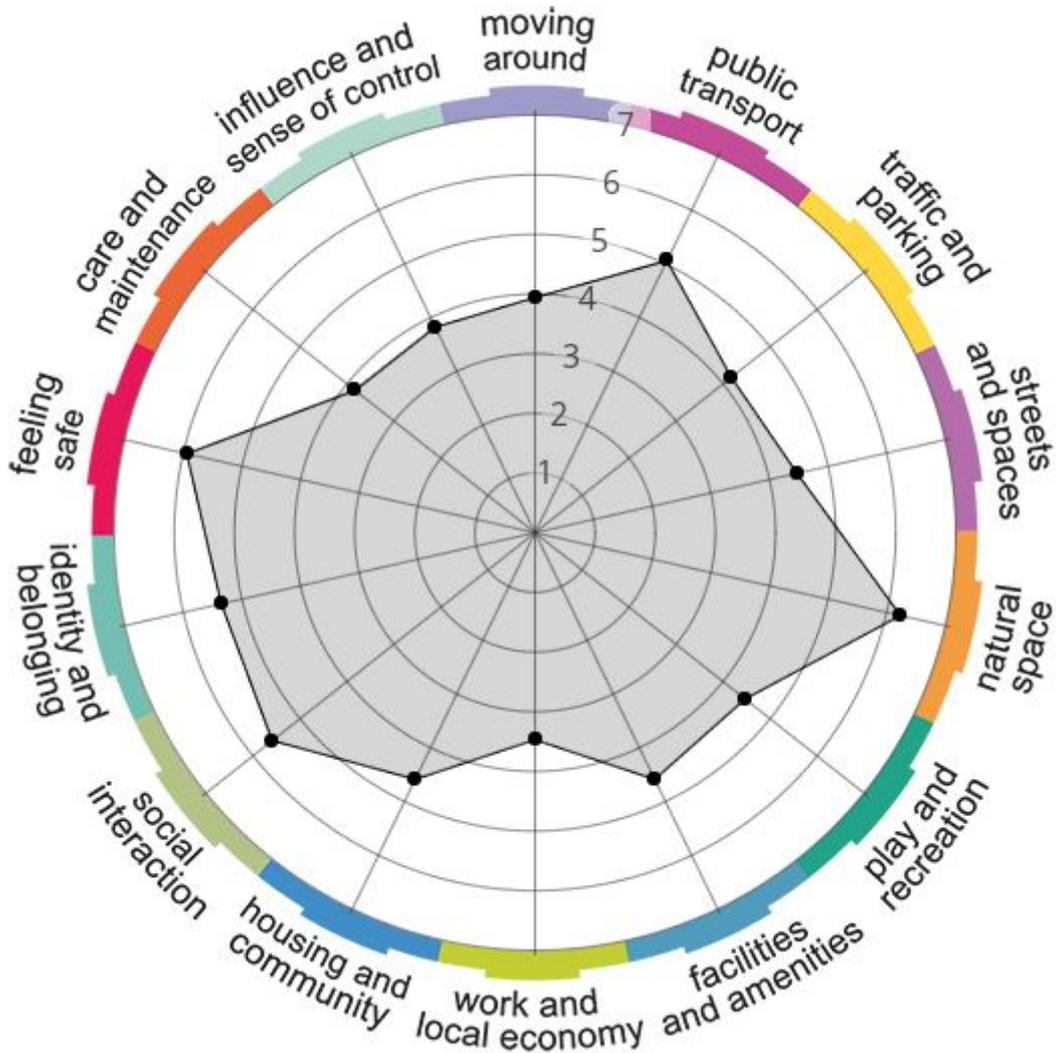


Sandbank Responses 2019



Priority Areas for Improvement:



Work and Local Economy



Influence and Sense of Control



Care and Maintenance

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](#).

Sandbank Responses

Our Top Rated Areas are:

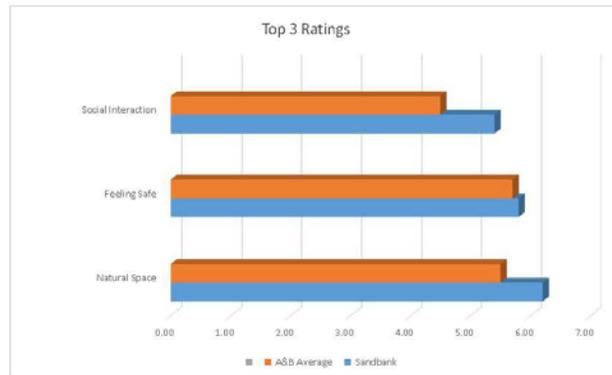
	Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 6.2 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
	Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 5.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
	Social Interaction	Respondents rated this area 5.4 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.5 out of 7.



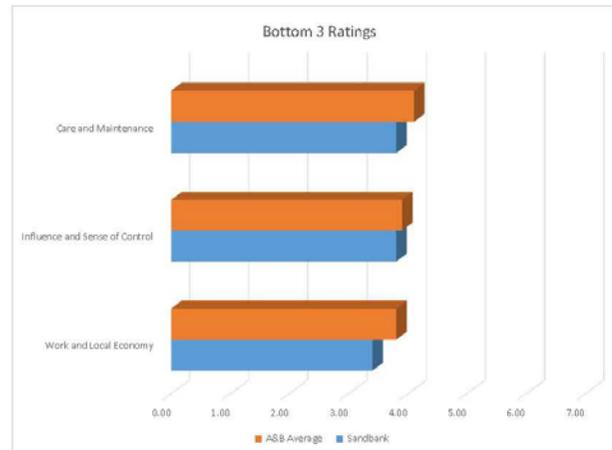
Areas of desired improvement are:

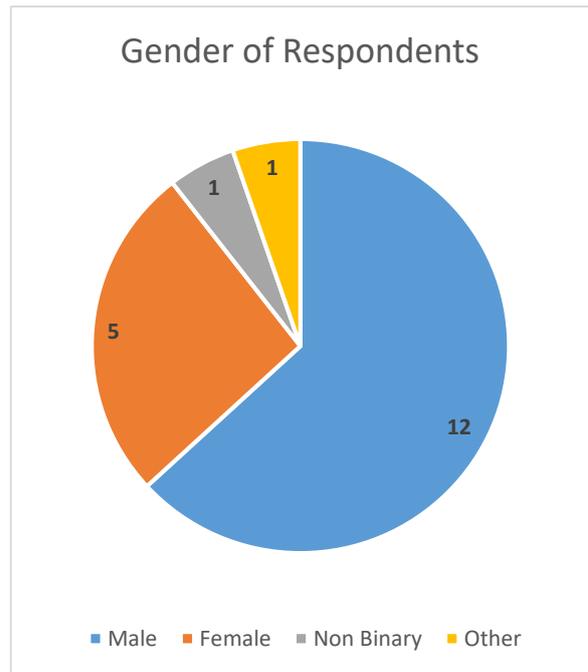
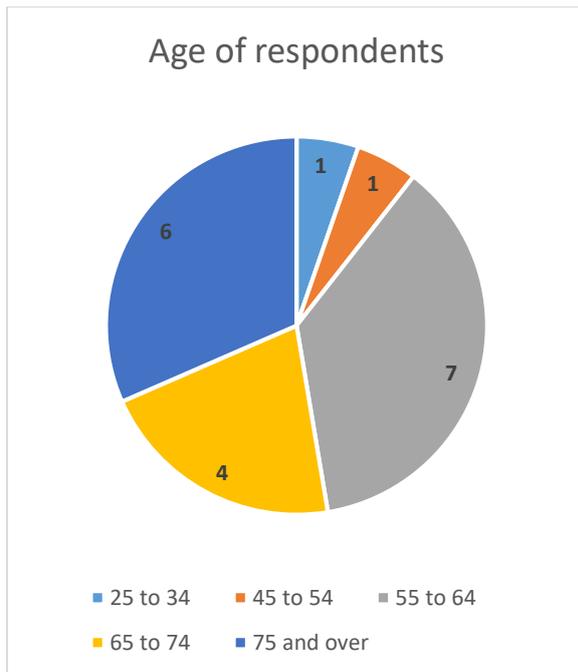
	Work and Local Economy	Respondents rated this area 3.4 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.8 out of 7.
	Influence and Sense of Control	Respondents rated this area 3.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.9 out of 7.
	Care and Maintenance	Respondents rated this area 3.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.1 out of 7.

Top 3 Ratings



Bottom 3 Ratings





Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Work and Local Economy	3.4
Influence and Sense of Control	3.8
Care and Maintenance	3.8
Moving Around	4
Traffic and Parking	4.2
Play and Recreation	4.4
Streets and Spaces	4.4
Housing and Community	4.4
Facilities and Amenities	4.6
Public Transport	4.9
Identity and Belonging	5.2
Social Contact	5.4
Feeling Safe	5.8
Natural Space	6.2

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 4.05							
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	4 responses	1 responses	2 responses	5 responses	4 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Fine for walking but there are only safe cycle tracks off road and not on major routes you need to travel.
More cycle paths needed. Too many cyclists on the road
Most footpaths are in good condition, there is some room for improvement.
Once away from population centres many roads at 60 mph, no cycle ways or footpaths
Pavements are a disgrace, especially if using sticks or crutches
Sandbank not safe when walking dog
Seating in the Sandbank is too sparsely situated for Senior Citizens when out walking and there is a sad lack of sloped pavements for wheelchairs and again Seniors who are not too steady on their feet
There are no cycle tracks. If walk on paths you continually have to cross the road to stay on the path.
There are no designated cycle paths
tricky to cycle on main road in Sandbank

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

19 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
0 responses	3 responses	1 responses	5 responses	1 responses	3 responses	6 responses	0 responses

Comments

Almost all of the public transport arrives in convoy, thus negating the frequency of availability. The buses also run similarly to the ferries.in particular I always pass a bus, usually empty, coming from Ardentinny to Toward. As this is 00.20ish, on the weekend, I can only assume it is for drinkers. I also cannot understand the logic in putting bus stops on corners and T junctions whereby they create dangerous and unsafe conditions for motorists and pedestrians.
Argyll ferries are totally unreliable.
Don't use it much
Good regular services
I do not use public transport, however, from my knowledge, it meets the needs of the users
Personally I have a car so I am OK but those with no transport an hourly service means almost a day's trip when travelling to Dunoon for messages etc. I was seriously perturbed when West Coast Motors stopped taking private hires as this now means that there is no way for local groups to arrange trips from Dunoon on day trips etc. I am also surprised that a local service has not been arranged using a smaller coach (i.e. 17 seater) to replace the McGill's service - Dunoon to Glasgow - which has been sorely missed by the local people
Public transport very poor making having a car a necessity.
Too expensive
west coast buses are good but Calmac from town not good

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

19 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
1 responses	4 responses	1 responses	5 responses	2 responses	4 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Again I am fortunate to have a Blue Badge so parking is reasonably good for me. However in Argyll Street even I find difficulty in finding space to park. I also feel there is not enough Zebra crossings in the area for pedestrians to cross safely
Good apart from busy summer periods
Have a local traffic warden
It is difficult to park close to the shops. There is also the lack of thought in positioning of bus stops next to corners and opposite T junctions. This makes life very difficult and dangerous, when buses stop.
Lack of parking facilities in town centre & of the facilities available, charges are too high
Parking is poor in the South Cowal area, much room for improvement.
People parking in disabled bays without badges
Plenty of parking in all required areas.
Small pavement at Sandbank - dangerous driving
Speeding around Victoria Road Innellan
Traffic is light and parking is easy.

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 4.47							
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	6 responses	4 responses	3 responses	6 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

A great deal of improvements, many by volunteers, are being carried out thus adding to the improved appearance of the area at large however the empty shops and buildings tend to neutralise this. Many landmarks and natural features add to the local appearance throughout the area but these good points are not beneficial at night and in bad weather. However at least improvements are being made
Area around pier poor
Buildings are getting done up now
Dunoon Burgh Hall good
issues with town and Argyll street and look of the place
More or less, no real comment on this
No some are unattractive and require improvement (perhaps grants could be used as an incentive) Some buildings in need of repair etc.
Not many empty shops
Run-down Buildings. Overgrown with weeds especially kerbs and verges. The Marina makes a good impression.
Some area are not being repaired/refurbished.

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 6.21							
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	2 responses	6 responses	10 responses	0 responses

Comments

But high score purely due to the natural environment. If anything the local council have failed to maintain paths as lots of them are becoming inaccessible due to broken small log bridges being left to rot and then very few can cross and paths start to overgrow. Pucks Glen mainly shut over Easter and large parts of glen for most of this year.
Good area, sea, rivers & countryside
More picnic benches needed
More seating would be helpful
nature is all around
Only reason to live here.
The area has great natural resources and these are being well used and on the whole are reasonably well maintained although in several places the grass could be cut more often
This is a very rural area, so excellent rating on this topic

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 4.42							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	4 responses	6 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Could do with a Skate park
Good range of facilities
Great for Mountain bikes, Walkers and runners. Not so good for Tennis or indoor sports. Riverside pool rates highly, but could be better (showers that can be temperature controlled or at least have temperature turned down a bit).
Ground care at our local play park has been taken over by residents, due to the Council's inability to carry this out. Much room for improvement here.
Lack of activities immediately available for people over 21 - only pubs and coffee shops which don't suit everyone's wants/need
Play areas for children are one point where maintenance could be improved - grass cutting, equipment etc. and there is not much in the way of facilities in the area for teenagers to make use of. The play area in Sandbank is well used by locals and visitors alike but obviously unsuitable in wet weather
Sandbank playpark could look tidier and could have things for disabled children.
shame to pay for Benmore ; should be free

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.

19 responses in total – Average Score of 4.68							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	2 responses	4 responses	8 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Constant locum GPs at Argyll street right hand practice.
Dunoon Burgh Hall
In general the facilities of the area meet most needs for everyone and are mostly within a reasonable distance of the town centre with most establishments in good condition and fairly well patronised by the general public
library in new location is good ; cafe views are blocked which is a shame Burgh hall - not sure about future for shows and things there
Lots to see and do, places to visit, good restaurants, pubs etc.
lots of chip shops
More quality shops would be helpful. There is nowhere to buy children's shoes. Small shops appear to be being priced out of the area.
Most facilities needed. Would like discount supermarket to offer competition to existing supermarkets

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 3.42							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
4 responses	1 responses	4 responses	5 responses	3 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Being retired this doesn't apply to me but I have heard it said on many occasions that there is an exceptional lack of opportunity for work and for training - hence the reason for so many having to travel to secure employment
Economy is challenged as many opportunities are over the water who can help us?
Good schools
I am retired so I am not fully aware of the possibilities
I hate to say it but the area seems to be dying and does need external investment and support to save it. A real shame when it has so much to offer.
More employment opportunities required
No better or worse than anywhere else in Scotland. Rural area brings its own issues in respect of employment and the local economy.
Not enough opportunities for young people
Only a handful of good, reputable employers with limited vacancies - lack of competitive salary without need to travel far for this.
Some people return after leaving the area

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 4.47							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	3 responses	2 responses	4 responses	6 responses	1 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

care homes being axed
For the general populace I think it is adequate but for those in care, particularly with the proposed closing of Inverack Home, there is a sad lack of accommodation meaning extra travelling for relatives to visit family members
Good quality of sheltered housing provision
Good range of owner occupied, maybe need more rental properties
I am a home owner so have no idea in respect of local authority housing. However I am aware of the 23 M owed in council tax and am still awaiting answers in respect of how much rent is owed to housing associations. Council is NOT a charity
Lots of assisted living - wonderful
The rented houses need to be kept in good condition inside and out which is not always the case. A lot of rented houses need their interiors upgraded.
There is always a slight shortage in available housing, particularly for the younger generation. Prices are high and deposits are extreme in the current financial environment.

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 5.47							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	6 responses	7 responses	0 responses

Comments

Due to many village centres there tend to be many activities spread throughout the area
fair but more on sea front would be good
For the elderly of this area I think there is a great deal of places to attend -- senior citizens clubs, tai chi clubs, 1000 Voices in Dunoon, Lunch clubs, Befrienders Club to name only a few. These clubs help to eliminate loneliness and meet new people. I would have given this a 7 but there is always room for improvement!!!
Lots of churches - accessible for people to get to Some churches run min buses
Lots of sports clubs for children
No issues on the issue. This area is very friendly and sociable.
Only for certain sub-groups i.e. babies and mothers, youth clubs, elderly etc. nothing for 20-30 year olds

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 5.26							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	4 responses	7 responses	4 responses	0 responses

Comments

I was born here, and despite working overseas for the better part of 30 years, this will always be home.
Not a strong local identity , perhaps due to dispersed population across many villages
There definitely seems as though people and groups are working towards this.
When first moving to this community some 30 plus years ago I felt there was a very strong local identity - a them and us type of signal - however in the intervening years I feel this has lost some of this attitude. Nevertheless there is still a feeling of community involvement and helping hands to one another

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

19 responses in total – Average Score of 5.84							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	6 responses	7 responses	5 responses	0 responses

Comments

Don't go out at night a lot but still feel safe
Feel safe but rarely see police around
I feel perfectly safe, although crime statistics are tending to rise, we have seen only a fraction of the issues experienced in more urban environments.
I think that the area is mainly safe but there seems to be a lot of drug and alcohol problems in Dunoon.
The area is still a much safer place than the big cities but unfortunately, like the times we live in at present, safety has deteriorated in recent years with a great deal of antisocial behaviour and petty crime. People no longer feel safe when going out at night (in fact very few elderly go out at night). It has now become very dangerous with elderly muggings, drink fuelled fights and unprovoked attacks.

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 3.89							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	3 responses	2 responses	5 responses	7 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

The Council are failing to maintain the public areas, therefore the spaces look tired and in need of attention. Private land/house owners tend to look after their assets reasonable well.
Could be improved
Facilities are in general can only be described as reasonably maintained and litter, dog mess and vandalism are big factors. Most premises are well maintained and looked after and recycling facilities and rubbish collections are well organised
Mostly well maintained although Council has cut back
Playparks need to be better maintained. Some paths have a problem with dog mess but this appears to be getting better. Recycling bins out with the recycling centre need to be emptied more often as they are often over flowing and very unsightly and the clothing in particular will be getting wasted.
Walk around judge for yourselves

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

19 responses in total – Average Score of 3.84							
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	4 responses	3 responses	4 responses	4 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Don't see Councillors the way you used to
I really don't know but had to put a number in above.
I would be more than willing to participate in such actions.
Local authority canvas views
Needs a new balance on local political and community forums
Not really as the ferry was taken away. We all want it.
The local community have a good opportunity to voice their opinions on most subjects which would affect them although many feel they don't. However this can be because of their own apathy in not following things through. Unfortunately in some instances some complaints are not satisfactorily answered by the groups concerned and this leads to consternation.
When I regularly attended community council meetings, I did not feel it was good practice to have multiple members of the same family participating.

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

1. Some areas quite run down 2. Lack of jobs 3. Local economy weak
A change in local political balances, a real move towards getting back our 23 m owed in council tax and a move towards enforcing rent arrears albeit that is now in the hand of housing associations. It is agreed that the above require Political decisions to be made!!! However, in real terms Dunoon and Argyll are generally not a bad place to live. BUT the status of recycling and roadside rubbish need a LOT to be desired across the whole of A&B area of responsibility Provide simple locks or closure devices for roadside bins and secure collection points for ALL types of rubbish in clean well maintained areas. A move from activities that mean roadside signs are visible for months after the event is finished to ones that actually enhance the environment would help!! Think visitor, think their activities such as fishing Dunoon and District Angling do their best, BUT in all of their facilities not on toilet exists!! What do you think happens!! In Australia they provide gutting areas toilets etc. (it attracts visitors and therefore revenue. Think ahead!!!!)
Care for the countryside. These are the areas that will draw in tourists. Since the late 1990s the bird garden has gone (used to always bring my visitors there great for all ages), also opposite at Ardnadam the walk to the camels hump view point (Dunan hill) passing Ancient ruins is now only passable in by walkers able to cross burns and bogs, as all bridge and paths across the bogs have been left to rot. Pucks Glen now seems to be going the same way. I don't know the cost of the Queens hall was but a very tiny fraction of this could have kept the real assets of the area alive. Visitors do not come to Cowal to visit the Queens hall if they want that kind of experience they will got to Edinburgh or Glasgow. If you are going to make a cycle track like the one opposite Sandhaven, at least make it so it is useable by cyclists.
Cycle tracks would be good and maintained paths. But money needs to be spent now on the very basic things like drainage and road repair.
Economics rule whatever you can do. We are only a small community, so change without increase in council tax (which by the way are too high)is impossible.
ferry from town to Gourrock free entry to benmore people to help grow businesses and jobs social care and care homes
Improved Transport , Better Maintenance of Recreational areas, More Social Facilities
More things for older teens and younger adults to do that don't involve alcohol (pubs)
Public spaces, pavements, weed killing, street cleaning.
The area needs kept clean and tidy.
The passenger ferry needs to be updated/upgraded In stormy weather they are not fit for purpose

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

1. Improved care for and maintenance of landscaping, buildings, public open space etc. 2. Encourage job creation 3. Encourage visitor sustain current businesses
That's what you get paid for
Stop wasting money on grand projects like the Queens hall, Burgh Hall, and car ferry terminal with no car ferry built for millions. Reasonably new library and tourist information centre left to rot and countryside slowly being destroyed.
Make them more of a priority and stop wasting money on things like the car ferry in Dunoon which has never delivered any cars.
Ensure that services are efficient and cut out duplication and waste.
politicians and council people come and live in Dunoon for a week and see what it's like get out and about
Increase bus schedules and add a Dunoon to Glasgow service with a smaller sized coach. Improve on litter and General maintenance of equipment and more action on dog mess in recreational areas Make more use of Queens Hall with regular entertainment shows by well-known artists
Council to take the lead to facilitate the actions
Grass and weeds dealt with. The playparks need to be kept in good order. Shop fronts need cleaned, repaired and repainted.

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.

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