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Pittenweem Community Survey Final Report August 2022





Pittenweem Community Survey 2022 – Final Report



Executive Summary

A Survey was commissioned and developed by Pittenweem Community Council (PCC) to develop an initial evidence base from the community of Pittenweem in Fife, Scotland, with support from [Planning Aid Scotland](#) (PAS) and funding from [Fife Council](#).

The Survey was intended as an initial step in an ongoing process to understand the needs and desires of the community in Pittenweem, with a view to developing a full Community Action Plan in the next season.

The three questions asked in the survey were:

- What three things do you value most about Pittenweem?
- What three things concern you most about Pittenweem?
- What changes would you like to see in Pittenweem? Include any events, activities, or infrastructure improvements that you'd like to see happen.

Every household received a paper copy with the option to fill out online.

Pittenweem Community Council is delighted with the strength of response to the survey (closed 13th June 2022). 174 responses were received, half online and half by paper.

The pie charts on the following page break down the characteristics of respondents, by age and residency.

The full list of action areas (15), priorities (60) and initial ideas for action (161) shared by the community can be found in the full report, under the following topic headings: Moving Around; Public transport; Traffic and parking; Streets and spaces; Natural space; Play and recreation; Facilities and amenities; Work and local economy; Housing and community; Social

contact; Identity and belonging; Feeling safe; Care and maintenance; Influence and sense of control; and Other comments.

If you'd like a copy of the full report or want to know more about Pittenweem Community Council and future events, please email secretary.pittenweem.cc@outlook.com, phone (01333) 311751 or visit our webpage: <https://www.aboutpittenweem.org.uk/community-council.html>

“Pittenweem Community Council is excited to see the results of the survey and look forward to engaging with the community on the issues that are important to you.

We will use your answers to explore your ideas in more detail at community events throughout the rest of the year.”

David Stutchfield, Pittenweem Community Council.



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Who replied to the survey?

Age Range of Participants

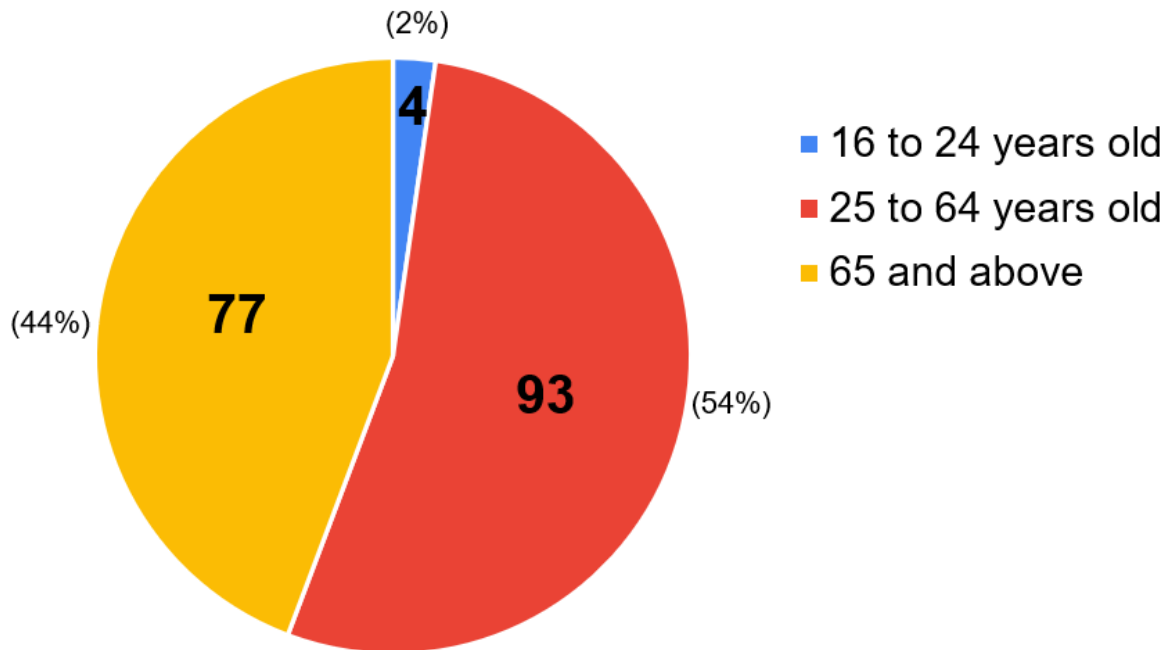


Figure 1: Age

Connection to Pittenweem

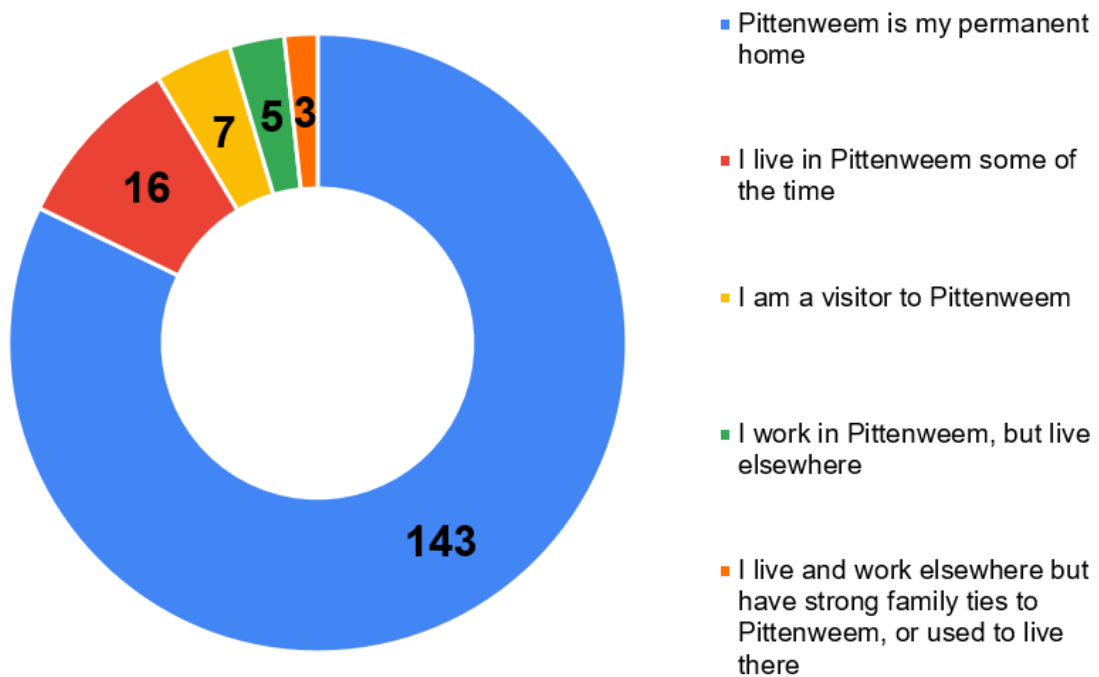


Figure 2: Residency



Summary of responses

Likes

Most significant of all, 43% of respondents value Pittenweem's strong sense of community.

Also seen as important (by around 25% of respondents each) are:

- the town's history and beauty as a historic burgh
- its tranquillity and slow pace of life
- its friendliness and welcoming atmosphere.

Not far behind (at around 17% of responses each) are:

- the rural and coastal location and scenery
- the number and diversity of great places to eat for a small town
- the fact that the working harbour and its fishing remains at its heart.

The range and accessibility of local facilities including the Hub, library, GP surgery and local shops are also highly valued.

Concerns

Increasing numbers of properties being used for short-term lets and purchased as second homes generated most comment (43% of respondents), particularly the perception that this is impacting the local housing market and access to affordable housing (18%).

The lack of parking spaces (for both residents and visitors) and associated impacts especially during the summer figured highly (21%), as did the upkeep of roads, pavements and wynds, particularly regarding potholes and weeds (19%) and dog fouling and litter (15%). Speeding on the main road (12%) was also a real concern.

Concern about the potential closure of shops and amenities in future were highlighted (11%).

Just two respondents mentioned future concerns around climate change and resilience.



Changes

Suggestions for change included:

- addressing road maintenance issues (11%)
- increasing the availability of affordable housing (10%)
- implementing and expanding access to multi-use paths between the East Neuk villages (9%)
- repairing and upgrading playparks for kids (8%).

Concerns that Pittenweem might lose the community spirit that people so value (5%) could be partly addressed by foregrounding events aimed at the whole community (11%), influenced by the recent Jubilee celebrations. This was supported by suggestions for a positive review of how impacts of the annual Pittenweem Arts Festival could be addressed, exploring how it could integrate with wider community events and celebrations such as activities for families and kids or a street market (6%). A return of the fireworks display was also called for (5%).

“I like the space to walk and admire the sea views”

“The folks doing the flowers are doing a fantastic job making the village look fab”



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Key ideas for change proposed

The following table summarises the 12 ideas for action that were suggested by the greatest numbers of respondents. They cover 7 of the 14 Action Areas. The complete table of proposed changes can be found in Section 4 of the full report.

Priority	The 12 Ideas for Action with the highest response rate	Count	Percentage of respondents proposing the action
MOVING AROUND			
Active Travel Routes	Develop multi-use paths between the East Neuk villages (explore option for lighting as well).	16	9%
TRAFFIC AND PARKING			
Parking	Improve parking availability and signage, for residents and visitors.	10	6%
Speeding	Extend 20 mph limit along main road (A917), plus enforcement.	14	8%
PLAY AND RECREATION			
Playparks	Repair and upgrade kids' playparks (West Braes, park behind school).	14	8%
FACILITIES AND AMENITIES			
Shops	Increase number of shops generally esp. on High Street (e.g. a deli, community shop where local art / crafts can be sold, longer opening hours).	11	6%
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY			
Affordable Housing	Develop more affordable homes for local people (inc. long-term rental).	18	10%
Holiday Homes	Implement policy mechanism to limit second home ownership and holiday lets.	14	8%
SOCIAL CONTACT			
Festivals & Arts	Bring back events for whole community e.g. Pittenweem Gala Day/Children's Gala (build on Jubilee, bring in local businesses, ideas: Seafood Festival inc. fishing heritage, food festivals, ceilidhs, a summer fete, BBQs, concerts, Strawberry Fayre).	20	11%
Pittenweem Arts Festival	Implement a review of how the Arts Festival contributes to the village (Arts Festival as inclusive community event, provide more for families, local Festival feeling has been lost, bring in local businesses, include a street market during the event, kids' activities).	11	6%
	Reinstate the Arts Festival Fireworks and procession (also possibly Bonfire at start).	9	5%
CARE AND MAINTENANCE			
Greenery	Ensure Fife Council takes better care of public/open spaces (e.g. grass cut more regularly & cuttings removed, weed clearance, care for flower beds).	10	6%
Road Maintenance	Ensure better road and pavement maintenance inc. potholes (e.g. roads: A917, Abbey Wall Road, James Street to school, near church, High Street; pavements: West Shore, near the church).	25	14%



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Steering Group

The sub-committee of the PCC entrusted with developing and running the survey were Margaret Wardlaw; Duncan Lucas; Jim Wood; David Stutchfield, Linda Lauder; Peter Mills; Evelyn Boyd and Cllr. Alycia Hayes, supported by Heather Whyte (Fife Council Community Education) and Paul Ede (PAS).

What next?

1. An initial launch of this full report will be accompanied by a drop-in session hosted by local volunteers at the New Town Hall to connect with local people interested to find out more. People can drop into the Hall at any time between 3pm and 7pm on Tuesday 23rd August 2022.
2. The detailed report is available at <https://tinyurl.com/Pitsurvdetail>
3. Dialogue will also begin with Fife Council over issues raised.
4. The steering group will consider how to continue to engage the community moving forward.
5. Pittenweem Community Council have already applied for funding to expand the consultation process. As and when the consultation progresses this document will be used as a foundation for shaping the process and carrying the conversation forward.

