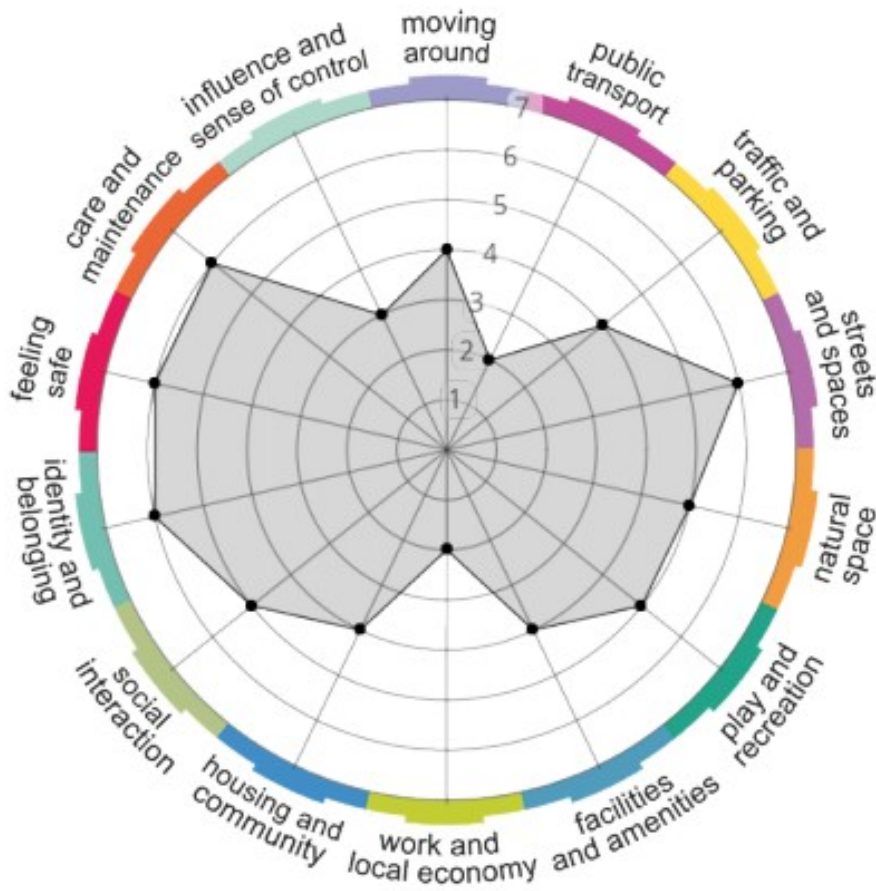


**PLACE STANDARD - RESULTS**  
**DATE: 11TH JUN 2018**

Assessment Area: Tarves

Date of first Assessment: 1st Jun 2017 – date of finalisation 11th June 2018



# Tarves

In the Heart of Aberdeenshire

## **I. MOVING AROUND**

**Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?**

**RATING: 4**

Comment:

1. Maintenance and designation of useable paths remain a concern.
2. All core paths require to be fully designated, so that they will have the needed protection.
3. There is a need for more safe connections, such as to Haddo Country Park and to both the Prop of and settlement at North / South Ythsie.
4. Paths should be good for both walking and cycling to take advantage of Tarves' location on the national cycle trail.

## **2. PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

**Does public transport meet my needs?**

**RATING: 2**

Comment:

1. Concern was raised that the public transport service only goes North & South, not cross country to Ellon, Oldmeldrum and Inverurie.
2. The community need reliable public transport for work and economy and to reduce social isolation.
3. Young people have to rely on their parents / or other locals to drive them to activities e.g. at school and extramural activities at Oldmeldrum or sports at Ellon, Oldmeldrum or Inverurie, as there is no suitable bus service.

## **3. TRAFFIC AND PARKING**

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

**RATING: 4**

Comment:

1. Getting the right mix to meet accessibility needs of pedestrians, businesses and car users within the village and surrounding district.
2. Speeding is a concern like all rural villages.
3. The need is for lower safer speeds.
4. Traffic flow on Duthie Road is restricted at the recently built new houses where there is insufficient parking space for vehicles available within the curtilage of the individual homes.

## **4. STREETS AND SPACES**

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

**RATING: 6**

Comment:

1. There is a need for the local Authority to co-ordinate its services and plans such that there is appropriate implementation of the Conservation Area Guidance both during and post planning application; including the enforcement of Building Maintenance by all property owners to ensure all actions within the Conservation Area meet the requirements of the Guidance.
2. Dog fouling continues to be of concern both on the streets and in public spaces.

## **5. NATURAL SPACE**

**Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?**

**RATING: 5**

Comment:

1. There are excellent natural spaces at Haddo and paths to Pitmedden but there is a need to protect existing facilities and create better access.
2. There is a need to support the Voluntary work of the Amenities group within the village, and its approaches & the new Community Orchard.

## **6. PLAY AND RECREATION**

**Do I have access to a range of spaces and opportunities for play and recreation?**

**RATING: 5**

Comment:

1. The regeneration of Haddo Country Park is underway. Safer walking/cycling access required.
2. Tarves/Haddo Bike Scheme Initiative launched in 2017.
3. Repair works to MUGA are still ongoing and there is a need to complete.
4. The need for play opportunities in the centre of new housing areas where there are more children was identified.
5. The designation of the play area at Duthie-Webster Road is required.
6. The need for accessible 'useable' public open space in both new and established developments was a community concern. Lighting required to allow winter evening access.

## **7. FACILITIES AND AMENITIES**

**Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?**

**RATING: 4**

Comment:

1. There is a need to improve capacity of Halls to meet the needs of new housing and expectations of new residents for their continuing use. E.g. improvements to Youth Hall and Melvin Hall to provide additional capacity for the changing demographic of the area.
2. There is a need for Park & local amenities improvements i.e. public toilet, increased use of MUGA, adult exercise equipment.
3. The community identified a need for easier access to local GP and other health services. The response was that the access need was physical as well as speed and quality of service, and availability of appointments

## **8. WORK AND LOCAL ECONOMY**

**Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work?**

**RATING: 2**

Comment:

1. Faster broadband is needed with Fibre FTTP to rural homes and businesses. Whilst FTTC has been provided to the village in some instances the reliability & speed achieved does not meet the government minimum standard.

2. There is a need for local employment opportunities for those without vehicles and the provision of good reliable public transport to access employment in Aberdeen, Ellon and Inverurie.
3. There is a need to create a sustainable local economy and therefore to attract start-up businesses to reduce commuting and allow local employment development.
4. There is a pressing need for better access to childcare for those who work; or are returning to work. The need is to create opportunities for local childcare facilities (both after school and for younger children).

## **9. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY**

**Does housing support the needs of the community and contribute to a positive environment?**

**RATING: 4**

**Comment:**

1. More affordable housing was the theme, with the need for not just Council or Housing Association to deliver the facilities. There needs to be better delivery mechanisms for delivering affordable and social housing. A local allocation policy to meet locals' needs was mentioned.
2. The requirement for any developments to be sympathetic to the village and integrated into neighbourhoods.
3. The need for reducing isolation for older people and improved connections and space for the young; e.g. support to develop the HUT project.
4. The need for 'social space' to allow for commuters and other new residents to be involved in their new community.

## **10. SOCIAL INTERACTION**

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

**RATING: 5**

**Comment:**

1. Extend range of activities and effective ways to promote 'What's On' / what is available.
2. The Community Hub's café, which opened in 2017, is popular with both locals and visitors. A greater sense of community ownership is being promoted.
3. An excellent bowling green with an active social committee is extremely welcoming.
4. Whilst a variety of groups and activities for all age groups are available in the village, there is concern that there needs to be an increased range of venues and activities to create the social space needed. This will be essential if further new housing is developed. For example new areas/venues will be required for community garden, men's shed, reuse centre, after school club etc.,
5. The Aberdeen Arms has a welcoming bar with pool and darts facilities, a lounge / restaurant and a function room.

6. Tarves Football Club has an active supporters club; their pitch is located at the edge of the village. Supporters are always welcome.

## **11. IDENTITY AND BELONGING**

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

**RATING: 6**

Comments:

1. The area has a strong identity, with support for the development of the Heritage Centre Museum and School Room and other locations e.g. Prop of Ythsie, which define Tarves and district.
2. Civic pride in Christmas Decorations, Fireworks Display and the floral amenities continues to be supported and nurtured. This needs to be extended to the areas and residents of any new housing.

## **12. FEELING SAFE**

**Do I feel safe?**

**RATING: 6**

Comments:

1. The village and surrounding areas are considered to be a safe place to live.
2. The village-based youth project "The HUT" requires continued support and development.

## **13. CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

**Are buildings and spaces well cared for?**

**RATING: 6**

Comments:

1. The overall feel is that, with one exception, it is excellent just now, but with concern for the future, primarily of open spaces and the road network. There was a request that the Council in future fully maintain the public open spaces to a higher standard, as there will be more demands on the play areas e.g. the football pitch in Braiklay Ave Park and gateway sites to the village.
2. The integration of the OPI development of 113 houses is of concern as the proposed look, feel and design of the development does not fit with our Conservation Village image and may "spoil the village".
3. Concern for the future of the Conservation Area due to lack of enforcement.

## **I 4. INFLUENCE AND SENSE OF CONTROL**

**Do I feel able to participate in decisions and help change things for the better?**

**RATING: 3**

### **Comment:**

1. Tarves has an active Community Council, Development Trust and Amenities Group all of whom welcome resident participation and are open to new proposals.
2. Concern that Aberdeenshire Council on occasions fail to take proper cognisance of the Local Community's view.
3. All local groups are organised by local committees and welcome new members.

## **PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**

**What are the main issues and priorities for change that you have identified?**

### **Comment:**

- Work and local economy
- Facilities and amenities
- Moving Around
- Public Transport
- Traffic & Parking
- Housing
- Play and Recreation
- Influence and Sense of Control

# **PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**

## **What actions could be taken to address these?**

### **Comment:**

#### **Work & local economy**

- Upgrade broadband coverage to rural homes & businesses
- Investigate improved local employment opportunities
- Investigate increased child care provision pre & after school

#### **Facilities & amenities**

- Community Hub / Café – secure funding for community ownership
- Youth Hall – upgrade and increase facilities
- Melvin Hall – increase capacity – create storage outwith building for community assets and modify cleared space
- The Hut – renovated with cladding, increase opening hours
- Retain and maintain public toilets

#### **Moving Around**

- Improve signage and awareness of paths and routes around Tarves
- Safe cycling and walking route to Haddo to be established via Tree Road
- Safe cycling and walking route to be established to Prop of Ythsie

#### **Public Transport**

- Inverurie/Ellon to tie in with the Methlick/Aberdeen link.
- Investigate additional/new evening & weekend services

#### **Traffic and parking**

- Reduce speeding, inconsiderate parking
- Improved pedestrian crossing
- Additional in-curtilage parking spaces to be provided in all new homes

#### **Housing and community**

- More affordable housing for purchase and rental
- Investigate the establishment of a local allocations policy

#### **Play & Recreation**

- Improve all weather courts and expand/share for other activities
- Add/improve/modernise playparks – outdoor gym

#### **Influence & Sense of Control**

- Encourage new residents to participate in Community Bodies
- Create a Community Action Plan resulting from community consultation (underway)
- Aberdeenshire Council to provide support to local initiatives such as the TBC Newsletter and promote efforts of community empowerment
- Local Councillors to ensure Council Officials take proper cognisance of local views when making decisions/recommendations

#### **Streets and Spaces**

- Council to improve street furniture maintenance
- Install dog poo bag dispensers
- Improve enforcement

#### **Natural Space**



- Expand the Community Orchard
- Improve links to Haddo Country Park
- Seek additional Volunteers for the Amenities Group
- Create Community Amenities Support Base
- Duthie Webster Road Play Area to be designated by Aberdeenshire Council as a Play Park

#### **Facilities**

- Lighting Poles in new areas to include provision for Christmas Lights / Floral Amenities
- Investigate the expansion of “Dial a Bus” from Ellon to enable access to health services
- **Social Interaction**
- Promote the TBC and webpages as a source of information on local activities
- New housing to contribute to the cost of expanding/improving the capacity/facilities within the villages’ halls to provide social space for the village's new residents.
- Reduce social isolation of ALL community residents, young mothers, youth, the elderly etc.,

#### **Care and Maintenance**

- Aberdeenshire Council to improve the maintenance of public open spaces e.g. Braiklay Ave Football Park, village gateways.