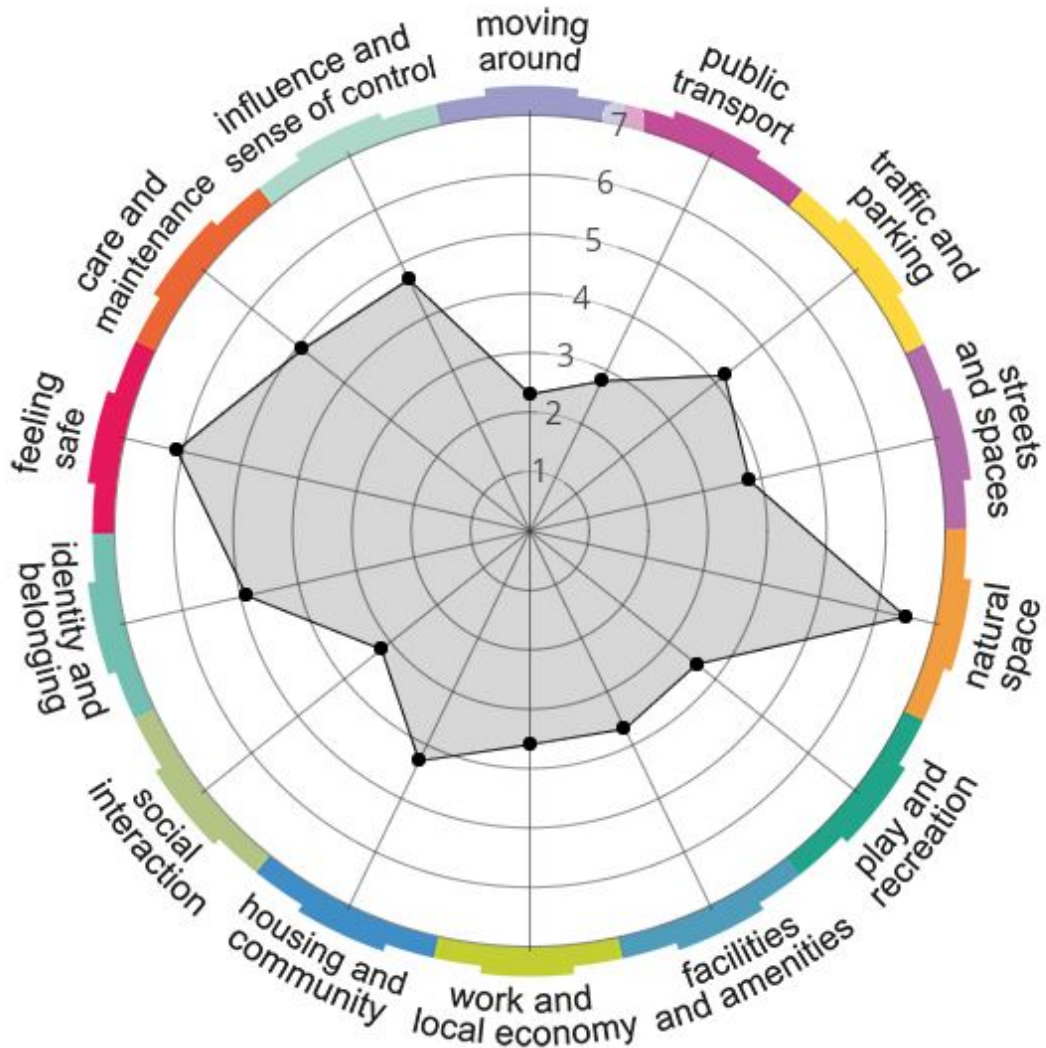


Kilmichael Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:



Moving Around



Public Transport



Social Contact



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](#).




Kilmichael Responses

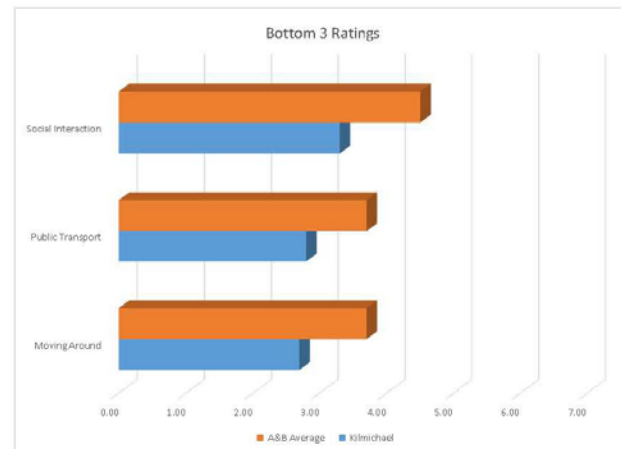
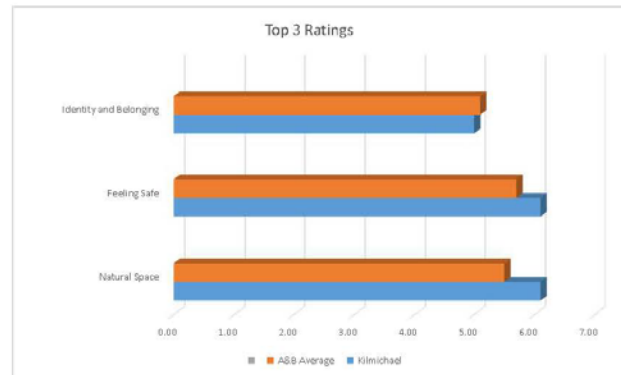
Our Top Rated Areas are:

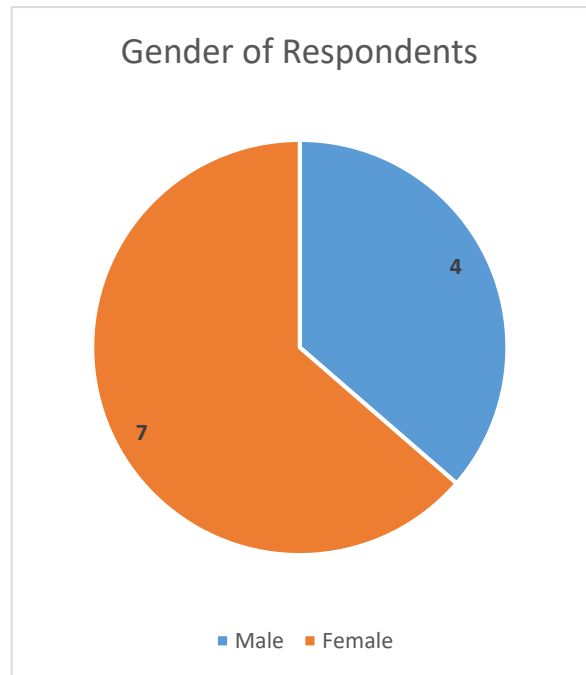
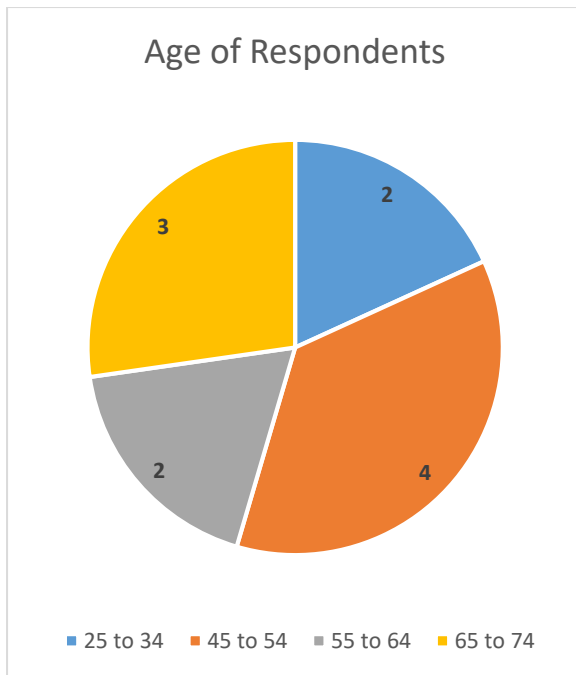
	Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 6.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
	Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 6.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
	Identity and Belonging	Respondents rated this area 5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.1 out of 7.



Areas of desired improvement are:

	Moving Around	Respondents rated this area 2.7 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
	Public Transport	Respondents rated this area 2.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
	Social Interaction	Respondents rated this area 3.3 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.5 out of 7.





Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Moving Around	2.7
Public Transport	2.8
Social Contact	3.3
Work and Local Economy	3.4
Play and Recreation	3.6
Facilities and Amenities	3.7
Streets and Spaces	3.8
Traffic and Parking	4.1
Housing and Community	4.3
Influence and Sense of Control	4.6
Identity and Belonging	5.0
Care and Maintenance	5.0
Natural Space	6.1
Feeling Safe	6.1

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 2.7							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
3 responses	4 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Busy main road from here to nearest town, would not feel safe walking/cycling
I live at Dunadd, walking paths were put in at great expense but most of the paths are unusable as they are overgrown with weeds or complete bogs as grass and reeds were just strimmed to create the paths.
Most cycle or walking routes can only be accessed via very busy trunk roads or narrow roads that have no footpath or cycle lane. The traffic on the main pads makes cycling a very alarming experience. The network of footpaths is not very well signposted for example there is no clear route from Lochgilphead out to Dunadd and then along to Kilmartin, which could be a fantastic walk for visitors and locals.
No paths or cycle paths
No pavements through village
Some pavements are always blocked by parking
There are no cycle routes in this area, and limited provision for walkers. Both walkers and cyclists use the public highway alongside motor traffic if moving from one community to another. There is provision or recreational cycling and walking, much provided by Forestry Authority.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 2.8							
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	2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Even if living on a bus route, services are few and far between, even worse during school holidays. If you live in a rural area, such as this postcode, you could have to walk several miles to the nearest bus service. My nearest bus service is 1.5 miles distant, and is so infrequent as to be of no use to me.
I only use public transport to get to Glasgow occasionally and the bus works, but is quite expensive for young people. If there was a reliable commuting time bus service I would use it, but as it only runs during term time and doesn't run at the end of the day I can't use it.
Lack of public transport
Meets my needs as I don't use it. There seems to be regular buses in Lochgilphead and Oban direction though.
No public transport to Dunadd. Busses will stop on the way north on the main road but not south as it is deemed unsafe. No public transport busses stop at the fort.
The local bus service is quite good. I would use it more if it was more frequent.
Very few buses to Lochgilphead

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

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

Comments

Cars parked on pavements
No walkway or pavement between Bridgend and village school or church.
Parking is not a problem
Rural area so parking not a problem
There is a lot of parking on pavements. I would be hard to get around with a buggy or in a wheel chair. Especially as its single track roads you then need to walk on.
This is barely an issue in this postcode, apart from the unacceptable speed of many vehicles on single track, rural roads. Timber haulage trucks are particularly insensitive to the communities through which they pass. I fully accept the need for them, but being woken at 5am in the morning by a succession of lorries travelling at speed on poorly maintained roads is unwelcome.

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

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

Comments

It's a rural location, the nature of which has been established over generations and remains relatively unchanged. Littering and occasional fly-tipping - in my experience the latter only being cleared after informing the council, despite the fact that it is in clear view and passed by cleansing department vehicles - is an unacceptable feature of rural living. Why don't the schools teach that littering is unacceptable? They did in my school days, and I am incapable of littering.

Lochgilphead needs some attention, but it's good that there is a consultation underway. The other towns in Argyll and Bute have been transformed - like Campbeltown, Dunoon and Helensburgh - they are so much better than they were.

Verges and stone bridge not well maintained. If it were an English village it would be well maintained and picturesque. A disappointment to what the area could be and what tourists are attracted too.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 6.1							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	2 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

Fields upon fields for miles :)
Ready access is available to the unspoiled countryside in this area. A few landowners - or their agents - make access difficult by locked gates and inadequate pedestrian access. Some of the private forestry companies are open to this criticism, in contrast to the Commission.
That's the best thing about living here - the amazing outdoors with sea life, bird life, biodiversity etc. The only drawback is the huge Sitka plantations and the overgrazed hills - both biological deserts. We need some bolder rewilding in Argyll to support native species regeneration and reintroduction.
Yes there many natural and beautiful places / areas to visit.

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

11 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
2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	4 responses	2 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

A play area which is accessible all times of the day/year in Kilmartin (this is nearer to where we live than Kilmichael Glassary) would be great
Excellent kids park
For kids there is one small play park adjacent to the school, there is nothing else.
Need walking, cycle, bridle paths and public transport from Dunadd to safely access recreation facilities.
None within walking distance
Very little provision exists. It is a rural area, so apart from the village play park - provided with the use of windfall village funds - there is zero provision, none for teenagers.

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.

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

Comments

I don't think they do or even will there little I see the local authority being able to achieve at a reasonable expenditure.
Lochgilphead, sadly, cannot be described as thriving, compared with many other similar small towns in rural Scotland. The fact that agriculture is in recession, with few farms making much money, and forestry diminishing in terms of employment as mechanisation displaces workers, there simply isn't in the money to support a thriving town. Such facilities that are available are little more than adequate. Even Oban leaves much to be desired.
Only by driving
The health service in Mid Argyll is very poor, accessing doctors is nearly impossible and when it comes to specialists patients now need to travel to Paisley or Glasgow. Specialist clinics used to happen here with visiting specialist staff.
We are very well served
We live in a rural area so we need to travel to Lochgilphead for the majority of these. A local shop would be a great addition to amenity within the area.
We would all benefit from more shops in Lochgilphead. Too many empty shops. Local people need to shop local and support small businesses to encourage more traders to the town.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 3.4							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	1 responses	4 responses	3 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Being retired, I am not able to contribute much to this question. However, the younger generation I have come across are almost unanimous in the view that the area is little to offer in terms of employment, and are compelled to move away for opportunities. The relative remoteness from markets does not make the area an attractive location for start-up businesses, with a few exceptions.
For those of working age there is very little opportunity to access good-quality work or career building opportunities.
Lots of opportunities in Lochgilphead only a short drive away.
Not many job opportunities unless already have a profession such as teacher, nurse, social worker etc.
There are always jobs in social care, teaching etc., but sometimes it's hard to work in the public sector when you also live in the community
There is no job centre, it was closed years ago due to cuts. Local jobs have also been on the decline, job creation has been poor.

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

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

Comments

Amenity housing is good.
No Council / Housing Association housing in Village
Rented or owner occupied I think there is a good balance of housing.
There is a lack of affordable housing although the council and the housing associations are working on building more housing. The developers have enormous land banks they just hold onto until the price is right for them, not when the houses are needed for important young workers.
There is a lack of private rented properties in the area.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 3.3							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	2 responses	4 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Again we generally need to travel to Lochgilphead to do this.
Not in village
There is a hall, church or pub
Travelling to meet other people is the biggest disability.
Very limited provision in this postcode area. Places like Ardfern have more to offer locally, entirely due to the enterprise of the local residents.
Village hall closed and there is now nowhere locally to meet.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.0							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	3 responses	3 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

At present there is very village community spirit and no appreciable positive community identity.
I have lived in this area for 18 months and have found local people very friendly and welcoming. It is a beautiful area and people are proud to live here.
No comments to offer on this aspect.

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

11 responses in total – Average Score of 6.1							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	2 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

Apart from a few instances of passing opportunist theft I do feel quite safe.
Completely
I feel incredibly safe living here compared to where I used to live in a busy town in the south of England.
Some rise in rural theft, but overall a safe environment, even if the police are thin on the ground.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.0							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	2 responses	3 responses	4 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Littering is a local, and possibly British, phenomenon. In my view, entirely due to early years education. It is easy to know when building contractors are working up the Glen from the trail of food litter thrown out of the van between the town and the place of work.

No, a big disappoint for locals, tourists and visitors to the area.

Room for improvement in Lochgilphead but I know plans are underway with the grants that have been awarded.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 4.6							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	4 responses	2 responses	1 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Good community council and a small close knit community!
No!
Widespread suspicion is that a lot of planning decisions are influenced by local pressure by a small number of high profile commercial operators rather than the community at large.

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

Affordable houses, better footpaths and cycle ways, more rewilding
Better play facilities in villages such as Kilmartin Amenities in village locations
Footpaths / cycle paths and public transport
Improvements in Lochgilphead to attract more tourists and shoppers. Lovely wee town but looking a bit run down and shabby at the moment.
Lack of public transport and safe routes for walking, cycling and horse riding.
Parking at Kilmichael school. Cycle paths. Potholes in the road.
Pedestrianised access link between both parts of the village and improved / better care of the area to make it more presentable to visitors, tourists and residents.

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

Actions are already being taken- grants awarded to improve front green and spruce up the Main Street.
Better control of forestry with higher proportion of broad leaves creating wildlife corridors. Reduction of hill sheep farming and planting more native broad leaves - increase biodiversity and soak up carbon.
Build and improve
Buses that stop to take people to and from Lochgilphead. Dedicated cycle/walking /bridle path that does not entail using main A road.
Unfortunately the answer is to spend a little more from the council budget on making the area look well-kept and attractive, but it's obvious there are no funds for this. If started its possible it could be self-generating with a little interest from the community.

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

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



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