



THE BIG PLACE CONVERSATION

HOLDING YOUR OWN PLACE CONVERSATION

In Perth & Kinross

DO THIS IF...

- You want to gather views of a group to submit a response to the [Big Place Conversation](#) to help shape the next [Local Development Plan](#) and other Council initiatives such as the Mobility Strategy.
- You want to gather evidence of your own community views to start working on a community action plan or a [local place plan](#)
- You want to gather the views of a particular group that share an interest about a place or physical space in general such as ideas about parks or streets.

WHERE / HOW YOU CAN HOLD THE CONVERSATION

- Through 2023 planning officers can help community representative bodies and groups of interest arrange a conversation in your place. Contact LDPconsultation@pkc.gov.uk
- Conversations can be held by a small group of interest like a youth group or a community body with a whole community.
- Conversations can be held virtually (e.g. zoom, Teams) or in person in a community hall. These should be as inclusive as possible.
- Small groups can use the Big Place Conversation online survey directly.
- Larger groups may want to use a paper form at the end of this document and submit the results via the [Big Place Conversation online survey](#).

INTRODUCING THE PLACE STANDARD

The Council is recommending the use of the Place Standard tool. The Place Standard consists of 14 themes around different aspects of a place. These fall within 4 thematic groups. The outcome is a score of how good or how much a place needs to be improved by, and a comment explaining each score. The score and comments have most value when agreed by people in a group conversation. Groups of no more than 8 people work best.

How I get from one place to another	Where I go and what I do	What I need to live well	How I feel and how I care
1.Moving Around 2.Public Transport 3.Traffic & Parking	4.Streets Squares & Buildings 5.Natural Spaces 6.Play & Recreation,	7.Facilities and Services 8.Work & Local Economy 9.Housing & Community 10.Social Interaction	11.Identity & Belonging 12.Feeling Safe 13.Care & Maintenance 14.Influence & Sense of Control

The comments can then be discussed and priorities identified. This will form an evidence basis of what action needs to be taken in an area, and tells the Council what is wanted in an area. The Place Standard tool is the start of a conversation and there will need to be more work if you wish to develop an action plan for your community such as a [Local Place Plan](#).

Help on holding a place standard conversation is available through www.ourplace.scot . This contains templates, guides and advice as links to the different types of place standard including young people’s, children’s, climate lens and air quality focus. For the [Big Place Conversation](#) questions from the classic place standard, young people’s and climate lens questions have been combined and are listed on page 5. If there is another format that best suits you then please do use that. Just remember to submit your results and comments via the Big Place Conversation website.

HOLDING A CONVERSATION...

Small groups with a similar interest or who know each other can work well working through the questions themselves in groups. In a small group conversations may take only an hour. You may want to then spend some time looking at priorities and discussing these in more detail.

For larger groups or communities you will need to think about how to make sure you have an inclusive conversation. It’s best to link up with other community groups to work together to develop your approach and to consider how to give everyone a chance to be involved.

It’s best to make sure everyone agrees what area it is that is being discussed prior to the conversation event. Also think about whether you want to organise discussion “tables” beforehand to capture different voices as a whole e.g. young people, or to concentrate on getting consensus in varied groups.

The Place Standard asks for what is good in a place, what could be better and how, and what the priorities should be. It's a good idea to share the main ideas that come out in discussion with other groups to identify common themes.

...In person

In person conversations work well and depending on how many people can take an hour or two. Consider too whether people need to book beforehand so you can organise the venues or be open to people dropping in and joining a table. If you are able to, have a walk around of the area you are talking about to stimulate conversations and familiarise everyone with the locations.

You will need:

- A hall or other venue with chairs and tables and refreshments.
- Someone to meet people at the door to record their details and allocate them a table.
- Facilitators to help lead the discussion in groups of 4-8. Council officers may be able to help or can help show you what to do.
- Copies of place standard guides and question forms OR for small groups of 3-4 just use the online form via the [Big Place Conversation](#) on a tablet or phone.
- Someone to take notes can be useful in large groups.
- Maps of the area to refer to and sticky dots can be useful for capturing specific locations (or use the feature via the [Big Place Conversation](#))

...online

Online conversations can make it easier to get in touch with people who can't travel to an event. Think about a time that is going to work for everyone. They may need to be shorter than in person sessions as people are stuck to their screens. You will need:

- a Teams / zoom account etc. Or get in touch with the planning team at LDPConsultation@pkc.gov.uk to set up and help you run an online meeting.
- A lead facilitator and facilitators for groups in breakout rooms. Groups of 3-6 work best for online facilitation.
- Facilitators should have a copy of the questions and prompt questions to hand.
- A note taker is also a good idea as it can be difficult for the facilitator to do this.

...if you only have an hour

The Place Standard is best as a holistic exercise answering all 14 questions. BUT for small groups or for groups with a special interest, agree beforehand or at the start on the themes you will be answering.

- It's best to choose all the themes in a thematic group
- For online sessions set up an opinion poll to decide which thematic groups to discuss
- In person, choose from the table on page 2 and the questions on page 5.
- Special interest groups looking to explore an issue in depth would cover 1 thematic group in an hour. General small groups should be able to cover 2 thematic groups.

TIMING: 1 HOUR

00:00 Introduction 5 min
00:05 Choose themes for discussion
00:10 Discussion and scoring
00:50 Feedback and choosing priorities
1:00 Close

TIMING: ONLINE 2.5H

00:00 Introduction
00:10 Breakout groups: Thematic group 1
00:40 Thematic group 2
01:10 Brief Feedback in full group to compare main points.
01:15 Break
01:30 Thematic group 3
01:55 Thematic group 4
02:15 Feedback on groups 3&4
02:20 Agree priorities, next steps
02.30 Close

TIMING: IN PERSON 3H

00:00 Introduction and housekeeping
00:10 Thematic group 1
00:40 Feedback on priorities
00:45 Thematic group 2
01:15 Feedback
01:20 Break
01:40 Thematic group 3
02:10 Feedback
02:15 Thematic group 4
02:40 Feedback
02:45 Agree priorities, next steps
03:00 Close

THE BIG PLACE CONVERSATION

THEMES AND QUESTIONS

Group	Theme and Main Question	Prompt questions to think about
A: MOVEMENT How I Get from One Place to Another	<p>1. Moving Around: Walking, wheeling, and cycling Safe and enjoyable routes encourage people to walk, cycle and wheel (from wheelchairs to scooters), which is good for people's health and for the environment. These include quiet streets with low vehicle use or reduced speed limits, wide pavements, footpaths, and dedicated cycle paths. They are also good for people in wheelchairs or with walking aids or with a pram.</p> <p>How easy is it to walk, wheel or cycle to places I need to and want to go?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is it easy for people to walk, wheel, cycle and move around in your place and to get where they want to go? If not, why not? ○ Is it easier to get around by one means over another e.g. is it easier to walk rather than cycle? ○ How easy is it to move around your place in a wheelchair or with a pram, ○ Is there seating for those that need it when moving around? ○ Are the walking/cycling/wheeling routes pleasant and do they feel safe? ○ Is moving around in different weather conditions particularly during bad or hot weather - possible for everyone? ○ Are there enough safe places to park your bike or buggy in bad weather?
	<p>2. Public Transport: Buses and trains Good public transport is affordable, reliable and connects people to where they want to go. Good public transport can reduce the use of cars and encourage people to travel in ways that are better for their health and for the environment.</p> <p>How easy is it to get to where I need to or want to go by bus, train, or other forms of public transport?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is it easy to get to where you want to go to by public transport, when you need to? If not, why? Is it affected by bad weather and if so are there alternatives available? ○ Is public transport a good price for you and people you know? ○ Is public transport comfortable, safe, and easy to use for everyone whatever their age or mobility? ○ Are bus stops, bus and train stations in the right place with the right facilities such as toilets, parking and cycle storage? ○ What would support people to use public transport more? ○ Is waiting for and travelling on public transport comfortable to use in bad weather (hot, cold, wet)?

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">A: MOVEMENT</p>	<p>3. Traffic and Parking</p> <p>Traffic and parking affect how people use the streets. Good arrangements and management can help people enjoy their place more. Good place design should consider the needs of people first - making it safer, easier, and nicer to walk, cycle or wheel and to enjoy.</p> <p>How does traffic and parking affect me when I am out and about in my place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What do you think the traffic is like in your place? ○ Can you cross the roads safely? Are cars given more importance than people? ○ Are there dangerous roads or junctions that could be made safer? ○ Is there anything in place to slow speeding cars and do they work? ○ Is parking in a good place? Does it ever get in your way when you are out and about? ○ Are there areas that a lot of people go to in good weather that cause traffic or parking problems? ○ Are there places where it would be better to have more or less traffic or parking? ○ Is there enough parking and charging for electric cars, disabled users, or for bikes?
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">B: SPACE</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Where I Go and What I Do</p>	<p>4. Streets, squares, and buildings</p> <p>Buildings, streets, and natural landscapes can help to create a beautiful place that people enjoy being in. Landmarks, views, squares, and greenery can help people to find their way around a place and make a place special. Greenery and permeable surfaces also help to drain surface water and are good for the environment.</p> <p>What are the streets, squares, and buildings like in my place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there interesting and beautiful streets, squares, and buildings? ○ Does your place have landmarks? If so what are they like – are they positive landmarks? ○ Is it easy to know where you are in your place; do people often get lost? ○ Are there empty buildings and derelict land in your place? ○ What things could be changed to make the streets, squares, and buildings better for everyone? Including those with disabilities ○ Where could streets and spaces have more trees, green spaces or food growing? ○ Are there streets and spaces that are not safe or pleasant at night or in wet or hot weather? How could these be improved? ○ Are streets, spaces, and buildings able to be enjoyed by everyone whatever their age, mobility, gender, ethnic group, religious belief, or sexuality?

B: SPACE Where I Go and What I Do	<p>5. Natural Spaces: Parks, woods, hills, beaches</p> <p>Natural spaces have many benefits - supporting wildlife, reducing flooding, and improving air quality. These spaces include parks and woodlands, fields, streams, canals and rivers, coasts and beaches, green spaces alongside paths and roads, and tree-lined streets. Connecting with nature improves our health and wellbeing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How well am I connected to nature in my place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where are the best places for nature where you live? Why are they important? Are they managed for nature? Should they be protected? ○ How easy is it for you to get out regularly to a natural space? Are natural spaces able to be used by everyone? ○ Would you like there to be more nature in your place? What could be changed to make your place better for nature? ○ Are the natural spaces pleasant to use and be in? ○ What could be changed in your place to help address climate change? This could include more natural places for wildlife, absorbing carbon, soaking up or storing water.
	<p>6. Play, recreation, games, and hobbies</p> <p>Play, spending time with friends, sports, games and hobbies keep us active, happy, connected and help improve our health and wellbeing. Places with a range of indoor and outdoor spaces and events encourage us to enjoy leisure, culture, and sports.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What are the spaces (parks, pitches etc) like for play, recreation, sport, and spending time with friends in and around my place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does weather affect indoor or outdoor spaces and what can be done to improve them? ○ What are they like and are there enough different types of spaces that you can get to easily? ○ Are some spaces better to play and spend time in than others? Why do you like these spaces? What stops you from using the other spaces/places? ○ Are there places for play and recreation that are safe at different times ○ Are there things missing to do in your place?

7. Facilities & Services: Schools, libraries, shops, and other services

Services such as schools, colleges, universities, doctors, shops, libraries, social care, and community groups help people to live happy lives. It can be difficult for people when services aren't available in their local area or when they don't meet people's needs.

What is my place like for accessing services we need?

- What do you think of school/college/university opportunities and facilities in your place? How easy is it for you to get there? What could be changed about them to make things better for young people?
- Do you have to go far to visit a doctor, dentist, vet, or other services that you might need? Can everyone use the facilities and amenities, whatever their age, sex, ethnic group, disability, religious belief, or sexuality?
- Is there a good range of places and services that meet different needs – learning, health, shopping, relaxing, meeting friends, enjoying cultural and music activities and events ?
- How good is other infrastructure such as broadband, cellphone reception, mains gas, sewer network?
- Is there recycling, repair or sharing services nearby?
- How easy is it for people to get healthy food and take part in healthy activities that you can afford in your place e.g., refill shops?
- Is there space for growing community food nearby or is there a need for this?

8. Work & Local Economy: Jobs and places to work

A strong local economy with a mix of businesses can help to make places feel active and attractive - most people enjoy spending time in lively places. Access to good quality jobs, volunteering and training can help us stay active and healthy, provide social connections, a sense of identity and satisfaction.

Are there opportunities for people to work, train or volunteer locally?

- Are facilities and services affected by different weather?
- Is there an active local economy that helps create different types of jobs incl. green jobs? Are there opportunities and spaces for local businesses to start, grow?
- Are there volunteering or apprenticeship training opportunities in your place? Are there other kinds of opportunities that you would like but aren't currently offered?
- Do you or your family members work locally, or do you have to travel to work elsewhere? Is it far to travel to work? Can you/they work from home?
- How have businesses coped with severe weather. Can people work from home or a local hub when bad weather disrupts travel?
- Do you think you could find a job in or near your place?
- Are there job opportunities for everyone?
- Are there local services such as jobcentres, recruitment agencies and affordable childcare to help people to find and keep work?
- Are there new jobs that a green economy could create in the area. Are there jobs that might be lost because of a transition to a low carbon economy?

9. Housing & Community: Homes Friends and Neighbours

Homes, friends, and neighbours are important parts of a community. The homes that are available locally will affect how a place looks and feels. Good places have a mix of quality homes for families and people of different ages and incomes. Strong communities help making places more sustainable in the long term.

Do the homes in my area support the needs of the community?

- Is there a range of good-quality housing available for different sizes of households?
- [In rural areas] is there a range of homes that people moving into the area want?
- Is there a range of housing tenures (rented, privately owned, and so on) to meet different needs of people, whatever their income; and as their needs change or grow older?
- Are homes healthy, do they suffer from flooding, cold, damp or over-heating?
- Are homes easy and affordable to heat or cool?
- Are there opportunities for renewable energy such as solar panels or heat pumps in the area?
- Are there people of different ages and from different cultures living in your place?

Young people specific questions:

- Do you enjoy living in your place/neighbourhood? What is good/bad about it?
- Are there many other people of your age in your community? Do you know some/many of them?
- Are people in your community nice to you and/or nice to other people?
- Do the young people in your community say what they think and are listened to?

10. Social Contact: Meeting and talking with people

Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing. Good places have a mix of spaces and opportunities to meet and spend time with friends and other. For example, this could include parks, public squares, community centres, libraries, or cafes.

Are there spaces/places where I can go to meet and talk with friends and other people?

- Are there spaces where people can meet, what are they like, and are there enough?
- Is there a range of different spaces (indoor, outdoor, purpose-built, and more informal) where people can meet?
- Can these spaces be used at different times of the day, throughout the year, and in different types of weather?
- Are you able to see friends often in places other than school/college/work?
- Do people from across the whole community and from different backgrounds come together and get to know each other?
- Are there opportunities to share things with others to reduce emissions and waste?
- How resilient to you think your community is, for example, can everybody be looked after in extreme weather?

D: CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP How I Feel and How I Care	<p>Identity & Belonging: Feeling proud and a part of my place</p> <p>How a place looks, its history and what other people think of it can affect how we feel. A positive identity can also attract people and businesses to move into a place / an area.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How proud do I feel about my place, and do I feel I belong?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What makes people feel proud about your place? ○ Do people know the history, heritage and culture of the place and celebrate it? ○ Do local groups and networks help people feel positively involved in the community? ○ Can people feel connected to their neighbours and community, whatever their background? ○ Does everyone feel like they belong, whatever their age, sex, ethnic group, religious beliefs, sexuality, or disability? ○ Do you feel welcomed in your place? How? Why? ○ Does everyone feel they can make a contribution to help tackle climate change?
	<p>13. Feeling safe</p> <p>How safe a place feels can support community activity, affect your wellbeing and influence how and where you spend your time. Good design can make places feel safe by reducing the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How safe do I feel in my place?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are there areas where you feel unsafe or uncomfortable? Is it a specific space or specific type of space? ○ Are routes safe and well used at different times of the day and throughout the year? ○ Are spaces overlooked by buildings that are well used, adding to a feeling of safety? ○ Is the area free of empty or derelict property, crime, and antisocial behaviour? ○ Do people feel safe both at home and when out and about; regardless of their age, sex, ethnic group, religious beliefs, sexuality or disability? ○ Are there environmental or weather conditions that make this place feel unsafe?
		<p>Young people specific</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How do you share your concerns about feeling safe in your place? Is there someone you can talk to? ○ Are there any social issues that add to you feeling unsafe?

D: CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP How I Feel and How I Care	<p>14. Care and Maintenance: Fixed, clean and managed</p> <p>Places that are cared for look nice and make us feel positive and secure. Places that are not looked after properly can affect our wellbeing. Think about parks, public spaces or public properties or buildings.</p> <p>Are there spaces or buildings that need cleaning up or fixing in the area?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do you think your place is well looked after? ○ What are the things, spaces or places that need cleaning or fixing or are not looked after well? Are there problems such as litter or vandalism? ○ Are spaces for walking and cycling cared for and maintained? ○ Could there be better use of the spaces or buildings that need fixing or cleaning up? ○ Are there good facilities for recycling and refuse storage and is collection well organised? ○ Is there an active and effective local residents' association or other community groups that help to care and maintain the area? ○ How do local buildings and infrastructure cope with the climate today? What about in the future? ○ Are more repairs or maintenance needed because of the weather?
	<p>15. Having our say and being listened to (influence and sense of control)</p> <p>Saying what we think and being listened to in decision making about our place can help to build stronger communities and sustainable places. Having a sense of control can make us feel more positive about our lives.</p> <p>When things happen in my place, how easy is it for me to say what I think and being listened to?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Are people able to have a say in decisions that affect them? ○ Do local people feel listened to? Do people know how to have their say? ○ If you or other people want something to improve in your community, are there people or places you can go to talk about it and help organise things? ○ Is everyone able to have their say and be listened to, whatever their age, sex, ethnic group, religious belief, sexuality, or disability? ○ Do local community services or groups allow people to get involved? ○ Do organisations such as local authorities, health services or housing associations actively work with the community to understand their needs? ○ Do people feel part of a vision for a net zero future, and do they feel they have the tools and support to reduce their emissions? ○ Is there a positive vision for the community's future that includes what the place may look like because of climate change?