

PITTENWEEM YOUTH ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Picture by Niamh

March 2023

Contents



Introduction	1
Why involve young people?	2
The engagement activity	3
The Logo	3
"Two Stars and a Wish"	4
The Sustainability Festival	9
Conclusions and next steps	10
Appendix 1: The logos	11
Appendix 2: Full results	13



Picture by Jamie



Introduction



This report outlines the findings of a youth engagement project carried out in collaboration with Pittenweem Primary school and Pittenweem Community Council in March 2023. The project was an interim 'stepping stone' stage in the process while the community council seek out options for a full Local Place Plan exercise. It was supported by the Rural Ideas into Action Fund.

The aim was to engage with local children and encourage them to share their thoughts and ideas on the place they live in. We worked with the children on 10 March and 23 March, running a project logo competition and a "Two Stars and A Wish" activity. The former encouraged children to think creatively about what makes their community unique and come up with a name and image for a potential Local Place Plan engagement project. The latter allowed them to share what they loved about Pittenweem through drawing and/or writing and what they would like to see changed.

We also attended Pittenweem's Sustainability Festival to showcase the children's work and gather further ideas from grown-ups in attendance.

We produced a short video to accompany this report, featuring the children sharing their "Two stars and A Wish". This gave the local children a platform and ensured their perspectives form the core of any future consultations in Pittenweem. The findings provided valuable insights into the views and aspirations of young people in Pittenweem. By listening to their voices, we hope to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable community that reflects the needs and desires of all its members.

This report will outline the activities and key findings

'I like that most people can walk to school'

Kayleigh

Why involve young people?

Engaging with children when planning and developing places is important because they have unique perspectives and needs. They are important stakeholders and can be advocates for change. However, they historically comprise a seldom-heard group. By involving children in planning and development processes, more inclusive and child-friendly places can be created.

On 16 March 2021, the Scottish Parliament unanimously passed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill ('the UNCRC Bill' or 'the bill')(1). The bill seeks to empower our children and young people to claim their rights and help to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up. Work is ongoing to implement the UNCRC. It recognises that children have the right to participate in decisions that affect them, to express their views, and to have their opinions taken seriously. This engagement exercise demonstrates a commitment to integrating the UNCRC, by actively hearing the views and voices of the children into the future development of Pittenweem.

Fife Council is currently undertaking work to produce its next Local Development Plan (2) (LDP) A Local Development Plan is a 20-year plan covering each council area in Scotland. They are reviewed every 10 years. The LDP allocate sites, either for new development - such as housing or sites - to be protected. LDPs guide decisions on all planning applications. As part of the upcoming Fife LDP, Fife Council hired PAS (Planning Aid Scotland) to gather the ideas, opinions, and suggestions of young Fife residents. The project, named #FocusOnFife, echoes suggestions from the Pittenweem Youth Engagement, including improved play park facilities, shopping and leisure facilities.

A Local Place Plan for Pittenweem would be valuable for emphasising the views of young people in Pittenweem. A Local Place Plan would then have a role in informing the Local Development Plan.



1. <https://www.gov.scot/policies/human-rights/childrens-rights/>

2. <https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/planning-and-building2/planning/development-plan-and-planning-guidance/local-development-plan-fifeplan>

The Engagement Activity

Logo Activity

The logo competition engaged students from Pittenweem Primary School in the creation of a logo for the prospective Pittenweem Local Place Plan. The students attended a short assembly where we introduced them to Local Place Plans. We explained that we wanted them to produce a logo (name and picture) showing “what makes Pittenweem Pittenweem”. We provided examples of similar logos as inspiration. We were also joined by David Stutchfield from the Community Council who provided an overview to the role of the Community Council.

The pupils designed logos with their teachers’ support. The top logo from each class was submitted to the community council, who selected their favourite one to represent the Local Place Plan.

The competition provided an opportunity for the students to contribute to the development of their community through thinking about what makes their place unique. They showcased their creativity and design skills, both through artistic means and drawing on literary techniques to develop catchy names.

The logo will serve as a visual representation of the aspirations of the Local Place Plan and represents the value young people have in their community.



Two stars and A Wish

To capture what the children liked about Pittenweem and ideas they have for the future, we ran an activity called “Two Stars and A Wish”.

The activity provided an opportunity for students to share their thoughts and ideas on Pittenweem in a familiar, accessible format. We introduced the activity through a short assembly, and provided each class with worksheets that summarised the activity.

The students were asked to identify two things they liked about Pittenweem (“two stars”) and one thing that they would like to see improved (“a wish”). This acted as a framework to express their positive experiences and provide constructive feedback on their area.

The activity encouraged young people to think critically about their community and actively participate in the development of their local area. The findings will help to inform future planning decisions and ensure that the voices of young people are taken into consideration.

Below is a table of the top responses from the pupils.



TWO STARS AND A WISH

Write down or draw two things that you really like about Pittenweem (two stars) and one thing you think could be changed or better (a wish).

★ Star

The Ice Cream Shop

★ Star

Wish

Maybe more shops, and more restaurants.

pas building active citizenship

Jamie P1

TWO STARS AND A WISH

Write down or draw two things that you really like about Pittenweem (two stars) and one thing you think could be changed or better (a wish).

★ Star

Town hall

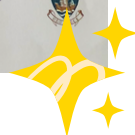
★ Star

My house

Wish

Fountain

pas building active citizenship



Stars

Category	Sub category	Star	Response rate
Community Facilities	Sweets/Chocolate	I like the Ice Cream shop/Sweetie John's	34
Natural Space	Blue Infrastructure	I like the beach and the sea	26
School	School	I like school	11
Community Facilities	Cave	I like the cave	9
Safety/Feeling Safe	Community	I like the community in Pittenweem	9
Community Facilities	Sports Facilities	I like the football facilities including the youth football club	7
Natural Space	Blue Infrastructure	I like the tidal pool (bathie)	7
Natural Space	Blue Infrastructure	I like the harbour	7
Natural Space	Children's Facilities	I like the play parks	6
Community Facilities	Properties	I like the existing shops and businesses that are already in Pittenweem including the Post Office	4

**Response rate = how many comments referred to the same point*

The above table summarises the top ten 'stars' from the pupil's responses. These summarise the comments which came up most frequently in this category. A full summary of all the 'stars' can be found in the appendix.

In 2022 a Community Survey was conducted in Pittenweem with 174 responses being received. Respondents reported the following:

‘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.’



These aspects are echoed in the primary school’s responses with appreciation from the pupils being demonstrated for the town’s seaside identity (the tidal pool, harbour, and beach) and their sense of community through the community and their school.

The children detailed their gratitude for child-friendly spaces such as play parks and football spaces.

As seen in the table above, there is strong fondness for the ice cream shop – ‘Sweetie Johns’. This indicates that not only is the shop a place for the pupils to get treats, but it is also an environment which is welcoming to children.

While the children’s and adults’ responses largely reflected similar sentiments, the children in particular detailed their appreciation and desire for child-oriented spaces, from Sweetie John’s to the playparks.

Wishes



This table outlines what pupils would like to change about Pittenweem – their wishes.

Category	Sub-Category	Wish	Response rate
Community Facilities	Properties	Encourage more business including shops and restaurants (including a new chippy) into Pittenweem	39
Natural Space	Children's Facilities	Reinstate the skate park	10
Natural Space	Children's Facilities	Improve playpark facilities including returning slides and swings	9
Community Facilities	Properties	Adventurous play facilities such as laser tag, paint ball, roller coasters and water slides	7
Community Facilities	Museum	Create a museum (about the history of Pittenweem and about medieval and Viking history)	5
Maintenance	Litter	Reduce litter and offer better bins and recycling	5
Natural Space	Children's Facilities	Make the school park bigger/new school park	4
Public Realm	Street Furniture	Build a water fountain to play in	4
Community Facilities	Sports Facilities	Put flood lights on the tennis court	3

**Response rate = how many comments referred to the same point*

The top wish relates to improving the range of shops and restaurants available in Pittenweem. Suggestions from the children specifically included fast food outlets such as Krispy Kreme or Greggs and shops including a gem shop, a book shop, and a larger supermarket such as Sainsbury's.

This comment in particular deviates from the main concerns raised in the initial Pittenweem Community Survey. The priorities for change in the community survey included:

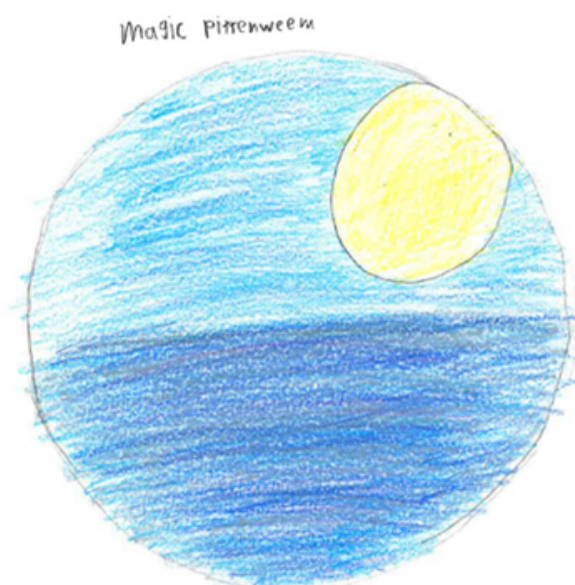
- addressing road maintenance issues (11%)
- increasing the availability of affordable housing (10%)
- implementing and expanding access to multi-use paths between the East Neuk villages (9%)
- repairing and upgrading playparks for kids (8%).

However, as was raised in the community survey the children also expressed desires for improved play park facilities. Further, many of the other 'wishes' from the children also refer to spaces that are suitable for play and fun.

Finally, there was also an interest from the children for improved bin and recycling facilities.

Conclusions from "Two Stars and A Wish"

The slight differences in priorities between the general community survey and the children's activity indicates the value of offering the young people the space to share their ideas and experiences. It is also worth noting that five pupils stated on their sheet that they did not want Pittenweem to change.



Logo by Summer

The Sustainability Festival

The logos from the competition and the range of responses from the "Two Stars and A Wish" activity were showcased at the Sustainability Festival on the afternoon of 23 March.

We invited visitors to the stand to share their views and ideas. The table below shares the top six 'wishes' that were shared on the post-it notes on the table.

Category	Sub-Category	Wish	Response rate*
Grassroots Action	Group	Improve funding and support to improve insulation for traditional buildings	5
Natural Space	Children's Facilities	Improve children's play facilities i.e. development of play park next to the school	4
Community Facilities	Properties	Encourage more business including shops and restaurants (including a new chippy) into Pittenweem	4
Community Facilities	Properties	Affordable and social housing	2
Public Transport	Buses	Better buses (more regular and reliable)	2
Public Transport	Buses	Better quality bus shelters (including wind proof and with up to date information)	2

**Response rate = how many comments referred to the same point*

There are some differences between the priorities of the primary school pupils and those who visited the stand. However, there is also joint interest in the improvement of the play facilities and the range of business and shops available.



Conclusion and Next Steps

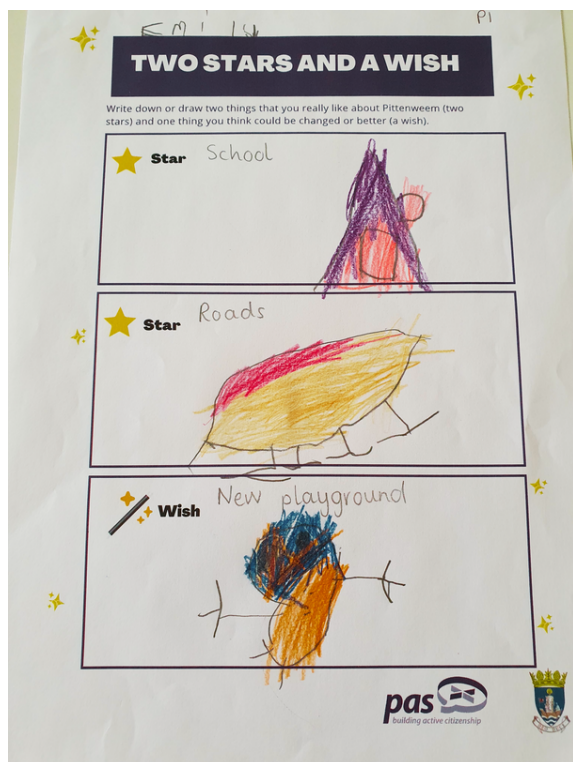
Involving the primary school students in the programme is essential in ensuring that a diverse range of voices, and therefore ideas which represent the community accurately, are captured in plans for making changes in Pittenweem.

The logo activity will ensure that there is a strong connection between the engagement of the Local Place Plan and the young people of Pittenweem.

The "Two Stars and A Wish" activity will help shape preliminary engagement and ideas which may emerge during the process Local Place Plan. The information gathered during this activity will also serve as an evidence base should members of the community be interested in pursuing funding or support to deliver any of the actions outlined.

Further, the video can be used to promote the activity, relationship with the school, and the voice of children in the process.

Responding to the feedback from children and young people at this stage, and beyond, can support Pittenweem in continuing to be a great place to grow up.



Appendix one: Logo submissions



Magic Pittenweem





Appendix two

Young people: Stars

Category	Sub-Category	Star	Response rate
Active Travel	Accessibility	I like that people can walk around Pittenweem	2
Community Facilities	Cave	I like the cave	9
	Properties	I like the existing shops and businesses that are already in Pittenweem including the Post Office	4
		I like the clock tower	2
		I like the church	2
		I like the town hall	1
		I like the library	1
		I like my house	1
		Sports Facilities	I like the football facilities including the youth football club
	I like the tennis courts		2
	I like the miniature golf club		2
	I like the outdoor pool		1
	Sweets/Chocolate	I like the Ice Cream shop/Sweetie Johns	34
		I like the Cocoa Tree	3
		I like the Ice Cream van	1
Natural Space	Blue Infrastructure	I like the beach and the sea	26
		I like the tidal pool (bathie)	7
		I like the harbour	7
	Children's Facilities	I like the play parks	6
	Greenspace	I like that Pittenweem is a big place	2
		I like that Pittenweem is a small place	1

Other Comment	Delivery Strategy	I love Pittenweem and dont want it to change	4
Public Realm	Built Environment	I like the houses	1
		I like my house	1
	Public Art	I like the art work	2
Public Transport	Buses	I like the buses	1
Road Layout	Roads	I like the roads	2
Safety/Feeling	Community	I like the community in Pittenweem	9
School	School	I like school	11
		I like the new school logos	1

Young people: wishes

Category	Sub-Category	Wish	Response Rate
Active Travel	Active Travel Routes	No bikes	1
	Behaviour Change	Improve bike access	1
Community Facilities	Museum	Create a museum (about the history of Pittenweem and about medieval and viking history)	5
	Properties	Encourage more business including shops and restaurants (including a new chippy) into Pittenweem	39
		Adventurous play facilities such as laser tag, paint ball, roller coasters and water slides	7
		Offer more food and drink at the beach/bathie	1
		A vet	1
		Create a zoo	1
	Sports Facilities	Put flood lights on the tennis court	3
		Create a golf course	2
		Create a swimming pool	2
		I wish we had a football pitch	2
		Create a sports centre	1
		Create a trampoline park	1
	Sweets/Chocolate	Make Sweetie John's better	1
	Young People	Develop a new school park, with climbing frame, slide and swings	2
		Create an arcade	1
		Create more natural space in the park	1

Grassroots Action	Activity	Bring back the pony and horse show	1
Health	Air and Noise Pollution	Reduce traffic	1
	Services/Facilities	Offer better childcare	2
Image	Identity	I want Pittenweem to be a Kingdom	1
Maintenance	Litter	Reduce litter and offer better bins and recycling	5
Natural Space	Blue Infrastructure	No smelly seaweed	1
	Children's Facilities	Create a skate park	10
		Improve playpark facilities including returning slides and swings	9
		Make the school park bigger/new school park	4
	Greenspace	Make Pittenweem bigger	1
Public Realm	Built Environment	Allow the dogs in cafes	1
		Make the town cat and dog friendly	1
	Street Furniture	Build a water fountain	4
Public Transport	Buses	Create more buses	1
Road Layout	Shared Surface	Develop floating roads and footpaths	1
	Layout	Make the roads straighter	1
Road Safety	Traffic Calming	Improve road safety	2
School	School	Pittenweem primary school grounds should be tarmacked	1
School	School	I would like more school	1

Sustainability Festival: Wishes

Category	Sub-category	Wish	Response rate
Active Travel	Active Travel Routes	Bike track to West Braes (cars and bikes)	1
		Better cycle network	1
	Cycling Infrastructure	Electric charging point	1
		Bike/trike charging point	1
		Offer lockers for bike owners	1
Community Facilities	Museum	Create a museum in the Clock Tower	1
	Properties	Encourage more business including shops and restaurants (including a new chippy) into Pittenweem	4
		Affordable and social housing	2
		Sheltered homes	1
		Places to worship	1
		Ensure community spaces are kept in community ownership	1
		Green burial site beside Pittenweem burial site	1
	Parish church and church hall - retain for community use	1	
Young People	Multi-use games area for young people	1	
Grassroots Action	Activity	Develop a community growing space - behind Viewforth and West Braes	1
		Develop a festival or annual gala for local people	1
		Community events on the boats to learn about fishing	1
		Introduce boat trips of Fish Market tours	1
		A leaflet with helpful go to links or organisations for information on what individual people/households can do to help	1
	Group	Improve funding and support to improve insulation for traditional buildings	5
		Death and dying group	1
		Collaboration between committees of various community halls, e.g. for building management/repairs/funding/booking	1
		Seaweed farm in East Neuk (workshops are being organised to discuss this in May to July)	1

Maintenance	Litter	Provide better bins	1
Natural Space	Children's Facilities	Improve children's play facilities i.e. development of play park next to the school	4
		Remove the fencing at the park	1
Public Realm	Built Environment	A kinder attitude towards dog owners	1
Public Transport	Buses	Better buses (more regular and reliable)	2
		Better quality bus shelters (including wind proof and with up to date information)	2
Road Layout	One-way system	Make the top of Wagon Road one way	1
	Traffic Signage	Remove signs on lamp post at roads of Lower Charles Street - it's a one way street but the signs aren't up to date	1
Road Safety	Road Maintenance	Fix potholes	1