



HONOURING THE GURKHA LEGACY

The community gathered at Portgordon Harbour to unveil the refurbished Gurkha Plaque, honoring the 69 Gurkha Independent Field Squadron's work from 1985-1987 during "Operation Famous Grouse." Crown Estate Scotland restored the plaque, erected by Moray Blast, commemorating the Gurkhas' harbour repairs.

Lord Lieutenant Andrew Simpson, Hon Lt Menbahadur Gurung, and local leaders attended. Professor Peter Reid shared stories about the Gurkhas' impact. The event celebrated their lasting legacy and preserved an important part of Portgordon's history.

KEIRANS LEGACY DEFIBRILLATOR

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Kenny Gunn and The Portgordon Fireworks group for their incredibly generous donation to replace the defibrillator box at the Village Hall. Your support not only ensures the safety of our community but also demonstrates your commitment to saving lives. We are also deeply grateful for your consideration of funding future training, which will empower more people in the village with life-saving skills. Your kindness and dedication to our village are truly appreciated. Thank you for making a lasting difference in our community!

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY

November

- 9th - Children's Craft Club
- 10th - Remembrance Sunday
- 16th - Polycrubs Clearing
- 21st - Hancock's Half Hour – The Lost TV Episodes

December

- 7th - Christmas Market
- 14th - Children's Craft Club

Portgordon weekly:

The Lampie Hoose Café

- Monday, Thursday & Saturday 12-3pm
- Stitchers**

- Thursdays 1-3pm, new members welcome

Gardening Group

- Daily, New members welcome
- Petanque**
- Pitch used regularly on Thursday afternoons, All welcome

Community Church

- Sunday, new members welcome

Bowling Club

- Wednesdays and Sundays 6.30pm (at Buckpool Golf Club)

- Village Hall
- Community Garden
- Richmond building



LOCAL PLACE PLAN (LPP) UPDATE

Portgordon is moving closer to creating its Local Place Plan (LPP), and we're thrilled to share the success of our recent community consultation! Nearly 100 local residents participated in the mapping activity, sharing valuable feedback and ideas about the future of our village. This input is crucial in shaping how Portgordon evolves, addressing key areas such as infrastructure, public spaces, and community well-being.

There is still time to get involved and have your say, we would love to hear it. You can find out how you can help to contribute too. (continues on page 4&5)

Portgordon folk have spoken, Have your say...

UPDATE ON PORTGORDON HARBOUR

The Portgordon Community Trust recently commissioned MKA Economics to produce a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for the future of Portgordon Harbour. This document, shaped with community input, evaluates options for the harbour's future, addressing its challenges and potential for revitalisation.

The SOC presents independent assessments of several routes, from essential maintenance to larger revitalisation projects, considering their feasibility, community benefits, and environmental and economic impacts... (continues on page 2)

Continued from page 1... **Next Steps:**

The Trust is now entering formal discussions with key stakeholders, including Crown Estate Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and Moray Council. These discussions aim to align on a realistic, sustainable path forward for the harbour's future.

How You Can Stay Involved:

As discussions progress, the community's voice will play a vital role. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to provide input on the next phases of this important project.

To become a member and support the harbour's future, visit the Portgordon Community Trust website.



Become a member



Harbour study PDF.

VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The Portgordon Village Hall has been a hub of activity in recent months, hosting a variety of events and welcoming an increasing number of private hires. These bookings play a crucial role in keeping the hall operational, ensuring the doors remain open and the lights stay on for the community.

NEAT (North East Arts Touring) events, including performances by Fifi Le Mer and the Four Magicians, have drawn enthusiastic crowds, with future events to be widely advertised on social media and other platforms.

Community gatherings have also seen great success, with the May coffee morning featuring well-received bacon and maple syrup pancakes, and even attracting some canine visitors. The June craft fayre showcased a range of interesting items, with plans for another in December. As the hall continues to serve the community, users are kindly reminded that the car park is private and reserved for event attendees. The Village Hall committee extends its gratitude to all who support and utilise this valuable community asset.

Cost for Hall Hire:

Small hall - £10 per hour

Large hall - £15 per hour

Block bookings to be negotiated

All day hire, maximum of 8 hours £100 for use of both halls. Contact Denise at: denise.robson@portgordon-ct.org



CELEBRATING OUR PCT VOLUNTEERS

We at the Portgordon Community Trust Ltd (PCT) want to extend our deepest appreciation to the numerous volunteers who tirelessly contribute to making Portgordon a better place. We recognise that the spirit of volunteerism is the driving force behind positive change in our community.

No matter where or for what cause you give your time - we want you to know that your generosity drives positive change. This sentiment underscores the value we place on every minute donated by volunteers across various initiatives throughout Portgordon.

We especially want to highlight the dedication of our PCT volunteers who consistently step up to help, keeping Portgordon close to their hearts. Your unwavering commitment and readiness to lend a hand have not gone unnoticed. "We thoroughly enjoyed spending time with each of you today," we'd like to add, emphasising the personal connections forged through volunteer work.

This message serves as a reminder that every act of volunteerism, no matter how small it may seem, contributes significantly to the fabric of our community. It's your collective effort that helps shape Portgordon into a vibrant and caring place to live.

If you would like to join our great team just pop into the Lampie Hoose Cafe to find out how.



SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Thank you all for your positive comments on our lovely school regeneration which is now complete.

We would like to welcome our new shared head teacher Mrs Hay who very much looks forward to working with the staff/children and community of Portgordon. The parent council hope to run some after school sports/garden gang and Lego activities for the children and would very much appreciate any support that the community can provide. Feel free to contact us on:

portgordonparentcouncilchair@outlook.com

People make Portgordon

BOWLING CLUB UPDATE

The bowling club can now play throughout the winter months thanks to indoor carpet bowls at Buckpool Golf Club.

All members (and non-members) interested in playing during the winter are invited to attend Buckpool Golf Club to continue the fun.

This is a fabulous opportunity for the club and its members and we thank our Debs for organising it.

Indoor Carpet Bowls

Is running on Wednesday & Sunday nights at 6:30pm, starting from Sunday 13th October.

£20 fee for the season, & £2 per night.

All welcome!

LAMPIE HOOSE CAFE

In the heart of our community, the Lampie Hoose cafe stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when neighbours come together with a common purpose. This charming establishment is more than just a place to grab a cup of coffee; it's a testament to the power of volunteerism and community-driven initiatives.

The Lampie Hoose's mission is simple yet profound: to provide an affordable gathering space where locals can mix, mingle, and forge connections. What sets this cafe apart is its unique operational

model - it is 100% volunteer-operated, with every smiling face behind the counter donating their time and energy to keep this community hub thriving.

But the commitment to community doesn't stop there. In a remarkable display of dedication to its mission, every penny earned at the Lampie Hoose is reinvested directly back into the cafe's operations. This means that when you enjoy a reasonably priced meal or beverage, you're not just satisfying your appetite - you're actively contributing to keeping the lights on and the doors open for everyone in our community.

The Lampie Hoose isn't just serving food and drinks; it's serving up a slice of community spirit with every order. It's a place where affordability meets quality, where neighbours become friends, and where the warmth extends far beyond the steam rising from your cup.

As we celebrate this gem in our midst, let's remember that its continued success depends on our support. Whether you stop by for a quick coffee, linger over lunch with friends, or consider joining the ranks of dedicated volunteers, every contribution helps to keep this vital community space alive and thriving.

The Lampie Hoose cafe is more than just a local eatery - it's a beacon of what's possible when a community comes together. So why not stop by today? Your visit does more than just satisfy your cravings; it helps sustain a place where everyone is welcome.

COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

As harvest time draws to a close at the Portgordon Community Garden, there are still some late-season treasures waiting to be gathered. Inside the crubs, you'll find green tomatoes, chillies, and a handful of peppers and spring onions. Why not take advantage of the remaining green tomatoes to make a delicious chutney or jam? If you prefer your tomatoes ripened, simply leave them on a windowsill alongside a few bananas—the ethylene from the bananas will help speed up the ripening process in no time. The same trick works for green chillies and peppers, both of which are edible at any stage of their growth, whether green or fully ripened in color.

Out in the tattie patch, beautiful carrots are ready for digging up—see if you can find the largest one! In the brassica tent, cabbages are available for harvesting; remember to take the whole plant and add the outer leaves and root to the compost heap. There's also plenty of curly kale ready for soup-making weather!

All produce is offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't miss out—grab a basket and visit the garden today. Look for the green flags, which signal which crops are ready to be harvested. As always, we welcome any donations, which help keep our community garden thriving.

As we wrap up this season at Portgordon



Community Garden, we're already planning for the next—and we need your help! On 16 November we're organising a post-harvest clean-up and seaweed collection to enrich the soil for next year. Volunteers are essential for these tasks, and we're calling on the community to lend a hand. Stay tuned for announcements on the Trust's Facebook page for the exact time closer to the date. Looking ahead to the next season, we're eager for new volunteers to bring fresh ideas and energy to the garden. Whether you have suggestions for new vegetables to grow or simply want to help with planting, watering, or general care, your involvement would be invaluable. Even a few hours of your time can make a big difference.

Volunteering at the garden is not only a great way to contribute to the community but also a chance to learn new skills and connect with others who love gardening. Let's work together to create an even more vibrant and bountiful garden next season!

BUILDING OUR LOCAL PLACE PLAN

...Continued from page 1

Your Feedback Matter!

As we enter the next stage, we need your continued involvement. The next key step is to complete the Place Standards Tool online, where you can provide more detailed input on various aspects of Portgordon's development. Your feedback will directly influence the priorities in our Local Place Plan, ensuring that the community's voice is heard and respected.

How to Participate:

- Complete the Place Standards Tool online: The online tool allows you to share your thoughts and ideas in greater depth. It's a simple, user-friendly platform that gives you a chance to influence the future of Portgordon.
- Not comfortable online? No problem! For those who prefer a more traditional approach, we've enclosed a paper form with this newsletter. Just fill it out and return it to the drop-off point listed. Every voice counts, whether online or on paper!

Have More to Share?

The online tool also provides opportunities for more in-depth feedback. If you have detailed ideas or suggestions, you can share them as part of this process.

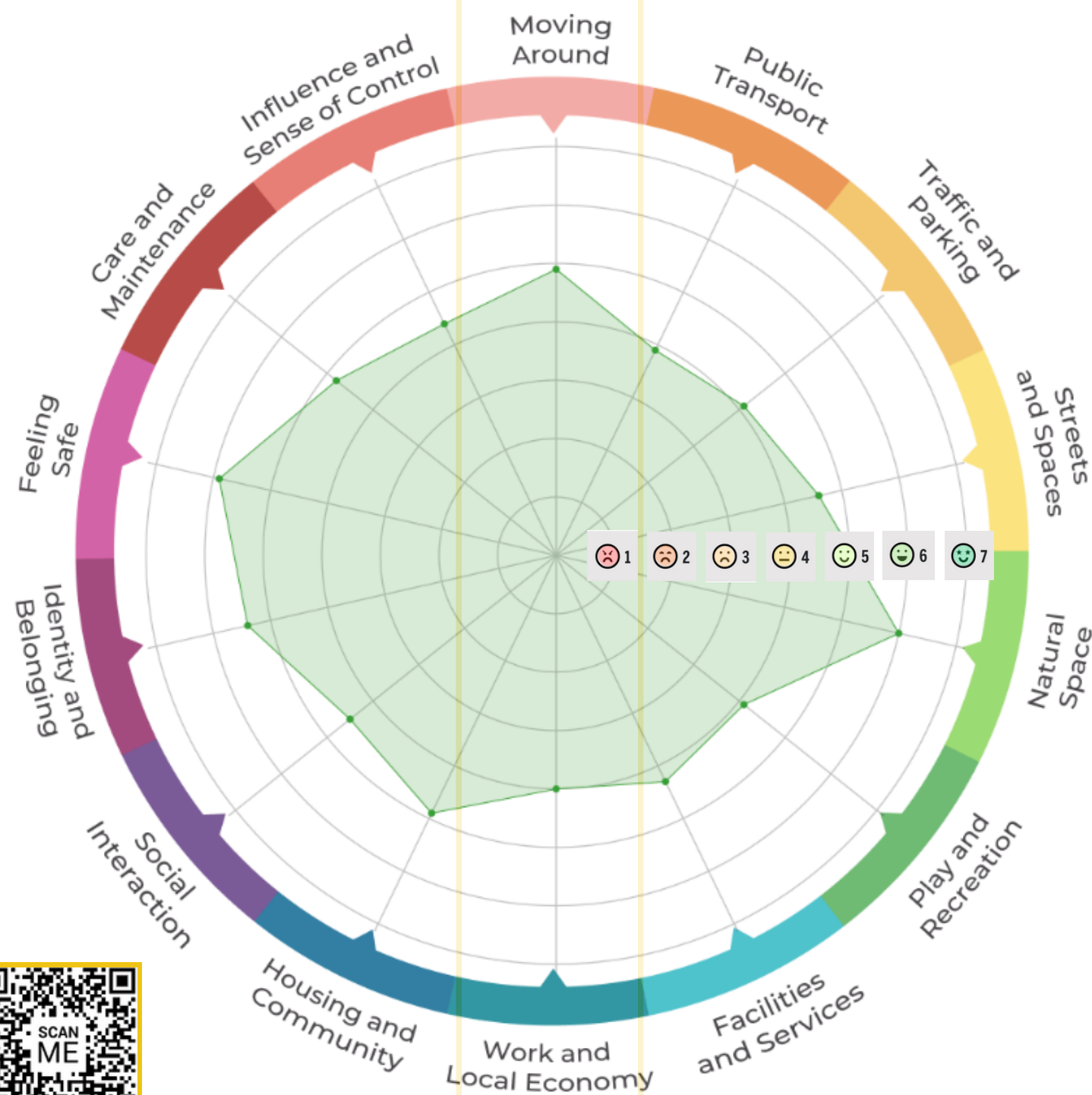
Place Standard
Tool Online



Why Your Participation is Important?

Your involvement in this process is key to making sure our Local Place Plan reflects the real needs and aspirations of Portgordon's residents.

The colourful **spider diagram below** is the view of how our Place Standard ...



A WHEELIE CLEAN SQUARE

A huge thank you goes out to Steve from Moray Roof and Driveway Kleen who has demonstrated his commitment to Portgordon community efforts by offering to clean the area around the War Memorial.

If you are also in need of Steve's services you can reach him on Facebook or give him a call on: 01542 832283

His efforts will significantly enhance the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony on November 10th at 10:45 AM. Community members are invited to gather at the newly refreshed memorial site to pay their respects, with refreshments to be served afterwards at the village hall.

