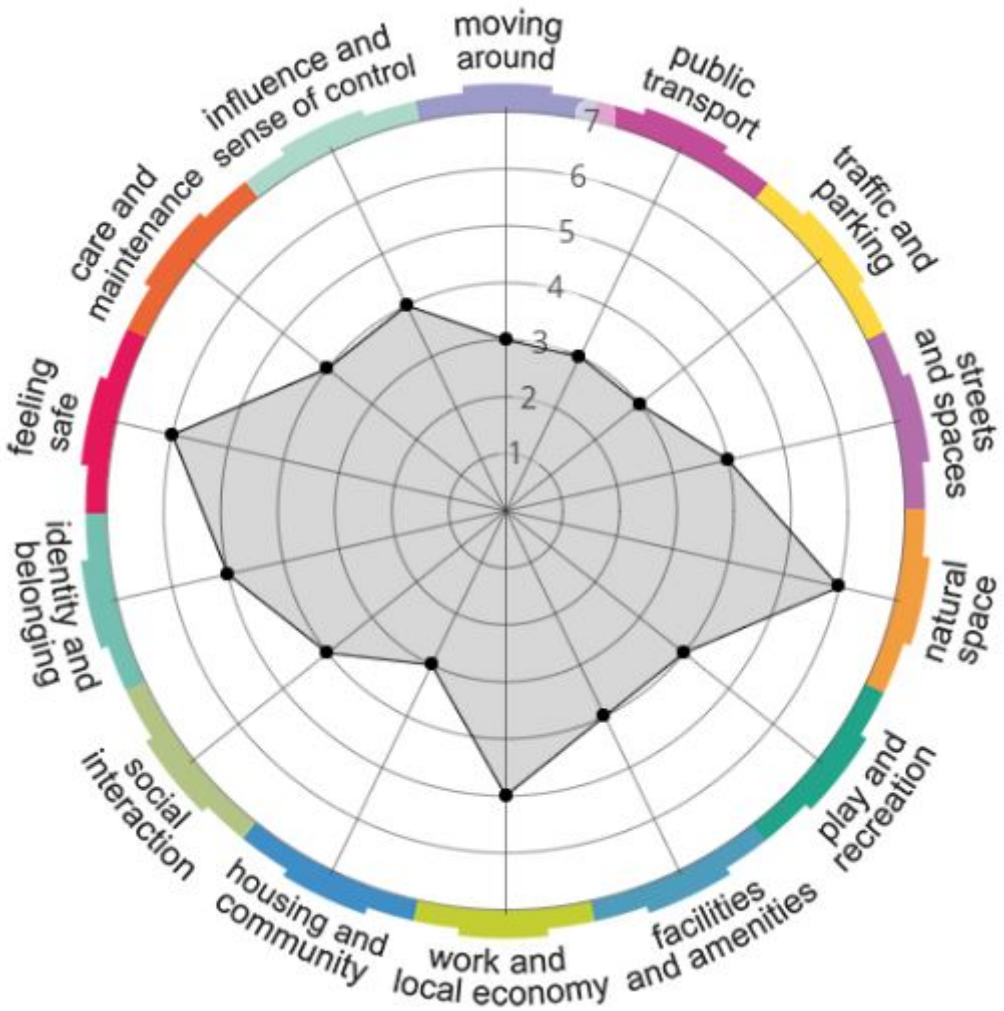
Isle of Islay Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:

Public Transport

Traffic and Parking

Housing and Community

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.

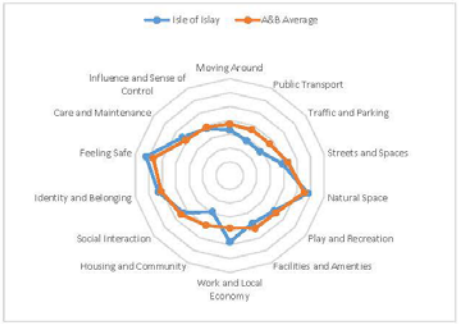
We are currently mapping out what activity is already happening, what is planned within the next 3-4 years and where the gaps are. This information will be considered by both the CPP Management Committee and the Area Community Planning Groups to shape the actions.

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 Islay Responses

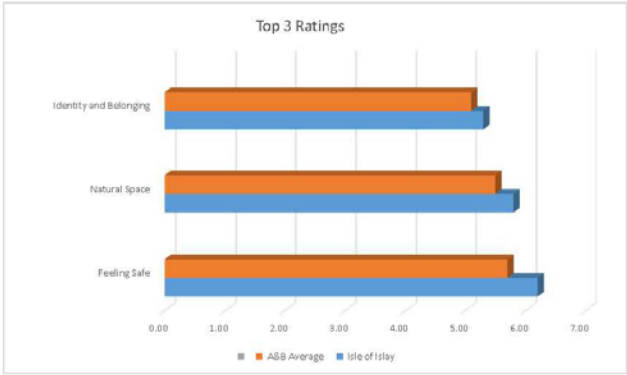
Our Top Rated Areas are:

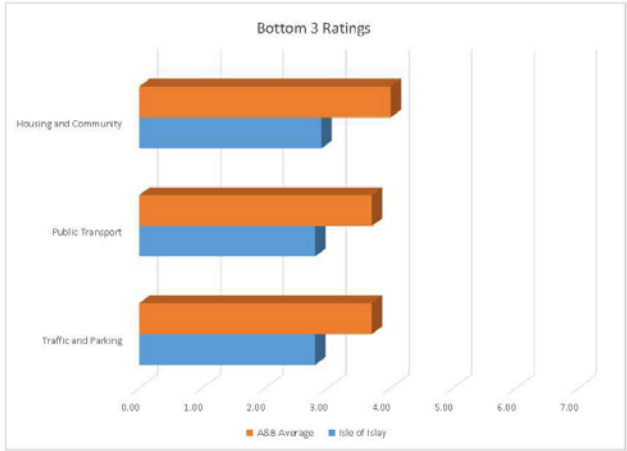
Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 6.2 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 5.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
Identity and Belonging	Respondents rated this area 5.3 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.1 out of 7.

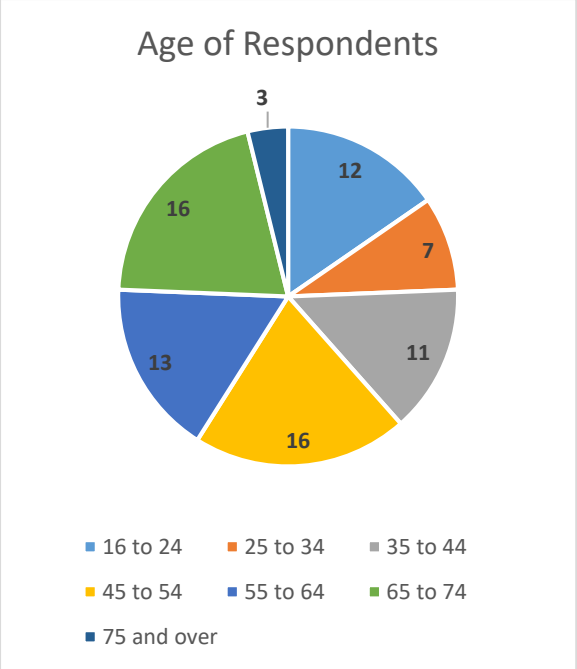


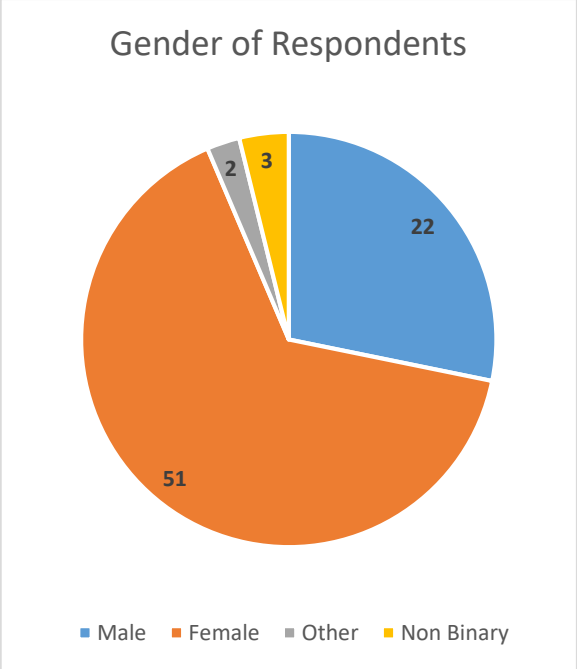
Areas of desired improvement are:

Traffic and Parking	Respondents rated this area 2.8 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.
Housing and Community	Respondents rated this area 2.9 out of 7 compared to Argyll &Bute Average of 4 out of 7.









Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Public Transport	2.8
Traffic and Parking	2.8
Housing and Community	2.9
Moving Around	3.3
Facilities and Amenities	3.8
Influence and Sense of Control	3.8
Streets and Spaces	3.9
Play and Recreation	4.1
Social Contact	4.3
Care and Maintenance	4.4
Work and Local Economy	4.8
Identity and Belonging	5.3
Natural Space	5.8
Feeling Safe	6.2

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

78 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
15 responses	13 responses	12 responses	16 responses	11 responses	9 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Currently there are no official walk or cycle ways close enough to where we live - you would have to take a car or bus to get to the nearest one.
Cycling is dangerous on the single track roads
Existing path but not very suitable for prams buggies or bicycles.
Great shortage of routes that are direct, safe and good quality
hard to get into disabled parking spaces as usually full of people
I am permanently disabled and walk with a wheeled Walker. The pavements and parking spaces have such appalling surfaces that make going to shops dire and dangerous
I have always cycled, but the road surface near home is getting increasingly broken and bumpy so it becomes uncomfortable/unsafe. It is a hilly and windy 6 miles to cycle to the nearest bus stop, and there is no public transport at any time which comes nearer. Therefore, I reluctantly run a car, as no other practical way to get about, especially in stormy weather.
It is totally dangerous to walk from Bowmore to Bridgend. Vehicles drive far too quickly and walkers have to jump off the roadway. A footpath from Bowmore to Islay Gaelic Centre should be a priority.
Limited cycle paths and very narrow roads
More walking and cycle paths could be incorporated in the area
Narrow roads No paths
Narrow roads, few pavements out with main centres, few off road routes. Very unsafe in the dark.
Need more walking/ cycling paths, a lot of single track roads make walking safely difficult
No footpaths for walking, to get to the see, you have to walk across a pasture and it is often quite boggy. Single track road in bad condition, so cycling is also difficult, this way no pleasure for me.
No path, no lightning, potholed roads, 60 mph speed limit in built up area, boy racers, uneven surfaces.
No pavement to Emerivale from Port Ellen. Road surfaces are very poor for cycling apart from the 3 distilleries way cycle path. Surfaces are potholed, rutted and broken. Speed limits are not obeyed by all with excessive speeding on narrow roads which could cause major accidents. The overdevelopment of the whisky industry is placing enormous strains on the island's road system.
No walk/cycle routes with paths or no traffic. The road to the dump in Bowmore is ideal but too many lorries and cars driving at 60mph to make it possible.
no walking or cycle routes, footpaths in poor condition
Passing places are badly marked
Pavements are minimal in my area and more usually non-existent. There are no cycle tracks at all

Pavements on Islay are not the best especially if you have an infant in a buggy or a small child learning to go a bike. The 3 Distillery path is good. Would be good if the bus ran later in evening to provide safe transport between port Ellen and the swimming pool and gym in Bowmore
Poor maintained roads and lack of pavement make it difficult to walk around the local area
Poor pavements, many puddles. Passing places not maintained. Huge influx of visitors means cyclists are in danger from visitors unused to coping with our poor roads - huge potholes, poor signage and lack of passing places.
Poor quality road surfaces across Islay for biking and few footpaths
Port Ellen community have worked hard funding and completing foot paths for locals and visitors to use.
Quite scary for bikes - passing places are badly marked.
Road and Pavements in bad state of repair. Pavements are worst surface seen anywhere. They rough and difficult to walk on with high heel shoes, which tend to get ruined. Roads are dangerous for cycling due to the bad surfaces all over the island.
Roads not up to standard. Lack of pathways to encourage walking routes
The main roads are full of potholes. There are no pavements at the side of the road. The edges of the A847 that I walk along are broken and full of holes thanks to the road being too narrow for the HGV's and tractors to safely pass each other without driving on the verge of the road.
The road between Port Askaig and Bridgend is too dangerous for cycling or walking. Animals get killed easily, due to there being no speed restrictions and villages like Keills and Ballygrant have 40 mph to go through their villages where everywhere else on the Scottish mainland would be 30 or 20 mph. With a lack of speed restrictions almost everywhere on Islay, allows irresponsible drivers to shoot down the road at about 70 to 80 mph.
There are 2 ways to walk or cycle to my house. One has a path but no lights. The other has no paths or lights but is on a 60 mile an hour road. Lots of room for improvement
There are a mixture of good roads for cycling and off the track places for walking.
There are no pavements or safe roadside walking or cycling routes near my home. There is an infrequent bus service with no stops nearby and no evening or Sunday service. Out walking locally is reasonably safe on the road out with tourist season but not safe after dark or during busy times.
Very few access routes available and those that are available some are not kept to a useable standard.
Very little in the way of cycle paths or footpaths next to narrow roads. Numerous potholes and uneven roads, nowhere to get out of the way of vehicles.
We should be able to use the pitch to let our kids and dogs run about....not many places in Bowmore to do that
Young people can't get licences and need family drivers.

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

78 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
20 responses	17 responses	18 responses	9 responses	7 responses	5 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Bus fares are extortionate I understand need for fares to cove expense of supply, but a fare of almost £6 return to go to large shop is not affordable to many
Bus service and ferry services don't really connect. Time tables are designed for the convenience of the operator and not the user.
Bus stops in front of the house but runs very seldom, Sundays and evenings not at all. Doesn't match up time schedule with airport and ferries.
Buses do not run after 6pm and are largely tied to school times. Small buses running more often and connected to other modes of transport such as ferries and planes would make much more sense.
Buses on Sunday would be good.
Cannot access any
Can't comment as I have a car.
Don't use public transport as impossible to do anything as buses don't run enough
Flexible working arrangements and evening commitments and activities are not served by the current bus service. Existing bus service is too expensive at around £7 for a round trip to shop in Bowmore
I use the bus every day for work and they are reliable and clean. The service really needs to be extended to meet all the ferries and to allow access to the main village of Bowmore in evenings and Sundays. I rely on the service for work but sometimes I finish at 6 and the last bus is 5.10 the island is busier with visitors and locals so this needs to be addressed
If I were to come back to Islay by ferry, there is no guarantee that there is a bus service to collect me from Port Askaig or Port Ellen which can make things extremely difficult if you have to wait for a taxi (at considerable expense). However, day-time buses from Port Askaig to Bowmore and back are fine. It would be very helpful if there could be a sign up saying 'children crossing' at the point where the bus stops en route to Port Askaig, on the main road, by the turning to the Islay Woollen Mill. Children cross the road every day and where the road dips there, is also where many cars overtake and speed. So far, only animals are killed and as yet no children, but very dangerous!
Limited public transport options but I recognise the demand is maybe not there to improve o current service. Matching bus times and routes with ferries is paramount.
Limited service on Sunday's Limited liking up to ferry and plane services, lack of partnerships link up when timetables change
More frequent service needed and introducing a Sunday service is essential
Mostly does apart from night travel
Never used public transport but understand this is limited. Times of buses do not always co-ordinate with ferry's
New housing area Not on bus route

No connection to late ferries. This means extra car journeys for some or no travel options for the less able. Poor siting of bus stop in Charlotte St. Port Ellen. This is sited in a wind tunnel, not signed from ferry terminal and causes disruption at the already dangerous and congested Islay Hotel corner. Some double yellow lines would help. No service for expanding village meaning long walks to bus stops for elderly and toddlers.
No existing public transport within 6 miles of home, as mentioned in earlier question. I would gladly take a bus for shopping trips to the main village 13 miles away, but there is no bus route off the main road between the island's villages. No provision at all in rural areas.
No public transport anywhere near where I live (understandably). Public transport seems to serve only the needs of schoolchildren. It does not connect in a meaningful way with ferry arrivals, and there is none in the evening for people who wish to go to the next village for a concert or meal
No Sunday or evening service.
No Sunday service. No evening service.
Not enough public transport available and NONE on a Sunday!
One bus every two and a half hours is no use. Thanks to altered Calmac ferry timetables the local bus does not meet the ferry.
Poor infrequent public transport. Basic bus stops with poor shelter
Service stops at 5.00pm, no service on a Sunday, service does not meet all the ferries, need PhD to understand the timetable. What service there is, is reliable.
The bus to Islay airport does not conform to the flight check in times for the new route to Edinburgh. Otherwise, the bus services are probably adequate.
The buses are infrequent and do not match up with ferry or airport arrival times, the buses stop running after 6pm and do not run on a Sunday
There are buses available 6 days a week but the timetable is very limited - no evening or Sunday buses and bad (an hour or longer wait) connections at places where you have to change bus to get to the other end of the island. Buses do not meet ferries or planes so it is difficult for people who don't have access to private transport.
There are too few buses and the last one leaves the village at 5:10 or 6pm
There could be better public transport, especially on a Sunday where there is NONE AT ALL. Not everyone can afford to use the buses as it is expensive to travel from one village to another. Cannot get a bus service in the evenings - latest in some villages is approx. 4.30pm
There is no public transport after 6pm in the evenings.
We have a bus service twice daily.

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

78 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
21 responses	17 responses	17 responses	10 responses	6 responses	5 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Abuse of disabled spaces which isn't enforced, very poor paving, narrow streets, lack of electric chargers for cars.
Aquacare clients can't park by the pool & a lot of them are disabled.
Bowmore needs a thorough sort out of parking. It is a nightmare in our ever expanding season. Too few Disabled spaces. Always full and not always by badge holders as it is not policed. There is room available if a big overall plan is carried out.
Camper vans are the worst issue here.
Charlotte street is a bottleneck because of parked vehicles on both sides of the road essentially creating a single track road which is the main route In and out of port Ellen for ferry traffic
Coop in port Ellen little parking, causing parking both sides of street, making road single file with no passing places Bowmore does not have parking to meet needs of visitors- shoppers and workers Schools - inadequate facilities at all schools regarding parking to drop off, pick up and for staff parking
During festivals there is limited parking in the main village.
Fairly good set-up regards traffic movement and parking except at ferry terminal area
Free parking everywhere and usually plenty of space. However, tourists and those in large campervans tend not to appreciate any rules of the road, do not use passing places, often end up in ditches, (disrupting other traffic), and park/stay overnight in front of village houses. the increasing number of large lorries, often on distillery business, causes excessive wear on the roads which is repaired infrequently.
Generally ok due to low volume of traffic on Islay
In Bowmore cars are parked on Shore Street Bowmore all day despite a notice stating that there was a parking restriction of 30 minutes. In March 2018 I exchanged a series of emails with a council employee who stated that the council were intending to employ a person to enforce the parking restrictions in Bowmore. And guess what nothing has been done. This is typical of Argyll and Bute Council. All talk and no action.
In Islay villages, there is little parking provision and with the increase in tourism people have to just park their car wherever there is space to leave it. Often far from ideal, not always safe. Too many large vehicles/camper vans for the space available.
Islanders usually (there are always exceptions) drive mindful as are used to single track roads and bad conditions of the roads. For tourists, elderly and insecure drivers it remains a challenge. Passing places are not always kept up nicely, soft shoulders can be tricky. I have seen more than one motorhome and even car tip over on their sides. There are no parking arrangements nearby, so people park in passing places or people's driveways where available.

Islay is becoming increasingly busy, and some villages are difficult to drive through in peak season because vehicles are parked without due care, often on blind corners and along narrow stretches of road. An increasing number of mobile home owners are also parking up and sleeping (illegally) on private ground and in the streets (particularly during the whisky festival) and several times this year I noted obvious signs of 'overnighting' in the car park next to Bowmore pier - one woman sitting on her camp chair, outside her huge mobile home, in her dressing gown, enjoying a cup of tea - surrounded by milling tourists! A lot of drivers also seem to have difficulty understanding passing places, and very often overshoot them by a few feet and stop in the middle of the road - if they stop at all! This is not down to 'foreigners' either, as most of the inconsiderate driving that I have encountered has been from cars with UK plates. Many drivers will also block up (50mph) roads by trundling along at 30 miles an hour without thinking to pull in for those wishing to travel a little faster. This can go on for miles and miles... Lorry drivers and tractor drivers and bus drivers are amongst the most courteous on the roads.
Lack of proper parking near amenities. New services offered with very limited parking near. Overcrowding due to workforce parking outside and no space for customers Not safe for pedestrians Parking bring taken away for charge points?? Ferry ports too busy with lorries etc. and no safe access for pedestrians or bus services
More parking would be beneficial and adequate level pavements with safe areas for crossing onto and across roads.
No parking at local supermarket so people use main street where there is limited parking especially during the tourist season.
No planned, schematic parking areas Increasing numbers of self-drive tourists in cars and campervans Streets congested with traffic due to poor parking
No pulling off places for the tour buses to let people out and see the view.
Normally fine, though the speed limits seem to be ignored. Need more designated space for campervans and motorhomes.
parking
Parking can be restrictive, particularly in Bowmore. Parking occurs on bus stops and loading areas. Double parking is frequent. Shore Street, Bowmore can be difficult to negotiate because of heavy parking. More parking is also needed at Bruaichladdich near the village hall and distillery. Tourism is largely responsible for excessive parking problems.
Parking can be very difficult in the village especially for disabled people. Access to shops difficult. No electricity charging spaces apart from one in port Ellen that's always fenced off and doesn't work.
Parking in Bowmore
Parking in Bowmore is a problem at peak times. If the bus service was improved a little it might help. Pot holes. Laybys. Signs explaining single track roads.
Parking in our main villages is wholly inadequate.
Parking is bad everywhere on the island, but worst in Bowmore.
Parking is difficult in most Islay villages most months of the year. Bowmore is extremely congested and needs a large public car park to ease the strain. Many roads have parking on both sides of the road and thus the road is turned into a single lane which exacerbates the congestion. The police do not challenge those who park regularly in 'no parking' areas at junctions etc. causing yet more problems trying to get around.
Parking near the Coop main shop in Bowmore is impossible during busy periods.
parking terrible - mostly Bowmore esp. Shore st
Port Ellen is currently a death trap. A village that was designed in the 1850s to 1890s does not make for a safe place in the current era for young children. Parking is a massive problem as there has been no development in this area since the village was built and I cannot cope with the current level of tourist and whisky traffic.

There are few disabled parking spaces near shopping and often used by general public.
Shopping in Bowmore is not good as you can't park near shop, larger supermarket should be out of town
There is a single track road in our village but they have just re tarred it and the edges are about four inches deep, not very safe when walking, cycling or driving. There are too many cars but we are hoping to get a car park for the distillery which should make a big difference.
There is little parking in Bowmore at the best of times. Sometimes it is practically impossible to find a parking space. In addition the Council decided to make Mary Mackay's Brae (otherwise known apparently as Hawthorn Lane) one way. This cured a very minor problem and created a huge one as Shore Street is now regularly a bottleneck. Sometimes vehicles have to reverse back into Main Street to allow large vehicles through. While this problem could, and should, be resolved by having no car parking in the narrow part of Shore Street this would then compound the terrible parking problems. In addition the Council continues to give Planning Permission to new commercial premises in Shore Street such as new restaurant, Post Office and Dental surgery. All of these need non-existent car parking.
There is not enough parking in the main town and during the summer months it impossible to walk safely around the town areas due to traffic and shortage of suitable parking areas
Too many cars during the tourist season with accidents and aggravation for the islanders. Too many trucks from the distilleries which degrade the road. Therefore, too many potholes to avoid and which you can't always avoid if traffic is busy. Too many rough tracks to negotiate which can put your suspension at risk. I am not aware of any traffic-calming measures although there must be some? There is however no zebra crossing in Shore Street (or Main Street) in Bowmore which to me would seem the best place to have one. Children, parents, old, disabled, people with dogs - all cross at the point between the corner of Shore and Main Street, opposite the Celtic House and it is a crazy place when it is busy with traffic and the foot passenger has no protection from cars coming from 4 different points at that junction. However, as previously mentioned, if there were more speed restrictions and lower mph signs on entering villages, it would keep down the animals killed in Islay and secure the passage of children crossing a main road. Not enough parking spaces in Bowmore when the tourist season is underway.
Traffic in Bowmore is dreadful. Shore Street is now much worse since Mary Mackay's Brae between Shore St and Jamieson Street was made one way now all traffic going out of the village must leave via Shore Street. This was a nightmare before the one way traffic on the Brae was introduced now it is much worse with traffic using the narrow pavements to pass large vehicles like lorries, camper vans, buses etc. This one way system was introduced with NO CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS OF SHORE STREET, or indeed the wider community. This area is an accident waiting to happen especially now that the Post Office and Dental Surgery has opened in Shore Street - much more people walking the pavements to the facilities in the street. Parking in Bowmore during the day, especially during the holiday season which runs from April to end of October is virtually impossible. There are no traffic calming measures. There are too many cars and traffic passing through Bowmore, whether going north or south of the island.

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

78 responses in total – Average Score of 3.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
8 responses	10 responses	11 responses	15 responses	17 responses	14 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

A few unused/derelict building in villages but generally ok. Litter on beaches a major issue.
Always room for improvement to encourage people to walk and use their open space Pavements are I need to improvement
At the present time yes but with plans for local playing fields to incorporate Holiday Pods and Motorhome and Camping sites it will be a big loss of open space to walk on.
Attractive bilingual signs Small improvements could be made for landmarks to suit growing tourism
Behind the initial sightline, poor streets with rubbish, some poorly kept buildings and some derelict buildings owned by public companies. Back street lighting inadequate.
Bottleneck in Bowmore plus shopping parking. Shore St. is dangerous. The Square is pleasant but not maintained so looks scruffy. Port Ellen has lovely green by the sea but it needs flattening out to avoid flooding and enable it to be used for community activities. The sea wall is breached and needs restoring.
Bowmore is an attractive, well maintained planned village. It is dominated by the Round Church. There are no dilapidated buildings on view.
Difficult to access transport in evenings and general state of roads and parking areas make using own car tricky in bad weather
I wouldn't say it would be easy to get around if you don’t know where you are going.
Islay is a beautiful island if you are able to get around in a car and take in the scenery. Otherwise, I would not particularly rate driving through villages on Islay a pleasant experience, not unless you are visiting friends or family, or are doing a survey of some kind. Too many distilleries are dominating everything now to the detriment of the wildlife and natural beauty of the island. Derelict buildings and vacant land is part of the scenery, a reminder of the Clearances which did affect Islay in spite of some people believing this not to be the case. A combination of Ordnance Survey maps and the good nature of the Ileachs when asked the way, helps people get around - along with a few iconic landmarks, like the Kildalton Cross or the Light house at Port Ellen, Finlaggan etc. The bad weather on Islay affects everyone and is depressing so no enjoyment there.
Islay is an attractive place. Could do with enforcing the upkeep of some properties. Far too many holiday homes mean places very quiet at times.
It is easy to get around on foot, harder by car. Many of the public spaces are nice but many are spoiled by litter and dog fouling problems. Some public spaces need more bins but those with bins seem too often have rubbish lying just beside the bins.
It’s OK, and people living locally are used to it but visitors are often flummoxed about how to get around or how to use passing places on rural single track roads.

It's beautiful here, but we need to address the problems we have with mobile homes in particular. Car parks, at the Oa for example, are no longer just for day trippers as they have become 'secret' campsites for visitors just not prepared to pay for parking. Some of these homes are huge too and take up the space of two to three cars. And where do they pour their chemical toilet waste? We need at least one other big mobile home park/campsite (perhaps Bowmore or Port Ellen), and some sort of booking arrangement that means that mobile home owners need to, and are able to, prove that they have paid for camping before they are allowed to get on the ferry. It can be quite intimidating to go for a late night walk on your own property, and find a mobile home or a campsite a few yards from your front door. Nobody ever thinks to ask your permission or to say hello, and you have to 'police' the situation yourself. I have had to build new fences because of illegal parking.
local high street
Maintenance of buildings and their appearance is improving. Litter and dog fouling are an increasing problem. Parking of camper vans in non-official public spots is an eyesore and often causes litter to be left behind. I would prefer camper vans to only park at official sites. Camper vans also cause problems on our narrow roads, with poor driving skills eg not able to reverse and lack of consideration for others often being apparent. The overdevelopment of the whisky industry is placing enormous strains on island roads.
No
No street names in place. Road signs need upgraded.
Not a lot of public spaces.
Port Ellen should really have an ATM machine. This would be good for locals and visitors. There has been rumours about public toilets closing and I would be extremely against this the area relies heavily on tourism. Toilets are well looked after and clean. Street lights are quite dull now. But the local people keep the area looking good. Business take care of buildings, flower pots etc.
shore st- narrow entrance causes blockage when 2 large vehicles meet
streets and spaces too narrow with potholes - there is only 1 way out of Bowmore
The area is fairly attractive but the traffic and noise both during the day and the boy racers after midnight now using Mary MacKay's Brae as a race track. The traffic congestion in the village makes it hard to enjoy just walking around - you have to dodge the traffic
The landscape is very attractive as it is. Some of the old, ruined buildings nearby could use new roofs and some fixing up, but neighbours don´t make the effort or maybe don´t have the money/energy to do it. It is very, very hard to get builders and tradespeople on the island as everybody is more than busy, so any projects are extremely difficult.
The natural landscape is not in question but the housing association schemes make a mockery of places and planning.
There is always room for improvement. The digital lighting is hopeless unless you are standing immediately underneath it.
Very few open and available public recreation areas, derelict buildings
We have a lovely village and is soon to have lots of changes and improvements.
Yes on the whole some planning needed for main thoroughfares.

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

78 responses in total – Average Score of 5.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	3 responses	3 responses	4 responses	10 responses	22 responses	34 responses	0 responses

Comments

Again no paths are making it harder to go places as the amount of cars on the roads are growing. We had a nice gravel pitch the kids could go ride their bikes on but the council have now placed an all-weather pitch on it which Is overpriced .
Attractive natural spaces are close by most people. These are often spoilt by litter and, at night, light pollution. This should be a dark skies area.
Beautiful beaches and woodland walks.
Beautiful place. More public bins would help to keep it that way.
Because of living in a rural area amongst farms and moorland, I am fortunate to experience natural space every day. Weather can be a factor in discouraging access.
Coastline and hills are magnificent. Easy access limited for able never mind disabled.
Good clean health air in the countryside and beaches
I am able to use a car to access natural space but everyone does not have this luxury
I am fortunate to have a garden with a good view. However others in other areas without own transport can't access beautiful places including beaches as public transport only covers main route
I can access beautiful areas due to my own health and own transport
I can experience plenty of this, just access to the sea is quite difficult even though it is just there since there is no paths and no accessible place to launch a boat nearby for example.
I can walk to the village beach or beyond the village easily using the public road. However, I do pick up litter and dog waste on a year round basis from these spaces.
If I drive out of village
Major asset of the area
More paths would make even more of our landscape accessible.
Natural space is outside the village. The problem accessing this is lack of footpaths.
Near to beaches and wild areas
Not applicable.
Not many places in Bowmore
Plenty of wild natural space, although not a lot of it accessible to those with disabilities.
Probably more could be done for mobility access.
Room for improvement across farmed landscape but compared to much of UK, Islay ranks pretty highly in terms of natural space and wildlife
See previous answers
Some walkways are almost impassable by foot let along many other option.
The area is looking at a mixed ability walking guide. Not enough disability access as tourists often ask.

Waste becomes a problem, rural bins overflowing and needed emptying more. Due to more visitors, fly tipping and lack of staffing provided to empty
We have lovely green areas that are well maintained.
White Hart beach in Pt Ellen has a ramp, a handrail and a loo
Yes, plenty of natural history.
Yes, there is a variety of natural spaces available. Yes, opportunities for people to have contact with nature is abundant on Islay. Natural spaces are usually fairly wild and not necessarily well maintained which does put people off, both residents and visitors, who see other councils in Scotland tend their natural spaces really well. The natural space is not affected by excess noise or poor air quality. You might get the odd plane overhead, and there are times when the slurry spreaders cause a terrible smell for a few days but as we live in a rural area, we make allowances for this. Accessibility of the natural space is probably hard for those of limited mobility, and perhaps for those who do not consider walking or outdoor activities to be good for their health.

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

78 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
6 responses	5 responses	16 responses	17 responses	21 responses	7 responses	6 responses	0 responses

Comments

A few outdoor play areas for young children but very limited opportunities for teenagers. More sports facilities needed. Limited in door facilities for children.
Access to coastline, hills and countryside limited. Styles and tracts tend to be in poor state
Farmland is not a place for play, and many visitors fail to realise where crops are growing. In urban places, anywhere people are not to go is usually blocked off to physically prevent access, but in rural areas we have to rely on people's common sense and manners. This does not altogether work well, especially where people are letting their dogs run loose in farming areas. They seem to think that 'there's nobody here'. We wouldn't want signs plastered all over, but some people don't/refuse to understand what is going on in the countryside and that most places are places of work where farmers earn their living.
I think plenty of sporting opportunities provided one can get to them (see lack of public transport).
Improving because of Port Ellen and South Islay Dev Trust; but not so good for teenagers.
In winter months and during bad weather there are no leisure facilities in our part of the island. The swimming pool is 20 miles away with limited opening hours and a trip there is expensive in transport. Children can play outdoors but parents not always available for supervision. Local halls are underutilised and often kept for special events.
It is concerning that on Islay the local swimming pool is reliant on funding and grants to operate and does not receive financial backing from public moneys although other area in Scotland receive full funding for swimming pools
Just completed a pitch that is only able to be accessed by school and paying after school hours. Very poor that the use of lottery funds and council funds doesn't mean it's left open for children and adults to use after school, during weekends and holidays. No sports facilities for children. Just a swing park. Very poor.
Limited
Lots of lovely beaches. Again we used to go onto the pitch but my dog is no longer welcome so the kids miss out. There are no council parks either which is no use I feel like the all-weather pitch would have been better if it were a swing park as the school will not use it and no one else can afford too.
Lots of outdoor places to visit but not much for families on a rainy day. Cyber cafe has goods clubs for small children and the play groups work hard. Port Ellen playing fields is good in the summer. Swimming pool good but would be better if the buses were on in the early evening and Sundays. More parks. Walks and with trails. Soft play area. Park in Port Charlotte needs maintenance. More nature clubs.

Many villages have lack of creational activity for all ages, partnerships needed to be build relationships to create more areas
Most local events are free or affordable, tho the stuff for sale is expensive
New facility closed off for public use and high school being hostile with their attitudes.
no strong view
Not applicable to me, but I believe there are adequate and improving play areas.
One community asset, the Islay Gaelic centre, would be so much more accessible if there was a path between it and Bowmore.
Other than the natural environment the 'developed' play areas are minimal
Playing fields at the moment provide excellent facilities for this but need to update building and equipment for maintenance of grounds.
Port Ellen is very out dated in this area. We have no public spaces that are of a modern standard. Very few community spaces have moved on from the 1940s and most are showing bad signs of damp and decay.
There is a play area at the end of the village
There is a playground at a campsite a few miles down the road. A leisure centre that was donated by a distillery so children could learn how to swim is 30 min to drive. There are also playing fields at 30 min and at 1 hour by car. They are supposed to be done up in the future. There is definitely room for improvement.
There is not enough for retired professionals which is a great shame which can cause isolation. I would say that many of the facilities around Islay are mainly for children and families; and there are initiatives to improve these facilities which is pleasing. I imagine that facilities as above, are made affordable in not charging too much. There are several housing schemes on Islay where affordability might be a problem. There are many things on Islay which one can avail oneself of but the cost of putting them on, and bringing people from the mainland to perform, immediately puts the price up. It means that many of the arts and cultural events are beyond some people's pocket - so they do not go. The children on Islay love to play outdoors and their parents are happy that they can do this in relative safety. Social and cultural events tend to happen more on Islay between April and October. Although events do take place over the winter months, I think turnout is poor and thus it's not cost effective.
There is very little for teenagers and young people. Better play facilities in ALL the villages on the island. Activities for teenagers that would not cost too much. Community hub with organised team sports for all ages at perhaps a incorporating a café for use by the community and visitors alike.
This can also be dependent on having access to a vehicle
This is more viable if there was evening transport links.
Traffic is a big issue when it comes to children playing outside there are lots of big lorries that use the road.
Unless you are in the know people never know half the leisure and sporting activities that are available on Islay. That is why most of them fold.
We have community owned playing fields in Port Ellen. They are underused despite being well sited because there is no support with maintenance. They are only looked after by local volunteers who do not have the time or money to run sports schemes or provide even adequate facilities. There are no other facilities nearby. There is nothing for young adults at all.

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.

78 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
4 responses	9 responses	15 responses	28 responses	13 responses	7 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Facilities and amenities would be adequate, were it not for the increasing tourist population driven largely by whisky tourism. There should be a moratorium on the building of any further distilleries, as with 9 and soon 10 of them, we have more than enough to offer on that score.
Facilities are scarce and of poor quality. Investment in island communities is shocking.
GP surgery should be open Saturdays or at least 2 evenings
Improvement would help variety of age groups
Inadequate CO-OP- does not realise that there is an all-year-round demand for basic groceries. Overwhelmed and poor stock control means empty shelves seen elsewhere in 3rd world countries.
Library van is in my area when I'm working and I find it difficult to access timetable, it seems to be frequently off the road. I would welcome a library open in a building in a central area that can be used at various times. GP surgery and nearest shop is 7 miles away. Local shop sometimes open but only stocks few items. There is no restaurant or cafe in the village, the pub is open but only serves food some evenings. The local hall is infrequently used.
Many villages have areas or buildings needing repair Lack of social areas to mix
Needs more available
No all-weather pitch. School has lost its minibuses.
No competition for the coop means that the price of basic food and supplies is high compared with most places. Lots of places don't deliver to Highlands and Islands. A huge portion of people's wages go on shopping from the coop. Eating the same food all the time. Lack of choice. The coop in Port Ellen is a convenience store now and the stock is very poor, mostly pizza or wine not healthy. If you work full time and don't have a car there is no bus service in the evening to go to the bigger shop. Not a cheap place to live and most people earn a basic wage. Childcare is a huge issue on Islay. No real child care for infants under 3 so unless you are lucky enough to have family support it can be difficult. No ATM in Port Ellen. Lack of mental health support. Medical care is of a high standard overall it is personal quick professional. Midwives and health visitors are great. Maternity care excellent. Patient transport can be difficult at times due to remote location and need to visit mainland.
No open areas where dog exercise appears to be acceptable and this has caused community tension.
None that I can access
not enough variety and quality is poor

Not many facilities around. Plenty of room for improvement. Government funding for new businesses would maybe encourage some people, but lack of accommodation for people that want to come and work on the island is a problem. There is a library bus driving around that is old and often has technical problems that could be improved. Schools seem to be doing fine. They do they own fund raising for trips and extras. Not many places to meet and eat, but some new ones in the past 1-2 years opened.
Our community tries very hard to help ourselves. But with no suitable buildings or external support it is very limited. We are a friendly, supportive and inclusive community which lacks the means to help ourselves. One available building lacks heating and has been condemned and the other has priced itself out of usability. Both are unpleasant to use. The lack of any nursery facilities is critical to young families who choose to move away.
Probably more places to eat would be good and also a major improvement needed for our local supermarket
Quite good facilities even for the less abled lots of nice lunch clubs all private charities.
Shopping for food here is frustrating, the local co-op is far too small, and at peak times throughout the year the shelves are very often empty and the building so crowded that it takes forever to get about and to get served. The range and quality of fresh foods is pretty shoddy too, and very often fruit is rotten when you take it out to eat once back home. Not all of us can make it over to the co-op as soon as the deliveries come in... We need a much bigger supermarket on the island, and it would be wonderful if the council could earmark some ground for a potential site. I know that the co-op would consider building a bigger store if the island proposed a site for development (I did look into this). It would take a body like the council to spearhead this campaign however, and I do know that it would be welcomed by a lot of islanders!
Some restricted opening hours can be a problem, e.g. swimming pool. We only have a library van every two weeks (if it is running). Young people have a lack of places to gather
The main supermarket is difficult to access park at and is limited to what it can offer and stock. The secondary school is appalling compared to other secondary schools in Argyll and Bute
The swimming pool has numerous projects and features which encourage people to attend e.g. over 60's session with soup and sandwiches, and free transport thrown in, the Aquacare session for disabled and convalescent people. However it continually has to seek funding and staff.
This is limited and there are distances involved getting across the island.
Too much centralisation of Health services in Bowmore instead of having outreach services.
We are over reliant on the Co-op but have a good range of ancillary shops. The Co-op is in Main Street and this causes great problems with car parking. The premises are also too small. A new Co-op on the edge of Bowmore, with car parking and an enhanced range of goods would be brilliant.
We can access the amenities on the island as we have a car. The village has a medical centre, shop, Post Office, places to eat. Optician services are still difficult to access as the island has no full time optician at the moment.
We have all the amenities we need. It would be good to access them by walking or cycling if the paths were upgraded.
We live on an island and in a remote place. We have no library, one gift shop which sells books amongst many other things, two general shops, a butcher, two Co-ops and a few Spar shops in local villages and Bowmore. We do have a few places where we can go out to eat but they are all very expensive! To access all the facilities on Islay, you need a car and the wherewithal to pay the entry fee.
Would love a static (in a building) library. The mobile library is a good service as far as is possible, but the choice of books is not large. As mentioned earlier, access to shops for rural dwellers depends on being able to afford to run a car.

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

78 responses in total – Average Score of 4.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
3 responses	4 responses	9 responses	15 responses	9 responses	29 responses	9 responses	0 responses

Comments

Disabled and retired
Distilleries provide quality work experiences fir people. Tourism offers unskilled workers the chance to earn decent money but current government plans aims to curb that.
Full employment, although lots is minimum wage.
Good availability of jobs. But critical need for housing so people can take jobs, particularly in the health service. Distilleries and hotels cannot expand without staff and housing for staff. Some buy up any available accommodation reducing the local housing stock. Many families leave in despair.
Good jobs available but difficult to get vacancies filled to lack of social housing, private let's and houses for sale
Good work access most low paid
I work part-time here but have to travel to the mainland to access work at a level appropriate to qualifications and experience. Internet speeds and reliability of broadband and phone lines is poor.
kids who get p/t hours are often working adult shifts e.g. 6-10pm
Lots of jobs in distilling, tourism and hospitality. Lack of affordable housing means there is nowhere for workers to live.
Many jobs available. Possibly more jobs than workers!!!!
Need 2 jobs and the local economy is low paid
No opportunities for me to get paid work as a fundraising professional. Yes, opportunities for volunteering with the various charities. There are some serious literacy problems on Islay. Teachers either love Islay, or hate it and leave quickly if they do. No job centre as such. I understand childcare can be difficult and there is a waiting list. Opportunities and spaces for local businesses to start up and grow tends largely to relate to the distilleries. Many people come here thinking to set something up but are thwarted in their efforts in not being able to find anywhere to live, find that people consider them a threat and discourage them in their good intentions so they leave, or can make life difficult for them. Of the retired professionals who come here to live, there is a divide between them and the locals.
Not applicable - Retired
Range of jobs is limited to mainly tourism and whisky but there are plenty of jobs.
Recruiting professionals can be difficult because of limited social housing and housing costs
Seems very little unemployment. Largest employer whiskey distilleries until world economy depression and USA tariff decline this industry
The economy, apart from farming and whisky production, relies largely on tourism. Wages in the hospitality industry are near minimum and there is constant poaching of staff between

companies. Higher salary, non-tourist jobs would be welcome and help to keep younger people on the island.
I feel that many young people would seek work off the island than on the island
The main problem is lack of housing for employees.
The quality of work available is limited. There is no unemployment, but lots of jobs are seasonal or lowly pay jobs. A big problem is the lack of fast and reliable internet so any work online is difficult.
The whisky wealth has to be seen but doesn't spread
There are limited jobs for local people. Lots of caring jobs but with 0 % contracts they do not encourage people to stay in them. We need contracts to encourage elderly people to stay in their own homes.
There are many jobs, Islay's economy seems to be a bit overheated now and some places who cannot command the high wages of the distilleries seem to have some difficulties getting staff and accommodation for those staff if they are new to the island. The large number of tourists and those servicing their needs mean that it is sometimes difficult to get fresh fruit & vegetables as local commercial establishments use the co-op as a cash & carry.
There are plenty jobs for locals but not great choice.
There are plenty of jobs on Islay but a lack of affordable housing is the main issue, especially for young families and young individuals. Again there is a lack of public transport between the villages out with normal hours and there are lots of jobs in the hospitality sector but hours required to work to not fit in with the public transport system at the moment.
There is full employment on the island, yes, but most of this in in the service sector, and not particularly well paid or rewarding. Entrepreneurs however can benefit greatly from the thriving tourist industry here.
This has improved lately, as long as one wants to work for a whisky distillery or in tourism. Still lots of part time, casual and insecure employment going on, and many tradesmen have to be self-employed as small firms find it too expensive to have employees.
V expensive to live. Inequality is high on the island
Very active - no unemployment - in fact people turn down jobs because they cannot find anywhere to live.
Very good local economy and places
We have a very active economy in Port Ellen but very little of the generated wealth stays on the island as most companies have to bring in mainland contractors due to the lack of facilities for local businesses to operate from.
Yes more jobs than people or housing or childcare to allow back to work

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

78 responses in total – Average Score of 2.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
20 responses	13 responses	15 responses	15 responses	8 responses	7 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Affordable housing is an issue, high prices due to second homes and holiday lets.
Could do with more places for single people.
Far too many holiday homes and holiday lets, as well as air b&bs. Ties up properties so there is almost no private rental outside social housing locally, and means it's still very hard for young people and families to find a house. Also, older people who would downsize cannot afford to do so, as house prices assume a letting income from property, and go up and up.
Good quality housing but could be better if land could be bought to build your own home.
Hardly any homes for people to move into...need more
Housing associations seem to be able to put housing in the worst places with no safety for children, quality of roads and access to amenities considered. They are also allowed to build double story houses where others are not and totally spoil surrounding houses.
Housing the young like my son who is 20 is impossible no council housing available
I cannot say as I am a home owner.
lots of old housing stock
Many housing is bought for second homes. These do not contribute to the community in any way. Locals are squeezed out by hotels etc. buying up houses for itinerant staff. We couldn't even get a dentist to stay as he couldn't find a house. There are many families who are multi-generational all living together in cramped conditions. There is no way the young ones can find a home. The brightest and best choose to leave. We need housing of all kinds. We need to house those who service our community. We need to house those who work at the distilleries and hotels etc. or they will fail. We need to house our elderly with dignity. We need houses. The current Area Plan is stifling those who would like the chance to develop.
Mostly do but single people need cheaper rentals
Need more affordable social housing.
No low cost housing to buy, limited rental opportunities - far too many holiday homes and Airbnb use - people cannot take jobs as nowhere to live.
No not enough homes for families or people coming into work
No, there is desperate need for more and affordable housing. People who would be needed can´t move to the island because they can´t find accommodation. Lots of houses are just holiday houses on top of this. I feel that the big, private estates are clinging to their land making it unavailable for housing. I feel that they take little interest and just own huge areas to come hunt there once or twice a year. Very sad that the government allows this feudalistic middle age system and doesn´t modernize it to serve the broad public rather than 2 or 3 families.

NO. Islay has many second-homers, or self-catering cottages, so much so that some people on the island cannot find anywhere to live; let alone anyone wishing to come here as they've been offered a job. It is becoming more and more difficult to attract professional people so you find people are promoted above their capabilities.
Not enough housing
Not enough housing for workers, young people and families. Not enough and what there is privately is too expensive. Too many holiday houses.
Second home and holiday home owners regularly price out local people trying to buy houses. In some villages at least 50% of the houses are not permanently occupied. New social housing seems to have been positioned in places where land has been made available by landowners, not where people actually want to live, and this imbalance is causing some villages to become depopulated further.
shortage preventing the attraction of keyworkers
The housing is an issue given the amount of families that move to the island shortage of housing putting off recruiting and retaining qualified workers i.e. secondary teachers
The recent and ongoing building of affordable, housing association properties at Emerivale now offers sufficient for the lower paid workers in the Port Ellen area. Perhaps more is needed near Bowmore and Bruaichladdich/Port Charlotte but I am not in a position to comment appropriately.
There are not enough houses. The island is desperate for accommodation. Many folk can't take up their posts e.g. NHS
There is a lack of affordable housing for young families and young individuals despite a number of housing association developments. Lack of affordable houses which would allow young people and families to get on the housing market.
There is a lack of housing and a drop in population. Reason = attractive houses in old villages are being bought up as holiday homes.
There is concern locally about the lack of long term rentable accommodation for people working on the island.
There is not enough sustainable affordable housing for the people already on Islay. This also is a huge issue for employers as there is nowhere for new workers to stay if they want to take up offers of work.
They keep building 1-2 bedroom houses instead of more large family homes. Impossible for working people on Islay to buy family home as prices are crazy and most property goes to holiday let's. The older council houses were not designed for modern living. No dining room, small rooms, lack of parking, old expensive heating systems. Housing list is long and hard to manage. If they start building more large family homes they could move families who are over crowed and open up space in older housing for young professionals. Police flats in Port Ellen are extremely expensive. No student accommodation. New hotels and distilleries should have to include workers accommodation in plans.
Too many holiday homes and not enough social housing properties set aside for incoming workers.
Total lack of affordable housing, too many holiday homes, too many empty family homes which are used for only a few weeks per year.
Very few affordable houses to buy Lack of social housing
Very little social housing. Few houses come up for sale. Most homes holiday lets.
Very significant lack of affordable housing. Housing Associations somewhat laggardly in enterprise

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

78 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
5 responses	4 responses	19 responses	14 responses	12 responses	16 responses	8 responses	0 responses

Comments

Again the transport issues make this difficult.
Could be doing with a wee hub for kids and adults alike no decent youth club or place to just chill with friends
Excellent community meeting places
I think local people know how to make the most of the available spaces and facilities for meeting others. Ramsey Hall in Port Ellen could be transferred to local community control as the current rates for use are rather extortionate.
I'm happy, but cannot speak for others.
People from different backgrounds who are tourists will eat and drink and engage with one another. People from the community tend to keep to themselves and some see incomers as a threat either to their livelihoods or culture. Some spaces can be used at different times of the day, and the year, precluding the weather. Everything comes with a price tag on Islay so in order to meet others, you need to pay - whether to swim, to do sports, have lunch or coffee etc.
Lack of activities and places for children, teenagers and young adults or places to meet throughout the year.
Main problem is transport to get to places and the cost to hire for groups. Very limited meeting room space at reasonable cost.
No
Nothing at weekends or evenings.
Plenty during day. Just hotels at night. Alcohol a problem so is loneliness.
Refer to previous answer on community spaces they are not to a current standard.
Room for improvement Lack of family places to eat or activities for families
Rural location makes this difficult, but transport is main issue, not spaces and opportunities.
The island's Gaelic centre is excellent, and having a cafe within it is very pleasant. Village halls can be booked for events, but ££. There are frequent meetings and gatherings of various sorts, and lots of clubs and organisations which are open to all. Of course, for rural people it again depends on owning a car to get to these, as they are invariably held in the villages.
The pub!
There are community activities and private clubs like the canoe club, yoga lessons, and ceilidhs. Improvement is always possible, but people are quite good and creative about this.
There are lots of places to meet people if you want to.
There are many places to meet people on Islay although some places set their prices according to high end tourism which is pricing some local people out of some local places.
Very different experience if you are an incomer, especially if you can't work.

Variety of events, environments, venues needed
Very isolated. Any social interaction self-created, maybe not a bad thing but no social spaces to drop in to. Most organised events confined to tourist season when houses are inhabited.
Very limited by the authority. Private cafes and bars are more plentiful
Vulnerable people and people who have been critically ill are not supported enough and should have regular visits to make sure they are supported. No adult community spaces. Allotments, drop in centres etc.
We are a caring community. We support and care for all our families. It is very difficult to find anywhere to hold community events. Local hotels are generous to the community but not always suitable. Local halls are appalling: either cold, unhygienic and condemned or too expensive, unwelcoming and inadequate equipped. Purpose-built sounds wonderful!

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

78 responses in total – Average Score of 5.3							
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	3 responses	4 responses	11 responses	13 responses	24 responses	21 responses	0 responses

Comments

Because of family history and ancestry I have a strong sense of belonging. The identity of the place is changing and bitterness growing with what planning does and does not allow.
Born and brought up here.
Definitely
I was born and brought up in Islay and have a great sense of belonging.
Islay is my home!
Islay people have a strong sense of identity but I feel that they are not always welcoming to incomers who try to step beyond the 'visitor' role and join in. It is not always easy to speak out about problems as many have never experienced other circumstances and are not willing to consider changes.
It has with visitors but I don't know about younger people who still have to leave the island to pursue their ambitions.
Largely positive - even for incomers.
More SHOULD be done to preserve and showcase safely the natural history of Islay. Lots of very important sites are being lost beneath grass overgrowth, such a shame.
Not really. My husband's family come from here so that is the reason for being here. There are some incredibly nice people here but I have a professional background with years of work and find little in common with people who live and work here but I think that is more to do with my line of work than anything and the fact that those who work here are younger than myself and are in a different mode of work of which I have no experience. I think the majority of people feel connected but you occasionally hear of people who move to Islay with high hopes and then leave a few years later, disappointed they could not make a go of it. The present state of politics surrounding Brexit and a drive for pro-independence are making people unsettled. I think more people have left Islay over the past year than ever before but do not have access to any stats, only saying this out of awareness of the problem. The history, heritage and culture of Islay is known and celebrated by tourists when they come. I think tourists view the place positively; I think the locals are more resigned than anything. When you live here, you cannot be entirely positive about living on Islay. It is very expensive, inward looking in some respects, very rural, there are no shops for those that like retail therapy, etc.
I think that people wait for 2 years to see if you can stick it out and then they will warm to you
Port Ellen has a wonderful community spirit. South Islay Development has made many strides to improve facilities and participation. They have tried hard to bring the history of the area alive. You would be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't enjoy living here. They would also add that better facilities would much improve their lives.
Strong sense of community - common to most of Western Isles

I feel that the local identity is slipping somewhat, as more outsiders move in. As old people have died and others have moved away, the Gaelic sense of Islay is going. While I enjoy being in the company of people I've known for many years, sometimes it feels as if I'm living amongst strangers when there are many names mentioned and I don't know who the people are or what they are doing here.
Very much so, and there are more festivals, activity groups, church groups etc. than one would expect for a population of 3500. The Islay Museum works very hard to involve schoolchildren and their families, as does the Natural History Centre.
Very strong
We are planning to leave Argyll and Bute.
Whisky is now too dominant and the magical feeling of Islay is being lost. There are signs that people are becoming more self-centred. Theft and non-reporting of traffic accidents are increasing. Tourism more than doubles the island's population and is becoming too large leading to problems e.g. litter.
Yes
Yes it's a magical place with amazing people, history, heritage and brands
Yes, definitely, a very positive identity. Quiet, beautiful nature, good sense of neighbourhood and helping each other out. Being remote brings people together.
Yes, this is the reason most of us stay! I work in cultural development.

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

78 responses in total – Average Score of 6.2							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	4 responses	6 responses	26 responses	40 responses	0 responses

Comments

A lot safer than on the mainland but increasing concerns for property due to recent abuse of local property.
A very safe-feeling place with hardly any crime: drunkenness and fighting because of it are the commonest problem I think.
At present there is little publicised crime on Islay.
Community spirit and Western Isles mind-set of harmony abounds,
Crime and antisocial behaviour is on the rise in Port Ellen which is a drastic change from 20 years ago.
Except for the traffic and the state of the roads. Islay is a relatively safe place to live and grow up.
Feel safe however police need to do more to cut out anti-social behaviour, boy racers, littering and drugs
I think we live in a very safe environment.
I used to feel very safe at any time, as I knew the people around and they knew me; we all looked out for one another. That still works to a certain extent, but there are now so many people going about in the island and nobody knows who they are or what they have in mind, it makes me uneasy. Especially lots of driving around at night in the rural areas. Who, and why?
It feels reasonably safe here.
Minor antisocial incidents do occur but, on the whole, I feel quite safe at present.
Mostly a safe place to live
Mostly it feels safe here but there seems to be rising theft which is upsetting people , although not enough to change slack ways which make them easy targets for theft.
No facilities for the youngsters mean underage drinking can be a problem. As can visitors to our distilleries enjoying themselves and deciding to drink and drive. On the whole it is a safe place and we appreciate that.
Not anymore. The Ileachs are proud to be honest people and they are. However, there has been an influx of people from the city so it has brought in people who I feel are trying to make it here without any compunction from charging exorbitant rates for building, or taking you for a ride. No, unfortunately, you can't leave your house or your car unlocked or things will get stolen. We are a retired couple so the minute I have stopped cooking our evening meal, I lock the backdoor. The front door is unlocked as it leads into a porch but there is an inner door which is permanently locked and I had to persuade a builder for months to install the lock. We have put up sensor lights over the garage and garden and small drive at the side of the house, and have our LPG canisters chained to the wall. People get large amounts of oil syphoned off around the island. Islay is not free of crime. Routes meaning roads are not safe anymore. Our cat was killed last July and we are on a road where cars overtake each other for fun. There are no SLOW signs, and no limits to the speed. It is not safe to walk so you learn to walk elsewhere to get anywhere.

Only real problem is drunkenness near the pubs and hotels.
People keep an eye out for you and your kids; the kids are quite shy; kids oft can't cope with transition to mainland and end up back home.
Quite safe. Very little crime.
The only thing I worry about is people overnighting on my land. As a result of this I no longer walk out at night.
Very safe
Very safe. Other than tourists needing more education on zero tolerance to drink driving.
Yes
Yes it feels safer here.

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

78 responses in total – Average Score of 4.4							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	4 responses	9 responses	24 responses	23 responses	13 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

As the island has become more prosperous and depends much on appearances to attract tourists, the maintenance of many properties has improved. One large estate is noticeably less so with their buildings. Some farms are struggling, and this shows in poorly kept buildings and fencing.
Common areas not looked after regularly Dog fouling a problem
Dog mess is a big problem on my land, and in the woods at Bridgend. Irresponsible dog owners also use some of the seafront adjacent to roads as dog fouling areas, believing the sea to be an acceptable place to leave waste. Pity the family that follows in their tracks. Fly tipping seems to be increasing. This said - where are the bins?
Generally good - dog mess and roadside litter always a problem.
Generally good.
Generally yes, by the people who own them. Local authority plant has some poorly maintained properties in main areas.
Getting better but still poor overall. Private owners should be forced to sell a building if they cannot afford to make it habitual.
Homeowners take pride in their properties. The Square in Bowmore is sadly neglected. The Green in Port Ellen needs attention to make it a good community asset. Dog mess is a real problem. Even using the local football pitch to exercise dogs! South Islay Development is an effective local organisation.
I think public maintenance is decreasing, roadside litter picking has stopped and the roadsides are now a disgrace. Recycling centres are overflowing a lot of the time. Most residents try to keep their properties maintained.
In general yes, but some Estate Houses are not well looked after.
Issues with dog mess and litter
Litter and dog mess are an issue as well as inadequate recycling facilities. They are frequently overflowing. Many visitors and residents of holiday homes do not dispose of litter mindfully
Lot of care to building
Not really. Most buildings are old, tradespeople are very hard to get and qualified jobs to make good money are scarce. My house has insufficient insolation, the walls are very thin so privacy is limited. The heating and warm water system is faulty...
On the whole but most places are privately owned.
On the whole yes
school
Some community spaces are poorly maintained and public toilets must be kept.
Some housing association properties in need of external decoration somewhat behind upkeep of private dwellings Public buildings in need of substantial remedial work i.e. roofs. rendering, electrics

the island is not well cared for: the roads are full of holes and the houses and infrastructure are unkempt
There is a lot of litter thrown out vehicle windows onto the roadside verges particularly from April to October. This could be by holidaymakers who have no consideration for the local residents.
There is a roaring building trade on Islay for new builds, and the maintenance of the many houses both private and council owned properties. You have to wait for the builder to come as he will have many others on his to do list before he comes to you. No residents association. Yes, litter everywhere especially during the tourist season. You hear of some islanders not picking up after their dogs. They think that as no-one will see the mess, that they can get away with it. I do not know if there is vandalism on the island. Yes, recycling facilities are good here, and for refuse storage; and collections are well organised. However, the council has just informed householders that their recycling has to go straight into the bin, and not in a provided recycling bag. It will mean with the high winds on Islay, more or less all the year round, that the bins will spill out over the roads and the litter from them will spread everywhere. Not a good move. Parks and public spaces are
There is room for improvement. Especially caravan owners, caravanettes and campers who leave bring very little to the island except their litter which they tend to leave on or near our beautiful beaches. There are still dog owners who do not pick up the dog mess. Refuse collection is not carried out often enough for most households. Don't know of residents associations on the island (recently returned)
Unused derelict building could be sold to encourage rebuilding.
Yes
Yes and no Some need improvement and help to do it
Yes local people take care of their own property. Bins need emptying more often.

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

78 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
10 responses	9 responses	10 responses	17 responses	18 responses	12 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

I feel that the community council is irrelevant and no power
Consultation does occur for larger projects. I am not sure that residents' opinions are taken into account on planning matters or given sufficient weight in planning decisions. Little respect seems to be given to the appearance of large developments e.g. the new Bruichladdich storage warehouses which dominate the view of the village from elsewhere on the island. The proposal for Farkin distillery should not be given approval as it contradicts the local plan and will be an eyesore.
Council far too big and remote - three councillors trying to cover 3 islands plus a chunk of mainland.
Council rarely listens. Evidence the complete stupidity in closing Mary MacKay's Brae to two way traffic and building only half a pavement
I am not engaged in the council due to too much other work. People who are find it hard to get roads repaired, ferry services improved and other issues resolved that involve the government and funding.
I don't think the community council here is very effective. The council seem to use 'lack of resource' as an excuse for inactivity. People moan a lot but many don't try to solve the problems. Those who do are to be commended for trying. I would like to see the council being more proactive here.
In small focussed areas it is possible to improve some aspects of communities. But not on a large scale due to finance.
increases if you are in the groups tho you have to do things their way
Islay is poor in the context of Argyll: treated like an expensive afterthought e.g. school is falling apart
Local people feel that decisions are made on the mainland and the islanders just have to accept these decisions. Islay contributes an exceptionally amount of revenue to the government in London from the many distilleries on the island but does not benefit in any way.
Loss of Locality Planning Group (NHS)
More information on how to get involved in local issues would be good.
I feel that most groups of influence are closed shops..... Cronyism and nepotism are rife.
no
No
In my opinion, not everyone's views are taken into consideration and it's always the same individual who represents the community and do not always put everyone's views across or have a personal agenda

Not really. Many decisions on Islay are made around affordability before feasibility which I find fundamentally flawed. Sorry. Something is set up, and fails, because not enough ground work went into it. It cost money to run which has been wasted. It's fine to be enthusiastic and have a pioneering spirit, but you need to do your homework first as to whether it's feasible - and I do not think this is done enough. People tend to work in cliques (who knows who) so that an independent neutral opinion is not asked for. About local people being listened to. There is an office in Bowmore which interferes with the small initiatives on Islay, overriding people's planning, ethos, confidence and thus - future because they believe they know better. It does not serve us well. Ostensibly, involvement in community affairs are full and ongoing but success is measured not by how others do, but how much can be controlled by this small office as a way of saying: "look at what we've achieved". They are not liked for their interference which is aggressive, and some people have called their attitude an 'inappropriate sense of entitlement'. I am not the only person who feels this needs to change. No, I do not feel that the local authorities and health services are actively engaged with their stakeholders. Local people do not always feel listened to when there is a problem.
Self-management is dependent on PIP
Sometimes
South Islay Development is a great asset and open to all. A recent questionnaire revealed a lot of useful information which is being acted upon. As an island community there is a lot of resentment that we have such poor services from our Council. As we have good employment and many visitors a lot of money goes off the island. But very little comes back to support this bonanza. Our roads are really bad, parking is not regulated, we are not policed properly, our ferry services are constantly under threat, the housing shortage is critical and services always under threat of cuts. We have active committees trying to be heard but they are often fobbed off. The position of our island is unique and needs not to be lumped with other islands with completely different needs. There seems to be no corridor to access any real change or understanding.
Still feel we are just getting lip service most of the time.
I feel that the local community council is a waste of time as all they do is talk about things and never get anything done. If I need anything done I deal with it myself.
The local groups seem to have very little power indeed, are not funded well and not publicised well either. It feels as if decisions are made for a large area and do not take any account of the particular needs of an island.
The new AstroTurf pitch could do with being cheaper for kids....it’s only £1.50 pp in Campbeltown
There is more open public consultation on many issues, but whether this will translate into actions and improvements in the community, we will see.

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

"Island proofing"- notice to be taken of the different and special situations of small island communities. Housing: some sort of priority for local residents who wish to work and live on the island. Public transport- more flexibility and responsiveness to community needs.
*roads are in an appalling state with too many potholes as a result of too many distilleries with articulated lorries going back and forth to the mainland (causing tyre and suspension repairs) *not enough road works done on Islay, although this is slowly changing, it has a long way to go *no proper speed control signage to slow down traffic down, causing havoc, and animal death *not enough police presence (not even a manned police station where people can drop by!) *no library - (with existing adult literacy problems, Islay is growing further literacy problems due to no reading matter being available in the schools due to funding cuts, with only a mobile library to visit remote areas with a small selection of books. The schoolchildren are at serious risk of literacy problems and no-one is doing anything about it. *everything that enters Islay is marked up so that gifts, products, food etc. is sold at a much higher threshold than on the mainland. No-one checks the mark-ups. *builders are palpably greedy on Islay. There is so much building work to go round, that they up the price as being a rare commodity to source. No-one complains to the council as they feel that once a complaint is lodged, you may get a revenge event inflicted on you as has occurred here. There is a couple on Islay who have been seriously let down by two dreadful builders who 'try it on' but are not experts, and where the house in question is still, after some years, not able to pass its building regulations due to their incompetence. Yet they get away with it again and again and continue in the same vein. They need to be drummed off the island but no-one will do it for fear of vengeance. The couple who contracted the builders, are now undergoing health issues, and do not know what to do. If they sue, they would lose their house. If the council can tighten their grip on this aspect, it could sift out the wheat from the chaff as far as the builders go.
1 New Roads 2 New Pavements that are not a trip hazard 3 Overnight Freight ferry would alleviate the heavy traffic on the island during the day, plus would leave the daytime ferries for islanders and visitors alike
A major upgrade of or community spaces before they become unusable. Greater assistance for charities in the services they provided and developing the assets they have.
Accessibility for elderly and disabled. Improve surface in parking areas and pavements.
Affordable housing, Parking and public transport
Affordable housing. Recreation areas for children. Indoor facilities.
Better and cheaper public transport. Leisure facilities in main areas. Accessible shopping and social facilities.
better ferry services and transport (busses and airplanes) fast internet for everybody affordable housing more footpaths and caretaking of roads
Better public transport Better more local council Get the distilleries to pay for the road damage.
Condition of roads Litter - general and marine Sports facilities for teenagers
Coop needs competition be great to have an Aldi, Lidl or Tesco. Port Ellen needs a better shop it's too busy for a Convenience store with one checkout. Bus service in the early evening to Bowmore from other villages and to meet the flight and ferry Affordable family homes to rent.
Decent and enhanced public transport; road infrastructure improvements: upgraded and enhanced shopping facilities for food; fairer and empathetic planning decision that account for the natural environment; ferry system that separates freight from travellers.
Dogs and kids should be welcomed to use the rugby pitch as long as any faeces is cleared Astroturf pitch should be reviewed as pricing is quite expensive
Find out more information.

Housing Childcare provisions Spaces for young and old to mix- recreational Schools
Housing Facilities for young people for sport and play Community facilities out of hours, old and young alike Better police
Housing for young local people
Housing An understanding that Islay is different. It needs specific help to continue to provide the generous income generated here. Help for our dilapidated infrastructure, both roads and community buildings.
Job opportunities for young people
Lack of affordable housing
Lack of affordable housing.
Lack of amenities specifically health related low cost.
Lack of places for children to play safely and lock of paved walks.
Littering, fly tipping, dog fouling. Solving road congestion and lack of public parking in main villages. Priority for social housing.
More central monies to be spent on basic infrastructures i.e. roads, water, electricity and broadband
More local ownership and decision making. Too many absentee landlords.
None.
Open spaces, shopping and keeping playing fields as at present.
Parking in Bowmore Local High street Economy
Public Transport - no night buses or Sunday buses.
Public transport provision for all in rural island areas. Otherwise I will have to leave my home at some point not to long from now.
Public transport/parking lack of and concern about housing
Roads Better facilities for children Better parking
Roads: Address illegal overnighting in vehicles. Address illegal dumping of waste - human and canine. Please consider widening some of the roads to make them two way or improving signage to make clear the passing places and rules of the road.
Safe paths - walkways Affordable public transport Parking facilities
Schooling transport links and better shopping and parking facilities
The management and councillors in Argyll and Bute should get things done instead of getting local residents to complete ‘box ticking’ questionnaires such as this one.
The whisky industry has become too dominant causing problems for infrastructure. Roads are falling apart. Whisky tourism is becoming a problem, especially camper vans and litter everywhere. This is also having a bad effect on the resident community driving increases in e.g. theft and unreported traffic incidents. The natural environment is beginning to suffer as a result. The magic of Islay is being lost which is very sad. I would hate to see this island turn into another Skye.
Too many holiday homes so locals can't get houses Need to sort out traffic in Shore Street Better pathways
Traffic management in Charlotte street is a priority
Transport
Transport, housing for singles and community run venues.
Transport Improvement to roads Better mainland access by more frequent and more reliable ferry services
Upgrading footpaths to ensure safety of everyone who likes to walk or cycle. Sell derelict buildings for people to build nice new homes.

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

*better control of road problems by encouraging someone like a local councillor to keep an eye on the problems, permanently and not let the problems slide or get out of control. *the council to do something about the builders on Islay so that they cannot do as they like when they like for the £s they like. Having no controls on them is causing major problems here. *speed controls and changes to the advisory signs on the main roads around Islay *it is better to fund libraries on Islay schools to encourage reading and writing skills and prepare children for a future career, than to pay bigger money to mitigate/eradicate literacy problems
A complete moratorium on new distilleries being built. Restriction of camper vans to use official sites only and a limitation on their numbers allowed on the ferries. Better maintenance of roads. More active policing of traffic offences. Provision of better parking in Bowmore, Bruichladdich and Port Charlotte. Transfer of Ramsey Hall to community control.
Build more house, allow more houses, and make distilleries build houses. A blitz on our roads - an investment for our future. Stop treating Islay as an afterthought and a nuisance. It's in everyone's interest that it should thrive.
Building more 1 or 2 bedroom housing in ALL villages
Clearer road signs and perhaps information in regard to rules on single track roads. Leaflets handed to all drivers on the ferry? (More work for CalMac??) Make it clear that car parks are just that, and not camp sites - perhaps height restrictive barriers in place at particular spots. Would need to provide warning of these along the road well in advance though...Or just ask police to move them on? More provision for mobile homes in the form of campsite(s) or ban them from particular places altogether (Bowmore during the whisky festival for example) This information could be given to them at the time of booking the ferry - or a link to your website could be given to them at this time? Please consider lobbying for new, huge, supermarket with plenty of parking for customers and delivery vehicles. Make it a condition perhaps that the new supermarket delivers so that those reliant on public transport don't suffer as a result of the shop moving out of town? Or maybe keep a 'satellite' store in the centre of Bowmore?
Council to provide better facilities, roads and transport for local residents. Better communication among local residents. Limiting holiday home ownership through disincentives such as council tax or rates rises, or compulsory purchase to provide better homes for families and permanent residents.
Every voice needs to be listened to.
Extend government transport subsidies so that receiving support depends on provision of some level of public transport in all areas.
Further public input.
General info
Good working partnerships with everyone, private, social and community Communication
Improve roads Remove litter and educate Provide sports facilities
Investors and targets set to achieve these
Land owners releasing land for affordable housing. Council owned recreation facilities built for children.
Local infrastructure is badly in need of been reviewed Local children require more facilities to go to Parking in soon villages is so bad that the number of accidents has increased
Look at ways of stopping so many holiday homes e.g. make them less financially attractive. Stop parking in narrow part of Shore Street. Re-open Mary MacKay's Brae to two way traffic. Relocate Co-op to boundaries of village. Build more pathways
Make a case for getting more revenue for the island. The increase in traffic is down to the increasing success of the whisky industry. The need for new roads, pavements and overnight ferry

is a direct result of the increase in revenue from the whisky industry that is going into the government in taxes.
More government attention and funding Councillors are pursuing some of them already
More power to the local Community council and other island groups. Prioritising housing for those who live and work on the island. Better roads/transport infrastructure: the Islay distilleries have profits of millions of pounds and yet do not contribute to the roads their trucks drive along and damage.
New supermarket. Bus service at night and Sunday Build more council homes with more rooms
Only allow parking on one side of the street and make sure this is enforced
Permanently funded position that will aid these charities find the funding and assistance they need to develop. Proper car parking and traffic management to improve the safety of our village. Provision of an easily maintained comfortable clean public spaces for children to play both summer and winter
Pitch should be free More Acha housing Compulsory purchase of estate land for new coop and community cafe/ youth club/ older adult base
Politicians REALLY listen to local folk and take ACTION on their behalf to overcome the present austerity
Reassess provision of accessibility to shops and available parking
Reduce speed on some of the popular areas to walk. Reduce the price of the all-weather pitch build a big park or bike park for the kids or a social hub for them.
Reform local government Devolve excise duty to Holyrood Independence!
Repair roads Improve bus services Increase ferry crossings and reduce ferry fares
Right to buy
Speak to local councils and estate owners.
The council could initiate a hard hitting campaign highlighting the costs of antisocial behaviour both in money, health and well-being terms. A public car park could be built somewhere on the edge of Bowmore. The current social house building programme should be continued and perhaps there could be a campaign to try & persuade those currently renting houses short term to tourists to get involved in longer term lets for young local people.
Those in places of influence spending time in the area to experience exactly what it is like to live there and from there consider the voices of community groups

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

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