

# Your Community...Your Voice



## Locality Consultation 2021

West Mainland and Kirkwall Summary



# Contents

Introduction	3
<b>West Mainland Consultation</b>	
1.1 Methodology	5
1.2 Consultation Findings	5
1.2.1 All Parishes	5
1.2.2 Kirkwall	8
1.2.3 Stromness	11
1.2.4 Harray and Sandwick	13
1.2.5 Birsay	16
1.2.6 Evie and Rendall	18
1.2.7 Firth and Stenness	21
1.2.8 Orphir	24
<b>Appendices</b>	
1 Chart of Aggregated West Mainland Scores	27
2 Your Community Your Choice Questionnaire	28

# Your Community, Your Voice Consultation

## Introduction

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 sets out requirements for community planning which is an important process that helps public agencies, the third sector and communities to work together to plan and deliver better services. It also helps to improve local areas in ways that will make a difference to people living there. As the name suggests, participation of communities is of vital importance to any community planning work. Under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 The Orkney Partnership is required to undertake what is known as locality planning. In short, locality planning is one of the ways that communities can become involved in community planning and influence decisions within their area. A locality plans purpose is to identify particular geographic areas that are experiencing issues or are relatively disadvantaged in any way and then sets out what can be done to improve this.

In 2016/17 The Orkney Partnership Board chose the non-linked isles as one of the first geographic areas to be looked at in Orkney to develop a locality plan. The Place Standard model was chosen as the basis for a survey which would allow respondents to inform the ongoing work of the partnership by helping to develop an understanding of the local issues and circumstances on each island. The Place Standard<sup>1</sup> model allows participants to rank a series of categories on the physical, social, and environmental characteristics of their area, as well as the local economy. It is then possible to summarise the findings of the survey into one image (a radar charts) which shows how respondents have ranked each category, which is easily comparable across different areas. The results of the 2017 consultation on the non-linked isles were used to inform the development of The Orkney Partnership Locality Plan and the Strong Communities Delivery Group (SCDG) Delivery Plan.

A partial Place Standard Consultation was then carried out within Mainland communities on behalf of the Integration Joint Board. The findings of this survey in the West Mainland were very similar to responses given by isles residents in the 2016/17 non-linked isles survey. It was therefore decided that in order to progress the work of the Strong Communities Delivery Plan and The Orkney Partnership, there would be a full Place Standard consultation for the West Mainland and Kirkwall, as the next geographic area for locality planning.

Voluntary Action Orkney in collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Strong Communities Delivery Plan, submitted a successful application for funding to the Aspiring Communities Fund to employ a Community Engagement Worker. The focus of the new role, which began in August 2020, was to plan and deliver the consultation in the West Mainland and Kirkwall. This would include involving communities in designing solutions to the issues identified in the consultation, ensuring that local people are at the heart of community planning going forward.

The two-year programme of consultation and community engagement is also particularly focused on those that are seldom heard, and those who may be experiencing any form of inequality or disadvantage, but who are traditionally under-represented in community consultations. This was to be achieved by ensuring that engagement methods used for any consultation or community work were inclusive and innovative. However, due to the Covid-19 measures in place at the time of the consultation usual community activities could not take place with the consultation carried out largely online, and so not particularly inclusive.

However, now that Orkney is beginning to move out of restrictions VAO is looking at ways to be able to engage further with communities in a safe way, to dig deeper into the issues raised in the survey and to look to potential solutions. There will also be some future work to ensure that young people, who were under-represented in the survey, are able to have their say.

This report presents the findings of the West Mainland and Kirkwall Place Standard Consultation 2021,

providing a baseline of data for locality planning which will also be updated with the additional work planned.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.placestandard.scot/>

# Your Community, Your Voice Consultation

## 1.1 Methodology

---

The consultation launched on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February and closed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions in Orkney at the time the consultation was largely delivered online through a questionnaire on Survey Monkey. There was also an option for respondents to request a paper copies of the survey which they could post back to VAO using a pre-paid envelope provided.

The Place Standard Model was used as the basis for the survey to capture a range of physical and social aspects that could be summarised into a simple diagram. The model covers 14 different categories about place that respondents could rank from 1 (a lot of room for improvement) to 7 (very little room for improvement). There was also space to leave comments on each of the categories. The survey was completely anonymous and confidential to ensure respondents could feel they could comment openly.

The survey could be filled out by either an individual or by a group with respondents having the option of answering all the questions or selecting just the ones they were most interested in feeding back on. Demographic data was also collected including the respondents ages and postcodes, to be able to attribute data anonymously per parish. Respondents were asked some questions in addition to the Place Standard categories, including how the pandemic may have affected their responses as well as one positive thing about their community or something they'd like to see more of going forward.

The consultation was widely advertised through the local radio and newspaper. Emails were sent to VAOs mailing list as well as to statutory partners and the third sector for dissemination to their networks. Advertising via social media was used throughout the consultation period on the VAO Facebook page as well as by partner organisations. In the more rural parishes posters were used in local shops, which included the option to download the survey using a QR code.

## 1.2 Consultation Findings

---

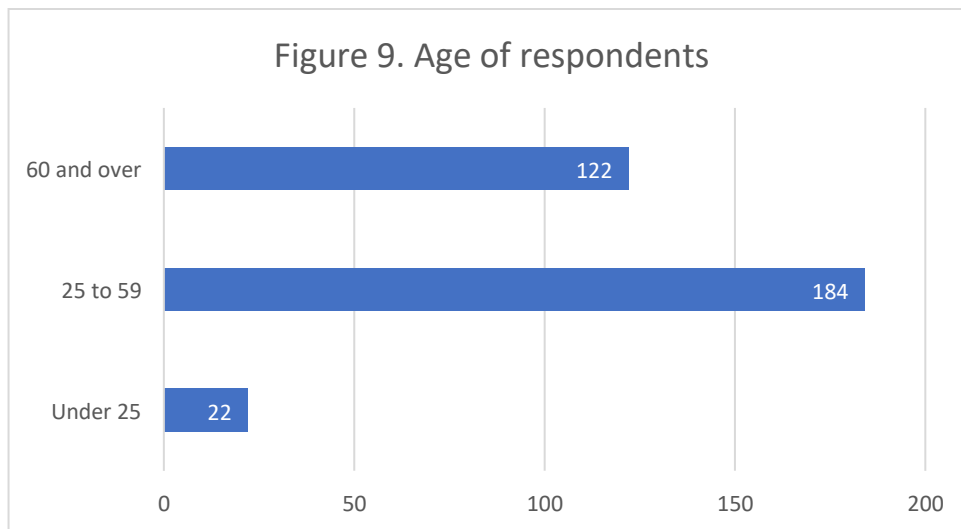
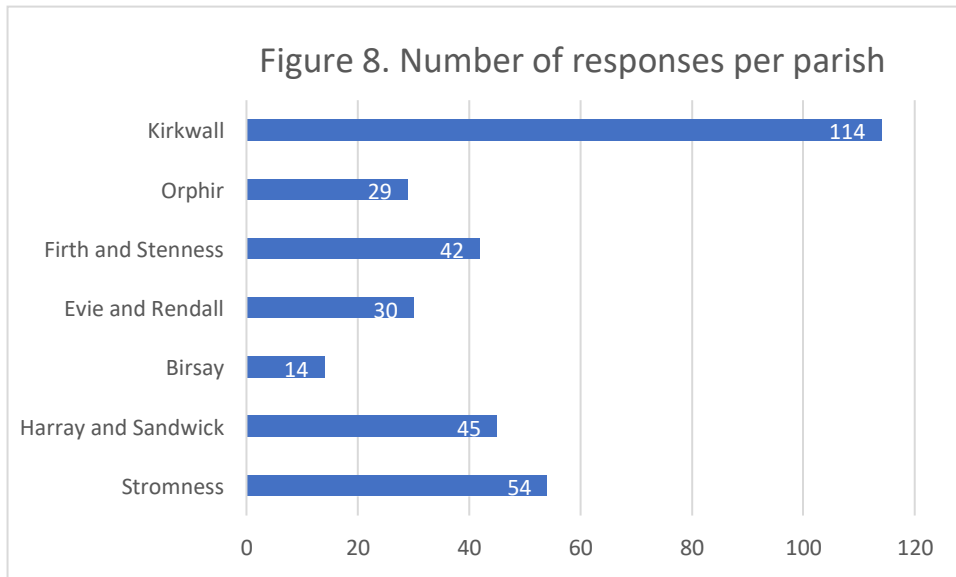
The consultations findings are provided below with information collated from all parishes as well as information per parish. The information per parish sections includes radar charts that show the ratings for each of the survey categories. A chart of aggregated island scores is provided in Appendix 1.

The comments per parish are in the main respondents' own words and reflect the priority issues identified. Not all respondents answered all questions or left comments for all questions.

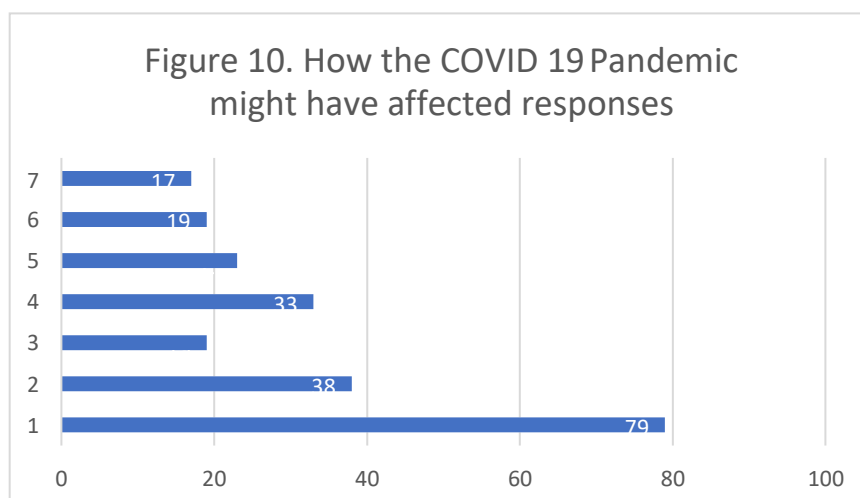
### 1.2.1 All Parishes

---

The survey generated 328 responses from the West Mainland and Kirkwall area in total. The numbers for each parish are shown in figure 8 below. Some responses were received from outside the consultation area, which were removed from the analysis for this report but the comments and rankings were saved to inform future planning in other areas. Figure 9 shows the age range of respondents.



Respondents were asked to rate how their answers to the survey may have been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic, with the option to leave a comment. The most common answer was 1 which was not at all. The comments showed that respondents had largely focused their answers on their communities before the pandemic, with some saying it had slightly influenced priority issues going forward.



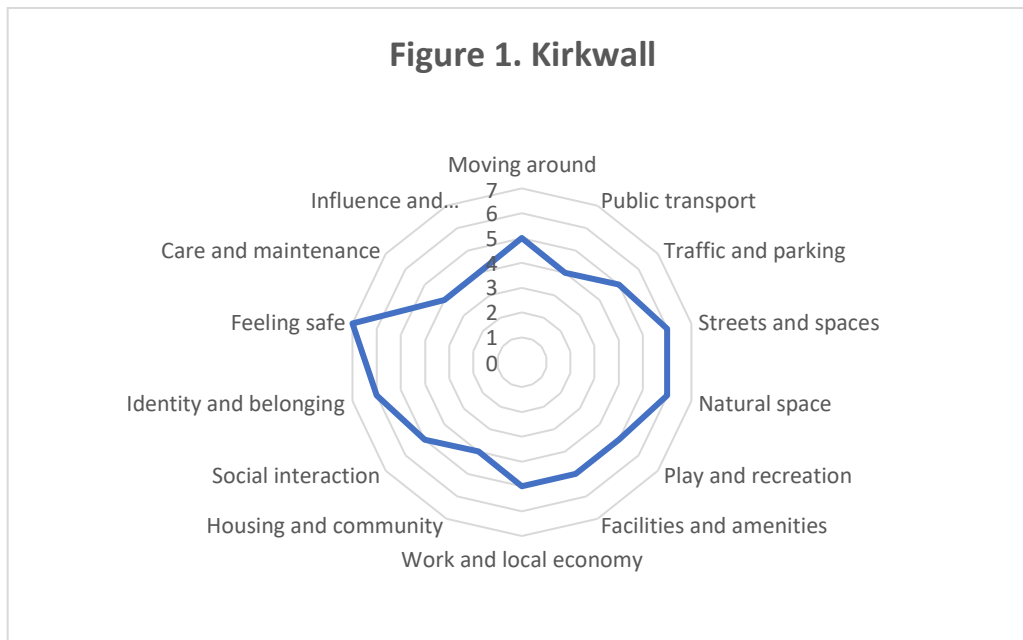
Lastly, the survey asked respondents to tell us one positive thing about their community or one thing they would like to see more of going forward. A selection of the answers to each question are shown in the diagrams below.



Figure 11. Tell us one positive thing about your community



Figure 12. Tell us something you would like to see more of going forward



### Comments:

#### Moving Around (5)

- More joined up walking routes around town
- Traffic management/calming for speeding cars
- More benches and picnic benches
- Dedicated cycle lanes
- Better lighting in the evening for after school or work in winter
- Better path maintenance – can be muddy and slippery
- More off-road walks like Crantit, routes down to Scapa etc.

#### Public Transport (4)

- Too expensive
- Need to extend available routes
- More bus shelters on outskirts of town
- Flexible service that can be booked in advance
- More electric, smaller vehicles as buses often seem empty
- Too infrequent
- Unreliable
- Poor Sunday service, travel in afternoons and evenings also limited
- Not always accessible for wheelchairs and buggy's
- Quality/cleanliness of buses could be improved e.g. hand sanitiser



## **Traffic and parking (5)**

- Speeding on main routes into and out of Kirkwall
- Petrol fumes in town centre
- Lack of parking near pier for ferries
- Parking issues - blocking access to junctions or pavements
- Better signage for tourists
- Shortage of parking during summer
- Pedestrianize main streets

## **Streets and spaces (6)**

- More seating and wildflower planting in town centre
- Make more use of heritage/history and creatives in Orkney to design some street art or other features
- Keep greenspaces maintained
- More bins to deal with litter
- Some run down/derelict buildings that could do with maintenance/use

## **Natural space (6)**

- Need more places to stop and rest on paths
- More areas for wildlife e.g. verges could be left to grow where it doesn't interfere with road visibility
- Could be better access for those with reduced mobility
- Some alternative spaces like outdoor theatres or for other outdoor events/activities
- Need a car to access most places

## **Play and recreation (5)**

- More natural play areas should be developed as part of landscaping in open areas like the Peedie Sea
- A good range of areas but not always accessible for people with disabilities
- Not a lot of parks for older children and teenagers
- Better equipment needed for playparks
- A dedicated dog park

## **Facilities and amenities (5)**

- Pickaquoy centre is good
- Cycle routes to Pickaquoy Centre could be made safer
- Library is great
- Need more public toilets
- Good health services but mental health provision is seriously lacking – there are no areas in town that provide privacy/peace during a crisis
- Need more cycle parking

## **Work and local economy (5)**

- Economy heavily reliant on tourism
- Limited opportunities for career progression
- Lack of childcare options for school age children (5-13) means that parents are restricted to what jobs they can take
- After school care from 3-5:30pm is missing for families

- Very few registered childminders and expensive – lack of knowledge from employers on how hard it is to find a childminder due to qualifications needed
- Rents are often too high for businesses to start up
- Broadband connectivity an issue
- Lack of opportunities for graduates
- Pay gap between public and private sector
- Would like to see more affordable opportunities for people to gain new skills and for folk facing barriers to employment

#### **Housing and community (4)**

- More social housing needed
- Shortage of rental houses
- Too many second homes, holiday lets and Airbnb's
- Shortage of affordable housing – particularly one bed properties
- Housing stock needs to be improved e.g. energy efficiency, insulation, green energy
- Need more support for young families to buy
- More opportunities for shared or semi-sheltered housing

#### **Social interaction (5)**

- Kirk Green or Tankerness Gardens are good meeting places but other than that not a lot of places to sit and chat
- Only option is cafes/pubs meaning you have to spend money to meet
- There could be more walking routes with communal areas and sheltered seating
- Not a lot for mixing of age groups
- Would like to see more open spaces like Liberator Development that encourages children to play and adults to come together

#### **Identity and belonging (6)**

- Historical aspects of the town are good and encourage more interaction with local history
- It's a good community in a lot of ways but there can be a tendency to resist good change, I think misogyny still exists
- Generally good involvement in the community but there is an undercurrent of prejudice against minority groups that can be seen on social media – more should be done to call this out
- I feel very welcome however it would be good to have more groups to help with meeting folk especially for new residents

#### **Feeling safe (7)**

- Antisocial behaviour is on the rise
- Need better education, respect and understanding for survivors of abuse to feel safer
- Maybe not as safe as it used to be in the past, but society as a whole has changed
- Walking around roads at night can be scary, better lighting would make me feel safer

#### **Care and maintenance (4)**

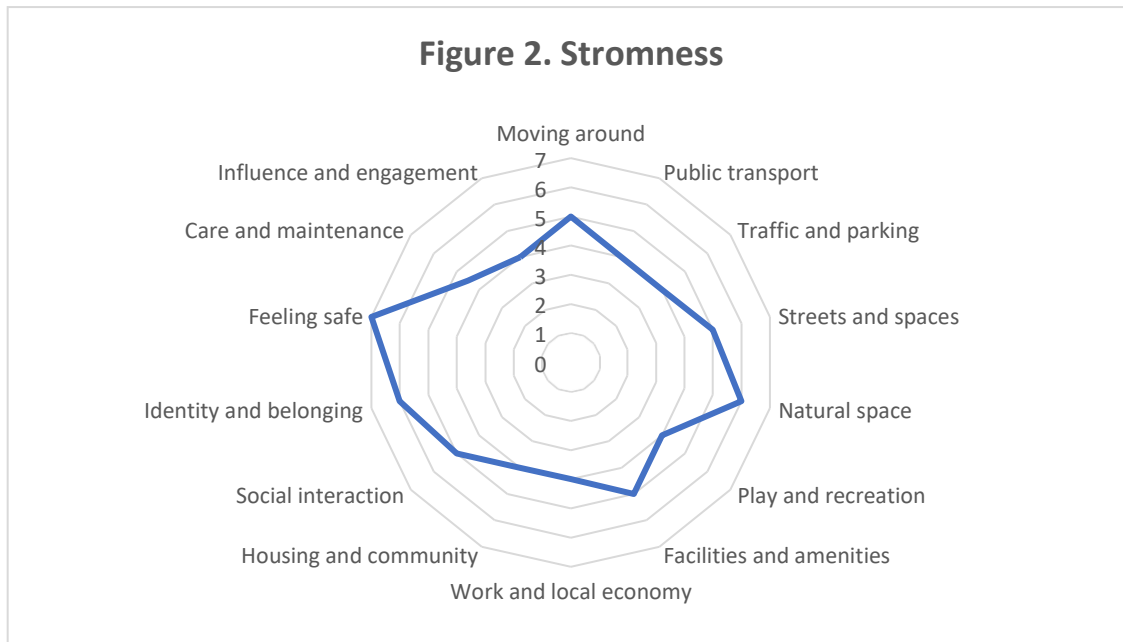
- Residents could be better informed of changes to services such as recycling
- Public toilets could do with some maintenance
- Dog fouling is an issue
- Too much litter

## Influence and engagement (4)

- Feel like no notice is taken of views given and that decisions have already been made
- Not sure how to influence decisions or to be heard – need better communication
- Unsure of wider context or purpose of consultations
- Sometimes feels like a tick box exercise
- Consultations aren't always well advertised
- Consultation fatigue
- Don't always feel like action is taken after surveys

## 1.2.3 Stromness

---



## Comments:

### Moving Around (5)

- Roads are very narrow
- Need more cycle paths through town as it is dangerous to cycle on the road
- Path work in need of expanding and to be made more accessible
- In many places on the Kirkwall to Stromness road there is no footpath for pedestrians or cyclists
- Pavements can be slippery when wet, need better maintenance for weeds and moss
- No secure cycle racks in Stromness

### Public Transport (4)

- Better frequency of routes to tourist spots would be good to allow for days out for locals as well, would help with parking problems at popular spots
- Want to see more electric vehicles
- Unreliable
- Not stops at south end of town
- More smaller buses to allow for more runs on more routes
- Expensive
- Not always accessible

- Times do not suit - need better evening service and for getting to Kirkwall for early morning shifts
- Traffic and parking (4)
- Parking arrangements on main street too narrow and crowded – can be dangerous as well as blocking access
- Lack of parking in summer months
- Improving bus services would reduce traffic
- Look into one-way system for high-street

### **Streets and spaces (5)**

- Dog fouling and litter both persistent problems without enough bins
- More planted areas to brighten up the place
- Many derelict or empty buildings that could be used
- More trees to help with noise, wind, and air quality – community woodlands or garden type walks
- More benches along main road
- Signposts/road maps for campsite

### **Natural space (6)**

- More benches and seating
- Community payback schemes from wind energy to fund improvements
- Mostly fantastic but need more litter bins
- Sustainable tourism strategy required for busy areas
- Wonderful but needs more public toilets

### **Play and recreation (4)**

- Lack of music venues to practice and perform
- More clubs in Stromness after school so you don't have to travel to Kirkwall
- Of good quality but could do with more for teenagers
- Timing of facilities opening could be more flexible
- Some play spaces require upgrading and maintenance

### **Facilities and amenities (5)**

- Could do with toilets on golf course side of town
- Not a lot open in the winter
- For a small town the facilities are good
- Encourage a variety of local shops to encourage local spending

### **Work and local economy (4)**

- Rents for shops too high which puts off business
- Create hot desking spaces to mitigate isolation from remote working
- Childcare difficult to find – need more registered child minders
- Economy dependent on tourism – develop economy on other industries like technology, food and energy production
- A lot of part time posts or short-term contracts
- Economy seems to be centred on tourism

### **Housing and community (4)**

- Lack of housing for first time buyers and young folk
- A lot of holiday homes/second homes/Airbnb

- More eco/affordable homes needed
- I had to move 3 times in one year to find somewhere long term to rent – demand is incredibly high and competitive
- Rents are too high
- Electricity costs are high
- Rental properties often damp, mouldy and in poor condition
- More sheltered housing needed
- Renovate old properties
- Lack of parking to some homes in town

### Social interaction (5)

- Not many options other than cafes and pubs to meet

### Identity and belonging (6)

- Generally welcoming and inclusive, there will always be those who aren't
- A good sense of community
- There's always more that can be done to make people feel welcome and wanted

### Feeling safe (7)

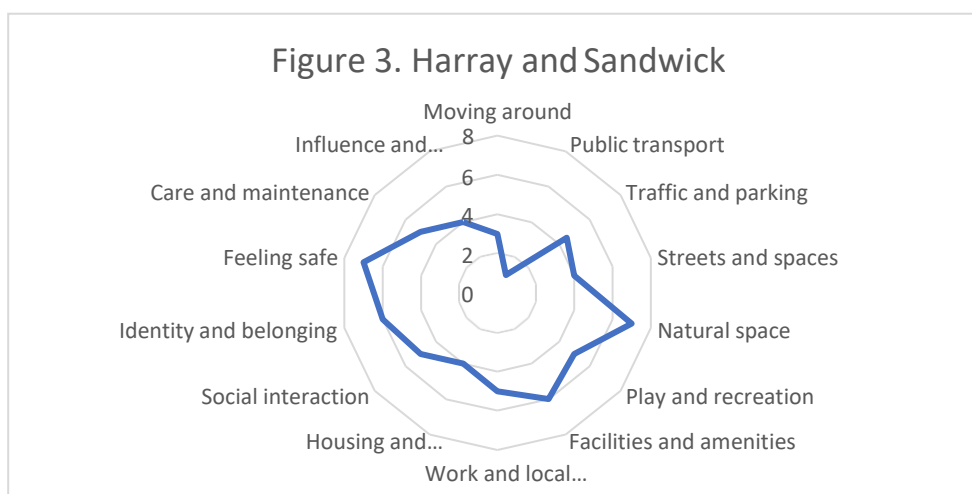
- More street lighting in darker areas of town
- Feels very safe

### Care and maintenance (4.5)

- Dog fouling is a problem
- Too much litter
- Recycling is difficult
- Influence and engagement (4)
- Confusing landscape of who is responsible for what
- Need more transparency and openness
- Communication is poor
- Not sure how to find out what's going on
- Feel disengaged and disillusioned

## 1.2.4 Harray and Sandwick

---



## Comments:

### Moving Around (3)

- Lack of street lighting dangerous in the winter
- Walking routes not suitable for disabled
- Not enough seating for those who want to rest or enjoy the view
- Roads are too narrow
- No cycle lanes
- Erosion on some coastal walking paths
- Walking, cycling or horse riding on busy roads feels dangerous - drivers are not always considerate at giving room and drive too fast
- Opening up more tracks to create bridle tracks through the countryside off the main roads – also more joined up paths in hills/countryside
- Busy roads with no pavements are a challenge with children
- Not enough way markers for tourists
- Too many speeding cars

### Public Transport (1)

- Cost and travel to bus stop can be a difficulty
- Living in Harray and working in Stromness it is impossible to get to work by public transport for an early start
- Public transport to Harray, Birsay or Sandwick to Kirkwall or Stromness is unreliable
- Need more seating at bus stops
- Connectivity is limited to rural locations – only 2 per day and nothing after 5:30pm from Kirkwall to Dounby/Sandwick
- Difficult to use for children when attending activities in town in the evening
- Limited night service on all connections
- A catch 22 situation: some people are more likely to use cars as buses aren't frequent but because the buses aren't frequent everyone uses their cars

### Traffic and parking (4.5)

- Reasonable free parking in the area but can become crowded in the summer
- More considerate driving needed during bird breeding season
- Not a lot of parking in and around Dounby centre and it's a busy road to cross with fast moving traffic
- Information campaign for driving on single track roads
- Some parking in villages can obscure oncoming traffic
- Car parking signage in town is too vague
- Speeding on Harray straight

### Streets and spaces (4)

- Nothing to accommodate groups meeting outside in Dounby – need more shelter for poor weather
- Dounby could have some more trees or park/garden to improve the view
- Should be incentives for folk to support local business
- A lot of uninhabited houses and semi-derelict buildings
- More seating in countryside spots
- Planting wildflowers and bulbs to improve views in village

- More dog waste bins

### **Natural space (7)**

- Lack of public toilets
- Some more accessible routes for those with mobility issues would be good
- Would benefit to have a greater network of footpaths
- Need to preserve what we have

### **Play and recreation (5)**

- Lack of public transport and activities for teenagers can make them feel trapped
- Harray hall a good space normally
- Apart from community halls I'm not certain there's enough facilities for meeting together, I think sport is well catered for but can be expensive
- More investment in play facilities such as swings, climbing frames and slides as well as an all-weather pitch
- Always room for improvement however the community school and new church provide good spaces for groups and activities

### **Facilities and amenities (6)**

- Dounby centre is a good resource, though longer opening hours would be good
- Need to have a car to access a lot of facilities
- Very good facilities in Kirkwall and some in Stromness but have to hang around to get home via public transport
- Not enough public toilets

### **Work and local economy (5)**

- Jobs can be difficult to come by and are not usually competitively paid
- Orkney college provide good set of options – would be good to have more wide ranging courses in traditional skills
- Need to review work practices like relief zero-hour contracts
- Empty shops could have lower rents to encourage pop ups
- A lot of work is seasonal which is not helpful for all year round
- Many young folk leave the island for better paid, more interesting and varied opportunities
- People can often be under-employed: working multiple jobs or in unstable employment

### **Housing and community (4)**

- Rented accommodation hard to come by
- Building own home limited by building rules/regulations
- Need more homes suitable for elderly people so they can receive care at home
- Rent is expensive and there is not much opportunity for group renting
- Not enough good quality homes for rent

### **Social interaction (5)**

- Travel to events can be a problem, especially for older people
- Not enough facilities for informal meetings
- Unaware of any formal meeting spaces for young adults
- Not many spaces that can be used in all weathers
- Not always many opportunities to meet folk except in the pub

- Summer festivals good for attracting folk from all over the island, different events might also be good for variety

### Identity and belonging (6)

- I do have a sense folk help each other out
- A strong sense of community but some outdated ideas
- Quite accepting place, schemes such as youth forum could be expanded to help with inclusion – would also benefit from an Orkney pride for example
- Feels less so than in the past

### Feeling safe (7)

- This community feels on the whole safe, the danger is traffic on the roads and internet/phone scams which are worrying

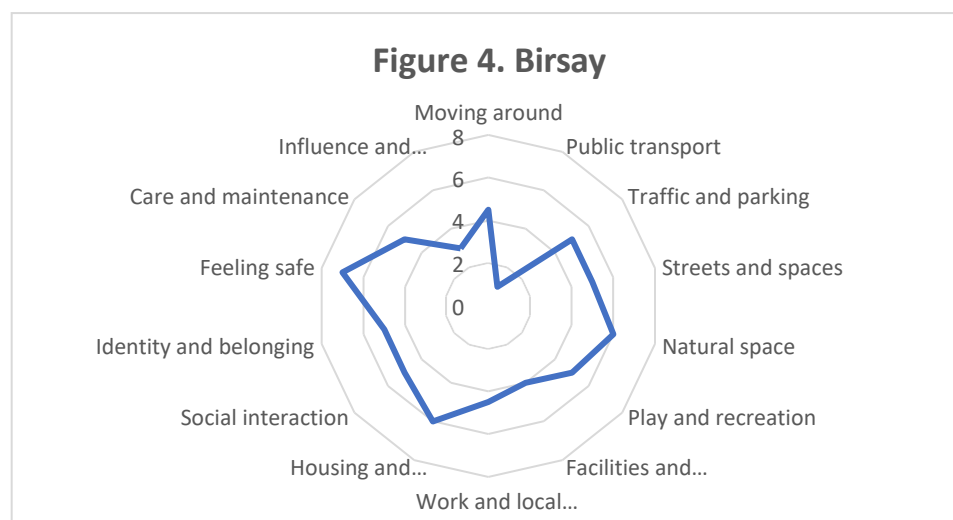
### Care and maintenance (5)

- Dog fouling is a problem
- Would like to see better recycling
- Littering a problem particularly on country roads due to wind
- Vandalism a persistent problem

### Influence and engagement (4)

- People often have to be proactive to be involved
- Need a more joined up approach to outreach to update people on big decisions/projects
- More accessible options to amplify other voices
- Feel that councillor are not always visible or accessible
- Not always sure how to be listened too
- Website design can make it hard to find information
- Happy to take part in further surveys, focus groups can also be helpful to gain insight
- If public see new initiatives and improvements people would be more inclined to engage in future
- Decisions feel like they are made behind closed doors

## 1.2.5 Birsay





## Comments:

### **Moving Around (4.5)**

- Roads busy in summer
- Cycling, walking and horse riding dangerous
- Roads too narrow
- Difficult to pass cyclists in groups
- Too many speeding cars
- Limited passing places

### **Public Transport (1)**

- Limited timetable
- Times not ideal for getting to work or for evening events in town
- Not easily accessible for everyone
- Not affordable
- Put on more smaller buses rather than few large ones – potentially electric vehicles
- Request bus service using smaller vehicles
- Without better support and transport, I won't be able to stay here when I stop being able to drive

### **Traffic and parking (5)**

- Parking in towns can be a problem in summer and during peak times
- Would like to see more 10 minute free parking
- More formal parking at popular walks and viewpoints needed to avoid blocking passing places

### **Streets and spaces (5)**

- Could be better signage
- Preserve landmarks and historical sites for the future
- Have more shelters for bad weather made from local materials in public spaces
- More public toilets and bins

### **Natural space (6)**

- Wonderful green space however can be difficult to access for those with disabilities

### **Play and recreation (5)**

- Generally, a good range of activities in the West Mainland but it sometimes feels as though there are more opportunities in Kirkwall which requires travel
- Play parks could be better maintained
- Not a lot of options for teenagers
- Difficult to attract classes or group activities to hire the local hall due to rural location

### **Facilities and amenities (4)**

- Public toilets need to be upgraded

### **Work and local economy (4.5)**

- Need more support for businesses to grow and stimulate employment
- Opportunities tend to be centralised to Kirkwall
- Some low paid jobs and some very high paid jobs but little in between

- Could have support from college to help young people adapt to new working practices i.e. working from home

### Housing and community (6)

- Too expensive
- Need to renovate derelict properties to increase stock
- Improve homes self-sufficient using renewable energy
- Difficult to find affordable private rental
- Limited social housing in rural areas

### Social interaction (5)

- Wide array of clubs and societies
- Lack of evening activities

### Identity and belonging (5)

- Very community minded

### Feeling safe (7)

- Feels very safe within the home, but not on the roads

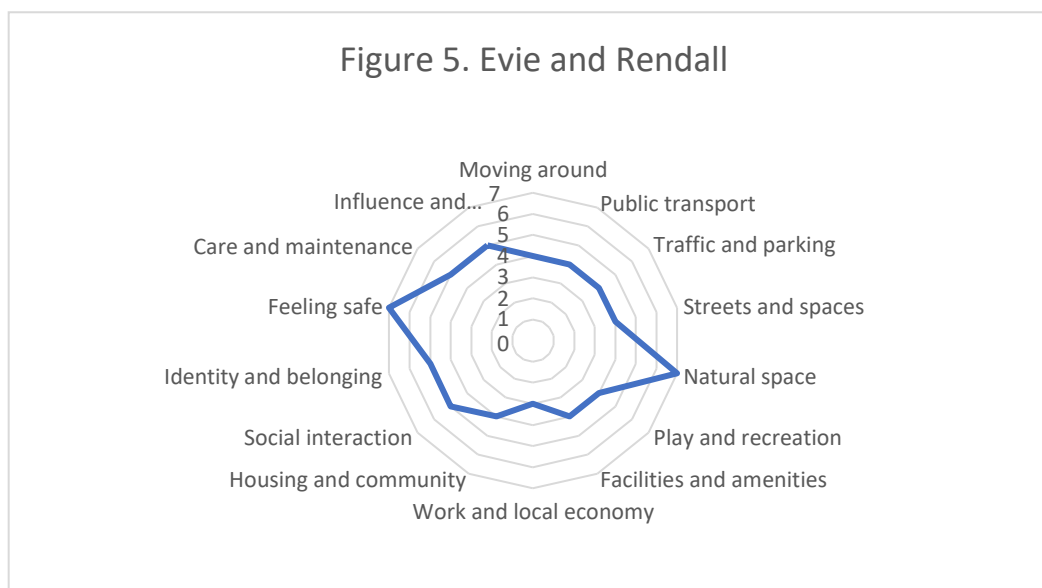
### Care and maintenance (5)

- Good but issues with recycling
- Need local campaign on litter
- More frequent bin emptying
- Need a bin at Brough of Birsay

### Influence and engagement (3)

- Not always easy to work out how to have your say

## 1.2.6 Evie and Rendall



## Comments:

### Moving Around (4)

- Not easy to walk along the side of the road as verges are high and muddy – not very accessible for everyone
- Plenty of walking routes off road but poor for cycling
- For the less able there are not a lot of pavements in Evie – not suitable for walking with children or wheelchairs
- No benches if someone wants a seat while out walking
- More info needed for drivers to explain to be aware of folk walking or cycling on country roads – can be dangerous due to high speeds

### Public Transport (4)

- Not frequent enough
- Not reliable – there have been times when the bus hasn't turned up
- Wish the bus was not a coach – unnecessary from an economic and environmental point of view – smaller mini buses would be more appropriate
- Larger buses on narrow roads are mostly always empty – look at having smaller electric vehicles that would run more regular i.e. from Evie/Costa to allow travel to doctors surgery in Dounby
- Last service at 5pm
- Not accessible
- The price of tickets means it is cheaper and also more convenient due to the timetable to take the car
- Connections are not always available except to get into Kirkwall

### Traffic and parking (4)

- Need to promote Orkney as a clean transport destination – more electric chargers, electric transport and ferry's
- Encourage use of electric vehicle to overcome air quality problems in town
- Speeding
- A lot of cars in the area as buses don't fit with nursery times etc.

### Streets and spaces (4)

- Kirkwall and Stromness town projects doing well to improve and preserve nature of the towns
- Too dangerous to walk at night
- Uneven paving slabs in towns a health and safety concern
- Businesses need to be supported to keep trading and not leave shops empty

### Natural space (7)

- In favour of green energy but better planning needed for turbines
- One of the most beautiful locations to access natural spaces but wouldn't say it is accessible to all
- Litter is a big problem

### Play and recreation (4)

- Good accessibility to them in Kirkwall or Stromness if you have your own car
- Community park in process of being rebuilt, will be good when complete
- Not affordable for a lot of residents

- Lack of shelters for people to sit outside
- Toilets at Evie would benefit from having marked out parking
- More opportunities for use of recreational outdoor space for young people or for adults with disabilities
- Use of centre at Dounby a valuable resource

#### **Facilities and amenities (4)**

- Rooms for improvement for toilet facilities that are fully accessible
- Good facilities but access limited by public transport
- Doctors surgery shutting is very inconvenient
- Broadband issues

#### **Work and local economy (3)**

- Lack of childminders/afterschool clubs in rural areas
- Not many opportunities locally
- Opportunities in Kirkwall or Stromness provided you can travel

#### **Housing and community (4)**

- Lots of young couples and families have not been able to stay in the area due to lack of housing opportunities
- Not enough smaller accessible housing for folk as needs change
- Private sells often unaffordable
- Difficult for anyone wanting to build a new home due to planning regulations
- Lack of housing to rent

#### **Social interaction (5)**

- A few opportunities for different age groups in Evie, tend to rely on volunteers and enthusiastic organisers
- Community halls are good locations for broad range of ages to mix
- Fortunate to have a new community area withing the school
- No café or pub for folk to meet casually

#### **Identity and belonging (5)**

- A loss of identity and cohesion e.g. no harvest homes or ceilidhs and nothing to replace it
- Needs enthusiastic commitment from community
- Strong feeling of community depending on how much you want to be involved

#### **Feeling safe (7)**

- Feel safe to walk at any time of day or night

#### **Care and maintenance (5)**

- Usual problems with litter and dog fouling
- Would like to see recycling centre in Dounby

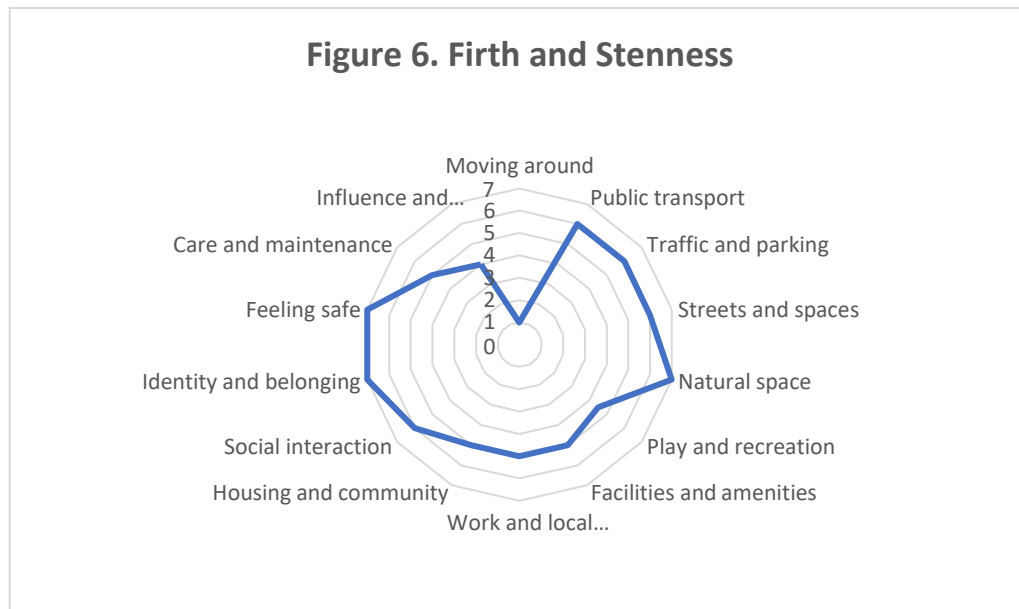
#### **Influence and engagement (5)**

- Sometimes feel like people in power have a job to do rather than listening to what the public want
- Never know when community council meetings are happening and no recent minutes online to see what has been discuss or decided

- Decision making too centralised
- Don't often see any outcomes or difference achieved by surveys

## 1.2.7 Firth and Stenness

---



### Comments:

#### Moving Around (1)

- Need more cycle routes
- Main Kirkwall to Stromness road very busy at times with no spaces for walking or cycling
- No cycle/walking near main tourist attractions like Brodgar or Maeshowe
- Main road dangerous to walk on with high verges so for bikes, prams, wheelchairs it is impossible to get safely off the road
- No speed checks when entering Finstown 30mph zone
- More benches in towns
- More passing places on some routes

#### Public Transport (6)

- Timetable restricted in some west mainland areas
- Expensive
- Would like to see electric vehicles
- Poor provision in evenings
- Service in Finstown is good
- Buses are not very reliable
- Quality of buses is not great
- Frequency is too low to be an alternative to the car – an hour wait is too big a risk for a missed bus

## **Traffic and parking (6)**

- Dangerous driving on Ireland road – concerns for children’s safety when walking and cycling
- In Finstown pavements are so narrow a pram takes up entire width – can feel unsafe when lorries or buses pass through village
- Speeding cars though Stenness a concern – especially past the school
- Many access points of charging electric vehicles a plus
- High streets in towns should be pedestrianised
- Need more parking at tourist spots
- Can be difficult to park in town in the summer
- Not enough safe places to cross

## **Streets and spaces (6)**

- Lots of lovely places to visit close at hand in the local community but no safe way to travel between them without pavements
- Verges and signage could be better upkept
- Not very much shelter in Kirkwall
- More could be done with open spaces e.g. planting
- Some clear walking routes linking tourist sites would be a great addition

## **Natural space (7)**

- Can easily cross fields to get to the shore but not so easy for those with reduced mobility to access
- Thought required for placing windfarms in the countryside
- Limited seating for elderly and disabled

## **Play and recreation (4.5)**

- Limited to Kirkwall and Stromness – without driving they are hard to reach
- Play park at school in Stenness is dated and equipment is in need of repair – it is a great space though and community garden is lovely in spring and summer
- Traffic calming on main road to make it safer for children to play
- Lack of opportunities in Harray
- Good play space for families in community play park but little or nothing for teenagers

## **Facilities and amenities (5)**

- It would be good to have facilities that deal with healthcare, including mental health provision, particularly for LGBT+ people
- Community room is used by different groups for afterschool activities, but a car would be necessary to get there in the evening
- Available in Kirkwall or Stromness if you have transport
- Rooms in community schools/centres are expensive to use
- Main problem is access by public transport

## **Work and local economy (5)**

- Finding work to fit around education is difficult
- Childcare is extremely difficult to find
- Access to this in Kirkwall but not in my immediate community
- Limited options for young people if they can’t easily travel to town

### **Housing and community (5)**

- Not enough housing for renters, low income, or first-time buyers
- Too many self-catering or second homes which are only occupied a few weeks or months of the year
- More affordable housing would help support the local school
- Difficult for young families to afford housing in Stenness – other than OHAL there are few options
- Concerned about fuel usage – improved fuel costs and insulation needed

### **Social interaction (6)**

- Less outdoor spaces which isn't great in winter
- Some availability to meet but mostly in Kirkwall

### **Identity and belonging (7)**

- Strong feeling of place and belonging
- There is some community feeling but this has lessened over time
- Generally a good community but isn't always the best in terms of openness and acceptance of folk who are different

### **Feeling safe (7)**

- Better lighting in car park/toilet/pier area
- Don't feel safe to walk with young children due to speeding cars
- Need better education to stop discrimination which can make people feel unsafe
- Feel safe except for on the main Kirkwall to Stromness road

### **Care and maintenance (5)**

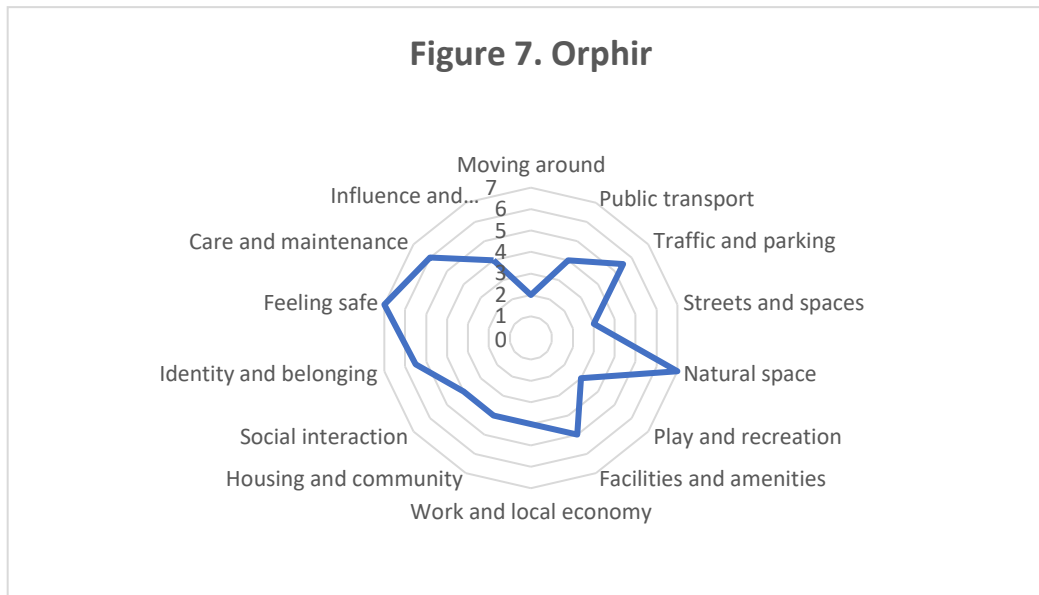
- Communications have improved since pandemic
- Litter
- Refuse and recycling collections declined – I struggle to store it at home when uplifts can't be done
- Dog fouling

### **Influence and engagement (4)**

- I don't know where to go to help make a change
- I feel like its hard to influence decisions
- Often feel like it is tokenism to be asked for views – some issues have been discussed for over a decade like pavements/paths and road safety with little progress
- Feel I am not listened to, that we are only consulted because organisations have to
- If there is a meeting to consult it is often only one day and so if you cannot attend you miss your chance
- Plenty of opportunity but often left too late
- Consultation fatigue
- Local authority could be more responsive

## 1.2.8 Orphir

---



### Comments:

#### Moving Around (2)

- Lack of footpaths
- Fast traffic on main roads
- Roads too narrow for walking, cycling and horse riding
- Walking routes tend to be short and non-circular
- Unsafe for cycling as cars pass too close
- Verges muddy and uneven
- Walking on roads in Orphir hazardous due to no pavements and fast cars – unsafe for children to walk or cycle to school
- Lack of street lighting – unsafe to walk after work in winter months

#### Public Transport (4)

- I don't use public transport as the service doesn't tie up with activities I want to take part in
- No service to get you into town before 9am
- Not reliable or accessible
- Doesn't run enough at weekends
- Difficult for young folk who don't drive to get about on infrequent services

#### Traffic and parking (5.5)

- Speeding cars a danger to road users in Orphir village
- More passing places on single track roads

#### Streets and spaces (3)

- Some run-down buildings detract from the area
- Litter



- Planting in villages would be nice
- Sad to see empty shops

### **Natural space (7)**

- Beautiful natural places but perhaps some seats/picnic benches would improve it
- Accessibility would be better at some locations
- Could do with more public toilets

### **Play and recreation (3)**

- Limited day time social events
- Lack of meeting places in the village – most Kirkwall centric
- Need to go to Stromness or Kirkwall for most things which can be expensive
- Not a lot for teenagers
- Play parks could do with upgrading

### **Facilities and amenities (5)**

- Some local amenities like church hall and school but no shop
- Excellent facilities at school community centre but limited scope for use during day
- More public toilets
- Would like to see community school hall used more for workshops, groups, and classes
- Kirk hall used successfully for community and church led groups including community café

### **Work and local economy (4)**

- Many young folk leave for education and don't return as options are limited
- On the whole good with low unemployment only issue is limited range of opportunities

### **Housing and community (4)**

- Too many empty properties
- Housing for young folk is an issue
- Fuel poverty an issue with poorly insulated housing stock needing updated
- Lack of affordable houses to buy or rent
- Need more social housing
- Need more sheltered housing
- Housing tends to be too expensive
- No local housing for older people

### **Social interaction (4)**

- No regular weekend social events, usually during the day when folk work
- Could improve mix on offer e.g. bowling alley, hockey field, tennis courts
- A lot of meeting places are alcohol orientated
- Nowhere to meet outdoors that's covered

### **Identity and belonging (5.5)**

- Strong community identity
- The pandemic brought us together to care for vulnerable people, but it also feels that some community spirit has been lost from not being able to spend time together
- Have noticed community helping more in recent times

**Feeling safe (7)**

- Road safety is my greatest concern

**Care and maintenance (6)**

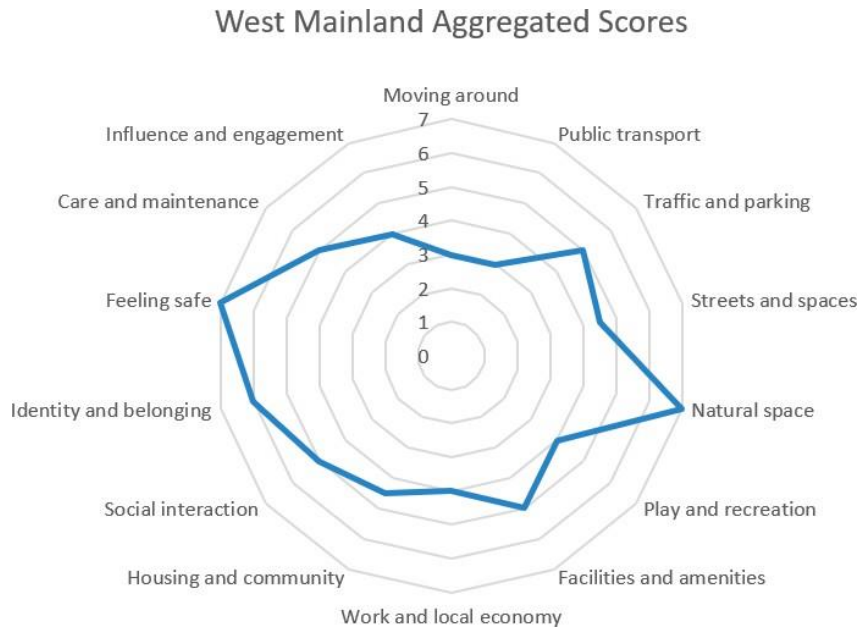
- Dog fouling is a problem and there aren't enough bins

**Influence and engagement (4)**

- Pretty good overall
- Feel consulted regularly but not sure anyone listens to what people say
- Amount of consultations can be overwhelming
- Do feel like it is a tick box exercise sometimes

# Appendix 1 Chart of Aggregated West Mainland Scores

---



## Appendix 2 Your Community, Your Voice Questionnaire

---

### Introduction

#### Your Community, Your Voice

You are invited to complete this survey monkey in order to identify issues of importance to you and your community.

You will see that there are 14 categories and 14 questions. Each page contains an explanatory paragraph along with some prompt questions for you to consider, if you wish. You are then asked to score the main question, which is in blue text. You can complete as many of these as you wish and the information you provide is anonymous and confidential.

Your responses will enable us to find out what works well in your community and what might need to be improved.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

If you have any questions please contact VAO on 01856 872897 or email [rebecca.crawford@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.crawford@vaorkney.org.uk)

*This programme is supported by The Orkney Partnership and led by Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) It is funded by the Aspiring Communities Fund*

#### About you.

1. Please enter your postcode.

2. Which age category do you fall into?

Under 25

25 to 59

60 and over

**Walking and cycling are good for our health and the environment. Pleasant and safe routes can encourage walking and cycling.**

**Now consider the question:**

Can I easily walk and cycle around using good-quality routes?

**You might want to think about the following:**

- Are there enough routes for walking and cycling?
- Are walking and cycling given priority over cars and other traffic as much as possible?
- Do routes provide obvious and direct links with the places that people want to go, such as schools, shops, parks and public transport?
- Are routes good quality, attractive and pleasant to use?
- Do routes meet the needs of everyone, whatever their age or mobility, and is there seating for those who need it?
- Do routes feel safe to use all year round and at different times of the day?

**Now rate your area, from the drop down list below, on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

3. Moving around - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

4. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**Access to an affordable, reliable and well-connected transport system is important for communities. It allows people to get around in a sustainable way which in turn is good for the environment.**

**Now consider this question**

Does public transport meet my needs?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- Are public transport services frequent and reliable?
- Do they take people to where they want to go?
- Is public transport safe and easy to access, whatever their age or mobility ?
- Are bus stops and travel centres in convenient places and within walking distance of people's homes and is there seating for those who need it?
- Do travel centres have what is needed, for example, toilets, secure parking and cycle storage?
- Can everyone afford public transport services?
- Are facilities and modes of public transport of good quality and well maintained?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

5. Public transport - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

6. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**Too much traffic can cause problems for people who live in, work in, or visit an area. Traffic and parking arrangements that allow people to move around safely can help people to get the most out of a place.**

**Now consider this question**

Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely and meet the community's needs?

**You might want to think about the following:**

- Do people take priority over cars and other traffic?
- What impact does traffic have on health and wellbeing in the place (you might want to think about access, noise and air quality)?
- Is parking in a safe and secure location?
- Are traffic-calming measure used effectively to benefit the community?
- Are there too many cars and too much traffic in the area?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

7. Traffic and parking - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

8. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**Buildings, landmarks, greenery, views and natural landscape can all help to create an attractive, distinctive place that people enjoy. These features can also help people to find their way around.**

**Now consider this question,**

Do buildings, streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to get around?

**You might want to think about the following:**

- **Do the buildings or public spaces make being in or passing through the area a pleasant experience?**
- **Are there positive features such as local landmarks, historic buildings, public squares or natural features that make the place look attractive?**
- **Do poor aspects such as derelict buildings, vacant land or excessive noise reduce the effect that these positive features have?**
- **Do features and routes help people find their way around?**
- **Is it much harder to enjoy the place at night, in different seasons, or during bad weather?**

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

9. Streets and spaces - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

10. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did



**Natural space includes a wide variety of different environments which are good for wildlife, and benefit our health and wellbeing.**

**Now consider this question**

Can I regularly experience good quality natural space?

**You might want to think about the following:**

- Is my surrounding natural space pleasant to live in?
- Is my space affected by the development of 'green' and other technologies?
- Is there an acceptable balance between these technological developments and preserving my natural space?
- Is natural space accessible to all regardless of age, mobility or disability? Eg seating available for those who need it?
- Is the available natural space attractive, well maintained and free from hazards?
- Is it affected by negative features such as excessive noise or poor air quality?
- Is the natural space used, and feel safe to use, by all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Will the available natural space continue to meet people's needs in the future?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

11. Natural space - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

12. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**Good places encourage children and adults to enjoy play, leisure, recreation and sporting activities. These provide opportunities to improve the quality of our lives and our health**

**Now consider this question**

Do I have access to a range of opportunities for play and recreation?

**You may want to think about the following**

- **What are the opportunities to take part in play and recreation? (You may want to think about specific groups such as teenagers, older people, children with disabilities and so on.)**
- **Are the spaces and facilities to support play and recreation of good quality, well maintained and used to their full potential?**
- **Are the spaces and facilities accessible and can everyone afford to use them?**
- **Are children able to challenge themselves and build their confidence while playing?**
- **Does the community welcome children playing outdoors?**
- **Is access to, or the feeling of safety within, spaces and facilities affected by the time of day or year?**

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

13. Play and recreation - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

14. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**Facilities and amenities are the things that we need to live and enjoy life. This can include shops, schools, nurseries, libraries, GP surgeries and places to eat, drink and meet friends. Access to facilities and amenities is important to support healthy, fulfilling lives.**

**Now consider the question:**

Do facilities and amenities meet my needs?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- **Is there a range of facilities and amenities available to meet a variety of different needs?**
- **Are these accessible and used by all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?**
- **Do the available facilities and amenities help to support a healthy lifestyle?**
- **Are they within a reasonable distance and easily accessible by walking, cycling or private, public transport?**
- **Are facilities and amenities good quality and well maintained?**
- **Are the available facilities and amenities being used to their full potential? Will they continue to meet people's needs in the future?**

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

15. Facilities and amenities - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

16. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**Good quality work can offer important benefits through the income, activity, social networks and sense of identity and satisfaction that it can bring. A thriving local economy can provide work opportunities and help create lively and attractive places where people want to spend time.**

**Now consider the question:**

Is there an active local economy and the opportunity to access good quality work?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- **Is there an active local economy that helps to create different kinds of jobs?**
- **Are there opportunities for people to gain skills for work or otherwise, such as education, training and volunteering?**
- **Can local people access job opportunities, whatever their age, gender, ethnic group, religious belief, sexuality or disability?**
- **Do local services such as jobcentres, recruitment agencies and affordable childcare help people to find and keep work?**
- **Are there opportunities and spaces for local businesses to start up and grow?**

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

17. Work and local economy - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

18. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**The homes that are available locally will affect who lives in an area and how a place looks and feels. Good places have a mix of quality homes for families and people of different ages and incomes.**

**Now consider the question:**

Do the homes in my area support the needs of the community?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- Is housing a positive feature of the area?
- Is there a range of good-quality housing available for different sizes of household?
- Is there a range of housing tenancies (rented, privately owned, and so on) to meet different needs of people, whatever their income?
- Do the different housing types work well with one another?
- Does a variety of housing allow people to stay in the area as their needs change, or they grow older?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

19. Housing and community - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

20. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**Feeling isolated can be damaging to our health and wellbeing. Good places provide a variety of spaces to meet and spend time with others.**

**Now consider the question:**

Are there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- Which spaces provide opportunities for people to meet?
- Is there a range of different spaces (indoor, outdoor, purpose-built and more informal) where people can meet?
- Can these spaces be used at different times of the day, throughout the year, and in different types of weather?
- Do people from across the whole community and from different backgrounds mix together and get to know each other?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

21. Social interaction - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

22. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

**How a place looks, its history and what other people think of the place can affect how we feel. A strong local identity can help us feel pride in our place, our community and in ourselves as a result.**

**Now consider the question:**

Does my community have a positive identity and do I feel I belong?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- Do people perceive the place positively?
- Is the history and heritage of the place apparent and celebrated?
- Do people feel connected to their neighbours and the community?
- Do all people in the place feel like they belong regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religious belief, sexual orientation or disability?
- Are people positively engaged in their community? Do local groups and networks help strengthen a sense of community?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

23. Identity and belonging - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

24. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

## Feeling safe

**How safe a place feels can affect people's wellbeing and how they spend time there. Good design and maintenance can help make places feel safer and minimise crime and antisocial behaviour.**

**Now consider the question:**

Do I Feel Safe?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- Are routes safe and well used at different times of the day and throughout the year?
- Are spaces overlooked by buildings that are well used, adding to a feeling of safety?
- Is the area free of empty or derelict property, crime and antisocial behaviour?
- Do people feel safe both at home and when out and about?
- Is the area safe for everyone, whatever their age, gender, ethnic group, religious beliefs, sexuality or disability?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

25. Feeling safe - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

26. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did



## Care and maintenance

**Places that are well cared for can make us feel positive, while those that are not looked after properly can have the opposite effect. Having proper maintenance arrangements in place and ways in residents can get support when needed allows people to feel positive about their environment.**

**Now consider the question:**

Are buildings and spaces well cared for?

**You may want to think about the following:**

- Are public areas such as parks, public spaces or public properties well maintained?
- Are there any specific problems in the area, such as litter, vandalism or dog fouling?
- Are there good facilities for recycling and refuse storage and is collection well organised?
- Do the Council, housing association, landlords and residents all know their roles and responsibilities? Is action taken when necessary?
- Is communication clear and effective? Are residents kept informed of any change to services and can they easily report problems if they arise?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

27. Care and maintenance - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

28. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

## Influence and engagement

**Having a voice in decision making and feeling empowered to make changes can help to build stronger communities and better places. Having a sense of influence and engagement can make people feel positive about their lives.**

**Now consider the question:**

Do I feel able to take part in decisions and help change things for the better?

**You may want to consider the following**

- Are you able to contribute to decisions that affect you?
- Is everyone able to contribute, whatever their age, gender, ethnic group, religious belief, sexuality or disability?
- Do local community services or groups allow people to get involved?
- Do organisations such as the council, health services or housing associations actively work with the community to understand their needs?
- Do local people feel listened to? Do people know how to be listened to?

**Now, rate your area on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 means a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement.**

29. Influence and engagement - score

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

30. If you wish, please say why you rated your answer the way you did

## Final Questions

**Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. We'd be very grateful if you could fill out these final questions.**

31. Can you tell us one positive thing about your area or something you would like to see more of going forward?

32. On a scale of 1-7 (1 being not at all and 7 being absolutely) can you tell us how the COVID 19 pandemic might have affected your responses to this survey?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

If you'd like to leave more detail to your answer please comment here...

33. How did you hear about this Consultation?

34. If you would like to have a copy of the consultation report emailed to you when it is ready please enter your email address below: