



Melvich Community SCIO,  
c/o 2 Sinclair Gardens,  
Portskerra, Melvich, Sutherland,  
KW14 7YJ



## Outcome of consultation conducted on Melvich Terrace Play Area and Portskerra Play Park



## **1. Introduction**

There are two Play Park areas within Melvich Community Council area and both are currently owned by The Highland Council. One is located at Melvich Terrace and the other is in Portskerra near the Primary School.



Melvich Community SCIO's charitable object is: "To provide, or assist in the provision of, facilities for the recreation or other leisure-time occupation, in the interest of social welfare in an effort to improve the conditions of life of the inhabitants of the district of Bighouse, Melvich, Portskerra, Golval and Kirkton, all in the Parish of Farr."



An online survey was run during the month of September 2022 to gather opinions on what to do with the Melvich Terrace Play Area and the Portskerra Play Park. Links to this online survey were publicised through Melvich Community SCIO's website blog, through Melvich Community SCIO's email mailing list and through Melvich Community SCIO's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). All households within the Melvich Community Council area were made aware of this survey through Melvich Community SCIO's September 2022 community update which was hand delivered to all households in the Melvich Community Council area – in this community update document there was an offer to provide a printed copy of the survey to anyone who wished to complete it offline (no requests for paper copies were received).



Melvich Community SCIO would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey. The inputs have been very useful and informative.

The rest of this document presents summary statistics of the responses received along with the various detailed comments. This information will be used to inform discussions on the next steps to take and will be used as evidence in support of grant funding applications and/or community asset transfer requests. (Note: Names, addresses and email addresses have been redacted so as to not release information which some individuals may not want published.)

## 2. Portskerra Play Park

1. Do you agree that there is a need for a Play Park in Portskerra?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		98.33%	59
2	No		1.67%	1
3	Not sure		0.00%	0
			answered	60
			skipped	0

2. Do you want to see a play park re-instated at the Portskerra Play area?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		98.33%	59
2	No		1.67%	1
3	Not sure		0.00%	0
			answered	60
			skipped	0

3. Do you support Melvich Community SCIO (Scottish registered charity number SC050942) making a Community Asset Transfer application for the Portskerra Play Park area?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		98.33%	59
2	No		1.67%	1
3	Not sure		0.00%	0
			answered	60
			skipped	0

**4. Do you support Melvich Community SCIO seeking grant funding to install a new play park in Portskerra?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		100.00%	60
2	No		0.00%	0
3	Not sure		0.00%	0
			answered	60
			skipped	0

**5. If you have any specific comments that you wish to raise in relation to the Portskerra Play Park area then please share them here. If you have answered "Not sure" against any of the questions then we would like to understand why you are not sure. If you do not agree with having a new Play Park in Portskerra, please indicate what you think that the land area should be used for instead, if anything.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	20
1	01/09/2022 17:14 PM ID: 198641336	Please get it done asap as there are so many kids in the school now that would benefit from using it.		
2	01/09/2022 18:11 PM ID: 198644832	A play park with skateboard area would be an excellent addition to the area. Zip lines Decent roundabout Swings Slide/spiral slide Seesaws Monkey bars - different heights Large Climbing areas for 6-12yrs Large Climbing area for 2-6yrs Painted "roads" for bikes/scooters Disability access Would not have to travel outside area for children to play.		
3	01/09/2022 18:13 PM ID: 198645183	This is really needed in the community. We have been without a decent play park for too long. Having our own play park in the village rather than needing to drive to another village to visit one is not ideal. The kids would be delighted!		
4	01/09/2022 18:15 PM ID: 198645333	Equipment suitable for young to early teens		
5	01/09/2022 21:06 PM ID: 198653190	I think that a playpark is essential for the kids in the area and visitors. We loved having a playpark when we were young. We need it for future generations too.		
6	01/09/2022 21:08 PM ID: 198653144	I visit my grandchildren in portskerra, and we used the play park while I stayed with them. The children loved it, so please bring it back.		
7	01/09/2022 21:43 PM ID: 198654528	There is nothing this village needs more. I have a half hour wait between the two different school finish times. The school numbers are higher than ever. This needs to happen asap. Fully support this and back it 100%		
8	02/09/2022 07:36 AM ID: 198660807	Wishing you every success in a very worthy project.		




**5. If you have any specific comments that you wish to raise in relation to the Portserra Play Park area then please share them here. If you have answered "Not sure" against any of the questions then we would like to understand why you are not sure. If you do not agree with having a new Play Park in Portserra, please indicate what you think that the land area should be used for instead, if anything.**




9	03/09/2022 13:16 PM ID: 198737163	<p>I think an options assessment should be done and presented to the community detailing the potential types/styles of play park being suggested for both the areas. I know the parents will be the main stakeholders in this process, but these play parks will be community assets and it is great that everyone can have their say.</p> <p>I do love the thought of a crazy golf attraction - maybe Portserra Play Park area has capacity for one on this site?</p> <p>Let's get something special which will attract people to come, visit and use the space on a regular basis.</p> <p>Glad to hear this project is going ahead. It has my full support.</p>
10	04/09/2022 09:20 AM ID: 198757453	A play park would be such a great bonus for portserra. The local kids and kids from other areas would benefit from this.
11	04/09/2022 09:45 AM ID: 198758230	Reinstating the play park in Portserra will be a huge benefit to the local children, currently the nearest play park is Betty hill or Reay neither of which children can independently get to.
12	04/09/2022 21:05 PM ID: 198779217	As a child we were never away from this park and so sad nowhere for my kids to play. Encouraging physical play outside is vital for emotional and physical health in our children.
13	06/09/2022 13:10 PM ID: 198883021	I have two children and live in the village. I'm fed up of having to drive to Bettyhill, Reay or Thurso just for the kids to play. Fuel is so expensive.
14	06/09/2022 13:14 PM ID: 198883338	I'm 82 years old. My grandchildren are 6 and 9 and live in the village. I can only leave the house in my wheelchair or mobility scooter. The Portserra playpark is close enough for me to use my mobility scooter to get to to watch my grandchildren play outside the house in the fresh air. It would also help my mental health to have somewhere to go to without having to rely on others to get me there and give me some independence
15	07/09/2022 23:11 PM ID: 199017192	Absolutely integral spot for the play park for children socialising after school! Also ideal for parents of children who are in both the upper and lower class with different finishing times.
16	11/09/2022 10:08 AM ID: 199179356	<p>I wholeheartedly agree that the Portserra Play Park is reinstated. It would once again be a great asset to the village for it's growing community and for visitors to the area.</p> <p>I currently use the Reay village Play Park to take me grandchildren to and recommend it's footfall for our available space.</p> <p>In addition I suggest that seating and benches be added so that families can take a picnic with them to extend their time there and also that the older childminders can rest while supervising the children. Very often they want to go home long before the children have finished their fun time as they are tired from standing.</p> <p>I wish the committee good luck with this project and I know that you will achieve it through time. Thank you.</p>
17	27/09/2022 23:46 PM ID: 200253317	Reay playpark is very well layed out for a similar size of ground.
18	28/09/2022 15:39 PM ID: 200316799	No




5. If you have any specific comments that you wish to raise in relation to the Portskerra Play Park area then please share them here. If you have answered "Not sure" against any of the questions then we would like to understand why you are not sure. If you do not agree with having a new Play Park in Portskerra, please indicate what you think that the land area should be used for instead, if anything.

19	01/10/2022 19:41 PM ID: 200531465	Outdoor calisthenics/gym equipment		
			answered	20
			skipped	40




### 3. Melvich Terrace Play Area

6. Do you agree that there is a need for a Play area in Melvich Terrace?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		68.33%	41
2	No		13.33%	8
3	Not sure		18.33%	11
			answered	60
			skipped	0



7. Do you want to see a play park re-instated at the Melvich Terrace Play area?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		68.33%	41
2	No		13.33%	8
3	Not sure		18.33%	11
			answered	60
			skipped	0

8. It has been suggested that the Melvich Terrace Play area might be better used for a community poly-tunnel for some foods. Would you be supportive of this area having its use changed for an expansion of the community growing project (if they wanted to do this)?				
Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		63.33%	38
2	No		20.00%	12
3	Not sure		16.67%	10
			answered	60
			skipped	0

**9. Do you support Melvich Community SCIO (Scottish registered charity number SC050942) making a Community Asset Transfer application for the Melvich Terrace Play area so that improvements can be made to it?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		96.67%	58
2	No		1.67%	1
3	Not sure		1.67%	1
			answered	60
			skipped	0

**10. Do you support Melvich Community SCIO seeking grant funding to improve the Melvich Terrace Play area?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		96.67%	58
2	No		0.00%	0
3	Not sure		3.33%	2
			answered	60
			skipped	0

**11. If you have any specific comments that you wish to raise in relation to the Melvich Terrace Play area then please share them here. If you have answered "Not sure" against any of the questions then we would like to understand why you are not sure. If you do not agree with having an improved Play area in Melvich Terrace, please indicate what you think that the land area should be used for instead, if anything.**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	14
1	01/09/2022 18:13 PM ID: 198645183	I don't think there is a need for two play parks in our village, and I would be concerned about the local residents on Melvich Terrace whose houses are so close to the old play area.		
2	01/09/2022 21:43 PM ID: 198654528	Community growing projects need to be supported. With increased fuel costs there will be less family income and more households in poverty.		
3	02/09/2022 00:57 AM ID: 198658031	I think the play park near the school is the best location and Melvich terrace a poly tunnel would be great		
4	02/09/2022 07:36 AM ID: 198660807	Again, a great project that should have the support of the entire community, so good luck!		
5	03/09/2022 13:16 PM ID: 198737163	This area seems much smaller, so a better idea of the size would be helpful. Then I think this needs input by particularly the Melvich Terrace residents about what their needs are. There seems to be a few children in the area, but I am unsure how many and what age? If they will be young adults soon then perhaps something a bit more mature might be		






**11. If you have any specific comments that you wish to raise in relation to the Melvich Terrace Play area then please share them here. If you have answered "Not sure" against any of the questions then we would like to understand why you are not sure. If you do not agree with having an improved Play area in Melvich Terrace, please indicate what you think that the land area should be used for instead, if anything.**

		appropriate, but this space is close to houses. Not sure what is best for this space, but some blue-sky thinking could be a good idea.
6	03/09/2022 13:24 PM ID: 198737686	This is harder as I don't know what the kids want from the area, so I guess we have to ask them first. Not inclined to do a poly tunnel unless the residents of Melvich Terrace took that on themselves and planted and maintained the poly tunnel. As a member of the community growing project I would be happy to help them set this up, but ongoing responsibility would need to be with the residents.
7	04/09/2022 09:20 AM ID: 198757453	I don't think there is a need for 2 swing works and feel portskerra area would be more beneficial to having one. Better location
8	04/09/2022 09:45 AM ID: 198758230	Either a play park or community grown project would be a benefit to the community, if the play park in portskerra was to go ahead then perhaps the melvich terrace area would benefit from a community grows area, this I'm sure would encourage the wider community too
9	04/09/2022 21:05 PM ID: 198779217	Wasn't aware there was a park there
10	06/09/2022 13:10 PM ID: 198883021	Food poverty is real - get growing
11	06/09/2022 13:14 PM ID: 198883338	I don't want my grandchildren crossing that main road.
12	11/09/2022 10:08 AM ID: 199179356	The Melvich terrace play park is very small and sheltered from the elements ideal for a starter play park for the smallest children. Some of the items in the Reay park would fit in well there and it would deter older children from gathering and been to noisy around the houses.  Also I may add that neither Parks have direction signage near them and this would be a thing to consider for the new parks.
13	22/09/2022 11:32 AM ID: 199893697	There is a need for parks for the children in the area but if 1 of the areas could be used for growing food this may be a good use of the area also. I put not sure as it depends on how much support there would be for a pollytunnel. Would it be possible to split the area and have both?
14	28/09/2022 15:39 PM ID: 200316799	No
		answered 14
		skipped 46

#### 4. Final questions

**12. It can be challenging to get grant funding for improving play parks. Portskerra Play Park and Melvich Terrace Play areas are relatively close to each other. If our community were to have only one play park, which play area should be prioritised for this purpose?**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Portskerra Play Park		90.00%	54
2	Melvich Terrace Play Area		3.33%	2
3	Not sure		6.67%	4
			answered	60
			skipped	0





**13. Name**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	60
RESPONDENTS NAMES REDACTED				
			answered	60
			skipped	0



**14. Address or email address (optional)**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	36
INFORMATION REDACTED				
			answered	36
			skipped	24



**15. Please tick what best describes you, or the person that you are responding on behalf of. SELECT ONE**

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Resident of Melvich Community Council area		60.00%	36
2	Resident of Caithness or Sutherland (outside of the Melvich Community Council area)		23.33%	14
3	Visitor to the area or potential visitor to the area (e.g. NC500 tourist)		5.00%	3
4	Other description (please specify):		11.67%	7
			answered	60
			skipped	0
Other description (please specify): (7)				
1	01/09/2022 20:02 PM ID: 198650521	Grandma		
2	01/09/2022 21:06 PM ID: 198653190	Former resident of portskerra and still has family there.		
3	01/09/2022 21:08 PM ID: 198653144	Grandmother to residence		
4	02/09/2022 16:30 PM ID: 198703971	Regular visitors to the area to see family.		
5	02/09/2022 19:01 PM ID: 198714211	Grow up in Caithness. Visit family in Portskerra regularly		
6	04/09/2022 21:05 PM ID: 198779217	Regularly visit family in the area		
7	28/09/2022 12:59 PM ID: 200296177	Part-time resident.		

**16. If Melvich Community SCIO took ownership of the Portskerra Play Park area and/or the Melvich Terrace Play area (and if play equipment was installed) then there will be a need for any equipment installed to be inspected/maintained. If training was provided, would you (or someone in your household) be interested in helping do this inspection and/or maintenance so that our community@SQ@s assets are looked after properly?**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		40.68% 24
2	No		59.32% 35
		answered	59
		skipped	1

**17. If adequate support is shown in this survey, Melvich Community SCIO will set up a Play Park sub-group to help drive forward the play park improvements and then look after the play areas. Would you (or a member of your household) be interested in pro-actively participating as a member of this sub-group?**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes		46.67% 28
2	No		53.33% 32
		answered	60
		skipped	0

**18. Any other comments you wish us to consider?**

Answer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	10
1	01/09/2022 18:29 PM ID: 198646153	I am supportive of the group and the plan to move forward with both/either area. Equally I would be supportive of a community growing area or polytunnel in one of the locations. Frankly I do not have any more hours in the day to attend another group/ committee I'm afraid but that is not to say that I am not wholeheartedly behind the project. Thanks.	
2	01/09/2022 18:35 PM ID: 198646398	There are over 40 children who attend Melvich Primary School. If we had a new play I am sure it would be used often by children and parents as a place to come together. Children could play happily with their friends in the outdoors. I fully support this project.	
3	02/09/2022 07:36 AM ID: 198660807	To answer no to these necessary requirements is very negative but we are a household of two both in our eighties so unfair to give a false impression of ability to do what we could not, but other members of the family may volunteer!	
4	03/09/2022 13:16 PM ID: 198737163	Happy to help with thinking this through, but do not have the capacity to work in the sub-group.	
5	03/09/2022 13:24 PM ID: 198737686	Unfortunately, I am too old to join in with helping maintain things.	

### 18. Any other comments you wish us to consider?

6	04/09/2022 09:20 AM ID: 198757453	I would be more than happy to help out in anyway in trying to get a play park in portskerra as my parents live there and my little boy is up regularly and goes to melvich nursery.	
7	06/09/2022 21:32 PM ID: 198920016	Cannot commit to question 17 at present but support the venture and will do what I can to help.	
8	08/09/2022 20:38 PM ID: 199092604	I'm sorry I'm not able to to be part of the committee as have too many other obligations with committees in Strathy. I think it would be fabulous for all our surrounding communities to have a play park in the village again and will support the committee in any way I can.	
9	28/09/2022 12:59 PM ID: 200296177	I won't be living permanently in the village so sadly can't help.  Completely support this for family and friends.  Thanks for your efforts,  NAME REDACTED	
10	28/09/2022 15:39 PM ID: 200316799	No	
		answered	10
		skipped	50