

The Outer Hebrides Community Appraisal Survey – Supplementary report for North Lochs

Research report for
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar &
North Lochs Community Planning Partnership



Ipsos MORI

Contents

Introduction	2
North Lochs Community Questions	4
Satisfaction with living in the Outer Hebrides	4
Community land ownership and housing in the North Lochs area	5
Building a permanent skip site in North Lochs	7
The North Lochs local Directory	8
Mobile Services in North Lochs	9
Appendix: North Lochs Questionnaire	10

Introduction

This report contains the findings of the North Lochs 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 North Lochs sustainable community area included a number of questions that were asked only of North Lochs residents (see figure 1 for boundaries of the North Lochs Sustainable Community Area). These include: perceptions of the suggestion of building a permanent skip site in North Lochs; support for community land ownership and the provision of housing on common grazing land in the area; household use of mobile services; and information residents would like to see included in a North Lochs local directory.

Figure 1: Boundaries of the North Lochs Sustainable Community Area

North Lochs 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 North Lochs 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 North Lochs. The data tables, available from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, also provide a comparison of responses to the core questionnaire between residents on North Lochs and those in the rest of the Outer Hebrides.

North Lochs Community Questions

This chapter focuses on the responses from residents living in North Lochs regarding a number of topics specific to their local area. It considers residents' opinions towards community land ownership and the provision of new housing on common grazing land in the area. It details their view of the suggested development of a permanent skip site. In addition, it outlines the information residents would like to see included in the North Lochs local directory. Finally, it considers household use of mobile services provided in their area.

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 (94%) living in North Lochs are satisfied with the islands as a place to live. In the Outer Hebrides overall, 94% are satisfied with the islands as a place to live.

Over half (52%) say they are very satisfied, while 42% say they are fairly satisfied with the islands as a place to live. Only 3% of residents who returned a questionnaire say that they are dissatisfied.

Community land ownership and housing in the North Lochs area

The majority of residents (53%) support proposals to build new affordable housing on common grazing land. Around a quarter (24%) oppose such proposals (see Figure 2).

Less than half of residents (46%) support proposals for community land ownership. Around 1 in 10 residents oppose these proposals (10%).

Around 4 in 10 residents (41%) support proposals for the provision of new social rented housing on common grazing land, while around a third (31%) oppose this proposal.

Figure 2: 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 (97)

Source: Ipsos MORI

These questions were asked in most 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

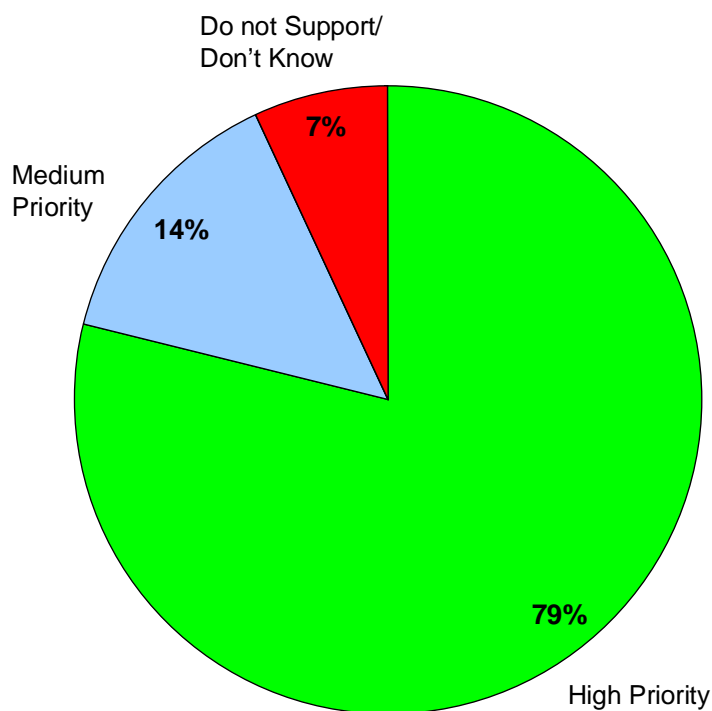
Source: Ipsos MORI

Building a permanent skip site in North Lochs

Residents were asked how much of a priority should be given to building a permanent skip site in North Lochs. Most residents say it should be given high priority, while 14% say it should be given medium priority. A very small minority of people (5%) do not support the proposal (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Skip facilities in North Lochs

Q How much of a priority, if any, should be taken to building a permanent skip site in North Lochs?



Base: All respondents (97)

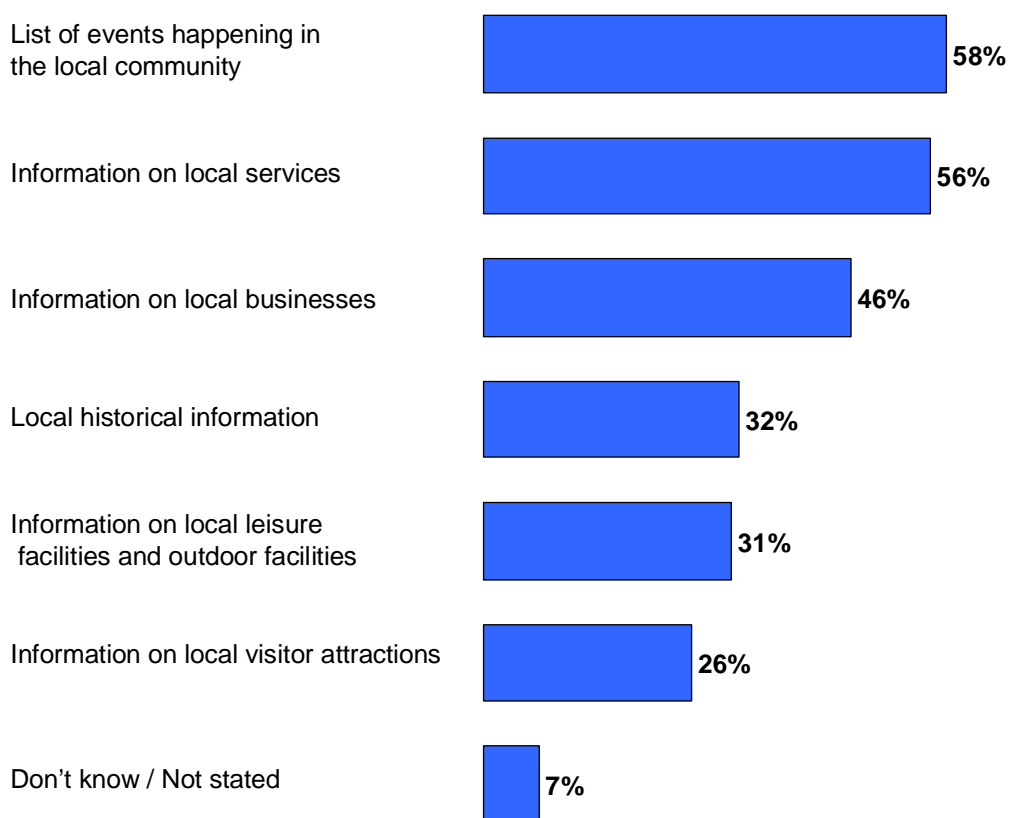
Source: Ipsos MORI

The North Lochs local Directory

Information that residents are most likely to say they would like included in a new North Lochs local directory are a lists of events happening in the local community (58%), information on local services (56%) and information on local businesses (46%). By comparison, residents are less likely to say they want local historical information (32%), information on local leisure facilities and outdoor facilities (31%) and information on local visitor attractions (26%) included (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Local directory preferences

Q *The Community Council are considering publishing a local directory. If they did, what information would you most like to see included?*



Base: All respondents (97)

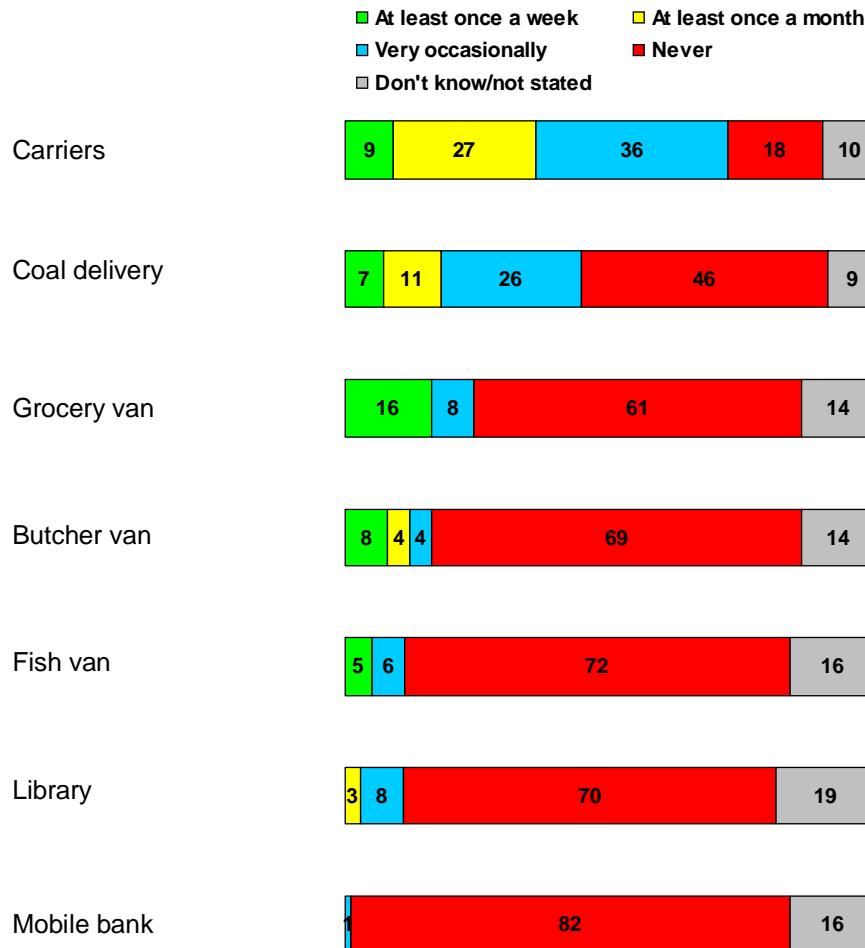
Source: Ipsos MORI

Mobile Services in North Lochs

As Figure 5 illustrates, use of the different mobile services available in the North Lochs area varies widely. Residents are most likely to say they use carriers (72%) and the coal delivery service (44%). Residents use carrier services more often than other mobile services, with just over a third of residents (36%) using this service at least once a month or more frequently. The majority of residents say they never use the mobile bank (82%), fish van (72%), library (70%), the butcher van (69%) and grocery van service (61%).

Figure 5: Use of mobile services in North Lochs

Q How often, if at all, do you or anyone in your household use the following mobile services in your area?



Base: All respondents (97)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Appendix: North Lochs Questionnaire
