

Community Conversations

Dunvegan Community Trust: September 2020

<u>What we value most</u>	<u>What we value least</u>	<u>Our community in ten year's time?</u>
I value the community of people, the local culture and its assets, and its potential.	I think this questionnaire is addressing exactly what we need to do better as a community to move forward, in drumming up community engagement and hopefully going towards forming a community plan of action that we can all work towards.	<p>I think it could go either way at this point- what I would like to see is more community land ownership - maybe a community polytunnel/large scale composting facilities/bike subscription club. I would like to see all homes used as self caterings paying appropriate business rates or preferably council tax rates appropriate to a second home, and I would like to see that money invested on Skye. I'd like to see more land freed up and allocated as crofts (?)for young folk who have grown up here. I'd like to see more community based jobs created - as was mentioned in the meeting. I'd like to see groups of children tearing around the village on their bicycles, and I'd like to see them going to a fit for purpose school with a thriving gaelic medium.</p> <p>What I wouldn't like to see is a dilapidated village with a crumbling, mouldy school, no recreational facilities, crappy public transport links, surrounded by an empty pristine suburb of holiday homes and wealthy retirees , with no plan or impetus for improvement where leaving seems like the best option. I think the former is more likely though!!</p>
Community spirit coming back people doing good for community	Feel Dunvegan has been forgotten about and people don't care about keeping place looking nice eg gardens walking paths etc	I hope things change and people start caring again about community
Great community spirit. I know if I ever need help, someone will always come forward.	I would like to see a project to attract children to engage in outdoor exercise. Maybe a BMX trail. I would be happy to be ome involved.	Happy and safe
Our people, our shops	Not sure	Bigger. More young people.

What we value most

We are fortunate in Dunvegan area to have a fairly balanced demographic - but most important in a small rural community - a primary school with Gaelic medium and nursery provision. Wide open spaces and amazing scenery, but also sheltered walks in the castle woods if it's wet and windy. Good range of grocery shops, a decent hotel (at last), wide range of eating out options especially in season, the surgery, public toilets, village hall, church, post office, pontoons, garage and the filling station. Not forgetting the coastguard and fire brigade. Good neighbours who will rally round in times of need. We have committed volunteers who are the glue that holds us all together, from cradle to grave. And the thing that puts everything back into perspective - watching the sunrise over the Cuillin or the sunset behind the Tables.

What we value least

Dunvegan Castle could do more to engage with the local community eg make the gardens free to locals (like Clan Donald does) because we used to take paying guests along with us! Winter is the time when locals socialise - it would be good if businesses worked together to open on different days/times off-season. The pier is a working pier, but could be greatly enhanced to make it accessible to all. A monthly 'What's on at the Hall' would be good - maybe in the Community Council noticeboard. We could do better at communications - now that communities are more mobile, the grapevine isn't as good (or reliable!) a way of hearing what's going on. When there is conflicted opinion, we could maybe do better at compromise by bringing in an arbitrator. The recreational facility tied in with the new school was so close, with so much hard work where the community really pulled together, yet it slipped from our grasp. Lastly, some more picnic benches or seating at viewpoints would be nice.

Our community in ten year's time?

It's thriving, the pavements are safe to walk on, there's a cycle track running alongside from Lonmore to the surgery, there's a wooded walk meandering down the burn from Gaeltec to Kinloch, the swing park is full of happy children (and parents!), The Castle recognises and values its place in the community, you can sit outside cafes/hotels on smooth or decked ground, visitors and locals are welcomed with a smile in every business and are value for money. Orbost Estate is in community hands, there is affordable housing for local families and it is at the heart of the community in terms of accessibility, recreational activities and environmental best practice

What we value most	What we value least	Our community in ten year's time?
Looking out for others, esp, elderly and most vulnerable in our community.	No proper infra structure in the village for locals or tourists ie no cycle paths, poor upkeep of the cemetery, poor parking and no shelter at cemetery. there needs to be more refuse bins through the village, in line with the increased numbers of tourists. The empty shop units at lochside are a disgrace, putting up the rent during austerity/pandemic is hardly a master-stroke! Surely these units could be utilised? more facilities for the very young ie creche/nursery/soft play opportunities? At the other end of the scale, day care for elderly (even a few hours a day) would provide respite for some families, and maybe allow people to stay in their own homes for longer.	I would like to say it would make me happy, but without any proper strategy the village will collapse, along with our sense of community and belonging.
Friendly and welcoming to newcomers and young families	More things for pre school children	Happy if the initiatives such as new school can be achieved as I think this will bring more families and community feel to Dunvegan and more opportunities
Mutual support, care and neighbourliness. And the people.	Community bins at various locations, take away businesses to provide their own bins.	I will be happy because so many young people are actively involved already. Make Dunvegan Beautiful Again is just one example, the film club another. Community ownership of some land would be great for allotments, housing. Etc Limit fish farms to encourage wild salmon. In far less than 10 years time our roads will no longer support the current level of visitors in their cars and camper vans; at breaking point already. Transport hubs have already been suggested, Dunvegan being one of them. I think all businesses in Dunvegan need to take on board a communal civic pride.
Looks out for each other	Be visionary & proactive	Could be growing and modernising....

What we value most	What we value least	Our community in ten year's time?
Works together to improve the area.	Needs to tackle the Highland Council to look after the area better.	Prosperous, clean and tidy with people employed, a thriving tourist industry supporting all of the great cafes, accommodation providers, shops and restaurants. A new school and some leisure facilities are long overdue. Highland Council are looking to do away with the five commercial units it has in Dunvegan which is very disappointing. It has already turned down multiple businesses who wish to operate in the area, stifling local growth.
Community spirit.ability to get stuff done/lets make dunvegan beautiful prime example.	Initiative to go through with ideas, having the confidence to take on big projects. Thinking of the likes of broadford who have done an incredible amount of work which could be replicated here if someone had the confidence/initiative to get the ball rolling. Ie poly tunnels, allotments. The amount of people turning up voluntarily for lets make dunvegan beautiful should be motivation enough to get a big project started here. People are keen they just need someone to start something and they will engage. Community could do much better for the young people/children or tourists coming to dunvegan. Playpark/ woodland walks/ outdoor centre/ soft play. Aside from the castle and a few eateries there is not much worth hanging about for.	Thriving (hopefully!)
Care for each other	Just keep up the good work.	Happy.
Supportive and caring	Could be more adventurous!	It's welcoming, supportive, encouraging of new initiatives, full of life, clean and tidy.

What we value most	What we value least	Our community in ten year's time?
<p>People regularly volunteer their time to make the community better, eg. The make Dunvegan beautiful group have done an amazing job rather than whinging about the council not doing anything. We have a good range of services even though we are a small community, eg shops, garages, play park, school etc Obviously there is less at the moment with covid, but the regular quizzes, ceilidhs & classes in the hall are great.</p>	<p>Provide better facilities for the tourists that we rely on, eg. Improve existing toilets & provide better car parking & toilets where tourists park & poo on the verges. Better facilities for nursery aged children.</p>	<p>A new school & nursery building, revamped toilets in Dunvegan & new toilets at Coral beach, parking fees for tourists to pay for the toilet upkeep, businesses thriving in the village, the hall well used by community groups & for functions, cheap housing/flats built for young adults who want to stay on the island, a well maintained park for children to play in, community workers to support the elderly or vulnerable, a regular bus service to Portree etc. Cycle paths linking parts of the area safely, pedestrian crossings in the village & at either end of the two churches walk Lots of flowers & well maintained verges & footpaths, good tourist info & signage. Lots of happy hubbub in the summer & music & dancing in the winter!</p>
<p>Helps out each other, welcoming,</p>	<p>Hard to find volunteers for non exciting but necessary roles</p>	<p>Opportunities with more working from home possible, young people and families retained-mixed housing opportunities available, school role maintained, public transport links maintained, wide access to local produce and other sustainable food supplies, crofting valued as zero environmental food producers, strong community spirit supporting more vulnerable members within it-allowing them to stay within their community and not having to leave to receive the support they need to live well.</p>
<p>I am new to the community, having moved here in December. I am keen for places to get to know folk and work together to be more sustainable. The hall and the village amenities are great.</p>	<p>I don't know yet as I'm so new here - but more places to gather and have fun/get to know people and have a conversation would be great. It would be great to organise a big celebration when covid is over!</p>	<p>Lots of kids, music and amenities for locals - green and sustainable, people working less with more time to be together and know the land</p>
<p>Funding and responding to people in need.</p>	<p>Bring people closer and strengthen community</p>	<p>Will get better</p>
<p>The community of Dunvegan have been very welcoming and we feel included we have enjoyed keeping Dunvegan tidy not only to make it a nice place to live but allowing us to get to know the locals too</p>	<p>Nothing to date.</p>	<p>It makes us happy to think we will be in a community driven location, with like minded inhabitants. It is good to know the community cares passionately about the residents and environment so much.</p>

What we value most	What we value least	Our community in ten year's time?
Dunvegan has a good sense of community spirit and events are generally well supported.	I think more communal outdoor areas would be nice, like a community garden. The playpark really needs to be upgraded and made safe.	More housing for families, pride in keeping the village looking clean and tidy.
The natural environment within which we live, offers me the highest value. The community is close knit and supportive and is showing an appetite for positive change with I personally welcome.	It could better support younger children and teens through new or enhanced facilities (play park, sports, creative pursuits, environmental education). A creative hub for new business ventures run by young people could help develop opportunities, keep young people in the area and create job opportunities.	A vibrant village acting as the go to place for local people's needs. It would be in full bloom in spring and summer, with beautiful display of flowers and borders running throughout. It would offer a range of provisions, including access to local seafood and meat. There would be a regular farmers market, attracting locals and visitors alike. Vibrant new businesses would have been developed, taking over commercial spaces that are currently looking to move on. There would be a supply of new modern, well designed, affordable homes attracting new entrants and an excellent primary school, which will have been modernised and feature sports facilities to stop the current reliance on Portree. Dunvegan would be plastic free with a commitment from every house and business on this. Young people would be happy here, there would be more transport links to afar, but also bike hire scheme to help people move around, car free. There will be strong sense of environmental protection, both on the land and water. Striving for forest paths, trails and the cleanest waters, which will support more businesses to start and share this amazing environment, albeit in a consciousness manner. Dunvegan should be ambitious to reclaim its own crown, and not be reliant on the castle being the main attraction, the village can lead the way and be a positive place to live, work and visit. That makes me feel happy.
Everyone wants things to improve & the best for Dunvegan, there is so much potential	Improved 'look' & facilities of Dunvegan (toilets/picnic areas, a village centre, parking), various groups feel unconnected in a common goal	A thriving community supporting local food, produce & enterprise, a well facilitated school, community & sporting events. A facelift that makes the most of the beautiful loch side location & improved infrastructure of public services.
Look out for each other	Treat our tourist visitors more kindly and not tar all of them with the same brush.	Perhaps more built up, and hopefully with better surfaced roads and pavements.

What we value most	What we value least	Our community in ten year's time?
Very good places to go out and get food or sit in and have food	???	Busy, exciting, dulcet, happy
Great choice of local shops	Improve the look of the village	With a great village pub/hub, an improved look and better parking, more visitors would stop and spend a little more time whilst allowing locals to also get to the shops without battling for parking spaces. An information point with a map, local points of interest, history, walks, viewpoints
Community rallies round if required	For people to recognise that feorlig, harlosh, roag etc is also dunvegan, rather than the village being dunvegan	I worry that it could be a soul less village as less and less businesses will be open, less community facilities ... i would love to see more sporting facilities, more affordable housing for young people, and more employment opportunities.
Very well organized	More help required for the influx of visitors arriving in the Highlands	Happy if all issues are adhered to
Largely caring Community.	To much dependence on tourism.	Be only to glad to be still here.
Support each other.	Dog poo	I worry about the impact of the current pandemic, brexit and the effects of this on small businesses in Dunvegan area. With the amazing work of the community to make Dunvegan beautiful then I think this will always be a place to be proud of.
Clean up	Social events	Nothing much changes
Can't think of anything, dunvegan tends to keep itself "closed" so out here in colbost we never know whats happening unless we go into dunvegan and ask about and even then its often silent, if your part of the "gossip network" you get to know what happening, if not then all is silent,	the objecting and campaigning against things that would benefit the younger generation or that bring change	Isolated, declining and the gulf between old skye families and the new "incomers" getting wider and deeper. (mostly due to a small core of incomers vociferously complaining and objecting to things they don't like)
Friendly and collaborative	Preservation of the natural environment. Provision of amenities/infrastructure	It looks the same! That makes me sad

What we value most	What we value least	Our community in ten year's time?
I don't know	Much.. see below	Perhaps a one of the best questions I've ever seen in a survey!! A capability to become the go to entity for life and well being of its citizens. No one being left out. Spend the income from the wind farm? Don't just Bank it. Enrich the have nots reach out and find them. Individuals can be wary of 'charity' but if it delivered to a broader range of needs people join in as mutual benificeries. The goal being to make it the area that people want to live in, because people and facilities care. Compare and contrast Glendale and the Trust in its current state of total disarray, never mind it's not putting in their accounts, so do what they did well and avoid the pitfalls of weak leadership and local politics! Impart the vision and get buy in but not just to those that always turn up! So be bold (ha ha) seek out the best and better them. Only some of what I suggest is money dependant most is having a vision and a plan..
Friendly and collaborative	Preservation of the natural environment. Provision of amenities/infrastructure	It looks the same! That makes me sad
At the moment flower displays and tidying up the village	Get more people involved	Going by the last ten years not much will of happened