

## Resilience for Alyth

Beautiful Alyth Burn and our 17th-century packhorse bridge remind us of our rich history -- and our vulnerability to flooding. The bridges on the Burn are a vivid symbol of how we are all connected to one another, and how we rely on one another in times of celebration and distress, hardship and everyday life. Alyth is not unique, but it is a very special place to live.



The Scottish Government defines ‘community resilience’ as: Communities able to function well, socially, economically and environmentally when faced with uncertainty, change and adversity caused by emergencies. *Resilience is the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.*

But resilience is more than just how a community responds to an emergency. Resilience is also a measure of how we celebrate and deploy local knowledge and strengths, how we come together to help each other out. Resilience is fed by our community spirit.

Covid-19 has shown Alyth once again that when we help one another, we have stronger social connections to each other. When we practice resilience, we see the additional community benefits such as learning new skills, gaining a sense of self-worth through volunteering, and feeling gratitude and trust in other people in your community. We will build the Alyth Resilience Plan to maximise these benefits as well as optimise our ability to react to adversity.

Truly effective action around resilience is a blended and well-coordinated activity, often under duress, encompassing what the law requires (see Appendix A), what the state provides and what local people are trained and organised to do. The Scottish Government Resilience Division (Ready Scotland) notes that “This isn’t about doing the job of the emergency services. It’s about supporting our community and those in it by making sensible preparations and using the skills and knowledge the community has.”

### Characteristics of all resilient communities

- 1) Aware of risks that may affect them and how vulnerable they are to those risks;
- 2) Shared understanding of what makes their community special;
- 3) Deep commitment to great communication and transparency;
- 4) Use local existing skills, knowledge and resources to prepare for, and deal with, the consequences of emergencies;
- 5) Work together to complement the work of the local emergency responders before, during and after an emergency.

### Alyth Resilience Planning and Action

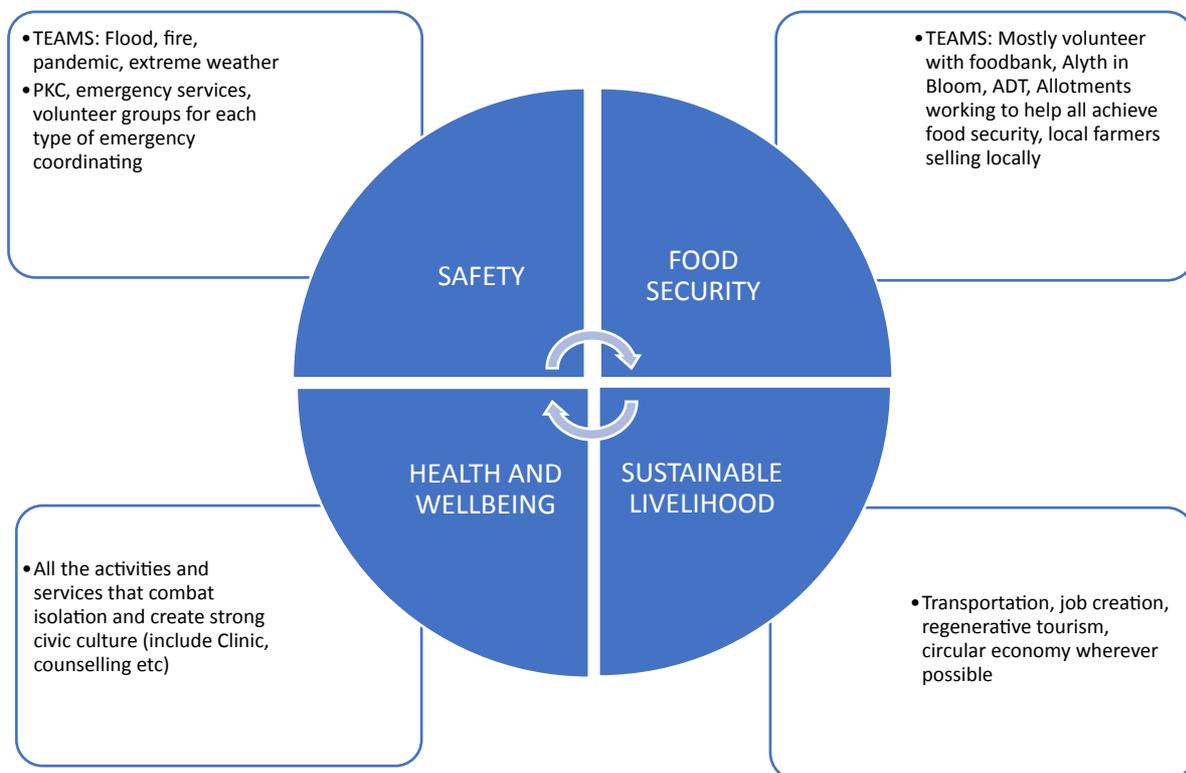
Our resilience plan will look like many others in some ways, and be unique to us in others. Alyth has over 60 volunteer and nonprofit groups and a thriving agricultural community. Across Scotland, successful resilience plans always have a few “anchor organisations”, and as of July 2020 the Alyth Community Support Group (ACSG) and

Alyth Development Trust (ADT) are driving this early effort in consultation with others. We will consult with groups and individuals across the entire town to see what needs our residents want resilience planning to meet. Our businesses also need to be engaged with our resilience planning, and the final plan would be a shared document and action plan involving many organisations.

ADT and ACSG have been inspired and motivated by the level of voluntarism in our town during the Covid crisis. Continually raising awareness and encouraging people to see the value of 'joining in' are an important part of building the foundations for a resilience plan, and will be an ongoing part of our work.

**NB: This document is intended to be the start of a conversation, not the last word!**

A map of our town's resilience needs might look like this:



A way of organising over time is to set up individual projects for each of these four areas, led by a team leader. We cannot do everything at once, so we might prioritise Safety and Food Security projects while still working on Sustainable Livelihoods and Health and Wellbeing projects. There would then be an arrangement of teams like the list below (some of these are already in place and are marked \* with detailed action plans for each at the end of this document).

**Leading an Alyth Emergency Project Team doesn't mean that a group replaces or overrides the emergency responders.** Voluntary sector groups regularly work

alongside the emergency responders. Both say that this works best where they have an established relationship and don't have to start from scratch when an emergency occurs. It helps that they know who to talk to and have planned in advance what to do. Trust is built up over time, not overnight. A shared plan helps to build that trust.

### Places of Safety

In an emergency, Perth & Kinross Council (PKC) services as well as those affected by the event might need safe places or "rest centres" for people to shelter, which can also act as hubs for information sharing across the community. We have asked PKC to confirm these designated spaces from their legal records and they will be included in the report and advertised regularly throughout the town. Our resilience project teams may be able to offer support in setting up additional locations linking up with already identified places of safety.

### Proposed Alyth Teams until 2023

Flood & Flood mitigation team

Fire team

Extreme weather team

Foodbank team

Food-growing team

Zero food-waste team

Wellbeing team

Local economy team

### What will Team Leaders and their teams do?

Each project teams will have its own remit, members, and team leader. Each team will also have a more detailed plan and procedures reviewed by the team leader annually, and may train members of its team for specific procedures and events. Being on a team can enhance skills, broaden social and professional networks and be a learning opportunity as well as a practical, active source of help for Alyth. Contained within our resilience planning book is a more detailed set of guidelines for all teams, no matter what their speciality might be.

An essential part of team action and team leadership is communication – to people within the town and to your appropriate first responders. By having teams we are organising the resilience response into smaller, more manageable pieces.

### What will Alyth Community Support Group and Alyth Development Trust do?

In addition to supporting all the team leaders and coordinating funding and support for the overall plan, ACSG and ADT are partnering to be the initial drivers of this new resilience plan, both in delivering it and in communicating about it. We will be:

- Building and maintaining relationships with organisations that can facilitate resilience success in Alyth such as PKC, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Scottish Flood Forum (SFF) and others;

- Inviting community groups in Alyth and across the wider area to discuss the plan and share best practice;
- Maintaining the Resilience Planning Book for Alyth; copies to be held by all team leaders and both organisations;
- Distributing leaflets through local shops, pubs or other outlets using community websites, newsletters, papers and social networking;
- Including information in letters sent home with schoolchildren;
- Harnessing word-of-mouth to share knowledge and answer questions;
- Using social media and our webpages to keep informing people of our emergency planning, projects and resources;
- Supporting team leaders in activities and training;
- Making sure current copies of the general and detailed plans are always available in the library, community wing, and with community group leaders;
- Working with each team leader to update specific plans annually, and help arrange for training when needed.

We will continually gather background information on our community, such as a map of the area covered, which includes things like SNH spatial data, available from their website <https://www.environment.gov.scot/>

Alyth is a special place, and we want everyone to feel safe and able not only to cope with emergencies, but also to thrive after they happen. And when we can prevent them, we want to help everyone do so.

**"I can give you a six-word formula for success: "Think things through - then follow through."**

**Sir Walter Scott**

**Alyth Community Support Group  
Alyth Development Trust  
July 2020**

## Appendix A: What is the law in Scotland?

The main pieces of legislation involved are the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 ("the Act") and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 ("the Regulations"). The Act and the Regulations define Category 1 and Category 2 responders as follows:

### Category 1 Responders

- Local Authorities
- Police
- Fire
- Ambulance
- Health Boards
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

### Category 2 Responders

- Electricity Operators
- Gas Suppliers
- Scottish Water
- Communications Providers
- Railway Operators
- Airport Operators
- Harbour Authorities
- NHS National Services Scotland
- Health and Safety Executive

Category 1 responders have specific legal duties under the Act and Regulations:

1. Duty to **assess risk**
2. Duty to **maintain emergency plans**
3. Duty to **maintain business continuity plans**
4. Duty to **promote business continuity**
5. Duty to **communicate with the public**
6. Duty to **share information**
7. Duty to **co-operate**.

Category 2 responders must by law co-operate with Category 1 responders in connection with the performance of their duties, including proper sharing of information.

Other agencies can have an important role in the context of resilience. These include but are not confined to:

- the military
- the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)
- Transport Scotland
- commercial organisations
- the voluntary sector

## Appendix B: Useful Resources

Re: Managing Volunteers: [www.volunteerscotland.net](http://www.volunteerscotland.net)

Re: Restarting after Covid: <https://www.scdc.org.uk/supporting-communities-safely>

### **General Information**

[www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/community-risk-register.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/community-risk-register.aspx)

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-risk-register-of-civil-emergencies](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-risk-register-of-civil-emergencies)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/preparing-scotland-scottish-guidance-resilience/pages/3/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/resilience-in-society-infrastructure-communities-and-businesses>

<https://www.readyscotland.org/get-involved/ready-in-your-area/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-resilience-forums-contact-details>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/preparing-scotland-scottish-guidance-resilience/>

<https://www.readyscotland.org/my-community/ready-in-your-area/>

[scottishfloodforum.org](http://scottishfloodforum.org)

[scvo.org.uk/funding](http://scvo.org.uk/funding)

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/third-sector/third-sector-interfaces/>

<https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/community-risk-register.aspx#>

<https://scottishcommunityalliance.org.uk/about/anchor-orgs/>

<http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/index.jsp>

<https://www.environment.gov.scot/>