

Feedback from Orkney Opinions Survey 3: March 2018

Our third survey issued in March asked for thoughts about walking and cycling in Kirkwall, what makes Orkney's countryside distinctive, housing design in the countryside, and equalities. The survey was issued to 150 members, of whom 77 responded, representing a return rate of 51.3%.

We hope you find some of the following information arising from the survey interesting.

Question 14: What would encourage you to walk more in Kirkwall?

21.6% of respondents would like to see higher quality walking routes, with better security gaining 17.6% of respondent's views. 16.7% would like to see car-free zones, and 13.7% safe road crossing points.

Other ideas put forward: better weather, sign-posting of routes, traffic lights at junctions rather than zebra crossings.

Question 20: What makes Orkney's countryside distinctive? Please provide three words or phrases.

Wild and unspoilt, big skies, surrounded by sea.	Where the land and the seam meet, wild flowers and nesting birds, fine open vistas.
Clean, views, choice.	The extensive visibility enabled by lack of trees and hedges.
Pleasure.	Big sky, green.
Wildlife, coastal views, easy access.	Sea, pastures, wilderness.
Greenness, treelessness, many car carcasses and untidy areas around houses.	Green, gentle, sheep.
All clear air.	History, culture and environment.
Scenery, clean air, quiet.	Openness, uncluttered, fresh.
Birds, panoramic views, both of above compromised by turbine (large and small).	Archaeology, greenfield development.
Clean, refreshing.	Open, sparse, remote.
Farmers - who work the land, green, productive.	Green, neolithic, turbines.
Clean, safe.	Fresh air, scenery, grassland.
Quiet roads, beautiful views, welcoming.	Less traffic, landscape, lovely villages and tearooms.

Smell of slurry.	Open, quiet, big skies.
Treeless, differing colour, sky.	Cliffs, sky, openness.
Clean, green, quiet.	Peaceful, clean, empty.
Openness, beautiful, varied.	Scenery, farming, people.
Wide open skies.	Ruggedness, green, plentiful.
Peaceful, green.	More accessible to disabled.
Expansive, real, working.	Views and wildlife.
Green grass, cattle, wild flowers.	Green, islands, quiet.
Open views, few trees.	Too many turbines, roads not wide enough for tour buses.
Open countryside with excellent sea views.	The lovely scenery.
No trees – views.	Seascapes, archaeology.
Sky, water, grass.	Timeless, big skies, distant island views.
Farmers, cattle, grass.	Unique, beautiful, inspiring.
How it differs from place to place, the changing skies, the beauty.	farmland, seascapes, wildlife and birds.
Beautiful views, choice and accessibility, nature.	Sunsets, views, waves.
Green and lush with big skies and seas.	Mainly sky, gentle landscape, too many windmills.
The scenery and land use sympathetic to its surroundings.	Views, colours, big skies.
Beautiful sunsets, fresh air, wild winters.	Scenic, peaceful, freedom to roam.
green, treeless, hilly.	Wide open views.
Clean, fresh, breath-taking.	

Question 24: People in Orkney have the opportunity to fulfil their potential throughout their life.

Views were expressed on infrastructure, practical skills, budgetary constraints, affordable accommodation, range of jobs, isles residents.

Question 25: People in Orkney have equal opportunity to access and shape our public services.

Views were expressed on topics such as opportunities to comment – whether the public are listened to or engaged enough to try and put their point of view forward. Access to meetings for isles residents, whether the public believes their view will be taken into consideration or not, and whether enough information is available to allow well-thought out opinions to be formed.