

Community Consultation results out!

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey last autumn, we had an overwhelming level of support for the proposals that will help make the case for this project. As part of the community engagement process, we identified potential partnerships with a number of organisations.



Key figures

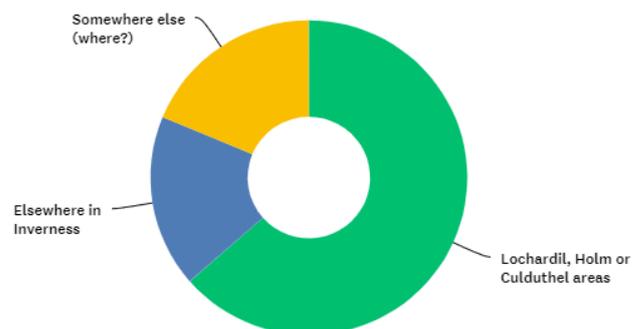
340 responses

- **98%** in support of project
- **80%** would use community garden
- **94%** would visit wildlife areas and accessible paths
- **165** respondents interested in allotments

Please tell us where you live

Answered: 310 Skipped: 29

The survey was completed by 340 people. Respondents were mainly people who live the Lochardil, Holm and Culduthel areas (64%), 18% of respondents lived elsewhere in Inverness and 19% live 'somewhere else' although many of these respondents specified that they were from other local areas such as Milton of Leys and Slackbuie..



Two events were held during as part of community engagement and research for the project:

Outdoor drop-in at the Knocknagael site

Saturday October 31st 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, run by the Knocknagael Ltd committee. A gazebo next to the field with table, chairs, banner and project information

Despite windy weather and Covid-19 limitations (social distancing was maintained) it was well attended by 30-40 people including nearby residents; who were interested, enthusiastic and believed the project would be valuable for the area. Others keen on having an allotment or were part of local groups.

Online event via Zoom - which generated significant interest



Community Support and Need for the Project

Community Support

Some of the comments received - “a very exciting opportunity for Inverness”; *“this is what Inverness desperately needs!”*

“This is a great time to secure this land for generations to come and really create a strong community project”

“We have a lot of wildlife in the area that is being pushed out by all the building” “now more than ever we need countryside spaces on our doorstep”.

Community Need

- Feeling that community spaces are lacking, that it can be hard to meet people and isolation is an issue, particularly in the wake of Covid, “not very much ‘glue’ - a project like this could provide the glue “to hold the community together”.
- No allotments in Inverness - allotments as ‘a great place to be’, with positive impacts for mental health and healthy eating.
- Schools interviewed also called attention to a lack of safe, quality green spaces in some areas, which limits children’s time spent playing outdoors. Some schoolchildren don’t have access to green space.

- Social groups noted a strong need for the project to address a number of demands from specific groups and more generally:
 - Promoting healthy living and keeping fit.
 - Access to fresh food and personal fulfilment - 'farm to plate'.
 - Vulnerable groups and people facing barriers to employment would gain experience of gardening and growing in a supportive environment, building confidence and sense of purpose, reducing loneliness and isolation and working as part of a team.

Sustainability, climate and community benefits seen as key benefits

"REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINTS, INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY AND TRACEABILITY OF FOOD"

"A CHANCE TO MEET LOCAL RESIDENTS AND GAIN FROM OTHERS' KNOWLEDGE"

"PROVIDE A FOCUS FOR THE COMMUNITY"

"HELP PEOPLE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER"

"WIDER DEVELOPMENT OF CROFTING SKILLS, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE NEW TO FARMING"

"PROTECT OUR SOIL" "RED SQUIRRELS, DEER, HEDGEHOGS, BIRDS"

Consultation with young people

Young people were asked:

Are you interested in gardening or growing fruit and vegetables?

What do you think about the plans for the Knocknagael field?

If this project goes ahead, how do you think it will affect the local area and people who live there?

A - grow food, get outside, plant stuff
Learn about plants, helps fight climate change
"from farm to fork"

B - all sounds good, bug hotels would be good
Birdhouses, ponds, protect Red Squirrels
Badger dens, communal area to sit
Fire pit, solar panels, lit up @ night (safety)
outdoor cooking

C - Local people help out, community togetherness
improve mental health, alternative to online
Help kids get Vitamin D, positive emotions
of lifestyle

Concerns - Urrdalism,

Consultation findings:

Use of outdoor space:

Universal interest in casual use of the site - **94%** would make use of the paths, areas for walking or visit areas for wildlife or orchard.

Strong demand for allotments at Knocknagael

165 people expressed interest in **renting an allotment**

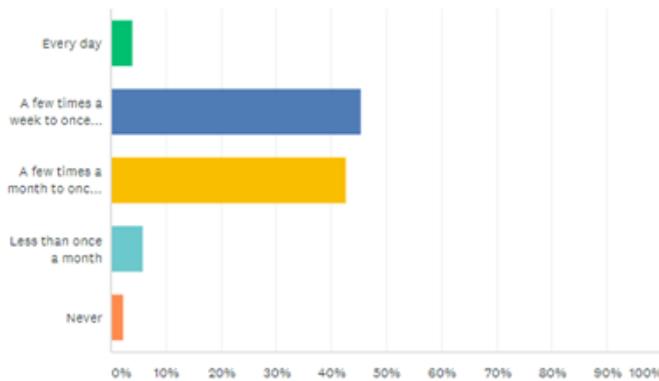
- Charities and local schools also interested in renting allotments, use of extra growing space, tool sharing, volunteer training.

With regards to other services:

- 66%** of survey respondents – 200 people – expressed interest in **training** at Knocknagael,
- Over **70%** of respondents expressed interest in a **café, stall or market** at the site, while **66%** would make use of a **vegetable box scheme**
- 58%** of respondents and **75%** of allotment holders would use a **tool sharing/library project**.

How frequently do you think you would visit the growing space at Knocknagael Farm?

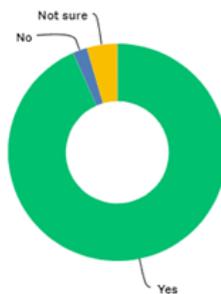
Answered: 310 Skipped: 1



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Do you support Knocknagael Limited taking on the Knocknagael Farm Fields on behalf of the community?

Answered: 333 Skipped: 6



Partnerships identified

Opportunities to work with Local Schools

3 primary schools intend to visit Knocknagael for activities to build life skills, educate on food, 'twinned' project with Malawi : Holm Cauldeen and Lochardil Primaries

Inverness Royal Academy: growing activities for the Nurture Base group, John Muir Award and Rural Skills programme for pupils interested in a career in agriculture.

Opportunities to work with other organisations

therapeutic gardening and outdoor mental health activities in partnership with organisations serving people with a wide range of support needs:

Centre for WellNess Gateway
L'Arche Highland Action for Children

Opportunities for physical health

Think Health, Think Nature Highland Green Health Partnership- Links to GP practices via the Think Health Think Nature partnership for social prescribing.

Stakeholders and potential users felt the site was accessible for those in more deprived areas, well-connected in terms of access by foot and public transport.

This is a summary of the main findings. The Report for Stage 1 is still being finalised and will be used to support Asset Transfer Request submission and Stage 2 application.

Thank you to all those who contributed to the consultation!