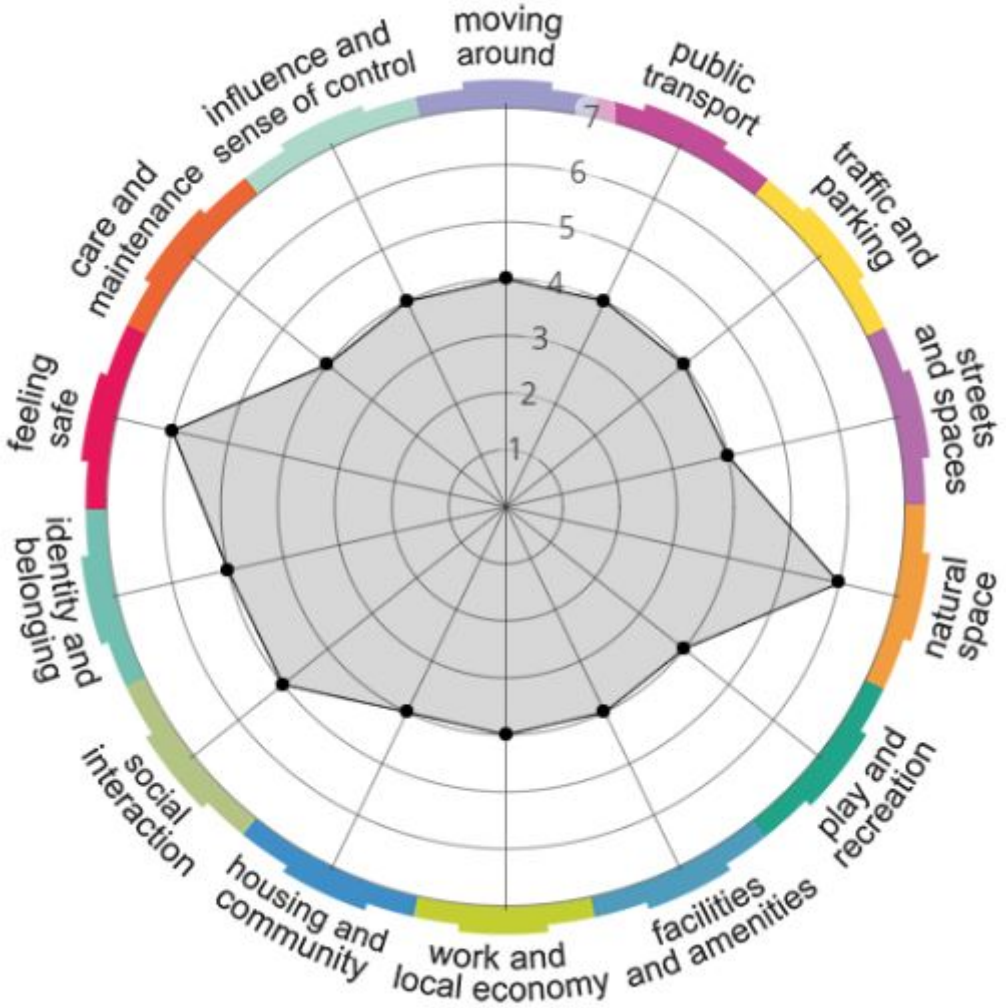
Isle of Bute (incorporating Isle of Bute, Port Bannatyne and Rothesay) Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:

Care and Maintenance

Work and Local Economy

Streets and Spaces

Influence and Sense of Control

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.

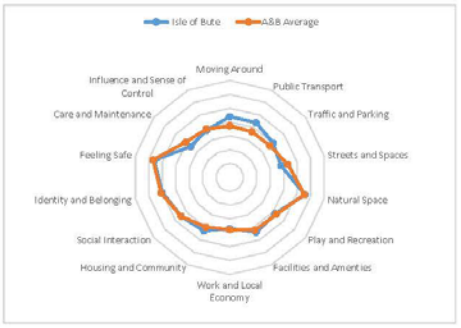
We are currently mapping out what activity is already happening, what is planned within the next 3-4 years and where the gaps are. This information will be considered by both the CPP Management Committee and the Area Community Planning Groups to shape the actions.

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.

Isle of Bute Responses

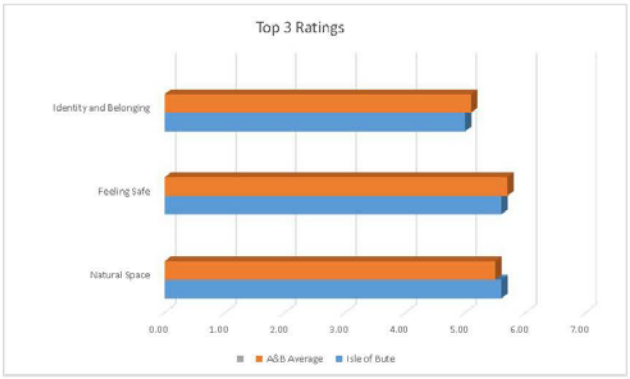
Our Top Rated Areas are:

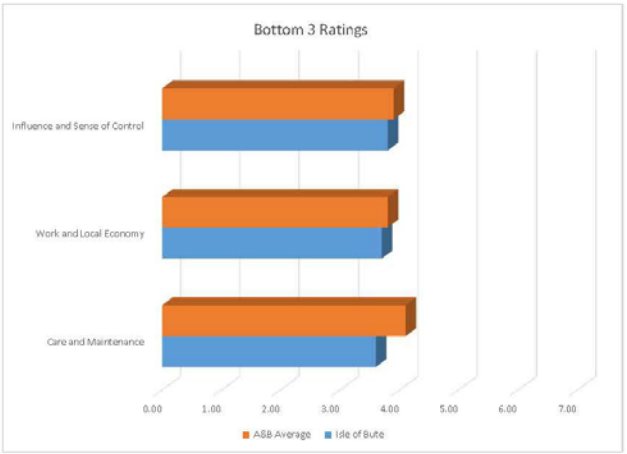
Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 5.6 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 5.6 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
Identity and Belonging	Respondents rated this area 5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.1 out of 7.

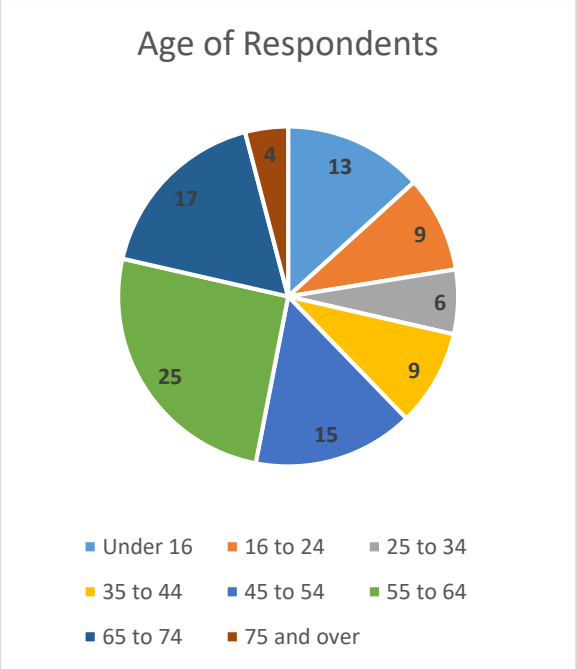


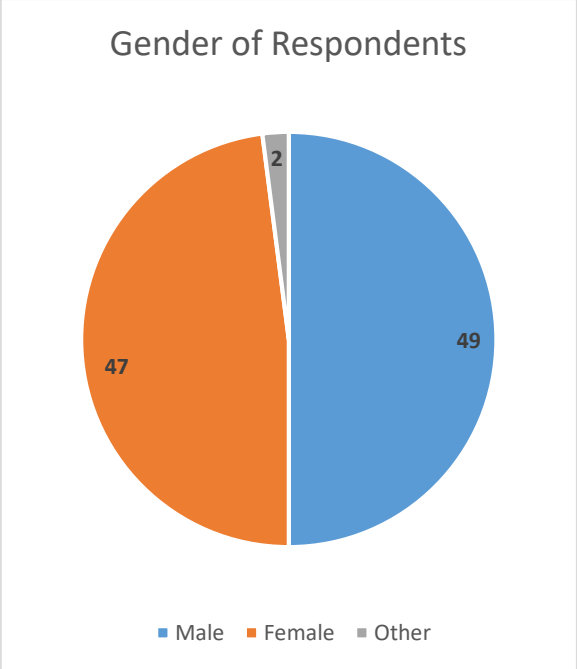
Areas of desired improvement are:

Care and Maintenance	Respondents rated this area 3.6 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.1 out of 7.
Work and Local Economy	Respondents rated this area 3.7 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.8 out of 7.
Influence and Sense of Control	Respondents rated this area 3.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll &Bute Average of 3.9 out of 7.









Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Care and Maintenance	3.6
Work and Local Economy	3.7
Streets and Spaces	3.8
Influence and Sense of Control	3.8
Traffic and Parking	4.0
Play and Recreation	4.2
Housing and Community	4.3
Public Transport	4.4
Moving Around	4.4
Facilities and Amenities	4.4
Social Contact	4.5
Identity and Belonging	5
Feeling Safe	5.6
Natural Space	5.6

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 4.41							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
5 responses	7 responses	17 responses	14 responses	30 responses	18 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

Adequate and safe pavements and footpaths,
Bute is ideal for both these activities, hence their popularity. Safety is the foremost consideration here.
Difficult to get the balance between meeting the needs of motorised transport which is essential to the everyday life of the island given the distances and the locations involved and that of safe walking and cycling needs. The roads are currently not naturally wide enough to have pavement all over the island for walkers or a separated lane for cyclists all over the island. Some method of separating motorised transport from walkers and cyclist on roads would very much help with safely and would eventually encourage more participation in these two activities but any separation method should not be to the detriment of essential motorised transport whither that is bus, private car or farm vehicle. I enjoy walking and cycling but appreciate the need of other road users.
Farmers putting up too many electrified fences inhibiting the right to roam
generally good but some places need some work
Good access using public roads for cycling & walking. Off road cycling routes could be increased/improved and more accessible for people with mobility issues
Good amount of walking routes but few cycling routes on Bute. The walking routes are poorly maintained so not ideal for walking. I.e. over grown grass etc.
good rural setting and roads not too busy however lack of proper cycle paths and maintenance required on many walkways
I don't cycle but there does seem to be a shortage of designated cycle paths. This results in people riding on the pavements. As a person with mobility issues I have on occasions had to take evasive actions. More dropped kerbs required and vehicles parked over kerbs that need to be used
I have a 3 and a half year old child who loves to go out on adventures, recently I have noticed the most overgrowing trails which make it harder to walk along and hold my child's hand for example along lovers lane on Bute taking the track heading towards to ta gate which takes you to a gate which leads to the road to loch fad. The condition of the local woods how there overgrown and not looked after I feel is very poor how can we take our children locally and teach them about the wildlife when it is not safe to do so! I understand Argyll and Bute Council have had cuts but I have never seen the island look so neglected and is not very welcoming to visitors, something has to be done. Even when you come off the Colintraive to Rhubodach ferry the overgrown tree's that badly need cut back and the grass verges that are over grown, come on let’s get Bute back to being beautiful and be proud of our island again!

I live in Rothesay Bute, and have recently chosen to live car free. All services and shops are in walking distance, and the CarBute scheme allows me to access a car very occasionally needed for work training.
I walk good
It would be good If you could make ways for children to get to St Andrew's Primary School and the Joint Campus so they do not have to go beside busy roads breathing in car fumes? Also, to make a map of all the footpaths on the Island - there is great information about the West Island Way, but this is only a part of Bute and most is not feasible without a car. If you could make a free map available, maybe ask for people on the island's favourite walks?
lots of space
Need cycle lanes near the Rothesay Joint campus
need more bike racks preferably under cover
No cycle lanes in Rothesay but good cycle route planning and signage, study ongoing for electric bikes and nice to see tool stations for bicycles now on island. No path, only road to access own property. Lack of foresight in that respect.
No cycle paths
No dedicated cycle routes.
not any dedicated cycle ways
Not enough cycle lanes
Not enough walking and cycling routes separate from cars. Walking to Rothesay Academy spoiled by tailpipe pollution from queues of cars taking one or two kids to school each.
out of town is fine, in town is hazardous
Pavements in town centre need to be upgraded
Poor maintenance of pavements. Pavements not treated in Winter
Pot holes over grown trees hedges cars parked on Craigmore pavements
Quiet roads for cycling. Excellent walks off road available and well managed. In town better footpaths required. Cycle rotes need improvement too around town.
Road surfaces could be better for cycling
ROADS & PAVEMENTS IN A DREADFUL STATE
Rothesay is well laid out for pedestrians, I am not a regular cyclist so not qualified to comment on that.
Rubbish road surfaces.
Safe walking & cycling route to the joint campus is non-existent if you can’t provide this one basic route then children will never choose to walk or cycle, big opportunity missed.
SASIFACTORY BUS SERVICE SAFE LOCATION TO CYCLE WITHOUT DANGER
Some areas which would be used as a walking area do not have a Pavement. Example from Ascog to Mount Stuart
The country roads with high hedges and twists and turns do not feel safe for cycling or for walking. In Rothesay there are many long stretches of parked cars. I would seriously consider buying an e-bike (I live up a steep hill) if I felt that cycling was a safer option. Ideally I'd like to see long stretches of cycle path beside the main routes around the island - it would be a great attraction to visitors and locals.
The road surfaces are good, but because Rothesay is an old town the streets are narrow and the proximity of downtown buildings to the pavement means reduced visibility. "Traffic calming" interventions in town, and a concerted effort out of town to advertise routes that are likely to be safer (using signage, and publications such as the Fyne Futures map) may also help. More secure places to park bicycles might also help.
The various potholes make cycling too much of an adventure. Avoiding them can lead to get hit by a passing car

There are excellent routes but they are not in good condition, pavements are over grown and in bad order
There are excellent walking routes but poor cycling as there is no separation from traffic or walkers. People often cycle on the pavement
There are good quality, safe routes throughout the town centre, but the esplanade could be better used for cycling as well as walking
There are lots of good routes for cycling round Bute and I always feel very safe when cycling around
There are nice places to walk to but no pavements nor any other walkway to be safe away from the road. Major A Road
There are no dedicated, segregated bike paths on Bute. Many past and potential cyclists are wary of using the roads, given the driving behaviour of a small but threatening minority of drivers who have no compunction about passing cyclists fast and close. The road surfaces are generally good with a few dangerous depression in the road around gulley's that need levelling. Walking is a different story and it's a pity walking and cycling have been lumped together. There are good continuous pavement along the Rothesay seafront from Montford to Ardmaleish. Even out in the country, walking on roads is relatively safe as approaching vehicles can be heard and a walker can usually find refuge on the verge.
There is a good provision of safe pavements and footpaths around the town, although some have been lost over the years.
There should be a way for children to walk and cycle from Rothesay to the Joint Campus without having to use the busiest road on the island. We live in a beautiful place with good fresh air, we encourage children to take more exercise, we are trying to cut back on petrol etc. And yet there's no safe, healthy way for our children to get to school here! Otherwise I think it's good? I would like it if there were more footpaths/walks in the fields around the town, as I much prefer walking on softer ground than pavements and roads, but that might be just me
Too many places where car, bike and pedestrian compete for available space.
Too many pot-holes and uneven roads
Very few cycle lanes. Speeding cars - no traffic calming in place despite having asked for it
Walking can be problematic with cyclists using pavements and state of pavements in some areas is poor.
Walking can be treacherous due to dog fouling in the area. The pavements are in poor condition in some areas. Overgrown bushes and trees from gardens also pose a threat
Walking routes are good but there are no dedicated cycling routes Pedestrian access in Rothesay needs more thought with crossing points at ferry terminal and at roundabout Gallowgate
We need more cycle lanes and electric bike schemes for visitors
Within Rothesay and Port Bannatyne the traffic is relatively light and slow. Nevertheless many cyclists seem to think it is acceptable for adults to cycle on the pavement, nothing seems to be done to discourage this.

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 4.37							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
11 responses	7 responses	13 responses	15 responses	20 responses	19 responses	13 responses	0 responses

Comments

1 bus past the house each day
2 buses a day past my house
A good service but very large vehicles for off peak times running empty in rural areas which is an environment concern
Again I do not use public transport apart from the Ferry. The latter is excellent. Family use buses and seem reasonably happy with them. Toilets are few and far between. The pier and Discovery Centre being most convenient and cleanest.
Generally good but prices go up with big increments
Boat could run every 30 minutes as they used too, to free up car backlogs on Rothesay - Wemyss bay run
Both bus and ferry services are excellent
Bus service does not fully match the ferry service and the Sunday bus schedule is very limited
Bus services ok, but let you down in winter and Sundays in summer. Not very much integration with buses/trains at Wemyss Bay, pretty poor actually.
Bus/rail/ferry timetables could be better planned to coincide with each other
Buses on the island run to time and on the handful of occasions I have used them work great. Likewise the ferry service is good, however more realistic transfer times for foot passengers should be reviewed. Timetabling disproportionately affects those with less money or who chose to try and reduce their enviro impact. As a new resident to the island I have missed the connecting train to Glasgow x2 and had to run for others. I personally think this could impact on people choosing to stay on the island and work elsewhere - although a minor issue of a few minutes the net economic impact of more people living here could be greatly felt.
buses do not always meet ferries - Sunday bus service is very poor
Decent bus service but more rural areas still lack a regular service.
Depending on the ferry service on the island is an absolute joke! We should have more ferry operators not just one!!
DO NOT USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT
Excellent bus service just needs to tie in better with ferry. A daily pass should be available as multiple journeys are expensive
Except on Sundays, service is pathetic. Public transport does not go as far as Ettrick Bay, why not??
Fair amount of good quality bus stops. Service from Calmac is poor. Sailings from Calmac go off at a drop of a hat. A wider timetable for extending ferries to a later service would be useful and more investigation into why ferries go off, would provide islanders with a better service. Cost of ferry appears exorbitant for the service we receive in return. I personally wouldn't mind paying a

higher fare etc. if the service was more reliable. However the boats appear too cumbersome for crew to manage in difficult weather
Ferries/Plane
Ferry service is limited Difficult to access when lift not working
For the size of Bute's population, the bus service is appropriate. However, the variable coordination with the Rothesay-Wemyss Bay ferry schedule is unacceptable. This happens when certain buses times are altered to cater to school pupils going to the Academy, leaving ferry users without a connecting bus. The Rothesay-Wemyss Bay schedule has been altered in a strange manner ostensibly to give more assured connections with the train. It results in some strange anomalies, such as between 2 pm and 5 pm from Wemyss Bay when you either wait 30 minutes for the next ferry or an hour, instead of a consistent 45 minutes. It's also unfortunate that Calmac's last sailing from Wemyss Bay for 5 months of the year is 8 pm, which limits Bute residents' access to evening shopping and entertainment on the mainland. The contrast with Cowal's excellent access via Western Ferries is stark. The quality of on-board comfort on the Rothesay-Wemyss Bay ferry is poor. There is no area where one can be assured of peace and quiet indoors. There is also little sign of effective heating in the indoor passenger areas. Finally there is nowhere outdoors on the ferry where one can be assured of avoiding the cigarette smoke of the still too numerous addicts on board. Why on a warm and sunny summer's day can't one be assured of fresh air? Is it too much for addicts to last 40 minutes on board without lighting up?
Good bus routes on island
GOOD BUS SERVICE
Good bus service and ferry. Would like to see electric buses on island as old diesels currently.
Good ferries and buses
I don't regularly use public transport, but we have adequate bus services, although some parts of town are better served than others.
i get a bus from the country side
I have found the changes to the ferry timetable to be unhelpful. A late daily ferry service (i.e. beyond 7pm) would be beneficial.
I rarely use public transport
I use it occasionally and think we have a good service on Bute
I very rarely if ever use buses on Bute as my work and lifestyle does not lend itself to conforming to timetables.
I wish on Friday and/or Saturday nights there were a final, late Wemyss Bay (and Rothesay) ferry so that it would be possible for folks on or off the island to enjoy evenings in the "other" place. Our existing ferries may be over capacity for this, so I don't know what equipment could be used. Bus service is good considering the physical campus of the community. The recent improvements at the Wemyss Bay train station are spectacular. And I am very proud of our "airport." I belong to Car Bute which isn't really part of the "public" transport, but I find it to be extremely useful. Anytime I take a taxi, I find the drivers are reliable and friendly.
Local buses very good and reliable, parking in Rothesay is poor in general and very poor for your buses. Ferry service suffers from more cancellations than in the past and mainland rail services can be patchy at times.
Mainly the boats not community focused (tourism bias).
My son, reading this, says he wants trams again? This would be good if they could be electric. Maybe they could have solar panels on the roof?
No bus service past our property
No problem with buses, but ferry is a problem. Often not running due to style of boats. Lifts often out of order. No changing place for disabled.
On the Island, pretty good, perhaps during 'slack times', a smaller vehicle would do the job?

Our village has a decent service but no bus between 18:00 and 22:45 one about 20:00 hours would be great. Last bus on a Sunday is 18:00
Public transport does not run to some of the beaches on the Island
Public transport too expensive. Bus and ferry operators pass cost of concession ticket discounts on to non-concessions
Rarely use public transport
Rarely use the buses as they're so infrequent
Reasons for not scoring better are doesn't connect with ferry and Sunday service is poor
Should switch to all electric buses and ferries and use online bus call up systems with flexible routes so more used.
Some of bus stops have no shelter and some are badly positioned.
Sunday service needs vastly improving. Also believe the bus should go to Ettrick Bay in the winter, seems ridiculous not to
The bus service is fairly good and as much as can be expected for a rural area.
The Ferry timetable over the last 2 years the Ferry (Calmac) has decreased its frequency. During the time of 1000 to 1600 I feel this is OK. But later then that is difficult for commuters.
The restricted winter timetable which doesn't include Ettrick Bay is annoying.
There are reasonable bus services, but I rarely have need to use them.
there should be more trams
Too expensive. Government has to subside this more to have less cars on the island. Infrastructure has to be improved to enable 21 century carbon foot print reduction. Less cars still same amount of people coming to the island smaller ferries less diesel usage by ferries
Too expensive and not everyone can afford it
Very good bus service given the size of the island and it's relatively small population and some of the remoteness of the destinations.
Very limited bus service ferry service is good, but extended hours would be better. sometimes poor connection between ferries and buses/trains
While both ferry and bus services are usually quite good, the former is not reliable at all.
Would it be possible to have transport going to Scalpsie and St Ninians etc.? Beautiful (most) parts of the island are inaccessible if you don't have a car. The open top bus drives past, but doesn't stop to let people on and off. Wouldn't have to be all year round, or every hour. I have lived here 15 years and have only been able to see a fraction of the island because we do not drive

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

98 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
13 responses	9 responses	11 responses	16 responses	30 responses	15 responses	4 responses	0 responses

Comments

A lot more could be done to use vacant spaces as car parks
a lot of the time there are no parking spaces
As a non-driver, the main issue is cars parking on the pavement on certain streets outwith the town centre, e.g. Battery Place and Glenburn Road.
As visitor numbers grow no further parking provided causing problems for tourists and locals
Bad parking habits is prevalent on Bute and parking spaces are at a premium. Where very large pavements are present around the town of Rothesay which is a left over when Rothesay was a boom holiday town in Victorian time, these should be reduced and replaced with angled parking spaces. This would make it easier to park, safer than opening doors into passing traffic and strapping young children in on the offside which is prevalent also on Bute. Make all parking free to help local businesses in the whole area and enforce parking regulations more rigorously on single and double yellow line areas.
Cars rule, no alternative options for car free or pedestrians. Parking on pavements seems to be accepted.
Day long parking by commuters leaving on the ferry take up too many town centre places needed for short stay visits. Some areas of town, notably Battery Place, suffer disgracefully from on pavement parking, to the disadvantage of pedestrians, prams, disabled people etc.. It seems incredible to me that no serious if not fatal accident has happened due to on pavement parking.
I don't have a car, but from people visiting, they think we are very lucky
I feel there are sufficient parking facilities around Bute
I have no clue
In Port Bannatyne yes but the tractors and scrap boats on front aren’t good
Insufficient parking in centre of Rothesay at peak times.
LACK OF PARKING SPACE - WOULD BE HELPFUL IF LINES WERE PAINTED ON ROAD TO SHOW PARKING SPACES
Limited parking in town centre, plus congestion on main roads due to loading bays. More car parking required in Barone area. Communal bins in Mount Pleasant road take up parking spaces.
Main shopping street should be pedestrian. There needs to be free parking for the ferry
More enforcement as people park cars wherever they want.
more monitoring of parking required as people tend to park in areas that they are not meant to
More redundant sites in Rothesay could be used for parking. Retailers should consider their customers and park away from the shops.
Mostly fine but a 40 mph speed limit throughout the island (30 or 20 in town and villages) would be a good thing.

Motorised transport is very essential for a lot of the permanent residents of the island. Reducing the negative aspects of this form of transport through things like reducing speed to 20 mile per hour in populated areas by clear signage on the roads and on the street would promote a safer environment where pedestrian, cyclist and other road users have to interact. It may also help with noise pollution. The switching off of engines when stationary helps with this also, as well as pollution. The fuel used in motorised transport is likely the biggest contributor to pollution so promoting full electric or electric hybrid or gas or hydrogen vehicles on the island along with walking and cycling would be a great help. There are only as I am aware two electric charge points outside the Coop, more in different locations would be a help. Cycle repair points in populated areas may be of help. Parking spaces should be sufficient to keep town centres alive and accessible by being enough of them and nearby. Pedestrianisation of certain street could be a help. Within an island community a balance has to be struck between people and motorised vehicles and it is not clear cut to say one should have a priority over the other.
No pedestrian space in Montague Street. Issues with cars asserting right of way over pedestrians. Some don't know the law as regards pedestrians, and when on crutches I found it difficult to cross quickly and car drivers paid little regard. Parking is reasonable but it would be nice to have good parking next to town centre that allowed a pedestrian only area, save for access for disabled and business.
Not a motorist
Not enough parking
Not much to complain about except for the quality of most of the roads. Too many potholes with sharp edges that do not get repaired soon enough
OK, except for Boats and Trailers (No Road Tax) parked on the roads.
Parking and traffic are two separate things. I think when Montague Street was updated, it was really supposed to be a pedestrian walkway. While the on-street parking is important to locals, tourists say they feel like they are walking through a parking lot - there little ambiance or charm, which may make things difficult for merchants. Other street parking seems to be pretty well managed, considering the narrowness of the older roadways. Traffic speeds, one-way street, signage, and lighting seem OK to me, but cars and cyclists/pedestrians have an uneasy peace in more rural areas.
Parking charges are ineffective and unnecessary
Parking in Rothesay could be much improved with more limited time areas
Parking is a perennial problem. I have the advantage of a Blue Badge which help enormously. Again disabled places should be increased and monitored as able bodied people frequently use them. More car parking for general use is definitely required.
parking is poor
Plenty of parking but more ferry parking space would be good
Poor parking facilities all round. Parking is poor on the island of Bute. No point in having parking attendant here on random days as everyone reverts back to parking in loading bays etc. once the warden has gone.
Rothesay is a mess, even with restrictions there is lots of issues with parking, passing, etc. as there is no or very little enforcement
Rothesay town centre is a congested environment with poor parking facilities during the day.
Should pedestrianise Rothesay town centre with facilities for disabled access and improved parking on the periphery.
Some parking spaces are narrow and should be a little wider. More restrictions on town roads needed once better accessible car parks are established.
some places could be better for more disabled spots
Stop folk from using vehicles for advertising a holiday park and tea room parked land rover for a week in parking space at winter gardens

there is ABSOLUTELY nowhere to park people abuse the loading bays park on the double yellow lines and get away with it as they know the police have no power, recently on Bute with recent road tar repairs and replacement there has been a major problem with the zebra crossing (lines hadn't been painted) people parking over the crossing and people being nearly ran over.. The beacons were then cover with a black bin bags and very strange lines painted on the road very confused and not very well managed
There is always room for improvement
There is plenty of parking provision and opportunity for parking. A pedestrianised shopping street would be beneficial.
There should be free parking for the first fifteen minutes for access to our local shops
There should be more parking spaces in town centre
TOO MANY PARKING RESTRICTIONS
traffic and parking arrangements are not well monitored/policed
Very limited suitable parking in Rothesay
Very little space for parking in town centre and being in the retained Fire Service I require quick access to my car
very little space to park in town, bottle necks on watergate
Visitors parking in passing places. Since I moved here 12 years ago. I find reversing a bit difficult.
Volume of traffic is very high on the island and parking is very bad. Parking close to junctions, in no parking areas, on double yellow lines etc. is continual - full time traffic warden is required on the island and should not only patrol the town centre. There are numerous caravans, trailers etc. abandoned around the island which need to be addressed too.
We do not have a car, but family visitors to the island think it's great
With a limited bus service and many elderly residents with restricted ambulatory mobility, cars are their only option. Asking if people take priority over cars reveals bias in those phrasing the question. Cars are occupied by people, who are able to be mobile because of them. The parking policy of council in Rothesay is poorly thought out. In Guilford Square the rate charged is too high and generally ignored, as there is little enforcement. Elsewhere in town on-street parking is free and as a consequence many retailers occupy the street near their premises. What council should do is keep the parking rate reasonable, put a short upper time limit on parking and put meters on all heavily parked streets in the core. There are parking meter systems which require the user to enter their vehicle registration number at meter machine spaced every 80 metres or so. This would prevent all-day parking on those streets by retailers and others, and encourage turnover. On the matter of vehicular movement and conflict with pedestrians, there are too few pedestrian crossing resulting in some dangerous locations, such as at the intersection of Bridge St, Gallowgate and Montague St, and at the bottom of High Street where lots of vehicles turn off from the road along the front. I have never understood the reticence of the roads department in putting in more pedestrian crossings. The lack of good street markings in town is also very noticeable to locals and especially visitors. In areas where street parking on one side of the road is common, why is the mid-line marking not consistently half-way between the parked vehicles and the opposite pavement? Why is there no fluorescent parking of pavement edges on the medians at the roundabout at the bottom of Bishop Street, which are difficult to make out on a dark rainy night especially for visitors. When are there no double yellow lines at pinch points such as one on Mount Stuart Road where there are always parked vehicles which make it difficult for two vehicles to pass each other. The same goes for the area on Argyll Street just beyond the last shops.

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

98 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
11 responses	14 responses	18 responses	18 responses	22 responses	12 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

a lot of comment this year regarding lack of weeding etc. in the streets of the town and very little grass cutting
A lot of poorly maintained buildings in town centre. Current volunteers who paint street furniture should be salaried.
Could be improved. Some part are very nice other areas need a lick of Paint
Derelict & poorly maintained buildings (particularly along the main town centre detract from the area, giving a run-down appearance. Cut backs in council/roads dept. grass cutting of verges, parks and cemeteries & weeding of pavements has led to a deterioration in the area. Street lighting is very poor at night giving a feeling of insecurity.
Derelict buildings and those that are not well cared for as well as uneven roads and footpaths/pavements give a really poor impression to any visitor and discourage return visits. Litter and dog waste is also a problem.
Derelict buildings spoil the town centre. Near these buildings we have fabulous local landmarks e.g. Castle, Winter Gardens. 1960s buildings near the Castle spoil such a historic landmark.
Derelict hotel on the shore front - not very welcoming to visitors nice square and public area
Disgrace
dreadful roads, pot holes
Due to a shortage of public funding there are a number of derelict and run down properties. however this I believe is the case throughout the UK
Easy enough to walk around, although the terrain means you have to be quite fit
Everywhere is within walking distance in town, which still has some character, and lovely gardens and illumination of buildings at night are good aspects.
Far too many gap sites in Rothesay. Badly maintained buildings on the seafront of town give a poor impression. Public spaces like the seafront gardens are first class and highly maintained by the dedicated council staff. The maintenance of seafront railings and lampposts (lower area) are highly maintained by two OAP brothers with paint supplied by the council. The state of the railings in the Ardbeg area is a disgrace- these are outwith the above mentioned dedicated brothers area of operations.
I feel that Montague Street should be fully pedestrianised
I think a lot more could be done with projects ranging from the Guilford Square update to the refurbishment of "stalled spaces." A lot of buildings, especially those along the waterfront (where a visitor's first impressions are made) seem weary. When Bute Fabrics opened its shop and painted that one building yellow, it made a remarkable difference. The idea of turning abandoned lots into small gardens is very appealing, as it improves the appearance and safety of the area for pedestrians. Can never have enough flowers! I wish that when a building is vacant that there was

a way to "encourage" the building owner to keep the facade in good order, and neatly block out the windows so we don't all have to look at piles of housed trash inside - this draws vermin and is a fire hazard.
I would agree that they do and the current layout of Rothesay for example to a great extent does work but pedestrianisation of certain streets would help to give a safer and relaxed shopping experience. Maintenance of buildings appearance also help with his also. Any empty building windows either at ground level or above have interesting inspiring images of Bute to cover them to give a less of a neglected look [competitions for schools to produce images]. Introduction of all year round low maintenance green street furniture help to promote a sense of well-being.
It is wonderful this year that the council has not weed killed or cut back vegetation so much? Seeing all the bees on the bramble flowers and cotoneasters etc., the walls have gone from just stones to fascinating places to watch, and beautiful too. I love seeing how they are changing with the seasons. It makes the environment feel more welcoming, softer, to me
Lack of maintenance means a lot of buildings present a very unattractive picture of the town. Various schemes over the years I have worked in the town have been aimed purely at cosmetic works, with little being done to support serious structural maintenance. The planning departments seems more interested in whether the astragals are wooden or pvc than whether or not a building can be kept in use economically.
LOTS OF EMPTY PROPERTIES (SHOPS)
Many empty and many buildings in very poor condition
Mostly OK but Montague Street still doesn't feel quite right
Much of the centre of Rothesay is decrepit with several well-known eyesores. If Bute is to attract more visitors, the centre of town needs a major makeover, but how this can be done without a major injection of funds is beyond my area of competence. At a very minimum, the council needs enforcement powers to compel property owners to repair broken roof gutters and drainpipes that leak water onto public pavements, and to remove vegetation growing in roof gutters and from walls.
Need more passing places and less POTHOLES
needs more care for a lot of places in the main town and areas around
Not at all. Roads are a disgrace, weeds, litter, pot holes, and discarded cars everywhere. Dog Fouling is rife Derelict buildings (some in Castle St) are outrageous with nothing being done to improve them - what on earth is going on?
Not bad lot of mess in water gate outside plumbers bins in Guilford square pavement from shops need moved during the day
Not enough access for disabled. Pavements need renewing. Empty shops look unsightly and derelict buildings opposite pier should be removed. No amenities for young people in the evening
Not very good on Bute.
On the whole the area is quite good but the area to the left of the pier as you come into the town lets the whole town down as it is in need of a lot of attention.
out of town is mainly fine, in town is run down, pavements are filthy, buildings are in awful state
A number of properties in Castle Street and Quay street are an absolute disgrace
Poor aspects of Bute as the weeds that make the town look like the day of the triffids! Some of the buildings are in terrible condition. lying derelict etc. the town heritage has made a massive improvement to some of the building, but there is some amount of work left to do
Quite a lot of dereliction in Rothesay but good to see some progress. I enjoy the green spaces and the effort the council put into these, especially the flowers and greens on the seafront.
Rothesay is very easy to get around. There could be more sloping curbs to help with mobility scooter/wheelchair access, e.g. at the supermarket and to get to the sea front. And even for granny baskets pulling shopping. Next to the old academy there is a small park/garden called the Rockery which is a wasted opportunity and also depressing. It looks like it has been hit by a bomb

and anything left weed killed. It was once a lovely place for children to play in, with a bench. Now the trees have been cut down or mutilated beyond any excuse of pruning and the bench needs new planks. This wouldn't cost much and would stop it looking derelict as well as being a useful stop off for people going up the hill or tourists to the viewing point? Instead of the Rockery looking like people are trying to stop anything growing, it could be a great place to plant wildlife plants or an orchard. Lots of people I've talked to about it would be happy to look after it as it's on our doorstep, but there's no point if what we plant will be dug up or sprayed. Please STOP USING WEEDKILLER! I've read the council uses it because it's cheaper than strimming. But it's a poison, it kills wildlife and it's bad for us too. And the withered plants look hideous, until they sprout back up. Which they do. So it's pointless as well. The Winter Gardens and Ardencraig are gorgeous. But in all other plots and pieces of vacant land be used for wildlife? We have amazing wonderful wildflowers here, you can see them at Mount Stuart by the beach, or Ettrick by the beach - in places where there's no strimming or spraying? If we could showcase all these flowers like cranesbills and vetches and mallows etc. in the town it would make us special, another reason to visit?
Rothesay town centre is greatly run down and requires urgent investment
Rothesay town centre is nice, however basic maintenance of benches, public spaces (e.g. Civic Space in Montague street) and weather shelters on the front would make a massive difference. A programme offering job seekers "permitted work" , paid- could be an effective way to address this issue and increase employability skills and civic participation on the island from those who may be furthest from the job market. This could be achieved working alongside pre-existing social enterprises.
Rothesay town suffers from presence of derelict eyesores such as vacant school building and bathing station dominating approach to town and island, also royal hotel building a very bad impression. Some other building owners should be further encouraged to improve poor property. Alternately refurb of Bute House Winter Gardens and Pavilion (if it ever opens again) is welcome.
(Name of Hotel) is an eyesore and needs to be demolished or developed.
Sadly Rothesay looks drab and poorly maintained in terms of many of the buildings. Many appear run down and in need of TLC. The impression given when leaving the Rothesay ferry is not a good one.
Some bottlenecks could be policed better e.g. Gallowgate.
Some buildings in town centre still require renovation- others have been transformed to a high standard.
Some of the buildings in town centre in need of some TLC
The Rothesay sea front needs a big makeover
The sight of some buildings especially in Rothesay could be improved to make it more attractive
The streets are a mess so overgrown and dirty looking this is not attractive when reading my 1st comment on the 1st page this is evidence why!! Someone needs to take this on board and make Bute beautiful again because we care!!
There are quite a few eyesore and tired buildings in the town centre which is not a good sight for visitors or residents.
There has been a lot of work in clearing and landscaping derelict sites.
There is a large majority of the older properties on Bute that have been left to achieve absolute disrepair
There is a significant amount of repair and maintenance required to the buildings
There is a wildlife garden which just looks like an abandoned and fenced off area, quite a few building need improving and made safe. The square in Montague Street is really in need of an upgrade
Too many derelict buildings which is a shame as there are so many beautiful buildings

Too many dilapidated properties in town centre. Very poor pavement maintenance. Pavements not treated in winter make it dangerous in Winter
town is very shabby, streets are very dirty
We are blessed with many attractive streets and buildings but there are some very depressing streets and buildings in the town itself. The former Royal Hotel being an eyesore to folk arriving on the boat. The Watergate lately also. Conditions of pavements are extremely poor and frankly dangerous.
Weeds and lack of general care, poor lighting at night.
While much has been done in the town centre, in some other parts of town there are still derelict buildings and gap sites.
WHOLE TOWN IN VERY POOR CONDITION
Yes, most of it, but some buildings in Rothesay are an eyesore. Especially at the waterfront neglected building should be repaired (by law?) to fully appreciate the town presence.

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 5.68							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
4 responses	3 responses	3 responses	7 responses	14 responses	29 responses	38 responses	0 responses

Comments

Beautiful beaches, woodland walks, parks
Bridge missing for years in skeoch woods need put back as walk is redundant just now
Bute has no lack of wonderful natural and cultivated spaces in the countryside and in public areas along the seafront and the Meadows and Charlie's Park. It wouldn't hurt to have more maintained footpaths, but what it has already is generally good to excellent. These spaces served by footpath only are accessible to all except the disabled and those with limited mobility, with the exception of the old tramway footpath.
Cut back in maintaining park areas and public paths has vastly detracted from the experience. Access for people with disabled mobility could be improved
Everywhere on Bute!
Excellent accessibility to quality coastal and country walks
Excellent. Nature is beautiful and very well accessible.
Fabulous resources
Fairly good. Paths could be better maintained
good area on the prom and public park
I used to live in Cessnock - so yes!
ISLAND IS BEAUTIFUL - HOWEVER - OFTEN SEE LITTER THROWN FROM CARS AS SIDE OF ROAD WHEN OUT WALKING - ALSO CONCERNS OVER STATE OF ROADS LEFT BY FARMERS - MUDDY - FULL OF POTHOLES
Little room for improvement
lots of lovely walks, beaches and pathways
My only complaint would be home owners cutting down the trees in their gardens. Trees affect not just gardens but all people walking by, they suck up pollution on roads for walkers like me, as well as being beautiful and stress reducing. For me, they are one of the best things about living in Rothesay. We should be more proud of our trees. I wish you could turn the Rockery on Academy Road into a community orchard instead of it looking like it has barely survived the Blitz
nature bad
nature has been kind
only issue would be the lack of facilities for people with mobility and disability issues
OUR LOCATION IS STUNNING VERY LUCKY TO LIVE HERE
out of town is fine, there are bits in town that are reasonable
outside of town is fine
Over the summer holidays the local swimming pool and public park was closed due to roof repairs at the swimming pool..... Surely this could be scheduled at a better time bad weather kids on holiday and nowhere to go!! very upsetting

Plenty of potential space but the Council slashes and destroys anything above a five inch piece of grass. Verges cut before flowers grow and seed, areas such as the 'Meadows' razed to a muddy desert. The most environmentally backward Council I have come across.
pretty good but needs more care in and around these places on Bute
Tenant farmers should have right to buy and other land should move from aristocratic absentee ownership to community ownership.
The likes of the black park on Bute has seen the trees around felled and has been left unsightly. The local authority parks are poorly maintained and often flooded.
There are lots of nice walks.
There are plenty of walking trails and routes across Bute
This is one of the outstanding features of Bute.
Too many electrified fences and dog poo
Very good natural spaces abound however access to west of island a problem with no public transport and no bike hire
Very good on Bute.
We are fortunate to have beautiful countryside right on our doorstep.
We are surrounded by farmland, hill and woodland, so access to natural space is good. Seating is not generally available outside of town.
We are surrounded by open countryside.
Wonderful natural spaces but those nearest the biggest community are in poor repair. Overgrown, inaccessible etc.
Yes to a great extent I can experience good-quality natural spaces. It is what the island of Bute is all about. One thing that could be improved is signage to these natural spaces showing directions, distances, time taken to get there by e.g. walking or cycling and what facilities are there and what you are likely to see etc.
Yes!!! It's the best thing about living here BUT STOP WEEDKILLING Sort out the Rockery and encourage wildlife planting. Discourage people from cutting down trees to improve sea views. The tree plantations that have been harvested recently - could they be planted up with native trees?
Yes, easily via walking, electric bicycle, bus, ferry or car. It would be good to see more electric vehicles to cut down on noise pollution near natural places.

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 4.23							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
8 responses	14 responses	8 responses	22 responses	21 responses	13 responses	12 responses	0 responses

Comments

Absolutely nothing to do for kids on Bute there needs to be a soft play, skate park something to do for all ages, all the money used to rebuild the pavilion were good sources could of ben used keep attraction to Bute as its poor and visitors are left feeling low
All natural - walks (some organised) Badminton.
as a small community you do not expect the same facilities as in a town but more improvement required -tennis courts -access to boat hire, kayak hire , cycle hire -crazy golf-indoor play facilities for families in poor weather
Complete lack of recreation areas for young or older children, only facilities at the school which lack of walking/cycling bus services is a barrier to it being used. Public Park is a disgrace, weeds, overgrown poor paths, muddy, and no facilities whatsoever.
Excellent but perhaps an outdoor nursery and forest school over the summer would be great
Excellent parks and walks
Far too little for children. Especially when you are a holiday maker and have children and the we have the best of Scottish weather (Rain)
good public park area
Greater use could be made of the Meadows
Hardly any facilities for children
hardly any places for things to do
I am still learning about what is available, but the Discovery Centre Cinema is unbelievable! Great price and also an opportunity to watch films on the big screen. I do wondering if there are organised evening activities for all groups within the community as evenings really seem to be quiet.
Lacking facilities across a wider range of ages. Need more accessible facilities.
most of the play parks are either out of town, closed, or overgrown
Need a skate park and a leisure centre with less ugly architecture. Bute Community Forest needs a mountain (e-bike) and horse riding trail.
Needs a decent swimming pool and restoration of tennis courts. Maybe the money wasted on destroying nature (previous question) could go towards this. Also more safe areas for toddlers.
No swimming baths no nothing Chernobyl of Scotland
Not enough customised play areas. For example there could be a skateboard park for the youngsters.
not much at all for kids
Not very good on Bute.
Not within my ken as an elderly resident

Nothing is Ascog
Nowhere for children and young teenagers to meet and play
Overall, there is good provision of play and recreational space, but some parts of town, e.g. Craigmore, have more limited provision. In the worst case - Montford, children would need to walk approx. 3 miles to access play facilities.
Park closed all summer along with swimming pool and leisure centre this is a disgrace to a supposed to be holiday resort shame on council
Perhaps a running track and all weather tennis courts?
Play and recreation in Rothesay is very poor! Not a great attraction for day visitors to the island
plenty of facilities for the majority of people i.e. Golf, sailing, cycling etc. more playparks and facilities required for younger children
PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEISURE AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES
Poor /nothing for older children and teenagers particularly visitors who are not members of clubs.
Putting green, golf courses etc. are all good. The council tennis courts have fallen into disrepair by the council
Some decent outside sports facilities for group activity but lack of facilities for individual and family recreation is poor.
Some of the sports accommodations such as the Lade centre are completely outdated.
some space in town, not many facilities
The limited play parks which we have are very poorly maintained and offer limited equipment/facilities, which do not meet the needs of all age ranges who would be using them. There is very little organised recreational activities. Indoor play/ recreation facilities for children during bad weather/winter months are very limited (almost non-existent)
The local play parks and pitches are poorly maintained and often flooded, proper drainage and upkeep is required for people to further engage with what is available
The teenage age group I feel is not well catered for. Not sure what you would provide that would prove to be challenging or creative or diverting.
There are plenty of places, but not enough happening? We could really do with a decent place for primary age children to go to. Doesn't have to be a special soft play centre like FunWorld, but somewhere supervised with active play, for when it's raining. For older children we could really do with something like Judo, which doesn't need lots of expensive kit
There are s of natural outdoor places for recreation but not obviously many Council provided facilities.
There has been a loss of recreational facilities over the last few decades, e.g. crazy golf, tennis, trampolines, children's static funfair.
There is nothing for teenagers?
This is a question better answered by families with children. By myself, I haven't really exhausted all of the opportunities that exist.
Very fortunate at A'Chrannag (round eco tower) which has excellent green spaces around the property, also playing fields, and all ideal as safe, quality places for kids and adults. A good range of free and paid recreational facilities on island.
VERY POOR - SWIMMING POOL WAS SUPPOSED TO CLOSE FOR 10 WEEKS OVER SUMMER HOLIDAYS - WORKS EXTENDED - NOW ADVISED WILL BE MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER BEFORE OPENING - ROTHESAY PAVILION HAS BEEN OUT OF USE FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS - WITH NO END IN SIGHT OF IF OPENING
We have a great park with a play area for children. Great beaches in easy reach
Worst place I've lived for having access to recreation space and council seems very unwilling to rectify

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.

98 responses in total – Average Score of 4.48							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
4 responses	11 responses	12 responses	16 responses	23 responses	25 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

2 Pubs and post office are owned by people who have admitted they don't want the community so almost nothing other than new cafe out of price for some and a pub.
Acceptable!!
All high quality restaurants are in Cowal and other mainland areas. Need to develop field to fork organic regenerative farming for locals and visitors. Library needs total rebuild as very ugly building. Job Centre same. GP and hospital are fine. Need a bigger dentist surgery as already full.
As an island we do have a limited number of shops and little competition but on the whole we have a good range although more expensive than the mainland.
Basic but not too bad. Shame we lost the large swimming pool.
Bute library is a great facility-GP surgery is in a ridiculous location. Clearly whoever built it didn't anticipate people with mobility problems might use it. It's up a hill and out of town with limited parking facilities.
Could do with more variety, like every high street now there are more and more charity shops
Energy security needs addressing
few amenities
For a relatively small island there is a lot to choose from. Some more restaurants that are open in the evenings would make it complete
For the size of town, the facilities are good, although there is little outside of the central part.
Good faculties but need improvement in appearance
Good GP service and library. No quality evening dining venues in town. Some excellent independent small shops e.g. butchers, book shop, gifts. No supermarket competition, no deli.
GP surgery- always struggle for appointments for working people can't pre book when you're off shift library is fab my child likes it and completed her summer challenge reading. Cafes too expensive and not much of menu for eating disorders like gluten free. Local shops (co-op) don't care all requirement for gluten free they do have some options which are expensive but don't have stuff like breadcrumbs, soya sauce/peppercorn sauce even the local butchers gluten free meats are expensive sure this day and age they should be helping people with disorders not punishing them with high prices because there ill.
Gym too small Co-Op has Monopoly on island for shopping, leading to inflated prices and an expensive cost of living.
Health Centre is excellent but access difficult if you don't drive and have mobility issues. Pharmacies are good and helpful. As things progress over the years we end up with the same thing in several locations. Perhaps the finished Pavilion will make a difference

High rating for me at the age of 69 but might not suit everyone so well.
I think Bute has a lot to offer, but there is clearly room for more businesses to move in. There is also a troubling turnover of small businesses that I wish we could slow down. A public toilet downtown, or even out of town, might be nice but I know there are problems operating those types of services.
IN MY OPINION YES ….. NEEDS ARE MET
It is a shame there are no independent cognitive behaviour therapists anymore.
Joke
Lack for children and young teens during day and evening
lack of mental health services on the island, lack of facilities for dialysis patients, it would be better if medical appointments on the mainland could be more streamlined for islanders several people are travelling multiple times per week to attend hospital appointments which could be better coordinated to cut down on travel times and costs. more restaurants required and less food takeaways
Lack of provision for children , young people
Library hours and service excellent, plenty of good eating places. A more user-orientated GP surgery would help. Good dentists but haven't taken on nhs patients
lots to do if you look
needs more
No competitor for supermarket resulting in many leaving Bute to do shopping on mainland
not a great range of shops or facilities
Not attractive at all
Overall, Rothesay has a good mix of amenities, although outlying parts of town have less nearby.
Plenty of empty shops - the council should review business rates
Plenty of good places to eat at the moment
POOR
Poor choice of supermarket type outlets as both are co-op and have limited food for diabetics and vegetarians. Guildford square could easily have a canopy, shelter in the town centre with seating/tables much as they do near the marina in Tarbet. Good access to health facilities, banks, social work etc. No pedestrian only streets in town centre. Planning for electric vehicle charge points needed.
Speaking from personal experience only, the GP facility and small hospital provide a service that is in some respects superior to what one can get in a large city, such as the short wait time at A&E. The provision of restaurant facilities is barely adequate, ditto for hotel and self-catering accommodation, but I daresay it reflects the current level of demand. The provision of tennis and badminton facilities is virtually non-existent compared to days gone by. The school had tennis equipment given to it a few years ago. What happened to it?
The council run gym and leisure centre was closed over the busiest season of the year. The GP surgery is poorly managed, there are too many pubs and fast food outlets on the island
The only highlight on the Island when it comes to good food is Helmis (Syrian Cafe)
The recreation centre and pool is now too expensive to buy an annual seniors pass
the standard and number of shops and restaurants could be improved
There are limited facilities and amenities to help support a healthy lifestyle, particularly for children.
There are not enough public houses
There are some facilities but often quite well hidden and lacking funding. If the Council is not well-placed to provide facilities, it could better support the organisations that do (or may) provide

what residents and visitors want/need through a grant system that improves quality, image and availability.
There is everything I need here to live. One issue was that I have trouble signing up to a dentist as apparently there is an issue with finding a dentist to practice. I honestly believe that this would be easily overcame with creative (non corporate) advertising commissioned from the council or NHS - with people being given complete licence to launch non-corporate appeals to workers.
There will always be room for improvement but to a great extent facilities and amenities work for me and are accessible.
very easy to access and easy to use
Very few family-type shops, i.e. shoes, and no outlet dealing in computer or mobile phones accessories.
Very limited but good quality food shops retail, health and education opportunities good. No good restaurants, some reasonable casual dining opportunities
We could do with a dentist?

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 3.72							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
10 responses	13 responses	19 responses	25 responses	18 responses	9 responses	4 responses	0 responses

Comments

As an island - jobs are limited but there are opportunities available.
Employment is difficult as employment opportunities are rare. Much of it is on a temporary basis i.e. seasonal. Little opportunities for apprenticeships to give our youngsters a future
Employment tends to be at the basic rates of pay. I have no experience of other services to comment appropriately.
Few job opportunities
Few job opportunities, especially for the young, and low rates of pay.
First impressions there appears to be an active local economy but it has the potential to be very seasonal. Difficult to cultivate an all year round customer base or need for a service with a relatively small local population. Weather dependant in some cases.
Great need for more local investment in light manufacturing or office based businesses. Tourism may well provide some seasonal employment but it is low pay and not 365 days a year. Farming seems to be much less proactive than in the past and it is sad that such things as local slaughterhouse and creamery have been allowed to close and will be next to impossible to reopen.
I am happily employed on the island, however I can see that there is a lack and mismatch of jobs for people with the lowest core skills, who may be discriminated against because of age (e.g. unemployed / PT workers 50yrs).
I am retired, so I can't speak to this. I would love to volunteer but I am not a UK citizen so I can't.
I have no idea what you could do about this
I struggled to get employment and I have only found employment twice on the island in the year I have lived here
I'm not employed in the island so not sure about this but I do work virtually and a fast internet is important to me
If the economic development plan would recognise the potential for the grey pound sector. This would offer job opportunities and attract investment into the island. People living longer offers a very real opportunity to have their needs serviced on the island, not off.
I'm retired so cannot comment much but I believe that more jobs and better paid jobs would filter down into community and eventually improve life on the island
it is active however not too many places to access good work
It seems that job opportunities are limited for the younger.
It seems to be OK on Bute.
Limited work opportunities available on Bute.

Local jobs are always available the only thing I would state is the ones that do not work but are capable of working get them out make them work and get the local town fresh and clean looking again!! make Bute beautiful again
Local jobs are mostly low paid- I have had to travel off island for many years to continue my career.
Locals seem to be actively discouraged by the council to form groups to make the area feel more welcoming, there needs to be a drive for local people to get more involved in activities and the likes.
Mainly low paid work
More or less only seasonal jobs. One has to commute to have good job
Mostly poorly paid work and not enough. Higher skilled work through regenerative farming and transfer of absentee aristocrat ownership to community ownership and support for business premises and start up development is needed. Old academy needs investment to be developed for mixed use business and arts and housing.
No jobs and council workers all have part time jobs after work which I believe is illegal as civil servants
Not enough job opportunities because of available land and premises issues.
Not in my ken, but most young people leave the island for post-secondary skill training and many don't return due to a lack of opportunity, which is down to a mix of low population and low demand due to low income. The latter income level reflects the general low education level of the working population.
Not many well paid positions available
Not much
Not sure there are great job opportunities, those on offer seem quite poor quality. Could the Council not encourage 'new' industry, for example, why does the island no longer have a creamery? Islands with smaller populations manage it. Selling products associated with the island help promote the island as well as generating income. If employment prospects were raised and the environment improved it would raise morale (for want of a better word) and thereby the respect shown to the area, reducing some of the broader anti-social issues like litter and dog mess.
obviously not - too may jobless young people
On an island there are always job restrictions, but there seems to be a variety of low paid work available there are opportunities for work skills and training but maybe no job at the end of it
Over the past years there has been a decline in the local economy. Shops & hotels closing has led to lack of unskilled employment which used to be plentiful, particularly for older children to gain work/life experience during school holidays
Poor
Reasonable work opportunities considering location but all my work has had to be off island at sea to get decent pay and latterly I've been able to work from home as a blogger for a Dutch company due to good 4G and high speed fibre. I'd like to see a large company come to the island, for instance a data centre which would aid jobs and the local economy. Efforts to attract such should be increased.
Scoring highly because of a couple of recent new medium-sized employers.
seems to be an increase in the number of apprenticeship type jobs available for youngsters which is good-it would be better if people could get more help with travel costs in order to work off island if required
the job market on Bute is limited to a few major employers there is a need for more employers as people regularly have to leave the island for work and regulation
The vacant shops along the front and in Montague Street highlight the lack of opportunities for jobs and entrepreneurs

There is a good mixed economy on Bute, with some newer larger employers, but with vulnerability to public sector cuts.
There is little work outside the service sector
There is not enough employment on the Island to encourage young people and families to remain on the Island. Local businesses are not given enough incentive by the council to start up and improve their business
There is work there if you look hard enough
This is poor
Unemployment black hole Bangladesh economy is better
Very few opportunities to gain skills, childcare is not affordable, no opportunities for local business to grow or start, really poor economic opportunities here.
VERY LITTLE WORK ON ISLAND
Very little work. if you want a new job you need to move off island
very poor work opportunities
When we moved here we were told the only good jobs were for the council. I think this is still true. We could do with better apprenticeships for tradespeople, but that's the same everywhere. It would be good if Bute had a special draw factor, rather than just being "undiscovered". Something children would work hard at school in order to get a job with, instead of having to leave the island I would like it if there was more information about volunteering
Work is now seasonal or limited and seems to be in lot of cases employment only available to those whose face fits not their experience or abilities
WORK OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIMITED TO THE LOCAL POPULATION. THERE IS NOT A LOT OF SCOPE TO ACCESS GOOD QUALITY WORK DUE TO OUR RURAL LOCATION

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 4.29							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
7 responses	11 responses	10 responses	23 responses	21 responses	17 responses	9 responses	0 responses

Comments

1 bedroomed accommodation welcomed
A good mix available although Airbnb properties appear on the rise.
a lot of empty properties because there is a lack of educational/economic opportunities on the island
A lot of flats, but not so many detached houses that are affordable. It seems a lot of rural properties are tied to the Bute estate.
Acha and Fyne homes haven't got a clue
Although other positive, some of the private rented sector has poor maintenance standards.
Ascog is fine
Can't really comment.
Could do with more bungalows for people with mobility problems. Also better help with dampness issues
could do with more bungalows for those with mobility issues
Difficult to judge, hence the middle rating as I am not familiar as to what is there already with regards what is needed.
Don't know
Good amount of accommodation but a lot is of poor quality and badly maintained.
Housing quality generally poor and reflected by and large (a) the low income of the population which has little disposable income available to upgrade their owner-occupied housing (a) the low income of the housing associations involved in social housing provision, which reflects Scotland's limited wealth base. Much of the older, larger housing has been converted into flats successfully as far as outward appearance goes, but is still difficult to upgrade in many respects without substantial injection of funds for renovation. It lacks sufficient high-grade modern housing particularly flats for older retired people with equity released from sale of their mainland dwellings.
I don't know about others. It's fine for me.
lack of affordable family houses -too many tenement style flats
MOSTLY TENEMENTAL PROPERTIES - MOST PEOPLE WANT A HOUSE WITH A GARDEN
Need for an old peoples Home so that no one has to leave the Island at the last years of their life.
No – (Housing Association) are destroying the whole community. I suggest they enhance their housing stock to make larger homes for families and get rid of most of the single person properties they seem to favour.
No expertise in this
normally great however there could be improvements

Not enough houses that are affordable
Personally I am delighted with our social landlords and I've been able to move as health and circumstances change and stay on island. However much is costly old stock and with the move towards renewables and no gas in new builds from 2025, we need to look at options other than hydrocarbons. District heating using the sea or air as a differential for heating. For example air source. Also consider solar and solar thermal plants in abandoned uneconomical farms as a way to support the community. No electric charge points for cars at social housing and this also needs to be considered. My main issue with my own home even though it has 300mm insulation and triple glazing and is 70% of the area of my previous home, is the energy cost which is 1 1/2 times the cost of my less efficient previous home as all electric energy. This shows as electric is 3.5 to 4 times the price of gas per kWh. Where is the incentive to switch to electric/renewables when gas is so cheap? Personally I'm stuck with electric heating and social landlords need to look at alternatives that can match gas such as air source.
Poor housing quality stock which requires further investment
poor range of housing
Poor range of housing and little choice. few new houses
Private landlords neglect insulation and repairs. Too many small flats and not enough family accommodation. Need very high insulation standards rolled out to reduce fuels use.
Rothesay and Port Bannatyne both need a makeover as there is a shoddy look to the places
SATISFACTORY HOUSING AVAILABLE IN MY OPINON
Seems to be a lack of 3/4 bedroom properties.
Seems to be adequate, although, could always use extra funding for upgrading etc.
Surplus housing stock and high level of property for sale mean a good range of accommodation is available.
The housing stock in Rothesay needs upgrading
There is good quality social rented housing available. However there are a lot of private landlords who also offer fairly good accommodation. Hence the private market leaves a lot of unfilled social rented properties
There appears to be a fairly wide choice of styles, sizes and affordability.
There are plenty of (empty) buildings that could and should be better maintained and contribute to good quality housing opportunities. New tenants shouldn't be those who are proving a problem in other areas as that is counterproductive.
There is a good variety of housing available but a lot of the housing is in the form of tenement flats and most people now want their own garden so these properties are in high demand and low turnover.
There is a lot of housing stock that needs to be saved if we expect it to be available for the next generation. Also, I understand that the one and two bedroom flats are not adequate for families, so any housing plan needs to think about reconfiguring space adequately for families.
There is a mix of housing type, but perhaps a shortage of mid-market private rented housing with much used for holiday homes. Looking at this provision in housing associations may help attract professionals to Argyll in the interim period. When I moved I had a very limited number of houses in the private market, while also looking at Fyne Homes, studio flats. As cities, the extractive role of Air BnB may be looked at with a supplementary tax / outlawed/
there is an oversupply of housing on the island some private lets are of very poor standard
There seem to be more and more properties which are falling into disrepair because they are second/holiday homes or the last resident has died and the family have not done anything about the property
Think so but not sure there seems to be a variety of housing available
Too many 1 bedroom flats not enough family homes for rent

Too many single person houses resulting in an above average influx of single men who seem to be drug or alcohol addicts or both in some cases. (Housing Association) seem to think its ok to allow the bad tenant to stay put while rehousing the poor tenant whose life is being made a misery. It's a disgrace
Too many small flats not enough family homes
Too many strangers getting accommodation who's history is unknown.
very low homes for people that are needing 1 bedroom and families needing 3 bedrooms the local housing could be doing with help to build homes for people who are on the list or has been on the list that cater for their family needs, not everyone can get or afford a mortgage so rely on housing associations
We are better off than many places with a surplus of Housing. I does not always fit those on the list due to requirements. Disability, single family of unlettable top floor flats. Housing has however improved on Bute and standards of maintenance have too.
We have been on rehousing list for 2 years now. No option but to now look further afield for suitable housing

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 4.52							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
8 responses	6 responses	9 responses	19 responses	28 responses	16 responses	12 responses	0 responses

Comments

Although overall there is reasonable provision, there is little indoor evening provision suitable for youth.
Because local people make it happen and Fyne homes
better information about volunteering at schools etc.
Don't know
few social spaces
Huge number of isolated older people, nowhere to meet or the means of getting to a meeting place.
I think this also depends on how individuals make the effort to 'join in'
In abundance
It is currently poor in the public sector, e.g. no men's sheds for the retired to do handiwork. Once the Pavilion renovations are completed in 2020, this may improve. In the private sector, the provision in the form of tearooms, pubs, restaurants, bowling and golf clubs is quite good for the size of the population.
It's a 'two-way', opportunity for residents. They also have got to want to participate in the 'spaces', when and where they are available.
Lack of exterior spaces
Lack of meeting places with shelter. Space at bottom of High Street (Norman Stewart Ins) ill-used. It was sheltered and a regular place to meet sit and read a book, enjoy the Gardens. That could be partly covered. Missed opportunity. Pedestrianise Montague Street? Another missed opportunity. Marvellous around the gardens and fountain but where are the seats on the promenade.
Lade centre an asset, and pavilion should provide this soon
little place to meet
Local clubs are very expensive to join and if the council wants to improve this area they could look at subsidies for these clubs
LOCAL PUB OR CAFE - DON'T FEEL THERE IS MUCH ELSE
More thought is needed regarding both the young and the old.
No sheltered outdoor spaces in town centre to meet others. Plenty of clubs and groups though for activities. Living on my own as I age means the above is essential for human and social contact.
Not in Ascog
Not in Ascog. Isolated
Not really aware of any meeting places
Nothing going

Plenty indoor spaces and clubs. Nowhere outside that people can sit and meet, as there is no shelter
Plenty of cafes, pubs and clubs, but no-where for young people to go at night, no disco or dancing.
pretty good but not many places
Quality of meeting places poor. Exercise space e.g. Moat is very basic and unwelcoming except for the staff employed. Outside in town the latest meeting area in poor condition after a failed project.
The churches do offer places for social mixing but most seems to be run by charities or voluntary groups
There are a lot of different clubs available on the island for people to meet at.
There are cafes and pubs but there is a need for some more sophisticated spaces
There could be a need for more non-alcohol focused evening spaces, especially for younger residents, e.g. cafes opening later.
There is a lack of purpose built spaces to provide opportunities for people to meet, particularly indoor facilities for during the winter months.
There is a Village Hall - very run down and tatty
there is an abundance of clubs and organization for people to meet
There is an amazing variety of social, sporting and other club activity. Organised youth activities struggle partly due to lack of adult support and less interest in the traditional youth organisations such as Scouts, Guides, etc.
To an extent there is but with the opening of the Pavilion it will be greatly improved. The hotels, pubs, cafes and restaurants proved a good range of types of meeting spaces. Not all of them are suitable by their very nature for people with different backgrounds or ages but with a little creativity they could be.
when The Big Man came was great (huge blue puppet)
When the Pavilion re-opens we should have plenty of meeting spaces.
Where can people meet?? The only place that has recently opened is the lade centre but it’s not everyone's choice. There has been recent bereavements to Bute and I feel the island would help for a place or a group set up to help the local families with the loss that they have had, there is no after care support and I think this is vital!!
Yes local community centre and variety of clubs around i.e. writers club, arts club etc.
YES PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SOCIALISE IF NECESSARY
Yes there is a thriving community sense / scene in Bute - which I need to make more effort to access. The Pavilion will increase this
Yes, although I worry that people with restricted mobility may not be able to take advantage of them.

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 5.04							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
8 responses	7 responses	6 responses	7 responses	16 responses	32 responses	22 responses	0 responses

Comments

100% - islanders so kind.
as of recent not really a fantastic identity but it is improving
BORN AND BROUGHT UP - NO LONGER FEEL PROUD OF THE TOWN - VERY RUN DOWN - PAVEMENTS AND ROADS IN A DREADFUL STATE
Brandanes have a strong sense of self. They are generally all very welcoming to visitors and those relocating to the island
Bute has an identity, but I can't belong until the Brexit madness is over, and if restrictions on tourists/retirees are loosened again. I understand the concerns down south about immigration, but if I just want to be part of this community, volunteer, and spend my money here, what's the problem?
Bute residents have a strong identity
Bute, Rothesay (as the main town) in particular, does not have a good reputation on the mainland. More could be done to promote the island (although it needs a good spruce up). The renovated Pavilion will be a bonus but look at other islands like Cumbrae. As soon as the sun comes out Millport becomes very busy as it has a great reputation as a safe and welcoming place to visit even for day trippers. It shouldn't be impossible for Bute to attract that sort of visitor. Millport has an electric bike rental facility that seems rather unnecessary but a similar facility based in Rothesay could open up the island to visitors who want to see more of the place without bringing a car. If they don't need a car the cost of the trip would be comparable to a trip to Millport and not take a lot longer given the need for a ferry and bus/drive from Cumbrae Slip.
Good community feeling
Having lived here for most of my years I belong more here than anywhere else. Although I do not engage in a lot of social activity I am very well aware of the community spirit which exists on Bute. In times of crisis for most families this becomes apparent - e.g. some years ago when I was injured and my wife had to transport me to hospital, some friends arranged to collect children from school and feed them, someone else took care of animals and work duties were taken care of, all with virtually no asking. This is how things can work for residents on Bute. We currently as you will be well aware have a population of Syrian refugees, and it is with sadness that I have to say I have not had any social contact with them - I had hoped opportunities would have been made for them to meet and get to know locals more actively.
I am new to the Island , but don't per say feel like an outsider , due to the proximity to Glasgow and number of residents from the mainland or other countries
I am proud to come from Rothesay.
I feel safe here and believe most people do their best for the community

I LOVE MY LOCATION. IT'S A GREAT FRIENDLY COMMUNITY TO WHICH I'M VERY PROUD TO BELONG.
I moved to island 26 years ago- everyone friendly and a good place to live.
I think there is a range of attitudes. Many are ashamed of Rothesay and how it looks to outsiders but proud of beauty Bute. Most of the improvement needed is about Rothesay.
I would say mostly yes, it does have a good community spirit and i think people are welcomed
I've only been here under 2 years but I feel happy and welcome
In recent years major advances in broadening diversity
Lack of investment, continual cuts to public services, lack of employment. Majority of residents believe the same. AB Council seem focussed on spending millions in towns like Oban and Helensburgh, not Rothesay it seems
Lifelong resident, so biased
More could be done and more joined up thinking in regards to history and culture. Some community groups seems to be made up of older middle class people with their own agendas, this is why a lot of people shy away from them. Look at Bute Forest for example.
No its a haven for English snobs telling the locals what to do
not any feeling of belonging
People can be negative about the Island, few jobs and opportunities. Constantly changing our area name by removing Bute is devastating and hurtful. We are proud of being Brandanes. It's our History- let it be. There are still problems regarding people of other nationalities. English people, particularly not accepted
People here are very friendly. But it is very old fashioned about race, sexuality, beliefs etc. This should be sorted in school but isn't
Port Bannatyne has a strong sense of community -stronger than Rothesay
Positive in the main. Too much power concentrated in land and buildings by Mount Stuart for example, who vetoed the recent local renewable energy community business, over so called 'mineral rights' which they retained on sale of land, which prevented the project going ahead.
Proud to be able to live here and being part of the community
Rothesay and the Isle of Bute (particularly the smaller settlements) do have a good community spirit and sense of identity. Pride can be taken in the successful integration into the community of a number of Syrian refugee families, who have started several successful businesses.
Rothesay has amazing architecture which is not celebrated. It is sad that so much has been demolished (West End Church) or downgraded (lamp posts) even in the 15 years we have been here. So many older people who grew up here are still angry that the wonderful world class swimming pool was turned into flats for example. It is as though the island is ashamed of its Victorian grandeur when it should put it front and centre to attract visitors. One small thing which would make a huge difference for older people is to replace the benches which used to be dotted around? Now they seem to be gathered in a very few places rather than spread about. In those remaining the metal frames are still there, but the wood has rotted
Still room for improvement by involving those on low incomes.
Strong local identity, but it's such a shame, the first impression, visitors off the Ferry, is that Rothesay looks so run down and 'tired'.
the community interacts well
The island streets are so dirty and overgrown with weeds woodlands are overgrown the roadside's are overgrown the island is looking a mess something needs to be done someone needs to listen and get Bute looking the proud place it once was
The Port is a great place to stay but spoilt by the derelict buildings, poor roads and pavements (look off the main road) and the influx of bad tenants. There are some shop fronts which need to be repainted.

there is a lack of leadership in the community and little driving force to make this a proper community
There are too many retirees from outwith the country who dilute local identity
We live in a welcoming community
Yes it does and so far so good I do feel I belong.
Yes, it's a great place but being spoiled as noted before

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

98 responses in total – Average Score of 5.63							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
6 responses	3 responses	2 responses	6 responses	10 responses	37 responses	34 responses	0 responses

Comments

100% I can feel the physical difference in my body compared to Glasgow - where at times it is wise to be alert. Here I can switch off and enjoy walking home in the evening.
A true island feeling of safety. Crime level is very low
Due to the strong sense of community I always feel very safe
feel safe enough
For the vast majority Bute is a safe place for adults and children. On the domestic scene that may be another matter. I daresay it is no better or worse for female partners of men with anger and alcohol issues.
Good, probably helped by the fact that the last Ferry off the Island, at night, isn't too late.
I do feel generally safe, especially where I live, but the derelict properties, litter and boisterous (occasionally foul-mouthed) groups later in the day can make it unwelcoming and I certainly know people who live in Rothesay who will sometimes stay in rather than go out in evenings for those reasons. Improving the environment and a more visible (on the beat) Police presence would help a lot.
I do not feel as safe as I used to walking about at night, this is due to an increase in run down derelict areas/buildings and poorer street lighting.
I feel quite safe. I live downtown and occasionally see some problems when the pubs close but in general that's not a problem. Anytime during the past five years when I have been on Bute and I have called the police over a matter, they have shown extraordinary skills and have been very responsive.
I feel safe 98% of the time
I feel very safe here.
I have always felt safe here.
I have always lived on Bute and I have never felt so unsafe seeing drug deals in the street. Well let's get something done let's get it stopped!! Local shops recently been broken into a local families granddaughter been raped and killed. I've never known the island to be so poor and not looked after or made to feel safe
I have never had any issues walking around the town, even in the dark winter evenings.
I moved here from an area where knife crime was an issue, I feel safer here on Bute
In general, safety is not an issue but crime and anti-social behaviour does seem to be on the increase. More police out and about would be a good idea.
It is an Island and therefore compared to Mainland places safer
IT IS GENERALLY A VERY SAFE PLACE TO LIVE
Low level of crime in the area
Mostly positive apart from derelict properties

much safer here than in an urban setting however like everywhere else there are drug takers etc
No issues during the daytime, less knowledge of the later evening environment.
NO ISSUES WITH SAFETY
On the whole it is pretty sage. Idiots are everywhere but our policing is pretty good, We are really quite lucky.
People make eye contact and are happy to speak when out and about and over all feel safe on the island day or night. And also with my home.
Police are just out of school they hide from major crime and lie in court
Police can't help u need a lawyer
Pretty much, until I read of local violence and crime in the local paper!
The recent murder of a child came as a shock. Until then it felt 100% safe. Also, I see a lot of vandalism, empty beer cans and bottles (and camp fires) from late night drinking haunts of young people. The School seems to have a poor reputation for getting the best out of students.
totally
Very little crime except for the tragic child murder last year
Very safe derelict and empty buildings need to be dealt with.
We have a brilliant police force. Like everywhere, there are places not safe at night
Where I live feels very safe but I would not want to go into town at night and worry about my son and his friends
yes
Yes as safe as we could expect to be anywhere. One possible black spot was a few years ago when we had no electricity, phones ferries etc. for some time, and I am not sure that effective contingency plans have been put in place as a result of lessons learned. As far as petty crime goes I feel very safe

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 3.6							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
16 responses	15 responses	15 responses	20 responses	15 responses	12 responses	5 responses	0 responses

Comments

ABSOLUTELY NOT
Acha don't cut over grown trees down it's a mess at in Ballochgoy scheme & bus stop
Although a lot of buildings get proper attention, there are too many properties that are badly maintained or becoming derelict. That goes for council properties too where they should set the example.
As previously stated some buildings need some attention to make the place look more appealing for visitors
As said before, I love that wildflowers etc. have been allowed to grow this year - I feel it makes walking more interesting and enjoyable, particularly seeing the wildlife such as bumblebees. When places are designated "wildlife zones" it seems to mean a mural made out of bottle tops in the shape of a butterfly, and some dog daisies. Because of the cut back in maintenance we have native wildflowers everywhere and it is great
Basics of cleaning shelters, replacing rotten wooden slats on benches would make a great difference - with associated publicity showing the improvements. on the other hand a lot is done to improve the look and feel of Rothesay especially by voluntary organisations
Difficult to know what A & B council can do without better resources but there is lots of room for better maintenance of buildings both public and private, and spaces even open areas with grass - but grass cutting is low priority compared, for example, to care of the elderly.
Dog fouling and derelict buildings spoil this
Dog mess does appear to be an issue in certain areas and also during the summer grass in communal areas - this would appear to be due to lack of money.
Dog mess-quite bad on the pavements. Care of maintenance of building is poor.
Empty and buildings and social housing in poor repair
Former royal hotel is an eyesore, I understand it is privately owned but pressure should be put on by local planners
GENERALLY BUILDINGS AND SPACES ARE WELL CARED FOR
litter / dog mess/ lack of weeding grass cutting
local parks, woodlands, paths let's get them all cut back cleaned and maintained on a regular basis make it look clean and gleam with pride instead of overgrown grass, weeds, dog fouling. Let's get this matter addressed and get it back to the clean island it once looked before the council made all the cuts let's take pride in our country our island
Local volunteers have taken over some activity previously carried out by the Council. Total lack of recycling facilities within 1km of my house, and the collection does not include glass.
Lots of properties along the front need maintenance
Lots of room for improvement
many buildings are roads are poorly cared for

Mixed. Some very tatty
No towns a tip back streets builders waste water gate lets care for environment oh
Parks and public spaces are no longer well maintained. Dog fouling is horrendous along pavements and beaches
Parts of the town do have poorly maintained properties. One new issue is excessive weed growth on pavements, especially in residential areas, leading to destruction of paved surfaces in places.
place is a shithole
poor buildings in centre of town and outside as well, streets very dirty with dog fouling, poor state of council buildings
Refuse and recycling are inconsistent - doorstep collections of some things only and the bins for others (bottles etc.) often left unemptied for long periods. Public toilets at park often closed without explanation in the middle of the day
Roads poorly maintained
Rothesay sea front buildings give a bad impression of Bute
Run-down buildings eyesores
Several public buildings around the Castle are poorly maintained on the outside. Much of the older private buildings in the centre of town are in serious disrepair on the outside. By standards in other advanced economies in Western Europe and much of North America, many properties are poorly maintained, reflecting a combination of low income and a cultural problem, namely a lack of 'pride in appearance'.
Some buildings need refurbishment before they fall down
some places are more cared for than others which could be better
Sort out the Rockery :0) fix benches have a free skip in every car park to stop fly tipping. Also some kind of collection point for old bikes and other household things which could be recycled. Not everyone has cars to go to the tip. Maybe have large communal bins for garden waste? some of the pavements are shocking
The buildings are largely tenements in private ownership without factors, which create substantial disrepair. The RSL properties are well cared for.
The caring of buildings is so much better here than in Croydon
The initial impression on arriving on the ferry is of a run-down town, with dilapidated buildings. Could be better.
the local council could do more there have been numerous cost saving cutbacks in the recent past
The only place I see ‘cared for’, seems to be the gardens on the front.
There is some good work done but many of the buildings are semi-derelict
Three weekly collection for general waste is very poor as no option for separate food and garden composting. Public spaces appear to be well maintained and gardens are well maintained, dog mess is an issue ,
To many buildings that need upgrading. Worst is the idea of planners to keep all the same. Example This is the 21st century. Everyone is screaming to get the environment sorted. But you have a building that you are not allowed to either install double glazing or it has to be Non uPVC. Planners have to realise that this does not meet the needs of the 21st century and Wooden Frames are too expensive for a lot of people. Other is Hysterical Scotland. Example The west church in Rothesay: You were able to buy it for a pound but couldn't really do anything with it because of Historical Scotland. So no one buys it, not it had to be pulled down. Did we save it at all? No due to HS
Too many decrepit buildings - it's getting better but still a long way to go. If only the George Hotel could be demolished or turned into something useful and commercially viable.
Too many falling down buildings Public park very poorly maintained

Too much delay in getting things repaired. And a lack of tlc for infrastructure leading to an air of decline.
Town centre property appear to be waiting for the council to paint their fronts, last done about 30 years ago.
Unfortunately lots of places are not well cared for. Too many buildings lie empty. Litter and dog mess is a significant problem; vandalism to a lesser extent (to my knowledge). No idea if people understand their responsibilities but plenty of lovely buildings lie empty until they become unsafe and need to be demolished; making a complete mockery of the conservation area.
Very few are downtown. It is discouraging to see all of the unused and abandoned space. I spent about GBP 3,000 this year on roofing, soffits, fascia, and paint. Our building still has a way to go.
Very poor and makes the place extremely run down
Victoria Street is the only area well maintained. Streets not clean, dog mess, not enough recycling and bins not emptied often enough.
Yes and no. The volunteers do an incredible job throughout the year and especially the summer months with the painting and flower displays. All very impressive. Where the town centre falls down is the run of properties that face into the putting green, they need help with improving their appearance as it is the first thing you see then you arrive on the island.
Yes I would say most areas are looked after. Recycling is good if you do it at a centre as for uplift quite a different story. I am one of 6 houses all others are holiday homes who are used to excellent recycling facilities on the mainland not just a blue bin and green bag, most uplifts are not taken as holiday makers are used to recycling everything and this is not taken so I've just given up as I’m totally fed up trying to split everything produced by 6 homes We have a local improvements committee which are very good

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

98 responses in total – Average Score of 3.83							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
15 responses	13 responses	9 responses	22 responses	21 responses	11 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

A COMMUNITY COUNCIL EXISTS SHOULD I EVER FEEL MY OPINION SHOULD BE HEARD
A&B members should do more visits to the island and ask in open meeting for opinions. This was done once in the 90's. The directors came and had a public meeting. I thought this was sensible
Can't really comment on much of this.
Community council forest pavilion all run steered by self-serving group
Community council meetings seems all focused on them rather than the bigger picture
Council could be more interactive. Sometimes it tries but usually no follow up so not to be taken seriously
Councils are WAY too big in Scotland. Islands need their own councils based locally there is total alienation from the council. We should have direct local control of land use, ferries and services.
DON'T FEEL THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN ARE LISTENED TO
Don't know
I don't think people think they are listened to - too much reliance on Community Councils, again, I don't feel they make enough effort to engage with the public, same for Argyll & Bute Council.
I have filled a few questionnaires with no results from any of them as I suspect this will be the same
I think there could be more opportunity for people to express their views/opinions on matters which have an impact on our community before decisions are made by public bodies,
I worry that the fish farm is going to be imposed on the island. There is an overwhelming feeling of defeat here. It is awful. The island is beautiful
Last year's participative democracy pilot (community grants) was not repeated.
Most of the time
My property on Bute is a holiday home
Never see a councillor until election time, not much interaction by councillors
No chance
No idea who is on community council what they do where they meet or how to access the minutes. Too many secret wee groups run by the same clique
no one cares no one from the council bother as there’s been cuts they don't have the resources, not enough money not enough men.... well is these people don't care why should we the locals... well no we should all care!! why do we pay our taxes for a dirty looking island
No one I know thinks so. I am sad the council does things to save money like use lots of weed killer, even on graves!!! Organising opportunities for volunteers to look after areas might help community feeling and be more environmentally friendly and cheaper in the long run. Perhaps

the council could use a Facebook page to have more consultations so not just the more assertive people get heard?
No. It's all about money and there's not enough of it around in the public and private sector to turn things around. So the decisions taken by council are generally driven by what they can do with limited discretionary funds once it has spent the vast majority of its budget on statutory obligations in the health and social welfare field. I am willing to be pleasantly surprised by council being able to take own board useful suggestions from the public. But I would be surprised if it were able to act on many of those, even if it wanted to, because of lack of funds or lack of statutory powers over private property maintenance, for example.
not much room to be part of decisions
Not sure yet
People often feel they are not listened to.
Plenty of outlets for complaint, but lack of trust in their effectiveness.
Probably not, but due to lack of time and effort on my part.
Probably yes - and we do have a Community Council and access to Councillors, an MSP and even an MP. But at my age I prefer to keep my voluntary work to organisations where there is little room for angry debate.
The Council seem to be unable to do anything about my previous points
The facility is available for people to get involved. there is however an apathy for people to get involved and quite often it is the same select group of people that actually do get involved
The Local Authority seem to be trying, which is good.
The processes for making change are very transparent and accessible, but require a lot of time and understanding. There may be a missing layer in public life where agents can expedite access to many of the existing programmes.
There are a number of committees and boards that the community can join in order to put forward their views. These should perhaps be advertised more.
There is a highly active community
There is a real feeling of disempowerment with the Council dropping the name of Bute from Council is a prime example
There is an active Community Council, and there have been some initiatives in participatory democracy such as the award of community grants, although this was discontinued after a trial year.
Through my social landlord I feel listened to and able to take part to affect decisions.
through some connections, yes
Yes and no. Always difficult to know what you can help with.
Yes in theory

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

- Providing grants and incentives to maintain buildings in Rothesay. To give a good feeling to those arriving and living on the island - Transport links - Later ferries
* Activities for children and families- why should we travel to mainland to go to fun-world/ trampolines or swimming or have to do a food shopping we should be buying this locally keep local shops open. * The condition of walkways and paths- get the overgrown and weeds removed * Parking
[1] Too many decrepit buildings spoiling the look of Rothesay town. [2] A big investment in proper shared cycling/walking paths is needed if it is to become normal for residents and visitors to walk/cycle for work/leisure rather than use cars. [3] Accept that maintained and painted railings, signage, litter bin, street cleaning, grass-cutting and gardens are all part of what makes a place attractive to visit or to live in - on a recent trip to the seaside town of Worthing in Dorset I was amazed at the extent to which resources had been applied to all these things. The town was busy with holidaymakers and it all looked good.
1) Have more events like the Viking celebration and The Big Man 2) Set Bute up as somewhere to come if a Victorian film set is needed 3) Celebrate the biodiversity coming back into the town by making small signs showing which insects and birds need particular plants e.g. bumblebees on blackberry flowers 4) Annual competition for most beautifully painted house/building to encourage use of heritage colours, which are exuberant and feel good - maybe issue a selection of preferred shades 5) Victorian street party where everyone must come in costume. Victorian food and music 6) Map of all footpaths to encourage walking exercise 7) Cycle paths to school away from roads
1. Cycle paths in town 2. Better recycling 3. additional bus service
1. Ferry service late in the evening. (I only list this first because it is probably the easiest thing to do.) 2. Travel safety improvements in all parts of the island. 3. Physical plant improvements to the built environment and community-based solutions to space that is disused.
A neutral place where all opportunities for volunteering for the community can be found, like an advice centre or web page? Stop weed killing. More wildlife areas and put up information about local wildlife so they become relevant. More sloping bits on pavements to help with access. Offer extra money so we get a dentist. Maybe have a website devoted to what the council is doing on the island, and why? With contact email for different departments, and photos of the people, like you have in schools? Focus on Bute's Victorian heritage, work with the museum, get Bute on the map as a Victorian centre, focus on the architecture (stop destroying the architecture for a start)
Better and safer facilities for cyclists; improvement to the appearance of Rothesay's town centre; improvements to some aspects of ferry and bus services.
Better play & recreational facilities for children and teenagers (outside & inside) Public spaces, pavements & parks to be better maintained Dog fouling to be addressed More employment opportunities, particularly for school leavers to encourage them to stay in the area
Bringing new industry, jobs and opportunities to the island for all
Bute needs to be less of a talking shop and more action
Calmac need competition and travel prices reduced! Rothesay town centre needs investment urgently as the place looks a complete tip!
Cater far more for the ever increasing older generations.
Clean the place up from Fyne Homes to Demolishing derelict properties
Composting, Derelict buildings, parking

Cycle routes, dog fouling, derelict buildings, ferry parking
Disregard for the natural environment in council treatment of land and roads, whereas other councils often actively create nature spaces.
Educational & Economic opportunities Take more care of public park/areas and facilities. Resources for young people and teenagers, not just sport orientated.
Employment opportunities year round not just seasonal, availability of spaces for events, immediate reversal of council cuts to all services
EMPLOYMENT TIDYING UP THE AREA LOOKING AFTER/REPAIRING PAVEMENTS AND ROAD
Empty buildings Shop and business owners rejecting community
Empty the bins once a week or dispose of seagulls!
Environmental and employment issues
Ferry times
Forgot to mention the local aristocrat blocked the construction of a wind farm which would have brought an income stream and local renewable energy to the island. TYT end farm should be built ASAP and be community owned as was planned.
Housing Broadband Road maintenance Refuse collection
Housing Transport
Improve quality of roads and footpaths. Take action to help fill vacant properties. Encourage/support individuals and groups to better maintain their properties. Improve the general 'feel' particularly of the main town through general improvements and Police on the beat. Promote and broaden access to existing facilities. Broaden the range of facilities available. Better promote the island. Improve job opportunities (to an extent a bi-product of the above) but also through encouraging and supporting appropriate initiatives.
Improve the appearance of Rothesay sea front and Port Bannatyne Ensure island wide good internet Provide bike schemes for visitors
Improve the local economy in a sustainable way and most problems would solve themselves.
Improvements needed to buildings, pavements and services. Town is a dated disgrace and the public need and deserve a place to be proud of.
Increase year round population (for year round sustainability)
Infrastructure improvements needed
Investments in Activity especially for tourists coming to the Island. Change to policy for carbon foot print reduction. Be more resolute. Have by laws that will not allow certain things or encourage people to do things differently. Have a stricter policy on recycling. Make it a by law that people HAVE TO recycle
Job prospects for young people poor, Isle of Bute getting run down and uncared for, buildings left to fall into disrepair as they are listed - the old Rothesay Academy being a prime example
junkies
Lack of facilities in outlying parts of town
Local Work, Environment. The latter leaves a lot to be desired. A&B Council could do a lot more with stricter laws what can be put into the normal bin. Paper, Plastic and glass should not be optional to throw away into provided collections. It has to be a MUST! This would make the (on Bute) Fyne Futures most likely a better enterprise with more collection so more raw materials to sell and less to collect for A&B C thus meaning less waste to transport of the Island and less costs for A&B C for landfill
Lots roads overgrown bushes trees pavements moss and weeds pot holes roads and pavements wheelie bins left in the town 24/7
Make the place look better for visitors to the island. i.e. grass cutting, power washing, litter picking
More forums for consultation

Need to attract employment, plus better remuneration. A reliable ferry service.
New housing, better employment prospect, improve roads, improve amenities, improve places of work
none
Parking Dog mess and grass cutting Derelict buildings on sea front
Parking in the town, upkeep of the town and utilise gap sites ASAP. Entice more businesses to the area.
People who are in wheelchairs find it very hard to get about the town. Access to shops can be difficult and there are few pavements that are suitable to get on and off for wheelchair users.
Places in the main town need to be more cared for in the environment
Poor council performance too many people in offices stealing the budget putting strain on front line council workers to many top earners hiding in our council a gravy train in effect
Poor state of roads
Quality of roads Force and focus on derelict buildings in town centre
redo town centre, make good car parks available, clean the streets
Removal of electrified fences. Dog poo. Eyesore buildings
Renewable energy/electric vehicles, pedestrian only access in town, covered outdoor town centre meeting space.
Renovation of derelict buildings to provide excellent meeting, social spaces.
roads
Roads!!!!!! Something for the 'youngsters', (locals & visitors) to do. The Condition of buildings in Rothesay (first impressions off the Ferry)
ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN JOB OPPORTUNITES FOR OUR YOUNGER POPULATION, MANY FEEL THEY MUST LEAVE THE ISLAND TO SEEK QUALITY EMPLOYMENT.
The Council should be supporting the Local Community not treating them as a pest. We are all paying our community tax but seem not to be treated on an equal footing with the rest of Argyll and Bute
The lot needs fixed big style
There needs to be serious attention paid to the state of semi-derelict buildings
Trying to keep the appearance the Rothesay town centre, making it appealing for all locals and tourists alike, keeping it alive. A balance of value of money expenditure on things that local people with use all year round as well as for attracting tourist all year round.
Upkeep of existing facilities. Involvement of poorest in our communities - when involved in island life with those who have a wealth of riches and education - who may not be attuned to the struggles faced by some. Feasibility study of foot passenger ferry to Castle Toward to meet Dunoon bus service, - Cut the journey in half and decrease carbon output
we need people to live and work on Bute more investment is required to attract businesses and shops and more investment is required on run down assets
Weed control on pavements Evening indoor facilities for young people Car parking on pavements

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

1. I understand that European ferry subsidies may affect the quality and level of ferry service we have, but I would expect Cal-Mac to undertake a trial late night ferry offering. The "Loch Dunvegan" vessel may be perfectly adequate for this, cruising down to Rothesay after its 9PM crossing. Such a trial should go on for several years, so that the service is less of an experiment and considered "normal," especially as you might want to see if people would consider moving house or their business to Bute if this type of service were available to residents and business patrons. 2. The travel safely issues are very fragmented, and would probably require many small scale solutions. I expect that over the years the Council has collected all kinds of data on this. While the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists is interconnected, there's no reason not to begin ANY initiative that would help, especially if there are one or two people clamouring for it. 3. The Historical grants programme is Rothesay is a great idea, but as the co-owner of a building in the historical district I found it was a high barrier to jump over. Despite the roof and painting work I mentioned earlier, the building badly needs additional facade repairs and paint (or all paint removed). A lot of the buildings that need help are outside the historic district, so they need additional support. >>The two over-arching things that might make this all work are (1) that layer of agents who can make the public as informed about the service processes as the people who have written them, and (2) the wisdom of taking on a project not just because it is urgent, but because someone is willing and able to do it.
A mix of public and private funding should be applied to undertake the work. Ownership of the buildings needs to be established urgently
Again difficult as always money is involved and usually lots of it. Giving support to those who want to do something about their town in a positive way.
Ask people what they want. We could really, really do with something for teenagers here. There are never going to be jobs, but before they can leave, give them something to do
Better facilities in outlying parts of town
Build more houses for permanent occupation. Make land available for employment opportunities. Resolve schooling and transport issues.
Change the law on dealing with decrepit buildings and compulsory free acquisition by the local authority in cases of neglect or untraced owners - accept that we may have to get used to empty spaces in our traditional town landscapes as old buildings get demolished and, if no other use is obvious, get turned into simple green spaces. Require agricultural landowners to make extra roadside room for planned expansion of cycle paths. Allocate a bigger budget for all the gardening, grass-cutting, street cleaning and employ more people - all towards making the look of the place feel good...even if this means higher local taxes.
Changes in local law. Enforce Recycling. Invest in Electric cars for the council. Less travelling for councillors to meetings. Use the internet. With the infrastructure of the Internet in most places (example Bute) one could use video conferencing a lot more. Less costs for travel less usage of Petrol. Make voting if necessary to once a month and vote on all things that have to be voted on a one-time thing, so no need to travel or less travelling
Clean up the place. Employ people who can think and have invitation skills!!!
Compulsory purchase orders Police action against pub and PO dealing drugs
Consult council tax payers. Council to seriously look at parking availability and a one way system in the Gallowgate area as it can become gridlocked at busy times.
Council resources, or failing that a community volunteer programme, to clear weed growth from pavements. Provision of a youth café type facility, or evening open of suitable existing café businesses. Parking enforcement where vehicles habitually park on pavements.

Dog warden or parking warden with powers to apply to dogs, Compulsory purchase orders for derelict properties Ferry parking on promenade or maintain free parking at coal pier
Full time parking warden More action against dog owners
Get a work force to clean up and cut bushes and trees back to a sensible state and height
Get bus companies to go electric with local/council pressure. Renewable energy to replace gas, action foresight from social landlords. Incentives for electric transport locally.
Get up and get a grip its simple
Getting it done.
go to the council to get them fixed
Good planning and forethought
Grants to those who maintain buildings and provide amenities. Lower rates to help fill vacant premises Better maintain things like railings. It wouldn't cost a fortune to repair and paint them but would enhance the look of the area. Police on the beat and clamp down on anti-social behaviour. Promote the area to try and bring money to the island.
Help for community councils
Housing = more residents = enhanced community
I wish I knew. No easy, quick-fix answers to our problems.
I'm afraid all of my concerns involve an increase in Funding, which we (on Bute) won't get!
Improve Fyne Homes procedures. Take positive action re derelict building - not just shrug it off - it does mater to everyone and affects the entire area. Port Bannatyne is to be one of the places used in an advert to publicise the Island - visitors do venture off the main road and so see this dreadful blot on our landscape
In some cases it needs a lot of money to take action. In the case of some transport and road issues, it simply needs the responsible agency (e.g. Calmac, Western Motors, the Roads Dept.) to take the initiative and make some changes to improve these public facilities.
Initiate separate collection for green waste as other council's do Demolish council owned eyesore. School and bathing station rotting and disgusting.
Instead of constantly cutting grass spend the human resources involved in creating something positive e.g. wildflower meadows, woodland park
Investment in economic development/integration with other local authorities Inverclyde/North Ayrshire - better transport integration too. Opportunities for new businesses and attract businesses to the island. Keep BUTE as part of Argyll & Bute and don't try to lose our identity.
Investment in our infrastructure
Involve the community
Involvement of council / voluntary orgs to set aside budget for training to maintain town centre Community participatory budgeting targeted at areas in SIMD < 20% Feasibility study by Greener Scotland / Scottish enterprise looking beyond the interests of individual transport providers for a faster boat / bus link to Dunoon
it's up to the local council
Liaison with Calmac to test alternative ferry times
lobby the Scottish Government Lobby Argyll and Bute Council seek the views of people on the island who have relevant skills and experience
Major project to gain funding to renovate the old Royal Hotel to provide community space e.g. dance/yoga studio. Office space for start-up businesses, studios for artisans.
Money invested, looking at most of the Highlands there is investment in tourism. this is a back water with no vision or investment
More funding
More funding and more public notice and awareness

More money from the local authority and Scottish government to invest and to have a better ferry service to/from the island
more notice and more care for the environment would help
More positive public action to attract new businesses of all sorts to the area. Being seen as remote is a bit of a red herring nowadays.
-more proactive councillors/elected members -disused/derelict buildings -parking in town centre -play park/walking routes -town maintenance -dog fouling
More public consultation More public funding More community involvement
More wheelchair user friendly in the town.
none
not worth mentioning as I do not feel any one would take notice
Push ahead with a community owned wind farm. Move faster with doing up eyesore buildings. Switch to electric ferries and buses and push for more use of public transport and less car use for short distances. Pedestrianise Rothesay town centre. Push through high quality high insulation affordable family housing. Refurbish old academy as a mixed use business non-profit and arts space with low cost high quality family accommodation. Support switch to electric for Car Bute cars. Support Fyne Futures excellent local non profit
redo centre of town, clean the pavements, build car parks
Remove electrified fences. Use CCTV to identified dog poo owners and take action. Force eyesore building owners to improve them of fine them till building are of an acceptable standard
Someone high up with the authority needs to realise there is a problem and it needs to be dealt with
Spend some money and tidy the place up Speak to Fyne Homes about their housing policy. Insist they reorder their housing stock to accommodate families i.e. turn single accommodated into 2/3 bedroom homes. Vet their tenants properly. Get rid of the derelict buildings, lean on owners who flout their responsibilities. Charge community tax on these empty buildings
THAT'S AN ANSWER REQUIRED FROM SOMEONE WISER THAN ME!!
The council speculating to accumulate
Try to get funding?
Upgrade public service buildings and pavements tastefully and to a high standard. Look at Helensburgh and Oban as good examples.

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