HIE
Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Ambitious for Communities

Community Survey Report

SHAPINSAY

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SHAPINSAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

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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

147 households on Shapinsay were sampled in June 2010 using a self-completion postal questionnaire. 55 responses were received plus one online questionnaire, totalling 56 responses (a response rate of 38%). 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:

Response	Score
"Agree strongly"	+2
"Agree"	+1
"Neither agree nor disagree"	0
"Disagree"	-1
"Disagree strongly"	-2

Shapinsay has:

Good primary school
Adequate roads
Good access to secondary school
Good local shop(s)
An accessible GP surgery
Adequate public transport (including ferry services)
Adequate private housing
A vibrant community
Adequate social housing
Ways of influencing decisions about local services
Appropriate job opportunities (all people)
Appropriate job opportunities (young people)

← Disagree ... Agree →

Good primary school, adequate roads and *good access to a secondary 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,* especially for young people.

Adequate social housing received a neutral score of zero. Issues relating to housing, NHS services, employment and transport also arose later in the questionnaire when comments were sought about the future of Shapinsay. These comments are available seperately.

Figure 2: Overall, to what extent do you feel part of the community?
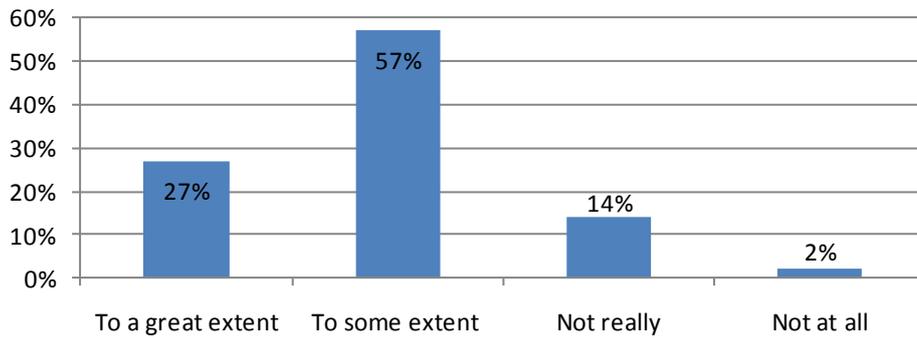
84% of respondents felt part of their community to a 'great extent' or 'some extent'.

Working people were more likely than average to feel this way.

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. The statement *it seems to be same people who get involved in the community* attracted the highest level of agreement.

It seems to be the same people who get involved in the community

There are opportunities to become involved in the community

Community-led development is right for Shapinsay

People look out for each other

There is a good community spirit on Shapinsay

People work together for the good of the community

There is good community leadership on Shapinsay
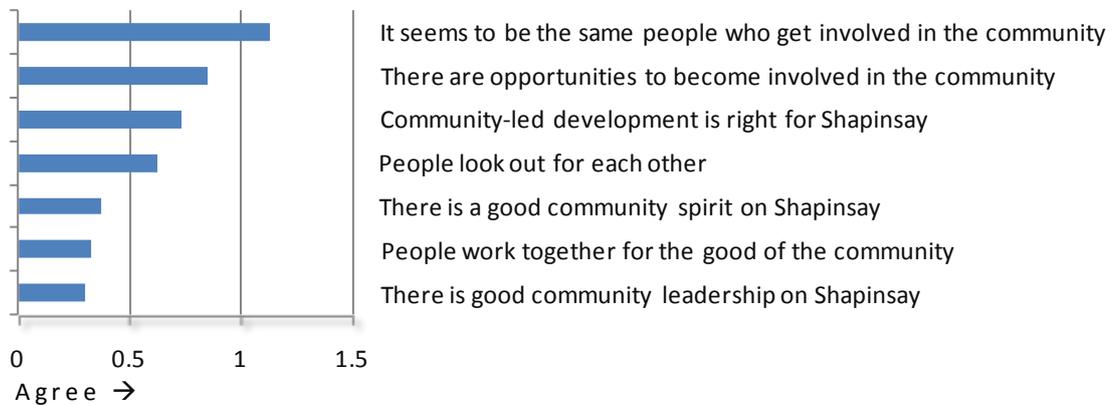
Table 1: Involvement in Local Community Groups in the last 12 months

Level of involvement	%
Committee member / office holder of a community group and actively involved	38
Committee member / office holder, but with limited involvement	7
Actively involved but not a committee member / office holder	5
Aware of community groups but not involved	48
Not aware of any community groups	2
Total	**100**

Half the sample (50%) were actively involved with the community in some way. Most other people were aware of community groups but did not take part. Working people were the most likely group to be office holders and to be actively involved in the community. People who had been resident on Shapinsay for fewer than five years were less likely to be actively involved.

Figure 5: **What do you think would encourage you to become involved / more involved in your local community?**
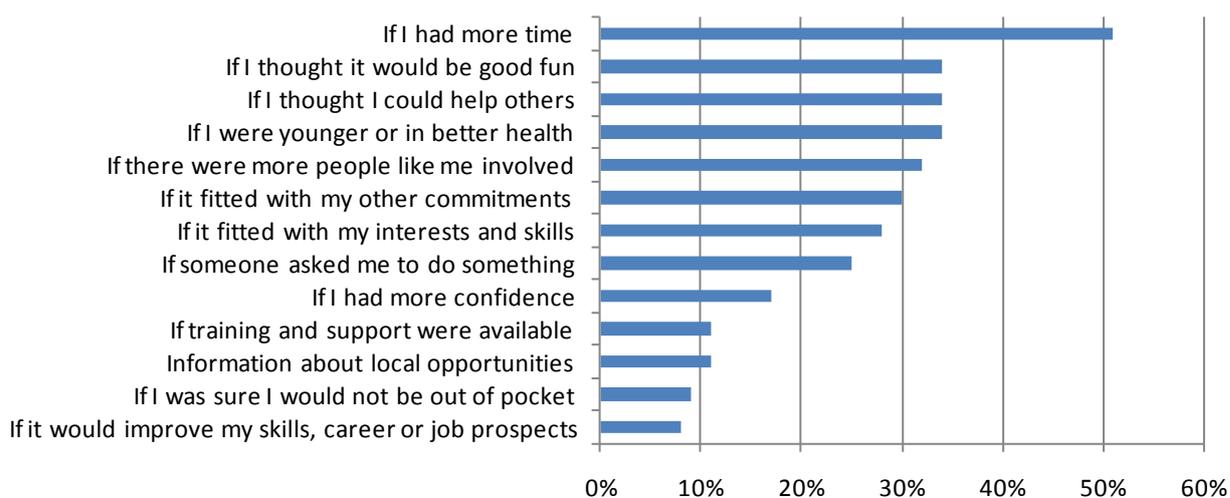
Note: multiple responses were accepted.

Lack of time was the key reason for not being more involved in the community (mentioned by over half of all respondents and over three quarters of working people).

Lack of information about opportunities, worries about being out of pocket, improving career prospects and *training* were not particularly important factors.

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:

Response	Score
"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?
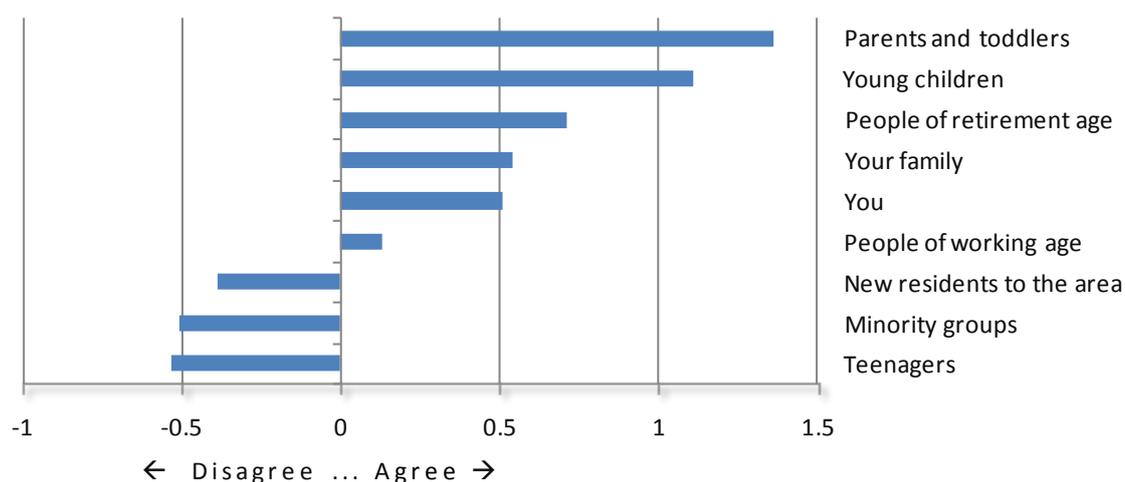
It was felt that *parents and toddlers, young children* and *retired people* are particularly well catered for on Shapinsay.

It was felt that *teenagers, minority groups* and *new residents to the area* are not well catered for by the community.

Moving Away

12 respondents (22% of the sample) indicated that they were thinking about moving away from Shapinsay in the foreseeable future, i.e. within the coming three years. These people were then asked what would be the main reasons for leaving.

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

Reason	Number of Mentions
Better quality of life	7
To be closer to family	4
Better climate	4
Employment elsewhere	3
Education / training	2
Health / require assisted living	2
Not enough to occupy free time here	1
Poor NHS	1
Transport too expensive	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?
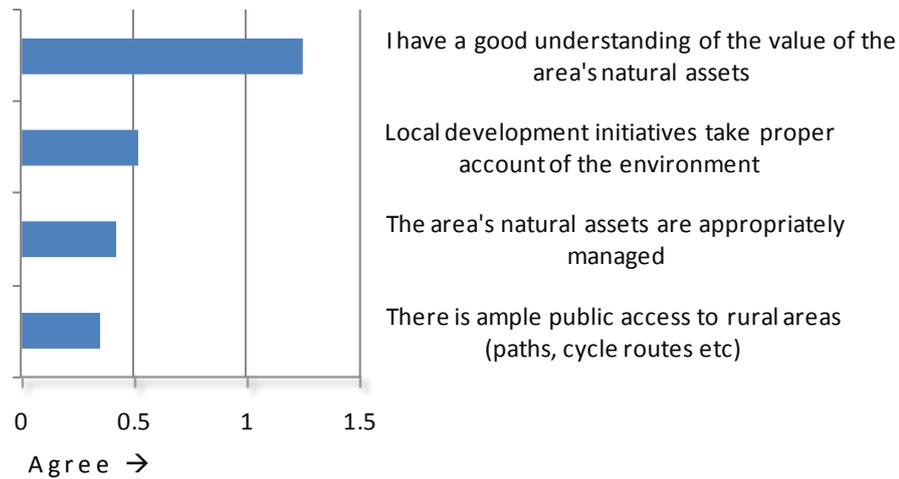
All aspects attracted a positive score, ie. a higher level of agreement than disagreement. However, there may be scope for improvement in terms of environmental management and access to rural areas.

The Future of Your Community

Respondents were asked two general questions about their community as a place to live. Overall, 83% were satisfied with Shapinsay as a place to live. The retired/over-65s and respondents in households with children were most satisfied of all.

Table 3: How satisfied are you with Shapinsay as a place to live?

Response	%
Very satisfied	35
Fairly satisfied	48
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9
Fairly dissatisfied	6
Very dissatisfied	2
Total	**100**

When asked about the future, 83% of the sample felt "very optimistic" or "somewhat optimistic". There were no notable patterns of response among the various groups in society.

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

Response	%
Very optimistic	35
Somewhat optimistic	48
No strong feeling	9
Somewhat pessimistic	6
Very pessimistic	2
Total	**100**

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

- Fixed transport links with the Orkney mainland
- Ferry timetabling
- More opportunities for social activities (including a pub)
- The importance of having a resident GP
- Better tourist facilities
- Care for the elderly
- Local renewable energy projects

Attitudes to Minorities

50% of respondents thought that their community readily accepts people of differing faiths (25% did not, and a further 25% did not know).

4 individuals (8% of the sample) considered themselves to be part of a minority group.

Disabilities

7 individuals (13% 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	38%
	Female	62%
Under 18s in Household:	Households with under 18s	26%
	Households without under 18s	74%
Family units in household:	One family unit	87%
	More than one family unit	13%
Age of respondent*	16-24	-
	25-34	9%
	35-44	11%
	45-60	36%
	Over 60	44%
Time in community:	Fewer than 5 years	19%
	6 to 20 years	34%
	Over 20 years	47%
Ties with community:	Always lived here	38%
	Family from here but time lived away	4%
	Moved into the area	58%
Working status:	Working (full or part-time)	61%
	Retired	32%
	Other non-working	7%
If working:	One paid job	24%
	More than one paid job	76%
If working:	Periods away from home	18%
	Mostly at home	82%

* 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.