

CAP themes and insights

DALAVICH

IMPROVEMENT GROUP

DALAVICH, INVERINAN, KILMAHA, LOCH AVICH

A bright future for our community.





THANK YOU

To all who took the time to fill in the questionnaire.
These insights will allow us to work together to build the
community that we want for ourselves
and for
future generations.

The following themes have been identified through analysing the responses that we received from those living in the DIG area . This document will explore each one. There is an appendix with the data collected in the CAP questionnaire, and each section has the correlating pages for info by the title.

Page 4 - Who responded?
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How this document works ...

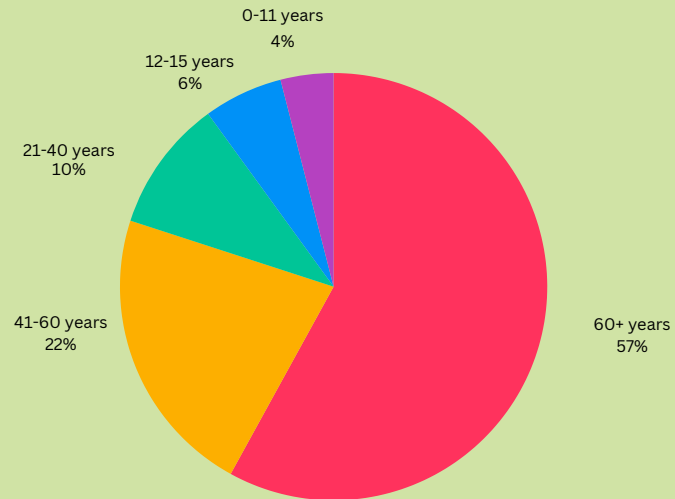
For each theme, you will see at the right hand of the title the numbers of the questions that informed the section. In the appendix you will find the numerical data for each question. Please note that many themes ran throughout each section.

In order to protect anonymity and comply with GDPR, open responses have been distilled into word clouds where the larger the word, the more frequent it's occurrence. These word clouds sit in this document at the end of each section. This allows the illustration of community feeling and sharing of ideas without breaching the confidentiality that respondents were promised.

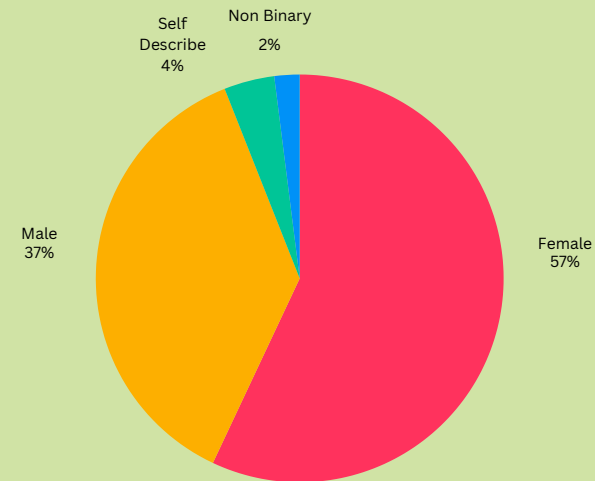
1 – WHO RESPONDED?

Appendix questions 1-5

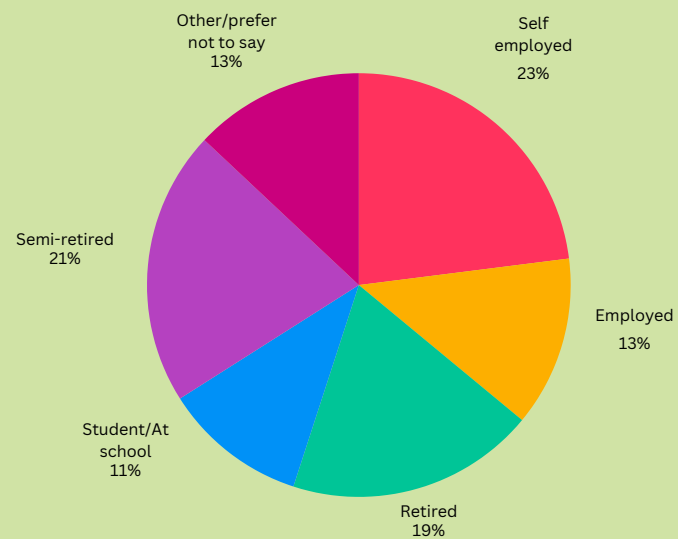
Age distribution of respondents in DIG area



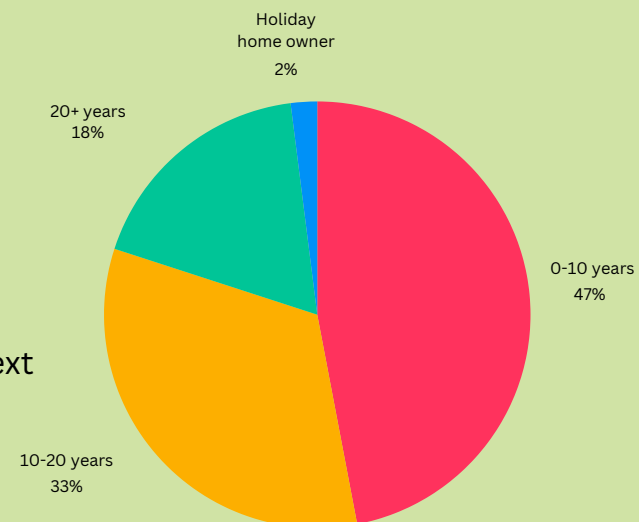
Gender distribution of respondents in DIG area



Employment Status of respondents in DIG area



Length of residence of respondents in DIG area



Your paragraph text

2 – COMMUNITY SPIRIT

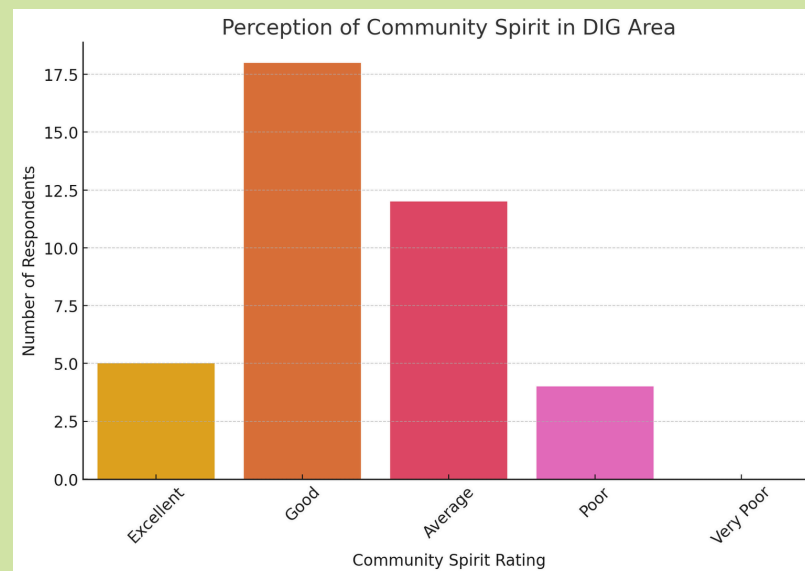
Based on the responses from residents in the DIG Area (Dalavich, Inverinan, Kilmaha, and Loch Avich), opinions on community spirit are varied:

Key Insights:

- Majority Opinion: The most common ratings appear to be "Good" and "Average", indicating that while people generally feel the community spirit is present, there may be areas for improvement.
- Positive Sentiment: A significant portion of respondents rated the community spirit as "Excellent", showing that many residents feel a strong sense of belonging and support.
- Concerns Exist: A smaller number of respondents rated community spirit as "Poor" or "Very Poor", suggesting that some individuals feel disconnected or perceive a lack of togetherness in the community.

Overall Sentiment:

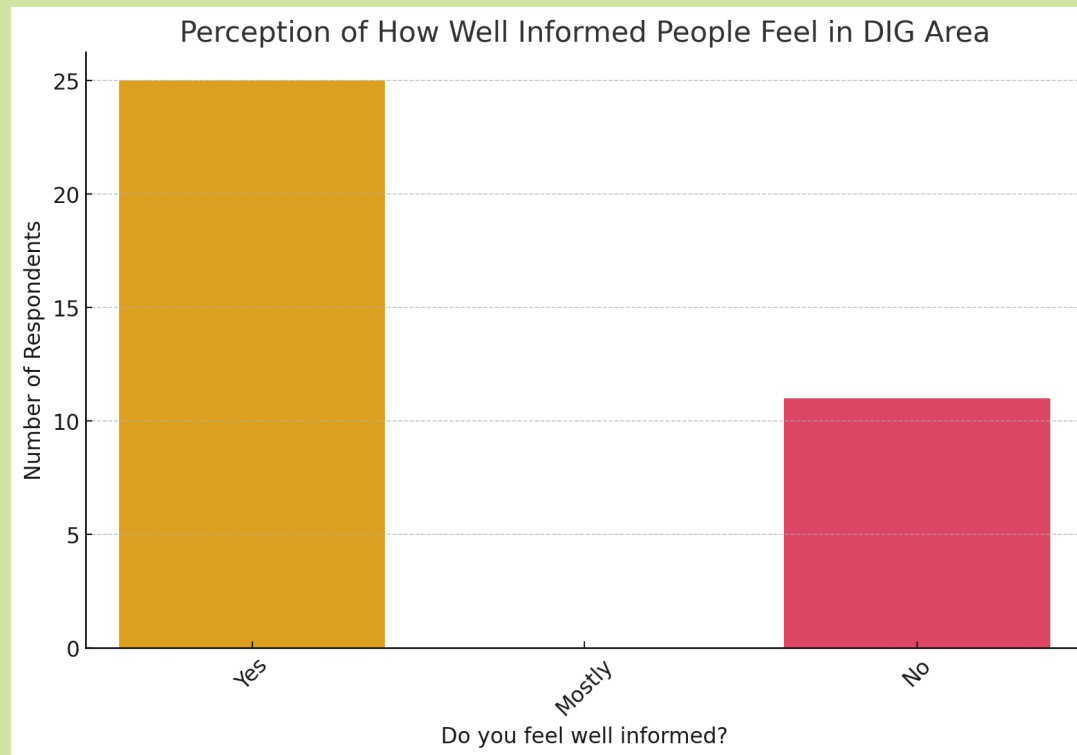
- While there is a solid base of community spirit, there may be room for improvement in engagement, inclusivity, or local initiatives to foster stronger connections among residents.



COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

Analysis of Information Dissemination and Desired Improvements in the DIG Area

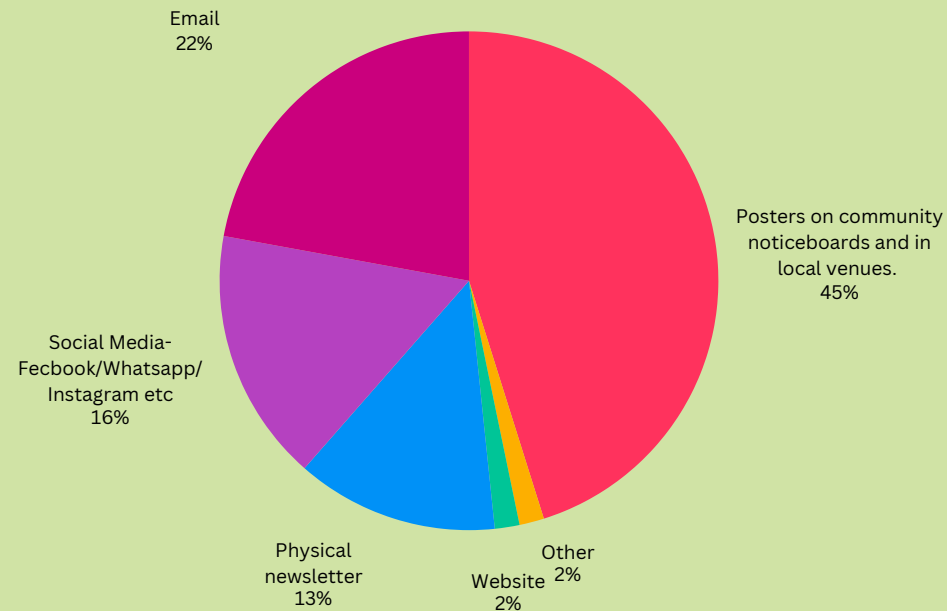
- **Feeling Informed About Community Happenings**
 - Responses are spread across Yes and No.
 - A significant number of respondents feel they are informed, but some do not feel well informed, suggesting room for better communication.



Preferred Communication Methods

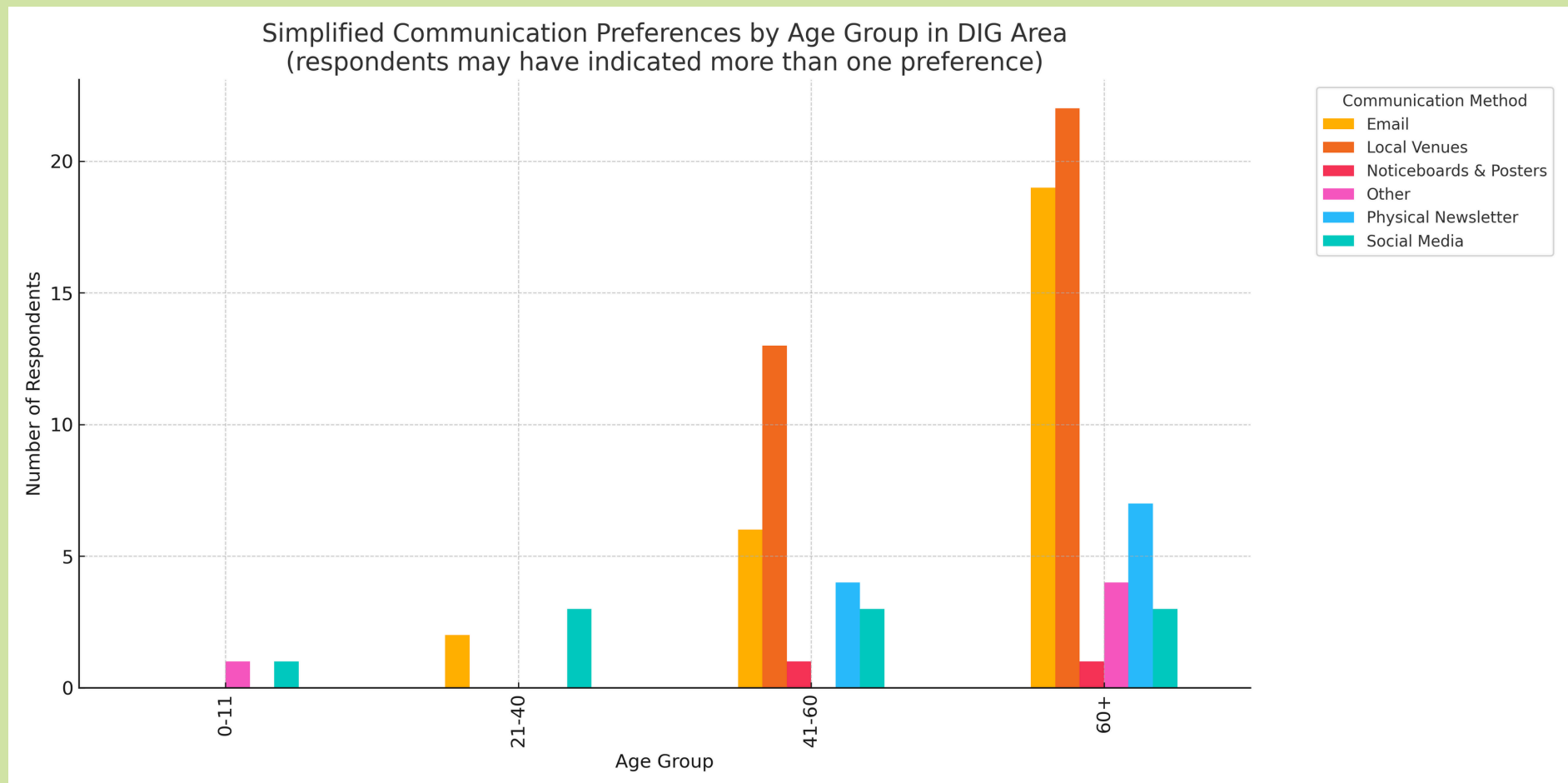
- The most popular methods of receiving information (e.g., social media, newsletters, word of mouth) are highlighted.
- Understanding this helps identify the best channels for reaching the community effectively.

Preferred communication method of respondents in DIG area

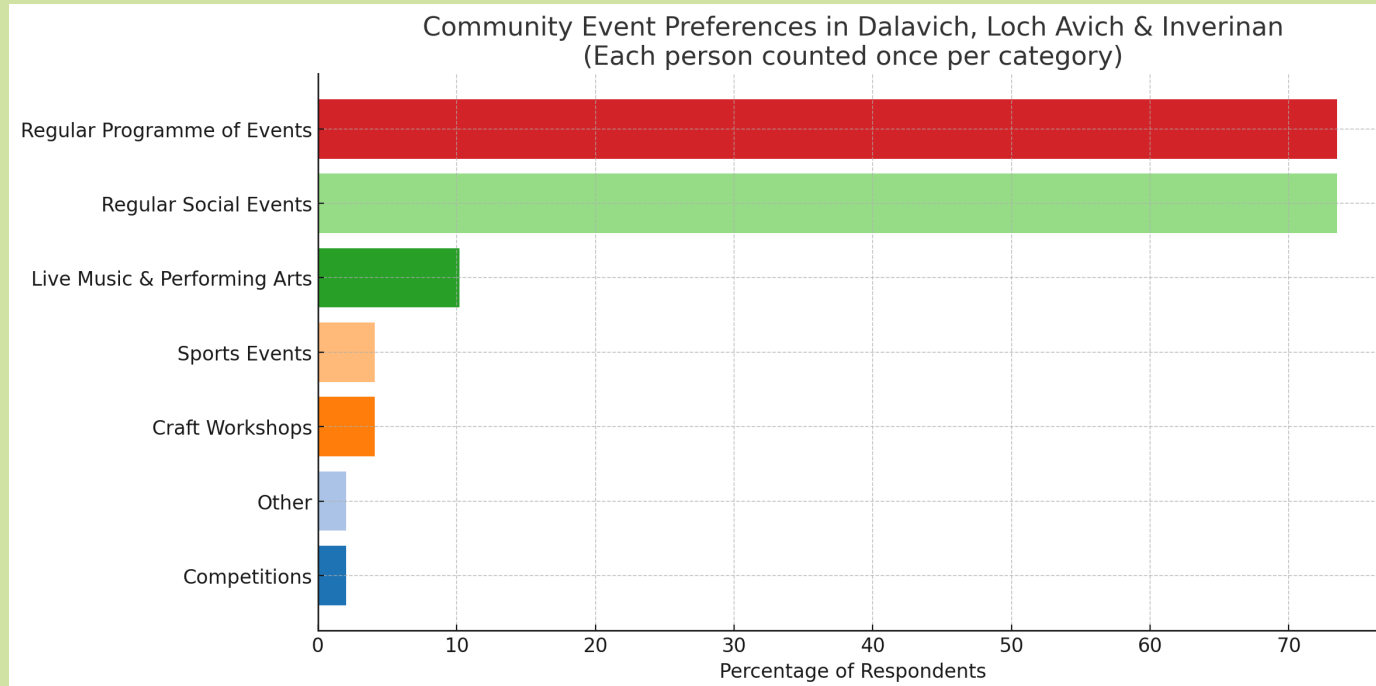


Desired Improvements in Community Engagement

- The most frequently mentioned improvements include more accessible information, better event promotion, and different communication channels.



WHAT SORT OF EVENTS DO WE WANT?



Key Takeaways:

- The most popular requests include regular social events, coffee mornings, games nights, quizzes, and soup lunches.
- Live music, ceilidhs, and performing arts events are also highly desired.
- Craft workshops, sports events, and events for young people have notable interest.
- There is also demand for show/sale of work events and competitions.

This insight can help prioritise event planning to better engage the community.

Residents of the DIG area have suggested a variety of additional community events to enhance local engagement. Wellbeing and health-focused activities, such as yoga, sound baths, and events to stimulate mental wellness, were mentioned as potential additions. There is also interest in social and hobby-based gatherings, including a book club and a “knit & natter” group, which could provide opportunities for shared interests and creativity. Furthermore, some residents proposed a walking group to encourage gentle outdoor exercise and social interaction. Another suggestion was to organise bespoke themed weekends, which could introduce unique experiences and attract wider community participation. These ideas reflect a strong interest in diverse, inclusive events that promote physical, mental, and social well-being.



BARRIERS TO TAKING PART

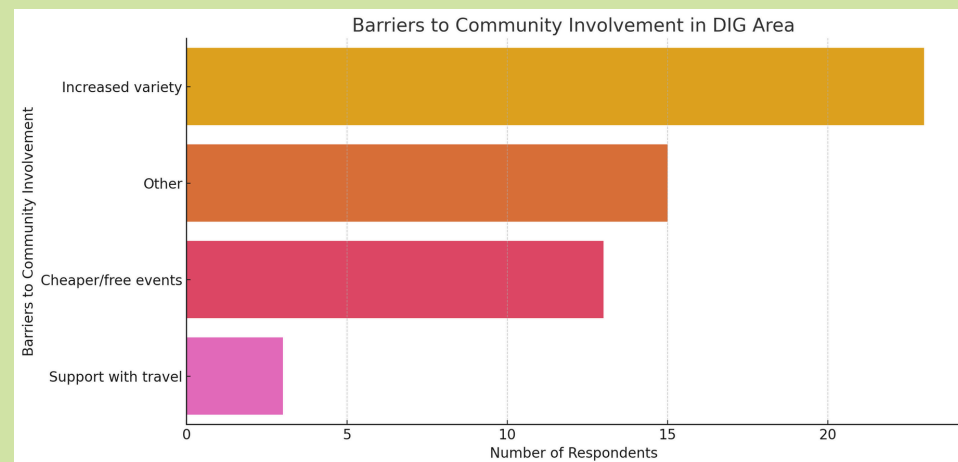
Barriers to Community Involvement in the DIG Area

The most common barriers preventing residents from engaging in community activities include:

1. Need for Increased Variety – Many residents expressed that they would be more likely to participate if there was a wider range of events that catered to different interests.
2. Cost of Events – The affordability of activities was highlighted as a concern, with some indicating that they would attend more frequently if events were cheaper or free.
3. Transport Difficulties – A lack of transport options was identified as a limiting factor, particularly for those who do not drive or live further from event locations.
4. Other Factors – Additional individual barriers were mentioned, such as time constraints, personal circumstances, or a lack of awareness about what events are available.

Key Takeaways

- Expanding the range of events and ensuring they appeal to a diverse audience could boost engagement.
- Offering subsidized or free events where possible may make participation more accessible.
- Transport solutions, such as car shares or community transport initiatives, could help those facing mobility challenges.



COMMUNITY SPIRIT



2 – YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE FUTURE

Appendix questions 37-39

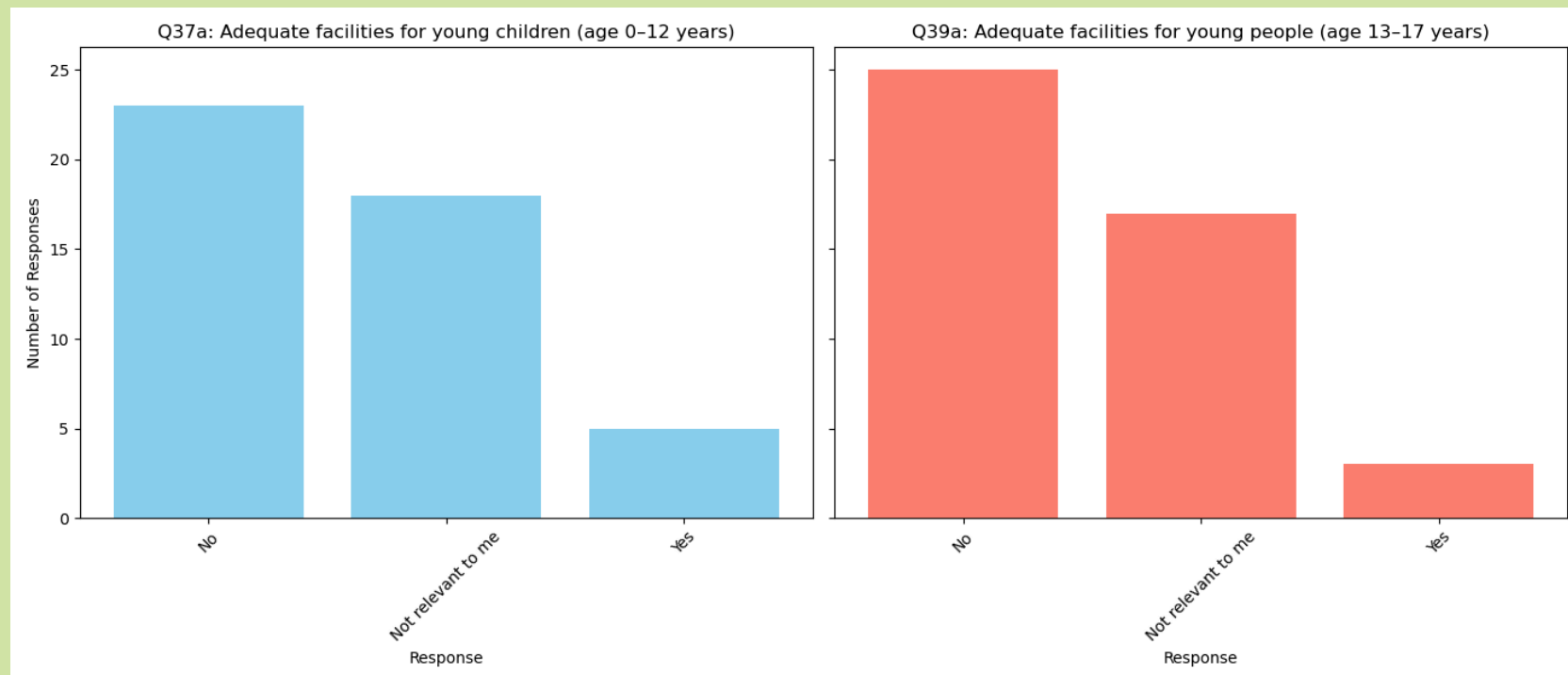


Are there enough activities for young people (under 18) in the area? (Responses from those residing in the DIG area).

- For children aged 0-12: The responses indicate varying opinions on whether there are adequate facilities, with some feeling there are enough, while others believe improvements are needed.
- For young people aged 13-17: The responses suggest a stronger sentiment that there may not be sufficient activities or facilities available.

Key Takeaways:

- There may be gaps in activities or facilities for young people, particularly for those aged 13-17.
- Understanding specific areas for improvement (e.g., sports, social spaces, educational activities) could help tailor community development efforts.



Feedback and Suggestions on Activities for Young People in the DIG Area

For children aged 0-12, residents noted the need for more child-friendly spaces and structured activities. Some responses highlighted the lack of a dedicated play area, while others suggested more interactive and educational programs to engage younger children.

For young people aged 13-17, there is a stronger concern about the lack of activities. Suggestions include more sports facilities, youth clubs, and social spaces where teenagers can gather in a safe and supportive environment. Additionally, some respondents mentioned the need for skill-building workshops and recreational events designed to engage teenagers beyond school activities.

These insights suggest a clear need for more youth-focused initiatives to enhance opportunities and engagement for young people in the area.



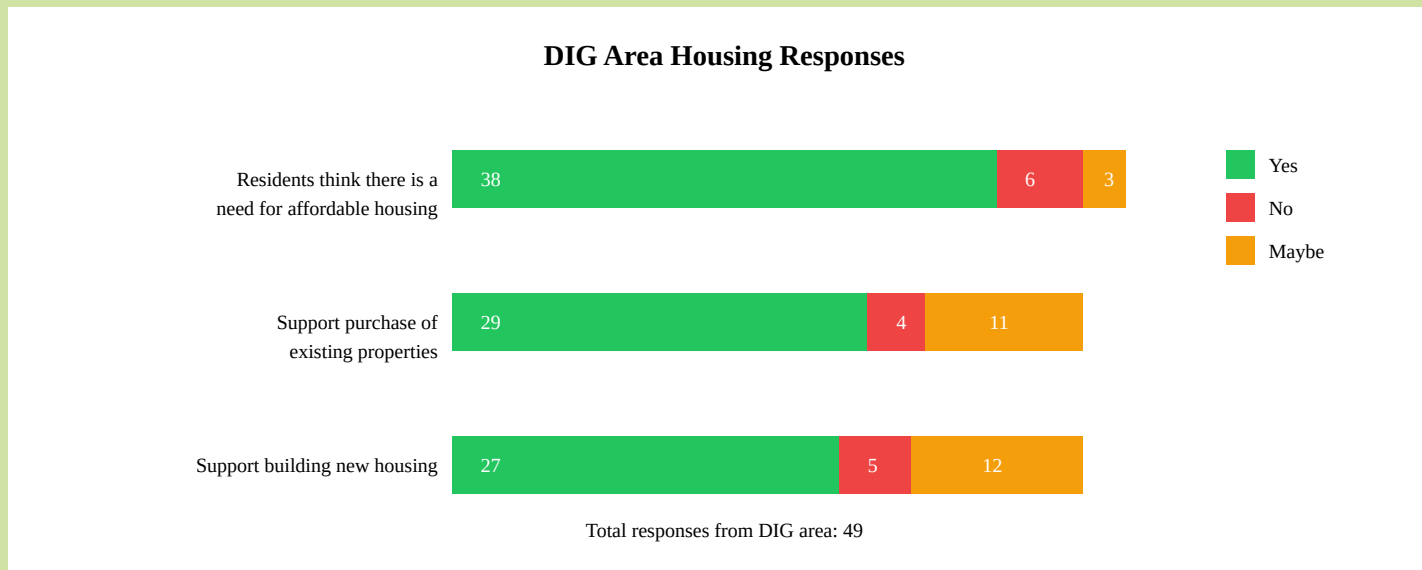
Young People and the Future



3 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Appendix questions 24-27

Based on responses from DIG area residents, there is strong interest in both community-owned rental homes and shared ownership schemes. Most respondents supported both options, with a small minority preferring shared ownership only. The focus is overwhelmingly on community control and affordability rather than physical building characteristics. Responses show a clear vision for future housing that maintains community ownership while offering flexible options for both renting and partial ownership, making housing more accessible across different financial situations.



Key Takeaways regarding Affordable Housing.

- Emphasis on the need for housing solutions that preserve the community's character
- Interest in options that would allow younger people and families to remain in or move to the area
- Recognition that housing affordability and supply affects the community's long-term viability



IMAGE COURTESY OF LUKE SILVAN

4 – TRANSPORT AND ROADS

From the analysis of DIG area residents' responses, road conditions emerge as the primary concern, with particular emphasis on the "back road" which directly impacts 19 houses. Multiple responses highlight the urgent need for repairs to both village roads and potholes. Public transport limitations significantly affect community life, with one resident noting the loss of a vital service - a bus that ran to the Taynult surgery every Thursday. Access to essential services is a recurring theme, with one resident pointing out the "55 mile round trip to Oban" as a particular challenge. Climate resilience has also emerged as a critical concern, with one resident observing that "Dalavich was cut off for days, and impacted economically for months" during recent extreme weather events. The responses suggest that transport challenges particularly affect vulnerable groups, with concerns raised about elderly non-drivers and families, with one parent describing the situation as "exhausting the amount of travel required to participate in age appropriate activities." Suggestions for improvement include expanding bus services both "north and south from village" and establishing "work within the area maybe to limit travel." Some residents also advocate for better coordination of transport services to improve access to healthcare and essential services.



Key Takeaways:

- The "back road" is a critical infrastructure issue directly affecting approximately half of the properties of Dalavich (some non residential) and requires urgent repairs
- Road conditions impact both daily life and emergency resilience, as demonstrated during extreme weather events when the community was cut off
- Current road infrastructure may be inadequate for the level of traffic, particularly during peak tourist seasons
- Poor road conditions appear to be a long-standing issue that affects both residents and visitors

Road maintenance is seen as crucial for:

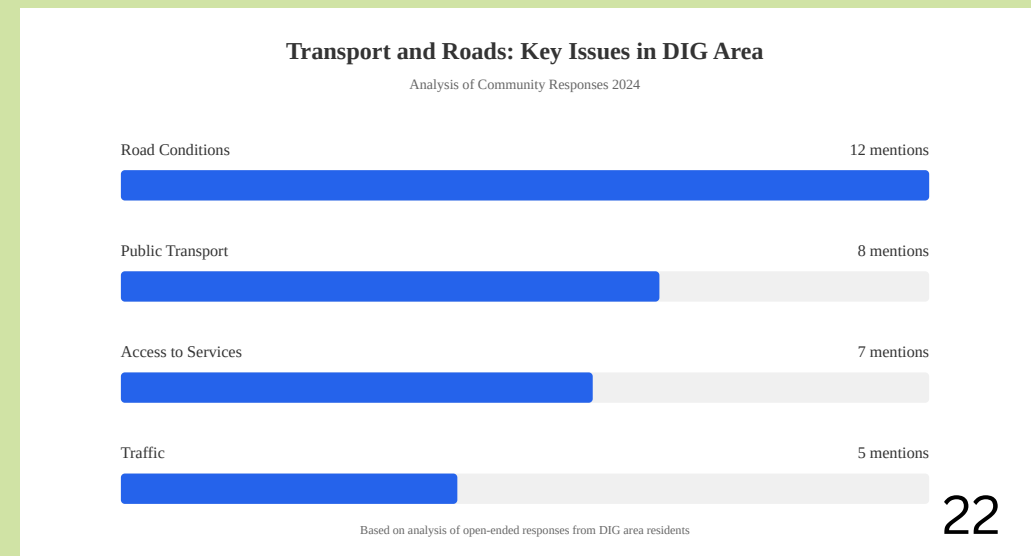
- Access to essential services
- Community resilience
- Economic sustainability
- Safety of residents and visitors

The state of the roads particularly impacts:

- Elderly residents
- Families with children
- Those needing regular access to healthcare
- Local businesses and tourism

There are concerns about the roads' ability to handle:

- Increased tourist traffic
- Emergency situations
- Extreme weather events
- Regular service vehicle access



Transport and Roads



5 – HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Appendix questions 43-45

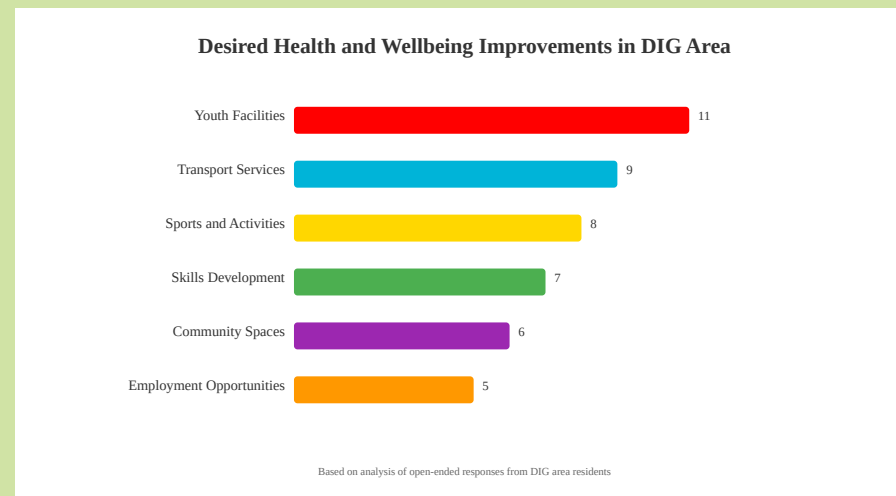
Based on the analysis of DIG area responses, several key themes emerge regarding health and wellbeing:

Healthcare Access and Transport:

- Significant interest in volunteer transport services for hospital and dental visits
- Concerns about "flexible transport connections to Oban or Lochgilphead"
- Need for better coordination of medical transport services
- Particular concerns for elderly and less mobile residents

Youth Wellbeing:

- Strong emphasis on the need for more youth facilities and activities
- One resident notes "What is there to keep a teen in the village"
- Suggestions for "spaces to develop new skills, increase employability, try new things"
- Calls for "more group activities in art and music" and "wildlife conservation walks"
- Concerns about current youth facilities being insufficient and not appropriate



Respondents could choose more than one response

Community Resilience:

- Recognition of need for better emergency preparedness
- Interest in developing community support networks
- Particular focus on supporting vulnerable community members
- Need for improved communication during emergencies

Social Connection and Mental Health:

- Desire for more community gathering spaces
- Need for "opportunities to gather without drinking"
- Suggestions for inclusive activities that bring people together
- Recognition of isolation risks, particularly for certain groups

Physical Activity and Outdoor Access:

- Suggestions for mountain bike trails
- Interest in organised walks and outdoor activities
- Need for better accessibility to outdoor spaces
- Focus on activities that support both physical and mental wellbeing



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6 – OUTDOOR ACCESS AND RECREATION

Appendix questions 30-33

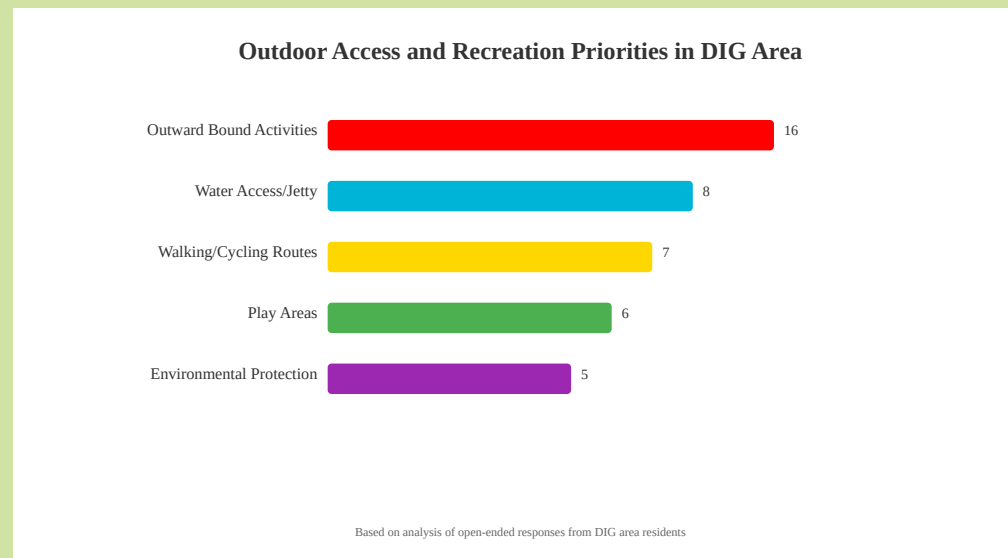
Key findings from DIG area residents regarding outdoor access and recreation:

Infrastructure Priorities:

- Strong support for improving the jetty to encourage water activities
- Need for better maintained walking and cycling routes
- Desire for covered outdoor areas and gathering spaces
- Requests for improved play areas and sports facilities

Activities and Facilities:

- High demand for outward bound and outdoor activities
- Interest in organised nature walks and guided activities
- Need for better facilities to support water-based recreation
- Desire for more structured outdoor activities for young people



Respondents could choose more than one response

Environmental Concerns:

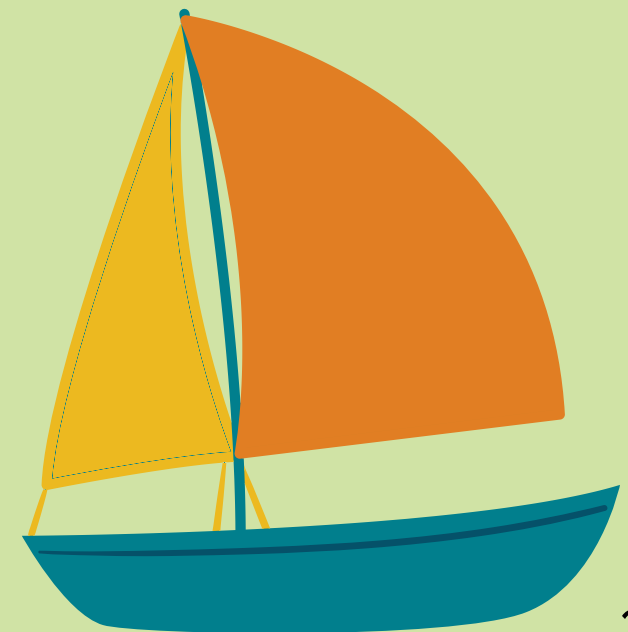
- Interest in wildlife protection measures (e.g., "signage along the road asking to slow down for squirrels, frogs, toads, deer")
- Need for regular litter picks
- Concern about maintaining natural environment while improving access
- Interest in climate resilience and environmental protection

Access Issues:

- Transport links affect ability to access outdoor activities
- Need for better coordination of outdoor activities across the wider area
- Accessibility concerns for less mobile community members
- Weather protection for outdoor activities ("covered area on the playing field")

Community Suggestions:

- Development of more structured outdoor programmes
- Better integration of heritage and nature activities
- Improved facilities for visitors and residents alike
- Balance between development and preserving natural character

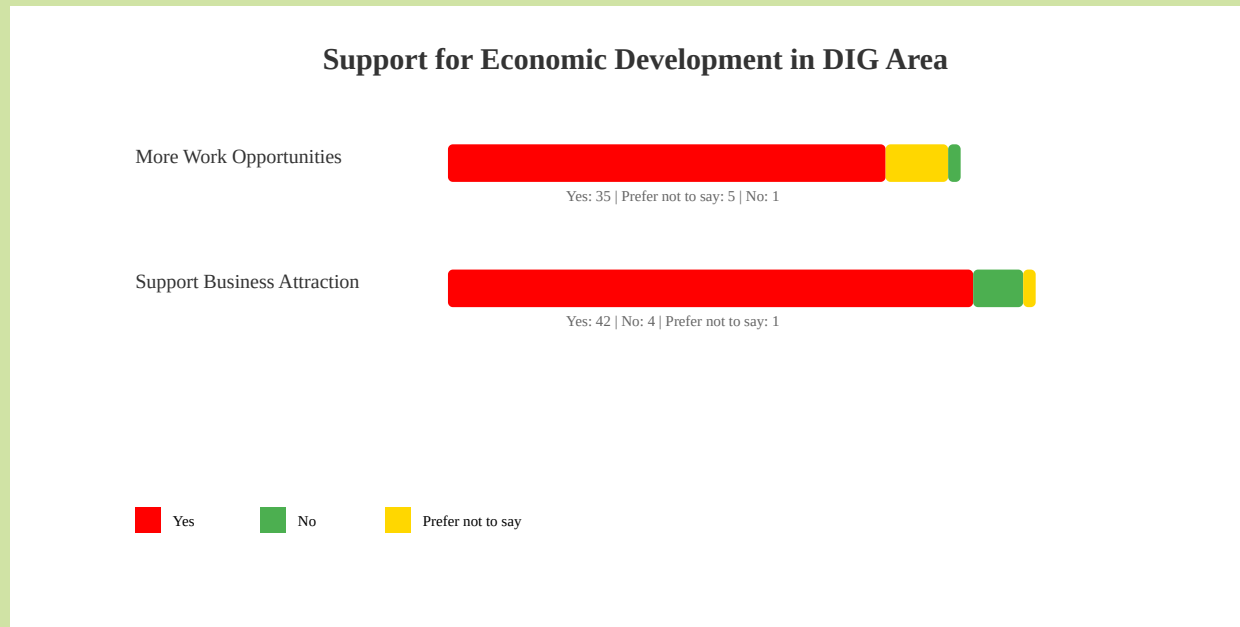


Outdoor Access and Recreation



7 – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

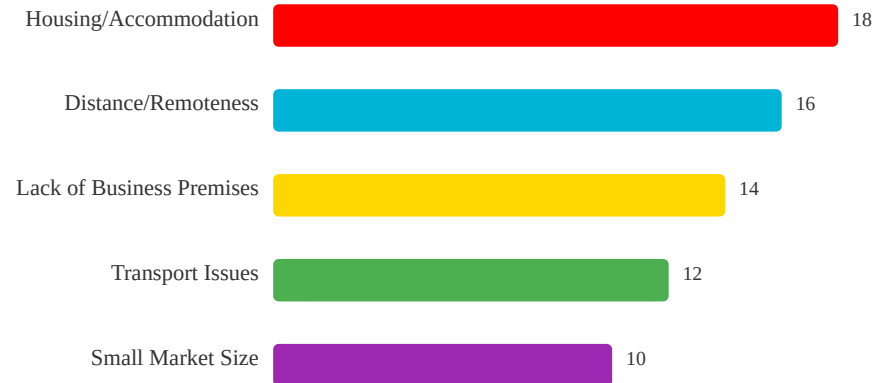
Appendix questions 18-236



Support for Economic Development :

The data shows overwhelming support for economic development in the DIG area, with 35 residents supporting more work opportunities (versus only 1 against and 5 preferring not to say). The support for attracting businesses is even stronger, with 42 residents in favour, only 4 against, and 1 preferring not to say. This indicates a clear community desire for economic growth and development opportunities.

Barriers to Economic Development in DIG Area



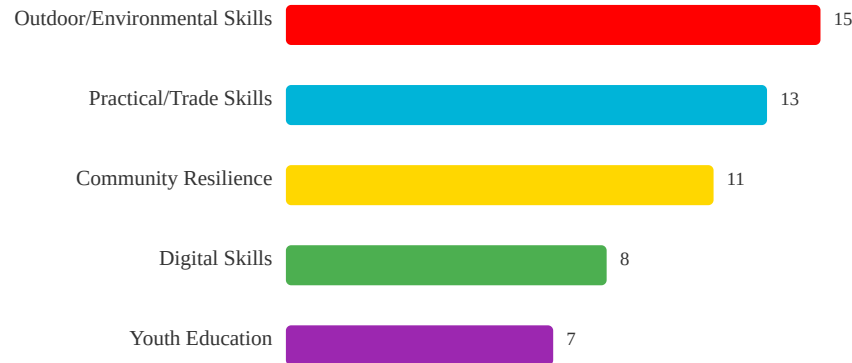
Based on analysis of open-ended responses from DIG area residents

Respondents could choose more than one response

Barriers to Economic Development :

The main barriers to economic development reveal housing and accommodation as the leading concern with 18 mentions, followed closely by distance/remoteness (16 mentions) and lack of business premises (14 mentions). Transport issues and small market size round out the top five barriers with 12 and 10 mentions respectively. This suggests that infrastructure and geographical challenges are the primary obstacles to economic growth in the area.

Training and Education Priorities in DIG Area



Based on analysis of open-ended responses from DIG area residents

Respondents could choose more than one response

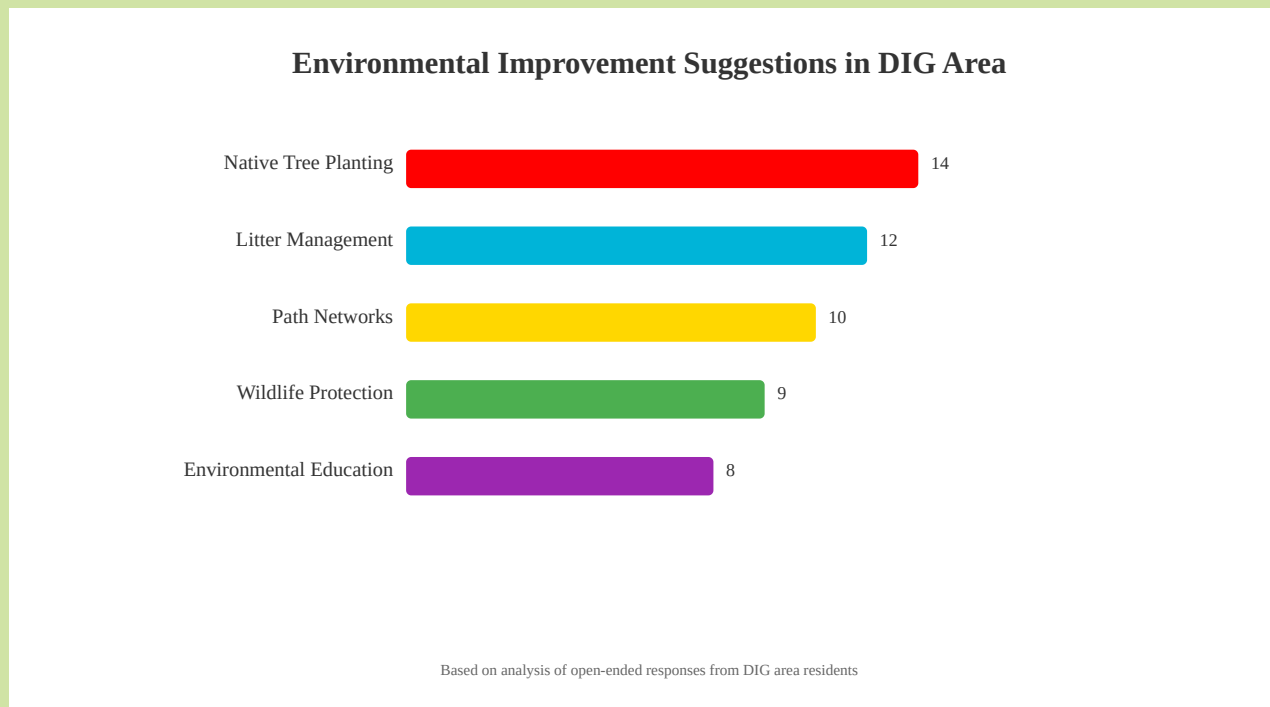
Training and Education Priorities:

Training priorities identified by DIG residents show a strong focus on practical skills relevant to the local area. Outdoor/environmental skills lead with 15 mentions, followed by practical/trade skills (13 mentions) and community resilience skills (11 mentions). Digital skills and youth education also feature prominently with 8 and 7 mentions respectively. This indicates a desire for training that combines traditional skills with modern needs while supporting community sustainability.

[illegible]

8 – OUR NATURAL HERITAGE

Appendix questions 30-33



Respondents could choose more than one response

Evidently, and unsurprisingly, the natural environment is important to those who live in the DIG area. Analysis of community responses shows five key areas of focus, with forest management emerging as the highest priority at 25% of responses. Residents express a strong preference for native tree species over commercial forestry, alongside specific concerns about shoreline tree management and the spread of Sitka spruce and rhododendrons.

Three areas share equal weighting at 20% each: access and infrastructure, wildlife protection, and education and awareness. Regarding access, residents emphasise the need for improved path networks and better signage, with particular interest in developing proper jetty facilities for loch access. Wildlife protection focuses on safeguarding local species, managing the impact of dogs on wildlife, and protecting vulnerable areas around the loch from inappropriate use. The emphasis on education and awareness demonstrates a community desire for better environmental understanding, with suggestions for forest schools, wildlife education programmes, and improved information about local flora and fauna.

Waste management, while representing 15% of responses, reveals significant community concern about visitor impact. Residents call for more rubbish and recycling facilities, regular community clean-ups, and better management of visitor waste, including suggestions for an annual community uplift service.

There's a clear thread throughout the responses that shows residents want to both protect and sustainably develop their natural assets. Many responses demonstrate sophisticated understanding of environmental issues, with suggestions balancing conservation needs against community use and development. Notable concerns include the impact of wild camping, the need for long-term forest planning, and the desire to better manage visitor interaction with the natural environment.



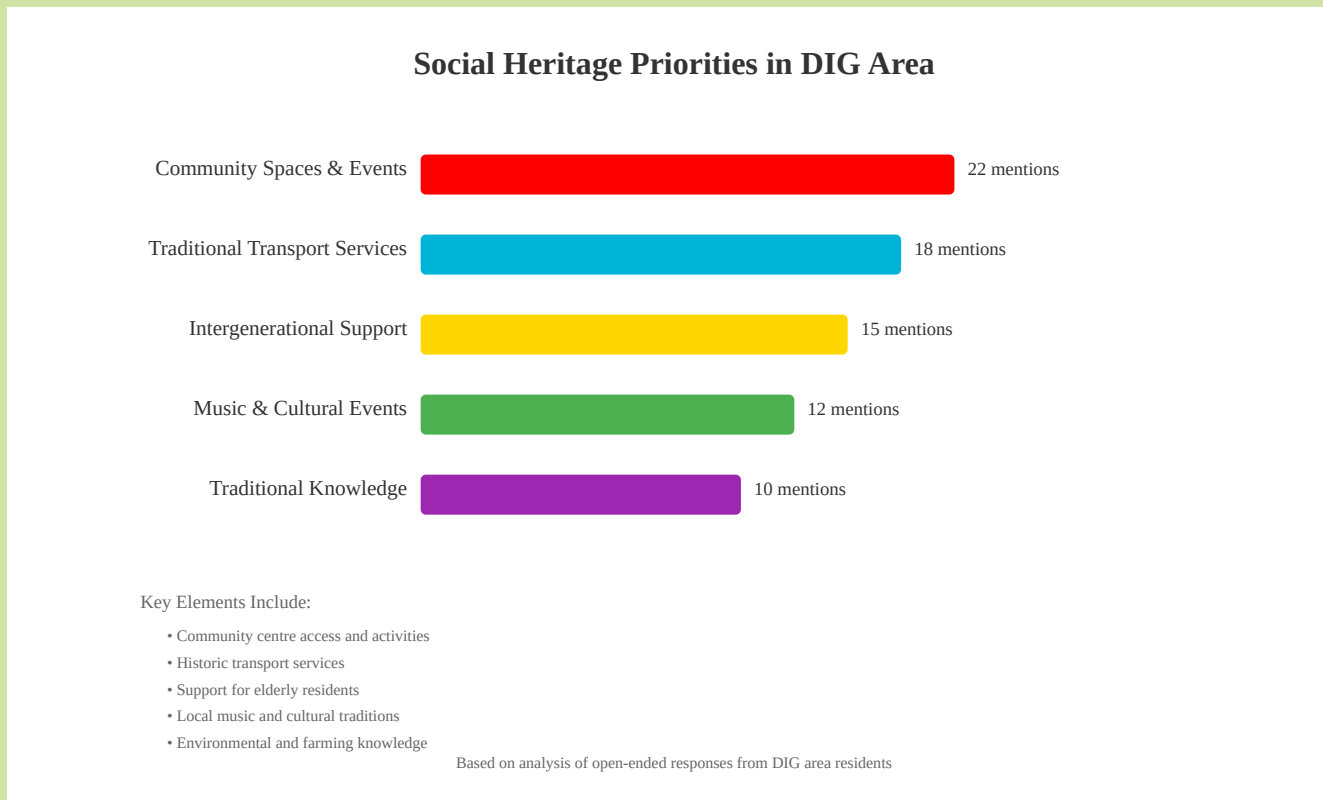
Our Natural Heritage



9 – SOCIAL HERITAGE

Appendix question 33

In the CAP questionnaire, the community were asked their thoughts about preserving local heritage, and the responses from DIG area residents reveal several important themes. Many responses highlight the strong connection between social heritage and transport infrastructure, with numerous mentions of historical transport services that helped bind the community together.



Respondents could choose more than one response

Community cohesion emerges as a vital aspect of social heritage, with residents expressing desire for more community events and shared activities. There's recognition of the need to balance preservation of community character while welcoming new residents, as reflected in one response noting the importance of "bringing in younger or at least some new people with the same values that this community has." The community centre features prominently in responses as a hub for social heritage, with calls for better access and more diverse usage.

Music and cultural events are seen as important vehicles for preserving and celebrating local heritage, with suggestions for "more music events of different choice." There's also emphasis on practical community support mechanisms, from suggestions for a "community warehouse for distribution of common products" to organised community activities like "tidy up days for the elderly" and "helping out days."

Several responses connect social heritage to environmental stewardship, suggesting that traditional knowledge about the local environment should be preserved and shared. This includes understanding of local farming practices, as evidenced by concerns about visitor awareness during "calving and lambing" seasons, and traditional land management approaches.

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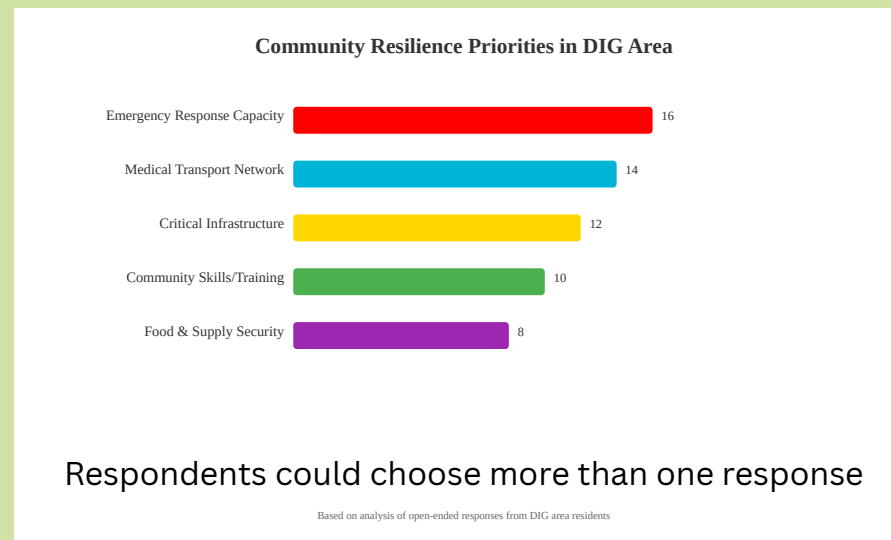
10– COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Appendix question 47

The analysis of DIG area responses reveals significant community focus on resilience, with five key priority areas emerging:

Emergency Response Capacity leads residents' concerns, with 16 mentions focusing on the need for better coordination during crises. Recent experiences have heightened awareness, as one resident notes, "Climate resilience. Events like last October are only going to get more frequent and more severe. Dalavich was cut off for days, and impacted economically for months." This demonstrates the community's growing recognition of climate-related vulnerabilities.

Medical Transport Network emerges as the second highest priority with 14 mentions. A particularly poignant example was shared about a former service where "local Angus... picked up elderly people from their houses and took them to the docs and to Robins nest cafe," highlighting how transport services can serve both medical and social needs. There's strong support for developing a volunteer transport scheme, particularly for medical appointments.



Critical Infrastructure features prominently with 12 mentions, focusing on maintaining essential services during emergencies. Residents emphasise the need for "stronger actions against power cuts" and better road maintenance to ensure access during extreme weather. The "back road" is frequently mentioned as a critical infrastructure concern affecting "nearly 50% of residents."

Community Skills and Training received 10 mentions, with emphasis on practical preparedness. As one resident suggests, "Training is not just about employment but also life skills. Growing your own food, first aid etc (we're increasingly likely to get cut off by weather events so need to be more self-reliant)."

Food and Supply Security rounds out the top concerns with 8 mentions. Suggestions include development of a "Community warehouse for distribution of common products" and support for local food production initiatives. This links to broader concerns about isolation during extreme weather events and the need for community self-sufficiency.

This distribution of priorities suggests a community highly aware of its vulnerabilities but also actively engaged in finding solutions for long-term resilience.



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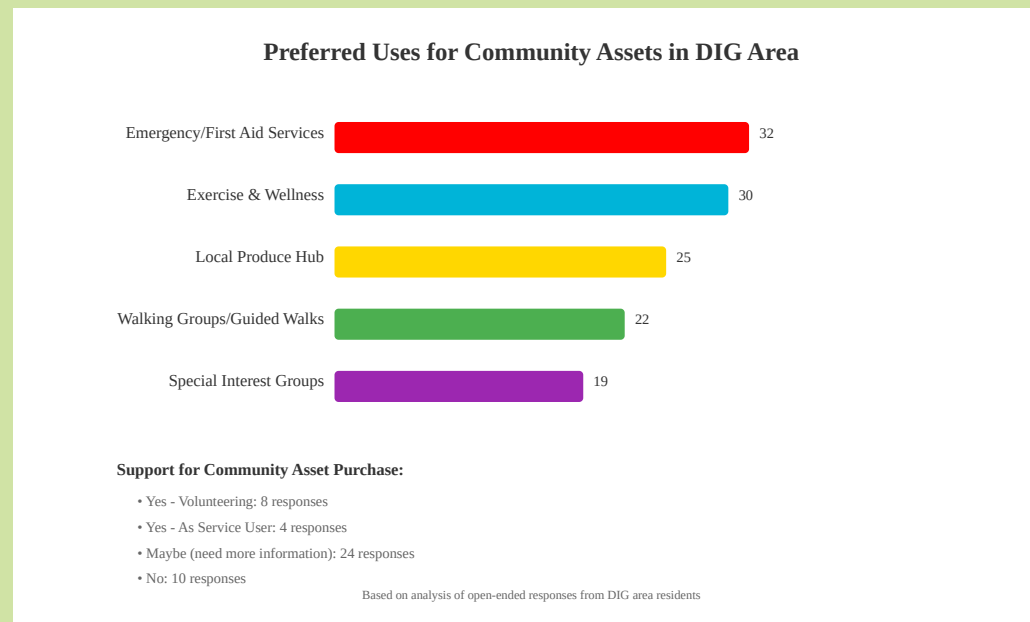
11- COMMUNITY ASSETS

Appendix question 48-56

There is good support for Community Asset Development from those respondents from the DIG area:

- Cautious but positive approach to asset acquisition
- 24 residents want more information before committing
- 12 residents actively support through volunteering or use
- 10 residents express concerns about asset acquisition

The responses suggest that DIG area residents see value in shared assets but want careful consideration of sustainability and management. There's particular emphasis on assets that can serve multiple purposes and strengthen community resilience.



Respondents could choose more than one response

Dalavich Church

The analysis of responses from the DIG area regarding Dalavich Church reveals a complex mix of views and concerns:

Support and Interest:

- 26 residents support the idea of community purchase
- 12 residents want more information before deciding
- 5 residents express opposition to the purchase
- 4 residents indicate they would like to help with running the facility, and a further 10 said that they may be interested.

Key Concerns:

- Financial sustainability is the primary concern
- Questions about ongoing maintenance costs
- Need for accessibility improvements
- Concerns about management structure and responsibility
- Questions about balancing different uses

Suggested Uses:

- Community gathering and event space
- Cultural and arts venue
- Educational facility
- Heritage preservation
- Mixed-use community hub

Notable Comments:

- "All hangs around the financial viability of such an enterprise"
- "Would want to see a proper plan and evidence that it would be supported"
- Need for "clear management structure and sustainable funding model"

The responses suggest cautious interest in community ownership, with emphasis on the need for:

- Clear business plan
- Sustainable funding model
- Defined management structure
- Community involvement
- Balance of uses that serve diverse community needs



Dalavich Church - photo courtesy of Rhona Knox

Forestry Shed

The analysis of DIG area responses regarding the Forestry Shed shows strong interest in its potential, with several clear priorities emerging:

Primary Use Preferences:

First Aid/Emergency Base (32 mentions)

- First responders base
- Emergency equipment storage
- Community resilience hub

Exercise/Fitness Space (28 mentions)

- Exercise classes
- Fitness equipment
- Indoor activity space

Local Produce Hub (25 mentions)

- Fresh produce distribution
- Community food hub
- Local food initiatives



Walking Groups Base (22 mentions)

- Meeting point for walks
- Equipment storage
- Information centre

Wellness/Therapy Space (19 mentions)

- Holistic therapies
- Mindfulness sessions
- Health services

Key Themes:

Strong preference for multi-purpose use

Focus on community health and wellbeing

Emphasis on practical community services

Interest in supporting local initiatives

Desire for accessible community space

The responses suggest residents see the Forestry Shed as a potentially valuable community asset that could serve multiple purposes, with particular emphasis on emergency services and health-related activities.

There's a clear preference for uses that would enhance community resilience and wellbeing.



Community Assets



NEXT STEPS...

Following the collation and analysis of the Community Action Plan questionnaire responses from DIG area residents, several clear themes and priorities have emerged. To move forward effectively with community development, the following steps are suggested:

Open Consultation Events

- Host a locally-run World Café style event at the community centre
- Present key findings from the questionnaire in an accessible format using visual displays
- Create themed discussion tables covering major areas identified:
 - Housing and Community Assets
 - Transport and Infrastructure
 - Environmental Management
 - Young People
 - Community Resilience
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Economic Development
- Allow residents to move between tables, contributing ideas and building on others' suggestions
- Capture all discussions and ideas through note-taking and visual mapping
- Ensure timing allows for maximum community participation

Drop-in Sessions

- Follow up with regular drop-in sessions at various times/days
- Make key information available for those who couldn't attend the World Café
- Provide opportunity for one-to-one discussions about specific concerns
- Create space for deeper exploration of particular topics
- Gather additional ideas and volunteer interest
- Ensure accessibility for all community members

Development of Sub-groups Based on community interest and priorities, establish focused sub-groups to explore:

- Housing Development (affordable housing, property purchase, new builds)
- Community Assets (forestry shed, church, other facilities)
- Young People
- Arts and Heritage
- Transport Solutions (community transport, road improvements)
- Environmental Projects (woodland management, path networks)
- Economic Initiatives (business development, training opportunities)
- Health and Wellbeing Services (emergency response, activities)

Each sub-group would:

- Have clear terms of reference
- Include diverse community representation
- Research specific opportunities and challenges
- Develop detailed proposals
- Identify potential funding sources
- Create action plans with realistic timelines
- Report back to the board and the wider community regularly
- Collaborate with relevant external partners and agencies

This structured approach ensures continued community engagement while moving toward practical implementation of the priorities identified in the CAP questionnaire.

Thank you for the support from the DIG board, DIG Residents and the wider community.

Elle Steele
Community Development Officer
Dalavich Improvement Group

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With thanks to

