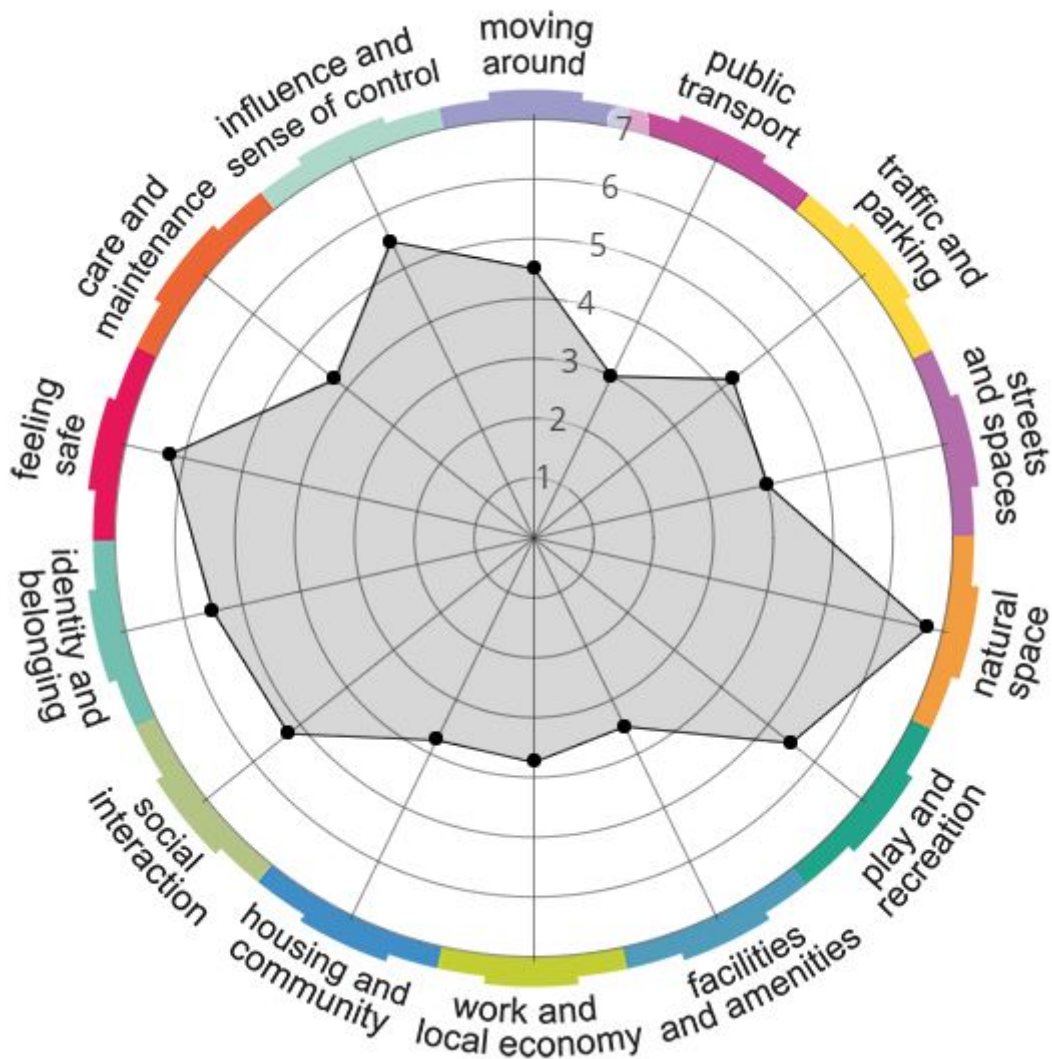


Achnamara Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:



How good is your place? Area wide engagement results using the Place Standard Tool

Between May and October 2019, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) used [the Place Standard tool](#) to engage residents in Argyll and Bute on how they feel about the place(s) that they live and work in Argyll and Bute.

We are very grateful to all the responses that we received. We hope you find the information easy to understand and of interest to you and your community.

We are pleased to see that the thematic areas of Natural Space, Feeling Safe, Identity and Sense of Belonging and Social Contact came out with the highest scores, needing the least improvement, when considering Argyll and Bute as a whole.

The engagement has been undertaken at a place-based level and respondents provided their postcode, groupings of postcodes have created the settlement/community level detail.

The results are available for community groups and partner agencies to use, for example, to assist with service planning or for community-led action plans.

Please note: The information is the views of individuals who responded to the engagement. We trust that the information provided will be viewed within the context of which it is provided. We are grateful to all those who have taken part in the consultation and believe in sharing information for openness and transparency.

We appreciate that the documents can be lengthy due to the amount of information and we hope that the format is user-friendly.

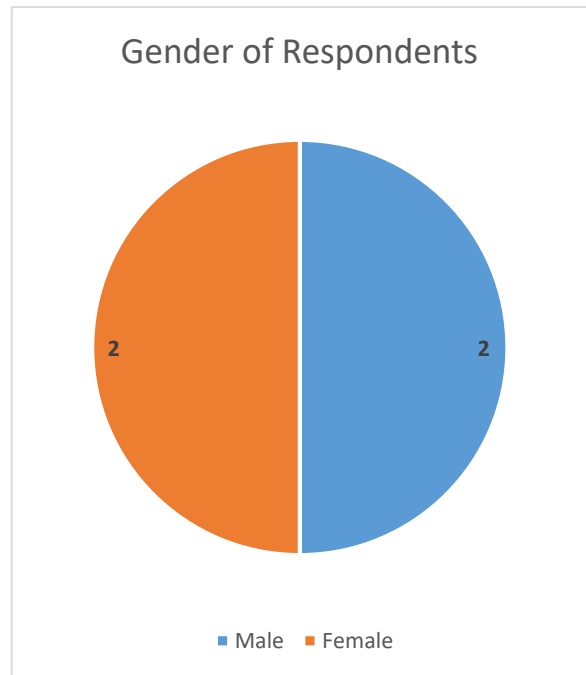
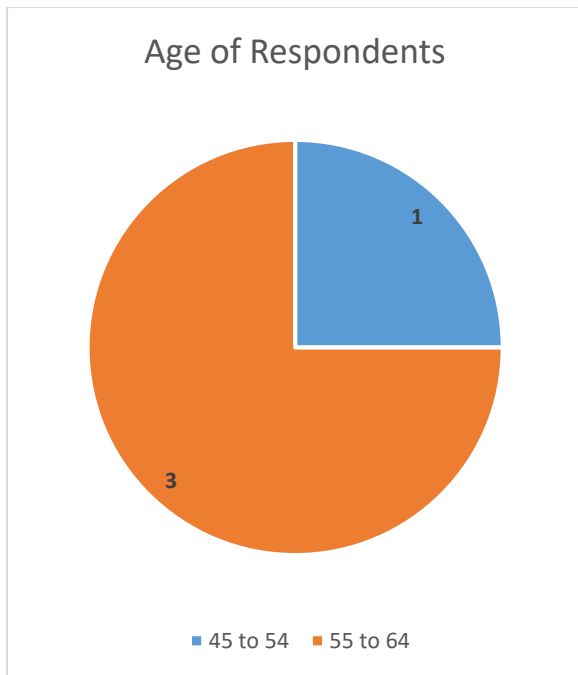
If you have any questions, please see our Frequently Asked Questions Guide or contact Community Planning by e-mail: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk , phone: 01546 604 464.

Next steps

This information is helping to shape plans for the area. Other information such as information from partners' data and statistics is also used to consider priorities for improvement. The CPP will analyse the information to identify priority themes for improvement within each of the four administrative areas and shape actions to address these where this is possible with resources.

We are currently mapping out what activity is already happening, what is planned within the next 3-4 years and where the gaps are. This information will be considered by both the CPP Management Committee and the Area Community Planning Groups to shape the actions.

The final agreed actions will become part of our four Area Community Planning Action Plans, due to be refreshed in 2021. To get involved, contact your local [Area Community Planning Group](#).



Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Public Transport	3
Facilities and Amenities	3.5
Work and local economy	3.8
Housing and Community	3.8
Streets and Spaces	4
Traffic and Parking	4.3
Care and Maintenance	4.3
Moving Around	4.5
Social Interaction	5.3
Play and Recreation	5.5
Identity and Belonging	5.5
Influence and Sense of Control	5.5
Feeling Safe	6.3
Natural Space	6.8

Q1. Moving Around: Can I easily walk and cycle around using good-quality routes?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 4.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 response	0 responses	1 response	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Making the route over Ellery Estate part of a well-managed cycle path would bring more cyclists to the area, filling in a gap in the round Scotland / Britain loop.
No well-marked footpaths in village of Achnamara or to pier. Not aware of any cycle route other than the road which to be fair is single track and not overly busy - there used to be cycle tracks through the woods but they are no longer clearly marked and churned up by forestry. Tonnes of scope here for marked and mapped cycle paths. There are some good walks but not clearly marked other than round coille bharr/barnluasgan - tonnes of opportunity walk along road from barnluasgan carpark to coille bharr not safe and there should be a clear walkway for such a well-used route. Poor links to canal
We are a rural location, fortunate to have forest tracks for walking. The car is essential as the service bus runs twice a week - and not at convenient times. My reason for scoring 4 is: a) the Council continues to surface roads with chips, not ideal for cycling. There is a fantastic stretch of flat tarmac near Castle Sween - if the whole road were like this, it would be amazing! b) We can all walk longer distances on the forest tracks, but these are commercial. As our population demographic ages, one of the things we would like to do is create some shorter walking paths around the village, with flowers, benches etc.. Something to improve mental health and keep us moving as we age!
Lots of nice walks, though roads subject to potholes in the winter

Q2. Public Transport: Does public transport meet my needs?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 3							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

I don't use the local bus but I'm aware that the service to Achnamara is infrequent.
Very limited public transport - dial a bus system would be fab. - Esp. to local hostelrys. Can't ever use public transport to go out for a meal/drink. - not good for local economy
Excluding the school bus, our service is twice weekly. When it gets into town, you have just over 90 minutes to run around the shops before it heads back to Achnamara. I won't be doing that when I'm old!! Considering how many people work in Lochgilphead from outlying villages, I think a service aimed at commuters might get people out of their cars - and be more sociable. The morning school bus might work during term time, but not the afternoon.
Achnamara bus service is infrequent and not much used. Lochgilphead bus to Glasgow/Kennacraig is a very good service.

Q3. Traffic and Parking: Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 4.25							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 response	0 responses	1 response	1 response	1 response	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Parking in Lochgilphead is pretty good. It is also free. Let's keep it that way.
don't see traffic and parking a significant issue other than at Bellanoch Bridge where the garage parks cars/ vans etc. in public spaces and is both unsightly and at times dangerous as you pull round a blind corner into parked vehicles - the police advise they can't do anything about this but roads department could surely mark yellow lines etc.
This is N/A really for a rural countryside village such as ours (but I need to score it to move on, so I went with a middle of the road 4).
Need traffic calming measures to control excessive speeds through Achnamara village and environs, especially in the holiday season when there is a lot of traffic to and from Castle Sween caravan park. The roads can be very dangerous.

Q4. Streets and Spaces: Do the streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to navigate?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 4							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 response	2 responses	1 response	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

I would hope that the general decline of Lochgilphead can be stopped. It seems that gradually more shops / stores are closing and building condition is deteriorating. Lochgilphead should be the gateway to the west Highlands and Islands. There should be a strong tourist sector in the area. We don't seem to be making the most of this to reverse the decline of the town.
Beautiful natural countryside area derelict mansion house in Achnamara is an eyesore area round pier could be improved as a public space - if indeed it is - believe it is owned by forestry.
This is N/A really for a rural countryside village such as ours (but I need to score it to move on, so I went with a middle of the road 4). We all feel though, that the derelict Achnamara House - which has been owned by the "developer" for nearly two decades and allowed to fall into further decay - is a blight on our village.
Village hall is old and draughty, but well-loved and used. Achnamara House is derelict and a blight on the community. The owner prevents improvements or maintenance for the shore side slip.

Q5. Natural Space: Can I experience good quality green spaces?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 6.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 response	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

We are blessed with wonderful natural space around us. No issues.
We are very fortunate to live in Achnamara. As alluded to in Q1, we would like to develop some shorter walking paths in the forest to include seating for people to rest. If it were practical to make one or two more accessible as they are created (e.g. mobility scooters) this would be great! There is also talk about the potential for a "bee and butterfly corridor" being mooted. Essentially we ask the Council not to cut the grass verges from Seafield Farm to the Inverlussa junction (and who knows maybe a future extension to Ashfield Farm), and plant wild pollinator flowers.
We live in a beautiful area with good forest tracks and access to the loch.

Q6. Play and Recreation: Can I access a range of places for play and recreation?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 5.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 response	1 response	1 response	1 response	0 responses

Comments

while there is good outdoor space there is probably much more that could be done to make it safer and more accessible e.g. swimming/ clear access to shore
Those who want to can: walk, run, cycle (road & mountain bike) around Achnamara direct from their front door! There is also swimming (in Loch Sween), kayaking, sailing etc. The one issue we do have for children in the village is the people - assumed to be from Castle Sween holiday park - who find it too much of an inconvenience to reduce speed to below 30 mph for the few hundred yards that is our village.
Good riding, cycling and walking tracks, good shore side access. Few children in the area, and no facilities specifically for them. It would be great if the council could provide some play facilities, for example up near the mothballed school.

Q7. Facilities and Amenities: Does my place have the things I need to live and enjoy life? This could include shops, schools, libraries, health services or places to eat and drink.

4 responses in total – Average Score of 3.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 response	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 response	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

In Achnamara the primary school has closed, the mobile library stopped coming, the shop closed, the church is closing, there is no bar or cafe. On top of that the road to Achnamara is in poor condition. The community is working hard at regeneration. It would be good to have support from the Council.
No shops/pubs/eating places/library etc. - village hall committee tries very hard to fill gap and all this is accessible in Lochgilphead - but public transport is limited and hence not easily accessible unless you drive a car.
This is N/A really for a rural countryside village such as ours (but I need to score it to move on, so I went with a middle of the road 4). The ONLY facility left (with the impending closure - and current mothballing - of our primary school) is our village hall. Built in the 1950's, the community are discussing what to do about retaining/replacing it for the future.
There are no facilities in Achnamara, but Lochgilphead has good quality facilities to meet my needs and I believe they are inclusive.

Q8. Work and Local Economy: Is there an active local economy with good-quality work opportunities?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 3.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 response	0 responses	2 responses	1 response	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

There seem to be few job opportunities in the area to attract people in.
This is N/A really for a rural countryside village such as ours (but I need to score it to move on, so I went with a middle of the road 4). Essentially, the majority of us live in Achnamara, but work elsewhere (mostly Lochgilphead) or are retired.
There seems to be a shortage of jobs in the area, both in Achnamara and in the wider Lochgilphead area.

Q9. Housing and Community: Do the homes in my area support the needs of the community?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 3.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 response	1 response	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Houses are rarely available in the area. It is very difficult for young families to come and help with regeneration when there is no available housing stock.
limited range of social housing
Generally, I would say there is a good mix of housing. There is a feeling from some that there are too many holiday homes in the area. In my experience, several of the holiday home owners support community events and help us fund local things too. In the recent past, many have stated that insufficient housing availability is a reason for the school closing. In my opinion, the reality is an ageing demographic population.
Achnamara needs more affordable housing available for families and local workers, rather than holiday houses which don't help the community and drive up housing prices. We are an ageing community and it would also be great to have housing suitable for the elderly so they can continue to live in the village.

Q10. Social Contact: Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 5.25							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 response	2 responses	0 responses	1 response	0 responses

Comments

Achnamara has a very strong community spirit for those who wish to engage.
Village Hall Committee works very hard to support this - nothing provided by local authority.
This is where the village hall comes in, and why it is so vital for us! In the recent community survey (the entire Achnamara peninsula) 97% of respondents said that we need a village hall - rising to 100% of village residents responding. There are several weekly events, the most popular of which is "Café Connect" every Saturday where people come together over tea/coffee and home baking. In addition to this, we have recently leased the adjacent Forestry Commission storage facility, where members of the community are building a skiff.
Not a wide range of spaces now that the church has closed, but the village hall has a wide range of activities throughout the year.

Q11. Identity and Belonging: Does this place have a positive identity and do I feel I belong?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 5.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

The Achnamara community and identity is strengthening all the time. There are many events happening in the community hall or associated with the hall.
again local village hall very active - but imagine wouldn't be so attractive to younger people 20s/30s or children
Our small community is inclusive for all who want to be involved. Those who do not wish to get involved do not have to. Those who do, can be as much as they want, by attending events, running them, or being on the village hall committee. Many give up some of their time for other things too.
There is an active village hall committee looking at ways of strengthening the community

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 6.25							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 response	1 response	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

generally feel safe
This feels like a very safe community, the only danger being the speeding traffic from Castle Sween

Q13. Care and Maintenance: Are buildings and spaces well cared for?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 4.25							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	3 responses	1 response	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

The community hall is now at the end of its shelf life and in need of replacement. A recent survey highlighted the importance of the hall to the community. Achnamara House, a building that should be a major asset to the area, has been allowed to fall into serious disrepair. The owner has not fulfilled his purchase obligations. Something should be done to stop this and return the building to a useful purpose.

This is N/A really for a rural countryside village such as ours (but I need to score it to move on, so I went with a middle of the road 4).

Most residents look after their part of the area as well as contributing to care for central parts (grass management etc.). The council looks after the mothballed school ok. The exception is Achnamara House which is derelict.

Q14. Influence and Sense of Control: Do I feel able to take part in decisions and help change things for the better?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 5.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 response	0 responses	3 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Achnamara has recently held two community surveys and has engaged consultants to help determine options for the community. There is plenty of opportunity for residents to engage on the future of the area. The challenge now is making sure some good comes from this.
I am on Achnamara Village Hall Committee, which is the vehicle we have used to gather people's opinions on the way forward for our community. We have worked really hard in the last few years to gather opinion and include everyone in exploring options for Achnamara. We communicate to all (with the exception of those who have decided they do not wish to be kept abreast of developments). This has been entirely self-driven by AVHC, and we are nearing the point of drawing up a plan for our future... hoping to purchase forestry around the village (hence the previous answers to questions about walks), a potential hydro scheme on Barnagad Burn, housing options, village hall replacement, what to do about the mothballed primary school, improved marine access to Loch Sween. I am keen to find out if the CPP can point us in the right direction to develop a 25 year plan for ourselves and the next generation.
The community is consultation-focused. I'm not aware of any local authority contribution.

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

Fix the road to Achnamara. Make sure the wider Achnamara community has a high quality meeting place for the future. I.e. Support a new hall. Do something to stop the rot at Achnamara house and get that building back into service. It could provide housing, a holiday business, and local jobs. Make sure a strong future for Lochgilphead is supported as a priority.

better paths and walks infrastructure better transport on a flexible basis e.g. not set time but as needed better access to loch Sween shoreline

Support in developing a local plan for delivering the community aspirations.

Need for small-scale new housing for families/elderly. Need to reach a resolution about the future of the village school and if it closes use the opportunity to create something positive for the community, from the building or the land around it. Road safety

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

Make the Achnamara road a priority for the roads department.
CPP could make direct contact with AVHC to help us move forward from the information gathering phase to a planning stage.
Road safety - traffic calming measures, e.g. a sleeping policeman, extra signage or electronic speed displays. Housing - support for local community. Including suitable locations for housing in the new local development plan (ideally near the village pier) to support CATS land purchase proposal. School - Council could consult with community on specific uses for the school building

Produced by the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership, January 2020 – based upon the Place Standard Consultation Engagement which took place between May and October 2019.

Please contact cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk for further information.



Icon Credits:

Moving Around, Public Transport, Streets and Spaces, Natural Space, Work and Local Economy, Social Contact, Identity and Belonging, Feeling Safe, Care and Maintenance and Influence and Sense of Control: Icons made by *Freepik* from www.flaticon.com

Traffic and Parking, Housing and Community: Icons made by *Smashicons* from www.flaticon.com

Play and Recreation: Icon made by *Monkik* from www.flaticon.com

Facilities and Amenities: Icon made by *Vectors Market* from www.flaticon.com