



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Ambitious for Communities

Community Survey Report

Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre

4 August 2010

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Section One

Survey Methodology

Introduction

These survey results form part of a series of pilot community surveys commissioned by Highlands & Islands Enterprise, HIE. The surveys were undertaken during summer 2010. The participating communities are all in remote and disadvantaged parts of the Highlands and Islands, termed 'fragile areas'. These communities are receiving a programme of intensive support through HIE's Community Account Management programme. This involves helping communities to take responsibility for planning their future economic and social development.

HIE is developing a measurement framework and outcome indicators for each area, and the 2010 survey results will form an important part of the baseline data. The research explores local attitudes and aspirations and it attempts to measure the level of 'community confidence' in each area. The exercise will be repeated some years in the future. These survey findings will be used in conjunction with other desk-based research as well as locally collected data in each community.

Survey Sample

122 households on Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre were sampled in June and July 2010 using a self-completion postal questionnaire. 47 responses were received plus a further 4 online, totalling 51 responses (a response rate of 42%). 42 of the responses were from residents on Rousay, 8 from Egilsay and one from Wyre.

A copy of the questionnaire is provided in the Appendix.

A profile of the survey respondents can be found at the end of this report after the main survey findings.

Throughout the report, totals may not sum to 100 either because of rounding or because multiple responses to certain questions were allowed.

Section Two

Main Findings

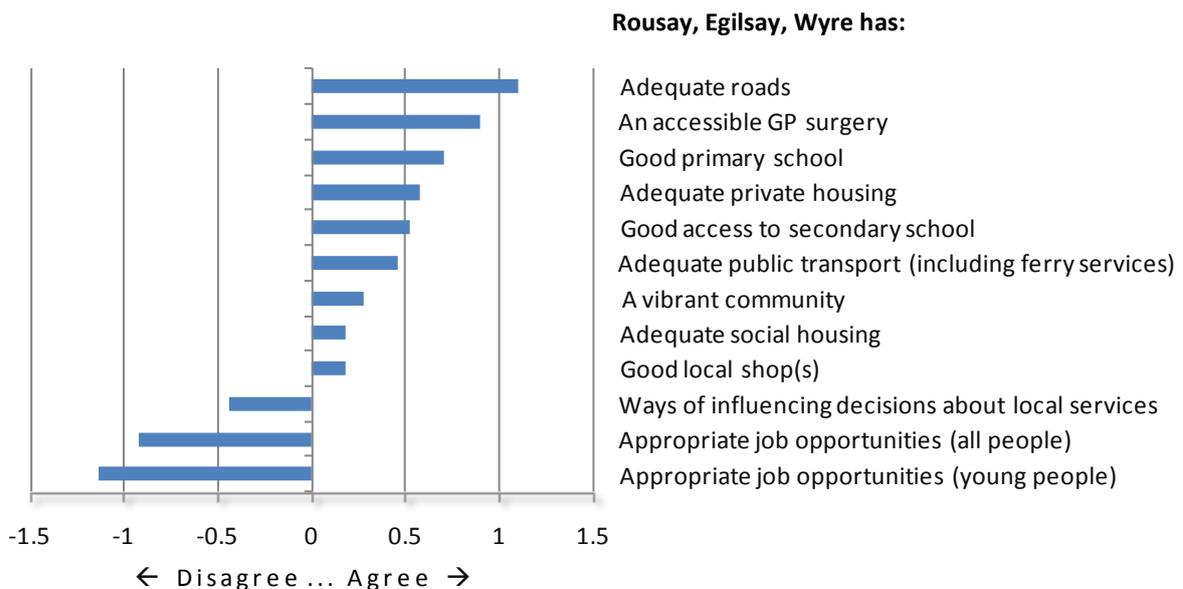
About Your Community

Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with a number of statements about their community. For this question and several others throughout the report, responses were converted to a score and displayed in a chart.

Figure 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

An average score was derived based on the following five-point scale:

<u>Response</u>	<u>Score</u>
"Agree strongly"	+2
"Agree"	+1
"Neither agree nor disagree"	0
"Disagree"	-1
"Disagree strongly"	-2

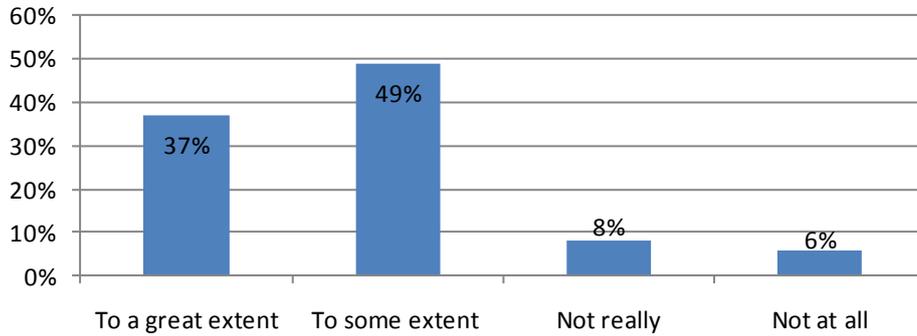


Adequate roads, an accessible GP surgery and a good primary school were the statements with which respondents were most likely to agree. Note that these are statements about *access* to housing, school, surgery etc – they do not attempt to reflect satisfaction with quality.

Respondents were least likely to agree with the statements about *job opportunities* and *ways of influencing decisions about local services*.

Respondents who were not working were particularly likely to disagree with the statements about the adequacy of private and social housing.

Figure 2: Overall, to what extent do you feel part of the community?

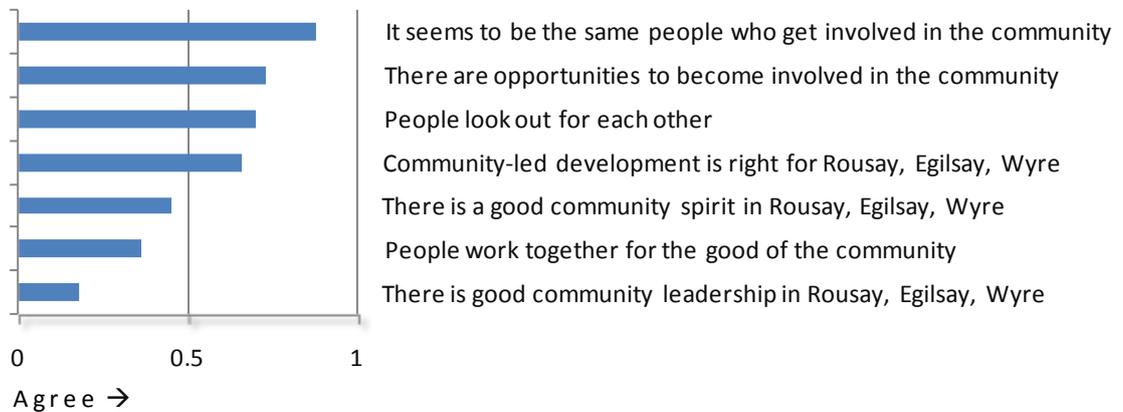


86% of respondents felt part of their community to a 'great extent' or 'some extent'.

Non-working people and people who were not involved in community groups were less likely to feel part of the community.

Figure 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Figure 3, below, adopts the same five point scoring system (+2 to -2) as outlined earlier at Figure 1. All seven statements were met with varying degrees of agreement and therefore each received a positive score.



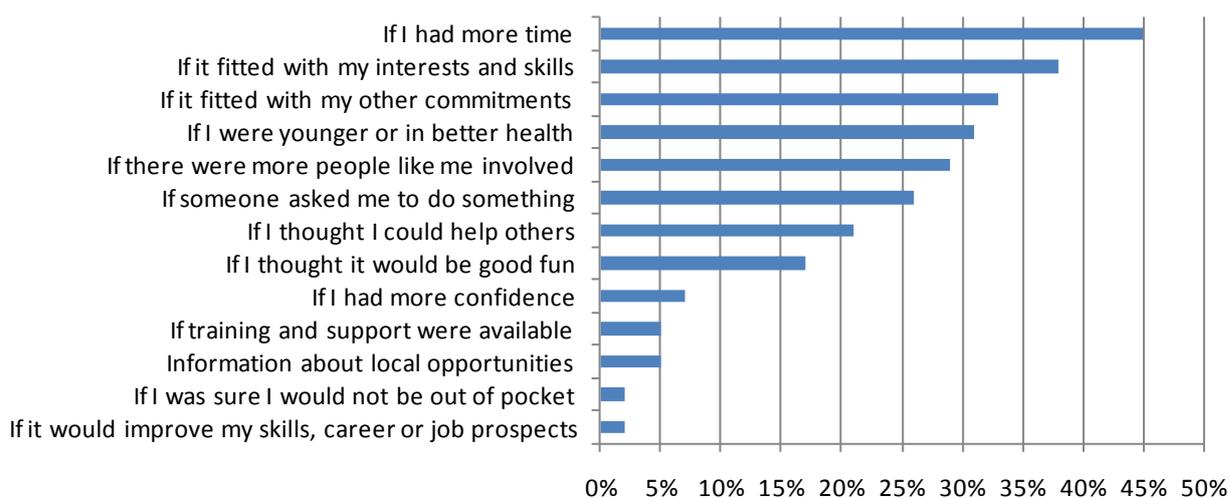
Generally, respondents from Egilsay were less likely to agree with the list of statements. Agreement was lowest (although still positive) for the statement *there is good community leadership*. Those who disagreed with the statement were more likely to be working people with families.

Table 1: Involvement in Local Community Groups in the last 12 months

Level of involvement	%
Committee member / office holder of a community group and actively involved	22
Committee member / office holder, but with limited involvement	14
Actively involved but not a committee member / office holder	22
Aware of community groups but not involved	38
Not aware of any community groups	4
Total	100

Over half the sample (58%) were actively involved with the community in some way. Most other people were aware of community groups but did not take part.

Figure 5: What do you think would encourage you to become involved / more involved in your local community?



Note: multiple responses were accepted.

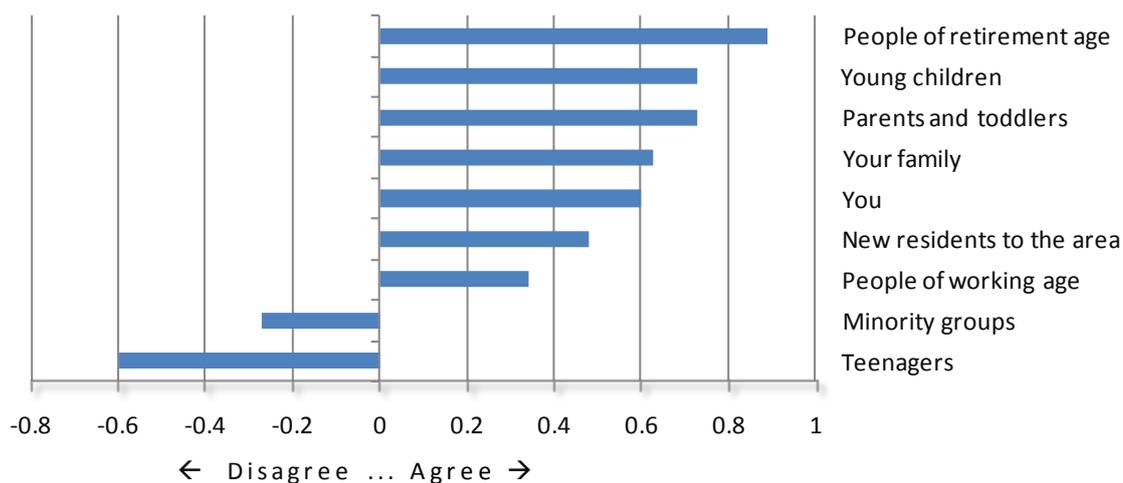
A number of factors would encourage people to be more involved locally, notably if they had *more time* and *if it fitted with their interests and skills*.

Enhancing career prospects or payment for becoming involved were of least concern among the list of reasons suggested to respondents.

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which their community caters for certain groups, as reported below in Figure 6. A mean score was derived based on the following scale:

<u>Response</u>	<u>Score</u>
"To a great extent"	+2
"To some extent"	+1
"Not really"	-1
"Not at all"	-2

Figure 6: To what extent do you feel your community caters for the following groups?



Respondents felt that Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre catered particularly well for *people of retirement age*, *young children* and *parents and toddlers*. Negative scores were recorded for *minority groups* and for *teenagers*.

Moving Away

Five respondents (10% of the sample) indicated that they were thinking about moving away from Rousay, Egilsay or Wyre in the foreseeable future, i.e. within the coming three years.

Those who were thinking about moving away were then asked what would be the main reasons for leaving the islands.

Table 2: What would be the main reasons for leaving?

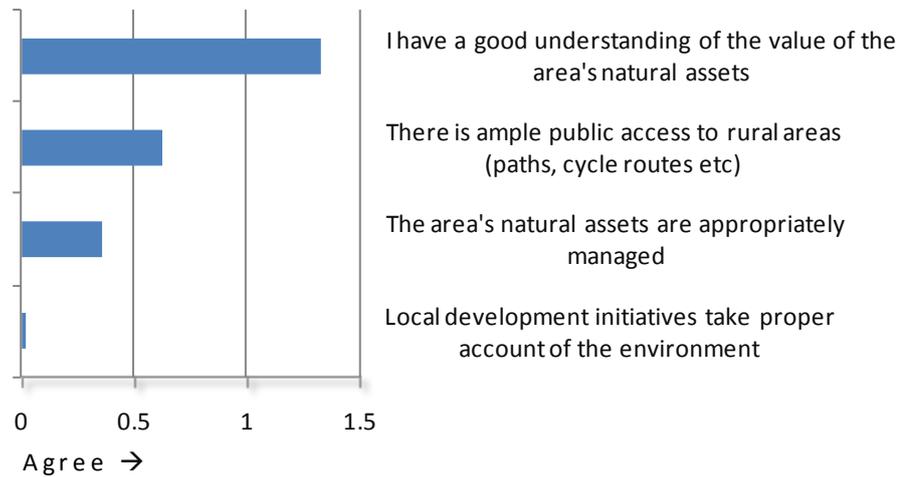
Reason	Number of Mentions
Employment elsewhere	2
Better quality of life	2
Education / training	2
More recreation/entertainment elsewhere	1
To be closer to family	1

Note: multiple responses were accepted.

Environment

A series of four questions sought respondents' views about the environment and land management, including common grazing (where relevant), woodlands, paths, the shoreline and other public spaces. The responses are summarised in Figure 7, below, using the same five point +2 to -2 scoring system as before.

Figure 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



All four statements attracted a positive score, ie. a higher level of agreement than disagreement, most notably people's *understanding of the value of the area's natural assets*. Based on the lower scoring responses, there may be scope for developing environmental initiatives locally.

The Future of Your Community

Respondents were asked two general questions about their community as a place to live. Overall, 90% were satisfied with Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre as a place to live. This high level of satisfaction was reasonably well spread geographically and across all sections of the community.

Table 3: How satisfied are you with Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre as a place to live?

Response	%
Very satisfied	48
Fairly satisfied	42
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8
Fairly dissatisfied	2
Very dissatisfied	-
Total	100

When asked about the future, 40% of the sample felt “very optimistic” or “somewhat optimistic”. Egilsay residents were less optimistic, as were families with under 18 year olds in the household and people who were less involved in community groups.

Table 4: How optimistic or pessimistic are you about the future?

Response	%
Very optimistic	12
Somewhat optimistic	28
No strong feeling	22
Somewhat pessimistic	26
Very pessimistic	12
Total	100

Respondents were also asked to outline the most important developments or changes they would like to see over the coming years in Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre. A selection of these comments is provided separately from this report. These comments covered a range of themes, the main ones relating to:

- inter-island ferry services (including scheduling and Sunday operations)
- GP services
- more employment opportunities
- housing
- leisure and sporting facilities

Attitudes to Minorities

54% of respondents thought that their community readily accepts people of differing faiths (8% did not, and a further 38% did not know).

15% of respondents considered themselves to be part of a minority group.

Disabilities

4 individuals (9% of the sample) considered themselves to have a disability.

A summary profile of all respondents to the survey is provided overleaf in Table 5.

Table 5: Profile of Survey Respondents

Gender:	Male	45%
	Female	55%
Under 18s in Household:	Households with under 18s	22%
	Households without under 18s	78%
Family units in household:	One family unit	96%
	More than one family unit	4%
Age of respondent*	16-24	2%
	25-34	4%
	35-44	12%
	45-60	35%
	Over 60	47%
Time in community:	Fewer than 5 years	30%
	6 to 20 years	20%
	Over 20 years	50%
Ties with community:	Always lived here	14%
	Family from here but time lived away	12%
	Moved into the area	74%
Working status:	Working (full or part-time)	55%
	Retired	35%
	Other non-working	10%
If working:	One paid job	68%
	More than one paid job	32%
If working:	Periods away from home	15%
	Mostly at home	85%

* The younger age groups are notoriously difficult to survey due to work, family and other commitments. Wherever possible, the survey asked respondents to take account of the likely views of other household members as well as their own.