



Torrison and Kinlochewe Community Development Plan

Survey Results

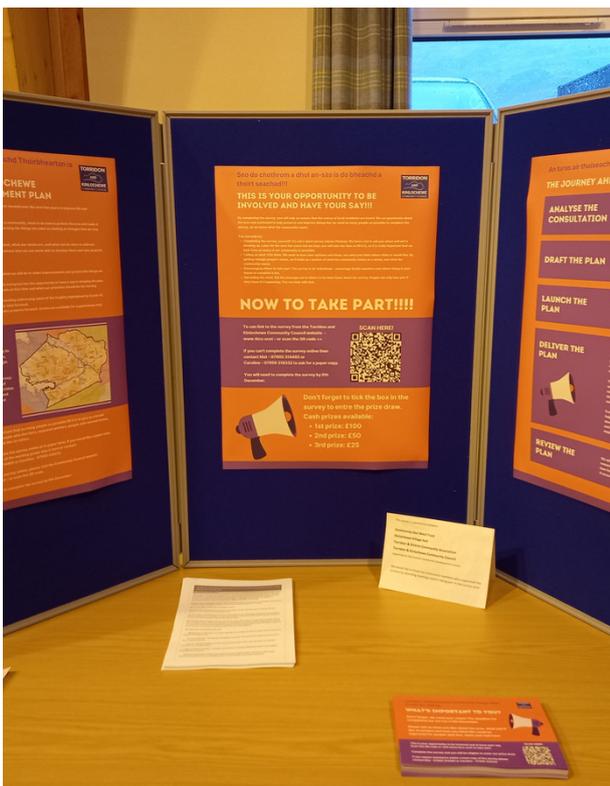
April 2022

Introduction 01

Welcome to the results of our community survey. The survey ran between 5th November and 31st December 2021 and started a community conversation with local residents, intended to help create a community development plan for our area. 160 people responded to the survey, which is almost 50% of the population.



THIS IS ONLY THE START OF THE PROCESS AND WE ARE KEEN TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN GROUP.



We will now look at the public comments and draft up a list of potential actions - this will involve further detailed conversations with the community, and there will be opportunities for anyone interested in getting involved in projects to come forward.

This is a lengthy report and we have only included an extract of comments which reflect a range of opinions.

02 Background

The community development plan will set out actions for the next few years to improve life and facilities in the Torridon and Kinlochewe area.

The plan will be community led and will include what we, as a community, need to do now to protect the area and make it sustainable for future generations. It's as much about preserving the things we value as looking at changes that we may need to make.

The plan will seek to identify what the community cares about, what our needs are, and what can be done to address these. Wherever possible, we will identify community partner organisations who we can work with to develop ideas and take projects forward. We also hope to work with public bodies to try to improve the services or facilities which they are responsible for.

THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN WILL:

- Belong to the community. It is a plan that will set out what we will do to make improvements and protect the things we like.
- Be community-led. Community consultation will mean everyone has the opportunity to have a say in shaping the plan.
- Give us a detailed snapshot of how the community feels at this time and what our priorities should be for moving forward.
- Help us respond to gaps in facilities and services, including addressing some of the fragility highlighted by Covid-19.
- Evidence community support for projects we wish to take forward. The way in which local services/ amenities are run is changing, with a trend towards community ownership.
- Help us apply for funding. Funding is shifting from central government/ Highland Council to community-led solutions. We will need funding to take projects forward and grants are available for organisations that can show the community is behind projects.

Contents

03

This is a long report, so we have split it into sections to make it easier to navigate

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04 Perceptions of the area

WE STARTED BY ASKING PEOPLE: WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LIVING IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA? LIST YOUR TOP 3 IN THE BOXES PROVIDED.

Peace quiet Stunning scenery quiet surrounded environment Strong
natural environment local Location Space Beautiful access area
community spirit mountains views scenery rural
landscape natural beauty beauty Walks community close
people wildlife Nature Peaceful live countryside remote home fantastic
Quiet community spirit ACCESS close Peace quiet Environment Welcoming remote
landscape Peace local mountains friendly friendliness
Scenery home community feel Wildlife area
people Space Small Beautiful nature sea Great history remoteness
sense community
walks Peace quiet Access shop sea feels friendly nature wildlife
Highlands community opportunity people Surroundings local
outdoor activities areas Pace life sense community remote
walking outstanding natural beauty living place local wildlife
community area people life

Torridon and Kinlochewe is an area of outstanding natural beauty, so it is no surprise that almost every respondent placed the natural environment within their top 3.

A high number of people also stated that the community was one of the 3 things they like most about living in the area.

Other things that people liked were the pace of life, low crime rate, the local culture and history, great local businesses and the peace, however the natural environment and community were mentioned by the vast majority of people.

Perceptions of the area

05

WHAT ARE THE MAIN THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE WHICH WOULD IMPROVE LIFE IN THE AREA? LIST YOUR TOP 3 IN THE BOXES PROVIDED.

improve Internet Connection Torridon maintenance area work internet
young people Better roads Nothing community Repair
Better public transport roads Affordable housing
housing Improved road village surface activities
road maintenance local Transport traffic need people infrastructure
young families
public transport younger people management facilities Potholes public internet
maintenance tourists people roads Better roads Better young
Improved Visitors local LIVE Control Traffic Torridon internet access
transport link
villages young people access work area people roads Less
Better activities community Potholes tourists public transport
services Improved
going visitors croft land Torridon community HOMES roads days
Better places toilet Park facilities ROADS ROADS ROADS use Inverness

Roads and transport related comments appeared most frequently in people's top 3. A number of people mentioned more activities in the community, including for young people. Comments in this section will be analysed further, but some of the main categories were:

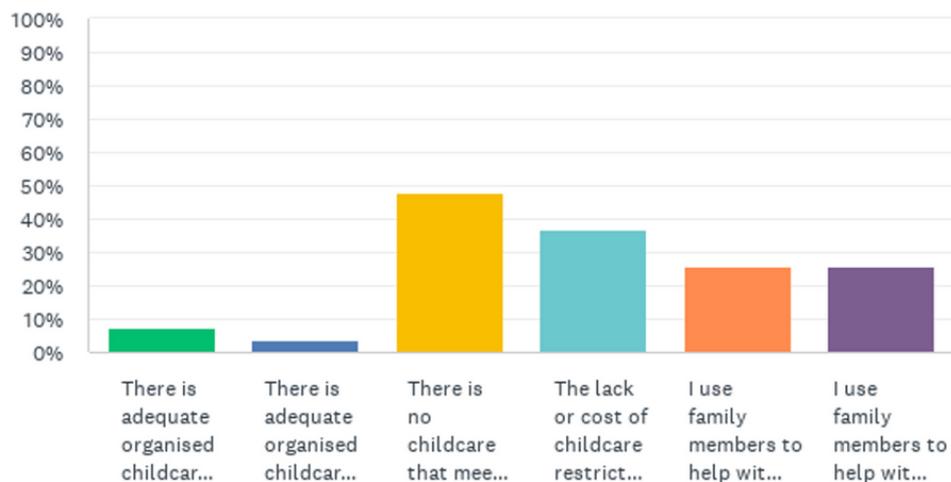
- Roads, transport and traffic
- Safe walking routes
- Community facilities and activities
- Housing
- Broadband/internet connectivity
- Environmental improvements and protection
- Tourism management
- Land management
- Impact of fish farms
- Business and employment

06

Childcare and Education

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE OF ACCESSING CHILDCARE?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 136



This question provided the opportunity for people to select more than one option. Out of the people who said they currently have children within school age brackets, the most popular choice, “There is no childcare that meets my needs” was frequently paired with the selection “The lack or cost of childcare restricts how much I can work or socialise”.

Respondents from Kinlochewe and Fasaig, in particular, commented on these options.

There was an acknowledgement that small numbers of children impacts on the opportunities for provision, but one respondent also felt that “The problem of schooling is a symptom of the lack affordable housing”.

SURVEY PARTICIPANTS SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES

“Re childcare- for young children we found Toybox in Gairloch to be great. But once children are older there is nothing really after school, so work must work round school. Luckily we have their grandparents who can help out , but not everyone has this option. “

“Gairloch is the only place that has a nursery suitable for under 3.”

SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED:

“Wraparound care (before 9am and after 3pm) could be provided at school through breakfast clubs and after school clubs. I would be prepared to pay to access this.”

“Torridon school could host some preschool groups? Or become a nursery”

Childcare and Education

07

RATE THE FOLLOWING CHILDCARE AND OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROVISION IN THE AREA. 1 IS VERY POOR AND 5 IS EXCELLENT.

Answered: 55 Skipped: 108

	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	TOTAL
Facilities or activities for pre-school children in your family	11.11% 6	12.96% 7	3.70% 2	1.85% 1	3.70% 2	66.67% 36	54
Out of school facilities or extra-curricular activities for primary age children in your family	14.81% 8	14.81% 8	0.00% 0	5.56% 3	1.85% 1	62.96% 34	54
Out of school facilities or extra-curricular activities for high school age young people in your family	16.67% 9	11.11% 6	3.70% 2	1.85% 1	3.70% 2	62.96% 34	54
School holiday childcare or out of school activities for children and young people in your family	25.45% 14	12.73% 7	1.82% 1	3.64% 2	1.82% 1	54.55% 30	55

The table shows the overall responses from everyone who answered the question, but “School holiday or out of school activities” were also rated the poorest provision by those who stated they currently have school aged children. 71% of people within this category, gave this a 1 (very poor) or 2 (poor) rating.

Transport to access activities was identified as a challenge. A number of people commented on the fact that out of school activities for their children mainly take place in Gairloch and that transport can be an issue, especially when they have to drive children to a club and then collect them again. This is explored further later in the report.

One participant felt that *“School holiday childcare would be incredibly helpful. After school childcare options would also be very helpful, but slightly less critical. After school care could be in or near the school in Shieldaig”*

08

Childcare and Education

OTHER SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED:

"Outreach type activities from High Life or Eden Court might be a way to let our children experience a broad range of activities."

"Some support from council bodies (e.g. Highlife highland) for out of school activities"

"Support and encouragement could be given to adults interested in putting on after school clubs. Great hall at Torridon and Kinlochewe. Funding for school holiday clubs."

"There are two community halls which could be used more for out of school childcare/activities which could attract more funding for existing facilities. The existing Primary school in Kinlochewe will benefit with the addition of any new pupils within the existing Torridon/Kinlochewe catchment area."

"School holiday activities similar to those provided at Lochcarron Tree House could be provided. Could the NTS support junior rangers club either after school or in the holidays? Torridon school could be repurposed as a centre for learning about local environment, geology, culture, ecology which could also be marketed to tourists and other highland schools."

"Would be great to have a network of up-to-date park facilities throughout the area"

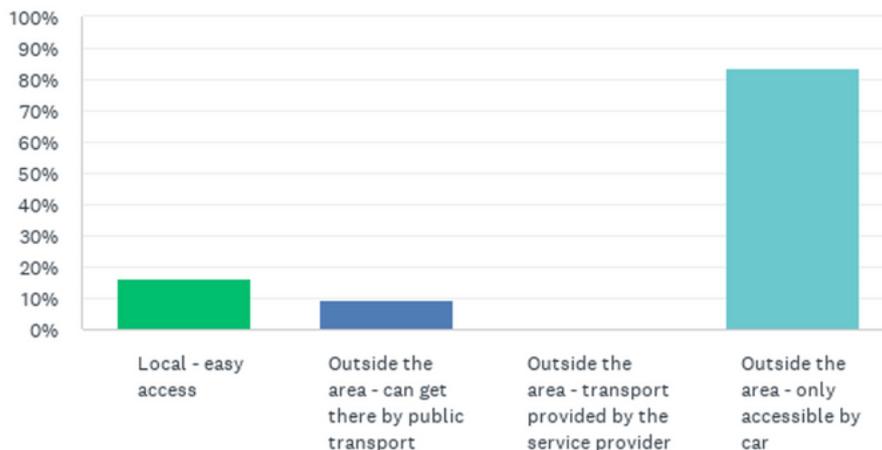


Childcare and Education

09

HOW FAR DO YOU HAVE TO TRAVEL TO ACCESS CHILDCARE OR OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Answered: 31 Skipped: 132



Most families accessing childcare or out of school activities do so outwith the area in which they live, with the majority stating that they need a car to do this.

A NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS COMMENTED:

"In a rural area you expect to have less opportunities for organised activities, as well as having to travel further to access them. Any activities provided locally (i.e. within 10 miles of Torridon) after school and/or in the holidays would be welcome however. A playpark and/or outdoor sports pitch would be a great addition to either village."

"High school children like to go to the Den on Friday evenings in Gairloch, 2 years ago the Westerbuss would pass Kinlochewe so they could catch it & parents only had one trip to Gairloch to pick them up, now parents need to travel to Gairloch to drop off & back again at 10.30pm to pick up, the children from Aultbea & Poole have minibus to take them there & back. Funding for a taxi or bus would be helpful."

"The majority of after school activities for us take place in Gairloch. This is okay if you don't mind/can afford to regularly travel. However it is not very sustainable for some families"

"The main barrier to activities is the distance to travel and lack of transport for children to get home"

"Linked transport to/from Gairloch to allow children to access activities would be great."

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Childcare and Education

ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL CHOICES IS IMPORTANT FOR ANY COMMUNITY SO WE SOUGHT PEOPLE'S VIEWS ON THE ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL PROVISION AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE AREA.

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE THINGS ABOUT ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL PROVISION AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE AREA?

34 people responded to this section. Almost half of them commented on the small class size or small school being one of the positive things about educational provision in the area.

Other positives mentioned include access to the natural environment, opportunities for place based learning linking to local traditions and history, good links with neighbouring schools, the variety of in-school and out of school activities available, school transport provision and excellent provision of Gaelic language in Gairloch.

One parent felt that the provision of home-schooling work from the primary and secondary schools when the schools were shut in early 2021 was great/pretty good, but that broadband issues can make online learning difficult.

A few people mentioned the benefits of children from different villages coming together in one school.



Childcare and Education

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WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED ABOUT ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL PROVISION AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE AREA?

38 people responded to this question. A few pointed out the opportunities of linking with local industries and career paths.

"I feel that later years in high school the school perhaps needs to match up with other schools and offer more opportunities of apprenticeships and rural skills education, so the children have the option to remain in the area."

"Making use of knowledge of industry within the area: NTS, SNH. Aquaculture, engineering."

"More hands-on work experience where they can learn what the world of work is like and what to expect when they start employment."

Other suggestion included improving links between schools, more subject specific teachers, the need to attract more teachers to the area and the need for high-speed internet.

"Schools often struggle to recruit for the non-teaching posts which has an impact on the whole school. Whether it is nursery unable to open, no school lunches or lack of pupil support. If no one who lives in the village wishes to do the job it is very difficult to entice someone from outwith the area due to travelling time and cost. Smaller schools should be able to offer a travel/time supplement to make the jobs more viable."



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Childcare and Education

There were a few suggestions around the curriculum (both in-school and after school):

“Improved funding for travel costs. Increase better Networking with larger rural areas in Ross shire to help increase choices for secondary pupils.”

“Access to more extra-curricular activities for the primary school children, such as after-school sport and regular (e.g., fortnightly) trips to nearby swimming pools (e.g., Kyle) for lessons.”

“More specialist teachers...e.g., Music. Music is such a big part of the culture and heritage of the area and should be encouraged.”

“Transport provision for extra-curricular activities given the wide catchment area of the schools.”

“THE PROVISION AND ACCESS TO A VARIED CURRICULUM IS VITAL AND THE AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS ARE CRITICAL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN.”

Some survey participants suggested community-based learning opportunities or community resources that could help support formal learning:

“Access to training such as dog training, recycling, cycling proficiency would greatly benefit locals, and holiday makers, of ALL ages.”

“Would like to have access to adult education in the area.”

“A community minibus would help support schools to transport children to educational, cultural or sporting events. A trip to Eden Court can currently cost upwards of £400 which is a huge cost per child. This addresses some of the rural deprivation that children experience.”

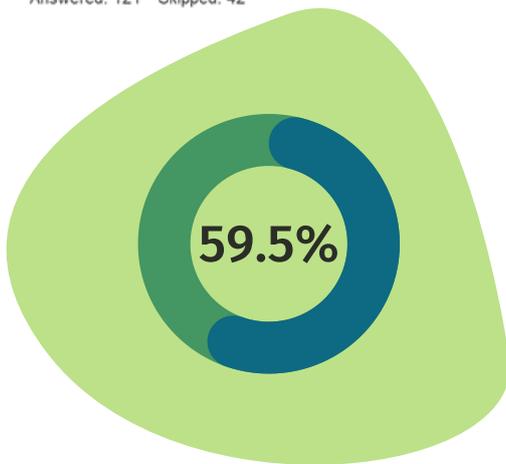
13

Employment and Training

34% of survey respondents stated that they are in permanent employment, however 8% stated that they need more than one job to provide the income they need.

DO YOU WORK IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA?

Answered: 121 Skipped: 42



The majority of respondents (59.5%) work in the Torridon and Kinlochewe area. Of the people who replied no, some are retired or semi-retired, a few work elsewhere in Highland region, and several work further afield. The majority of people who are not currently working in the area, responded “No” when asked if they would like a job in the Torridon and Kinlochewe area.

WE BELIEVE THAT FOR OURS TO BE A VIBRANT, THRIVING COMMUNITY WE NEED A GOOD MIX OF SUSTAINABLE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT TO SUPPORT PEOPLE TO STAY HERE AND MOVE HERE.

The hospitality sector is the biggest employer in the area with 49% saying they work in a café, bar or restaurant, in a hotel, holiday accommodation or tourist activities. 33% of respondents chose “other” and included lawyers, unpaid community workers, property managers, writers and scientists.

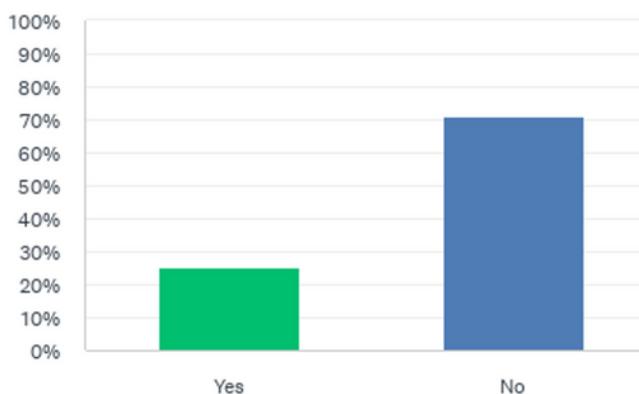
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agriculture or horticulture, including crofting and estate management	22.41%	26
Aquaculture and fish farming	1.72%	2
Arts, design or crafts	5.17%	6
Café, bar or restaurant	12.07%	14
Carer	1.72%	2
Community or charity paid work	6.03%	7
Construction	5.17%	6
Consultant	4.31%	5
Education	5.17%	6
Emergency services	3.45%	4
Fishing	0.86%	1
Food or drink production	5.17%	6
Forestry	5.17%	6
Health and social care	6.90%	8
Highland Council	1.72%	2
Holiday accommodation	16.38%	19
Hotel	11.21%	13
IT or communications	2.59%	3
Mechanics or engineering	2.59%	3
Offshore	1.72%	2
Renewables	2.59%	3
Retail	2.59%	3
Tourist activities	9.48%	11
Other (please specify)	32.76%	38
Total Respondents: 116		

Employment and Training

14

WOULD YOU LIKE A JOB IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA DOING ANY OF THE ABOVE OR SOMETHING ELSE? (THIS MAY BE A DIFFERENT JOB TO THE ONE YOU ARE CURRENTLY DOING OR IT MAY BE A NEW JOB)

Answered: 118 Skipped: 45



In total, 30 people said that they would like a job in the Torridon and Kinlochewe area. Of these, 5 were from Fasaig, 5 from Annat and 4 from Kinlochewe.

4 under 18s answered this question. 2 said yes, they would like a job in the area, 1 said yes in the future, and one is happy with their current job, but it is seasonal.

WHAT WOULD HELP YOU DO THIS?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 122

More jobs was the most popular action that people felt would help them take up a job in the area, however, a number of people selected "other". There was no strong common reason among the respondents who chose "other" – there was a wide spread of things that people felt would help.

"More people living in the area"

"A wider variety of jobs or adequate travel expenses/lodgings provided "

"Better connectivity"

"Availability of workshop units"

"Land owning estates freeing up land for crofts"

"Childcare"

"Reliable, high speed internet"

"Investment in facilities"

"Availability of funding"

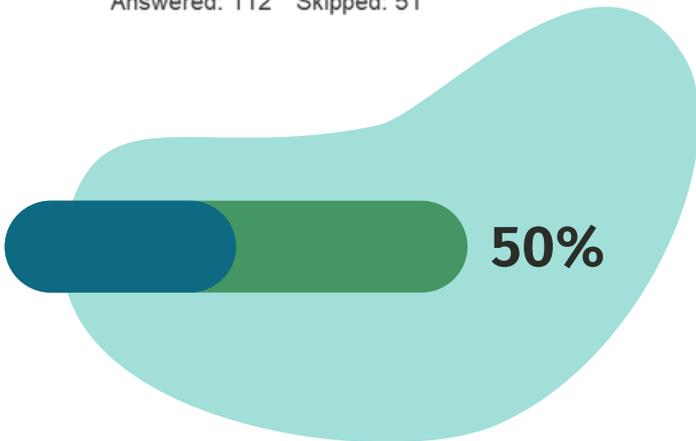
"Perhaps opportunities for training / experience on the nature reserves"

15

Employment and Training

HAVE YOU BEEN REQUIRED TO WORK FROM HOME DUE TO COVID-19?

Answered: 112 Skipped: 51



59% of people said they had not been required to work from home due to Covid-19.

Of the 39% of people who said they had, 15 people said they thought this would continue on either a full or part-time basis in the future.

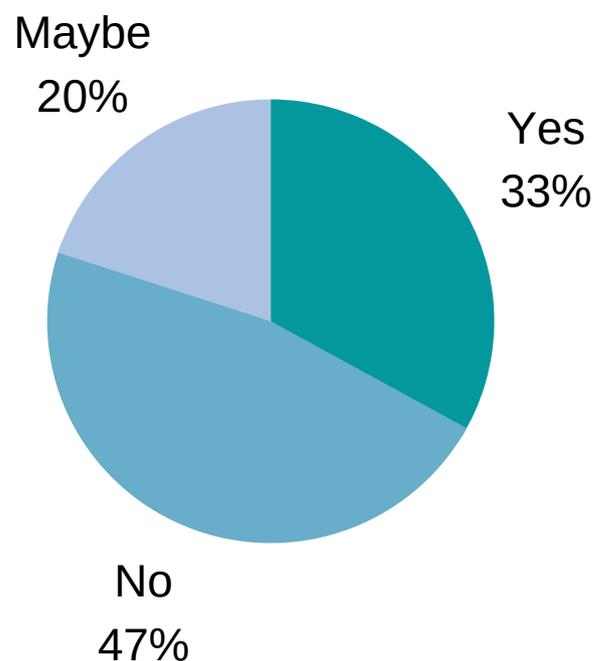
An additional 3 people said they had been working from home prior to the pandemic and would continue to do so.

DO YOU RUN OR INTEND TO SET UP A BUSINESS IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA?

Answered: 129 Skipped: 34

47% of survey participants are not intending to set up a business in the area, 33% said that they are, and 20% said they may.

Of the people who said they are intending to, or who may set up a business in the area, there are a number of factors that people say would help them stabilise, grow or set up their business.



Employment and Training

16

IF YES, WHAT WOULD HELP YOU TO STABILISE, GROW OR SET UP YOUR BUSINESS IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 100

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Business advice including planning and market research	14.29%	9
Technology infrastructure e.g. good mobile/internet access	52.38%	33
Availability of staff	31.75%	20
Mentoring	7.94%	5
Financial support	14.29%	9
Easier access to loans or finance	12.70%	8
Access to premises, e.g. business starter units	23.81%	15
Access to land	25.40%	16
Facilities for tourism	25.40%	16
Cooperation with other businesses e.g. on marketing or cross-selling opportunities	12.70%	8
Local online selling platform	17.46%	11
Other (please specify). If you have any further comments about business, please use this box.	22.22%	14
Total Respondents: 63		

Across the whole area, technology and infrastructure e.g. good mobile/internet access was by far the biggest factor that people felt would help them stabilise, grow or set up a business, although almost a third of people also highlighted availability of staff as a key factor.

Availability of staff and access to premises e.g. business starter units was a marginally more popular selection in the Kinlochewe area, than technology and infrastructure.

17 Tourism

TOURISM FORMS A VITAL PART OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY. AS WITH MANY OTHER AREAS OF OUR ECONOMY, IT HAS BEEN BADLY AFFECTED BY COVID-19 BUT WE ALSO WANT TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS THE LONGER-TERM CHALLENGES FOR TOURISM IN THE AREA.

AT THE MOMENT WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE POSITIVE IMPACTS OF TOURISM FOR THE COMMUNITY IN THE AREA?

Answered: 145 Skipped: 18

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Income from holiday accommodation	78.62%	114
Increased local spend due to seasonal workers adding to the population	48.97%	71
Income from local crafts and art retail	60.00%	87
Increased demand for local food shops	66.21%	96
Increased demand for other local services	48.28%	70
Restaurant and café sales	79.31%	115
Provision of employment to local people	76.55%	111
Cultural education with people from elsewhere	30.34%	44
Other (please specify)	8.28%	12
Total Respondents: 145		

The economic benefits of tourism were highlighted by survey participants, although one respondent also commented that “Exposure to diverse cultures” was a benefit. The majority of participants identified multiple benefits and some people added other observations which included:

“These are great, during the season. However, once the season ends , those people are now struggling to keep businesses open....”

“It gives a seasonal “buzz” to the community”

“New businesses have been set up like a taxi/ tour guide business, new activity providers, increased visitors to community centre, cafe, and shops. Local suppliers have seen a significant increase in trade as a result of increased visitors”

“Networking within niche markets”

“Income that funds our community centre”

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY WAYS OUR COMMUNITY COULD TAKE MORE ADVANTAGE OF TOURISM AND/OR MANAGE TOURISM MORE EFFECTIVELY? E.G. NEW ACTIVITIES OR NEW WAYS OF GENERATING INCOME

There were extensive comments in response to this question around:

- the development of better or more facilities
- the need for more businesses to manage and cater for tourists – suggestions included community-run business opportunities
- the provision of chemical waste disposal and management of camper vans
- ecotourism
- the repurposing of existing buildings
- heritage tourism
- running chargeable courses around different skills
- better signage for tourists (litter, safe driving etc)
- the need for more “slow tourism” to encourage people to stop and spend some time in the area



One participant suggested a donations box for visitors to the area to be able to contribute to projects to enhance and protect the area.

Another suggestion was to enhance the school play area and make visiting families welcome.

19 Tourism

AT THE MOMENT HOW WOULD YOU RANK THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF TOURISM IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA? 1 (LEAST NEGATIVE) TO 5 (MOST NEGATIVE)

Answered: 145 Skipped: 18

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Congestion on roads	4.26% 6	8.51% 12	20.57% 29	26.95% 38	39.72% 56	141
Damage to road infrastructure	4.86% 7	4.86% 7	13.19% 19	21.53% 31	55.56% 80	144
Motorhome waste disposal	10.45% 14	5.97% 8	16.42% 22	26.87% 36	40.30% 54	134
Irresponsible camping and toileting	4.38% 6	5.84% 8	13.14% 18	29.20% 40	47.45% 65	137
Litter	4.38% 6	8.76% 12	21.90% 30	27.01% 37	37.96% 52	137
Environmental damage	3.73% 5	11.94% 16	17.91% 24	32.09% 43	34.33% 46	134
Inadequate car parking space	9.42% 13	13.77% 19	14.49% 20	28.26% 39	34.06% 47	138

The NC500 received a number of negative comments in the tourism section. However, the majority of these comments were around the need to manage NC500 visitors better or develop ways of keeping them in the area/encouraging spend rather than discouraging people from travelling the route. The people who commented on the route were keen to see a benefit from it, rather than just focussing on the negative impacts.

“THERE NEEDS TO BE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE FEELING OF RETIRING TO THIS LOCATION AND A QUIET WAY OF LIFE, AND ALSO BUSINESS PROVIDING LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME TO THE REGION”.

Several people commented on the pressure on infrastructure – this experience is shared by other communities across the Highland area and may be worth exploring and discussing with public sector partners and other communities.

Other comments were around:

- a lack of courtesy and respect for locals and the environment
- wildfires
- dog fouling
- a lack of facilities (toilets in particular)
- inappropriate parking and/or camping
- littering
- a lack of awareness around driving on single track roads.

Tourism 20

WE WENT ON TO ASK THE COMMUNITY WHAT THEY THINK ABOUT A RANGE OF POTENTIAL TOURISM RELATED COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

There are no immediate plans to develop these and further community consultation would be required if any of the projects are to progress. Robust business plans would also be needed.

Working up details and consulting further would require time and energy so an indication of whether the community is in favour of any ideas in principle is useful.

IF TORRIDON PRIMARY SCHOOL BECOMES AVAILABLE, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR WHAT A COMMUNITY ORGANISATION COULD USE IT FOR?

90 survey participants answered this question, so we have bundled the responses and suggestions into general themes for this report. The Development Plan Group will analyse these in more detail when moving towards a development plan.

- Housing
- Heritage museum
- Workshops
- Community activities or support services
- Information centre



A few people commented on wariness around the community taking on managing another building, or around what the primary school would offer that existing facilities can't.

"Ideally the building should be retained in such a way that it could revert to a Primary School again"

"I wouldn't want a new facility to compete with the existing Community Centre/visitors centre and the shops/cafes that are already in Torricon."

"Nothing that couldn't be done in the existing facilities (e.g. village hall)"

21 Tourism

IF PHONE BOXES BECOME AVAILABLE (IE. IF BT REMOVE THE PHONES), DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS FOR WHAT A COMMUNITY ORGANISATION COULD USE THEM FOR?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 78

The most popular suggestion (38% of responses) was to use any decommissioned phone boxes as book exchanges or informal libraries.

The next most popular responses were as information points (11%) or to house defibrillators (9%).

8% of respondents feel that phone boxes should not be decommissioned, primarily due to the poor mobile phone signal in the area.

IF TORRIDON CAMPSITE BECOMES AVAILABLE, DO YOU THINK A COMMUNITY RUN ORGANISATION SHOULD TAKE IT OVER?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 22

77% of respondents agreed with the general idea of the community running the campsite, should it become available.

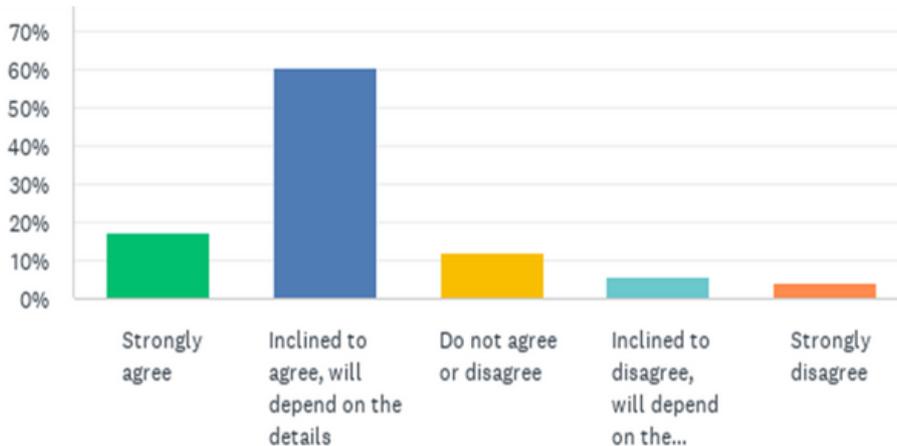
The majority (58%) said they were inclined to agree, but it would depend the details, indicating that the community would like more information, should the idea be progressed in the future.

“The existing campsite at Torridon has improvement potential - both for campers and motorhomes - some capital outlay would be required - but customers would be willing to pay if facilities were improved. The existing site would not cause any problems re the amenity of the village”

Comment extracted from "any other ideas" at the end of the tourism section

IF THERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE OVER A VISITOR CENTRE IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA, DO YOU THINK A COMMUNITY RUN ORGANISATION SHOULD DO THAT?

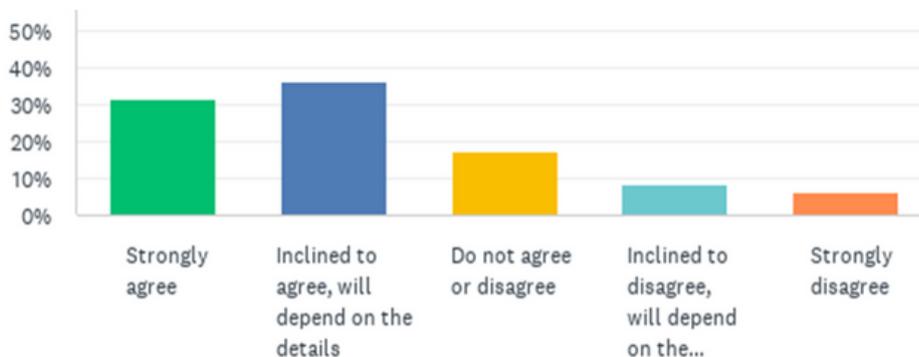
Answered: 140 Skipped: 23



Like many of the tourism related opportunities for community projects or businesses, the majority of people (78%) were in agreement with the idea of the community taking over a visitor centre in the area however it is worth noting that only 17.14% strongly agreed.

WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOUR OF A COMMUNITY ORGANISATION BECOMING CUSTODIAN OF SOME OF THE LOCAL SEABED, TO MANAGE THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND FISHING?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 23



68% of respondents agreed with the general idea of a community organisation becoming custodian of some of the seabed, to manage the marine environment and fishing.

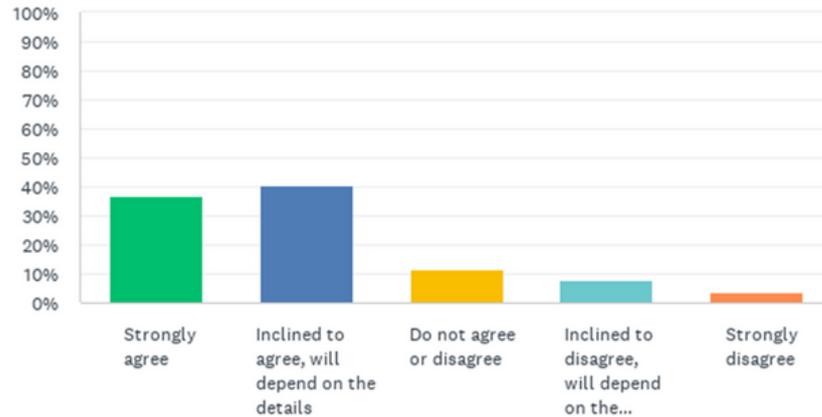
Within this there was a fairly even split between those that are in strong agreement (31%) and those that are inclined to agree (36%).

23

Tourism

WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOUR OF MORE COMMUNITY RUN TOILET FACILITIES?

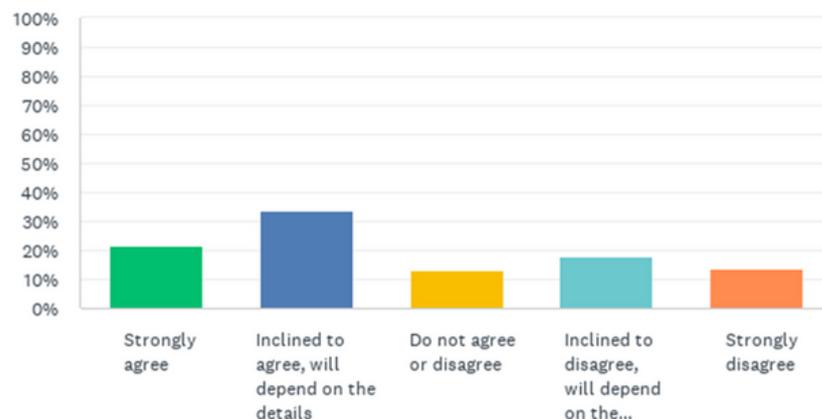
Answered: 139 Skipped: 24



Community support for more community run toilet facilities was also high in principle, with 77% of overall respondents in favour. These were fairly evenly split between those who strongly agree (37%) and those who are inclined to agree, depending on the details (40%). Less than 5% of people who answered this question strongly disagreed with the idea. Support was slightly lower among Kinlochewe respondents, with 66% in favour. There was a higher number of Kinlochewe based respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed (22%).

WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOUR OF MORE COMMUNITY RUN MOTORHOME FACILITIES?

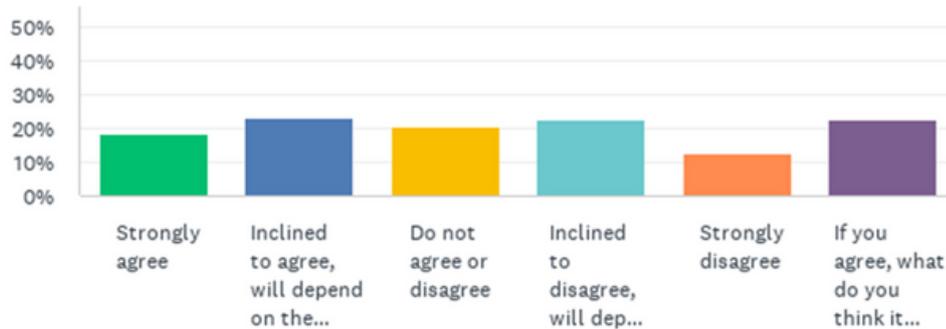
Answered: 139 Skipped: 24



Responses to whether the community would be in favour of more community run motorhome facilities garnered a more mixed response. 55% of those who answered this question strongly agreed or were inclined to agree with the question, 32% strongly disagreed or were inclined to disagree, and 13% neither agreed nor disagreed.

WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOUR OF A COMMUNITY RUN SHOP?

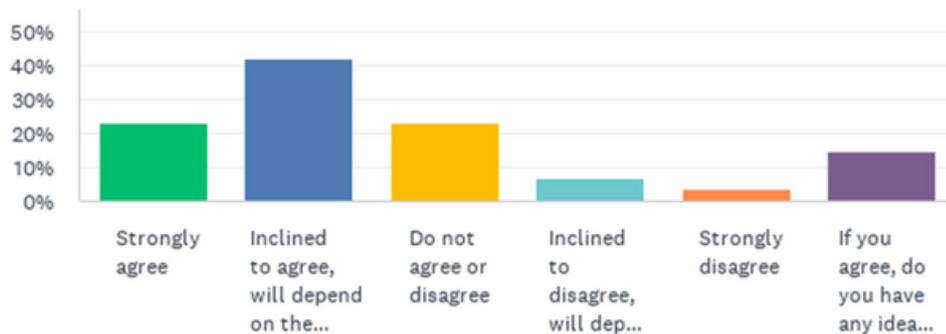
Answered: 142 Skipped: 21



Community opinion is divided on the subject of a community run shop. Those who strongly disagree or are inclined to disagree are spread across the area. Of those who did say they were in favour of the idea, there was a strong sense that a community run shop should sell local produce. A few respondents stated that they would like to see reasonably priced essentials. Several people felt it was important that a project of this nature would not compete with Torridon Stores.

WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOUR OF A COMMUNITY RUN MUSEUM OR ARCHIVE?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 22



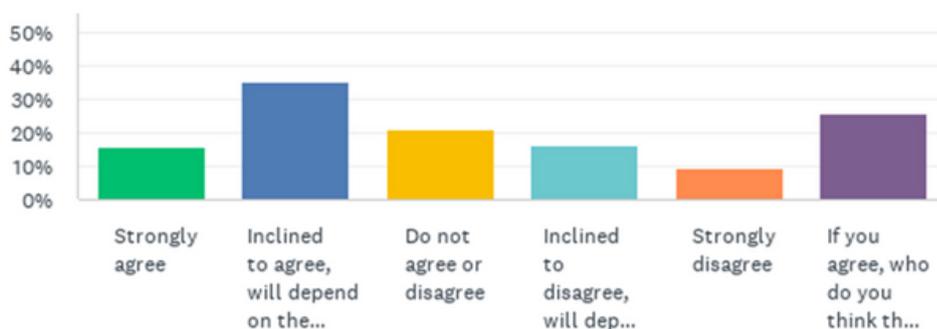
The potential of a community run museum or archive was a popular suggestion, with 65% of survey participants stating that they strongly agreed or were inclined to agree. Some potential locations were suggested in the comments.

A few concerns were raised about whether a community run museum or archive would compete with, or draw people away from, the Gairloch Museum.

25 Tourism

WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOUR OF A COMMUNITY ORGANISATION PROVIDING ACCOMMODATION?

Answered: 139 Skipped: 24



42% of people agreed or were inclined to agree with the idea of a community organisation providing accommodation. Of these, the majority expressed support for accommodation for seasonal or locally employed workers.

There were a few people who disagreed who raised concerns around the potential development of housing for visitors or tourists that might compete with privately run accommodation.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS THAT YOU WANT TO ADD? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR THEM!

The majority of survey participants aged under 30 did not add any additional comments.

A few people raised concerns about whether the community would have the capacity to run community projects, particularly to supply volunteers to projects if required.

THERE WERE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS WHICH FALL BROADLY INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

- Activities for tourists
- Information for tourists to help minimise negative impact
- Facilities for tourists
- Road and signage improvements
- Opportunities for visitors to buy local produce
- Projects to protect the local environment and nature

OTHER SUGGESTIONS INCLUDED:

“Small ferry from Inveralligin to Shieldaig”

“Community owned nursery growing and selling plants and trees”

“Bring the area in to the digital age. Interaction with digital devices (could be an App). You pass a specific point, your phone 'pings' up an interesting point, part of a clue, a historical fact etc, etc, etc.

“Resurrecting the old postbus service would be terrific....”

“Provision of paths allowing walkers and cyclists to travel between local communities and facilities safely”

“How about a community event of some kind? Great Torridonian welly waggles? Or rowing race? Or fete? ...”

“Partnering another rural community at similar stage in its redevelopment as here”

“...Is there an opportunity to create an overarching development body with the ability to employ the management capacity to develop and deliver services.....”

27 Housing

Good quality, affordable housing is essential for any community and is most important to ensure that those people who wish to stay here can do so. It will help to sustain our local economy and will help our local community to thrive in the long-term.

QUESTIONS WERE PROVIDED BY THE COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST AND WE WILL SHARE THE ANONYMISED HOUSING DATA WITH THEM TO HELP INFORM THEIR PLANS.

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT HOUSING SITUATION

Answered: 140 Skipped: 23

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A home that you own	68.57%	96
A croft house (lived in by the crofter)	7.14%	10
A council or housing association house	4.29%	6
A tied house (e.g. an estate workers house)	3.57%	5
A key worker's house	0.71%	1
A house rented from a private landlord	3.57%	5
Living in parents'/family/relative's home	7.14%	10
A temporary or semi-permanent dwelling or caravan on your own land	0.00%	0
A temporary dwelling or caravan on someone else's land	0.71%	1
Registered homeless	0.00%	0
On a waiting list for a council or housing association house	0.71%	1
Staying with friends or family temporarily, including couch surfing	0.00%	0
In temporary accommodation	0.00%	0
Building your own home	0.00%	0
Other (please explain)	7.86%	11
Total Respondents: 140		

Respondents selecting “other” included people living in staff accommodation at work, people with accommodation tied to a commercial lease and those with second homes in the area.

Almost half of the people answering “other” live in the Annat area.

Housing

28

HOW EASY IS IT TO FIND A HOUSE THAT MEETS YOUR NEEDS IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA? 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) TO 5 (VERY EASY)

Answered: 119 Skipped: 44

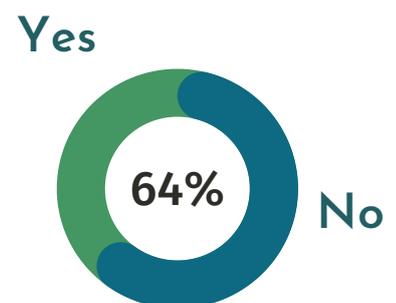
	1	2	3	4	5	N/A	TOTAL
(no label)	38.66%	14.29%	11.76%	0.84%	3.36%	31.09%	119
	46	17	14	1	4	37	

The vast majority of people who said this question was not applicable are homeowners or crofters. Within the 31 – 49 age group, more than half said it was very difficult to find a house to meet their needs. The majority of respondents who stated that they were seasonal residents, also stated that they own their own home.

ARE YOU AWARE OF A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND WHO WOULD LIKE TO LIVE IN THE AREA BUT CANNOT, DUE TO HOUSING SHORTAGES OR THE COST OF HOUSING?

Answered: 133 Skipped: 30

The answer to this was no, by a majority of 64% to 36%. There were comments which expressed people's concerns about the pressures that second home ownership puts on the market (availability, pricing etc). Some comments noted the barrier this places on attracting or retaining young people/families.



"Personally looking to buy. Everything is very expensive and is bought up quickly as holiday lets"

"Several friends have turned down jobs in the area as they could not find accommodation"

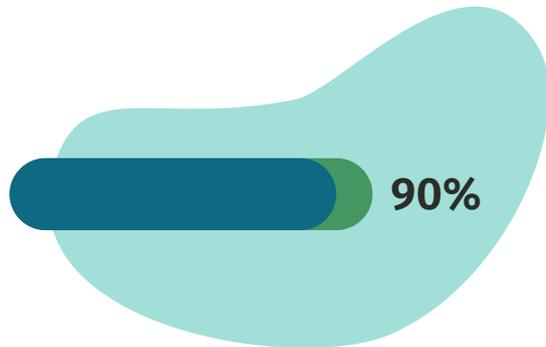
"Cost of holiday houses drives young people out of the market"

"I'm aware of at least 2 young families that would like to move here and work here but cannot find accommodation."

29 Housing

ARE YOU CONSIDERING MOVING HOME?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 27



ONLY 1 RESPONDENT WHO SAID THEY WERE CONSIDERING MOVING HOME, CURRENTLY OWNS THEIR OWN HOME. THE REST STATED THEY ARE LIVING WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS, LIVING IN PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION OR IN TIED HOUSING.

The majority of people said they were not considering moving home. Of those who said that they are, they would like to move to:

Location	No. of People
Alligin	1
Annat	1
Diabaig	2
Gairloch	2
Kinlochewe	2
Shieldaig	1
Torrison	4
Did not specify an area	1

IF PROVIDED, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS WOULD BEST SUIT YOUR HOUSING REQUIREMENTS? (1 BEING LEAST PREFERRED AND 6 BEING MOST PREFERRED)

Answered: 23 Skipped: 140

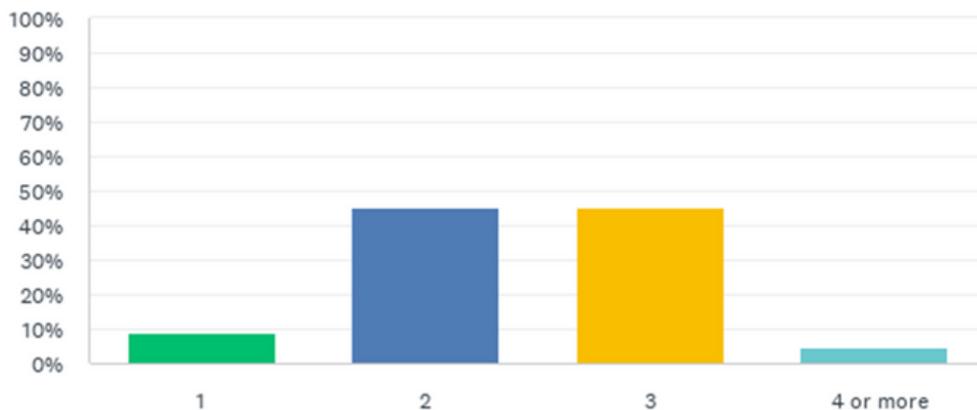
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Low-cost rent	25.00% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	30.00% 6	45.00% 9	20
Private rent	11.11% 2	16.67% 3	22.22% 4	33.33% 6	16.67% 3	0.00% 0	18
Low-cost shared equity	26.32% 5	26.32% 5	15.79% 3	21.05% 4	5.26% 1	5.26% 1	19
Self-build	30.00% 6	5.00% 1	15.00% 3	15.00% 3	20.00% 4	15.00% 3	20
Renovation	14.29% 3	19.05% 4	14.29% 3	14.29% 3	14.29% 3	23.81% 5	21
Buy on the open market	10.00% 2	0.00% 0	10.00% 2	5.00% 1	20.00% 4	55.00% 11	20

Buy on the open market was the most popular option selected by respondents overall. This was also the most popular choice for those who said they were considering moving home, although low-cost rent was also a popular choice among this group.

Housing 30

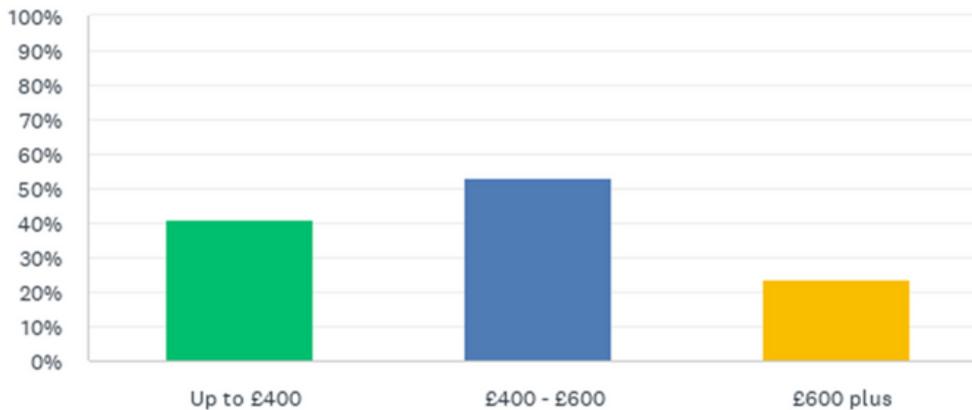
HOW MANY BEDROOMS WOULD YOU NEED IN YOUR NEW HOME?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 141



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RENT, WHAT IS YOUR BUDGET PER MONTH?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 146



Almost everyone who answered this question is living in rented or tied accommodation, with the majority of them stating that their budget is £600 or less per month.

31 Housing

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUY A HOME OR BUILD A HOME, WHAT IS YOUR TOTAL BUDGET?



More than half of respondents stated that if they were looking to buy or build a house, their budget is less than £175,000. A popular online house price site currently lists the average price for buying a house in Torrington as £234,539 and Kinlochewe as £198,007. Only 26% of respondents placed themselves within a budget to be able to afford the average Torrington house price.

ANY FURTHER COMMENTS ABOUT HOUSING

A number of people commented on the need for affordable housing to be built to accommodate local need or attract working age people to the area, including people who wish to return to the area.

Comments fell broadly into the following categories:

- The need for affordable housing
- Concerns over the number of holiday lets and second homes
- The cost of land and houses in the area
- The importance of housing design, both in relation to carbon footprint, and sensitivity to the local natural environment.

There were some comments and suggestions around housing allocation policies including that future affordable homes should be *“allocated first to locals who want or need them”* and that *“allocation of family sized social housing should prioritise families”*.

OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT HOUSING INCLUDED:

"Do we need more people? People retire up here, and come on holiday up here because it's the way it is - expanding the population will change this."

"I think it would be to have mains electricity to the Balgy Gap as there are over 6 generators in use for 10 houses, the EE mast and fish farm - I very much worry about our carbon footprint."

"Community needs houses a discrete block of retirement flats managed by the community would allow older folk to downsize with stipulation the home goes for sale to locals ... obviously loads of legalities to sort..."

"There are numerous ruined crofthouses and crofts which NTS seems content to leave derelict. Could these be made available to the community for restoration, potentially with croft land attached?"

"It is very sad to see homes lying empty for most of the year while locals are living in caravans."



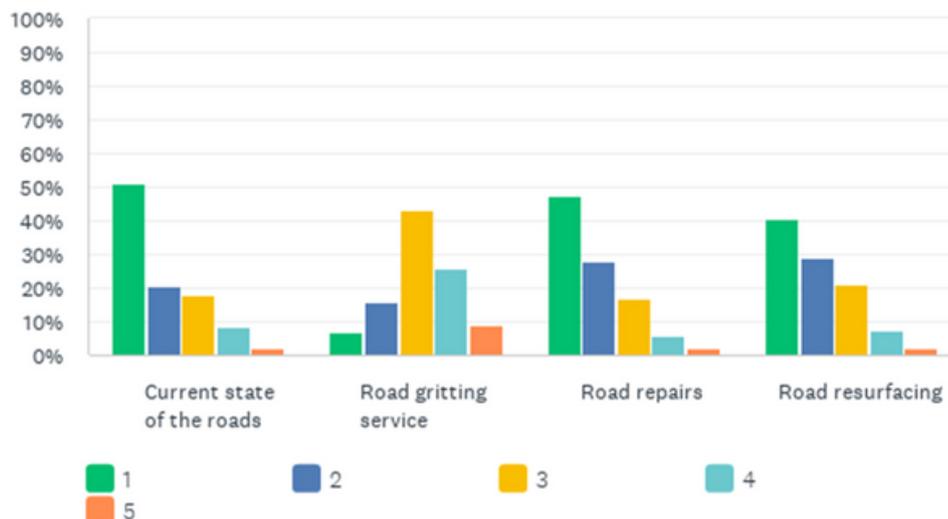
33

Transport and Infrastructure

LIFE IN THE TORRIDON AND KINLOCHEWE AREA IS ENHANCED BY THE CORE SERVICES WHICH HELP US TO COMMUNICATE AND GET AROUND.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE LOCAL ROAD CONDITIONS? PLEASE RANK THESE FROM 1 (VERY POOR) TO 5 (VERY GOOD)

Answered: 141 Skipped: 22



Over 70% of respondents rated the current state of the roads and road repairs as poor or very poor, with road resurfacing almost as high at 69%. Most felt the road gritting service was okay, with only 22% saying it was poor or very poor.

Additional comments related to:

- Resurfacing and repairs (roads and drainage)
- The impact of the NC500
- The impact of HGVs
- Broken signage

COMMENTS ON THE ROAD CONDITIONS (CONT.)

Comments on resurfacing were mixed. In some instances, people commented on where resurfacing or repairs are needed, and others on the quality of repair work.

With regards where resurfacing or repairs have been carried out, opinions ranged from *“worse than third world countries”* and *“the lack of maintenance to the roads over the last 20 years is the main reason the roads are in such a state...”* to *“road surfaces have seen a great improvement over the last year”* and *“in recent years the potholes and damage in the roads has been improved.”*

However, even those who felt improvements have been made, thought that further improvements were required. A number of people commented that they feel *“a better quality of repairs would result in a longer fix”*.

Although gritting scored higher, those who did comment on it felt it is not always undertaken when required, or that gritters travel to a target location without gritting along the route. A few people also commented on the challenges created by the fact that the area doesn't get gritted until later in the day, creating issues for commuters and the postal service.

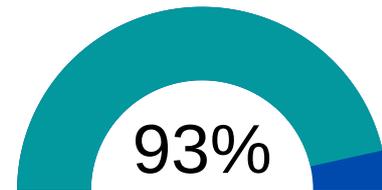
35

Transport and Infrastructure

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR OWN TRANSPORT THAT MEETS YOUR TRANSPORT NEEDS?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 22

93% of the 115 people who answered the question “Do you have access to your own transport that meets your transport needs?” said yes they do.



DO YOU EVER USE PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE AREA?

Answered: 115 Skipped: 48

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Weekly	3.48%	4
Monthly	5.22%	6
Yearly	26.96%	31
Please state why you use it or why you don't use it.	87.83%	101
Total Respondents: 115		

Less than 4% of people said that they use public transport weekly, with only 5% using it monthly, and 27% yearly. Several people, across the categories, use public transport to travel to Inverness.

Those who use it weekly use it for school, to go to Tesco or to travel to Inverness. Those who use it yearly all stated they have access to their own transport, although a few commented that they would use public transport more if the service was better.

The majority of people went on to provide comments in this section around:

- Provision (not enough public transport to meet needs)
- Difficulty of physically accessing it (either due to route or timetabling)

Transport and Infrastructure

36

OTHER COMMENTS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE AREA

"Would like a community taxi to meet each Achnasheen train"

"Would love there to be a bus service to Inverness from Torridon - or even Diabaig, not everyone drives and it would be more environmentally friendly"

"It would be good if there was a minibus available, one could book"

"Have car but would consider using public transport if there were good/better links eg Torridon to Achnasheen. Also, more frequent rail links Achnasheen to Inverness may encourage more use"

DO YOU EVER USE SOUTH-WEST ROSS COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME?

Answered: 87 Skipped: 76

No survey respondents stated that they use the Wester Ross Community Care Scheme weekly. 1% of people who completed the survey use it monthly, and 10% yearly.

The majority of respondents stated that they don't use the community transport scheme because they have their own transport and/or they don't need it.

Several commented that they do not currently use it, but it would be required if they did not have their own transport. A few people had not been aware of the scheme before taking part in the survey.

Examples of reasons given by those who do use the scheme include hospital appointments and to connect to public transport. There was support expressed for the scheme by some of the people who do not currently need it, but think it provides a service that is needed in the local community.

37

Transport and Infrastructure

DO YOU EVER GET LIFTS FROM FRIENDS OR NEIGHBOURS?

Answered: 97 Skipped: 66

8% of survey respondents said that they get lifts from friends or neighbours weekly, 14% monthly and 26% yearly.

The majority of people who commented on whether they get lifts from friends or neighbours said they didn't require them because they have access to their own transport, with some saying they provide transport for others.

THOSE WHO SAID THEY GOT LIFTS FROM FRIENDS OR NEIGHBOURS ON A WEEKLY OR MONTHLY BASIS SAID IT REDUCES COSTS, REDUCES CAR USAGE AND SAVES ON UNNECESSARY JOURNEYS.

DO YOU HAVE ANY UNMET TRANSPORT NEEDS?

Answered: 61 Skipped: 102

Comments relating to unmet travel needs mainly covered:

- No integrated transport to connect with the train line at Achnasheen
- Links to Inverness
- Lack of connection to Gairloch in the evening

The lack of public transport connections to Achnasheen was the most frequent comment. Other comments included a desire for electric vehicle charging points, shared car facilities and secure parking.

Transport and Infrastructure

38

IN TERMS OF TRANSPORT AND GETTING AROUND, WHICH (IF ANY) OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO YOU NOW OR IN THE FUTURE?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 45

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Electric car charging point	56.78%	67
Electric car share scheme	25.42%	30
Petrol or diesel car share scheme	8.47%	10
Electric bike share scheme	22.03%	26
Lift share scheme (such as South-West Ross Community Car Scheme)	24.58%	29
Prescription/post/messages community collection service	26.27%	31
Community bus transport	41.53%	49
Other (please specify)	14.41%	17
Total Respondents: 118		

Interest in the development of electric vehicles was high with 57% of respondents saying that electric car charging points would be of interest to them either now or in the future. 25% said they would be interested in an electric car sharing scheme, and 22% were interested in an electric bike share scheme.

The option of a community bus transport scheme was the second most popular choice, with 42% of respondents saying this would be of interest.

It is worth noting that while it was only the third most popular option, more than 25% of respondents said that a prescription/post/message delivery service would be of interest to them, either now or in the future. Respondents in this category spanned all age ranges 18+ across the whole area.

39

Transport and Infrastructure

WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON INTERNET/BROADBAND/MOBILE PROVISION LOCALLY. 1 BEING VERY POOR AND 5 BEING VERY GOOD.

Answered: 138 Skipped: 25

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Choice of internet provider	25.78% 33	19.53% 25	25.00% 32	17.97% 23	11.72% 15	128
Availability of landline broadband	29.75% 36	10.74% 13	13.22% 16	27.27% 33	19.01% 23	121
Landline broadband speed	39.84% 51	12.50% 16	12.50% 16	21.09% 27	14.06% 18	128
Availability of alternatives to landline	17.36% 21	17.36% 21	39.67% 48	17.36% 21	8.26% 10	121
Speed of alternatives	10.28% 11	14.02% 15	42.06% 45	27.10% 29	6.54% 7	107
Mobile signal	29.71% 41	13.77% 19	26.09% 36	21.74% 30	8.70% 12	138
4G / 5G signal	34.92% 44	15.08% 19	21.43% 27	21.43% 27	7.14% 9	126

Responses to this question varied across the area.

The majority of respondents from Diabaig rated landline broadband speed, mobile signal and 4G/5G signal very poor.

More than half of respondents who live in Kinlochewe rated 4G/5G signal (56%) as good or very good, and 41% of Kinlochewe respondents said the mobile signal was good or very good too.

People commented on their experience of individual broadband or mobile providers in the comments section, and this is useful information to collate.

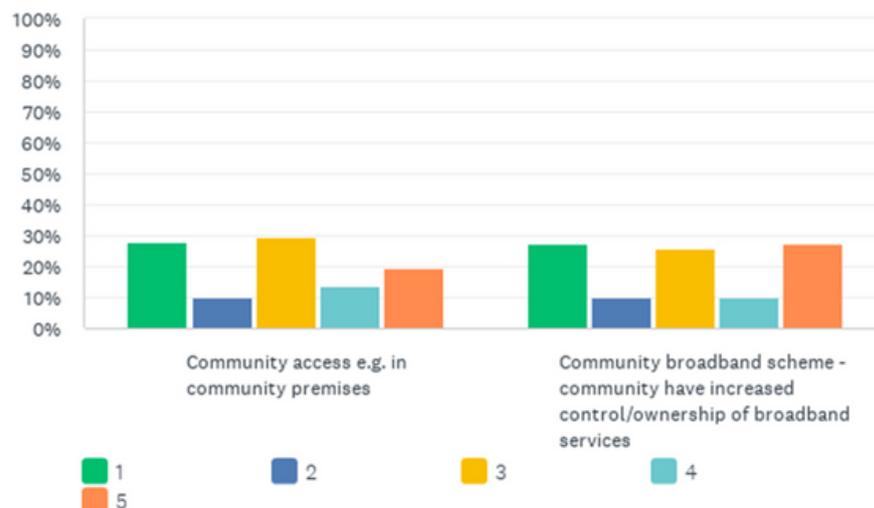
This included comments around the need for an upgrade to the Incheril mast. One respondent felt that landline broadband improved when fibre was put in the exchange. A number of people noted that they use satellite broadband which they found to be "expensive but good".

Transport and Infrastructure

40

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN PROJECTS THAT WOULD IMPROVE ACCESS TO BROADBAND/MOBILE COMMUNICATION? 1 (NOT INTERESTED) TO 5 (VERY INTERESTED)

Answered: 127 Skipped: 36



24% of survey respondents from across the different age ranges and across the area stated they would be interested in getting involved in a community access project, however there were more people who said they were not interested (20%) than said they were very interested (14%).

When it came to community broadband, opinion was evenly divided. A number of people commented on the existing national commitment to improving broadband and suggested this should be pursued.

41

Environmental Impact

OUR LOCAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IS ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS BOTH IN RELATION TO OUR OWN HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND ALSO AS AN ATTRACTION FOR VISITORS TO THE AREA.

WHAT STEPS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED LOCALLY TO HELP MINIMISE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 23

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Advice and support on energy efficiency for businesses, homes and letting houses	47.14% 66
Sustainable transport such as electric community minibus, electric bikes or car share schemes	46.43% 65
Electric vehicle charging points	54.29% 76
Waste reduction facilities such as new or improved local recycling facilities	69.29% 97
Community composting	45.00% 63
Advice and support on waste reduction	23.57% 33
Availability of more locally-produced food - reduced food miles	60.71% 85
Less environmentally damaging aquaculture	57.14% 80
Composting public toilets	43.57% 61
Renewable energy e.g hydro, wind, wave power, etc.	70.71% 99
Community tool rental scheme	35.71% 50
Community launderette	22.86% 32
Please provide any further comments or ideas here if you wish to:	20.00% 28
Total Respondents: 140	

When asked what steps they would like to see developed to minimise our communities' environmental impact, 5 of the given options received more than 50% support.

These were: renewable energy (71%), waste reduction facilities (69%), availability of more locally produced food (61%), less environmentally damaging aquaculture (57%), and electric vehicle charging points (54%).

Environmental Impact

42

COMMENTS RELATING TO THESE INCLUDE:

"I think the fishfarms should have to stamp all their equipment - their litter should be traceable..."

"As a community can we campaign for a kinder process to the fish and the environment?"

"Community hydro on the Thrail"

"There is locally produced food, but it is not convenient enough/cheap enough for most households to choose it. Realistic education on how to eat seasonally is needed"

"Community garden"

"Community farm"

Some people offered cautionary comments, and these will be considered if any of these projects move forward. Some respondents were wary about the impact on the visual environment that windfarms may have, and others had concerns about the management of composting toilets.

The impact vs benefit of aquaculture received a few comments and may be an area that would require further exploration and discussion within the community.

OTHER COMMENTS:

"Mains electricity to the Balgy gap. We're all burning diesel"

"Remove all spruce trees and replace with native trees"

43

Environmental Impact

WHAT STEPS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DEVELOPED LOCALLY TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT? HOW MUCH BENEFIT YOU WOULD SEE FROM THE FOLLOWING? 1 (LITTLE BENEFIT) TO 5 (GREAT BENEFIT)

Answered: 138 Skipped: 25

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Improved access to the outdoors e.g. more footpaths	14.73% 19	11.63% 15	27.13% 35	19.38% 25	27.13% 35	129
Improved managed green spaces, such as playparks, in our communities	16.79% 22	11.45% 15	27.48% 36	19.08% 25	25.19% 33	131
Access to land for food growing for individuals, e.g. allotments, smallholdings, crofts	14.73% 19	10.08% 13	25.58% 33	24.81% 32	24.81% 32	129
Access to land for food growing for communities e.g. polytunnels, gardens or orchards	9.92% 13	10.69% 14	29.77% 39	28.24% 37	21.37% 28	131
More engagement between the community and landowners, businesses, and crofters on how the environment is managed	7.75% 10	6.98% 9	27.13% 35	24.81% 32	33.33% 43	129
Community land ownership to improve local control of land assets	14.06% 18	13.28% 17	25.00% 32	20.31% 26	27.34% 35	128
Community forest ownership to improve local control of forest assets	15.91% 21	6.82% 9	24.24% 32	23.48% 31	29.55% 39	132
Reforestation/tree planting	4.41% 6	2.21% 3	10.29% 14	26.47% 36	56.62% 77	136
Protection of native species	0.74% 1	1.48% 2	8.89% 12	14.81% 20	74.07% 100	135

Each of the options were generally felt to be of benefit by more respondents than those who felt there would be little benefit in them.

Protection of native species attracted the highest number of people (89%) scoring it a 4/5. Reforestation was the second most popular (83%). Both these categories attracted a particularly high number of people who rated the benefit as a 5 (great benefit).

Environmental Impact

44

SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER STEPS TO BE TAKEN INCLUDE:

“The existing paths have surely already been improved but yes, they need maintenance. New paths will increase the disturbance to wildlife”

“It would also be nice to see more community management of invasive species...to control ponticum, sitka/lodgepole saplings etc to run alongside reforestation and restoration of native woodland”

“Mountain bikers bring tourism to the area but spoil the paths - should they contribute to the upkeep of the paths somehow?”

“We need a cohesive plan regarding habitats, public access and reforestation. It also needs to cover proper management of all non-native invasive species, not just ad hoc rhododendron projects and visitor centre projects...”

“Reintroduction programmes / bird, bat, boxes, wild bird feeding”

“More trees for changed climate and wetland preservation, fewer deer!”

“Better signage and maintenance of footpaths. Local environmental protection and recovery plan. Rewilding of Diabaig bay”



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Health and Care

LOOKING AFTER THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OURSELVES AND ANY PEOPLE THAT WE CARE FOR IS A KEY PART OF A THRIVING COMMUNITY.

DO YOU EXPECT TO HAVE CARE AND SUPPORT NEEDS FOR YOURSELF WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 28

3% of respondents already have care and support needs, with a further 25% saying that while they don't at the moment, they might possibly within the next 5 years.

The people who have identified that they have existing needs span the age ranges from 18+.

The majority of respondents within the 70+ age category stated that they do not have any needs at the moment but might possibly in the future.

25% of those in the 50 – 69 age category who responded identified that while they do not have care and support needs at the moment, they might possibly within the next 5 years.

DO YOU EXPECT TO GIVE CARE AND SUPPORT TO AN ADULT WITHIN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 33

None of the respondents within the 70+ age range currently provide support to an adult and there was an almost even division between those who don't anticipate doing so, and those who said it might be possible. A few chose not to say.

A few people in the 50 - 69 age category (almost 7%) are already providing care to another adult, and a further 23% of people are not currently providing support but state it could be possible within the next 5 years.

Health and Care

46

HOW EASY DO YOU FIND IT TO ACCESS HEALTH PROVISION FOR YOURSELF? 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) TO 5 (VERY EASY)

Answered: 121 Skipped: 42

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
GP services	9.24% 11	1.68% 2	3.36% 4	7.56% 9	17.65% 21	60.50% 72	119
Mental Health Services	71.30% 77	3.70% 4	8.33% 9	6.48% 7	5.56% 6	4.63% 5	108
Elderly Care Service	87.62% 92	0.95% 1	4.76% 5	2.86% 3	1.90% 2	1.90% 2	105
Accident & Emergency	30.00% 33	12.73% 14	16.36% 18	20.00% 22	9.09% 10	11.82% 13	110
Outpatient hospital or specialist care services	34.82% 39	6.25% 7	16.07% 18	22.32% 25	10.71% 12	9.82% 11	112
Disability support services	88.68% 94	3.77% 4	1.89% 2	2.83% 3	1.89% 2	0.94% 1	106
Dental health services	21.93% 25	21.05% 24	18.42% 21	14.91% 17	12.28% 14	11.40% 13	114
Opticians	27.03% 30	11.71% 13	13.51% 15	21.62% 24	9.91% 11	16.22% 18	111

GP services were rated mainly as very easy to access.

Access to dental health services was the area that most respondents (43%) said they found very difficult or difficult.

The majority of respondents within the 70+ age range stated that they do not currently access elderly care services.

COMMENTS:

"Would be useful to have visiting optician at hall say annually to save trips to Inverness. Would like to see locally based ambulance - Gairloch and Lochcarron vehicles too far away to be of benefit in a real emergency such as cardiac arrest etc. Local First Responders critically important."

"We have been on the waiting list for an NHS dentist locally for nearly two years now...."

47

Health and Care

IF YOU CARE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR ANOTHER ADULT, HOW EASY DO YOU FIND IT TO ACCESS HEALTH PROVISION FOR THEM?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 122

The majority of respondents do not have to access health provision for someone they care for. Of those who do, access to dental services and hospital treatment (A&E and outpatients) prove the most challenging.

COMMENTS:

"Doctors' surgery needs to be back open and provide evening appointments."

HOW EASY DO YOU FIND IT TO ACCESS SOCIAL CARE SERVICES FOR YOURSELF?

Answered: 39 Skipped: 124

The majority of respondents do not have to access social care services for themselves.

One respondent raised the question of the ageing population and whether a community run social care centre should be considered a priority.

IF YOU CARE FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR ANOTHER ADULT HOW EASY DO YOU FIND IT TO ACCESS SOCIAL CARE SERVICES?

Answered: 34 Skipped: 129

The majority of respondents do not have to access social care for someone they care for. The number of people who need to access social care services for someone else is very low, however support for carers and some service provision was rated difficult to access.

Local Services

48

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT ACCESS TO SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES. 1 (NOT AVAILABLE) TO 5 (EASILY AVAILABLE)

Answered: 137 Skipped: 26

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
Local shops	0.74% 1	13.33% 18	28.89% 39	27.41% 37	29.63% 40	135
Supermarkets	44.27% 58	22.14% 29	18.32% 24	6.87% 9	8.40% 11	131
Mobile shops	22.90% 30	15.27% 20	31.30% 41	16.79% 22	13.74% 18	131
Home delivery	23.14% 28	14.88% 18	22.31% 27	19.01% 23	20.66% 25	121
Post office	20.74% 28	34.81% 47	27.41% 37	6.67% 9	10.37% 14	135
Banking	52.67% 69	25.19% 33	11.45% 15	7.63% 10	3.05% 4	131
Rubbish and dog waste bins	19.20% 24	30.40% 38	32.80% 41	12.00% 15	5.60% 7	125

Access to banking was the area most people were dissatisfied with, with some going on to comment later that this is a potential area for action.

Another respondent commented that although they had rated some things poor, it doesn't mean they want them.

A number of people also stated that they are dissatisfied with access to supermarkets. Some respondents commented that they are able to access home delivery slots, but others noted that they think more click and collect or delivery slots are required.

COMMENTS:

"Opening hours of local shop and post office are limited. Especially in Winter"

"We tend to shop only for bread, milk and occasionally breakfast locally as it's just so expensive and if you want fresh ingredients in Kinlochewe they are hard to get."

"Another dog waste bin at the start of the track up Beinn Eighe (at junction with village track) would be great"

"Post office at Torridon community centre disappeared due to Covid.

It would be nice if this was reinstated. There are plenty of rubbish bins, but they are filled very quickly in peak tourist season"

"Would like mobile shops to make a comeback, bakery, fruit and veg, fresh local produce"

"Please press for re-instatement of mobile bank from HBOS Gairloch to our villages."

49

Community Life

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SOCIAL AND LEISURE FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES IN YOUR AREA? 1 (VERY POOR) TO 5 (VERY GOOD)

Answered: 130 Skipped: 33

	VERY POOR	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	TOTAL
Community spaces - halls, community hubs/ cafés or meeting places	0.78% 1	4.65% 6	18.60% 24	37.21% 48	38.76% 50	129
Sports facilities and activities	4.17% 5	27.50% 33	35.83% 43	23.33% 28	9.17% 11	120
Arts or crafts facilities and activities	0.00% 0	18.75% 21	38.39% 43	32.14% 36	10.71% 12	112
Cultural facilities and activities	1.69% 2	31.36% 37	36.44% 43	27.12% 32	3.39% 4	118
Heritage facilities and activities such as museums, information boards, etc.	10.83% 13	29.17% 35	45.00% 54	12.50% 15	2.50% 3	120
Gaelic facilities and activities	25.27% 23	40.66% 37	30.77% 28	3.30% 3	0.00% 0	91
Opportunities to learn such as evening or day classes	18.35% 20	45.87% 50	29.36% 32	4.59% 5	1.83% 2	109
Outdoor activities such as walking or cycling groups or events	11.40% 13	32.46% 37	33.33% 38	14.04% 16	8.77% 10	114
Marine recreation facilities (such as piers, moorings, pontoons) and activities	12.50% 14	23.21% 26	46.43% 52	12.50% 14	5.36% 6	112

COMMENTS:

"I'm ranking as poor as I don't know what if anything is available therefore the communication may be poor rather than the availability."

"Local slipways are in poor condition and on the dangerous side."

"Sailing or boating facilities on a freshwater?"

"I'd like to see a drama group..."

"Better provision for marine visitors: moorings, pontoons, showers, washing machines etc. might be profitable"

"The jetty/pier at Fasaig requires some remedial works - repairs to structure and new mooring rings."

"Swimming pontoons, covered tennis courts, improved beach accesses. Gaelic classes for beginners."

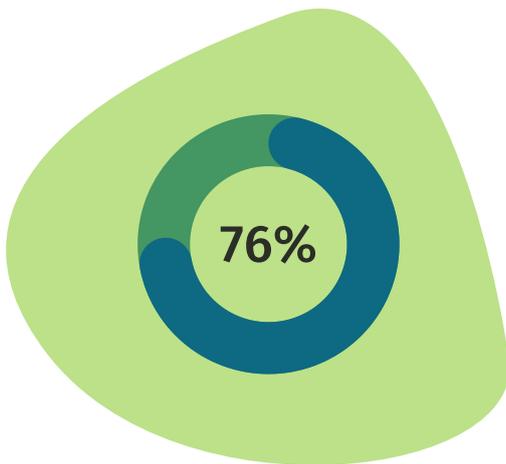
"Live music & Scottish country dancing."

One respondent observed that the Kinlochewe hall committee have worked hard to put things on in the hall, but that the hall itself needs much work.

Another respondent also recognised the hard work of the hall committee and the responsibility they feel the community has to be motivated and organised to use the facilities.

Community Life 50

DO YOU FEEL AS INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY LIFE AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE?



76% of the 127 respondents to this question from across the area are happy with how involved they are with community life. Several people commented that a change of lifestyle, less demanding job or more self-motivation would help them to become more involved. Others suggested specific groups or activities that they would be interested in joining.

THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE FEEL INVOLVED OR INCLUDED IN OUR COMMUNITY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF HOW STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE OUR COMMUNITY IS

COMMENTS INCLUDED:

“Noticeboard (online or in village hall) of all the 'roles' that are needed to be filled or things people can offer to help out on”

“As a non-resident I appreciate being given the opportunity to join the community meetings via zoom and hope this will continue beyond covid...”

“If the community wanted more involvement from local business, then we will always be open to an approach”

“More transparency, more facilitative management, and honesty”

“More specific groups in the council that I could help without having to sit through the whole thing...”

“Knowing where the gaps are and how I could help”

“More information as to what is available”

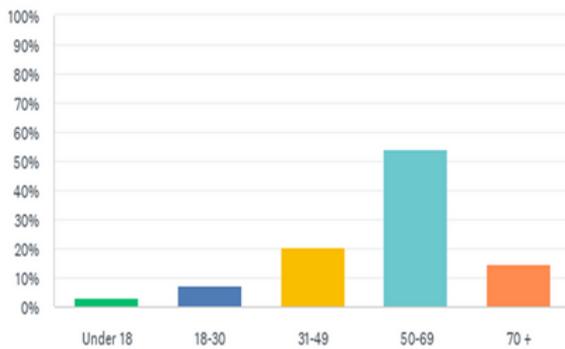
“Communication”

51

Demographics

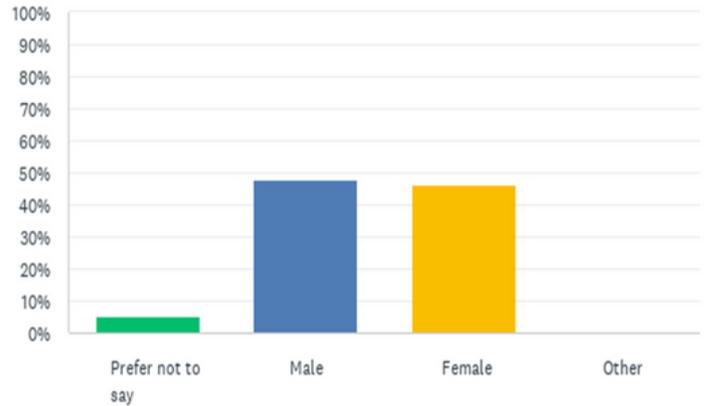
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Answered: 135 Skipped: 28



WHATSEX/GENDER ARE YOU?

Answered: 134 Skipped: 29



WHICH PART OF THE AREA DO YOU LIVE IN?

Answered: 134 Skipped: 29

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Kinlochewe - permanent	17.91% 24
Kinlochewe - seasonal	2.24% 3
Annat - permanent	8.96% 12
Annat - seasonal	2.24% 3
Fasaig - permanent	14.18% 19
Fasaig - seasonal	2.24% 3
Wester Alligin - permanent	4.48% 6
Wester Alligin - seasonal	2.24% 3
Inveralligin - permanent	9.70% 13
Inveralligin - seasonal	2.99% 4
Diabaig - permanent	12.69% 17
Diabaig - seasonal	7.46% 10
Non-resident - work in the area	6.72% 9
Non-resident - have close family in the area	0.75% 1
Other location (please specify if you live in another area whether you are a permanent or seasonal resident)	12.69% 17
Total Respondents: 134	

Privacy 52

Great care is being taken so no one can be identified when we publish the results. All information collected is held securely by Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) who are assisting us with this survey.

Personal data including email addresses, age and gender were removed from the spreadsheet information before this was passed to us.

Email addresses of those who have asked to be kept up to date with community plan information has been passed to us separately so that survey results cannot be assigned to a particular email address. Similarly, graphs showing the demographic breakdown of participants have been included, but the personal data was removed before results were passed to us to mitigate against people being easily identified.

An extract of the data is available to anyone who requests it. Data supplied will not include personal data. Additional data that may make it easy to identify individuals will also be removed.

