

Assynt Community Work-shed Survey Report

This survey was aiming to find out if there is a demand for a shared work-space in Assynt, to act as a social meeting place as well as a practical hard-wearing work place, along the general principles of the 'men's shed' concept.

The survey was run from late October to early December 2022, with online survey link emailed out to ADT mailing list and put on Assynt Activity facebook page. Paper copies were available locally. 28 responses were submitted - 25 online, 1 by email and 2 on paper.

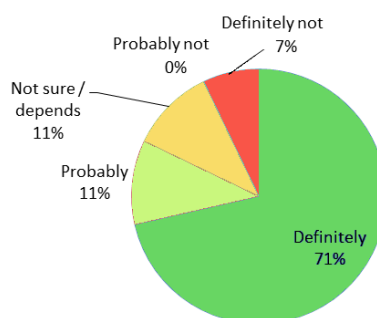
1. Do you live in Assynt? - Yes, in the Lochinver area – 23 Yes, elsewhere in Assynt – 5 No - 0 . (Total – 28)
(one ticked two options, assumed here as being elsewhere in Assynt)

Feel free to say more

- There seem to be many unused spaces on the main street.
- Culkein Stoer
- Achmelvich but often working away
- Stoer
- since 1974

2. Do you think a Community work-shed is a good idea?

Definitely	20
Probably	3
Not sure / depends	3
Probably not	0
Definitely not	2



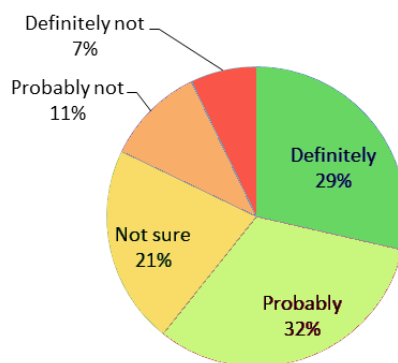
(one of the 2 responses against was assuming it needed to be a new building, and thought an existing building could be used for this purpose instead – see 6th comment below)

Anything else you want to add here?

- Usual issues with this kind of project: what is demand, how many would actually make use of it, volunteers to keep place clean etc, run bookings for use.
- I think in a small community like ours, it is essential to mix with others.
- Would depend on where/what it was
- Not likely
- Our friends attend one where they live & it's proved invaluable to all the local community.
- We have lots of underused community spaces that could host a share work space either on a full time or part time basis. There is the leisure centre, village hall, community room, Assynt Centre and Arts building at Glencanisp. It is difficult enough finding funding to keep these community spaces going, why on earth would we need another one. This seems like trying to find a reason to justify keeping a building in community ownership when a need for shared office space has never been raised before.
- Important that broadband is reliable and runs at speed
- An excellent idea to provide for people who wish to enhance their social circle and knowledge base. This would also enable people to relax and unwind whilst pursuing/sharing their interests and hobbies as well as share skills. Out with projects it would facilitate for people to have a chat, possibly over a non-alcoholic beverage.
- I've thought about this idea in the past.
- It should be a repair shop, eg. sharpening or renewing tools. It would be a place for mixing folk, as the drop-in used to do - with no labelling
- It would be somewhere for people to go and meet up

3. Would you personally be interested in using a shared workspace in Assynt?

Definitely	8
Probably	9
Not sure	6
Probably not	3
Definitely not	2

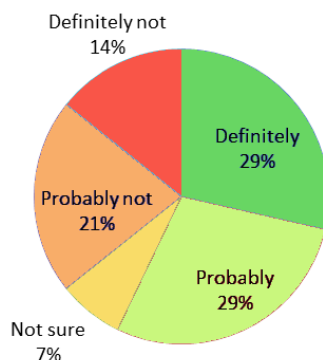


Anything you want to say here? eg. why you would or wouldn't be personally interested

- Not sure about myself needing a 'workspace', but can see that some men might. N.B. Culag Community Woodland Trust needs volunteers and a group leader to carry out jobs in Culag Woods.
- Don't really understand what you mean. Is it a space for groups with common interest to meet or a space to undertake work for money?
- If it included a charity shop, I definitely would.
- Don't have enough indoor working space for DIY projects when weather is bad!
- This would be dependent on the projects available.
- I don't have the room/premises for a workshop of my own. I also love the idea of sharing skills and knowledge.
- I'd like to develop woodwork skills, and electrical skills, and having access to tools etc and people who could help me learn would be great.

4. Would you value/support having work times being available for specific characteristics groups, eg male-only or female-only (for ease of open chatting)?

Definitely	8
Probably	8
Not sure	2
Probably not	6
Definitely not	4



(2 of the 4 'definitely not's were definitely not interested in using such a space themselves; the other 2 were interested in using the space themselves)

Anything else you want to add here?

- Think it's a benefit to be a mixed work space but understand why some would prefer different set times. I don't mind either way.
- Wouldn't matter to me, actually I think mixed groups are better but the availability of same sex groups for others who wouldn't be comfortable would be good.
- Very necessary as females/males will probably have different interests and topics for discussion.
- I'm not a fan of segregation. All in together.
- I don't oppose other people asking for that time. I just don't need it for myself.
- Male only

5. Would you be interested in times with specific activities with skills sharing and learning? (eg. bike maintenance, woodwork, gardening, handicrafts)

Definitely	17
Probably	2
Possibly	4
Not sure	1
Probably not	2
Definitely not	2

Anything you want to say here? (eg. what skills areas you think would be a good idea or would appeal to you personally)

- *I would be interested in learning more about computer skills or gardening. I would like my garden tools sharpened and learn about mower/trimmer maintenance. Maybe some of the things I would be interested in would be more suited to courses at the Leisure Centre.*
- *Some light information / talks on maintain good mental health would be useful I think (helping with anxiety, low mood etc).*
- *But isn't this already offered locally through Assynt Leisure?*
- *Bicycle maintenance*
- *I have enough own projects to do!*
- *Skills sharing already goes on within Assynt Leisure and Learning Centre (has the Learning centre bit been forgotten within the community?) and Glencanisp Arts Building, why do we need another space?*
- *Craft based, especially jewellery making, cookery (would be tricky without a full kitchen)*
- *Some ideas: 1) Basic car mechanics may be of interest 2) Fly casting as well as fly tying 3) Father/son and mother/daughter activities (basic survival techniques - how to make a fire, build a shelter (live in shelter overnight), foraging (edible mushrooms etc) 4) Deer management (shooting and stalking skills and animal welfare) 5) Walking stick making (coppice knob, shepherds crook, wading staff etc)*
- *Bike maintenance definitely. Coding on a raspberry pi ? Off grid living*
- *Specifically for me, I'd like to get involved with woodwork (joinery, carpentry, whittling, etc.), car mechanics, bicycle repair/maintenance.*
- *Gardening would be of interest.*
- *Bike maintenance, renovating/sharpening garden/household tools, swapping likewise, sharing plants*
- *It would be nice if it was knitting, sewing etc.*

6. Anything else you'd like to say about this idea, not covered above? (eg. about preferred location, or how you'd like to see it run and set up, if it were to happen.)

- *Is there not already dedicated areas to activities just like the ones suggested, I thought you could do this at the leisure centre.*
- *Don't really understand what this survey is about. Is this for a new workspace or to use ones we've already got? Is it for groups to meet or a workspace for paid work? I don't think this survey is clear. Maybe need to explain some if the thinking behind it.*
- *I would help with a charity shop*
- *[contact details given]*
- *Thought this was what the Learning Centre was for?*
- *It would be great to have a shared office space where people working from home can be with others in their work day*
- *Location would be Lochinver: Leisure Centre, Artists studio at Glencanisp. I would not be able to provide any skills to assist in progression but would like to be kept informed. [contact details given]*
- *Try and stay away from forming a directors group, no idea how but anyone coming in to help make it happen should be able to do it, not just a volunteer.*
- *[contact details given] There is an open lot available for rent opposite KJ's garage. [...] I thought about having separate portacabins set up for different types of workshop. Maybe even one set aside for a toolshare. Although, that leaves itself open to tools going missing or being left in other workshops. It's something to think about though. If people in the community had a surplus of tools that were going unused, they could be collected there. Would there be a paid membership for running costs, insurance, etc? And a maximum amount of workshopers to ensure current members can always be almost guaranteed workshop time? I don't expect answers to these questions. They're just discussion topics.*
- *[contact details given]*
- *Is the Studio up at Glencanisp usable for this? Alternatively, somewhere down at the harbour would be great, within reach of An Cala and Mackay's and handy for boats. [contact details given]*
- *There are numerous empty buildings on the main street which could be put to good use. It would be a more spacious place inside to put up community posters of events etc.*

Response from Assynt Foundation:

If it might help, we would in principle be happy to offer use of the Art Studio at Glencanisp for this.