



**A report for Dunvegan Community Trust SCIO  
Findings of community survey  
August 2023**

**1. Introduction**

Dunvegan Community Trust SCIO (DCT), with support from the Scottish Government’s Just Enterprise programme, has carried out a community survey to assess levels of support for community purchase of the Gaeltec Building in Dunvegan and redeveloping it as a community-owned building.

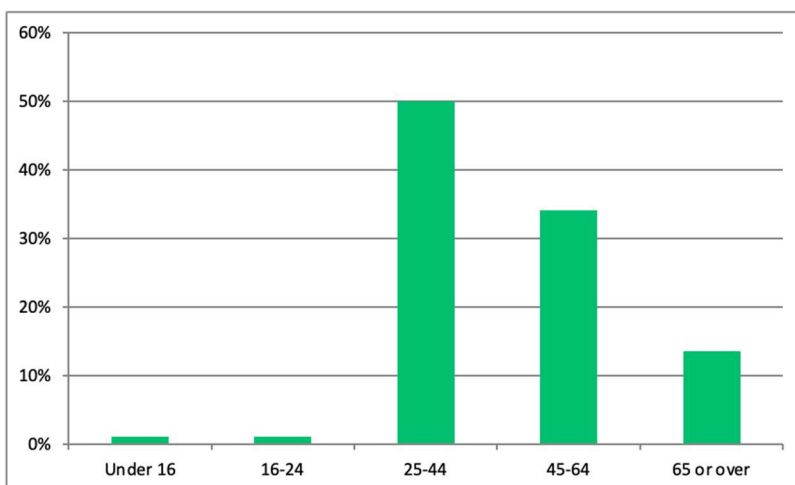
The survey also sought to gather ideas for how the building might be used and, in a wider way, find out what other facilities local people felt the community would benefit from in the future.

The purpose of the survey is to help DCT assess the feasibility of community purchase and the business case.

**2. Methodology**

The survey was carried out online between 8-28 August, and included a mix of closed and open questions. It attracted 88 responses, which is around 14% of the population (total population, 622: 2011 Census).

The age profile (Q14) of respondents is shown below:



Although the survey didn’t get a high response from the under 24 year-olds, the bulk of the responses (50%) were from people aged 25-44 which is very encouraging. Often in surveys of this type response levels are more common in the higher age groups.

The survey was aimed at people living within the DCT catchment area which covers Dunvegan and the surrounding townships of Harlosh, Feorlig, Vatten, Roag, Herebost, Orbost, Horneval, Greep, Claigan and Uiginish.

### Place of residence

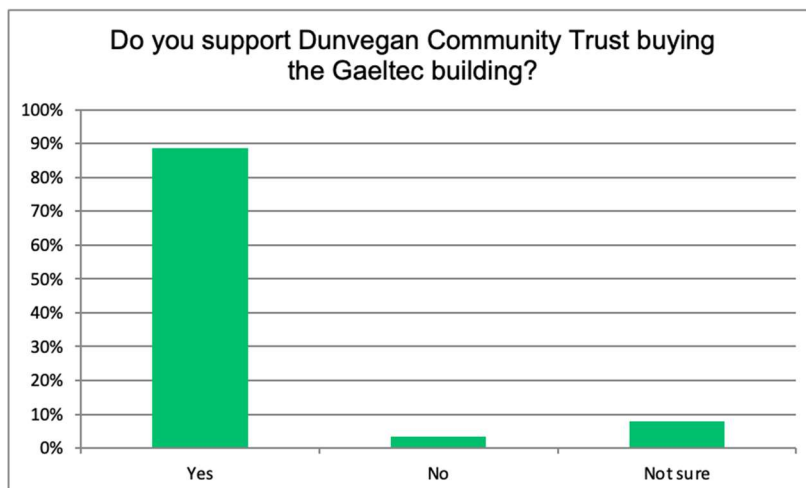
Place of residence	% response
Dunvegan	40%
Feorlig	5%
Vatten	6%
Roag	8%
Herebost	1%
Orbost	2%
Greep	0%
Horneval	0%
Claigan	0%
Uiginish	1%
Harlosh	22%
Other (please specify)	16%

Areas marked 'other' drew responses from: Lonmore, Colbost, Hallin, Struan, Ullinish, Sconser, Waternish, Portree, Glendale (5), Borraeig.

Given the range of ages and places of residence of the responses, and the good response rate, DCT can feel confident that the results give a good cross section of the views of the local community.

### 3. Key findings

There is strong support from the survey for the purchase by DCT of the Gaeltec building as evidenced by Q1, which shows almost 90% of respondents were in favour of the purchase.



**Q2 Which of the following potential uses of the Gaeltec building are you most supportive of?**

The top three preferred uses of the building are:

Gym (77 respondents support this)

Child play area (54 respondents support this)

Arts/crafts space (36 respondents support this)

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community gym	79.55%	70
Child play area	61.36%	54
Office space for local businesses	30.68%	27
Desks in a shared work space	34.09%	30
Affordable housing/flats	34.09%	30
Arts/crafts space	40.91%	36
Coin operated laundrette	27.27%	24
Shower and toilet facilities for tourists	27.27%	24
Artists'/musicians'/makers' space	39.77%	35
Total Respondents: 88		

**Q3 If you answered 'not supportive' to any of the options please tell us why.**

14 people answered this question with more than half – 8 – expressing concerns about the suggestion in Q2 for additional shower and toilet facilities for tourists:

*'We already have new homes planned and we don't need more facilities for tourism'*

*'All the above could be great but feel if there is an area catering for tourists/a laundrette this should be separate from other areas to avoid the space feeling like it's super hectic/loud'.*

*'Worried about there being toilets and showers for tourists as that could lead to the place being overtaken by tourists.'*

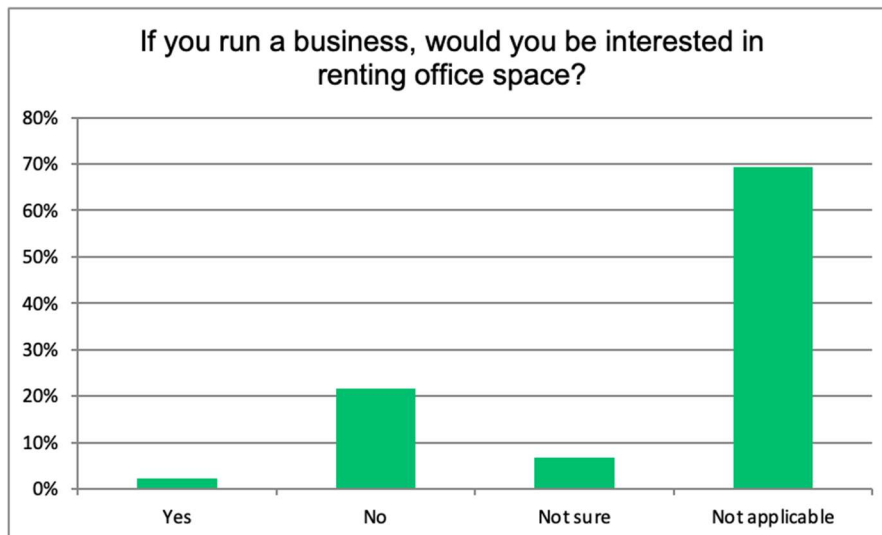
Other views included:

Affordable housing – economically it would cost too much to convert the building.

I feel the community hall should be the hub of the village.

#### Q4 If you run a business would you be interested in renting office space?

Most respondents said this was not applicable to them – almost 70%. And only a very small number of those for whom it was applicable said they would be interested in renting an office space. While this doesn't mean that offices would not be used if they were provided (you only need one or two people that want one for it to work, depending on how much space is developed for an office), it just means there isn't an overwhelming demand at present.



Q5 asked people to provide their contact details if they had replied 'yes' to Q4 so DCT could keep them updated on progress. These details have been provided to DCT separately.

For those that answered they would be interested in an office space (2), a further question asked what kind of facilities and services they would need DCT to provide for their business.

2 people provided answers to this question:

- Private secure office for 3 – 4 desks, meeting space, communal service kitchen and toilets
- Holistic therapy space

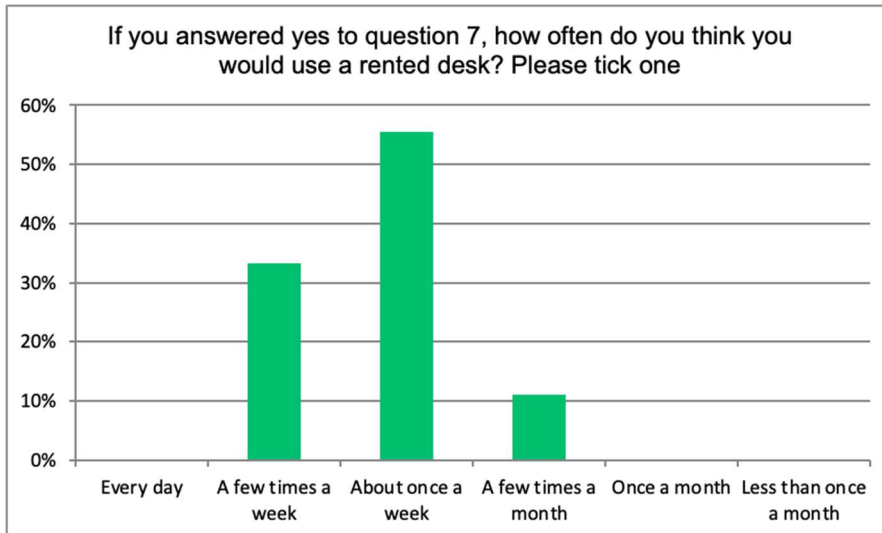
There was some clear demand for the ability to hire a desk in a shared workspace, however.

#### Q7 Would you be interested in renting a desk in a shared workspace?

Yes 9  
No 79

#### Q8 If you answered 'yes' to Q7 how often do you think you would use a rented desk?

Of those that would be interested, most (over 50%) were interested in a once a week rental, or a couple of times a week. Nobody was interested in renting a desk daily.



**Q10 Do you have any other comments you would like to share with us about the Gaeltec building?**

36 people provided comments to this question.

- The views expressed were generally mixed but with a small element of commonality around not using the building to provide facilities for tourism and some specific comments relating to potential parking limitations.
- There were 3 specific comments supporting using the building for a community gym

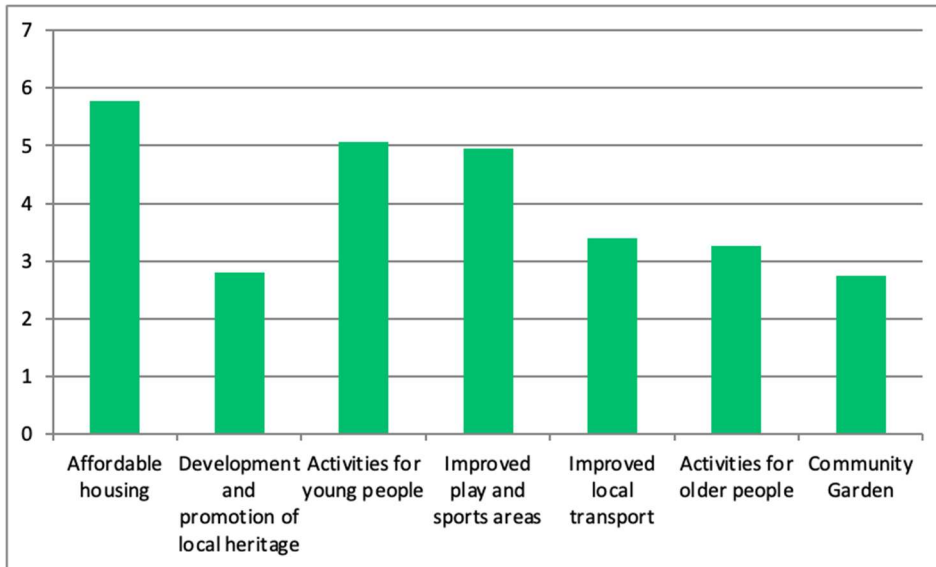
Other comments included:

*'I think purchasing the site and making best use of it for the community is a great idea'*

*'The idea of using a vacant building in the village is a great one but the Gaeltec building is a little out the way.'*

*'Please not another café/craft centre'.*

**Q11 Thinking more widely, what other facilities and services do you think the Dunvegan Community Council area needs in the next few years? Please rank in order of priority with 1 being the most important and 7 being the least important.**



Affordable housing was clearly identified as lacking in the area, closely followed by activities for young people and improved play and sports areas. The development and promotion of local heritage was given lowest priority.

#### **Q12 Is there anything else not listed?**

24 people answered this question. Suggestions – some of which are beyond DCT's remit - included:

- A community-owned pub
- Music venue
- Community e-bike hire
- Mental health support in some form
- Swimming pool
- Bigger car park for the village