

Lochalsh Collaboration Hub Youth Survey Results 14/06/2021

To support the Lochalsh Collaboration Hub in their community consultation, SLCVO hosted an online survey for young people for 4 weeks in May/June 2021. This document collates survey results from 40 participants.

Survey Questions

- What is good about Lochalsh and where you live?
- What is bad about Lochalsh and where you live?
- What would make Lochalsh a better place for you now and in the future? (up to 5 comments)
- If you had to choose just one suggestion what would it be?
- Please tell us your age range? (under 14, 14 to 18, 18+)

Age Range

- Under 14 = 9
- 14 to 18 = 8
- Over 18 = 23

What is Good about Lochalsh and where you live?

"All of the things that make this place unique - the people, wildlife and landscape, the privacy and lack of crowds, fresh air, clean water. I think covid has tightened the community or at least I certainly feel a lot more involved and a lot more aware of how to be involved than I did pre-covid. I think the newsletter is a valuable tool and I hope it continues (that's where I heard about this survey!). I like being close to family and being in a community where people know your name." Youth survey participant June 2021



I feel very fortunate to be living in the same place as I have grown up in and luckily had the opportunity to buy a house in a great neighbourhood with a great community spirit and close connection with each other. Youth survey participant June 2021

What is Bad about Lochalsh and where you live?

"The lack of public transport or safe paths and tracks to connect the various villages. When looking for a job one of the biggest factors I have to consider is whether I am able to get there. My partner can drive me but only if it doesn't interfere with his hours and I can walk but only if I feel safe and it's not over 1 hours walk away. I think improved public transport and paths is also important to develop when working towards climate positive solutions. Housing has also been a big issue for us. We have been extremely lucky and have a house of our own now but we definitely fell through the net when it came to local affordable housing schemes. When trying to buy a shared a local shared equity scheme house we were told we did not meet the criteria however they would not tell us what criteria we failed to meet and how we could go about fixing it. As a young couple who lived here, moved away and have now come back I can see why people stay away for much longer. Jobs are scarce and accommodation is unaffordable, not to mention all the 'extras' you have to pay for living here - higher postage and shipping, higher fuel prices, higher food prices, less consumer choice and opportunity to shop around, etc."
Youth survey participant June 2021



The Tourists, the things they leave behind, the lack of space for locals once they're here. No social places (except for pubs), the ceilidh's have disappeared or been replaced by gin and ale festivals - locals don't need more of either of those but it's pretty much for the tourists anyway. Lack of houses, that aren't holiday homes or similar. General gentrification - Etc. Etc. And so on and so forth, did I mention the tourists? Youth survey participant June 2021

What would make Lochalsh a better place for you now and in the Future?

Respondents were asked to identify 5 improvements that would make Lochalsh a better place. 147 answers were given to this question, these have been categorised and ranked into suggestions of similar nature.



If you had to choose just one suggestion what would it be?

We asked survey respondents to choose one suggestion from those submitted.

- 32% of respondents identified affordable housing/better housing as their main priority
- 19% improved outdoor activities/cycle paths
- 16% improved sports and leisure facilities/activities
- 8% public transport/ connections
- 5% age appropriate activities/facilities
- 5% shop/supermarket variety
- 3% tourism infrastructure/facilities improvements
- 3% Community Events
- 3% Community participation improvements
- 3% Health and social care improvements/support
- 3% Jobs and variety in career options



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