

The Outer Hebrides Community Appraisal Survey – Supplementary report for West Side

Research report for
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar &
West Side Community Planning Partnership



Ipsos MORI

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Introduction

This report contains the findings of the West Side 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 West Side sustainable community area included a number of questions that were asked only of West Side residents (see figure 1 for boundaries of the West Side Sustainable Community Area). These include: perceptions of a number of suggested developments in Ness; priorities for the West Side Community School in Barvas; support for further community land ownership and the provision of housing on common grazing land in the area; prospective household attendance of a number of classes and show were they provided at the Clan MacQuarry Community Centre; and perceptions of the role of the church in the local community.

Figure 1: Boundaries of the West Side Sustainable Community Area

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

West Side Community Questions

This chapter focuses on the responses from residents living in West Side regarding a number of topics specific to their local area. It details their views on a number of suggested developments in West Side and the facilities that should be prioritised at the new West Side Community School in Barvas. It considers their opinions towards further community land ownership the provision of new housing on common grazing land in the area. In addition, it outlines whether they would be interested in attending a number of classes or shows if they were provided at the Clan MacQuarry Community Centre. Finally, it considers residents' perceptions of the role of the church in the local community.

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 (96%) living in West Side 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.

Over half (58%) say they are very satisfied, while 38% say they are fairly satisfied with the islands as a place to live. Only 1% of residents who returned a questionnaire say that they are dissatisfied.

Priorities for a range of suggested development in West Side

Residents were asked how much of a priority should be given to five suggested developments in the West Side area (see Figure 2).

Residents are most likely say that high priority should be given to planning the future development of the school buildings at Airidhantium and Barvas (41%). Residents are less likely to say that a high priority should be given to restoring stone dykes along the roadsides (24%), developing a community garden (14%), more floral displays (12%) and more war memorials (14%).

Figure 2: Prioritising developments in West Side

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



Base: All respondents (377)

Source: Ipsos MORI

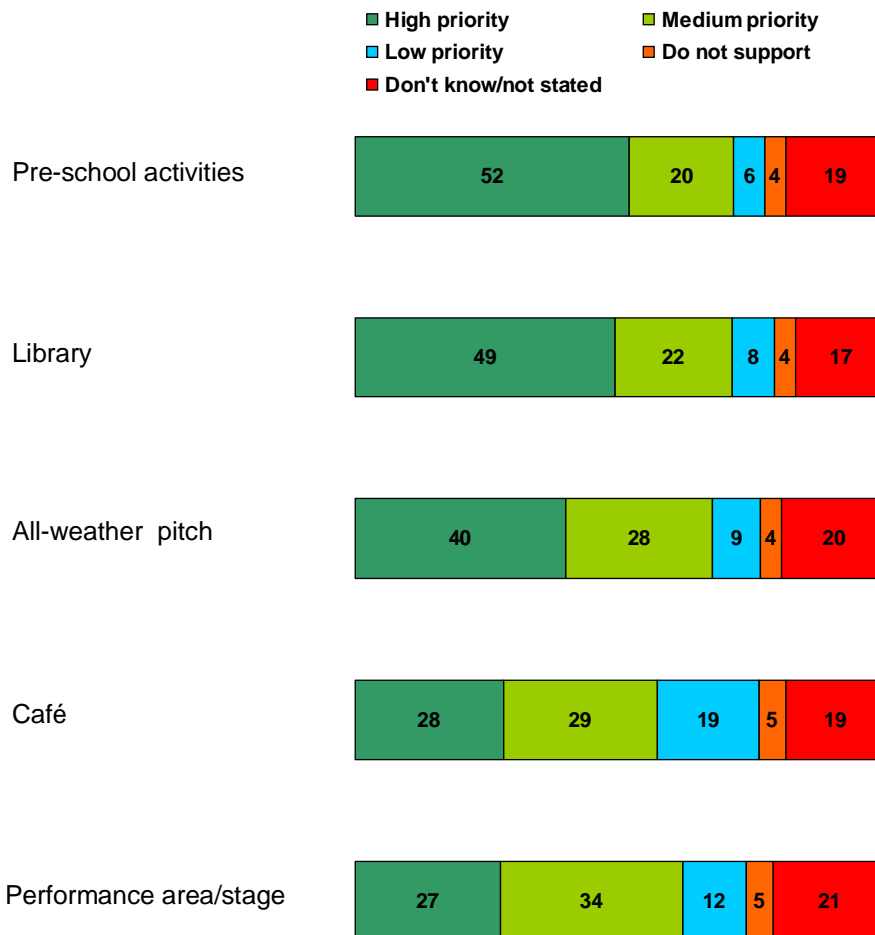
Priorities for the West Side Community School

Residents were asked how much of a priority should be given to providing five facilities at the proposed West Side Community School in Barvas. (See figure 3).

Residents are most likely say that high priority should be given to pre-school facilities (52%), library facilities (49%) and an all-weather pitch (40%). Fewer residents say that high priority should be given to providing a performance or stage area (27%) and a café (28%).

Figure 3: Prioritising facilities at West Side Community School in Barvas

Q *Thinking about the proposal to build a new Westside Community School in Barvas, how much of a priority, if any, should be given to the provision of the following?*



Base: All respondents (377)

Source: Ipsos MORI

Community land ownership and housing in the West Side area

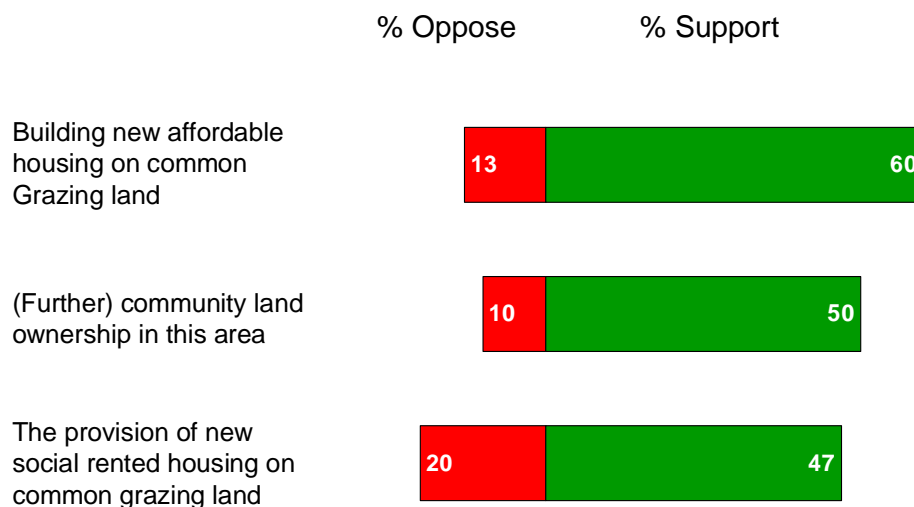
Around 6 in 10 residents (60%) support proposals to build new affordable housing on common grazing land. Less than 1 in 7 (13%) oppose this proposal.

Around half of residents (50%) support further community land ownership, with 1 in 10 residents oppose this proposal.

Less than half of residents (47%) support the provision of new social rented housing on common grazing land. A fifth of residents (20%) oppose this proposal.

Figure 4: 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 (377)

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 Watersay	South Uist and Eriksay	Benbecula	North Uist and Berneray	Harris	Paicr 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

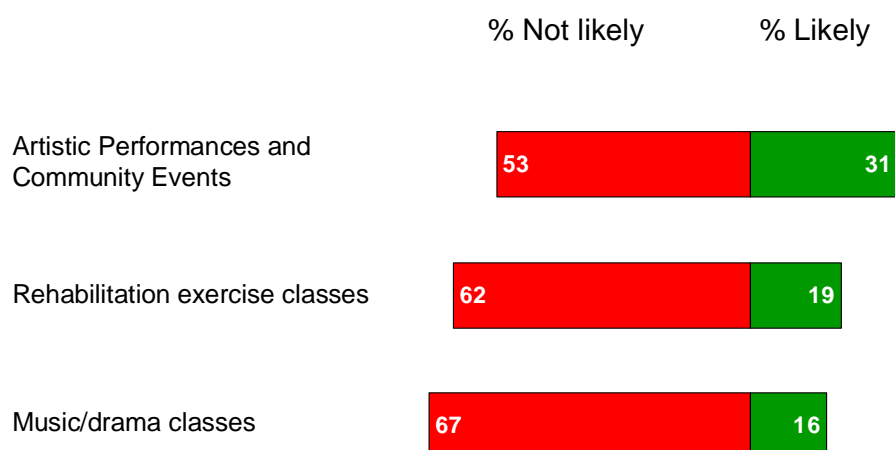
Source: Ipsos MORI

Attending the Clan MacQuarry Community Centre

Asked how likely they or their household would be to attend shows or classes if they were provided at the Clan MacQuarry Community Centre, residents are most likely to say they would not attend any of the shows or classes (see Figure 5). Around a third (31%) of residents say they would be likely to attend artistic performances, while less than a fifth would be likely to attend rehabilitation exercise classes (19%) and music and dram classes (16%).

Figure 5: Attending the Clan Mac Quarry Community Centre

Q *How likely, if at all, would you, or anyone in your household be to attend the following if they were provided at the Clan MacQuarry Community Centre?*



Base: All respondents (377)

Source: Ipsos MORI

The role of the church in West Side

Residents were asked whether they feel that the role that the church currently plays in decisions affecting the lives of local people is positive, negative or neutral.

On balance, the majority of residents (53%) perceive the role that the church currently plays in affecting the lives of local people as positive, with 16% saying its role is always positive. Overall, 7% feel that it is negative, while a fifth (20%) think the church's role is neither positive or negative.

Appendix: West Side Questionnaire