

Sleat Community Trust: Summary of Membership Survey – March 2011

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The Survey

Sleat Community Trust (SCT) was incorporated in 2004 as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. It was formed to improve the economy and social amenities in the Sleat peninsula of Skye through investigating and providing sustainable solutions to meet the community's needs and aspirations. SCT currently owns a petrol station, garage and shop in Armadale, all of which are managed on its behalf by Sleat Community Trading Company (SCTC). It recently acquired the 440-hectare Tormore Forest, which is managed on its behalf by Sleat Renewables Limited (SRL). The Trust also has a range of other working groups that deliver marketing of the area to visitors, environmental projects and a community newsletter amongst other activities.

In November 2011 Sleat Community Trust with the support of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) started a review of the first 7 years operation of the company to reflect on what has worked well and what can be improved on as they move forward. A key part of this review process was a survey which was sent to all 455 members of the organisation. The survey was issued on the 16th January and closed on the 6th February 2011 and was completed by 170 respondents.

The Results

The survey was completed by 170 respondents and a large amount of information about the community's views on Sleat Community Trust's current work and priorities for the future was gathered. Only a small amount of the information obtained has been presented here and for full details of all results see the report available for download from www.sleatcommunitytrust.co.uk.

Gender	Responses
Male	76
Female	92
Prefer Not to Answer	2
Total	170

Age Range	Responses
18-30	6
31-45	28
46-65	76
Over 65	53
Prefer not to Answer	97
Total	170

Are You a Crofter?	Responses
Yes	65
No	102
Prefer Not to Answer	3
Total	170

INTERESTING POINTS

- Female respondents tended to be younger than male respondents.
- The townships which had the highest number of respondents were Camuscross (30), Calligary (17) and Tarskavaig (15). This was followed by Ord (12), Ardvasar, Duisdale and Sasaig (all 11).
- There were no respondents at all from Kinloch, Knock or Tormore.
- Younger respondents were more likely to be crofters.
- The greatest concentration of crofting respondents came from Camuscross and Tarskavaig.
- The majority of respondents indicated they were members (151)

"It has worked very hard, particularly impressive volunteer effort but could achieve more...by working in partnership with existing community groups and organisations throughout Sleat" – Respondent

The Results

Which of the Following Statements relating to SCT do you agree with?	Responses
I am supportive of Sleat Community Trust and feel they are doing a good job.	134
I am supportive of community ownership of assets such as the filling station and Tormore Forest and want it to succeed.	130
I am not supportive of community ownership of land and assets.	5
I am not supportive of Sleat Community Trust and do not feel they are doing a good job.	3
Prefer Not to Answer.	7
Other.	21

Views on Current Projects	Supportive	Not Supportive
Tormore Forest Purchase and Redevelopment	150	8
Filling Station, Post Office, Garage and Trust Office Development	156	3
A'Mhaoile Wind Turbine Development	115	27
Visit Sleat Initiative	140	6
Clean Sleat Initiative	139	7
Subsidised Taxi Scheme	146	4
Environment Group's work....	134	10

INTERESTING POINTS

- There is no clear consensus on whether the Visions set out in the CADISPA report have been achieved. Most agree that some progress has been made but there is still more to do.
- The top 6 words used to describe Sleat Community Trust NOW are: Hard Working (25 responses), Progressive (10). Forward Thinking/ Looking (8), Ambitious (7), Busy (6) and Inclusive (6).
- The top 6 words respondents would like to use to describe Sleat Community Trust in the FUTURE are: Inclusive (12), Successful (12), Hard Working (9), Forward Thinking/ Looking (8), Innovative (7) and Dynamic (7).

Views on Sleat Community Trust's Operations	Responses
I am happy with the way in which SCT operates and would be happy with this approach continuing.	98
I would like SCT to be more open and transparent and engage with the wider community.	49
I would like more information to be available in easily accessible forms about SCT's activities.	50
I would welcome greater opportunity to input more to the work of SCT.	25
I would like SCT to consult more widely about future priorities for the area.	51
I would like SCT's staff and directors to be more accessible.	16
I would like SCT to work more in partnership with other community organisations.	48
I would like SCT to treat community development with equal importance to commercial development activity.	67
Prefer Not to Answer.	4
Other.	22

INTERESTING POINTS

- The top 2 scoring future priorities are:
 - Progress Local Wood Fuel Supply Business from Tormore Forest (93)
 - Secure improved provision of services for older people (91)
- Crofters under the age of 45 however wanted to see improved services/ facilities for children and young people and more active support for crofting development as their top 2 priorities.
- Older women indicated a higher level of support for securing community transport provisions.
- The majority of respondents (126) use 'An Slèiteach' and find it useful or very useful.
- The SCT website is the least actively used method of communication – respondents said they would like it updated more frequently.