

**Ballyvoy Village Plan**

June 2018



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**1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

**Why Have a Village Action Plan?**

Village Action Plans are being developed as part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme Village Renewal measure operated by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. This measure aims to ensure an integrated approach to assist villages and their surrounding areas to realise the potential of their economic, social, cultural and environmental resources.

This plan, for Ballyvoy, was commissioned by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with funding from the Council and DAERA.

**About the Plan**

This plan has evolved by consulting with local groups and residents to ensure that everyone could have a say and that actions put forward were those considered important to the majority and have the ability to implement. The plan highlights actions that can be taken forward by people within the community; it can be used to influence statutory bodies and service providers and can be used as evidence of the need for various projects when applying for funding. The plan is designed to act as a framework for action in Ballyvoy; it provides groups with a vision and direction for moving forward and shows collective will in developing the village for the benefits of locals and visitors alike.

**The Process**

The plan was developed over a number of months and involved local residents and groups in Ballyvoy putting forward their views about how they would like to see their area develop over the next five years. Key to this process was reviewing existing plans and information in addition to consultation findings to identify those issues and actions which are relevant, achievable and can contribute to the Village Renewal process.

**Village Planning Framework**

***Phase 1- Review and Analysis***

* To carry out a detailed socio-economic analysis of the area to include population, age structure, health, education and economic activity.
* To consider the wider context, plans and policies that impact on the village, including Community Planning.
* To review any existing village plan and identify progress updates.

***Phase 2- Research and key ideas***

* To consult with key members of the community to make connections and understand how the village works.
* To carry out consultation meetings with local groups and organisations to enhance the new Village Plan and to ensure ideas are gathered.
* To analysis these ideas and separate them into groups and priorities.

***Phase 3- Village Design and Development***

* To highlight key ideas and look at ways to implement these putting in place a robust and realistic integrated village action plan identifying what needs to be done, why it is an issue, how it will be tackled, who will be involved and when it should happen
* Validate Plan with those involved.

**2. THE BIG PICTURE**



*Credit: Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan*

**Community Plan**

“*The purpose of community planning is to develop a long term vision and plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all its citizens based on thorough analysis of needs, priorities and opportunities in order to address them*[[1]](#footnote-1)”. The Community Planning model establishes a clear focus on partnership and collaboration, working with local communities being a primary goal.

Acting as an integrated framework for development and delivery the Community Plan is a key strategic document for communities and villages across the Borough; as such each Village Plan will seek to contribute to the long term strategic outcomes set out in the Community Plan, namely:-

* A thriving economy
* A healthy safe community
* A sustainable accessible environment

**A Thriving Economy**

The Community Plan acknowledges the need for improved local employment opportunities, accessible skills training and learning, regeneration, modern infrastructure and the potential for innovation, including the use of the Borough’s unique natural assets. The village plan seeks to contribute to economic development in rural areas by identifying opportunities for growth and sustainability, including the social economy.

**A Healthy Safe Community**

This outcome area recognises that the Borough is predominantly rural and that this, along with projected ageing population growth, presents particular challenges in relation to both access to services and the threat of rural isolation, particularly amongst for older rural dwellers. In addition to being concerned with the physical fabric and infrastructure of each village, the plans will also seek to address these challenges, recognising that overcoming them is integral to building cohesive and sustainable rural communities.

**A Sustainable Accessible Environment**

The Community Plan recognises the need to strive for balance in protecting and sustaining the Borough’s unique environment whilst also meeting community, tourism and commercial needs. This includes the need to provide fit for purpose infrastructure and access to services, including ease of access to outdoor spaces and the coastline for the benefit resident communities and visitors. Village plans reflect this at the local level, identifying actions which protect and respect the character of our rural communities while also supporting their growth and sustainability.

**Northern Area Plan 2016**

The Northern Area Plan 2016 is the development plan for the four legacy Council Areas of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle and operates as the local development plan for the Council area until the Council adopts its own Local Development Plan. Ballyvoy is designated as a village under the Area Plan, lying within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The village is considered to have a good range of social, community, educational and commercial facilities relative to its size.

**Local Development Plan**

Local Development Plans form the basis of land use planning and decisions on planning applications within the Borough. They set out what the Council area will look like and how land should be used and developed. At the time of producing Village Plans (2017), Council’s Development Plan Team were in the initial stages of producing the Borough’s Local Development Plan 2030. A series of topic-based Discussion Papers had been drawn up to inform the process. Of relevance to the Village Plan for Ballyvoy was the following:-

Environment

The following areas are identified as Local Landscape Policy Areas: - Carey River and St Patrick’s.

Community Facilities

In terms of community facilities, the village is host to a Post Office and Primary School (61 – 90 unfilled places).

1. **THE LOCAL PICTURE**

Location, Context and History

Ballyvoy is located on the Causeway Coastal route between Ballycastle (3 miles) and Cushendall (11 miles). The village is defined to the north by St Patrick’s Local Landscape Policy area which contains two churches and standing stones and by the Carey River with steep banks and trees to the southern end.

There are a number of active community and sporting organisations in the area. Ballyvoy and Carey Community Development Group was formed in 2016 and brings a strong community development ethos to its work while sporting clubs such as Carey Faughs GFC play an important role in local community and village life.

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| **Ballyvoy Assets**   * Causeway Coastal route location * Carey River * Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty * Distinctive landscape character * Access to the beach * Fairhead * Ballypatrick Forest Park |

Socio- Economic Analysis

This is a new Village Plan for Ballyvoy and uses statistics from the 2011 Census which became available from June 2013, along with mid-2016 NISRA Mid-term Population Estimates and the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. The NIMDM 2010 has not been updated as yet, so figures from it remain unchanged. Ballyvoy is located in the Glensheck Ward.

**Ballyvoy/Glenshesk Ward**

* The resident population of the Glenshesk Ward recorded at the 2011 Census was 993 people and 986 at 30 June 2016 population estimates
* The population increased slightly by 4.56% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
* 18.93% (2011) of the resident population are under 16 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 20.8% (2016)
* 17.52% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 90.03% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 8.56% (2011) belong to or were brought up in the Protestant and other Christian Community background
* The percentage of local people with low or no qualifications was 40.37% in 2011, which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 69.17% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years are economically active. This is higher than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 18.73% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* Glenshesk ward falls within the top 40-45% of most deprived areas in NI *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Income and Employment Deprivation both rank within the top 55% whilst Access to Services Deprivation ranks in the top 3%, crime and disorder in the top 10% and living environment in the top 20% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

**What the Local Picture Says About…**

**Ballyvoy**

~ Active and enthusiastic community groups

~ Access to services is a key challenge for the local community which must be seen in the context of an ageing population

~ Significant proportion of the population have with low or no qualifications - well above the regional average

**4.0 WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

Consultation informing the Village Plan was undertaken through consultation with local community and sporting organisations including:-

* Ballyvoy and Carey Community Development Group
* Carey Faughs Hurling Club
* Glens Youth Farmers Club
* Green Glens Marketing Group
* Barnish Primary Parents’ Group
* Carey Walking Group
* Carnamore Community Group
* Carey Historic Society
* Naomh Padraig underage hurling team

Consultations took the form of consulting with groups and a public consultation event in November 2017 which saw over 40 members of the local community in attendance to share their views. This model ensured widespread representation from across the local community, with a variety of views and project ideas being generated.

On completion of consultations, a draft Action Plan was drawn up and circulated to groups. This afforded the opportunity to review the proposed actions and confirm priority needs and issues. A final Village Plan and Action Plan was then produced.

**Summary Findings**

In terms of the issues which the Ballyvoy community identified as being in need of attention, these are summarised as follows:-

**Village Fabric**

In terms of the physical fabric of Ballyvoy, a number of action points were identified. These included a need for improved signage, village planting and installation of a village notice board. Signage could include more inviting entrance and exit points to the village creating a sense of arrival and village identity. It was felt a village planting scheme could extend into a Ballyvoy In Bloom initiative which could be linked with a village tidy up programme, litter having been identified as a problem. A community garden and picnic/BBQ area were also put forward,

It was felt that both Carey Hall and the GAA Grounds offer significant potential to provide community facilities and activities, including the area below sports pitch. Planting and landscaping were identified such as the area below the bridge developed as wild-life area and made accessible. A recurring theme was the need to rezone planning permissions to allow for housing to expand the village. Other needs expressed accessible car parking at the community hall, cleaning and re-painting of the bus shelter and addressing the problem of overgrown hedges.

**Village Life**

Isolation was identified as an obstacle, heightened by poor public transport links and the need for a community bus was raised. Housing was cited as a key issue; there is a recognition that there is limited potential for new housing, withe zoning of land being raised as a need. Lack of village services such as a local shop was also reported with a feeling that the village centre lacks vibrancy.

Village broadband was highlighted as an issue – addressing this issue can help address feelings of isolation and is particularly important given the deprivation Ballyvoy experiences in relation to Access to Services.

**Recreation**

Recreational facilities were identified as a key need – both outdoor and indoor. Lack of facilities for youth and older people were highlighted, in addition to a lack of safe accessible walkways and lack of all-weather facilities.

It was suggested that space at the sport grounds could be developed for community use, including potential for a community garden. This will add value to the existing pitch and changing facilities at the site and could include a walking/trim trail which would cater for all ages and abilities, not just sports enthusiasts. In particular, interest was recorded in provision of a 4G pitch in the village for use by sporting clubs and offering recreational activities for young people in particular. It was felt that the GAA club acts as a hub for the community so development of facilities at that base would increase the recreational offer for the village. Other suggestions included an outdoor gym and play park in an effort to cater for all ages and abilities. Carey Community Hall was identified as being in need of upgraded facilities in order to increase its recreational offer, including sports and physical activity.

Access issues at Carey Hall were highlighted as a priority concern; this includes provision of access and parking to benefit user groups including older people, parents and toddlers and people with disabilities.

A lot of interest was expressed in developing walking trails, to benefit both residents and visitors to the area. Options included a lit-up path to walk safely along the river into Ballycastle and the re-establishment of a walking trail at Brae Road to the coast (Blackpark). Installation of seating and public art on these routes were also suggested.

**Participation**

It was felt there was scope for greater community participation in general through a varied range of events for everyone. In particular, the need for activities for the village’s young people and older residents was stressed. Initiatives such as a Village in Bloom project could form part of addressing this, promoting and building inter-generational relations in the village. Support for accessing funding for activities to promote participation was noted, as was a lack of awareness of funding availability.

**5.0 VISION AND PLAN FOR BALLYVOY**

This Section puts forward the action plan proposals for Ballyvoy. An over-arching vision for the area is set out followed by proposals for action under each of the themes informed by the consultation process.

The following vision has been established for the village:-

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| **Vision** |
| *Working together to provide activities and services to create a vibrant community for residents and welcoming visitors to share our village and its environment* |

**SWOT Analysis**

Following analysis of community consultation feedback, the following SWOT analysis was developed for Ballyvoy:

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| --- | --- |
| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Community spirit and use of shared space * Close knit community * Sense of community safety * Located on the Causeway coastal route * Open and welcoming community | * Lack of activities for young people, including children’s play area * Poor broadband provision * Traffic management * Lack of coach parking to accommodate tourists * Improvements to footpaths and street lighting are required * Public transport provision |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Maximise potential of space at the sports ground for recreational use * Plans in place for walking trails * Making use of coastal and forest walking routes for walking groups * Develop community hall space for recreational and community use | * Lack of accessible housing and land zoned for housing * Speeding in the village * Families moving away due to lack of infrastructure and facilities |

Findings from the consultation were then drawn together under a series of priority themes in order to take Ballyvoy forward. As much as possible, the identified actions sought to build on the needs identified through consultation in addition to considering the wider policy and strategic environment, including the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens. The following Action Plan was subsequently drawn up:-

**Theme: Village Life**

**Rationale:** To deliver a range of practical actions which can make a lasting impact on village life by improving facilities and the village environment

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkage to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Carey Hall | The hall is currently in need of upgrading its facilities | 1. Provision of disability access and parking 2. Develop space for gym and meeting rooms | High; Year 1  Medium; Year 2 | 1. £15,000 2. £150,000 | Fundraising Council  Sport NI | Council  Hall committee | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 5  Improved health and well-being; Children and young people; Access to services; Positive relationships; |
| Village appearance | The village will benefit from schemes to improve its appearance and instill community pride in its village | 1. **Planting scheme** – trees and shrubs in the village 2. **Installation of village notice board** at Parish car park | **High; Year 1** | 1. **£10,000** 2. **£5,000** | **RDP** | All village groups | Outcomes 1; 8  Improved health and well-being; Sustainability |
| Village Health | To prove the village with access to a defibrillator | 1. **Defibrillator installed** – possibly at Chapel gate 2. Appropriate training delivered | **High; Year 1** | 1. **£3,000** | Community fundraising | All village groups | Outcomes 1  Improved health and well-being |
| Village Shop | The previous village shop closed four years ago, creating a deficit | 1. Explore scope to establish a community shop, possibly as a social enterprise | Long term; year 3+ | n/a | n/a | All village groups | Outcome 3  Access to services |

**Theme: Recreation**

**Rationale:** To contribute to community health and well-being by delivering a range of recreational activities and facilities which both residents and visitors to Ballyvoy can benefit from, including provision of a children’s play park in the village

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| **Project Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkage to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| To increase the recreational offer in the village for all the community | Make better use of the village environment to promote both tourism and health and wellbeing | 1. All weather walkway/cycling track around hurling pitch with lighting 2. Feasibility study to explore potential for indoor & outdoor recreation e.g. 4G pitch, gym & options for play park provision (possibly with sports club grounds) 3. Re-opening of walkway Black Park to beach – liaise with landowners 4. Explore option for walkway from wooded area to playing fields (approach landowner) | High; Year 1-2  High; Year 1  Low; Year 3  Low; Year 3-5 | £50,000  £5,000  Tbc  n/a | RDP Basic Services  Council  Council  Council | Carey Faughs GFC  Council | Outcomes 1; 2; 5  Improved health and well-being; Children and young people; Positive relationships; |
| Community garden | To develop a currently disused portion of land to provide additional community facilities | 1. **Provision of community garden** on waste land below sports ground | **Medium; Year 2** | **£25,000** | **RDP Village Renewal** | All village groups | Outcomes 1; 2; 5  Improved health and well-being; Children and young people; Positive relationships; |

**Prioritisation:**

In order to proceed with implementation, potential Village Renewal actions have been prioritised as follows:-

1. Planting scheme – trees and shrubs in the village
2. Installation of village notice board at Parish car park
3. Defibrillator installed – possibly at Chapel gate
4. Provision of community garden on waste land below sports ground

**Community Planning Outcomes**

In order ensure fit with the local policy environment and integrated development and delivery, Village Renewal actions have been aligned with the Community Planning outcomes for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area as much as possible. The full list of Community Planning outcomes is as follows:-

**Outcome 1:**

All people of the Causeway Coast and 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 and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services when they need it

**Outcome 4:**

The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe

**Outcome 5**:

The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships

**Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes

**Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access and connections

**Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast and Glens has a sustainably managed natural and built

Environment

**Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy

**Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses

**Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area drives entrepreneurship and fosters innovation

**Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will be knowledgeable and skilled

**Other Considerations**

Every effort has been made to ensure that the action plans developed for each village are comprised of realistic and achievable project actions. In some cases, issues have been raised which are of real concern to local people but may be beyond the remit of the Village Plan – aspirational as opposed to achievable. In these instances, such issues are identified in the Village Plan as a concern but have not been included as a practical action point.

In terms of these issues, the following points were raised during the consultation process which are of concern to the Ballyvoy village community and in need of action:-

* Extension of footpath and street lighting, including Ballyvoy to Ballycastle
* There is no safe crossing or signage to hall for people to crossing the main road; installation of speed ramps and signage near school area
* Coach parking for coaches
* Lobbying for improved broadband
* There is a need for more (social and private) housing provision

**6.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

It is recommended that a Village Forum be established to provide a co-ordination role to ensure the actions within this Plan are progressed. Individual project actions will be taken forward by relevant led organisations, individuals or collectives as identified in the Action Plan.

The Village Forum may establish sub-committees to take forward the actions arising from this Plan. The promoting groups should be represented by people across a broad spectrum of the Ballyvoy community and should involve public, private and community interests. Only the people in the area can make the Action Plan become reality.

As groups research and investigate the best way forward in each project area, the full financial implications will become known and applications for funding and fund-raising activities will take place. It is recognised that Council and RDP will not have sufficient funds to carry out all the activities in this plan and other sources of funding will be required. The full Village Plan provides details of potential opportunities to grasp.

The Village Forum will monitor progress and report to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on a quarterly basis.

Appendix 1 - Detailed Socio-Economic Profile

**Ballyvoy is located in the Glenshesk Ward**

**Population estimates**

The estimated population of Glenshesk Ward at 30 June 2016 was **986**, of which **517 (52.4%)** were male and **469 (47.6%)** were female.

This was made up of:

* **189** children aged 0-15 years
* **260** people aged 16-39 years
* **344** people aged 40-64 years
* **193** people aged 65 years and older

Between 2006 and 2016 the population of Glenshesk Ward increased by **17** people or **1.8%.**

**Usually resident population**

On Census Day 27 March 2011, the usually resident population of Glenshesk Ward was **993** accounting for **0.05%** of the NI total.

**Households**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, there were **993** people **(100.00%)** of the usually resident population) living in **355** households, giving an average household size of **2.80**.

**Demography**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Glenshesk Ward:

* **18.93%** were aged under 16 years and **17.52%** were aged 65 years and over
* **53.47%** of the usually resident population were male and **46.53%** were female
* **41** years was the average (median) age of the population

**Ethnicity, identity, language and religion**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Glenshesk Ward, considering the resident population:

* **98.59%** were from the white (including Irish traveller) ethnic group
* **90.03%** belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and **8.56%** belong to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)’ religion
* **13.49%** indicated that they had a British national identity, **50.05%** had an Irish national identity and **39.68%** had a Northern Irish national identity

\**Respondents could indicate more than one national identity*

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Glenshesk Ward, considering the population aged 3 years old and over:

* **27.09%** had some knowledge of Irish
* **13.55%** had some knowledge of Ulster Scots
* **1.86%** did not have English as their first language

**Health**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Glenshesk Ward:

* **18.73%** of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities
* **83.08%** of people stated their general health was either good or very good
* **14.20%** of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others

**Housing and accommodation**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in the Glenshesk Ward:

* **76.62%** of households were owner occupied and **18.59%** were rented
* **50.99%** of households were owned outright
* **13.24%** of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years
* **3.38%** were lone parent households with dependent children
* **11.55%** of households did not have access to a car or van

**Qualifications**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, considering the population aged 16 years old and over:

* **23.35%** had a degree or higher qualification
* **40.37%** had no or low (Level 1\*) qualifications

*\*level 1 is 1-4 O Levels/GCE/GCSE (any grades) or equivalent*

**Labour market**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, considering the population aged 16 to 74 years old:

* **69.17%** were economically active, **30.83%** were economically inactive
* **60.28%** were in paid employment
* **5.28%** were unemployed

**Deprivation**

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 provides information on seven types of deprivation and overall measure of multiple deprivation for small areas. NISRA has recently been commissioned to initiate work to update this Measure with a view to publish results mid-2017. See the NISRA website for further information on Deprivation.

Wards are ordered from most deprived to least deprived on each type of deprivation and then assigned a rank. The most deprived is ranked 1, and as there are 582 wards, the least deprived ward has a rank of 582. The deprivation rankings for Glenshesk Ward are given in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Rank  **Glenshesk** |
| Multiple Deprivation Measure | 248 |
| Income Deprivation | 319 |
| Employment Deprivation | 310 |
| Health Deprivation and Disability Deprivation | 446 |
| Education Skills and Training Disability | 504 |
| Proximity to Services Deprivation | 15 |
| Crime and Disorder | 48 |
| Living Environment | 93 |

1. A Better Future Together – A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 - 2030 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)