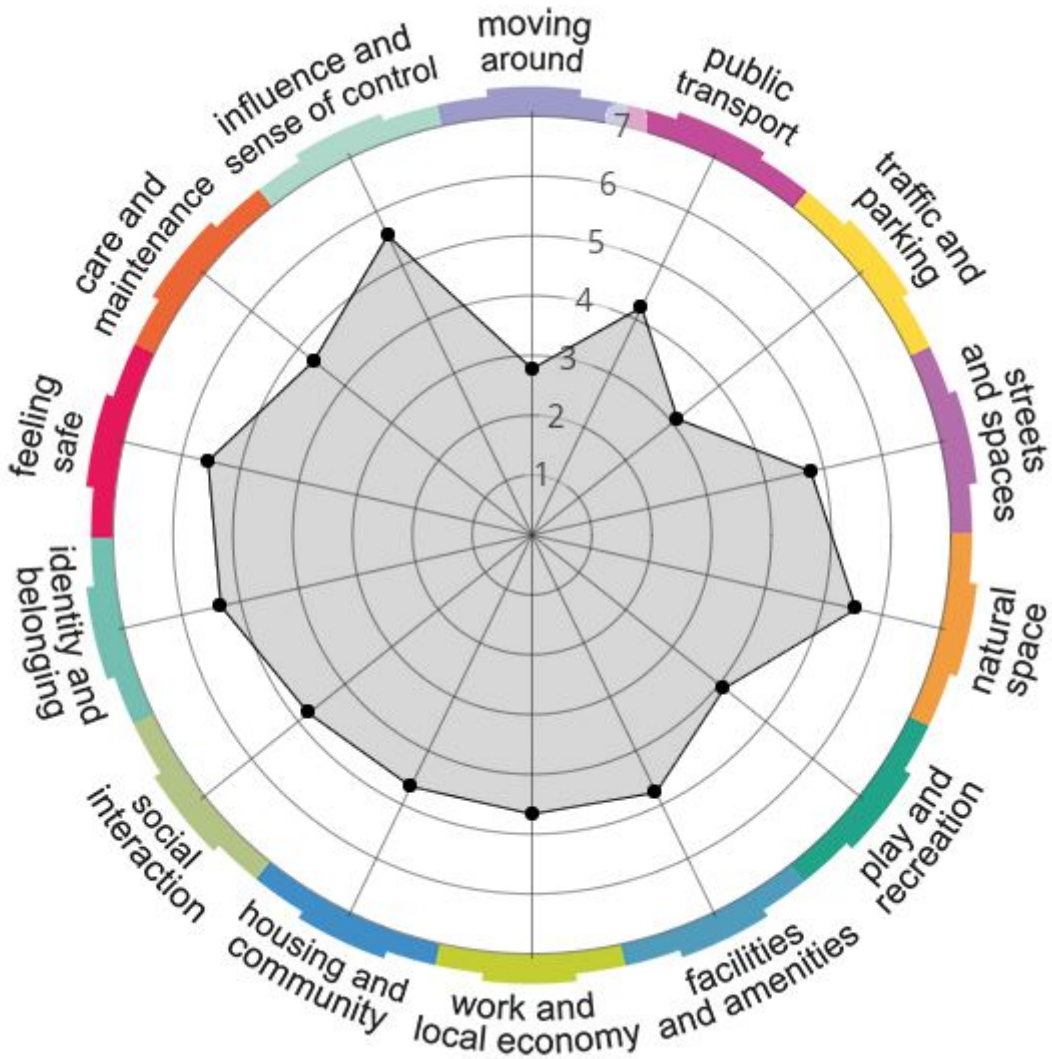


Kilmelford Responses 2019



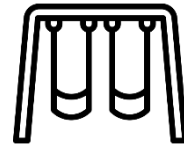
Priority Areas for Improvement:



Moving Around



Traffic and Parking



Play and Recreation

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](#).




Kilmelford Responses

Our Top Rated Areas are:

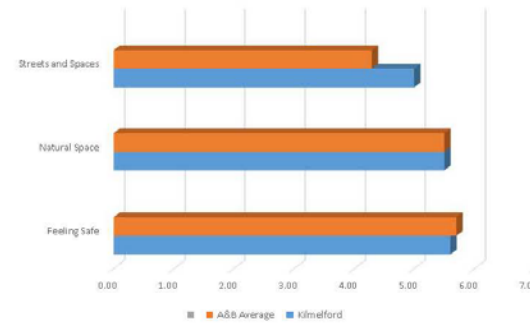
	Feeling Safe	Respondents rated this area 5.6 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7.
	Natural Space	Respondents rated this area 5.5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.5 out of 7.
	Streets and Spaces	Respondents rated this area 5 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.3 out of 7.



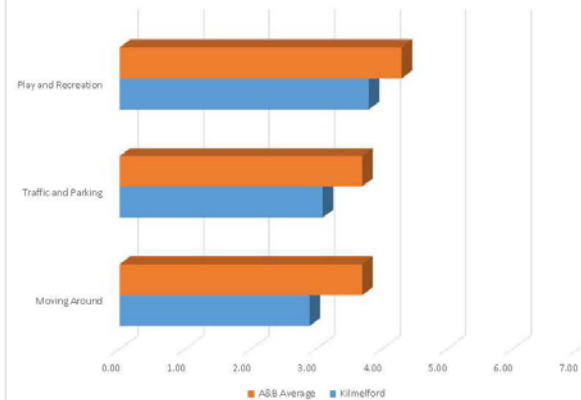
Areas of desired improvement are:

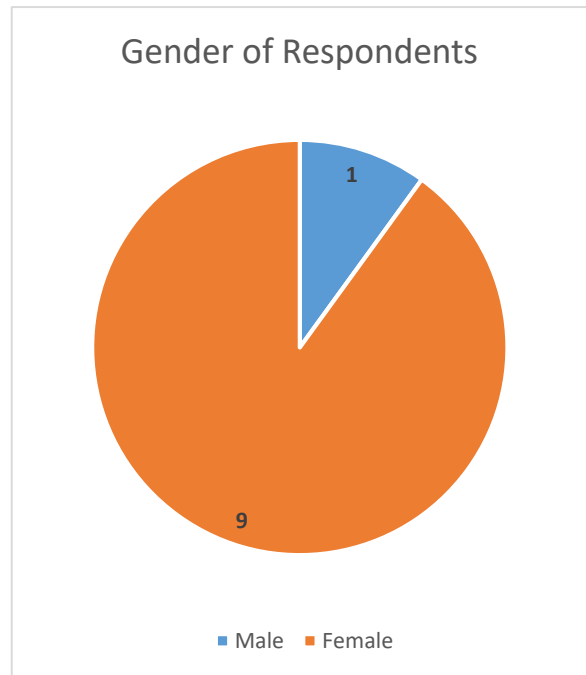
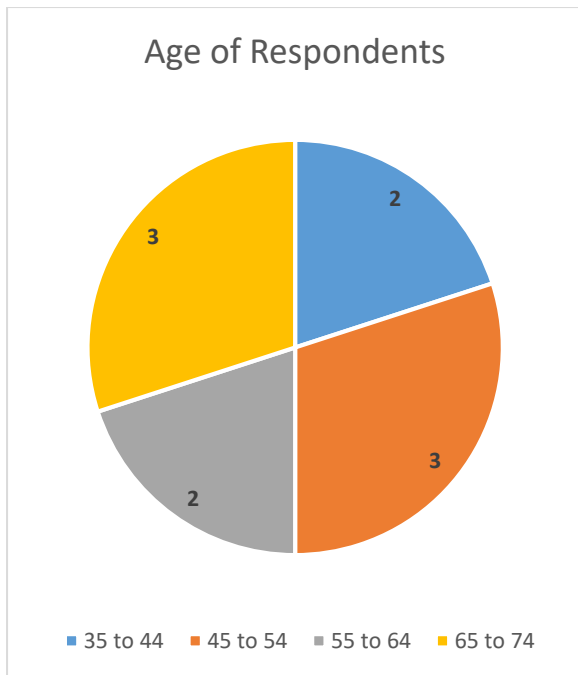
	Moving Around	Respondents rated this area 2.9 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
	Traffic and Parking	Respondents rated this area 3.1 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 3.7 out of 7.
	Play and Recreation	Respondents rated this area 3.8 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.3 out of 7.

Top 3 Ratings



Bottom 3 Ratings





Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
Moving Around	2.9
Traffic and Parking	3.1
Play and Recreation	3.8
Public Transport	4
Care and Maintenance	4.1
Housing and Community	4.3
Facilities and Amenities	4.4
Work and Local Economy	4.6
Social Contact	4.7
Streets and Spaces	5
Influence and Sense of Control	5
Identity and Belonging	5
Natural Space	5.5
Feeling Safe	5.6

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 2.8							
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	3 responses	3 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Having to walk on roads with cars
I live on the main road A816 outside Kilmelford. Extremely difficult to walk on. No pavements. Cars and lorries drive past very fast. Grass by road also difficult to walk on - uneven, drainage channels.
No cycle paths in the area, windy main road makes it dangerous to cycle on the road.
Pot holes, sides of single track roads collapsing, when walking on single track roads cyclists (some who travel very fast) come up behind you without any warning and I have had a few near misses, when driving on single track roads few cyclists use passing places both the above are dangerous.
There is a lot of overgrowth at this time of year. Only short piece of footpath in the village. Traffic can be very fast and worrying. It would be rather nice to have benches along the Degnish Road to rest on while walking along
There is a path along the main road in Kilmelford, but this path does lead to a safe crossing to reach Church/shop/hotel which means crossing the main road on a very dangerous spot. On the other side of Kilmelford the footpath ends in a "dead end", forcing walkers to walk on the main road to reach Kilmelford Yacht haven, again causing dangerous situations for both walkers and car drivers. Due to the continuous speeding through Kilmelford and along Degnish Road I do not dare to cycle along the road, which is a shame as it is a 30 mile zone but it is not enforced enough to avoid overtaking and speeding.
To get from my home to a safe place to cycle and walk, and to get to the local village, I have to go along a very busy main road. There is very little space in some parts to get off the road to allow vehicles to pass, making it a quite scary experience. There is a back farm track, but it's very rough and not suitable through the winter.
We are quite remote in Kilmelford/Kilninver but need cycle paths and safe places for residents/visitors of all ages to access the beauty safely. People with all levels of mobility can find our lochs and rural places very soothing and perfect for Art/Photography/Picnics/Fishing or just sitting and enjoying the space but some of our places are quite near to roads with no clear pathways so we need some designated areas. Highways are doing brilliantly with tidying widening our roads but keeping edges clear of overhanging trees/leaves enables users to avoid having to step into roadways.

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

10 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
1 responses	1 responses	2 responses	2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Bring prices down for short journey
Buses are too far away and infrequent?
I am impressed with the local bus services. The bus drivers are friendly and helpful, and will stop at convenient places. I can buy my bus tickets online. The buses are slightly dated but well maintained
Minimal buses to and from Oban only catering for the 9-5 work pattern, latest bus returning from Oban on a Saturday is lunchtime. No buses on Sunday
Never taken the bus from Kilmelford to Oban or Lochgilphead as the timetable does fit my needs.
Public transport is available, I think it ties with school times, so not suitable for 9 - 5pm working.
substantial walk to bus route
The bus service is so inadequate and infrequent. I would use public transport more if it was more convenient.
We have good regular buses and many people have concessions but we need more services to enable people to go out to places in their locality - if you don't drive you are very limited and can be isolated. Local communities do a lot to offer lifts and schemes but some kind of minibus service like the school bus could offer better access for all ages. Often we have had people who weren't able to get to a community activity because they had no transport.

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

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

Comments

If people want to visit the area then cars can be parked at the village hall.
Main road (A816) through village is a 30 limit, but although we have a sign to remind people if they are going over 30, I am regularly passed by traffic going well above this limit whilst I am walking the dog.
More car parking space needed at village hall. Potholes need fixing on single track Degnish road.
Parking is no problem in Kilmelford. However it is a problem in Oban. There should be more free short-term car parking. At the moment pollution is made worse by cars having to drive round and round the town trying to find somewhere to park. In the winter parking should be free in Oban. This would definitely help local businesses.
Speeding in a 30 in Kilmelford needing police presence
The biggest problem is people parking in front of the village shop in Kilmelford, blocking the entrance to the Lochavich road/partly blocking the south bound lane of the main road causing dangerous situations on the road for other users as sight is already restricted there due to bend/bridge and fact that many cars/lorries/vans do more than 30 m/h through the village. The 30m/h signs are being ignored by many drivers. The 30 zone should in my opinion continue to past the Kilmelford Yacht Haven to make it safer for walking/cycling from that end of the village to the other end and to make it safer to pull in/out of the entrance at Glenmore Lodge. There is a big parking problem when there is an event/ wedding/funeral in Kilmelford Church or an event at the village hall. Both locations do not have enough parking places to cope with the amount of people attending from outside Kilmelford/those who cannot reach the location by foot.
There is an issue with traffic speeding though the village, this is being dealt with by the community council, but I have more of an issue with parking in Oban. Particularly long stay and for ferry travel.
There is not enough affordable parking in Oban. So often now there is a tailback all through the town from Corran Halls to the High School because traffic has increased (good for our economy) and people are travelling round looking for parking. I accept that Parking fees are a good source of income but we need a better way to pay - pre-paid tokens or similar so you can park even if you haven't got loads of change. We also need more parking for people who want to go to the Islands for the day - so much of the parking is limited to 2 hour max. Has anyone considered a Park & Ride scheme? Locally we are away from the hubbub so parking space and cost is not such a problem.

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

10 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	0 responses	1 responses	4 responses	1 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

not applicable in rural area
The local community has been great in keeping grass cut and planters filled with flowers etc. This makes the first impression of Kilmelford a nice one, where locals seem to care. It is a shame however that the council does not seem to keep public sign posts within the village clear from branches/bushes making it hard for visitors to find their way to Degnish/village hall. Personally I also find the recycling area at the village hall an eyesore in the way this is set up/not emptied often enough, causing the plastic waste to overflow.
The village is pleasant and verges are kept neat and tidy and planting tubs are very attractive. In spring the bulbs are beautiful. The land in The Glebe needs to be looked after much better and needs to be tidy. It is a blot on the landscape.
There is a large area in the middle of the village which is waiting to be developed, but has only been roughly landscaped and looks quite poor.
Vacant land in the middle of the village is unkempt. The Developers have planning permission to build, and cleared the land of shrubs at the beginning of the year. But it looked more attractive and was a better habitat for nature before clearing. Now it is just rubble and rubbish.

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

10 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
1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	4 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

Can't beat Argyll!
There are plenty of natural spaces to explore in the direct area, all reachable by foot if you are fit enough to do so. There are no benches/seating along footpath in the village apart from the bus stop, and it has often been mentioned that we could do with several benches along the Degnish road, near village hall and along the footpath in the main part of the village for those who need it or for those who just like to sit and enjoy the views.
There is nowhere in the village to sit and watch wildlife or life in general to pass by. The play park is very small
Our area is a brilliant mix of natural beauty and sensitive development.

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

10 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
0 responses	2 responses	2 responses	2 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

children's playpark needed
I think there is a play area in the back of the housing area in the village, but it doesn't feel like it's for use by everyone and there's not much there.
Local hall too expensive to use every week so kids have to play beside a busy road. Can be a nuisance to the elderly at night
Village hall provides indoor space for sport and play activities for all ages. There are loads of outdoor places where families could go and walk/explore/get muddy if they wish to. There are fields that used to be used for football matches etc., not sure if those are still being used apart from people exercising their dogs in.
We have a village hall with facilities.
We have space to breathe and plenty of green space plus an active community with a hall that offers a range of activities. We could do with a proper play park for our younger residents in a safe place unlike Kilninver School which borders onto our busy road. If we can get our pathways improved that will improve access.

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.

10 responses in total – Average Score of 4.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	2 responses	4 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

Going to doctors have to get bus to Oban and then bus to rascals not very easy so have to pay friend
Not really applicable in very rural area but 18 mile drive to doctors can be difficult.
The post Office is needed in the village and the mobile library is greatly missed.
There is a shop, but (currently) no longer a post office which is a pain. Pub, restaurants, church, village hall are all walking distance for most people in village. The village hall has huge potential but isn't used to its full potential, maybe due to lack of interest/lack of volunteers to run the place. It is well maintained and offers social events, sports, playgroup, and meetings.
Village hall, is great, although I can't walk there safely as no pavement south of the village. Shop, post office and hotel accessible along the back farm track, but a pavement from the boat yard would make a huge difference. This would also help with access to the bus stop.
We have a lot which is down to the community. Everything is there so long as you are mobile. If you are unable to get into Oban facilities on your doorstep are fewer. We have a lovely school, a shop, a hall that offers meeting times for formal and informal chances to meet friends and neighbours.

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 4.6							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	2 responses	3 responses	3 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

I feel there is lots of work available in the area, however my qualification means there is little room for career progression within the area and limited other opportunities.
In Kilmelford there is a shortage of available work personnel. Largest Employers include fish farms, local hotels, timeshare, and Marina, main work low paid tourism, fish farming etc.
Not many job opportunities in the village apart from in the hospitality trade, unless you are self-employed and can work from home. To encourage local economy, Kilmelford could do with affordable work units/office spaces/garage boxes from where locals/locals to be could develop their business. Relocating the Kilninver Primary School to a newly built school near village hall would also be very good for local economy and would improve the area for all, especially if it would be combined with a small care home so elderly locals so they can stay living within the area they love. Young and old sharing public space (village hall/outdoor area) can only improve respect and social skills for all and will attract more people to area and therefor offer job opportunities/improve local economy.
We are fortunate to live in a farming area where people are used to dealing with the here and now so opportunities come up and communities know of someone who might be looking for a job. Once again mobility can affect access to opportunities

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

10 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
0 responses	2 responses	2 responses	2 responses	0 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Affordable housing is lacking. Anything on the market below £300000 is snapped up in a matter of days/weeks.
I rented and then bought my house privately from my landlord, but I do know there is a lack affordable housing in the area. I'm glad I was in a position to buy, but do struggle with dampness.
It would be good to have houses with small commercial units attached for people to open a small shop/office/workshop to attract more skills and offer more options to those who have the desire to start their own business but do not have the space in their current homes to do so. A care home within Kilmelford would be great in order to keep the older locals in the area where their friends/partners are, to avoid isolation and to make visiting daily so much easier for all as public transport is not always practical.
Not enough social and low cost housing. Too many second homes
Very little housing available in Kilmelford. So difficult for employers to find accommodation for new employees. Building land left empty in the middle of Kilmelford. Why are more houses not being built on this land? No sheltered accommodation for Senior citizens. The land behind the Village Hall has been for sale for ages. Would be the most perfect place for a new primary school plus sheltered accommodation for senior citizens, who could then share a kitchen for lunch every day, and the school children could use the Village Hall for their sports

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 4.6							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	2 responses	3 responses	0 responses	0 responses

Comments

In Kilmelford, there are regular coffee mornings and other activities - yoga, dance classes, et cetera The whole community only mix occasionally. The Kilninver and Kilmelford primary school organise events/ceilidhs in the Village Hall.
Lots happening locally, things could be improved for our young people if they could access out of school clubs etc. with better transport.
Pub, church, village hall all provide places where all ages can meet and socialize. The village hall offers events, social gatherings, sports activities for all ages and it can be hired/used by all at all times of the day for very reasonable costs.
There is a café in the shop and various "clubs" in the village hall.
some not enough

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

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

Comments

I'm born and brought up here and work hard to be part of my community.
It is difficult to have a sense of identity if you live in or around Kilmelford because the village is spread out over quite a large area, and many of the inhabitants work in Oban or Lochgilphead. Other villages, such as Ardfern, have an advantage because they are down a dead end road.
Kilmelford does not feel like a tight community for some reason. There is a core of people who volunteer and put a lot of effort into organising events, keeping the area looking neat and tidy, raising funds for flowers/bulbs and painting those etc. Those who wish to connect are made to feel welcome, but many within the area work in Oban/Lochgilphead and do not spend much time within the community therefor.
When my husband died, it was the community that helped me. The church has been a great source of contentment for me.

Q12. Feeling Safe: Do I feel safe here?

10 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
1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	3 responses	3 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

Always had a safe feeling here at any time of the day.
As no police presence you have to always lock up as on main road and travellers all ways round selling
No reason not to feel safe in Kilmelford! Except when walking along the road!
The only unsafe part of living in this village is the speed of some traffic on the road. Sometimes it feels that you are going to be sucked into the road. Otherwise I feel completely safe.

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

10 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	2 responses	0 responses	2 responses	2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Dog mess
Litter along the roadside is a constant problem. Difficult to say who causes the litter. Is it tourists or is it locals? A lot of the litter on the road is takeaway wrapping. The locals and the fish farm employees are very good at doing beach cleans every year along with the loch side where the majority of the litter is plastic from boats and more takeaway wrapping. Recycling is a bit of a nightmare. Visitors never know what to put in the recycling bins.
The problem of dog fouling is being addressed by the community council and appears to be improving. The community council are very proactive.
The refuse collection could do with improving, to avoid over spilling of the plastic recycling bins at the village hall as this only attracts more rubbish being left on sides of the bins. There has been a big problem with dog mess, but the local council put signs up making dog owners aware of their responsibilities. Not sure if this has had the right result. The branches of trees/bushes along the main road and along the Degnish road are not cut back often enough, making the signs posts unclear/hidden from view. The "passing place" signs along Degnish road are almost all hidden now due to overgrown trees/bushes, making it unclear to visitors to the area where the nearest passing place is along that single track road.
West highland housing maintain the communal areas in the Glebe, however they charge an astronomical fee for very little. They also pass on the cost of maintaining the play park in the Glebe to the residents of the owned properties in the "new" Glebe - I believe they had to build this as part of their planning application, but I do not think that the cost of this should be borne by the residents of the Glebe. I currently pay £80 a year for them to cut a patch of grass that is approx. 6 m sq. as well as additional costs for maintaining the play park as required. They also tried to charge for filling a grit bin in the area, which I disputed and eventually had removed from my invoice.

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

10 responses in total – Average Score of 5.1							
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	1 responses	0 responses	0 responses	3 responses	2 responses	3 responses	0 responses

Comments

I'm part of the community council and also aware of things being shared through social media by the council and CPP.
Kilmelford community Council is very active, all the counsellors are approachable and will help any resident with any query. The problem is trying to get all the villagers Involved with the community council. It normally ends up being the same people trying to do all the work.
Never get asked or hear about decision to area
The Kilninver and Kilmelford Community Council is a great way to voice concerns, ask help with certain aspects of community living, and reach locals. They are very helpful and will act there where needed/wanted/appropriate. There is also a local newsletter and local Facebook page, good ways to reach locals and gauge opinions on certain matters/raise concerns/raise awareness.

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

A pavement between Kilmelford boat yard and Degnish road end.
Get everyone in the village involved in village matters. Make Kilmelford a zero tolerance litter village, involving all the young, shaming anyone who drops litter anywhere Build sheltered housing for senior citizens
Get local people involved Stop the speeding in village
housing, transport and play space
Lack of public transport, speeding traffic, lack of pathways along a busy road
Safe footpath to Kilmelford Yacht Haven + safe pedestrian crossing near Church/Village Shop. Restricting speed through village and extending the zone to past the Yacht Haven. Benches/seating along Degnish road/village hall/footpath to village shop for those who need it. Keeping signs along main road + Degnish road clear to read. Small commercial units to let, to enable more locals to start their own small business, offer more opportunities and to avoid people moving away. Primary school / care home near Village hall.
Speed of traffic and area of The Glebe that has been ruined by the attempt to clear it. Wildlife has been displaced. Thirdly, the absence of the post office.
assist with access, improve pathways and cycle tracks, offer better local transport

What actions could be taken to deal with these?

Build a play park and sports field. Use smaller buses that could go down single track road.
More police presence in area not just when things happen Council asking more about our views that are going to happen in area
pavement installed
Speed cameras that work and maybe The Glebe could be turfed and used as a football pitch?
support and access

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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