

# North Connel Responses 2019

**Priority Areas for Improvement:**

How good is your place? Area wide engagement results using the Place Standard Tool

Between May and October 2019, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) used

# North Connet Responses

## North Connet Responses

Our Top Rated Amenities

**Feeling Safe**  
Respondents rated this area 6.2 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.7 out of 7

**Natural**  
Respondents rated this area 5.4 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 5.1 out of 7

**Streets and Spaces**

**Spaces**  
Respondents rated this area 4.3 out of 7 compared to Argyll & Bute Average of 4.0 out of 7

Thematic areas by lowest score to highest score

Thematic Area	Average Score
<a href="#">Public Transport</a>	3.7
<a href="#">Moving Around</a>	4
<a href="#">Housing and Community</a>	4.2
<a href="#">Influence and Sense of Control</a>	4.3
<a href="#">Traffic and Parking</a>	4.3
<a href="#">Work and Local Economy</a>	4.9
<a href="#">Facilities and Amenities</a>	4.9
<a href="#">Play and Recreation</a>	4.9
<a href="#">Care and Maintenance</a>	5
<a href="#">Social Contact</a>	

## Q1.Moving Around: Can I easily walk and cycle around using good quality routes?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 4							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	3 responses	0 responses	2 responses	2 responses	2 responses	0 responses	0 responses

### Comments

I can walk and cycle locally but not into Oban - designated cycle/walking route is on a 60mph zone single track road with poor visibility.
No pavements or cycle track No street lighting
No continuous pavement along road and no safe link to cycle path
The roads next to my house are reasonably quiet, but I have no direct access to separate walking /cycling routes as cars and lorries use them.
Quality of road surface is not uniformly good. Narrow roads and large lorries do not mix well.
I'm rating this as a 5. I have 2 kids aged 3 and under, and despite the fantastic Sustrans Route being nearby, I struggle to get to it safely from North Connel (east). The footpath along the road is intermittent / narrow and so not suitable for small kids on their bikes. I even don't like towing the trailer along there. Big lorries use this road and folks drive at more than the 30 mph speed limit. I've had a lorry wing mirror skiff the top of my helmet while on the pavement towing the trailer one time which has somewhat put me off! It's a shame a proper cycle lane, pavement, or 'path for all' can't be added to cover this stretch and link us (and the growing population in the Black Crofts area) to the cycle path. If it were there I think kids from this area would ride up to Lochnell School on their bikes. I'm also frustrated that the Connel to Dunbeg stretch of cycle path hasn't come about. I know a lot of folks who cycle from Benderloch / North Connel / Connel to Dunbeg (SAMS) or into Oban, and all have said this stretch of A road in summer is quite terrifying at times! Pity as it would plug a major gap and get more folks on their bikes. It's a barrier to people riding to work at present. Not everyone is confident to ride on an A road. I do, but wouldn't ever take the kids in the trailer, which is a shame as it means I can't cycle them into town on my days off (back road isn't safe enough either!)
Completing the cycle route from Ledaig caravan park to Connel bridge would be a great help
Now cycle track completed from North Connel to Benderloch this has made a huge improvement for both cyclists and walkers. Now just need North Connel to Dunbeg to be completed

constant new sites for private houses and the local industries of quarrying and road haulage. I now most frequently walk, using the Sustrans cycle path up to and from Benderloch or cross Connel Bridge and walk up the "back" road to Oban which, while carrying increasing amounts of traffic, is still very pleasant to walk. I would add that I am fortunate to be fully mobile; but it is not quite so easy for less mobile folk to walk safely; not sure how practical or even cost effective it would be to put a pavement in those sections of this unclassified C25 at presently not served by a pavement; it would probably be totally impractical as the road is already under severe pressure due to its narrowness to cope with the volume of heavy traffic presently using it. The current Bonawe to Oban 408 West Coast Motors bus service does offer a bit more scope for folk to move about - albeit the service is basically only morning, noon and night and no provision for folk to have a night out in Oban and get a bus home; but it is an essentially rural community so I can appreciate the uneconomic basis for providing any more bus service.

## Q2. Public Transport Does public transport meet my needs?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 3.7							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
1 responses	2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	1 responses	0 responses

### Comments

<p>Only 3 buses per day and 2 of these are targeted at those going to /returning from work. Buses stop on the route past my house in the very early evening. There is no late bus back from Oban (the last one passes my house at 6.20pm). The bus stop is convenient.</p>
<p>Infrequent buses</p>
<p>Very poor only once an hour making it difficult to use public transport to town. And quite a walk to nearest bus stop.</p>
<p>Public transport is quite poor. Especially on a Sunday so then have to use car to collect child from Oban as no buses after 5pm. Would be more helpful if there were at least every 30 minutes at peak times but also continued with the same route till late. E.g. bus from Oban to North Connel if missed 7pm bus then have to wait till 9pm or get 9:30 bus to Dunbeg for then to be collected by car! Otherwise it's after 10pm bus to get to North Connel. This does not help evening workers get home from Oban if they don't have a car</p>
<p>Basically too few bus services on my route. Last bus into Oban is at 6.45pm. There is no late night service out of Oban that passes near my house.</p>
<p>I haven't really used public transport in the area so far (only been here about 15 months). Had to select a score to continue - please ignore it.</p>
<p>I am very lucky to be served by a bus stop very close to home. The timetable would make it tricky to use on a regular basis as the timings don't always work.</p>
<p>Things have improved since buses started taking contactless payment. Also, when the morning buses are late, it's a challenge because there's no helpline open to find out if the bus is actually coming or if you need to try and flag down a passing neighbour (similar when the bus is early and has gone before the scheduled time)</p> <p>Given the geographical location of North Connel, and since the railway to Fort William was axed in the 60s, Connel Ferry is our nearest Rail Station; which for most of us, either means getting the bus, if it is timeously practical, or having the expense of getting a taxi; I have had to do this on some occasions, especially if I am required in Glasgow to attend early hospital appointments and have to catch the 0530am train. I am fortunate enough to be able to walk across the bridge to catch the Glasgow bound bus from the main A85, but this is very dependent on luggage/weather!! The local 405 bus route is a bit away from my house (approx. 8 to 10 minutes) but am still mobile to walk; the 408 stops across the road so quite easy; but come the day when mobility becomes a problem for me then I will have no alternative but to use taxis; currently the fare from my house to Oban is approximately £13 so you can see this could become quite a financial burden - living as I do on a fixed pension. This must be the case for everybody else of my age group living along the C25; unless they are in the fortunate position of having a car! The Connel Ferry station is well maintained and we have the luxury of a bus shelter at Etive Park and on the main A828 for the Fort William bus but only on the southbound side of the road; whether it would ever be possible</p>

for Bear Scotland, or whoever manages the road network going forward, to erect a shelter on the northbound side I have no idea.

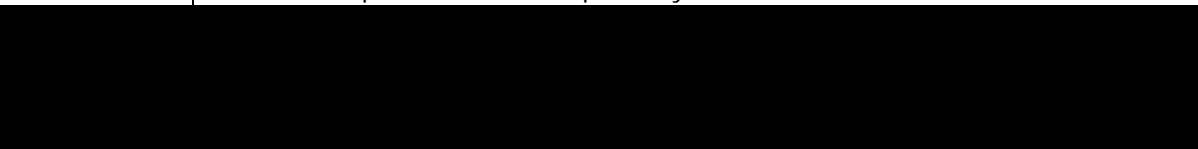


Q3. Traffic and Parking Do traffic and parking arrangements allow people to move around safely?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 4.3							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	2 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

I am afraid it is simply a fact of life along the C25 that traffic has the upper hand and I cannot foresee any change here.
Lack of pavement is an issue.
My area is fairly rural; parking tends to be limited to each house's immediate vicinity or driveway; there are no pavements or footpaths/cycle routes.



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recreational cyclists, but if you have to stop to cross these repeatedly when travelling at speed, then you end up just using the road. - I've heard of a group of cyclists using the path and being clipped by a wing mirror of a passing large van which had pulled closer to the edge of the road to give way to a wide load. Putting them so close to the carriageway should be an absolute last resort (I guess it maybe is). Sections of the route are however brilliant and I do use it on my road bike at quiet times of day - Appin bit is great. I think we need a local campaign to educate motorists about these routes though and who they're suitable for. The sheer hatred I've had from passing drivers giving me abuse even on the back road from Connel to Oban (!) because I'm not using that million £ cycle path that was put in is just awful. Attitudes need to change. I have to say in my experience of this abuse, it tends to be older generations.

There is sufficient parking in North Connel for residents however parking becomes a challenge when the rugby/shinty pitch is being used because there is no designated parking for it - this could be improved. In Oban, where I work, parking arrangements vary from street to street and even as a local, I find it confusing to know where I can get 2hrs free parking, 1/2 free parking, no free parking etc. Supermarkets still the most reliable parking for less than 3 hrs.

Q4. Streets and Space Do the streets and public spaces create an attractive place that is easy to navigate?

9

Q5.

Q6. Play and Recreation Can I access a range of places for play and recreation?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 4.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response

Q7. Facilities and Amenities: Does my place have the things I need to live and enjoy life? This could include shops, schools, libraries, health services or places to eat and drink.

9 responses in total - Average Score of 4.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	2 responses	1 responses	3 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Have to travel by car to all amenities  
 I think there is a good range of facilities in Oban. Gaps I see are: - a larger shop on the north side of town (Coop or something)

Q8. Work and Local Economy: there an active local economy with good quality work opportunities?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 4.9							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	4 responses	1 responses	1 responses	2 responses	0 responses

Comments

Childcare can be a challenge.  
 In my organization there are opportunities and a great working environment on the whole. Being in Argyll has not lessened my opportunities at all. In other sectors in Argyll however, I know this not to be the case. NHS Argyll & Bute has a problematic struc

**Q9. Housing and Community** Do the homes in my area support the needs of the community?

9 responses in total – Average Score of 4.2							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	3 responses	3 responses	2 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

Few social rented houses near us and high demand. Private rented two bed house (ex council) round the corner currently available at £800 pcm (inc council tax) - not affordable.
Housing for the retired middle class is good; housing for aspirant young people is under-represented at present.
Housing is expensive
I would say generally "yes" to this; I do understand that there is Planning Permission for a development of smaller homes and flats on the site of the old Ossians Nursing Home. I also note that MacLeod Homes have developed a site at the south end of the Connel Bridge in partnership with ACHA so this will provide much needed social and low cost housing for younger families and some of the older generation. I also believe there is housing developed opposite the Loch Nell Primary School in Benderloch; and as yet unspecified plans for the redundant school at Ardchattan.
I'm not sure to be honest. It took us a long time to find a house that suited us (2 yr.!), but I think



**Q10. Social Contacts** Is there a range of spaces and opportunities to meet people?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 3.5							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	1 responses	2 responses	3 responses	2 responses	1 responses	0 responses

**Comments**

I think more could be done for parents with small kids over the winter. It can be hard to entertain kids in months of rain! We end up travelling away at weekends a lot to pass the dreich weather. There is Atlantis soft play which is a good resource - the kids love it, but for parents the layout is tricky! You can't get a coffee / chat to others if you've really small kids as there's nowhere to safely contain them and keep an eye on them. I'd love to see a play barn for kids of different ages, with a space for parents too. Something like Go Bananas but bigger scale. Some local clubs are very inclusive too - Orienteering club for one. As soon as your child is walking you can get round a course with them and meet other people. The events up at Glencruitten have been fantastic - Halloween one and Christmas one - just brilliant.
North Connel Hall and Benderloch Village Hall are good for activities; but one really needs their own transport to access these.
North Connel has a village hall but I won't know what on
Only the village hall with irregular events
We have a village hall but not many events for the community.

Q11.

## Q12. Feeling Safe Do I feel safe here?

9 responses in total – Average Score of 6.2							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	0 responses	2 responses	3 responses	4 responses	0 responses

### Comments

I feel safe.....except on my road bike! On the whole very lucky to live in this area, I hardly ever think of crime or antisocial behaviour.
No comment needed...
No street lighting but not sure would want light pollution
Not a lot of trouble here, thankfully. People just need to be more considerate and patient at times We incredibly fortunate in North Connel

Q13. Care and Maintenance Are buildings and spaces well cared for?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 5

Q14. Influence and Sense of Control Do I feel able to take part in decisions and help change things for the better?

9 responses in total - Average Score of 4.3							
Score of 1	Score of 2	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5	Score of 6	Score of 7	No response
0 responses	1 responses	1 responses	3 responses	3 responses	0 responses	1 responses	0 responses

Comments

Could do - people not always listened too. Decisions have normally already been made - 'its not in

What are the main issues and priorities for change that you have identified?

- Change attitudes towards cyclists in the area and help more people get involved in cycling. The local cycling club is booming but there is so many more people here who could be involved. Explore opportunities for community mountain biking trails. Paths / routes that connect people safely to the Sustrans route. - NHS. Seems to have been run badly in Argyll for a long time. Needs addressing before good clinicians and other front line staff are forced to work elsewhere. - More bad-weather activities for families.

What actions could be taken to deal with these?