

# Summarised Feedback from Orkney Opinions Surveys issued in 2018

## Feedback from Orkney Opinions Survey 3 – February 2018

Our third survey issued in March asked for thoughts about walking and cycling in Kirkwall, what makes Orkney's countryside distinctive, housing design in the countryside, and equalities. The survey was issued to 150 members, of whom 77 responded, representing a return rate of 51.3%.

We hope you find some of the following information arising from the survey interesting:

Question 14 - What would encourage you to walk more in Kirkwall?

21.6% of respondents would like to see higher quality walking routes, with better security gaining 17.6% of respondents' views. 16.7% would like to see car-free zones, and 13.7% safe road crossing points.

Other ideas put forward: better weather, signposting of routes, traffic lights at junctions rather than zebra crossings.

Question 20 – What makes Orkney's countryside distinctive? Please provide three words or phrases:

- Wild and unspoilt, big skies, surrounded by sea.
- Clean, views, choice.
- Pleasure.
- Wildlife, coastal views, easy access.
- Greenness, treelessness, many car carcasses and untidy areas around houses.
- All clear air.
- Scenery, clean air, quiet.
- Birds, panoramic views, both of above compromised by turbine (large and small).
- Clean, refreshing.
- Farmers - who work the land, green, productive.
- Clean, safe.
- Quiet roads, beautiful views, welcoming.
- Treeless, differing colour, sky.
- Smell of slurry.
- Clean, green, quiet.
- Openness, beautiful, varied.
- Wide open skies.
- Peaceful.
- Green.
- Expansive, real, working.
- Green grass, cattle, wildflowers.
- Open views, few trees.
- Open countryside with excellent sea views.

- No trees – views.
- Sky, water, grass.
- Farmers, cattle, grass.
- How it differs from place to place, the changing skies, the beauty.
- Beautiful views, choice and accessibility, nature.
- Green and lush with big skies and seas.
- The scenery and land use sympathetic to its surroundings.
- Beautiful sunsets, fresh air, wild winters.
- No trees, beautiful views and ever-changing colours, safe.
- Green, treeless, hilly.
- Clean, fresh, breath-taking.
- Where the land and the sea meet, wildflowers and nesting birds, fine open vistas.
- The extensive visibility enabled by lack of trees and hedges.
- Big sky, green.
- Sea, pastures, wilderness.
- green, gentle, sheep.
- History, culture and environment.
- Openness, uncluttered, fresh.
- Archaeology, greenfield development.
- Open, sparse, remote.
- Green, Neolithic, turbines.
- Fresh air, scenery, grassland.
- Less traffic. Landscape. Lovely villages and tearooms.
- Cliffs, sky, openness.
- Open, quiet, big skies.
- Peaceful clean empty.
- Scenery, farming, people.
- Ruggedness, green, plentiful.
- More accessible to disabled.
- Views and wildlife.
- Green, islands, quiet.
- Too many turbines. Roads not wide enough for tour buses.
- The lovely scenery.
- Seascapes, archaeology.
- Timeless, big skies, distant island views.
- Unique, beautiful, inspiring.
- Farmland, seascapes, wildlife and birds.
- Sunsets, views, waves.
- Mainly sky, gentle landscape, too many windmills.
- Views, colours, big skies.
- Scenic, peaceful, freedom to roam.
- Open, green, beautiful.

- Wide open views.

## **Equalities Questions**

Question 24. People in Orkney have the opportunity to fulfil their potential throughout their life.

Views were expressed on infrastructure, practical skills, budgetary constraints, affordable accommodation, range of jobs, isles residents.

Question 25. People in Orkney have equal opportunity to access and shape our public services.

Views were expressed on topics such as opportunities to comment – whether the public are listened to or engaged enough to try and put their point of view forward. Access to meetings for isles residents, whether the public believes their view will be taken into consideration or not, and whether enough information is available to allow well thought-out opinions to be formed.

## **Feedback from Orkney Opinions Survey 4 – July 2018**

The fourth survey was on the Community Learning and Development Plan and received 40 responses.

Only 40% of the respondents were aware that there was a Community Learning and Development Plan for 2015 to 2018, which demonstrates that further communication and promotion of this is needed.

Over 90% of respondents agreed with the three proposed outcomes for the three priorities.

For the question on unmet needs, mental health was a common mention, as were the lack of opportunities for people on the outer isles.

To how to work closer with the local community to ensure that they identify and have ownership of the plan, respondents' suggestions included annual surveys to suggest courses, increasing awareness of the Learning and Development Plan, better communication between partner agencies in passing on information, advertisements on social media, speaking directly to community groups and promotion in local media.

## **Feedback from Orkney Opinions Survey 5 – August 2018**

The fifth survey asked for views on the council closure over Christmas and New Year and on other public holidays, the Orkney Community Justice Partnership and Orkney Health and Care priorities. Our fifth survey received 78 responses.

For the four options presented, there was no strong preference for any, with only small numbers preferring one option over the others. The ranking in order of preference however was as follows:

First: Option B - Close on 25 and 26 December, on 1 and 2 January (remaining open on the other weekdays between these dates), and close on 6 other nationally recognised bank or public holidays throughout the year.

Second: Option C - Close only on 25 and 26 December, and on 1 and 2 January, remaining open on the other weekdays between these dates.

Third: Option A - No change, continue with the closures as listed on the question text.

Fourth: Option D - Close on 25 and 26 December, on 1 and 2 January (remaining open on the other weekdays between these dates) and on Easter Monday, May Day and Dounby Show Day.

When asked how likely they would be to use or contact council services, just over 85% of respondents stated that they would not or would not be likely to use or contact council services.

Of what services people thought they might use or contact during the festive period, the most popular responses were Roads section (flooding, snow and ice clearing/gritting), Library, Refuse collections, Civic amenity sites and Social services. A point raised by two respondents demonstrated a lack of awareness that emergency contacts for such services as social work, home care, mental health team, homelessness, roads, registrar etc are in place across the Christmas and New Year period so officers will be considering how to promote these better.

Suggestions for local priority actions for the Orkney Community Justice Partnership included continuing support for drink-related offenders, mental health support, help for those who have family going through the justice system and counselling for victims, and diversionary programmes and supported employment opportunities to build worthwhile skills.

The ranking of priorities for Orkney Health and Care was clearly challenging for respondents, with a close balance between several of the items listed. Top priority for most was timely access to GP services, with the remaining answers (Residential care services for the frail elderly and those with dementia, timely access to community mental health services, ensuring that we look after our children's safety and wellbeing, keeping people in their own homes for as long as possible) all very close apart from local access to community health services which scored clearly as the least important priority of the 6 given.