

The Outer Hebrides Community Appraisal Survey – Supplementary report for Barra and Watersay

Research report for
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar &
Barra and Watersay Community Planning Partnership



Ipsos MORI

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Introduction

This report contains the findings of the Barra and Vatersay Community Planning Partnership area questions included in the Outer Hebrides Community Survey 2007. This survey was conducted by Ipsos MORI Scotland on behalf of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership.

The survey was the first island-wide survey designed to gather information from all residents to inform the future development of the islands and local communities. It represented the key consultation device for the Partnership in their commitment to actively engage with local residents towards improving community vitality throughout the Western Isles.

As part of this, the Barra and Vatersay sustainable community area included a number of questions that were asked only of Barra and Vatersay residents (see figure 1 for boundaries of the Barra and Vatersay Sustainable Community Area). These include: the provision of housing in the area; perceptions of potential future developments in the area; and prospective numbers of residents who would listen or contribute to the community radio station Isles FM.

Figure 1: Boundaries of the Barra and Vatersay Sustainable Community Area

Barra and Vatersay Sustainable Community Area



Structure of the report

All households in the Outer Hebrides were invited to participate in the Community Survey by completing a paper questionnaire. Thirteen different versions of the questionnaire were designed, comprising of a core section of questions asked of all households in the Outer Hebrides and an additional section specifically designed to inform the unique local issues and challenges of each Sustainable Community Area. The additional section for Barra and Vatersay enabled local residents to be asked about issues that were specific to the local community.

The core report documents the major findings from questions contained in the core section of the questionnaire and indicates the overall picture of residents across the whole of the Outer Hebrides. This report provides supplementary analysis of the results from the questions asked specifically of residents in Barra and Vatersay. The data tables, available from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, also provide a comparison of responses to the core questionnaire between residents on Barra and Vatersay and those in the rest of the Outer Hebrides.

Barra and Vatersay Community Questions

This chapter focuses on the responses from residents living in Barra and Vatersay regarding a number of topics specific to their local area. It details their views on a number of suggested developments in Barra and Vatersay. It considers their opinions towards community land ownership and the provision of new housing in the area. In addition, it outlines whether they would be interested in listening or contributing to the local community station Isles FM if it was extended to include Barra and Vatersay.

Satisfaction with living in the Outer Hebrides

At the start of the questionnaire, residents were asked if they were satisfied with living on the islands. Most residents living in Barra and Vatersay (90%) are satisfied with the islands as a place to live. The overall satisfaction level across the Outer Hebrides was 94%. This difference is not statistically significant.

In Barra and Vatersay - over half (53%) say they are very satisfied, while 37% say they are fairly satisfied with the islands as a place to live. Only 5% of residents who returned a questionnaire say that they are dissatisfied.

Priorities for a range of suggested developments in Barra and Vatersay

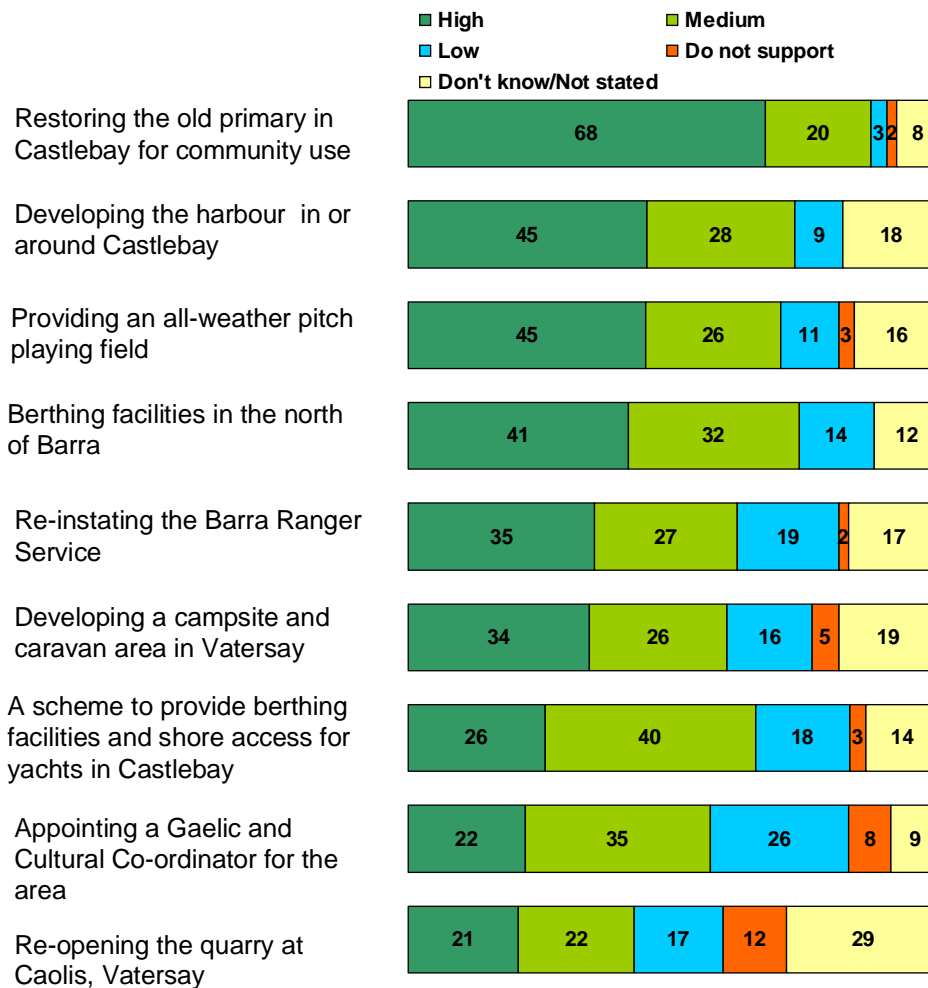
Asked how much of a priority should be given to a number of suggested developments in the Barra and Vatersay area, residents are most likely to say that high priority should be given to restoring the old primary school in Castlebay for community use (68%), with only 5% saying that they either do not support the proposal or that it should be given low priority (see figure 2).

Other developments that residents are likely to say should be given high priority are developing the harbour in or around Castlebay (45%), providing an all-weather pitch playing field (45%) and developing the berthing facilities in the north of Barra (41%).

Residents in Barra and Vatersay are least likely to say that appointing a Gaelic and Cultural Co-ordinator for the area (22%) or reopening the quarry at Caolis, Vatersay (21%) should be a high priority. Around a third of residents in each case say they either do not support the developments or that they should be given low priority (34% and 29% respectively).

Figure 2: Prioritising developments in Barra and Vatersay

Q A number of developments have been suggested for Barra and Vatersay. How much of a priority, if any, should be given to the following in the area?



Base: All respondents (111)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Community land ownership and Housing in the Barra and Watersay area

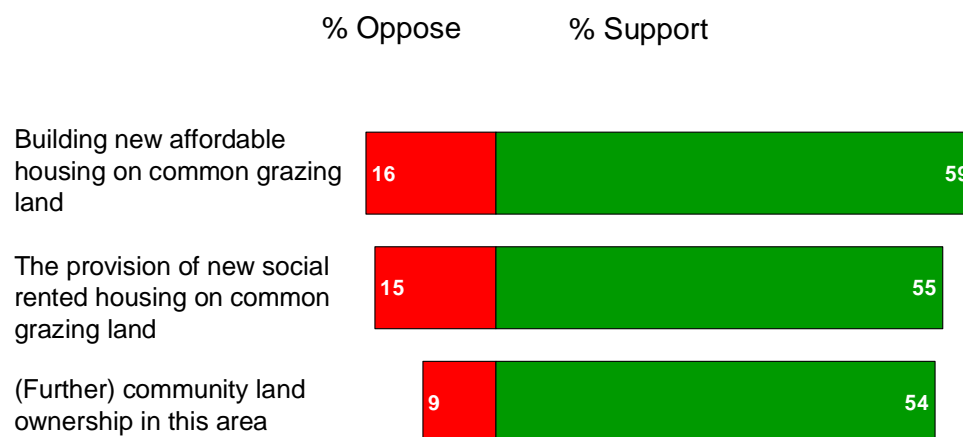
Around 6 in 10 residents (59%) support proposals to build new affordable housing on common grazing land in Barra and Watersay. Around 1 in 6 residents (16%) oppose this proposal (see Figure 3).

Over half of residents (55%) support proposals to provide new social rented housing on common grazing land. Around 1 in 6 residents (15%) oppose this proposal.

Over half of Barra and Watersay residents support further community land ownership in the area (54%) , while around 1 in 10 (9%) oppose this proposal.

Figure 3: Levels of support for community land ownership and the provision of housing on common grazing land

Q *In principle, how strongly would you support or oppose the following....?*



Base: All respondents (111)

Source: Ipsos MORI

These questions were asked in Community planning areas across the Outer Hebrides (see Table 1).

Table 1: Levels of support by area

<i>In principle, how strongly would you support or oppose the following?</i>													
	Barra and Vatersay	South Uist and Eriksay	Benbecula	North Uist and Bereray	Harris	Paic and Kinloch	North Lochs	Stornoway	Point	Broadbay	Uig and Bernera	West Side	Ness
<i>Base: All</i>	111	216	105	180	264	110	97	666	217	309	132	377	211
% Support	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
(Further) community land ownership in this area	54	-	45	33	50	62	46	-	-	-	54	50	-
Building new affordable housing on common grazing land	59	60	47	48	58	60	53	-	49	51	61	60	46
The provision of new social rented housing on common grazing land	55	54	36	40	52	50	41	-	37	39	55	47	36

Source: Ipsos MORI

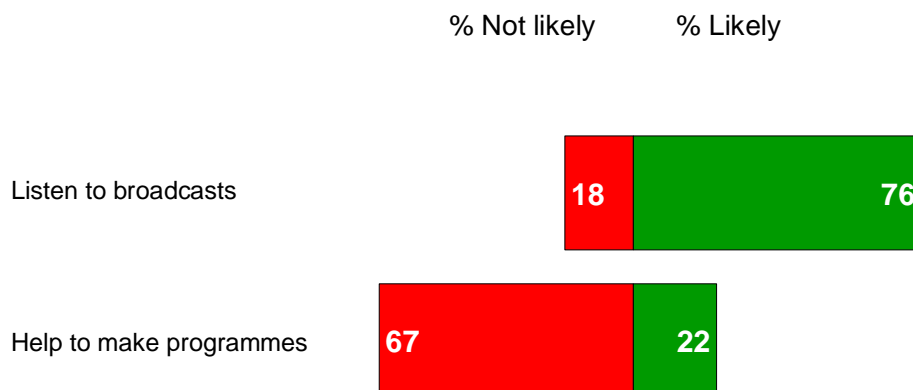
Isles FM

Residents in Barra and Vatersay were asked if they or anyone in their household would listen to, or participate in programme making, if the broadcast range of Isles FM was extended to include their area (Figure 4). Most residents in Barra and Vatersay say that they would be likely to listen to broadcasts (76%). Around 1 in 5 residents say they are not likely to listen to broadcasts (18%).

Residents are less likely to say they, or someone in their household, would become involved in programme production. Around 1 in 5 residents (22%) said that they or a member of their household would be likely to do this, while around two-thirds (67%) said they would be unlikely.

Figure 4: Isles FM

Q *If the broadcast range of the community radio station Isles FM was extended to include Barra and Vatersay, how likely, if at all, would you, or anyone in your household be to....?*



Base: All respondents in Barra and Vatersay (111)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Appendix: Barra and Watersay Questionnaire
