

Initial Review Report

North Uist

Uibhist a'Tuath

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SECTION 1 FOREWORD



'The Dùthchas Project is leading the way in Europe in finding new ways to tackle development of remote rural areas to provide a more stable and sustainable future for the people who live and work there. We are working intensively in three communities in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland - North Sutherland, North Uist and Trotternish in Skye. We are fortunate enough to have the support of the EU LIFE Environment Programme, and the support of 21 partner organisations – including most of the key public agencies – not to mention the people of North Uist who have given freely of their time, attending meetings, exhibitions and conferences.

'At the heart of Dùthchas, is the need to involve all those who want to have a say in the future of their area – that means local people and public bodies. The first step along the way has been to carry out an extensive survey of what these people think are the strengths and challenges of their area and, importantly, their ideas for change. In North Uist, this survey gathered the views of 300 people along with those of the public bodies.

'This report marks the culmination of this work and provides the foundation for the next stages of Dùthchas developing local strategies. Too often surveys have been carried out and not carried forward into action. We are determined not to let this happen and already task groups have been set up to get local projects off the ground. But the most important contribution that Dùthchas will make to these areas is to draw up strategies which will map out a development path years into the future – and because these strategies will come from the collective effort of local people and agencies, they will have the commitment to be carried through.

'We feel that it is important that this report contains the views of everyone who contributed to the survey, *in their own words*. For that reason the report is a long one! The following pointers will help you find the information you need at a glance. I hope you find the report as stimulating as I have – testament to the many good and sound ideas in our communities.'

What do you want to know?

Go to...

What is Dùthchas about?
What is the Initial Review about?



SECTION 2

How was the process designed?



SECTION 3

How was the community data gathered?
How was the agency data gathered?



SECTION 4

Key findings from the Initial Review
Analysis of the data



SECTION 5

How sustainable is North Uist?



SECTION 6

What lessons did we learn about the process?



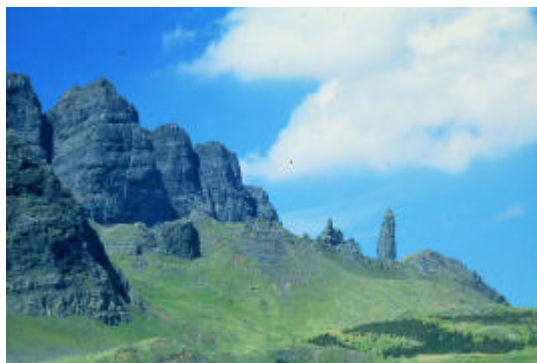
SECTION 7

What raw data was collected?



APPENDICES

2



SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

2.1 Introduction to the Dùthchas Project

The Dùthchas Project is co-funded by the EC LIFE Environment Programme for the period January 1998 - December 2000. It is steered by a Partnership of nineteen public bodies and two NGO networks, and is working with three pilot areas in the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland:

- North Sutherland
- North Trotternish, in Skye
- North Uist and Berneray

The principal aim of Dùthchas is to develop mechanisms for achieving sustainable development within remote rural areas which have both high environmental quality and fragile economies.

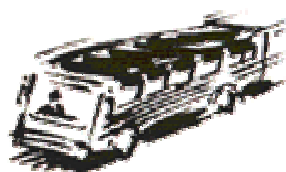


It is doing this by closely involving local people, interest groups and public bodies in identifying the **values** of the area, agreeing a **vision** and **objectives** for its future sustainable development and creating a plan for **co-ordinated action** to achieve this. Support is given for projects that **demonstrate** ways to provide employment and manage natural resources, while respecting and building on local heritage and identity. An **award** system for measuring and rewarding the achievements of an area in relation to its sustainable development is also being designed and piloted.

The Project relates closely to Local Agenda 21, and is a lead project of its kind in Scotland and in Europe. The work is also developing strong trans-national links to similar experiences within Europe.

Dùthchas has the following management structure:

Group	Description
Partnership Group	19 public sector organisations and 2 NGO networks who support and steer the Project
Management Group	A subset of 4 organisations from the Partnership group, who play a more regular management role
Central staff	Project Manager, Project Officer and Administrative Assistant.
Pilot Area Coordinators	Management, coordination and support to the areas. 5 individuals (4 job-sharing), who coordinate the work at a local level.
Pilot Area Advisory Groups	A group set up in each pilot area to support and advise the Project locally. Made up of 50% Partner agency representatives and 50% community representatives.



2.2 The context of the Initial Review

There are 4 phases to the work of the Project:

Phase 1 Introduction and organisation Jan 1998 – Oct 1998

Setting up the project: selection of pilot areas and introduction of project to pilot area communities, establishing Pilot Area Advisory Groups, initial research and project planning, recruitment of staff, establishing offices, developing administrative and financial systems etc.

Phase 2 Initial review October 1998 – April 1999

Gathering evidence and producing a sustainability profile on the current status of each area in relation to sustainable development, establishing visions and ideas for the future of each area.

Phase 3 Strategy development April 1999 – December 2000

Developing a strategy and action plan for the sustainable development of each area.

Phase 4 Demonstration actions September 1999 – December 2000

Undertaking several groundbreaking projects in each area which demonstrate how such areas can become more sustainable.

It is Phase 2, that is the subject of this report.

2.3 Aims, Scope, and Outputs of the Initial Review

2.3.1 The Aims of the Initial Review

- The aims of this stage of the work are to:
- build a good overview of the area and its sustainability
- identify the local priority issues in relation to sustainability
- fully involve communities and agencies in this analysis
- act as a pointer to resources, information, contacts likely to be required by the Project
- raise the profile of the Project in the pilot areas



2.3.2 The Scope of the Initial Review

The Initial Review is not a full scale sustainability assessment but will give a good overview of:

- the area and its environment
- its people and communities
- its economy
- the issues considered most critical to sustainability
- key local initiatives and stakeholders

This Initial Review involves bringing together the information from two parallel processes:

- Community generated information
- Agency generated information



2.3.3 The Outputs of the Initial Review

The Outputs from this stage of the work are:

- A full report of the strengths, challenges and ideas for change for the area, as identified by the community and agencies
- A sustainability profile for the area, documenting baseline data on the key objectives and indicators
- Local priorities identified to lead into the next stage of the work

This is documented in:

- Area exhibitions
- Project Publications: Initial Review report; Sustainability profiles; Area Value Statements; Newsletter; Internet site
- Area GIS (Geographical Information System).



3



SECTION 3

DESIGN OF THE PROCESS

The Dùthchas Project has the commitment of 21 key organisations to take a new, involving approach to development in rural communities. New approaches to community based sustainable development are being developed and adopted around the world. This is because past experiences have shown that local contributions to planning can:

- increase the flexibility of an initiative and its responsiveness to local conditions;
- reduce chances of conflict and developmental and environmental mistakes;
- increase efficient use of resources and effectiveness of initiatives often making the difference between the success and failure of an initiative¹

The Dùthchas Project is based on the premise that the full participation of local people with public authorities will enable the development and implementation of integrated local strategies for sustainable development and achieve measurable social, economic and environmental benefits.²

Initially, two separate but mirroring processes were run – one to identify community views and the other to identify agency views - then to bring these together in a common forum. This was done to allow the views of both communities and agencies equal weight and an equal opportunity for expression.

The design of each of these strands of work is discussed in turn.

3.1 Design of the Initial Review Process at Community Level

Participation in sustainable development at the community level is a process by which local people organize themselves, with varying degrees of outside (or neutral) support so as to apply their skills and knowledge to sustainably manage their natural resources and environment, whilst satisfying their livelihood needs³

An independent organization, Scottish Participatory Initiatives (SPI), was asked to design the participatory methodology for the Initial Review. This was to start the process of fully involving local people in the development of integrated local strategies for sustainable development. The following explains the *raison d'être* for the methodology used to carry out the Initial Review fieldwork stage of the Dùthchas Project.

SPI developed the methodology for the Initial Review field work through the following four steps:

1. assisting the project staff to develop clear, realistic and do-able objectives;
2. designing a participatory process to try to achieve the objectives;
3. modifying and inventing methods and tools which would most effectively facilitate the process;
4. designing and facilitating a training workshop for the local Pilot Area Co-ordinators (PAC) to prepare them to be good facilitators and to provide them with skills and confidence to facilitate the Initial Review participatory process.

¹ Borini, G: Enhancing People's Participation, FAO, Rome 1994

² LIFE application, Dùthchas Partnership Group, 1997

³ Pretty and Sandbrook 1991. "Operationalising sustainable development at the community level: primary environmental care". Paper presented to the DAC working party on development assistance and the environment, OECD, Paris

3.1.1 Developing objectives

Developing realistic and do-able objectives is the first and most important step of methodology development. What needs to be done to carry out the Initial Review fieldwork? The agreed objectives were as follows:

1. to meet with as wide a cross section of people living in each sub area as possible in the time available;
2. to enable these people to identify, analyse and record the following:
 - local initiatives (what, where, who involved);
 - local information and resources (what, where, what needed);
 - local values, issues (what do people like and or dislike about their locality and ideas for improving things in the future);
 - local priority (locally preferred) ideas for the future.
3. to engage positively with local people;
4. to raise realistic expectations;
5. to build trust and rapport;
6. to plan and execute a major publicity and dissemination event in each area at the end of the Initial Review;
7. to monitor and evaluate how well the above objectives have been achieved.

3.1.2 Designing a participatory process

The rationale behind the Initial Review process methodology was based on an understanding of, agreement with and commitment to the following principals:



Inclusive and democratic:

The process was designed to enable the full involvement of a wide cross section of people in each sub area. This was achieved by getting out to where ever people could be found as well as running meetings. The process helped to ensure that there was an equal regard for everybody and all opinions. This was achieved by enabling people to record (onto 'post-its') and map their values (likes and dislikes) and ideas in a non-

confrontational way. This was also achieved by keeping outputs (e.g. exhibitions and reports) as visual and as much in the words and writing of the participants as possible.

In particular the process was designed to involve people who do not normally have the opportunity to be heard or are not inclined to speak in public. There are those people who go to meetings and/or fill in questionnaires and there are those who do not. This process was designed to engage with both sorts of people but especially the latter.

Because the Dùthchas Project has the commitment to take a new approach to development, a more participative democratic approach was carried out. Traditional planning processes often rely upon a representative system, which does not always lead to popular and sustainable initiatives.

Relevant:

The Initial Review fieldwork process was designed to meet specific, achievable fieldwork objectives (see above). In this respect the process cannot be exactly replicated in another situation unless the objectives are the same. It is important to recognise that the precise methods used need to be tailored to the situation.

The process was designed to enable the people involved to gain a positive understanding of the Project and to identify and think about local values, issues and ideas for improving their situation in the future. The outputs of the process were to provide baseline information regarding the social, environmental and economic situations and to identify the local priority issues. This was achieved by using mapping as a tool to enable people to record their opinions in enough detail to keep things specific and real rather than just conceptual and theoretical. This is very important when the aim is to develop plans for a more sustainable future. Getting quality, in-depth information about specific issues and ideas will aid in the development and implementation of relevant sustainable plans and solutions.

Empowering:

The methodology/ process used to achieve the objectives for the Initial Review field work was designed to contribute to social change and sustainable development. It assisted with:

- the collection, consolidation, systematization and presentation of local knowledge, perspectives and preferences thus enhancing their visibility and official validity;
- creating outputs and a pathway for direct communication between a wide cross section of local people and their representatives, policy and decision makers;
- creating the possibility for local people to set the agenda for working towards a more sustainable future;
- starting the process for local stakeholders to assess where they aspire to be regarding the control and or management of local resources;
- starting the process for bringing out local potential, ideas and linkages, realistic solutions, expectations and natural leaders (other than those who usually get involved);
- providing a structured process for participative democratic planning.

3.1.3 Methods and tools

The methodologies used are outlined in detail in section 4.

3.1.4 Training the Pilot Area Coordinators (PACs)

SPI designed and facilitated the process of preparing the PACs with the skills and tools required for carrying out the Initial Review. The successful facilitation of the Initial Review Process was heavily dependent upon the PACs having:

- respect for all local perceptions and ideas;
 - a belief in the capacity of all people to identify, analyze and record information about their locality;
 - an open mind and no pre-conceived solutions or theories;
 - humbleness, confidence and a genuine interest in peoples' right to be heard;
- the skills to prevent those who are used to dominating situations to not have more than an equal say;

- a strategy to monitor who is and who is not having an opportunity to participate;
- an understanding of how to reduce some of the barriers to involvement;
- an understanding of and commitment to keeping all aspects, as well as final reports, as visual and as much in the words and writing of the participants as possible; and
- an understanding and commitment to not use jargon and to use every day language (plain English).

An understanding of these very simple principles was essential for the facilitators to build rapport and trust with the local people about the Project.

3.2 The Agency Process

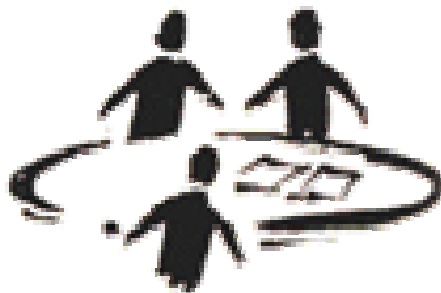
As mentioned above, Dùthchas has at its core the need to bring together community and agency views in a common forum as a basis for integrated area based strategies. 'Agency' refers to those public and non-governmental organisations represented on the Project Partnership. The agency strand of the Initial Review was designed to gain from agencies the same information as communities were asked for. Each agency was asked to give information from its own perspective.

Objectives:

A corresponding set of objectives for the agency strand of the Initial Review process, read as follows:

1. To engage positively with staff from partner agencies;
2. To enable these people to identify, analyse and record the following:
 - Information and resources available to the project;
 - Strengths of the area;
 - Challenges to the area;
 - Ideas for change;
 - Justification for statements;
3. To engage positively with agency staff;
4. To raise realistic expectations;
5. To build trust and rapport;
6. To monitor and evaluate how well the above objectives have been achieved.

The process which was designed to meet these objectives is outlined in section 4.3.



4



SECTION 4

METHODOLOGY

4.1 Overview

There were two strands of work to the Initial Review (see Figure 1):

- Community Process
- Agency Process

These were carried out in parallel, with the findings brought together in an exhibition, in the forum of the Pilot Area Advisory Groups and in several project publications.

Community strand:

The community strand of the work was carried out at a subarea level, as the pilot area was too large to get meaningful participation. The methodology used in each subarea was the same and consisted of the following steps (see figure 2):

- Open meeting
- Out and about
- Exhibitions

The methodology is explained as implemented in the area in section 4.2

Agency strand:

This work was carried out at the pilot area level. The methodology consisted of the following steps:

- Partner workshop
- Postal Questionnaire
- Sustainability Profiles

The methodology is explained in section 4.3

Dissemination of findings:

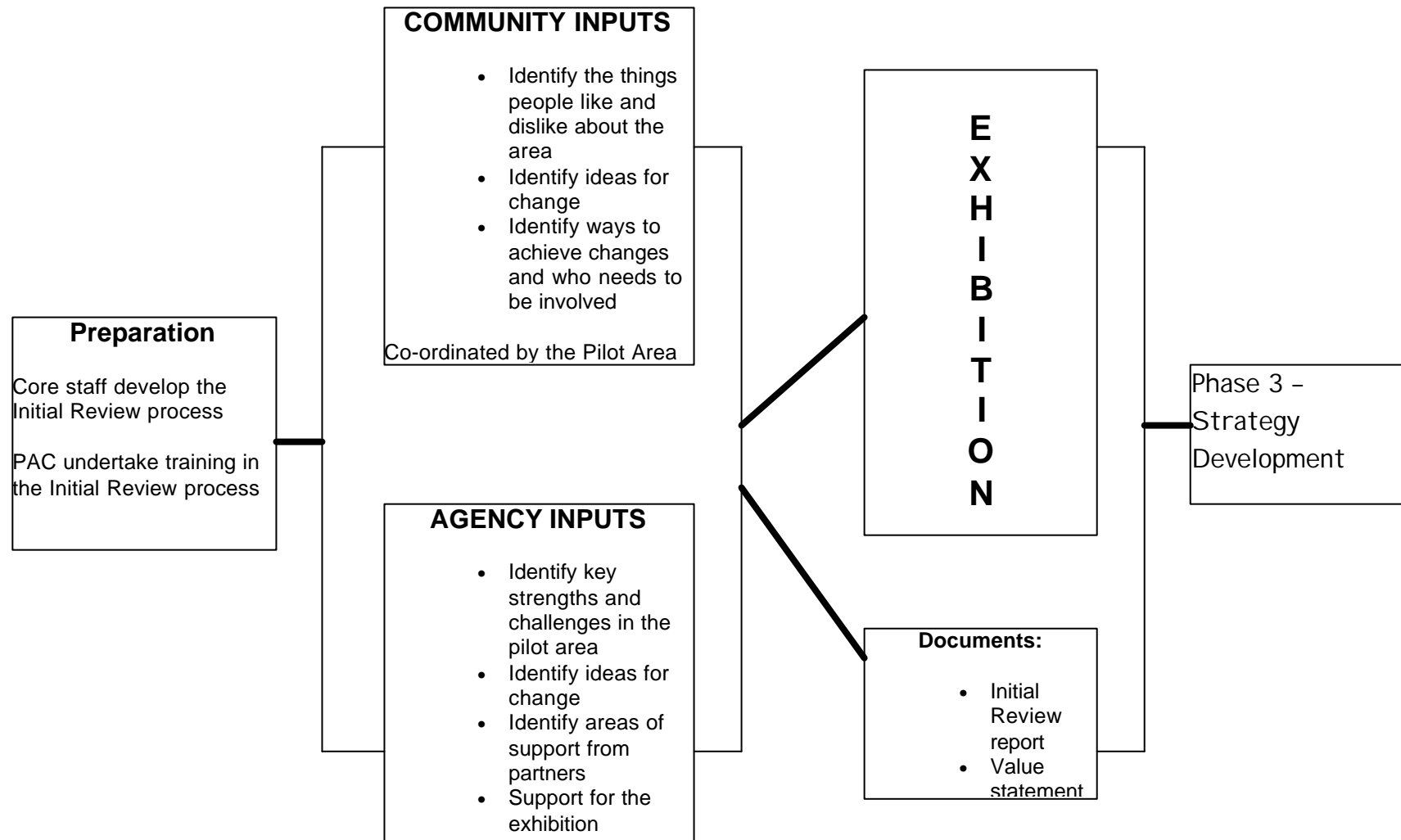
The findings from the Initial Review were disseminated through:

- **Exhibitions** - An exhibition touring the Pilot Area displayed all the findings of the Initial Review and gave people an opportunity to vote for the ideas they felt to be the most important for the future sustainability of the area.

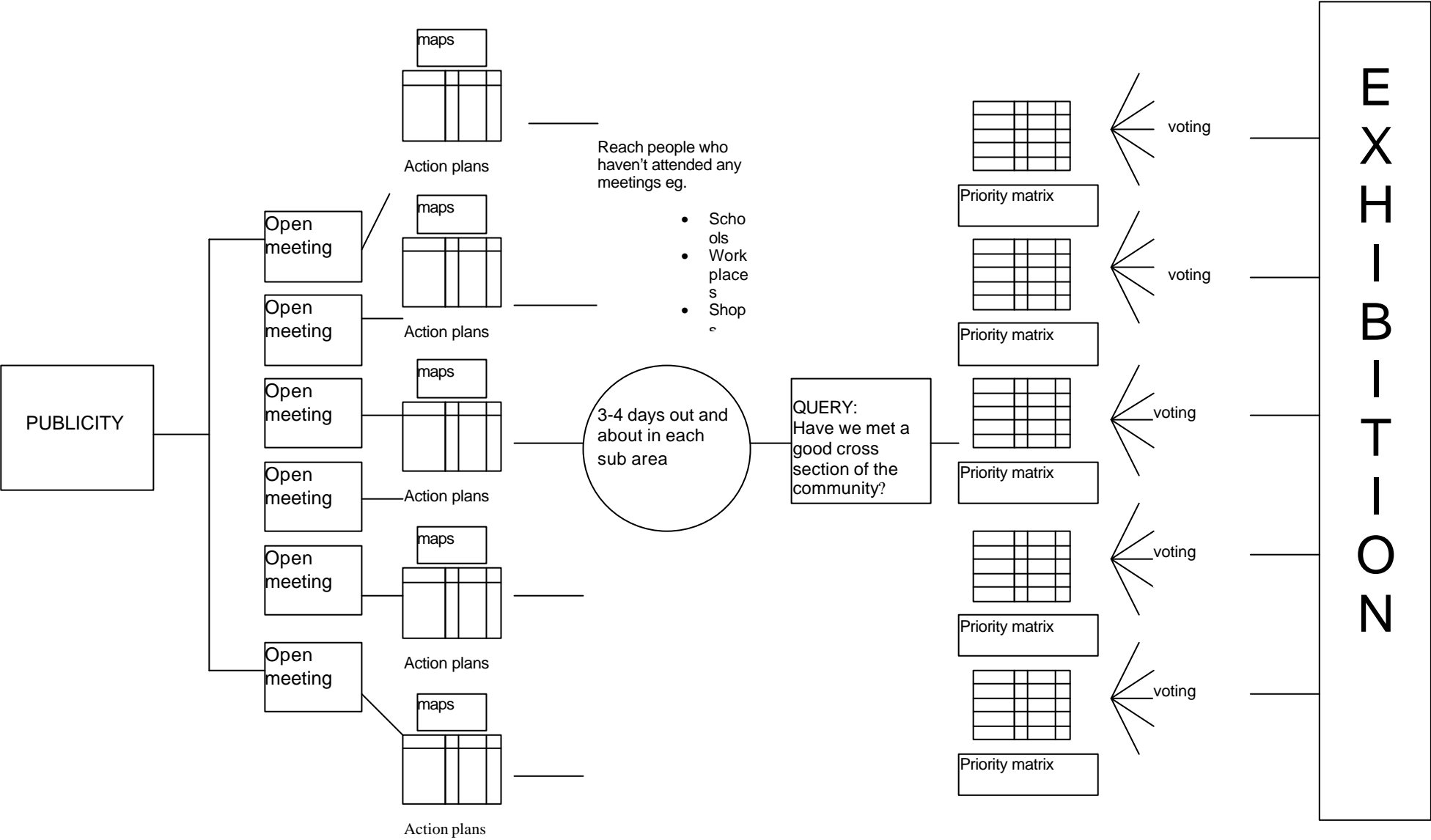


- **Value statement** – a creative statement of what people value about their area. This was distributed to every household, Pilot Area Advisory Groups (PAAG) and Partners and was made available locally through Tourist Information Centres, village halls, shops etc.
- **Newsletter** – documenting the findings of the Initial Review circulated to each household, PAAGs, Partners
- **Internet site**
- **Initial Review Report** – this full report of the Initial Review will be made available to PAAGs, Partners and those developing the Sustainability Strategies
- **Sustainability Profile** – an analysis of the quantitative data relating to the sustainability of each pilot area.

**Fig 1. Overview of Initial Review process
(replicated in each area)**



Initial Review Methodology – Community Strand



4.2 Community Process

In order to execute the community survey process the Pilot Area of North Uist was divided into six sub areas;

- Bayhead and Westside,
- Berneray,
- Carinish and Claddach,
- Grimsay and Kallin,
- Lochmaddy and Newton
- Sollas

To encourage local community involvement in the Initial Review Process a number of participatory mechanisms were implemented. Within each community the work was undertaken in three stages:

- Gathering information
- Confirming and prioritising ideas
- Tracking participants

4.2.1 Gathering information

Open public meetings :

An open meeting was held in each sub area at which any member of the community could contribute through informal facilitated workshops. Three key questions were asked of everyone who attended:



1. What do you Like/ Value about your area?
2. What do you Dislike about your area?
3. What Ideas/Changes do you think need to happen in the future?

Everyone recorded their personal responses to these questions on colour coded post-it notes before discussing their answers with the rest of their group. The post-it notes were then placed on a local map in relation to the issue discussed. Each group was then asked

to choose one idea, which they thought would most benefit the area in the future. They then produced action plans for this idea which specifically addressed why, where, how, whom involved and what information already existed.

Interviews with people in the communities :

To gain a broader range of people's views the facilitator worked within each sub area for a number of days after each open meeting. A door to door survey was carried out alongside interviews in shops, schools and social meeting places, to involve a wide cross-section of the population.

4.2.2 Confirming and prioritising ideas

All the information that was gathered, from both the open meetings and the interviews, was presented to the community at an exhibition held in each sub area. All the ideas which had been gathered were listed on a grid and each member of the community from that sub

area, who attended the exhibition, received ten votes. They placed a vote beside the ideas which they considered would most benefit the area in the future. They could place up to five votes on any one idea.

4.2.3 Tracking participants

Throughout the information gathering process a record was kept of the age range, gender and location of the people participating. At the open meetings participants were asked to plot the location of their home on a local map and the facilitator took a note of each persons' gender and age range. This was done primarily so that the facilitators could make sure that a good cross-section of the individual communities was being interviewed.

4.2.4 Implementation in each area

As shown in the table below, there was a poor response to the open meetings in some sub areas. This required the facilitator to spend more time out and about in that sub area. The table lists the sub areas in the order that meetings and interviews were completed. The last two sub areas were not covered as thoroughly as the period set for the community survey had come to an end. It should also be noted that the sub areas were not the same size.

<i>Sub Area</i>	<i>Open Meeting (No. attended)</i>	<i>Out & About (No. interviewed)</i>	<i>Overall Total</i>
CARINISH	11	59	70
BAYHEAD	2	76	78
SOLLAS	17	32	49
LOCHMADDY	3	47	50
GRIMSAY	2	18	20
BERNERAY	12	17	29
TOTAL	47	249	296

An exhibition of all the information that had been gathered was held in each sub area (Grimsay were included with Carinish, there being no suitable venue in Grimsay). The community could comment on the information gathered and add new ideas. Everyone who attended was asked to vote on the ideas, which they felt would most benefit the area.

<i>Sub Area</i>	<i>Adults Voting</i>	<i>Under 16's voting</i>	<i>Total Voted</i>
Bayhead	19	25	44
Berneray	31	3	34
Carinish	33	30	63
Grimsay	2	9	11
Lochmaddy	19	6	25
Sollas	31	11	42
Total	135	84	219

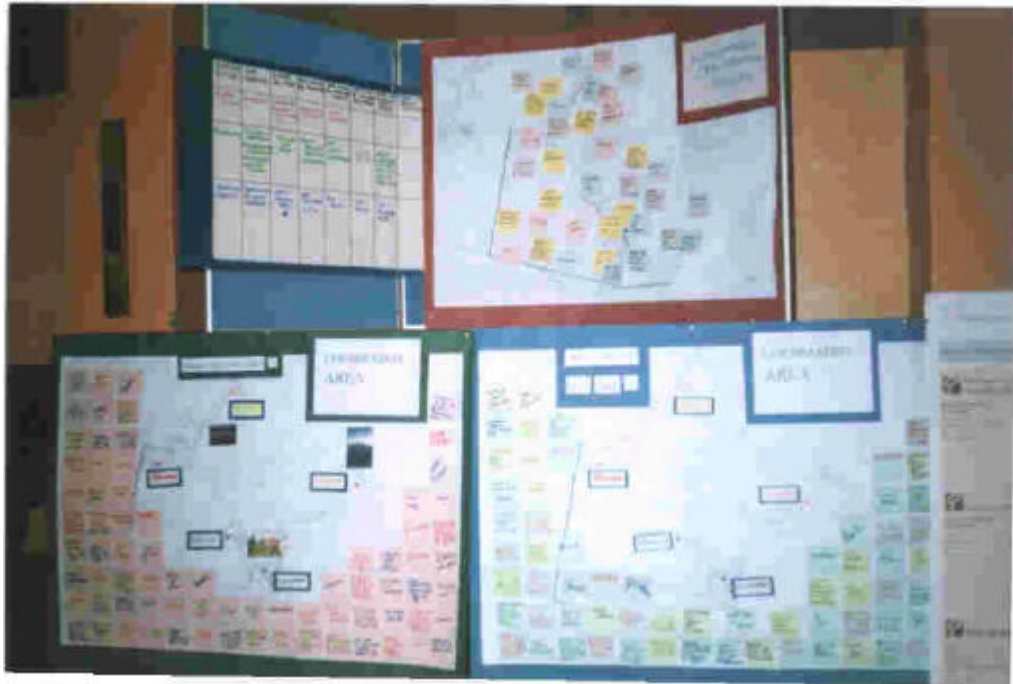
Table : Numbers voting in each sub-area

As can be seen from the above table the response in Grimsay was poor. As this was felt to be unrepresentative of community views, it was decided to mail out the voting sheets to

each household in Grimsay. This gained a response of 51.6% returns, which much better represented the communities views.

The tracking shows that a wide cross section of the population was interviewed or voted in the time available, although if there had been more time it would have been possible to fill in some areas which were more poorly represented.

Please see Appendices 1-6 for detailed information relating to the community survey.



4.3 AGENCY PROCESS

4.3.1 Partner workshop

A half day facilitated workshop was held early on in the Initial Review process to identify how Partners felt they could contribute.

SESSION 1:

Whole group evaluation of objectives for the Initial Review:

The following objectives were agreed:

Key Objective:

To establish a clear "Where are we now?" situation with respect to Area Sustainability within the pilot areas.

Partner Objectives:

- To identify the key strengths and weaknesses and corresponding opportunities and threats to Area Sustainability.
- To identify information gaps.
- To establish Partner visions for the future of the pilot areas.
- To establish priority issues from the review process for future action.

SESSION 2:

Participants were then split into three small workgroups (grouping similar organisations) to identify the inputs they could make to the Initial Review eg. :

- Personnel: Time, guidance and expertise
- Information: Data, strategic documents, research reports etc
- Links and networks

Each workgroup was taken through a facilitated session and worked through the following table:

(example given from Historic Scotland's inputs)

Input	Level	Location	Mechanism	Communication Channel	Timescale
1. Info on archaeological monuments	Local	Council and National	Computer Database	Through Councils	Discuss with Council

This information is available upon request.

4.3.2 Postal Questionnaire

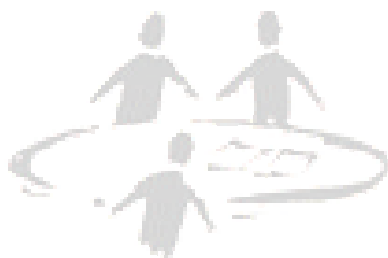
It was important that the information gathered from Partners mirrored the information being gathered at a community level (see section 4.3). This was to enable information from both communities and agencies to be integrated, analysed, and compared.

It was decided to gather information from partners via a postal questionnaire. Each representative on the Partnership Group was asked to co-ordinate the information input from their own organisation – both centrally and locally, to give a balanced picture of the views of their organisation as a whole.

The following guidance was given to Partners:

The information supplied should relate to the sustainability of each Pilot Area from the point of view of your organisation. NB:

- You are only expected to comment on those aspects of the areas which are directly relevant to your organisation's interests, not on the broader issues within the area.
- The level of information should not be detailed, but neither should it be too generalised or superficial.
- Where necessary identify the particular geographical part of the Pilot Area to which this information applies. Include an annotated map if necessary.



The following template was provided for supplying the information:

		Justification	Information to support justification
Strengths	List the particular strengths which your organisation recognises in the pilot area	Against each item listed, briefly state the justification for your organisation's statement	Against each justification list any data sources which could be used to back up your statement, and the location of that data source. <i>NB. Do not list the data itself.</i>
Challenges	List the particular challenges which your organisation recognises in the pilot area	"	"
Proposals for Change	List any proposals or ideas which your organisation would like to put forward for making the area more sustainable.	"	"

Some difficulties were experienced in eliciting this information from Partners and many agencies had to be contacted several times before they supplied the information. The internal links within some organisations (eg. between national and local levels) were also problematic.

Please see Appendices 7, 8, 9 for a spreadsheet of the strengths, challenges and proposals for change. The information relating to justification and information sources is available on request.

5



SECTION 5 SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

5.1 Overview of key points

Likes/ Strengths:

When the community and the agencies were asked what they **valued** most about North Uist there was a tremendous response. Most often mentioned were the **people** who live here, who were seen as friendly and helpful making this a welcoming place. The **close community** was also mentioned and the good spirit which surrounds the place.

Equal second were the **beaches** and surrounding sea and the **peace and quite** of the island. People named all the beaches that were special to them and many mentioned that they liked them because they could walk alone on them. Some of these beaches were Hougharry, Hosta, Baleshare, Sollas, Newton and Berneray.

The **sea** was also important to people and this has recently been internationally recognised with some of the sea around North Uist being designated a **Marine Special Area of Conservation**. Likewise many people valued the **natural environment**, the **scenery** and **landscape**. Particularly appreciated was the view from Carradh, walking to Vallay and Langass trees. Also specially noted was the **machair** land and the rare wild flowers which grow there in the summer and the hundreds of birds which can be seen there e.g. corncrake and lapwings.

Dislikes/ Challenges:

Transportation was obviously a top concern as it was ranked number one of the things that people disliked. It was agreed that the **cost** of transportation, including fuel, freight and ferry/plane fares, was too expensive and put a strain on the islands. The other issue, which arose was the **difficulty** of travelling – single-track, poor quality roads and poor timetabling or connections.

The second ranked challenge to the area was the lack of **recreation** or **sporting facilities**. This includes the lack of playparks, social activities, football pitch and running track.

The lack of **shopping facilities** was the third main dislike along with the lack of choice available, this being caused by lack of competition and high freight charges.

Ideas for change:

The topics for which most ideas were suggested mirrored the main dislikes. These included transportation, recreation facilities, shopping facilities and community facilities.

Under the heading of transportation suggestions included improving the roads and causeways to make them double track, further improvement of public transport, especially for more remote areas, a road equivalent tariff on the ferry and a discount for islanders on the plane.

Recreation and sports facilities had the second highest number of ideas including a swimming pool, cinema, football pitch, running track and drama club.



Shopping facilities were next on the list, with suggestions for more shops, eating places, a hairdresser, a chemist and an MOT station.

Harnessing of local natural resources for productive use was highlighted, with many ideas for the marketing of local produce and the development of industries based on local resources.

5.2 Summary of data for North Uist

An enormous amount of data was collected in the process of the Initial Review

	Likes	Dislikes	Ideas
Trotternish	491	481	766
North Sutherland	512	444	581
North Uist	604	428	452

Table : Number of comments made in the Initial Review

In order to make sense of this data, similar comments needed to be categorised and grouped together. The categories used were derived from going through a sample of the data and grouping similar comments, then naming the group. Firstly, all comments were categorised as either:

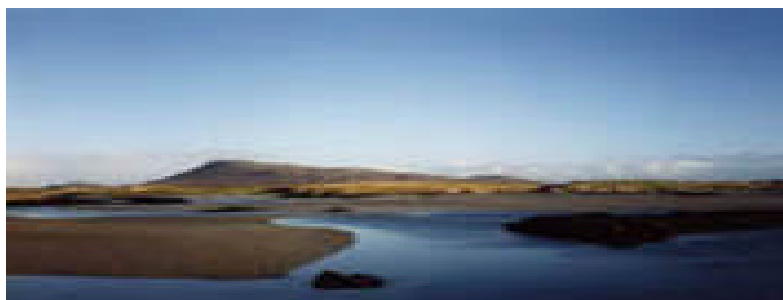
E Environmental
S Social
Ec Economic

Then, within those categorised as 'E', comments were coded from 1 – 10 to further break down the grouping. Similarly this was done for those categorised 'S' and 'Ec'. Each and every comment made was categorised according to this system. This exercise was carried out centrally, to ensure comparability between the pilot areas.

This then enabled the number of times an issue was mentioned to be counted (and thus the popularity of the issue amongst respondents). Also within each category the individual comments could be analysed as to what exactly it was about the issue that people felt was important. A summary of this information is given below in the analysis of the data. Further analysis of the data is given in section 6, in relation to sustainability. Full listings of the data are to be found in the appendices.

The same system was used to code the comments made by the agencies, thus enabling the data to be integrated and compared. It was very important to do this integration, as it allowed us to see where agencies and communities agreed, the issues that agencies were particularly interested in (but communities not) and vice versa. The table below takes each category in turn, and lists the main points made by agencies and communities as to what they liked, disliked and their ideas for change.

This is inevitably a summary of the data. Readers are referred to the **appendices**, which list every exact comment, by each and every person contributing to the initial review.



Analysis of Initial Review Data for North Uist

Below is a summary of the main likes, dislikes and ideas that communities and agencies identified. They are categorised under three broad topics : E Environmental; EC Economic; S Social. Each topic is sub-divided into a total of 36 sub-topics.

KEY :

- ❖ = just community comment
- = just agency comment
- = community and agency comment

Code	Topics	Likes/Strengths		Dislikes/Challenges		Ideas/Proposals for change	
		No of people	Summary of main comments	No of people	Summary of main comments	No of people	Summary of ideas
E1	Scenery/Landscape	48	❖ Wild & beautiful, beautiful in summer, Tranquillity • Scenery outstanding	0	No comments	2	❖ More trees
E2	Walks / Access	7	❖ Can walk anywhere unchallenged ❖ Hill walking ❖ Peaceful walks	1	❖ Lack of access, signs and restrictions at beaches	7	❖ Paths around hills, villages, coasts, ❖ Nature trail ❖ Scenic area benches ❖ Beach access & signs
E3	Natural environment	44	❖ Machair wildlife & flowers • Bird watching ❖ Pollution free ➤ Important habitats ➤ High Environmental status ➤ Nature conservation Value	20	❖ Lack of trees ❖ Geese ❖ Rabbits ❖ Deer on roads ➤ Increase local awareness of the high quality of area	6	❖ Gassing of rabbits ❖ Exporting of rabbits ❖ More conservation methods & support ➤ New agri-environment scheme to consider designations
E4	Water/sea/beach	69	❖ Shoreline ❖ The lochs & the sea ❖ The beaches; Hougharry, Baleshare, Newton etc ➤ Marine environment is of International importance	17	❖ Beach/ machair erosion ❖ Bad tasting water	6	❖ Scheme for less erosion ❖ Sign at beaches ❖ Sealife centre
E5	Land/hills	4	❖ The fertile land ❖ The hills	4	❖ Waterlogged land ❖ Drainage needs	0	No comments
E6	Air	6	❖ Lovely clean fresh air	1		0	No comments

			❖ Unpolluted air ❖ Healthy living				
E7	Weather	0	No comments	16	❖ Bad weather; wet & windy ❖ Long winters	0	No comments
E8	Noise	0	No comments	1	❖ Noise from Animal Centre	0	No comments
E9	Pollution	1	❖ Bin collectors • Unpolluted ➤ Reasonable equilibrium between users and environment	24	❖ Environment spoilt by litter & unauthorised dumps ❖ Black silage bags	13	❖ Recycling plant ❖ Tidy up machair & beaches ❖ Annual clean up of villages ➤ Decrease fishfarm pollution
E10	Peace/quiet	69	• Peace & quiet ❖ Space ❖ Tranquillity & solitude ❖ Freedom	5	❖ Too quiet	0	No comments
Ec1	Shops	27	❖ Near amenities ❖ Bayhead shop, Clachan, Coop etc ❖ Pub/Inn ❖ Post office	40	❖ Lack of shops ❖ Lack of choice ❖ Cost of living too high	49	❖ Cash machine ❖ Hairdresser ❖ Chemist ❖ More shops/restaurants ❖ MOT station ❖ Cafe
Ec2	Transport	22	❖ Causeways; Berneray & Baleshare ❖ Improved bus service ❖ Little traffic	71	❖ Roads ❖ High fuel/freight/transport costs • Transport costs ❖ Inadequate ferry/plane services • Difficulty of travelling	66	❖ Road Equivalent Tariff on ferry ❖ Better roads ❖ Cycle tracks ❖ Cheaper air flights ❖ Improved machair roads ➤ Further causeways
Ec3	Agriculture/ crofting	12	❖ Working crofting area ❖ Fertile soil ➤ Close link between crofting & conservation ➤ Crofters produce is essentially organic	37	❖ Stock wandering ❖ Fences ❖ Livestock prices ❖ Crofting tenure ➤ Difficult conditions ➤ Need to make it viable for young	22	❖ Self-sufficiency in veg ❖ Use of seaweed as fertiliser ❖ Slaughterhouse in line with EU regulations ❖ More env-friendly farming practices • Croft diversification ➤ Training in traditional skills
Ec4	Game	1	❖ Loch fishing	1	❖ Closed season on some fishing	4	❖ Parking for fishermen ❖ Promote sea angling ❖ Keep Amhainn Mhor open
Ec5	Tourism	3	❖ Lots of tourists ➤ Local & visitor interest in	6	❖ No youth hostel ❖ Lack of winter tourist info	32	❖ Attract tourist using our own unique features

			➤ archaeology already present Tourism value		❖ Tourists not respecting the island ➤ Short season ➤ Lack of all weather facilities		❖ Camp site ❖ Wind surfing ❖ Gaelic tourism ❖ Sealife centre • Wildlife holidays ➤ Integrated quality management ➤ Development of IT in tourism
Ec6	Sea fishing	13	❖ Good area for fishing	10	❖ Piers/slipways/harbours ❖ Mess at fish farm	9	❖ Yacht marina ❖ Protect fishing stock for local use ❖ Revert to traditional methods of fishing
Ec7	Industry	0	No comments	0	No comments	24	❖ Seaweed industry ❖ Smoking of natural foods ❖ Dairy ❖ Processing, packaging & marketing of local meat ❖ Hand weaving industry
Ec8	Power/telecom	1	• Good to have electricity now	3	❖ Hydro poles unsightly ❖ TV goes off too often	11	❖ Hydro cables underground ❖ Wave power ❖ Wind turbines
Ec9	Employment	1	❖ Able to work independently here ➤ Unemployment rate lower than WI average but above national average ➤ Flexible, well educated workforce	5	• Lack of work or opportunities ❖ No alternative work ➤ Erosion of community working	9	❖ Traditional skills passed on ❖ Business apprenticeships ❖ More work for young ➤ More environmental job opportunities
Ec10	Forestry	0	❖ No comment ➤ Scope for tree planting	0	➤ Lack of woodland shelter	3	❖ Forestry scheme for moors ❖ Plant more trees ➤ Source seed/planting stock/labour locally
Ec11	Local produce	0	No comments	0	No comments	5	❖ Encourage organic produce ❖ Sell manure as fertiliser ❖ Curing of sheep skins ❖ Develop existing industries
Ec12	Marketing	0	❖ No comments ➤ Potential to market local produce	0	➤ Remoteness makes imports expensive & marketing difficult	12	❖ Local meat sold as speciality product • Marketing of croft produce ❖ Encourage hotels to use local produce ➤ Market North Uist nationally &

							internationally using suite of designations
Ec13	General economy	1	❖ Area that can be developed	0	➤ Remote & economically fragile ➤ Lack of venture capital	5	❖ Promote North Uist as a centre rather than Benbecula • More support for local businesses/development ❖ Fairer grant scheme
Ec14	IT	0	No comments	0	No comments	0	➤ Improved communication links to enable tele- cottage ➤ Development of IT based employment
Ec15	Aggregates	0	No comments	0	No comments	0	No comments
S1	Community spirit/values	45	• Close knit communities ❖ Slower way of life ❖ A place where people matter	17	❖ Lack of cohesion ❖ Apathy ❖ Needless change	3	❖ Retain island identity ❖ Believe/ be proud of ourselves
S2	Local democracy/ partnership	0	No comments	5	❖ Lack of backing from agencies ❖ Poor communication between the Council & communities ❖ Scottish Natural Heritage	5	❖ Encourage Council to invest in North Uist ❖ Community plan for development ❖ More assistance/support from agencies
S3	People and population	82	❖ Helpful/friendly people ❖ Good neighbours ❖ Variety of people ➤ Population decrease	23	❖ Gossip & tittle tattle • Population imbalance/decline ❖ Society change	3	❖ More children ❖ Start a dating agency ❖ Local strategies for development with full participation of communities
S4	Quality of life	11	❖ Good for young children ❖ Childhood memories ❖ Born & brought up here	0	No comments	0	➤ Contribute to the sustainability and development of communities to ensure a high quality of life
S5	Culture/history/traditions	24	• Gaelic language ❖ Personal history/roots • Historical sites ➤ High potential of archaeology in machair • Taigh Chearsabhagh ➤ Visual arts ➤ Traditional arts	9	❖ Forgetting our heritage ❖ Lack of interest of youth in Gaelic & crofting ❖ Decay ➤ Natural erosion of archaeological sites ➤ Limited archaeological records	23	❖ Restore/preserve historic sites ❖ Promote our heritage ❖ Heritage centre ❖ Interpretation of historic sites ❖ Restore blackhouses ➤ Continuation of Council Archaeologist ➤ Development of arts & cultural activities
S6	Education/training	13	❖ Community schools ❖ Gaelic Medium Education	8	❖ School too small ❖ Schools being closed	6	❖ More night classes ❖ Bigger school in Carinish

			❖ Good Education system				❖ Further Education alternatives ➤ Skills development project
S7	Remote/rural/small	9	❖ Small is beautiful ❖ Out of mainstream ❖ Not crowded	4	❖ Isolation ❖ Too small	0	No comments
S8	Safety	23	❖ Safe for children • Relatively crime free • Security- can leave doors open	1	❖ Barking & biting dogs	0	No comments
S9	Religion	6	❖ Tradition of prayers ❖ Observance of Sabbath ❖ Churches/mission house	4	❖ Lack of interest in the church ❖ Religious aspects don't always help	1	❖ Retaining our school & church
S10	Recreation/sport	30	❖ MacAskills/Animal Centre ❖ Athletics Club ❖ Sailing/swimming	41	❖ Lack of sports facilities ❖ No playpark ❖ Lack of activities at night	65	❖ Alternative leisure facilities ❖ Better sporting facilities ❖ Playparks
S11	Housing	5	❖ Blackhouses ❖ Distance between houses ➤ Above nat. average of owner occupation ➤ Average house prices are falling	6	❖ Derelict houses ❖ Lack of amenities ❖ Locals selling houses as holiday homes ➤ Crofting tenure restraints ➤ High levels of under occupation ➤ Low turnover of housing	8	❖ More council houses ❖ More housing grants • Affordable housing ➤ Improve quality & effectiveness of existing housing ➤ Promote barrier free housing
S12	Community facilities	19	❖ Youth Clubs ❖ Village Halls ❖ Near amenities	35	❖ No weekly bin service ❖ Council tax ❖ Lack of community facilities	34	❖ Community facilities ❖ Public toilets ❖ Weekly bin service ❖ Review of council tax
S13	Health	1	❖ Healthy place	3	❖ Alcohol abuse & problems	8	❖ Emphasise health education ❖ Nursing home after Lochmaddy closes ❖ Crossroads scheme
S14	Water and sewerage	0	No comments	1	❖ No main sewer	3	❖ Less chemicals in water ❖ Mains sewage introduced ❖ Water pipes widened

5.3 Voting returns

5.3.1 Carinish Sub Area

The top priority raised in Carinish sub area was the lack of leisure facilities. This issue was mostly voted for by the younger members of the community although some of the older members of the community also highlighted it. Under this topic people felt that any of the following would be welcome: **Cinema, Ice centre, Swimming Pool or Riding Club.**

The next priority for this area was **shopping facilities**. It was suggested that there was an opening available for someone to set up a shop in Carinish (3miles from Clachan & 10miles from Balivanich) and in Lochport (4/5 miles from Clachan) to supply essentials such as bread, milk and newspapers.

It was felt that a **cycle track** either by the roadside or on an alternative route would benefit both locals and tourists, allowing cyclists to ride in safety. As many of the roads in North Uist are single track, problems arise when there are cyclists and large vehicles on the same road. Parents also felt they could allow children to go out alone if there was a separate route away from traffic.

The forth priority in the Carinish area was the **ferry service**. People from Uist, believe that the ferry service would be improved if the crossing was to Dunvegan instead of to Uig. This may help to decrease the fares but another suggestion was Road Equivalent Tariffs. It was also felt that a better service would be provided if there was a Sunday sailing in winter.

Although North Uist is famous for its many fresh and seawater lochs many people believed that **sea angling** was not being adequately promoted. They felt that this natural resource could be used to attract more visitors to North Uist. It was also suggested that boat hire could help encourage sea angling both for locals and tourists.

5.3.2 Bayhead Sub Area

The top priority in Bayhead after voting was the **community buy-out of MacAskill's**. MacAskills is a youth style café/games area, which is incorporated, in the Animal Centre. This facility is privately owned. Teenagers regularly use it in the evenings and at weekends. It sells food, has regular pool competitions, arcade games and shows satellite football matches.

Various concerns were raised by parents and the community, during the initial review, including noise, litter, and the need for closer monitoring and control.

The idea of a community buyout was mainly supported by the young people who felt that it could be run by them for themselves (with a little advice/support if needed) as is done in other areas. Parents supported the idea of a community buyout in that they felt it required closer monitoring which could be achieved through a parent/community rota system.

The second priority for people in Bayhead sub area was the provision of **sports facilities**. These included a football pitch and running track.

Like Carinish area, Bayhead also felt that **shopping and eating places** were needed. It was suggested that there was an opening for a small tearoom or restaurant on the west side of North Uist (traditional Uist baking using local produce). Such a facility could be located near the Bird Reserve in Hougharry as it has large numbers of visitors who after a 2 hour walk would appreciate refreshments. Such a facility would also encourage tourists to travel to the west side, as at present many take the road from Lochmaddy south and do not see what the rest of North Uist has to offer.

A shop further along the west coast was felt to be needed (Hougharry to Hosta) for essentials such as milk, bread and newspapers.

Public transport ranked fourth in Bayhead sub area. Although there appears to be plenty of public transport during the day, more is needed in the evening and at night, especially at the weekend. The weekend in general needed more buses especially if an event was organised. It was also suggested that more people would use public transport to work if there was a convenient bus leaving Bayhead/ west side in the morning which arrived in Balivanich for 9.00 and returned from there at 17/17:30. A subsidised bus from all round the island to MacAskills café in the evenings was also suggested.

The fifth priority was a **cycle track**, for the same reasons as put forward in Carinish Sub Area. (See above)

5.3.3 Sollas Sub Area

The top priority in Sollas Sub Area was the provision of a **Community Hall**. This was proposed as the facility available at present (Taigh Sgoile Dhunsgealair) is too small. As there are many community events held in this district (bingo, lectures, concerts and community dinners) it was felt that the area required a building which would allow the space to continue with such events. The building could also house public toilets, which would benefit the whole area and could be used by tourists and locals. Such a building could be used by all sectors of the community, mother & toddler, youth clubs, over 60's etc. A building of this type could also be used in the summer to serve teas and hold an exhibition - allowing visitors to go somewhere on a wet day. It was suggested that such a building would not be required to be on a big scale.

The second ranked idea was an **industry based on marine resources** such as a crab factory, seaweed factory or the use of seaweed as fertiliser or homeopathic remedy:

- **Crab Factory:** This was suggested as it would require little equipment (clean building, workbenches, water supply etc) but would give local employment.
- **Seaweed Factory:** It was suggested that the seaweed industry in North Uist should be restarted to make use of this natural resource and to give local employment.
- **Fertiliser:** The use of seaweed as an organic fertiliser is already present throughout Uist but it was suggested that this resource could be marketed as such on the mainland and also to local gardeners who do not cut their own.
- **Homeopathy:** It was suggested that seaweed could be marketed to companies producing homeopathy products or that such products could be manufactured on the island.

The third priority was the **marketing of local produce**. This was suggested in order to add value to the island croft produce and to target niche markets using our unique identity and the environmental aspects of crofting. It was understood that to fully realise this an EU registered abattoir would need to be available. Our self sufficiency in vegetables and other goods would mean less imports would be needed on the island.

The forth priority in Sollas was **sporting facilities** as explained in Bayhead Sub Area. (See above)

Another priority in Sollas was the planting of small patches of **willow** to give shelter to livestock on the open machair and hill. It was also suggested that an area of the open hill in the centre of North Uist could be planted as at present it is unused.

5.3.4 Grimsay Sub Area

In Grimsay sub area the top priority was the **widening of the causeways** to North Uist and Benbecula. They were built around 1960 and are single track and very narrow.

This is needed to deal with the heavy traffic and larger lorries, which use them regularly. This would benefit the whole island.

The next priority of the Grimsay people was to restart the **seaweed industry**. This would make use of this natural resource and give local employment. It would also use a flood of local knowledge and expertise which is readily available.

Grimsay's third idea was a **slipway for painting boats**. There is no such facility available at present, it would also provide employment. A slipway of this kind could also be used for boat repairs.

Assistance to set up a **marine engineer** was the fourth suggestion. This is badly needed as at present there is no one who can do repairs.

The fifth ranked idea was for a **local shop** in Grimsay for bread, milk, papers, etc. instead of travelling to Balivanich or Clachan..

5.3.5 Berneray Sub Area

The idea that was most important for the people of Berneray was to retain the **school and the church**. It was felt by many in the community that the school and church are meaningful to Berneray's unique island identity and that the causeway may have put both these facilities in danger. They felt if they were to attract people to return to the island and retain their community spirit that the school and the church should remain.

The nearest **playpark** to Berneray is in Lochmaddy and therefore it was suggested that Berneray required such a facility for the number of children who would benefit from it. A possible site suggested was by the Community Hall.

The third priority, particularly for the young, was for **leisure facilities** such as a cinema or ice centre.

It was suggested that Berneray required a **tourist notice board** separate from the community notice board – which would give general and more specific information for visitors and tourists. It was also suggested that there should be a small information centre where tourists could pick up leaflets about places of interest on the island.

Pol an Oir is the small harbour on the south east side of Berneray and is in need of work to bring it up to regulation standard. This was also felt to be a tourist attraction if restored. This was the fifth idea prioritised.

5.3.6 Lochmaddy Sub Area

As in Carinish people in Lochmaddy felt that the top priority for their area was **leisure facilities**. The reasons given were the same as those discussed above.

The second priority for Lochmaddy was **shopping facilities** – improving them or the lack of them. It was suggested that North Uist required a bigger Co-op as people would otherwise travel to Creagorry where there is a larger variety on offer. It was also suggested that there was a need for a shop in Lochportain as otherwise they have to travel 12 miles to Lochmaddy.

The third ranked idea was a small scale **industry based on natural resources**. Suggestions were to restart the seaweed industry, bottled Uist water, and wind or wave power:

- **Seaweed Factory:** It was suggested that the seaweed industry in North Uist should be restarted to make use of this natural resource and to give local employment.
- **Bottled Water:** This was proposed as a means of marketing Uist, based on its Clean and Healthy living, using old wells and springs and traditional tales of special

healing properties which the water contained. There is a growing local market for bottled water as many people are unhappy with the chemicals which are added to tap water.

- **Wind & Wave Power:** This could create employment and could make the island more self sufficient. It was suggested that power created in this way could be used to dry seaweed. If wind power was to be harnessed it would have to be done in such a way as not to affect the scenery – either in the centre of the island or at Cleitaval where there are already many masts on the hill.
- Another important idea for Lochmaddy sub area was to reduce **ferry and plane fares** by having a discount for islanders to make travel more viable.
- **Plane:** It was felt that tickets are too expensive and that many more people would use the plane instead of travelling by car/bus to Glasgow if the fares were reduced – then you can travel to Glasgow in an hour instead of taking a day by road.
- **Ferry:** Many people in Lochmaddy believe that the ferry service would be improved if the crossing was to Dunvegan instead of to Uig. This may also help to decrease the fares, but another suggestion was Road Equivalent Tariffs. It was also suggested that a better service would be provided if there was a Sunday sailing in winter.
- **Tourist accommodation and eating places** was highly ranked in Lochmaddy – this may be because at present there are problems with the lack of accommodation.
- **Newton:** There is a lack of tourist facilities at Newton Ferry especially since the start of the Otternish to Leverburgh ferry. There is a possible site for a campsite in Newton also.
- **Hostel:** It was felt that the closing of the Youth Hostel in Lochmaddy will cause difficulties this summer and in years to come as there will be a lack of beds for people on a lower budget and also for campers looking for shelter on a wet night. It was suggested that other buildings in Lochmaddy should be looked at to turn into a hostel/bunkhouse.

5.3.7 Comparison of sub-areas

The most obvious **similarity** between sub areas in the voting returns was that people felt that the time was right for the **marketing of local produce**. Five out of the six sub areas voted this idea into their top ten. Also recognised was the fact that if you wanted to market meat there would have to be a local abattoir up to EU regulations. **Sports facilities** and **shops** were also in the top ten in five out of the six areas. However maybe the most surprising is that alternative **recreation facilities** were in the top ten in four sub areas – with it getting top score in two of the areas. This may have been influenced by the large number of under 16's voting but it does show a definite demand, which is not being sufficiently met at present, for some sort of recreation facility in North Uist. Other similarities between the areas were calls to have an **improved and affordable ferry and plane** service and the desire to create **local employment using our natural resources** – seaweed or wind etc.

One obvious **difference** between sub areas is that Berneray's top score went to **retaining the school and church**. This relates to the new causeway linking the island of Berneray to North Uist, causing fears that Berneray would lose its own identity and local facilities which they think are important to their future. Although other areas valued their own school and churches they did not see such an obvious threat to them as Berneray did. There were not many unexpected differences between the sub areas, most of the ideas which were not the same were **very localised ideas**. For example Bayhead sub area wanted proper facilities and equipment for Bayhead fire service or Grimsay wanted support for a marine engineer. Such ideas are important locally although may not be as important island wide.

5.3.8

TOP 10 IDEAS FOR EACH SUB AREA					
Carinish	Bayhead	Sollas	Berneray	Grimsay	Lochmaddy
1. Leisure facilities	1. Buyout of MacAskills	1. Community hall	1. Retain school/ church	1. Widen Causeways	1. Leisure facilities
2. More shops	2. Sports Facilities	2. Marine industry	2. Playpark	2. Seaweed industry	2. More shops
3. Cycle track	3. Shops/ eating places	3. Local meat & veg marketed	3. Leisure facilities	3. Slipway for painting boats	3. Small scale industry
4. Improved & affordable ferry	4. Public Transport	4. Sports facilities	4. Tourist info	4. Marine engineer	4. Discount on planes & ferries
5. Promote sea angling	5. Cycle Track	5. Trees	5. Pol an Oir harbour saved	5. Local shop	5. 5. Accom & eating places
6. Marketing of croft produce	6. Improved roads & lighting	6. Beach erosion & safety signs	6. Encourage use of local meat & veg	6. Uist meat marketed	6. 6. Garage services
7. Improved meeting places	7. Tidy up of area	7. More shops	7. Facility for elderly	7. Café in Grimsay	7. 7. Reforestation
8. Abattoir with EU regulations	8. Lower air & ferry fares	8. Playpark	8. Swimming at Lionacleit	8. Teach boat building skills	8. 8. Marketing of local produce
9. Sports facilities	9. Playpark	9. Tidy up of village	9. Museum	9. Erect boundary fence	9. 9. Improved sporting facilities
10. Seaweed industry	10. Alternative recreation	10. Hairdresser	10. Sports facilities	10. Bus shelters	10. 10. Measures to increase population

Refer to Appendix 4 for the full voting returns

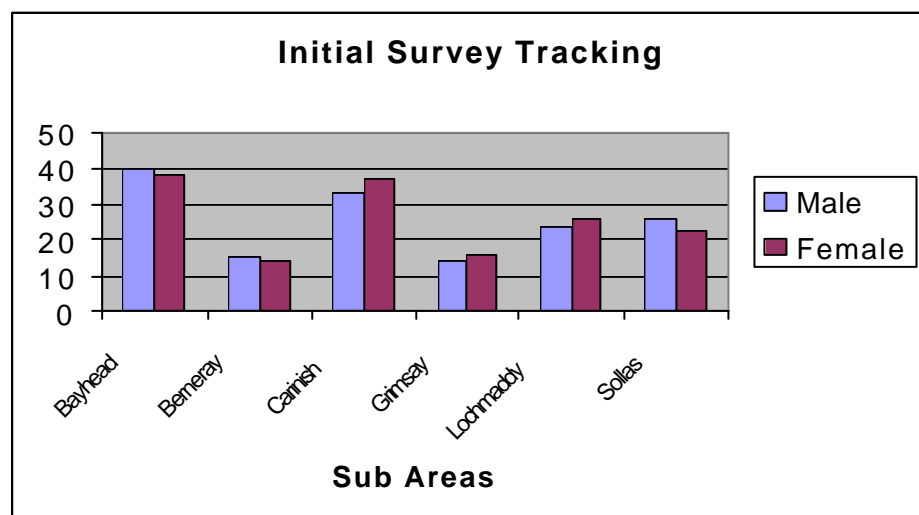
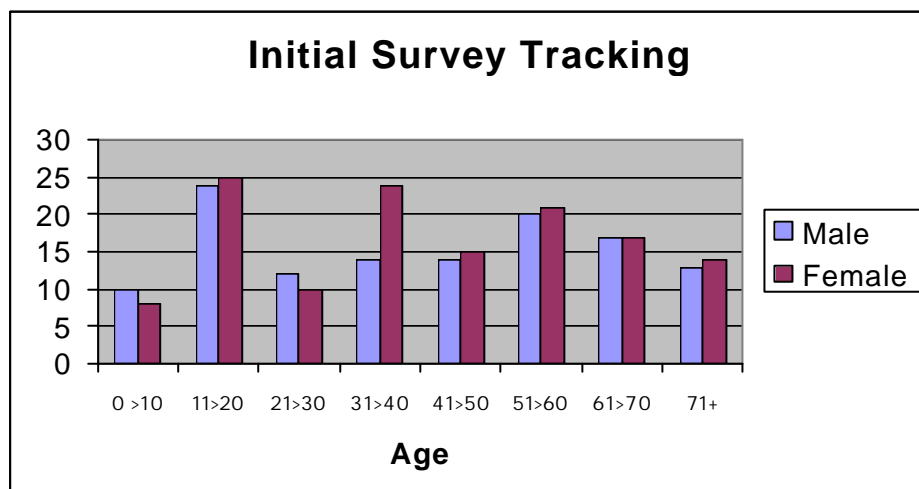
5.4 Tracking

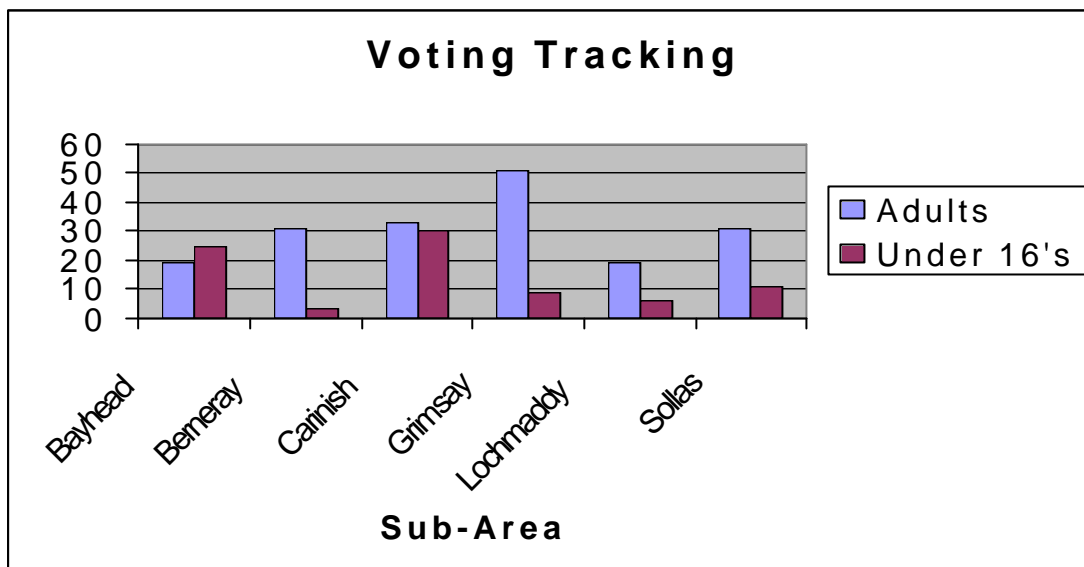
From the tracking of people who responded during the Initial Review survey some patterns are revealed :

- There were proportionately fewer people involved in the 21 > 30 age bracket. This may be due to many in this age group being on the mainland working or in further education.
- A larger number of women were interviewed in each age group (except 0>10 & 21>30) - this may be explained by the fact that the interviews were on a random basis and that often only the woman were at home.
- The age group that was involved the most was the 11>20 group. This is probably explained by the interviews which were carried out in schools, which may also explain the enthusiasm of this age group at the voting stage.
- A larger percentage of under 16's voted in Carinish and Bayhead than in the other sub areas and this may have affected the voting returns.
- Fewer people were interviewed in Grimsay and Berneray. This was due to lack of time, more time than expected being spent in areas where there had been a poor response to the open meetings. Grimsay also had a poor response to the meeting.
- Lochmaddy, Bayhead and Grimsay (before the mail-out), the sub-areas which had a poor turn out at the public meeting, also had a poor response to the exhibition and voting.

Please refer to following tables.

Tracking maps can be viewed in the Area Project Office.





6



SECTION 6

RELATIONSHIP WITH SUSTAINABILITY

Overview

To achieve a sustainable island it was believed, by both the agencies and the community, that North Uist required to **maximise the benefits from the natural & cultural resources** that surrounds us such as the sea, the machair, the wildlife and our traditions and history. We need to use these resources wisely so that they will benefit us at present but not harm the resources for the future. It is also important that an **empowered and viable community** remains on these islands, as this is one of its major assets. To achieve this problems such as unemployment and present population decline must be overcome. The third issue which must be tackled if this is going to be a sustainable area is that **problems of remoteness** such as transportation costs and time-tabling, and reliance on imports must be solved or diminished.

6.1 Maximising benefit from natural & cultural resources

The Initial Review identifies many natural and cultural resources that both the community and the agencies feel can be built upon.

6.1.1 Natural resources

The most apparent valued asset is the **beaches, shoreline and sea**. During the Initial Review 69 people mentioned this and the agencies noted it's worth and the fact that much of the surrounding sea has **important habitats** which are recognised by international designations. The communities valued the sea because it provided a livelihood or hobby for many through fishing, watersports or tourism. However it was evident that for the beaches and surrounding machairs to remain as an asset, something must be done to alleviate the damage caused by **erosion**, rabbits and unauthorised dumps which make the beaches unsightly and less welcoming. Other suggestions to build on the natural resource of the beaches and the sea were easier access to beaches, signs to warn visitors of tides and sinking sands, a sealife centre to educate people about the surrounding waters and the many organisms which it supports and sea angling or wildlife boat trips.



Another natural strength identified was **the outstanding scenery**. Many people acknowledged that this was especially apparent in the summer when it was possible to get clearer views and see the machair ablaze with flowers.

Much of North Uist has been designated for the national and international importance of its **habitats and species** and it was suggested that these designations could be used to promote the area. The **abundance of flora and**

fauna at close range, in their natural environment, was also highlighted as an important asset. Ideas relating to this include easier access for visitors, more marked walks or leaflets and nature trails to educate people about the area, the environment and the wildlife as they walk.

Both the community and the agencies selected **walking and hillwalking** as an asset, which could be used to assist in raising the profile of the island. This could be achieved through the promotion of peaceful, tranquil walks in lovely, **fresh, unpolluted air** in a place with breathtaking views and a great environment for photography.

An idea that was prominent in each sub area was the **marketing of natural local produce**. It was acknowledged that there are close links between crofting and conservation as this is a non-intensive farming method, which actually preserves much of the habitats and allows such an abundance of flora and fauna. However at present the marketing of local produce is very limited and although the produce is considered nearly organic it is not being presented as such and therefore no extra value is added. To maximise the benefits to both the environment and the producers, **environmentally friendly** or **organic crofting** methods could be encouraged, and the produce marketed as a speciality product which would recognise the area, the environmental designations and the production methods.

6.1.2 Cultural resources

Various **cultural resources** were also identified which have the capacity for building on. The survey identified historical sites, traditional skills and music and the Gaelic language as the cultural strengths of North Uist. There is a large number and range of **historical sites**, many of which have been excavated and identified, but others remain about which very little is known. The community and the agencies recognised the importance of these sites but admitted that at present many are in poor repair and are dangerous to explore. Many of the sites are also badly sign posted or have very little or no interpretation. Access and car parking is also a difficulty for many sites. It was believed that these problems must be dealt with before the sites can become an asset which can be properly promoted to visitors.



Traditional skills and music were identified as strengths which should be supported and built upon. Many of the traditional skills such as weaving, thatching and story telling are now being lost through the integration of technology into the communities. Some skills are unique to the area and should therefore be preserved and promoted. This could be achieved through classes for the younger generation and for visitors, to learn from members of the community who still possess these

skills. Traditional music evenings were also suggested to boost the use of the range of skills involved and to encourage a new generation to learn the tunes and words.

The **Gaelic language** was valued by both the community and the agencies. They appreciated that this was a Gaelic speaking area where you can hear the language in everyday use. The fact that people can hear the gospel in their native language was also important as was the fact that there is now Gaelic medium education available. However a challenge which faces this language is to keep the interest of the youth alive. Many people felt that young people were using English as their first or chosen language and unless they started using Gaelic as their everyday language it could not continue with the same strength.

6.2 Retaining a viable & empowered community

The **community spirit** within North Uist was commented on positively by local people and the agencies, it was felt to be a close community where people felt they belonged. Friendly, helpful people who were welcoming to others were also noted. The **safety and the privacy** also made it the ideal place to bring up children, as they were able to have the freedom to explore without parents having to worry or watch them. The fact that there is usually an extended family or helpful neighbours nearby and **very little crime** lends for a **less stressful way of life**. The pace of life in general was commented upon and said to be slower and more laid back than in cities or on the mainland.

However there are negative points to living in such a community and these were also highlighted. Although the close community and the extended family is a huge bonus for many people others feel **suffocated by this closeness** and feel that they get no privacy - someone always knows what you are doing – this leads to **gossip** and tittle tattle which can be upsetting. It was also felt that the traditional sense of community was dying with a **loss of community spirit**, or helping each other out, and a feeling that **apathy and negative attitudes** were leading to a lack of input into the community. Related to this could be local **schools closures** taking the focal point from many small villages, with a consequent loss of the sense of togetherness which was apparent before.

Another challenge to the community is a **decline in population**, which was especially noted by the agencies. This is partly because the young people are leaving the island for further education and cannot return because there is no employment for them. This has led to a **population imbalance** with an ageing community and an imbalance between men and women present. For the community to survive it is believed that this cannot continue. However to attract younger people to return or remain on the island it was felt that the situation must be improved in respect of amenities and facilities, especially **sporting and community facilities**. Suitable **employment opportunities** must also be created. The matter of poor **communications**, roads, expensive air and ferry travel must also be overcome along with the general **high cost of living**. All of these aspects create challenges for the viability of the community.



However the community came up with various ideas to overcome these challenges. To reverse population decline young people must be attracted to stay on or return to the island. To assist this it was felt that there should be more **training** available on the island, especially in respect of crofting - as this was felt to be a strong base for the community. **Employment** is also very important for a thriving community and it was felt that more could be done to create local industries from natural resources such as seaweed, shellfish,

smoking foods and wind & wave power. To ensure a high quality of life, as people expect everywhere, **sports facilities** and **alternative recreation** activities are also needed to some degree. Also required to sustain a close community is a **focal point** of some kind such as a café, meeting place or community hall which could be run as a community enterprise and involve many people. This would ensure that the community communicated and met each other instead of becoming distant.

A road equivalent tariff on the ferries would sustain the island, put it on an equal footing regarding transportation costs and cost of living, and encourage tourism. Another suggestion was a **discount** on planes and ferries for islanders, as at present travel is expensive and may deter people from living here.

6.3 Reducing problems of remoteness

The survey told us much about local needs and how they are delivered – locally, externally or not at all. Locally delivered needs include **education**. In most sub areas there is a primary school serving the needs of the community, however in the past schools from smaller villages have been closed down. These areas felt this had a detrimental effect on their community spirit as they no longer had a focal point. Therefore the areas which still have small primary schools valued them



and felt it was important to keep their children's education as local as possible. Also thought to be of great importance were facilities for **Gaelic medium** education and **community schools**. Secondary education up to second year is available in Bayhead and following this, children travel to Benbecula but can still remain living at home. It was also recognised that the introduction of the University of the Highlands and Islands to Benbecula could also cover more **further education** needs in the future. The community also felt it was important to retain their **church** in their own village as like the school it was a focus and a meeting place.

Amenities such as general shops, post offices, pubs are near to most people although some of the smaller remote villages suggested that there was an opening for more shops selling necessities such as bread, milk and newspapers. Mobile shops and a library van travel throughout the island, and this was especially appreciated by people who had no transport. The **bus service** was also praised as it has recently been up-graded to include varying times and routes. However some of the more remote villages again felt that they could have a better service. **Causeways** serve the needs of three islands, which are off North Uist and also join it to Benbecula. People see this as a great benefit although the people in Baleshare feel that their causeway does not entirely meet their needs as they can still be cut off in bad weather. The causeway to Benbecula was also criticised as it is only single track and nowadays there is a greater volume of traffic using it.

If we look at **entertainment** and **social activities**, some of the communities needs are being met while others are not. The activities that are available such as Stradagan, youth clubs, Athletics Club and MacAskill's were praised. However it was felt that there was a need for a **greater range** of activities, for a larger age range. Also some of these activities are not easily accessible to different sub areas due to distance. **Village halls** also filled a need to some extent, but were not always considered sufficient. They were felt to benefit the community and give them independence in holding events and entertainment within their own areas, however some were felt to be in need of renovation and some sub areas felt they had no such facility.

Although only 4 people admitted in the survey that they felt isolated other people admitted that it did cause problems. Problems associated with isolation are a **high cost of living**, **lack of employment** and **transportation**. There may be a limited choice in the shops and it will be more expensive because of **high freight and fuel charges**. It is difficult to buy

locally produced goods, although many people agreed this would make sense as at present most goods are imported onto the island (eg fruit, veg, feedstuff).

Because this is an isolated island in many respects it is reliant on the **ferry and plane companies** and people realised that this is not a good situation. Because there are no other options you must pay the expensive fares even although many people commented on the ineffective service, especially regarding the air services. Poor timetabling, delays, breakdowns and bad weather can make you feel even more isolated than is necessary.

Another issue raised was that although we may be isolated people still pay the same **Council tax** and **road tax** as elsewhere - although it was felt they did not always get the same level of service. Many of the roads are single track and in some instances very narrow for larger vehicles, bin collection is only fortnightly. There is a lack of footpaths, streetlights and public toilets.

Another problem of isolation is unemployment – there is a **lack of work** opportunities available and a **limited choice** (especially for women). When a job arose it was felt that there was usually high demand.

The communities and the agencies had various ideas for overcoming the problems of remoteness :

To encourage the **sale of local produce** including meat, vegetables, fish, shellfish, crafts and seaweed, was strongly advocated. Related to this was the need to make the slaughterhouse EU standard, be self sufficient in vegetables and the use of seaweed or manure as fertiliser. This could also help to **create jobs**, as could local industries such as seaweed or wind and wave power.

Looking at the problems of transportation people suggested that a **road equivalent tariff** on the ferry would reduce costs and help freight charges on goods imported or exported. It was also suggested that there should be better **timetabling of winter services**, especially including a Sunday ferry. A **discount for islanders** on the plane was hugely supported as at present it was felt to be very expensive. Many more people would use such a service as it gives fast access to the mainland in an emergency or if only a few days are available. People confirmed that at present they spent a day either side travelling to Glasgow by ferry and road, although it was inconvenient, as they did not find the plane cost affordable.

Other services which people felt should be provided locally were a hairdresser and garage services. At present these are available in Benbecula but it was considered that North Uist should not rely on Benbecula and should **promote itself as a centre**. This would include attracting businesses or agencies to set up in North Uist instead of being centralised in Benbecula.



7



SECTION 7 LESSONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Overview of key points

A full evaluation of the Initial Review was carried out by staff. This compared performance against the objectives set at the beginning of the process :

- To build a good overview of the area and its sustainability
- To identify the local priority issues in relation to sustainability
- To fully involve communities and agencies in this analysis
- To act as a pointer to resources, information, contacts likely to be required by the Project
- To raise the profile of the Project in the pilot areas

The Initial Review was found to have been successful in achieving its objectives. The main points of the evaluation are:

Community methodology – the process was well designed, and was successful in engaging with a wide cross section of the population and gaining from them their likes, dislikes and ideas for change. The biggest problem faced by the Pilot Area Co-ordinators (PAC) was completing the exercise in the time available. Most people felt comfortable with the exercise and, although expectations were raised, it was felt that people were realistic about what the Project could achieve and that this sparked an energy in the communities to take things forward. There was some concern among staff that the questions should have been more focused on sustainability, but this would have compromised the simplicity of the questions. There were also a few difficulties in recording non-spatial issues. The recording mechanism was however democratic and empowering – everyone's views counted - and at the end of the process most communities reported that the outcome closely reflected their views as to the main issues.

Agency methodology – First a workshop, and then a postal questionnaire encountered problems in soliciting the required quality of quality information from agency staff in a short timescale. A third exercise was therefore undertaken to fill in the gaps in quantitative information essential to assessing the sustainability of the pilot areas.

Training of PACs – The training of the area staff was well designed and executed, and provided a solid foundation for the PACs to undertake their work. There was however some evidence of different approaches being applied in the 3 areas, which to an extent affected the comparability of results.

Division into sub-areas – all pilot areas were divided into sub-areas, based on the locally recognised individual community boundaries. This was found to be essential in identifying with the needs of these communities

Publicity and press – A high public profile was an essential tool for involving all members of the community in the work. This was given considerable attention in each area, though new ways still need to be found to ensure more people are aware of and feel happy to attend meetings etc. Managing the press also proved to be problematic, as some of the ideas emerging were the subject of political forces and lobbying. There were several issues of mis-reporting which had a damaging effect on the reputation of the Project with the communities and it's Partners.

Open meetings – These had variable attendance, though overall the attendance levels were comparatively high for such events. Causes of non-attendance ranged from cynicism

or lack of understanding about the Project, to weather and clashes with TV programmes etc. However for those who did attend the results were very positive. People liked the different meeting style and the high degree of participation. Good ideas and good will were generated.

Out and about – This was an essential, though very time consuming, element of the work in reaching those people who don't usually turn up to meetings. This was really where Duthchas marked itself as being different from other initiatives, and made people feel their views counted. The tracking of participants was essential here, in enabling staff to target poorly represented groups within each community.

Voting – Most people understood and were happy with the voting process, and most communities reported that the outcome closely reflected their views as to the main issues. However some individual concerns were expressed, in a few places, that the main issues had not been prioritised. This was thought to be because the conclusions of the workshop groups had not counted in the final voting and voting had only occurred at exhibitions, rather than being taken out and about in the communities as originally planned. Children's voting also tended to skew results towards unrealistic desires.

In Sutherland voting was additionally carried out by forms left in village shops etc. This had a high response rate which improved the voting results. Voting was carried out only at a sub-area level in Skye and Uist, while in Sutherland, voting also took place for overall-area ideas – this helped to prioritise issues for the area as a whole. Procedurally, there were some difficulties in distilling all of the many ideas into voting sheets. Supervision was essential for confidence in the system.

In retrospect it was concluded that the voting system would have been improved if voting had been confidential, votes had been limited to one per idea, children's votes had been separately identifiable, and more checks had been in place against double voting.

Monitoring – Full monitoring objectives were set for the community aspect of the work, and when these were evaluated by staff at the end of the process they found that they had achieved most objectives. Monitoring however did not happen formally throughout and all agreed that this would have helped identify problems early on. The Partner agency survey would have benefited from similarly full monitoring objectives.

Recording local initiatives, information and resources – a process was not specifically designed for this, and as a result information was patchy, many people did not understand why this was needed (including staff).

Tracking – Tracking of age, sex and gender took place rigorously throughout the process. It showed that a good representative sample of the population was reached, though there was a gap in the 18-25 year olds in each area, due to their general absence in the community (for education and work elsewhere).

Agency workshop – This process was not well received by those attending the workshop, it was found to be too theoretical, and the data gathered was of low quality. It was also hard for agency staff working at regional or national levels to provide detailed information at the local level. It was decided to take this exercise no further and to try to get the information required by a questionnaire.

Agency questionnaire – This exercise elicited information comparable in content to the community data, however agencies did not have enough time and often did not consult widely in their own organisations, hence the quality of data was variable. It was still felt necessary to go back to the agencies once again with very specific requests for data sets which would enable a sustainability profile to be built of the area.

Exhibitions – The exhibitions, and particularly the launch events were a great success in raising enthusiasm and confidence in the communities. They were well attended and people were very interested in the findings, feeling that they did reflect the important issues in their communities. Some problems occurred in relation to space in the various venues, and the time required to set up each venue. All PACs felt that the exhibitions should have run for longer in each community.

Data analysis – The data analysis process made sense of a large amount of data and allowed an initial sustainability analysis to take place. Categorisation of data was taken purely from the issues falling out of the community data. In retrospect these categories should have been fully rationalised before all the data was categorised. Data categorisation and analysis took much longer than had been budgeted for.

7.2 Analysis of Lessons and recommendations

The following lessons and recommendations were gleaned from:

- Submissions by each area
- Evaluation exercise carried out by staff (see below)

ELEMENT OF THE WORK	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES	RECOMMENDATIONS
Overall			
Community methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Method used was quick and efficient ▪ Everybody's opinion recorded in their own words ▪ Group work enabled everyone to contribute ▪ Method was clear and straight forward ▪ No jargon involved ▪ Recording system was friendly ▪ Process moved people away from single issues ▪ Looking to the future was very positive ▪ Fresh new faces were involved ▪ There were comments that this has been the most involving process to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the question likes/dislikes right for the purpose? • Some people had difficulty in using 'post-its' • Out and about interviews produced rapid response but ideas lacked depth of thought • Spatial focus of maps perhaps drew attention from wider/ non-spatial ideas • Process has potential to raise unrealistic expectations which happened to an extent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow ample time to conduct a community survey. All areas felt a lack of time to do the job well • The questions should be specific to sustainability and include reference to long term and wider issues.
Agency methodology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies had difficulty with theoretical nature of exercise/ lack of specific focus • Short timescales for responses • Didn't ask quite the same question of agencies as was asked of communities (eg. 'strengths' v 'likes') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan the agency process carefully and devote adequate staff resources to it • Ask agencies the same questions as communities • Be very specific about the information wanted from agencies • A local agency workshop should be held in each area in addition to the postal consultation
Training of PACs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very involving process • Community process well developed • Positive response from staff • Staff well prepared for the task • All objectives for training met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of focus on agency process • Some inflexibility in the community process - eg. the formulating of questions to be asked • No agency representatives present to give their perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve agency representatives in training
Community process			
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community participation on a whole was good • Local people continued to show interest in Dúthchas. • People were enthusiastic and open • The process increased people's sense of worth • People were not unrealistic and had plenty of realistic expectations • Expectations must be raised if energy for action is to be generated. • People have had big promises before and are not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some people felt rushed • Some people did not understand its relevance • Some people had a negative view of the Project from the start • Process not always taken seriously • Tended to put forward ideas already on the boil • Danger of seeing this as a wish-list • Ideas more social and economic – whereas most likes were environmental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal approach works best. • Make clear at the outset what the real potential of the Project is and what will happen to their ideas • If people have previously undergone similar processes and not reaped the benefits from that experience, they will be less willing to participate. • Encourage sharing of experience between facilitators to increase mutual understanding and confidence in the work

	holding their breath		
Division into sub-areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Related work to the units that communities work in • Broke down work into manageable units • Able to draw conclusions for individual communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in aggregating data back up again to pilot area level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important to work in units that the communities themselves work in • Important that all sub-areas are equally represented on the Area Advisory Groups
Publicity and press	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project received regular local press coverage • Profile of Project raised in each area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although publicity for the open meetings was thorough many people declared they had no knowledge of the meetings. • Many people were unaware of the Duthchas Project or if they were, were not familiar with its aims. • Several issues of mis-reporting occurred, with repercussions for the Project and the communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local staff need clarity as to dealing with the press - what can/ cannot be said • Ask for a draft of the article before printing. • Make sure the Project management see copy • Use colours, pictures and user friendly language in adverts. • Say to people: 'we'd really value your contribution'. • Remember people often felt betrayed in the past by similar initiatives. • Don't underestimate the importance of goodwill
Open meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of people who came to the public meetings were happy to participate and did so fully • Open meetings elicited all the information that was required by the process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some communities had poor attendance at the open meetings. Possible reasons: the night chosen clashed with other events, or football/soaps on TV; had been lots of meeting already that week; an expectation of "just another meeting with no tangible result" ; "no-one wants to hear what I have to say anyway" • Some areas had previously experienced a similar process with other projects, felt disillusioned with the results so were reluctant to participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than one facilitator be available, when there are more than two groups • At the end of a meeting, give people a chance to write any comments, which they felt unable to add as a group. • Make sure you are organised and at the venue well in advance. • Be prepared for difficult questions. • Always behave positively. • Always take care with language used in meetings, even if those present are your friends • Be inclusive, share your eye contact. • Judgemental attitudes have no place in this work • Never let an opportunity pass to acknowledge people's efforts. • Give people an idea at the end of the evening what is going to happen next in the work
Out and about	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People were very co-operative and frank. • Many people appreciated this approach and felt it was less formal than a meeting. • Many people who were spoken to said that they never normally attended meetings, therefore this was the only way that their views could be obtained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People themselves were short of time • Travelling distances were great • Weather • People you wanted to see were not in • Other project commitments were distracting • Time needed for people to articulate their thoughts • Action plans seemed difficult to achieve out and about 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out and about is extremely important • Target places where there will be a captive audience (eg. shop, youth club, school, meetings) • Knowing the community is essential – where to find people • Avoid shops if they are too small as people feel rushed and in the way • Give people time to settle into the idea • Go out and about at an appropriate time of year

Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People found the voting process easy • People could see good ideas that they hadn't thought of before • You clearly saw priorities emerge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in rationalising a large number of ideas for manageable voting • Children voting influenced the scoring • Lack of privacy to vote • Strong personalities influenced weaker ones • Not a large cross section in each sub-area • Some people had problems understanding the voting system on forms (Sutherland only) • Some people felt there were too many ideas to vote on • No method for recording the ideas people were against • There was an instance of campaigning for an idea • People voted on sub areas – but not on the overall area • Process did not eliminate potential for double voting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give under 16's a separate sheet to compare responses. • Provide opportunity for confidential voting • Limit to one vote per idea • Get people talking before the vote – eg newsletter • Voting at exhibition is not enough – need to go out and about again with voting • Need a system for recording negative votes • Very important that voting is well organised and supervised to eliminate double voting • Need to distinguish between sub area and pilot area ideas • Allow for evolution of ideas
Recording local initiatives, information and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found out new information • Made people really think about what they had in their area • Tapped into the well of local knowledge • Made people realise where they could get help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This info was not well recorded or requested • Information not complete • Only done in relation to action plans which were only done at public meetings therefore not every one had a chance to contribute, • Didn't ask agencies • Time problem – cursory • People couldn't see the relevance • People think you should have the answers • These are only valid for a certain period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify why this question needs to be answered • Give this more priority – design process specifically • This may be more appropriate at the task group stage • Ask those who knew for more information
Tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful for identifying gaps at an early stage • Showed a good cross section of age and gender were covered • Very good geographical coverage achieved • Involving of children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in getting to 18-25 year olds • Only tracked age and gender – did we get a cross section of population ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking essential to maintaining a balanced cross-section of community • Need to identify areas or groups with poor representation at an early stage
Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring happened informally – you instinctively knew if something was working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was not a formal process planned for monitoring throughout the Initial Review • We had low scores on some objectives – this would have been picked up if we had monitored throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a formal monitoring framework at the start, train staff in this process • Monitoring needs to happen throughout
Agency Process			
Agency workshop		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all agencies attended the meeting • Agencies that did attend didn't fully understand why the exercise was being undertaken • Resulting data was of poor quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only approach agencies for specific information, they find it difficult to deal with theoretical requests given other demands on their time
Agency questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed to elicit data from most agencies which was comparable to community data, in a short timescale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaire was sent to agency reps. on the Partnership Group who didn't always consult with the relevant people in their organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct personal contacts should be made with agencies to support the exercise • Contact should be made directly to local staff as well

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some uncertainty about what was being asked of them • Data was of very variable quality 	as regional and national staff
Analysis/ presentation			
Exhibitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the Project from the communities increased enormously, reflected in the visitor numbers to the exhibitions and the tape slide shows. • Relaxed atmosphere at exhibition • People surprised by the amount of information • Raised local confidence • Venues/ locations were right • Good Area Advisory Group support for exhibitions • Raised profile of Project • Well attended • All information was there and transparent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty of fully representing huge amount of data – space problem • Needed more press coverage • Uist should have had a launch • Time of year – cold and wet – disadvantage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition launches very important in raising profile/good will/ confidence • Should have more time in each sub-area and more evening exhibitions • Push the boat out for this kind of thing – it's worth it • Use the skills of as many local people (especially children) as possible. • Write thank you letters to everyone who has helped • Allow plenty of setting up time • If possible employ a professional to guide exhibition design • Have support from Area Advisory Group in each area
Data analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made sense of a large amount of data • Allowed conclusions to be drawn • Allowed sustainability analysis to occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough time budgeted • Data processing contributed to delay in the overall project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The categories used should fall naturally out of the comments made however time should be taken to stand back and amend/ rationalise before all the data is grouped • Categorisation of data should ideally be carried out by the same person • Realistic time period should be budgeted for this work

7.3 Evaluation

7.3.1 Evaluation by communities

At each exhibition, visitors were asked to evaluate the exhibition, the survey process, the tape slide and the voting process. Below are the results of this evaluation, given by pilot area.

North Sutherland

Sub area	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
How well did it reflect the main issues for your community?											
Very well		*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Quite well</i>	*				*						
<i>Not very well</i>											
How satisfied were you with the community survey process?											
Very well		*		*		*	*	*	*	*	
<i>Quite well</i>	*		*		*						*
<i>Not very well</i>											
Did the tape-slide give a good idea of the issues in your area?											
Very good	*			*		*	*	*		*	*
<i>Quite good</i>			*						*		
<i>Not very good</i>											

* majority opinion

Key to sub areas:

1= Durness	2= Melness
3= Tongue	4= Skerray
5= Strathnaver	6= Altnaharra
7= Bettyhill	8= Armadale
9= Strathy	10= Melvich
11= Halladale	

North Uist

Sub area	1	2	3	4
How well did it reflect the main issues for your community?				
Very well	21	16	31	24
<i>Quite well</i>	2	0	3	0
<i>Not very well</i>	0	0	0	0
How satisfied were you with the community survey process?				
Very well	17	10	28	22
<i>Quite well</i>	5	6	3	2
<i>Not very well</i>	1	0	3	0
Did the video give a good impression of the ideas?				
Yes	10	9	21	19
<i>No</i>	5	0	1	0
Did you find the voting...				
<i>Easy?</i>	23	17	32	24
<i>Difficult?</i>	0	0	0	0

1= Berneray	2= Lochmaddy
3= Bayhead	4= Sollas

NB There was no space at the Carinish /Grimsay exhibition to carry out this evaluation exercise.

North Trotternish

In Trotternish, data was gathered for the pilot area as a whole. This method and the questions asked were amended after the Trotternish exhibition, and before the exhibitions in Sutherland and North Uist.

Questions	Yes	No
Was the information clear?	79	7*
Does the information present a good picture of your area?	82	8*
Was it easy to vote?	84	7*

* These votes all came from the same teenagers in Uig.

7.3.2 Evaluation by staff

A participatory Evaluation day was held for the Duthchas Project Team, facilitated by Scottish Participatory Initiatives, in May 1999. This enabled staff to:

- review the Initial Review process they had conducted
- evaluate how well they had achieved the Initial Review objectives
- identify and record the positive and negative reasons for their evaluation
- identify and record the lessons they learned for the next phase of the Project
- to do the above in a non-threatening, structured and documented way.

Staff were split into two groups and evaluated how well they had achieved the Initial Review objectives, set at the initial training day (listed in Section 3.1.1).

Objectives	Group 1 Score	Group 2 Score	Average score
To meet with as wide a cross section of people living in each sub-area as possible in the time available	9	8.5	8.75
To enable these people to identify and record what they like and dislike about their locality	6.5	9	7.75
To enable these people to identify and record ideas for the future well being of their locality	7	7.5	7.25
To enable these people to identify what ideas they prefer	6	7.5	6.75
To enable these people to identify and record what local initiatives exist and who is involved with these in the locality	1.5	10/5	
To enable these people to identify and record what local information and resources exist	5.5	2.5	4
To identify potential task group members for the top 3-5 local priority ideas	8	1	4.5
To engage positively with local people	9.5	9	9.25
To monitor how well the above objectives were being achieved throughout the process of the Initial Review	5.5	2.5	4
To plan and execute a major publicity and dissemination event in each sub-area at the end of the Initial Review	9	9.5	9.25
To not raise unrealistic expectations	7.5	7	7.25

NB. The full Report of the Evaluation of the Initial Review is available upon request.

APPENDICES
to the Initial Review Report
North Uist
Uibhist a'Tuath

INITIAL REVIEW REPORT - APPENDICES

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains the appendices to the main report of the Initial review carried out by the Duthchas Project in North Uist and Berneray over the winter of 1998/99. These appendices contain the raw data that was collected from both communities and agencies in the course of the initial review – in order to interpret this data, readers are referred to the main report.

An enormous amount of data was collected in the process of the Initial Review

	Likes	Dislikes	Ideas
North Sutherland	512	444	581
Trotternish	491	481	766
North Uist	604	428	452

In order to make sense of this data, similar comments needed to be categorised and grouped together. The categories used were derived from going through a sample of the data and grouping similar comments, then naming the group. Firstly, all comments were categorised as either:

- E Environmental
- S Social
- Ec Economic

Then, within those categorised as 'E', comments were coded from 1 – 10, to further break down the grouping. Similarly this was done for those categorised 'S' and 'Ec'. Each and every comment made was categorised according to this system. This exercise was carried out centrally, to ensure comparability between the pilot areas.

This then enabled the number of times an issue was mentioned to be counted (and thus the popularity of the issue amongst respondents). Also within each category the individual comments could be analysed as to what exactly it was about the issue that people felt was important. A summary of this information is given below in the analysis of the data. Further analysis of the data is given in section 6, in relation to sustainability. Full listings of the data are to be found in the appendices.

The same system was used to code the comments made by the agencies, thus enabling the data to be integrated and compared. It was very important to do this integration, as it allowed us to see where agencies and communities agreed, the issues that agencies were particularly interested in (but communities not) and vice versa.

The table below lists the categories used to sort the data:

No.	E	No.	S	No.	Ec
1	Scenery/landscape	1	Community spirit/values	1	Shops/ cost of living
2	Walks/access	2	Local democracy/partnership	2	Transport/traffic
3	Natural environment /animals/plants	3	People & population	3	Agriculture/ Crofting
4	Water/sea/beach	4	Quality of life	4	Game – shooting/ angling
5	Land/hills	5	Culture, history & traditions	5	Tourism
6	Air	6	Education/ training	6	Sea fishing/ harbours
7	Weather	7	Remote/rural/small	7	Industry/factories
8	Noise	8	Safety/crime	8	Power/telecom
9	Pollution/ waste	9	Religion (inc Columba 1400)	9	Employment
10	Peace quiet/ space	10	Recreation/sport	10	Forestry
		11	Housing	11	Local produce
		12	Community facilities	12	Marketing
		13	Health	13	General economy
		14	Water & sewerage	14	IT
				15	Aggregates

APPENDIX 1**NORTH UIST - COMMUNITY LIKES**

Comment	Code	Number	Suggested by
Sealladh snog (beautiful view)	E	1	Bay
Wild and beautiful	E	1	Bay
Wild and beautiful	E	1	Bay
Living in a beautiful place	E	1	Bay
Beautiful in summer	E	1	Bay
Beautiful in summer	E	1	Bay
Scenery	E	1	Bay
Scenery	E	1	Bay
Scenery	E	1	Bay
View from Carradh	E	1	Bay
Landscape	E	1	Bay
Landscape	E	1	Bay
Sheabaidh	E	1	Bern
Sheabaidh	E	1	Bern
Environment for photography	E	1	Bern
Beauty and scenery	E	1	Bern
Beauty	E	1	Bern
Tranquillity	E	1	Car
Tranquillity	E	1	Car
Views	E	1	Car
Scenery	E	1	Car
Scenery	E	1	Car
Scenery	E	1	Car
Scenery	E	1	Car
Scenery	E	1	Car
Scenery	E	1	Car
Scenery	E	1	Car
The view from my window	E	1	Car
Most beautiful place on a nice day	E	1	Grim
Beautiful	E	1	Grim
Scenery and views	E	1	Grim
Scenery	E	1	Lochm
Scenery	E	1	Lochm
Scenery	E	1	Lochm
Beautiful in summer	E	1	Lochm
Beautiful in summer	E	1	Lochm
Beautiful in summer	E	1	Lochm
Natural beauty	E	1	Lochm
Most beautiful place	E	1	Sollas
Views	E	1	Sollas
Geography of the place	E	1	Sollas
Scenery	E	1	Sollas
Scenery	E	1	Sollas
Scenery	E	1	Sollas
Scenery	E	1	Sollas
Scenery	E	1	Sollas
Scenery	E	1	Sollas
Beautiful in Summer	E	1	Sollas
Beautiful in Summer	E	1	Sollas
Aite alainn (beautiful place)	E	1	Sollas
Views	E	2	Car
Hill walking	E	2	Car
Hill walking	E	2	Car
Lots of places to walk; moor and beach	E	2	Car
Peaceful walks	E	2	Sollas

[illegible]

Hosta beach	E	4	Bay
Hosta beach	E	4	Bay
Hosta beach	E	4	Bay
Hosta beach	E	4	Bay
Water Board	E	4	Bay
Beaches	E	4	Bern
Beaches	E	4	Bern
Beaches	E	4	Bern
Beaches	E	4	Bern
Beaches	E	4	Bern
Loch Brusda	E	4	Bern
Bay's Loch	E	4	Bern
Port ach Amber	E	4	Bern
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
Balashare beach	E	4	Car
The big long loch	E	4	Car
Scotview Bay	E	4	Grim
Beaches in Newton	e	4	Lochm
Beaches in Newton	e	4	Lochm
Beaches in Newton	e	4	Lochm
The sea	E	4	Lochm
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The beaches	E	4	Sollas
The strand	E	4	Sollas
Near the sea	E	4	Sollas
Near the sea	E	4	Sollas
Traighean snog (beautiful beaches)	e	5	Bay
The hills	E	5	Car
The land	E	5	Sollas
The land	E	5	Sollas
Lovely fresh air, healthy living	E	6	Bay
Lovely fresh air, healthy living	E	6	Bay
Lovely fresh air, healthy living	E	6	Bay

[illegible]

Peace and Quiet	E	10	Lochm
Spacious	E	10	Lochm
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Peace and Quiet	E	10	Sollas
Open spaces	E	10	Sollas
The long evenings in the summer	E	?	Bern
My garden	E	?	Bern
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Bayhead Shop	Ec	1	Bay
Near road, PO and post-box	ec	1	Bay
Pub (Westford)	ec	1	Bay
Pub (Westford)	ec	1	Bay
Clachan Shop	Ec	1	Car
Westford Inn	ec	1	Car
Near to Benbecula	ec	1	Car
Outdoor centre	Ec	1	Lochm
Shop	Ec	1	Lochm
Shop	Ec	1	Lochm
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
The Coop	Ec	1	Sollas
Road goes right through village	Ec	2	Bay
Not much traffic	Ec	2	Bern
Causeway means you don't have to watch the clock or feel so isolated	Ec	2	Bern
Causeway means you don't have to watch the clock or feel so isolated	Ec	2	Bern
Causeway means you don't have to watch the clock or feel so isolated	Ec	2	Bern
Roads	Ec	2	Car
Roads	Ec	2	Car
Roads	Ec	2	Car
Access across causeway to Balashare	Ec	2	Car
Access across causeway to Balashare	Ec	2	Car
Ferries	Ec	2	Car
Plane service	Ec	2	Car
Not much traffic	Ec	2	Car
Proximity to main road	ec	2	Car
Shoppers bus is handy	Ec	2	Grim
Bus service is very good now	Ec	2	Grim
Easy access to mainland	Ec	2	Lochm
Can get from Lochportain to Lochmaddy and back in an hour now.	Ec	2	Lochm
Handy for Otternish ferry	Ec	2	Lochm
Near Ferry	Ec	2	Lochm
Not lots of traffic going through	Ec	2	Sollas

Bus shelters	Ec	2	Sollas
Crofts passing from generation to generation	Ec	3	Bay
Agriculture is good	Ec	3	Bay
Good land for cultivating	Ec	3	Bay
Drier land than east of island	Ec	3	Bay
Working crofting area	Ec	3	Bay
Crofting	Ec	3	Bern
Fertile soil	Ec	3	Bern
Fertile land in Sandhill	Ec	3	Bern
Good land for agriculture	Ec	3	Car
Lochportain good for peats – everyone does their own	Ec	3	Lochm
Agriculture	Ec	3	Sollas
Agriculture	Ec	3	Sollas
Loch fishing	Ec	4	Sollas
Lots of tourists	Ec	5	Lochm
Lots of tourists	Ec	5	Lochm
Nice to see caravans and tourists in Newton in summer	Ec	5	Lochm
Fishing in area	Ec	6	Car
Fishing in area	Ec	6	Car
Fishing in area	Ec	6	Car
Fishing in area	Ec	6	Car
Fishing in area	Ec	6	Car
Fishing in area	Ec	6	Car
Fishing in area	Ec	6	Car
Easy access to slipway for fishing	Ec	6	Car
Fishing	Ec	6	Grim
Fishing	Ec	6	Grim
Lochportain good for fishing	Ec	6	Lochm
The pier	Ec	6	Lochm
The sea fishing in the pools at Malacleit	Ec	6	Sollas
Water and electric	Ec	8	Car
Able to work independently	Ec	9	Lochm
Freedom	Ec	10	Bay
Langass Trees	Ec	10	Lochm
Area that can be developed	Ec	13	Bay
Privacy	S	1	Bay
The slower way of life	S	1	Bay
Feis Tir an Eorna (the sense of activity)	S	1	Bay
Close families	S	1	Bay
Community spirit	S	1	Bay
Community spirit	S	1	Bay
Community spirit	S	1	Bay
Attitude to kids on the island	S	1	Bay
Community	S	1	Bern
A place where people matter	S	1	Bern
The way of life	S	1	Bern
Close knit community	S	1	Bern
Beagan coimhearsnachd air fhagail (a little community still left)	S	1	Car
Locheport is an open township	S	1	Car
Privacy	S	1	Car
Privacy	S	1	Car
Privacy	S	1	Car
Way of life	S	1	Car
No stress – easy going environment	S	1	Car
Community spirit	S	1	Car
Community spirit	S	1	Car
Community	S	1	Grim
Sense of belonging	S	1	Grim
Sense of community	S	1	Lochm
Privacy	S	1	Lochm
Good way of life (no rat race)	S	1	Lochm

[illegible]

People make you welcome (friendly)	S	3	Car
People make you welcome (friendly)	S	3	Car
People make you welcome (friendly)	S	3	Car
Family near by	S	3	Car
Family near by	S	3	Car
Family near by	S	3	Car
Nice neighbours	S	3	Car
Nice neighbours	S	3	Car
Kind people	S	3	Grim
Kind people	S	3	Grim
Kind people	S	3	Grim
Kind people	S	3	Grim
Friendly neighbours	S	3	Grim
Friendly neighbours	S	3	Grim
Friendly neighbours	S	3	Grim
People	S	3	Grim
People visiting each other	S	3	Lochm
Nice people, very kind	S	3	Lochm
Nice people, very kind	S	3	Lochm
Nice people, very kind	S	3	Lochm
Nice people, very kind	S	3	Lochm
People	S	3	Lochm
The goss	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
The friendly people	S	3	Sollas
" Sollas is better to stay in than any place in the world. The crofters are more kindly to help each other, than any corner in Uist" – written on post-it by elderly gentleman	S	3	Sollas
Mix of people	S	3	Sollas
Na daoine (people)	S	3	Sollas
Lived here nearly all my life	S	4	Bay
Born and brought up here	S	4	Bay
It's my birth place	S	4	Bern
Nice to come home	S	4	Car
Brought up here	S	4	Car
Childhood memories from when it was a proper island (no causeway)	S	4	Grim
Born here	S	4	Grim
Born here	S	4	Grim
Tugadh agus thogadh mi an seo (I was born and brought up here)	S	4	Grim
Math airson clann bheag (good for young children)	S	4	Grim
Good to live here as always have	S	4	Grim
Heritage	S	5	Bay
Craig Hastain (natural church)	S	5	Bay
Culture and Heritage	S	5	Bay
Gaelic language	S	5	Bern
Roots (personal history)	S	5	Car
Teampall na Trianaid	S	5	Car
Teampall na Trianaid	S	5	Car
Teampall na Trianaid	S	5	Car

Historical sites	S	5	Car
Barpa Langais and stone circle	S	5	Car
Barpa Langais and stone circle	S	5	Car
Gaelic language	S	5	Car
Fluent Gaelic	S	5	Grim
Fluent Gaelic	S	5	Grim
Can still hear the gospel in my own language	S	5	Grim
Empathy with gaelic and religion of the island	S	5	Grim
Gaelic speakers	S	5	Grim
Taigh Chearsabhagh	S	5	Lochm
Taigh Chearsabhagh	S	5	Lochm
Taigh Chearsabhagh	S	5	Lochm
History and Culture of area	S	5	Sollas
History and Culture of area	S	5	Sollas
History and Culture of area	S	5	Sollas
Gaidhlig air a bruidhinn (gaelic spoken area)	S	5	Sollas
Community School	S	6	Bay
Community School	S	6	Bay
Education system	S	6	Bay
School and children	S	6	Bern
Handy for school	S	6	Car
Good education and schooling	S	6	Car
Local primary school	S	6	Car
Local primary school	S	6	Car
Gaelic medium school in village	S	6	Sollas
Gaelic medium school in village	S	6	Sollas
Gaelic medium school in village	S	6	Sollas
Gaelic medium school in village	S	6	Sollas
Gaelic medium school in village	S	6	Sollas
Remoteness (although you can still get away)	S	7	Bay
Not crowded	S	7	Bay
Not like the city	S	7	Bay
Small is beautiful	S	7	Bern
Out of mainstream	S	7	Car
Remoteness	S	7	Car
Location	S	7	Lochm
Newton out of main town	S	7	Lochm
Remoteness	S	7	Lochm
Safety	S	8	Bay
Sabhailte (safety)	S	8	Bay
Sabhailte (safety)	S	8	Bay
Safety (esp. for children)	S	8	Bay
Safety (esp. for children)	S	8	Bay
Safety (esp. for children)	S	8	Bay
Relatively crime free	S	8	Bay
Safe surroundings	S	8	Bern
Safe surroundings	S	8	Bern
I can go out for the day without my Mum worrying about me	S	8	Bern
Security – can leave doors open	S	8	Bern
Sabhailte (safety)	S	8	Car
No need to lock doors	S	8	Car
Safety	S	8	Car
Safety	S	8	Car
Safety	S	8	Car
Safety	S	8	Car
Safety	S	8	Car
Low crime	S	8	Lochm
Security	S	8	Lochm
Security	S	8	Lochm
Well behaved place	S	8	Sollas
Safe for children	S	8	Sollas

Kilmuir Church	S	9	Bay
Observance of Lord's Day	S	9	Bay
Tradition of prayers in the home before a funeral	S	9	Bern
St Michael's Chapel	S	9	Grim
Mission house	S	9	Sollas
Sabbath observance	S	9	Sollas
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
MacAskills/ Animal Centre for kids	s	10	Bay
Athletics club	S	10	Bay
Athletics club	S	10	Bay
Football pitch	S	10	Bay
Potential to develop sports facilities	s	10	Bern
You can go sailing and swimming in lochs	S	10	Car
Community activities	S	10	Car
Community activities	S	10	Car
Good that changes have occurred easier to do things now	S	10	Grim
Can cycle in hill	S	10	Lochm
Youth club	S	10	Sollas
Stradagan (youth club)	S	10	Sollas
New houses	S	11	Bern
The Black Houses	S	11	Bern
Family home	S	11	Lochm
Houses being a bit apart	S	11	Lochm
Gardens	S	11	Sollas
Youth club	S	12	Bay
Youth club	S	12	Bay
Youth club	S	12	Bay
Youth club	S	12	Bay
Hall	S	12	Bern
Hall	S	12	Bern
There's only one streetlight in Locheport	S	12	Car
Hall	S	12	Car
Hall	S	12	Car
Hall	S	12	Car
Hall	S	12	Car
Hall	S	12	Car
Library comes round	S	12	Grim
More amenities than there used to be	S	12	Lochm
Near amenities; shop, PO, and school	S	12	Sollas
Near amenities; shop, PO, and school	S	12	Sollas
Near amenities; shop, PO, and school	S	12	Sollas
Near amenities; shop, PO, and school	S	12	Sollas
Near amenities; shop, PO, and school	S	12	Sollas
Healthy place	S	13	Grim

APPENDIX 2**NORTH UIST - COMMUNITY DISLIKES**

Comments	Code	No.	Suggested by
Lack of beach access	E	2	Bay
Rabbits	E	3	Bay
Rabbits	E	3	Bay
Rabbits	E	3	Bay
Rabbits	E	3	Bay
Lack of trees	E	3	Bay
Crows	E	3	Bern
Far too many geese	E	3	Bern
Rabbits	E	3	Car
Rabbits	E	3	Car
Rabbits	E	3	Car
Lack of trees and flowers planted	E	3	Car
Geese	E	3	Car
Deer on roads and in fields	E	3	Car
Deer on roads and in fields	E	3	Car
Ferrets	E	3	Car
Rabbits	E	3	Lochm
Fact there are no rabbits in Berneray	E	3	Lochm
Rats	E	3	Sollas
Geese	E	3	Sollas
Geese	E	3	Sollas
Coastal erosion	E	4	Bay
Coastal erosion	E	4	Bay
Coastal erosion	E	4	Bay
Coastal erosion	E	4	Bay
Coastal erosion	E	4	Bay
West side blowing away	E	4	Bern
High tide	E	4	Bern
Bad tasting water	E	4	Bern
Erosion at Balashare	E	4	Car
Erosion at Balashare	E	4	Car
Erosion at Balashare	E	4	Car
Erosion at Balashare	E	4	Car
Erosion at Balashare	E	4	Car
Coastal erosion	E	4	Lochm
Erosion on machair	E	4	Sollas
Erosion on machair	E	4	Sollas
Erosion on machair	E	4	Sollas
Waterlogged ground	E	5	Car
Waterlogged ground	E	5	Car
Waterlogged ground	E	5	Car
Bad drainage at Parkhall Hollow	e	5	Car
No main sewer	E	6	Sollas
Bad weather	E	7	Bay
Chan eil side math ann (no good weather)	e	7	Bay
Weather	E	7	Bern
Very open to wind – no shelter in gales	E	7	Bern
Long winters	E	7	Bern
Weather	E	7	Car
Weather	E	7	Car
Bad weather	E	7	Grim
Bad weather	E	7	Grim
Bad weather	E	7	Grim
Weather	E	7	Lochm

Weather	E	7	Lochm
Weather	E	7	Lochm
Place so wet	E	7	Lochm
Weather	E	7	Sollas
Weather	E	7	Sollas
Environment being spoilt by rubbish	E	9	Bay
Area in front of the school looks unsightly	E	9	Bay
'Bayhead' environment; foreshore and roads	E	9	Bay
Litter and unauthorised dumps	E	9	Bay
Litter and unauthorised dumps	E	9	Bay
Rubbish around Bayhead	E	9	Bay
Mess around bins and drains	E	9	Bay
Litter	E	9	Bay
Noise from Animal Centre	E	9	Bay
Mess around harbour	E	9	Bern
Litter	E	9	Car
Litter	E	9	Car
Litter	E	9	Car
Old cars lying about	E	9	Car
Rubbish on shore	E	9	Grim
Unnecessary rubbish	E	9	Sollas
Unnecessary rubbish	E	9	Sollas
Litter on machair; black silage bags	E	9	Sollas
Litter on machair; black silage bags	E	9	Sollas
Litter on machair; black silage bags	E	9	Sollas
Wasted machinery spoiling scenery	E	9	Sollas
Wasted machinery spoiling scenery	E	9	Sollas
Wasted machinery spoiling scenery	E	9	Sollas
Wasted machinery spoiling scenery	E	9	Sollas
Too quiet	E	10	Bay
Too quiet	e	10	Car
Too quiet	E	10	Lochm
Too quiet	E	10	Lochm
Lack of space	E	10	Sollas
So far from shops	Ec	1	Bay
So far from shops	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of shops	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of shops	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of shops	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of shops	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of shops	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of shops	Ec	1	Bay
No competition therefore expensive shops	Ec	1	Bay
Effect of geographical position; cost of living	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of fresh fruit and veg	Ec	1	Bay
Lack of café on West Side	Ec	1	Bay
Everything too expensive	Ec	1	Bay
Chan eil buthan ann (no shops)	ec	1	Bay
Chan eil cinema ann (no cinema)	ec	1	Bay
High cost of living	Ec	1	Bern
Not enough shops	Ec	1	Bern
Not enough shops	Ec	1	Bern
Can't buy local produce easily	Ec	1	Car
No grocery shop in Lochport	Ec	1	Car
Shops don't have enough choice	Ec	1	Car
Shops don't have enough choice	Ec	1	Car
Lack of eating places	Ec	1	Car
Living costs	Ec	1	Car
Not easy to buy local goods	Ec	1	Grim
Lack of shop in Newton	Ec	1	Lochm
Lack of shop in Newton	Ec	1	Lochm

High cost of food	Ec	1	Lochm
High cost of food	Ec	1	Lochm
Too much veg imported	Ec	1	Lochm
Lack of choice in shops	Ec	1	Lochm
Lack of eating places	Ec	1	Lochm
No tearoom or café	Ec	1	Sollas
No newspapers quite often	Ec	1	Sollas
No hair dresser	Ec	1	Sollas
Not enough shops	Ec	1	Sollas
Not enough shops	Ec	1	Sollas
Not enough shops	Ec	1	Sollas
Not enough shops	Ec	1	Sollas
Not enough shops	Ec	1	Sollas
Road at Balmartin not tarred since 1938	Ec	2	Bay
Road at Balmartin not tarred since 1939	Ec	2	Bay
Bus service is only one way from West side	Ec	2	Bay
Poor communications; single track roads	Ec	2	Bay
Lack of regular bus service; hourly	Ec	2	Bay
Cost of freight	Ec	2	Bay
Quality of roads	Ec	2	Bay
Quality of roads	Ec	2	Bay
Quality of roads	Ec	2	Bay
Quality of roads	Ec	2	Bay
Lack of proper sign posting	Ec	2	Bay
Chan eil rathad math ann (bad roads)	ec	2	Bay
Road at Balmartin not tarred since 1940	Ec	2	Bay
Cost of transport	Ec	2	Bern
Speeding traffic	Ec	2	Bern
Too much concrete and tarmac	Ec	2	Bern
The thought of Berneray being a through fare	Ec	2	Bern
Roads	Ec	2	Bern
Sunday traffic making it so busy. Not quiet like it used to be	Ec	2	Bern
Road verges	Ec	2	Car
Road verges	Ec	2	Car
Inadequate transport facilities	Ec	2	Car
Inadequate transport facilities	Ec	2	Car
Roads only patched rather than improved	Ec	2	Car
Fact you have to rely on ferry and plane to leave island	Ec	2	Car
Fast traffic	Ec	2	Car
Fast traffic	Ec	2	Car
Fast traffic	Ec	2	Car
Buses don't run to schedule and not at good times	Ec	2	Car
Causeway impassable in bad weather	Ec	2	Car
Causeway impassable in bad weather	Ec	2	Car
Causeway impassable in bad weather	Ec	2	Car
Causeway impassable in bad weather	Ec	2	Car
Causeway impassable in bad weather	Ec	2	Car
Roads are bad	Ec	2	Car
Roads are bad	Ec	2	Car
Roads are bad	Ec	2	Car
Roads are bad	Ec	2	Car
Roads are bad	Ec	2	Car
No Sunday ferry	Ec	2	Car
Noisy traffic at night	Ec	2	Car
Noisy traffic at night	Ec	2	Car
Causeways being single track even with high traffic nowadays	Ec	2	Grim
High ferry and air fares	Ec	2	Grim
High cost of petrol	Ec	2	Lochm
High cost of petrol	Ec	2	Lochm
High cost of petrol	Ec	2	Lochm
Expense to get to Mainland	Ec	2	Lochm

No Sunday ferry in winter	Ec	2	Lochm
Fast traffic on roads	Ec	2	Lochm
Lack of bus service to Lochportain	Ec	2	Lochm
People going to Otternish ferry not stopping in passing places	Ec	2	Lochm
Newton Road not wide enough for heavy lorries	Ec	2	Lochm
Lack of petrol pumps in Newton	Ec	2	Lochm
Roads	Ec	2	Lochm
Ferries and planes too expensive	Ec	2	Lochm
Low flying jets; especially in the Minch	Ec	2	Lochm
No road down to machair at Grenitote when tide in	Ec	2	Sollas
No pavements through Sollas	Ec	2	Sollas
Young children have to change buses	Ec	2	Sollas
The awful roads	Ec	2	Sollas
The awful roads	Ec	2	Sollas
Speeding cars / careless drivers	Ec	2	Sollas
Speeding cars / careless drivers	Ec	2	Sollas
No carpark at coop	Ec	2	Sollas
No carpark at coop	Ec	2	Sollas
No carpark at coop	Ec	2	Sollas
No carpark at coop	Ec	2	Sollas
Not enough buses or transport	Ec	2	Sollas
Not enough buses or transport	Ec	2	Sollas
Not enough buses or transport	Ec	2	Sollas
Feudal system; Landlord having shooting, fishing and mineral rights	Ec	3	Bay
Machair land being spoilt through feeding cattle	Ec	3	Bay
Poor market for stock	Ec	3	Bay
Cow muck on roads	Ec	3	Bay
No flat land	Ec	3	Bay
Sheep on roads	Ec	3	Bay
Sheep on roads	Ec	3	Bay
Sheep on roads	Ec	3	Bay
Sheep on roads	Ec	3	Bay
Too many sheep	Ec	3	Bay
Crofting disappearing	Ec	3	Bern
Fences	Ec	3	Car
Fences	Ec	3	Car
Fences	Ec	3	Car
Fences	Ec	3	Car
Fences	Ec	3	Car
One or two crofters taking over all the crofts	Ec	3	Car
Price of sending cattle away	Ec	3	Car
Price of culling cattle	Ec	3	Car
People owning crofts in areas they don't live in	Ec	3	Car
Sheep on road	Ec	3	Car
Sheep on road	Ec	3	Car
Sheep on road	Ec	3	Car
Sheep on road	Ec	3	Car
Sheep on road	Ec	3	Car
Too many sheep	Ec	3	Car
Too many sheep	Ec	3	Car
Cattle dung on roads	ec	3	Grim
Cattle dung on roads	ec	3	Grim
Sheep on main road	Ec	3	Grim
Cows and sheep roaming	Ec	3	Grim
Weeds in crops	Ec	3	Lochm
Sheep	Ec	3	Lochm
Sheep	Ec	3	Lochm
Sheep	Ec	3	Sollas
Cattle and sheep roaming	Ec	3	Sollas
Cattle and sheep roaming	Ec	3	Sollas
Close season on some fishing	Ec	4	Bern

The lack of tourist information in winter	Ec	5	Bern
Everything is geared for the tourists: buses and tearoom	Ec	5	Bern
Tourists not respecting the island and the people	Ec	5	Bern
Caravans parked by roadside in Lochport	Ec	5	Car
No hostel or tourist accommodation in Lochport	Ec	5	Car
No bins or picnic area at Balashare Beach	Ec	5	Car
The mess around the fish farm	Ec	6	Car
The mess around the fish farm	Ec	6	Car
No marina for boats	Ec	6	Car
No proper slipway in Lochport	Ec	6	Car
No proper slipway in Lochport	Ec	6	Car
Lack of on shore facilities for boats in Lochport	Ec	6	Car
Mess at Kallin Harbour	ec	6	Grim
Mess at Kallin Harbour	ec	6	Grim
Smell at Kintorran Fish	Ec	6	Grim
Piers	Ec	6	Lochm
Television goes off too often	Ec	8	Car
Hydro poles	Ec	8	Car
Hydro poles	Ec	8	Car
No alternative work	Ec	9	Bay
Lack of work	Ec	9	Bay
Lack of employment	Ec	9	Car
Lack of work or opportunities	Ec	9	Sollas
Lack of work or opportunities	Ec	9	Sollas
Lack of work	Ec	10	Bern
Limited choice of jobs for women; eg only teaching or nursing	Ec	10	Bern
High demand for employment	Ec	10	Grim
No work available	Ec	10	Grim
No work available	Ec	10	Grim
No work available	Ec	10	Grim
No work available	Ec	10	Grim
Few money making opportunities	Ec	13	Bay
Difficulty in obtaining funding	Ec	13	Bay
Clannishness	S	1	Bay
Bureacracy, paperwork and negative attitudes	S	1	Bay
Community involvement could be improved	S	1	Bern
A lot of change and development in short time. Do we know what it will lead to?	S	1	Bern
Apathy	S	1	Bern
Lack of cohesion	S	1	Bern
Lack of input from youth	S	1	Bern
Needless change	S	1	Bern
Closeness can sometimes make you feel suffocated – too insular	S	1	Bern
Siar chall a choimhearsnachd (continuing to lose community spirit)	S	1	Car
Glusad air falbh bho obair fearran,ruadan dualchas – an doigh beatha (moving away from crofting and traditional ways – the old way of life)	S	1	Car
No community spirit	S	1	Car
Community is starting to die – ceilidhing has stopped	S	1	Grim
Negative attitudes	S	1	Grim
Common Grazing Committees deteriorating and with it community spirit	S	1	Lochm
" If you do something you get slagged off – if you do nothing you get slagged off"	S	1	Sollas
No privacy	S	1	Sollas
Lack of backing from agencies	s	2	Bay
Upset and dispute due to poor communication between CNES and local community	S	2	Bern
Not enough money input into township in comparison to council scheme	S	2	Sollas
SNH	S	2	Sollas
SNH	S	2	Sollas
The balance between incomers and locals is lifting towards more incomers	S	3	Bay
Thin population	S	3	Bay

Gossip and tittle tattle	S	3	Bay
Gossip and tittle tattle	S	3	Bay
Gossip and tittle tattle	S	3	Bay
Chan eil mo charaidean ann (my friends aren't in the area)	s	3	Bay
Population imbalance	S	3	Bern
Society change	S	3	Bern
Loneliness	S	3	Bern
Not enough young families	S	3	Bern
The young not coming back	S	3	Bern
Too many English people coming in	S	3	Bern
Population getting smaller	S	3	Car
Population getting smaller	S	3	Car
Not enough female talent	S	3	Car
Some of the people	S	3	Car
Nepotism is rife here	S	3	Grim
People know too much about your business	S	3	Lochm
White settlers	S	3	Lochm
Unpleasant meetings with people	S	3	Sollas
Neighbours from hell	S	3	Sollas
People are nosy and gossipy	S	3	Sollas
Undesirable people being allowed to move into council houses	S	3	Sollas
Dome at Cleitral	S	5	Bay
Forgetting our heritage	S	5	Bay
Historical sites being left to decay	S	5	Bay
Seeing the black houses rotting away	S	5	Bern
Old customs being disregarded; eg hanging out washing on a Sunday	S	5	Bern
Lack of finance from Historic Scotland to restore Teampall na Trianaid	S	5	Car
Oigridh a cuir an culladh ris a ghaidhlig agus an dualchas (youngsters abandoning their language and culture)	S	5	Car
Dilapidation of Ard a Mhorain Cemetery (historic site)	S	5	Sollas
Lack of interest of youth in Gaelic and crofting	S	5	Sollas
School	S	6	Bay
School	S	6	Bay
School	S	6	Bay
School	S	6	Bay
School	S	6	Bay
School too small	S	6	Car
Children from Balashare having to travel to school	S	6	Car
That Lochportain School has closed	S	6	Lochm
Isolation	S	7	Bay
Too small	S	7	Car
Too small	S	7	Car
Isolated	S	7	Lochm
Barking and biting dogs	S	8	Bern
The lack of interest in the Church	S	9	Bay
Far from Church in Benbecula	S	9	Bay
Religious aspects don't always help	S	9	Lochm
Fact church in Lochportain has closed	S	9	Lochm
Lack of activities at night	S	10	Bay
Lack of activities at night	S	10	Bay
Lack of activities at night	S	10	Bay
Nothing exciting happening	S	10	Bay
Nothing exciting happening	S	10	Bay
Nothing exciting happening	S	10	Bay
Nothing exciting happening	S	10	Bay
Chan eil cur seachadan ann (no pastimes for children)	s	10	Bay
Lack of social life for all ages	S	10	Bern
No playpark/ adventure ground	S	10	Bern
Lack of activities	S	10	Bern
Television	S	10	Car
No playpark	S	10	Car

No playpark	S	10	Car
No playpark	S	10	Car
No playpark	S	10	Car
No playpark	S	10	Car
No playpark	S	10	Car
No playpark	S	10	Car
No playpark	S	10	Car
Lack of sports facilities	S	10	Car
Lack of sports facilities	S	10	Car
Lack of sports facilities	S	10	Car
Lack of sports facilities	S	10	Car
No proper football pitch	S	10	Car
Nothing for young ones to do after school	S	10	Grim
Lack of things for teenagers to do	S	10	Grim
Lack of sports facilities	S	10	Lochm
Nothing happens outside of Lochmaddy; i.e. Newton/Lochportain	S	10	Lochm
Football pitch in bad state	S	10	Lochm
Boring	S	10	Lochm
Boring	S	10	Lochm
The lack of entertainment for the younger generation	S	10	Sollas
No playpark	S	10	Sollas
No pub or night life	S	10	Sollas
No pub or night life	S	10	Sollas
Lack of things to do	S	10	Sollas
Lack of things to do	S	10	Sollas
No sports facilities	S	10	Sollas
No sports facilities	S	10	Sollas
No sports facilities	S	10	Sollas
Derelict buildings in Bayhead	S	11	Bay
Derelict houses	S	11	Bern
Locals selling houses as holiday homes	S	11	Car
Lack of amenities	S	11	Lochm
Council houses don't fit in with area	S	11	Sollas
Distance between houses	S	11	Sollas
Lack of services which Council Tax should pay for	S	12	Bay
No frequent bin collection	S	12	Bern
Streetlights	S	12	Car
Lack of hall facilities	S	12	Car
No streetlights	S	12	Car
Lack of regular refuse collection	S	12	Car
Lack of regular refuse collection	S	12	Car
Hall too small	S	12	Car
Hall too small	S	12	Car
Streetlights in rural areas	S	12	Car
No youth facilities	S	12	Car
No youth facilities	S	12	Car
No youth facilities	S	12	Car
No focal point – no gathering place so people don't see and talk to each other as often	S	12	Grim
Lack of social meeting place in Lochportain	S	12	Lochm
Too far from facilities if living in Newton	S	12	Lochm
Lack of swimming pool in North Uist	S	12	Lochm
Only things for under fives to do (not older children)	S	12	Lochm
No weekly bin collection	S	12	Sollas
Streetlights	S	12	Sollas
Streetlights	S	12	Sollas
Not enough streetlights	S	12	Sollas
Not enough streetlights	S	12	Sollas
Lack of public facilities i.e. toilets, hall	S	12	Sollas
Lack of public facilities i.e. toilets, hall	S	12	Sollas
Lack of public facilities i.e. toilets, hall	S	12	Sollas

Lack of public facilities i.e. toilets, hall	S	12	Sollas
Lack of public facilities i.e. toilets, hall	S	12	Sollas
Lack of public facilities i.e. toilets, hall	S	12	Sollas
No meeting place (Taigh Sgoile too small)	S	12	Sollas
No meeting place (Taigh Sgoile too small)	S	12	Sollas
No meeting place (Taigh Sgoile too small)	S	12	Sollas
No meeting place (Taigh Sgoile too small)	S	12	Sollas
No meeting place (Taigh Sgoile too small)	S	12	Sollas
No meeting place (Taigh Sgoile too small)	S	12	Sollas
Reputation we have as a hard drinking area	S	13	Bay
Major problem with drink	S	13	Bay
Proximity of pub to housing encourages alcoholism	S	13	Car

APPENDIX 3**NORTH UIST - COMMUNITY IDEAS**

Comment	Code	No.	Suggested by
more trees	E	1	Lochm
reforestation	E	1	Lochm
nature trail	E	2	Bay
benches in scenic areas for walkers	E	2	Bern
more marked walks with information pamphlets	E	2	Car
guided walks	E	2	Lochm
path to sgurra include bird watching hide	E	2	Sollas
sign posted walks on machair and hill with info	E	2	Sollas
organise beaches; right of way, parking,	E	2	Sollas
gassing scheme for rabbits for whole island	E	3	Bay
more conservation methods and support	E	3	Car
exporting of rabbits	E	3	Car
get rid of rabbits and ferrets	E	3	Car
encourage more people to look after environment	E	3	Car
gas all rabbits in newton area	E	3	Lochm
improve quality of water; less chemicals input	E	4	Bay
stop erosion	E	4	Car
picnic areas etc	E	4	Sollas
scheme for less erosion on beach	E	4	Sollas
encourage practices which help machair/beach	E	4	Sollas
sign at beaches : tide times, where to go, safety	E	4	Sollas
beach clean up	E	9	Bay
clean up of beaches	E	9	Bay
getting unemployed to help keep place tidy	E	9	Bay
recycling plant – bottles and papers etc	E	9	Bay
site for crofters to dispose of black bags	E	9	Bay
tidy beaches & machair, and make them more accessible	E	9	Bay
tidy-up of area	E	9	Bay
encourage a tidy island	E	9	Bern
clean-up villages	E	9	Car
clean rubbish around fish farm	E	9	Car
balashare beach clean-up	E	9	Car
annual tidy-up of village	E	9	Sollas
recycling area, bottle bank & scrap metal skip	E	9	Sollas
better shop	Ec	1	Bay
café/restaurant in bayhead	Ec	1	Bay
cash machine in bayhead	Ec	1	Bay
chemist on island	Ec	1	Bay
chemist on west side	Ec	1	Bay
community buy-out of macaskills	Ec	1	Bay
mot station	Ec	1	Bay
nice tearoom with real uist baking	Ec	1	Bay
pizza parlour	Ec	1	Bay
shop nearer hougharry	Ec	1	Bay
small café or van selling food near balranald for visitors	Ec	1	Bay
sports shop	Ec	1	Bay
tearoom on westside	Ec	1	Bay

another tearoom serving for longer hours	EC	1	Bern
craft shop	EC	1	Bern
restaurant	EC	1	Bern
computer store	Ec	1	Car
shop in locheport	Ec	1	Car
shop in carinish	Ec	1	Car
a nice pub for meals	ec	1	Car
Fish monger going round fortnightly	Ec	1	Grim
Café in Grimsay	Ec	1	Grim
Local shop	Ec	1	Grim
Newspaper stall at industrial units	Ec	1	Grim
Kiosk in need of repair	Ec	1	Grim
bigger coop in north uist	Ec	1	Lochm
café/pool room open in evenings for young eg old youth hostel	Ec	1	Lochm
cashline in lochmaddy	Ec	1	Lochm
chemist	Ec	1	Lochm
electronic repair shop for tv's etc	Ec	1	Lochm
faster courier service from mainland	Ec	1	Lochm
garage in north uist	Ec	1	Lochm
garage services	Ec	1	Lochm
hairdresser in north uist	Ec	1	Lochm
internet café	Ec	1	Lochm
iron mongers van travelling round	Ec	1	Lochm
open bank on tuesdays in the summer	Ec	1	Lochm
petrol pumps in newton	Ec	1	Lochm
shopping centre	Ec	1	Lochm
small shop in lochportain	Ec	1	Lochm
restaurant / tearoom	Ec	1	Sollas
a pub	Ec	1	Sollas
drapery store	Ec	1	Sollas
arcade	Ec	1	Sollas
craft shop	Ec	1	Sollas
garage services (tyres, exhaust & mot)	Ec	1	Sollas
clothes shop	Ec	1	Sollas
need for hairdresser in north uist	Ec	1	Sollas
bigger coop	Ec	1	Sollas
airport	Ec	2	Bay
better roads; double track	Ec	2	Bay
bus service to benbecula in morn for work & back in evening	Ec	2	Bay
cheaper air flights to cities	Ec	2	Bay
culverts cleaned out and maintained	Ec	2	Bay
cycle track	Ec	2	Bay
double track road	Ec	2	Bay
improve road to hawkland	Ec	2	Bay
lower plane fare so that more people would use it	Ec	2	Bay
machair roads improved	Ec	2	Bay
more buses at night especially at weekend	Ec	2	Bay
more lighting outside bayhead shop	Ec	2	Bay
road at balmartin tarred (hasn't since 1939)	Ec	2	Bay
road equivilent tarriff instead of ferry fare	Ec	2	Bay
side roads improved	Ec	2	Bay
streetlight up to animal centre	Ec	2	Bay

subsidised bus service for kids to macaskills	Ec	2	Bay
bus service down to sandhill	EC	2	Bern
bus shelter at hostel	EC	2	Bern
improved bus service to uist eg to/from doctor	EC	2	Bern
improved winter timetabling of buses for locals	EC	2	Bern
road to houses in sandhill	EC	2	Bern
road to shiabay up-graded	EC	2	Bern
streetlight at hostel	EC	2	Bern
streetlights on dangerour corners	EC	2	Bern
traffic calming measures at carinish esp at school crossing	Ec	2	Car
improve main street(trees & fences to stop sheep)	Ec	2	Car
improvements to blind corners on locheport road	Ec	2	Car
improvement to blind spots balashare road	Ec	2	Car
arrival of p&j on more regular basis	Ec	2	Car
double track road lochmaddy-grimsay	Ec	2	Car
taxi service in balashare area	Ec	2	Car
improve balashare causeway	Ec	2	Car
proper slipway in locheport for everyone to use; tourist yachts, locals & watersports	Ec	2	Car
transport to shops at time when supplies come in	Ec	2	Car
community bus service	Ec	2	Car
road edges in locheport sorted	Ec	2	Car
more bus times	Ec	2	Car
cycle tracks by road	Ec	2	Car
direct flights to and from inverness	Ec	2	Car
streetlights	Ec	2	Car
sunday ferry in winter	Ec	2	Car
road equivalent tariff on ferry	Ec	2	Car
speed limit at clachan	Ec	2	Car
Bus shelters at road ends	Ec	2	Grim
Review of ferry and plan fares	Ec	2	Grim
Phone a bus service for night time	Ec	2	Grim
Widening of causeways to North Uist and Benbecula	ec	2	Grim
bus service from hoebeag and cheesebay	Ec	2	Lochm
discount for islanders on planes and ferries	Ec	2	Lochm
double track roads	Ec	2	Lochm
keep road improved in locheport	Ec	2	Lochm
limited bus service on sunday for tourists	Ec	2	Lochm
more taxi services to increase competition	Ec	2	Lochm
streetlights and pavement reaching out to strumore	Ec	2	Lochm
widen newton road	Ec	2	Lochm
army jets flying higher	Ec	2	Lochm
more public transport	Ec	2	Sollas
carpark at co-op, including disabled	Ec	2	Sollas
better roads	Ec	2	Sollas
a bus to & from ferry	Ec	2	Sollas
road verges and ditches tidy-up (flowers planted)	Ec	2	Sollas
petrol station	Ec	2	Sollas
more footpaths/pavements through village	Ec	2	Sollas
bus shelter at coop and greinetote	Ec	2	Sollas
make passing places larger	Ec	2	Sollas
crush & fank in knockintorran	Ec	3	Bay
drainage at hawkland to stop it flooding	ec	3	Bay

new fences to replace broken fences	Ec	3	Bay
shelter belts on machair for livestock	Ec	3	Bay
someone with a tractor starting business ploughing small plots for each household	Ec	3	Bay
use of seaweed for fertiliser; storage pit	Ec	3	Bay
look at the land management at present	EC	3	Bern
more veg grown on island	EC	3	Bern
more grants for horticulture	Ec	3	Car
assistance for crofting to ensure survival & encourage young	Ec	3	Car
get rid of sheep on roads	Ec	3	Car
diversification of crofting and fishing	Ec	3	Car
Gates on boundary fences	Ec	3	Grim
Erect new boundary fences between Kallin and Grimsay	Ec	3	Grim
encourage planting of home potatoes	Ec	3	Lochm
more help to keep crofting alive	Ec	3	Lochm
slaughterhouse in line with eu regulations for retail meat	Ec	3	Lochm
get rid of thistles and rushes to improve land	Ec	3	Sollas
more enviro-friendly farming practices	Ec	3	Sollas
self sufficiency in veg	Ec	3	Sollas
encourage more people to take up crofting	Ec	3	Sollas
less sheep more cattle; alternative croft uses	Ec	3	Sollas
amhainn mhor should be kept open (river between knockin forran & kyles	Ec	4	Bay
parking for anglers	Ec	4	Bay
promote sea angling	Ec	4	Car
promote sea angling for tourists	Ec	4	Lochm
attract tourists by using our own uniqueness	Ec	5	Bay
bird watching could produce more jobs: guides	Ec	5	Bay
develop watersports on loch hosta	Ec	5	Bay
picnic site at hawkland for tourists	Ec	5	Bay
site for caravans & campers in hougharry	Ec	5	Bay
tourist information on westside	Ec	5	Bay
visitor centre on westside reflecting local life	Ec	5	Bay
camping and leisure site	EC	5	Bern
camping site	EC	5	Bern
tourist information centre	EC	5	Bern
tourist notice board	EC	5	Bern
seal, otter and deer watching in locheport	Ec	5	Car
wind surfing for tourists	Ec	5	Car
hostel in locheport	Ec	5	Car
campsite in locheport	Ec	5	Car
hire of boats for fishing	Ec	5	Car
more money into developing gaelic tourism	Ec	5	Car
attract cruise ships to lochmaddy	Ec	5	Lochm
eating places open on sunday for tourists in the summer	Ec	5	Lochm
encourage tourism by promoting unique environment	Ec	5	Lochm
facilities for campers at newton beach	Ec	5	Lochm
football pitch turned into official caravan and camping site	Ec	5	Lochm
more government money into tourism to bring us in line with other countries eg iceland and alaska	Ec	5	Lochm
old youth hostel turned into a private hostel/ bunkhouse	Ec	5	Lochm
tourist facilities in newton eg café/b&b's	Ec	5	Lochm
youth hostel reopened	Ec	5	Lochm
organised boat trips from griminish	Ec	5	Sollas

tourist facilities; café, toilets, history walk	Ec	5	Sollas
watersports for tourists on beach	Ec	5	Sollas
wet weather activities for tourists; including local artists entertaining	Ec	5	Sollas
parking for tourists at greinetote turn & beach	Ec	5	Sollas
sealife centre	Ec	5	Sollas
more help for fishermen	Ec	6	Bay
pol an oir harbour to be saved	EC	6	Bern
yacht marina at harbour	EC	6	Bern
protect shellfish & fishing for locals use	Ec	6	Car
Tidy Kallin Harbour and clean slipway	Ec	6	Grim
Slipway for painting boats	Ec	6	Grim
encourage more people to pick winkles	Ec	6	Lochm
revert to old methods of fishing in order to allow restocking	Ec	6	Lochm
encourage local people to collect more shellfish	Ec	6	Sollas
develop waste ground on hills (adventure centre?)	Ec	7	Bay
revival of seaweed industry	EC	7	Bern
shellfish processing plant	EC	7	Bern
proper abbatoir	Ec	7	Car
seaweed industry revived	Ec	7	Car
encourage full time cottage industries	Ec	7	Car
market mussels: especially to south of france	Ec	7	Car
more mail order businesses set up; sending something small but expensive eg electronics	Ec	7	Car
make more use of our natural resources eg. sea, safe environment	Ec	7	Car
Assistance for marine engineer to set up	Ec	7	Grim
Fresh fish landed at Kallin for sale locally	Ec	7	Grim
Restart seaweed industry	Ec	7	Grim
Slaughterhouse in North Uist available for more than home kill	Ec	7	Grim
Smoking of natural foods under expert tuition	Ec	7	Grim
Professional marketing of natural resources	ec	7	Grim
dairy serving the whole of the southern isles	Ec	7	Lochm
hand weaving in the home using traditional methods	Ec	7	Lochm
restart seaweed industry	Ec	7	Lochm
small factory producing something unique	Ec	7	Lochm
seaweed factory	Ec	7	Sollas
processing & packaging & marketing of local meat	Ec	7	Sollas
use of manure & seaweed as fertiliser & homeopathic remedies	Ec	7	Sollas
business manufacturing local product: ie knitwear	Ec	7	Sollas
crab factory	Ec	7	Sollas
hydro cables underground	Ec	8	Bay
phone box nearer hostel	EC	8	Bern
wave power	EC	8	Bern
wind turbines	EC	8	Bern
wind power	Ec	8	Car
get rid of pole at end of balashare causeway	Ec	8	Car
hydro lines underground	Ec	8	Car
hydro cables put underground	Ec	8	Lochm
improve mobile phone network	Ec	8	Lochm
improve reliability of electric supply	Ec	8	Lochm
make more use of natural resources; eg wind and water	Ec	8	Lochm
more summer jobs for young	Ec	9	Bay
traditional skills passed on; weaving, thatching and dry stone walling	EC	9	Bern
opportunity to train for agriculture on island	Ec	9	Car

more businesses offering apprenticeships so young can stay on island	Ec	9	Car
Teaching boat building skills to youngsters and selling the boats	ec	9	Grim
traditional skills taught to the younger generation eg peat cutting	Ec	9	Lochm
work for young to encourage them back	Ec	9	Lochm
more jobs for young; technology	Ec	9	Sollas
place for young to do apprenticeship for farming	Ec	9	Sollas
forestry scheme for moors	Ec	10	Car
plant trees	Ec	10	Sollas
more trees	Ec	10	Sollas
curing of sheep skins for sale	Ec	11	Bay
develop existing industries ie fishing & farming	Ec	11	Bay
sell manure for fertiliser	Ec	11	Car
encourage more people to keep hebridean sheep for wool and meat	Ec	11	Car
encourage organic crofting produce	Ec	11	Sollas
farm/croft shop selling dairy products & veg	Ec	12	Bay
marketing machair potatoes	Ec	12	Bay
retail of our own local products	Ec	12	Bay
get people to eat local produce	EC	12	Bern
market for croft produce, improved exports for meat & veg – processed & packaged	Ec	12	Car
market garden for homegrown veg	Ec	12	Car
encourage people to sell local produce by road-side	Ec	12	Car
encourage hotels to use more local products	Ec	12	Car
local meat co operative	Ec	12	Lochm
local veg grown and marketed as from wester isles	Ec	12	Lochm
meat sold with wester isles labelling	Ec	12	Lochm
local meat sold as “speciality product”	Ec	12	Sollas
fairer grant scheme so same people don't get them all the time	ec	13	Bay
more support for local businesses	Ec	13	Bay
keep local contact in business – eg bank, bt, hydro	EC	13	Bern
promote north uist as a centre (rather than benbecula)	Ec	13	Car
not to rely on benbecula so much for work and social activities	Ec	13	Car
retain island identity	S	1	Bern
be proud of our own unique identity and be an example to others	S	1	Car
learn to ask for things for ourselves (believe in ourselves)	S	1	Car
assistance, support, backing & enthusiasm from agencies	S	2	Bay
community plan for development	S	2	Bern
cooperative of volunteers for food&services	S	2	Car
encourage the council to invest more money in north uist (as they already have in other islands)	S	2	Car
exchange of views between communities and between islands	S	2	Lochm
more children	S	3	Lochm
children	S	3	Sollas
start a dating agency	S	3	Sollas
craig hastain restored to original state	S	5	Bay
little museum	S	5	Bay
museum showing traditional smiddy, school, shop etc.	S	5	Bay
old school house at bayhead needs renovating	S	5	Bay
scolpaig victorian garden restored	S	5	Bay
tasteful information at craig hastain to tell visitor what it used to be used for (open air services)	S	5	Bay
thatched cottages at ard haisker needs restoring	S	5	Bay
tober ealasaid at craig hastain (well) could have tourist walk to it with information about its uses	S	5	Bay

museum	S	5	Bern
restore blackhouses	S	5	Bern
upgrading of our historical sites	S	5	Car
places of interest better signposted	s	5	Car
heritage centre catering for trad crafts	S	5	Car
renovation of thatched cottages	S	5	Car
traditional mill renovated & organic bread sold	S	5	Car
promote and be proud of our heritage and culture (to stop it dying)	S	5	Car
change rules for listed buildings to take into account the weather conditions on islands	S	5	Lochm
do something with newton lodge and square eg museum	S	5	Lochm
encourage renovating buildings rather than building new	S	5	Lochm
historical sites linked together in some way – maybe connected to taigh chearsabhaigh	S	5	Lochm
restore more thatched cottages	S	5	Lochm
interpretation sign at udal (historic site)	S	5	Sollas
restore ard a mhorain cemetery (historic site)	S	5	Sollas
more money into education	S	6	Bay
more nightclasses in paible school	S	6	Bay
art classes	S	6	Bern
encourage children to question advertising	S	6	Bern
bigger school for carinish	S	6	Car
further education alternatives to computing and childcare eg. alternative medicine	S	6	Lochm
retaining our school and church	S	9	Bern
alternative leisure facilities	S	10	Bay
arcade	S	10	Bay
basketball court	S	10	Bay
better sports facilities	S	10	Bay
better sports ground at hosta	S	10	Bay
bigger & deeper swimming pool	S	10	Bay
bigger gym	S	10	Bay
cinema	S	10	Bay
disco hall	S	10	Bay
drama club	S	10	Bay
football pitch	S	10	Bay
gamesroom for youth on westside	S	10	Bay
golf course	s	10	Bay
ice rink	S	10	Bay
indoor football	S	10	Bay
more things to do after school	S	10	Bay
play park	S	10	Bay
pool hall	S	10	Bay
roller blade park	S	10	Bay
running track	S	10	Bay
something for 16 –18 year olds to do	S	10	Bay
sports centre	S	10	Bay
swimming pool in paible used more frequently	S	10	Bay
cinema	s	10	Bern
adventure ground	S	10	Bern
basketball court	S	10	Bern
drama group	S	10	Bern
fitness night in hall	S	10	Bern
football pitch	S	10	Bern

gym added to the hall	S	10	Bern
ice rink	S	10	Bern
more events in the hall	S	10	Bern
night classes	S	10	Bern
play park for kids	S	10	Bern
swimming at lionacleit with community bus	S	10	Bern
swimming pool	S	10	Bern
sports facilities	S	10	Car
picnic area/play area in carinish	S	10	Car
sports improvements in quarry to go ahead	S	10	Car
a good swimming pool in north uist	S	10	Car
playparkin locheport	S	10	Car
cinema	S	10	Car
ice centre	S	10	Car
more dances (every friday night)	S	10	Car
nature trail with childrens adventure park	S	10	Car
more activities for children in the winter	S	10	Car
riding club in north uist	S	10	Car
sports facilities	S	10	Car
Facility for teenagers e.g. Youth Club	S	10	Grim
Taigh Ceilidh for social events e.g. story telling	S	10	Grim
cinema	S	10	Lochm
football pitch	S	10	Lochm
place for indoor sports in newton	S	10	Lochm
quad racing track	S	10	Lochm
sports fields	S	10	Lochm
swimming pool	S	10	Lochm
social events for young & not so young	S	10	Sollas
something for teenagers to do to pass the time	S	10	Sollas
football pitch	S	10	Sollas
more sporting facilities	S	10	Sollas
play park in area	S	10	Sollas
youth club for teenagers	S	10	Sollas
leisure centre	S	10	Sollas
running track	S	10	Sollas
regular cinema showing	S	10	Sollas
more council houses in bayhead	S	11	Bay
improved appearance of council houses (painted)	S	11	Car
incentives to renovate rather than build new	S	11	Car
affordable housing	S	11	Lochm
council houses in lochportain	S	11	Lochm
improved housing	S	11	Sollas
more land; grants for young to build houses	S	11	Sollas
get rid of derilict houses	S	11	Sollas
advertise taigh ceilidh as laundry and toilets	s	12	Bay
launderette	S	12	Bay
proper facilities & equipment for bayhead fire service	S	12	Bay
toilets for walkers and cyclists	S	12	Bay
weekly bin lorry service	S	12	Bay
review of council tax :is it a fair system?	s	12	Bay
review of council tax – is it fair since we have no sewage or streetlights?	S	12	Bern
youth facilities	S	12	Car

bin collections weekly	S	12	Car
under 5 facilities	S	12	Car
community/ youth centre balashare	S	12	Car
a place to go after school in locheport	S	12	Car
taigh ceilidh or small hall or pub in locheport for community to meet	S	12	Car
after-school care and playgroup in carinish	S	12	Car
open clachan public toilets all year round	S	12	Car
open trianaid taigh ceilidh to public for toilet and laundry facilities	S	12	Car
small meeting place in locheport	S	12	Car
community hall for district	S	12	Car
information centre	S	12	Car
Meeting place in Grimsay	S	12	Grim
facilities focused on local use rather than for tourists	S	12	Lochm
pub or meeting place in newton	S	12	Lochm
public toilets in lochmaddy open all the time	S	12	Lochm
taigh ceilidh in loch portain for people to socialise	S	12	Lochm
volunteers for over 60's club	S	12	Lochm
weekly refuse collection	S	12	Lochm
streetlights	S	12	Sollas
community meeting place	S	12	Sollas
facility for mothers & children	S	12	Sollas
a place for dances	S	12	Sollas
public toilets	S	12	Sollas
bin collection weekly	S	12	Sollas
community hall	S	12	Sollas
public toilets at coop	S	12	Sollas
emphasise health education	S	13	Bern
more education about heart disease – make it communit based	S	13	Bern
nursing home for after lochmaddy hospital closes	S	13	Bern
sheltered housing for elderly	S	13	Bern
support groups set up eg for loneliness/elderly	S	13	Bern
crossroads scheme	S	13	Car
medical facilities for whole island improved	S	13	Car
old folks home in lochmaddy once hospital closes	S	13	Lochm
mains sewage introduced	S	14	Car
waterpipes to claddach valley widened	S	14	Sollas

APPENDIX 4 – VOTING RETURNS BY SUBAREA

BAYHEAD

IDEA	Votes
COMMUNITY BUYOUT OF MACASKILLS	79
BETTER SPORTS FACILITIES; football pitch, swimming pool, running track etc	64
BETTER SHOPPING/EATING PLACES; restaurant/tearoom with Uist baking, pizza parlour, shop nearer Hougharry	64
IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT; more buses at night, weekend, morn/even to Benb & subsidised to MacAskills	56
CYCLE TRACK	28
IMPROVED ROADS AND LIGHTING; Double Track, also Balmartain, Hoglan and machair roads; lights outside Bayhead Shop and MacAskills	28
TIDY UP OF AREA; maybe using unemployed	22
LOWER AIR AND FERRY FARES; eg Road Equivalent Tariff	22
PLAYPARK	21
ALTERNATIVE RECREATION FACILITIES; Disco Hall or Games Room	14
CASH MACHINE IN BAYHEAD	14
GASSING SCHEME FOR RABBITS FOR WHOLE ISLAND	13
IMPROVED DRAINAGE, FENCES AND SHELTER; eg. Drainage at Hoglan, shelterbelts on machair	13
PROPER FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT FOR BAYHEAD FIRE SERVICE	12
LOCAL SALE OF LOCAL PRODUCE	10
CHEMIST	10
IMPROVED TOURIST INFORMATION AND FACILITIES	9
MOT STATION	9
HYDRO CABLES UNDERGROUND	7
NATURE TRAIL	6
MORE SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUNG	6
RESTORATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND SITES; eg Craig Hastain and Wells	6
MORE FINANCE FOR EDUCATION AND NIGHTCLASSES	6
RECYCLING PLANT	6
COUNCIL TAX REVIEW	5
DEVELOP EXISTING INDUSTRIES; fishing and farming	4
MUSEUM AND INTERPRETATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE	4
AIRPORT	4
WATERSPORTS AT LOCH HOSTA	3
MORE AND FAIRER SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES	2
ADVERTISE Taigh Ceilidh as laundry and toilets	2
WEEKLY BIN LORRY SERVICE	2
CRUSH & FANK AT KNOCKINTORRAN	2
IMPROVE QUALITY OF WATER; less chemicals	1
MORE HELP FOR FISHERMEN	1
BIRD WATCHING GUIDE JOBS	1

IDEAS	VOTES
RETAINING OUR SCHOOL AND CHURCH	26
PLAY PARK	25
LEISURE FACILITIES ; Cinema, Ice Rink, Swimming Pool	21
TOURIST INFORMATION (notice board & info centre)	20
POL AN OIR HARBOUR TO BE SAVED	19
ENCOURAGE USE OF LOCAL MEAT AND VEG	18
FACILITY FOR ELDERLY after Lochmaddy closes	17
SWIMMING AT LIONACLEIT WITH COMMUNITY BUS	17
MUSEUM	17
SPORTS FACILITIES	17
CAMPING SITE	15
TIDY UP	15
MORE VEG GROWN ON ISLAND	14
SHELLFISH PROCESSING PLANT	13
IMPROVED ROADS to Shiabay and Sandhill	13
REVIVAL OF SEAWEED INDUSTRY	13
RESTORE BLACKHOUSES	12
NIGHT CLASSES eg art, drama, fitness	11
STREETLIGHTS on dangerous corners & at hostel	10
CRAFT SHOP	9
YACHT MARINA AT HARBOUR	9
BENCHES IN SCENIC AREAS FOR WALKERS	9
MORE OUTLETS FOR LOCAL PRODUCE E.G. KNITTING	9
COMMUNITY PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT	7
RESTAURANT	7
SUPPORT GROUP for elderly or loneliness	7
TRADITIONAL SKILLS PASSED ON; WEAVING, THATCHING AND DRY STONE WALLING	6
BUS SHELTER AND PHONE AT HOSTEL	5
ANOTHER TEAROOM SERVING FOR LONGER HOURS	4
REVIEW OF COUNCIL TAX; IS IT FAIR SINCE WE HAVE NO SEWAGE OR STREETLIGHTS?	3
IMPROVED BUS SERVICE to Sandhill and Uist	3
RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME eg wind and wave	3
LOOK AT LAND MANAGEMENT AT PRESENT	3
MORE EDUCATION ABOUT HEART DISEASE – MAKE IT COMMUNITY BASED AND MORE SOCIAL FOR EVERYONE	2
ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO QUESTION ADVERTISING	1

CARINISH, CLADDACH, LOCHEPORT & BALESHARE

IDEA	VOTES
LEISURE FACILITIES eg Cinema, Ice centre, Swimming Pool, Riding Club	187
MORE SHOPS eg Carinish & Locheport	89
CYCLE TRACK BY ROAD	53
IMPROVED AND AFFORDABLE FERRY eg Road Equivalent Tariff & Sunday ferry in winter	45
PROMOTE SEA ANGLING AND BOAT HIRE	34
MARKETING OF CROFT PRODUCE, LOCAL & EXPORTS (meat, veg, rabbits- processed & packaged)	30
IMPROVED MEETING PLACES eg Carinish Hall , facility in Locheport	28
ABBOTOIR IN LINE WITH EU REGULATIONS	23
SPORTS FACILITIES	23
SEAWEED INDUSTRY REVIVED	20
PROPER SLIPWAY IN LOCHEPORT FOR EVERYONE eg Tourist yachts, watersports and locals	17
YOUTH FACILITIES; playpark, after school activity	17
CLEAN UP OF BEACHES, VILLAGES, FISHFARM	15
IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT eg to shop when supplies arrive	14
PRESERVATION & SIGNPOSTING OF HISTORIC SITES including renovation of thatched cottages	14
TOURISM BASED ON UNIQUE FEATURES eg Wildlife, gaelic	13
BIGGER SCHOOL AND FACILITIES AT CARINISH	11
WIND POWER	10
FORESTRY SCHEME FOR MOORS	10
STOP EROSION OF COASTLINE incl. Exterminating rabbits and ferrets	9
IMPROVED ROADS	9
HELP CROFTING & YOUNG by having local training opportunities	8
PROMOTE & BE PROUD OF OUR HERITAGE & CULTURE eg Heritage Centre	8
TOURIST ACCOMODATION eg hostel, campsite in Locheport	7
HYDRO CABLES UNDERGROUND	7
SAFETY MEASURES ON ROADS eg Carinish School & Clachan	5
MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR WHOLE ISLAND IMPROVED	5
ENCOURAGE HEBRIDEAN SHEEP	5
IMPROVE BALASHARE CAUSEWAY	4
MARKET MUSSELS esp to South of France	3
INFORMATION CENTRE	3
HOUSING - encourage renovating & improve appearance of carinish main street	3
WEEKLY BIN COLLECTIONS	3
MORE GRANTS FOR HORTICULTURE	3
PROMOTE NORTH UIST AS CENTRE INSTEAD OF BENBECULA	2
MORE MARKET WALKS AND INFO PAMPHLETS	2
STREETLIGHTS	2
SMALL BUSINESS START UP	1
CROSSROADS SCHEME	1
MAINS SEWAGE INTRODUCED	1

IDEAS	VOTES
WIDENING OF CAUSEWAYS TO NORTH UIST AND BENBECULA	64
RESTART SEAWEED INDUSTRY	49
SLIPWAY FOR PAINTING BOATS	42
ASSISTANCE FOR MARINE ENGINEER TO SET UP	39
LOCAL SHOP	36
UIST MEAT MARKETED	26
CAFÉ IN GRIMSAY	25
TEACHING BOAT BUILDING SKILLS TO YOUNGSTERS AND SELLING THE BOATS	25
ERECT NEW BOUNDARY FENCES BETWEEN KALLIN AND GRIMSAY	23
BUS SHELTERS AT ROAD ENDS	22
REVIEW OF FERRY AND PLANE FARES	21
ENCOURAGE HOME GROWN VEG	20
FRESH FISH LANDED AT KALLIN FOR SALE LOCALLY	18
MEETING PLACE IN GRIMSAY	17
LEISURE FACILITIES eg cinema, Ice Rink	15
NEWSPAPER STALL AT INDUSTRIAL UNITS	15
SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN NORTH UIST AVAILABLE FOR MORE THAN HOME KILL	14
PHONE A BUS SERVICE FOR NIGHT TIME	14
FACILITY FOR TEENAGERS E.G. YOUTH CLUB	13
TAIGH CEILIDH FOR SOCIAL EVENTS E.G. STORY TELLING	13
RECYCLING PLANT	12
TOURIST BOAT/FISHING TRIPS FROM HARBOUR	11
FISH MONGER GOING ROUND FORTNIGHTLY	11
SMOKING OF NATURAL FOODS UNDER EXPERT TUITION	9
PROFFESIONAL MARKETING OF NATURAL RESOURCES	7
MORE TOURIST INFO ABOUT GRIMSAY	6
KIOSK IN NEED OF REPAIR	5
TIDY KALLIN HARBOUR AND CLEAN SLIPWAY	4

IDEA	1 VOTE S
LEISURE FACILITIES eg Cinema, Swimming pool, Quad racing	44
MORE SHOPS eg shop in Lochportain, Bigger Coop, shopping centre	25
SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY BASED ON LOCAL RESOURCES/ SKILLS eg Seaweed, Bottled Water, Wind & Wave	22
DISCOUNT FOR ISLANDERS ON PLANES AND FERRIES	16
ACCOMODATION AND EATING PLACES FOR TOURISTS esp in Newton, also Hostel and camping facilities in Lochmaddy	14
GARAGE SERVICES IN NORTH UIST	11
REFORESTRATION	10
MARKETING OF LOCAL PRODUCE eg Machair potatoes	10
IMPROVED SPORTING FACILITIES	10
MEASURES TO INCREASE POPULATION eg training and work for young	8
INTERNET CAFÉ	8
CHEMIST	8
IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE – electricity cables underground & mobile phone network	7
ENCOURAGE RENOVATING RATHER THAN BUILDING NEW	6
IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT eg bus to Lochportain, and limited Sunday service for tourists	5
WEEKLY REFUSE COLLECTION	5
IMPROVE ROADS AND STREETLIGHTS eg to Strumore	4
SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN LINE WITH EU REGULATIONS FOR MEAT RETAIL	4
ATTRACT TOURISTS USING OUR UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT	4
IMPROVED BANKING SERVICES eg open on Tuesdays in Summer and Cashline for out of hours	4
REVERT TO OLD METHODS OF FISHING IN ORDER TO ALLOW RESTOCKING	3
HISTORIC SITES/ BUILDINGS RESTORED AND LINKED TOGETHER inc thatched cottages	3
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	3
BETTER MEETING PLACES eg pub in Newton, Pool room/Café open in evening in Lochmaddy	3
FURTHER EDUCATION ALTERNATIVES eg alternative medicine	3
DAIRY SERVING THE WHOLE OF THE SOUTHERN ISLES	2
MORE HELP TO KEEP CROFTING ALIVE	2
HAIRDRESSER IN NORTH UIST	2
VOLUNTEERS FOR OVER 60'S CLUB	2
FACILITIES FOCUSED ON LOCALS RATHER THAN TOURISTS	2
ELECTRONIC REPAIR SHOP	2
GUIDED WALKS	1
ARMY JETS FLYING HIGHER	1
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN COMMUNITIES AND BETWEEN ISLANDS	1
OLD FOLKS HOME IN LOCHMADDY ONCE HOSPITAL CLOSES	1
PROMOTE SEA ANGLING	1
ATTRACT CRUISE SHIPS TO LOCHMADDY	1
FASTER COURIER SERVICE TO MAINLAND	1
IRON MONGERS VAN TRAVELLING ROUND	1

SOLLAS

IDEA	VOTES
COMMUNITY HALL	54
INDUSTRY BASED ON MARINE RESOURCES eg Crab factory, Seaweed factory, fertiliser or homeopathy	37
PROCESSING, PACKAGING & MARKETING OF LOCAL MEAT AND VEG	34
BETTER SPORTS FACILITIES eg football pitch, running track	31
PLANT TREES including willow for shelter	22
BEACHES – less erosion, signs for safety & tide, parking and picnic area	22
MORE SHOPPING FACILITIES eg clothes shop, craft shop	16
PLAYPARK	15
TIDY UP OF VILLAGE	14
HAIRDRESSER	12
SIGNED FOOTPATHS eg On Machair, to Sgurra with bird hide	12
PRESERVE AND INTERPRET HISTORIC SITES eg Udal & Ard a Mhorain	11
LOCAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG eg apprenticeships & technology	10
CARPARK AT COOP including disabled	9
GARAGE & PETROL SERVICES	9
MORE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES eg cinema, arcade	9
ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO TAKE UP CROFTING	8
MORE ENVIRO - FRIENDLY FARMING PRACTICES eg organic and less sheep more cattle	7
EXCLUSIVE MUSHROOMS	7
IMPROVE ROADS, PAVEMENTS AND VERGES	7
BIN COLLECTION WEEKLY	6
RECYCLING AREA	6
PUBLIC TOILETS	5
MORE GRANTS FOR YOUNG TO BUILD HOUSES	4
TOURIST FACILITIES, eg Café, history walk, wet weather facility	3
DEMOLISH DERELICT HOUSES	3
PUB	3
BUS SHELTERS at Greinetote and Coop	3
CAPATALISE ON MARINE RESOURCES FOR TOURISM eg Sealife Centre	3
KNITWEAR BUSINESS	1

APPENDIX 5 NORTH UIST - CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Millennium Forest for Scotland working through SIAT to plant two areas in North Uist – Carinish and Sponish
- SIAT Countryside Rangers
- SIAT are involved in an Ancient Monuments Conservation Programme which will include Teampull na Trianaid and Sgolpaig
- SNH have been involved in an Environmental Interpretation Plan
- Curracag
- The new extension to Taigh Chearsabhagh will start this autumn
- Berneray and Lochmaddy have received funding for co-ordinators for their proposed Millennium projects
- Urachadh Uibhist have started the renovation and extension of their Kirkibost building but have already offered computer training and will soon start food trials using local produce
- Lochmaddy Hall has secured funding and the building work will begin this autumn
- Grimsay community and Mary Norton are progressing plans for Kallin School, at present it is possible to see a traditional Grimsay boat being built.
- The Uist Horticultural Association has now been set up and selling locally produced fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants.
- Uist2000 fish festival which ran throughout the summer was a great success
- Bulb trials are on-going in Berneray

APPENDIX 6
NORTH UIST –
AGENCY STRENGTHS

Agency	Comment	Code	No
Scottish Natural Heritage	Landscape is of outstanding scenic value	E	1
Scottish Tourist Board	Scenery – mountain, coast etc.	E	1
Western Isles Tourist Board	Scenic beauty	E	1
Crofters Commission	Outstanding natural environment - magnet for tourism; eg. hillwalking, fishing, CC sailing, windsurfing, wildlife enthusiasts	E	3
RSPB	Nature conservation value.	E	3
RSPB	Important habitats	E	3
RSPB	Breeding and wintering bird variety – corncrakes and waders.	E	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	High environmental status of North Uist	E	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	Wide variety of wildlife, flora and fauna	E	3
Scottish Tourist Board	Wildlife – marine environment	E	3
Scottish Tourist Board	'Green' environment	E	3
Western Isles Enterprise	Considerable sustainable natural resources	E	3
Western Isles Enterprise	Underdeveloped natural environment	E	3
Western Isles Tourist Board	Good bird watching and fishing	E	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	The marine environment around North Uist is of international importance	E	4
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Relatively unpolluted environment	E	9
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Few direct sources of pollution	E	9
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	To date a reasonable equilibrium between users of environmental resources and the environment as a whole	E	9
Scottish Tourist Board	Peace and quiet – wild land	E	10
Western Isles Enterprise	Peace and quiet	E	10
Scottish Natural Heritage	Close links between crofting and conservation	EC	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	Crofters produce (sheep, cattle, crops) is essentially organic	EC	3
Historic Scotland	Local and visitor interest in archaeology already present.	EC	5
RSPB	Tourism value	EC	5
Scottish Homes	Unemployment rate of 6% compared to 7.9% WI total, yet still above 5% national average	EC	9
Western Isles Enterprise	Flexible, well educated, intelligent workforce	EC	9
Forestry Commission	Despite few woodlands there is scope for tree planting, albeit on a small scale.	EC	10
Crofters Commission	Potential to market local produce as being high quality, semi-organic, with low negative impact on the environment	EC	12
Crofters Commission	Good quality of life - peace, low crime, sense of community	S	1

Scottish Homes	Population decrease of 9% 1994-2011	S	3
Historic Scotland	Range of excavated archaeological sites and regular current archaeological research.	S	5
Historic Scotland	High potential of archaeology in machair.	S	5
Historic Scotland	Key individual high-potential sites.	S	5
Historic Scotland	Useful and accessible account of archaeology.	S	5
Scottish Arts Council	Taigh Cearsabaigh arts facility - focus for visual arts activity/ social and cultural facility/ opportunities for attracting resources, and people, to the area/ foundation for further arts related development	S	5
Scottish Arts Council	The traditional arts, some of which are unique to the Uists, have the potential to act in support of sustainability, socially, culturally and economically.	S	5
Scottish Tourist Board	People and culture	S	5
Scottish Tourist Board	Archeology	S	5
Western Isles Enterprise	Retained strength of Gaelic language and culture	S	5
Western Isles Tourist Board	Unique culture and language	S	5
Western Isles Tourist Board	Archeology	S	5
Scottish Homes	High levels of owner occupation (69%) above the national average	S	11
Scottish Homes	Household growth below the Scottish average	S	11
Scottish Homes	Average house prices are falling and stand £20,000 below Scottish average	S	11
Scottish Homes	Scottish Homes investment of £9.598 million attracting £6.779 million in private finance and leading to the development of 309 units, over the period 1989-1998.	S	11

APPENDIX 7
NORTH UIST - AGENCY CHALLENGES

Agency	Comment	Code	No
RSPB	Meeting the need for development without compromising the natural environment and sustainable.	E	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	Give the natural heritage a higher profile – increase local awareness of the high quality of their area	E	3
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Few direct sources of pollution	E	9
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Relatively unpolluted environment	E	9
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	To date a reasonable equilibrium between users of environmental resources and the environment as a whole	E	9
Scottish Tourist Board	Cost of transport / lack of public transport re. tourism	EC	2
Western Isles Enterprise	Transportation costs	EC	2
Western Isles Tourist Board	Cost of transport re. tourism	EC	2
Western Isles Tourist Board	Ease of travelling re. tourism	EC	2
Crofters Commission	Harsh climate and environment - some of most difficult conditions in UK for agricultural production	EC	3
RSPB	Sustain the future of crofting, including cattle numbers and traditional management.	EC	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	Make crofting (which is a sustainable land use) a more viable option for young people	EC	3
Scottish Tourist Board	To develop tourism outwith the main tourist areas	EC	5
Scottish Tourist Board	To extend the season	EC	5
Scottish Tourist Board	Weather – all weather facilities	EC	5
Western Isles Tourist Board	Extending season	EC	5
Western Isles Tourist Board	Weather – all weather facilities	EC	5
Crofters Commission	Gradual erosion in communal working	EC	9
RSPB	Need for employment.	EC	9
Scottish Homes	High levels of unemployment and low wages	EC	9
Forestry Commission	Encourage the use of woodland, especially for shelter.	EC	10
Crofters Commission	Remoteness - making import of goods expensive and marketing of products and services difficult	EC	12
Scottish Natural Heritage	To market produce from North Uist using the terrestrial and marine designations	EC	12
Western Isles Enterprise	Lack of venture capital	EC	13
Western Isles Enterprise	Remote and economically fragile	EC	13
Crofters Commission	Population decline	S	3
Crofters Commission	Progressively ageing population - migration of young people to central belt due to lack of economic/educational opportunities and high cost of living (petrol/food/housing) relative to income	S	3
Western Isles Enterprise	Population changes, in/out migration, population profile	S	3
Historic Scotland	Difficulty of presenting important but complex multi-period sites to the public.	S	5
Historic Scotland	Increase in forestry re. archeology	S	5
Historic Scotland	Limited nature of archaeological records.	S	5
Historic Scotland	Natural erosion of archaeological sites.	S	5
Historic Scotland	Need for an accessible local database (Sites and Monuments Record).	S	5
Historic Scotland	Need for synthetic archaeological work to provide an accessible summary.	S	5
Historic Scotland	Need to keep rabbits off Berneray re. archeology	S	5
Scottish Arts Council	Sustaining the local culture where traditional skills and language are passed on and recognised as a valuable asset, particularly in the context of depopulation..	S	5
Scottish Homes	Affordability is major issue re. housing	S	11

Scottish Homes	Crofting tenure constraints re. housing	S	11
Scottish Homes	High levels of under-occupation	S	11
Scottish Homes	Lack of speculative build	S	11
Scottish Homes	Low social rented stock and high demand	S	11
Scottish Homes	Low turnover of housing stock	S	11
Scottish Homes	Mismatch of households to house size	S	11
Scottish Homes	Self contained housing market	S	11

APPENDIX 8
NORTH UIST - AGENCY PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE

Agency	Comments	Code	No
Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH New agri-environment scheme to take into consideration the national and international designations in North Uist.	E	3
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Increasing economic pressures on fish farming industry leading to higher production – re. pollution	E	9
Western Isles Tourist Board	Better ferry services between Barra and Oban	EC	2
Western Isles Tourist Board	WITB Further causeway	EC	2
Crofters Commission	Develop proposals with communities for increased community decision making in crofting regulation	EC	3
Crofters Commission	CC Improved training for Clerks and Assessors to make them more effective agents for change within their communities	EC	3
Crofters Commission	CC Work with others to support return of cattle to crofting areas	EC	3
Crofters Commission	CC Work with people and agencies to increase opportunities for diversification of crofters into sustainable non-agricultural activity	EC	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH Agri-environment schemes to encourage traditional crofting practices	EC	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH Change in policy to favour and encourage low intensity agriculture, crofting being an ideal example.	EC	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH Training courses available for crofting as they are for farming, and traditional skills e.g. thatching, drystone dyking.	EC	3
Western Isles Enterprise	WIE Crofting diversification projects	EC	3
Scottish Natural Heritage	SNH Development of wildlife tourism	EC	5
Scottish Tourist Board	Development of IT – eg. OSSIAN	EC	5
Scottish Tourist Board	STB Further develop 'green tourism'/ wildlife watching/ activity holidays	EC	5
Scottish Tourist Board	STB Sustainable tourism – Integrated Quality Management	EC	5
RSPB	RSPB Move job opportunities for environmental work – e.g. Biodiversity Project Officer, a Council Ecologist, SEPA post on Uist, self employed guides, a Ranger	EC	9
Forestry Commission	Instill culture to value the use of trees.	EC	10
Forestry Commission	FC Source seed and planting stock locally if possible and use local labour.	EC	10
RSPB	RSPB Marketing local produce – meat, veg seaweed, shellfish, fish	EC	12
Scottish Natural Heritage	Advertising North Uist nationally and internationally (Internet etc.) using the suite of designations to their advantage	EC	12
Western Isles Enterprise	Continue support for business development	EC	13
Western Isles Enterprise	WIE Continue support for community development proposals	EC	13
RSPB	Improved communication links to enable e.g. tele-cottaging	EC	14
Western Isles Enterprise	WIE Development of IT based employment possibilities	EC	14
Scottish Homes	SH Contribute to the sustainability and development of communities to ensure a high quality of life for all	S	1
Crofters Commission	CC Local strategies for development with full participation of communities	S	3
Historic Scotland	Importance of continuation of new Council Archaeological service.	S	5
Historic Scotland	HS Use of provisions of CPS, ESA and WGS schemes to improve management re. archeology	S	5
Scottish Arts Council	Maintaining and further developing a strategic approach to the development of arts and cultural activity in a Western Isles context. Traditional Music might be a priority in this context.	S	5
Scottish Homes	Address site availability and infrastructure issues	S	5
Scottish Homes	SH Continue support for Care and Repair	S	5
Scottish Homes	SH Contribute to the development of planning framework to identify and improve access routes to appropriate housing for those with particular needs	S	5
Scottish Homes	SH Fund adaptations	S	5

Scottish Homes	SH Fund affordable housing to ease housing pressure	S	5
Scottish Homes	SH Improve the quality and effectiveness of existing housing	S	5
Scottish Homes	SH Promote barrier free housing	S	5
Scottish Homes	SH Provide grant support targeted to households experiencing constrained opportunities to provide both ownership and renting opportunities	S	5
Scottish Homes	SH Undertake joint funding of housing in support of economic development	S	5
Western Isles Enterprise	WIE Skills development projects	S	6
Crofters Commission	CC Investigate with local people and agencies need for more local housing and scope to release croft land for local housing development	S	11
Scottish Homes	SH With partners establish agreed priorities for action which will impact on health education services, transport, employment and housing	S	12