

Questionnaire Response Summary

Introduction

The Questionnaire was available for approximately 2 months post the Public Consultation Meeting.

47 responses were submitted.

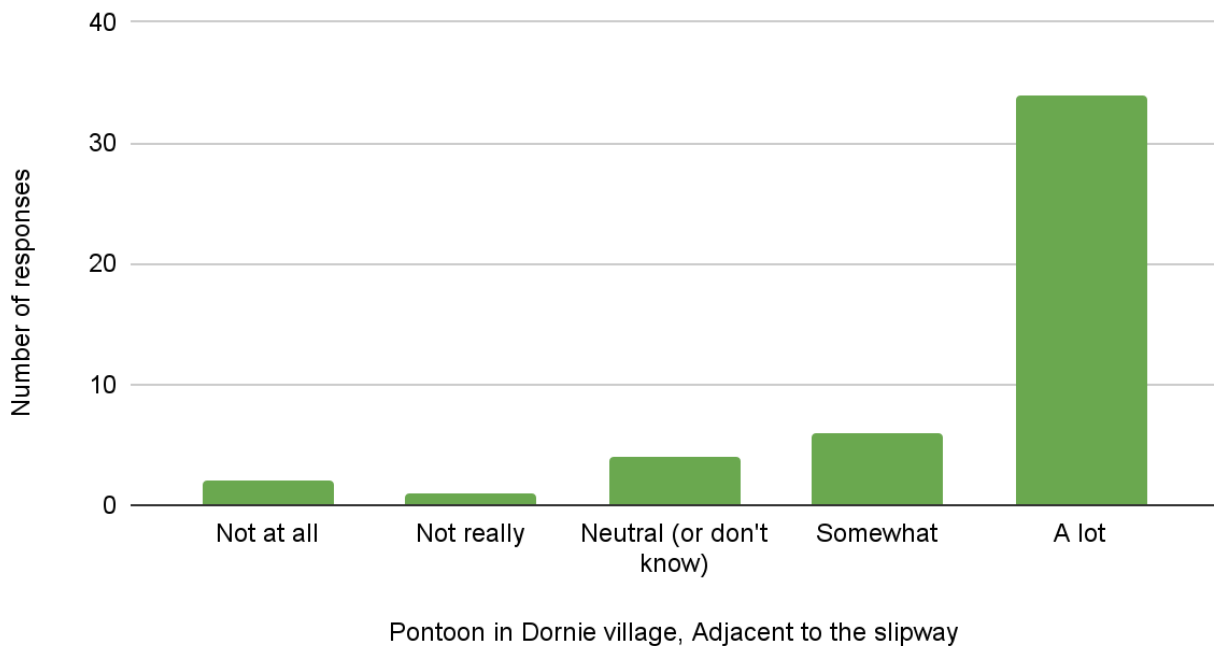
Participants were asked to rate their support as: 1 = not at all, 2 not really, 3 neutral (or don't know), 4 somewhat, 5 a lot

We have shown the overall rating summary and verbatim comments as submitted.

We have also summarised the comments for each question using Google Gemini AI

Question 1: Overall level of support for the proposed Pontoon in Dornie Village, adjacent to the slipway

Ponotoon in Dornie village, Adjacent to the slipway



Support: 85.1% Neutral: 8.5% Negative: 6.4%

AI Summary

The majority of contributors see it as a positive development, anticipating economic benefits such as increased tourism, support for local businesses (pubs, hotels, shops, cafes), and improved access to the water for residents and visitors, including those interested in seawater sports and activities like kayaking and paddleboarding. Several individuals highlight the current

lack of safe access and mooring facilities, emphasising how the pontoon would simplify launching and retrieving boats. Some even believe it could position Dornie as a more attractive destination compared to other areas.

However, not all feedback is positive. Concerns are raised about the pontoon's location in an area with a strong tidal race, potentially making it dangerous for small boats and kayakers. Some also question the necessity, pointing to existing moorings in a nearby area (Totaig) and a pontoon in Kyle of Lochalsh. Others doubt the claim that it will not be a straightforward "step on step off" facility for larger boats due to a low bridge. 1 out of 47 contributors expresses a general preference against further development.

Verbatim Comments

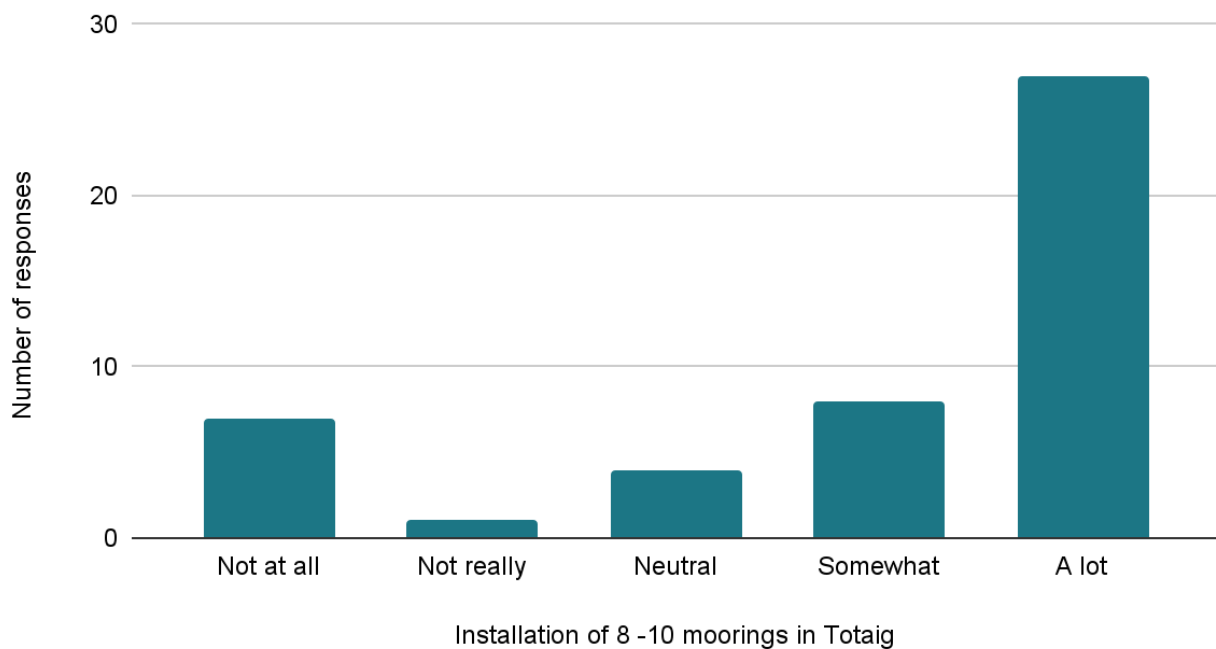
- *“Brilliant idea for the village”*
- *“Well-presented meeting”*
- *“Good long-term opportunities for Dornie and the surrounding area”*
- *“A great way to get locals out on the water and welcoming visitors into the village”*
- *“I wish Glenelg mooring committee would be as proactive as Dornie's committee, I think you guys are doing a much needed service locally”*
- *“An excellent community facility that will encourage visitors to the village to use local amenities”.*
- *“Could be a great asset to the community. Could more of the beach be reclaimed for parking?”*
- *“Brilliant for tourist sea water sports. Happy to see development at Dornie”*
- *“A great addition to the area for both residents and tourists”*
- *“Think it would be great for the village”*
- *“Safe access to the water.”*
- *“Will bring more business to the area and help local residents to keep the pub and hotel and to bring footfall to the new shop and cafe”*
- *“As someone who has lived all his life beside the sea, who works on the sea as a Marine Engineer and who dives in his spare time, I support this initiative because of the complete lack of moorings and local access points like a marina. If you want to put your boat in the water it means loading the trailer, tides etc, then removing your boat from the water at the end of the day. This would take this out of the equation and promote more water and leisure activities locally which can only be a good thing.”*
- *“A much-needed facility!”*
- *“The addition of any facility to a village with hardly any facilities can only be a good thing.”*
- *“Would welcome more visitors to the area which would benefit locals and local businesses.”*
- *“I spend a lot of recreational time on the water. Easy and safe access in this locality is not readily available. A pontoon would be central to meeting these two criteria.”*
- *“Great community asset too have in the village in order for safe access to the sea for all”*

- *“It will be great for the local area”*
- *It would certainly add to the facilities in Dornie and surrounding area*
- *“I run a course at UHI Broadford to train young people who wish to work in the outdoor sector; as such the pontoon would facilitate access to the water for kayaking and paddle boarding at a venue that we use for training.”*
- *“As someone who lives by the sea I believe we don't have anywhere near enough pontoons etc in the area for people to be taking full advantage of the beautiful area we live in. Not just for people travelling here from afar but for locals like myself that would like to be able to tie a boat up without having to drop an anchor and worry about it dragging and possibly losing my boat. This kind of facilities are common in parts of Scotland but not in this area and I don't understand why this hasn't been proposed sooner.”*
- *“A pontoon would improve access and therefore also safety to the use of the water and surroundings. Given the scale of this project and the people involved, I would also expect all environmental aspects to have been carefully considered and negotiated for the best possible outcome.”*
- *“Boating is a popular and often essential part of the surrounding community and a pontoon will provide safety and security for the existing boaters while also providing a landing point for the summer visitors who currently have no safe access from the water.”*
- *“Would be great for small boats.”*
- *“I was dubious initially, but I felt after the presentation in the hall. I have changed my mind. I'm aware that there is still a lot of work to do but definitely potential for the future. Bringing more people to the village using the Hotel pub shop and café, kayaking groups, et cetera.”*
- *“Further down from slipway, more dornie hotel side”*
- *“More space for boats is probably a good thing”*
- *“I support the proposed installation of a pontoon in Dornie for the following reasons: 1. The pontoon will provide a safe and secure place for locals, and visitors, to tie up their boat. 2. The pontoon will encourage visitors into the village and provide economic benefit 3. The proposal will be funded by grants and will have no, or very little, financial burden on the village.”*
- *“I understand the perceived need and acknowledge that the infrastructure might already be in place, but I would personally prefer no further development at all. See below.”*
- *“On the Dornie side of the Loch I see no issue with the moorings. This is for the people of Dornie to decide whether they want moorings or not, but Totaig is not Dornie. Also there is lots of wildlife around Totaig, seals and Otters especially in the water. There are already a lot of Moorings in Totaig, why the expansion? if it's just a scheme to make money from Tourists then Dornie moorings have no right to it. It's not their area. If moorings should go ahead it's the people on the other side of the Loch that should see the benefit from the new Moorings.”*
- *“There's a strong tidal race and you can't get most boats under the bridge”*

- *“The pontoon will be placed in an area where there is a tidal race of 5 - 6 knots twice daily. Probably faster at certain tides. This is extremely dangerous for small boats with limited power & kayakers/paddle boarders. The pontoon will also encounter SW winds. The boats tied on will be rubbed against the pontoon back and forth twice a day and into it with SW prevailing winds.”*
- *“The reasons given for the pontoon are flimsy. That it will bring in people using the pontoons to access local facilities is possible, but it will not be a STEP ON STEP OFF facility as described. Only the smallest of yachts can go under the bridge, so sailors will have to get out of their boats and into smaller boats to access the pontoon. It is as easy to sail to the existing slipway beside it at no extra. It is as easy to sell to the existing slipway beside it at no extra cost.”*
- *“Kyle of Lochalsh has a pontoon not 10 miles away with all the facilities. Having the same at Dornie is duplication and dilution.”*
- *“Kayakers and paddle boarders will use it - I spoke to 4 local businesses who all said they would use a pontoon but rarely, if at all, as it is easier and safer for kayaker to get in and out at a slipway and there is already one in use at Dornie Hall with parking, water and toilets.”*
- *“Dornie is safe at slack water, but the tidal stream between these safe times, limits the window of opportunity for people to safely access and use the pontoon.”*

Question 2: Overall level of support for moorings in Totaig Bay

Installation of 8 - 10 moorings in Totaig



Support: 74.5% Neutral: 8.5% Negative: 17%

AI Summary

Many view the location as suitable, noting existing use and minimal wildlife disturbance (particularly from larger vessels regarding seals). Proponents believe moorings would formalise current anchoring, reduce seabed damage, increase capacity, boost local tourism income, and provide locals with affordable access to the water.

Concerns exist regarding the number of proposed moorings (10 being seen as potentially excessive for the small bay), the financial viability considering installation and maintenance costs, and the potential impact on a "peaceful, secluded wildlife haven" with seals, otters, and birds. Some argue it primarily benefits a few locals with discounts and question the benefit to the Dornie side of the loch, suggesting the collected money should benefit Totaig residents.

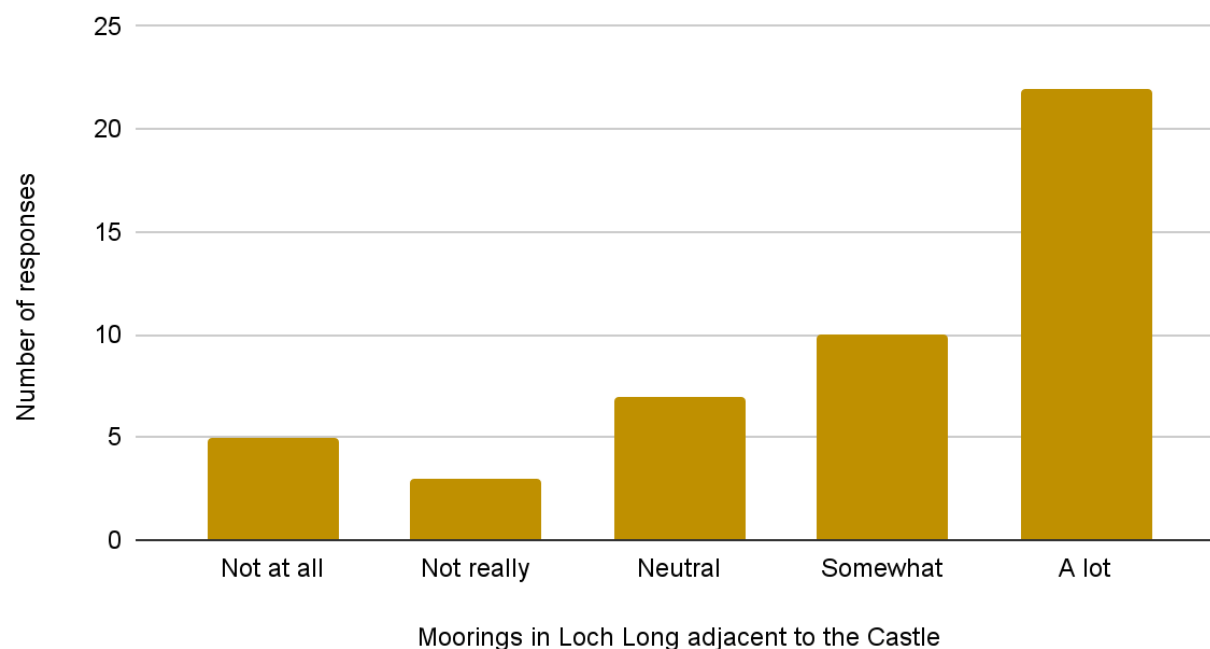
Verbatim Comments

- *"Good location for mooring - seals won't be bothered"*
- *"Good idea"*
- *"Only concern is the closeness of the mooring 1-3 to the sea but understand that large vessels tend not to disturb hauled out seals"*
- *"A great location for mooring and sailors will be able to make their own risk assessment for crossing over Dornie"*
- *"Plenty of sheltered room, with little or no impact to wildlife"*
- *"As above"*
- *"Been moorings there since 1940's. Seals not bothered when touring boats, locals go close"*
- *"As previous"*
- *"Encourage visitors."*
- *"Good location for moorings"*
- *"Again, this would address the lack of local moorings and promote more water activities"*
- *"I see many yachts visiting Totaig and dropping anchor for the evening. I think"*
- *"Holding for conventional anchors in Totaig is poor. Provision of fixed moorings would encourage boats into the locality and hopefully, be a useful boost to the economy. Damage to the seabed would also be greatly reduced from vessels repeatedly seeking secure holding".*
- *"Practical for added capacity"*
- *"Moorings are an attractive and affordable way to boost tourism income and facilitate access to an important outdoor environment for locals as well."*
- *"Many locals already use this area for moorings as well as visitors anchoring in the summer, this will formalise the existing set up and provide fixed moorings which will avoid the damage caused by anchoring to the seabed".*
- *"I have a small boat and it would be great to have mooring in this area, I would not object to a small payment for mooring".*
- *"Cost of installation and then further costs of maintenance in future does question the financial viability of the idea/project. Is there really room for 10 moorings in that tiny bay at low water?"*
- *"Good to have moorings but not 8-10 as that would be too many. 6 max would be fine"*
- *"I would need further info on the type of moorings and the type of vessels that would utilise them. However, most outcomes would boost the local economy."*

- *“n/c”*
- *“More space to moor boats is probably a good thing”*
- *“I support the proposed moorings in Totaig bay for the following reasons: 1. Totaig is an established anchorage and has been for many years. 2. The seal population in Totaig bay is a relatively new occurrence. They are not bothered in the slightest by the current moorings and I do not believe additional moorings will have any negative impact on them. 3. Installing fixed moorings will cause less seabed damage than visiting vessels dropping and dragging anchors in various locations around the bay. 4. Totaig bay has been known to become crowded during the busy summer season. This is partly due to inefficient anchoring of visiting vessels. Having a fixed mooring system will allow more boats to use the bay and avoid visiting vessels being forced to moor in less desirable locations.*
- *“As it would be a good sheltered area , my concern is that it wouldn’t be as easy to monitor.”*
- *“I think the hall option makes more sense.”*
- *“I suggest the number be reduced to 5. There are already 4 (official/unofficial/temp) moorings. There is also an area where people can anchor so 5 should suffice. The number of boats that anchor in Totaig is not 5 -10 - as suggested by the DMA. The averages for 2024 were May – 2, June 2 -13, July 2 – 68, August 2 – 67, and September 1 – 8. These numbers included boats anchored at the castle and elsewhere and SIGNIFICANTLY included the 2 boats that were anchored there all summer, one of which was taken away in September. Of the 8 moorings proposed the DMA says they have 5 local people tentatively allocated a mooring already. This does not appear to fit with their assertion that the project will increase footfall into Dornie. These favoured few will moor there with the benefit of a member’s discount. It seems rather self-serving.”*
- *“Detrimental effect on a gem of a location”*
- *“This is on the other side of the Loch, not Dornie, will the money that is collected be distributed to the folk who live on the Totaig side of the Loch? What benefits will this create for the folk on the other side of the Loch? a busier road between Ratagan and Totaig is of no benefit.”*
- *“Danger to wildlife”*
- *“I strongly oppose this proposal. Totaig Bay is a peaceful, secluded wildlife haven – a cul-de-sac by land and sea, surrounded by ancient woodland and unspoilt shoreline. It is part of a red squirrel rewilding zone and a regular resting and feeding spot for seals. Otters are also seen here, and a wide variety of birds nest and forage undisturbed along the coast. The installation of moorings would bring increased marine traffic, noise, and pollution, disrupting fragile ecosystems and placing unnecessary pressure on an area that should be protected, not developed. For those of us who live here and care deeply about nature, Totaig Bay is one of the last truly quiet corners of the Highlands – a place that should remain wild and untouched”.*
- *“Against this as per the information given above”.*
- *“Too many moorings, only to the benefit of members, not enough sailors coming that would use the excess moorings anyway”*
- *“Totaig cannot support the level of summer visitors we have and many yachts anchor in the loch which can be damaging to the seabed. Fixed moorings will provide a safe and environmental friendly solution to an existing demand”*

Question 3: Overall level of support for mooring in Loch Long adjacent to the castle

Moorings in Loch Long adjacent to the Castle



Support: 68% Neutral: 15% Negative: 17%

AI Summary

Many agree it's a good idea, as boats already anchor there, and moorings could provide safe mooring and reduce seabed damage, look good, and generate revenue. Accessibility from slipways is noted. Some suggest it helps tourism and local sailing.

Concerns about the location due to strong currents, limited sheltered space, and potential danger to larger yachts near the bridge and shallow water. Some believe it might obstruct smaller boats and highlight the strong tidal race and disturbance where the lochs meet, citing safety concerns from navigation websites. The actual number of boats anchoring there is questioned, with some suggesting a smaller number of moorings would be better.

Verbatim Comments

- *"Good idea"*
- *"The area is used for mooring for passing craft anyway, so this would keep them in a designated area and I personally think that they would look good against the castle backdrop"*
- *"Not the best place because of the slack area is small but people anchor there anyway so you might as well put more rings there anyway, so you might as well maybe after 5 pm only"*
- *"Easily accessible from the slipways and while not as sheltered as Totaig, easily managed"*
- *"helps tourists. locals to come sailing, touring by sea"*
- *"As previous"*

- *“Increased accessibility”.*
- *“As above.”*
- *“Tourist attraction”*
- *“As per above- moorings are a low- impact form of development that doesn’t seem out of keeping with the historic context.”*
- *“As above”*
- *‘Required for use for tourist and locals”*
- *“It has the benefit of being accessible”*
- *“As above”*
- *“Not 100% sure as currents are strong but boats moor there now. May be safer”*
- *“Boats regularly anchor there to view the castle so objections on the grounds of visual intrusion are moot. Provision of fixed moorings there would also mean significantly reduced damage to the seabed from vessels seeking secure holding”.*
- *“As per last answer, however being less moorings would have less negative implications”.*
- *n/c*
- *I support this proposal in principle. Large vessels are increasingly anchoring off the castle during the summer. The option of a fixed mooring will provide some control over this and generate some revenue for the community.*
- *Would be a good idea for a short term mooring for larger vessels that can’t pass below the bridge.’*
- *‘Not sure how protected this area would be from strong tides and weather*
- *‘Not sure if this is the best place to moor a large yacht on windy weather during big tides; so close to the danger of the bridge and very shallow water, however, if the experts say it's safe & sound, then I have no objection!’*
- *‘Not sure about the castle as a concern along with a narrow channel at low tide’*
- *‘I’m undecided on this proposal. While I see that the area is already quite busy and development here may be less disruptive than in more secluded locations, I’m still concerned about potential impacts on local wildlife. Seals and other marine life use this part of the loch regularly, and the presence of human activity already places pressure on their habitat. Any installation must be done with strict environmental safeguards and clear limits to avoid further strain on this sensitive stretch of coastline.’*
- *‘The people of Dornie must decide this one’*
- *‘Not sure its the best idea given the speed of the water’*
- *‘Might get in the way of the view’*
- *‘Not keen on this as it is too close to the castle’.*
- *‘Boats moored here will impede smaller boats going into and out of Dornie forcing them into the channel where the current and tidal race are stronger, using more fuel and adding to the danger.
The prevailing SW, will affect this area and the boats mooring here.
Moorings would have to be near the centre because of water depth and tide levels/heights and secured fore and aft to prevent them swirling in the tidal race. There is also a significant disturbance in the water where the 3 lochs meet. Comments in Navily and on kayaking websites reflect the danger.
Very few boats actually anchor here anyway. 3 is too many.’*
- *‘Strong tidal race, unnecessary because there aren't enough sailors coming anyway’*

Appendix: Dornie Moorings Association Questionnaire:

Please only submit ONE response per person:

Name:

Date:

Primary Residential Postcode:

Email address (optional):

Please either pass your completed questionnaire to one of the committee this evening, or leave at the reception of the Dornie Hotel by the 20th February 2025.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to email: info@dorniemoorings.co.uk

- 1. To what extent do you support the proposed developments listed below (1 = not at all, 2 not really, 3 neutral (or don't know), 4 somewhat, 5 a lot):**

PONTOON:

Level of support:	1	2	3	4	5
Pontoon in Dornie village, Adjacent to the slipway (please tick):					
Comments: Please explain your answer in more detail if possible:					

MOORINGS in Totaig Bay:

Level of support (where 1 = no support and 5 = lots of support):	1	2	3	4	5
Installation of 8-10 moorings in Totaig Bay (please tick):					
Comments: Please explain your answers in more detail if possible:					

MOORINGS in Loch Long adjacent to the Castle:

