



# Alyth Community Action Plan Community Profile November 2021



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## **Acknowledgements**

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Funding for this work has been provided by LEADER.<sup>1</sup> The cover photograph has been provided by Steve Taylor.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This report is in line with Community Profile templates provided by Star Development

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, S., 2021. *View From The Top of Alyth Hill* [accessed 6 December 2021]

## **Introduction**

### **Community Profile**

This Profile has been produced to give an insight into Alyth and the surrounding area. It documents the facts and figures about the area which were collected from a variety of sources which includes, but is not limited to:

- Census Data (2011 Census, 2016 and 2019 estimates)
- Community Insights
- Statistics.gov.scot
- Public Health Scotland
- Understanding Scottish Places
- Perth & Kinross Council

The profile also benefits from local knowledge of the area derived from our extensive engagement process.

### **Data Limitations**

As a consequence of COVID-19, the census for 2021 was not carried out. This has resulted in key data regarding Alyth being a decade out of date. A 2001/2011 comparison would not be representative of Alyth today. As such, this profile will be a living document which will be updated with comparative data following the next census (March 20<sup>th</sup> 2022). This will impact Population, Housing and Employment sections of the profile.

### **Community Action Plan (CAP)**

The Community Profile has been prepared following extensive research and community engagement. It will help to inform Alyth's CAP, 2021-2026. It should be noted that the CAP is the beginning point of an ongoing conversation regarding how to make Alyth a better place to live, work and visit. The CAP is a collaborative project between Alyth Development Trust and the Alyth Community Support Group in partnership with other groups and individuals associated with the town. This process has been driven by the Community Connector with support from the CAP Steering Group<sup>3</sup>. In addition to the Profile, community engagement methods included:

- Community Views Survey
- Young People's Survey
- Children's Survey
- Community Event
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Focus Groups/Social Media Engagement
- Pop-up Stalls/Travelling Tea Party

**The CAP will demonstrate:**

- What the community is like now
- The community's vision for the future
- The themes and projects that the community would like to see taken forward

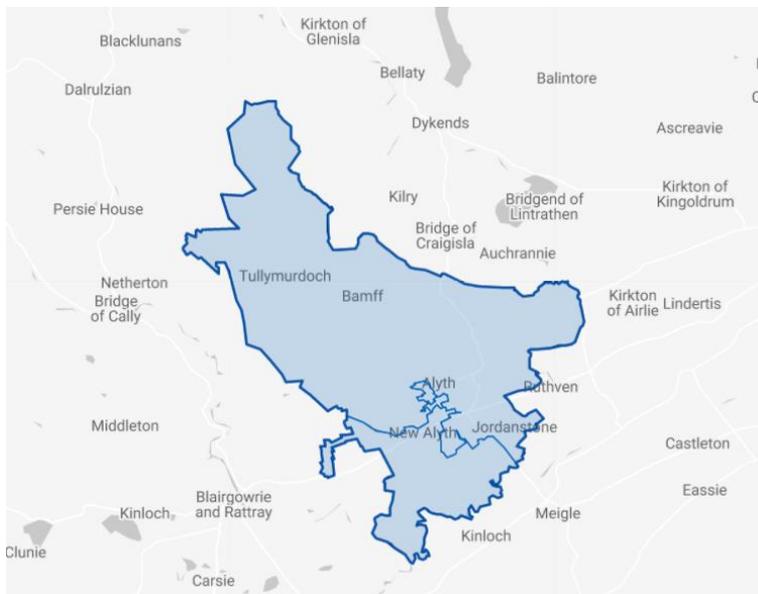
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<sup>3</sup> The CAP Steering Group is made up of a cross-section of members from Alyth's community.

- How we can make it happen

### Overview of Alyth

The area covered by the Community Profile is the Community Council area of Alyth<sup>4</sup>. This encompasses the hamlet of New Alyth. Combined with a handful of smaller hamlets and steadings, Alyth has a population of just over 3000.



Alyth is a town in Perth & Kinross, Scotland, 5 miles (8 kilometres) northeast of Blairgowrie and about 17 miles northwest of Dundee.

First mentioned by name in a 12<sup>th</sup>-century royal charter of William the Lion, Alyth for many centuries was an important market town. Another royal charter in 1488, from James III of Scotland granted Alyth the status of Burgh of Barony entitled to stage markets and fairs.

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<sup>4</sup>“Statistics.Gov.Scot.”[n.d.]. *Gov.Scot* <<https://statistics.gov.scot/atlas/resource?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fstatistics.gov.scot%2Fid%2Fstatistical-geography%2FS02002246&inactive=false>> [accessed 3 November 2021]

Today, industry has largely gone, but Alyth retains many shops and businesses serving the local area. The town has one of only two museums in Perthshire outside Perth, as well as a flourishing community of artists and a growing tourism economy.<sup>5</sup>

### Population

The table below details the population estimates for Alyth. The last official census was conducted in 2011. Figures for 2016 and 2019 are mid-year estimates<sup>6</sup>.

	Alyth			Perth & Kinross			Scotland		
	2011	2016	2019	2011	2016	2019	2011	2016	2019
<b>Total</b>	3037	3031	3039	146,850	150,680	151,950	5,299,900	5,404,700	5,463,300
Age 0-15			480	25,107	24,514	24,312	916,103	915,917	921,397
Age 16-64			1746	91,903	92,250	92,689	3,487,433	3,489,931	3,497,758
Age 65+			813	29,840	33,916	34,949	896, 364	998,852	1,044,145

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<sup>5</sup> [Section paraphrased and edited from Alyth Wikipedia] "Alyth," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* <<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alyth&oldid=1055620542>> [accessed 30 October 2021]

<sup>6</sup>"Statistics.Gov.Scot." [n.d.]. *Gov.Scot* <<https://statistics.gov.scot/atlas/resource?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fstatistics.gov.scot%2Fid%2Fstatistical-geography%2FS02002246&inactive=false>> [accessed 3 November 2021]

As of 2019, under-16s make up around 15.8% of Alyth’s population. By way of comparison, under-16s comprise 16.1% of the population in Perth & Kinross, and just over 16.9% of the population of Scotland. Therefore, the population of 0-15 year olds is over 1% lower than the national average. Around 57.4% of Alyth’s population are of working age. For Perth & Kinross and Scotland, the figures are 61% and 64% respectively. As such, the population of 16-64-year-olds in Alyth is almost 7% below the average for Scotland. Finally, over-65s represent around 26% of Alyth’s population. This figure is just under 23% for Perth & Kinross and just over 19% for Scotland as a whole. As such, the percentage of over-65s in Alyth is approximately 7% higher than the national average.

### **Housing**

As of 2020, there are an estimated 1,524 homes in Alyth. This is an increase of 23 homes since 2014<sup>7</sup>.

The following subcategories are as per the 2011 census.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> “Statistics.Gov.Scot : [Http://Statistics.Gov.Scot/Data/Dwellings-Council-Tax/Year/2020/S02002246/Council-Tax-Band/Total-Dwellings/Dwellings/Count](http://Statistics.Gov.Scot/Data/Dwellings-Council-Tax/Year/2020/S02002246/Council-Tax-Band/Total-Dwellings/Dwellings/Count).”  
[n.d.]. *Gov.Scot* <<https://statistics.gov.scot/resource?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fstatistics.gov.scot%2Fdata%2Fdwellings-council-tax%2Fyear%2F2020%2FS02002246%2Fcouncil-tax-band%2Ftotal-dwellings%2Fdwellings%2Fcount>> [accessed 3 November 2021]

<sup>8</sup> [OCSI], and [HACT]. 2021. *Community Insight Profile for ‘CAP Alyth’ Area*, pp. 22–23

## Housing Tenure

Owner-occupied	Owner-occupied: owned outright	Owner-occupied: owned with mortgage or loan
905	516	384
Owner-occupied: shared ownership	Social rented households	Rented from Council
05	281	200
Rented from Housing Association or Social Landlord	Rented from private landlord or letting agency	Other rented dwellings
81	172	53
Source: Census 2011		

## Housing Type

Detached (NRS 2017)	Semi-detached (NRS 2017)	Terraced (NRS 2017)	Flats, maisonettes and apartments (NRS 2017)
570	290	336	304
Caravan or other temporary dwelling (Census 2011)	Second homes (NRS 2017)		
00	77%		

Figure: Dwellings type breakdown  
Source: National Records of Scotland 2017/Census 2011

Based on the above statistics, most houses in Alyth (905) are owned either outright or via mortgage. 506 homes are rented. As of 2018-2019, there were 315,625 local authority

dwellings in Scotland out of an estimated 2.6 million homes<sup>9</sup>. Just under 20% of homes in Alyth are social rented households, 12.1% of dwellings are social rented households in Scotland. Therefore, Alyth has more social rented households than average.

Around 300 new homes are being built/planned to be built in Alyth. This could potentially put pressure on existing infrastructure and services. For example, there is the belief that demand will outstrip the number of school places which are available<sup>10</sup>.

### **Employment and Local Economy**

The data below demonstrates the employment figures for Alyth as of 2011 for those of working age.<sup>11</sup>

Economically active	Full-time employees	Part-time employees	Self-employed people	Economically inactive
1,517	828	294	263	758
Source: Census 2011				

As a more recent census has not yet taken place, these numbers are not an accurate representation of Alyth in 2021. This data does suggest that in 2011, around 33% of the

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<sup>9</sup> [National Statistics Publication for Scotland]. 2019. *Housing Statistics for Scotland 2019: Key Trends Summary*, p. 3 <<https://www.housingnet.co.uk/pdf/housing-statistics-scotland-2019-key-trends-summary.pdf>>

<sup>10</sup> Stakeholder Report available at [www.alyth.online](http://www.alyth.online)

<sup>11</sup> [OCSI], and [HACT]. 2021. *Community Insight Profile for 'CAP Alyth' Area*, p.37

working population was unemployed. This is around 8% higher than Perth & Kinross and 4% higher than the average in Scotland at the time<sup>12</sup>. Alyth has around 497 fewer jobs than similar towns by head of population<sup>13</sup>. Around 35% of the working population commute at least 5km to get to work.

### Local Economy

#### Number of Business Sites as of 2017<sup>14</sup>

<u>Alyth</u>	<u>Perth &amp; Kinross</u>	<u>Scotland</u>
120	7,060	208,265

Around 0.06% of Scotland’s business sites are in Alyth. This figure represents 1.7% of businesses in Perth & Kinross.

#### Businesses in Alyth by Sector<sup>15</sup>

Alyth Business Sites as of 2017	Percentage
	%
Administrative and support service activities	4
Education, human health and social work activities	4
Arts, entertainment and recreation, and Other service activities	4
Primary Industries	21

<sup>12</sup> [Perth and Kinross Council]. 2012. *People of Working Age in Employment*, p. 1  
 <[https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/13187/People-of-Working-Age-in-Employment-Indicator-Summary/pdf/Peopleofworkingageinemploymentindicatorsummary\\_1\\_.pdf?m=636118896753230000](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/13187/People-of-Working-Age-in-Employment-Indicator-Summary/pdf/Peopleofworkingageinemploymentindicatorsummary_1_.pdf?m=636118896753230000)>

<sup>13</sup> Scotland’s Town Partnership. 2015. “Alyth,” *Understanding Scottish Places* <<https://www.usp.scot/Town?mainTownName=Alyth>> [accessed 30 October 2021]

<sup>14</sup> “Statistics.Gov.Scot”.

[n.d.b]. *Gov.Scot* <<https://statistics.gov.scot/atlas/resource?uri=http%3A%2F%2Fstatistics.gov.scot%2Fid%2Fstatistical-geography%2FS02002246>> [accessed 4 November 2021]

<sup>15</sup> [OCSI], and [HACT]. 2021. *Community Insight Profile for ‘CAP Alyth’ Area*, p.40

Manufacturing	4
Construction	13
Wholesale, retail and repairs	17
Transport and storage, and Information and communication	0
Accommodation and food service activities	8
Financial and Insurance and Real estate activities	4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	17

Primary industries (e.g agriculture); professional, scientific and technical activities; wholesale, retail and repairs and construction make up the largest percentage of business sites in Alyth. The percentage of accommodation, food services and arts activities could help Alyth to attract more visitors to the town. There are more people per shop than towns of similar population sizes and more tourist beds per head of the population.<sup>16</sup>

### **Market Square, Mill Street and Airlie Street**

Alyth’s businesses are primarily situated around Market Square and on Mill Street and Airlie Street. There is a range of food places such as Alyth Fish and Chips, Alyth Hotel, the Barony, Café in the Square, Munchn and the Singing Kettle.<sup>17</sup> There is also Sims (hardware store), Ewarts Butcher, Alyth Cycles, PolliWolliDoodle, CO-OP, Lunan, Scotmid, Premier and a variety of different hairdressing salons and barber shops. Alyth is also home to a thriving charity shop (Thrifty One/Thrifty One Too) who regularly make donations to community

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<sup>16</sup> Scotland’s Town Partnership. 2015. “Alyth,” *Understanding Scottish Places* <<https://www.usp.scot/Town?mainTownName=Alyth>> [accessed 30 October 2021]

<sup>17</sup> The Singing Kettle is now a Community Social Enterprise, ran by Thrifty One

groups in the town. Several trades also operate in Alyth, including Classic Restorations, garages, joiners, plumbers, electricians etc.

On Mill Street and Airlie Street in particular, there are a few empty properties which the community would like to see utilised. The Community Views Survey indicated that many would like to see a bakery in the town. It also came up in stakeholder interviews that it would be great if specialist businesses (e.g. a delicatessen) could open up in the town as it could bring more visitors into the town.

It has also been noted by several residents that Alyth needs a new bank. The RBS branch closed down in 2016. The town is currently being served by a mobile bank which comes to the town twice a week. This is inaccessible to wheelchair users and the post office does not offer full banking services. Many people opt to travel to Blairgowrie instead, but this is not something which all residents of Alyth can easily do.

## **Tourism**

### Visitors

Several businesses have noted that Alyth has a significant amount of tourists and visitors over the spring and summer period.

### Sports

Alyth is situated near two golf courses. The visitor survey indicated that this was one of the reasons that people visited Alyth. There is also a bike park which is particularly popular with young people.

### Ecotourism

Residents and tourists enjoy visiting the Den o' Alyth which is a designated site of scientific interest. The Alyth Hill also attracts hill walkers. Alyth is also situated on the Cateran Trail which attracts both cyclists and walkers to the area. Visitors also enjoy the Bamff Estate, where it is possible to catch a glimpse of wild beavers.

### Tourist Accommodation

There are several accommodation options for those who choose to visit Alyth. This includes the Alyth Hotel, Lands of Loyal, Tigh Na Leigh Guest House, Old Stables, The Lossett Inn (currently closed, but reopening soon), Five Roads Caravan Park and several holiday homes.

## **Education and Childcare**

### **Pre-school**

#### Alyth Nursery

Alyth nursery has 24 places available for children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old. There are a limited number of full-time spots available, most children attend either a morning or afternoon session.

#### Just 4 Kidz Day Care

Just 4 Kidz is a private nursery offering term time (45 weeks) and out of term places (50 weeks).

#### Strathmore Tots

Strathmore Tots is a community group led by parents. It is a parent and toddler group which meets every Monday between 10am-12noon. Alyth does not have a playgroup so Strathmore Tots fills a gap, allowing under-3s to meet and play with others who are their own age before nursery.

### **Primary School**

Alyth Primary School is the main primary school that children from Alyth attend. 169 pupils are currently enrolled. The school has the capacity to enrol 283 pupils.

In 2018, almost £10million of renovation work was completed, creating a more positive and inspiring place for learning.

Some children in Alyth attend Airlie Primary School.

### **Secondary School**

Alyth Primary School feeds into Blairgowrie High School. As such, most pupils transition to this school. However, some pupils attend Webster's High School in Kirriemuir, Perth Grammar or Dundee High.

### **Further Education**

Some 16 and 17-year-olds choose not to remain at high school and instead will go to college in Dundee or Perth to take courses which the high schools do not offer.

### **Out of School Care**

Alyth Primary School offers a breakfast club between 8am and 8:40am which costs £2.

There is also an Out of School Club which runs between 8am-9am and 3:15pm-6pm.

In addition to this, Alyth Youth Partnership also offers an after-school youth club for primary 5 and 6 on Wednesday and Thursdays. These sessions run from 3:15pm-4:30pm.

## **Health and Care**

### **Alyth Health Centre**

The GP Surgery in Alyth has over 4000 patients registered. It is the only health centre in the town and its catchment area includes Meigle and Newtyle.

There are three GPs at the practice and two nurses.

### **Pharmacy**

There is one pharmacy in Alyth, Davidsons Chemist. There are normally short waiting times for prescriptions, with most being available for collection on the same day. However, occasionally prescriptions need to be ordered, waiting times vary in this instance.

### **Hospital**

The closest hospital is Blairgowrie Community (formerly 'cottage') Hospital which is six miles away. The minor injury and illness unit was closed at the start of lockdown and has not been reopened. In cases of accident or emergency, Alyth residents have to travel to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee or Perth Royal Infirmary. These are 17 miles and 23 miles from Alyth respectively.

### **Dentist**

Infinityblu Dental Care & Impact Clinic set up in Alyth during lockdown and are now up and running. They offer both NHS and private treatment.

## Care Services/Sheltered Housing

- Hillcrest Futures is situated in Alyth which supports people with physical and learning disabilities. It is also providing support regarding mental health.
- Some residents in Alyth have a support worker or carer.
- Retirement Housing/Sheltered Accommodation is available at Burnside Court and Isla Court.

## General Health

As of 2011, 662 people in Alyth had a limiting long-term illness<sup>18</sup>. This figure would have been around 21.8% of the population at the time.

## Community

### Churches

Alyth Parish Church (Church of Scotland) was completed in 1839. The notably high steeple means that it is visible from several areas of the town<sup>19</sup>. Pre-pandemic around 70 people regularly attended church services<sup>20</sup>. There is also a small Sunday School.

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<sup>18</sup> [OCSI], and [HACT]. 2021. *Community Insight Profile for 'CAP Alyth' Area*, p.30

<sup>19</sup> The Church of Scotland. 2015. "History," *Alyth Parish Church* <<http://www.alythparishchurch.org.uk/html/history.html>> [accessed 6 November 2021]

<sup>20</sup> Stakeholder Interview Report is available at [www.alyth.online](http://www.alyth.online)

In the years prior to lockdown, the church held an annual Kirk Sale. In 2019, this raised £12,857 over the course of five and a half days.<sup>21</sup>

St Ninian's Church (Scottish Episcopal Church) was completed in 1856. It has a small but welcoming congregation. Every fifth Sunday, they join with St Anne's (Coupar Angus) and St Catherine's (Blairgowrie) for morning worship<sup>22</sup>.

St Luan's Church (Catholic Church in Scotland).

## **Facilities and Services**

### Alyth Library

Alyth has a public library which is run by Perth & Kinross Council. It has just reopened following lockdown and is currently operating three days per week (Thursday-Saturday).<sup>23</sup>

### Alyth Voice

This is a free community magazine (launched in 1997) which is published every month except for January. This is created and distributed by a small and dedicated team of volunteers. It is delivered to every home in Alyth and is a great resource for finding out what is going on in the town. Community groups can advertise for free; businesses pay a small fee.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> "Perthshire Church Shop Raises Thousands." 2019. *The Church of Scotland* <<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2019/articles/perthshire-church-shop-raises-thousands>> [accessed 6 November 2021]

<sup>22</sup> The Church of Scotland. 2015. "History," *Alyth Parish Church* <<http://www.alythparishchurch.org.uk/html/history.html>> [accessed 6 November 2021]

<sup>23</sup> "Alyth Library." 2016. <<https://www.culturepk.org.uk/your-local-library/alyth-library/>> [accessed 7 November 2021]

<sup>24</sup> Stakeholder Interview Report is available at [www.alyth.online](http://www.alyth.online)

## Venue Hire

There are spaces available to hire for community use:

- Alyth Town Hall – In 1884, the local community began raising funds to build a town hall. The foundation stone was placed by the Earl of Airlie in 1886. The hall opened on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April, 1887.<sup>25</sup> The hall is managed by the Alyth Halls Committee.
- Airlie Street Hall – A community facility which is primarily used for hosting fundraising events. (Coffee Mornings are usually held here every Saturday, raising between £800-£1000)
- Alyth Community Wing – A community space with a variety of rooms for hire, suitable for a range of activities from meetings to dance classes.<sup>26</sup>
- Ogilvie Rooms – Significantly smaller than the Town Hall, this is a great space for community groups to meet. This is also managed by the Alyth Halls Committee.
- Guide Hall – Home to the Alyth Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. It can also be hired by other community groups for events and functions. Notably, the Alyth Ladies Wellbeing Group currently meets there on Wednesday evenings.
- Scout Hut – The Scout Hut is home to the Alyth Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts. It is also available to be hired by other community groups. It is currently used on a Wednesday and Thursday by the Alyth Youth Partnership Tribe Groups.

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<sup>25</sup> "Alyth Town Hall." [n.d.]. *Artuk.Org* <<https://artuk.org/visit/venues/alyth-town-hall-5909>> [accessed 2 November 2021]

<sup>26</sup> Coe, Kevin. 2017. "NEW COMMUNITY WING NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS," *Alyth Development Trust* <<https://lovealyth.org.uk/news/167/>> [accessed 2 November 2021]

## Groups, Clubs and Organisations

<b>Community Groups</b>	<b>Environmenta l</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Youth</b>
Alyth 50+ Club	Alyth in Bloom	Alyth Amateur Football Club	Alyth Community Council	Alyth Bike Club
Alyth Art and District Pipe Band	Ecokids	Ayth Badminton Club	Alyth Community Support Group	Alyth Youth Partnership
Alyth Arts and Crafts Guild		Alyth Tennis and Bowling Club	Alyth Development Trust	Beavers
Alyth Film Club				Brownies
Alyth Halls Committee				Cubs
Alyth Ladies Wellbeing Group				Explorer Scouts
Alyth Literary Society				Guides
Alyth Musical Society				Out of School Club
Alyth Photographic Club				Rainbows
Alyth Quiz League				Scouts
Alyth Voice				
Food For Thought				
Game Square				
Hill Users Group				
Perthshire Brass				
Senior Citizens Lunch Club				
Square One				
Strathmore Tots				
Walking for the Craic				

Alyth has a significant number of community groups and organisations. Young people are particularly well served by Alyth Youth Partnership which operates Monday-Friday. There is also a wide variety of clubs for adults to get involved in.

Adding to the strong community spirit in the town, community groups also collaborate. Game Square, supported by the Alyth Youth Partnership, offer a gaming club for young people (Square One). Alyth Youth Partnership, Alyth Musical Society and Game Square have also partnered to plan community events. The Alyth Community Support Group and Alyth Development Trust also collaborate on projects which will benefit the town, such as flood resilience.

### **Sports and Recreation Facilities**

#### **Alyth Amateur Football Club/Football Field**

Alyth is home to the Alyth Amateur Football Club (2<sup>nd</sup> Division Perthshire). They train on the football field at the Diamond Jubilee Park. When they are not training, the football field is open for use by the community.

#### **Alyth Badminton Club**

Running from September – April on Tuesday evenings at Airlie Street Hall.

#### **Alyth Bike Park**

Built in 2014 after three years of work by a subcommittee of the Alyth Hill Users Group. It is home to the Alyth Bike Club, a club for young people which runs weekly during term time. It offers a 600m flowing trail, a jump park and a pump track.<sup>27</sup>

### Alyth and Strathmore Golf Clubs

The Alyth Golf Club was established in 1894. It has both an 18-hole course and a 9-hole course. Likewise, Strathmore Golf Centre also offers an 18 and 9 hole course. There is also a 10 bay covered golf driving range and the club offers tuition to both adults and juniors.

### Alyth Bowling and Tennis Club

This is a community lawn bowls club, facilities are available for use by the local community. There is a bowling green and tennis courts available. The club also allows its hall to be hired out to community groups.

### Playparks

Alyth has a few different playparks:

- Mill Street Park – Situated close to the town square, this playpark is primarily aimed at smaller children.
- Diamond Jubilee Park – The park is popular with older children and young teenagers.
- Den o' Alyth Park – Situated near the entrance to Alyth Den, this park is unique from the others in that it has a zipwire.
- New Alyth Park – a small playpark situated in New Alyth.

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<sup>27</sup> "Trails." [n.d.]. *Alythbikepark.Co.Uk* <<https://www.alythbikepark.co.uk/trails>> [accessed 5 November 2021]

Due to their proximity to the town centre, Diamond Jubilee Park and Mill Street Park are the most utilised playparks in Alyth. Several young people and their parents have asserted that the facilities and play equipment in the parks needs to be updated. The playparks in Alyth do not have wheelchair accessible equipment.

## **Heritage**

### **Brief History of Alyth**

The first mention of Alyth by name came in the 12<sup>th</sup> century in a Royal Charter of William the Lion. In 1488, the town became a 'Burgh of Barony'. This status was granted in a royal charter of James III of Scotland. This entitled Alyth to host markets and fairs. Alyth was a market town for hundreds of years. The Packhorse Bridge was said to have been built in the 1500s and has appeared on maps since the 1600s.<sup>28</sup>

In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, Scotland was in the midst of civil and religious conflict. On 28<sup>th</sup> August 1651, Alyth was the site of an incident which is known as the 'Onfall of Alyth.' Many prominent people (including the commander of the Scottish forces and other nobles) were attempting to organise resistance to the invasion by English forces. They were betrayed and ultimately sent to the Tower of London. This led to the temporary dissolution of the Scottish Government.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>"Scotland's Oldest Bridges."

[n.d.]. *Scotlandsoldestbridges.Co.Uk* <<https://scotlandsoldestbridges.co.uk/one.html>> [accessed 10 November 2021]

<sup>29</sup> "1st MARQUIS OF MONTROSE SOCIETY Newsletter." 2010. *Society AGM* <<http://montrose-society.ndo.co.uk/pdf/Newsletter%20June%202010.pdf>> [accessed 10 November 2021] p.2

In 1861, the Alyth Railway Station opened.

During the Second World War, the Balhary Estate was a prisoner-of-war camp for Italian PoWs who worked on local farms.<sup>30</sup>

Alyth was the hometown of Professor James Hutchison who was instrumental in the development of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in 1980. Alyth was also home to inventor James Sandy, who invented the Invisible Hinge. He lived in what is now the Alyth Hotel.<sup>31</sup>

### **The Alyth Museum**

This museum is run by Perth Museum and is one of only two museums in Perth & Kinross which are located outside of Perth. The museum is open May-September. The exhibits displayed in the museum detail how life in Alyth was and is now. The Museum is now home to the Story Box Archive, an oral history project. Accessing these, you can hear stories of Alyth as told by the people who live here.

### **The CATERAN Ecomuseum**

Alyth is also part of the CATERAN Ecomuseum which was launched in 2019. This is a museum without walls and is the only ecomuseum on Scotland's mainland. All of the ecomuseum's current sites are located outdoors. The CATERAN Ecomuseum holds the ideology that heritage should be told by the community who live there. Currently, the ecomuseum has had around 20-30 contributions from the community. Currently, the ecomuseum is

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<sup>30</sup> "Buildings Prisoner-of-War Camp Balhary - Alyth - TracesOfWar.Com." [n.d.]. *Tracesofwar.Com* <<https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/26073/Buildings-Prisoner-of-War-Camp-Balhary.htm>> [accessed 10 November 2021]

<sup>31</sup> "James Sandy." 2021. *CATERAN Ecomuseum* <<https://cateranecomuseum.co.uk/site/home-of-the-inventor-james-sandy/>> [accessed 10 November 2021]

displaying the 'Turning Points' exhibition in Alyth. A timeline which details 20,000 years of change in the local area.

### **Alyth Family History Project**

Since 2009, the Alyth Parish Church has orchestrated the Alyth Family History Project. This is a digital archive which is useful for genealogy research and viewing memorabilia of Alyth through the decades. Photos date back to as early as 1850 and parish records date back to 1623.<sup>32</sup>

## **Local Environment**<sup>33</sup>

### **Den O'Alyth**

Designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, the Den is a two-mile long wooded gorge lying on either side of the Alyth Burn. It is important for its upland mixed ash woodland.

There is a number of abandoned quarries which in earlier years would have provided the stone for buildings in the town. The Den was gifted to the town by the Earl of Airlie in 1923 and is now a popular destination for walkers, cyclists and naturalists.

### **Alyth Hill**

This Alyth Hill is managed by Forestry Scotland. The Alyth Hill Users Group represents the community's interests. The Community Woodland is located on the hill. The woodland

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<sup>32</sup> The Church of Scotland. 2015. "Alyth Family History Project," *Alyth Parish Church* <[http://www.alythparishchurch.org.uk/html/family\\_history.html](http://www.alythparishchurch.org.uk/html/family_history.html)> [accessed 10 November 2021]

<sup>33</sup> [First two subsections edited from Alyth Wikipedia] "Alyth," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* <<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alyth&oldid=1055620542>> [accessed 30 October 2021]

contains picnic tables, walking paths, an orchard and a pond.<sup>34</sup> It is also a surviving commonity, which means that the land is not owned by anyone and can be used by everyone. It has never been divided by judicial process.<sup>35</sup>

### **The CATERAN Trail**

Alyth is situated on the CATERAN Trail, a fully way-marked 64-mile route through Perthshire and the Angus glens. Routes pass through Alyth in both Stage 4 and Stage 5 of the Trail. Walkers and cyclists travelling on these routes can take in the scenic views through the hills of Alyth and panoramic views from the top of Alyth Hill.<sup>36</sup>

### **Alyth Burn**

The Alyth Burn bisects the town and is crossed by two road bridges and four footbridges, including the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Packhorse Bridge.<sup>37</sup> The picturesque burn is well loved by the Alyth community. Since the Burn flooded in 2015, knocking out one of the footbridges and damaging homes and businesses, it has been a running concern that such an event will happen again. There have been various flood teams over the years. The most recent team formed in November 2021 following a minor flood event.

### **Alyth in Bloom**

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<sup>34</sup> "Alyth Community Woodland." 2014. *Froglife* <<https://www.froglife.org/dragonfinder/scotland/practical-conservation/2014-sites/alyth-community-woodland/>> [accessed 12 November 2021]

<sup>35</sup> Cooper, Clare. 2019. "Hill of Alyth - CATERAN Ecomuseum," *CATERANecomuseum.Co.Uk* (CATERAN Ecomuseum) <<https://cateranecomuseum.co.uk/site/hill-of-alyth/>> [accessed 6 December 2021]

<sup>36</sup> "The CATERAN Trail." 2021. *Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust* <<https://www.pkct.org/cateran-trail>> [accessed 12 November 2021]

<sup>37</sup> "Alyth," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia* <<https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Alyth&oldid=1055620542>> [accessed 30 October 2021]

Alyth in Bloom have carried out a significant amount of work in the town. Formed in 2000, the group has improved the appearance of the town by creating flower beds and installing hanging baskets. In 2021, Alyth in Bloom opened a Community Garden and completed the burnside regeneration.

## **Traffic and Transport**

### **Roads and Parking**

The main car-park in Alyth is on Market Square. This includes disabled parking spaces and electric car charging bays. There is also a small car park at the Den O' Alyth. Many residents also park on the streets outside of their homes. Many have voiced that there is a need for more and/or improved parking in Alyth.

Due to being an ancient market town, many of the roads are quite narrow. This combined with street parking has increased difficulties for drivers. The community has highlighted the bottom of Toutie Street as a particular cause for concern. Some have floated the idea that Alyth should be a one-way system.

### **Bus**

Stagecoach operate hourly buses (Monday-Saturday) to both Dundee and Perth. This also connects to other outlying towns – such as Blairgowrie – as part of the route. On Sunday, this service is significantly reduced. Return buses from Dundee and Perth have a final service at 10:20pm and 10:43pm respectively. This means that if travelling by bus to do an

activity in the evening (e.g. theatre show, clubs, etc), they would have to book a hotel and return the next day or book a taxi.

JP Coaches run a service during the daytime to and from Kirriemuir. The final service to Kirriemuir is at 6:03pm. The final bus to Alyth is at 6:25pm.

A number of members of the community would like to see improved public transport, particularly concerning service frequency. Some would also like to see greater connectivity to other towns with services starting to run to Dunkeld and/or Forfar. Many also noted that it would be beneficial to introduce buses which have the capacity to carry bikes in order to encourage more active travel in the area.

### **Rail**

There is no rail service in Alyth. Residents have to travel to Perth or Dundee to catch the train.

### **Taxis**

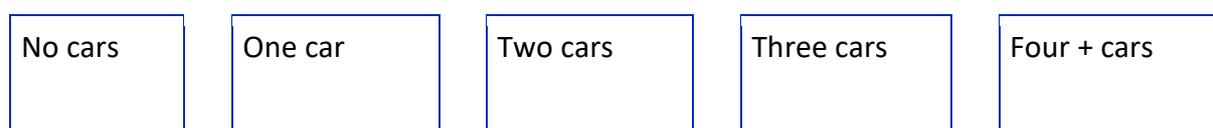
There is a private taxi service in Alyth, Zak's Taxis. This is booking only.

### **Community Transport**

There is currently no community transport.

### **Car Ownership**

Below details the number of cars and vans owned per household as per the 2011 census.<sup>38</sup>



<sup>38</sup> [OCSI], and [HACT]. 2021. *Community Insight Profile for 'CAP Alyth' Area*, p.41

295	630	385	65	40
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How these statistics have changed will be re-evaluated following the 2022 census.

### **Police, Resilience and Emergency Services**

#### **Community Police Officer**

Alyth does not have a police station, the closest is situated in Blairgowrie. However, Alyth does have a Community Police Officer, Constable Gavin Munro. He is part of a newly formed pro-active community team and is responsible for both Alyth and Meigle.

The Community Police Officer is a point of contact in the community. Prior to lockdown, Munro's predecessor used to conduct 'Coffee with a Cop' sessions in the Café in the Square. Residents would be able to have their concerns addressed during these sessions.

#### **Ambulance**

The closest ambulance depot to Alyth is situated at Blairgowrie Community Hospital. However, this serves many rural areas. As such, ambulances sometimes have to travel from as far away as Perth or Dundee. As a result of this, it has been suggested that Alyth could benefit from a volunteer first-response team.

## **Volunteer Firefighters**

The Alyth Fire Station has been in use since 1971. Ownership was transferred to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in 2013.<sup>39</sup> There is not an official fire service, however there is a volunteer fire team as part of the Retained Duty System. This is headed by Graham Davidson.

## **Volunteer Flood Team**

Alyth also has a volunteer flood-response team as part of its resilience plan. This is a collaborative initiative between the Alyth Development Trust and Alyth Community Support Group. The team is lead by Grant Train and they are the first responders to any flood events.

## **Food For Thought**

“Food for Thought is a foodbank and community support hub providing support to low-income households in Alyth and New Alyth, as well as supporting economic and emergency resilience for the wider community.”<sup>40</sup> Food For Thought is also aiming to reduce food wastage. All members of the community can use Food For Thought on a ‘take what you

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<sup>39</sup> “Fire Station Details.”

[n.d.]. <[http://www.firestations.org.uk/Station\\_Details.php?stn=Alyth%20fire%20station&lat=56.619465&lon=-3.226902](http://www.firestations.org.uk/Station_Details.php?stn=Alyth%20fire%20station&lat=56.619465&lon=-3.226902)> [accessed 14 November 2021]

<sup>40</sup> “Food for Thought Donations.” [n.d.]. *Love Alyth* <<https://lovealyth.org.uk/food-for-thought-donations/>> [accessed 13 December 2021]

need, pay what you can' basis. These donations are then used to give more targeted help to those who need it.

**Alyth Ladies Wellbeing Group**

A mental health and wellbeing group, providing support and help to women in the Alyth community and surrounding areas.