

Title of Report:	Village Plans Update
Committee Report Submitted To:	Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 June 2024
For Decision or For Information	For Information
To be discussed In Committee	No

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Improvement & Innovation
Outcome	The Council facilitates towns and villages in the Borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity & Place

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£24,000
Included in Current Year Estimates	No (2023-24)
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	1112 / 30032
Staffing Costs	Officer time

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the completion of the work to date in relation to the Borough's current Village Plans and develop two new Village Plans.

2.0 Background

On the 23rd November 2023, Members agreed to procure specialist external support to complete the upgrade of six Village Plans and the development of two new Village Plans for the Borough.

The following seven villages now have newly developed plans;

- Ballykelly
- Cloughmills
- Cushendall
- Dunloy
- Garvagh
- Greysteel
- Kilrea

The consultants procured, Third Sector Connect, facilitated the review and development of the plans. The review was carried out over three phases i.e.:

- Phase 1 consisted of carrying out a comprehensive socio-economic analysis of each area to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. Where applicable, the previous Village Plans from June 2018 were reviewed, which provided insights into lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, ensuring continuity and building upon existing efforts.
- Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. To ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan, a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken for each village. An online survey was also facilitated by Council on its website and was open from Friday 9th February 2024 to 1st March 2024.
- Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Councillors and officers were also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on each draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

3.0 Results

Please see **Annex A** for further details in relation to each of the new Village Plans.



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Ballykelly Village Plan

March 2024

DRAFT



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1.0 Introduction

Ballykelly is situated approximately 13 miles east of the city of Derry/Londonderry and in close proximity to both Limavady and Coleraine. The village enjoys good access to major roadways, including the recently upgraded A2 dual-carriageway and the A37, which runs through the middle of the village. The City of Derry Airport is also close by, offering direct flights to London and other UK cities. In addition, the local bus services provide travel options to surrounding areas, enhancing connectivity and accessibility for commuters. The main railway line running to and from Belfast runs close to the village, but there is no access to any station in the village. These linkages make Ballykelly a desirable and affordable destination for those seeking employment in the wider North West Region.



Figure 1: Aerial View of Ballykelly Village, (Source:Google Earth)

Shackleton Barracks stands as a prominent landmark in Ballykelly, paying homage to the renowned polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. A former military installation has played a pivotal role in shaping the area's identity through its use in past military operations and training exercises.

Following the handover of the expansive 621-acre facility by the Ministry of Defence to the Northern Ireland Executive in 2011, the site became a focal point for potential development. In a significant move, most of the site was acquired for £1m by MJM Group in February 2016, marking a transformative step towards its future utilisation. That has yet to be fully realised but the opportunities for redevelopment of the site could herald a new era for Ballykelly.

The former Shackleton site now houses the new regional headquarters of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), in Jubilee House. Acquired by the Stormont Executive in 2011, this state-of-the-art facility officially opened its doors in 2018. Boasting cutting-edge technologies and innovative design, Jubilee House serves as a hub for collaboration across the DAERA network. Its strategic location at Ballykelly and modern amenities were purposely chosen by DAERA to act as a catalyst for the development and sustainability of Northern Ireland's rural communities.

Sitting on the shores of Lough Foyle, and near the Sperrin mountains, Ballykelly has a number of natural environmental assets. Ballykelly Forest, the first state forest acquired in Northern Ireland lies on the outskirts of the village. With its network of forest tracks and paths, the forest offers

opportunities for outdoor recreation, including walking, cycling and running, amidst mature woodland surroundings. The village's proximity to the River Roe and Lough Foyle, marshland and woodland habitats, further enhances its appeal as a destination for outdoor enthusiasts, locals and visitors alike.



Figure 2: Ballykelly's Men's Shed

The village holds a special place in the legacy of the acclaimed author, John Steinbeck, whose maternal grandfather, Samuel Hamilton, hailed from Mulkeragh in the village. Steinbeck, fascinated by his Irish roots, visited the area in 1952, documenting his trip in an article titled, 'I Go Back To Ireland'. It was during this time Steinbeck drew inspiration from his Ballykelly-born grandfather for the major character of Samuel Hamilton in his famous novel, 'East Of Eden', which was published in the same year.

Key Assets	Community Groups
Jubilee House	Men's Shed
Ballykelly Forest	Binevenagh Historical Society
Shackleton Barracks	Nedd Cricket Club
Men's Shed	Glack GAC
Knightsbridge Hospital	Ballykelly Utd
Drummond Hotel	Orchard Playgroup
Ballykelly Community Portacabin	
Shackleton and Aviation Museum	
John Steinbecks Home	
Wallworth House	
St Finloughs Church	
Orchard Community Playgroup	
Outdoor Gym	

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Ballykelly



2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community's diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

A Healthy Safe Community	A Sustainable Accessible Environment	A Thriving Economy
Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together.	Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections.	Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning.

A Healthy Safe Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. • Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. • Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. • Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. • Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

- **Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes.
- **Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections.
- **Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainably managed natural and built environment.

A Thriving Economy

- **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.
- **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses.
- **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation.
- **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled.

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:

A Healthy Safe Community

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

A Thriving Economy

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

Theme	Policy Alignment
Facility Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Playgroup Forest School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern Ireland Children and Young People's Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Department of Education)Local Assessment of Need 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens (Education Authority)
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body)Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Heritage & Cultural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body)Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Village Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community Safety Framework (Department of Justice)
Development of Shackleton Barracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)

2.3 Local Community Groups

A range of local community, sporting, statutory and commercial stakeholders will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, these organisations bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local stakeholders often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration at a local level, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.



3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area.

3.1 Population

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of the Ballykelly settlement was 2,029. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Ballykelly settlement.

3.2 Statistical Profile

This statistical analysis accounts for key characteristics of the 'Benbradagh A' Super Data Zone population. Some areas of Ballykelly fall under the 'Benbradagh B1' Zone. However, this area contains the former RAF air base and rural areas that encroach on the outer suburbs of Limavady, therefore it has been excluded from this analysis. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of this statistical zone vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

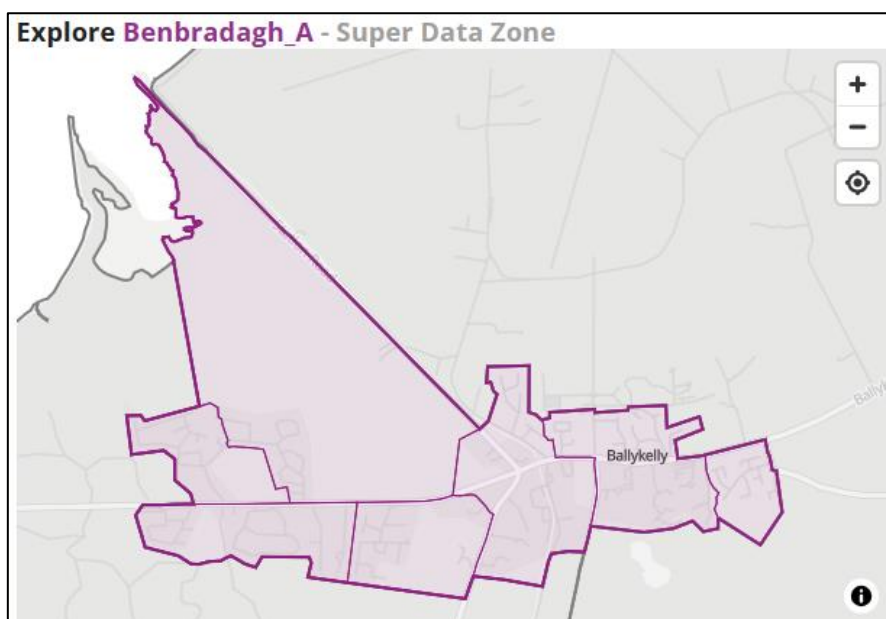


Figure 3: Map of Benbradagh A Super Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

3.3 Age Profile

The population of Ballykelly has an age profile that is in line with the Benbradagh DEA averages, but which is also more youthful than Council and National averages, as evidenced by the composition of the village in terms of its age profile in the below table:

Area	Age 0-14 yrs	Age 15-39 yrs	Age 40-64	Age 65+ yrs
Ballykelly / Benbradagh A	23%	34%	31%	12%

Benbradagh DEA	22%	31%	33%	15%
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Area	18%	29%	34%	19%
Northern Ireland	19%	31%	32%	17%

The 2021 Census indicates Ballykelly's population was almost evenly split between females (51%) and males (49%).

Household Size

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Ballykelly was: 1 person 31%, 2 people 31%, 3 people 17%, 4 people 14% and 5 people or more 8%.

Household Tenure

On Census Day in Ballykelly, 59% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 11% social rented, 28% private rented and 2% lived rent free.

3.4 Religion and Ethnicity

- Approximately 59% of the local population recorded their 'Religion' or 'Religion brought up in' as Roman Catholic, with 34% of the population recording Protestant or another Christian religion.
- 7% of village residents recorded no religious affiliation.
- 98% of village residents reported being from a white ethnic background.
- 88% of those living in the area were born in Northern Ireland.
- 9% of the local population reported being born elsewhere in the UK and Ireland.
- 3% of those living in the area were born outside of the UK and Ireland.

3.5 Health

78% of Ballykelly residents report having either a 'Very Good' or 'Good' standard of general health, which is broadly consistent with the Benbradagh DEA rate of 80%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the NI national average of 79%.

Moreover, 77% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate that is again consistent with regional and national averages.

3.6 Labour Market & Qualifications

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Ballykelly, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. Whilst the area boasts an unemployment rate of just 4%, 40% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

Area	No Qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4+	Apprenticeship or Other
Ballykelly / Benbradagh A	25%	6%	14%	20%	26%	8%
Benbradagh DEA	27%	5%	13%	17%	28%	10%
Causeway Coast & Glens	26%	6%	14%	16%	29%	9%
Northern Ireland	24%	6%	14%	16%	32%	8%

Analysis of the skills profile highlights Ballykelly's population has a similar rate of local people with no qualifications, Level 1 qualifications, and Level 2 qualifications when compared with DEA, Council, and national averages. However, a higher percentage of the Ballykelly population has a Level 3 qualification, and a lower percentage has a Level 4+ qualification, when compared with DEA, Council, and national averages.

Industry of Employment

In Ballykelly on Census Day 2021 the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

Industry Classification	Percentage of Employees in Ballykelly
Agriculture, energy & water	1%
Manufacturing	9%
Construction	11%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	21%
Transport & communication	7%
Financial, real estate, professional & administration	9%
Public administration, education & health	39%
Other	3%

Number of Employee Jobs Based in Ballykelly Ward

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survey NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Ballykelly ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

Year	Number of Employee Jobs Based In Ballykelly
2022	1,393
2021	1,274
2020	Not available due to Covid pandemic
2019	1,271
2018	Not available
2017	788

Car or Van Availability

In Ballykelly on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

Car or Van Availability	Percentage Ownership Amongst Local Population
No cars or vans	17%
1 car or van	47%
2 cars or vans	28%
3 cars or vans	6%
4 cars or vans	2%
5 or more cars or vans	<1%

3.7 Deprivation Analysis

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Ballykelly population fell under the Ballykelly Super Output Area, which covered the village and surrounding rural areas. Key findings include:

- In 2017, Ballykelly was ranked as the 251st most deprived area in Northern Ireland (out of 890). This placed the area amongst the 30% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland, and represented a relative decline since 2010, when it was ranked 362nd.
- Except for Crime & Disorder Deprivation, all measures of deprivation pointed to Ballykelly being comparatively worse off in 2017 compared with 2010. Most notable were the indicators that assessed Living Environment Deprivation. Ballykelly's relative rank fell 473 places from 700th (25% least deprived) to 227th (30% most deprived).

3.8 Conclusions

Overall, the overall socio-economic landscape within Ballykelly can be said to be in line with local and national averages. However, the NISRA statistics indicate a general decline in the village in comparison to near peers. There are particular challenges which this statistical analysis has identified as being in need of addressing. Most notably, the area boasts a much lower percentage of the population with a Level 4 Qualification or Higher No Qualifications than both the Causeway Coast & Glens regional average and the Northern Ireland national rate. Furthermore, the overall Living Environment (ie. quality of housing) has declined sharply and is a priority area in need of addressing. The Village Plan must address itself to these areas if it is to be in any way effective.



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of an updated Village Plan for Ballykelly.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was conducted to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. The previous Village Plan from June 2018 was reviewed, which provided valuable insights into lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, ensuring continuity and building upon existing efforts.

Ballykelly Men's Shed were engaged, acting as the lead community partner in Ballykelly, whose support has been appreciated in this process. A thorough site visit of Ballykelly was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. To ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan, a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken. This included:

- A site visit to the village on Tuesday, 30th January 2024.
- A consultation day, with two sessions (one during the day and one in the evening) held in the Drummond Hotel in Ballykelly on Wednesday, 21st February 2024.
- An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 9th February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various communication channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Join us in shaping the future of Ballykelly!

We're excited to invite you to share your invaluable insights for the development of the new Ballykelly Village Plan.

Public Consultations:
 Drummond Hotel
 21st February, 12.30-2.30pm & 6.00-8.00pm

Online Survey:
 Can't make it in person? No problem! Follow the link on the QR code below to participate in our online survey to ensure your thoughts are heard.

To RSVP or for more information contact:
gavin@thirdsectorconnect.com

 **Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council** in collaboration with  **THIRD SECTOR CONNECT**

Figure 4: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Ballykelly community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

- A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
- Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
- A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
- An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
- Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Ballykelly community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of residents.



5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, Ballykelly was noted to be an expanding village. However, population growth was subsequently causing issues in relation to traffic management and limited parking in the centre of the village, which has not been upgraded to accommodate the increased number of residents. A lack of youth service provision, good relations initiatives, and general basic services and amenities were also identified by stakeholders as concerns.

However, aspects of local history and heritage were identified as opportunities for awareness raising and community development. The following key Community Assets were identified:

Commercial Assets	Healthcare Assets	Natural Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good variety of local shops • Supermarkets and eateries • Drummond Hotel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacy • Kingsbridge Private Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballykelly Forest
Heritage Assets	Community Assets	Other Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notable stories and figures from the village, e.g., the plantation history and links with John Steinbeck • Shackleton and Aviation Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Shed • Church Halls • Ballykelly Community Portacabin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wallworth House • Jubilee House • Former Ballykelly RAF Base (Shackleton Barracks) • DAERA Offices • Football pitch • Orchard Community Playgroup

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

Recreational Activities	Sporting Activities	Youth Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain biking • Walking trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glack GAA • The Nedd Cricket • Boxing Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Youth Organisations

5.1 SWOT Analysis

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Ballykelly, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Geographic Location: strategically located between Coleraine, Limavady, and Derry/Londonderry, the village is close to the coast, with excellent development potential.</p> <p>Employment Opportunities: Kingsbridge Private Hospital is a good source of employment, as is DAERA.</p> <p>Education Facilities: The local primary school and nursery schools are held in high regard.</p>	<p>Infrastructure: limited public transport, no gas heating, and poor internet connectivity. The new cycle path has been viewed as ineffective, as does extend to the next village.</p> <p>Community Facilities: very limited provision of community facilities that are suitable for hosting youth activities or drop-in services.</p> <p>Road Safety: There is no by-pass around the village, therefore Ballykelly experiences heavy passing traffic.</p>

<p>Amenities: There is a good range of local shops and hospitality outlets.</p> <p>Community Relations: Inter-community relations are strong. There is no conflict in relation to cultural symbols or emblems.</p>	<p>Public Realm Works: There is a poor standard of street furniture and signage in the village.</p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p>
<p>History & Heritage: the village has a rich history and associated heritage, particularly in relation to notable figures whose roots can be traced to Ballykelly. Scope to explore and generate greater awareness of these stories. There is also potential to further showcase the village's Plantation history.</p> <p>Additional Services: Scope for additional basic services to meet the everyday needs of residents, e.g., healthcare and transportation. There is need for additional youth provision in the village. A festival was also cited as an excellent opportunity to bring residents together and showcase the best of the local community.</p> <p>Additional Facilities: Scope for additional community facilities, including street furniture such as picnic areas.</p> <p>Development Opportunities: The former RAF Base, the Kingsbridge Hospital, and the DAERA building are excellent opportunities to promote economic, social, and community development.</p> <p>Emerging Industries: Owing to its scenic location, Ballykelly has been used recently to film various screen productions. There is scope for this to be further developed.</p> <p>Tourism: There is a 'glamping' site and multiple caravan sites nearby, which could provide the platform on which to develop tourism in the village. There is also scope to better promote the forest for walks and mountain biking.</p>	<p>Drugs & Alcohol: the ongoing prevalence of drug and alcohol consumption in the area could significantly hinder local progress in relation to community and social development.</p> <p>Political Apathy: There is a sense amongst residents that the efforts of government and statutory bodies are focused on developing other areas. This belief is held in relation to housing, community development, and tourism promotion.</p> <p>Tourism Efforts Directed To Other Areas: It is recognised that nearly all of the efforts made to attract external visitors to the area are concentrated on other towns and villages. It is a commonly held belief that Ballykelly benefits very little from any of these marketing campaigns or tourism development efforts.</p>

5.2 Survey Findings

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

- Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
- The length of time they have been residents in the village.
- Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
 - Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.

- Infrastructure and connectivity.
- Crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Standard of facilities and public assets.
- Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

All questions were mandatory for all survey participants.

Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

- 35.0% were aged between 15 and 39.
- 60.0% were aged between 40 and 64.
- 5.0% were aged over 65.

Most responses (57.5%) were received from male residents, with 40% being received from female residents. One respondent preferred not to state their gender.

All respondents were from the village, with 85.4% stating they had lived in the village for ten or more years. These findings provide survey legitimacy as a representative view of local residents.

5.2.2 Quality of Life

Respondents perceptions of the Quality of Life in the village were generally mixed:

- 35% had either a 'Good' or 'Very Good' perception of the village.
- 27.5% felt life in the village was 'Acceptable'.
- 37.5% had either a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' perception of the village.

Moreover, respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being the least favourable option and 10 being the most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 5.7.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Cleanliness of Streets	The prevailing opinion was the cleanliness of the streets in Ballykelly is 'Acceptable' (50.0% of respondents).
Condition of Streets	Similarly, the most common opinion is that the condition of the streets in Ballykelly is 'Acceptable' (40.0% of respondents).
Accessibility	Mixed response received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30.0% feel Accessibility is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 32.5% feel Accessibility is 'Acceptable'. • 37.5% feel Accessibility is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Pedestrian Friendly	Mixed response received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35.0% feel Pedestrian Friendliness is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 32.5% feel Pedestrian Friendliness is 'Acceptable'. • 32.5% feel Pedestrian Friendliness is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Availability of	Mixed response received. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30.0% feel public transport availability is 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35.0% feel public transport availability is 'Acceptable'. • 35.0% feel public transport availability is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Traffic Congestion	This stood out as one of the single most negative aspects of living in the village, based on survey responses. Most respondents (85%) felt congestion was either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor,' with over half believing it to be 'Very Poor'.
Street Lighting	Generally, the levels of street lighting in Ballykelly were considered to be in line with expectations, with 50.0% of respondents believing street lighting in the village to be 'Acceptable'.
Availability of Car Parking	Generally, responses were negative. Whilst 42.5% believe parking availability is 'Acceptable', 42.5% also stated parking availability is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. Just 12.5% responded positively ('Good' or 'Very Good').
Village Signage	The levels of signage were generally considered to be 'Acceptable,' with 42.5% of respondents selecting this option.
Open Space	The availability of open space was an issue highlighted as needing improvement. Most respondents (57.5%) believe open space in the village is either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Play Park	The play park was a public amenity survey respondents held poor perceptions of. A significant majority of respondents (75%) believe the play park to be of a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' standard.
Sports Facilities	Sports facilities in Ballykelly ranked poorly amongst survey respondents, with 87.5% believing sporting provision in the village is either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. This highlights the quality of sports facilities as being the single biggest issue for survey respondents.
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Anti-social behaviour is generally considered to be an issue, with a majority 70.0% of respondents believing levels of ASB 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Vandalism	Like anti-social behaviour, vandalism was considered to be an ongoing challenge, with 57.5% of respondents highlighting it as either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Littering	Continuing a similar theme as the responses received in relation to anti-social behaviour and vandalism, littering was considered to be an area for improvement, with a majority (75%) of respondents believing littering is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Derelict Buildings	Responses in relation to building dereliction in Ballykelly were slightly negative. Although 37.5% of respondents deemed the level of dereliction to be 'Acceptable,' 45.0% of respondents believe the levels of derelict buildings to be either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Friendliness of People	The friendliness of those living in the village was the strongest aspect of the local community based on the responses received. A majority (75%) of respondents believe the friendliness of their neighbours to be either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

The consultation process included an examination of actions from the previous Village Plan. A range of themes were highlighted as being continually relevant, including:

- Economic Development.
- Maximising the potential of local assets, including historic landmarks and tourism.
- Improving transport connectivity and utilities.
- Development of partnerships in relation to education.
- Social housing development.



6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Ballykelly Village Plan are summarised below:

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Facility Development	Provision of community centre and associated services. Sporting facilities in the village are also underdeveloped.	There is an identified lack of fit-for-purpose community space in the village.
Playgroup Forest School	To provide children with a safe and accessible outdoor recreational area and natural play environment.	There is a need to develop the natural assets of the village, as well as supporting additional opportunities for the area's young people.
Capacity Building	Ensure groups have the capacity and energy to take new projects forward.	There is an ongoing need to support volunteers and groups with capacity development, thereby ensuring the local community is well organised and has the capacity to deliver a range of activities and events.
Heritage & Cultural Development	Make better use of the village's heritage in recognition of its Plantation history and notable figures.	There is a general lack of awareness of the rich cultural and historical ties associated with the village, and a lack of programmes or activities to promote better understanding of them.
Village Aesthetics	Improved street furniture and signage across the village.	The current standard of public realm amenities is considered to be poor and in need of investment.
Community Safety	Development of relationships between local community and PSNI Liaison Officers to address ongoing drug and alcohol issues.	Drug and alcohol issues were identified as social challenges impacting community life in the village.
Development of Shackleton Barracks	There is significant potential to redevelop the former RAF Base for community and economic benefit.	The space is currently lying vacant, and serves no viable or useful purpose.



7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Ballykelly, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Facility Development	Development of Community Centre and associated services.	Development of business case to assess the need / demand for capital developments.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Newly Established Community Forum	Causeway Coast and Glens Council	Development work – Causeway Coast and Glens Council
	Investment and upgrade of sporting facilities in the village	Securing of external finance to implement capital upgrades.	Within 60 months of finalisation of Village Plan.		Ballykelly FC	Capital Development Work – multiple possible options depending on project development time
Playgroup Forest School	Provide children with a safe and accessible outdoor recreational area and natural play environment.	Development of business case for creation of safe and accessible outdoor recreation area.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Newly Established Community Forum	Causeway Coast and Glens Council	Multiple
		Securing of external finance to implement capital upgrades.	Within 60 months of finalisation of Village Plan.			

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Capacity Building	Formation of a Community Association to lead on community development issues and programmes in the Village.	<p>Identification and recruitment of volunteers to assume key responsibilities and offices of community association.</p> <p>Setting up of Association bank account</p> <p>Organisation of series of initiatives to raise awareness and reputation of new association.</p>	Within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation	Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	n/a
	Development of a community forum to lead on community interests.	Getting a collaborative group set up to ensure all working together.	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation	Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	n/a
	Ensure community groups have capacity and energy to take new projects forward. Establish and build new 'civic	Design and delivery of capacity building initiatives to enhance the skills and confidence of volunteers of community organisations in Ballykelly.	<p>Design phase within 6 months of finalisation of Village Plan.</p> <p>Delivery phase ongoing from finalisation of design phase.</p>		Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast and Glens Council Other voluntary organisations, including Churches

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
	identity' for Ballykelly	Undertake community development activities which reflect the modern community of Ballykelly, moving away from previously held perceptions of the village being intrinsically connected to Shackleton Barracks				
Heritage & Cultural Development	<p>Boost cultural tourism by highlighting historic landmarks e.g., John Steinbeck's home, the Fishmongers buildings, and remnants of the RAF base.</p> <p>Capitalise on legacy of Fiddler McCurry and other cultural assets to draw in visitors and enhance their experiences.</p>	Design and delivery of heritage awareness programme to celebrate the various stories and notable figures with significant links to Ballykelly.	Within 18 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast and Glens Council	Heritage Lottery Fund

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Environmental Improvements	Improve street furniture and signage across the village.	Installation of enhanced seating, bins, and signage in Ballykelly.	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Community Association (to be formed)	Department for Communities Coast and Glens Council	Causeway Coast and Glens Council Department for Communities
Community Safety	Develop relationships between local community and PSNI Liaison Officers to address ongoing drug and alcohol issues.	Development of interventions aimed at addressing ongoing issues in the village. Incorporate additional actions into the existing Neighbourhood Watch activities	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Community Association (to be formed)	Police Service of Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Watch Policing & Community Safety Partnership	n/a
Tourism & Economic Development	Develop existing tourism assets to attract greater levels of visitors to the area.	Investment in tourism assets. Enhanced marketing and promotion of tourism assets.	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Tourism NI	Causeway Coast and Glens Council
	Stimulate economic diversity and job creation by championing local enterprises	Development of programmes and incentives to support business development	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Local Community Stakeholders	n/a

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
	such as Seating Matters.					
	Champion the full utilisation of DAERA headquarters to maximise job creation and economic activity.	Ensuring that the operation of DAERA headquarters in Ballykelly delivers economic benefits across the rest of the village	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs	Local Businesses Newly Established Community Forum	n/a
Development of Shackleton Barracks	Redevelop former RAF Base for community and economic benefit, which is now under private ownership.	Ensure previous agreements in relation to economic, social, and community development are fulfilled. Specifically, commitments to create 1,000 high quality jobs and to support community development.	Within 60 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Multiple community organisations, statutory agencies and partners	Multiple community organisations, statutory agencies and partners	Variable, depending on project proposal
	Explore feasibility of establishing a train station on the site	Feasibility and scoping work to be undertaken as to the costs and benefits of a Ballykelly train station stop	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation	Local community and commercial stakeholders	Translink Local political representatives	Translink



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Cloughmills Village Plan

March 2024

DRAFT

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1.0 Introduction

Cloughmills village is located a short distance from Ballymoney. Its proximity to major roadways, including the A26, facilitates convenient access to neighbouring areas, providing residents with transport links to urban centres and scenic attractions, including the Causeway Coast. In addition, local bus services ensure connectivity within the village and to surrounding towns.



Figure 1: Aerial View of Cloughmills Village, (Source: Google Earth)

The history of Cloughmills dates back many centuries, with evidence of human settlement in the area dating as far back as the prehistoric era. The village has grown into a vibrant agricultural community, with its economy centred around farming and milling industries. The picturesque River Bush, which flows through the village, played a crucial role in powering the local mills, contributing to the area's prosperity and development. Today, remnants of the village's rich heritage can still be seen in its historic buildings and landmarks, providing a glimpse into the area's storied past.

Cloughmills is home to several key assets and community groups that enrich the village's cultural and social fabric. The Old Mill stands as a historic landmark, reflecting the village's industrial heritage, while the Cloughmills Community Centre serves as a hub for various community activities and events. In addition, the Cloughmills District Memorial Orange Hall and Cloughmills Reformed Presbyterian Church are integral parts of the village's cultural and religious identity.

Notably, Cloughmills boasts an EV charging point and a Community Fridge, showcasing its commitment to sustainability and community welfare. The presence of Incredible Edible initiatives, which aim to support the development of personal and community 'patches' and landscapes into abundant sources of healthy food, and a Heritage Trail further enhance the village's appeal as a vibrant and inclusive community.

In terms of community engagement, Cloughmills is supported by active groups such as:

- Cloughmills Community Action Team (CCAT), which leads a variety of community development projects to enhance village life.
- Giving Shed, which provides essential resources and support to those in need, reflecting the village's spirit of generosity and solidarity.

- Cloughmills Community Association, Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society, and the Golden Oldies Senior Citizens Group play vital roles in developing community cohesion within the village.
- The village is also home to Cloughmills Football Club and St Brigid’s Gaelic Football Club.

However, the village was impacted by one of its key assets, St Brigid’s Primary School, closing in 2023, resulting in Cloughmills Primary School being the only primary school in the village.



Figure 2: Cloughmills Community Centre



Figure 3: The Old Mill

Key Assets	Community Groups
The Old Mill	Cloughmills Community Action Team (CCAT)
Cloughmills Community Centre	The Giving Shed
Cloughmills District Memorial Orange Hall	Cloughmills Community Association
Cloughmills Primary School	Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society
Cloughmills Reformed Presbyterian Church	Golden Oldies Senior Citizens Group
EV Charging Point	Cloughmills Football Club
Community Fridge	St Brigid’s Gaelic Football Club
Churches	Crown Defenders Flute Band
Incredible Edible	Mum and Tots Group
Bypass link to A26	Crochet Club
Heritage Trail	Golden Oldies
	Luncheon Club

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Cloughmills



2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community's diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

A Healthy Safe Community	A Sustainable Accessible Environment	A Thriving Economy
Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together.	Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections.	Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning.

A Healthy Safe Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. • Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. • Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. • Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. • Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 6: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes. • Outcome 7: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections. • Outcome 8: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has sustainably managed natural and built environment.

A Thriving Economy

- **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.
- **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses.
- **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation.
- **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled.

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:

A Healthy Safe Community

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

A Thriving Economy

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment

Theme	Policy Alignment
Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy 2030 – Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (Department for the Economy) Circular Economy Strategy (Draft, Department for the Economy)
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Youth Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Department of Education) Local Assessment of Need 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens (Education Authority)
Environment & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) Regional Transport Strategy 2025 (Department for Infrastructure)
Good Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Sports Facility Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Living – The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland (Sport NI, Department for Communities)
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Play Park Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Play Investment Strategy

2.3 Local Community Groups

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate

understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.



3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures, specifically data in relation to the 'Ballymoney J' Super Data Zone, in which Cloughmills is based.

3.1 Population

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of the Cloughmills settlement was 1,233. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Cloughmills settlement.

3.2 Statistical Profile

This statistical analysis accounts for key characteristics of the 'Ballymoney J' Super Data Zone population. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of this statistical zone vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

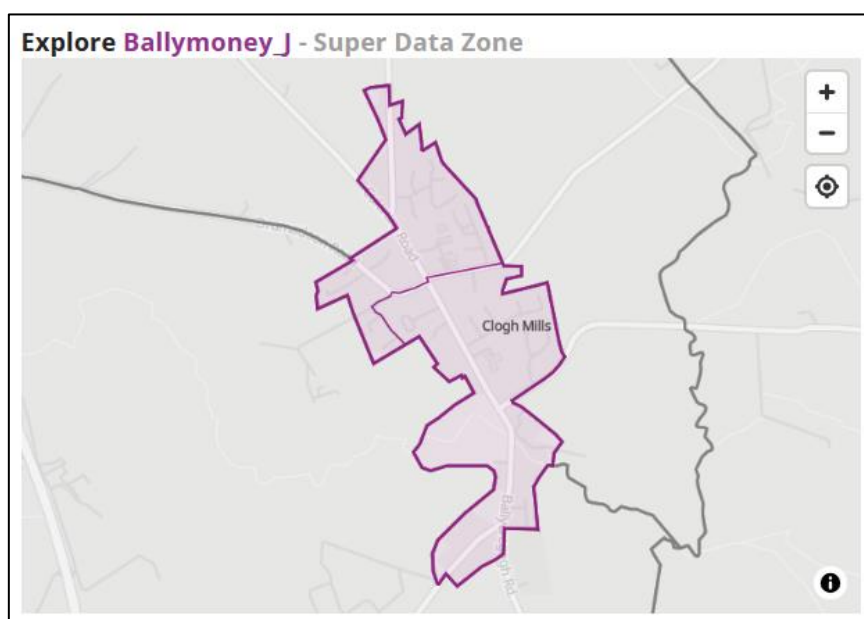


Figure 4: Map of Ballymoney J Super Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

3.2 Age Profile

The population of Cloughmills has an age profile that is broadly in line with local and regional averages across each age demographic, as evidenced by the composition of the village in terms of its age profile in the below table:

Area	Age 0-14 yrs	Age 15-39 yrs	Age 40-64	Age 65+ yrs
Cloughmills / Ballymoney J	19%	32%	33%	16%
Ballymoney DEA	19%	30%	33%	18%
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Area	18%	29%	34%	19%
Northern Ireland	19%	31%	32%	17%

The 2021 Census indicates the population was almost evenly split between females (53%) and males (47%).

Household Size

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Cloughmills was:

- 1 person - 31%;
- 2 people - 32%
- 3 people - 18%;
- 4 people - 13%;
- 5 people or more - 6%.

Household Tenure

On Census Day in Cloughmills, 64% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 12% social rented, 21% private rented and 3% lived rent free.

3.3 Religion and Ethnicity

- Approximately 60% of the local population recorded their 'Religion' or 'Religion brought up in' as Protestant, with 34% of the population recording Roman Catholic.
- 6% of village residents recorded no religious affiliation.
- 99% of village residents reported being from a white ethnic background.
- 94% of those living in the area were born in Northern Ireland.

3.4 Health

77% of Cloughmills residents report having either a 'Very Good' or 'Good' standard of general health, which is broadly consistent with the Ballymoney DEA rate of 78%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the NI national average of 79%.

Moreover, 75% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate which is consistent with regional and national averages.

3.5 Labour Market & Qualifications

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Cloughmills, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. Whilst the areas boasts an unemployment rate of just 2%, 40% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

Area	No Qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4+	Apprenticeship or Other
Cloughmills / Ballymoney J	31%	7%	14%	18%	21%	9%
Ballymoney DEA	27%	6%	15%	16%	27%	9%
Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area	26%	6%	14%	16%	29%	9%
Northern Ireland	24%	6%	14%	16%	32%	8%

Industry of Employment

In Cloughmills on Census Day 2021, the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment, by the industry they work in, was as follows:

Industry Classification	Percentage of Population
Agriculture, energy & water	5%
Manufacturing	10%
Construction	13%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	25%
Transport & communication	4%
Financial, real estate, professional & administration	11%
Public administration, education & health	26%
Other	5%

Number of Employee Jobs Based in Cloughmills Ward

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survey NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Cloughmills ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

Year	Number of Employee Jobs Based In Cloughmills
2022	841
2021	822
2020	Not available due to Covid pandemic
2019	848
2018	Not available
2017	841

Car or Van Availability

In Cloughmills on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

Car or Van Availability	(%)
No cars or vans	15%
1 car or van	40%
2 cars or vans	32%
3 cars or vans	9%
4 cars of vans	2%
5 or more cars or vans	1%

3.6 Deprivation Analysis

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Cloughmills population fell under the 'Clogh Mills' Super Output Area, which covered the village and surrounding rural areas. Key findings include:

- Clogh Mills was ranked as the 483rd most deprived area in Northern Ireland (out of 890). This is a decline compared with 2010, when the area was ranked 535th.
- The area is ranked in the top 20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland in relation to 'Access to Services' Deprivation, ranked at the 176th most deprived out of 890 Super Output Areas.
- Between 2010 and 2017, the area's relative deprivation declined across most measures, including Income, Employment, Health, and Living Environment. However, measures for Education, Access to Services, and Crime deprivation all improved slightly.

3.7 Conclusions

Overall, the socio-economic landscape within Cloughmills can be said to be in line with local and national averages. However, there are some particular challenges identified in this statistical analysis that should be addressed. In particular, the area has a higher percentage of the population with no qualifications than both the Causeway Coast & Glens regional average and the Northern Ireland national average. Although relative improvements have been made since 2010, the village still faces high levels of isolation and disadvantage brought about by its rurality and the poor provision of, and access to, basic services.



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of an updated Village Plan for Cloughmills.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was conducted to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. The previous Village Plan from June 2018 was reviewed, which provided valuable insights into lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, ensuring continuity and building upon existing efforts.

Cloughmills Community Action Team (CCAT) were engaged, acting as lead community partner in Cloughmills, whose support has been appreciated in this process. A thorough site visit of Cloughmills was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. To ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan, a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken. This included:

- A site visit to the village on Thursday, 1st February 2024.
- A consultation day, with two sessions (one during the day and one in the evening) held in the Cloughmills Old Mill on Monday, 26th February 2024.
- An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 9th 2024 and Friday, 1st March 2024.

Two consultation sessions were held, one during the day and one in the evening, to accommodate residents' diverse needs and schedules. Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various communication channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.

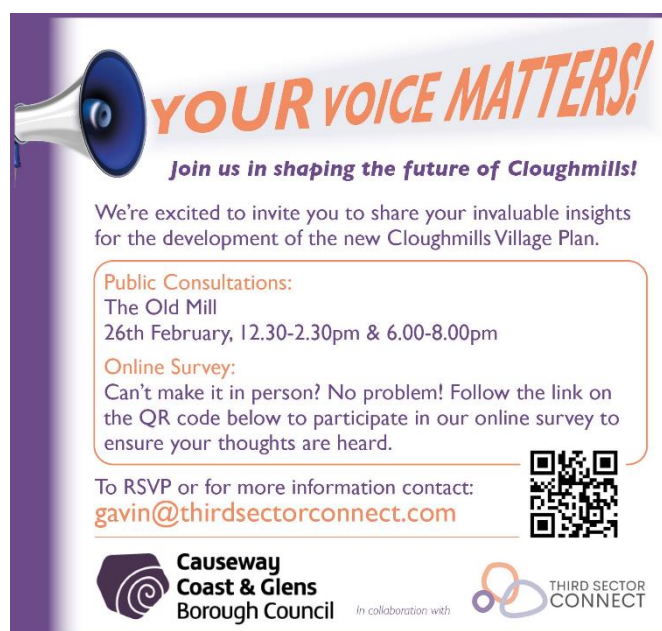


Figure 5: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Cloughmills community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

- A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
- Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
- A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
- An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
- Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Cloughmills community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of residents.



5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, Cloughmills Community Action Team were identified as being strong and leading on many community initiatives in the village. There were also many positive points raised in relation to good cross community relations, limited anti-social behaviour, and a good selection of local amenities. The following key Community Assets were identified:

Commercial Assets	Healthcare Assets	Recreational Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shops including a Butcher Tyre Depot Post Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GP surgery Chemist Optician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to North Coast Access to Glens Gym Pub
Educational Assets	Community Assets	Other Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality primary school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Old Mill Cloughmills Community Centre Cloughmills District Memorial Orange Hall EV charging points The work of CCAT Cloughmills Reformed Presbyterian Church Giving Shed Community Fridge Men's Shed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAA Club Football Club Recent improvements to broadband Bypass to A26

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

Heritage Activities	Community Activities	Sporting Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vintage Rally Vintage Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tractor Run Craft activities (Church) Environmental activities (Mill) Ladies Group Crochet Club Mums and Tots (Church) Events run by the Community Action Team Golden Oldies Group Community Carol Service Services for elderly people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good selection of indoor sports Football Club GAA Club Yoga

5.1 SWOT Analysis

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Cloughmills, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Community Relations: no conflict reported in relation to cultural symbols or emblems and inter-community relations are strong.</p>	<p>Transport/Road Safety: bus services are infrequent, and roads need investment.</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Amenities: good variety of quality and local community amenities, such as the Old Mill. Range of capable community organisations and impactful community programmes, such as the Giving Shed. There is a particularly good range of activities for elderly people in the area.</p> <p>Infrastructure: lots of good road links, which connect Cloughmills to neighbouring towns and villages.</p>	<p>Amenities: scope for additional amenities in the village, such as an on-street ATM.</p> <p>Volunteers: an ongoing challenge associated with recruitment and retention of volunteers within local community organisations.</p> <p>Housing: limited supply of new houses.</p> <p>Economic Development: limited business units for start-ups or new enterprises.</p> <p>Public Realms Works: lack of flowers/planters, negatively impacting village aesthetics.</p> <p>Youth Services: few opportunities or activities for young people in the area.</p> <p>Good Relations: whilst relations were reported as good, there is a limited number of cross-community programmes in the area.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Community Development: scope for additional community-led programmes, particularly in terms of youth services.</p> <p>Sporting Development: the quality of sporting amenities could be improved and made more accessible.</p> <p>Housing: scope to increase the supply of housing, particularly affordable housing to support young families.</p> <p>Public Amenities: scope to upgrade the play park and make it disability friendly.</p> <p>Good Relations: capacity to deliver increased cross-community events in the village.</p>	<p>Amenity Closures: possible closure of the Post Office would be detrimental for residents who rely on its services (mail/banking).</p> <p>Cost of Living Crisis: the ongoing 'cost of living' crisis continues to impact on the everyday lives Cloughmills residents.</p> <p>Youth Services: there is a risk that the lack of investment in youth services could lead to a sustained issue of anti-social behaviour in the village.</p>

5.2 Survey Findings

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

- Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
- The length of time they have been residents in the village.
- Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
 - Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
 - Infrastructure and connectivity.
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Standard of facilities and public assets.
- Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

- 1.6% of respondents are aged between 0-14.
- 47.9% of respondents are aged between 15 and 39.
- 44.2% of respondents are aged between 40 and 64.
- 6.3% of respondents are aged over 65.

Most responses (67.2%) were received from female residents, with 29.7% being received from male residents. 3.1% of respondents preferred not to state their gender.

All respondents were from the village, with 95.3% stating they had lived in the village for ten or more years. These findings provide survey legitimacy as a representative view of local residents.

5.2.2 Quality of Life

Perceptions of respondents were generally mixed:

- 27.1% had either a 'Good' or 'Very Good' perception of the village.
- 31.3% felt life in the village was 'Acceptable'.
- 41.7% had either a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' perception of the village.

Moreover, most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 5.5.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Cleanliness of Streets	Identified as a concern by the majority of respondents, with 58.3% stating 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Condition of Streets	Similarly, the condition of the streets was also perceived by most respondents to be in need of improvement, with 53.1% stating 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Accessibility	Overall, accessibility was deemed to be 'Acceptable' by 44.8% of respondents, the most commonly selected response.
Pedestrian Friendly	Generally negative, with 39.1% of respondents stating 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' and 37.5% stating 'Acceptable' (76.6% combined).
Availability of Public Transport	Overall, availability of public transport was deemed adequate, with 42.2% of respondents noting it to be 'Acceptable'.
Traffic Congestion	Traffic congestion in the village was considered to be at a reasonable level, with 45.3% of respondents stating 'Acceptable', the most commonly selected response.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Street Lighting	There were no serious concerns about the quality or quantity of street lighting amongst survey respondents, with 41.7% considering current levels to be 'Acceptable'.
Availability of Car Parking	Parking was a source of significant concern amongst respondents, with 63% considering the availability of parking to be either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Village Signage	Considered 'Acceptable' by the majority of respondents (53.6%).
Open Space	A salient issue highlighted through survey responses, with 65.6% of respondents believing the quality and availability of open space to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Play Park	The majority of respondents (73.4%) considered the play park to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor', highlighting this as an area for improvement.
Sports Facilities	Survey respondents almost unanimously (94.8%) considered the quality of sports facilities to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor', suggesting this is an urgent priority for those living in the village.
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Anti-Social Behaviour was considered an issue by a majority (50.5%) of respondents, who stated they felt the levels of ASB were either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Vandalism	Vandalism was also considered to be an aspect of village life that could be improved, with 42.7% of respondents deeming current levels to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Littering	Village aesthetics was an issue that resonated strongly with respondents, with 66.7% believing litter levels in the village are either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Derelict Buildings	Building dereliction was perceived by respondents to be an issue of a similar scale to littering. 66.1% believe the levels of dereliction to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Friendliness of People	This was the most positive aspect of the survey. 69.8% of respondents stated the friendliness of people is either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Shops	Feedback in relation to retail outlets in the village resulted in mixed opinions, though the general consensus was that the quality (41.7%) and variety (38.0%) of shops in the village is 'Acceptable'.
Eateries	The quality of cafés and takeaways is viewed positively by respondents, 38.5% of whom believe they are either of a 'Good' or 'Very Good' standard.

5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Cloughmills

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

- Community cohesion and spirit.

- Proximity to large towns and civic hubs.
- Variety of services that are able to be availed of in the village.
- The work of the Cloughmills Community Action Team.
- Community safety overall.

5.2.4 Key Issues To Be Addressed

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

- Village aesthetics, such as dog fouling, availability of bins, and littering.
- Infrastructural issues, such as quality of roads and pavements, and availability of parking.
- The play park at the Mill was cited as needing investment.
- Increased services for children and young people.
- Need for investment in sports facilities.
- Anti-social behaviour.
- Support for new businesses and new shops to open in the village.

The consultation process included an examination of actions from the previous Village Plan. A range of themes were highlighted as being continually relevant, including:

- Community Engagement;
- Environment and Infrastructure;
- Communication and Participation;
- Health and Wellbeing; and
- Basic Service Provision.

5.2.5 Additional Feedback

The Giving Shed collected written feedback from a group of adults over 55 years old. This feedback provides valuable insights into perceptions of Cloughmills village, and the needs identified by older residents. Concern was expressed regarding:

- Various aspects of the village's infrastructure and amenities, highlighting the cleanliness and condition of streets, accessibility, and availability of public transport.
- Issues such as traffic congestion, littering, and the presence of derelict buildings.
- Noteworthy issues such as the need for better park facilities, addressing dog fouling and drug-related problems, and enhancing social spaces for both young and elderly residents.

Priorities identified for the Village Plan encompass enhancing community services, tackling anti-social behaviour, and improving the appearance and safety of the village. Additionally, feedback underscores the necessity for programmes focusing on sports and recreation, particularly for local youth, and addressing lighting deficiencies on roads.



6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Cloughmills Village Plan are summarised below:

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Business Development	Establishment of a Trader's Forum.	Increased lobbying and support opportunities for local businesses in the village.
Capacity Building	Training and skills development initiatives for the benefit of local residents and specifically for volunteers of local community organisations.	There is an overall need to invest in the capacity and skills of volunteers.
Community Engagement	Delivery of inter-generational programmes and increased promotion of activities successfully delivered at the Old Mill.	There is an identified need to increase the confidence of older people in the area and to build overall community cohesion.
Youth Development	Undertaking a youth survey and the delivery of programmes that support young people to tackle ongoing problems such as substance abuse and poor mental health. Provision of youth leadership and education programmes.	There is an identified lack of youth engagement initiatives in Cloughmills.
Environment & Infrastructure	Undertaking a range of public realm improvements that improve the visual impact of the village for the benefit of locals and visitors, as well as supporting to address identified issues such as dog fouling. Exploring the feasibility of infrastructural improvements in the village, such as increased availability of car parking and pedestrian crossing	There is a need to foster an increased sense of community pride in the village, as well as addressing some infrastructure-related concerns identified during consultation.
Good Relations	Delivery of cross community programmes and events.	Scope for additional programmes to be delivered to consolidate already positive relations between communities in the in the village.

Sports Facility Development	Secure land and premises to establish a soccer pitch in the village.	There is currently no provision for soccer in the village, and the local soccer team are required to play fixtures elsewhere.
Housing	Provision of additional affordable housing in the village.	There is an identified lack of affordable housing in the Cloughmills area.
Play Park Development	Exploration of options to develop and upgrade the village's play park	The play park was identified through consultation as being in need of upgrade and development.



7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Cloughmills, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Business Development	Establishment of a Trader's Forum.	Creation of new business support network to drive business and economic development in Cloughmills Appointment of Officers, agreement of constitution, and set up of appropriate governance and financial processes.	Within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Local businesses	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	n/a
Capacity Building	Training and skills development initiatives delivered for the benefit of residents, and specifically for volunteers of local community organisations.	Design and delivery of training and capacity building programmes for volunteers of community organisations.	Design phase within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation. Delivery phase within 12 months of design phase finalisation.	Local community groups	Causeway Coast & Glens Council	Causeway Coast & Glens Council TNL Community Fund – Awards for All

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Community Engagement	Delivery of inter-generational programmes.	Based on consultation, design and delivery of programmes will effectively bring young people and elderly people from the village together.	Design phase within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation. Delivery phase within 12 months of design phase finalisation.	Local community groups	Golden Oldies Group	Causeway Coast & Glens Council TNL Community Fund – Awards for All
	Increased promotion of activities successfully delivered at the Old Mill.	Increased communication quality/quantity relating to community activities, including increased use of social media platforms.	Ongoing from Village Plan finalisation	Local community groups	Range of local community stakeholders.	n/a
Youth Development	Undertaking a youth survey and delivery of programmes to support youth and tackle ongoing problems e.g., substance abuse and poor mental health.	Completion of youth survey and design of youth engagement programme. Delivery of programme, ensuring effective recruitment and retention of young people.	Design phase within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation. Delivery phase within 12 months of design phase finalisation.	Local community groups	Range of local community stakeholders. EA Youth services	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council TNL Community Fund – Awards for All
	Provision of youth leadership and education programmes.					

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Environment & Infrastructure	Undertaking a range of public realm improvements that improve the visual impact of the village for the benefit of locals and visitors, as well as supporting to address identified issues such as dog fouling.	Installation of improved street furniture in the village such as bins, flower planters, and lighting. Specific focus on exploring additional lighting on Drumdoon Road	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Local elected representatives	Local community organisations Causeway Coast & Glens Council Department for Communities Department for Infrastructure	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Department for Communities Department for Infrastructure
	Exploring the feasibility of infrastructural improvements in the village, such as increased availability of car parking and pedestrian crossing	Feasibility work to be undertaken to assess viability of creating additional car parking spaces in the village and a potential location for a pedestrian crossing.	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Local elected representatives	Causeway Coast & Glens Council Department for Communities Department for Infrastructure	n/a
Good Relations	Delivery of cross community programmes and events.	Design and delivery of programmes that bring all local people together and build on	Design phase within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation.	CCAT	Cloughmills Giving Shed	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
		strong community foundations.	Delivery phase within 12 months of design phase finalisation.			TNL Community Fund – Awards for All
Housing	Provision of additional affordable housing in the village.	Exploration of possibilities to increase the supply of housing in the village to attract young families to the area.	Within 60 months of Village Plan finalisation	Range of local stakeholders	NI Housing Executive Housing Associations	n/a
Play Park Development	Exploration of options to develop and upgrade the village's play park	Identification of preferred upgrades Securing of finance to implement proposed upgrades	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation	Causeway Coast & Glens Council	Local community organisations	n/a



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Cushendall Village Plan

March 2024

DRAFT

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1.0 Introduction

Situated along the A2 coast road between Larne and Portrush, Cushendall lies within the breathtaking Antrim Coast & Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Offering a unique blend of rugged cliffs, sandy beaches, and beautiful countryside, the village's rich history is evident in its well-preserved Irish Georgian buildings nestled within the Cushendall Conservation Area, which was established in 1975. Today, Cushendall proudly serves as the vibrant hub of the eastern Glens, providing an array of amenities and services catering to the needs of both locals and visitors alike.

With its panoramic views of the Irish Sea and the Glens of Antrim, Cushendall serves as a gateway to exploration and relaxation. Residents and visitors are enchanted by the village's picturesque charm, where traditional pubs, shops, and cafes create a welcoming atmosphere for individuals hiking along coastal trails, discovering hidden coves, or simply taking in the picturesque scenery.



Figure 1: Aerial View of Cushendall Village, (Source: Google Earth)

Originally established in the 1600s, the village flourished under various ownerships, eventually thriving under the stewardship of Francis Turnly in the early 19th Century. His contributions, including impressive buildings and the picturesque coastal road, still adorn the village today. Cushendall's rich history and vibrant community spirit are celebrated annually during the Heart of the Glens festival, held since August 1990, offering nine days of fun-filled events and activities for all to enjoy.

In and around Cushendall, accessibility is facilitated by a network of roads, including the scenic A2 Coast Road, providing stunning coastal views. Local bus services ensure connectivity within the village and to surrounding areas, offering convenient travel options for commuters and explorers.

Located just a short drive from attractions like Cushendun and Glenariff Forest Park, Cushendall serves as an ideal base for exploring the stunning beaches and natural wonders of the area. Whether strolling along Cushendall Beach, hiking in Glenariff Forest Park, or embarking on a scenic drive through the Nine Glens of Antrim, residents and tourists are treated to an unforgettable experience immersed in the beauty of Northern Ireland's coastline.

Cushendall is not only blessed with natural beauty but also boasts a vibrant community spirit and a range of community groups and assets. The Glens Youth Club, Cushendall Sailing & Boating Club,

and Ruari Og CLG contribute to the vibrant social fabric of the village. Meanwhile, Grow the Glens and Glens Storytelling & Culture Heritage Group work tirelessly to preserve and promote the area's rich heritage and traditions.



Figure 2: Cushendall Main Street

In 2023, Cushendall welcomed a significant addition to its village landscape with the establishment of the Grow the Glens Innovation Centre. Developed on the grounds of a former police station, this cutting-edge facility represents a pivotal step forward for the community. Boasting state-of-the-art offices, versatile workspaces, and inviting communal areas, the Innovation Centre is designed to support both remote and hybrid working arrangements, while also fostering the growth of new and expanding businesses in the area.

The opening of this centre marked the culmination of years of dedicated effort by Grow the Glens who collaborated closely with local businesses and political representatives to secure funding and transform the once disused police station into a vibrant hub for innovation and local employment.



Figure 3: Cushendall Community, Civic, Business and Statutory Representatives

Key Assets	Community Groups
Cushendall Innovation Centre Cushendall Beach Cushendall Golf Club Cushendall Boat Club Cottage Wood Red Bay RNLI Lifeboat Station Cushendall Coastal Path Dalriada Harbour Cushendall Library St Marys Primary School Glenann Primary School Cushendall Hurling Pitches, Men's Shed and Pavillion Local Tourist Information Office Ulster Way Curfew Tower Glenmona Resource Day Centre GP Surgery Dental Practice Residential Care Home Petrol Station Post Office Shops Restaurants Public Houses Guesthouses	Cushendall Development Group Grow the Glens Ruairi Og CLG Cushendall Golf Club Cushendall Boat Club Glens Storytelling and Culture and Heritage Group Glens Coastal Rowing Club Cairns Residents Group Cushendall Men's Shed Mums and Tots Glens Early Years Glens Youth Club Layde Parish Church Cushendall Presbyterian Church Gaeil Ruairí Óg agus Gaeil na Glinntí St Mary's RC Parish, Cushendall Historical Society University of the Third Age

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Cushendall



2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community's diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

A Healthy Safe Community	A Sustainable Accessible Environment	A Thriving Economy
Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together.	Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections.	Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning.

A Healthy Safe Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. • Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. • Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. • Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. • Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 6: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes. • Outcome 7: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections. • Outcome 8: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has sustainably managed natural and built environment.

A Thriving Economy

- **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.
- **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses.
- **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation.
- **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled.

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:

A Healthy Safe Community

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

A Thriving Economy

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

Theme	Policy Alignment
Development of Public Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Enterprise Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economy 2030 – Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (Department for the Economy) Circular Economy Strategy (Draft, Department for the Economy) Skills for a 10X Economy - Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland (Department for the Economy)
Tourism Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan (Draft, Department for the Economy)
Sports Facility Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Living – The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland (Sport NI, Department for Communities)
Additional Programmes & Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy 2020 (Department for Infrastructure)
Village Aesthetics &	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)

Theme	Policy Alignment
Public Realm Works	
Youth Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Department of Education) • Local Assessment of Need 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens (Education Authority)
Disability Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Disability Action Plan (Department for Culture, Media and Sport)
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission - European Green Deal
Public Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) • Regional Transport Strategy 2025 (Department for Infrastructure)
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)

2.3 Local Community Groups

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan’s reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.



3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area.

Under the latest publication of Census statistics by the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency, Cushendall is covered by four Super Data Zones (The Glens E2; E4; G1; and G2), which account for the population of the village but also some of the surrounding rural areas.

3.1 Population

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of the Cushendall was 1,184. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Cushendall settlement.

3.2 Statistical Profile

This statistical analysis accounts for key characteristics of the four Data Zones' population. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of these statistical zones vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

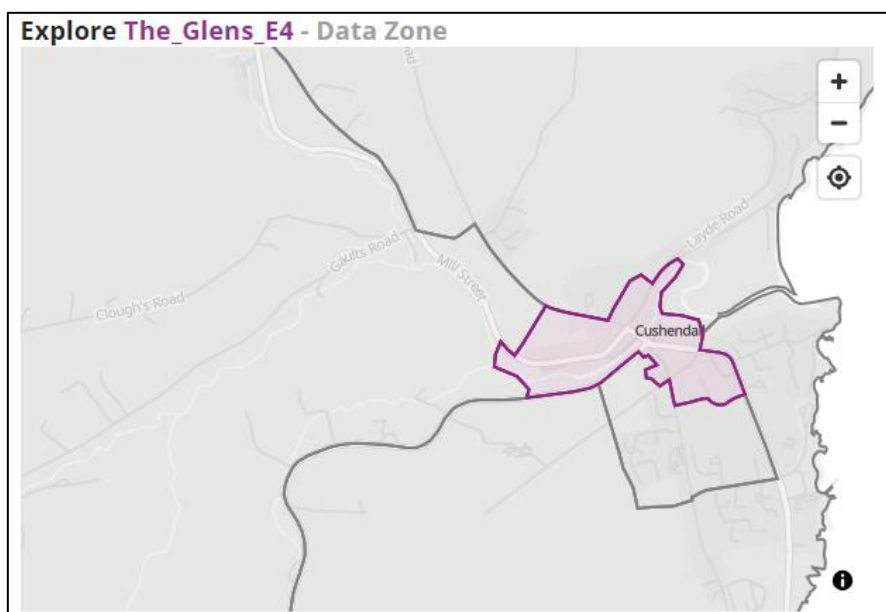


Figure 4: Map of 'The Glens E4' Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

3.3 Age Profile

The population of Cushendall has an age profile that is slightly older than local and regional averages across each age category, as evidenced by the composition of the village in terms of its age profile in the below table:

Area	Age 0-14 yrs	Age 15-39 yrs	Age 40-64 yrs	Age 65+ yrs
Grouped Statistical Zones Covering Cushendall	15%	26%	33%	26%
The Glens DEA	19%	28%	34%	20%
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Area	18%	29%	34%	19%
Northern Ireland	19%	31%	32%	17%

Household Size

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Cushendall was:

- 1 person - 32%;
- 2 people - 30%;
- 3 people -16%;
- 4 people - 14%; and
- 5 people or more -9%.

Household Tenure

On Census Day in Cushendall, 71% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 9% social rented, 16% private rented and 4% lived rent free.

3.4 Religion and Ethnicity

- Approximately 94% of the population within the four Super Data Zones recorded their 'Religion' or 'Religion brought up in' as Roman Catholic, with 5% of the population recording Protestant or another Christian denomination.
- 2% of village residents recorded no religious affiliation.
- 99% of village residents reported being from a white ethnic background.

3.5 Health

Residents of the village and surrounding areas generally enjoy good levels of health and wellbeing, with 80% of the local population reporting either a 'Very Good' or 'Good' standard of general health. This is slightly higher than The Glens DEA rate of 78%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the Northern Ireland national average of 79%.

Moreover, 75% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate that is consistent with regional and national averages.

3.6 Labour Market & Qualifications

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Cushendall and the surrounding areas, as well a profile of skill and qualification level held. Whilst the area boasts an unemployment rate of just 2%, 47% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive. This rate is significantly higher than the regional average of 44% and the national average of 41%.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

Area	No Qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4+	Apprenticeship or Other
Grouped Zones Covering Cushendall	21%	4%	14%	16%	35%	11%
The Glens DEA	24%	5%	14%	16%	32%	9%
Causeway Coast & Glens Area	26%	6%	14%	16%	29%	9%
Northern Ireland	24%	6%	14%	16%	32%	8%

Educational achievement within the area is notably higher than both regional and national averages, with fewer people in the area holding no qualifications, more people holding at least a Level 4 qualification, and more individuals participating in an Apprenticeship or other programme.

Industry of Employment

In Cushendall on Census Day 2021 the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

Industry Classification	Percentage of Local Population
Agriculture, energy & water	3%
Manufacturing	7%
Construction	13%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	21%
Transport & communication	9%
Financial, real estate, professional & administration	12%
Public administration, education & health	32%
Other	4%

Number of Employee Jobs Based in the Lurigetham Ward, Cushendall

Cushendall falls within the Lurigetham ward.

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survey NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Lurigetham ward, Cushendall excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

Year	Number of Employee Jobs Based In Cushendall
2022	610
2021	570
2020	Not available due to Covid pandemic
2019	619
2018	Not available
2017	538

Car or Van Availability

In Cushendall, on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

Car or Van Availability	(%)
No cars or vans	14%

1 car or van	43%
2 cars or vans	28%
3 cars or vans	12%
4 cars of vans	3%
5 or more cars or vans	2%

3.7 Deprivation Analysis

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Cushendall population fell under the 'Glenaan & Glendun' Super Output Area, which covers the village and surrounding rural areas. Key findings include:

- Glenaan & Glendun Super Output Area was ranked as the 499th most deprived area in Northern Ireland, a relative improvement from 2010, when it was ranked 425th.
- Although the area fares well in relation to relative levels of deprivation under measures such as Health, Education, and Crime & Disorder, it ranks as one of the 10% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland in relation to Access to Services deprivation.

3.8 Conclusions

Overall, the socio-economic landscape of Cushendall does not raise many causes for concern, as the local population enjoys comparatively higher levels of health and education, and lower levels of crime than a majority of areas in Northern Ireland.

However, isolation and Access to Services continue to be the primary challenges facing the local community.



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of an updated Village Plan for Cushendall.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was carried out to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic characteristics and social trends. The previous Village Plan from June 2018 was reviewed, which provided valuable insights into lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, ensuring continuity and building upon existing efforts.

Cushendall Development Group was engaged, acting as the lead partner in Cushendall, whose support has been appreciated in this process. Cushendall Sailing and Boating Club were also key to the process, allowing the use of their facility for consultations. A thorough site visit of Cushendall was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. Working closely with Cushendall Development Group and Cushendall Sailing and Boating Club, two consultation events were held to ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan. A range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken, which included:

- A site visit to the village on Thursday, 1st February 2024.
- A consultation day, with two sessions (one during the day and one in the evening) held in Cushendall Sailing and Boat Club facilities on Tuesday, 27th February 2024.
- An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 9th February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

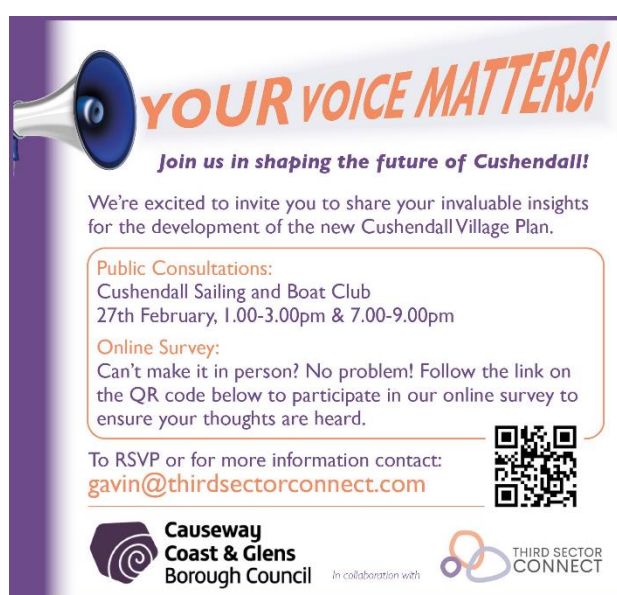


Figure 5: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various communication channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms to encourage broad participation, either in person or online.

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Cushendall community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

- A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.

Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.

- A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
- An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
- Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Cushendall community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of residents.



5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, Cushendall was noted as being a welcoming and friendly community, residing in a scenic location, with residents and visitors enjoying the excellent natural landscapes and environment. A strong cultural aspect to local life was evidenced, with several notable landmarks.

However, some challenges were identified with village life, particularly a high level of building vacancies and road infrastructure being perceived as becoming increasingly neglected.

The following key Community Assets were identified:

Natural Assets	Healthcare Assets	Sporting Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenery/natural landscape Cushendall Coastal Path Cushendall Beach Cottage Wood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Centre GP Surgery Glenmona Resource Day Centre Dental Practice Residential Care Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cushendall Golf Club Hurling Club Cushendall Boat Club
Tourism Assets	Community Assets	Commercial Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalriada Harbour Forest Park Cliff Park Self-Catering Accommodation Local Tourist Information Office Ulster Way Curfew Tower 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of community groups Well-educated population Grow the Glens Cushendall Men's Shed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Petrol Station Post Office Cushendall Innovation Centre Pubs Shops Public Houses Guist Houses

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

Emergency Services	Youth Services	Civic Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red Bay RNLI Lifeboat Station Fire Station First Responders/ Mountain Rescue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Marys Primary School Glenann Primary School Youth Club Mums and Tots Group Glens Early Years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cushendall Library Bus Depot ATM
Sports Programmes	Cultural Programmes	Heritage Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sailing Rowing Walking Club Swimming Fishing Ruari Og CLG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Language Classes Community Festivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical Society University of the Third Age

5.1 SWOT Analysis

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Cushendall, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Community: the local community has a strong work ethic and sense of volunteerism. There is also a strong local business community.</p> <p>Cultural Appreciation: strong appreciation for local culture, and high levels of participation in cultural awareness and development programmes.</p> <p>Sports and Recreation: good variety of sporting opportunities in the village, and a high standard of sporting facilities. There are also excellent outdoor recreation opportunities for locals and visitors alike.</p>	<p>Public Transport: despite the village having a bus depot, there is poor public transport links to and from the village.</p> <p>Isolation: although there is a strong sense of community, there are challenges associated with the village's rural and coastal location, particularly in relation to social isolation. Poor phone signal is also a weakness of the area.</p> <p>Tourist Amenities: lack of parking is an issue, particularly during peak tourism months when the village experiences high numbers of visitors. There is also a lack of public toilets.</p> <p>Capacity: there is a lack of community space to accommodate the needs of all groups.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Economic Development: there are several emerging economic development opportunities associated with the Innovation Hub, as well as the proposed new hotel and distillery.</p> <p>Tourism Development: scope to expand on Cushendall's tourism offering through the introduction of activities such as water sports, cycle hire, boat hire, and the development of links with Scotland. Upgrading caravan sites, public amenities, and the cliff path would also support this development opportunity.</p> <p>Connectivity: opportunity to explore a minibus service to connect Cushendall with other villages in the Glens, improving connectivity across the sub-region.</p> <p>Youth Services: capacity for further youth services to be developed, particularly for older teenagers.</p>	<p>Decline of Traditional Industries: a key local employer in the agricultural sector is currently facing challenges as a result of the cessation of single farm payments.</p> <p>Building Condition: there are a number of derelict buildings, which have been identified as being in need of regeneration and upgrade.</p> <p>Housing: lack of affordable housing in is making it difficult to attract young families to the area. The high number of holiday homes owned by those living elsewhere was cited as a contributing factor to this issue.</p> <p>Climate Change: as a result of its rural and coastal location, there is a risk that climate change effects will be felt strongly by the community over the coming years.</p> <p>Isolation: proximity to basic services such as hospitals and poor transport infrastructure could hinder the village's social and economic development goals.</p>

5.2 Survey Findings

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

- Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
- The length of time they have been residents in the village.
- Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
 - Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
 - Infrastructure and connectivity.
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Standard of facilities and public assets.
 - Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

All questions were mandatory for all survey participants.

Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

- 35.8% of respondents were aged between 15 and 39.
- 48% of respondents were aged between 40 and 64.
- 16.2% of respondents were aged 65 and over.

Most responses (73.4%) were received from female residents, with 26% being received from male residents. 0.6% preferred not to state their gender.

A total of 87.3% of respondents were residents of Cushendall, with 72.84% stating they had lived in the village for ten or more years. These findings provide survey legitimacy as a representative view of local residents.

For those who completed the survey who are not residents of Cushendall, most stated they were from elsewhere in the Glens of Antrim area, such as Glenariff and Glenravel. However, a number of respondents also provided addresses in Belfast, Ballycastle, Bushmills, and Ballymena.

5.2.2 Quality of Life

Perceptions were generally positive:

- 46.8% of respondents had either a 'Good' or 'Very Good' perception of the village.
- 36.4% of respondents felt life in the village was 'Acceptable'.
- 16.8% of respondents had either a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' perception of the village.

Moreover, most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 7.2.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback into a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Cleanliness of Streets	Street cleanliness is not considered a concern, with 37% of respondents stating cleanliness as 'Good' or 'Very Good' and 39.3% stating it as 'Acceptable'.
Condition of Streets	The condition of streets scored poorly, with a majority (51.4%) of respondents stating roads were either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Accessibility	Accessibility is a key concern amongst survey respondents, with 45.6% considering accessibility to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' and 43.4% considering it to be 'Acceptable'.
Pedestrian Friendly	Cushendall was generally considered to be in need of improvement to make it more pedestrian friendly. Although 43.9% of respondents considered accessibility to be 'Acceptable,' 41.6% considered it to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Availability of Public Transport	Public transport was highlighted as a key issue for survey respondents, with 82.1% perceiving the availability of public transport to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Traffic Congestion	Traffic congestion was another infrastructural matter survey respondents had strong opinions on, with 86.1% considering it to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Street Lighting	Street lighting was considered to be adequate amongst survey respondents, with the majority (52.6%) believing lighting to be of an 'Acceptable' standard.
Availability of Car Parking	Similar to other infrastructure areas, car parking emerged as a key issue amongst survey respondents, with 76.9% considering parking availability to be either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Village Signage	Signage in Cushendall was generally considered to be in line with survey respondents' expectations. 54.3% of respondents considered the levels and quality of signage to be 'Acceptable'.
Open Space	Open space garnered a mix of responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33.5% of respondents selected 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 37.6% of respondents selected 'Acceptable'. • 28.9% of respondents selected 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Play Park	The play park was generally viewed positively by survey respondents, with 35.3% stating it is 'Good' or 'Very Good', with a further 38.2% stating it is 'Acceptable'.
Sports Facilities	The quality and availability of sports facilities in Cushendall ranked relatively poorly amongst survey respondents, with 42.7% of respondents stating facilities are either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Community Centre	The quality of facilities was identified as an issue, with the majority of respondents (52%) considering the Community Centre to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Mixed views were captured from respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27.7% stated levels of ASB are 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 37% stated levels of ASB are 'Acceptable'. • 35.3% stated levels of ASB are 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Vandalism	Mixed views were captured from respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30.6% stated levels of vandalism are 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 36.4% stated levels of vandalism are 'Acceptable'. • 32.9% stated levels of vandalism are 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Littering	Littering was highlighted by survey respondents as a particular cause for concern, with the majority (52.6%) stating levels of litter in Cushendall are either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Derelict Buildings	Derelict buildings were another aspect of village aesthetics that prompted a strong negative response, with a majority (71.1%) considering this to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Friendliness of People	The strength of the local community and the friendliness of people shone through as the most positive aspect of village life, with an overwhelming majority (83.2%) rating this as 'Good' or 'Very Good'. In addition, 70.5% of respondents considered the atmosphere in the village to be 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Shops	The variety of retail outlets was a feature of life in the village that ranked relatively poorly with survey respondents, with 41.6% stating this is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. Somewhat conversely, the quality of the shops was perceived positively, with 45.1% of respondents stating the quality of shops were either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Eateries	The quality and availability of cafes and takeaways in Cushendall provoked mixed responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28.9% of respondents selected 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 39.8% of respondents selected 'Acceptable'. • 31.2% of respondents selected 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Cushendall

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

- *'We have a very good local development group, which organises some great programmes.'*
- *'There is a good community spirit among all local sporting clubs.'*
- *'The scenery is beautiful and there is great accessibility to the beach. The people are nice and want more for their community.'*
- The proximity of the village to natural assets and areas of natural beauty.
- Friendliness of local people.
- The quality and availability of sporting activities.
- Overall levels of safety.

5.2.4 Key Issues to Be Addressed

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

- Additional community facilities, including increased provision for children and young people.
- Addressing key issues pertaining to the village's infrastructure, such as traffic congestion, availability of car parking, and the condition of the roads.
- Increased commercial opportunities and support to attract new businesses to the village.
- Addressing the issue of a lack of affordable housing in the area for young families.
- Village aesthetics such as high levels of litter and dereliction.

Respondents were asked to select what they believe to be the top three priorities for Cushendall. The most selected responses included:

- Housing Issues (59% of respondents).
- Activities for Children and Young People (25.4% of respondents).
- Traffic (25.4% of respondents).
- Childcare Issues (23.1% of respondents).
- Employment/Jobs (23.1% of respondents).
- Appearance of the Village (22% of respondents).
- Public Transport (20.2% of respondents).

The consultation process included an examination of actions from the previous Village Plan. A range of themes were highlighted as being continually relevant, including:

- Increased provision of services.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Youth development and services.
- Environment and infrastructure.
- Heritage and culture.



6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Cushendall Village Plan are summarised below:

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Development of Public Amenities	Car parking upgrades, installation of EV charging points, and installation of public toilets.	Additional capacity is needed to accommodate increased levels of external visitors.
Enterprise Development	Promote enterprise development by incentivising tenancy within currently vacant properties. Provide additional business support programmes.	There is a need to support local businesses to develop the rural/coastal economy.
Tourism Development	Develop additional tourist attractions and events, such as geo-tagging of attractions, development of the cliff walks, and introduction of new recreational activities. Organise additional festivals to celebrate various aspects of local life and culture.	There is a need to further enhance and diversify the tourism offering in the village to encourage further and repeat visitation.
Sports Facility Development	Develop upgraded sports facilities across the village, including installation of 3G pitches.	To support sporting organisations in the village and promote further opportunities to participate in sport and recreation.
Additional Programmes & Activities	Capacity building, skills, and education initiatives.	To promote continuous personal development amongst local people and to enhance skills, capabilities, and confidence.
Road Safety	Introduce additional traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings. Undertake repairs to village pavements.	There is a need to address some of the residents' concerns in relation to road safety.
Village Aesthetics & Public Realm Works	Improve signage throughout the village and organise community litter picks and clean ups. Undertake better maintenance of walking and cycle paths.	To create a sense of arrival and welcome to the village, as well as telling the village's story to visitors and tourists.

Youth Development	Carry out a youth survey to establish the views, concerns, needs, and aspirations of young people, and put in place measures to tackle any concerns or address any priorities.	There is an identified lack of youth services in the area.
Disability Provision	Expansion and/or redevelopment of existing centres in the village to accommodate the needs of those in the community with disabilities.	There is an identified lack of facilities in the area that are suited to the needs of those in the community with disabilities. This is particularly true of childcare/day care facilities.
Climate Change	Measures to address coastal erosion.	The impacts of climate change are set to adversely impact Cushendall because of its coastal and rural location.
Public Transport	Improved public transport services.	To improve connectivity between Cushendall and other towns and villages.
Housing	Provision of additional affordable housing in the village.	There is an overall need to support young families by increasing the supply of affordable housing in the village.



7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Cushendall, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Development of Public Amenities	Car parking upgrades	Development of infrastructure upgrade programme.	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council		N/A
	Installation of Electric Vehicle charging points	Development of infrastructure	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation	Community Association – lobbying	Private companies	Depend on the market conditions
	Upgrade and Installation of public toilets.	Ensure all public toilets are open for use by locals and tourists during daytime hours, and improved to cover seasonal usage	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Cushendall Development Group	N/A
Enterprise Development	Promote enterprise development by incentivising tenancy in vacant properties and delivery of additional business	Development of programmes and incentives to support business development and low building tenancy rates.	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Grow the Glens Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Cushendall Development Group	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
	support programmes					
	Capitalise on the economic development opportunities presented by the pending opening of Glens of Antrim Distillery	Promotion of employment opportunities and supporting business opportunities linked to the opening of the Distillery	In conjunction with timeframes of Glens of Antrim Distillery becoming operational	Glens of Antrim Distillery	CDG	N/A
Tourism Development	Development of additional tourist attractions and events, such as geo-tagging of attractions, development of cliff walk, and introduction of new recreational activities. Organisation of additional festivals to celebrate	Development of tourism enhancement programmes, festivals and augmented marketing efforts.	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation	CDG Tourism NI	Supporting Community Organisations Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
	various aspects of local life and culture.					
Sports Facility Development	Upgrade sports facilities across the village, including installation of 3G pitches at a feasible site.	Design and deliver a sports capital project, including development of feasibility considerations, business case and technical assessments. Secure external finance to implement desired sporting capital upgrades.	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Local Sports Clubs	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Sport NI
Additional Programmes & Activities	Capacity building, skills, and education initiatives.	Design and deliver training programme to upskill and increase confidence of residents, including volunteers.	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation.	CDG Sports Club Youth Club	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	TNL(The National Lottery) – Awards for All Peace Plus
Road Safety	Introduce additional traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossings.	Undertake infrastructural works to promote increased safety in the village.	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Local elected representatives	Department for Infrastructure PSNI NIFRS	Department for Infrastructure

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
	Undertake repairs to village pavements.				Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – PCSP	
Village Aesthetics & Public Realm Works	Improve tourism and visitor attraction signage throughout the village.	Investment in signage in the village.	Within 18 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Local community stakeholders	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Department for Communities
	Organise community litter picks and clean ups.	Co-ordination of quarterly litter picks and community clean ups in the village.	Within 3 months of Village Plan finalisation.	CDG	Local community stakeholders	N/A
Youth Development	Carry out a youth survey to establish the views, concerns, needs, and aspirations of young people.	Undertaking village youth survey,	Within 18 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Youth Club Sports Clubs CDG	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council National Governing Bodies of Sport	Education Authority

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
					Education Board EA Youth Services	
	Implement measures to tackle concerns or priorities identified during youth survey.	Design and deliver a youth strategy for young people, incorporating priority programmes and supports.	Within 6 months of finalisation of Youth Survey.	Youth Club Sports Clubs CDG	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Education Board EA Youth Services	Education Authority
	Explore the potential for developing the current Youth Club site for longer term benefit of local residents. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Hub • Youth Club • Walk Ways linked to shore paths 	Community consultation and feasibility work to be carried out to explore sustainability options and wider use of Youth Club site	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Youth Club Sports Clubs CDG	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Education Board EA Youth Services	Education Authority

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Climate Change	Implement measures to address coastal erosion.	Liaise with subject matter experts to assess overall risk of climate change impacts, the likely scale of any impacts, and possible mitigation measures.	Within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation.	DAERA Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Local Community Stakeholders	N/A
Public Transport	Improve public transport services.	Exploration of possibilities to increase the connectivity of the village with other towns and villages through increased frequency and/or availability of public and alternative transport options.	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation.	CDG Translink	Other Community Stakeholders	N/A
Housing	Provision of additional affordable housing in the village.	Exploration of possibilities to increase the supply of housing in the village to attract young families to the area.	Within 60 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Range of Local Stakeholders	NI Housing Executive Housing Associations	N/A



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Dunloy Village Plan

March 2024

DRAFT



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1.0 Introduction

The name 'Dunloy' derives from the Irish 'Dún Lathaí', translating to 'fort of the muddy place or marsh', highlighting the village's historical roots and geographic features. Dunloy is located with convenient access to major roadways like the A26, along with good travel connections to nearby towns and cities, including Ballymoney, Ballymena, Coleraine, Belfast, and Derry/ Londonderry.

With a history dating back centuries, Dunloy's agricultural heritage is deeply ingrained in its identity, with remnants of its past visible throughout the village. Iconic landmarks such as the historic Dunloy Presbyterian Church and Dunloy Primary School serve as tangible testaments to the area's legacy.



Figure 1: Aerial View of Dunloy Village, (Source: Google Earth)

The village boasts an array of key assets, including St Joseph's Parish Centre, St Joseph's Primary School & Nursery Unit, Dunloy Football Club, and the Dunloy Cuchullians GAA grounds, which serve as focal points for social gatherings and community events.



Figure 2: Dunloy Cuchullians

The village also has an array of essential services, including a café, bakery, pharmacy/chemist, schools, a Parish Hall, Post Office, and various shops, ensuring residents' everyday needs are met.

Dunloy offers a variety of activities and programmes to enrich residents' lives. From Dunloy Cuchullians GAA and Dunloy Football Club to the inclusive Dunloy Stronger Together Group, residents have access to various activities and events catering to diverse interests. Other popular programmes include language clubs, Comhaltas, childcare services, and bereavement counselling, providing support and enrichment across the community.

Dunloy's surroundings offer opportunities for outdoor recreation, with walking and cycling trails, a play park, and activities like yoga, line dancing, and active aging initiatives fostering health and well-being among residents.



Figure 3: Local Mural Located in Dunloy

Key Assets	Community Groups
St Joseph's Parish Centre	Dunloy Stronger Together
St Joseph's Primary School & Nursery Unit	Dunloy Comhaltas
Play Park	Dunloy Football Club
Dunloy Cuchullians GAA	Dunloy Bereavement Group
Dunloy Football Pitch	Dunloy Community playgroup
Dunloy Presbyterian Church Hall	

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Dunloy



2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community's diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

A Healthy Safe Community	A Sustainable Accessible Environment	A Thriving Economy
Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together.	Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections.	Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning.

A Healthy Safe Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. • Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. • Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. • Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. • Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 6: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes. • Outcome 7: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections. • Outcome 8: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainably managed natural and built environment.

A Thriving Economy

- **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.
- **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses.
- **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation.
- **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled.

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:

A Healthy Safe Community

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

A Thriving Economy

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

Theme	Policy Alignment
Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy 2020 (Department for Infrastructure)
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Youth Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Department of Education) • Local Assessment of Need 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens (Education Authority)
Additional Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Public Realms Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)

2.3 Local Community Groups

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.



3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey NI.

The village of Dunloy is covered by five Data Zones (Ballymoney G2; H2; H3; H5; and H6), which account for the population of the village but also the wider rural area towards Ballymoney and Cloughmills.

3.1 Population

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of Dunloy was 1,120. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Dunloy settlement.

3.2 Statistical Profile

This statistical analysis accounts for key characteristics of the five Data Zones population. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of these statistical zones vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

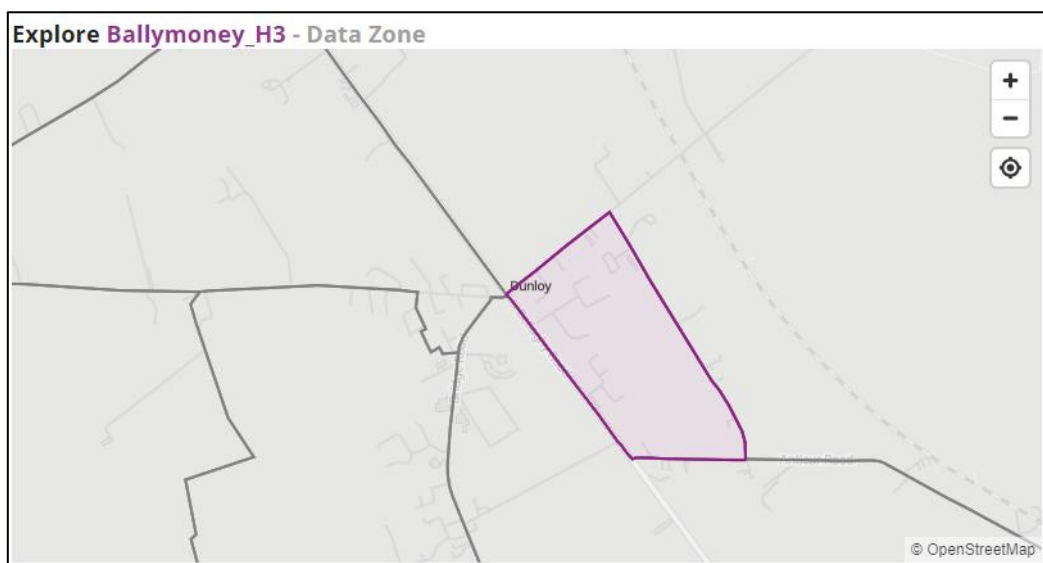


Figure 4: Map of 'Ballymoney H3' Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

3.2 Age Profile

The population of Dunloy has an age profile slightly more youthful than local and regional averages across most age categories, evidenced by the composition of the village in the below table:

Area	Age 0-14 yrs	Age 15-39 yrs	Age 40-64 yrs	Age 65+ yrs
Dunloy Statistical Zones	21%	31%	33%	14%
Ballymoney DEA	19%	30%	33%	18%

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Area	18%	29%	34%	19%
Northern Ireland	19%	31%	32%	17%

Household Size

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Dunloy was:

- 1 person - 23%;
- 2 people - 27%;
- 3 people -17%;
- 4 people - 20%; and
- 5 people or more -13%.

Household Tenure

On Census Day in Dunloy, 75% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 10% social rented, 12% private rented and 3% lived rent free.

3.3 Religion and Ethnicity

- Approximately 73% of the population of the five Super Data Zones recorded their 'Religion' or 'Religion brought up in' as Roman Catholic, with 22% of the population recording Protestant or another Christian denomination.
- 4% of residents of the wider village area recorded no religious affiliation.
- 99% of residents reported being from a white ethnic background.

3.4 Health

Residents of the village and surrounding areas generally enjoy good levels of health and wellbeing. 83% of the local population report having either a 'Very Good' or 'Good' standard of general health, which is markedly higher than the Ballymoney DEA rate of 78%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the Northern Ireland national average of 79%.

Moreover, 81% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate which is again higher than regional and national averages.

3.5 Labour Market & Qualifications

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Dunloy and the surrounding areas, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. The area boasts an unemployment rate of just 2% and 34% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive - a rate that is significantly lower than the regional average of 44% and the national average of 41%.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

Area	No Qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4+	Apprenticeship or Other
Dunloy Statistical Zones	23%	5%	15%	17%	30%	11%
Ballymoney DEA	27%	6%	15%	16%	27%	9%
Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area	26%	6%	14%	16%	29%	9%

Northern Ireland	24%	6%	14%	16%	32%	8%
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Analysis of the skills and qualification profile indicates Dunloy's skills profile is broadly in line with local, regional, and national averages.

Industry of Employment

In Dunloy on Census Day 2021 the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

Industry Classification	(%)
Agriculture, energy & water	6%
Manufacturing	10%
Construction	19%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	16%
Transport & communication	7%
Financial, real estate, professional & administration	10%
Public administration, education & health	29%
Other	3%

Number of Employee Jobs Based in Dunloy Ward

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survey NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Dunloy ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

Year	Number of Employee Jobs Based In Dunloy
2022	742
2021	580
2020	Not available due to Covid pandemic
2019	537
2018	Not available
2017	608

Car or Van Availability

In Dunloy on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

Car or Van Availability	(%)
No cars or vans	8%
1 car or van	35%
2 cars or vans	36%
3 cars or vans	12%
4 cars of vans	6%
5 or more cars or vans	3%

3.6 Deprivation Analysis

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Dunloy population fell under the 'Dunloy' Super Output Area, which covered the village and surrounding rural areas. Key findings include:

- Dunloy was ranked as the 581st most deprived area in Northern Ireland (out of 890). This represents a relative improvement of 98 places since 2010, when the area was ranked 483rd.
- Although the area's relative deprivation in relation to Income, Employment, Health, and Education all improved between 2010 and 2017, Access to Services worsened, and the Super Output Area now falls amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland in this regard.

3.7 Conclusions

Overall, the socio-economic landscape of Dunloy village exceeds both local and national averages in terms of education, employment, and health. However, there are challenges this statistical analysis has identified as being in need of addressing. In particular, the village faces high levels of isolation and disadvantage brought about by its rurality and the poor provision of, and access to, basic services.



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of a Village Plan for Dunloy.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was conducted to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. Dunloy Stronger Together was engaged acting as the lead partner in Dunloy.

A thorough site visit of Dunloy was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. Working closely with Dunloy Stronger Together (DST), two consultation events were organised, with one held during the day and one in the evening, to accommodate residents' diverse needs and schedules. This also ensured as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan. A range of consultation activities were undertaken, including:

- A site visit to the village on Thursday, 1st February 2024.
- A consultation day, held in St Joseph's Centre, Dunloy, on Wednesday, 28th February 2024.
- An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 9th February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

The DST team also arranged for engagement with a local Luncheon Club prior to the consultations. Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various communication channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms, to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.

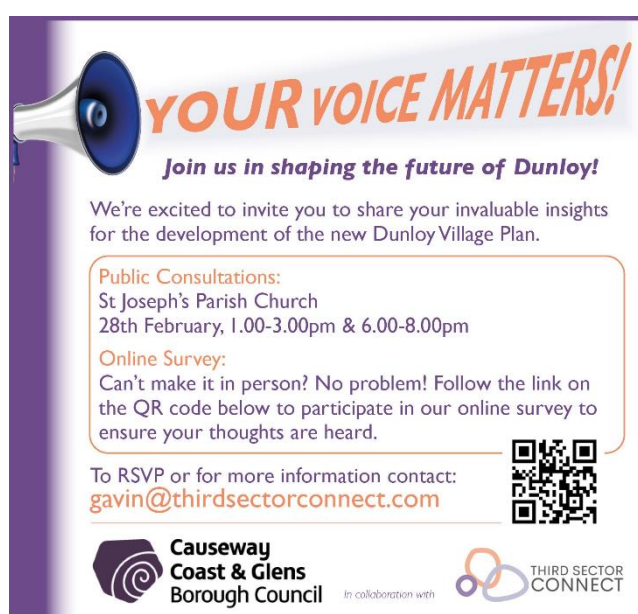


Figure 5: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Dunloy community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

- A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
- Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
- A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
- An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
- Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Dunloy community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of its residents.



5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, it was clear residents' perceptions of Dunloy were positive overall. There are a range of capable community groups that are active in the area and are well linked. It was also acknowledged that Dunloy Stronger Together is recognised as being very active and driven but need resources to extend their programmes and community development activities.

The village was recognised as a good place for young families to settle, with plenty of activities for children. However, challenges were identified such as litter, poor road infrastructure, vandalism, and quality/availability of public footpaths. The following key Community Assets were identified:

Commercial Assets	Healthcare Assets	Youth Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local shops and cafes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemist / Pharmacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Joseph's Primary School Play Park Play Groups
Sporting Assets	Community Assets	Other Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dunloy Cuchullians GAA Local Soccer Pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit Union Post Office Parish Hall Various Community Groups and Clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roman Catholic Church/St Joseph's Parish Centre Presbyterian Church/Dunloy Presbyterian Church Hall 'Close Knit' Community Welcoming to Migrant People

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

Health/Wellbeing Activities	Sporting Activities	Community Programmes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bereavement Counselling Active Aging Programmes Line Dancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAA Club Cycling Club Yoga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comhaltas Traditional Irish Music Group Dunloy Stronger Together Group

5.1 SWOT Analysis

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Dunloy, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Strength of Local Organisations: including Dunloy Stronger Together, Dunloy Comhaltas, Dunloy Cuchullians GAA, Dunloy Bereavement Group, and Dunloy Football Club.</p> <p>Community Collaboration: excellent working relationships between community groups. Several organisations share volunteers and jointly organise events.</p> <p>Quality of Local Services: Post Office and Credit Union are recognised as being invaluable. There are also defibrillators available in the case of medical emergencies.</p>	<p>Environmental: problems with litter and village aesthetics, including the overall state of roads and abundance of potholes.</p> <p>Care Services: lack of quality care packages, as well as an absence of a GP surgery and a residential home for elderly people.</p> <p>Infrastructure & Public Transport: availability of public transport in the village is poor.</p> <p>Youth Facilities: lack of youth facilities and services.</p>

Opportunities	Threats
<p>Transport: scope to lobby for better public transport. There is also the potential to develop a Park & Ride from Dunloy to Ballymena.</p> <p>Additional Services: opportunity to further develop Dunloy by providing additional services such as allotments, a library/portable library, and also the establishment of a local youth club.</p> <p>Additional Classes & Programmes: appetite in local community for additional programmes and community activities, such as arts and crafts.</p> <p>Public Realm Works: a need to improve and extend footpaths and erect more street lighting around the village.</p>	<p>Substance Abuse: drugs and/or alcohol abuse is an ongoing challenge, which negatively impacts on life in the village.</p> <p>Availability of Funding: limited financial resources at the disposal of community groups has an impact on the breadth and frequency of programme delivery.</p> <p>Cost of Living Crisis: the ongoing cost of living crisis continues to adversely impact community, family, and civic life in Dunloy.</p>

5.2 Survey Findings

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

- Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
- The length of time they have been residents in the village.
- Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
 - Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
 - Infrastructure and connectivity.
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Standard of facilities and public assets.
 - Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

All questions were mandatory for all survey participants.

Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

- 36.6% of residents were aged between 15 and 39.
- 52.1% of residents were aged between 40 and 64.
- 11.3% of residents were aged 65 and over.

Most responses (71.8%) were received from female residents, with 25.4% being received by male residents. 2.8% of respondents preferred not to state their gender.

95.7% of respondents were residents of Dunloy, with 84.5% of these stating they had lived in the village for ten or more years. These findings provide survey legitimacy as a representative view of residents.

5.2.2 Quality of Life

Perceptions of village residents who responded to the survey were generally positive:

- 54.9% had either a 'Good' or 'Very Good' perception of the village.
- 33.8% felt life in the village was 'Acceptable'.
- 11.3% had either a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' perception of the village.

Moreover, most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 6.6.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Cleanliness of Streets	Most respondents indicated the cleanliness of streets is 'Acceptable' (42.3%). However, 39.4% indicated street cleanliness is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Condition of Streets	Street condition was generally considered poor, with a majority of respondents (54.9%) stating they are 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Accessibility	Accessibility was not considered to be a significant issue, with 50.7% of respondents choosing 'Acceptable'.
Pedestrian Friendly	Survey respondents were generally negative regarding pedestrian friendliness, with 47.9% selecting 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' and 40.9% selecting 'Acceptable'.
Availability of Public Transport	Public transport resonated with a sizeable majority of respondents as an issue that needs to be addressed, with 67.6% considering availability 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Traffic Congestion	This was generally viewed negatively by survey respondents, with 42.3% selecting 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' and 40.9% deeming traffic congestion as 'Acceptable'.
Street Lighting	Street lighting had mixed views with survey respondents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.9% felt lighting was 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 43.7% felt lighting was 'Acceptable'. • 39.4% felt lighting was 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Availability of Car Parking	Parking availability is perceived to be an issue, with most survey respondents (53.5%) selecting 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Village Signage	The quality and quantity of village signage had mixed views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 39.4% felt signage is 'Acceptable'. • 36.6% felt signage is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. • 23.9% felt signage is 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Open Space	Survey respondents had mixed views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28.2% felt open space is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 33.8% felt open space is 'Acceptable'. • 38% felt open space is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Sports Facilities	Sporting facilities in the village were one of the highest rated aspects of community life with residents, with 66.2% stating facilities are either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Community Centre	The quality of community facilities in the village were considered to be 'Good' or 'Very Good' by 67.6% of survey respondents.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	This is not generally considered to be a prevalent issue. Although 28.2% of respondents felt ASB was either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor', 38% believe it to be 'Acceptable', which was the most common response.
Vandalism	Vandalism is not considered to be a prevalent issue amongst the Dunloy community, with 45.1% of survey respondents believing vandalism levels are either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Littering	A sizeable majority of respondents (67.6%) believe littering in the village is either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor', highlighting this as an aspect of community life that is in need of improvement.
Derelict Buildings	Overall, feelings toward the levels of dereliction are positive, with 42.3% of survey respondents selecting 'Acceptable' and a further 38% selecting 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Friendliness of People	This was identified as a strength of the local community, with a resounding majority of respondents (81.7%) highlighting they find the friendliness of their neighbours and fellow residents to be either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Shops	The quality and variety of local shops is not considered to be one of the village's stronger assets. 49.3% of survey respondents feel the quality of local shops is 'Acceptable'. However, 42.2% feel the variety of retail outlets is either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Eateries	A mixed response was received in relation to the standard of cafes and takeaways in Dunloy. The prevailing sentiment is that eateries are at an adequate level, with 47.9% of respondents considering this to be 'Acceptable'.

5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Dunloy

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

- The people and sense of community spirit.
- The work of the local GAA Club, and their role in organising activities that bring the community together.
- The natural assets and the beauty of the local countryside.
- The quality of the local school.

5.2.4 Key Issues To Be Addressed

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

- Infrastructural issues, such as transport links, quality of local roads, and traffic congestion.
- The need for improved outdoor space such as a park.
- Quality of street lighting.
- Littering and general village aesthetics.

In addition, respondents were asked to select what they believed to be the top three priorities for Dunloy. The most selected responses included:

- Littering/Dog Fouling (39.4% of respondents).
- Public Transport (39.4% of respondents).
- Road Safety/Traffic (33.8% of respondents).
- Activities for children and young people (25.3% of respondents).



6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Dunloy Village Plan are summarised below:

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Road Safety	Installation of traffic lights in the village. Upgrade and expansion of footpaths.	Speeding and road safety are issues that resonate strongly with local people.
Environmental	Addressing issues associated with litter and village aesthetics.	Consultation identified litter and aesthetics are ongoing issues.
Capacity Building	Training of volunteers within community organisations in organisational development.	Although motivation and drive exists within the local community, the capacity for organisational development, as well as identifying and securing access to funding, is a recognised limitation amongst volunteers. There is also a recognised need to reduce current reliance on the GAA Club for community organisation and development activities.
Youth Development	Additional activities and programmes aimed at engaging local young people. Play Park improvements and upgrades	A lack of youth activities and services is an identified challenge in Dunloy.
Additional Programmes	Additional community and basic skills programmes such as Men's Shed activities, sewing, cooking, and gardening.	A need for additional, non-sporting programmes was identified during consultation and community engagement.
Public Realms Improvements	Installation of additional bins and lighting around the village, as well as flower planting.	Need identified through consultation for aesthetical improvements in the village, including addressing identified issues of littering.
Communication	Additional communication efforts to promote community events.	Through consultation, it was identified that greater efforts could be made to promote community events and activities that are taking place in Dunloy,



7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Dunloy, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
Road Safety	Exploration and installation of a range of road safety measures in the village, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Lights • Double Yellow Lines • Turning circle along the main road 	Exploratory work to determine appropriate site for traffic calming measures. Installation and operation of traffic calming measures.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local community association	Local political representatives Department for Infrastructure Causeway, Coast & Glens Borough Council – PCSP Roadsafe NI PSNI NIFRS	N/A
	Upgrade and expansion of footpaths.	Undertaking of footpath improvement and expansion works.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local political representatives	Department for Infrastructure Causeway, Coast & Glens Borough Council Roadsafe NI PSNI NIFRS	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
Environmental	Addressing issues associated with litter and village aesthetics.	Organise and deliver regular community litter picks.	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local community stakeholders	Residents Local businesses	N/A
Capacity Building	Training of volunteers within community organisations in organisational development.	Identify specific skills gaps in the community and organisations. Identify suitable training delivery agents. Secure funding to support the delivery of training and capacity development programmes.	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Dunloy Stronger Together	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Local Training Providers Other Local Community Organisations	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council TNL Awards for All Halifax Community Foundation TBUC: Central Good Relations Fund
Youth Development	Additional activities and programmes aimed at engaging local young people.	Undertake more in-depth consultation to understand needs and priorities of local young people. Develop youth club for the area, based on outcomes of youth consultation.	Within 18 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Dunloy Stronger Together	Bytes Project Education Authority EA Youth Services	Education Authority TBUC TNL Community Fund Department of Justice -

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
						Asset Recovery Funding
Additional Programmes	Additional community and skills programmes such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Shed activities • Sewing • Cooking • Gardening 	Develop programme of events and activities. Secure external finance to support with facilitation and delivery.	Designed within 6 months of finalisation of Village Plan. Delivered on an ongoing basis, with annual review and updates.	Dunloy Stronger Together	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Dunloy Luncheon Club	Groundwork NI Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Public Realms Improvements	Installation of additional bins and lighting around the village, as well as identification of appropriate sites for flower planting.	Install additional bins and dog fouling bins around the village. Install additional pots for flower planting around the village.	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local Political Representatives Local Community Stakeholders	Department for Communities Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Department of Infrastructure	Department for Communities
Capital Development	Development of St Joseph's Parish Church as a community hub for the village, including car park	Identification of key capital priorities Development of capital development plan, including costs and associated timeframes	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	St Joseph's Parish Church	Other local community organisations Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Multiple – depending on nature and scale of capital development project

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
	Increasing accessibility to local playpark	Development of technical specifications to increase accessibility and user-friendliness of play park	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local Political Representatives	Other local community organisations Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Multiple – depending on nature and scale of capital development project
Communication	Support quality communication between existing groups, use different communication methods such as social media platforms, posters, church bulletins, and leaflet drops to promote events and activities. Creation of a Community Forum.	Develop communications plan. Set up a Community Forum, including appointment of key Officers, and agree on roles and responsibilities.	Within 6 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Dunloy Stronger Together	Local Community Organisations and Sports Clubs	N/A
Transport	Exploring feasibility of improved public transport linkages.	Explore additional options associated with increasing the levels of public	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local political representatives	DfI Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
		transport provision in the village.				
Health & Wellbeing	<p>Exploring measures to tackle problems associated with drugs and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Development of initiatives to promote positive mental health.</p>	<p>Establish a health and wellbeing lead on the newly-established Community Forum.</p> <p>Liaise with various statutory partners to bring about interventions to address identified social issues.</p>	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	New Community Forum	<p>Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council</p> <p>Department of Health</p> <p>Local health and wellbeing charities</p>	<p>Public Health Agency</p> <p>TNL – various funds</p>



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Garvagh Village Plan

March 2024

DRAFT

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1.0 Introduction

The village of Garvagh is nestled along the serene banks of the Agivey River. A hidden gem located approximately 18 kilometres south of Coleraine along the A29 route. Benefitting from convenient access and transportation options, the village is well-connected with bus routes ensuring efficient travel within the area and beyond, enhancing accessibility. Established in the early 17th Century by George Canning, Garvagh evolved from a modest village into a vibrant community, offering a blend of rich history, natural beauty, and a close-knit social fabric.

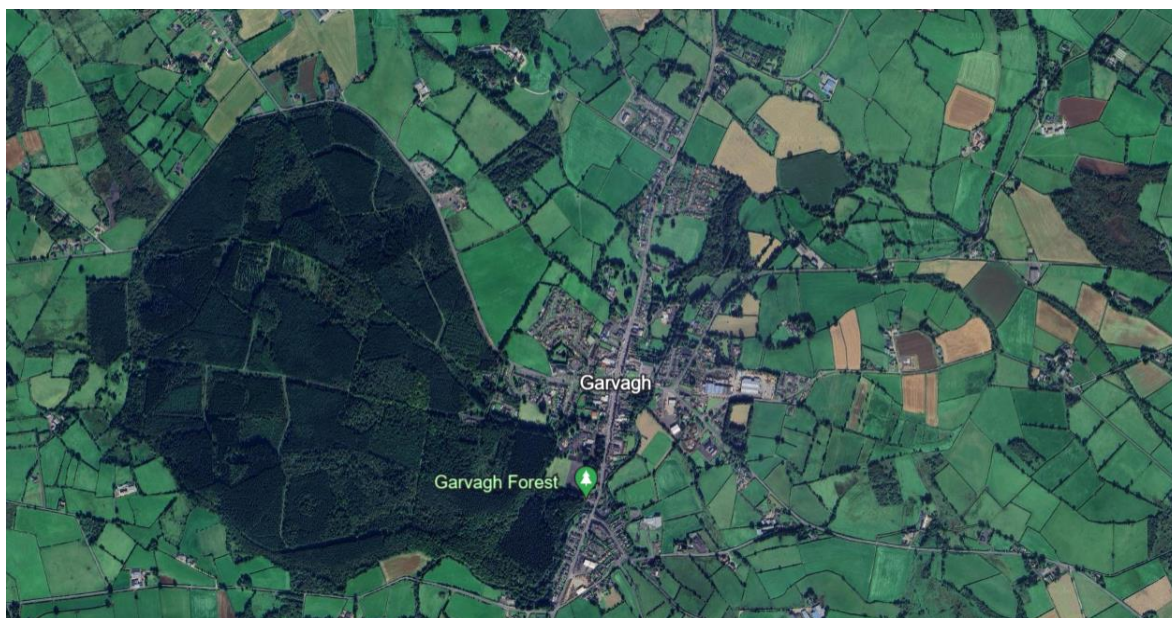


Figure 1: Aerial View of Garvagh Village, (Source: Google Earth)

Garvagh is enriched with a multitude of invaluable assets and thriving community groups, fostering a vibrant atmosphere within the village. At the heart of this bustling community lies the Garvagh Community Building. Serving as a central hub, it offers a gathering place for residents, facilitating a wide array of community activities. Whether hosting events, utilising the community garden, or simply socialising in the attached café, the Garvagh Community Building provides a welcoming space for all residents to come together and engage in meaningful interactions.

Other key assets include an active town centre, various cafés and food outlets, primary schools, the Jim Watt Sports Centre, and a library, museum, community garden. Community groups such as Garvagh Development Trust (GDT), Garvagh Football Club, Garvagh Tennis Club, Garvagh Community Play Group, and others play pivotal roles in fostering a sense of belonging in the community. Rich in historical and cultural heritage, Garvagh also boasts sites like the Garvagh Pyramid and Cenotaph, reflecting its deep-rooted history.

The village has a diverse array of local businesses catering to a wide range of various needs and interests. Additionally, professional services are readily available through local businesses, while convenience is ensured with the presence of essential services like the Post Office and Health Centre.

Alongside several Bed & Breakfast establishments, Air BnB accommodation and a prominent local hotel offers accommodation for visitors exploring the area. The Hotel has a rich history, dating back to its establishment in the 19th Century. It underwent an extensive and meticulous restoration in 2021.



Figure 2: Garvagh Community Building

Amidst its bustling economic activity, Garvagh also boasts an array of environmental assets, contributing to its allure. Green spaces dotted with community garden boxes further enhance the village's appeal, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and connection to nature. The majestic Garvagh Forest and the picturesque Agivey River offer tranquil settings for outdoor pursuits and leisurely strolls, while Cornerstone Park provides an oasis for relaxation and community gatherings.

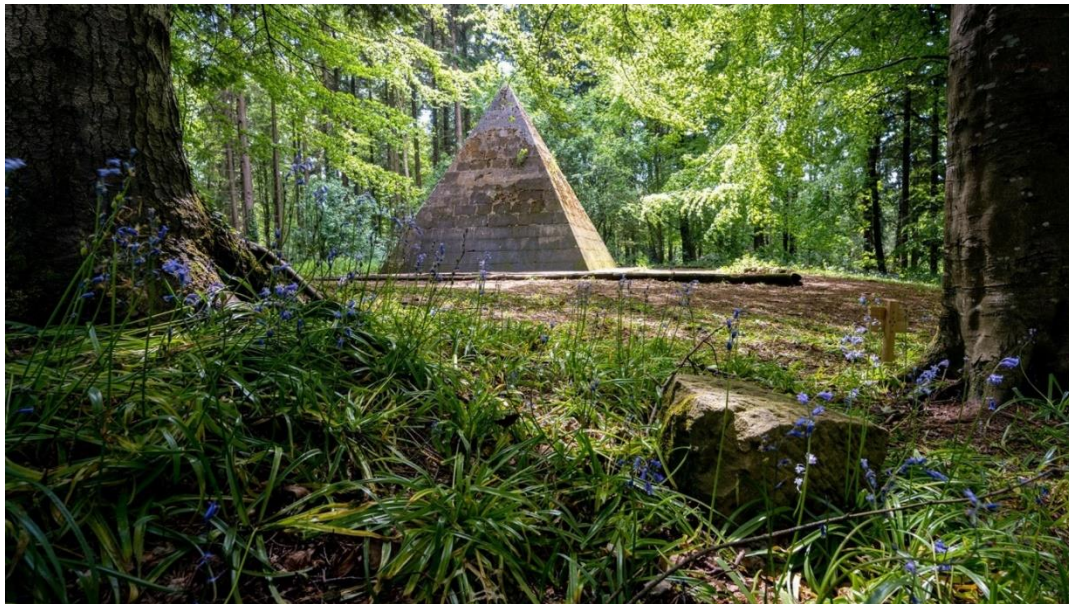


Figure 3: Garvagh Forest

In addition to its economic and environmental strengths, Garvagh embraces renewable energy initiatives, setting the stage for a sustainable future. Plans for the UK's pioneering plant for producing sustainable fuels, Craigmore, herald a new era of renewable energy innovation. With a capacity to produce advanced renewable fuels, this ground-breaking facility promises to revolutionise the energy landscape, positioning Garvagh at the forefront of environmental stewardship.

There is excellent scope for tourism and economic development, with Garvagh standing as a vibrant and welcoming village, brimming with potential and community spirit. Its rich tapestry of assets, coupled with a strong sense of social cohesion, makes it a cherished haven for residents and a hidden gem awaiting discovery for visitors.

Key Assets	Community Groups
Garvagh Forest Garvagh Community Building Active town centre with multiple cafés and food outlets Garvagh Primary Schools Jim Watts Sports Centre Garvagh Library Garvagh Museum Community Garden Garvagh Pyramid Former High School Site Churches Agivey River Health Centre	Garvagh Development Trust (GDT) Garvagh Tennis Club Garvagh Cultural Awareness Association Garvagh Football Club Garvagh & District Diamond Club Garvagh Park Run Garvagh & Aghadowey Great War Society Garvagh Womens' Institute Garvagh Young Farmers' Club Garvagh Pipe Band Harp School Men's Shed

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Garvagh



2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community's diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

A Healthy Safe Community	A Sustainable Accessible Environment	A Thriving Economy
Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together.	Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections.	Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning.

A Healthy Safe Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. • Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. • Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. • Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. • Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

- **Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes.
- **Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections.
- **Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainably managed natural and built environment.

A Thriving Economy

- **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.
- **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses.
- **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation.
- **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled.

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:

A Healthy Safe Community

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

A Thriving Economy

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

Theme	Policy Alignment
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy 2030 – Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (Department for the Economy)• Circular Economy Strategy (Draft, Department for the Economy)• Skills for a 10X Economy - Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland (Department for the Economy)
Community Development & Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body)• Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Collaborative Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body)• Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)

Theme	Policy Alignment
Maximising the Potential of Local Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan (Draft, Department for the Economy)
Community Pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Strategy 2021 – 2031 (Department of Health)
Heritage Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) • Regional Transport Strategy 2025 (Department for Infrastructure)
Enterprise Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)

2.3 Local Community Groups

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.



3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area, specifically the 'Bann F' Super Data Zone.

3.1 Population

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of Garvagh was 1,252. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Garvagh settlement.

3.2 Statistical Profile

This statistical analysis accounts for key characteristics of the five Data Zones population. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of these statistical zones vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

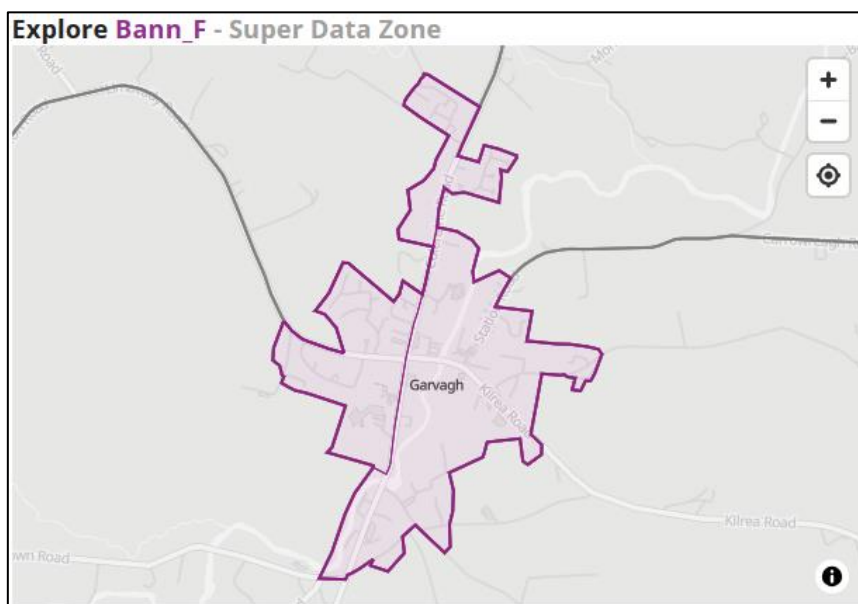


Figure 4: Map of 'Bann F' Super Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

3.3 Age Profile

The population of Garvagh has an age profile that is generally older than the local and regional averages, as evidenced by the composition of the village in terms of its age profile in the below table:

Area	Age 0-14 yrs	Age 15-39 yrs	Age 40-64 yrs	Age 65+ yrs
Garvagh/Bann F	17%	18%	32%	23%
Bann DEA	19%	27%	34%	19%
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Area	18%	29%	34%	19%
Northern Ireland	19%	31%	32%	17%

The 2021 Census indicates Garvagh's population is majority female (53%).

Household Size

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Garvagh was:

- 1 person - 38%;
- 2 people - 29%;
- 3 people - 13%;
- 4 people - 14%;
- 5 people or more - 6%.

Household Tenure

On Census Day in Garvagh, 51% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 27% social rented, 19% private rented and 3% lived rent free.

3.4 Religion and Ethnicity

- Approximately 72% of the local population recorded their 'Religion' or 'Religion brought up in' as Protestant, with 21% of the population recording Roman Catholic.
- 7% of village residents recorded no religious affiliation.
- 99% of village residents reported being from a white ethnic background.
- 91% of those living in the area were born in Northern Ireland.

3.5 Health

A higher percentage of Garvagh residents are faced with poor levels of health and wellbeing compared to regional and national averages. 71% of Garvagh residents report having either a 'Very Good' or 'Good' standard of general health, which is lower than the Bann DEA rate of 81%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the Northern Ireland national average of 79%.

Moreover, 68% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate which is some way below regional and national averages.

3.6 Labour Market & Qualifications

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Garvagh, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. Whilst the area boasts an unemployment rate of just 3%, 52% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive. Whilst this is high, it may be partially attributed to the higher-than-average number of elderly people residing in the area.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

Area	No Qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4+	Apprenticeship or Other
Garvagh/Bann F	37%	6%	15%	13%	19%	10%
Bann DEA	24%	6%	14%	16%	30%	10%
Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area	26%	6%	14%	16%	29%	9%
Northern Ireland	24%	6%	14%	16%	32%	8%

Analysis of the skills profile highlights Garvagh's population has a significantly higher number of residents with no qualifications, and a significantly lower number of residents with a Level 4 and above qualification, when compared with DEA, Council, and national averages.

Industry of Employment

In Garvagh on Census Day 2021 the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

Industry Classification	Percentage of Local Population
Agriculture, energy & water	2%
Manufacturing	12%
Construction	15%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	25%
Transport & communication	6%
Financial, real estate, professional & administration	10%
Public administration, education & health	24%
Other	6%

Number of Employee Jobs Based in Garvagh Ward

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survey NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Garvagh ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

Year	Number of Employee Jobs Based In Garvagh
2022	898
2021	943
2020	Not available due to Covid pandemic
2019	910
2018	Not available
2017	898

Car or Van Availability

In Garvagh on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

Car or Van Availability	Percentage of Local Population
No cars or vans	19%
1 car or van	45%
2 cars or vans	25%
3 cars or vans	6%
4 cars of vans	3%
5 or more cars or vans	2%

3.7 Deprivation Analysis

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Garvagh population fell under the Garvagh Super Output Area, which covered the village and surrounding areas. Key findings include:

- In 2017, Garvagh was ranked as the 272nd most deprived area in Northern Ireland (out of 890, with 1 being the most deprived and 890 being the least deprived). This represents a decline since 2010, when the area was ranked 347th.
- The area is ranked amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland in terms of Income Deprivation, and amongst the 25% most deprived areas in NI in relation to Access to Services Deprivation.
- Between 2010 and 2017, the area's relative deprivation improved across most measures, including Income, Employment, Health and Living Environment, Education, Access to Services, and Crime Deprivation. However, the overall relative ranking of the area fell as a result of the scale of the decline in the relative Income Deprivation ranking of the area.

3.8 Conclusions

Overall, it can be concluded that a key challenge for Garvagh is to address the increasing deprivation facing local people in the form of Income Deprivation, which has declined sharply over the past decade. Moreover, the community continues to face challenges brought about as a result of its rurality and the overall provision of basic services.



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of an updated Village Plan for Garvagh.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was conducted to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. The previous Village Plan from June 2018 was reviewed, which provided valuable insights into lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, ensuring continuity and building upon existing efforts.

Garvagh Development Trust (GDT) were engaged, acting as the lead partner in Garvagh, whose support has been appreciated in this process. A thorough site visit of Garvagh was also conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. To ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan, a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken. This included:

- A site visit to the village on Tuesday, 30th January 2024.
- A consultation day, with two sessions (one during the day and one in the evening) held in the Garvagh and District Development Association (GDT) community hub on Monday, 29th February 2024.
- An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 2nd February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

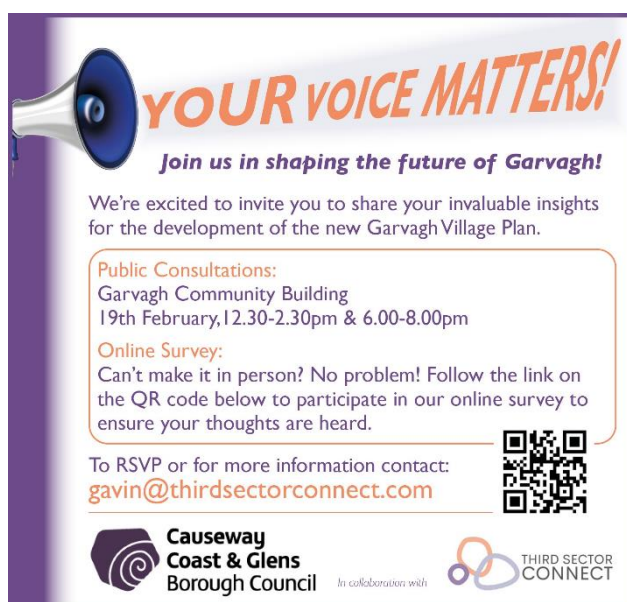


Figure 5: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Two consultation sessions were held, one during the day and one in the evening, to accommodate residents' diverse needs and schedules. Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made

through various communication channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Ballykelly community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

- A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
- Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
- A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
- An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
- Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Garvagh community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of residents.



5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, Garvagh was noted by many participants as a ‘hidden gem’, which had a lot of activity that people are often not aware of, as well as excellent potential. The local community was applauded for its vibrancy and welcoming atmosphere.

However, a number of negative concerns were expressed, such as litter, empty properties, and derelict buildings contributing to a poor impression of the village, discouraging visitors.

The following key Community Assets were identified:

Commercial Assets	Healthcare Assets	Natural Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cafés and Food Outlets • Site of Former High School • Retail Businesses • Hospitality Businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dentist • Chemist • GP Surgery • Opticians • Podiatrist • Multi-disciplinary team that operates from the GP Surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garvagh Forest • Agivey River
Heritage Assets	Community Assets	Other Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Clock • Garvagh Pyramid • Garvagh Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDT Building • Community Garden • Jim Watt Sports Centre • Library • Local Churches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Primary School • Tennis Club • Post Office • Garvagh Library

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

Recreational Activities	Sporting Activities	Youth Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men’s Shed • Village Show • Library Group • Church Group • Walking Groups • Tuber Tuesday’s • Women’s Group • Community Choir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis Club • Mountain Bike Tracks • Walking Trails • Youth Football Groups • Park Run • Boxing Club • Bowls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boys’ Brigade • Young Farmers’ Club

5.1 SWOT Analysis

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Garvagh, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Community: good levels of community cohesion and large number of active voluntary, charitable, and sporting organisations.</p> <p>Natural & Heritage Assets: Garvagh Forest, Garvagh Pyramid, Museum, and Town Clock</p>	<p>Housing: not enough houses being built in Garvagh, and in particular a lack of affordable ‘starter homes’ to attract young families.</p> <p>Tourism & Visitors: significant tourism potential, which is not being maximised. This</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>were cited as being important to the social and cultural fabric of the village.</p> <p>Location: the geographic location of the village was highlighted as a strength, as it is close to several major economic hubs and North Coast.</p> <p>Crime & Deprivation: Overall, crime and anti-social behaviour levels are quite low, and the village is overall a safe place to live.</p> <p>Community & Voluntary Organisations: a wide range of activities and organisations active in the area for local people to get involved with, catering for a variety of interests.</p> <p>Facilities: GDT building recognised as a fantastic community asset, and there is a good provision of sporting amenities in the village.</p>	<p>could be attributed to a lack of awareness and signage.</p> <p>Collaborative Working: groups in the village have few networking or collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>Public Transport: poor public transport links identified by residents.</p> <p>Youth Engagement: lack of engagement with young people, with few activities aimed at supporting them and improving their access to opportunities.</p> <p>Litter & Dog Fouling: identified as issues that impact overall living environment of Garvagh.</p> <p>Parking: limited provision of parking in the village, which impacts on the levels of visitors that can be accommodated.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Passing Trade: Garvagh has a main road, which means it experiences passing traffic from those en route to other areas. An opportunity exists to encourage more passing traffic to stop and avail of the local shops and amenities.</p> <p>Additional Facilities & Amenities: there are opportunities to create additional community facilities and assets by developing projects that would, for example, regenerate the former Education Authority Building.</p> <p>Seating & Public Realms Works: there are opportunities to improve amenities for visitors, such as additional seating. Other environmental improvements such as better lighting, more bins, the creation of all-weather play areas, and additional signage were also identified.</p> <p>Programming: capacity for additional arts, education, and good relations programmes to benefit the skills, confidence, and personal development of those living in the area.</p>	<p>Availability of Funding: community development could be hindered by a lack of funding. This was particularly relevant in relation to financial support to keep the GDT building open and accessible for public use.</p> <p>Income Deprivation: the area fares poorly in relation to income deprivation, particularly affecting young and elderly people. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that all development activities are inclusive and not cost-prohibitive.</p> <p>Threat of Post Office Closure: identified as a key amenity in Garvagh and reported as being at risk of closure. This would negatively impact the services available for residents, who would be required to travel to other villages or larger towns to avail of basic mail/banking provisions.</p> <p>Village Aesthetics: lack of investment in environmental improvement has left the village looking ‘tatty,’ which could be off-putting those considering moving to the area or for visitors.</p> <p>Cost of Living: ongoing cost of living crisis continues to impact all aspects of social and community life in the village.</p> <p>Cultural Displays & Symbols: it was noted that painted kerbstones and the erection of flags during summer months could be off-putting to those moving to the area or for visitors.</p>

5.2 Survey Findings

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

- Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
- The length of time they have been residents in the village.
- Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
 - Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
 - Infrastructure and connectivity.
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Standard of facilities and public assets.
 - Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

All questions were mandatory for all survey participants.

Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

- 45.7% of respondents were aged between 15 and 39.
- 51.4% of respondents were aged between 40 and 64.
- 2.9% of respondents were aged 65 and over.

Most responses (51.4%) were received from male residents, with 42.8% being received from female residents. 5.7% of respondents preferred not to state their gender.

91.4% of respondents were from the village, with 74.3% of these stating they had lived in the village for ten or more years. Those who completed the survey but were not village residents gave addresses in the rural areas surrounding the village. These findings provide survey legitimacy as a representative view of local residents.

5.2.2 Quality of Life

Perceptions of respondents were generally mixed:

- 34.3% had either a 'Good' or 'Very Good' perception of the village.
- 34.3% felt life in the village was 'Acceptable'.
- 31.4% had either a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' perception of the village.

Most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 5.5.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Cleanliness of Streets	Cleanliness of the village was not considered to be an issue, with 45.7% of respondents stating the current standard is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. A further 45.7% stated the current standard is 'Acceptable'.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Condition of Streets	Survey respondents also perceived the condition of the streets in a positive light, with 34.3% stating this is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. An additional 42.9% stated this is 'Acceptable'.
Accessibility	Accessibility of the village was generally viewed as positive, with 34.3% of respondents stating this is 'Good' or 'Very Good', and a further 45.7% stating this is 'Acceptable'.
Pedestrian Friendly	Pedestrian-friendliness within the village was viewed positively by survey respondents, with 42.9% stating this is 'Good' or 'Very Good', and a further 51.4% deeming this to be 'Acceptable'.
Availability of Public Transport	This was an aspect of village life survey respondents considered to be in greatest need of improvement. Most respondents (71.4%) considered the current availability of public transport to be either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Traffic Congestion	Traffic congestion in the village was viewed as being 'Acceptable' by 48.6% of survey respondents. However, a further 31.4% considered congestion to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Street Lighting	The quality and quantity of street lighting was viewed positively by survey respondents, with 31.4% stating it is 'Good' or 'Very Good', and a further 54.3% stating it is 'Acceptable'.
Availability of Car Parking	Car parking in Garvagh was generally viewed as being plentiful, with the majority of respondents (51.4%) stating it is 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Village Signage	Signage was considered to be at a good level, with 48.6% of respondents stating it is 'Good' or 'Very Good', and a further 37.1% stating it is 'Acceptable'.
Open Space	The quality and availability of open space received mixed views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31.7% stated it is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 51.4% stated it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. • 11.4% stated it is 'Acceptable'.
Play Park	The prevailing sentiment amongst survey respondents was that the play park in Garvagh is of a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' standard.
Sports Facilities	The quality of sporting facilities received mixed views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28.6% stated it is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 31.4% stated it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. • 40.0% stated it is 'Acceptable'.
Community Centre	The most common response was that the community centre is of a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' standard, a view held by 48.6% of respondents.
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Anti-social behaviour was a concern amongst survey respondents, 51.4% of whom believe current levels are 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Vandalism	Vandalism was also considered a key issue in need of addressing, with 54.3% of respondents deeming current levels to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Littering	In terms of the overall aesthetics of Garvagh, 57.1% of survey respondents believe the prevalence of litter in the village to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Derelict Buildings	The levels of building dereliction stood out as the area of highest concern amongst survey respondents, with 80% considering this aspect of village life to be either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Friendliness of People	The friendliness of local people was highlighted as one of the strongest aspects of community life in the village, with 65.7% of survey respondents considering this to be 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Shops	The quality and availability of commercial outlets received mixed views amongst survey respondents. A majority (51.4%) believe the quality of shops is 'Acceptable'. However, the most common opinion (37.1%) was that the variety is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Eateries	The quality of cafes and takeaways in the village was viewed positively by survey respondents, 48.6% of whom believe it is 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Garvagh

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

- The village's natural assets, such as the forest and rivers.
- The community spirit, friendly atmosphere, and sense of togetherness.
- The rural setting – many respondents enjoyed living in the countryside, outside of larger towns.

5.2.4 Key Issues To Be Addressed

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

- Village aesthetics such as littering and dog fouling.
- Activities for children and young people.
- Availability of public transport and frequency of local buses.
- Improved quality of sports facilities.
- Tackling anti-social behaviour.

The consultation process included an examination of actions from the previous Village Plan. A range of themes were highlighted as being continually relevant, including:

- Business growth and supporting business development.
- Community development, capacity building, and supporting the work of GDT.
- Enhancing the appeal of the village to residents and visitors.
- Promoting increased participation in physical wellbeing and recreational activities.
- Developing improved public transport links.



6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Garvagh Village Plan are summarised below:

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Economic Development	Creation of a local Traders' Group or Business Forum.	There is an identified need for continued business support and enterprise development.
Community Development & Capacity Building	Deliver additional training and capacity building programmes for volunteers and committee members. Support community organisations to recruit and retain volunteers.	Need identified to ensure community organisations are supported in terms of their sustainability, and that volunteers have the appropriate skills and confidence to deliver quality community services and activities.
Collaborative Working	Attain resources to facilitate better working between groups who are active in the village.	Whilst there are a lot of groups who are active in Garvagh, it was identified that many operate in silo and deliver programmes and activities independently of each other.
Maximising the Potential of Local Assets	<p>Ensure continued viability of local Post Office.</p> <p>Undertake Public Realm improvements.</p> <p>Promote the benefits associated with the use of Garvagh Forest.</p> <p>Increase marketing and promotion of the village's assets, including enhancement of signage.</p> <p>Explore the potential for a wild forest play space in Garvagh Forest.</p>	<p>The Post Office has been identified as a key resource, giving local people access to mail and banking resources.</p> <p>Range of public improvements were identified during consultation, including better lighting, additional seating, better signage, and flower planters.</p> <p>Programmes that promote the area's natural assets, including Garvagh Forest, have been delivered in the past and have been successful. Scope to build on this success.</p> <p>Scope to generate wider awareness of the village's assets to encourage greater levels of external visitation.</p> <p>No permanent public play facility in Garvagh. Developing such a feature at the Forest would stand to increase its wider appeal.</p>

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Community Pride	Explore the potential for a play space in Cornerstone Park. Organise community litter picks.	There is no permanent public play facility in Garvagh. Frequent litter picks would ensure good level of overall cleanliness in the village, therefore maximising its appeal to wider visitation.
Health & Wellbeing	Promote increased participation in activities that support improved wellbeing, such as walking, running, cycling, and recreation.	Overall need to promote health and wellbeing by promoting the use of the village's assets to local people.
Heritage Awareness	Develop projects linked to the unique heritage associated with the village, including Bram Stoker/Dracula and significance of George Canning.	There is a recognition that many of the most celebrated stories and figures associated with the village are not widely known or appreciated – this is the case within the local population and further afield.
Housing	Increase the supply of affordable housing in the village.	There is an identified lack of housing in the area, and in particular affordable housing aimed at attracting young families.
Transport	Improve public transport links with larger towns.	Connectivity with larger towns such as Coleraine, Ballymoney, and Limavady is recognised as being poor and infrequent.
Enterprise Development	Activities to promote continued viability and growth of local enterprises. Creation of more employment opportunities for local people. Explore the feasibility of additional business supports.	There is a need for action to promote and sustain the rural economy, thereby ensuring the continued viability of local businesses and the retention of jobs within the rural population.



7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Garvagh, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
Economic Development	Create a local Traders' Group or Business Forum.	<p>Establish a new Traders' Group or Business Forum to act as a collective voice for local businesses.</p> <p>Agree group constitution, committee, policies and procedures, including financial processes and key functions (e.g., lobbying, organisation of commerce-promoting events, etc.).</p> <p>Create social media profiles for the Group, and potentially a website to promote activities.</p>	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local business owners	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	The National Lottery (TNL) - Awards for All
Community Development & Capacity Building	Deliver additional training and capacity building programmes for volunteers and committee members.	<p>Undertake skills audit to determine priority areas for training and capacity building programmes.</p> <p>Identify suitable facilitators and location to host training sessions.</p>	Within 6 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	GDT	<p>Local community organisations</p> <p>Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council</p>	<p>TNL Awards for All</p> <p>Halifax Community Foundation</p> <p>TBUC: Central Good</p>

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
	Support community organisations to recruit and retain volunteers.	Promote training and development opportunities. Deliver capacity building programme.				Relations Fund Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Collaborative Working	Attain resources to facilitate better working between groups that are active in the village.	Organise regular Community Engagement Forums and events for all local groups. Host regular community consultation events to ensure all community and voluntary groups continue to meet the needs of those living in the area,	Quarterly from finalisation of Village Plan.	GDT	Other community and voluntary organisations that are active in the area	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Maximising the Potential of Local Assets	Public Realms Improvements.	Agree priorities for public realm improvements e.g., seating, lighting, signage, etc. Liaise with relevant statutory partners to determine available budget.	Within 3 years of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local community stakeholders	Residents Local community organisations Local businesses Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Department for Communities
	Promote the benefits associated with	Evolve and continue programmes that have	Ongoing from finalisation of Village Plan.	Forest Service	GDT	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
	the use of Garvagh Forest.	been delivered successfully.			Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	
	Increase marketing and promotion of the village's assets, including enhanced signage of visitor attractions and historic sites.	Develop promotional material aimed at a wide audience, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Community Groups • Outdoor Recreation Enthusiasts • Mountain Biking Clubs • Walking Groups • Nature Appreciation Societies 	Developed within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan. Reviewed quarterly to assess effectiveness.	GDT	Forest Service Tourism NI Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Local Tourism Development Organisations	DfC – for signage only Potential for the village to benefit from wider marketing efforts, dedicated to attracting visitors to the wider area.
	Explore the potential for a wild forest play space in Garvagh Forest.	Secure funding to undertake a feasibility study. Appoint suitably qualified professional to undertake feasibility analysis.	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Forest Service Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	GDT Local community organisations and groups that work with young people	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Supporting Young People	Explore the potential for a play space in Cornerstone Park.	Secure funding to undertake a feasibility study. Appoint suitably qualified professional to undertake feasibility analysis.	Within 2 years of finalisation of Village Plan.	Trustees of the TBF & KL Thompson Trust (Park Owners)	GDT Local community organisations/groups that work with young people.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
					Local political representatives EA Youth Services	
Community Pride	Organise community litter picks.	Organise and promote litter pick days where volunteers come together to clean up rubbish across the village. Promotion of litter picking days through Social Media Channels	Quarterly from finalisation of Village Plan.	Residents	Residents Local community organisations Local businesses (social value)	N/A - though some businesses may be willing to sponsor the event and provide materials and/or litter-picking equipment
Health & Wellbeing	Promote increased participation in activities that support better wellbeing, such as walking, running, cycling, and outdoor recreation.	Develop targeted communications aimed at promoting participation. Organise events aimed at increasing participation in exercise and physical wellbeing activities.	Communication developed within 6 months of Village Plan finalisation. Promotion activities to be undertaken on an ongoing basis. Success of activities to be reviewed annually.	Local community organisations/ new Community Forum	Local community and voluntary organisations Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Forest Service	TNL Awards for All Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Sport NI
Heritage Awareness	Develop projects linked to unique heritage	Develop project, including content, activities, target	Project to be developed within 12 months of	Range of local stakeholders	Garvagh Museum Causeway Coast & Glens	Heritage Lottery Fund

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
	associated with the village, including Bram Stoker/Dracula and significance of George Canning.	audiences, and promotion methods. Secure funding for pilot initiatives and then a more comprehensive programme.	Village Plan finalisation. Engagement with potential funders to commence at early stages of project development.		Borough Council	
Housing	Increase the supply of affordable housing in the village.	Engage with planners, developers, and NI Housing Executive.	Within 60 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Range of local stakeholders	Department for Communities NI Housing Executive Housing Associations	N/A
Transport	Improve public transport links with larger towns.	Engage with DfI to determine feasibility of improved public transport links to and from Garvagh. Explore the feasibility of developing community transport alternatives.	Within 12 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Range of local stakeholders	Translink Local community transport providers	N/A
Enterprise Development	Activities to promote continued viability and growth of local enterprises and exploring the	Engage with CCG Economic Development Team to ensure businesses are aware of all local support available.	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	New Traders' Group	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Funding Sources
	feasibility of additional business support.					
	Creation of employment opportunities for local people.	Engage with Labour Market Partnership, FE colleges, etc. to broker links between local employers and those seeking employment. Assess viability of rates holidays and Business Improvement District to support local enterprises.	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation.	New Traders' Group	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	N/A



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Greysteel Village Plan

March 2024

DRAFT

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1.0 Introduction

Greysteel is a picturesque village with stunning views of Lough Foyle. Located in County Derry/Londonderry, the village is surrounded by stunning natural landscapes and within easy reach of iconic attractions such as the Giant's Causeway and the Causeway Coastal Route.

Located conveniently to major roadways, such as the A2 road, which is also known as the Causeway Coastal Route, Greysteel benefits from a direct route to Limavady and Coleraine. Additionally, the A5 road intersects the village, offering connectivity to inland areas. Public transportation options, including bus services, enhance accessibility and allow individuals to travel to, from, and within Greysteel, and to neighbouring towns and cities.



Figure 1: Aerial View of Greysteel Village, (Source: Google Earth)

The village boasts a vibrant array of community projects centred around The Vale Centre, serving as a bustling community hub that caters to diverse interests. Residents can participate in walking activities, Skills School NI offers inclusive sports programmes for children of all abilities, soccer training is available with the Steven Gerrard Academy, there are dance and drama programmes, and even American football training. Kids Inn afterschool clubs provide additional enrichment opportunities, while Quinn Strength and Conditioning offers fitness programmes and community initiatives such as the Sober 6 Challenge. The Centre also hosts a Youth Club, fostering social connections and engagement among young residents.



Figure 2: The Vale Centre



Greysteel Community Association provides a range of practical support and activities to all members of the community. Over the years, the Association has played a pivotal role in facilitating numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing community well-being, including the establishment of a weekly Over 65s Luncheon Club, Community Bingo, and Tea Dances to foster social connections and combat isolation among older residents. The Association also offers drama and music classes, Irish dancing, and youth diversionary programmes to engage individuals of all ages and interests.



Figure 3: St Mary's Faughanvale GAC

St Mary's Faughanvale Gaelic Athletic Club enriches the community with its stunning pitch and Clubhouse, hosting Gaelic games and various community outreach programmes such as school club links, tea dances (funded by the Public Health Agency), bingo, coaching courses, and nursery and primary school programmes, enhancing well-being and supporting community cohesion.

Key Assets	Community Groups
The Vale Centre (indoor hall/ 3G pitch) St Mary's Faughanvale GAC Faughanvale Primary School New Play Park Proximity to Lough Foyle Proximity to City of Derry Airport	Greysteel Community Enterprise Greysteel Community Association Faughanvale Community Project Star of the Sea Boxing Club Greysteel Community Playgroup Kids Inn After School Club Skill School

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Greysteel

2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social,

economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community's diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

A Healthy Safe Community	A Sustainable Accessible Environment	A Thriving Economy
Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together.	Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections.	Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning.

A Healthy Safe Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. • Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. • Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. • Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. • Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 6: The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes. • Outcome 7: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections. • Outcome 8: The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainably managed natural and built environment.

A Thriving Economy

- **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.
- **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses.
- **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation.
- **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled.

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:

A Healthy Safe Community

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

A Thriving Economy

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

Theme	Policy Alignment
Community Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Community Pride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Maximising Potential of Natural Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan (Draft, Department for the Economy)
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Cultural Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Play Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causeway Coast and Glens Council Play Investment Strategy
Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031 (Department of Justice)
Sustaining Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Department of Education)

Theme	Policy Alignment
Childcare Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Assessment of Need 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens (Education Authority)
Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Framework (Department of Justice)

2.3 Local Community Groups

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.



3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area.

3.1 Population

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of Greysteel was 1,418. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Greysteel settlement.

3.2 Statistical Profile

This analysis takes account of the key characteristics of the population residing in the 'Benbradagh C' Super Data Zone. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of these statistical zones vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

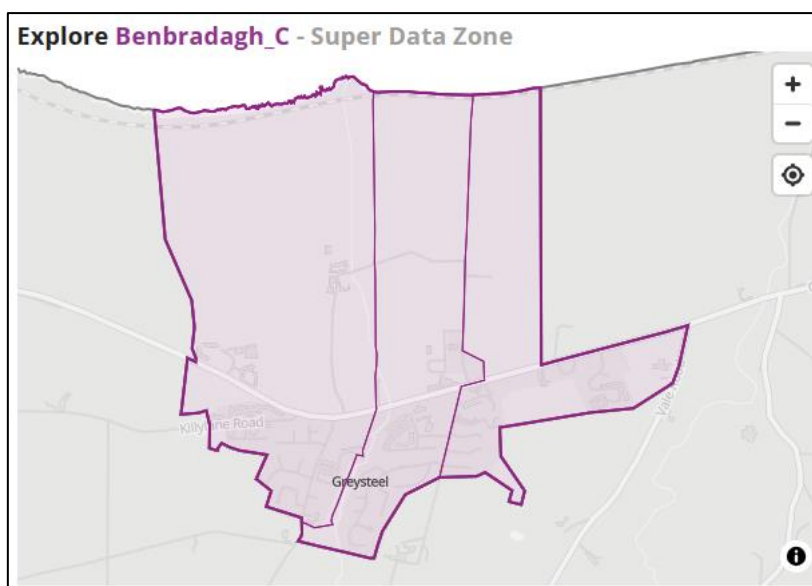


Figure 4: Map of 'Benbradagh C' Super Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

3.3 Age Profile

The population of Greysteel has an age profile that is in line with the Benbradagh DEA averages, but which is also slightly more youthful than Council and National averages, as evidenced by the composition of the village in terms of its age profile as seen the below table:

Area	Age 0-14 yrs	Age 15-39 yrs	Age 40-64 yrs	Age 65+ yrs
Greysteel / Benbradagh C	21%	31%	34%	14%
Benbradagh DEA	22%	31%	33%	15%
Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area	18%	29%	34%	19%
Northern Ireland	19%	31%	32%	17%

The 2021 Census indicates Greysteel's population was almost evenly split between females (49%) and males (51%).

Household Size

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Greysteel was:

- 1 person - 26%;
- 2 people - 32%;
- 3 people -19%;
- 4 people - 14%; and
- 5 people or more - 10%.

Household Tenure

On Census Day in Greysteel, 64% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 17% social rented, 17% private rented and 2% lived rent free.

3.3 Religion and Ethnicity

- Approximately 94% of the local population recorded their 'Religion' or 'Religion brought up in' as Roman Catholic, with 4% of the population recording Protestant or another Christian religion,
- 2% of village residents recorded no religious affiliation.
- 99% of village residents reported being from a white ethnic background.
- 94% of those living in the area were born in Northern Ireland.

3.4 Health

Census data showed Greysteel residents recorded slightly poorer levels of health and wellbeing when compared with regional and national averages. 76% of Greysteel residents report having either a 'Very Good' or 'Good' standard of general health compared to the Benbradagh DEA rate of 80%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the Northern Ireland national average of 79%.

Moreover, 73% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate that is again lower than regional and national averages.

3.5 Labour Market & Qualifications

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Greysteel, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. Whilst the area boasts an unemployment rate of just 4%, 43% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive in the village.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

Area	No Qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4+	Apprenticeship or Other
Greysteel / Benbradagh C	30%	5%	14%	17%	26%	8%
Benbradagh DEA	27%	5%	13%	17%	28%	10%
Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area	26%	6%	14%	16%	29%	9%
Northern Ireland	24%	6%	14%	16%	32%	8%

Analysis of the skills profile highlights Greysteel's population has a higher rate of local people holding no Qualifications, as well as a lower rate of citizens obtaining a Level 4 and above qualification when compared to the DEA, Council and National averages.

Industry of Employment

In Greysteel on Census Day 2021, the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

Industry Classification	Percentage of Local Population
Agriculture, energy & water	3%
Manufacturing	7%
Construction	13%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	22%
Transport & communication	9%
Financial, real estate, professional & administration	9%
Public administration, education & health	35%
Other	3%

Number of Employee Jobs Based in Greysteel Ward

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survey NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Greysteel ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

Year	Number of Employee Jobs Based In Greysteel
2022	477
2021	602
2020	Not available due to Covid pandemic
2019	376
2018	Not available
2017	312

Car or Van Availability

In Greysteel on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

Car or Van Availability	Percentage of Local Population
No cars or vans	17%
1 car or van	41%
2 cars or vans	30%
3 cars or vans	9%
4 cars of vans	2%
5 or more cars or vans	1%

3.6 Deprivation Analysis

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Greysteel population fell under the 'Greysteel 1' and 'Greysteel 2' Super Output Areas, which covered the village and surrounding areas. Key findings include:

- The two Super Output Areas (SOAs) fall consistently within the 30% most deprived communities in Northern Ireland across multiple measures, including Income Deprivation, Employment Deprivation, Skills Deprivation and Access to Services Deprivation.
- Income Deprivation is a common concern, with 'Greysteel 2' in particular falling amongst the 20% most disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland.
- Both SOAs face relatively high levels of Access to Services Deprivation, with Greysteel 1 ranking within the 25% most deprived areas for this indicator.

3.7 Conclusions

Overall, the socio-economic analysis has brought to the fore a range of key considerations that are relevant to the development of this Village Plan. Most saliently, there is a need to support the improvement of the skills profile of the local population, which currently falls far short of regional and national levels. There is also an ongoing identified need to address the social challenges brought about as a result of the village's rurality and the overall provision of basic services.



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of an updated Village Plan for Greysteel.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was conducted to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. The previous Village Plan from June 2018 was reviewed, which provided valuable insights into lessons learned and opportunities for improvement, ensuring continuity and building upon existing efforts.

The Vale Centre was engaged, as well as Councillor Dermot Nicholl, the lead partners in Greysteel, whose support has been appreciated in this process. A thorough site visit of Greysteel was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. To ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan, a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken, including:

- A site visit to the village on Tuesday, 30th January 2024.
- A consultation day, with two sessions (one during the day and one in the evening) held in The Vale Centre on Tuesday, 20th February 2024.
- An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 2nd February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

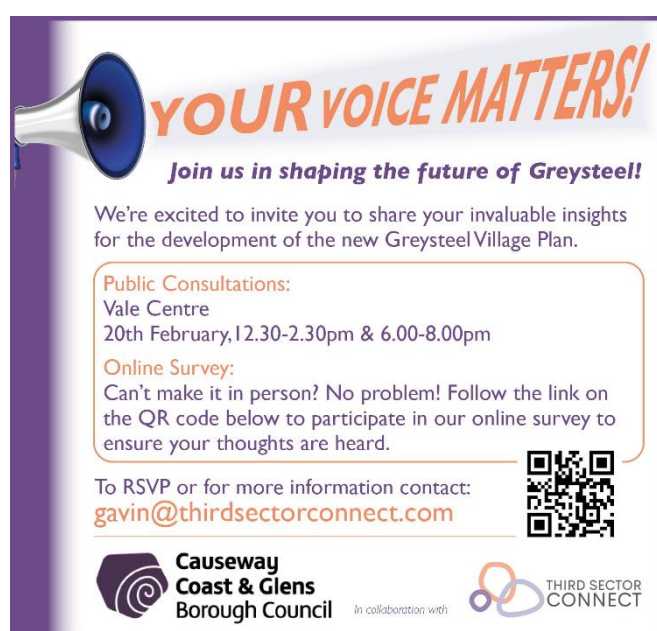


Figure 5: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Working closely with The Vale Centre and Councillor Nicholl, two consultation events were held to accommodate residents' diverse needs and schedules. Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms, to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Greysteel community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

- A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
- Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
- A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
- An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
- Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Greysteel community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of residents.



5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, Greysteel was noted to be renowned for its friendliness and welcoming nature. An array of well-organised and capable community groups were also identified that operate for the wider benefit of the village.

The following key Community Assets were identified:

Commercial Assets	Community Assets	Youth Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of Local Shops Petrol Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vale Centre St Mary's Faughanvale GAA Facilities Greysteel Community Enterprise Greysteel Community Association Star of the Sea Boxing Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary School Skill School New Play Park Messy Play at Kids Inn Youth Club at Vale Centre

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

Recreational Activities	Sporting Activities	Youth Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking Activities Sober 6 Challenge Dance & Drama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gaelic Sports American Football Soccer Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth Club

5.1 SWOT Analysis

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Greysteel, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Community Capacity: the local community association delivers valuable outreach programmes, such as Meals on Wheels.</p> <p>Sports: the local GAA Club is noted to be thriving, encouraging participation in sports and wellbeing activities across all ages.</p> <p>Collaborative Working: strong link between the local Primary School and the GAA Club, and a lot of programmes and activities are delivered collaboratively.</p>	<p>COVID Recovery: community life has not quite recovered since the COVID-19 pandemic. It is still difficult to engage with both young people and elderly residents.</p> <p>Childcare Provision: lack of childcare services identified in the area, hindering opportunities for working parents.</p> <p>Housing: there is an identified lack of affordable housing in the village.</p> <p>Cost of Living: the impact of the cost-of-living crisis continues to be evident for residents.</p> <p>Collaboration: although there is a good link between the local Primary School and GAA Club, there is a need to facilitate collaboration between other community organisations that are active in the village.</p>
Opportunities	Threats

<p>Economic Development: there are several empty business units at the local petrol station that could be used for the purposes of enterprise development.</p>	<p>School Investment: there is an identified need to invest in upgraded facilities at the local primary school.</p>
<p>Facilities Upgrade: the new play park will provide more leisure opportunities for young families with children. However, there is a need to upgrade and modernise the community facilities in the village.</p>	<p>Funding: Greysteel Community Association is in continual need of support for costs associated with running community activities and outreach,</p>

5.2 Survey Findings

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

- Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
- The length of time they have been residents in the village.
- Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
 - Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
 - Infrastructure and connectivity.
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Standard of facilities and public assets.
 - Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

All questions were mandatory for all survey participants.

Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

- 38.9% of survey respondents were aged between 15 and 39.
- 61.1% of survey respondents were aged between 40 and 64.
- No survey respondents were aged 14 and under, or 65 and over.

Survey responses represent an equal gender split of 50% male and 50% female.

Except for one respondent, all survey participants stated they are residents of Greysteel. The single respondent who was not a resident provided a postcode in Eglinton, just three miles away.

Most respondents (83.3%) noted they had lived in the village for over ten years. Just one respondent noted they had recently moved to the area within the last three years.

5.2.2 Quality of Life

Perceptions of the village amongst survey respondents were generally positive, with just 22.2% stating their perception of the village was 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

Most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 6.1

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Cleanliness of Streets	The prevailing opinion was that the cleanliness of the streets is 'Acceptable,' with 72.2% of respondents selecting this option.
Condition of Streets	Responses noted this as an area for improvement, with 55.5% stating the condition of the streets as either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. Just 38.9% of respondents felt the condition of the streets is acceptable.
Accessibility	Accessibility in the village was highlighted as an area for improvement, with 50% of respondents citing the overall standard as being either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Pedestrian Friendly	Responses indicate that, overall, the village meets the basic standards of pedestrian friendliness, with 72.2% of respondents stating it is 'Acceptable', 'Good', or 'Very Good'.
Availability of Public Transport	Respondents were ambivalent about the frequency and accessibility of public transport. The most common response was that availability of public transport was 'Acceptable' (38.9%).
Traffic Congestion	Traffic congestion was an aspect of life in the village that was identified as being in particular need of addressing, with 66.7% of respondents highlighting it as 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Street Lighting	Street lighting was considered by survey respondents as being adequate, with 38.9% stating it is 'Acceptable'.
Availability of Car Parking	Car parking was not identified by survey respondents as a key issue. Half of respondents believe the availability of parking to be 'Acceptable'. A further 22.2% believe there to be 'Good' availability. 27.8% of respondents consider parking to be 'Poor'.
Village Signage	A mixed response was received in relation to signage in the village, with 44.4% of respondents stating signage is 'Acceptable', the most common single response.
Open Space	Open space in Greysteel is widely regarded to be sub-standard, with 66.7% of respondents stating this aspect of the village is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Play Park	The quality of the play park was almost unanimously deemed to be 'Very Poor'.
Sports Facilities	One very positive aspect that emerged from the survey is the quality of sporting facilities, with 66.7% of respondents stating they are either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Community Centre	A mix of responses were received, with the most prevailing sentiment being that The Vale Centre's amenities were 'Acceptable'. 33.3% of respondents indicated they believe the facilities to be 'Good' or 'Very Good' and a further 27.8% stating they are 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Anti-social behaviour was identified as a potential cause for concern in Greysteel, with 44.4% of respondents citing they believe levels to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Vandalism	Similarly, vandalism was highlighted as a potential issue, with half of respondents noting levels of vandalism are 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Littering	Littering was identified as a challenge in Greysteel, with 61.1% of respondents noting litter in the village is either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Derelict Buildings	A mixed response was received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33.3% of respondents stated 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 38.9% of respondents stated 'Acceptable'. • 27.8% of respondents stated 'Poor'.
Friendliness of People	This was the most positive aspect of the survey, with an overwhelming majority of 88.8% believing the friendliness of local people was either 'Good' or 'Very Good'. 83.3% also felt the atmosphere in the village is either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Shops	A mixed response was received in relation to quality: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38.9% of respondents stated 'Good' or 'Very Good'. 27.8% of respondents stated 'Acceptable'. 33.3% of respondents stated 'Poor'. <p>However, more negative sentiments were expressed in relation to the variety of shops, with most respondents (55.6%) stating this is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.</p>
Eateries	The overall perception of cafés and takeaways was negative, with 61.1% of respondents stating 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Greysteel

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

- *"The people are the best thing in the community. The GAA Club is the heart and soul of the area, providing a fantastic outlet for all ages. The Vale Centre put in a big effort to care for young people."*
- *"I work in a local school and feel that Greysteel has a wonderful community spirit."*

Overall, the community spirit in the area was commonly identified as a highlight, as was the quality of services provided by the GAA Club. The village's convenience to both Limavady and Derry/Londonderry was considered an asset.

5.2.4 Key Issues To Be Addressed

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

- Infrastructural concerns, such as traffic congestion, road repairs, and lack of public transport.
- Limited provision of facilities or services for young people.

- Investment in green and open spaces, including the development of a play park.
- Attracting businesses to the area.
- The cost-of-living crisis.

Respondents were asked to choose their top three priorities for Greysteel. No individual category received over 50% of responses. However, the most common responses were:

- Activities for children and young people (38.9%).
- Access to basic services e.g., bank, pharmacy, etc. (33.3%).
- Road and Infrastructure (33.3%).



6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Greysteel Village Plan are summarised below:

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Community Collaboration	Establishment of a Community Forum.	There is an identified lack of integration amongst the community groups, clubs, and associations. There is also a need to improve communication and build greater respect for each other's efforts.
Communication	Improved advertising of community activities.	There is a need to ensure that all groups and residents are aware of events. Improved communication will help local people be made aware of volunteering opportunities and opportunities to meaningfully engage in community life.
Community Pride	Provision of additional/replacement public litter bins and addressing issues of dog fouling.	There is an overall need to foster increased community pride, as the village has been identified as becoming untidy.
Maximising Potential of Natural Assets	Rejuvenation of the Glen in Greysteel.	The Glen is underused because of poor car parking facilities and overgrown hedges. There is scope for the Glen to become an important green space in the village and would open up further opportunities in terms of attracting visitors.
Signage	Improving the quality and visibility of signage throughout the village.	There is a need to ensure that locals and visitors alike are fully aware of the public facilities in the village.
Cultural Awareness	Promotion of traditional culture and heritage activities.	There is a need to foster greater awareness of local history, music, language, and dance traditions within the local population.
Play Park	Creation of play park for the village	There is a need to increase access to basic amenities in the village

Health & Wellbeing	Establishment of a Men's Shed in the village.	The need has been identified for a Men's Shed in the village to reduce isolation and loneliness and contribute towards improved mental health amongst local men.
Sustaining Local Childcare Provision	Widening the opportunities and programming for Greysteel Playschool.	At present the playschool is facing potential closure challenges due to the low number of children attending. The main contributor is smaller numbers of children being born in each family.
Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour	Addressing social issues of anti-social behaviour, as well as drug and alcohol abuse.	There have been identified ongoing challenges throughout the village in relation to anti-social behaviour and substance misuse.



7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Greysteel, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Community Collaboration	Establish a Community Forum.	Initial meeting of Community Forum. Appoint office holders. Agree on Forum purpose, remit, and frequency of meetings.	Within 6 months following finalisation of Village Plan.	Greysteel Community Association Faughanvale GAC Vale Centre	Other local community and voluntary organisations Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	N/A
Communication	Improve promotion and advertising of community activities.	Create community noticeboard. Use social media platforms to promote and advertise community events and activities.	Within 6 months following finalisation of Village Plan.	Vale Centre Greysteel Community Association Faughanvale GAC	Other local community and voluntary organisations	N/A
Community Pride	Provide additional and/or replacement litter bins. Address issues of dog fouling.	Organise periodic litter picks and community clean ups.	Within 12 months following finalisation of Village Plan.	Vale Centre Greysteel Community Association	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
		Install additional bins in the village, including dog fouling bins.		Faughanvale GAC		
Maximising Potential of Natural Assets	Rejuvenate the Glen in Greysteel.	Secure funding for feasibility study to explore further uses and improvements.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Vale Centre Greysteel Community Association Faughanvale GAC	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
Signage	Improve the quality and visibility of signage throughout the village.	Identify appropriate locations for new and upgrades signage. Secure appropriate finance to implement signage upgrades.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	DfC	N/A
Cultural Awareness	Promote traditional culture and heritage activities.	Identify suitable delivery partners. Organise and deliver additional cultural, language, music,	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Vale Centre Greysteel Community Association	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council PEACE Plus

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
		and dance activities.		Faughanvale GAC		Foras Na Gaelige Ulster Scots Agency
Play Park	Creation of play park for the village	Development of technical specifications to create an accessible and user-friendly of play park at an appropriate site in the village. Construction works to see new play park created.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local Political Representatives	Other local community organisations Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Multiple – depending on nature and scale of capital development project
Health & Wellbeing	Establish a Men's Shed in the village.	Establish a Committee to co-ordinate a Men's Shed. Identify suitable space to hold a Men's Shed. Develop and deliver Men's Shed Programmes.	Within 18 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Vale Centre Greysteel Community Association Faughanvale GAC	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Groundwork NI Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Sustaining Local Childcare Provision	Widen the opportunities and programmes for Greysteel Playschool.	<p>Liaise with Department for Communities to understand any additional avenues of support.</p> <p>Conduct a benchmarking exercise to understand the sustainability of similar facilities and identification of best practice.</p>	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Education Authority	Local Community Organisations	N/A
Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour	<p>Address social issues of anti-social behaviour, as well as drug and alcohol abuse.</p> <p>Establish a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.</p>	<p>Identify measures to tackle identified social issues, including liaison with statutory partners such as PSNI.</p> <p>Develop action plan to implement identified measures</p>	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	<p>Local elected representatives</p> <p>Greysteel Community Association</p>	<p>Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council – PCSP</p> <p>Local Community Organisations</p> <p>PSNI</p>	N/A



**Causeway
Coast & Glens
Borough Council**

Kilrea Village Plan

March 2024

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1.0 Introduction

The name of Kilrea village is derived from the Irish 'Cill Ria', meaning 'church on the hill', with the village getting its name from an ancient church that once stood near the present location of St. Patrick's Church of Ireland. Evidence suggests the area has been inhabited since the Stone Age, with remnants of it's rich history scattered along the riverbanks. Although much of the pre-Christian history remains shrouded in mystery, legend has it that in the 5th Century, St. Patrick himself identified a site for a church during his travels through the village.

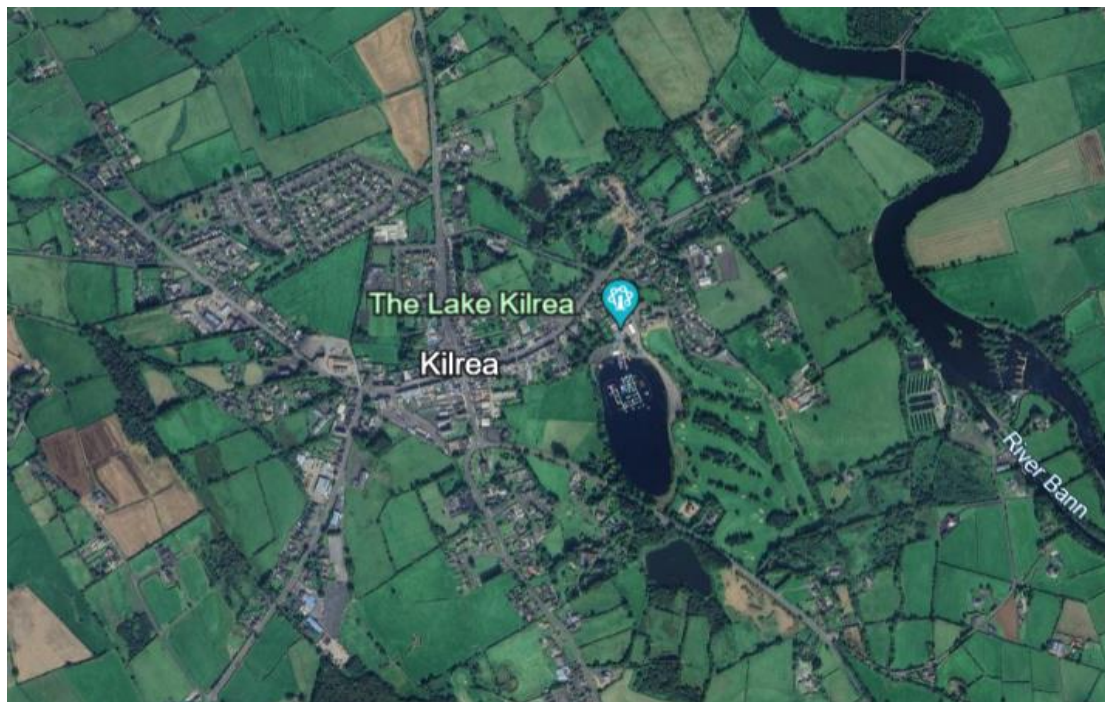


Figure 1: Aerial View of Kilrea Village, (Source: Google Earth)

Located close to the picturesque River Bann, Kilrea benefits from a well-connected road network. Thoroughfares like the A29 provide efficient access to nearby towns and major cities, enhancing connectivity for both residents and visitors. Public transport services, including bus routes, add to Kilrea's accessibility, offering convenient travel options for commuters and travellers.



Figure 2: Kilrea Sports Complex

The village contains scenic gems like The Manor House and Golf Club, with Lake Kilrea offering a picturesque setting for leisurely strolls and water-based activities, while Woodhall Residential Centre, owned by the Education Authority, provides a retreat for school groups. Kilrea Sports Complex provide recreational facilities that foster an active lifestyle and community engagement. The village also contains a play park that families can avail of.

These green spaces not only enhance Kilrea's aesthetic appeal but also contribute to biodiversity conservation, providing habitats for various plant and animal species. The village also has a library and Town Hall, which is regularly used by community groups and local schools.



Figure 3: The Lake Kilrea

Kilrea is home to a diverse array of community groups, each playing a vital role in fostering social cohesion and enhancing the quality of life for residents:

- The Kilrea Community Fairy Thorn Association celebrates the town's folklore and traditions.
- The Kilrea Community Playgroup provides early childhood education.
- The Kilrea Women's Institute offers a platform for women to connect, learn, and contribute to their community.
- Sports enthusiasts can join the Kilrea GAC and Kilrea United Football Club, promoting teamwork and healthy competition.
- For seniors, the Kilrea Over 55's club provides a welcoming environment for socialising and leisure activities.
- The Kilrea Young Farmers and Kilrea and District Angling Club offer opportunities for outdoor recreation and skill-building, enriching the fabric of community life in Kilrea.

The village has several schools catering to students of all ages and stages of learning. St. Columba's Primary School, Crossroads Primary School, and Kilrea Primary School nurture young minds, focusing on academic development and personal growth. St. Connor's College offers secondary education, preparing students for future academic pursuits or entry into the workforce. Additionally, Kilrea Community Playgroup offers early childhood education and development programmes, creating a supportive learning environment for preschool-aged children.



Figure 4: Kilrea Town Hall

Key Assets	Community Groups
The Manor House and Golf Club Marian Hall The Lake Kilrea Woodhall Residential Centre Kilrea Golf Club Kilrea Sports Complex Kilrea Play Parks Kilrea Town Hall Kilrea Library St Columba's Primary School Kilrea Primary School St Connor's College Crossroads Primary School Craiglea Pitch Health Centre Fire Station	Kilrea Community Fairy Thorn Association Kilrea Community Playgroup Kilrea Women's Institute Kilrea GAC Kilrea United Football Club Kilrea Over 55's club Kilrea Young Farmers Kilrea and District Angling Club

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Kilrea



2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community's diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

A Healthy Safe Community	A Sustainable Accessible Environment	A Thriving Economy
Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together.	Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections.	Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning.

A Healthy Safe Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. • Outcome 2: Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. • Outcome 3: All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. • Outcome 4: The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. • Outcome 5: The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

- **Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes.
- **Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections.
- **Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainably managed natural and built environment.

A Thriving Economy

- **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy.
- **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses.
- **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation.
- **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled.

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:

A Healthy Safe Community

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

A Sustainable Accessible Environment

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

A Thriving Economy

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

Theme	Policy Alignment
Development of Natural & Heritage Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) • Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan (Draft, Department for the Economy)
Communication & Awareness Raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Environmental Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)
Volunteer Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) • Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)

Theme	Policy Alignment
Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy 2020 (Department for Infrastructure)
Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office)
Capital Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) Active Living – The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Northern Ireland (Sport NI, Department for Communities)
Tourism & Visitor Attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan (Draft, Department for the Economy)
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure)

2.3 Local Community Groups

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.



3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area. Specifically, Kilrea falls under the 'Bann H' Super Data Zone. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey NI.

3.1 Population

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of Kilrea was 1,673. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Kilrea settlement.

3.2 Statistical Profile

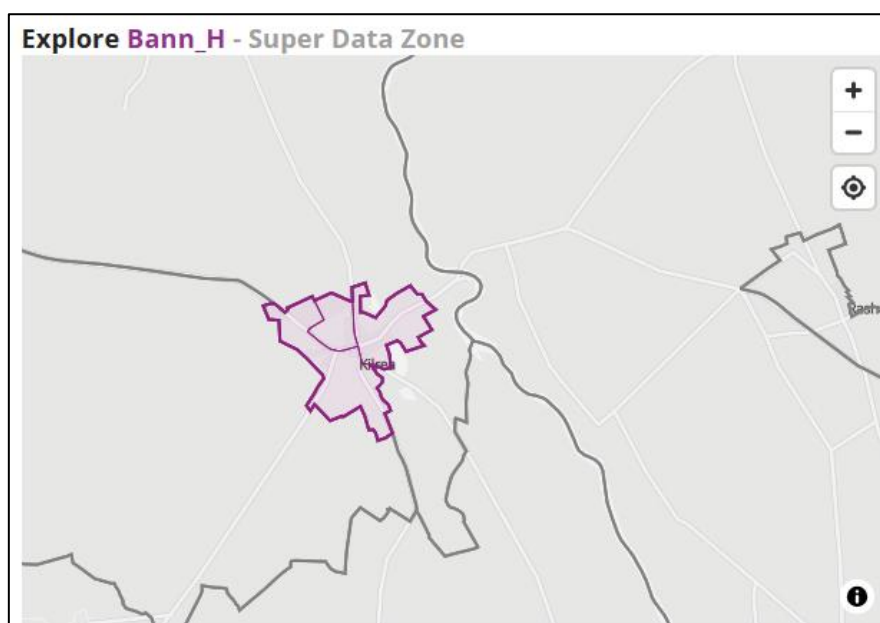


Figure 5: Map of 'Bann H' Super Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

3.3 Age Profile

The population of Kilrea has an age profile that is generally more youthful than local and regional averages, as evidenced by the composition of the village's age profile as seen in the below table:

Area	Age 0-14 yrs	Age 16-39 yrs	Age 40-64 yrs	Age 65+ yrs
Kilrea / Bann H	23%	32%	30%	15%
Bann District Electoral Area	19%	27%	34%	19%
Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area	18%	29%	34%	19%
Northern Ireland	19%	31%	32%	17%

The 2021 Census indicates Kilrea's population was mostly female at 52%.

Household Size

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Kilrea was:

- 1 person - 32%;
- 2 people - 28%;
- 3 people - 16%;
- 4 people - 13%; and
- 5 people or more - 11%.

Household Tenure

On Census Day in Kilrea, 50% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 21% social rented, 26% private rented and 2% lived rent free.

3.4 Religion and Ethnicity

- Approximately 75% of the local population recorded their 'Religion' or 'Religion brought up in' as Roman Catholic, with 18% of the population recording Protestant or another Christian religion.
- 7% of village residents reported no religious affiliation.
- 99% of village residents reported being from a white ethnic background.
- 88% of those living in the area were born in Northern Ireland.
- 8% of the local population reported being born outside of the UK and Ireland.

3.5 Health

Kilrea residents experience health and wellbeing levels that are consistent with regional and national averages. 79% of residents report having either a 'Very Good' or 'Good' standard of general health, compared to the Bann DEA rate of 81%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the Northern Ireland national average of 79%.

Moreover, 76% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate that is again similar to regional and national averages.

3.6 Labour Market & Qualifications

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Kilrea, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. Whilst the area boasts an unemployment rate of just 2%, 44% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

Area	No Qualifications	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4+	Apprenticeship or Other
Kilrea / Bann H	27%	7%	15%	16%	24%	12%
Bann DEA	24%	6%	14%	16%	30%	10%
Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area	26%	6%	14%	16%	29%	9%
Northern Ireland	24%	6%	14%	16%	32%	8%

Analysis of the skills profile highlights Kilrea's population has a similar level of qualifications to that of the DEA, Council, and Northern Ireland averages. However, a lower number of residents hold Level 4 and higher qualifications, whilst a higher number have participated in an Apprenticeship.

Industry of Employment

In Kilrea on Census Day 2021, the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

Industry Classification	Percentage of Local Population
Agriculture, energy & water	3%
Manufacturing	11%
Construction	15%
Distribution, hotels & restaurants	23%
Transport & communication	5%
Financial, real estate, professional & administration	12%
Public administration, education & health	28%
Other	3%

Number of Employee Jobs Based in Kilrea Ward

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survey NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Kilrea ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

Year	Number of Employee Jobs Based In Kilrea
2022	1028
2021	950
2020	Not available due to Covid pandemic
2019	885
2018	Not available
2017	854

Car or Van Availability

In Kilrea on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

Car or Van Availability	Percentage of Local Population
No cars or vans	19%
1 car or van	45%
2 cars or vans	26%
3 cars or vans	7%
4 cars of vans	2%
5 or more cars or vans	1%

3.8 Deprivation Analysis

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Kilrea population fell under the Kilrea Super Output Area, which covered the village and surrounding rural areas. Key findings include:

- In 2017, Kilrea was ranked as the 407th most deprived area in Northern Ireland (out of 890). This ranking was almost the same (409th) in 2010.
- Amongst the various thematic indicators of relative deprivation, the main areas of concern are Income Deprivation (which falls amongst the 25% most deprived communities in Northern Ireland) and Access to Services, where Kilrea is ranked amongst the 30% most disadvantaged.
- Between 2010 and 2017, the area's relative deprivation improved across all measures with the exception of Income Deprivation. However, the overall relative ranking of the area fell because of the scale of decline in the relative Income Deprivation ranking.

3.9 Conclusions

Overall, the socio-economic landscape within Kilrea can be said to be in line with local and national averages. However, challenges were identified through the statistical analysis, which included a need to address comparative educational underachievement, as well as a need to address declining levels of Income Deprivation faced by the local population.



4.0 Community Engagement

4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the development of a new Village Plan for Kilrea.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was carried out to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic characteristics, and social trends. The Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association, acting as the lead partner in Kilrea, was engaged. Their support has been appreciated in this process. A thorough site visit of Kilrea was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. To ensure as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan, a range of consultation and engagement activities were undertaken. This included:

- A site visit to the village on Tuesday, 30th January 2024.
- A consultation day, with two sessions (one during the day and one in the evening) held in Kilrea Town Hall on Thursday, 22nd February 2024.
- An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 9th February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

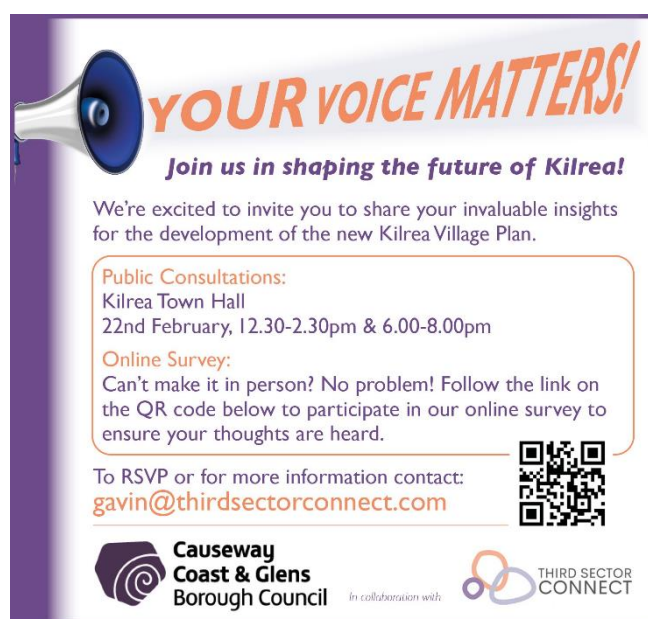


Figure 6: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Two consultation sessions were held, one during the day and one in the evening, to accommodate residents' diverse needs and schedules. Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various communication channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Kilrea community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

- A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
- Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
- A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
- An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
- Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Kilrea community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of residents.



5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, Kilrea was viewed as having a range of admirable characteristics and qualities. Amenities in the village are viewed as positive, but with some aspects identified that could be developed and improved upon. In relation to the current community landscape in Kilrea, the Fairythorn Group are recognised as community leaders, and there is enthusiasm for the development of a new Community Hub, which will offer new spaces for the community.

The following key Community Assets were identified:

Commercial Assets	Healthcare Assets	Natural & Heritage Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market Quality and Variety of Local Businesses Good Availability of Parking Supermarket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Centre Defibrillators Dentist Optician 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woods and Walks Proximity to River Bann Kilrea Lake The Bann Bridge War Memorial
Sporting Assets	Community Assets	Other Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAA Club Snooker Club 2 x Local Golf Clubs Fishing Spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Facilities Fairythorn Association Town Hall Woodhall Centre Marian Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit Union Post Office Library Washing Machine Facilities Recycling Facilities Fire Station 3x Primary Schools Local High School

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

Recreational Activities	Sporting Activities	Youth Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History Group Ulster Scots Events Walks at Kilrea Lake Fairy Thorn Festival Friendship Group Plough on Group Women's Institute Over 55s Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bowling Club Sports Complex Football Pitch Golf Club GAA Club Fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Education Facilities Young Farmers' Club Boys' Brigade Rainbows/Brownies Mums and Tots Group

5.1 SWOT Analysis

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Kilrea, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Natural Assets & Heritage: Kilrea boasts a range of natural and heritage assets. There is scope to deliver a variety of activities associated with celebrating each.</p> <p>Community Capacity: there are a variety of active community groups in the area, catering to the needs of all ages and a variety of interests.</p>	<p>Public Transport: it is recognised there is poor public transport connectivity between Kilrea and other towns and villages.</p> <p>Public Realms Works: there is a lack of seating, dog fouling bins, and floral displays in Kilrea, which impacts on the village's aesthetics and cleanliness.</p>

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Availability of Sports Facilities: Kilrea boasts a rich variety of sporting options for local people to avail of.</p> <p>Diversity of Civic Amenities: the village is home to a wide range of facilities and services, which local people can avail of without having to travel to larger towns/civic hubs.</p> <p>House Prices: house prices in the area are recognised as being affordable and attractive for young families.</p>	<p>Road Safety: the current position of the zebra crossing at Bridge Street was identified as being inappropriate, and unsafe for the public to use. Footpaths in the village were also identified as needing upgrade and maintenance.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Better use of Natural Assets: there is scope for natural assets to be more effectively utilised for community use, heritage awareness, and economic benefit, including developing additional walking routes through and around the village.</p> <p>Communication: there are multiple options that could be developed to increase awareness of activities and community events.</p> <p>Additional Activities: there is capacity for the variety of community activities delivered in Kilrea to be broadened.</p>	<p>Tourism Activities: it is recognised that nearly all of the efforts made to attract external visitors to the area are concentrated on the North Coast. Kilrea benefits very little from any of these marketing campaigns or tourism development efforts.</p> <p>Availability of Funding: there is an appetite for community development and growth in the village, but ambitions can often be hampered by limited availability of funding.</p> <p>Capacity & Availability of Volunteers: Community and social development in the village can be limited by the time and availability of current volunteers.</p>

5.2 Survey Findings

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

- Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
- The length of time they have been residents in the village.
- Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
 - Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
 - Infrastructure and connectivity.
 - Crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Standard of facilities and public assets.
 - Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:

5.2.1 Demographic Information

- 1.1% of respondents were aged between 0 and 14.
- 26.1% of respondents were aged between 15 and 39.
- 61.4% of respondents were aged between 40 and 64.
- 11.4% of respondents were aged 65 and over.

Most responses (61.3%) were received from female residents, with 28.4% being received from male residents. Two respondents preferred not to state their gender.

88.6% of respondents who participated in the survey were from the village, with 78.4% of these stating that they had lived in the village for ten or more years. These findings provide survey legitimacy as a representative view of residents.

5.2.2 Quality of Life

Perceptions of respondents were generally mixed:

- 27.3% had either a 'Good' or 'Very Good' perception of the village.
- 48.9% felt life in the village was 'Acceptable'.
- 23.9% had either a 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' perception of the village.

Moreover, most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 5.7.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Cleanliness of Streets	Overall, the cleanliness of Kilrea village was not considered a major cause for concern. 39.8% of respondents deemed it to be 'Acceptable'. However, there was some discontent noted, with 36.4% stating cleanliness is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Condition of Streets	The overall condition of streets was outlined as an area for improvement, with 58% of survey respondents stating them as being 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Accessibility	Accessibility was considered 'Acceptable' in Kilrea, with exactly half of respondents selecting this option.
Pedestrian Friendly	There were mixed views about how pedestrian friendly Kilrea is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26.1% stated it is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 45.5% stated it is 'Acceptable'. • 28.4% stated it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Availability of Public Transport	Public transport was highlighted as a key issue in need of addressing, with 54.5% of respondents considering the frequency of buses to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Traffic Congestion	Traffic congestion stood out as one of the single most negative aspects of living in the village. Most respondents (67%) felt it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Street Lighting	Generally, the levels of street lighting in Kilrea are considered 'Acceptable' (58%). This was the most common response to this question by a large margin.
Availability of Car Parking	Survey respondents were generally satisfied with the availability of parking in the village, with almost half of respondents (47.7%) believing there to be an 'Acceptable' level of parking in Kilrea.
Village Signage	Mixed responses were received in relation to the quality of signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27.3% stated it is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. • 38.6% stated it is 'Acceptable'. • 34.1% stated it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Open Space	The availability of open space in Kilrea was noted as an opportunity for improvement by over half of respondents (52.3%) stating it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Play Park	Sentiments towards the play park in Kilrea were slightly negative, with 40.9% of respondents stating the current space is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. A minority of 38.6% of respondents stated the current play park is 'Acceptable'.
Sports Facilities	The prevailing sentiments expressed were that sports facilities in the village were either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. This was the feedback provided by 46.6% of respondents.
Community Centre	The quality of the village's Community Centre was considered to be low, with most (60.2%) respondents stating it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	Anti-social behaviour emerged as one of the aspects of life in Kilrea that needs addressing. 77.3% of respondents considered the current levels of ASB to be either 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Vandalism	Similarly, levels of vandalism in the village were considered to be unacceptable by most survey respondents, with 62.5% considering current levels to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Littering	The levels of litter were considered to be damaging to the overall aesthetics of Kilrea, with 63.6% of survey respondents considering the current levels of litter to be 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Derelict Buildings	The levels of building dereliction in the village were also seen to be a negative aspect of the village's physical environment, with 70.5% of respondents stating it is 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'.
Friendliness of People	The strongest element of community life in Kilrea was the friendliness of those living in the village. 78.4% of respondents stated this is 'Good' or 'Very Good'. Moreover, almost half (48.9%) stated the atmosphere in the village is either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.
Shops	The quality and variety of shops in the village was a positive aspect of local life, with 42.6% of respondents stating the quality of local shops is either 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

Aspect of Everyday Life	Commentary
Eateries	The quality and variety of cafes and takeaways in the village was overall considered to be at a good level – only 19.3% of respondents disagreed.

5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Kilrea

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

- Strength of the local community, and the positive community spirit in the area.
- The village’s natural assets and scenery.
- Capacity of local groups, such as Churches and the GAA Club.
- Quality of schools and education provision.
- Variety of local services, including pharmacy, supermarket, chemists, and health centre.

5.2.4 Key Issues to Be Addressed

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

- Regeneration and upgrade of the village’s capital assets.
- Affordable housing provision.
- Investment in the local play park.
- Overall lack of youth provision.
- Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Village aesthetics.
- Road safety and pedestrian safety issues, e.g., condition of footpaths and better traffic management systems.



6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Kilrea Village Plan are summarised below:

Theme	Description	Why is it needed?
Development of Natural & Heritage Assets	<p>Promote increased awareness and use of Kilrea's natural assets (e.g., the lake, rivers, wood, etc.).</p> <p>Develop walking trails at Movanagher Wood.</p> <p>Link Portna with Portneal by creating a walkway along the edge of the River Bann.</p>	Kilrea boasts a rich array of natural and heritage assets, but they are considered under-appreciated, and little is known about them within the general public or for those living outside the village.
Communication & Awareness Raising	Actions to generate increased awareness of community events and activities, including the creation of a Community Forum.	There is a need to conduct more promotion of community events, as well as increasing awareness of the village's assets and history.
Environmental Improvements	Increase provision of dog fouling bins, flower planters, and upgrade the village's seating.	Minor environmental issues were identified as causes for concern during consultation.
Volunteer Development	Develop initiatives to support the recruitment and retention of volunteers to play an active role in community life in the village.	Through consultation, it was identified that volunteer capacity was an issue that could potentially hinder community development in Kilrea, with a need to get more people involved.
Road Safety	Explore options to improve road safety for pedestrians in the village, and address congestion on Bridge Street.	The location of the zebra crossing at Bridge Street was noted as unsafe. The quality of footpaths were also viewed as being unsafe.
Programming	<p>Introduce additional community programmes, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Shed • Gardening Group • Music and arts sessions 	There is a need to address isolation within the local community, particularly amongst elderly/retired men.

Capital Development	<p>Regeneration of Marian Hall to a standard befitting of modern community centres.</p> <p>Upgrade and enhance play parks in Craiglea and Lisnagrot.</p> <p>Enhance the walkway around Craiglea.</p> <p>Potential to create community gardens or allotments in these areas and also in Larchfield.</p> <p>Enhance the sports complex and Craiglea Pitch and MUGA in Kilrea.</p>	<p>These buildings/areas within Kilrea have been identified as being either outdated and/or in significant need of upgrade in order to continue to be fit for purpose.</p> <p>There is also an ongoing need for capital investment in the continual upgrade and renewal of assets within the village to ensure that they remain usable by the local community.</p>
Tourism & Visitor Attraction	<p>Develop initiatives to attract external visitors to Kilrea.</p>	<p>There is recognition that the village's assets are under-appreciated, and that greater efforts could be made to attract visitors to Kilrea, many of whom are already visiting the wider North Coast area.</p>
Housing	<p>Increased provision of affordable housing in the village</p>	<p>This was a need identified through consultation.</p>



7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Kilrea, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Development of Kilrea's Natural and Heritage Assets	Promote increased awareness and use of Kilrea's natural assets (e.g., lake, rivers, wood, etc.).	Design and install increased signage.	Signage within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Department for Communities
	Improvement of walking trails at Movanager Wood	Undertake surveys and environmental studies to enhance existing walking trails.	Signage within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Forest Service (owners of Movanager Wood)	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	n/a
	Link Portna with Portneal by creating a walkway along the edge of the River Bann.	Technical study to be carried out and project plan developed Finance secured to undertake additional works	Within 36 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Range of Local Community, Commercial and Statutory Stakeholders	Causeway Coast and Glens Council	Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
	Maximise Kilrea's potential as a key location along River Bann Blueway	Develop and deliver additional programmes to encourage increased, sustainable use of natural assets.	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Range of Local Community, Commercial and Statutory Stakeholders	Causeway Coast and Glens Council	Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs – Kilrea is listed as a significant site in the Lower Bann Corridor Recreational and Tourism Study (2017)
	- Reference Bann Blueway https://niopa.qub.ac.uk/bitstream/NIOPA/9152/1/Lower%20Bann%20Executive%20Summary%20final%20version%20050517.pdf					
Communication and Awareness Raising	Actions to generate increased awareness of community events and activities, including creation of a Community Forum.	Creation of Kilrea Community Forum. Appointment of Office Holders and Committee. Agree Forum's purpose, remit, and frequency of meetings.	Within 18 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association	Women's Institute GAA Club Over 55s Club History Group Young Farmers Walking Group Angling Club Friendship Group	N/A
Village Aesthetics	Increase provision of dog fouling bins, clean street signs, more flower planters, and upgrade seating.	Explore optimal locations to install environmental improvements. Install additional bins and flower planters.	Within 18 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council (through budget allocation, rather than competitive funding award)

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
		<p>Upgrade seating within the village.</p> <p>Ensuring that all existing street signs are kept in a tidy condition.</p>				
Volunteer Development	Develop initiatives to support the recruitment and retention of volunteers to play an active role in community life in the village.	<p>Through a targeted survey, identify skills and capacity gaps in the volunteers base of organisations across the village.</p> <p>Develop and Implement a Kilrea Village Volunteer Strategy.</p>	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association	<p>WI</p> <p>GAA Club</p> <p>Over 55s Club</p> <p>History Group</p> <p>Young Farmers</p> <p>Walking Group</p> <p>Angling Club</p> <p>Friendship Group</p>	<p>TNL Community Fund – Awards for All</p> <p>Halifax Foundation</p> <p>TBUC: Central Good Relations Fund</p>
Road Safety	Explore options to improve road safety for pedestrians in the village, as well as addressing congestion on Bridge Street.	<p>Review effectiveness/ appropriateness of location of Bridge Street zebra crossing.</p> <p>Upgrade footpaths and walkways.</p>	Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Local Elected Representatives	<p>Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – PCSP</p> <p>PSNI</p> <p>NIFRS</p>	N/A

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Programming	<p>Introduce additional community programmes, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men's Shed • Gardening Group • Music and art sessions • Youth Engagement Programmes 	<p>Explore feasibility of additional programming, including more in-depth community engagement. To include prioritisation of programmes.</p> <p>Identify suitable location to host priority programmes.</p> <p>Engage with suitable facilitators.</p> <p>Deliver additional programming for community benefit.</p> <p>Continued youth engagement, building on Programme delivered by the Education Authority in the area</p>	<p>Design of programmes – within 6 months of finalisation of Village Plan.</p> <p>Delivery – ongoing from finalisation of Village Plan, with annual review of programme effectiveness.</p>	Kilrea Community and Fairy Thorn Association	<p>WI</p> <p>GAA Club</p> <p>Over 55's Club</p> <p>History Group</p> <p>Young Farmers</p> <p>Walking Group</p> <p>Angling Club</p> <p>Friendship Group</p>	<p>Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council</p> <p>TNL Community Fund – Awards for All</p> <p>PEACE Plus</p> <p>Education Authority</p>

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
Capital Development	Regeneration of Marian Hall to a standard that is befitting of modern community centres.	Develop capital development project to regenerate the Marian Hall, including business case, technical drawings, and procurement.	Within 60 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Building Owners	Kilrea Community & Fairy Thorn Association WI GAA Club Over 55's Club History Group Young Farmers Walking Group Angling Club Friendship Group	Development: Causeway, Coast & Glens Borough Council Capital works: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Department for Infrastructure Department for Communities
	Upgrade and enhance play parks in Craiglea and Lisnagrot.	Technical feasibility study to outline scale and scope of enhancement works	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	Local Community Stakeholders	PEACE Plus
	Enhance the walkway around Craiglea.	Programme to upgrade village's walkways.	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation	Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	
	Explore potential of community gardens/allotments in these areas and also in Larchfield.	Development community gardens at identified suitable locations	Within 24 months of Village Plan finalisation	Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	
	Enhance the sports complex and Craiglea	Deliver capital project to develop and	Within 36 months of Village Plan finalisation	Local Community Stakeholders	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council	

Theme	Action	Key Activities & Milestones	Timeframes	Responsible Owners	Supporting Partners	Potential Funding Sources
	Pitch and MUGA in Kilrea.	enhance the village's sporting amenities.				
Tourism and Attracting Visitors	Develop initiatives to attract external visitors to Kilrea.	Marketing and promotional campaigns to highlight the village's natural and heritage assets. Deliver events, activities, programmes, and festivals aimed at attracting external visitors.	Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Tourism NI	Kilrea Community & Fairy Thorn Association WI GAA Club Over 55's Club History Group Young Farmers Walking Group Angling Club Friendship Group	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Tourism NI
Housing	Increased provision of affordable housing in the village	Exploration of possibilities to increase the supply of housing in the village to attract young families to the area.	Within 60 months of Village Plan finalisation.	Range of Local Stakeholders	NI Housing Executive Housing Associations Dept. for Communities	N/A