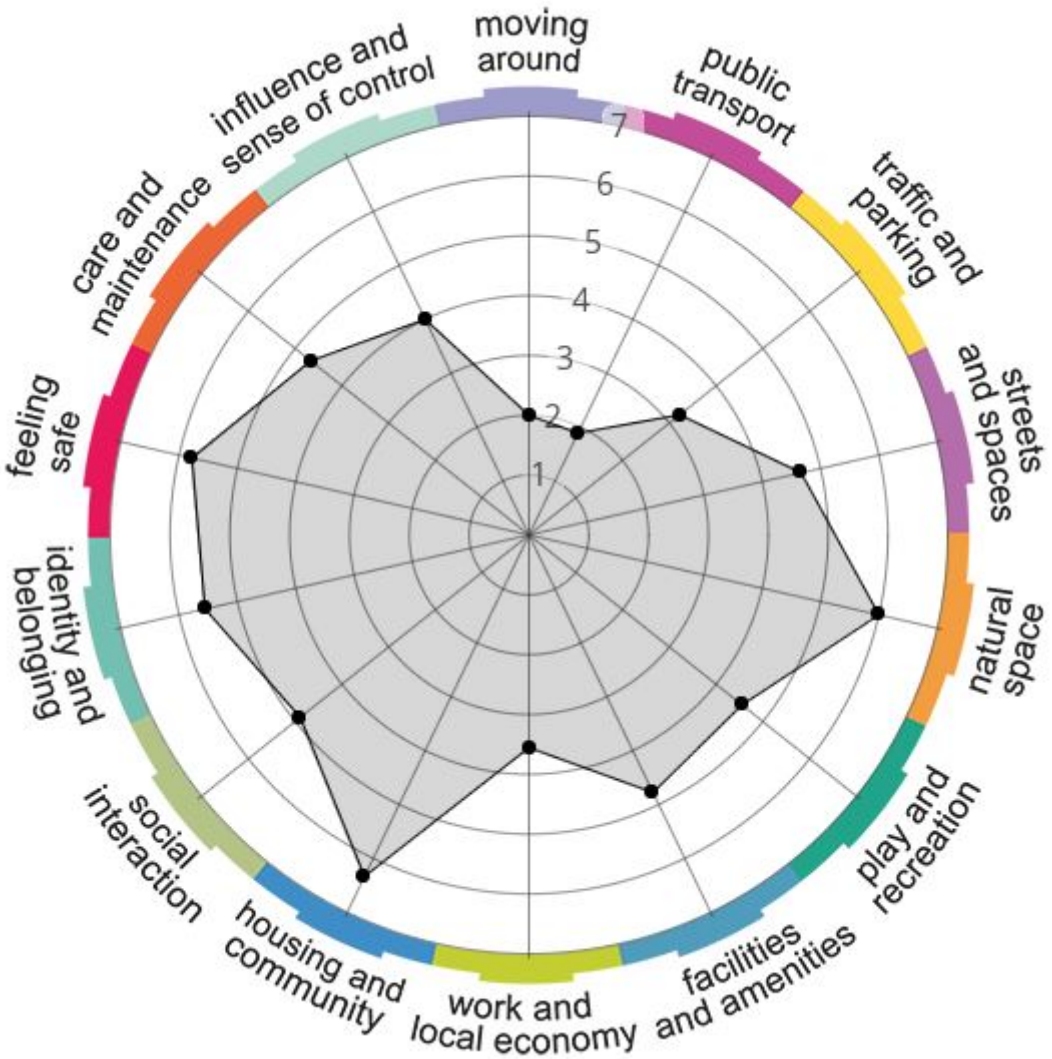
Portincaple Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:

Public Transport

Moving Around

Traffic and Parking

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next steps

This information is helping to shape plans for the area. Other information such as information from partners' data and statistics is also used to consider priorities for improvement. The CPP will analyse the information to identify priority themes for improvement within each of the four administrative areas and shape actions to address these where this is possible with resources.

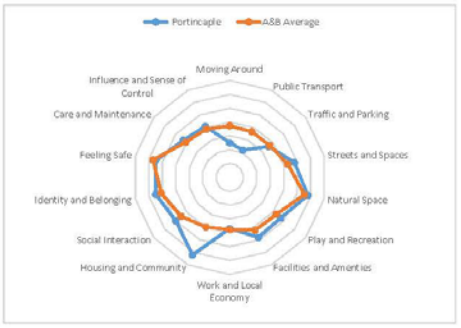
We are currently mapping out what activity is already happening, what is planned within the next 3-4 years and where the gaps are. This information will be considered by both the CPP Management Committee and the Area Community Planning Groups to shape the actions.

The final agreed actions will become part of our four Area Community Planning Action Plans, due to be refreshed in 2021. To get involved, contact your local Area Community Planning Group.

Portincaple Responses

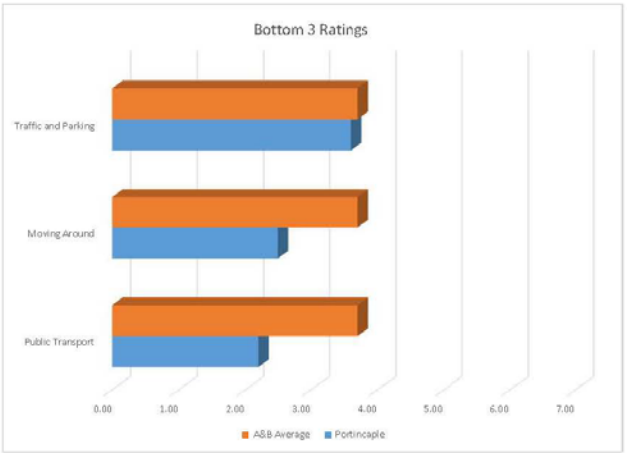
Our Top Rated Areas are:

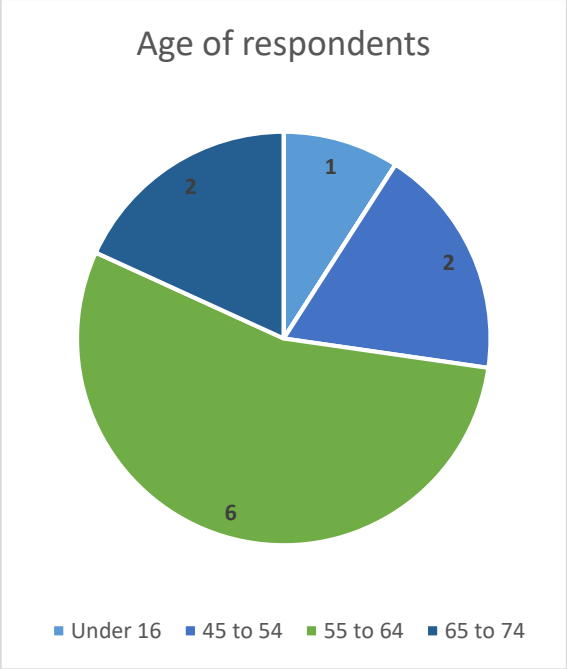
Housing and Community	Respondents rated this area 6.2 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4 out of 7.
Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 5.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
Identity and Belonging	Respondents rated this area 5.5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.1 out of 7.

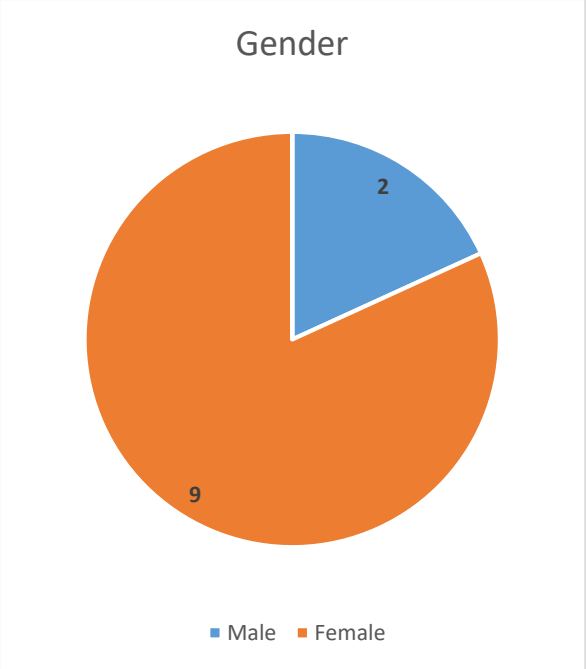


Areas of desired improvement are:

Public Transport	Respondents rated this area 2.2 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
Moving Around	Respondents rated this area 2.5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
Traffic and Parking	Respondents rated this area 3.6 out of 7 compared to Argyll &Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.







Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Q2. Public Transport	2.2
Q1. Moving Around	2.5
Q3. Traffic and Parking	3.6
Q8. Work and Local Economy	3.7
Q14. Influence and Sense of Control	4.1
Q13. Care and Maintenance	4.3
Q6. Play and Recreation	4.7
Q7. Facilities and Amenities	4.8
Q4. Streets and Spaces	4.8
Q10. Social Contact	5.0
Q11. Identity and Belonging	5.5
Q12. Feeling Safe	5.5
Q5. Natural Space	5.8
Q9. Housing and Community	6.2

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 2.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
6 responses	0 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Dangerous roads to nearest shops in Garelochhead.
Hilly area so cycling is tricky!
I live on A814 to Arrochar, there is no footpath/cycle track and the road can get very busy during the summer.
No pavements or safe roads to walk along
Not enough bus stops, roads are poor quality. Not enough cycle or walking routes.
There are no safe walking or cycling routes in or around Portincaple.
There are no safe walking or cycling routes in Portincaple. There are no pavements or lighting and the only road is single track and has a 60 mph limit. There are no walking or cycling links to Garelochhead or beyond. It is certainly not safe to walk on the road in winter. The road is increasingly busy with additional houses being built in the hamlet yet no improvement to the road has been made.
There are steep hills to negotiate both in and out of the community, and when arriving at the main road it is narrow with no escape routes to avoid traffic even walking is treacherous.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 2.2							
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	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Dial-a-bus service only
No Buses run past the house. Have to walk into Garelochhead for nearest bus stop
No public transport links - 2 miles from nearest bus / train
No public transport. Garelochhead buses could divert to pass near roundabout
Not enough buses or bus stops.
The only public transport available is dial a bus which lacks convenience and requires a lot of planning ahead of any trip.
There is a bus service on demand but for normally fit adults we require to walk two miles to Garelochhead. There was a very useful train station close to the community but this was closed in 1964. A request stop would make access very much better
There is no public transport from or to Portincaple. The nearest public transport is in Garelochhead to which there is no safe walking route. There is a my bus facility but this requires a great deal of forward planning and is very limited in its availability such that it is of no use.

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

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

Comments

No parking arrangements
No problems currently with traffic or parking. Feuins Road is very narrow but since we have little traffic it rarely causes any problems.
No speed restriction in the village.
Not much public parking available. People have to use the Green Kettle car park.
The main road although narrow still has to cope with residents having to park off their driveway in inclement weather when access and egress is impossible.
Traffic is increasing exponentially in the hamlet. Each new build brings two or three additional cars, multiple delivery vans, lorries and cars. Visitors - mostly fisher-people and tourists (who enter and exit without stopping as they meet a dead end and no access to the shore) park in the road narrowing the carriage way and making the road even more dangerous for pedestrians. The one - essentially single track road - is increasingly busy and increasingly noisy. We have lived here for more than 20 years and over that time there has been a notable increase in traffic. I feel unable to walk the road for pleasure at all and must use my car if I wish to get a pint of milk.
Visitors to Portincaple park on any available verges which restricts road width.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 4.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
2 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses	3 responses	2 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

Alright
Beautiful place to live!
No public buildings and council seem determined to waste or develops green spaces. Local view point at Whistlefield used as storage for road clippings for 6 months over summer months
The area does have a great deal of views of the surrounding area as housing does encroach although further development may well obscure these views. This has already happened with one house on the access road which has been given planning permission although fortunately not yet built.
You cannot pass through Portincaple. The hamlet is very pretty. Bad weather combined with the steep slope when exiting and entering the hamlet makes it very dangerous if more than one car is trying to exit the village at the same time.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	1 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

Fantastic quality natural space!
Hermitage Park is a disgrace - left like a building site and about to be overrun by Japanese Knot weed!
Local area - no council involvement
Nice beaches
Rural area but limited access due to lack of foot path on road
Walking on the road can be dangerous but there are few paths in the surrounding countryside but this is fine in winter but in summer there are too many ticks and tall bracken which makes walking difficult for all but the really determined
We have a lovely area of natural space to enjoy but this is being eroded constantly with developments in the hamlet.

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

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

Comments

2 mile walk to Garelochhead Astro turf - can only be used when not on hire
Again Hermitage Park is a local open space that's in a dreadful state and apparently abandoned and half completed
Hermitage Park and the skate park.
No facilities at all for children
There is wild land to explore but again this is being eroded yet there is nothing else or any plans to compensate for the loss.
We have the great outdoors on our doorstep

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 4.8							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	3 responses	3 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

A good selection of small independent retailers - too many charity shops in the central area
If no transport unable to do shopping. School ok but again council supply transport
No amenities in Portincaple, however there are sufficient for my needs nearby in Garelochhead or Helensburgh.
There is not the will from the community to support commercial amenity, nature supplies all that the community requires.
We have no facilities or amenities without having to travel by car to reach them.

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

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

Comments

Have to travel but that is one of the reasons I chose to live here
I work from home and this is challenging sometimes with the very slow internet speeds we have in Portincaple. Hopefully this will be improving in the near future. For others in the hamlet there are very limited opportunities without having to travel further afield.
Local work (HMNB or Coulport) is being given to firms out with area
This is only a dormitory community with no space or requirement for employment
Work can only be accessed using a car.

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

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

Comments

It is alright.
It is too small an area for much of a mix and the lack of public transport dictates that houses are for retired people or commuters.
More houses being purchased for use as holiday lets
The hamlet is too small for much diversity. There should be a limit on further building as the settlement cannot cope with further expansion.
There are a few short term renting opportunities and a mix of sizes of private housing to suit the a broad demography of residents

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

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

Comments

Again distance is a problem - if I want my kids to attend brownies, guides or scouts I have to travel 10 miles (20miles round trip)
No community hub in Portincaple.
One would have to travel to Garelochhead or Helensburgh and the only viable way of doing this is by car.
There are no areas for meeting and the road means meeting neighbours is almost impossible in any weather. However, I think most people who live here have moved for the isolation not social interaction.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	4 responses	2 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

Holiday let's and with no area / place for locals to meet it can be very isolating
Sometimes
Strong sense of belonging exists in Portincaple. Could be improved with a community hub.
This rating will dramatically fall if the hamlet grows in size to any degree.

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

11 responses in total – Average Score of 5.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses	3 responses	2 responses	4 responses	0 responses

Comments

Colquhoun square a successful transformation could be used for more community activities -
Generally feel safe except when I want to walk anywhere from the house as there is no footpath
I feel safe with my community but too many visitors in the summer abuse the locals and spoil natural amenity of the settlement leaving all kinds of litter including human waste.
It is safe at present because of the isolated nature of the settlement. Proposed developments for the hamlet would seriously threaten this feeling.
Shore based anglers from outside can cause disturbance pollution with rubbish and local theft mainly in summer months with long daylight hours.
Strangers speeding along road with no respect for locals or kids playing - holiday lets
There aren't enough streetlights but apart from that I feel safe.

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

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

Comments

Local residents' association recently set up and seems to be working effectively for the benefit of the community. Limited interaction with the Community Council.
No local buildings to maintain, library in Garelochhead was left years in disrepair before being demolished. School windows still boarded up months after being broken
Older buildings are badly maintained - private landlords/factors don't look after them - trees growing out of gutters etc., rotten neglected buildings/windows/down pipes & gutters. Wheelie bins left in streets permanently, chewing gum/cigarette ends/litter on pavements.
Recycle areas and rubbish collections could be improved
The verges are not maintained and add to safety issues on the one single track road. The dangerous bend sign is faded and hidden by vegetation. The council seems not to care about Portincaple. We only have a large glass bin at a central location. This is not usable for those unable to carry heavy glass waste. I imagine those with mobility problems would be unable to live in Portincaple.
There is little or no verge maintenance and recycling of glass is central. It is not possible to carry heavy glass to the central recycling facility in Portincaple and individual uplifts should be provided. Bin uplifts are unreliable. We are treated like second class citizens by the local authority.

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

11 responses in total – Average Score of 4.1							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	2 responses	1 responses	2 responses	2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Council not interested in rural communities
No one pays any attention to objections made about planning applications in the hamlet so why bother.
Recently a residents association has started up again but this is because of a serious threat to all of the things that are being asked about in this survey. I feel that the planning department never listen to residents when they express concerns about new development proposals and that it is totally unclear what their plan is for the hamlet. We have a shaded pink area where settlement is deemed to be possible but no guidance as to what this might mean and at what point the infrastructure will have to be improved. I strongly feel that any concerns are dismissed out of hand and that local people's opinions are simply unwanted and unwelcome.
Within Portincaple we have an active residents' association however more widely I do not feel I have a voice in decision-making.

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

Finish off Hermitage Park properly. Clear the streets of rubbish/bins etc. support and promote small businesses
Footpath along A814
For me - as I enter old age - is to have public transport available to link me easily and regularly to Garelochhead and Helensburgh - a bus stop at the top of the road and no increase traffic on the road in and out of the hamlet might mean that I will be able to live in my home for longer. However, I relish the lack of immediate amenities in the hamlet itself and the sense of isolation that living here provides so I do not want this unique aspect of Portincaple to be lost.
Improvements on the main A814 to both pedestrians and cyclists for access to Garelochhead. Careful vetting of planning consent to retain character and views of the surrounding area.
Local development plan consultation
public transport safe access to Garelochhead for pedestrians/cycle
Regular public transport services to and from the village. Kerbside recycling for glass. Better and more regular verge maintenance to keep Feuins Road safe and clear.
Transport links Improvements in roads More attention to rural communities not everyone lived in Helensburgh

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

A separate cycleway/footpath within sight of the A814 directly to Garelochhead. More diligent scrutiny by planners.
Better communication on what is being done in terms of community engagement and consultation
Environmental Wardens could enforce - remove bins from streets, fine littering. Impel landlords to improve neglected buildings. More promotion of small businesses - encourage people to visit more and spend more
Local bus service protected pedestrian routes
More communication with local rural communities for planning developments
Provide a regular and frequent bus service to and from the hamlet/ Reopen Whistlefield railway station. Provide a kerbside glass collection for everyone who can currently get kerbside bin (food/general and paper) collections. Local authority take responsibility to maintain verges on Feuins Road to ensure road safety.
Regular bus service, a halt on new developments which increase traffic on the road making it increasingly impossible to walk the road safely, making the road a twenty is plenty area, verge maintenance and sign replacement, possibly other traffic calming measures.

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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