it
- 7.3. Getting people to engage in consultations can be challenging because people lead busy lives and they are often consulted to the point of “consultation fatigue” so interventions need to be specific and focused
- 7.4. People reported a lack of information on what was going on locally and a focal point or means to access such information
- 7.5. This first conversation provides evidence of key issues to go back to people and develop plans around
- 7.6. The Community Council has carried out this initial conversation, it may be that a community organisation such as a development trust might be an appropriate vehicle to lead future developments in line with the Scottish Government’s community empowerment legislation.