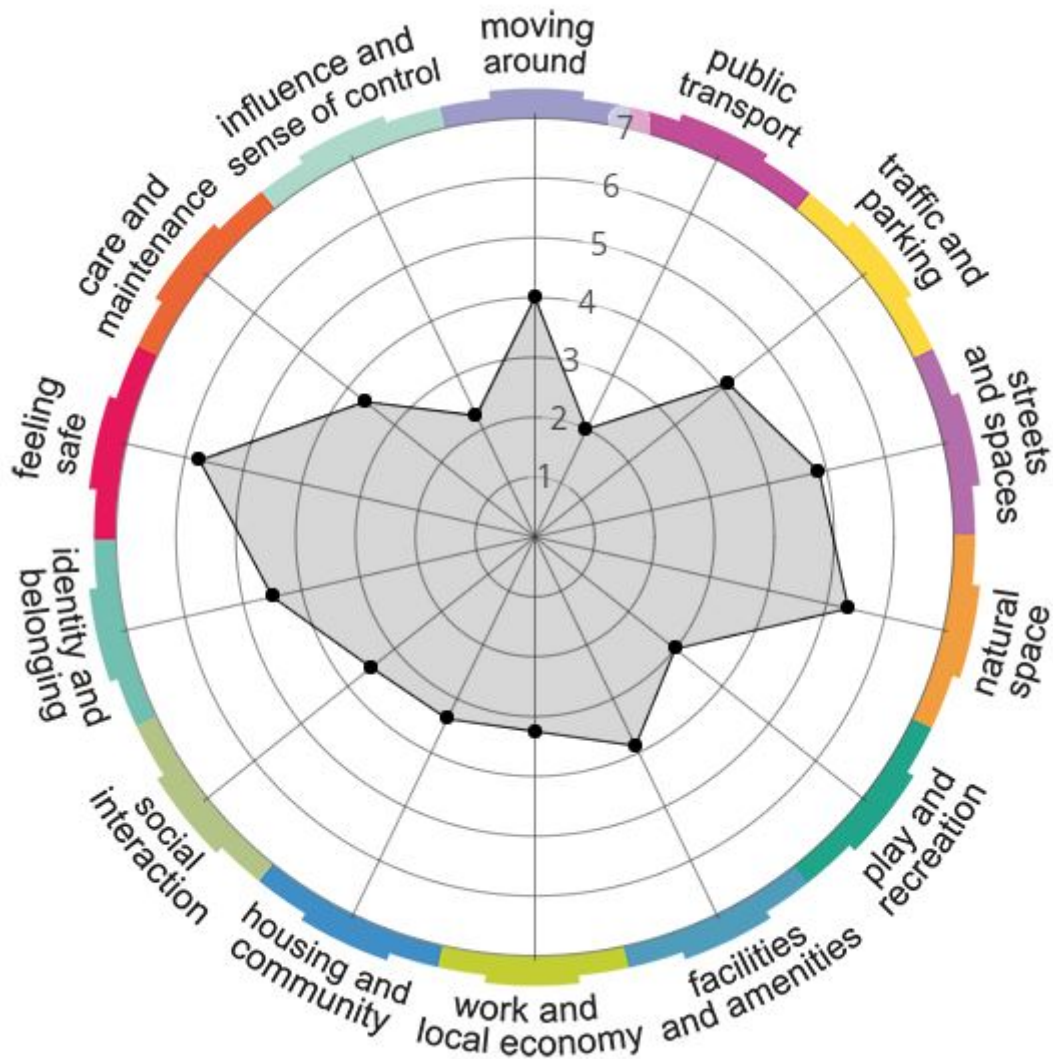






Isle of Coll Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:

			
Public Transport	Influence and Sense of Control	Play and Recreation	Work and Local Economy

How good is your place? Area wide engagement results using the Place Standard Tool

Between May and October 2019, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) used [the Place Standard tool](#) to engage residents in Argyll and Bute on how they feel about the place(s) that they live and work in Argyll and Bute.

We are very grateful to all the responses that we received. We hope you find the information easy to understand and of interest to you and your community.

We are pleased to see that the thematic areas of Natural Space, Feeling Safe, Identity and Sense of Belonging and Social Contact came out with the highest scores, needing the least improvement, when considering Argyll and Bute as a whole.

The engagement has been undertaken at a place-based level and respondents provided their postcode, groupings of postcodes have created the settlement/community level detail.

The results are available for community groups and partner agencies to use, for example, to assist with service planning or for community-led action plans.

Please note: The information is the views of individuals who responded to the engagement. We trust that the information provided will be viewed within the context of which it is provided. We are grateful to all those who have taken part in the consultation and believe in sharing information for openness and transparency.

We appreciate that the documents can be lengthy due to the amount of information and we hope that the format is user-friendly.

If you have any questions, please see our Frequently Asked Questions Guide or contact Community Planning by e-mail: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk , 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.

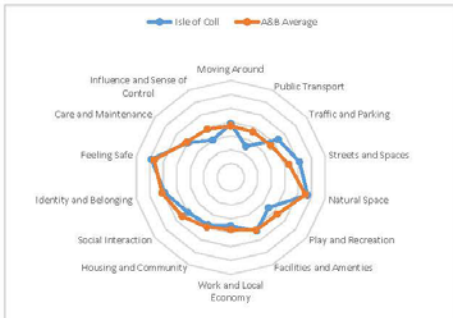
We are currently mapping out what activity is already happening, what is planned within the next 3-4 years and where the gaps are. This information will be considered by both the CPP Management Committee and the Area Community Planning Groups to shape the actions.

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 Coll Responses

Our Top Rated Areas are:

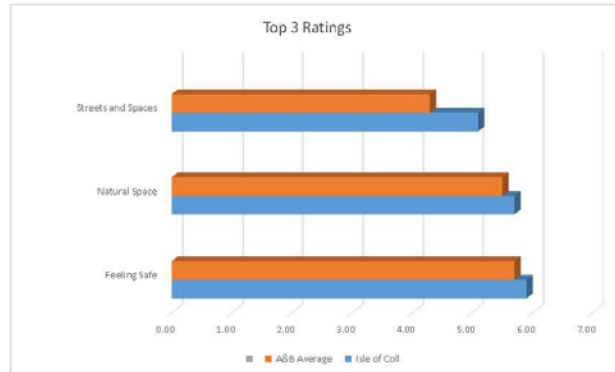
	Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 5.9 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
	Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 5.7 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
	Streets and Spaces	Respondents rated this area 5.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.3 out of 7.



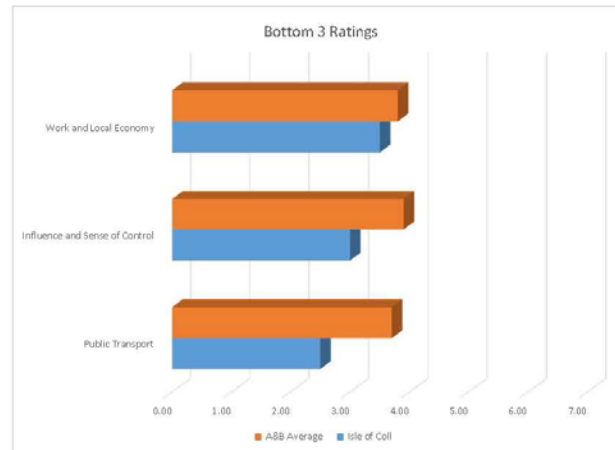
Areas of desired improvement are:

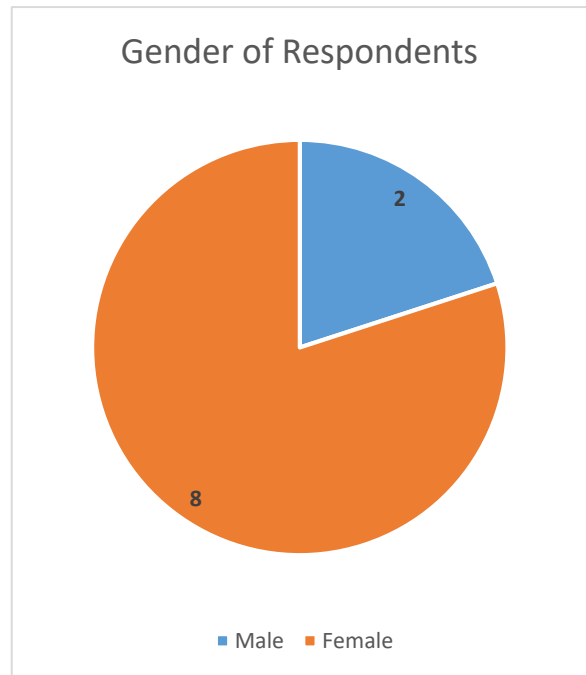
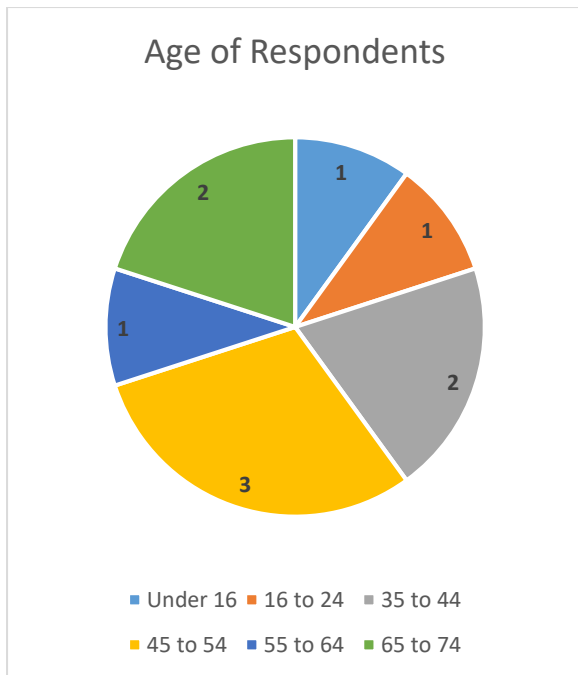
	Public Transport	Respondents rated this area 2.5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
	Influence and Sense of Control	Respondents rated this area 3 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.9 out of 7.
	Work and Local Economy	Respondents rated this area 3.5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.8 out of 7.

Top 3 Ratings



Bottom 3 Ratings





Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Q2. Public Transport	2.5
Q14. Influence and Sense of Control	3.0
Q6. Play and Recreation	3.5
Q8. Work and Local Economy	3.5
Q9. Housing and Community	3.8
Q1. Moving Around	3.9
Q10. Social Contact	4.0
Q13. Care and Maintenance	4.0
Q7. Facilities and Amenities	4.3
Q3. Traffic and Parking	4.4
Q11. Identity and Belonging	4.9
Q4. Streets and Spaces	5.1
Q5. Natural Space	5.7
Q12. Feeling Safe	5.9

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

10 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
1 responses	1 responses	3 responses	2 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

This is a small, quiet island with good single track roads for cycling and walking. Traffic is extremely light.
There are no payments for walking on but traffic is relatively low. The road surfaces are very bad for walking and cycling in warm weather due to retrograde tarmac melting. Lots of pot holes and uneven roads. Cars are given precedence.
Coll is remote and charming and one would not expect or desire dedicated routes.
Lack of consideration of some drivers.
With single track roads there is also going to be more risk to both walking and cycling
Not much can be done given the nature of the roads.
No specified routes for walking or cycling due to single track road system in place

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 2.5							
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	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Public transport primarily means a FERRY and Calmac. Where do I begin? Ferries have become very unreliable in winter weather (due to design, EU regs and even the quality of different skippers); in summer, when the weather is better the ferry is clogged up with tourists. This adds to the downside of living on an island - we MUST be able to get away when we need to for appointments, etc. Gradually the uncertainty erodes the positives of island life.
There is no public transport unless you include the ferry. The ferry is expensive to travel with a car and as an islander we get no discounts. No bus service on the island.
Coll does not have public transport apart from the ferry. We all chose to live here.
We have no public transport in the island.
No public transport on island but there is plane and ferry to reach Coll. Ferry service does not link up with trains in Oban, so there is always a few hours wait on the way to Oban. When trying to reach Coll, the ferries are mostly between 6-7AM in the morning, resulting in extra cost to stay the night before in Oban. This makes the island very inaccessible for non-car owners and does not encourage sustainable transport or active travel.
No public transport is provided here and it limits tourism as well as the individuals in the community, particularly when our neighbouring island has a subsidised service
No public transport available on island with the exception of Cal Mac ferries which are very hit and miss
No public transport of any kind available on the island. Getting to the mainland is via Cal Mac ferry. The reduction in funding for the air service provided by Hebridean Airways has been significantly detrimental with there only being 1 day (Wednesday) with a service from the island to Tiree and/ or the mainland. The only addition to this being when seats are made available for purchase on the scholars flights during term time.
Only two main bus routes in the town that only cover main areas leaving a high proportion of older people without access to public transport

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

10 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
0 responses	3 responses	1 responses	2 responses	0 responses	1 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

There are no issues on Coll for this.
Not many places to park. Cars given precedence over pedestrians. Vehicles driving too fast through village etc., - noisy and unsafe. Agricultural vehicles can be quite dangerous on the single track roads. Worry about my child walking in the roads as no pavements.
Very much so. We are very lucky.
Unused and abandoned cars and boats take up valuable space.
Parking is just 'roadside' and is limited by the single track nature of the road. In addition, with a lot of turning of vehicles required in a small area and with other traffic coming to and fro the road is more dangerous for children and elderly than elsewhere in Argyll.
Far too many abandoned cars on the island and far too many un-taxed and un-insured vehicles.
No designated parking except at Cal Mac pier.

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 5.1							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	3 responses	0 responses	4 responses	0 responses

Comments

Not really relevant to Coll.
It's an attractive place to live on the whole. Some fairly recent buildings have spoilt the countryside. Wind turbines have spoilt the views.
Yes. Very much so.
Again, abandoned boats and cars take up beautiful green space. Also areas of natural beauty are included within the current LDP and people want to build on inappropriate sites.
The village hall ' An Cridhe ' is a wonderful resource and provides space for a range of events suitable for all age groups .This was only achieved by extensive fundraising by the local community and Big Lottery funding, as the previous hall was not fit for purpose. There is no play park for children, and, no dedicated outside spaces where people can sit or meet. There are examples in Arinagour of abandoned vehicles (boat and car) that have been reported to the Council and no action taken to remove them.

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 5.7							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	6 responses	0 responses

Comments

What else do you expect? This is a small island with a very low population with - thankfully - an agricultural sector that is hanging on and delivering these benefits.
Access to some of the beaches would be one issue.
In spades.
These areas are being dumped on.
Living on an island and being near the sea means that the air quality is generally very good. The island is a "Dark Skies " island. There is no dedicated communal natural space with seating available which can be an issue for older people and those with disabilities.

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 3.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	3 responses	2 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

The island itself is a play zone.
The community centre is a great place to do sports and the gym. The sports pitch could be improved. There is no play park which is a real shame for residents and visitors alike. More funding needed to organise activities for children and teenagers.
Everything we could wish for and more.
There is no play area for children.
While there is a great community-owner (and community-funded) facility for indoor recreation, our children are desperately missing their old Playpark which was removed due to new works being done around the area of private land that had been used for the playpark. The community are looking to start fundraising for a new Playpark but, with such a small community, would welcome every bit of help the council and other third parties can give.
None readily available on the island with exception of the Hall so very little available
People of all ages and stages can access the beaches that surround the island. School children have to be taken on organised trips to the mainland to participate in activities such as swimming and gymnastics. Apart from ' An Cridhe ' there is really no other facility for recreational activities. Winter weather and shorter days limit access to the outdoors.
Little in way of spaces for young adults to engage and share in activities. Leisure facilities poor for the area

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.

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

Comments

Think what we have is doing pretty well but we lack a resident nurse, dental/eye care, even a hairdresser. However, these would not a big deal IF the ferry was reliable.
There could be a better NHS service in that we have no nurse at present and no longer have a dentist visit. There could be even more use made of the community centre for meeting up with people.
Again, we are very lucky. Amazing NHS. Shops, library the lot!
Coll is lacking in recreational facilities.
Important to note that the major recreation, restaurant and shopping facilities are provided by the community rather than by the council, for recreation, or big business for shops and restaurants. Planning decisions and various other bits of legislation make it harder to keep these places going.
Shop is a disgrace. Never anything in it. School is adequate and GP is OK.
None of the public buildings such as shops / Post Office have disabled access. The Library is now located in a large cupboard at the back of the Church of Scotland Manse and is not sign posted, nor, would it be accessible to anyone with a disability or mobility impediment. There is no District Nurse on the island which is shocking given that there are people living there with significant nursing support needs and degenerative medical conditions.

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 3.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	5 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Agriculture and fishing are controlled by EU directives and every other directive and regulation under the sun. The current trend is for wilderness and underproduction - hardly conducive to employment creation. There is work - tourism, for example - but this does not deliver permanent, meaningful, well-paid work all year round.
There are few jobs available and limited local economy. Tourism provides most jobs. Not many opportunities or spaces for people to start-up businesses. Having said that there is a great need for tradespeople and builders.
Very small population with not enough people to do all the work needed. We need handy persons for example. Decorators. Plumbers.
Lack of social housing and employment means there is no workforce.
Huge room for improvement. Public sector now has facilities for staff to work from home and hold online meetings (incl. sharing documents, talking, etc.). Remote working needs to be encouraged by the public sector so that Argyll and Bute has staff like accountants, lawyers, etc. working from a home on our islands. At present job opportunities are limited unless you run your own business, and salaries are comparatively low, this making rents/mortgages etc. less affordable for locals.
Plenty of work on the island if you are prepared to work.
There is little or no employment available on the island which results in young people going away to the mainland for further / higher education, and other career opportunities.

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

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

Comments

<p>This tends to go up and down. I feel that when there's a crying need for housing for local people, incomers get places, usually at the top of the point scale. Housing is expensive to build due to planning policies and conservation restraints (e.g. sand and gravel have to be imported at great cost due to an SNH ban on local extraction for commercial purposes). The doldrums in which agriculture finds itself, after being wrecked by conservationists and the EU, means that people owning land quite naturally want to get as much as they can from selling plots because their farm incomes have declined so much. Argyll & Bute is particularly bad at imposing what its planning officers think is the right style of building - usually twee, incorporating stonework, slate roofs, etc. Not everyone can afford a designer house.</p>
<p>There is a limited supply of housing. 40% are holiday homes. There are few houses to rent on a long let. Planning regulations and freight costs making building your own house difficult and expensive.</p>
<p>Very good mix of homes with nice accommodation provided by ACHA for quite a few. Once again, we are very lucky.</p>
<p>Housing is too expensive for local families and are snapped up as holiday homes.</p>
<p>Planning have allowed retired people to build mansions that will never be affordable on local salaries. There is a distinct lack of housing in the 'affordable to buy on local salaries' group, and social housing is not being used to encourage families to live here. In addition, rules and regulations around second homes, holiday lets and related taxes should be revised to encourage home ownership by residents over and above holiday homes. With so many large houses being built in the past decade the damage to the local economy is probably irreversible!</p>
<p>Plenty of housing available.</p>
<p>There is a need for affordable homes as when traditional housing stock comes on the market for sale the purchase prices are usually way in excess of what local people can afford. Generally this results in property being sold "off island " and being used as holiday homes.</p>
<p>Not enough affordable housing that is really affordable for young couples i.e. under 100K could do with more fixed price new housing. Need better mix of accessible housing and environmentally friendly build.</p>

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

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

Comments

People can meet up at a various events, particularly in the summer time. It would be great if more activities and workshops could be held on a regular basis.
Amazing community centre and grounds. Very active with all age groups. Elderly or young. All involved in music, coffee mornings, gym, theatre ceilidhs, shows and so on. Amazing for such a small population.
Lack of facilities.
No but can't be helped.
Not a range but only really 1 or 2. But for an island that size it works.
The Hall "An Cridhe" and the Coll Hotel are the 2 main locations where people would meet both in summer and in winter.
Could do with a central community centre/day centre that offers services to all age ranges free at point of access

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 4.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	3 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

<p>Until the 1980's, this used to be a Gaelic, Free Church (in the main), close-knit community with agriculture at its heart. It is now a destination for neo-liberal, well-off, middle class people seeking an "experience". As a native Gaelic speaker, whose family was from Coll, I am made to feel the alien on the island. There is not enough respect given to the old culture and ways of doing things. Far too much emphasis is placed on wildlife, etc. - a quite alien concept to us, where people were at the core of society. The presence of the RSPB here, since 1991, has given rise to a malign influence and image projection. You'd think nothing had ever happened until they came here.</p>
<p>There is an easy social structure here. Everyone can join in anything without the slightest pang. Everyone who visits Coll will say...It is so friendly. And it is!</p>
<p>No.</p>
<p>I believe that the island does have a positive identity, however I feel there are certain individuals who like to bathe in the limelight who see the island as a vehicle for their own self-promotion.</p>
<p>I think that the resident population on the whole view the island positively as otherwise they would not still be living there .People tend to make their own entertainment and socialise within their own groupings with family and friends .Visitors to the island are usually positive in their feedback and feel welcomed when they visit . I don't think the History or culture of the island is widely known and/ or celebrated as much as it could / should be , and much more could be done to promote this more widely .</p>

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

10 responses in total – Average Score of 5.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses	2 responses	6 responses	0 responses

Comments

Once again. Very lucky. Staff at the ferry sees who is coming in and out. And we know who is here.
I think there has been an upsurge in drug use, Police don't come.
Undoubtedly
I think most people would agree that safety is not a significant concern. Roads are very busy in summer and people know to take greater care when driving. Also animals can roam on the roads at times. The sea has to be respected at all times and children not allowed on piers without adult supervision. There is very little crime reported, and, no police presence on the island.

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

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

Comments

Historical planning issues have made it difficult for resident island families to develop or retain old properties. (This entry has been modified to remove any content that could possibly identify the individual who submitted it.)
Dog mess in the village is rampant. Recycling banks need to be emptied more regularly. No residents association. The piers could do with better maintenance and tidier. Would be great to have more benches around the island.
I think Coll can claim to be well cared for wherever you go.
No, people just dump things.
Privately owned buildings are. The council buildings are not.
Generally yes, however as already stated the amount of vehicles clogging up the island that should not be there is unacceptable.
Property is generally well looked after. Recycling arrangements are good. Refuse uplift could be more frequent especially during the summer months. I am not aware of any residents association.

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 3.0							
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	1 responses	0 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

No resident local councillor. Prospective MSP's and MP's might visit when on the campaign trail and thereafter very infrequently. We do have a good community council but the impression I get is that despite their efforts, they don't get anywhere.
We do get consulted a great deal but not sure if any of it actually is put into practice.
We have a very accessible Community Council and the Community Centre hold consultations and drop ins. So, yes. It is very to be heard.
No, I feel that Argyll and Bute Council don't listen and use excuses all the time.
We are often consulted but rarely see positive outcomes from that. We've lost a dentist, a nurse and a teacher due to the wisdom of the public sector. No amount of consultation is reversing those decisions which have been damaging to the community.
I feel that small "clicks" seem to run, make decisions and speak on behalf of everyone without any kind of consultation.
People can contribute via the Community Council. The school has a Parent Council. My sense is that the Local Authority, NHS, Housing do not have any meaningful active ongoing engagement and contact would tend to be more "issue " based .

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

Get the local economy moving by properly supporting agriculture and fishing. Sort Calmac. Start scaling back ridiculous planning/conservation controls on development.
Improvements to road surfaces. A play park. Speed restrictions implemented and I forced.
The main issue I would identify is Please don't change it. Not one thing. We are lucky to live in what is becoming rare. An unspoilt environment for life.
A&BC need to act, remove dumped materials/items and actually invest in this community.
Public transport to and from island makes it difficult and expensive to access.
Planning rules around house building should meet the needs of the community, not just the wealthy. The council must start actively promoting working from home so that people on reasonable salaries can work from here and have some hope of being able to buy a house. Various 'help to buy' type schemes have been no use to an island like Coll because the most recent schemes involve new build developments. Locals need to be helped to buy so we can invest in our own community.
Cars. Un-taxed, abandoned and un-insured. Needs to be dealt with. Piers need to be made more safe and secure.
Definite need for a children's play park / safe space. Better promotion of the history and culture of the island - could learning some basic Gaelic be introduced into the primary school curriculum for example as is being done on other islands?
Community Centre accessible to all ages and groups Better bus routes covering more of the town and outlying areas More affordable fixed priced new housing

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

Put food production BACK at the heart of these rural businesses. Break up Calmac and allow islands themselves to work out their ferry requirements with appropriate financial support - probably cheaper in the long run. Put LOCAL people at the heart of development and planning, not "landscape", "seascape" or conservation. This island once supported 1400 people. We should be talking about re-development, not angsting about new development.
Create a play park. Improve roads. In force speed limits and bring awareness to people of danger of speeding.
Come on holiday and see for yourself!
Investment and enforcement.
Good implementation of the Islands (Scotland) Bill should see the council being made to future proof each policy specifically for individual islands. For example, if you lose a teaching post when the roll drops below a certain number that number should be lower for islands who have only one qualified teacher and that teacher has to go away often, leaving the kids with no teacher qualified to teach them literacy and numeracy. In addition, because it is harder to recruit, and the roll may increase again within 3 or 4 years, there should be a long pause before removing teachers from post. The removal of a teacher has damaged the community and had a negative impact on how families feel about remaining.
Police enforcement would be a start.
The Council Education Department could help to advance these matters in conjunction with local parents and staff at the Primary school in the first instance. Assistance with identifying potential fundraising opportunities could also be given.
Investment and a willingness to take a chance on change

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

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

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