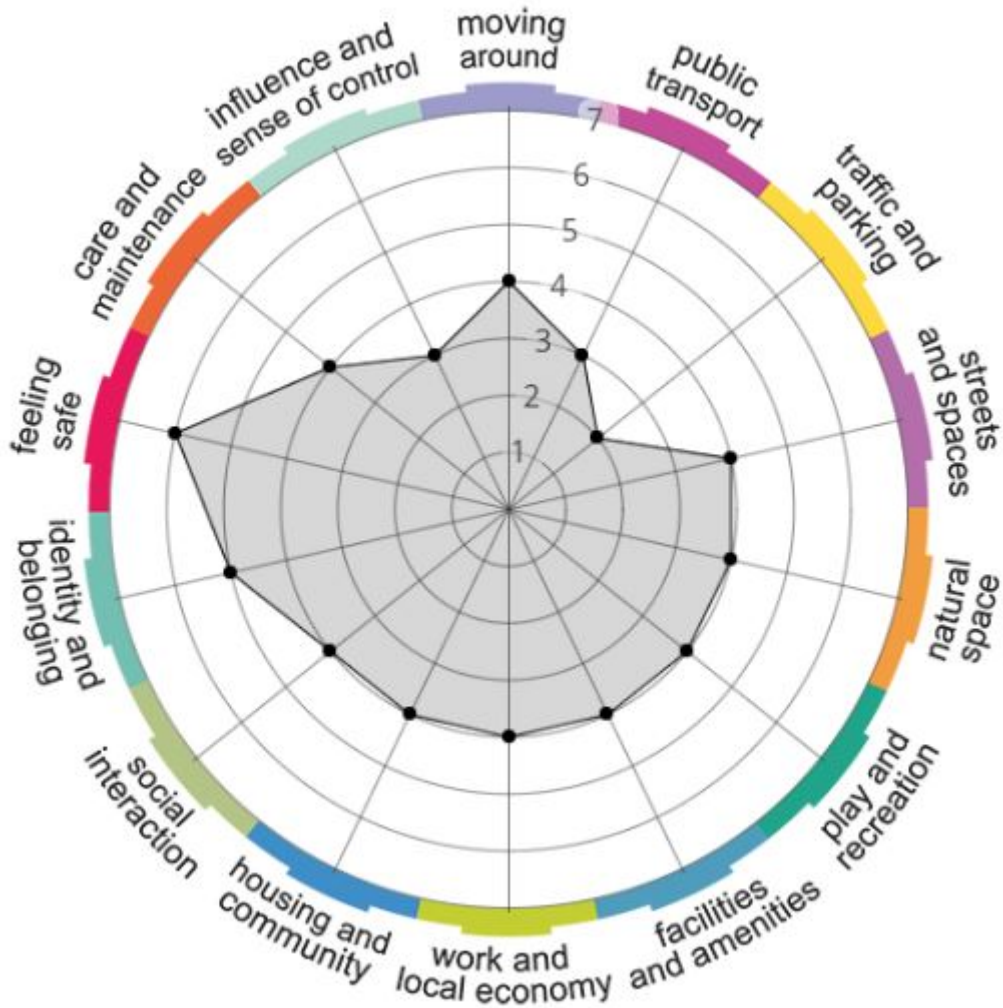


Oban Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:



Traffic and Parking



Public Transport



Influence and Sense of Control

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](#).




Oban Responses

Our Top Rated Areas are:

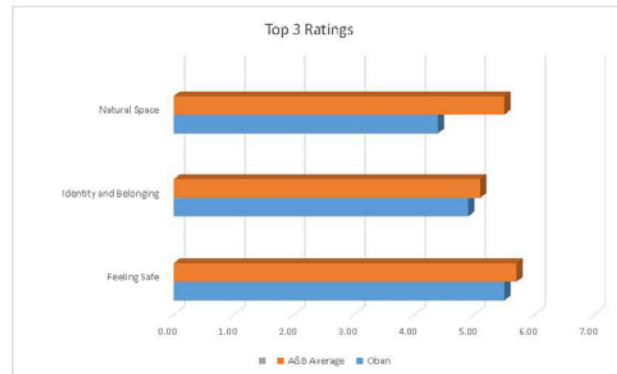
	Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 5.5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
	Identity and Belonging	Respondents rated this area 4.9 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.1 out of 7.
	Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 4.4 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.



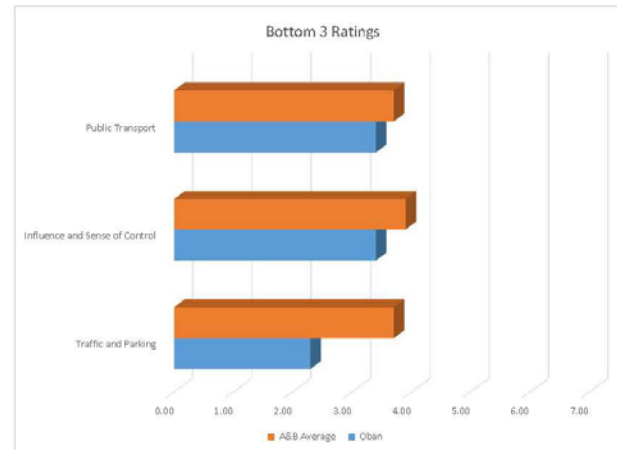
Areas of desired improvement are:

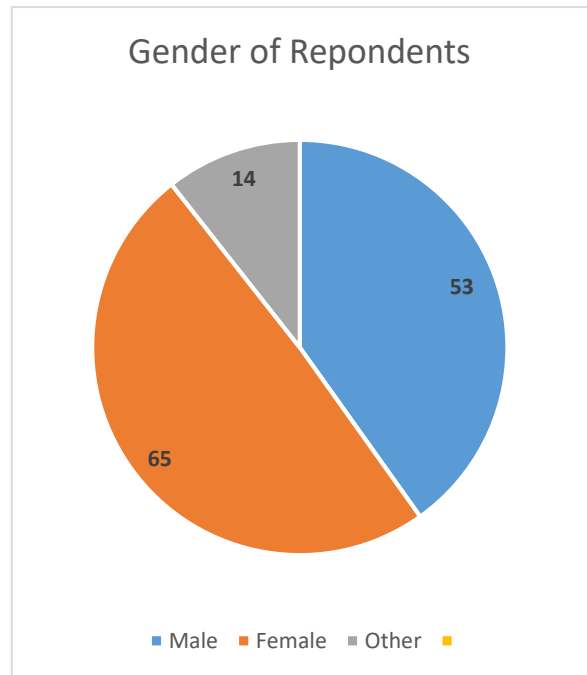
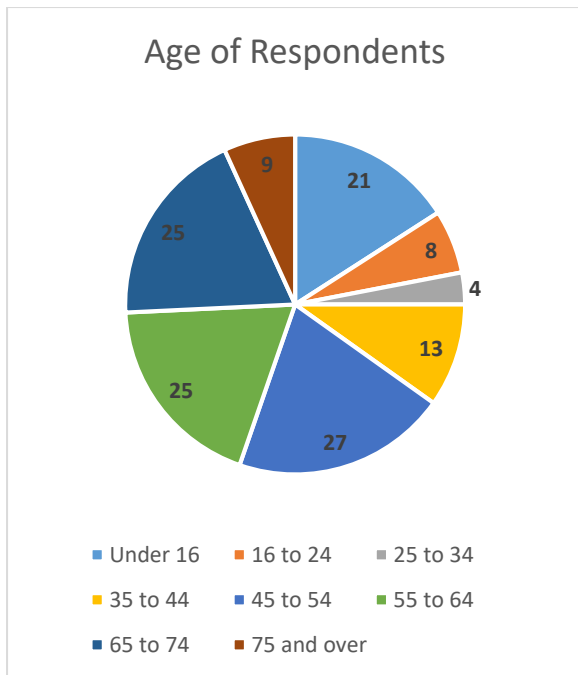
	Traffic and Parking	Respondents rated this area 2.3 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
	Influence and Sense of Control	Respondents rated this area 3.4 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.9 out of 7.
	Public Transport	Respondents rated this area 3.4 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.

Top 3 Ratings



Bottom 3 Ratings





Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Traffic and Parking	2.3
Public Transport	3.4
Influence and Sense of Control	3.4
Moving Around	3.6
Play and Recreation	3.6
Housing and Community	3.7
Care and Maintenance	3.9
Work and Local Economy	4
Streets and Spaces	4.2
Facilities and Amenities	4.2
Social Contact	4.2
Natural Space	4.4
Identity and Belonging	4.9
Feeling Safe	5.5

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

127 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
22 responses	20 responses	17 responses	22 responses	22 responses	18 responses	6 responses	5 responses

Comments

A boards on pavements blocking safe walking. Pavements in bad state of repair
Awful. Holes everywhere
Ban parking at bus stops because this prevents wheelchair users getting on and off buses.
Cycle path link from Dunbeg to Connel would make cycling safer and more popular for commuters to Oban
Cycle paths allow easy walking
Cycle route but often forced to use busy main roads
Cycling on the main roads is a NO NO, & don't say use the cycle path because you still have to get to it past Dunollie & the tight bends on narrow roads with fast cars & vans..... & as for the hill going N of Oban again NO.
Drummore Rd is so steep. Needs gritted in winter
Due to the fact that the older part of the town wasn't really designed to accommodate as many vehicles as there are today then not much can be done with this area. However, the other areas are ok albeit the road condition is not good in a few areas especially on George Street opposite Cuan Mor which always seems to be a problem area.
Empty roads - great
I am unable to walk very far as the area is very hilly. I have a Blue badge but as the roads to and from the town are narrow, steep and often congested with parked cars it is very stress full to drive. It would be great if a mini-bus service could be provided as there are many elderly residents in the area surrounding McCaigs's Tower. I am sure such a service would be well used.
I cannot safely walk from Little Ganavan to Oban as there is a dangerous bend and mainly no pavement between my house and the Esplanade. Pavements within the town are very uneven especially in George Street. I have a mobility problem and have difficulty avoiding falling over raised slabs.
I want from Ganavan into town every day and bits of the walk there is no pavement especially on the corners very dangerous.
Improvements in roads - no pavements but roads in poor condition, especially for people with visual impairments
It is not safe to ride bikes on the main roads.
Traffic is appalling - takes ages to get around. Potholes
Lack of pavements around tower area. No public transport
Living on the back road from Oban to Kilmore/Connel which is single track it is becoming more and more difficult to walk anywhere due to the huge increase in traffic on this road driving at

ridiculous speeds. This is now used regularly as a rat run with people trying to avoid the carnage of driving in Oban
Long distance cycle routes are very good. Around town and villages pavements could be improved. Some are very narrow or non-existent, particularly for people with small children, buggies and wheelchairs
Lots of good routes around Oban but a little less accessible in the town as a result of heavy traffic flow during tourist season or busy paths due to one way system.
Most of Oban other than George Street is very bad for cycling and walking. Most especially Soroba Road up to the hospital and the road in from Dunbeg to Oban - the Beallachanrigh. Both should have lower speed limits, 20mph at most and much wider pavements. This would make driving less enjoyable and therefore would make people more open to walking and cycling. At the moment people in the big jeep-like cars frequently give more room between themselves and cars on the other side than they do versus walkers on quite narrow pavements. Soroba Road needs much more frequent pedestrian crossings, these would slow traffic and make walking safer. Soroba Road : lower speed-limit, frequent pedestrian crossings, wider pavements, CCTV to catch drivers who badly splash pedestrians with water because they don't care (this breaks the highway code and if enough are fined they will take more care but you need the number plate to report them).
Most of the places I go, have paved well-lit areas.
Narrow paths and lack of safe cycling on the main routes
Narrow roads with no pavements.
No designated cycle tracks in town. Walking is often hindered due to obstructions on pavement, bins in housing schemes and seating areas and advertising boards on main streets.
No pavements, narrow road with no centre line to guide traffic to stay in lane, sharp corners with poor visibility - dangerous for pedestrians (Ganavan).
No rubbish removal from roadside, pathways given up for forestry work
Only have a bus service 9.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Pavements hard to walk on. Sleeping policemen at Marks and Spencers are awful - don't meet national standards
Rethink the one way system to reduce traffic along the Esplanade. How to remove wheelie bins from the town? Explore introducing underground waste collection with chutes like here https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/underground-bin-system-eddington-cambridge-13389740
Roads are narrow and lack a pavement totally unsuited for cycles to safely move in the area
Roads are over busy for the amount of traffic cycling is very dangerous. No parking facilities for bikes.
Roads needs pavements, in particular Glencruiten Road
Seil, where I live, has no safe footpaths between the main villages. Walking on the road can be dangerous. We do not need pavements but a good footpath from Clachan Bridge to Ellenabeich and Cuan would be of great benefit to locals and visitors.
Separate cycle routes on the main roads would benefit both the cyclist and motorists and provide safer transport for all.
Some good routes but not enough
The area where I stay is well provided for Where I work (Dunbeg) is ok in parts but there are gaps for safe cycling between there and Oban if using the A85
The streets of Oban are too busy with traffic. The cycle route north of Oban to Ballachullish is good.
The walking route from my house to town is in a bad state of repair considering I live in the most populated area in Argyll and Bute. The steep hill has no pavement or railings when wet it is very slippery there is an alternative route around the main road but again there are parts that don't have pavements

There appears to be few dedicated cycle routes in Oban.
There are no cycle tracks in or around Oban that are traffic free. With the amount of lorries, campervans and caravans in this area it would be sheer folly to attempt to cycle on-road with busy traffic.
There are no footpaths along the entire route from home to work The town is very busy - crossing the road can be difficult as a pedestrian Traffic is not sympathetic to pedestrian or cyclists. Town is busy throughout the day with several bottlenecks, making crossing difficult and drivers frustrated, Cyclists are advised by police locally to cycle on Footpaths to avoid an accident!! This is not always appropriate as it annoys pedestrians and motorists become annoyed at cyclists going wrong way down 1 way streets or using footpaths instead of roads. Children and school pupils are rarely seen cycling to school as roads are too busy, too fast and not safe areas for them to move safely Certainly cycling or walking in winter is more hazardous, due to low lighting and poor quality footpaths/no footpath/cycle lane
There are reasonable and adequate cycle and walking routes for recreation, however for routes from out of town, and in town to shops schools is wholly inadequate. The majority of motorised traffic travels on the only major road from the North and South into the town causing a lot of congestion. This road has only single pavement in parts and no areas marked for cyclist.
Town gridlocked, streets too narrow for existing vehicular traffic
Traffic in Oban makes cycling difficult
Traffic jams are a nuisance
Uneven pavements
Uneven pavements for those with poor mobility- I've often fallen off kerbs and sprained ankles
Various popular walking routes in and around Oban are not particularly safe or suitable for pedestrians, for example, Oban to Ganavan via wee Ganavan owing to dangerous and blind bends and lack of pavements. Various popular cycling routes in and around Oban are definitely not safe owing to the sheer volume of vehicular traffic.
Walking is difficult in many areas due to lack of pavements. Cycling is a bit better.
Walking is easy but there are no cycle paths or lanes and the level of traffic would not encourage me to cycle
Walking isn't a problem but cycling has a long way to go to improve the network.
We do not have a safe route accessible to us to walk or cycle
Wheelie bins on narrow pavements block wheelchair access
Within the town walking can be difficult certainly during busy periods like the summer but heading out towards Dunollie and Ganavan quieter walking is possible. I do not ride a bicycle and as far as I can see there is no provision for cycle routes and many cyclists ride on the pavement especially along Corran Esplanade. Crossing the main routes through Oban can also be difficult if not near a traffic light crossing, again worse in busy periods.
Would not be possible to walk or cycle between towns I visit in A&B, within Oban our road does not have pavements all the way into town, very narrow in places with no pavement unsafe if pushing a pram and for wheelchair users. Car also exceed the 30 miles per hour speed limit

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

129 responses in total – Average Score of 3.4							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
33 responses	14 responses	21 responses	23 responses	16 responses	11 responses	11 responses	3 responses

Comments

1 or 2 accessible buses. Buses do have ramps but drivers can be reluctant to use.
1st bus is after I'd have to leave for work, last bus is before work finishes so it's not something I can use.
A review of bus stops required, cutting back brush and trees to see bus stop signs in Glencruiten Road
All my use of local buses and travelling to Glasgow has met my needs. I did need to travel to Benderloch on a Sunday which I could not find a service from Oban. As I am over 60 I have a bus pass which makes bus and train travel affordable.
Bus and train links are available. Train is expensive, and no local parking that is adequate near the train station. Bus frequently cannot get you to place of work on time. You could not travel for work and arrive on time to Lochgilphead or Fort William from Oban. The train is an expensive option for travel further afield, and frequency not enough to make sustainable travel an option when traveling for work.
Bus routes Soroba - Dunollie good, elsewhere not. No service to McCaig's tower, limited Longsdale route
Bus stop is near my home, but there is only one bus an hour so, for many purposes I have to use the car when I would prefer to use the bus. However, some bus stops do not have useable seats - little sloping ledges are useless. I have a problem standing for any length of time which is another reason for using my car. I had to wait for a bus today and it was 20 minutes late. Car park charges are nonsensical and inconsistent and very high.
Buses are used for the school runs which means the buses from Soroba do not connect for people working early in town
Buses break down occasionally
Buses could be more frequent. The cost of tickets is quite expensive. Public toilets are almost non-existent. The buses suffer from the poor state of the roads.
Buses only hourly and curtail at 5.30pm therefore no transport in an evening
Depends where you live
Dislike the fact that buses do not run on Sundays in my area
Doesn't start running till after I start work, stops before I finish. Doesn't go close enough to workplace to be practical
Don't use it
Empty buses far too large for the area and the roads
I am too isolated to be catered for
I am unable to walk very far as the area is very hilly. I have a Blue badge but as the roads to and from the town are narrow, steep and often congested with parked cars it is very stress full to

drive. It would be great if a mini-bus service could be provided as there are many elderly residents in the area surrounding McCaigs's Tower. I am sure such a service would be well used.
I could not get to work by bus, services either too early or too late.
I do not use public transport generally as it does not tie in well with my working hours which are variable and often out of hours
I never use public transport due to my location and business, therefore I can't usefully comment and have just marked in the middle.
I rarely use public transport due to cost and time - the train from Oban to Glasgow takes far too long and is expensive if you are only using it occasionally and do not wish to purchase a rail card. Getting to and from the islands is problematic and during the summer the roads are a nightmare.
I rarely use the bus as the service is so infrequent. An evening out in Oban means a taxi back.
Idea for community bus. Taxis - reliant on and expensive
Infrequent bus. Expensive taxis.
Limited and infrequent - poor infrastructure
Living out of town bus service is poor, need to have a car.
Lonsdale - no bus services on Sundays and no pavements to walk on. Tour buses must not pick up and park at local bus stops
My age makes it necessary for me to look ahead and know that public transport is available when I can no longer drive It will keep me mobile and in contact with people rather than isolated in a remote home.
No buses on Sundays for Nant Drive
No transport at tower
Not applicable as there is no public transport in our area
Not used frequently but when I have it's been good. If people don't use the buses they will take them off.
Ok service to Glasgow but stops after 6 (?) from Glasgow.
Poor public transport links to Glasgow and the rest of Scottish cities.
Public transport in and around Oban is adequate but the bus and train stations lack proper toilet facilities and suitable parking for travellers.
Public transport is functional however the timetables change to meet the demands of school term times and some of the buses should be removed from service due to emissions and condition.
Public transport is good on my route, however cost is an issue. One price for journey regardless of distance is unacceptable!
Service stops around 6.00pm. I would like an evening/night time service so that I could enjoy a glass of wine with a meal. Would definitely eat out more often if this service were available.
Short of taxis there is no public transport on the back road
Sunday Service very poor or non-existent (Bus). Trains normally overcrowded and not clean
Tend not to use it
Tend not to use it , as the service to Longsdale is not the best, and I drive anyway
The bus never comes
The only buses to leave Oban are for Glasgow or Fort William and these are few and far between. The train consists of only two carriages and in the summer this means standing room only.
There appears to be a Good bus service in town and to Glasgow. However the recent changes in train timetables to and from Glasgow at the weekend appears restrictive.
There are areas which have limited services but this could be the case of residents not utilising the service. When I have used the service from my local stop the bus is rarely fifty % occupied.
There is a good local bus service to residential areas, and excellent wider services. There is always room for improvement.

There is hardly any frequent public transport from Oban to outlying villages; and the train and bus depart at the same time which is ridiculous.
There is no public transport available to me and I live 1.6km from Argyll square
There should be more buses arriving at SAMS at different times.
Train times are not great especially on a Sunday whereby there should be an early morning train to Glasgow.
Transport good except Sundays - can't get to church
Transport is not joined up, and not always punctual. Trains- need better communication when there are works.
Very infrequent expensive bus
We are lucky in Ganavan to have 1 bus an hour but in the school holidays and Saturdays it doesn't start till 9.45am
We have a very good bus service. although if I want to visit family in Morar I have to wait in Fort William for 2 hours after the Oban bus arrives all the services need to link up as they don't link up to the ferry which now leaves from Mallaig
We need the out-of-town buses to be more frequent later into the night. This would enable better social cohesion/ mental health as friends can meet up for a night out even if they live out of town and will remove the temptation to drink-drive. Generally buses are not frequent enough and, albeit for understandable geographical reasons, all follow the same George Street route. But Oban is built around three hills. There is absolutely nothing up Ardconnel Hill. Walking your food shopping home is very tiring. Minibuses might be more realistic. It's not as if the big buses are ever full anyway.
Yes we have public transport but local buses - unless you are travelling at school times they are few & far between. Oban to Glasgow route, both the trains & buses have nearly the same times of departure & arrival - Why? If they were staggered you would have more choice. 5 weeks ago on a Sunday I needed to get to Glasgow by 12.30, not one mode of public transport could get me there and the earliest I can get into Glasgow by public transport on a Sun is 15.10.

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

128 responses in total – Average Score of 2.3							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
65 responses	18 responses	19 responses	9 responses	8 responses	1 responses	8 responses	4 responses

Comments

Horrendous - Tourist town. Bottle neck in lots of places. No long stay car park. Traffic lights not in the right places. New parking systems/pay machines NOT user friendly. The pedestrian crossings are not well planned, Lidl and the lights at the Lochavullin being two of the worst.
I need to use disabled bays but can very rarely find them and they are not policed 7 days a week, even a phone number to call a warden to attend an illegally parked vehicle would be a help
It is a well-known fact that parking is a big problem in Oban. Because of lack of parking in the town people are parking on the side roads all day (to get to work etc.). It is particularly bad in the Rockfield Road/ Ardconnel Road/ and Longsdale Road areas where I live.
It is hard and expensive to park in Oban, this stops people from local villages being able to have a day in Oban as it costs too much.
Like all tourist towns; there is never enough parking to fulfil everyone's needs in Summer. By and large there is enough parking for local residents needs for the rest of the year.
Long stay / all day car parking provision should be made for Oban - even if this was paid at a manageable daily rate (e.g. £3-4 per day) Too much traffic in town in summer months and this becomes a bottle neck.
Long term parking in Oban is essential, to allow use of the train. At present when I go to Glasgow for the day I have to drive to Connell to leave the car.
Lots of new housing in the Glenschellach area all of which must use the merge on to Glengallan Road. This causes massive tailbacks and traffic jams on to Soroba Road. Why is so much new housing around Catalina Avenue being allowed when the roads cannot support the extra traffic?
Massive congestion due to inadequate road structures
Much more parking /park & ride is needed to cope with the traffic density.
Multi story car park urgently required
Need more parking in Oban
Never go into town as no parking.
Night time evening transport - if there was an evening bus, could go to the pub (not necessarily for loads of drinks but a couple)
No inadequate parking for residents and businesses as a result it is often difficult to drive around the area
No longer go into town as no parking
No, the traffic system in Oban at peak times is terrible as can take 40 minutes from hospital to Corran Halls. The route at Glenshellach Road should be re-connected to enable local traffic from the Glenshellach estate to use that and therefore bypass the main route and thus reduce congestion on the main town road. Alternatively, an Oban bypass route should be constructed to alleviate congestion.

Not at all. Resident parking permits spaces should be exclusively for residents at certain times of the days to allow people returning from work to actually have the possibility to park close to where they live and where they paid for. The fact that non-residents can park in any places by buying a ticket does not allow actual residents parking permit holders to actually park close to their home and force them to find free parking elsewhere, very far away from the centre, in areas where other residents usually park. This creates disruption to local residents who pay for the services of this council.

Note enough parking. Don't know what arrangements are, where you can get parking for how long. Long term parking is an issue. Heard that parking's been bad and cuts people off. Long term parking is an issue. Impacts on residents. Parking issues at High School. Turning right at McCall's Terrace on way out clogs things up

Oban is a nightmare, there are just too many cars for the town centre, and it's only going to get worse with every new build, god only knows what it will be like when the Dunbeg development is completed. It regularly takes me 45 minutes to an hour to get from the hospital to Lidl's on a Friday afternoon. The planners need to wake up and look out their office to see what is happening, Oban doesn't need any more houses, the town is beyond capacity

Oban is badly congested at peak commute times. My journey to work takes 20mins on a good day and upwards of an hour on a bad day (esp. Fridays in the summer). This makes it difficult to go to appointments and used to cause me to be fined by childminders etc. Sometimes I have to take unnecessary time off work to allow for likely hold-ups when going to the doctor or dentist.

One way system in Oban leads to massive congestion when the town begins to get busier at around Easter. It is currently the end of May (not even school holidays) and it can take 30 minutes just to drive down one street at around 1700. While 30 minute free parking in the centre of town has been great for locals just "nipping in to get something", the high rate of parking for longer than 30 minutes is preventing people spending time in town. Living in the centre of town has put off family and visitors as there is no longer free street parking on a Sunday and nowhere really to park even if it was free as there is no large car parks just very limited street parking or small council car parks.

Overcrowding. Residential parking poor. Public being directed to use residential parking as a stop gap. Insufficient for area.

Parking arrangements in this town are a disgrace. They are a real disincentive for visitors to stop. People coming to work in the town have to pay costly parking charges when income levels are poor. Parking rules are not enforced which adds to congestion in the main thoroughfare.

Parking for work and school is a major issue.

Parking has been neglected since I grew up here, and needs vast improvement

Parking in and around Oban is an unmitigated disaster whereby Councillors appear to view parking facilities as a cash cow. The previously free parking areas at Dungallan Road, Lochavullin and Atlantis Leisure/Longsdale are greatly underused as ratepayers are not prepared to be held to ransom over unreasonable and unfair parking fees. A complete rethink of parking charges in and around Oban is required and long overdue.

Parking in Oban is appalling, I can walk into town but my parents are elderly and need to drive, there is nowhere for long term parking we need a park and ride in Oban!

Parking in Oban is expensive and hard to find. Some car parks were almost empty last year, when charges were introduced/increased, whereas illegal parking increased. There is no parking for overnight stays so people park their camper vans along our road during the summer months. Sometimes camper van users empty waste into the drains. Sometimes cars are parked opposite my house for weeks at a time.

Parking in Oban is expensive and prevents people getting to places easily. There is not enough parking and a decent large car park near the town centre would help matters. The recently introduced charged parking areas on the Esplanade and Gallanach Road are waste of money and are not being used. More availability of use of parking permits for on street parking would help.

Parking in Oban is shocking. A lack of spaces and a lack of planning and thought
Parking in Oban is so bad, many use the local supermarket which has vehicle bays just big enough for a go-kart. With the increasing use of large SUV, Campervans etc. not enough is being done. The parking on either side of George street consistently slows traffic to a crawl or in some cases - stop. This is usually down to large vehicles trying to squeeze through between vehicles or someone trying to move into a space by shunting about half a dozen times.
Parking in Oban is the one thing that can unanimously unite the community. I have a parking permit for my car and find with increasing regularity I am unable to park within the zone and therefore have to pay again for parking. I have had no issues with safety when parking and I think cars have priority in Oban over pedestrians. I am not aware of any traffic calming measures within the town centre. Given the location of Oban until there is a bypass the traffic and parking problems will only get worse.
Parking is an issue in Oban particularly in the summer. I think a long stay car park for ferry passengers would take some strain. Also more free parking around town, even limited to 2 hours like Atlantis.
Parking is an issue throughout the town. It's not easy to pop to the shops in your lunch hour. This must affect local businesses. Multi storey complex in town centre would be good if possible. Also long stay free car parking for people travelling to the islands etc.
Parking is expensive and difficult in the summer months
Parking on corners, opposite junctions and opposite bus stops hinders access, and obstructs view, especially for emergency services. Lazy drivers who refuse to use designated car parks, contribute to this.
Parking on double yellow lines outside my house and they never get tickets. People leave engines running while they wait or park for 10-20mins on double yellows near Costa.
Parking on road. Parked cars prevent two way traffic, causes congestion e.g. Rockfield Road
Parking really bad
Parking very poor as a result there is a lot of illegal parking
I feel that people in Oban need to be made to understand that they do not have a right to free town-centre parking - in a city this would be unimaginable but here people drive very short distances to work and then park their cars in residential side streets because they think they shouldn't have to pay. If in all residential streets parking was permit only for residents other people would have more incentive to come by bus or walk
People who park at bus stops cause an issue for disabled people/wheelchairs. People who work in Oban and have to drive are penalised by the lack of free parking.
Some parking spaces are very tight (designated disabled parking). Never have a problem parking or getting in and out of town except at school times
The area where I stay is adequate for parking and traffic levels
The cost of parking is the main issue in Oban and there are fewer and fewer free parking areas leading to people abandoning cars in residential areas. The level of traffic within the town centre is high and makes crossing the streets difficult
The one way systems in Oban is shambolic, has it ever been reviewed by a Roads Planning Expert? The recently introduced parking charges have caused chaos, forcing tourists to park in the residential areas of the town further inconveniencing locals. Tourists travelling to the islands as foot passengers simply abandon their cars in residential areas for up to two weeks at a time. Why not introduce a park'n'ride scheme like other towns with parking areas just outside town and minibuses shuttling people in and out of town. This would not only solve the congested roads and parking chaos, but would be in line with current climate change efforts to reduce pollution.
There are insufficient parking spaces in Oban to satisfy the demand from visitor influx.

There is little parking for visitors using the ferries in the town centre this causes congestion in the town with cars parked sometimes for a week. We are reputed to be the gateway to the Islands yet we can't provide parking at reasonable rates for the public.

Too many cars and too much traffic in area. Bottle necks and no pavements don't help make walkers/cyclists feel safe, and parents don't allow pupils to walk to school apart from last 50 m The traffic hold up in the town make drivers frustrated, and make poor choices, driving aggressively and become impatient with other road users. This has a negative effect on local wellbeing A park and ride service would be beneficial for the town, people may even be encouraged to walk instead of taking the bus over the last section of their journey. Many who work in the town live in the 15 miles surrounding the town and require to bring their cars to work. Local workers and tourists park irresponsibly to avoid paying for parking. There is no free long term parking for tourists who leave their cars when they head off to the islands. Better parking provision for campervans and caravans would be an improvement to the town

Too much congestion

Too much traffic - whole system needs a rethink. Why is Oban the only place in Argyll and Bute that has such onerous parking charges?

Tourists struggle with finding places to park overnight if visiting the islands

Town can be congested in the tourist season, especially with the volume of traffic waiting to get on/ off the pier for the ferries. Parking is an issue in Oban

Traffic flow, and parking has been an issue, since I can remember, at least as far back as the 1970.s, I feel that our councillors, and council have, only kicked the can down the road, part of the solution is to build a multi storey. If I can park in the Thistle centre in Stirling for £2.50 for a couple of hours why not here? Is it a lack of vision or inertia, on the councils behalf

Traffic is terrible on Soroba Road, causing air pollution and extended journey times. Parking has become very expensive of late, and is ill thought through. For example, charging £1.20 an hour by the sailing club, a non-central location is ridiculous.

Volume of traffic is very high compared to the number of places they can go

We need 1 car on the mainland and a runabout farm vehicle on the island

Words fail me on how parking has been dealt with. Parking monies should stay in the area that it is paid. Houses being build increasing traffic congestion. Particularly south end of town.

Wow - What can I say about public parking - Over the last 3 years access to public free parking especially for working in Oban is now non-existent. Better road signage for holiday & travelling through folks, especially to & from the ferry's.

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

128 responses in total – Average Score of 4.2							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
16 responses	3 responses	12 responses	36 responses	32 responses	22 responses	7 responses	4 responses

Comments

- too many vacant shops - exterior of buildings poorly maintained - It would be nice for the council to invest more in creating green spaces and plants in urban areas - quality of roads and road maintenance is poor
A&BC spent a lot of money doing up the pavements & seating areas on ground floor level in Oban, & very nice it is, however it's time for all the various owners of all the main street front buildings to use some of their rent money from the shops & cafes to give the buildings a facelift. Quite a few are a disgrace from the top of the shop level & above, as for the empty lot next to the Oban Inn. Why have they been allowed to leave this as it is?
Argyll Square used to be a nice place to sit and meet and enjoy the flowers. Now it is quite hard to cross the road in.
Building derelict on North Pier, next to Piazza
Empty shops, and boarded up sites are off putting.
Generally public buildings are attractive and well maintained.
Historic features and natural landscape make the town pretty. However there are some empty shops that catch the eye as being less tidy. The town has recently had a series of regeneration works in the centre
I am not convinced that the most recent major upgrade to Oban town centre, completed as part of the CHORD project, was as much of a success as various interested parties would have you believe. Street cleaning is definitely one area requiring attention.
I think Oban is generally a nice-looking place. Whether or not that makes it 'easy' to get round I am unsure.
Insufficient Street cleaning staff means that there are occasional problems with Street cleanliness.
It's a nightmare trying to shop in Oban, there's not enough parking, tour buses blocking streets whilst they disgorge their passengers. In fact I saw a foreign bus stopped in the layby in front of the royal hotel on Argyll square and because it was a foreign bus (left hand drive) the passengers were stepping out onto Argyll square rather than on to the pavement, this also happens on the esplanade where aged tourists doddle across the road from the hotels to board buses, and its bedlam when visiting cruise boats come and their passengers get on to buses on the esplanade holding up traffic.
Lack of upkeep of gardens, removal of weeds at roadside are not promoting the town for tourists. Out with the town the verges are un-kept and signage isn't always clear if there are road closures. Empty shops could be improved by window displays Signage has improved within the towns over the past few years and in Oban, Bid4Oban are making an impact via hanging baskets in the summer months Vacant land is unsightly in Argyll's towns.
Latterly very tidy - improved

Lighting at night not great Food - seated areas on streets just reduces ability to move around. Positives are the work on Dunollie and Rockfield Centre both building should be celebrated.
Lot of derelict land that could be put in to good use
McCaig's Tower attraction - no Transport, no toilet, no sign to tell people they're there.
Natural features are great that's why people come here. Always room for improvement in terms of clean public spaces.
No
Not easy to get around.
Not enough spaces - parking where you can pay for a full day
Nothing to do when it rains
Nothing to do when it rains. Beginin got smarten up in last 6 months but it was not good before.
Oban and surrounding area is a very attractive place to live and most areas and buildings are in reasonable to good general appearance
Oban has many nice historical buildings and the centre of the town has fewer empty shops than it used to making the place look better. There is a lack of green spaces.
Oban is full of attractive and interesting buildings and spaces which are available day and night. During busy periods it becomes less easy to get around town, winter is much better and the weather has never stopped me getting out.
Oban is very congested with no by-pass. During the summer months the traffic makes it difficult to get around. You cannot walk down Soroba Road without having to cross the road to access a pavement. There is no continuous pavement down any one side of the road.
Oban is well kept and attractive. More green spaces would be lovely. What a shame the old hotel was knocked down beside the Oban Inn. It gave the town character and linked it historically to places like Inveraray - it told a story.
Oban seems to be able to attract a lot of charity shops rather than speciality shops, could be the rateable value. Oban also appears to be developing a lot of social housing areas. While these might be needed for housing people who want to move into the area, consideration should be given to long term residents and the developers should provide larger areas of landscaping. These could extend to parks for the general public and not just small areas for children.
Only looking at the places that get tourist traffic. Other places, top of High Street etc. not good. New upgraded area in the town lovely but looking run down already.
Pavements are very narrow. I feel that down by station square is unsafe for blind people. Shared surface hard for guide dog. No indicators for people either
Plenty of space in Scotland so no worries
Recent street improvements in Oban are welcome.
Recent upgrades to the town have made the centre much more pleasant to be in.
So many empty shops, the pavements are shoddy and uneven, buildings are shabby and poorly maintained. However, nice flower beds and hanging baskets. Hard to get along George Street at night with cars parked either side.
Some nice additions have been introduced to Oban shore front but the buildings are generally in poor condition and it's not an attractive place to be.
Some older buildings on George Street are becoming dilapidated and the north end of the street is not particularly attractive to walk around in.
Stafford Street & public realm is attractive
Still annoyed at the removal of parking spaces in Stafford Street. These were very useful parking for the opticians. Now need to get a lift for eye checks
The place is pretty clean, and the pavements relatively uncluttered, the council has a green machine, provided to them, which I rarely if ever see being used.

The recent improvements around Stafford Street, George St. and Station Sq. have all made the town centre more attractive and more "pedestrian friendly".

The replacing in Oban has massively improved the look of Oban The number of shops closing down and the exteriors allowed to decay is a worrying trend.

This is a beautiful scenic town And recent improvements have added to its attraction. The area around the Clarendon hotel needs improving

Traffic congestion impacts

While there are many interesting buildings around Oban, the vacant, derelict or unoccupied areas definitely reduce the effect of the positive features.

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

127 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
17 responses	7 responses	14 responses	17 responses	31 responses	24 responses	17 responses	5 responses

Comments

- rubbish facilities need to be maintained and emptied - access is not always easy for those who have mobility issues
Access is not great.
All areas of A&B have easily accessible natural spaces
All 'green' spaces near the town centre have been built on or concreted over. No central park where people can wander etc.
As previous question but Oban has the benefit of fantastic views only access to them is lacking.
Few places for people to sit and enjoy a quiet green area. Lack of facilities for young people and children.
Football pitch/playing fields in Soroba. Needs to be more for the wee ones - not for the big ones. Vandalism in areas where they try to do anything. Need to look at opinions of all the community. Lots of green space but no way to actually get to it.
Ganavan Sands are popular but no swings, or nice amenities.
Generally very good but too much light going upwards at night. All public lights need capped and there should be rules for external lighting as these new LED lights are much brighter than the old yellow bulbs. I live in the town centre and I really notice the increase in lightness in my bedroom every time someone puts up a new one e.g. I know it was well-intended but I can really feel the difference the ones on the railway line have made and when OES put one round the back of their yard it was really bad for me. I am all for good light going down but they all need capped. Our skies are not exactly dark in Oban.
Good quality natural space in and around Oban is disappearing at an alarming rate. This is one reason I am totally opposed to the proposed housing development at Lonan Drive, Soroba private housing estate, Oban. The need for additional housing should not be at the cost of "green" areas or good quality natural space.
I am very fortunate as I live at Ganavan sands
I live out at Ganavan and there are a variety of wild places on my doorstep.
I would not like to live anywhere else
In my garden only.
Increasing building developments continue to encroach upon the natural environment thereby affecting everyone's quality of life.
Lonana Drive - taking away a natural space so disabled and elderly have no place to walk & children have no place to play in the open air. Lot of natural space but not a lot is accessible to those with poor mobility.
Lot of natural space is being eaten up by housing. Very limited green space near town area. Seating in a street not the same as sitting at Corran parks. Seats were removed

Lots of natural space. The excessive noise and movement of traffic detracts from the high street and the beach, which nobody uses!
Luckily I have a large garden but Oban has no green spaces
More public garden space needed
More trees in town centre would be better for the environment and improve the appearance of streets
Need more play parks and facilities. Playparks aren't open. Need better footpaths around the areas there are.
Need to head about 2 miles out of town to find quality space.
No lack of a public park in Oban is unusual for a town of this size
Not enough informal pitches and places to play games
Not enough natural space
Not much in the way of green space here. No tree lined streets or parks. The play area has been closed for over a year.
Oban has lots of green space including gardens and plenty of seating which are accessible to everyone
Oban has no park or easily accessed green spaces. You would need transport to access woodland or open spaces except for the shoreline.
One of the most beautiful places in the country and should be promoted more.
Only small park at south pier. Natural space only accessible outside Oban town centre
That's why I live in Seil.
The kid's park at Atlantis is still closed which seems to have been a complete waste of public funds and is becoming unsightly. Otherwise the other park areas etc. are fine.
The natural space in Soroba is being turned into social housing so no natural space for walking dogs, children playing. Trees chopped down etc.
The only green area has just been given PPP for 44 housing units. Council couldn't care less about environment, recreation or appearance of the area. Blind obedience to the LDP over rides any other considerations.
The sea provides a good amount of natural environment, although the provision of public green space is terrible.
There are no green spaces in Oban
There are no safe green parks for recreational use in Oban. Children, teens and families would benefit from a designated area.
There are only a few natural spaces but why did the Council give permission for building development on one of these spaces in an area which was contrary to the local development plan?
There is a threat of a green space beside my housing scheme being built on.
This is limited within the town area
This place is paradise anyway
We are fortunate to have the sea on our doorstep. (Sometimes, in winter, not so welcome!) The tiny park at Gallanach is the only maintained natural space.
We are lucky in Argyll to have lots of lovely walks etc
Yes, same as last question we are lucky to be surrounded by woodland and beautiful landscapes.
You can walk every day of the week. Plenty of places. Good so long as you like walking

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

130 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
29 responses	10 responses	19 responses	27 responses	24 responses	15 responses	6 responses	2 responses

Comments

A green gym (maybe located at another area of the town than Atlantis) would be useful to allow use of outdoor space
As previous the kid's park at Atlantis is still closed and unusable.
Atlantis has a good playpark
Atlantis leisure provides a lot of opportunities for play and recreation
Attend groups every week for fitness
Children play area funds raised by community been closed off for over a year.
Closure of disabled changing room at swimming pool mean I could no longer go swimming.
Depends on your ability
Diversinary activities as alternatives at weekends
Dreadful sporting and play opportunities in Oban - why would any families visit here and who would want to raise children here? There is one quality play park - built with money raised by the community, then closed almost immediately and never reopened thanks to Council interference and incompetence. When will you ever get around to simply putting a new flooring in and give the kids somewhere to play? Only real sporting venue is the High School artificial pitch and we have just heard that a janitor is off sick and the school pitch is closed indefinitely - incredible!
Ganavan Beach A wonderful resource for the people of Oban and surrounding areas
How about copying Giles Perrington's music sculptures along the shore? On Jura, "As a community, we recently built a beach path, benches and bridges that take you over rivers near Corran beach. And there are now outdoor sculptures that are hidden off the track, which you see when you walk along it. We also have percussion instruments that are made of bits of old pipe, timber and oil containers where you can just go and make some noise! "
Huge improvements needed.
I am told my relatives and friends that without the farther and mums taxi the children would have difficulty.
Indoor activities available but outdoor maybe difficult. Weather a problem for outdoor activities.
Keeps getting vandalised
Lack of football space with nets to catch the ball. Soroba pitch needs improved
Lack of recreation and picnic spots in town centre
Lack of suitable playparks or areas where 'imaginative play' can take place, in a secure, clean, place. Disappointed in the timescale for the repairs at Oban Playpark where the community raised the funding for the project and damage to the surface at the Soroba Playpark Young people often complain they have nowhere to go, clubs are available for a wide range of activities but outdoor spaces need to be designed to suit the needs of the age range, i.e. skateparks. Education needs to

be undertaken to ensure YP take responsibility for their communities' i.e rubbish, drinking in public spaces, vandalism.
More money needs to be invested in Atlantis Leisure. Great place for kids but could be far better. You visit other towns and see what they have done with leisure centres and green spaces.
More play parks that don't get vandalised
My area is welcoming of children playing and has adequate facilities close by
My grandchildren have few outdoor options other than our own garden.
No play areas for adults swimming pool unaffordable and poorly equipped for disabilities
Not once the development is done
Nothing for teenagers
Nothing for teenagers, play areas are overgrown, marshy (wet), long grass, no decent park
Oban is becoming more built up, with relatively little joined up thinking, in the nature or rate of development , for example, allowing Premier Inn to double the size of development, with relative ease, and not thinking that traffic from there, emptying in to a point which had been identified as a choke point for traffic, hardly demonstrates, critical thinking, in fact it displays an awe of national, and multi-national developers, why like Inverness can the council not use the provisions of the planning act, to extract something of value to the community in return? Then again the tarmac carpet at Connel was an example of visionary thinking when it was used.
Oban's children's play park - Still not open. Lack of maintenance is an issue.
Only by using the car
Other than Atlantis Leisure/ Mossfield to get anywhere you need a car.
Playpark at Nant Drive near Soroba
See previous comment about the play area. We could do with some skateboard/cycle skills tracks.
Still no park
The local community centre are trying to upgrade our sports pitch, but get opposition from residents who don't appreciate the need for this much needed resource.
The ongoing situation of the "out of commission" playpark at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, must be resolved as soon as possible. I do not believe any of the parties involved in the sorry saga i.e. the fundraising committee and parents user group, the Wicksteed contractors who completed the construction work, or Argyll and Bute Council staff involved at various stages have emerged with much credit
The swimming pool and leisure centre requires investment
There is a playpark at Atlantis leisure but not enough disabled parking to allow me to take my children
There appears to be opportunities for outdoor play for most groups whether old or young
There are good sporting facilities but my favourite place (and the one with most health benefits for me and my family) is Ganavan Shinty pitch. It is not trying to be an organised facility, it is just a big flat space where all generations can run around, experiment and have fun without worrying about booking or having the right kit. More places like this please.
There are limited paly parks in Oban for smaller children.
There are places but they are not attractive and could do with investment.
There doesn't seem to be enough dedicated play areas in the schemes for local children and young people.
There is a lack of open space/playing fields to allow children to run around. Affordability is an issue for those requiring a pitch or hall for sport.
There is no playpark facility in the town or associated with high areas of housing. Children play on the roads. The nature of the town is that it is very steep and there is a lack of level ground and safe space for children to kick a ball. No outside facilities for teenager facilities' are halls/schools

and leisure centre, not free to use outside space No indoor pitch facility - such as a dome over a 3G pitch so that residents can play shinty indoors during poor weather which can be very frequent. Facilities are often booked by large clubs, organisations and schools. Not many areas for free/ social play. The new high school has no outside area to play football apart from the locked 3G pitch and the car park? Dog walkers make the most of flat areas to walk their animals, not great for children to play on.

There is not a proper public park in the Oban area and more support should be given to increasing the availability of such areas.

There is nothing for teenagers to do; they need their own space to be active such as a bike and skate park. Taynuilt is desperate for something like this.

This place is heavens playground anyway! I pity the townies!

Very poor green space in Oban

Yes - good facilities but not used to full potential. Good because we have Atlantis but if that were lost, my score would be lower

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.

128 responses in total – Average Score of 4.2							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
14 responses	13 responses	13 responses	31 responses	22 responses	26 responses	9 responses	4 responses

Comments

2 unoccupied shops and 1 unoccupied restaurant is not helping.
All of the facilities I need are within walking distance from home and appear to be of high quality and well maintained.
Better mental health resources desperately needed
For a small town we do have a lot of cafes bars and shops. There is limited places to purchase clothing for Men or Boys. there is a healthy library and the Rockfield centre is a great asset to the town
For my age group the sailing, walking, golfing, restaurants, gyms and bars are very reasonable
Good eating and drinking facilities but a poor choice of shops for clothes.
Growing numbers of GME pupils show the need for a Gaelic stand-alone school option. Schools such as this have proven success rates.
Hospital essential - worry about loss of services
Hospital essential for my needs
I have noticed what facilities we do have seem to be suffering from lack of maintenance.
I live here because I am reclusive and not really interested in the outside world!
I think we are well served for amenities, particularly now that the Rockfield centre is taking off. The only thing that sometimes gets in the way is the parking. I have turned down offers of a blether in a café because my ticket was running out. In some places, you can pay parking at the end of an unspecified stay in the machine, which gives more flexibility.
if I didn't have a car I would be stuck at home due to there being no public transport
If they could do something about lack of doctor appointments, that would be good. Have to wait 2 weeks.
I'm diabetic and if I have to go to Glasgow for urgent medical care, transport isn't provided
In general the local area has sufficient facilities within reasonable distance for a variety of purposes
Lack of public toilets, only at the North Pier
Lack of toilets in the town
Local medical centre is excellent, as is Balvicar shop. For other services we need to go to Oban.
Loss of hospital services would reduce this score significantly
Lots of places over-priced because of tourism

Lots of restaurants/ food outlets, few high street shops and some which cater to specific needs. Not enough variety and spread over an area where people could miss. Nice local Hospital completely underutilised
Lower the rates and more shops will open back up.
Many of our friends are elderly and disabled and it is difficult for them to get around in the town, which is not wheelchair friendly. Many of the shops are empty or of poor quality.
More small shops in the schemes would certainly be a benefit to the elderly rather than being forced into the large chain stores with the resultant travel expenses.
Most of the main facilities and amenities are within the town centre - you just can't get parked to access them
Need kerbside collection for food waste for composting
Need more in town and better transport to get to places like Ganavan
Need more stuff for teenagers
No suitable bus routes No parking in town Reduced disabled access at Swimming pool
No toilets at tower. Only at North Pier
Not bad. Still set up for tourism but not for locals
Oban desperately needs a community centre. The Soroba community centre is too small for the needs of the whole community. All funding is being aimed at a dilapidated building in the town, which is not fit for purpose, and will not be a community centre.
Poor water pressure
Pretty good although there was an issue with the use of the AstroTurf pitch at the school at nights due to lack of janitorial / caretaker staff. I believe that due to numerous complaints this issue has been resolved to enable the community to use the facility in the evenings.
Sites of schools are horrendous - no planning.
The community run Atlantis Leisure facility in Oban is a tremendous and well used asset for the town and surrounding area. The range of facilities and amenities provided are essential to compliment private and council run services.
The hospital and primary schools are at too distant extremities of town. This discourages walking for health which especially in the case of the hospital is pretty ironic.
The range of facilities is quite good but can always be improved.
The Rockfield Centre will help when works complete. Give community a focal point in town centre. Community have done a lot for themselves - cinema and pool Smaller shops doing their best but range has reduced.
There are lots of cafes and bars. It is difficult to get an appointment at the GP surgery in Oban. Growing population is putting pressure on schools and nurseries.
There is little public meeting space apart from Atlantis Leisure, which is excellent. The upcoming Rockfield Centre will help address this and should be fully supported by the council.
There's not enough parking at the surgery, it's very hard to get parked to do shopping other than at the supermarkets which have their own car parks
Too many shops lying empty
We make do but many other places have far superior facilities
Wide range of shops, restaurants. Don't want to live in a place full of retail parks, takeaways etc. It's a lifestyle choice. Health Facilities really important. Good just now but worry about changes.
Within towns a range of activities and facilities are available, rural areas have limited services Not all health Services are available within Argyll and Bute and the travel to the cities can be challenging especially if accommodation is required. For young families with a child in the hospital in the city this can be exacerbated as they costs can be difficult

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

126 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
12 responses	13 responses	13 responses	42 responses	23 responses	17 responses	6 responses	6 responses

Comments

Always room but this is a way of life here that is deliberately chosen!
College increased courses. Not a lot of permanent work - short term. School seems to have difficulty recruiting staff, limiting range of subjects offered. Childcare very limited. Business start-up, space outside the town.
Currently, there seems to be an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work within the Oban area.
Definitely too many seasonal, low pay and temporary jobs particularly in the hospitality sector. More businesses need to be encouraged into the area however some Large Goods Vehicles need to be reduced to prevent damage to roads.
Don't know I'm retired
Good opportunities for part-time jobs whilst in education. Area struggles to attract teachers and doctors.
Housing and lack of childcare for school age children can impact on the recruitment of suitably qualified and experienced staff. Wide range of opportunities, home working is becoming increasingly popular though Internet access and speed can be an issue
I am retired. However it is clearly important to attract and keep younger people in the area. This should be a key aim for ABC (I appreciate it is already).
I recently moved to Oban and I have been looking for quality and qualified jobs for the past three months and could not find one. My wife works at SAMS but I feel that there is no place for me here and we will have to move closer to Glasgow for me to have a qualified job.
I think a lot of work is seasonal and poorly paid. My husband faced redundancy in the council this year after over 10 years with the council and there was really no equivalent work within travelling distance. I think this puts people off. In more populated areas, there are more alternatives if you lose your job. My colleague's husband is now being made redundant in the summer and is looking for work in a completely different sector to what he is trained in. I think work is very unsettled for families looking to move here. We find it hard to attract head teachers here and I am worried about the lack of teachers in my children's high school and the exam result record of the school.
Infrastructure is a barrier
It is really hard to advance one's career in Argyll and Bute; it is very easy to stagnate your career due to lack of opportunities for further career development.

It is very difficult to get good quality work if you have a disability. I feel that there is almost no understanding of relevant legislation - Equality Act 2010 - and the majority of jobs claim you need a driving licence even although this contravenes the Act (in fact the jobs just need you to get to different places, it's up to you how you get there, anyway there is the government funded 'Access to Work' scheme and it is the employer's responsibility to check this out and on top of that if they just think outside the box most distant meetings are unneeded - Skype would be just as good, much greener and waste less travel time.
It seems there are limited opportunities for young people.
Jobs tend to be part time. People stay in jobs a long time, not much opportunity to advance
Lots of businesses investing. Accommodation is a challenge - hard to attract specialists
Lots of businesses start up but not all make it. Lots of signs for "help wanted" but maybe young people don't want those kinds of jobs (in shops). What's the living wage? Depends on your lifestyle.
Lots of great job opportunities but people don't want to work!!
Many of the jobs available are on minimum wage but there are always jobs advertised in shops and hotels.
Most the work here is seasonal, short hours & minimum wage - Not very inspirational.
N/A retired
NA
No Comment
No knowledge of local job situation
Not got young ones to can't comment. More young ones in the town than there used to be - students: college, uni, SAMS etc. A few big shops which have never been filled up.
Oban has an active local economy with access to mainly jobs in the leisure industry, there are also many volunteering opportunities with charity, religious and other local groups
Oban has very seasonal in terms of employment, which is not great for young people. Also there are very few apprenticeships for young people locally.
Some places take advantage of young people - give them too many hours. Not necessarily sticking to the law
Struggling for teachers and doctors in the town
The general Oban area and north/ mid Argyll area is well served with a variety of job types, as a trades based person there are many opportunities for work for trades persons with good opportunities for young people who want to enter many of the trades through local employers
The range of local work is limited
There are plenty of employment opportunities, but there is a lack of higher paid jobs in the area whose economy depends mainly on the service sector.
There are very few highly skilled job opportunities. Investment in UHI and SAMS is crucial to attract and retain a young and intelligent workforce.
There have been improvements
There is access to work but not particularly good quality. Mainly tourist and service industry which pay lower wages and offer only part time or temporary contracts. The poor infrastructure in the west coast does not lend itself to economic development
There is an excess of unfulfilled vacancies locally
There needs to be an effort to get away from the seasonality locally , diversifying the business base, rather than a focus on retail and hospitality is badly needed
This is definitely not an issue in Oban - if people want to work there are numerous job opportunities
Unless it's council, building trades or NHS, everything else is in hospitality at minimum wage. Lower end of the pay scale. Nothing to keep our school leavers in the area.

Unsure...but at least it isn't as restrictive as the island communities.

Very little opportunity for full-time work

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

130 responses in total – Average Score of 3.7							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
22 responses	6 responses	28 responses	31 responses	24 responses	16 responses	3 responses	2 responses

Comments

A wide variety of housing types and locations in Oban are available but prices are high and demand is constant. The rise of Airbnb has swallowed up many properties recently making things harder for first time buyers and there seems to be a struggle for people coming to the area to rent property while looking for places to buy. The popularity of Oban as a tourist location does seem to be having a negative effect on people who want to move here or buy at reasonable cost
Affordable housing is a huge issue, buying is out of most people's budgets, private renting is expensive and the waiting lists for social housing are extensive. The proposed 300 new homes in Dunbeg which are a mix of sizes and types should help alleviate this issue.
Again I am a house owner so have no need myself but realise affordable housing is essential to retain younger people.
Big price jumps from ca. £100,000 - £200,000 which is hard for first time buyers. Lots of properties being developed in Oban but hard to find information on these properties with no show homes. Not a great range in these properties either, there is in terms of room numbers but not in style (e.g. all semi-detached houses). Not a lot of new detached bungalows etc. (or as far as I can see, perhaps accessibility to information is the real issue).
Challenging for people to purchase property if they wish due to properties being bought for the buyer to rent out, rent is at tourist rates and not affordable for the workforce. Waiting list for suitable rented accommodation to become available can be long
Depends what you are willing to do or do without. Do without luxuries and you can buy a house. Housing shortage for rental homes and affordable homes. Cost of moving can be prohibitive.
Don't know
Good mix of private and social housing.
House prices to buy still high and not in line with wages in the area. Rented housing good but not enough, although this is being addressed
Houses in Oban sell or rent out quickly, often sold privately. Because of holiday homes there is a shortage of accommodation -especially affordable accommodation. Some of the rental accommodation available is of poor quality. Some people renting from the council rent their rooms out as air B and B so not even renting a room longer term is very easy.
Housing Associations should be abolished. They should be replaced by tenants' co-operatives
Housing developments impact on amenities
Housing for teachers and doctors not available
Housing is too expensive in the Oban area and social rents are far too high as if competing with private. I shall be moving when my employment ceases.
I understand there is a high number of people in unsuitable housing.

Impacts on work and economy. Need a spread of private and affordable. Need a variety of sizes - current development are all the same sized housing.
It is impossible to get a house either to rent or to buy at a reasonable price. In addition, the fact that common spaces in buildings are not managed either by the building occupants or by an external factor makes living in Oban city centre much less attractive.
Lack of larger family housing over 3 bedrooms.
Local planning has always been slow and unimaginative.
Major shortage of affordable housing
More affordable local housing would be of benefit, and help with bringing employees into the area to fulfil much needed roles (e.g. in NHS and public sector jobs such as schools)
Need key workers housing to encourage teachers, doctors, nurses etc.
No housing for locals, young people and doctors
No social housing for big families
Oban appears to follow the national pattern in that additional housing is required. However, this housing need must be balanced by the requirement to retain existing "green" spaces. As I explained earlier, I am totally opposed to the proposed residential housing development at Lonan Drive, Soroba, Oban, on the grounds of retaining good quality natural space.
People are generally struggling with finances so they have little to spare for things like maintenance and up-keep of their properties. Council Tax is really expensive as is the cost of heating. People are barely getting by and are merely existing; that's if they can get a house. There are many people searching for long term rental properties that just do not exist here.
Please make house builders build something other than a box.
Probably limited space available in Oban town centre now especially for the older generation to stay in. Most of the building now in private ownership so unlikely to change and no open spaces available to build on.
Property to buy in Oban is expensive and often sells for well above the asking price. Property to rent is also scarce and there seems to be a big waiting list for social housing. Homelessness seems to be growing.
Sadly a lack of supported housing for the elderly et al means that they are hired off to areas distant from family and friends.
Seem to build in wrong places! Rented accommodation limited for new workers.
The housing built near me in Ganavan was told to provide affordable units but appear to have built these in the town. The last time I passed they all seemed to be holiday apartments. I would like to see Soroba housing improved and more of a demographic mix encouraged to live there, I think that the housing behind the hospital needs to have more play space and amenities. I would like a shop or a pub or a café at Ganavan so that I could meet with the people around me more.
The housing market is predominately for older people, very few housing availability for younger people
The rental sector/ buying of 1/2/3 bedroom houses to live in is appalling. People should be banned from air b'n'b outside their own home or buy to rent. This makes it extremely difficult for low paid people (esp with disabilities) to find anywhere to live.
There are a range of homes to buy, rent etc. but I feel that a lot are being used for holiday lets which may be an issue for local people wanting to stay in the area and grow within the community.
There aren't enough houses - the prices are horrendous. Not a buyers' market. There is no chance of getting on the property ladder which means people move away as they can't get a roof over their heads.
There seems to be little development of homes suitable for the aged, as previously stated ACHA appear to want to achieve a political gain.
There should be sufficient social housing to meet the demand

Think we could do with more affordable housing

Too much heavy density housing in area

Very hilly, poor bus service to some parts which makes staying in home a challenge as people age.

Very pressured housing market with restricted choice and affordability. New homes in Dunbeg
May help that. Lack of private rent.

We are a mixed age group community but need jobs for the young so we don't lose them

While there is a good range of housing available, there is a lack of affordable housing especially at the bottom end of the privately owned market and in the rental sector.

Young families and professionals struggle to access housing. West Highland Housing Association (WHA) good quality.

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

127 responses in total – Average Score of 4.2							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
7 responses	16 responses	15 responses	35 responses	26 responses	16 responses	12 responses	5 responses

Comments

A good mix of shops cafes leisure places and function suites in the area
A purpose built community centre would fulfil this need!!
Community bus for older people
Crianlarich and Tyndrum should be included in Argyll and Bute - not Stirling - young people can't participate in activities after school
Don't actively participate in any of suggested activities. So can't really comment.
Few spaces to meet - Rockfield will hopefully address this
Good mix of spaces but not everybody knows where they are. House building impacts on this.
I thought we were getting new community centre at Rockfield. Cannot find out what's happening. Public library should move to the Rockfield Centre. Was good when it used to be at Corran Halls
I wish there were late-night cafes like in cities, not just pubs.
If there weren't charities to help, they would struggle. Perception of people that need help, isn't always the same. Rural and remote can affect people in the town as well as out of it.
I'm disabled so given there's no public transport, I don't really get out much
It's taken me 5 years to access a community group that meets outside working hours. There are classes and resources I would like to access but they are all meeting within working hours.
Limited mostly private or business
Lots of opportunities are seasonal
Most places where people meet are within cafes etc. and therefore cost money. The outdoor areas within the town can really only be used during good weather.
Need a meeting place for teenagers. In my day we had cafes with juke boxes, ice creams, sodas etc. Lacking in Oban
No
No interest groups meeting outside work hours reliance on Facebook for communication is horrible
Not a lot of adults
Oban has lots of activities for all age range
Only locals Very little opportunity of meeting others except for the faux relationships one can develop on social media
Part of the old Rockfield school should be used as an internet cafe
I feel that people are apathetic in the local area. They want things being done but don't want to be involved
Retirement community activity is brilliant

Seil is a much closer and caring community than my previous home elsewhere in Scotland.
Spaces to meet improving. The Rockfield Centre, Dove Centre, Carer Centre, Hope , Atlantis Oban quite a welcoming town but perhaps more effort to welcome students Lot of isolation older people - hindered by lack of a supported transport service. Not everyone can travel or access bus
Still need a proper community hub - don't believe Rockfield will fulfil this. Atlantis good.
There are a few opportunities but there could be more. Not particularly easy to find out about.
There are a number of opportunities for the elderly to meet up with people and do things in most villages which is great. The main gap is for youth, there is no place for them to go. They especially need outdoor spaces such as skate parks and bike paths. This cannot solely be in major towns either; youth in villages deserve the same opportunities and infrastructure.
There are many opportunities to become involved in local groups and places like the Rockfield Centre excel at bring the community together for many activities throughout the year.
There are places in the town. I would like to see more amenities in the more populated residential areas.
There are plenty of places to meet. Most of these are owned commercially, so often require a fee to book. Cafes offer WIFI and coffee so people can meet here. However the library is the only space in town where you can come in and read, wait meet people or just wait without having to purchase anything. Limiting the hours of the Library will limit the spaces people can go that are free, warm and indoors. Whether they want company or not the library is somewhere you can go and not be judged, or hurried away. People inevitably only meet people like them, sporty people go to Atlantis, creative people to Rockfield . . . etc.
There is a gap in the range of spaces and opportunities for primary school children while the playpark for that age group at Atlantis Leisure, Oban, is "out of bounds" because of the health and safety issues involved. A speedy permanent resolution to this problem, which has dragged on for far longer than necessary, is required.
There is a range of spaces and places for people to meet but more indoor spaces are required to accommodate the vagaries of the Scottish weather.
There is little to do regarding development but there is a lack of enthusiasm, the golf club is suffering from management of improvement. There are adequate buildings such as schools halls for community occasions.
There isn't a decent range. It's up to people to choose to get involved.
Very active local community events to choose from
Very mixed according to your age group and interests.
Village halls and activities in halls within towns are available, transport for some members of the community can be an issue to attend the groups, even within the towns Funding to support the upkeep of Halls is becoming more difficult to access for the voluntary Sector
We do not have a lot of spaces as the weather can affect this. I feel that people mix very well.
Yes, village or church hall, various hotels.

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

129 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
7 responses	6 responses	8 responses	23 responses	29 responses	38 responses	18 responses	3 responses

Comments

As a person born in Oban who has always permanently lived here but worked temporarily all over Scotland, I can say that Oban is certainly one of the most welcoming places I have encountered. Most people I know view the town and also the wider Argyll area very positively
I believe the people in Oban have a positive attitude to its history and this is celebrated in many way throughout the year bringing together all walks of life irrespective of their age, sex, ethnicity, religion, sexuality of disability.
I like the community feel of the town, although it is rather poorly presented physically.
I think Oban has a strong community and sense of belonging.
I think the place has a positive and strong identity but I don't really feel I belong because I don't particularly enjoy traditional music and I can't speak Gaelic very well...but then that's down to me fairly much. I have felt more at home in more cosmopolitan places, but then they don't have the strong identity - which is good for tourism that pays our wages.
I think they should if they join local groups and mix with other people
It does have a positive identity however it takes time to be accepted by locals
Many people especially younger people feel there is not enough for them in the area, although there are many things to do if people make the effort to get involved.
Most people who have lived here for some time have considerable loyalty to it.
Moved here years ago. Feel accepted. Well promoted in terms of heritage. Feel there is a pride in Oban.
My experience is that people do feel they belong and are proud of Oban. The heritage and culture are celebrated through festivals, the Mod etc. There are a large number of community groups covering everything from Mental Health to End of Life Care.
Oban is torn between a place to visit or a place to travel through. Much more promotion of the area is needed.
Oban residents have always had a great attachment to their town and, whether as an individual or part of a community group, will continue to feel positive and connected.
Oban's one of these places that you have to leave to go and experience the things that other people take for granted, like clothing shops, decent entertainment., but after a couple of days away your desperate to get back to. Unfortunately Oban is geared up for tourists with very little thought given to the ordinary folk that live there, we can spend millions on a marina for visitors but there isn't a play park for the kids that live here
Positive identity - Yes - its Oban holiday town & the ferry town. Even after 12 years here is it home? Don't know, Yes & no.
Probably but not obvious until you get under the skin of the place!

Recently there was a keep Oban clean day which improved the appearance so quickly. The frontage is great in good weather for bringing folk out and making the place buzz. Helping this is the space available for proprietors to sell their wares outside their establishments.

Sense of feeling Oban is home although not born and raised here.

Sometimes a bit of "old Oban" which leaves incomers feeling not involved

Still feel like an outsider although I have lived in the area for 12 years.

Still split with "groups" of people depending on interests

strong voluntary sector promote identity and belonging across A&B

The strength of the voluntary sector helps the town. Lot of things would not happen without volunteers. More recognition on the heritage of the area but lot more could be offered. Do not do enough to celebrate our rich heritage

This town is full of generations of people, and has a sense of belonging in a small town. I feel that this can also exclude many new comers to the area. The marketing slogan for Oban was/is . . .Oban its closer than you think? I'm not sure that's good enough really. Oban is outwardly friendly. Many in Oban are socially isolated. They don't want to talk to people as it's a small town and terrible for talking about others, making people not want to share sometimes.

Yes

Yes - there is lots going on. Mainly yes. Heritage & Culture good.

Yes but the main George Street buildings need attention and shop units lying empty detract from what should be a thriving little seaside town especially with the substantial amount of tourists visiting here throughout the year.

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

129 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
2 responses	3 responses	4 responses	14 responses	32 responses	43 responses	31 responses	3 responses

Comments

A major attraction of the town
Alcohol and drugs an issue in town
Areas that would not use at night but most areas ok. Route lighting often off for long periods....repairs seem to be extremely slow!
Being an island any wrong doer has to get off it to escape detection so we are relatively safe!
Defiantly perhaps boringly so - Yes.
Due to changes in society A&B is changing with people feeling less secure as time passes, increase in substance misuse appears to have led to an increase in crime
Feel fairly safe, except in the tourist season when driving leaves a lot to be desired.
Have never felt unsafe, nor noticed any bigotry
I do not believe there are any issues around safety.
I feel very safe here. I even liked the BMX kids that caused the stooshie a while back.
I think Oban is probably the safest place I have ever lived in my life.
I would regard Oban as a fairly safe place to live but the area is blighted by the same problems as other communities, for example, drug and alcohol dependency and antisocial behaviour, although, possibly, not to the same extent. There are areas within Oban, for example, Jacob's Ladder and Mossfield Stadium, at night, which tend to be a magnet for unruly youths.
It feels like a safe town. Many leave their doors unlocked and are not worried about walking home at night alone. However there is an increasing undercurrent of drugs. This doesn't make the town feel safe and it does worry me the effect of the availability of drugs and drink to young people and how this will affect them now and longer term.
More cameras
Nervous after M&S robbery - not a lot of crime but when you hear about it, it makes you feel unsafe
No buses to get me home at night, though, and no pavements.
Oban feels safe in general.
Oban is a safe place
Quite a safe place to live generally.
Scottish Police officers are great, they look after us they are our family
Sense of community among neighbours
Sometimes there are strange people about and you need to be careful
The crime rate is lower than in the cities but there is a drug problem which is concerning.
The larger the population gets the more the crime will increase one can only hope the police who do a great job will be given support.

There appears to be little antisocial behaviour in the area; although this might be due to my naiveté.

There are a few areas of town which can be daunting to use especially at night, and there can be a problem with antisocial behaviour.

Though people don't look out for each other as much as they used to, there's still a strong sense of community.

Until very recently I would have said that you could leave your door open with no worry of anything. An unfortunate increase in theft and burglary has changed that

Would like to see more police foot patrols and more community policing

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

127 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
12 responses	10 responses	26 responses	24 responses	44 responses	9 responses	2 responses	5 responses

Comments

Allowing an old school (Rockfield) in the centre of town to be left so long while windows were smashed and cracks appear in the outer structure can't be good.
As specified previously, the absence of a management/factor for the building common spaces makes the building no well cared for.
As well as can be given the current financial restrictions.
Blocks of flats require common repairs such as roofs yet many residents are reluctant to invest. A council scheme to promote factoring and the importance of repairing roofs and render would improve the buildings. There are a number of properties opposite the Doctors surgery in Oban in need of compulsory repairs or sale to improve the appearance of the Combie street area.
Bridge across from primary campus to Eader Glynn
Cannot comment here
Council properties are generally poorly maintained and unattractive. I feel that the Moleigh tip is a disgrace. Poorly maintained, too small, virtually unsupervised, staff hiding in the portakabin, with no help to the public at all. I am a pensioner who has had to find a brush and sweep up glass lying all over the ground, find it almost impossible to access the high skip containing garden waste, which is usually stacked high, skips not labelled, white goods all over the place.....No real incentive to recycle. Rubbish collection is at times rather hit and miss.
Due to cutbacks, public spaces have been less well cared for of late.
Generally good but the cuts to services in recent years have been noticeable with roadside and amenity area grass cutting being reduced. Authorities do have a difficult job in trying to continue services on reduced budgets out with their control and I appreciate their efforts to maintain
George Street and parts of Combie Street and Soroba Road are run down but these properties will be in private ownership so not much can be done.
Good provision of bins for dog mess. Noticing young people have a better attitude to litter.
Great efforts but limited resource. Needs to expand. Need to get communities involved.
I believe Oban has been maintained well during the time I have lived here and although recycling could be better e.g more recycling within the town.
I think, compared to many other Scottish towns Oban is well cared for and well presented. I am not fond of the dog poop bags on the fences though. I wish people would bin them.
In general, buildings and spaces are well cared for. Two areas which definitely could be improved are Oban town centre street cleaning and the civic amenity site at Moleigh, which caters for Oban and the surrounding area. Currently, the amount of waste fridge/freezer/electrical equipment held on site at Moleigh is close to becoming a health and safety issue and is affecting the passage of traffic through the site.

Like everywhere there is some graffiti but anti-social behaviour isn't a big problem. Action is taken over dog fouling and the Council and Housing Associations together with the Police tackle any incidents of anti-social behaviour.
Looks nice on a sunny day
Lot of litter around the town, need to educate the young about litter,
Low rated due to dog mess, uplift of general household waste needs to be weekly
Maintenance of spaces dropping back. Cemeteries not as well cared. Pavements outside town centre, weeds and shrubs not cleared Recycling is nowhere near enough options, reduced bins making it worse.
Maintenance or the lack of, this is where I feel let down, with the roadsides, public building appearances & the landlords of the buildings in George street etc...
More litter bins needed in public spaces
More regular collection of green bins needed
Not at all. Police building, for one, is a disgrace to Oban. I feel that the Lorn Hotel is disgusting
Not done properly
Recycling bins at Tesco in Oban are constantly full. Industrial bins used for communal flats are not changed regularly enough so rubbish either lies on the ground or when bad weather rolls in there is litter everywhere from the recycle bin.
Refuse collection 3 weeks not suitable. Housing associations good.
Roads are often full of potholes. There is a lot of litter on the verges along Glengallan Road and Soroba Road. This never seems to be cleared up.
Roadsides are not well-tended and there are increasing amounts of litter and dog poo (strange as I felt this had been decreasing markedly over the past 20 years but this year I have noticed it much worse).
Some are but most look dated and uninviting. Some effort has been made by some shop owners but there are still more to do
Sometimes there is a lot of litter and local authorities do not have the manpower to sort this.
Streets are absolutely minging. Streets not in public view e.g. Soroba bridge, back of Aldi etc. are minging. Need cameras to reduce vandalism
The refurbishment of the town centre made it look great but it's not being maintained, the pavements around station square and the esplanade are already disgusting with chewing gum and dirt.
The town is very run down and dirty, lots of litter from all the take away/ fish and chip shops
There are a lot of old buildings which contribute to Oban looking 'poor' There is a need for external business investment and Bid4Oban needs to be kept and developed
There are lots of local groups that look after their own area, several charities arranging litter picks etc. Dog mess is a problem, increasing number of people owning dogs and not picking up mess as they believe they can't be seen - especially at Ganavan, pulpit hill areas/paths.
There are well-known sites where litter is dropped and left for volunteers to collect.
There is not enough money in the Council's budget to properly maintain facilities and deal with litter etc. Not all parts of town have an active residents association, so people do not know how or who to raise concerns with.
Think town looks quite nice. Places out of the way not maintained as well. There are a few derelict properties/sites that have been empty for a long time e.g. McDougall's
Too many empty shops and buildings many now looking uncared for
Town is kept well-maintained now. Volunteers keep it clean.
Verges, parks, pavements etc. are not as well maintained Reduction in Refuse collection has caused issues with waste left lying and spilling onto the pavements, not everyone can access the

dump, glass recycling bins should be provided to homes Pride in peoples communities seems to have dwindled over the years

Walls. Oban has/had beautiful stone walls which are now poorly and unskilfully maintained, if at all. They could be a wonderful feature of the town and a USP. Locals could be trained in working with lime mortar (NOT cement) and removing ivy and reusing stones to rebuild broken damaged walls. I think Robert MacFie of Airds <http://oldappin.com/robert-macfie-of-airds/> donated money for buildings walls all around the town (Pulpit Hill, Albany St) also along ~Gallanach Road and Shore Street lovely old characterful walls are being lost.

Waste food collections not available - goes into landfill but should go into composting. This service is available elsewhere (e.g. Helensburgh). Bins can be foul after a couple of weeks.

We have a good housing association, however when it comes to upgrading property i.e. flats with home owners, the cost is excessive and work therefore is not complete.

We have great ideas but not always the infrastructure to deliver it. Dogs are a big problem - but it's the owners. Paths need cut back greenery all over town.

We need litter bins for dog poo as some people don't pick up.

Why are we not getting the kind of investment that places like Inverness do?

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

127 responses in total – Average Score of 3.4							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
22 responses	15 responses	27 responses	28 responses	21 responses	10 responses	4 responses	5 responses

Comments

A reasonable amount of community opinion is asked for.
Absolutely not, I feel that the town is run by the Oban mafia it's what you know it's who you know
I feel that Argyll and Bute Council are prone to introduce rules and regulation without notification or warning i.e. removing the A boards from outside businesses in the town, very complicated and expensive parking charges. This is surely not an incentive to encourage tourism.
As I work full time I don't particularly want to get too involved with community groups/Councils although I am aware of the work that they do. They are always looking for members and do good work locally.
I feel that because our local authority is based elsewhere there is no local decision making. Things are done TO us and not BY us.
Can take part in seniors forum, feel listened to. Able to get a consensus to lobby for change.
Can't think of an example where the community council has made a difference
I feel that a certain type of person contributes
Communication can be a problem as people do not always know when and where they can contribute to discussions about decisions which can affect them. Community service groups can be inward looking and do not always let the people know what is happening.
Communities complain about things e.g. traffic and parking and nothing's done
Consultation is rare, and action based on consultation rarer.
Consultations but no feedback, no demonstration in where community influence. Lack of engagement ...often done deal before community informed. Communication a two way street but not it would seem in Argyll
Definitely not. This is largely down to the current influences of key local people. It is also obvious that some simply can't agree and then nothing gets done.
Hard to gauge at times, certain people and groups seem to dominate discussion on many issues and the ordinary person is drowned out
I am able to express opinions, which if they don't fit the council's agenda are ignored, e.g. Wetherspoons, where there were sufficient objections to warrant a public consultation , which was ignored.
I am on the residents association so work hard to help local residents, and air my own views, to make our area better.
I feel I take part in a lot of surveys but am not convinced that my opinions are considered. I think surveys capture the zeitgeist.
It seems that the local authority has little money and little political will to improve things. Some individual Councillors' very helpful but as a whole a dysfunctional council.

New to the area but I believe there is a strong community spirit in the town and no doubt some of the issues I have mentioned have been raised by them.
No
Nope.
Not asked apart from today.
Not everyone is able to contribute or willing contribute to developments and help shape plans etc. Voluntary Sector Youth Groups are often not included with the focus on gathering children and young people's views through Schools
Oban residents, rightly or wrongly, have a lack of trust in senior local authority figures, for example, elected councillors, planning officers or local housing association officials. I tend to believe many elected or appointed officials, including councillors, lose their connection with the general public and are unduly influenced by businesses or external sources.
On the fence on this one, yes we get involved locally but how much influence do we have? Not sure.
I think that people do not like to be heard. They do not like to attend groups.
I feel that people don't respect young people's views. I seek out opportunities to have my voice heard - not many are welcoming to young people
People say they are not listened to but don't turn up to local meetings or Oban Community Council. So yes, if they wanted they could be involved or listened to
Planning decisions seem not to take account of the views of residents' e.g. new housing causing more congestion and new housing with no amenities like a shop.
Proportional representation is the best way of making decisions
The only consultation I have been involved with was over the decision to increase the parking meters and removal of any free parking in Oban which I felt like the decision had already been made and any views put forward were not being taken into account.
The opportunity is there to contribute and make voices heard.
There has been a lot of local discussion regarding the congestion of the two main routes into Oban yet little has happened to improve the situation. Rather than open a relief road or develop a by-pass the other solution would be to limit the cars using the roads. One way is to have higher taxes for second or more cars per household.
Through my Councillors
We need a locally planned and locally managed plan
We try to speak, does anyone listen, certain areas seem to get the money, facilitates grants?

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

- Places for youth to gather and have fun such as skate parks but they need to be in villages and not just the major towns. - lack of housing; housing is not well maintained. - Poverty, people are not living they are merely existing due to high cost of rent, heating, council tax and poor wages.
* Lack of safe walking/ cycling routes in and around the town * Bottle necks for traffic causing lack of patience from drivers & dangerous roads * Lack of flat free at point of use playing surfaces for children, young people and families *Lack of playparks *Lack of free social spaces for people to meet or not be alone
1. Communication 2. Lack of Council budget 3. Parking
1. Resources, travel (particularly from the islands) services for locals not just tourists, better services, more amenities, 2. More high street chains to provide competition and bring down the prices in a very expensive place to live, 3. Massive spending on buildings and infrastructure but not at the cost of services, better traffic management.
A decent tip at Moleigh. Work with shop landlords and owners to improve appearance of shopping area.
Address the Soroba Road traffic problem. Provide footpaths in areas where there are none. Make parking charges more reasonable for local people.
Affordable Housing (not rent) Traffic congestion and flow including HGV/LGV Parking Town Improvements and range of goods on offer.
All is still as 300 yrs ago nothing new, even the food has not changed and the care for the elderly is super bad the safety could be better there is nothing we like where we can spend our money with even the ice-cream is with no flavour, but we love the nature and applied to live in Scotland since 2017 and up till today no response, shame on Scotland.
Area of the town should be put into zones for residential and business. Business involved in non-catering/ hospitality should be encouraged to relocate to the industrial designated areas on the edge of town and away from residential areas
As noted.
Better affordable local housing needs Improved parking in Oban (including all day / long stay at an affordable price) Addressing the traffic bottleneck in Oban Cycle paths next to main roads to improve safety and maintain flow of traffic for all road users
Better infrastructure so that the area is more accessible from central belt. More economic development to give better job opportunities Wider choice in the housing market
Better parking and better facilities for walking and cycling.
Better upkeep of towns to ensure visual impact, encourage communities to have a pride in their own communities. Support for patients and their families if they are required to attend appointments, stays in hospitals away from home Transport to bring those who wish to attend groups etc.
-Congestion -new housing placing a strain on infrastructure -litter -bus timetables
Derelict Buildings Litter Lack of pavements
Employment opportunities for younger people. Affordable housing for them.
Establish residents parking only time slots such as 8:00 to 10:00 and 17:00 to 22:00. Absence of quality/qualified jobs. Absence of care for building common areas.
Firstly, as a concerned and affected resident, I am totally opposed to the proposed housing development at Lonan Drive, Soroba, Oban. The proposed development is wrong on so many fronts, for example, overdevelopment, unsuitable infrastructure and loss of "green" area, to name but a few. The overwhelming local opposition to the development cannot be ignored Secondly, a complete review of Oban and surrounding area parking policy where decisions taken are not driven purely by finance. It is unfair and unreasonable that Oban and surrounding area residents should bear the responsibility for raising, by far, the lion's share of the parking income. Lastly, a

review of the civic amenity / waste disposal site at Moleigh, near Oban, where the storage of an excessive amount of fridge/freezer/electrical equipment is causing severe operational problems for both employees and customers. Removal of the redundant electrical equipment is essential on health and safety grounds.
Fix the parking in Oban, either by providing park & ride or cheaper long term parking and looking at how parking permit holders can use other car parks when there are no spaces in their zone. Provide easier access to recycling within the town
Getting private landlords in Oban to sort out their buildings on the outside. Car parking for the local workforce. Job opportunities.
Housing for first time buyers and young families. Parking and traffic
Housing Jobs Towns versus Rural area priorities!
Housing; Care Support for the elderly and those with developmental issues; natural environment.
Improve cycle ways so that access from Oban to Connel is complete and a cycle way south of Oban. Improve the rural bus service.
Improve facilities for recreation for disabled increase opportunities to prevent loneliness in all age groups
Improved roads, to help access to market for business, and might attract some light industrial businesses to locate here. Less favouring of larger corporates by the council, which just leads to money leaving the area. Clampdown on the fly by night air bnb operators who take but do not put back
Increase in apprenticeship for young people Improve car parking in summer months Improve pavements
It's time the planners realised Oban has reached its capacity it can take me 40 minutes to go from the hospital to the Lynn road junction (0.75km) because of the number of cars on Soroba Rd, and it's only going to get worse. Strangely enough there were no incidences of gridlock whilst the schools were on summer holidays. (go figure)
Lack of council support for voluntary groups. Travel in Oban at times due to amount of traffic
Lack of vision with council officials, lack of parking close to the town centre, leading to people driving round and round and round, leading to spend going out of town
Mini-Bus service. parking
More housing for people who work here.
More parking, especially for disabled residents
Oban and the surrounding area are at capacity, it can't cope with anymore new housing developments
Oban needs external investment, bringing in new people and ideas. Shops closing on the main street could lead to visitors seeing Oban as a rundown derelict town I mean no offence but look at poor Helensburgh's main street
Oban town centre traffic congestion at peak times affects negatively on people trying to get to or from work the town centre is being improved year on year and this must be maintained Affordable housing for rent and to buy has to increase to continue to let people either move to the town or to keep people in the area for all communities benefit
Parking
Parking and lack of within town. Overcrowding of traffic leading to gridlock. Residential parking not being recognised as such. Local authorities not respecting residential parking as such for residents. Poor maintenance of local authority and housing association green areas. Poor maintenance of public foot paths . Poor lighting on public footpaths.
Parking Better pavements
Parking, housing, looking after our community

Poor travel service for people coming off islands, lack of affordable housing, poor public transport, lack of local amenities, particularly for younger children and teenagers,
Potholes and reforestation should be addressed.
Prioritizing walking and cycling. Being nice isn't enough, it will only work the average motorist is actively disadvantaged by widening pavements, lowering speed limits, increasing the number of pedestrian crossings and using CCTV to catch bad drivers when complaints are made. Getting rid of dog poo.
Public transport. Traffic. Roads.
Repair and maintenance of existing housing stock. Investment in high street properties or rates reduction to encourage new business. Encourage highly skilled professionals to remain in the area by assisting industries such as aquaculture, IT, engineering firms and financial institutions to move here.
Road improvement Over development of ACHA for political gains not enough for the local aged Having a say in what happens to our environment.
Road improvements and building conditions.
Services - keeping it local. Hospital/ care Parking and transport
The need for a Gaelic stand-alone school. The lack of green designated recreational areas. Un used empty buildings
The need for a purpose built community centre. Addressing parking issues and keeping green space. Making our town centre pavements clear by removing all obstructions.
The old stone walls to be restored and maintained in the traditional way
There should be more opportunity for health and fitness. Atlantis delivers a good service but the centre needs to be modernized, a larger gym and exercise studio is required.
Traffic congestion in Oban. Better public transport after hours. More outlying amenities.

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

- invest in youth and youth spaces which saves money in the long term in regards to delinquency - fix the council buildings: Oban Education Office is not fit for purpose. - assist those on low incomes to have an actual quality of life - create more housing
1. Communications must be improved - this is not difficult but just needs a bit of effort. 2. The taxation system in the country needs a massive reorganisation so that enough revenue is raised to allow adequate spending on all essential services for the benefit of all residents and visitors. 3. The lack of a properly thought out parking strategy for the area dissuades people from staying longer in the area, especially the town centre.
A by-pass for Oban no new housing without addressing local infrastructure to support it fly tipping and litter on the streets (away from the town centre) to be addressed bus services to be improved
As noted
Better enforcement of planning controls
Build a multi storey car park. Maintain pavements.
Build an overdue multi story car park, stop using Oban as a cash cow,
Building enforcement warrants on building owners. Better wage policy. Regular maintenance on roads, verges, common grounds, parks & the cycle path before it disappears under growing grass & vegetation.
Bypass from Connel to Kilmore - back road made two lanes. One bus at 10pm (or when things come out at the Corran Halls etc) going from Oban to places like Kilmore, Benderloch, Ganavan, Connel. Business rates cut for cafes etc in residential areas.
Consultation for a Gaelic stand-alone school. Use and improve Green areas to create a designated recreational space. Lower shop rates and offer incentive s for new business
Council Budget priorities - non essential services, what are important and have the most impact? Promote community Involvement Promote any available benefits financial support to patients and their families
Encourage development of derelict buildings Action should be taken against litter louts, whatever age Pavements should be included in any building applications
Engage Sustrans and sustainable travel options for the town - Prioritise in Council strategy. This needs to be for 15 mile radius of the town Take locks off of the playing fields and allow access to people and families Park and ride scheme that includes a Boris bike option Find small areas where a basketball hoop can be put up for social play Find areas to paint goals on side of buildings so children can play football use local businesses to support small projects to fun small projects create route database of safe walks for children and families Include safe places for family cycle rides Reduce traffic in the town Help people to cycle and walk to work and school
Establish residents parking only time slots such as 8:00 to 10:00 and 17:00 to 22:00. For the others, you can figure that out.
Extend and refurbish the site at Moleigh. Resurface pavements in George Street.
Ferry's and public transport that would allow people from the islands to access a reasonable working day, better access to housing, improve and increase housing stock, look at amenities for children, conditions of playparks etc. look at restrictions and cost of parking in area.
Fill in holes in the road properly, not just a dod of tarmac which flips out as soon as traffic passes out.
Firstly, ensure the proposed housing development at Lonan Drive, Oban is rejected. Secondly, conduct a comprehensive parking review for Oban and surrounding area based on operational need rather than financial gain. Lastly, closer local authority supervision of the contractor run civic amenity / waste disposal site at Moleigh, near Oban to ensure site is operationally safe and complying with health and safety guidelines.

Government needs to invest in the West Coast to reduce de-population. Stop spending disproportionate amounts of public money on tiny isolated communities when investment in the main population centre on the West Coast and other mainland settlements would help to resolve some of the issues highlighted. Good road infrastructure is critical.
Identify it as a project
Improve the Glenshellach road to allow traffic flow from the Glengallan road area into town. Investigate the possibility of a town by-pass to allow Southern traffic to avoid the town Rather than put old folk in government homes build more bungalows for the aged. The local government could hold referendums but we have seen these have problems but this is one way
Investment in housing advisors to project manage large common repairs in Dunollie/Longsdale/Town centre areas. A 1 hour train link to Glasgow. This would be incredible for business and retaining young professionals in the area.
Look at a park and ride option over summer months Open the high school car park during summer Make use of minibuses that sat at OHS all summer! Support older people to socialise Recycling.....make it easier to recycle. Not everyone has a car to go to Moleigh, Lighting - staff to repair would be good! Listen to the needs of community not the latest quick fix
More encouragement for tourism would bring more employment opportunities. The west coast has fabulous natural and built environment and an important heritage, but is not on the main tourism itineraries.
More investment and dedicated working individuals.
More spending, less of a local monopoly, more support for locals and less focus on tourists.
More support for local groups. Apart from a by-pass, not a lot can be done
More support to committee working tirelessly to build centre. Double yellow lines, traffic warden presence to combat parking. No building on green space. Fines for bins left on street, seating on town centre pavements made smaller and A boards removed.
Multi story car park at Corran Halls
Multi story car park, more pedestrian areas. (Stafford Street has worked well).
New build for young families. A less confusing motor system and long term parking. Tourist and camper van facilities for our summer visitors.
Oban bypass should be prioritised Continuation of aesthetic improvements to town centre Monitor of housing developments to meet the needs with regular review of requirements
Parking permit holders should be able to park in Oban if they cannot get a space within their zone without having to pay extra, or make the zones permit holders only. Add recycling bins at convenient locations within the town.
Prioritizing walking and cycling. Being nice isn't enough, it will only work the average motorist is actively disadvantaged by widening pavements, lowering speed limits, increasing the number of pedestrian crossings and using CCTV to catch bad drivers when complaints are made. Getting rid of dog poo.
Provide a limited bus service. Some double yellows, with spaces left for residents on Ardconnel and Rockfield Roads.
Pursue private business to bring new money, new jobs and new ideas. It's why I think Bid4Oban, given time will won through Maybe Scottish Enterprise?
Release of some land for private builds (not developers) and some areas for small estates. Remove the ability to park both sides of George street and improve the park and ride. Out of town Business park whereby road links for HGV/LGV are better (possibly a bypass). Large warehousing for goods which may be distributed by smaller vans. An area near to Connel would be good as the airport could be used for delivery of high value items.
Review and fix. Take ownership and stop trying to abdicate responsibility
Speak to highways department re road issues and building control / planning re building conditions.

Stop any more housing development in the area(the town has reached capacity) put the pavements back to their original width in front of Matheson House so cars heading up Soroba Rd can get past lorries turning into Lynn rd. Stop cars turning right across the traffic flow on Soroba Rd to go up Millar Rd the list is never ending but traffic flow is the main issue

Stop granting planning permission for all these new houses

Stop wasting funds on Unicorn policies and minority pressure groups

Take over some of the air bnb and holiday let's. It is sad to see so many empty properties when you know so many people are desperately looking for a home!

The space in Atlantis could be used better - mezzanine floors to provide more and larger studios.

Unsure. Learning from other districts with what works, more transparent consultations/more availability of information.

Use common sense, please.

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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