

Easdale Island Rush and Gush Survey 2013

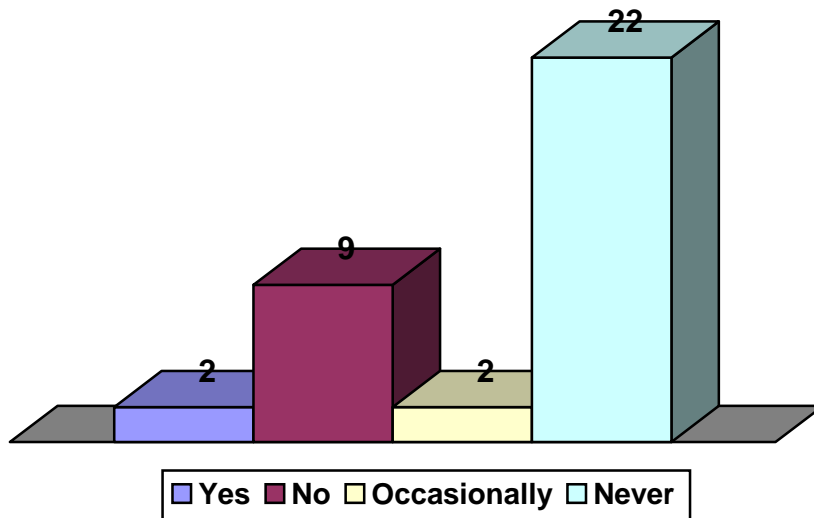
SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY SURVEY AND CONSULTATION EVENT



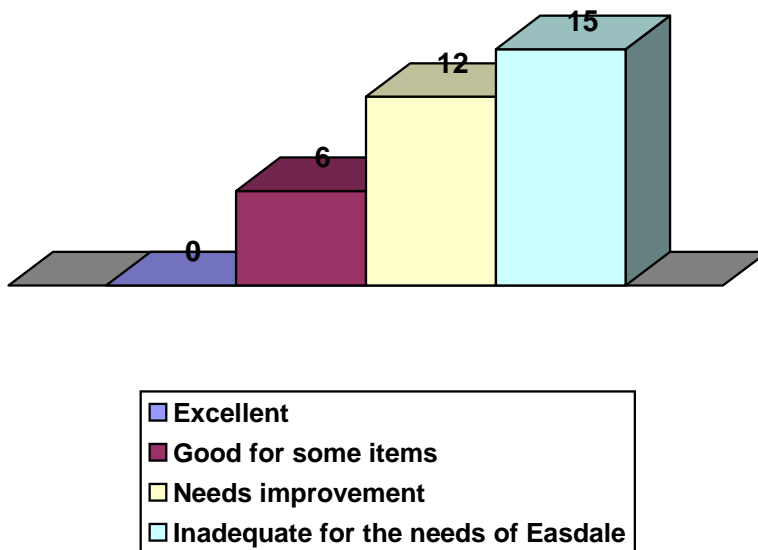
SUZANNE MCINTOSH PLANNING LIMITED

GRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF RESPONSE TO THE SURVEY

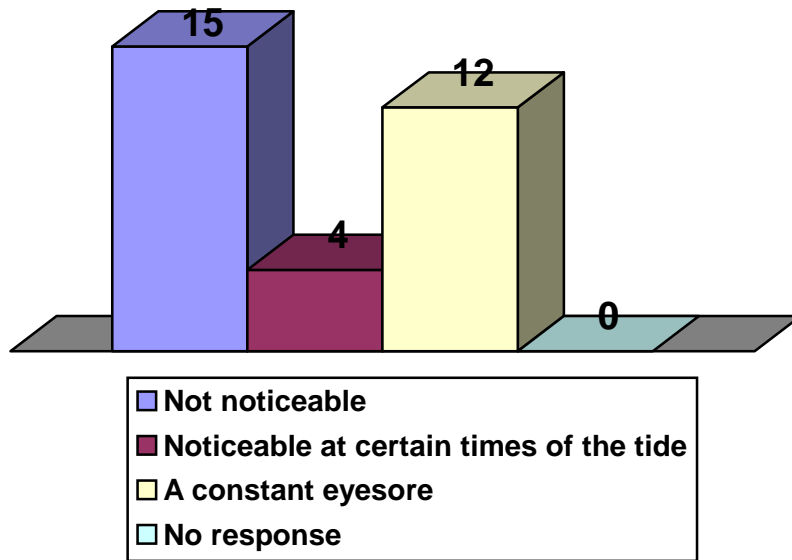
Question 1: I have thought it is ok to use the 'Rush and Gush' to dump unwanted items:



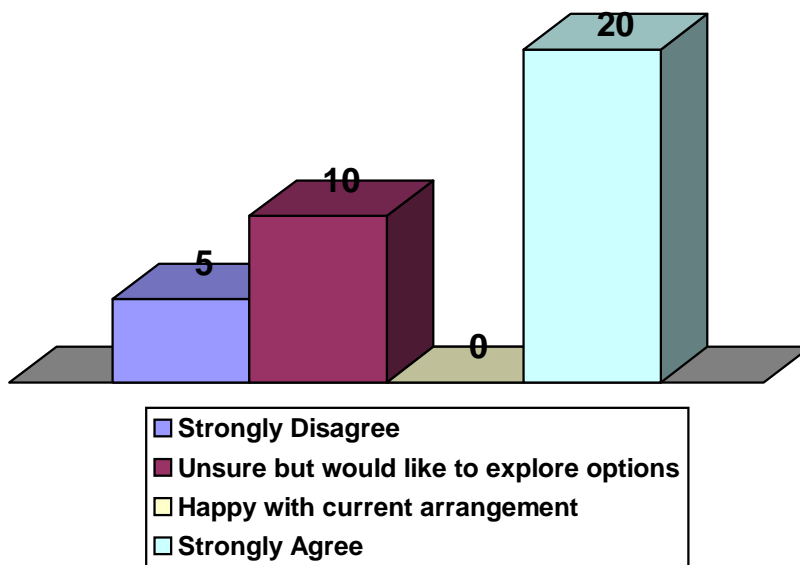
Question 2: The Council's current waste provision on Easdale is:



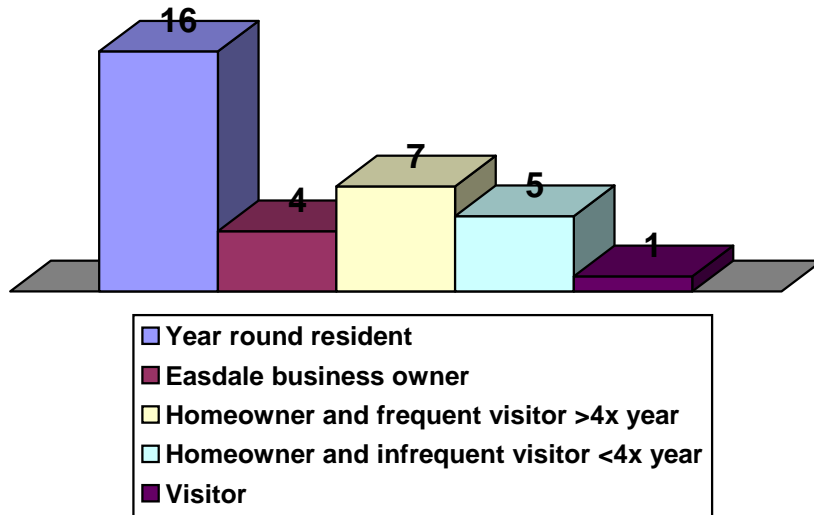
Question 3: Most of the time, the dump at the 'Rush and Gush' is:



Question 4: I believe there needs to be a more formalized use of the 'Rush and Gush' for recycling or other purposes.



Question 5: Which of the following describes your connection with Easdale?



Question 6: Age

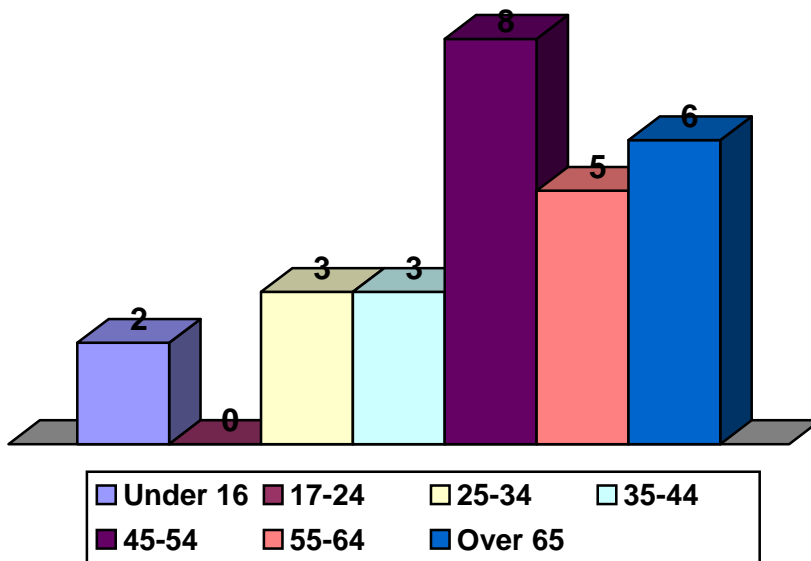


TABLE OF RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY

1.	Yes	No	Occasionally	Never			
<i>I have used or thought it was ok to use the 'Rush and Gush' to dump unwanted items</i>	2	9	2	22			
2. The Council's current waste provision on Easdale is:	Excellent	Good for some items	Needs improvement	Inadequate for the needs of Easdale			
	0	6	12	15			
3. Most of the time, the dump at the 'Rush and Gush' is:	Not noticeable	Noticeable at certain times of the tide	A constant Eyesore	No response			
	15	4	12	1			
4. I believe there needs to be a more formalised use of the 'Rush and Gush' for recycling or other purposes	Strongly Disagree	Unsure but would like to explore options	Happy with current arrangements	Strongly agree			
	5	10	0	20			
Which of the following describes your connection with Easdale (tick as many as apply)	Year round resident	Easdale Business owner	Easdale home owner and frequent visitor (>4 times year	Easdale Homeowner and infrequent visitor (< 4 times year	Easdale visitor: state if family connections but no longer live on the island or own property		
	16	4	7	5	1		
Age	Under 16	17-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65
	2	0	3	3	8	5	6

COMMENTS FROM RESPONDENTS

Note: these comments have been paraphrased from the consultation responses received (unless surrounded by quotation marks where they indicate direct quotes)

General Comments

- Waste provision is inadequate, with the bins stinking in summer (a health hazard) and absolutely no recycling provision. Mainland houses have a paper bin, Easdale residents either have to burn their paper (many do this on the beach) or drive it up to Oban.
- Visitors need to know what recycling provision is on the island. I hope that collectively we may be able to devise easier, more accessible options for recycling and to encourage/educate visitors and residents alike to fully utilise these outlets.

Use of Rush and Gush

- The 'Rush and Gush' is tucked away from normal viewing points and this area could be well used by developing it for as a better refuse and recycling facility.
- Concerned that harbour area is becoming untidy, with smells coming from bins on hot days. Rush and Gush is near enough to use but far enough away to avoid smells.
- We would support recycling facility at Rush and Gush but would not support any other kind of development.
- Separate large containers (in Rush and Gush) to hold large items commonly disposed of would be appropriate. Containers could be used for holding waste from construction projects on the island and should be considered when planning applications are made.
- Rush and Gush could be used for rubbish bins but should not be used as a dumping ground. The council should make provision for removal of such items and people responsible for dumping should be held accountable.
- This area would be ideal for transport of heavy goods, refuse storage and other commercial uses because it is out of sight, separated from the village and also has proximity and easy access to the harbour.
- As an infrequent visitor, I believe that using the Rush and Gush for recycling would make the island tidier as some residents currently store rubbish outside their houses.
- "Covered area (in Rush and Gush) could be used to store community tractor". Storage space could house building material and machinery.
- Support for island builder who could assist in dredging, digging out septic tanks and keeping area tidy (perhaps in exchange for using space).
- Clear instructions for builders/renovators to remove building materials at end of job.
- Move bins to Rush & Gush and use community tractor to collect domestic waste.
- Any development in this area should support future development.

- Any development in this area should be for re-cycling purposes only.

Access

- The Rush and Gush would be a more suitable location however it would be important that the route in and out is adequate to allow older or less physically able members of the island's population to access the area. Adequate access needs to be considered for the disabled, elderly residents, wheeled vehicles and quad bikes.
- Create a suitable slipway for Rush & Gush for uplift and set-down of bins, refuse and building materials.
- Stabilise the Bull, look at breakwaters. Better access for forklift etc to access Rush and Gush from barge.
- Any new access to Rush and Gush would have to be by slipway. The Council would most likely have to build and maintain this- unlikely to happen.
- Island waste operative could not be expected to wheel barrow loads of bin bags if the bins were located in the Rush and Gush. A purpose-built vehicle would cause a nuisance with noise and a further deterioration of the pathways. (Supported by another respondent).

Recycling facilities

- Better recycling provision needs to be made for year-round residents
- Builders rubble, timber, etc. should probably be disposed of by whoever is having the work done.
- I think it's important to have recycling facilities for the islanders so it would be very interesting to see this incorporated in the plans for the Rush and Gush.
- The problem of waste management is increasing everywhere. It does not seem to be logical that an island has a less developed means of recycling waste than many areas on the mainland.
- Recycling facilities are currently available on Seil, Tesco and the Co-op. Large items such as TVs can be disposed of free of charge at Moleigh.
- It has been shown in the past that it would be uneconomical for Eilean Eisdeal, or any company dealing with recyclates, to attempt to remove or collect material from the island. In the past, Eilean Eisdeal refused to allow the Council to allow recycling bins to be placed on their land. (This issue was raised by two respondents).

Uplift of rubbish

- There should probably be some sort of organised 'community' uplift of larger items (fridges, beds, etc.) on an occasional basis, say 4 times a year, with Council uplift from Ellenabeich or Cuan as applicable.

- Facilities at Ellenabeich also need to be improved to avoid bulky goods coming from Cuan.
- Problem with disposing of gas canisters, as they are no longer allowed on ferry. Provision needs to be made for this.
- Ferry is obvious choice for moving heavy goods to and from island. Larger ferry with less Argyll & Bute Council restrictions would be best. (This had been discussed at meetings with Council in the past).
- Waste management impinges on everyone- this includes residents and visitors.
- If people can bring bulky, heavy goods onto the island than they should be able to remove them in the same way.
- Council provides uplift service (for a fee).

Fly tipping

- Most of the fly tipping at the Rush & Gush is builders' waste created and left by those working on the island. The area should be left free but more stringent measures put in place to penalise those who leave rubbish lying around.
- Fly tipping is illegal and should not be permitted under any circumstances.
- I take exception to the term 'fly-tipping'. "90% of rubbish in the Rush and Gush is the result of building work and as such is their responsibility" to remove it.
- Those responsible for dumping rubbish should be forced to arrange for its removal. "Rush and Gush should then be allowed to recover naturally...to provide safe haven for protected species that use it".
- There should be no dumping whatsoever on Easdale and untidy areas should be cleaned up to make the island more attractive for residents and visitors.

Location of bins

- Not only is the current provision for waste inadequate it is also unsightly and unhygienic. The location of the bins so close to the populated part of the island is far from ideal for residents and creates a poor impression for visitors to the island.
- The smell from the bins in the summertime and the infestation from flies and bluebottles is really off-putting. It is impossible that visitors who walk past the bins as they go round the island do not notice the smell.
- The refuse bins in the harbour are an eyesore to islanders and visitors alike, dirty, smelly in summer and a paradise for scavenger seagulls distributing the contents all around. Perhaps the island was cleaner when the quarries were used for waste disposal!
- The current location of the bins is good as it is mainly out of sight to houses on the island.

- No objection to bins being moved but needs consultation with Mr Cadzow to “see if this would be a feasible plan from his perspective”.

Arguments made against using the R&G

- The Rush and Gush is in plain view of many properties, including pub and hall. As the island's main income is tourism, this would be detrimental to the businesses.
- I don't believe that turning the R&G into a storage area will alleviate the problem. There is adequate space at the present site.
- “I don't believe that turning the Rush and Gush into a storage area (storing what exactly?) will alleviate the problem. There is adequate space at the present site.

Need for new infrastructure

- Lack of infrastructure on island is discouraging self-employed people and small businesses from coming to the island.
- A single designated pier could be constructed from very strong materials (e.g. reinforced concrete) and then landscaped to match the old piers. This would allow continued use of existing equipment but should stop or prevent any erosion.
- The harbour needs renovation but the cost is high (a previously obtained estimate was £3m). There is also some disagreement where any proposed re-enforced slipway should be placed, which would provide a focal point for the loading and unloading of heavy goods. The problem is the order in which things should be done (i.e. slipway, dredging, harbour wall renovation etc).
- An island owned landing type craft is probably best. With loading and unloading at North Cuan or Balvicar. Obviously will need support from the Community Council in this regard.

Additional comments

- Concerned about how items like broken glass can be removed safely from the Rush & Gush.
- Can the council provide a cage - to carry large items away- 1-2 times a year- or cost for those that might require it.
- Island needs council to help reinstate heavy goods pick-up- perhaps every third pick-up or twice a year at high Spring tides.
- Need to engage council to reinstate bulky uplift system.
- Formal use of Rush & Gush will stop heavy commercial boats and machinery from using (and damaging) old harbour walls.
- Residents need instruction on how to deal with unwanted items by reusing and recycling.

- There is also unwillingness by the council to collect large items from Ellenabeich.
- Hope that A&B Council and Historic Scotland will support moves that will benefit the community.
- Island needs a suitable slipway for goods and boats.
- If we wish to encourage boats/visitors to Easdale Island- need to improve facilities including berths and harbour walls to accommodate boating visitors and boating residents.
- “The Rush and Gush should be cleared of all waste material so that it can once again become a pleasant and peaceful place for islanders and visitors to stroll round, and for wildlife to frequent”
- Council already pays to operate ferry service, dredge harbour and remove waste. We should not expect Council and other Argyll and Bute taxpayers to remove waste that people are too lazy to remove themselves.
- Obvious solution would be to build a causeway which means waste can be easily collected and there would be no on-going cost to the Council. This would also solve issue of:
 - Access for emergency services
 - Access for disabled
 - Access to mainland for jobs
 - Easier access for tourists
 - Economic benefits to businesses on the island
- Some recycling groups in Argyll and Bute that operate under Service Level Agreements with the council have been unable to meet their SLA targets. This would likely to be the case in Easdale which has seen a decline in population over the last few years.
- Other communities, such as Luing and Seil, have tasteful recycling facilities supplied by the council.
- Two previous planning applications for waste/recycling facilities on the island have been withdrawn because of opposition from the community.
- “After attending your drop-in meeting...I was encouraged to see that you were listening and noting what was said by those who attended.”
- I agree that a yearly up-lift of large goods be reinstated by the council as we have been without this service for a good few years.
- Eilean Eisdeal is expecting the Council to foot the bill for any dredging associated with a third slipway. “Historic Scotland has expressed concern that a third slipway would cause further damage to already fragile harbour walls”.
- Proposed developments on the Rush and Gush will put a burden on the council and will not be sustainable which would be disproportionate to the resident island population.

- Answer to the island's problem may be a 'fixed-link'. However, tourism promotion of the island as 'vehicle-free' may be undermined if a fixed-link results in service vehicles travelling across the island.
- Eilean Eideachd directors "have not applied for available financial assistance towards the complete renovation of the harbour walls'.
- The 'Rush and Gush' could be developed as a discreet, walled, residents car and barrow park, not noticeable from the rest of the island and accessed from Ellenabeich by a vehicular fixed link causeway from the end of the road leading to the large public car park at the NW of Ellenabeich. The private residents' car park on the island would incorporate a turning/ parking area for service vehicles and an enclosure for bins and heavy refuse goods, and be linked by footpath to the island path system.