

Royal Burgh Of Inverbervie

Local Place Plan



February 2026

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The Royal Burgh of Inverbervie

The Royal Burgh of Inverbervie, often simply called "Bervie," is a small coastal town situated in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, at the mouth of the River Bervie. It lies along the North Sea coast, approximately 10 miles south of Stonehaven and about 40 miles north of Dundee, making it part of the historic county of Kincardineshire. The surrounding landscape features rolling agricultural land, rugged coastlines, and scenic walking paths, including parts of the long-distance coastal path. Its coastal location gives it both strategic and aesthetic significance, with views across the North Sea and a history tied closely to maritime activity.

Demographic

As of the 2022 Census, Inverbervie had a population of **2,279** residents. The town's demographic profile is as follows:

- **Gender:** 1,068 males and 1,211 females.
- **Age Distribution:**
 - 0–17 years: 449
 - 18–64 years: 1,349
 - 65+ years: 483
- **Ethnicity:** Predominantly White (2,229), with small numbers identifying as Asian (16), African/Caribbean (13), and other ethnic groups.
- **Country of Birth:** Majority born in Scotland (1,872), with others from the UK (295), Europe (52), and other countries (60).
- **Religion:** A significant portion (1,376) identify with no religion, while others are affiliated with the Church of Scotland (584), Roman Catholic (78), and other Christian denominations (128).
- **Language:** English is the primary language (2,185 speakers), with small numbers speaking Scots (10) and other languages (31).

This demographic data highlights Inverbervie as a predominantly Scottish, English-speaking community with a diverse age range.

Economic & Health Statistics

Employment in Inverbervie is largely centred around local services, small-scale businesses, and agriculture. Some residents commute to larger towns such as Stonehaven, Montrose, and Aberdeen for work, mainly in the Professional, scientific and technical sector, Retail, and Manufacturing. Historically reliant on fishing and textiles, today's workforce is more diverse, with roles in education, health services, trades, and hospitality. The town has limited industry of its own but maintains a community of self-employed individuals and remote workers, benefiting from improved digital connectivity.

In terms of household income, the median household income in 2023 equated to £42,924, which is slightly higher than the Aberdeenshire average. Median household income ranges from £29,252 in the northwest part of Inverbervie, to £57,845 in the West Park area. Around 10% of residents earn above £100,000 per year, whereas approximately 4.5% of households earn less than £10,000 per year.

Health-related benefits data indicate the combined % of working-age people in the zone on Universal Credit is somewhere in the range of 8-9%, of which roughly half are unemployed, the remainder in low-paid employment. The proportion of the working-age population receiving Personal Independence Payments (PIPs), which helps with some of the extra costs caused by long-term disability, ill-health or terminal ill-health, is 3.8%, which is relatively high given the area's younger demographic. Worryingly, the area scores poorly, compared to the rest of Aberdeenshire and Scotland as a whole, with patients hospitalised with coronary heart disease and early deaths (under 75) from coronary heart disease.

Amenities

Despite its small size, Inverbervie has a good range of amenities for residents and visitors. The town is served by primary education at Bervie Primary School, while secondary students typically travel to nearby Mackie Academy in Stonehaven. The town has a local library, a medical practice and is served by a retained fire station. Recreational facilities include Bervie Sports Centre, including an outdoor all-weather pitch, a football club, a bowling club, 3 children's play areas and several public halls. The scenic river and beach is a popular area for fishing, walking and wildlife spotting, with pods of dolphins occasionally spotted off the coast.

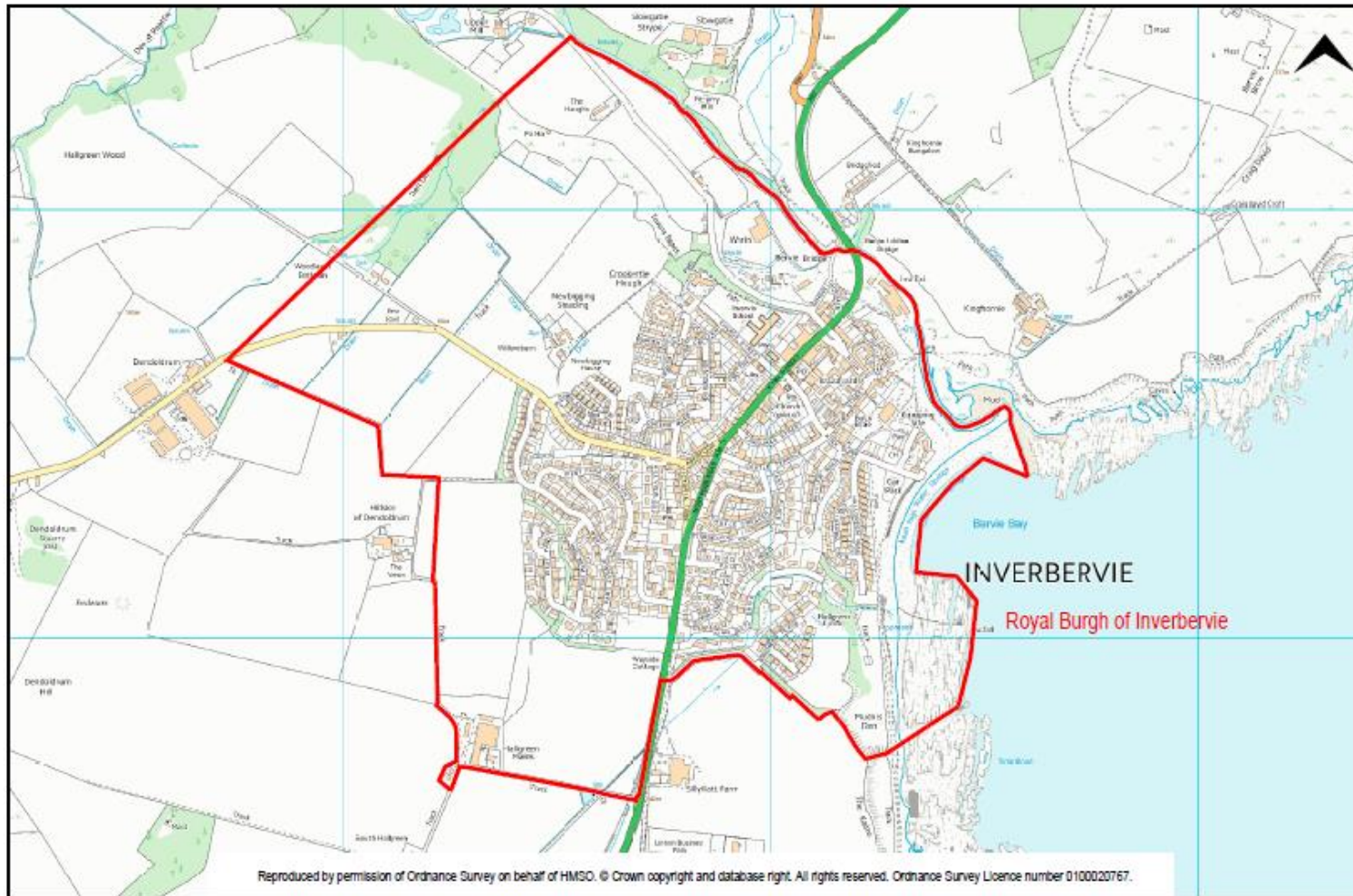
Inverbervie hosts a selection of independent shops and essential services. These include a Scotmid supermarket, a butcher, a bakery, a pharmacy, a post office and a small convenience store. Visitor accommodation is provided in a few small hotels with bars and restaurants, several nearby self-catered holiday lets, family-run bed & breakfasts or camping at the community-run caravan park.

History

Inverbervie's origins date back to medieval times, with the town gaining status as a Royal Burgh in 1342 from King David II of Scotland. The royal charter was reportedly granted after the king took shelter there during a storm — a moment of legend that still adds character to the town's identity. Historically, the town thrived on fishing and textile production, including flax and linen weaving, during the 18th and 19th centuries. Remnants of this industrial heritage are still visible in the town's architecture and layout. The closure of the railway in the mid-20th century marked a decline in industrial transport links, but Inverbervie has since evolved into a quiet residential community with a strong sense of history. The local heritage society endeavours to maintain this legacy by preserving and displaying pictures and artifacts from bygone eras.

Map

The Royal Burgh of Inverbervie Community Council covers the area shown in the map below – this is the area in the remit of this Local Place Plan, though some factors may influence the wider area outside this boundary.



**ROYAL BURGH OF INVERBERVIE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

0 ————— 850 metres
Map Scale 1:12000

Produced by
Aberdeenshire Council
Printed on 11/9/2015

Introduction

What is a Local Place Plan?

A Local Place Plan (LPP) is a community-led planning document introduced in Scotland through the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. It allows local communities to play a formal role in shaping the future development and use of land in their area. An LPP determines what people want for their community and where they want it, with the outcome comprising as a minimum a map summarising land and building use proposals and a list of potential community projects. It helps communities to think about how to make the place better, agree priorities and take action. It can also support funding applications for community-led projects. It is an official document which local planning authorities, in this case Aberdeenshire Council, must take into consideration in preparing the Local Development Plan (LDP).

An LDP contains details of how Aberdeenshire Council will manage future developments in Aberdeenshire and guides the determination of land zoned for development or protection in an area. It is also key for determining planning applications. Until now, an LDP has consisted largely of commercial housing and other development proposals, with communities only able to respond retrospectively and often unsuccessfully without due hearing.

Purpose of this Local Place Plan

This Local Place Plan for Inverbervie has been prepared by the Royal Burgh of Inverbervie Community Council under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019. This takes into account the National Planning Framework (NPF4) and builds on Aberdeenshire LDP 2023. It reflects the priorities of local residents and stakeholders gathered through community engagement, including the use of the Scottish Government's Place Standard Tool. This plan sets out a community vision for the town over the next 10 years and proposes land use, environmental, and infrastructure improvements to inform the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan.

How this Local Place Plan is Structured

This plan examines the aspects highlighted by the answers received via community engagement using the Place Standard Tool. For each topic, highlights of the responses alongside successes and areas for improvement are described with related actions, both

Quick Wins – items where short-term, low-cost activities will derive immediate benefits or other improvements that have been implemented in the intermediate time since the engagement was completed; and

Long Term Ambitions – community priorities requiring greater investment, planning or engagement with public bodies.

These will be summarised as an action plan providing the vision for the Royal Burgh over the next 10 years.

Community Engagement

In-person community engagement sessions, focussed on the questions in the Place Standard Tool, were held in Bervie Burgh Hall in November 2022 and February 2024. These had a reasonable turnout attracting 30-40 residents each time, however the demographic was predominantly older residents in the over-65 age category.

Online engagement was held also using the Place Standard Tool in the period between the 2 Burgh Hall sessions, though technical difficulties resulted in the questionnaire being offline for several months and an unknown amount of data being lost. Around 70 responses were recorded, though not all respondents replied to each topic.

A stall was also held at Bervie Gala in June 2023 to gather thoughts and ideas from those attending. This took the form of a “lucky dip” where the public selected a topic from a bag and were encouraged to share their thoughts and ideas on a post-it note. This was a very productive way of gathering ideas from a large number of people of all ages and around 100 ideas were submitted. These were grouped under the appropriate Place Standard heading and contribute to the results of these topics.

Place Standard

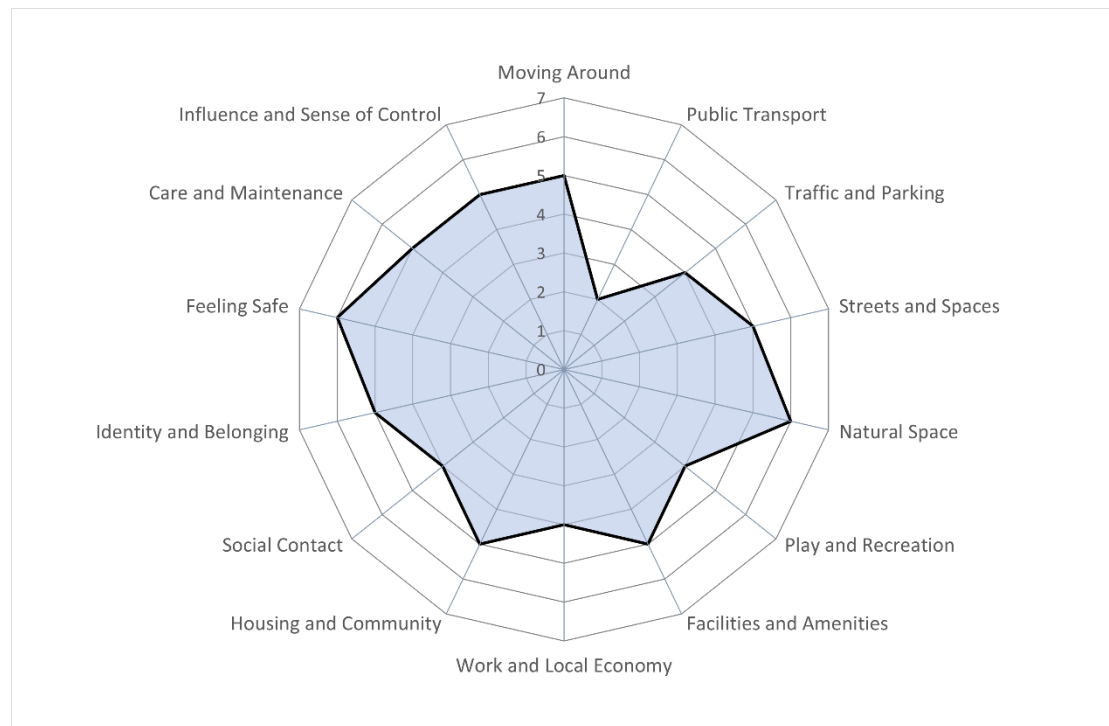
Overview

The Place Standard tool provides a simple framework to structure conversations about place. It focusses around 14 simple questions including physical, social, cultural and economic aspects, providing prompts for discussions and allowing you to consider all the elements of a place in a methodical way. The tool pinpoints the assets of a place as well as areas for improvement. This guides communities to agree solutions on key issues using a graphic summary output and rich qualitative data.

Results

The combined results of the Place Standard exercise give an overview of the feelings of the residents of the Royal Burgh. Overall, returns were received from 128 contributors, though not all responded to every question.

Theme	Score
Moving Around	5
Public Transport	2
Traffic and Parking	4
Streets and Spaces	5
Natural Space	6
Play and Recreation	4
Facilities and Amenities	5
Work and Local Economy	4
Housing and Community	5
Social Contact	4
Identity and Belonging	5
Feeling Safe	6
Care and Maintenance	5
Influence and Sense of Control	5



The Jubilee Bridge, being the only feasible route north for cycles and vehicles, remains a serious concern. Opened in 1935, it was never designed to cope with the weight and amount of traffic currently seen. Concerns about the integrity of the bridge have been raised by the Community Council for nearly 20 years – loss or closure would have a devastating impact on both residents and the local economy. Aberdeenshire Council are actively monitoring the state of the bridge and have recently installed traffic lights to mitigate the impact of heavy traffic. Inevitably, the bridge will eventually need replaced, but due to the large capital cost involved, this is unlikely to be in the near future. Nonetheless, we are keen for plans to be created, so the project can move swiftly should funding become available.



The Jubilee Bridge, opened in 1935, is struggling to cope with the weight and amount of current traffic.

Traffic and Parking

Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet the community's needs?

Place Standard Score: 4

Highlights:

- Plenty parking available at beach area.
- Road narrowing act as traffic calming measures.
- Not a large town, so manageable traffic overall.

Areas of Concern:

- Speeding vehicles (especially on King Street & Townhead).
- Lack of enforcement of inconsiderate parking – near junctions, on double-yellow lines and on pavements.
- Visibility at zebra crossing can be poor especially in low sun.
- HGV and tractor traffic through town a concern.



Summary:

The recent roll-out of 20mph speed limits throughout the town should have the desired effect from lowering speeds as should the new 40mph zone at the Gourdon junction. Similarly, newly installed traffic lights on the Jubilee Bridge, primarily designed to help protect the structure, should also help reduce speeds from the north. A requested 40mph buffer zone covering the Arbuthnott junction could also help improve safety in this area.

The beach car park has plenty of available spaces, but can occasionally reach capacity in good weather. The car park needs to be kept maintained, however, as, though a porous surface has been laid in the bays to assist drainage, it is prone to breaking up and forming pot holes. Alternative parking is also available by the leisure centre. However, there is a shortage of parking spaces in the centre, in the vicinity of the shops. The Market Square hosts the main car park, but this is regularly at capacity. Investigations could be made to consider if extra spaces could be formed in this area by making the flow of traffic one way.

Further parking is available on non-school days within the school car park, however it should be noted that the surface is in a poor state of repair. Promotion or signposting of the parking here for weekends and holidays could be improved.

Parking on double-yellow lines and at junctions is a recurring problem and better enforcement of parking restrictions and anti-social parking would be welcomed.

Streets and Spaces

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

Place Standard Score: 5

Highlights:

- Historic feel, traditional buildings, scenic setting.
- Brighter Bervie and other volunteer groups enhance the town.
- Public benches and planted areas appreciated.

Areas of Concern:

- King Street looks tired in places, with some buildings needing care.
- Limited inclusive design for disabled people.
- Public toilets could be improved.
- Weeds on pavements and road gutters look messy.
- Some private gardens are not adequately maintained.

Summary:

Retaining regular maintenance of the current facilities in the light of Aberdeenshire Council budget cuts is the biggest challenge. Priority will be given to requesting the retention of regular weed killing and gully clearing.

Brighter Bervie do excellent work in various strategic areas of the Royal Burgh, maintaining garden areas and planters which improve the aesthetics for residents and visitors. Their endeavours should be encouraged through promotion of volunteering and support for funding to retain and further enhance their offering.

The Burgh Chambers Community Trust has recently been established to look into taking responsibility for the historic B-listed Burgh Chambers building housing the library and public toilets – both facilities are under threat of closure due to Aberdeenshire Council's desire to cut costs by removing the building from its estate. The longer term aim for an asset transfer could not only help preserve the building and services, but also offer accommodation for further facilities for the Royal Burgh. To maintain feasibility, the Burgh Chambers will have to demonstrate the ability to generate income to cover substantial building costs.



Natural Space

Can I regularly experience good-quality natural space?

Place Standard Score: 6

Highlights:

- Outstanding natural beauty appreciated by all locals and visitors.
- Accessible walking routes established.
- Brighter Bervie and volunteers help maintain some green spaces.
- Outdoor activities an asset for health and wellbeing.

Areas of Concern:

- Coastal erosion impeding on lower pathway towards Gourdon and threatening properties at Beachgate.
- Lack of maintenance of shingle at river mouth leading to closure and related riverbank erosion and flooding.

Summary:

Inverbervie's location on the stunning coastline is one of the community's strongest assets. Locals and visitors alike enjoy the beach area, coastal walk and spotting the occasional pod of dolphins.

However, with one of the areas greatest strengths lies one of the greatest challenges. In the past, Aberdeenshire Council conducted regular shingle maintenance (originally twice per year but latterly reduced to once) at the mouth of the Bervie river, keeping it open and allowing the water to flow and salmon access to spawning grounds further up the river. Partly as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic of 2020 this ceased and as a result high water levels caused by winter storms have led to erosion of the riverbank at the lower caravan park and flooding of this area. Some shingle maintenance was carried out in October 2024, but the regular programme has not yet been restored.

There are serious concerns that continued lack of maintenance will result in further flooding covering a larger area of the lower part of Bervie, potentially stretching to affect some housing. Higher river levels may also have a structural effect on the Jubilee Bridge. As a result, there is a strong community desire to restore the programme of regular shingle maintenance. This would also present the opportunity to carry out works to restore the lost area of the lower caravan park and shore up the riverbank.

Erosion is also a serious problem along the seacoast. Rising tides have already bitten away at sections of the lower pathway towards Gourdon. Without action, more of this path is at risk and this is likely to threaten some of the old railway line before long. Strategically positioned sea defences or rock armour are required to offer protection against further losses.





The natural beauty of Bervie Bay and Craig Davie is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Play and Recreation

Can I access a range of space with opportunities for play and recreation?

Place Standard Score: 4

Highlights:

- Sports Centre hosts gym and active football & netball sessions.
- Recently installed play park, outdoor all-weather pitch and pump track.

Areas of Concern:

- Sports Centre costly with erratic opening hours.
- No free covered space for youth to gather.
- Need more for teens – not just sports-based activities.
- Long-awaited desire for a skate park.
- Limited provision for the elderly.

Summary:

During the course of the consultation, several projects have taken place which vastly improve the offerings for play and recreation. This would almost certainly improve the Place Standard Score if retaken now. A new play park at the Sports Centre, designed in consultation with Bervie School pupils, has been a big hit, as has the installation of a pump track behind the garage on Church Street. Bervie is now well served for good quality children's play areas with other parks in Church Street and at West Park.

The outdoor all-weather pitch is another project recently reaching fruition, allowing access to multiple sports year-round. This is currently operated by the Sports Centre with a nominal fee allowing access with a key. However, the Sports Centre is only open on some days and times, limiting access to the pitch and risking damage from those wanting to use it out of hours. These erratic timings are a concern to users of the gym facilities who would like access at regular times, such as early mornings and evenings, on a daily basis.

The Sports Centre, though functional, is a bit dated in both indoor décor and outside appearance. Fees for hire are pricey, with under-utilisation a result. Patrons desire more classes, especially those aimed at older residents and the restoration of the gym teds class for pre-schoolers. An outdoor gym with exercise equipment always available would be a desirable asset.

There is a lack of facilities aimed at teenagers, who desire safe spaces to meet with friends, without feeling as if they are causing a nuisance. One teenage respondent described “pods” – small, covered seating areas with built-in phone charging and Bluetooth speakers.



A skate park has been long-desired, with an area within William Eddie Park previously identified and agreed on as a suitable location. Despite efforts of volunteers over a number of years to secure funding, the project has never reached fruition. It is hoped and expected that the next incarnation of volunteers may be successful.

A further desire expressed is for allotment space to be made available for keen gardeners without access to their own land. Brighter Bervie offers volunteering opportunities for the green-fingered with options to help maintain flower beds, but there is a strong desire also for some to grow vegetables on their own space. This could potentially be supported within the green space requirement of any new housing development.



The recently installed play park by the Sports Centre has been well-received by youngsters and their parents.

The Medical Practice provides valuable GP, nurse, child health visitor and physiotherapy services via the NHS, though services can be stretched with appointments sometimes at a premium. The Chemist is available for prescriptions and minor ailment assessments.

The library is popular with locals offering book services and social opportunities. However, with budget savings required by Aberdeenshire Council, the building housing the library, the Burgh Chambers is threatened with closure. Library services have been promised to be retained in another location, but this will limit the services provided therein. Feedback from the consultation suggests residents desire more library services, with longer opening hours.

With the public toilets also situated in the same building, these are also under threat of closure. Though regularly criticised by locals for their cleanliness, these provide an essential service to local workers, visitors passing through and children playing in the nearby park.

As a counter to the expected closure, a group has been established with the intention of saving the historic Burgh Chambers and safeguarding the services located within. As with any old building, upkeep and repair costs are required to be met and so sources of funding will be necessary to keep the doors open. The community are very supportive of the Burgh Chambers Community Trust for their endeavours.



The Burgh Chambers building hosting the library and public toilets.

Social Contact

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

Place Standard Score: 4

Highlights:

- Community events and groups (e.g. Brighter Bervie, RBICC, sports clubs).
- Friendly, neighbourly feel.

Areas of Concern:

- Not all groups feel accessible or welcoming.
- More indoor meeting places needed.
- Spaces for informal socialising lacking.
- Volunteers need more support and recognition.



Summary:

A number of social opportunities exist for locals of all ages to get involved. Young children and their carers are served by music groups, the Scouts and Guides offer adventurous activities throughout the school years whereas adults have regular opportunities to meet and socialise, but still further initiatives would be welcome to get more people involved. There are also sporting options with some classes or clubs running at the Sports Centre and the football club offering playing time for both children and adults.

The Burgh Hall is the principal location for social events, hosting occasional concerts, whist drives, weekly bingo and Scottish Country Dance classes. It is also the location of the Pre-School playgroup and annual Art Show, which is a very popular fundraiser as well as the showcase for local artists. The Burgh Hall is fully committee run by local volunteers and relies on community input for its ongoing maintenance.

The recent start-up of the Friday Community Café in the Scout Hall has been success, attracting regular, mainly elderly, attendees. The Churches hold regular services and other events; Brighter Bervie offer opportunities for the green-fingered; various groups hold fund-raising coffee mornings and craft sales. This list is by no means complete – other interest groups, clubs and organisations operate with varying degrees of success.

However, all options are reliant on volunteers to run them and all are in need of further support. It is also noticeable that the pool of people willing to volunteer is quite small and the same people are connected to several organisations/projects. Bervie Gala especially reaches out for people to get involved with organising events around Gala Day and the ever-popular fireworks display. However, attempts to organise other social events have not always been success, with some having to be cancelled due to lack of support, despite people often requesting more events.

It is often difficult to find out exactly what is going on or what the opportunities are to socialise or volunteer are. A community directory and events calendar would be very welcome, but this takes considerable efforts to both establish and maintain.

Identity and Belonging

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

Place Standard Score: 5

Highlights:

- People are proud of their town and community spirit.
- Strong local identity and shared history.
- Active Heritage Society share information and display artefacts.

Areas of Concern:

- Concern that the town is overlooked by decision-makers.
- Poorly maintained public spaces hurt image.
- More intergenerational activities could help newcomers feel connected.

Summary:

The people of the Royal Burgh of Inverbervie are very proud of their town, its history and heritage. The tale of the hospitality of the town's residents to King David II of Scotland, which resulted in the bestowing of the Royal Burgh status, is taught to all Primary School pupils. Pride is also shown in one of the town's famous children, Hercules Linton, the designer of the Cutty Sark. Throughout the town there are regular reminders visible of the celebration of both. The Linton Memorial – a copy of the figurehead of the Cutty Sark – and accompanying plaque, located adjacent to the Jubilee Bridge, have recently been restored.

A significant number of locals are born and bred here, the offspring of several generations rooted in the local area. Despite that, incomers are always welcomed and offered opportunities to discover the rich heritage of the Royal Burgh.

There is an active Heritage Society, which have gathered a considerable collection of local artefacts and photographs. They take opportunities to display their collection where possible and have semi-permanent displays in both the library and Beattie's shop window. There are a handful of local history books in the library and flyers produced by the Heritage Society are readily available, but the option of a larger museum space and event space will attract even more interest and would be a welcome addition.

The Research Station at Bervie Brow was a Royal Air Force technical site for radar, part of the UK's early-warning system against the threat of atomic attack. It has recently opened as a visitor attraction offering occasional tours to the public and is looking to further expand its offering.



To retain this sense of civic pride, it is crucial that the town remains properly maintained. Weeds and growth in streets and particularly on historic buildings and structures give the impression that the community do not care. This is contradictory to the truth and as volunteers such as those from the Heritage Society, Brighter Bervie and Community Council do their part, we fully expect Aberdeenshire Council to step up, even in light of budgetary limitations.



The Linton Memorial has been given a makeover with a fresh coat of paint.

Feeling Safe

Do I feel safe here?

Place Standard Score: 6

Highlights:

- Low levels of crime overall.
- Many feel safe during the day.
- Friendly, watchful community.

Areas of Concern:

- Poor lighting and antisocial behaviour in some areas at night.
- Concerns about drug issues and groups of teens causing intimidation.
- Need more visible policing or wardens.
- More safe spaces for youth to prevent trouble.
- The trend of young people riding electric scooters on roads and pavements.
- Speeding traffic also affects feelings of safety.



Summary:

The prominence of the words “feel” and “safe” in the word diagram are significant, as is the high score for this particular stream. Inverbervie is a very safe place to live. Crime levels are very low and people can go about their business without concern for their wellbeing.

Still there are challenges. Like most communities there is an issue with drug and substance abuse, which is often hidden behind closed doors but can have social cohesion implications. Groups of young people gathering can be intimidating, even if they are not doing anything wrong. More places for them to gather safely together, with activities to engage them, would result in less instances of anti-social behaviour.

Since the town police station closed in 2007, the police presence in the community has reduced to virtually non-existent. The visibility of police officers offers a level of comfort, especially to many older residents. It also has a noticeable positive effect on anti-social behaviour, including poor parking and speeding drivers. The odd foot patrol and subsequent interaction with the public, would help tremendously with this concern.

Traffic speed is probably the most significant safety concern, where the recent 20mph speed limit likely to improve matters. However, a safe pedestrian crossing at the King Street, Church Street, Kirkburn junction will have a greater outcome in improving safety concerns, especially for school children and the elderly.

Care and Maintenance

Are buildings and spaces well cared for?

Place Standard Score: 5

Highlights:

- Brighter Bervie and others take pride in the town.
- Community volunteers help to maintain spaces.
- Regular reliable waste and garden waste collections.

Areas of Concern:

- Dog fouling is a major and repeated issue.
- Pavements, roads, potholes, and drains need attention.
- Weeds in pavements and guttering looks unsightly and causes damage.
- Beach and river mouth need regular maintenance and erosion defences installed.

Summary:

One of the biggest challenges the community faces in the future is ensuring our streets, buildings, public spaces and natural assets are kept maintained and cared for in the light of Aberdeenshire Council budget cuts. Not investing in regular maintenance results in greater damage and higher repair costs down the line, as well as an unsightly image in the meantime. In the past, the Council have employed a “village orderly” to help to tidy and maintain the public spaces, but this is deemed an unnecessary cost nowadays.

Volunteers have stepped up to look after what they can, but it is imperative to the community that Aberdeenshire Council do not abandon basic maintenance as a result of their budget cuts. This overarches all areas described in this document – clearing weeds in the streets and on buildings and structures; keeping foliage cut back so it does not impact footpaths; the clearing of shingle from the river mouth to reduce the flooding risk; filling and repairing potholes. Each of these negatively impact the perception of the place and fundamentally cause material damage.



Influence and Sense of Control

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

Place Standard Score: 5

Highlights:

- Active Community Council, Gala Committee and other groups.
- Councillors accessible.
- Facebook groups and local forums help share info.

Areas of Concern:

- Many feel unheard or excluded from decisions.
- Need more transparency (agendas, minutes online).
- More regular updates on what's happening locally.
- Not everyone knows how to get involved.
- Desire for more inclusive engagement and better consultation processes.
- Some groups seen as cliques – need more open, welcoming spaces.

Summary:

Inverbervie has some very active people and groups, all striving to make the town a better place to live. However, it is regularly the same individuals involved in multiple groups, which can inadvertently lead to a closed shop making it more difficult for others to get involved. Facebook is used as a central hub to gather and share information, but not everyone is on Facebook to access this information.

A more open community website/newsletter would make information more accessible and would help to map and promote all local groups and activities in one place, but establishing and maintaining this takes a lot of effort.

The Community Council (RBICC) are active at pursuing issues on behalf of residents but could offer more transparency on items of interest. Again, a website would be of use to share details of what RBICC achieve and are responsible for, plus minutes, agendas, methods of getting in touch or involved.



Community Vision

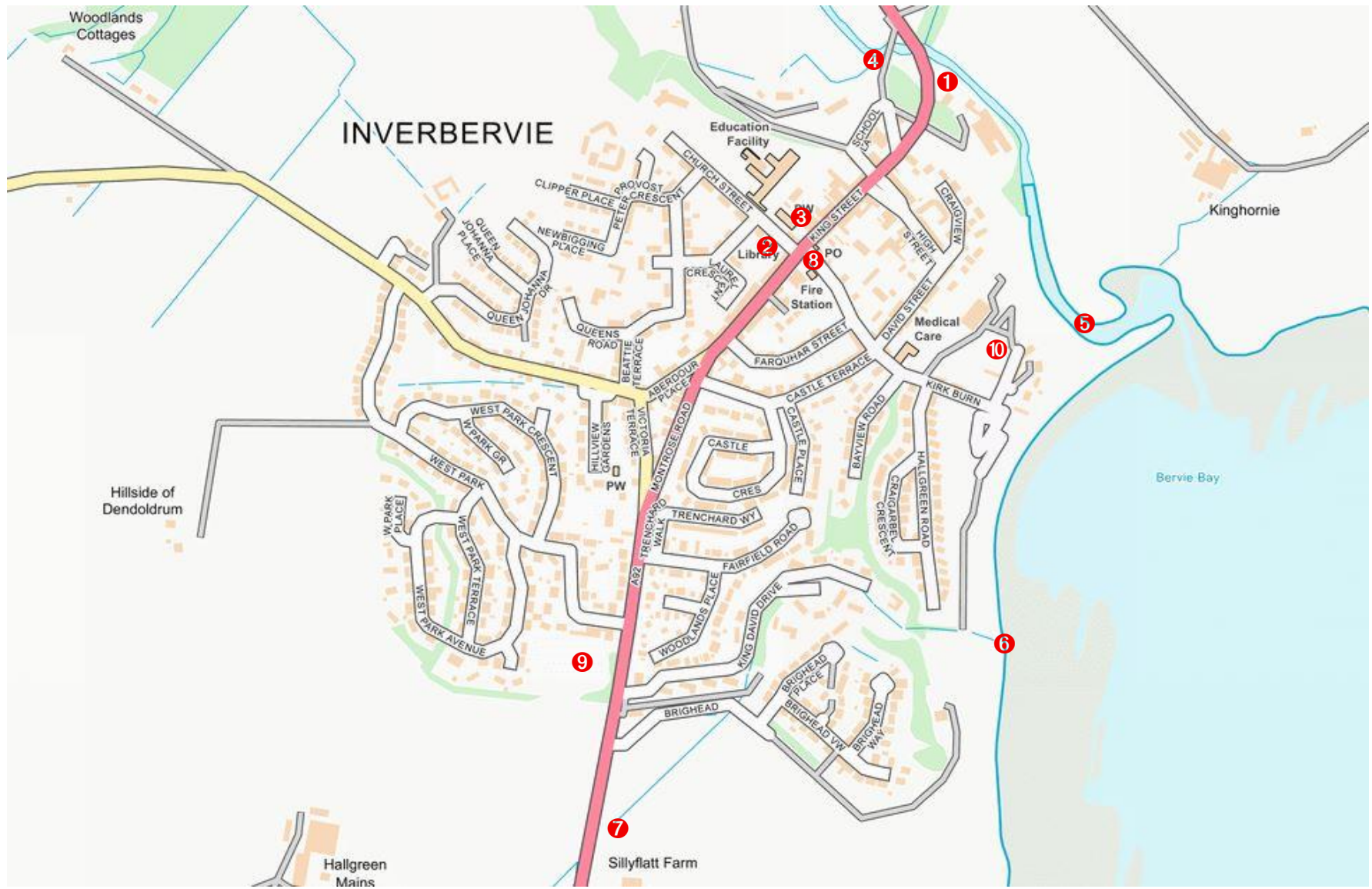
Priorities

The main concern is around maintaining the current quality of provision in a backdrop of tough economic circumstances and reduced Council budgets. This requires a prudent use of resources and focuses our priorities on the following items

- Ensuring the route north out of Inverbervie remains viable. This should involve the direct replacement of the Jubilee Bridge or the building of another suitable river crossing which allows traffic to link with the A92 towards Stonehaven. ①
- Maintenance of all roads and pavements to ensure they remain in a good state of repair including fixing potholes and the timely removal of weeds to prevent avoidable long-term damage.
- Maintenance of our historic listed buildings and structures, especially the Burgh Chambers, Bervie Church and the Old Brig. Efforts should be made to ensure they remain structurally sound, and buildings are in appropriate use. Heritage is critically important to the Royal Burgh and should be celebrated at every opportunity. ②③④
- Restoration of the lost riverbank at the caravan park area and regular shingle maintenance at the river mouth to prevent future damage and threat to neighbouring properties. ⑤
- Coastal protection measures to counter erosion from rising sea levels. ⑥

Health and safety concerns are also a priority as we seek to counter worrying health statistics and improve lifestyles for all residents. To this end, the following items should be prioritised

- Promotion of local walking and cycling routes including the improvement of lighting on the footpath by Sillyflatt. ⑦
- Enforcement of lower traffic speeds along the A92 and artery roads, especially Townhead and West Park, including the addition of a safe light-controlled crossing at the King Street, Church Street, Kirkburn junction. ⑧
- Support for local social and exercise initiatives, including, but not limited to Brighter Bervie, Mens' Shed, Community Café, Strollers, Bervie Social Cycle group.
- Encouragement of activities aimed at young people including creating social areas and a skate park and supporting youth organisations and clubs. ⑨
- Facility improvements at the Leisure Centre, providing more classes and better gym facilities with longer opening hours and more competitive pricing. ⑩



Street Map highlighting the location of Community Vision Priorities

Local Development Plan

The Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan adopted in 2023 describes the proposal for the provision of up to 200 new houses in an area to the south of the settlement marked at section OP1 in the map displayed. Areas marked as sections P1-P13 are defined as protected areas of green or amenity space, with areas P5 and P6 defined specifically as a buffer defining the boundary between Inverbervie and Gourdon and preventing their coalescence.

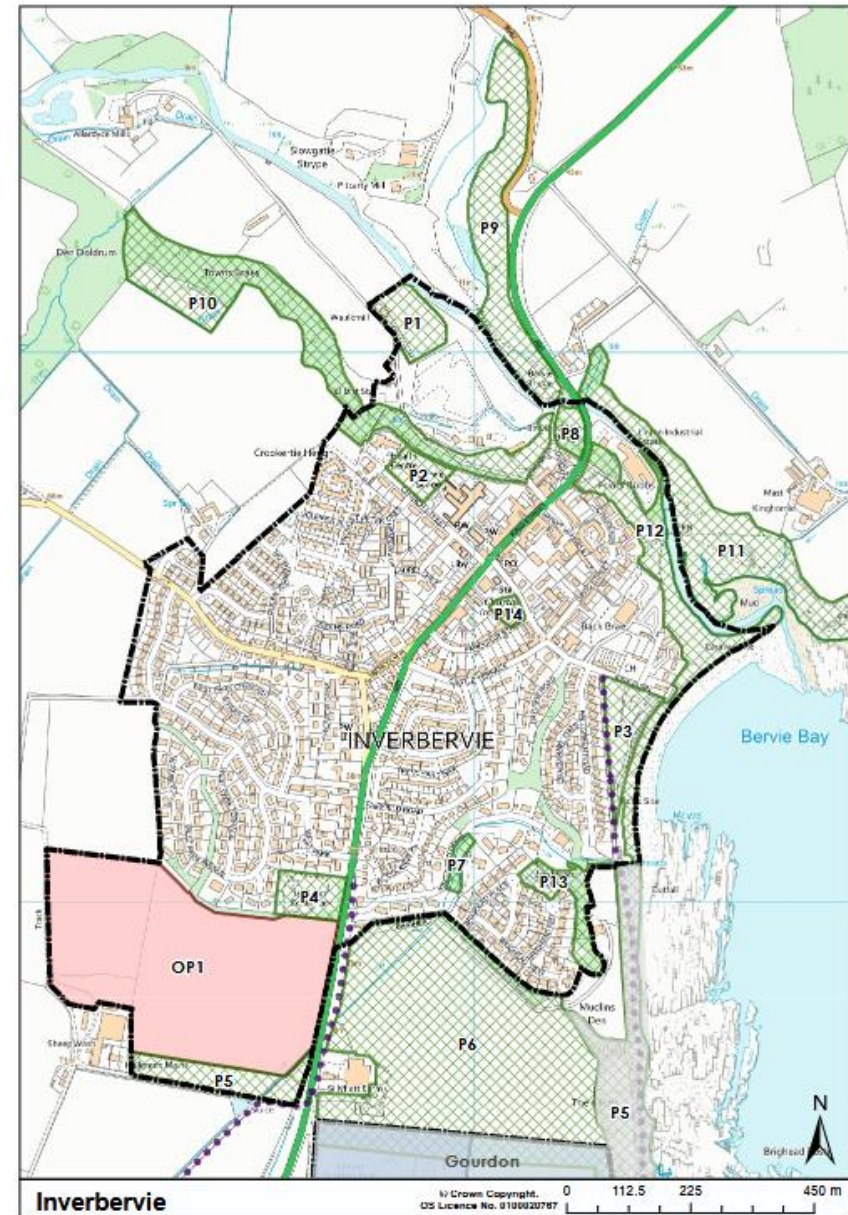
The document states

“The local community would welcome the provision of more affordable housing, more car parking in the town centre, a safer road crossing to the school at King Street, a car park at Gourdon cemetery (sic), and small business-ready employment units at Linton Business Park in Gourdon. There is also a desire from the community for a cycle route to be provided to Stonehaven and to prevent coalescence with Gourdon. However, concerns have been expressed over the lack of town centre uses and declining retail provision, and the long-term maintenance of the existing Jubilee Bridge over Bervie Water.”

These desires are largely unchanged and align somewhat with the details outlined in this document, with only the parking at the Bervie cemetery in Gourdon matter significantly progressing in the intervening period.

Going forward, the development of 200 houses at OP1 remains a feasible option and the preferred location for building within the Inverbervie boundary. However, any new building of this scale will put pressure on the existing services and infrastructure, so specific attention should be paid to the following areas on planning:

- Capacity at Inverbervie Medical Centre
- Capacity at Bervie Primary School
- Sewage and drainage capacity
- Water-run off and potential flooding
- Open space, a skate park and/or allotments



References

The following sources have been referenced in collating this document.

- Scotland's Census 2022 - <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk>
- Mearns North and Inverbervie Intermediate Zone Statistical Summary 2023 - <https://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/your-area/kincardine-and-mearns/resources-useful-links/>
- Public Health Scotland Place Standard Tool - <https://publichealthscotland.scot/population-health/environmental-health-impacts/place-standard-tool-pst/about-pst/>
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023 - <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans-and-policies/l dp-2023>
- Inverbervie Street Map - <https://www.streetmap.co.uk/map/idld.srf?X=382870&Y=772297&A=Y&Z=110&lm=1>

Contact

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