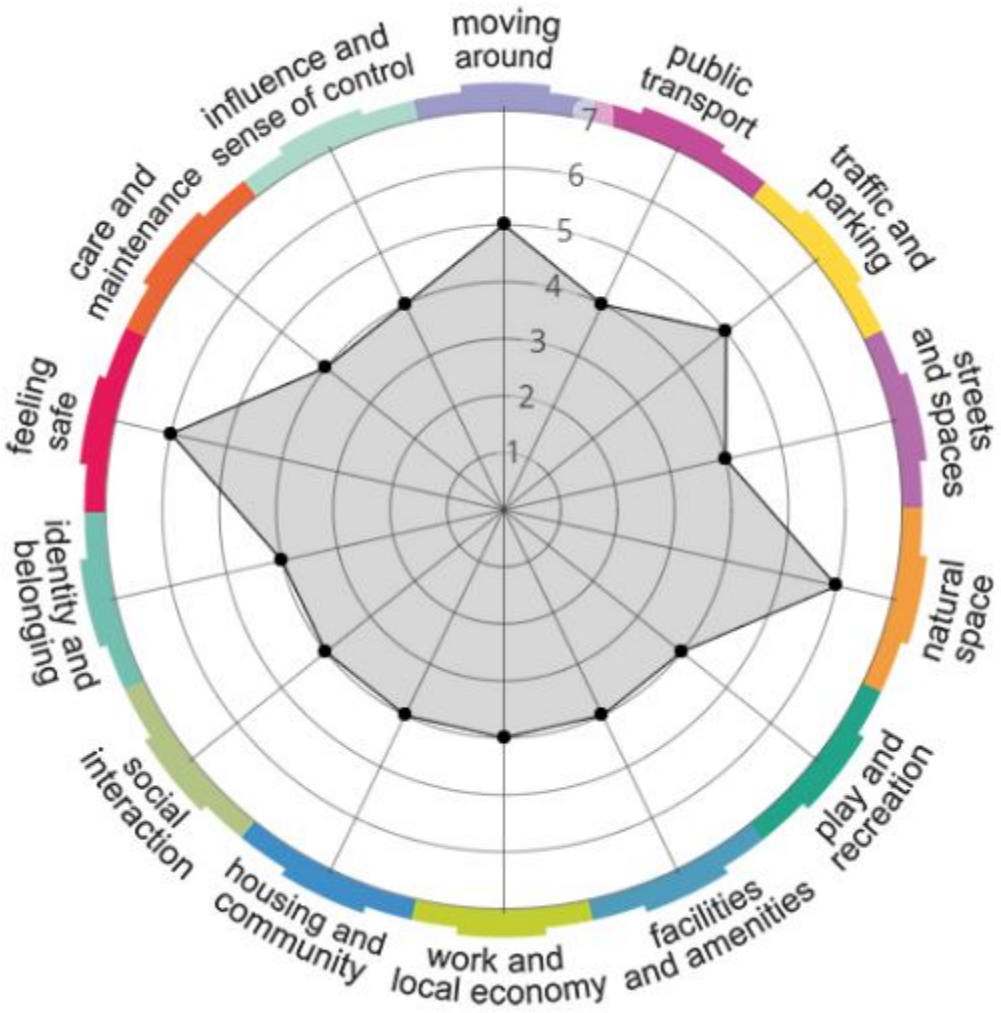
Ardrishaig Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:

Streets and Spaces

Play and Recreation

Housing and Community

Social Contact

Care and Maintenance

argyll and bute
communityplanningpartnership

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.

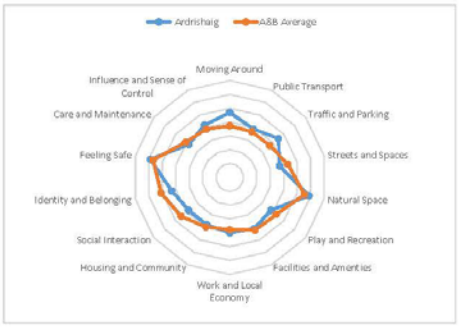
We are currently mapping out what activity is already happening, what is planned within the next 3-4 years and where the gaps are. This information will be considered by both the CPP Management Committee and the Area Community Planning Groups to shape the actions.

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.

Ardrishaig Responses

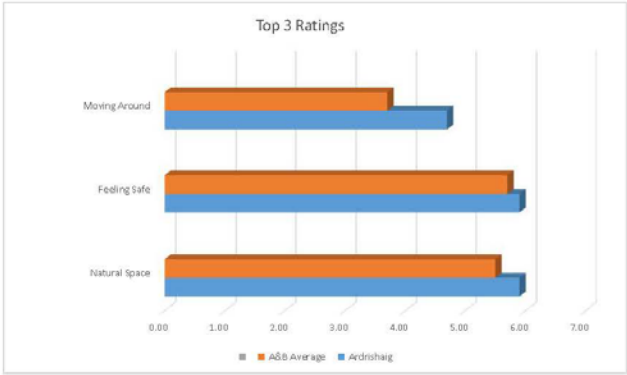
Our Top Rated Areas are:

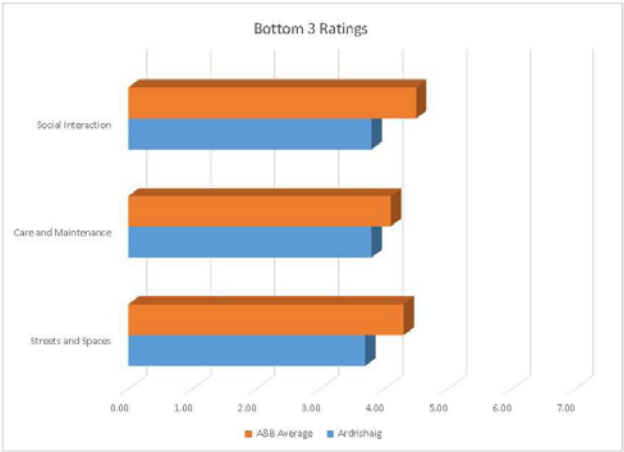
Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 5.9 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 5.9 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
Moving Around	Respondents rated this area 4.7 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.

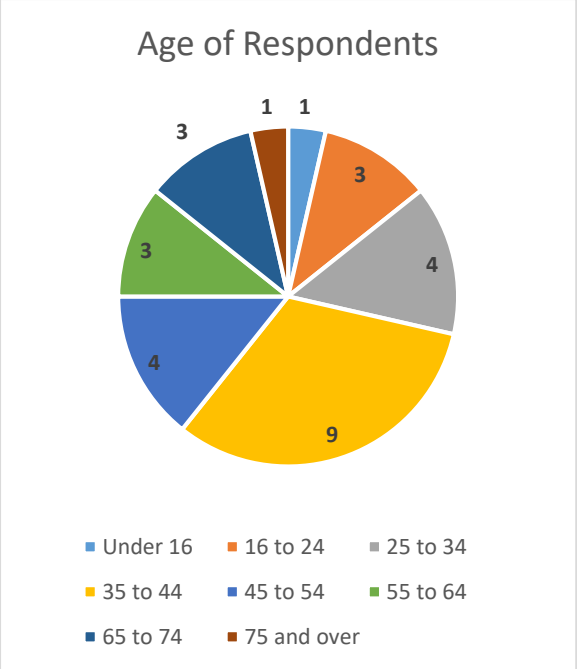


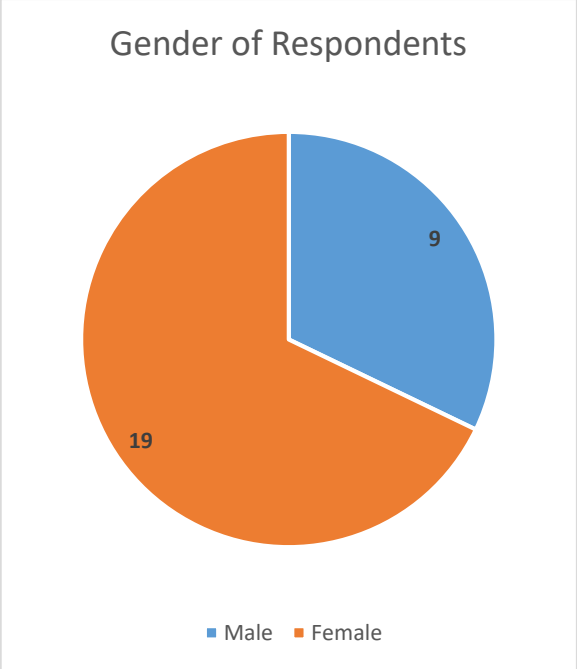
Areas of desired improvement are:

Streets and Spaces	Respondents rated this area 3.7 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.3 out of 7.
Care and Maintenance	Respondents rated this area 3.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.1 out of 7.
Social Interaction	Respondents rated this area 3.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll &Bute Average of 4.5 out of 7.









Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Streets and Spaces	3.7
Play and Recreation	3.8
Housing and Community	3.8
Social Contact	3.8
Care and Maintenance	3.8
Public Transport	3.9
Work and Local Economy	4.0
Facilities and Amenities	4.1
Influence and Sense of Control	4.2
Identity and Belonging	4.3
Traffic and Parking	4.5
Moving Around	4.7
Natural Space	5.9
Feeling Safe	5.9

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 4.7							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	1 responses	3 responses	4 responses	6 responses	9 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

As a keen cyclist, runner and walker, a vision to create a safe passage (i.e. no A or B roads) between Ardrishaig and Tarbert could allow a route to 'meet the needs of everyone' all the way from Crinan to Campbeltown. A slightly more difficult safe passage to create would be Lochgilphead to Oban, which would then establish a safe passage from Campbeltown all the way to Oban in our beautiful Argyll. It is a small miracle that the RTAs are as low as they are, however, winter is approaching, thereby increasing the safety risk.
Cycle path from Kilduskland to Kilberry road very steep at both ends, making it difficult to access. Main road (A83) too narrow, twisty, to be safe for cycling, though many do, making difficulties for motorists!
Cycling along the canal is ok but if you want to cycle in to Lochgilphead then crossing the main road is a bit dangerous and there are no cycle paths in Lochgilphead.
From Ardrishaig to Lochgilphead I can use the canal towpath. Elsewhere I have to rely on the road network. The condition of the roads and behaviour of drivers makes this extremely dangerous at times
I live out of town and the only option is to cycle on the main road which is too busy and dangerous
In Ardrishaig there is access to Crinan Canal cycling route. The main road route through the village is not particularly cycle friendly. It would be excellent if a cycle lane could be added to the increasingly busy road. I certainly would not allow a youngster to cycle between Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead or Tarbert. Walking too can have its own hazards when the huge lorries pass the wind can "pull" you onto the road side. Maybe the speed limit should be adhered to in the village! And parking outside the Rumbling Tum should be addressed (especially with a car park immediately across the road).
Not enough drop kerbs to facilitate wheelchair users. Wheelchair access is generally poor. Uneven pavement and road surfaces or gravel makes it more difficult to get around.
Presence of Crinan Canal. Good street lighting.
Roads are too narrow and edges are not fixed or secure, too many potholes and damage to edges. Resurfacing just adds more on top meaning to risk of "falling off" the roads are severe - for cars as well as bikes - non trunk roads are appalling.
The canal bank is perfect for biking and walking
The canal path gives good opportunities for walking and cycling. There is not a pavement on both sides of the main road in Ardrishaig so this can pose issues for people needing to cross the busy road to get onto the canal bank/access the shops etc.
The Crinan canal allows people to safely cycle and walk leisurely but if you wanted to cycle to Lochgilphead or to the joint campus, there is no safe route.
there’s lots of paths to go

Very good path to my place of work which has lights. The lights make it feel safe for me.
We have a number of walking and cycle options. The Crinan Canal provides a superb resource for these activities, although a path/ walkway on West Bank Road would be welcomed, as this is a single track road which is regularly used by pedestrians, cyclist and horse riders.
well maintained canal path to nearest main town and there further cycle/pedestrian paths available

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 3.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	4 responses	5 responses	6 responses	6 responses	3 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Always been there on the few occasions I have had to use the service.
Buses are available but not regular enough to get to and from work
Expensive
For a rural area I guess we are fairly well served with public transport although the loss of some buses during school holidays is a down side. I feel us "oldies" should perhaps be paying even 50p for a journey which would help towards the costs rather than totally free transport.
I don't use it often as I drive. But it seems to be adequate when I have
I don't use public transport because of the infrequent service (and I prefer to cycle).
I don't use public transport very much because I am regularly picking up or dropping off young children. There is only one bus up to Kilmory, where I work, so this affects my flexibility.
I live not far from the local bus service stop. They come every hour.
In a very limited way. I can get one bus an hour to and from my place of work. Bus services to other parts of Argyll are so poor as to be non-existent. This significantly curtails the ability for people to have flexible working patterns or to take jobs in other areas. The Oban to Lochgilphead bus service is especially poor in this regard.
It's fairly basic, with more regular provision during the week. There is for example no bus at weekends to Tayvallich or Achnamara.
Not sure as I don't use it often.
Often buses only run during school terms. I had to buy a car as I couldn't get to my job unless it was in school time
people can get on the bus to school
There are frequent bus services between Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead which go right up into the housing schemes so that no one has to walk too far to get to a bus stop. The Glasgow/Campbeltown bus also goes through Ardrishaig and you can catch a bus to Oban too.
There are regular buses for the long trips to Glasgow but only one bus a day to my work which is very local and as it hardly used, there is a question over its economic sustainability.
There is only 1 bus a day to and from the joint campus/Kilmory which does not allow any flexible working.

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

28 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
2 responses	1 responses	5 responses	4 responses	6 responses	8 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

A crossing is needed in Ardrishaig from outside the shops to the car park. Especially difficult to cross the road in a wheelchair due to position of drop kerbs. This is especially a problem at bridge 4 over the Crinan Canal.
Cars and lorries too frequently park on road (and pavement!) at Ardrishaig Community Hall and RS McColl's, causing blockage for other traffic and difficulties for many pedestrians crossing in the area. Although there is plenty of car parking across the road, many do not use it and without enforcement...why bother? A large bay could be provided for lorries at the bus-stop (soon to be relocated?) as they cannot easily access the car parks.
For the most part, yes. However the extremely poor provision of public transport means that people are forced to drive far more often than they should.
Generally yes although it annoys me that people do not use the car park and pull up outside McColl's.
Good amount of parking which has to remain free. Could be better in residential areas as this is mainly street parking which narrows the road
Household parking is becoming a real issue in the village. Kilduskland Road is basically single file for traffic due to the extensive parking and one assumes this restricts future development opportunity for dwellings. The car parking at the front should remain free.
In our small remote rural locations, traffic is not an issue except during peak periods and even this manageable. Compared to our urban centres it is not a problem. Plenty of parking if you are willing to walk 20 yards!
Not enough space as each household now more than likely has two cars.
Overall the parking spaces in Ardrishaig are not too bad. However Lochgilphead on street parking spaces are practically impossible to access now. As a blue card user, on occasion I have had to abandon my journey as I cannot access anywhere near my destination and I find it too far to walk from the car park to, say, the PO. One disabled space outside the PO is no use and is frequently used by non-disabled cars. I think a pedestrian crossing should be in Ardrishaig village. This would also have a traffic calming/slowing down benefit too.
The Lochgilphead 'front green' project will further improve traffic and parking issues in Mid-Argyll. Parking is not the best in Oban, but I am not sure of any suggestions for improvement. Parking is good in Campbeltown.
The parking where I live is dreadful. Some families park up to 4 cars/ vans leaving no/ little room for single car families
There are 2 good sized car parks in Ardrishaig which are free to use. It baffles me why people choose to ignore the car park and park on the main road when accessing the shops which causes disruption for other road users. It would be good if there was a zebra crossing or similar between

the car park and the shops to enable safe crossing as the school children have to cross the road there.
There are large parking areas in Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead which are currently free and encourage people to stay in the town for lunch/shopping. If these were charged car parks, people would be less likely to stay for a longer period.
There is good parking in Ardrishaig although a zebra crossing from the parking to the shops would be helpful. Parking in Lochgilphead can be a bit more difficult especially when the spaces in the main street are taken up by residents.
Yes - lots of parking available in most locations

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 3.7							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	3 responses	9 responses	7 responses	6 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead are in much need of investment to make them more attractive and the Tarbert and Lochgilphead Regeneration Scheme and a possible Conservation Area Regeneration scheme is addressing this to a large extent. Very easy to get around, just very dated and tired looking!
Ardrishaig is not an attractive village. The currently derelict building at the end of the row does not help.
Ardrishaig needs a lick of paint to make it more attractive. The main street does not look overly appealing. It is small enough that it is fairly easy to navigate.
Both Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig's buildings need to be made more attractive. Walking around is ok.
Canal is a great central point which can be used as a route. The development work at the canal basin is greatly welcome
How many years have we been talking about painting up the filthy buildings in Chalmers St in Ardrishaig. All it needs is a coat of white or cream weather coat paint!! We now have a Heritage centre about to open at the canal buildings....then we can look across to these drab buildings with moss overflowing from their gutters. The canal bridge is another disgrace. When was it last painted or overhauled? The canal have got their act together with painting their buildings around the basin area, let's continue that good work with work on the bridge. Held together with rust is not a good look!
I would love to see more public art. Could be very basic. Maybe something made out of marine litter. Very clean with regards to litter on the street however, in my opinion.
Lochgilphead is way behind other main towns all of which appear to have had considerable investment in their centres - all monies appear to go to Oban and Helensburgh
Lochgilphead needs a face lift
Not enough drop kerbs. Too many uneven pavements - or no pavement at all makes it difficult / dangerous / impossible to get around in a wheelchair.
Shops are lying empty! Does not encourage visitors to stop nor local residents to shop locally. If you have to go to the nearest town / city you end up getting all your shopping while there. Can rates/ rents not be cut to encourage shop uptake?
some houses look pretty
The Ardrishaig front street looks awful; this is not helped by Council offices lying dormant or countless empty units.
The main street of Ardrishaig is an embarrassment. Even a simple lick of paint would improve this. I understand that there are plans to improve the Gleaner site.

The natural beauty of the area could be enhanced with some attention to maintenance of roadsides/verges by Council and Roads Dept. Especially at Inverneil, where it was a condition of consent for road-widening (over twenty years ago?) that the bushes by the pavement were maintained and kept in check. This has not been done for many years and maintenance has been (little?) by residents. Also, between Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig where lochside is covered in Japanese Knotweed unchecked, in breach of statutory requirements. This also applies to many areas on Loch Fyneside!
There has been a systemic lack of investment in the mid Argyll area for decades. It's a frankly disgraceful situation of which Argyll and Bute councillors should be deeply ashamed.

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 5.9							
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 responses	1 responses	4 responses	1 responses	6 responses	15 responses	0 responses

Comments

Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead are great for this I think - natural heritage is a strong point of Argyll for me
Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead are remote rural locations in the most beautiful part of Scotland - Argyll!
Canal bank, beach, hills at the back of Ardrishaig and Robbers Den - all within walking distance and the wind farm to the south of Ardrishaig if you want to really stretch your legs!
Dog pooh spoils a lot of natural spaces. Do we need cameras, more dog wardens, very strong fines to try to resolve this. Litter is another menace. More litter bins.
I like the park
More could be made of the play park area in Ardrishaig and the front green in Lochgilphead needs to be drained. There needs to be somewhere in ardrishaig for the teenagers to hang around safely.
Not enough easy access for wheelchair users.
Rural setting
You could now add-in Scottish Canals for lack of maintenance of towpaths and bankings. The "improvements" carried out with SusTrans has resulted in considerable loss of life for frogs and toads - see numerous corpses along many sections of towpath!
some better signposting of walks and tracks would be good
The Canal and Robber's Den are great assets.
The canal walkway has been worked on over the last few years, There are also plenty of opportunities to explore the surrounding area if you are keen to do so.
The shore could be made more accessible in Ardrishaig and there could be more seating along the canal and along the front
We are surrounded by such natural space in the village.
Yes, although this is has absolutely nothing to do with the efforts of the council, who have never had a countryside ranger service and who have cut spending on this sort of service to the point where it may add well not exist.

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 3.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
3 responses	1 responses	8 responses	6 responses	5 responses	5 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

A lot of open space i.e. grass but could be more things to do
community councils should be given the responsibility for maintaining these - too often funds are raised to install something and then it is the council who are expected to maintain them - this is not how things should be - the funds raised should include ongoing maintenance costs
Good facilities at the Sports Centres throughout Argyll, provided by Council expenditure. Also good swimming facilities, although in Lochgilphead the Council failed to match other areas, in financing provision and maintenance. The Community had to fund-raise and organise, resulting in very good but smaller facilities than elsewhere.
I do not believe there are good facilities for youngsters in the area. The playpark in Ardrishaig has few pieces of play equipment. The teenagers were assured a skateboard type facility would be looked at a number of years ago??? That seems to have gone off the radar like so many other things for that age group. Even if it could be sited in Lochgilphead it would be better than nothing at all. MAYDS have tried I believe to start up/run youth group activities but they too have hit brick walls.
Leisure and sporting activities are below what I'd expect. Would like to see a better gym within driving distance with better classes and class schedule. Would be nice to have a rugby pitch also.
Lochgilphead front green needs serious improvement. Ardrishaig is good
Mid Argyll misses out on the 'Live Argyll' special deals for swimming pool / gym / keep fit classes etc. that are available to Oban , Campbeltown and Helensburgh . Wish something could be sorted so that the Lochgilphead pool can be included in these deals. A lot of the play park equipment was removed apparently on health & safety reasons and were never replaced so there is no longer play equipment locally for very young kids.
need for indoor play areas for young children and outdoor play areas could be improved and made more accessible
Outdoor space is a great asset. Playing fields have been improved. Presence of pool and gym in Lochgilphead is helpful but could be improved. I think that classes available in Ardrishaig could be improved, particularly for the elderly.
Play park is near but is often vandalised.
The children's play areas in mid Argyll are a disgrace, an utterly shameful disgrace. The decision to pull funding from them was nothing short of civic vandalism.
The Lochgilphead sports centre provides excellent year round indoor and outdoor sports facilities which is very popular with all ages. There is no shortage of play areas for children, however, these areas are not well equipped and poorly maintained due to Scottish Governments cuts to the Council. There has been successful efforts by a community group to improve facilities at the King George V park in Ardrishaig.

There are parks available although the one on the front is rarely used and has limited appeal. The park at King George V playing fields is much better and in a good location. There should be more use of the sea and opportunities to access and learn sports associated with the sea. There are no other facilities for young people or adults.
There are play parks in both Lochgilphead and ardrishaig although both of them could be improved. There is nowhere for teenagers to hang out safely in Ardrishaig and not many picnic benches/benches for adults to relax.
there's two places I can go to
We are very lucky to have a playing field although it is not very well drained. The lines and goals could also be redrawn to allow younger ones to play football on half a pitch There is no seating at the playpark next to the school and not enough seating at the playpark down the front. Both playparks could do with more equipment.

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.

28 responses in total – Average Score of 4.1							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	5 responses	4 responses	5 responses	6 responses	5 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

4G broadband TERRIBLE
Doctors' surgeries seem to be under-staffed by GPs, shortage of Dentists, requiring lots of travel and Hospital facilities are woeful - premises are reasonable and new, but grossly ill-equipped with machinery to carry out basic/frequently required screening and diagnosis. Any equipment originally provided has not been maintained (as advised by ward staff!) This all results in long-distance travel - to Oban, Paisley, Glasgow or Greenock (all from personal experience!) at patients' expense - many do not seek to recover travelling costs, thereby further subsidising Health Service. This applies to patients from Islay, Campbeltown and Lochgilphead where considerable expenditure has been outlaid to provide what are in effect Waiting rooms, pending Transfer by a totally inadequate Ambulance service - I had to wait over 5 hours for transfer from Oban to Lochgilphead, as a result of which I missed consultation with GP on ward duty to authorise release and incurred an extra, unnecessary, overnight occupation of a hospital bed - at a cost of....??
For a village of its size Ardrishaig has shops, restaurants and our soon to be opened Heritage centre. Accessibility from the canal bank road to the shops is a bit "life in your hands moment" as the steps at the side of the Argyll hotel are lethal especially in winter. As previously mentioned, I also think we need a crossing as so many larger fully loaded lorries pass along the main road.
Having recently moved to the area I haven't used all facilities a lot but on the one occasion I did try to get an emergency dentist appointment I was told I should try going back to Glasgow first, this wasn't ideal. Libraries seem good if small. Places to eat or drink with friends below what I'd expect, unsure if moving from Glasgow has biased this. But I would like to see better (which is subjective of course) restaurants/cafes developing
I wish that the Lochgilphead library was open one day over the weekend. The GP surgery is ok although the phone appointment system is not great as I have difficulties finding somewhere to take the calls privately. There are nice tea rooms but not many evening restaurants.
In mid Argyll, almost not at all. In the wider Argyll area, barely.
Local shops are closing rapidly , councils or building owners need to drop rents and rates ,
Poor access for wheelchair users. Most places have steps. Very difficult to get registered with a dentist.
Shops helpful. Cafes good. Post office provision has been difficult. Well-served by Lochgilphead Medical Centre. Halls are perhaps over-provided. No after-school care. Baby and Toddler group closing.
The facilities and amenities in Ardrishaig are very limited but they meet my needs due to the very close proximity with Lochgilphead.

The quality of the schools and subjects offered in poor. It is impossible to get an appointment at the local GP surgery and they rely on telephone calls to your work which is often in an open plan office. With mobile coverage poor in areas other than the towns. Whilst people move for the lovely setting facilities are extremely poor other than in the towns which is not really why many wish to come here.
There is basically very little on offer in terms of facilities or amenities. There are two shops, a pub that hardly opens, two great cafes and the grey gull. The toilets close at some bizarre time and the two public halls are not really fit for purpose. There are no health facilities in the village; everything is in Lochgilphead and there is no direct public transport to these out with working hours!
There is nowhere safe and visible for teenagers to hang around apart from the school and they have been known to do damage there.
Very few amenities available e.g. we only have a post office for a few hours a week
We currently have all facilities and amenities. I scored a 6 as this is always vulnerable e.g. dentist (often scarce), library (we have one but it appears to be rarely used), shops (small independents are struggling and there is always vacant retail units in towns), limited places to eat out in the evening.

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 4.0							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	2 responses	6 responses	10 responses	6 responses	1 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

All public funded jobs are being cut or offered on short term (1 year) contracts so the opportunity for prospecting job seekers is quite poor. There are service industry jobs.
As the main centre for Local Authority and Hospital Service in Argyll, ably supported by development assistance from HIDB (now HIE), Lochgilphead has always had the potential to be core for the economic development and sustainability of Argyll. This has not always been recognised or supported by Councillors from outlying areas such as Oban or Helensburgh. Continuing work by HIE and University of Highlands and Islands may yet frustrate their efforts to "keep Lochgilphead in its place!!"
I feel lucky to have a graduate entry level job here but I know this is rare. I know this from having met people who are underemployed in the area. This saddens me as I feel young people have a lot to add. I don't think people should feel that they have to move away to get a decent job but I think this is the case. Understand that it is a balance but there should be more opportunities for young people. Once my current job finishes I wouldn't stay in the area as I know how hard it would be to get a job
Jobcentre???? I wish... I am now well and truly retired but from my viewpoint I do not see businesses opening on the scale of a few years ago. Young people do not appear to take the same risks as before to try their hand at enterprising activity and who can blame them?
Lack of term time posts
Limited employment opportunities - have public sector jobs. Employment is in Lochgilphead.
Most employment is outside the village E.g. in Lochgilphead
police teachers shopkeepers
Poor internet within areas other than the towns constrains those wanting to live outside major places and run their own businesses. Levels of stress and depression in those who work in the major employment fields is reportedly high
Successive years of no investment and mismanagement by the council and central government means that no business in their right mind would locate themselves in Argyll, unless the location was central to the business, e.g. in fish farming or distilling
The opportunities in Ardrishaig itself are very limited however the close proximity to Lochgilphead means that employment opportunities in Lochgilphead benefit the residents of Ardrishaig. Jobs in Ardrishaig are mostly seasonal (canal) or tourism dependent (hotel/cafe)
There are 3 main employers so not much choice. There are lots of self-employed people but this is a risk that some are not able to take.
There are lots of low paid, seasonal and part time jobs but few quality jobs.
There is a very high percentage of public sector employment with many high paying jobs for the Council, NHS, SNH, SEPA, Scottish Water and Forestry Commission. Working in Argyll is very

satisfying. However, out with public sector, there is a lack of diversity with primary sector employment in decline and whilst there is significant employment in aquaculture, this sector is vulnerable to economic shocks (e.g. EU no deal exit export tariffs, lice infestation, global markets) as experienced by the UK diary sector which witnessed the collapse of the price of milk and had a significant adverse impact on local businesses.
There is good childcare in Lochgilphead, there are some job opportunities, but not nearly enough. The broadband and postal services do not help small businesses. More could be done to brand Argyll produced goods and sell online together.
Very poor local retailing opportunities!

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 3.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	3 responses	6 responses	8 responses	5 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Better design of housing for low income people and families in general that have green spaces, recreational and community spaces created within the development
Dreadful car parking in housing schemes ,
Good mix
Housing is poor for older / disabled people. This is a concern in an area with an aging population.
I don’t know
I don't know. Our house is OK! Have heard some stories of difficulties accessing housing.
I have not needed a home in a very long time but I believe that there is a shortage of social houses
I haven't had much interaction with the housing system.
I think there is a good range of housing available in Ardrishaig, of all sizes and tenures - private and social housing.
More houses needed
Overall we appear to have a pretty good balance of housing types in the village.
Plenty 1, 2 & 3 bedroom properties but serious lack of 4 bedrooms and no 5 bedrooms at all with families in need.
Private and public-sector housing is well-catered for, although there will always be a need for more, as populations grow and move about. Some improvement in number and location of housing for elderly is required to enable independent living outside of residential care homes.
The ex-civil house stock and current housing association stock is of terrible quality - poorly built and indifferently maintained and much of it unfortunately for habitation
There has been significant investment in affordable and private housing sector and plans for further investment.
There is an obsession with Housing Association house building that I haven't seen elsewhere we need to improve existing properties and ensure home owners are responsible. The number of second homes and discounts for small businesses that let out property to visitors (Council Tax etc.) skew things towards restricting available property
They seem to!
Think there are a lot more old folk looking for single story smaller dwellings, which there is a lack of in Ardrishaig. All new builds tend to be very small and offer less value than historical council funded dwellings.

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 3.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	6 responses	4 responses	5 responses	9 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Everything is on a "grapevine" there is not enough advertisement of things going on - paper only mention things after the event. Hall costs are high and in Ardrishaig there are too many halls of a poor quality
I think community centre in Lochgilphead is good - spaces like these are crucial in my opinion.
I'm young enough that this isn't important to me, but I dread being a pensioner in Argyll
Limited unless there is a particular event on
Many voluntary organisations are active in encouraging activities for meeting and doing a wide array of activities, to enable "meeting" and "doing". Some funding is available from the authorities (on application) to help finance the Charities organising these.
No shortage of meeting spaces with community centres, pubs and the availability to hire rooms in public sector buildings providing an abundance of space.
not really
Probably lots of opportunities for meeting other people due to loads of activities / clubs around. No great opportunities though for kids to develop their skills in a more professional way with regards to sports, further education. These things have to be accessed in the city resulting in transport costs or/and accommodation costs ,
Pubs are pretty awful. Halls are available. Cafes are good.
The evening economy in this area hardly exists. There are organised social activities e.g. clubs but nowhere for casual socialising.
The facilities are becoming dated and most likely putting people off attending events, for example the public halls are freezing during the winter and not conducive to attracting people to return. There is opportunity for more meeting areas, picnic benches etc.,
There are coffee shops and pub, coffee mornings and if you are a carer or ill there is the Dochas centre who hold lots of events. Meeting new people is difficult if you do not go to pubs.
There are three halls in the village. One is a church hall. The other two I wonder if they could be amalgamated, maybe even raised, and a new facility (community centre) built to be an all singing all dancing facility in the village. Some radical thinking and forward planning required....
There is an overabundance of church halls and public halls for use by the community but I would not say that these are necessarily good spaces to meet people unless there is a function on. There are 2 cafes but the pub is rarely open and not somewhere I would want to go to.
There is nowhere to meet people apart from the pub and coffee mornings.

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 4.3							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	0 responses	7 responses	5 responses	9 responses	2 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

Ardrishaig is at last starting to establish an identity as a place in its own right, not just an add-on to Lochgilphead (which does not have a very strong identity of its own, yet!) This is in stark contrast to places like Tarbert and Campbeltown, which have a very strong Community identity (fishing community?)
As I am not a local maybe this is different for me. I think people here are slightly sceptical of "incomers" however due to ageing population/jobs required that attitude could be really damaging. There does seem to be community spirit as far as I can tell
Every place in Argyll has a strong identity due to its ancient history. However, if you are not born in the area, it takes a long time to feel like you belong and even then it will not be universal.
I belong but the village is dying on its feet and it's all a bit sad. Good to see the canal doing positive work in Ardrishaig; hopefully this will help turn things around.
I do feel positive about the future IF we could tackle some of the issues I have mentioned and not just go round in circles talking a good game but never actually doing something about them. A start might be to petition the canal folk and keep the kelpies in Ardrishaig. Look at the increase in business in the Steamer café since their arrival and I am sure over the summer they will have folk stopping to take their photos.
I think that there is generally a positive identity around Ardrishaig and a small cohort of locals trying hard to really improve the area. Whilst I will never truly be a local, I do feel like I belong and am welcome here.
I'm not from the area so will never truly 'belong'. I think work on the heart of the village ie the front street and areas could improve pride in the village.
Lots going on in communities. Perhaps not a great uptake in joining attending local community councils
No I don't really even though I and my brother and sister have lived here my whole life as my parents are English there is often a latent racism. This is not from immediate friends but I experience the feeling daily.
Not what it used to be, crime and drugs at a High now unfortunately
The area lacks a focal point.
There are not many community events but that is mainly because no one is willing to run them.
This question is meaningless to me

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

28 responses in total – Average Score of 5.9							
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 responses	1 responses	6 responses	11 responses	9 responses	0 responses

Comments

I believe drugs can be bought and used very easily locally which is a great worry. There is an element of vandalism but not too bad ....I think. Costs for the sport centre could be lower to encourage youngsters to go there instead of roaming the streets ,
I feel reasonably safe
I feel very safe in Ardrishaig
It is very safe in Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead
Kids on the street and people late at night can be intimidating.
Moving from a big city it definitely feels a lot safer here. I wouldn't worry about walking alone as a woman as much
Overall I do feel safe.
Very safe - the crime rate is very low

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 3.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	4 responses	5 responses	6 responses	7 responses	4 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Ardrishaig's row of shops at the front is a bit of an eyesore I think. It's nice to be close to the loch with some flowers etc. but the shops could do with some painting. Lochgilphead town centre is the same, it looks unloved. Big contrast with Inveraray
Building and spaces are maintained but always could do with further investment from the public purse which is not available.
Litter is a problem and dog mess in particular - lots of notices about fines for fouling but no enforcement facilities? Even where dog poo-bags are regularly used, the poo-bins are not emptied and create a nuisance in themselves! I have witnessed considerable littering by Council (or Council- contractors?) lorries transferring waste from Campbeltown to Lochgilphead and beyond, down Loch Lomond-side, where there was no covering on the loads and waste was seen to fly out of the lorries to litter the roadsides! The Council use Kilmory as their headquarters but make no attempt to maintain the grounds of the Estate (which could be a tourist attraction in its own right!) No work seems to have been done since the days of the "Job-Creation" programme.
Not even remotely well cared for
People are the worst. Litter and dog pooh just get left! Huge problem! Bins collected every 3 weeks. No use in the summer months for food and used nappies.
Recycling fine when emptied regularly. Praise must go to our terrific street cleaner who is out in all weathers keeping our village free of litter. Think he is due recognition for his conscientious duty to the village.
refuse collection is good but should include glass bottles, no local residents association and the community council only considers its own agenda and is not open to suggestions
some parts very run down and needing improved
The buildings need a lot of work done to them
The most visible buildings to visitors look just awful. The front street in Ardrishaig is so uninspiring and dilapidated that most people just drive on through.
The shops and buildings on the main street need to be painted appropriate to make the place look more attractive. The grey of the weather matching the grey of the buildings does nothing for people's mental wellbeing! It is great to see the improvement programme by ACHA providing new cladding/insulation for their houses around the area and the difference in appearance is brilliant.
Too many derelict buildings and lack of maintenance on front street.
We have a great street cleaner and the sea front is well maintained

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

28 responses in total – Average Score of 4.2							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	1 responses	5 responses	8 responses	10 responses	1 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

There is a lot of talking but not the action following through. Yes we have a community council but I am afraid I do not find it particularly welcoming or dynamic.
Community Council doesn't feel representative. It's difficult to make 7pm meetings.
I am able to take part in consultations and get involved if I wish to. I am fortunate though that I am well placed because of my job to know about what is going on and how to get involved.
I could join the community council if I had time although I do not know how to be heard if I do not join the council.
In my opinion, Argyll and Bute councillors have a long and noble tradition of making staggeringly ignorant decisions based on interests only they are aware of. This is reflected in the venality and corruption displayed by senior council officers. This state of affairs is vanishingly unlikely to change.
I suspect the community council is the only forum focusing on this village. I am not aware of who is in this or when they meet but know I can find out
I think there's still too much separation between people and their governments generally so that still applies here. There's some stuff going on here that people are organised and doing, community stuff which is good. Would always love to see more, especially for things like community asset transfers. Interesting that highland council seem to have more going on with regards to asset transfer, maybe this should be promoted or made more accessible within Argyll.
It is not difficult to influence decisions but only if you know how. Complainants often do not make the effort to engage the process or ask how you do. I often influence local decisions because I take the time to be involved and attend community meetings and accept that change takes time.
Many organisations cry out for recognition and for their voice to be heard. The Local Authority and Health Board frequently take steps to "consult" and then expend considerable energy and cash to "ignore" the findings of the consultations, if they are even collated and passed up the line of management.
Not really - see earlier comments re GP services, community councils only look at the main area of population. there is little for younger people other than the pub
pupil council
Regular community council meetings and great access to our local Councillor.

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

- Improvements to children's play area - Promote existing opportunities/groups where people can influence local decisions - Support existing efforts (currently being led by the Council) to secure investment into the fabric and infrastructure of Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig.
* Extensions of existing safe passage (no A or B roads) between Campbeltown to Crinan; and (longer term vision) Campbeltown to Oban for walkers, runners and cyclists. Without doubt, this would impact positively on the health and wellbeing of the Argyll community for future generations. * Financial support for communities and householders in the countryside that are having to pay for mobile (EE mobile broadband most likely) broadband where fibre to the premises is not installed. No broadband is definitely a barrier to living, learning and linking up our communities. Thankfully the standard phone line still works.
Better access for wheelchair users
Better broadband and 4G needed, especially on the east side of the island. More houses needed. Only properties for sale are unachievably expensive (~£270,000 for a 3 bedroom house). Some of the older council houses not suitable for disabled/wheelchair access.
Better broadband and phone coverage across the whole area and not just the towns
Better open spaces for children and teenagers to play and hangout.
Better walking and cycling routes which don't include the main road or having to go miles out of your way over hills to link villages together. Encourage local delivery of services and business.
Crime, drugs, places for children to play.
Dog pooh! Better play parks , parking in housing schemes
If I thought anyone world care, is take the time to tell you. But nobody does.
Impression of main street.
Let's ensure the Heritage centre actually opens on time and with decent artefacts on display. Let's try to keep the kelpies here (I am sure they must have extra copies) Crossing for pedestrians in the village.
Local transport is adequate during the day - no evening service. Connections to Oban are poor. More for teenagers. West Bank - no lights, but other bank has.
Make the buildings look better, create somewhere safe for children/teenagers to hang out in Ardrishaig and have more community events.
Meaningful expenditure to obtain "Value for Money" - this may require a major review of money wasted on ineffective management in local authorities - Council and Health! Implementation- and enforcement - of policies agreed on. Improved co-ordination with other bodies outwith the area, to ensure "joined-up thinking."
more places for recreation especially for teenagers, nowhere for them to go
More support to communities wishing to develop their own local areas would be good. For me personally, I'd like to see more/better bars and restaurants, places to meet people. And more fitness facilities that are up to reasonable standard. Area has a lot of strengths, it's beautiful.
Paint the buildings Make Ardrishaig look more attractive
Pull down the 1960's Ardrishaig front street and replace it with a more scenic character that inspires people to want to stop/ stay/ invest in the village. Improve housing and public transport (make the latter free) Improve the housing stock in the village to cover all generations fairly. Encourage great investment in Ardrishaig' amenities;
Speed limits on major and side roads. Safety for older people when using transport and roads. Damage to vehicles when parked in public places. Trees and bushes hindering vision for driving in some areas. Dog fouling!! Major problem as people just do not pick up their dog's mess!! Along the canal and side roads and public greens!!

The area does not promote tourists as it is run down and there is not much tourist opportunity. Family is not focussed on within Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig, there needs to be more support and activities for families and children to stay in the area, leading to this we also need better work opportunities as families (other than those established by the many layers of generations) will leave.

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

- Clean-up and Regenerate the area with more tourist attractions to increase income - Provide local sports/play/events areas to involve family and the community - Provide job opportunities and housing for new and young families
* Issues raised at community council meetings * Newspaper story with request for further survey information, and online public 'vote' * Experienced project managers to lead new projects in the area and determine what local resource is available to achieve new safe passage * A long term vision agreed by the council * Fibre/broadband - for the Government to accept they have not provided their promised support that all of Scotland would have adequate support to receive a minimum of 2M/s internet speed by 2018 and step up immediately.
Cameras to name and shame dog walkers who leave pooh and pooh bags behind! Fines? Stricter parking rules. Letters going out to tenants?
Community projects which include teenagers and young people from the design stage
deliver on promises made by the Scottish Government
For fitness facilities, more investment. I think increasing the population would bring a lot of positive change with regards to stuff happening (like bars setting up) but I know this isn't straight forward to do. But I think once a place gets a reputation or a brand as being really liveable, people will sort of flock and that could change things. For the communities, more effective community engagement to understand what's happening / what people need. Budgets are a challenge but if you develop the groups they can organise and find funding themselves. Maybe working with organisations that promote community ownership like community land Scotland or DTAS. If they were brought into the mix to talk to the council that might be useful. I know that the problems faced are complex, so it's maybe not simple at all. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful place but just some small changes would really improve things here I think
Give financial incentives to building owners to paint/improve. Create a skate park/ concrete area for teenagers to hang, with adequate lighting and possibly cctv.
I would think they are self-explanatory
If I knew the answer I would not be sitting completing this questionnaire!!
Impose more stringent fines have cameras along the main roads. People who take their dogs out at night just do not bother about dog poo! Parked vehicles are damaged and there is no one responsible!!
Introduce evening service, introduce one or more buses to Oban. Teenager clubs - using High School. Lighting on West Bank.
Investment and thinking about where new services and businesses can work from
Maintenance of buildings. Get rid of concrete frontages. Open up access to sea. Continued work with former Gleaner site.
The feel of more police presence. A new park in Lochgilphead which caters for disabled and autistic children
Use Community Windfarm money to enable shops/businesses/home owners to paint their properties

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

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