

**FALLIN**

**LOCAL PLACE PLAN**

**2025 - 2035**

DRAFT

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This Local Place Plan is for Fallin, the area shown on the map below.

It was created by Polmaise Community Council and Fallin Community Voice, with help from local people. It shows what the community wants Fallin to look like in the future and will help guide decisions about how the village grows and changes.

The plan is based on nearly five years of listening to local people. It shares a vision for making Fallin a better, greener, and more welcoming place.

Fallin was once an important coal mining village during the industrial revolution. This plan honours that history while also looking ahead—showing how we can protect nature, tackle climate change, and deal with rising costs like food and energy.

The first part of the plan talks about Fallin's past and present. The second part (from page 19) sets out our goals for the future and what needs to happen to get there.

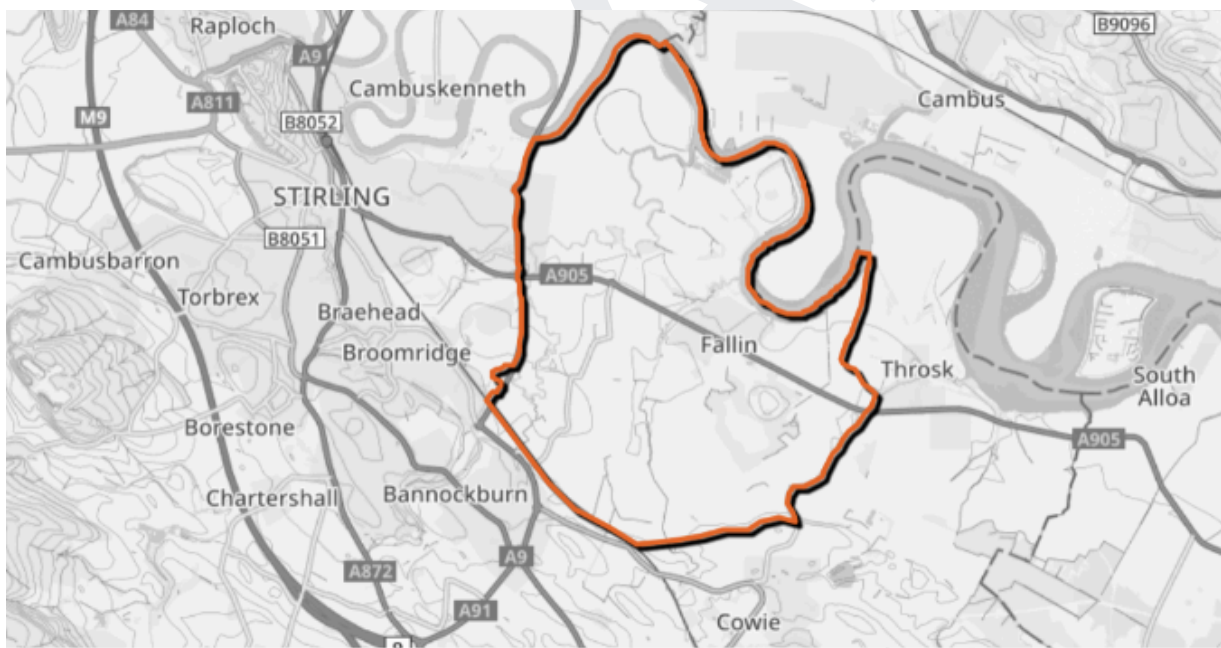


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## 2. WHAT OUR LOCAL PLACE PLAN IS

Our Local Place Plan (LPP) shares the hopes and ideas of people in Fallin for how we want our village to grow and improve. It helps give the community a stronger voice in shaping the place where we live, work, and play.



*Fallin's open air miners museum*

The plan was created by local groups—Polmaise Community Council and Fallin Community Voice—and follows the rules set by Scotland's planning laws. Other local organisations also support the plan. It looks at important parts of life in Fallin, like:

- Homes
- Parks and green spaces
- Transport and getting around
- Local buildings and services
- Jobs and businesses

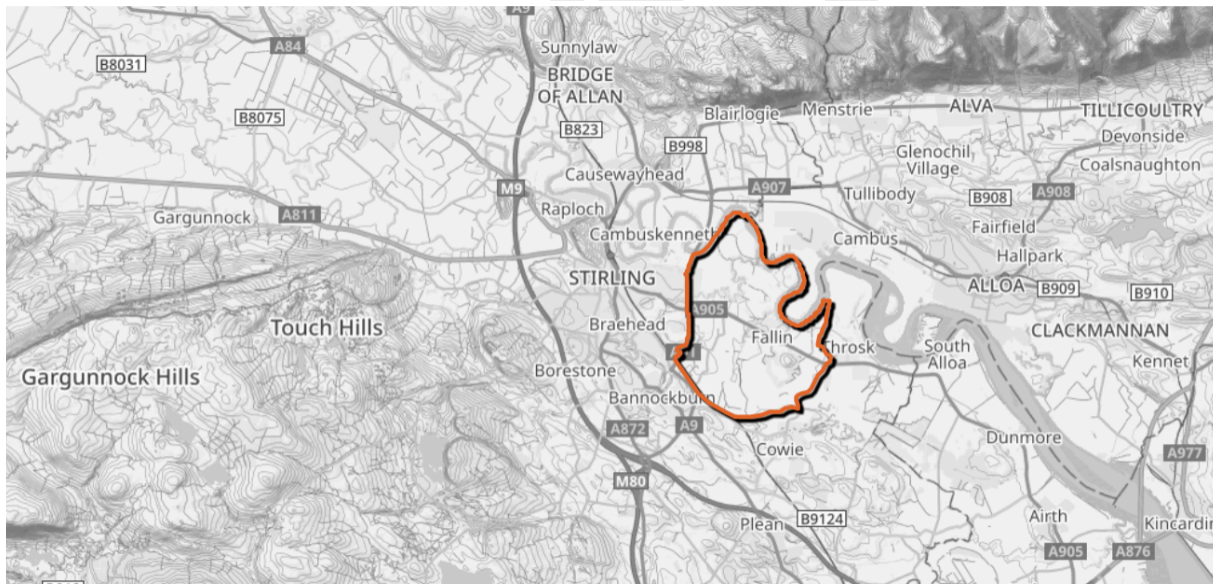
- Health and wellbeing

Once this plan is officially registered with Stirling Council, it can help guide decisions about the future of Fallin. It can also influence where money is spent and what changes happen in the village.

### 3. FALLIN'S HISTORY & PLACE IN SCOTLAND

Fallin is just 3 miles east of Stirling, near the River Forth. We're lucky to have beautiful views from Fallin Bing, looking out to the Ochil Hills, Ben Lomond, and Stirling Castle.

Fallin has a proud history as a coal mining village. Our identity was shaped by hardworking families and a strong sense of togetherness. Places like the old bing and Polmaise Colliery are reminders of this past. That community strength was shown during the miners' strikes—and again during the COVID-19 pandemic.



### 4. FALLIN TODAY

Fallin is a friendly village with a strong community spirit. People here care about each other and work together to make things better. In the last few years, local efforts have led to real improvements, and the village has even won awards!





#### **4a. Fewer Services, bigger impact**

Fallin has about 2,800 people. Many families here earn less money than the average, and more people depend on public services like buses, healthcare, and libraries. When these services are reduced or taken away, it affects us more than in other parts of Stirling.

Because many people in Fallin can't afford private options, things like cuts to buses or children's services hit us hard. Parents have fewer places to take babies, and older kids have longer journeys to school with fewer clubs and help like tutoring.

Lots of people in Fallin work in jobs like care or retail, which can't be done from home. These jobs often have long hours, less flexibility, and higher childcare costs. That means people here have less time and money than people in other areas—and fewer chances to get better jobs.

House prices in Stirling are rising fast. Many local people in Fallin can't afford to stay, especially younger people trying to rent or buy their first home. New houses in Fallin also don't have as many affordable options compared to other areas nearby.

To make things better, families need more help from the start. Early support can give kids more chances in life and help them choose to stay in Fallin when they grow up. Without enough support, some people in Fallin struggle with poor health, loneliness, or addiction. We also have a lower life expectancy than many other places.

There's no care home in Fallin, so older people have to move away when they need help. That means they're far from family and friends, and it can feel lonely.

#### **4b. Housing & land use**

Fallin needs more affordable housing—and our community agrees. Land was set aside for this at Alton Farm, but nothing has been built there yet. The landowner doesn't live in the village, and the area isn't looked after. It's now at risk of wildfires.

Other places in Fallin also need to be better maintained, like:

- Fallin Bing
- Public walkways and waterways
- Land across from Doctors Wood

The three main development sites in Fallin in recent years (see map in full plan):

1. **Alton Farm** – Still marked for new homes but undeveloped.
2. **Falcon House** – Was in the housing plan but may be removed soon.
3. **Polmaise Park** – Used to be empty land, but now it's home to Fallin's first community garden, thanks to Fallin Community Voice!

So right now, Alton Farm is the only place left in the plan where homes could still be built. But if we can't get new homes, we need other ways to help Fallin grow, like:

- Better public transport

- More public services
- Stronger support for local community projects

This is why the Local Place Plan is so important. It shows where help is needed and gives the people of Fallin a voice in shaping the future of our village.



[planning.stirling.gov.uk/datasets/local-development-plan-sites-2018-planning-open-data/explore](https://planning.stirling.gov.uk/datasets/local-development-plan-sites-2018-planning-open-data/explore)

#### 4c. Transport

Fallin's Main Street is a busy road, connecting Stirling, Falkirk and Fife. As more people use cars, traffic has grown a lot—including big trucks. This makes it noisy and unsafe.

Public transport has got worse:

- We used to have 3 buses an hour (Mon–Sat) and 1 an hour on Sundays
- Now there's no Sunday bus and only 1 an hour on weekdays, which is often late.



Safety is a big concern:

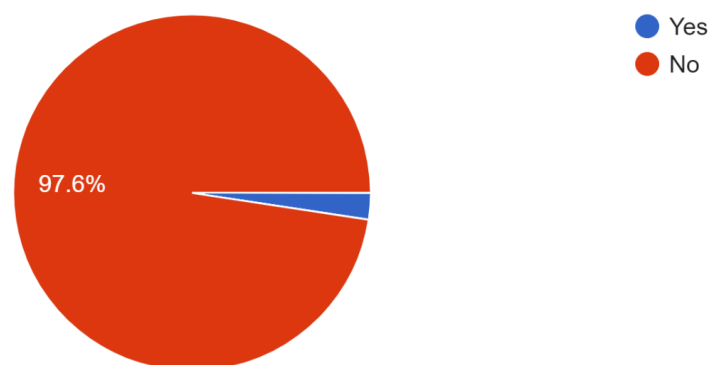
- Kids cross a fast, busy road for school, and some drivers don't stop at crossings.
- Cars park on pavements making it hard to walk safely, especially at school gates.
- There are laws to stop this, but they're not being enforced in Fallin.

Stirling Council wants “a fair and clean transport system” for everyone. But Fallin isn't seeing this yet. We need:

- More reliable buses
- Better road safety for children
- Less pavement parking
- Stronger enforcement of traffic laws

21. Overall, are you happy with the public transport service available to Fallin?

249 responses



*Figure shows public dissatisfaction with Fallin's public transport service in 2024*

#### **4d. Village Trade**

Fallin doesn't have lots of high street shops. But we have a lot of businesses without “shop fronts”. Our local businesses give lots of support to the village.

#### **4e. Community groups**

Fallin has lots of volunteers, community groups and clubs, including:

- Polmaise Community Council: an elected group of volunteers acting as primary conduit between Stirling Council and Fallin Resident.
- Fallin Community Voice: a volunteer run, member led community development charity working to improve life across the village.
- Alpha Community Centre: a volunteer group responsible for running the council-owned community centre.
- Fallin Parish Church: a local Church of Scotland congregation.
- Fallin Miners Welfare: a member led welfare and leisure group.
- Fallin Public House: a community owned pub and leisure space.
- Polmaise Bowling Club: a member led bowling green.

## **5. HOW OUR LOCAL PLACE PLAN CONNECTS TO BIGGER PLANS**

Our Local Place Plan isn't just about Fallin—it fits with plans and goals from the Scottish Government, Stirling Council, and local groups. Here's how:

### **5a. First Minister's Top Goals for Scotland**

First Minister John Swinney, who visited Fallin in 2025, has four big goals:

1. End child poverty
2. Fight climate change
3. Improve public services
4. Grow Scotland's economy

Fallin supports these goals and our community is already working together toward them.

### **5b. Scotland's National Planning Framework (NPF4)**

This is Scotland's big plan for how places should grow and change by 2045. It says new developments should:

1. Help the environment
2. Be good places to live
3. Support local jobs

It also says places should be: Healthy, Pleasant, Connected, Distinctive, Sustainable, Adaptable. Our Local Place Plan follows these ideas too.

### **5c. Stirling's Local Development Plan**

Stirling Council's plan for Fallin includes:

1. New homes, including affordable and special-needs housing
2. Better green spaces and local jobs
3. Improved transport and connections

Our Local Place Plan supports all these things.

### **5d. Fallin's Locality Action Plan**

Stirling Council also made a plan for Fallin with these goals:

1. Build community strength
2. Improve facilities and health
3. Make the village safer
4. Improve public transport
5. Tackle child poverty

Our Local Place Plan still focuses on these same priorities.

### **5e. Fallin Community Voice Strategy**

Fallin Community Voice (started in 2022) is a local charity led by villagers. Their plan includes:

1. Helping people stay healthy and connected
2. Reducing poverty and climate risks
3. Running fun events

Our Local Place Plan builds on this!

## **6. LISTENING TO FALLIN: HOW THE LOCAL PLACE PLAN WAS MADE**

In 2021, we asked people in Fallin what matters most to them. 369 adults and 122 young people answered. That's 18% of the village—a great response! In 2024, we did another survey, focusing on bus services. Over 250 people responded. Most said bus services were getting worse and needed urgent improvement

Also in 2024, we ran online and in-person events with Inner Forth Futures to ask:

- What places should we protect or improve?
- What makes Fallin special?

The top community and heritage places people care about are:

- Alpha Community Centre
- Miners' Museum & Memorial
- Fallin Church Hall
- Fallin Bing & Wester Moss Nature Reserve
- Fallin's Community Garden
- The people of Fallin themselves!

We used all this feedback—plus ideas from monthly meetings and local groups—to build our Local Place Plan, based on what really matters to the people who live here.

## **7. OUR COMMUNITY VISION**

We want Fallin to be a village that is:

- Welcoming
- Safe
- Green and sustainable
- Ready for the future

A place where:

- People feel supported



- The village's strong identity is celebrated
- Everyone has access to the services, spaces, and chances they need to do well in life

In the past, the people of Fallin helped build the modern world during the industrial revolution. Now, we believe Fallin can help lead a new green revolution—protecting our planet and each other from the effects of climate change.

**Resilience — social, economic & environmental — is at the heart of our vision for Fallin's future.**

## 8. OUR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

After 4 years of talking to local people, we've learned what matters most to our community. Here's what Fallin wants:

### A Cleaner, Safer, Stronger Village

1. Cleaner streets and parks
2. A safer place to live and walk
3. A village that can handle challenges and bounce back

### Better Transport

4. More reliable buses—especially to schools, hospitals & nearby villages
5. Safe cycling and walking paths, including off-road routes

### Spaces for Families, Youth & Seniors

6. More places to hang out, eat, play, and take part in activities

Things to do for teens and older people like:

7. Astroturf pitch
8. Skate park



## **9. PROPOSALS FOR ACTION**

### **Community Buildings**

- Fix up and reopen the Alpha Centre
- Improve Church Hall (heating, access, weatherproofing)
- Repair and maintain the Miners' Museum
- Upgrade the sports pitch and pavilion, and bring both back into use
- Make The Square a useable space for everyone
- Turn empty shops at The Square into community spaces
- Start a community café

### **Youth & Recreation**

- Build a bike track
- Install a skate park
- Explore building an astroturf pitch
- Create a Youth Action Committee to help design youth spaces and services

### **Transport & Safety**

- Improve bus services:
  - More frequent buses
  - Evening & weekend options
  - Better bus stops and shelters
- Look into starting a volunteer transport service
- Plan better traffic safety and management

### **Nature & Green Spaces**

- Clean and fix the bridge and stream at the village entrance
- Get rid of giant hogweed
- Improve Fallin Bing and other nature areas with volunteer help
- Add more bins and dog waste stations
- Start a volunteer group to tackle litter, fly-tipping, and anti-social behaviour

## **Food & Sustainability**

- Start a Community Food Resilience Project with:
- Gardens
- Food pantry
- Local farming
- Seasonal food events
- Explore community-owned energy like solar panels
- Run energy-saving workshops for homes

## **Land Use & Beautification**

- Use the Alton Farm land for something positive
- Bring empty and run-down buildings or land back into use for the community
- Create a Village Beautification Programme with:
  - Art projects
  - Flowers and planters
  - Fixing historic features

## **Bringing People Together**

- Set up a Community Events Calendar with:
  - Celebrations
  - Workshops
  - Volunteer days

## **10. MONITORING & DELIVERY**

To get things done, someone needs to be in charge of each action.

We'll need different skills and help from many people to achieve what's important to our community. We can create short-term groups to coordinate these actions. We'll need help with managing projects, getting money, finding volunteers, and working with others who are involved. The Polmaise Community Council and Fallin Community Voice can't



do everything, so we need partners.

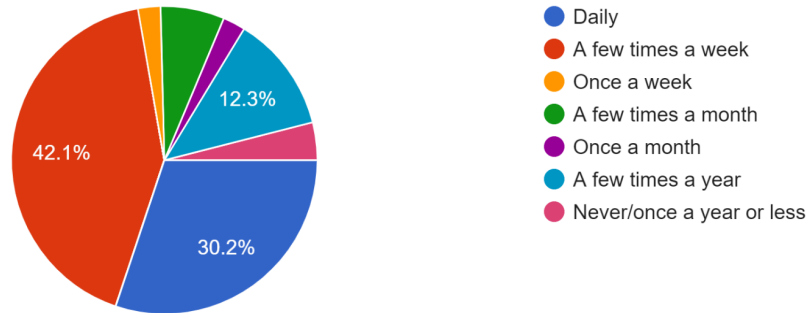
The council's job is to help our community reach its goals whenever possible. Our plans might change as we learn more and find new opportunities. Also, we can't do everything that people want ourselves, because we need help from the government and other organizations.

If you care about something in this plan, please help us make it happen! Local councilors and people from community groups like Polmaise Community Council and Fallin Community Voice will oversee this plan. We'll also welcome others who want to help. We'll share updates on our progress with the community each year and use your feedback to make the plan better.

## Annex 1 - [Fallin 2024 bus survey responses](#)

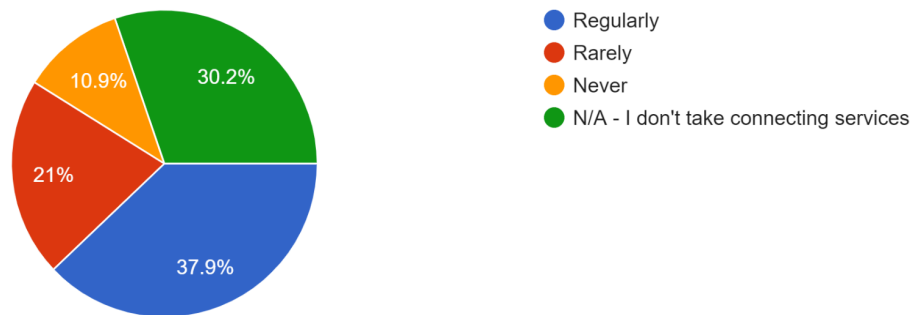
1. How often do you use Fallin's Bus Service?

252 responses



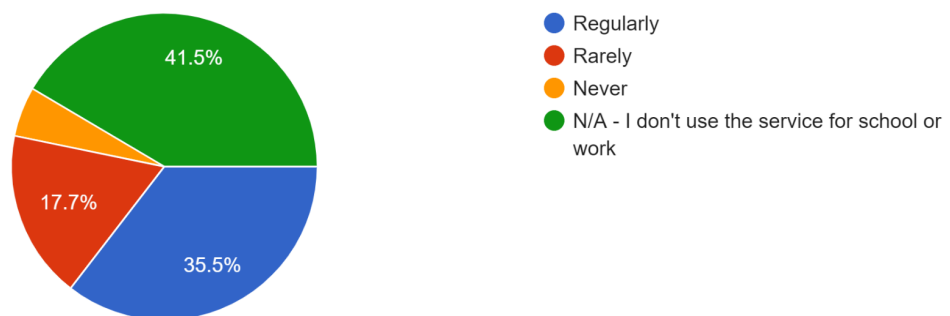
15. Do you ever miss a connecting transport service due to the F16 not showing up?

248 responses



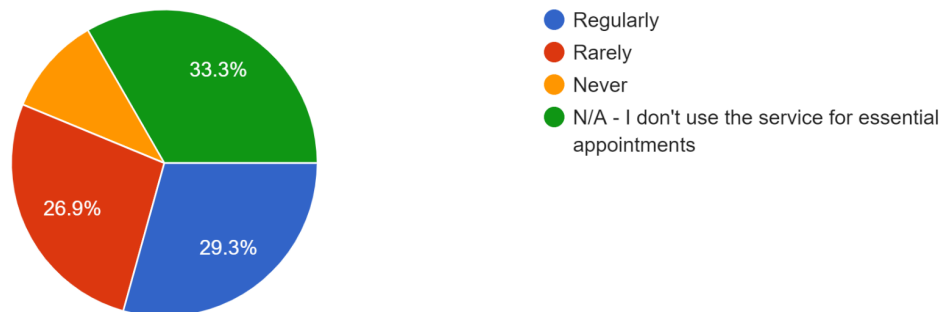
16. Are you ever late for school or work due to the F16 not showing up?

248 responses



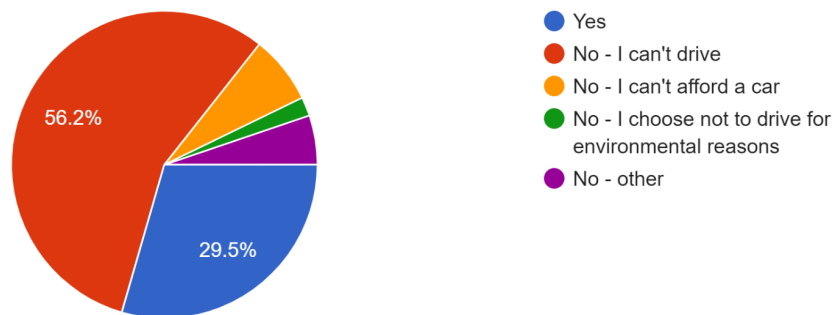
17. Do you ever miss essential appointments to the F16 not showing up?

249 responses



18. Do you have a car to fall back on if the bus isn't available?

251 responses



21. Overall, are you happy with the public transport service available to Fallin?

249 responses

