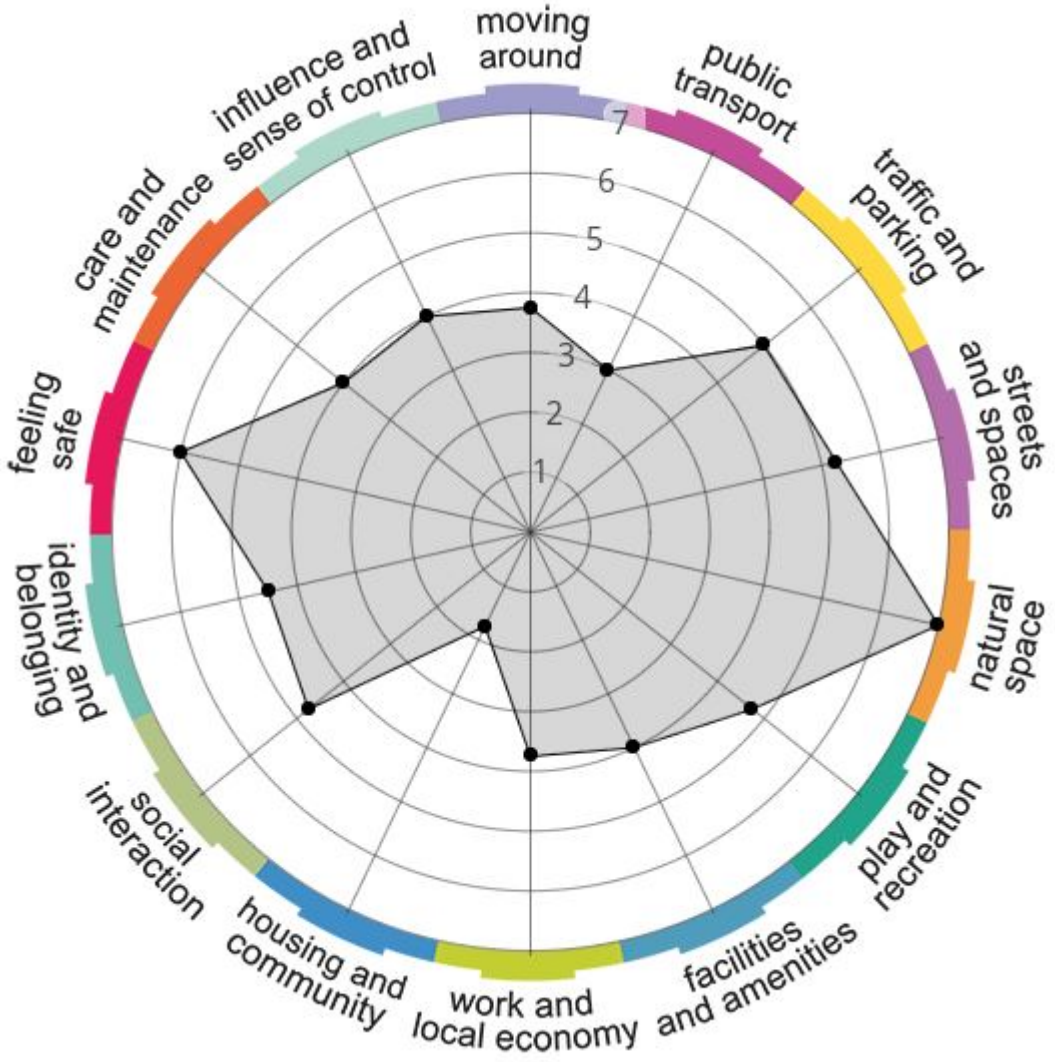
Isle of Jura Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:

Housing and Community

Public Transport

Moving Around

Work and Local Economy

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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.

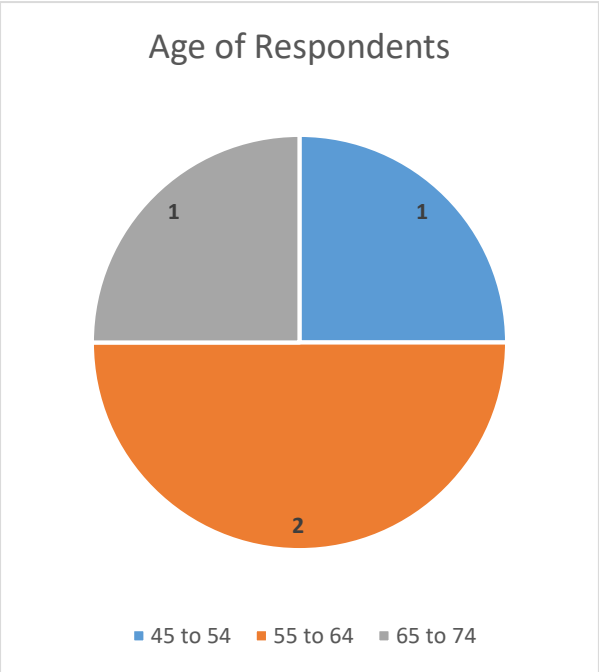
If you have any questions, please see our Frequently Asked Questions Guide or contact Community Planning by e-mail: cppadmin@argyll-bute.gov.uk , phone: 01546 604 464.

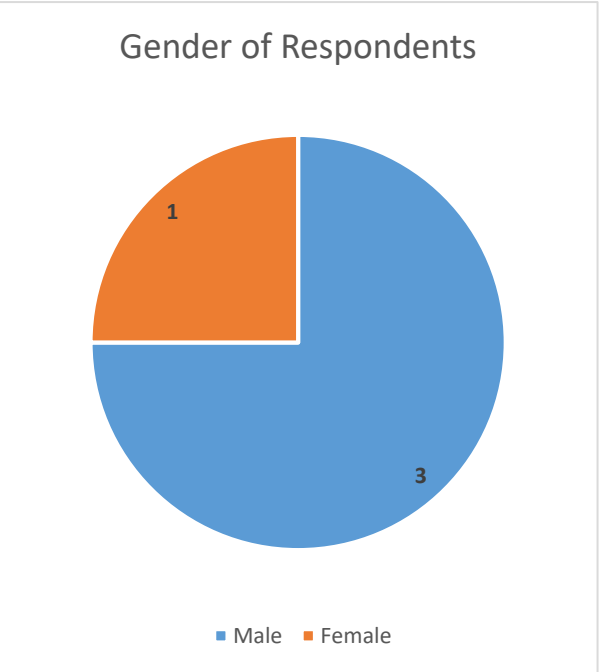
Next steps

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.





Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Housing and Community	1.75
Public Transport	3.0
Moving Around	3.75
Work and Local Economy	3.75
Facilities and Amenities	4.0
Influence and Sense of Control	4.0
Care and Maintenance	4.0
Identity and Belonging	4.5
Play and Recreation	4.75
Social Contact	4.75
Traffic and Parking	5.0
Streets and Spaces	5.25
Feeling Safe	6.0
Natural Space	7.0

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 3.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

I am a very experienced, and fit cyclist, I enjoy cycling here, but the road surfaces are unreliable, and make cycling hazardous, not least because of the obstacles/pot holes that cars are trying to avoid. The opportunities for walking are generally good, but many, outside the village, mean sharing the route with cars and bikes, and there is a need to maintain the accessible route at Corran, and keep it free of camper vans - however, this is private land. There is delicate balance to be struck between maintaining the desirable character of Jura as an outdoor experience, and offering an experience that is accessible.
Jura has a single track road. This is increasingly becoming busier. Cars, rightly, have priority on the road, as folk go about their daily business. Cyclists have no alternative but to use the same road. Better signage to inform visitors of Single track road etiquette is required!
The road is generally in poor condition making cycling more dangerous than it should be.

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

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

Comments

Bad ferry service. Busses often do not connect.
Some aspects of public transport are good: The Jura Passenger Ferry is an excellent summer service, although more attention needs to be given to ensuring and promoting through travel to Glasgow etc. from Tayvallich. The Jura Ferry [Feolin/Port Askaig] is less reliable than it could be, and the modernisation of the booking system is long overdue. Calmac's services are too frequently at capacity, and under-resourced, so that, at many times the year, it is hard to secure a place for a car. I think that the heavy freight transport on and off Islay and Jura needs substantial revision and investment should be sought from the privatised industries that take huge advantage of the ferries. Separate sailings for HGVs should be considered, not least because of the difficulties controlling noise, pollution and access that come of sharing the car deck with large trucks, especially at disembarkation. The Jura and Islay bus services are wholly inadequate, and do little to encourage people away from their cars. I would like to see community use electric vehicles
We are already hampered on Jura by having no direct mainland ferry link. So it is vitally important that public transport timetables consider our access, with some joined up thinking across providers for connections PLEASE! Little option for disabled access on the Jura Bus Service and minimal luggage storage either! (Garelochhead bus services)
The public transport is generally good, and link with the Jura Ferry and the local bus is good, but the link to the Islay bus service, and Calmac ferry is less convenient.

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

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

Comments

I would like to see a restriction on the use of car parking by camper vans, and would like to see a restriction of their access to the island. I would rather see measures to encourage people away from their cars than go down the road of creating car parks, controlling parking etc.
Jura's main village of Craighouse is becoming increasingly congested by road traffic and parking options and therefore dangerous for pedestrians in the summer season.
Parking in Craighouse and on the island generally is not a problem.

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 5.25							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

I love Jura, which is why I moved here. No significant changes necessary.
Movement mourned the village is reasonable, and given the control of the land that surrounds the village and makes up the environment, it would be hard to do more right now. I would NOT like to see MORE street lighting etc.

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 7.0							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	4 responses	0 responses

Comments

The sea, countryside and wildlife is on my doorstep.
This is one of Jura's greatest assets.
Better disabled access would be good.

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 4.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

I think that for the size of the community we have good facilities. But these all depend on local volunteers. Continued funding from the council and other organizations is essential
Outdoor recreation is readily accessible for me, as a fit able bodied person. I don't there is there is enough opportunity to take exercise in bad weather though, and a public amenity of some kind that enabled this would be really good. There is limited access to an evening/indoor experience that isn't accompanied by alcohol, so i and others make efforts to provide activities, on a voluntary basis that would founder completely if expertise and physical space wasn't on offer free of charge, pro bono. I don't think that there is enough for young people, particularly adolescents, to do outside the home, unless their interests coincide with traditional rural activity, [crofting, animal husbandry, fishing, hunting] and outdoor recreation [running, walking, wild swimming, cycling etc.]. In general, while there is a resilient community spirit here, winter is often difficult for people, and loneliness is a big issue.

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.

4 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	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

A lot of facilities and amenities provided for Jura residents are funded and provided on Islay, with little reliable access during winter months, evenings (e.g. Further Education, Children's after School Clubs, swimming pool, sport facilities, majority of shops, council services, health services. Weekend and out of hours access to medical care.
Facilities on Jura are good, particularly as they are supplemented by the mobile library and cinema.
I think I made a lot of my points in my previous answer - what amenities there are, are as well maintained as can be expected given that they are mainly supported by the voluntary sector. I feel a lack of amenity and opportunity in the area of cultural participation, lifelong learning and indoor experience that is not centred round the pub.

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 3.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

The majority of jobs available on Jura are of a low-skilled, minimum wage type (mostly customer service sector and hospitality). Little opportunity for local education and training. Little evidence of any agency help to find and keep work. There is an increasing trend of people on Jura seeking employment on Islay where wages are better, but necessitating a long daily commute.
I am retired so can't really comment on this.
The local economy is still heavily gendered in its opportunities and the very difficult housing situation makes it hard to fill important jobs on the island. I am also aware that childcare, as a public service, is virtually non-existent. The local economy, outside the public sector, is substantially driven by the hotel, the distillery and the estates. The hotel has, it is said, the largest workforce on the island, and this brings some permanent members of the community, as well as a transient working population. The hotel provides accommodation of its own for these people. Ardfin Estate has been the object of massive private investment into an elite, luxury facility, and has been accompanied by the large scale buying up of property on the island as it entered the market. This then becomes tied accommodation for workers on the Estate, while there is very little other affordable housing available for incoming key workers, unless they happen to be the [generally female] spouse of an employee at Ardfin who is being housed. There are steps to rectify this, but they are slow moving, politically divisive, and poorly managed. The distillery has a stable, well paid workforce. It is difficult to consider a start up here while infrastructure, childcare and space in which to work remain challenging. Premises in which to do anything at all are very hard to find, unless you are prepared to wait a long time or there is an opportunity to do this via crofting. The creation of new crofts, and the support and reform of crofting in general would help a great deal. Employment offered here seems to conform to a certain amount of gender stereotyping, and while discrimination is not that overt, anecdotal experience tells me that there is still deep prejudice in some employment situations that people have to contend with, on the basis of gender. Ethnicity presents less conspicuous problems, but that is largely because of a largely white population. I have known people of colour who have worked here, but they have encountered racism and that has curtailed their time here. The hotel has employed many Eastern European people over the years, and I think their experience has become better than it was at first.

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 1.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

I think there are too many holiday homes and insufficient affordable housing for young people and families.
There is a desperate need for more housing here - social and affordable housing that is out with the control and interest of landowners. New builds need a less obstructive, more imaginative approach from the planners, and I would like to see the provision of high quality architectural services made available from the local authority to ensure that new housing, of both private and public initiative is contemporary, creative, zero carbon, well designed, and that profit oriented kit builds are frozen out. The planning department has a responsibility to drive a better aesthetic altogether in the creation of new housing. Norway provides a good model in this area.
We need more social housing. We need less second homes, or a specific local tax of these homes, if they sit empty for more than a reasonable time during the year. There is little or no suitable land available for self-build or other housing. The Council seems to bend over backwards for multi-millionaire landowner planning schemes that do not benefit the Jura community or natural environment at all, but small scale planning seems to take for ages and is over bureaucratic. The local island community should have more democratic say in island development, services and infrastructure.

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 4.75							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Jura is good at welcoming people.
Not really in winter, unless you want to go to the pub. There are periodic events in the Hall, but this is not to everyone's taste, and alcohol plays a large part in these events. The community comes together in force several times a year, but the inclusivity of these events is not at the forefront of thinking. There is a strong need to protect and nurture a local culture, traditional culture - which is valuable - but there isn't great opportunity to mount other events, or create activity with a different perspective - this is a function of a lack of space/premises, resources, funding for expertise.
There is fairly good community spirit on Jura.

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

4 responses in total – Average Score of 4.5							
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	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

I am a new comer here, but I do feel like I belong here.
It has quite a strong sense of identity. Jura however, struggles to assert itself in certain situations in relation to Islay, and islanders here are often expected to go to Islay to take part in things set up in their name. I have never felt I belonged anywhere - so this is no different. I like it, mainly. As I have said, loneliness is an issue here, and the community has fragmented during a period where there has been a large transient population working at Ardfin. The actions of the landowner there have been wide ranging in effect, but I feel without careful regard to the impact on the community. The sense of community that is a source of pride on the island, needs careful sustaining.
There is a lack of historical and heritage investment on the island. The true “locals” on the island are an endangered species, the majority of the population have moved here since 2000. The knowledge from previous generations is in danger of being lost. The island would benefit from a heritage centre, with increasing ancestry-driven tourism to the island.

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

4 responses in total – Average Score of 6.0							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Jura used to feel a very safe place, but increasing visitor numbers (which is good economically) means that overall feeling of security etc. isn't what it was.
Yes
Where else can you leave your house and car unlocked without the need to worry about intruders. I feel very safe here.

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

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

Comments

Generally all of the public spaces are well cared for. It is some of the privately owned land that needs attention.
I have already said that many public amenities are actually within the voluntary sector, and there is an issue of sustainability where keeping them to standard is concerned. The school, health practice and service point are well looked after, within the resources available.
Reinstate the dedicated Jura roads/amenities job! Public spaces maintenance, recycling organising, bins maintenance, public toilets maintenance, minor road repairs are now outsourced to somewhere else and it shows!! We have a pro-active Community Council, but they have little power to sway opinion off-island.

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

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

Comments

Yes, I feel able to contribute. BUT feel these consultations are usually meaningless and have no clout when it comes to public policy decisions. For example, there was a very large response to the recent removal of Jura General Practitioner Out of Hours cover at weekends, but it seemed that the public consultation was a tick box exercise, to which our concerns were not addressed.
For a long time the community council did little to look after our interests, and was more oriented towards enabling landowners. This is changing. The Jura Development Trust is a forward looking, outward looking organisation that works hard on our behalves. We get a lot of very repetitive, unimaginative community-development-ye workshops here. They don't do much for us.
Many facilities are run by volunteers, and I feel that I can get involved. Securing funding so that decisions can be made locally is important. There seems to be continuing struggle over road maintenance and provision of ferries, and these are areas of main concern and lack of local control.

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

Better access to affordable/social housing. Amenity access. Transport infrastructure Island infrastructure. Road investment.
Transport Youth amenity Winter/evening amenity Housing
Up keep of the roads and ferries, linking the public transport network with Islay and the mainland so that busses and ferry times join up. More affordable housing. Retaining funding for local facilities and activities.

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

A programme of road repairs. Confirmation that ferry services will be retained at a reasonable cost. Development of affordable housing Continued funding of local activities and facilities.
Investment sustainable development practice better resources within the local authority and on offer to us

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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