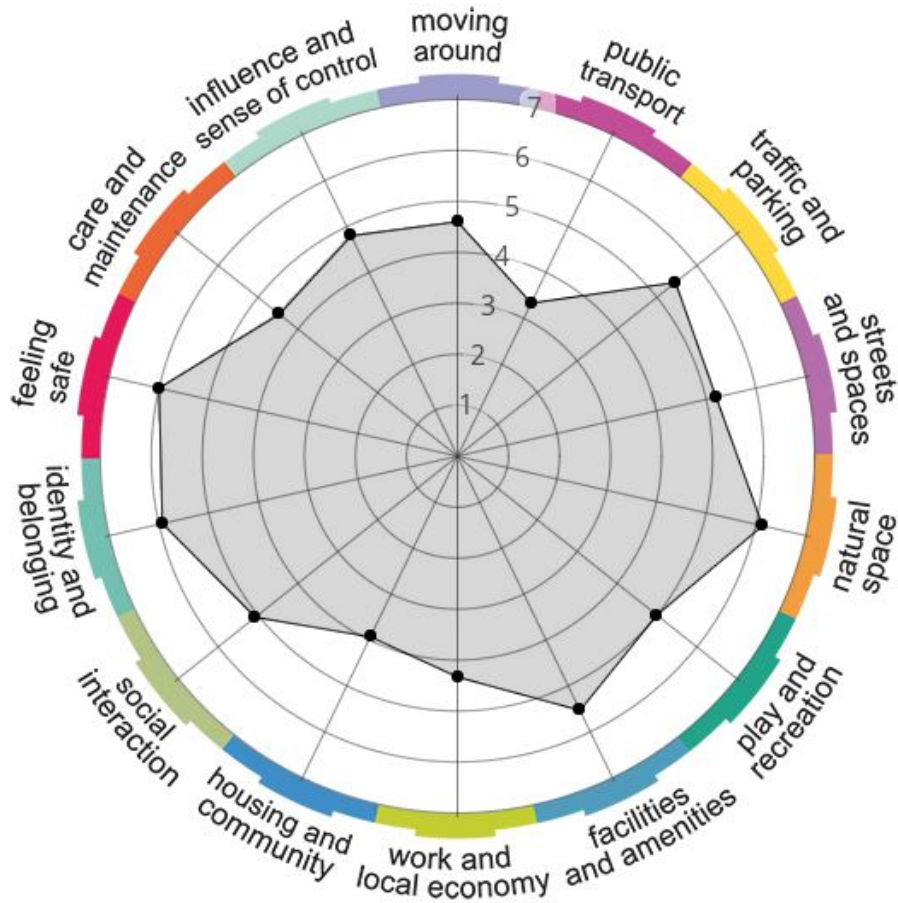


# Strachur Responses 2019



## Priority Areas for Improvement:



Public Transport



Housing and Community



Work and Local Economy

## **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](mailto: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](#).




## Strachur Responses

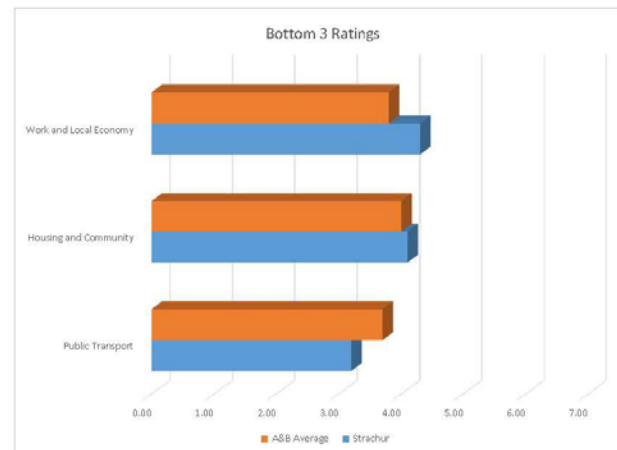
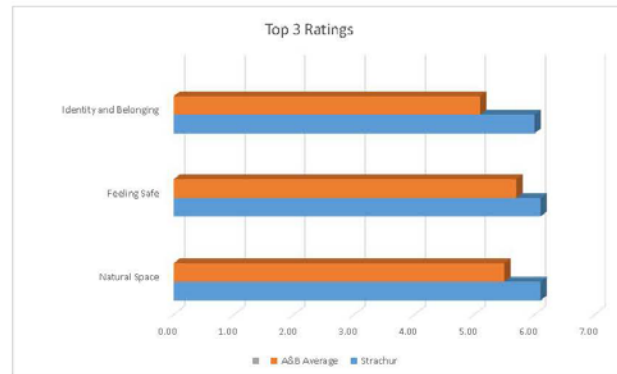
Our Top Rated Areas are:

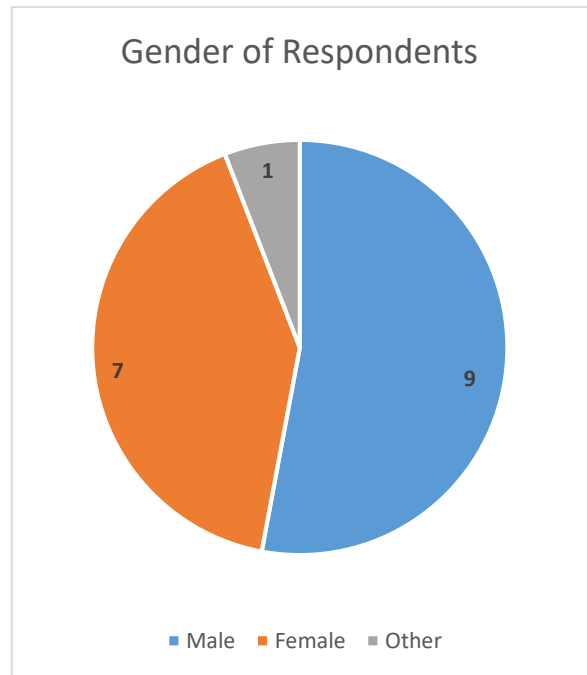
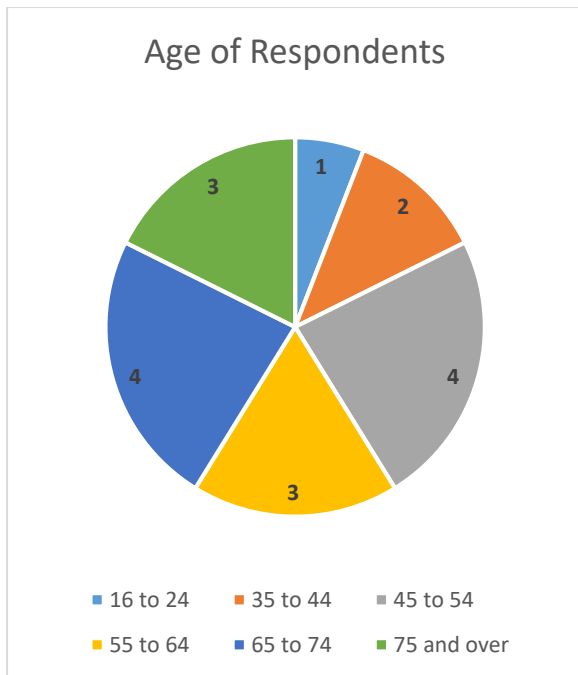
	<b>Natural Space</b>	Respondents rated this area 6.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
	<b>Feeling Safe</b>	Respondents rated this area 6.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
	<b>Identity and Belonging</b>	Respondents rated this area 6 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.1 out of 7.



Areas of desired improvement are:

	<b>Public Transport</b>	Respondents rated this area 3.2 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
	<b>Housing and Community</b>	Respondents rated this area 4.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4 out of 7.
	<b>Work and Local Economy</b>	Respondents rated this area 4.3 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.8 out of 7.





#### Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
<a href="#">Public Transport</a>	3.2
<a href="#">Housing and Community</a>	4.1
<a href="#">Work and Local Economy</a>	4.3
<a href="#">Moving Around</a>	4.4
<a href="#">Care and Maintenance</a>	4.5
<a href="#">Influence and Sense of Control</a>	4.8
<a href="#">Social Contact</a>	5
<a href="#">Play and Recreation</a>	5
<a href="#">Streets and Spaces</a>	5.2
<a href="#">Traffic and Parking</a>	5.4
<a href="#">Facilities and Amenities</a>	5.5
<a href="#">Identity and Belonging</a>	6
<a href="#">Feeling Safe</a>	6.1
<a href="#">Natural Space</a>	6.1

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 4.47</b>							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	4 responses	3 responses	3 responses	2 responses	0 responses

### Comments

Busy trunk road between home and Glenbranter where family goes cycling. Would be interested in helping to develop Glenbranter as a cycling destination through a community interest group.
The main road is not suited to safe cycling and an alternate off road cycleway would bring health benefits and would double up as a walking pathway
Road Surface not good at Avenue and walking down to cemetery
There are no designated cycling areas
Walking is fairly easy. However there aren't many cycle paths, certainly none on more dangerous roads such as Strachur to Dunoon. Cyclists, pedestrians and cars have to share many of the same roads without adequate pavements or cycle routes. This is an especially difficult thing to provide over the large distances we find in Argyll.
Within the village you can walk and cycle but the main road is not safe to cycle and I would not want to. There are good forestry paths for walks.
The paths and pavement are in pretty poor condition.
Narrow pavements, fast moving traffic, overgrown hedgerows and vegetation.
There are generally a lot of very good, varied walking routes in the area, and there are cycling routes nearby at Glenbranter. The only safety issue with walking is that it can be dangerous to cross the road on foot at the junction at the end of the shore road (where turning left goes to the Creggans Inn and right goes to the filling station), as visibility is poor and cars can be going 40mph (or potentially speeding and going faster than this). It can also be difficult to hear oncoming vehicles when it is windy.
Can only walk during daytime as there is no street lighting.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 3.29</b>							
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	4 responses	5 responses	3 responses	4 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

### Comments

I am not aware that there actually IS any public transport. I never see any!
No Public Transport available from Dunoon after 6.20pm
Mobility access not good to public transport
Non-drivers, including schoolchildren, confined in the evenings and on Sundays to their immediate home area due to lack of a bus service comparable to that which serves similar outlying area such as Toward/Innellan and Kilmun/Strone/Ardentinny with regular buses until late at night.
No bus back from town after 6pm. No Sunday transport
There is a serious transport problem in Argyll. It is very hard to rely on public transport, especially in rural areas where runs are quite infrequent. I would like to highlight though that Argyll & Bute have a huge and increasing elderly population that needs extra support. Community Transport operators have sprung up nationally to provide this door to door transport and a number exist in Argyll. The people who rely on these services generally do not have a voice and most will not be able to feedback into these surveys. An ageing population, a move towards care in the community, the movement of local hospital services across into Glasgow and the need for door to door fully accessible & wheelchair accessible vehicles is creating a huge demand on Community Transport charities but funding for this necessary part of our transport network is very small in comparison to school & public transport funds. Please realise when putting forward the results of these surveys that there are many people who would not be able to get their weekly food shop, attend their doctors' appointments or make it to Glasgow for a critical hospital appointment if it wasn't for groups such as Interloch Transport. Almost 400 people now rely on their service but are not able to make their views heard. Hundreds more rely on other groups over Argyll. This is a problem that is increasing every year but not making it onto important policy reports.
No Sunday bus, no bus leaving Dunoon (main town) after 1750 which rules out any evening event. Could not commute by bus. It would be impossible to live where I live without a car
Not good transport to Glasgow - driver not allowed to help with luggage
Infrequent service. No evening or Sunday service.
I don't use the bus but it looks a reliable service. Ferries and buses should synchronize. Ferry travel no complaints normally a no-bother experience.
I use the car so i do not have enough information to make a meaningful comment
Public transport is good, though the bus service could be more frequent and, although I have not experienced this, I have heard that buses sometimes break down.
I would use an evening bus to get between Dunoon & Strachur on a Friday / Saturday night after dinner / theatre or drinks to save a driver.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 5.41</b>							
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	2 responses	2 responses	5 responses	3 responses	5 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

Can't see how could be improved. Rural area so people drive a bit too fast. Usually can find somewhere to park in Dunoon. Don't mind paying. In Dunoon drivers and pedestrians courteous to one another in busy places e.g. Morrison's car park. Recently visited England there were parking bays with Electric Vehicle charging, may need to provide these fairly soon.
Fast traffic on the main road at times
I think there could be more disabled parking bays in built up towns but generally traffic is not too heavy in the area.
Increased parking provision would probably impact on our environment and ultimately climate change.
It can be dangerous to cross the road on foot at the junction at the end of the shore road (where turning left goes to the Creggans Inn and right goes to the filling station), as visibility is poor and cars can be going 40mph (or potentially speeding and going faster than this). It can also be difficult to hear oncoming vehicles when it is windy. Occasional speed checks could be useful as some cars come through the area quite quickly.
Parking is okay, but not good enough during summer tourist season
Shore road need white lines re-adding along Loch Eck. It can be very dangerous during dark nights.
Too many vehicle users ignore speed restriction within the village.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 5.23</b>							
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	0 responses	3 responses	4 responses	2 responses	6 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

Area is well maintained by the council. Occasionally recycling bins are full. I would encourage the council to promote the 2 minute beach clean campaign on Twitter especially for people who have beach front property there is no excuse! Area is attractive and easy to get around. Fuel is too expensive and bad for environment.
Argyll is one of the most beautiful areas in the world. The road system could be kept in better repair.
Dunoon has many shabby properties that spoil the area.
Some derelict building do harm to St Catherine's and are an eyesore. Could they be adapted to new uses particularly as they are close to the Loch and pontoon facilities
There are no real public spaces - the only ones that exist are very overgrown and clearly never maintained
Village straggles along the main road and loch side - not much of a centre



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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 6.11</b>							
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	8 responses	7 responses	0 responses

### Comments

Area needs maintained which cost money
Excellent
Heron Park a bit overdrawn
It appears to me that much of the wooded area is in private hands and with the right incentives could be improved for both local residents and holidaymakers. Walking routes could be introduced under controlled conditions with limited small car parking areas.
Occasionally there is beach pollution like greasy froth.. Every day there is plastic pollution. There is an abundance of wildlife. I record it in a book. If there was an app to record species on my phone I would use it. I regularly remove Himalayan balsam and would plant more native species if I knew what to plant.
On my doorstep I have woodland
Strachur is beautiful.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 5.05</b>							
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	0 responses	2 responses	4 responses	8 responses	1 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

An adequately furnished playpark for youngsters would be beneficial.
I would have thought the Loch could provide play opportunities albeit this needs a cost benefit analysis
Joined Strachur kids gardening club. Cycling at glenbranter. Swimming in sea and local pools. Walking in forest. Could be more outdoor play facilities in Strachur perhaps. I would support a local improvement plan for this.
No park, no play areas, no seating to enjoy the view. It's completely undeveloped.
Plenty of clubs and activities
There is a tennis court which is great for a small village, also shinty pitch. Permanent football goals would be an advantage.

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.

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 5.52</b>							
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	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses	5 responses	5 responses	5 responses	0 responses

### Comments

Good quality Facilities are needed such as a garden centre with retail and restaurant/tea room which protects the countryside against the construction of large overbearing buildings in rural areas.
It's fine, but to be honest I don't really get very involved - I live there but work & shop elsewhere
pavements are getting smaller, as grass growing onto pavement
Post Office, shop tearoom, GP surgery good and also acts as pharmacy
Queens hall is excellent.
We have a good shop and GP surgery, but nothing else.
You can get basics from Strachur and everything else from Dunoon. High school is quite a distance from the primaries in this area. Not sure how further and higher education needs are fully met. Neighbours have a good network but there is a severe problem in this area with dogs not under control. Strachur hall is well organised there is always something going on. People of all ages mix and seems a cohesive community. Doctors and hospital good experience.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 4.35</b>							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	0 responses	1 responses	5 responses	7 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

I don't think there is an abundance of good quality work. I think there are opportunities for local businesses to start up and grow and many are. I think the Third sector is being overlooked, this sector provides hundreds of good quality socially worthwhile employment, there are opportunities here to strengthen this sector and focus more on financial stability, growth and more employment alongside volunteering.
I work in IT, if I could not work remotely, I would have no prospects here.
No idea if there is work in the village - would doubt it
Nowhere for businesses to start up.
Not enough jobs for young people to stay in village
Quite a lot of un-employed in Dunoon. could do with shops to bring in tourism- no more charity shops
There is a need for small hi-tech business units to generate quality sustainable jobs as long as IT systems are supported. Business community should concentrate on resolving climate change issues
Worried a local employer may be less reliable than current job 70 plus miles away. Looking to retire here.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 4.11</b>							
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	2 responses	4 responses	6 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

Council tax charges have excessively increased this year when roads don't seem to get fixed but new pavements get done. Also bin collections have decreased.
I would be against strip development of the loch side. I would support more affordable housing if sensitive and sustainable to environment. House builder should bid with community benefit clause included.
I would have thought not. There needs to be business infrastructure in place to ensure young people have jobs and a reason to work the local economy. Housing need must now be energy efficient and with low cost energy.
More affordable housing would help
Properties for sale are generally expensive. Not many properties to rent. Like the property and its situation but not in very good condition.
There's far too many holiday homes - they suck the life from the area.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 5.0</b>							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	1 responses	3 responses	3 responses	5 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

A lot of events do take place at the Memorial Hall, which is good, but there doesn't seem to be so many events that would encourage/appeal to young people such as teenagers and young adults. More events for young people would be beneficial (e.g. sports clubs).
I have recently joined the community but still have to work away from home. Currently the weekends for me involve limited contact which entail the shop/PO, the garage shop and the garden centre away from my local area
Local hall
This is one of the problems that impacts more on the elderly and disabled. Sorry to harp on about the same topic but it's not just about the spaces to meet people - it's actually getting them there. Transport is a rising issue.
Two pubs in walking distance, and lots for pensioners, but nothing for folks my age.
yes
Yes. There are isolated people though and they do not know when events are on unless they get a newspaper or someone bothers to ask them if they would like to go out. Local shops have a role to play in communication as well as community web pages and social media.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 6.0</b>							
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	3 responses	4 responses	8 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

Here we are Cairndow project is good. Strachur Facebook is good. Dunoon observer is good. Positive identity for the area. The place draws people together in a common identity despite their differences including incomers like myself, locals and visitors.
I am proud of where I live and I am investing in my home over the next 2 years. There is a balance to be struck in improving the facilities without massive change. A slow growth plan should be introduced to motivate all the community to take this area in the direction it needs to develop
I think people’s sense of community is improving over time. I see more local groups coming together to resolve the problems that they can see in their areas.
It's a nice place and people are friendly
This is home. I know my neighbours here after 5 years more than 20 years in my last place.

## Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 6.1</b>							
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	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	3 responses	11 responses	0 responses

### Comments

Dogs roaming free. Dog attacks on people and smaller dogs. Dogs growling and barking at children and generally intimidating. Police very supportive. Occasionally get very scared about the massive nuclear submarine base over the next hill but try not to think about it.
feel safe
Feel safe in Strachur not so much at Trust Housing Association
I do feel safe but local police have been removed from villages...
I do feel safe in this area but improvement is always welcome. I do not have enough local knowledge to comment on this type of improvement but communities tend to have "neighbourhood watch" schemes. I assume there is one here
I have not felt unsafe in Argyll, however I am sure there are places in some of the more built up towns where this might not be the case. I think where people do not feel secure is as they are getting older and families move away from the area. I know many worry about how they can stay independent as they age.
This is a safe place to leave your doors unlocked.



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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 4.5</b>							
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	1 responses	4 responses	6 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses

#### Comments

Empty and derelict buildings should either be demolished immediately or renovated ready for new users. How this can be achieved financially needs a cost benefit analysis.
Litter is always a problem
Once again, a difficult issue to deal with across such a huge area. I haven't noticed any issues with public spaces.
Public toilets have been left to rack & ruin behind the RBS in Dunoon.
The council are so remote as to be absent, and holiday home owners do the bare minimum.
The village seems reasonably clean although more frequent rubbish collection would help; also bins at popular walking spots so people can use them. No idea if local residents' association. Private landlord could be encouraged to do more to maintain property
Yes. I visit Dunoon a lot and would like to see more investment in the town from businesses as well as the council working together. Some big sponsors and sports champions could help to develop hills behind Dunoon as has been suggested. Visitor board at Strachur could be improved. Saw some visitors looking at it and was a bit faded and sad looking.

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

<b>17 responses in total – Average Score of 4.8</b>							
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	2 responses	8 responses	0 responses	5 responses	2 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

Haven't got involved
I am only here part time but do as much as I can to support community initiatives and help the environment.
I think there are huge sections of the population due to age, mental health problems or disability who do not have a voice. I believe that council reps do make efforts to connect with people in general but miss these harder to reach groups. The JSNA report in Feb 2013 made a point that transport is a continually re occurring theme when it comes to issues in the area, however, this is still an issue which is getting worse and I do not believe it's an area that is being put on the agenda. There is a feeling that sometimes these consultations are more of a box ticking exercise - hence the very return rate.
I voted SNP, and the other parties ganged up to defy the majority. They are more interested in playing politics than improvements
I work in England and therefore have limited opportunities but it is the community not the individual who, through democracy, make joint decisions
yes

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

- The issue regarding safe road crossing mentioned earlier, and cars driving through quickly in general - More local clubs/gatherings etc. for young people (the available facilities are good, there could just be more events etc. organised)
1 A garden or craft centre (or similar) with mixed use. Developing energy innovations that generate jobs 2. Off road walkways and cycle track running alongside Loch Fyne. 3. Forestry walks with shelters at intervals
Accessible Transport and support for our increasing elderly population: Isolation and access to services have simple and cost effective solutions. Quality Jobs: building up the commercial & third sectors Transport links in and out of Argyll. Although not specifically mentioned, I feel that Dunoon especially needs a more affordable way of people commuting in and out of Argyll & more emphasis on encouraging tourists to visit over the Clyde. Western Ferries provide a sterling service however it is extremely expensive to commute as they no longer provide a season pass and it's off putting to tourists who suddenly get hit with a £30 fee on the ferry not knowing they could get cheaper at the kiosk. Even at around £20 return it's a fair cost to actually get to Argyll.
Better bus service
Better public transport. Keep pavements safe, reduce speed to 30 in village-at present 40.
Better street lighting Better road maintenance Better undergrowth clearance especially on pavements
Build charging points for electric cars beside the post office, and make the place a stopping destination rather than a drive through area.
Derelict buildings in Dunoon Improve some public areas Litter
Disgraceful lack of public transport particularly in present climate
Employment opportunities particularly for 16 - 25 age group to remain in area. More low cost housing to encourage youngsters to stay locally Closer attention to maintenance of roads/verges/pavements.
Environment. Sustainable economic development. Societal benefits from community engagement. Business and councils working together. Communication between all age groups via traditional and social media Identity champions to leverage funding and promote local plans.
Road traffic on A815 through Strachur: speed limit (40 mph) is too high for the conditions of the road.
Roads. Bin collections. Public toilets

## What actions could be taken to deal with these?

- The issue regarding safe road crossing mentioned earlier, and cars driving through quickly in general: Lower speed limits and/or improved visibility for the specific area mentioned earlier - More local clubs/gatherings etc. for young people (the available facilities are good, there could just be more events etc. organised): Organise/promote more events for young people using the available facilities (e.g. sports, music, gaming, events using the Memorial Hall/tennis court/shinty pitch)
Funding via the lottery and partly from local government funding. Community funding and business funding Mapping out cycle ways etc. followed by a feasibility study.
The Third sector has been plugging many of service provision gaps in Argyll for some time. These groups need to be helped with funding. This in turn allows them to match fund far greater amounts, grow their organisations, provide invaluable services and also create quality jobs. It's hard to say about the ferry links, I don't know how much sway the council has over a private company.
Community bus? We don't necessarily need a large coach, but a connection with Dunoon around 9pm each evening would be useful - also some service on Sunday
Additional bus service, especially later evenings to prevent youngsters requiring to stay in Dunoon if out for evening. Community council could lobby reducing speed. Plus general maintenance of pavements
more maintenance and installing lighting
Place improvement orders on those who own derelict properties or knock them down. Tidy up some public landscape area. Invest in litter bins and empty them regularly. Clear any litter immediately.
Provision, at the very least, of a return bus service which would allow people to attend evening functions, etc., in Dunoon without incurring a £40+ taxi fare.
Investment
Help local shops thrive and be community hub. Invite investors and showcase development opportunities in area. Create local learning networks between universities and colleges for all ages. Get community involved in building bike trails. Use two minutes beach clean twitter campaign to drive beach clean ups.
Reduce speed limit to 30 mph.
Up keep needs to be maintained. These should be monitored by a council member..

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.



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