

The Outer Hebrides Community Appraisal Survey – Supplementary report for Ness

Research report for
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar &
Ness Community Planning Partnership



Ipsos MORI

Contents

Introduction	2
Ness Community Questions	4
Satisfaction with living in the Outer Hebrides	4
Priorities for a range of suggested development in Ness	4
Developments connecting Ness and Tolsta	6
Community land ownership and housing in the Ness area	6
Facilities for young people	8
Residential Care for the elderly in Ness	8
Appendix: Ness Questionnaire	9

Introduction

This report contains the findings of the Ness 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 Ness sustainable community area included a number of questions that were asked only of Ness residents (see figure 1 for boundaries of the Ness Sustainable Community Area). These include: perceptions of a number of suggested developments in Ness; support for the provision of housing on common grazing land in the area; prospective household use of facilities for young people; prospective household use of residential care for the elderly in the next two years; and levels of support or opposition for the construction of a road and cycle track connecting Ness and Tolsta.

Figure 1: Boundaries of the Ness Sustainable Community Area

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

Ness Community Questions

This chapter focuses on the responses from residents living in Ness regarding a number of topics specific to their local area. It details their views on a number of suggested developments in Ness and the construction of links between Ness and Tolsta. It considers their opinions towards the provision of new housing on common grazing land in the area. In addition, it outlines whether residents would be interested in using a number of facilities for young people and residential care for the elderly if they were provided in Ness.

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 Ness are satisfied with the islands as a place to live. The overall satisfaction level across the Outer Hebrides was 94%.

Over half (59%) say they are very satisfied, while 35% say they are fairly satisfied with the islands as a place to live. Only 2% of residents who returned a questionnaire say that they are dissatisfied.

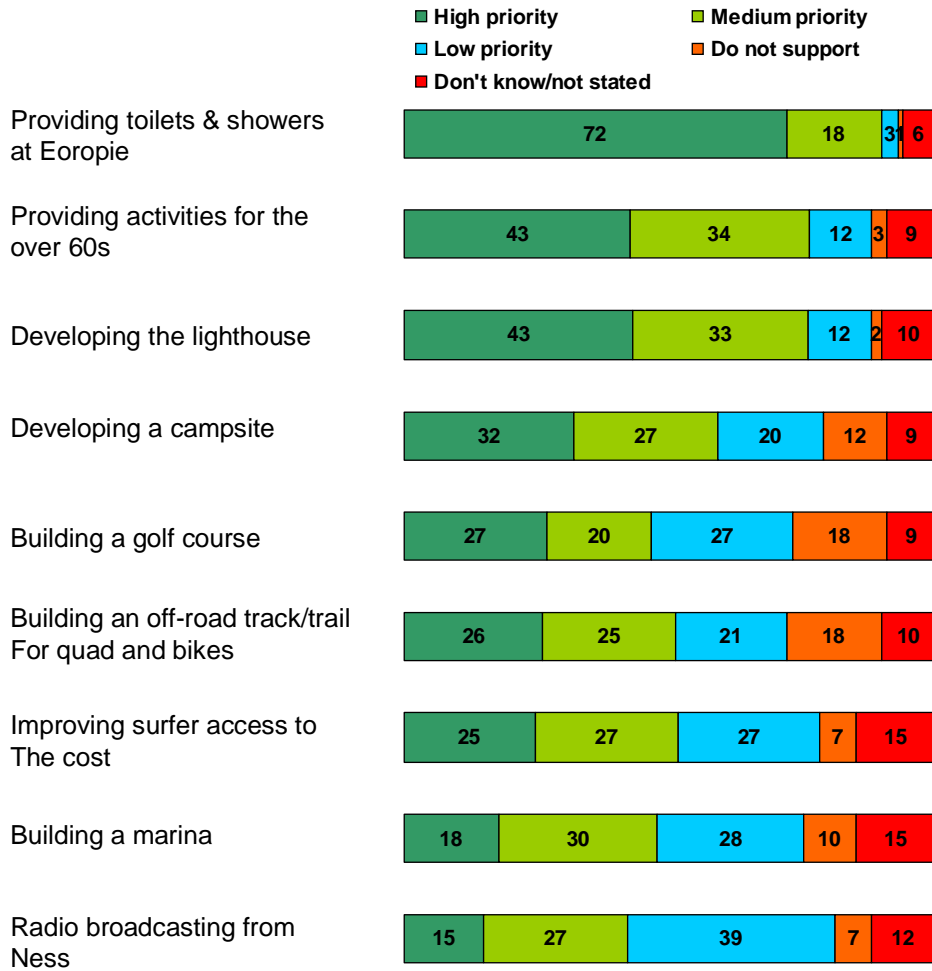
Priorities for a range of suggested development in Ness

Asked how much of a priority should be given to nine suggested developments in the Ness area, a majority of residents (72%) say that one development - providing toilets and showers at Eoropie - should be given a high priority. Other developments residents are most likely to say should be given high priority are developing the lighthouse (43%), providing activities for the over 60s (43%) and developing a campsite (32%). (See figure 2).

Fewer residents believe that other developments should be given a high priority. Residents are most likely to say that they either do not support, or low priority should be given to, radio broadcasting from Ness (46%), building a golf course (45%), building an off-road track for quads and bikes (39%) and building a marina (38%).

Figure 2: Prioritising developments in Ness

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



Base: All respondents (211)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Developments connecting Ness and Tolsta

The majority of respondents support the construction of a road between Ness and Tolsta (78%) and the development of a cycle track between Ness and Tolsta (74%). However, residents are slightly more likely to oppose the construction of a road than the development of a cycle track between Ness and Tolsta (13% compared with 8%), as residents are more likely to not hold a view on building a cycle track.

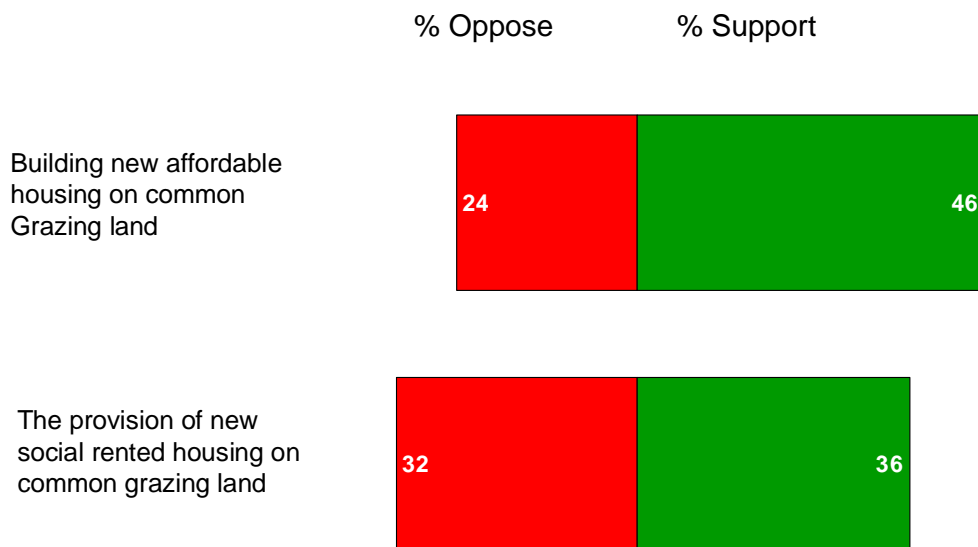
Community land ownership and housing in the Ness area

Less than half (46%) of residents support proposals to build new affordable housing on common grazing land in the Ness area. Around a quarter (24%) oppose this proposal.

Around a third (36%) of residents support the provision of new social rented housing on common grazing land, while 32% oppose this.

Figure 3: Support for the provision of housing on common grazing land in Ness

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



Base: All respondents (211)

Source: Ipsos MORI

These questions were asked in most community planning areas across the Outer Hebrides (see Table 1). The level of opposition to these proposals was higher in Ness than in any other community planning area to both these proposals.

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 Bermeray	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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
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

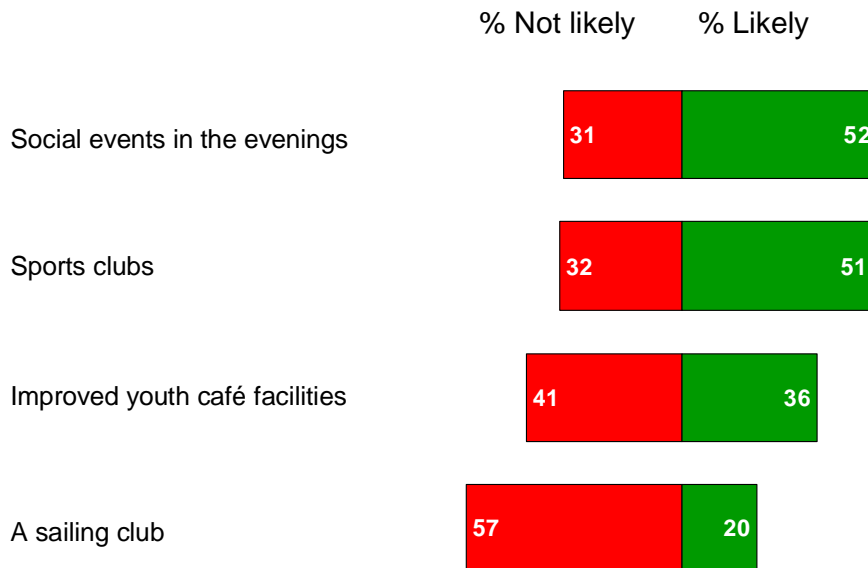
Source: Ipsos MORI

Facilities for young people

Residents were asked how likely they or someone in their household would be to use a number of potential facilities for young people if they were provided. A majority of residents say they are likely to sports clubs (51%) and social events in the evening (52%) if they were provided. Fewer residents said that they, or their household members would make use of improved youth café facilities (36%) or a sailing club (20%).

Figure 4: Facilities for young people

Q *How likely, if at all, would you, or anyone in your household be to use the following facilities for young people if they were provided in the local area?*



Base: All respondents (211)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Residential Care for the elderly in Ness

Residents were asked whether they, or any household members, would be likely to use residential care for the elderly if it was located in Ness. The majority of residents (56%) say they are not likely to use it, with 36% saying they are not at all likely. Around one fifth (19%) say they are likely to use it. It should be noted that the survey was given to all residents, not only to elderly residents.

Appendix: Ness Questionnaire