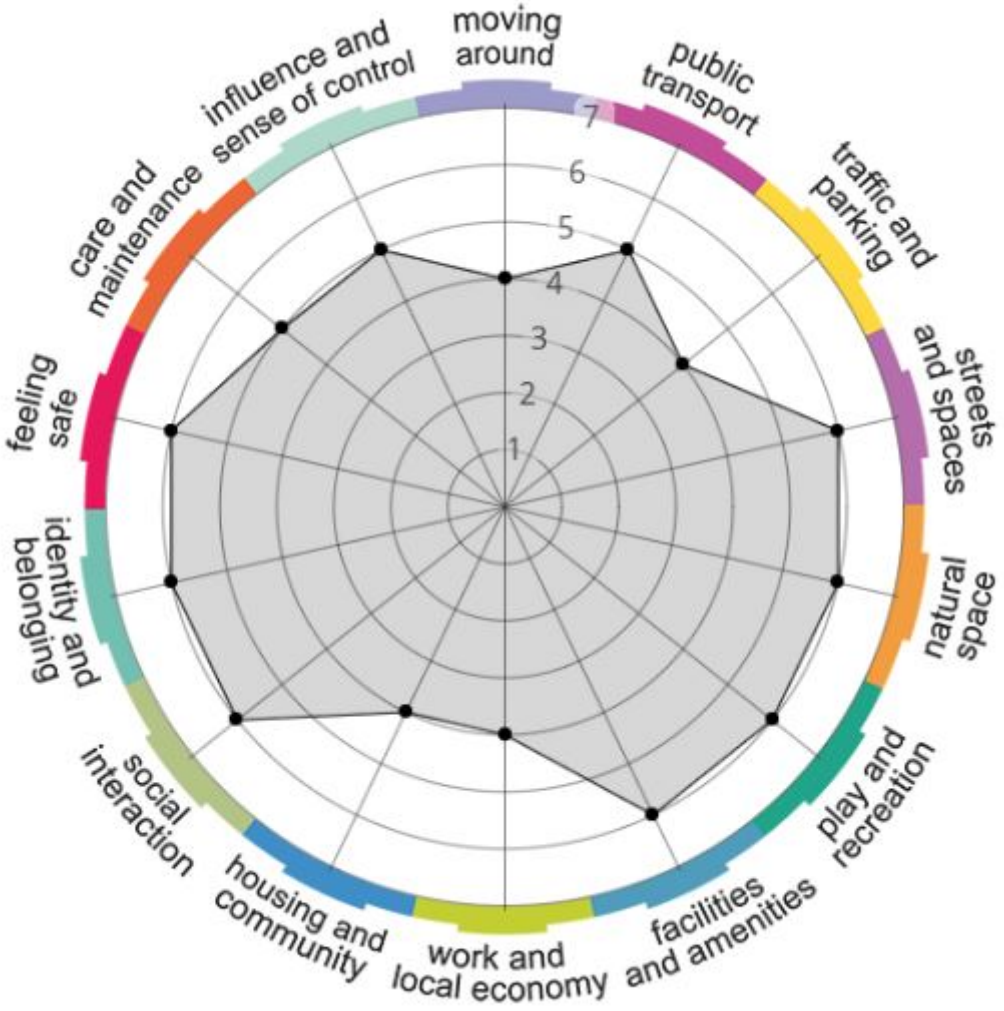
Isle of Seil (incorporating Clachan, Seil and Isle of Seil) Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:

Traffic and Parking

Housing and Community

Moving Around

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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.

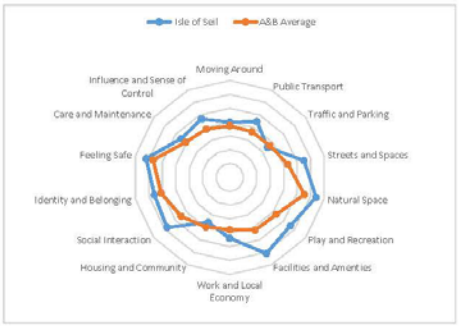
We are currently mapping out what activity is already happening, what is planned within the next 3-4 years and where the gaps are. This information will be considered by both the CPP Management Committee and the Area Community Planning Groups to shape the actions.

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.

Isle of Seil Responses

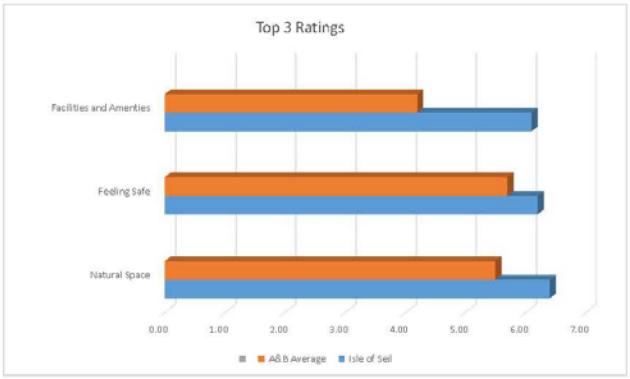
Our Top Rated Areas are:

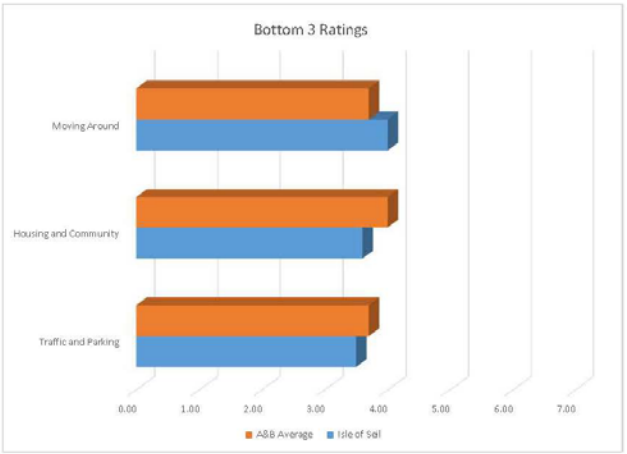
Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 6.4 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 6.2 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
Facilities and Amenities	Respondents rated this area 6.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.2 out of 7.

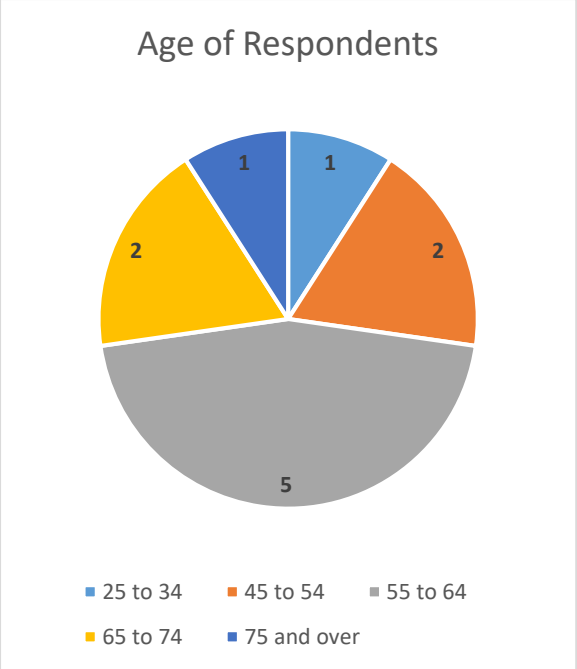


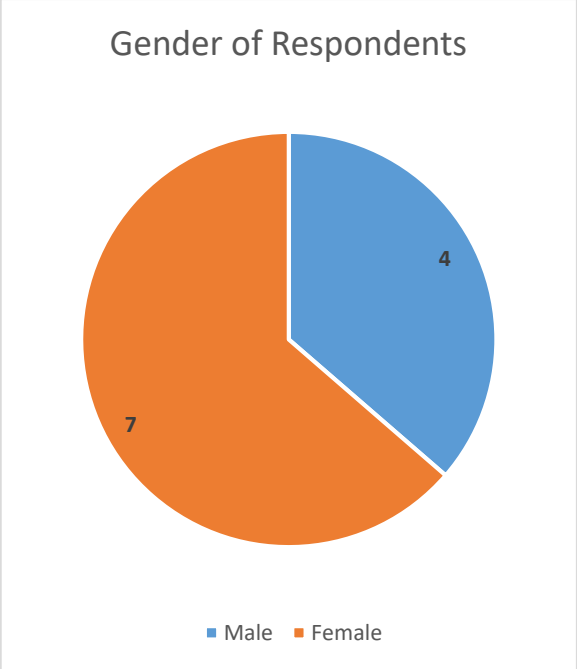
Areas of desired improvement are:

Traffic and Parking	Respondents rated this area 3.5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
Housing and Community	Respondents rated this area 3.6 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4 out of 7.
Moving Around	Respondents rated this area 4 out of 7 compared to Argyll &Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.









Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Traffic and Parking	3.5
Housing and Community	3.6
Moving Around	4
Work and Local Economy	4.4
Public Transport	4.5
Care and Maintenance	4.5
Influence and Sense of Control	4.7
Streets and Spaces	5.5
Play and Recreation	5.6
Identity and Belonging	5.6
Social Contact	5.8
Facilities and Amenities	6.1
Feeling Safe	6.2
Natural Space	6.4

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 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	1 responses	4 responses	0 responses	3 responses	3 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

40mph limit/flashing lights/signage.
Drivers could be more courteous. Perception can be that cars are going fast when they're not. Speed limit is 60mph between village and shop 'cos there's no houses.
Fairly busy single track roads with very little space to stand off the road as its all fenced
Has been discussed and views from the community were different
No footpaths - some places aren't safe. Slow traffic down Clachan Seil to shop. Cycling very difficult.
Seil is not a particularly good place to cycle owing to the narrow roads although it is a desirable destination Seil is amazing for walkers
Single-track pot-holed roads, no significant walks through fields or forests. Easier to find good walks and cycle routes in cities.
There are no ‘routes’ as such, ability to walk/cycle on single track roads

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

11 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	1 responses	1 responses	3 responses	4 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Evening buses would be good and might well be used if available. The main problem is the bus shelter at Clachan Seil (Cnoc a Chaltuin) - the shelter is only accessible by climbing several steps making it unusable for people who have limited mobility or for people with prams and pushchairs. There is no handrail to assist with climbing the steps
Great to have local bus between Seil and Oban but Oban to Glasgow timetables are hopeless, e.g. to go to Glasgow for lunch or for full day you need to catch a bus around 06.15. Also there is no or little free parking in Oban for those many who want to use the bus or train from Oban.
I do not use public transport as service is constructive to my needs, but believe regularity is sufficient for those that do use it
It is unfortunate that the 418 bus is due in Oban at 0857, which is the same time as the train to Glasgow leaves Oban so I cannot use the bus and be sure of catching the train
Needs a tweak
One late night bus occasionally. If bus could leave Oban slightly later would suit community better. Gets in about 8.45am/9am depending on traffic and leaves Oban at 5.10pm. Bus is too tight for Glasgow train.
We have a good bus service in Seil

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

11 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
2 responses	1 responses	2 responses	3 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Conservation area looks like a car park
Ellenabeich can be a problem
In Ellenabeich, a supposed conservation area, coaches that are higher longer and bigger than the cottages in the village are allowed and encouraged to thunder down the front street right past the residents front doors. The whole cottage can shake and one cannot have windows open as you would be gassed in your living room with The pollution I am thinking of getting the air tested after one of these coaches has been past. Several coaches can pass in a day The village square has been shut off by a large crane which should still be on the end of the pier and the flower beds look contrived. Nothing being conserved there then
Parking for residents is often difficult, as in road parking is taken by visitors who are not sufficiently directed to public parking. Existing spaces are often taken by vehicles that are not taxed or roadworthy from Easdale Island.
Parking restrictions plus the internet are jointly killing Oban.
The narrow roads can be a challenge for walkers and cyclists. Some people do not understand about using passing places to let them be overtaken

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.5							
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	0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	5 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Attractive yes, but not easy for pedestrians on single track roads. No paths available
Seil is a beautiful natural island but the single track roads need widening and improvement and the limited 30mph speed limit in Clachan Seil needs extending to the whole island. There are children, walkers and animals at high risk when drivers drive legally at 60mph on the twisty single-track roads. Also traffic lights should be installed at the blind-summit Atlantic Bridge.
We strive to keep it an attractive space, which is sometimes spoiled by cars/campers/tents being placed on inappropriate green spaces
You say natural landscape. Most so called Highland villages are contrived affairs with not much thought as to the culture of bygone years.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 6.4							
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	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	6 responses	0 responses

Comments

Access to the sea is limited, despite being an island
No paths or walkways. MANY areas fenced off and inaccessible
Seil has good quality natural space, particularly once raw sewage pollution is prevented.
Some spaces are a challenge if someone has mobility problems e.g., otter pool
The bay is beautiful but could be made more so if we had a 'waste plastic' collection bin so that we could all keep it clear of rubbish
There is a sufficient core path network
Very fortunate on Seil to be able to take to the hills and escape what lies below

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.6							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses	2 responses	7 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Good play and recreation facilities. As previously, an island-wide 30 mph speed limit would greatly improve safety.
Large playing field & younger children's play park are excellent, but would benefit from better maintenance
Playground area is well-used
Various activities are available at Seil Hall. I imagine that local children might enjoy more play areas
We are surrounded by wonderful space here on Seil You just have to get out and enjoy it

Q7. Facilities and Amenities: Does my place have the things I need to live and enjoy life? This could include shops, schools, libraries, health services or places to eat and drink.

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

Comments

Excellent facilities.
Maybe not a lot for teenagers - population will grow over next 5 years so something to think about or services might develop as population increases
Seil Doctors surgery is second to none. We are all amazingly looked after by our superb doctors and nurses We have Post Office and shop and pubs and places to eat No complaints
Seil has an excellent local medical practice. Also has a good local shop with sensible opening hours. Also has a good pub/restaurant although this has very limited and erratic opening hours out with the summer months
We are very lucky to now have three public houses within easy reach, one shop & one excellent GP surgery

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

11 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	0 responses	2 responses	5 responses	2 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Broadband is really bad on Ellenabeich. Faster broadband would help the local economy
Can be trapped - once you move here and work in the public sector, there's not a lot of options for change.
Employment in the immediate vicinity is limited save for low paid retail & catering positions
If not NHS or council, most jobs are at the lower end of the pay scale. Salary doesn't take higher living costs into account
Increasingly populated by retirees, we have few strong commercial activities. Subsistence farming, shellfish fishing/processing and catering for tourists are the main businesses.
Many people work in Oban area which is reasonable
There is never enough work for people nowadays but the local pubs and eateries and some of the businesses provide good seasonal work

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 3.6							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	1 responses	3 responses	3 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

A handful of social housing could create vibrancy. Housing is in demand, even private lets.
Council tax is crazy. Can be paying more council tax than the same size new build is paying
Minimal property to rent. Those that are rented out tend to be shabby & ill kept, which spoils the conservation village
More affordable homes needed and fewer new gross dwellings which are out of character with island should be built, particularly in scenic spots and always for the elderly retired from distant parts.
My partner is disabled and needs considerable care. There is not enough affordable housing, in the area, to attract enough suitable carers.
Not a lot at either end of the spectrum. Second home ownership is an issue.
Seil has mostly private houses. There are a good many holiday let's and some private rent. Thankfully there are no sprawling housing estates yet affordable or not
There is a need for more affordable housing for young families

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

11 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
1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	5 responses	0 responses

Comments

Hall supports a lot of activities
Plenty clubs in the island hall, pubs, restaurants etc.
The hall does its utmost to provide a range of activities for those that are willing to engage, & the public houses engage the rest
There are lots of activities on Seil if wanted. Lunch clubs and fitness just a couple of many

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.6							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 responses	6 responses	0 responses

Comments

No. Not much identity with Seil's history. Even the most famous asset, the Clachan Bridge has had its name changed to the Atlantic bridge. Even the council is complicit with a sign on the main road saying Atlantic bridge. Ellenabeich is polluted daily with residents' living rooms full of fumes from increasingly enormous coaches which are encouraged. They need a space out with the village where the passengers can unload from. In similar villages in Cornwall this is how it works. I do not know if a single other village in the UK where residents have to endure this If council wants their tax payers and indigenous residents to feel a tiny bit valued and feel like they belong and matter then some things need to be addressed. Of course this won't happen
I feel that there is an imbalance between local families and those moving up from elsewhere which makes the island feel less like a highland Scottish island and more like an English enclave.
We have been made very welcome & feel we belong. Only the minority do not take pride in their space

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

11 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
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

I've never felt safer
Very little crime. Fingers crossed.
Yes safe from most crime and antisocial behaviour but could be run down by a coach every time I step out of the door when staying with aged parent in Ellenabeich

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

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

Comments

Could so some litter pick-ups. Education needed - take your litter home
Most properties very well cared for.
No Ellenabeich is not cared for at all. Coaches are shaking cottages to their foundations every day
Plastic at the shore is an issue
The same volunteers tend to try to maintain the spaces, & they would benefit from support

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 4.7							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	1 responses	3 responses	5 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Generally the Community Council feels effective
Good community council communications and responsive councillors and MSPs.
No the people on Seil have been overtaken by others who have no idea of the culture or nature of the dwindling indigenous population Names of places have been cart blanch changed and the Island is fast becoming a place of contrived suburbia and mid county mind-set
Planning - don't always feel listened to
Regulars community council meetings for those that wish to attend
Seil has an active Community Council
Varies - at times can feel ignored, at other times surprised that we suggest things and it happens.

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

1) Extend 30 mph speed limit island wide 2) Stop planning committee from approving atypical and huge domestic dwellings in scenic areas 3) approve Scottish Water's application for new sewage works so that our shorelines are not polluted with sewage and local fisheries and recreational activities are safe. 4) Make free parking available in Oban before the town dies 5) help integrate bus and train timetables so that residents can travel by public transport at sensible times of day.
Coaches should be catered for and tourists encouraged yes. but we need an area outside of the laughably titled conservation village of Ellenabeich before someone develops lung cancer in their living room
Parking needs to be redefined Dilapidation of small amount of residential properties More public litter bins/additional collections Assistance for volunteers maintaining green spaces Plastics bin for the bay
Safer roads Affordable housing Integrated public transport
Traffic management - the whole island should have a maximum speed limit of 30 mph. Bus stop at Cnoc a Challtuin should be more accessible

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

Coach parking area out with Ellenabeich
Planning
Traffic speed limit. Level-access bus shelter/s

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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