



Main findings of a community survey to assess support for a soft play area for Skye. A report for Portree & Braes Community Trust, February 2024

Portree & Braes Community Trust is exploring the feasibility of developing a soft play area in Portree. The facility, should it prove to be viable, is likely to be a long-term project as one of the key considerations is finding suitable premises.

Early work in gauging what level of local demand might exist for this project was carried out via a short, online survey in 2023. Its purpose was to capture initial responses to the proposal and the results showed high levels of support.

A further online survey, open to both the Portree and the wider South Skye area, was done with support from the Just Enterprise programme. The survey ran from 9 January – 6 February 2024 and attracted 245 responses. In line with the 2023 survey, the idea attracted high levels of support. The key findings from this survey are set out below.

Q1 How likely are you to visit a new soft play facility if it were established in Portree?

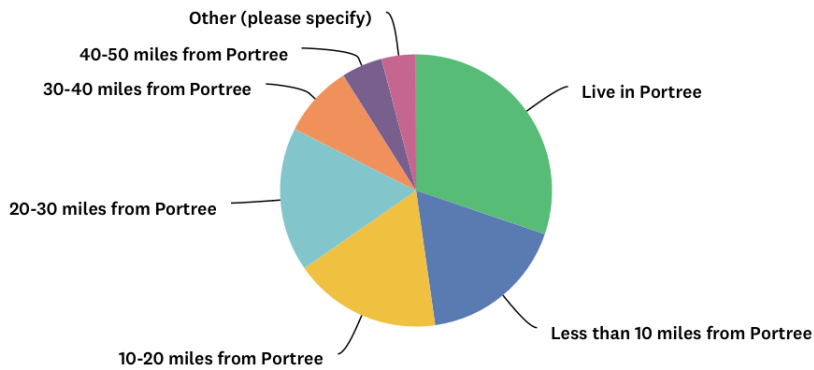
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very likely	82.86%	203
Likely	16.33%	40
Unlikely	0.82%	2
Very unlikely	0.00%	0

Q2 How far would you be travelling to visit the soft play area?

Answers indicate a willingness to travel to use the facility with more than half the respondents (128) living 10 or more miles from Portree.

Respondents who indicated 'other' in the answer choice included people who live off the island but regularly visit family.

Live in Portree	30.20%	74
Less than 10 miles from Portree	17.55%	43
10-20 miles from Portree	17.55%	43
20-30 miles from Portree	17.14%	42
30-40 miles from Portree	8.57%	21
40-50 miles from Portree	4.90%	12
Other (please specify)	4.08%	10



Q3 How often would you visit?

More than once a week	13.88%	34
About once a week	38.37%	94
About once a fortnight	18.37%	45
Once a month	12.24%	30
Sporadically	17.14%	42

Q4 Which days of the week would you most likely visit a soft play facility with your child/children?

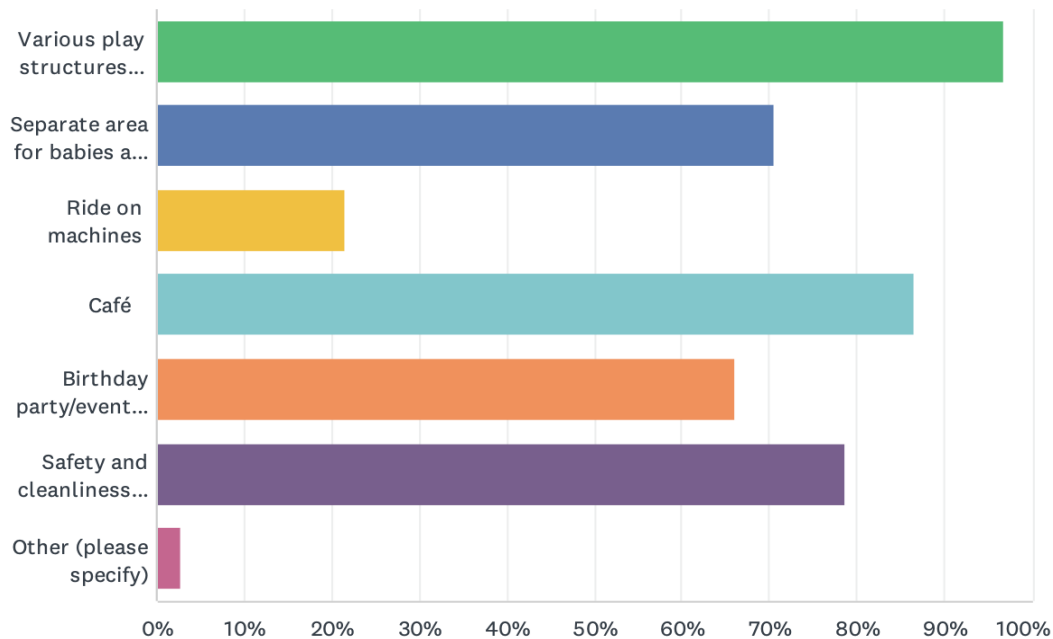
The majority of respondents would choose weekends to use the facility

Weekdays (Monday-Friday)	39.59%	97
Weekends (Sat/Sun)	88.98%	218
Specific weekdays (please specify)	11.02%	27

Q5 What features or services would you most like to see in a soft play area (tick all that apply)?

The three most popular choices were:

1. Various play structures (slides, ball pits, climbing areas) - 237 responses
2. Café – 212 responses
3. Safety and cleanliness measures – 193 responses



Q6 Would you prefer a membership option with exclusive benefits or a pay-per-visit model for accessing a soft play facility (membership benefits could include savings on food and drink in the café, savings on party bookings etc)?

Membership option with exclusive benefits	22.45%	55
Pay-per-visit	33.88%	83
No preference	43.67%	107

Q7 Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding a potential soft play facility for Portree?

The main themes emerging from the comments were:

- **Community need:** Many comments express a strong sentiment that a soft play area is needed in the community, especially for children. Phrases like "sorely missed," "desperately needed," and "much needed" emphasise the urgency and importance of such a facility.
- **Support and enthusiasm:** People are hugely positive about the prospect of a soft play area opening up.
- **Accessibility and inclusivity:** There are concerns about affordability and accessibility for families with several children plus suggestions for making the facility inclusive for children of different ages, including teens.
- **Features and services:** The comments reinforce some of the responses in Q5 - a café is mentioned several times – plus new ideas things for older children such as a bowling alley.

- **Economic and social impact:** Comments highlight the potential economic and social benefits of having a soft play area, including job creation, increased socialization opportunities for both children and adults, and the potential for further community development and investment.