



www.staffin-trust.co.uk

STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST: THE OLD MAN OF STORR PROJECT



Community Consultation Report January 2016

Staffin Community Trust
Church of Scotland annexe
Staffin
Isle of Skye
IV51 9JX
01470 562 464
staffin.lido@gmail.com

STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST – STORR PROJECT 2016

Overall Project Objective

The Staffin Community Trust (SCT) has, over the last 18 months, engaged in positive discussions with The Highland Council, which owns land below the Old Man of Storr. A proposed partnership project intends to implement safety, access and facility improvements for the general public, including a new off-road car park, toilets and kiosk/tourist information. SCT is investigating the purchase or lease of the lower section of the land (not including the replanted forest) for the long-term direct benefit of the community of Staffin and Skye as a whole. SCT believes this is an exciting, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for engagement with the potential for income generation, local employment and marketing. The SCT is a company limited by guarantee with a board of eight residents and 70 members. More information at www.staffin-trust.co.uk



Introduction

The Old Man of Storr is a hugely popular and world renowned visitor attraction - and a key economic, social and cultural gateway to Staffin. More than 90,000 people visited the Storr in 2015 and transport surveys, carried out by council staff, have concluded that 70% of visitors to the site continue north to Staffin to enjoy other attractions such as the Kilt Rock and Quiraing.

The Storr is *crucial* to Staffin's economy supporting tourism and local businesses such as shops, cafes, B&Bs, self-catering accommodation and gift shops. Over the next few years the number of visitors to Staffin will increase significantly, with another internationally-known landmark, the Quiraing, rated as the most popular tourist destination in Skye by TripAdvisor. And with phase two of the SCT's Ceumannan project <http://www.skyecomuseum.co.uk/> due to start in late 2016 they will be spending more time in the community as visitors are encouraged to slow down, take the time to discover and visit new attractions in Staffin from 2017 onwards.

The SCT believes it is well placed and has the expertise to deliver and manage in partnership a ground-breaking project that creates significant and regular income, which meets sustainability targets with surplus funds re-invested in new community projects in Staffin.

The SCT is a representative organisation and is eager that all local residents made their views on the project known. This process initially engaged a postal community consultation with support and guidance from the council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS). This will be followed by open days for further discussion as early draft plans are developed.

This report details the analysis of the community consultation.

Methodology

SCT developed a survey which outlined the key questions.

The survey focussed on:

- Potential improvements at the Storr
- Support for SCT managing, leasing or purchasing the site
- Parking and toilets
- Refreshments

SCT sourced information from the voting register on the number of households and businesses within the Staffin Community Council area between Storr and Flodigarry. (*Map included in Appendix*).

After discussion it was agreed that the surveys would be delivered by hand, along with a stamped addressed envelope, to demonstrate the SCT's commitment to the project and willingness to meet and discuss the project with local people while also avoiding significant postage costs.

Each household received one survey and additional copies were provided on request. The consultation was publicised on the SCT website and in the local media. A total of 255 questionnaires were issued from week beginning November 9 2015. This included 12 PDF copies e-mailed directly to property owners who are not resident full-time in Staffin.

The deadline for the community consultation was Friday, November 29 2015 and SCT was delighted that 140 surveys were returned, giving a 54.9% response rate.

Residents did not answer every question therefore the percentage analysis in the report does not achieve 100% in every case. Therefore, to ensure transparency, SCT has counted the total number of answers for each of the questions and given the percentage against those answered, not the overall response rate.

For one particular question, about public toilets, there were a large number of public comments so a sample is given in the report with all the comments published in full in the appendix.

SCT also received formal contributions to the consultation from the Skye Mountain Rescue Team and VisitScotland, and an unscaled drawing of a potential development site at the Storr was also submitted by one of the survey responders, which are all in the appendix.

Storr Project Questionnaire

Responses are on a scale of 1-5 – with:

- 1 - “no importance”
- 2 - “little importance”
- 3 - “slightly more important than not”
- 4 - “quite important”
- 5 - “high importance”

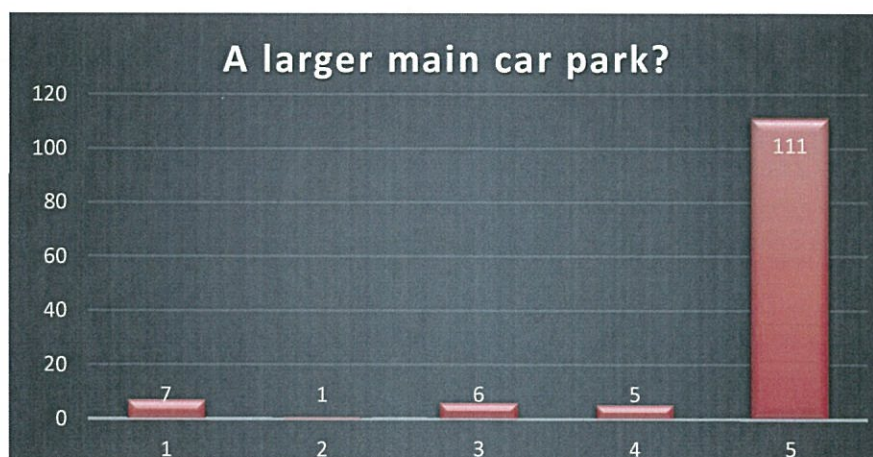
Part 1 – Outline Proposal Feedback

Q1. (i) Is a larger off-road car park required at the Storr?

There were 130 responses. 111 (85.4%) chose “high importance”, 5 chose “quite important”. The bar chart below demonstrates the support for a new car park.

Outcome: majority in favour.

Chart 1.1



(ii) Is there a need for public toilets at the Storr?

There were 129 responses. Of those, 90 people (69.7%) responded that it would be of “high importance”, 19 (14.7%) individuals rated it at 4 (just below “high importance”) and 10 people (7.7%) said it was of “no importance”.

Outcome: majority in favour.

Chart 1.2



(iii) Would promotional information on Staffin businesses, facilities and services be advantageous at the Storr?

There were 125 responses. 52 (41.6%) stating that it was of “high importance”, 32 residents (25.6%) rated it at number 4 (just below “high importance”) while 24 (19.2%) had it at a score of 3. 8 people (6.4%) scored it as of “no importance”.

Outcome: majority in favour.

Chart 1.3



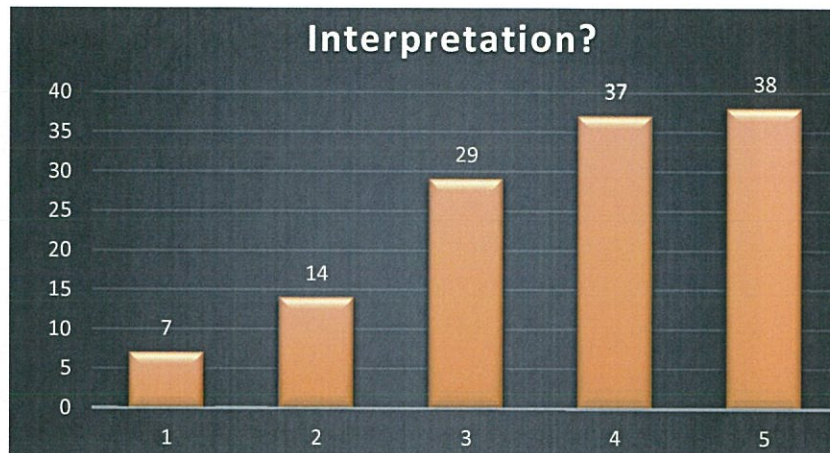
(iv) Would interpretation of geology, history and wildlife be favourable?

There were 121 responses. 38 people rated it as of “high importance” (31.4%), 37 indicated just below “high importance” (30.5%), 29 just below that (23.9%), 14 of

little importance (11.5%) while seven people (5.7%) scored it as of being “no importance”.

Outcome: majority in favour.

Chart 1.4

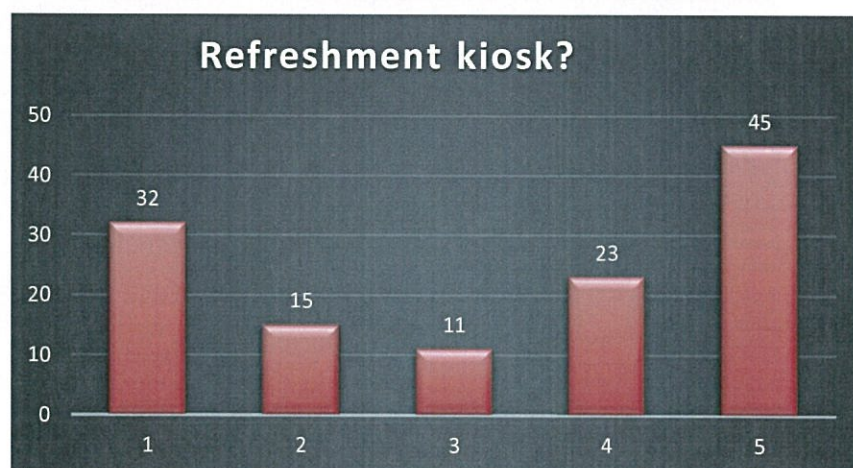


(v) Should refreshments be available to purchase on location to support the cost of toilet provision?

There were 126 answers. There were 45 responses (35.7%) for “high importance” with 23 residents (18.3%) scoring 4 (just below “high importance”) and 11 people (8.7%) just below that. A further 32 (25.4%) thought it was of “little importance” with 15 responses (11.9%) that it was of “no importance”.

Outcome: majority in favour

Chart 1.5



(vi) Would additional safety signage be beneficial to help drivers and to slow down traffic?

124 people replied. Of that, 87 people (70.2%) stated of “high importance”, a further 21 just below that scoring 4 and 4 responses at 3. There were 6 responses that it would be of “little importance” and 6 of “no importance”

Outcome: majority in favour

Chart 1.6



(vii) Would a bus stop with an appropriate shelter be appropriate?

125 responses were received and 72 people (57.6%) indicated it was of “high importance”. Five people (4%) rated it as of being “no importance.”

Outcome: majority in favour

Chart 1.7



(viii) **Other comments:** Survey responders were invited to comment generally about any other issue which came to mind - they are published below. No rating between 1-5 was sought in this question.

Other Comments

- 'No Parking' signs [should be displayed] on roadways [verges].
- No camping [should be allowed] in the parking area
- Emergency parking [should be] allocated for emergency services, e.g., mountain rescue, police
- Refreshments may affect potential use of cafes/restaurants in the community which would not be a positive outcome
- Keep it natural, that is the beauty of it [The Storr].
- Coaches/minibuses must park off [the] road.
- Mobile phone reception [could be improved].
- Showcase of local craftworks [could be introduced at site].
- A hand rail at the Old Man, e.g. elderly.

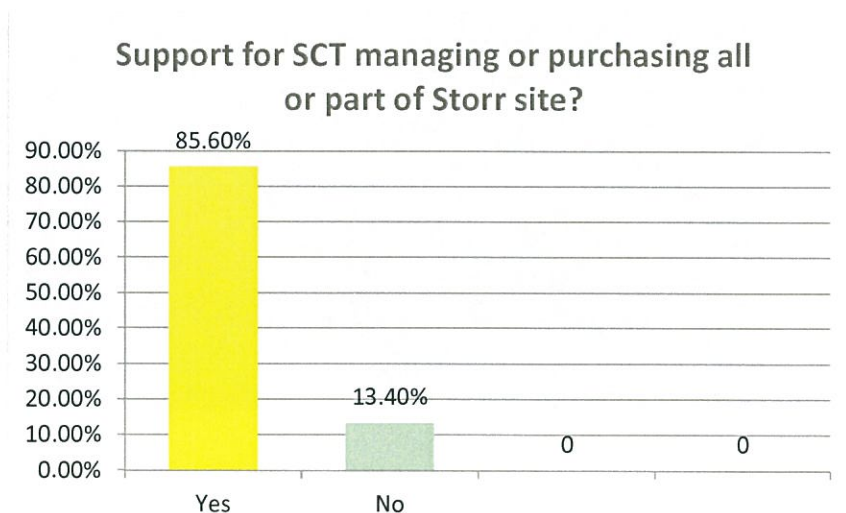
Outcome: comments to be fed into project report.

Q2. Would you support the SCT potentially managing and/or purchasing all or part of the Storr site? The community response was positive with 119 residents answering the question.

- 103 said "Yes", giving a percentage of 85.6% in favour.
- 16 "No" responses equating to 13.4%.

Outcome: majority in favour

Chart 2.1

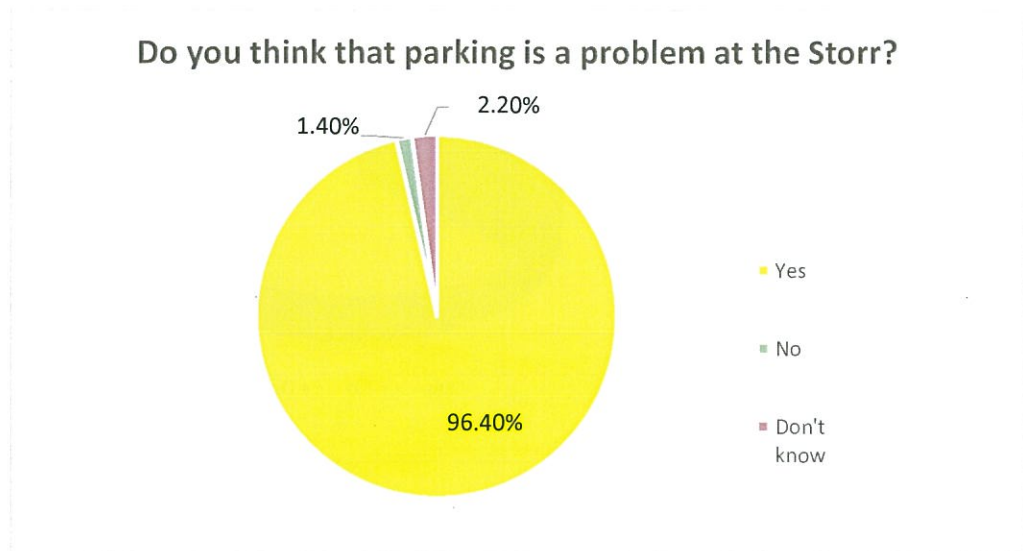


PART 2 – PARKING AND TOILETS

Q3. Do you think that parking is a problem at the Storr as things stand?

137 people answered this question.

132 residents agreed that it was a problem, which was 96.4% of the total. Two people said no it was not, while three others answered that they didn't know.



Outcome: majority in favour

Additional Comments

"YES"

- At the Quiraing, not the Storr.
- During the tourist season.
- Much improved lately but still very congested in the high season.
- Yes! Yes! Yes!
- Major problem and dangerous. Potential hazard.

There were no comments from people who answered "NO"

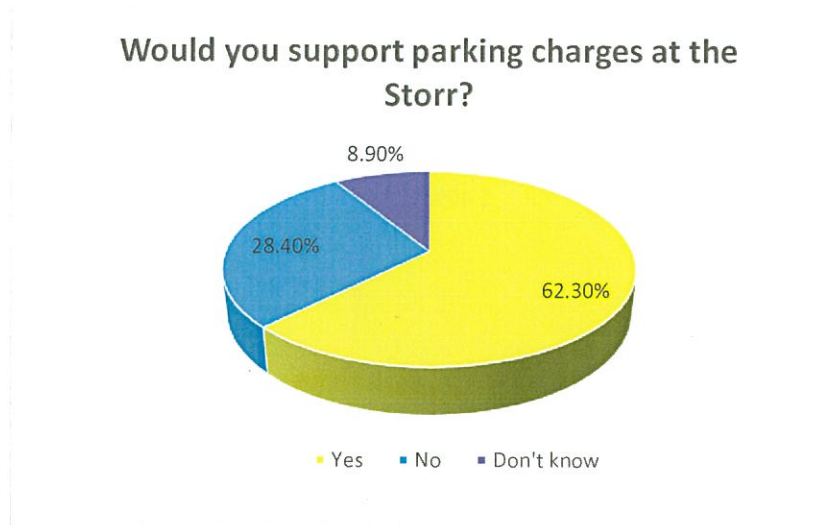
"DON'T KNOW"

- Has much improved since the new carpark but still very busy with some tourists not being mindful of oncoming traffic.
- Not as much since new layby was constructed

Q4. Would you support parking charges at the Storr?

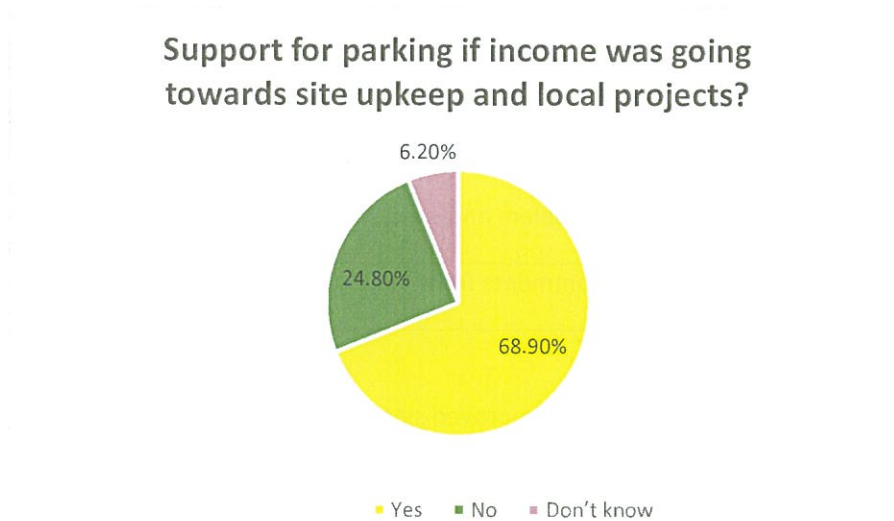
84 residents said yes they would, which was 62.3% of the total 134 responses.

There were 38 people who said no (28.4%) and 12 (8.9%) stated that they did not know.



Q5. Would you be in favour of paying for parking, if the income was going towards upkeep of the Storr site and other local projects?

There were 129 answers to this question. 89 people (68.9%) said yes, 32 residents (24.8%) said no while 8 people said don't know, which was 6.2%.



Comments

"YES"

- During main season Easter to Oct, Xmas.
- Tell it on the [interpretation] board.
- Yes, but donation like NT [National Trust] carpark.
- Any parking fee may dissuade people from parking safely. They will park on verges/forest entrances etc. Thus making current situation more dangerous."

"NO"

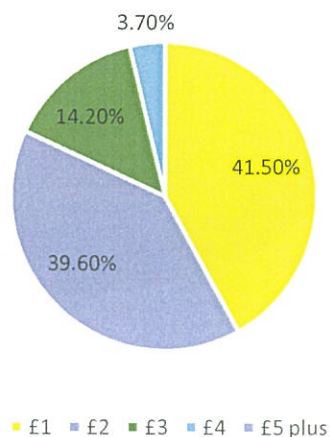
- If you put a charge they will park at other dangerous places.
- Parking charges will require a parking attendant(s) full time, collection of monies or risk of breaking into boxes, encourage irresponsible parking out of chargeable areas.
- Where else are you charged to park at a beauty spot?

Q6. What do you think would be a fair parking fee?

This question was answered by 106 people.

The two most popular answers were £1, selected by 44 people (41.5%) and £2, picked by 42 (39.6%) residents.

What do you think would be a fair pricing fee?



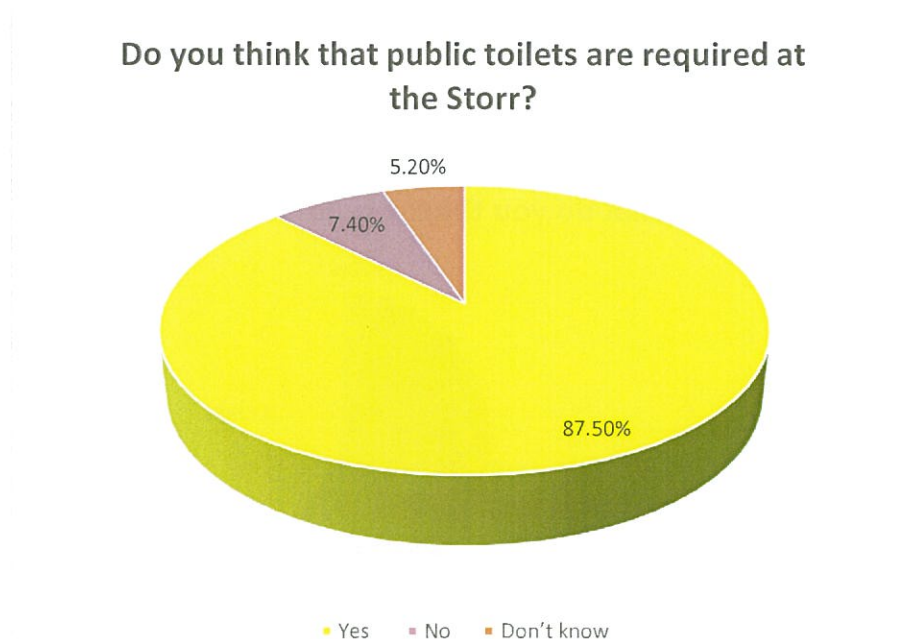
Outcome: a £2.00 fee would be fair.

Other Comments

- If people have to pay they may choose to park elsewhere and obstruct local traffic.
- None.
- Nominal amount, no more than £1.
- I think a reasonable parking fee would be in the region of £2 to £3. Too high would put people off.
- The parking should be free to discourage tourists from parking inappropriately.
- Important to keep low as many backpackers and if too high people go elsewhere.
- £ for buses
- More for buses. Locals park free
- No charge
- Depends on time limits.
- Free.
- £0 but would not object to a voluntary contribution box.
- £1 motorcycles, £5 mini-buses.
- Per hour.

Q7. Do you think that public toilets are required at the Storr?

This question was answered by 136 Staffin residents/businesses. 119 residents said yes, 87.5%. There were 10 people who said no (7.4%) and 7 people replied, don't know (5.2%).



Outcome: Public toilets are required at the Storr.

Sample Comments (all comments in response to toilets published in appendix).

“YES”

- This is a basic human need! Surely we cannot promote the area and not provide toilets!
- Visitors are crying out for toilets in area, it is a massive problem and ridiculous that Highland Council does not provide facilities in the area, especially in an economy reliant on visitors.
- Yes, as there are no public facilities between Portree and Staffin. The amount of people that visit Storr warrants these facilities. Also it is not very nice to see people urinating at the side of the road which currently happens!
- 90,000 visitors did not all make it to the top and back without answering the call of nature! Toilets are needed for hygiene reasons.
- Reduce human excrement/ tissues in local environs.
- Sick of seeing tourists squatting on the site.
- The lack of public toilets on a regular basis between Staffin and Uig or Kilmuir is a total disgrace in this day and age.

“NO”

- I don't think we should turn our beauty spots into circuses. People come for the wildness of Skye and expect to rough it
- Should have kept the ones that they had and not to demolish them.
- Building would damage look of the site.
- Not public toilets but private toilets with a fee payable and appropriate signage.
- This is a natural area and too much infrastructure would spoil the approach.
- Have never seen people using the wild as the toilet. Toilet will attract buses to stop and let people use it without walking up.

PART 3 – INFORMATION

Q8. If you feel that information about Staffin should be included at the Storr, what do you think would be of most benefit to visitors and local people?

COMMENTS

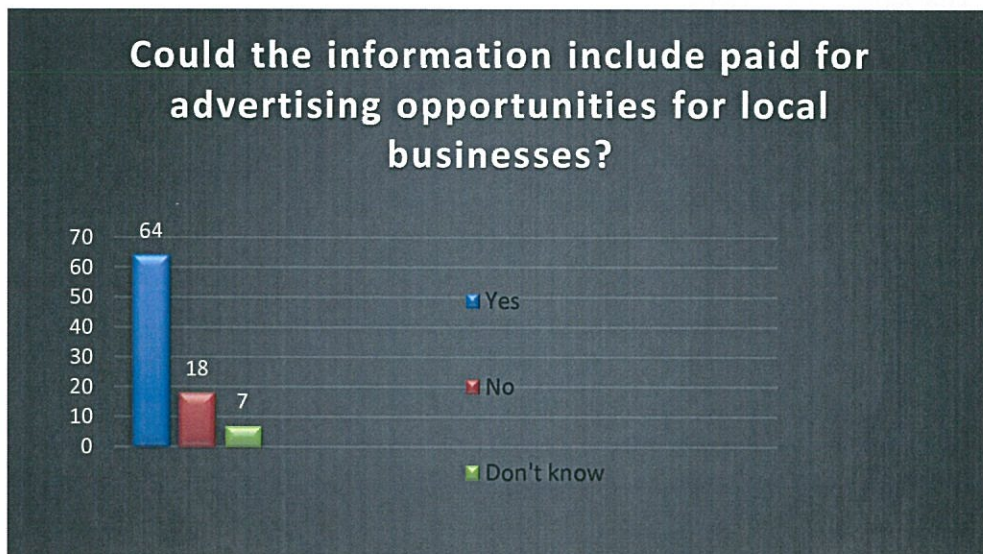
- Telling people what local attractions there are.
- Where to buy accommodation, maps - people always get lost looking for the beach/Columba 1400
- No information, leave the place as natural as possible.
- Services, walks, environment, history, photographs
- Advertising
- Shop, cash machine, fuel, cafes, museum
- Services, facilities, local craft outlets etc. Map of the area highlighting places of local interest.
- A few pictures of the area, mention the walks, and tell them this is the last toilet on a Sunday round the north end till Uig.

- Information about café/restaurants/craft shops and sites of interest, i.e., viewpoints, museums
- Places of interest, food businesses, shops/gift places, B&Bs/hotels
- Just cafes and shops and a few circular wall descriptions.
- As much as possible, we should market our area better.
- B&Bs, cafes and restaurants, boat trips, fishing, shops, walkways, crofting life of area.
- I think there is enough info re Storr at bottom already.
- Opening hours, distances to places, access, history of Staffin.
- Eateries north of the Storr, walks nearby, history of area i.e., salmon fishing, station at Lealt, WW2 plane crash Beinn Edra, films that have been made using Skye as "the set."
- Information on facilities (refreshments, crafts, accommodation, beach etc.) Some explanation of geology.
- History, culture and tourist attractions, hotels, B&Bs, restaurants.
- Known history, culture and walks in the area.
- Local places to eat and drink. Local businesses - crafts, arts, photography.
- Places to eat, shops, accommodation, other places of interest to see and do.
- Archaeology, history, local viewpoints and visitor attractions. Accommodation and restaurants and shops
- Availability of local refreshments and shops - also toilets.
- Places to eat, drink and sleep. Also other pieces of interest to visit within the Staffin area.
- Businesses available in Staffin and opening times! To avoid unnecessary traffic going to cafes when they are closed.
- Nearest pub/hotel. If you've climbed up and back you need a pint!
- Bus timetable/taxi phone numbers, local businesses opening/closing times, other attractions, e.g., museum, other walks etc.
- Places of interest, food businesses, shops/gift places, B&Bs/hotels
- Geology, history, eco-museum, wildlife to spot, cafes, restaurants, B&Bs etc.
- Facilities, e.g., restaurants, cafes, shops, local services, hotels and historical information re events/geology.
- Walking routes, geology, other visitor attractions, places to eat and other local businesses.
- Shops, places to eat and other visitor attractions.
- Walks, attractions, shops, café/restaurants, fishing areas, B&Bs, hotels
- Appropriate hut with a guide and any leaflets enclosed rather than being blown everywhere. Maybe a volunteer role?
- All heritage, natural and tourist opportunities, especially for walkers.
- Yes, a tourist information hut where a person or persons are available. Picture map with distances for places of interest, including petrol stations. Picture info, explaining the use of passing places.
- Information on local shops, cafes and things to do map with times and distances between sites. Geology information on Storr and Trotternish.

- Café and B&B information.
- Opportunity for local businesses to advertise, local facilities, community events.
- Information board
- Historical info about the area, information about local businesses.
- Advertise B&BS, shops, fuel, hotel, bunk house, Quiraing, Staffin Slip and Sands, fossils etc.
- Info about shops, B&Bs, walking, fishing etc
-

Q9. Could this include paid for advertising opportunities for local businesses?

This follow on question was answered by 89 people. 64 residents agreed that there should be advertising opportunities, which was 71.9% of the respondents. There were 18 residents who replied no (20.2%) while 7 said they didn't know.



Outcome: Local advertising opportunities should be made available

Comments

“YES”

- If the costs could be little, or none, preferably yes. Low cost board/info one-off payment rather than leaflets etc.
- Definitely
- I don't think the car park should become a commercial enterprise. A local volunteer to control the noticeboards should be sufficient
- This would have to be dealt with in conjunction with ALL businesses and not have some riding on the coat tails of others
- Optional
- That would help to deliver income
- Very good idea

- Possibly B&B etc. But the advertising would only be of use to visitor and tourist related services.
- Definitely worth consideration for local businesses
- Yes, but only small local businesses.
- Yes, why not, this may result in an increase in their businesses.
- Local businesses, e.g., hotels/B&Bs, profit-making entities should pay some form of advertising if they wish to be featured.
- Cafes, restaurants and visitor centres could use this platform for additional advertising
- Not sure if small seasonal businesses could afford this.
- Yes, this is a good idea.
- Maybe for private car hire - taxis, bus time table - eateries, B&Bs
- Not sure if many of Staffin businesses could afford to pay much.
- Yes, for a small fee.
- I think this is a good idea
- Definitely.
- Only if it's done tastefully.
- Why not, a good idea.
- Absolutely.
- Yes, could be beneficial to them.
- Yes, maybe, but expect reluctance of local businesses to pay.
- Possibly if professionally produced/designed board with small adverts or place to put adverts but not a pin board or similar which would look untidy/unprofessional.
- The same notice board on the other side should be available for local businesses to have a limited space for advertising, which should be free of charge.
- Why not?
- If proportionally sized to unbiased information/factual information.
- Yes, but low cost.

“NO”

- Probably not, I would prefer equality of opportunity with space made available for businesses to use free of charge.
- It could get very messy

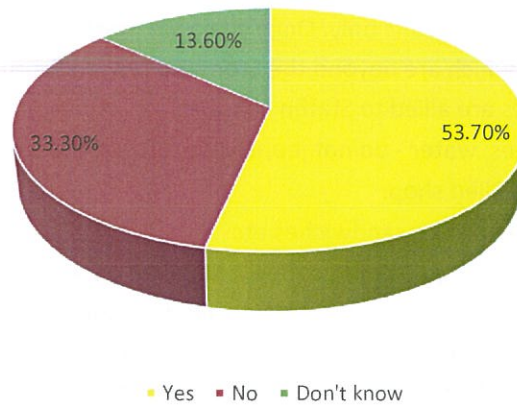
PART 4 – REFRESHMENTS

Q11. Should there be a refreshments kiosk at the Storr car park?

This question was answered by 132 residents and 71 said yes (53.7%), 44 respondents said no (33.3%) while 18 said they didn't know (13.5%).

The pie chart below shows the responses and there was a comprehensive comments section which is also published.

Should there be a refreshments kiosk at the Storr?



Comments

"YES"

- Soft drinks only - not a huge building - maybe kiosk type.
- Hot and cold drinks, soup, sandwiches, cakes, biscuits.
- Teas, coffee, cold snacks (one has to consider other local outlets for tea, coffee and food).
- Tea, coffee, water, fruit juices, sandwiches and snacks - not a burger van!
- But only supplying minimum refreshments, i.e., water/juices and snacks. It should not compete with existing businesses in Staffin - to encourage visitors to visit Staffin.
- Well I'd think that would be discussed later on by the members themselves, but no alcohol.
- Simple but good and not overpriced. Teas/coffees, confectionary bought by Walkers, sandwiches (fresh), local cakes, pies warmed up, energy drinks, water.
- No alcohol
- Cafeteria-style fare, tea, coffee etc., lunch snacks.
- Drinks, sandwiches, soups.
- Water, light snacks, midge repellent, sweets, crisps etc.
- Basic food, drinks and snacks. Healthy, to warm cold walkers up.
- Limited refreshments to prevent local business in Staffin being affected, e.g., small selections, drinks, bars, crisps, local books, maps, midge hoods, walking supplies.
- Soft drinks, snacks, coffees, fruits, healthy options and any locally produced items (non-food also). Also opportunity to increase marketing re "key rings" magnets, post cards, pens etc. with Storr/Staffin marketing.
- Cold drinks and cold snacks.
- Snacks and soft drinks.
- Needs to be larger scale than a kiosk.
- Teas, coffees, soft drinks, light bites etc. Outlet for local crafts, photos, painting etc.
- Vending machine, not another manky-looking caravan selling burgers. Will need rubbish bins, bin men take extended breaks in car parks, could be emptied then.

- Teas, coffees, drinks - quality though, not just urn/kettle instant. Soup, snacks.
- Teas and coffees and sandwiches.
- Teas, coffee, soft drinks.
- Tea and coffee and biscuits only. Once again we must not jeopardise ongoing businesses in Staffin, all of which are beyond the Storr and rely on Trotternish loop traffic. Two of these businesses are allied to Staffin charities.
- Only teas, coffees, water - do not jeopardise cafes in the community.
- Tea, coffee, roll-filled shop.
- Teas, coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches etc.
- Basic provisions such as tea and coffee, chocolate bars etc. Would not support the sale of perishable goods (sandwiches, bacon rolls etc.) due to potential waste and cost, as well as potentially taking away trade from the places to eat in the village.
- Basic hot foods in busy summertime: teas and coffees, cold drinks and confectionary.
- Soup, tea, coffee, sandwiches, juices, ice cream, burgers, chips etc.
- Soft drinks, teas, coffees, sandwiches, crafts, Scottish souvenirs, post cards, novelties etc.
- Needs to be larger scale than a kiosk.

"NO"

- We want them to come to Staffin to spend money there.
- If they got refreshments there they may not bother to continue the journey north.
- Already a bit further north a variety of cafes. Most good quality. No need for "roadside healthy option" here!
- There would be the likelihood of litter and there is more than adequate facilities for refreshment in and around the Staffin area.
- Over commercialisation.
- Keep site simple.
- It is a relatively unspoilt area and any development should reflect that. Refreshments at the Storr would detract from the revenue of businesses further north and this would not be beneficial for the Staffin area.
- No because it will take business away from the local shops.
- If they require food/drink they should travel up to Staffin/Kilmuir and use the local businesses.
- There are already several good facilities for this in the Staffin area.
- The area provides numerous opportunities now for food and drink. Litter at the Storr would be tragic as would the sight of yet another caravan selling burgers. Bins would overflow/be blown away as they are at Staffin Bay.
- Might take away from other local businesses.
- It would spoil the place.
- Need to keep tourists coming north to already set up cafes - already a lot and need to make a good income in summer, especially ones with families.
- I think the wildness and easy access is part of what makes it good.
- Litter and people should be encouraged to use existing local businesses

- Detrimental effect on businesses providing this service to the north of the Storr. Plenty of local shops/cafes etc in Portree and Staffin that already provide this service.
- There are already local cafes whose businesses would suffer.
- Visitors should be encouraged to explore more of the north end where refreshments are already available not many miles north from the Storr.

Outcome: There is majority support for a refreshment kiosk at the Storr

Q12: If you answered “Yes” please tell us what sort of goods might be sold?

Comments

- Healthier snacks and drinks, appropriate food for hiking - sandwiches, flapjacks, and hot drinks for dreich days. Hopefully not another junk food van!
- Tea/coffee sandwiches and possibly hot snacks and cold drinks, crisps etc.
- Basic hot and cold drinks, snacks, local produce, products from Staffin businesses eg, Wee Quilter, the candleshop in Staffin
- This would be a modest provision - why not something a little more ambitious?
Outcome - more employment and benefits

Q13: If you answered “No” please tell us why.

Comments

- Visitors are less likely to travel on to Staffin or eat in Staffin cafes. Possibly be more rubbish left.
- Area is a natural beauty spot and should be left as natural as possible.
- Toilets and car park a necessity but refreshments not essential. People come to walk and enjoy views not eat.
- More buildings will take away from environment and views
- Worried about litter problem, side of road and ditches full of empty bottles, cans etc.
- I feel selling drinks, food etc. may add to the problems of litter and lack of toilets at sites further along the road.
- There are sufficient facilities to the south - Portree and to north in Staffin. It would be detrimental to existing services which serve local community very well.

Q14: Are there any other comments you would like to make about the potential improvements at the Storr and SCT’s proposed involvement?

- The present site is a major road accident risk and improvement is long overdue.
- This potentially could be a game changer, not just for Staffin, but the Isle of Skye's visitor experience. A well-managed site with sensitively sited buildings and regular income for the community. Very positive!

- Urgently needed, do not spend years discussing plans, get on with it. Portree Harbour improvements discussed 30 years ago - place is still a tip!
- Excited at the opportunities this will bring to the local community. Very welcome!
- Make sure any development is of high quality and well managed.
- Any improvement to parking (getting white lines in layby would help) would be a benefit. If you charge too much for car parking people will park elsewhere for free.
- improvements need to be made to ensure safety of visitors and locals which is now severely compromised due to high visitor numbers. Slow signs - speed restricting should be in force i.e. 40mph at this area. Toilets are a necessity given number of visitors
- How will you ensure that the community retain involvement after the initial excitement?
- Better safety info to advise walkers of hill conditions and reduce mountain rescue call-outs.
- The Storr site is obviously a huge attraction and is crying out to be developed. The income potential has got to be good and is a great opportunity. It is the obvious place for a heritage centre with all the facilities, restaurant/café, toilets, small gift shop.
- The Storr site should be maintained as natural and wild as possible. Any intervention should be done as sympathetically as possible.
- Consideration [could be given] to a joint centre in Staffin to promote Storr, Quiraing, Staffin Bay etc.
- I would be very interested in knowing how the Staffin community will be involved in an on-going way in the Storr initiative. To support toilet provision donations at the information kiosk or the toilets themselves could be promoted and any hotels/restaurants/B&Bs, other businesses charged for advertising. Sponsorship from Scottish businesses generally and Rabbies Timberbush specifically.
- Forestry Commission centres such as the Bennachie Centre near Aviemore have got toilets and an information building. They have pay and display parking £1 for an hour, £2 for three hours and £3 for all day. We could take guidance from their expertise.
- Parking is desperately needed - it is a matter of urgency. This must be the Trust's priority. The toilet is secondary, a small charge could be requested - but I would suggest this be on an "honesty" basis - I don't think it's fair for people to be denied entry because they don't have a 20 pence piece in their possession! A basic kiosk, which would/could employ a local person who would also have the duty of maintaining the toilets, would be welcome. A "visitor centre", as we've seen mentioned in the media, is something I would have to oppose for various reasons, including reducing trade in the Staffin village.
- There is no need to build an off-road car park and to charge for it. If there is a charge for it, it will have to be manned and those who do not want to pay will simply park on the road verges for no charge, adding to the problems, as they have done in the past. Because of the type of ground where I imagine you are going to put the parking it will require major rock infill and will be expensive. The parking area newly constructed is pretty big and can hold a lot of vehicles. If an increase in car parking is required it would be better to build another car parking strip on the other side of the road of the same measurement as the present one. Properly delineated with the whole area properly

sign-posted and with a speed limit of 30mph advertised on the road, the motorist being given plenty of warning. Possibly one or two zebra crossings as well.

- It is essential to control this 'hotspot' via SCT otherwise any benefits will go to Portree
- Improvements are long overdue and I wish similar could be proposed for the Bealach, Quiraing.
- Parking should be limited, to prevent people parking all day and wandering elsewhere.
- What is being suggested is enough
- Just parking, toilets and better info regarding the area. The toilets should be eco friendly. If you need to charge then charge for the toilets. If charging for car park who will police it? Any profit would go to paying someone. SCT should not be involved. It should be managed either by the Council or forestry commission.
- just a decent car park.
- Parking must be stopped on seaward side of the road - very dangerous. Design of building correct in scale, materials and should blend in with surroundings.
- If Staffin is getting involved then I think you should split the money between the Storr & the Quiraing which is more in need of car parking as it is dangerous in the tourist season.
- Telescope - coin operated and viewpoint with engraved map telling you what you are looking at i.e. mountain names in Wester Ross.
- Storr itself is reason for visiting area.
- Definitely a larger car park with cars kept away from the road, bollards or barriers on verges with more signs and keep left signs for foreign drivers.
- Make it as good as possible
- Nature lovers visit Trotternish, don't disturb this natural environment
- When is the native woodland to be replanted to replace the conifers that were felled - still very ugly.
- Can we please have a mountain bike friendly track/trails?
- A visitor centre/toilets/café etc would be a huge success - hence large carpark would be necessary. Any attempt to charge for parking may encourage people to park on road instead
- If SCT are to be involved then Staffin must benefit from that involvement
- With good stewardship, creating local employment, providing services with continued upkeep of the Storr site would attract more and more visitors to the area. Parking - no parking signs in place outside of the car park
- More signage to guide people where to park. Every time I go past people stop straight away instead Something needs doing as its very dangerous just now. Public Park anywhere and wonder about in the road. How there hasn't been an accident is a miracle of moving along to find the empty spaces further up.
- Any opportunity to develop the ecology of the area should be taken as this project should be done in sensitive and sustainable way. Volunteering should be encouraged.
- A well designed, low visual impact visitor centre with ample parking, toilets, visitor info, first aid facilities, possible refreshments and information for visitors (as opposed to a burger van and billboard in the car park) would be fantastic
- Bins - there needs to be several and empties regularly. Toilet block could be built in current small car park - this would minimise impact on landscape and views. Path could

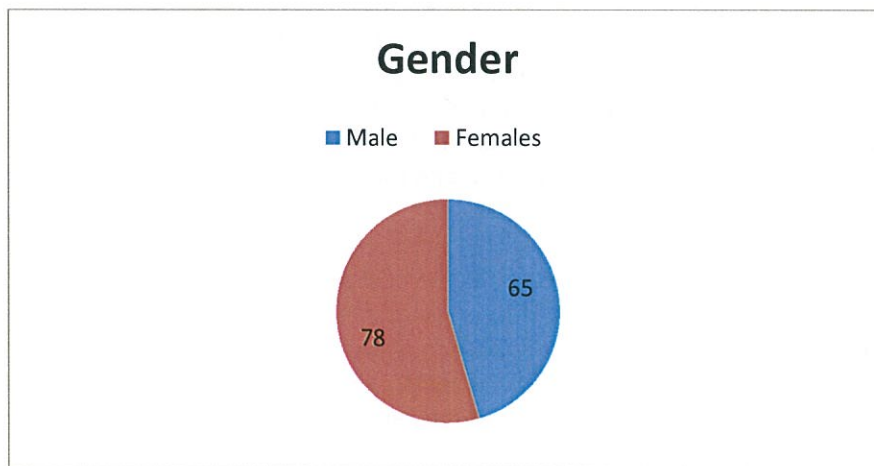
lead down from carpark (off road/through deer fence). No parking on Storr Loch side (f/h side of road going to Staffin), because people crossing road particularly getting off coaches is very dangerous.

- Keep parking to one side only, have place for camper vans to park (in another area). Charge them more for overnight or general usage.
- Real opportunity to develop the site as a real tourist experience. Lots of potential to develop to benefit the whole community and bring additional income.
- We need to think big for parking, separate places for buses.
- If all this goes ahead, at least two [people] would need to be employed.
- Any improvement would add to the welcoming feel of Staffin for tourist and locals.
- Consideration needs to be given towards the increased likelihood off motorhomes parking overnight. Perhaps introduce a height barrier on the new car park so it is used only by cars and make the motorhomes park at the side of the road in the current car park which is present at the moment.
- Mountain Rescue Team input in regards to safety on the hill to prevent unnecessary call-outs, i.e., suitable clothing and footwear, maps etc.
- The efforts at the Storr should be focussed on providing a safe and sanitary experience for visitors and providing them with a memorable visit enhanced by aforementioned information about flora, fauna, geology and history. This information should focus on the cultural heritage of the Trotternish Peninsula with its tenacious hold on local traditions of crofting, fishing, Gaelic speaking... Care must be taken that whatever is considered it is in keeping with the traditional structures of the highlands and should be as natural as possible, thatch or grass roof (!!) with consideration given also to sustainability re power generation etc. etc. Think of e.g. www.stay-hebrides.com There is no place for an "Aros" type centre at the gateway to Trotternish and Staffin. Sticks of rock and tourist trinkets should remain in Portree. Whatever is built should not be visible from the South End of Storr Lochs where thousands of these same visitors stop to take the "Iconic" picture of the "Old Man". That is another place sadly in need of a larger viewing point. There is a danger that a large parking area with toilets will turn into a surrogate camping facility for campervans and "wild" campers. It must be made clear that overnight is not allowed. Are enforcement options available re local Bye Laws etc. Skye in general is well behind the eight ball in the facilities it offers ever increasing visitor numbers with respect to camping and toilets. This makes life for the locals in areas of heavy visit sometimes quite unpleasant when considering the unsanitary fouling that takes place in so many areas adjacent to houses where there has been no provision for toilet facilities. Visitor information whether at Storr but perhaps more particularly at Portree should explain succinctly; 1) the actual definition of "wild camping" with reference to the Code 2) provide advice to the "urban camper" about how to correctly "do the toilet" in the wild. 3) camping next to a public road and near habitations does not constitute wild camping! Also to help the more inexperienced driver on single track roads the Road Traffic Act could be explained with respect to ; 1) passing places and their use, 2) impeding local traffic going about its normal business, ambulance, fire brigade, police and everyone else 3) consideration of same re parking at the side of a single track road 4) pulling off the road between passing places into the closest peat bog is not acceptable and does not aid the Roads Department maintain our roads with an

ever diminishing budget. Information sometimes has to be given as an instruction, as to expected behaviour and has been managed well in countries such as New Zealand, Australia and Canada etc etc who have huge visitor numbers. In those same countries wild camping has essentially the same definition, so for Skye this means unless e.g. you are walking the Trotternish Ridge or in the Cuillin there is no such thing as wild camping. Fines are imposed on those ignoring this advice/requirement. This would help the local camping sites/facilities. What about tour buses making this stop on their circuit....no coffee, no shop, no reason to stop. If the Staffin Trust is serious about dealing with the huge visitor numbers there should also be a public toilet facility in Staffin itself. Nobody knows about the Community Hall which in itself is inadequate. A facility in keeping with 2015, perhaps self-cleaning...lots of options. There is a lot to learn in Scotland about large visitor numbers and their impact on the environment. There are very clear dangers of destroying the very natural beauty that is bringing the visitors in the first place. We need to take control and protect our naturally beautiful environment. The "Old Man of Storr" sells himself.

PART 5 – DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Gender



Age

There were 138 responses to this question. 11 were in the 25-34 age bracket, the same number came from the 35-44 category, 35 in the 45-54 group, 36 in the 55-64 group and 45 in the 65-plus.

That is shown in percentage terms in the table below.

25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-plus
11 (8.1%)	11 (8.1%)	35 (25.7%)	36 (26.5%)	45 (33.1%)

Business owners – There were 126 responses to this question and 32 of the total owned or managed local businesses.

CONCLUSION

The response to the Staffin Community Trust's Old Man of Storr public consultation was hugely encouraging and we wish to thank everyone who participated.

The level of response rate, at almost 55%, was testament to the community's engagement and the high levels of interest in the Storr project. Having the directors and the SCT LDO discuss the project on doorsteps with members of the community while delivering the surveys undoubtedly encouraged residents and business owners to ensure their views were made known. The response gives weight to the merits of the consultation and provides confidence to SCT, partner agencies and potential funders that the community supports improvements at the site.

The most important question in the survey was whether the community would support SCT managing or purchasing all, or part of the Storr site. That response will shape whether there was indeed a community project which had support at the Storr. More than 85% of the responders said "Yes" to that question and that hopefully gives SCT a mandate to progress its plans and aspirations at the Storr, and seek Highland Council co-operation and support.

That majority support was replicated in all of the key issues SCT put to the community in the survey which included a new main car park, parking charges, toilets, interpretation, advertising and a potential refreshment kiosk/information point. The Staffin community appears mindful of the Storr site's current limitations and is looking at the bigger picture of the visitor experience in Trotternish and the island, as the huge number of comments offered by local people demonstrates.

The issue of whether public toilets could be built at the site prompted colourful and emotive responses from the community. The survey seemed cathartic for a lot of residents who wanted to make their thoughts public so that the authorities are fully aware of the issue and local peoples' concerns. Anecdotally, in recent years there were alarming reports of visitors using the area as an outdoor toilet and the issue has sparked major public hygiene concerns in the community.

SCT acknowledges the community's concerns about how a building could be constructed sensitively at the location. SCT is fiercely proud of its track record of promoting and caring for Staffin's natural environment, which is littered with top tier heritage designations, and would be looking for a building which would complement the unique setting. The SCT board has also noted community concerns about the potential for unsafe parking in the area, if parking charges were introduced, and will investigate how that challenge may be alleviated.

Q11 had asked if there was local support for a refreshment kiosk/information point at the Storr.

More than half (53.7%) of the responders said "Yes" to the kiosk question which gives SCT confidence to progress plans for the community's benefit. There was some opposition to the proposal and SCT accepts it is a sensitive issue. This is an important area for SCT as securing funding and maintaining toilets would be costly, and it is the board's view that some type of

commercial operation would have to be established so that an income can be generated to meet those overheads, create local employment and a regular income for SCT's projects in Staffin.

The community support for SCT's aspirations at the Storr, which is the gateway to Staffin, is gratifying as it looks to play a leading role in improving the site - not just for the Trotternish peninsula but the wider Skye economy.

The SCT was set up more than 20 years ago to support the Staffin community through economic activity. Staffin was the only district in Skye and Lochalsh to register a population decline in the 1991 Census. As an Account Managed community organisation, working closely with HIE, SCT is determined to create jobs and opportunities for people in Staffin and the Storr project is hugely important in that objective.

The Storr is a fantastic location and SCT, working with the key stakeholders, wants to do everything possible to make it one of the best visitor destinations in Scotland.

The information from this report will be used to shape SCT's next steps on the project and subsequent talks with Highland Council and other stakeholders. The report will be available at www.staffin-trust.co.uk and copies can be e-mailed directly if you contact SCT's development officer Hugh Ross on staffin.ido@gmail.com or 01470 562 464. Hardcopies can also be made available on request.

SCT is seeking to establish a project timetable which it will share with the community as soon as possible.

APPENDIX

The Storr survey which was distributed to the community



www.staffin-trust.co.uk

STAFFIN COMMUNITY TRUST: THE STORR

The Old Man of Storr is a hugely popular and world renowned visitor attraction and a key economic, social and cultural gateway to Staffin. More than 90,000 people visited the Storr last year and an estimated 70% of that total continued north to Staffin. Those visitor numbers are increasing every year.

The Storr is *crucial* to Staffin's economy in supporting tourism and local businesses such as shops, cafes, B&Bs, self-catering accommodation and gift outlets.

The Staffin Community Trust (SCT) has been engaged in positive discussions with Highland Council - which owns land at the Storr - about improving the visitor experience at the site. This could involve a new car park, toilets and kiosk/tourist information. SCT is investigating the purchase or lease of part of the land for the community benefit of Staffin. SCT believes this is a fantastic opportunity for the community to have direct involvement at the site, potentially creating local employment and marketing Staffin and its businesses far more strongly.

The SCT believes it is well placed and has the expertise to deliver, in partnership with The Highland Council and others, a ground-breaking project and create significant and regular income for SCT to meet its sustainability targets with funds used for additional community projects in Staffin. The SCT is keen to consult with the Staffin community on its plans and gauge support and local people's views. SCT has prepared an anonymous questionnaire, with input from Highland Council, which is enclosed. Please take the time to complete the form and return it in the stamped addressed envelope provided. SCT is a representative community organisation and is eager that all local residents make their views known. If you know of someone who has not received a copy of the questionnaire, please contact Hugh Ross on 01470 562 464 or e-mail staffin.ido@gmail.com. The deadline for responses is **Friday, November 27, 2015.**

Staffin Community Trust
Church of Scotland annexe
Staffin
IV51 9JX

The Old Man of Storr:

Staffin Community Survey Questionnaire

November 2015

All information is confidential and no names or addresses are required.

Please tick the answer which applies.

PART 1 – OUTLINE PROPOSAL OPINION

1. On a scale of 1 - 5, with 1 of no importance to 5 of high importance, please rate the following potential improvements:

Amenities	1	2	3	4	5
A larger main car park off the main road					
Toilets					
Information about Staffin businesses, facilities and services					
Improved or additional interpretation of geology, history and wildlife					
Refreshments to purchase to support costs of toilet provision					
Additional safety signage to help drivers and slow down traffic					
Bus stop with appropriate shelter					
Other					

2. Would you support the Staffin Community Trust potentially managing and/or purchasing all or part of the Storr site? Please provide a reason(s) for your answer.

<p>Yes</p>

No

PART 2 – PARKING AND TOILETS

3. Do you think that parking is a problem at the Storr as things stand?

Yes

No

Don't Know

4. Would you support parking charges at the Storr?

Yes

No

Don't Know

5. Would you be in favour of paying for parking, if the income was going towards upkeep of the Storr site and other local projects?

Yes

No

Don't Know

6. What do you think would be a fair parking fee?

£1

£2

£3

£4

£5 or more

7. Do you think that public toilets are required at the Storr?

Yes No Don't Know

i) If yes, please explain why

--

ii) If no, please explain why

--

PART 3 – INFORMATION

8. If you feel that information about Staffin should be included at the Storr, what sort of information do you think would be of most benefit to visitors and local people?

--

9. Could this include paid advertising opportunities for local businesses?

--

PART 4 – REFRESHMENTS

11. Should there be a refreshments kiosk at the Storr car park?

Yes

No

Don't Know

12. If you answered 'Yes' please tell us what sort of goods might be sold?

--

13. If you answered 'No' please tell us why.

--

14. Are there any other comments you would like to make about the potential improvements at the Storr and SCT's proposed involvement?

--

PART 5 – DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

AGE	Under-16	16 -24	25 -34	35 -44
	45 – 54	55 –64	65 plus	

GENDER M F

Do you own or manage a business in Staffin? Yes No

PART 6 – Community Council

The new Staffin Community Council will be formed in December. How could it improve communication with the community and ensure local people are kept informed?

--

Thank you for completing the questionnaire – please now return it in the SAE provided.

All Comments for Q7 – Do you think that public toilets are required at the Storr?

“YES”

- This is a basic human need! Surely we cannot promote the area and not provide toilets!
 - No obvious toilets north of Portree
 - Long overdue - should be opening more toilets not closing them.
 - Yes, as there are no public facilities between Portree and Staffin. The amount of people that visit Storr warrants these facilities. Also it is not very nice to see people urinating at the side of the road which currently happens!
 - Because of the "visible evidence" around the Storr area and Staffin included - also feel that an appropriate charge for use of toilets would be acceptable to cover costs!
 - With the large volume of visitors, toilets are long overdue.
 - To keep visitors coming back to Skye. Facilities should be provided for their comfort and well-being (coin operated could be considered).
 - Because there are no public toilets till you get to Staffin.
 - As the ones in Staffin have been knocked down and ones at Hall are shut at Sundays. Each year since we've lived here we've had tourists call in and ask to use ours!
 - 90,000 visitors did not all make it to the top and back without answering the call of nature! Toilets are needed for hygiene reasons.
 - Especially on a Sunday!! If you had charges for toilets that would cover the costs.
 - Nearest toilets are in Portree. When visitors come off the hill we want them to continue on to Staffin and not feel the urgency to find the closest facility and return to Portree.
 - The numbers of people that visit say it all, if there are no toilets they will use the countryside.
 - Because there are no public toilets between Portree and Staffin and the ones in Staffin are not open seven days a week and evenings in the winter time/not even open on Sundays.
 - With the number of people calling at the Storr I think it's only decent and proper to have toilets. How do they cope with Ben Nevis and other viewing places? I would like to find out.
 - For people being able to relieve themselves and being safe for the environment.
 - Reduce human excrement/ tissues in local environs.
 - For walkers etc. to relieve themselves rather than behind a tree/vehicle. However, a balance needs to be struck to prevent this and a car park turning into an official/overnight camping spot. If payment is levied for parking then we must expect some people not to pay, unless you have someone there to collect the fee and that people will park on the main road/verge to avoid paying.
 - There is a desperate shortage of public toilets in north Skye...and a lot of desperate people.
 - Toilets are a basic provision at any busy tourist attraction. Urgently required!
 - Sick of seeing tourists squatting on the site.
 - To provide a clean and safe environment.

- On busy summer days when the parking can already be difficult and dangerous, the provision of a proper off the road car park with toilets would be an essential for an increasingly well recognised, world famous landmark.
- There are no public conveniences between Portree and Staffin. Already a problem exists with people urinating at the side of the road.
- So the tourists aren't going to the loo in public and private spaces which is a regular occurrence.
- Currently there is very little provision in the North End and visitors consequently go to the "toilet" outdoors, at the side of pathways.
- So many people - pressure goes to local businesses with small septic tanks to cope.
- Basic facility which should be provided, in particular if looking to develop and improve the position as a real tourist site.
- There is a lack of public toilets in Trotternish and as the Storr is very popular it would seem sensible to have facilities there.
- The absence of public amenities between Portree and Uig via Staffin.
- Lack of facilities between Portree and Staffin. If visitor numbers given are current then I am sure a % would need to use facilities.
- Civilised to allow people to defecate these days in a public toilet rather than on verges, gardens, grazing land.
- Toilet provision is limited in Trotternish, especially on Sundays.
- Because it is civilised for people to be able to use a public toilet in the Staffin area on a Sunday rather than using the roadways, gardens, graveyards.
- At present there are no toilet facilities outside Portree and local cafes close in winter making this a problem for local communities where people are relieving themselves in gardens.
- Currently no public toilets in area, although could create more parking/road problems if people just stop to use those features.
- Toilets are well needed in any area where tourists are, especially in isolated places like the Storr.
- Long walk up to Old Man of Storr, people need toilet by the time they get back to the car. Also, have seen tourists urinating at site.
- To stop people doing their business where they shouldn't.
- The lack of public toilets on a regular basis between Staffin and Uig or Kilmuir is a total disgrace in this day and age.
- Yes. No toilets between Staffin and Portree. Lessen mess found everywhere.
- Don't think this needs an explanation.
- If no toilets are provided where tourists are expected to go!
- Quality toilets should be built and kept open during the season from about Easter until October. They should be manned from 0800 until 1900, cleaned as necessary. A charge of 30p should be made for using them. This will cover maintenance and manning etc. They should be locked overnight and closed in the off-season. On present estimates this could bring in 15,000 GBP.
- It's a long walk out from any other facility.

- 1. For public health 2. They would be an essential part of a self-supporting café/car park arrangement.
- There are no toilets from Portree to Kilmuir, there needs to be toilets somewhere?
- Public toilets are few and far in the North End.
- There is a lack of toilets in the North End currently which, with the tourist volumes, is a disgrace!
- Visitors need toilet facilities after walking the Old Man of Storr.
- The numbers of people visiting the Storr are increasing year-on-year; basic provisions for public toilets are needed. The nearest toilets are either in Portree or Staffin, both of which are a fair distance.
- Is the alternative acceptable in a civilised society?
- Visitors are crying out for toilets in area, it is a massive problem and ridiculous that Highland Council does not provide facilities in the area, especially in an economy reliant on visitors.
- The products of defecation in public are not a pretty sight!
- I think toilets are a must for the site, especially during the busy summer months. Too many times I've seen tourists standing urinating and even squatting beside the road. It's a basic necessity.
- No toilet facilities between Portree and Staffin.
- It is a long distance between Portree and the nearest public toilets (by car)
- The time to reach the Storr ascend and return to car park is significant.
- this is definitely essential as the number of tourists that climb the Storr. Where is there for them to go???
- As long as the building was in keeping with the landscape - maybe eco toilet? Given the high visitor numbers toilets are a necessity.
- I don't think it requires an answer - it is an absolute necessity.
- Because there aren't any.
- No facilities for miles around.
- To prevent people using forest! Health/hygiene. People will stay longer possibly and drive on to Staffin.
- They are absolutely essential, so many visitors to the area.
- In the interest of hygiene a much needed facility in the area for the vast number of visitors to the area.
- Visitors using surrounding forestry at present (and asking to use residents' home facilities).
- Due to the significant amount of visitors, most of which are at the site for many hours or all day then toilet facilities are a must.
- It is very sad that no toilets are in Staffin for visitors.
- That's easy; on a weekday the nearest toilet coming towards Staffin is in the community hall, on a Sunday Uig. In this day and age that's primitive or maybe people should not travel on a Sunday.
- Although I haven't witnessed anything myself, I have seen reports of people urinating in at the site. It would also be beneficial to the community to have additional toilets on the journey to Staffin.

- There are no toilets for public use apart from at the shop, which is not sign posted!! It is a must, people could spend 2-3 hours at the Storr and a toilet should be available.
- No toilets between Storr and Portree or Staffin and Portree, nothing at all on Sundays. People camp overnight and there are no facilities. I have often seen people urinating in the mornings on my way to work.
- Where else to go?
- It is an essential part of a visitor experience. Especially those with children.
- No other public facilities on Portree to Uig (via Staffin) Road.
- Toilets are required at a place as busy as the Old Man of Storr and more since the trees have been removed.
- Public hygiene.
- I understand a great deal of human waste is contaminating the Storr.
- The lack of toilet facilities in the area and the number of people visiting.
- Considering the number of visitors to the site provision must be made for toilets to prevent the fouling of the land, or at least minimise the impact. If Skye wants to take advantage of increasing visitor numbers it needs to provide appropriate facilities in more areas than the Storr. How many public toilets will a visitor encounter travelling from Portree to Uig via Kilmuir (?) not nearly enough!
- It might stop them s***** up the Cuithir Road and elsewhere.
- Absolutely essential, considering the numbers visiting.
- As a must for visitors.
- People seem to be desperate by the time they come to Staffin - even been known to knock on doors to get a toilet. No toilet in Staffin once Columba 1400 and Kilmartin shut. Sometimes Tote forest and Staffin slipway can resemble a latrine with smell and toilet paper at certain places.
- Skye is encouraging ever increasing numbers of visitors; we need to provide suitable facilities for them.
- But needed in other locations especially needed north end on summer Sundays
- There is a lack of public toilets in the area already
- Necessary amenity
- Tourists are nowhere near any toilet if they up to the Storr. Therefore we need to provide a facility or the site will end up as outdoor toilet. What about dry compost toilets? No huge installation required and maintenance is easy. Tourists love being environmentally friendly.
- More public toilets are needed all over Skye not just Storr.
- Stop them c***** in the forest.
- Hygiene!!
- There is a dire lack of facilities between Portree and the north end. There would be an outcry if this was typical of other popular locations in Scotland
- To stop fouling of the countryside.
- Lack of facilities between Portree and Staffin and beyond.
- Due to number of visitors and the limited public facilities, more public toilets would be welcomed.
- To stop people using surrounding area

- Because of the numbers of visitors and to make this a quality destination
- Very inconvenient not having facilities nearby.
- With so many people visiting the Storr it is a basic necessity even on environment health grounds
- Lack of public toilets between Portree and Uig via Storr
- Public toilet facilities on the island as a whole are a joke.
- Because there are no other facilities close by.
- There are no local facilities.
- If you have to go - where!! I have not only seen poo. I have also seen it happen. Actually felt embarrassed.
- Public urinating at the side of the road is not what I want to see when going to work.
- Extremely long way to go - before one could "go" Just stating the obvious.
- The nearest toilets after Storr is Staffin community hall.
- But mostly because there are no others, not necessarily at the Storr.
- Obvious reasons.

"NO"

- Expense of building and maintaining
 - As stated in your second paragraph of your letter "The Storr is crucial to Staffin's economy in supporting tourism and local businesses...." if there are toilets and or a kiosk at the Storr the need for tourists to stop in Staffin is reduced - this does not meet your objective. In addition, toilets need maintained. This will require staff and managing. I don't think Staffin trust should be taking on these responsibilities
 - I don't think we should turn our beauty spots into circuses. People come for the wildness of Skye and expect to rough it
 - Should have kept the ones that they had and not to demolish them.
 - Building would damage look of the site.
 - Not public toilets but private toilets with a fee payable and appropriate signage.
 - This is a natural area and too much infrastructure would spoil the approach.
 - Have never seen people using the wild as the toilet. Toilet will attract buses to stop and let people use it without walking up.
 - No restaurant nearby, so no need,

"DON'T KNOW"

- People can stop off in Staffin or Portree - there aren't toilets on many/all of the hiking routes around Skye, it isn't expected and would be costly to maintain.
- At the Quiraing, not the Storr.
- Nice to have but not vital.

VisitScotland submission



"VisitScotland is hugely supportive of the work undertaken by Staffin Community Trust and we would certainly like to support and endorse your next application for funding to the Heritage Lottery fund. It is the outstanding beauty of the Natural Environment that is the principal reason why visitors choose to come to Skye and the landscape of the Trotternish Peninsula is particularly appealing.

The work of Staffin Community Trust in helping our visitors access this landscape through sensitively constructed footpaths and effective and imaginative Interpretation is very welcomed by VisitScotland. The rich heritage of Skye is another significant reason for visitors to choose Skye as a holiday destination and again the work of Staffin Community Trust on Heritage based activity has been most welcome."

Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland, Regional Partnerships Director, 20.11.15



SKYE MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM SCIO

Police Station, Somerled Square, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9EH

Web: www.skyemrt.org | www.justgiving.com/ismrt Email: info@skyemrt.org

Scottish Charity – Number SC038386

Hugh Ross
Local Development Officer
Staffin Community Trust
Church of Scotland Annexe
Staffin
Isle of Skye
17th Nov 2015

Dear Hugh

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on access and parking for Skye MRT at the Storr. As you know we conduct several rescues a year in that area at the request of Police Scotland. Usually we have 3 or 4 team vehicles in attendance, plus possibly a police car and an ambulance. The space we currently have access to, at the start of the locked forest road, is absolutely ideal for this number of vehicles. Team members arriving in their own vehicles just have to park where they can in the road side parking.

In any future re-development, it would be essential to have a similar area free at all times for emergency services vehicles, if not in a reserved area, then inside a restricted area as at present.

As you also may have seen, helicopters deploying team members or handing casualties over to the ambulance, often land on the road with police officers stopping traffic to create a landing space. Therefore a flat landing area, free of nearby trees and overhead obstructions such as power lines, and close to the parking area, would be very desirable, but we understand if this is not possible.

If you wish to arrange a meeting to discuss this further, you can contact me on the number or e-mail below. Please direct any official correspondence to the address on the letterhead.

Yours sincerely

Neil Urquhart
Deputy Team Leader
Skye Mountain Rescue
07748838713
ciach@btconnect.com

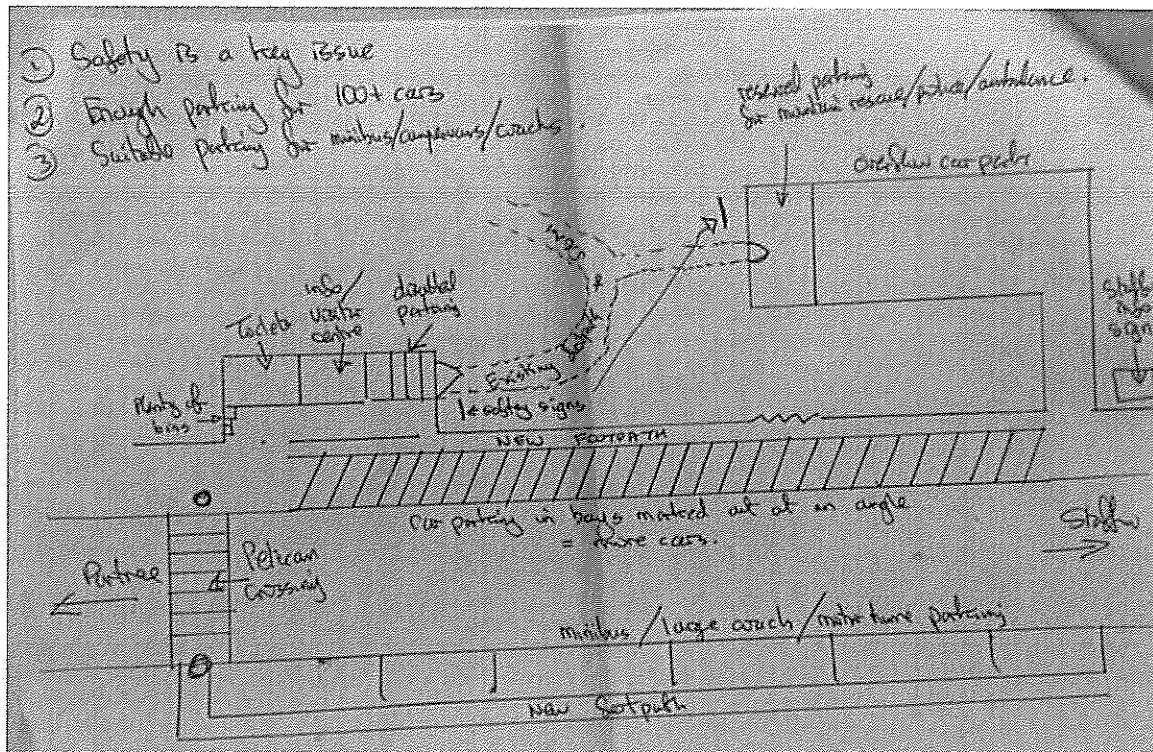
Team Leader:
Geoff Ainslie
Stad Lev
Glenorchy
Isle of Skye IV51 9TA
Tel: 01478 840289
Email: info@skyemrt.org

Chairman:
Richard McIlroy
1 Matheson Place
Portree
Isle of Skye IV51 9JA
Tel: 01478 832182
Email: chair@skyemrt.org

Secretary:
Gill Macdonald
11 Elm Cottage
Carnoustie, Dundee
Isle of Skye IV51 9ST
Tel: 01478 840211
Email: secretary@skyemrt.org

Treasurer:
Maurice Adams
11a Main
Carnoustie, Dundee
Isle of Skye IV51 9ST
Tel: 01478 840289
Email: treasurer@skyemrt.org

Submission from Skye Mountain Rescue Team.



Suggested layout of site, as submitted by local resident.

