

**Castlerock 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 Castlerock, 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 Castlerock; 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 Castlerock putting forward their views about how they would like to see their area develop over the next five years. Key to this process was revisiting the existing Village Plan to establish progress to date and identify those issues and actions which remain relevant, in addition to referencing for action any emerging concerns or projects ideas.

**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**

Castlerock is designated a Village in the Settlement Hierarchy in Volume 1 of the Plan which notes that the village has accommodated substantial house building since the 1990s. Due to the environmental qualities of Castlerock’s setting, the development limit has been tightly drawn around the built up area of the village and will consolidate the existing built form. The Plan further notes that there is no social housing need requiring a Plan intervention in Castlerock.

**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 Castlerock Village Plan was the following:-

Tourism

The LDP notes widespread distribution of applications for tourist accommodation, primarily

self-catering accommodation and with the majority of applications in the coastal area.

Environment

Local Landscape Policy Area -Castlerock Dunes, Strand and School House; Site of Local Conservation Importance - Castlerock Golf Course

Transportation

Castlerock is host to a rail platform linking Belfast and L’Derry, providing vital transport connections for residents and visitors.

The Ulster Way is a long distance footpath through the Northern Ireland landscape which runs through a number of settlements in the Borough including Castlerock. The plan notes that many footpaths within the settlements have the potential to connect into the Ulster Way so residents can link into the wider landscape for longer walks. Castlerock is one of a number of settlements with an Existing Cycle Route.

Community Facilities

Castlerock is host to a range of facilities and services including PO, mobile library, GP surgery and a Council owned and managed Community Centre – Peter Thompson Hall.

The Coast

The Council area has a 237 km coastline, the longest coastline of any council area in Northern Ireland, of which Castlerock forms a part. The Borough’s coast is largely within three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – Binevenagh (which Castlerock forms part of), Causeway Coast and Antrim Coast and Glens. Much of the Borough’s coastline is free from development and supports economic prosperity as a strong visitor attraction in itself and through associated coastal activities.

The Plan notes that with regards to the developed coast, areas of amenity value (such as parks, outdoor sports/ play areas and coastal walkways) and areas or features designated for their importance to the archaeological, built or natural heritage, should be protected from inappropriate development. These factors will be taken into consideration with any Village renewal proposals[[2]](#footnote-2).

1. **THE LOCAL PICTURE**

Location, Context and History

Castlerock is situated five miles west of Coleraine, just off the A2 route between Coleraine and Limavady and retains a rail link on the Londonderry to Belfast line. The village has seen a rapid expansion in the number and proportion of second homes since the 1990s, with several residential developments being underway at the time of writing (March 2018).

It lies within the Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and has a significant tourist function, being host to two large caravan parks, a golf course with both 9 and 18-hole links courses bounded by the beach. In addition to its beachfront location, Castlerock is host to a number of National Trust attractions in the form of Downhill Demesne, Mussenden Temple and the Black Glen which is a popular walking route in addition to the 17th Century thatched cottage Hezlett House.

There are a number of local groups operating in the village, including Castlerock Community Association, Scouts, Village Beautiful, Castlerock Playgroup and the Wednesday Club Senior Citizens group. The Community Association was founded in 1967 and since 2010 has operated an Information Centre from premises in the centre of the village, providing a range of services to both local residents and tourists, including advice and information, tourist guides, photographic displays and opportunities for social interaction including book club and history talks. The Association also acts as a valuable conduit between residents and Council, feeding back on a number of issues. The Centre is operated by a team of volunteers, ensuring local knowledge is readily available for visitors to the region. A team of volunteers - Village Beautiful - is also responsible for the flower planting scheme in the village, ensuring floral displays throughout the summer months.

Additional community facilities are the Peter Thompson Hall and Playing Fields which are located on the Freehall Road and which are host to a range of community based activities and services including Playgroup, senior citizens and bowls. The site also includes tennis courts, playfields, an outdoor play area and green space which hosts the annual Clydesdale Show each June.

A recent environmental improvement scheme has seen the promenade area of the village rejuvenated, with improved footpaths and seating being installed; however, lighting planned for the promenade did not go ahead.

The village is also host to an annual walking festival – Walkfest – which takes place annually in September. The 2017 event saw record numbers in attendance, with visitors from across the island and further afield and a range of walks for all abilities.

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| **Castlerock Assets**   * Railway * Golf Club * Strand * Mussenden Temple and Black Glen * Harvey Trail * Hezlett House * Peter Thompson Hall and Fields * CS Lewis connection * Walkfest |

Socio- Economic Analysis

This Village Plan for Castlerock uses statistics from the 2011 Census which became available from June 2013, along with the 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.

* The resident population of Castlerock Settlement recorded at the 2011 Census was 1,256 people
* The population increased slightly by 2.96% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
* 17.99% (2011) of the resident population are under 16 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 20.8% (2016)
* 22.93% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 16.48% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 77.79% (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 32.14% in 2011, which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 59.56% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years are economically active. This is lower than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 20.54% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* Castlerock is one of the least deprived areas in NI, ranking within the top 73.5% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Proximity to services deprivation ranks within the top 30% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

**Building on Foundations - Progress from the Previous Village Plan**

The previous (2014) Action Plan identified a series of actions for village renewal in Castlerock. Progress made in moving on these actions has included provision of additional picnic tables and installation of benches at Main Street and the beach entrance, in addition to installation of a defibrillator. Additional landscaping was also undertaken, including support from local business owner. Provision of promenade lighting remains an outstanding issue from the previous plan.

The plan identified need for family activities and also for volunteers to support environmental projects; these actions remain relevant and highlight the importance of community engagement in village renewal.

Several actions relating to leisure and recreation were identified, including provision of outdoor gym equipment and a play area for older children. These remain to be actioned and need was reinforced by an audit conducted by the Community Association in May 2016 which recorded support in particular for outdoor provision in the form of gym equipment, a woodland area and wetland area.

At a capital level much progress has been made, including many previously derelict sites having been developed. There remains a need to move forward on community engagement measures, further building on the work of the Community Association and establishing the Information Centre as a central community resource for residents and visitors alike.

**4. WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

**Consultation Process**

The Village Plan for Castlerock was informed through:

* Review of existing 2014 Plan (updated September 2015)
* Consultation with local groups including Castlerock Community Association and Wednesday Senior Citizens group
* Public drop in event (October 2017)
* Public meeting (November 2017)

**Consultation Feedback**

As the village planning process for Castlerock developed it became clear that a number of strategic themes were emerging; these were largely in keeping with the 2014 Plan. The consultation feedback obtained via the planning process is summarised below, under the following thematic headings.

**Environment and Infrastructure**

The original Environment theme has been expanded to include Environment. Environmental improvements have taken place to improve village appearance and the Village Beautiful team have played an important role in the floral displays which are in evidence during the summer months. Recent capital works in the village have seen the redevelopment of the promenade, with positive feedback from the community. Provision of promenade lighting remains one outstanding action from the previous village plan. It was felt that completion of this scheme would enhance the works already undertaken; the need for environmental sensitivity including consideration of any potential impact on birdlife was noted.

Currently it is difficult for cars to access the beach due to sand building up at the beach entrance and it was felt that this situation should be regularly monitored and addressed where necessary as lack of beach access may result in fewer visitors to the village. In terms of the beach, it was noted that the boardwalks in the dunes due experience builds up of sand while the spread of sea buckthorn is an ongoing concern.

Away from the beach, much concern was raised about the lack of footpath provision on the Freehall Road; this has been and remains a serious concern for residents and their safety. It was recognised that the physical fabric of the village has improved, with several previously derelict sites having been developed. The issue of litter bins, including those for dog fouling, was raised. It was felt that current provision needed to be increased, particularly in light of the large number of walkers in the village, including local residents and visitors. Robust implementation of Council’s Dog Control Order (including imposition of fines where appropriate) was felt necessary, given the number of both local walkers and walking tourists to the village.

The Guysmere facility occupies a key strategic site in the village; it is currently disused with its future purpose under consideration by the owner the Presbyterian Church. It was recognised that this is an issue beyond the remit of the Village Plan; however, it was noted that development of the site could have significant impact on village life.

**History and Heritage**

The railway footbridge forms a key part of Castlerock’s heritage. Grave concerns have been expressed about the footbridge’s current condition, which requires repairs. There are concerns that the footbridge may be dismantled for repair work and not replaced; there is also a need for clarity over who has responsibility for drawing up and implementing the maintenance schedule.

There was much interest in preserving and promoting village heritage, recognising that this will add to the region’s tourism offer. This has included highlighting Castlerock’s links with CS Lewis, the Harvey Trail and the hosting of a Railfest event. The Information Centre displays and distributes information on local heritage sites of interest and can continue to play a valuable role in this respect. In addition, a National Trust area office is currently being established at Hezlett House, bringing additional employment to the area and further embedding the importance of Castlerock’s heritage and history.

There is an established walking culture in and around the village; this is evidenced by the number of year round walkers and the increasing popularity of the Walkfest event annually in September.

**Community Development and Services**

This theme has been expanded to include the Health and Well-being theme from the previous plan. Discussions informing this theme included the value of inter-generational projects, building relations between young people and the village’s older residents. This could take the form of a Living History which could capture and celebrate village heritage, including its railway heritage.

The public meeting saw discussion about the lack of informal meeting space in the village – somewhere for families to meet up and interact was identified as being needed. Provision of outdoor recreational facilities was also considered, having recently been the subject of a community audit; the green space at the Peter Thompson Hall offers scope in this respect. Undertaking a major capital project is a challenging and demanding process; it will be important that the necessary management skills are in place before undertaking such a proposal.

With regards to the Peter Thompson Hall itself, this is a valuable community asset, having been finished to a high standard and hosting a range of activity. There does appear to be some disconnect between the hall and the wider community, with a lack of awareness of activities on offer in the hall. This can be addressed through improved communication and promotion, to ensure that activities are widely promoted and supported.

The Information Centre acts an important community hub, helped greatly by its central location in the village. Staffed by volunteers, this ensures local knowledge and advice is readily available and is a useful source of information for residents and visitors alike. An increase in the number of water sports users all year round has been noted in Castlerock, with the last two years seeing an increase in surfers. This highlights a need to cater for water sports users, given the increased popularity of Castlerock as a water sports venue in and out of high season.

In terms of transport, the village is serviced by both bus and train services which provide valuable links for the local community to main service centres, in addition to accommodating visitors to the region and the value of these links was clearly recognised during the village planning process.

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
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| * Attractive coastal location and popular tourist destination * Heritage and history * Promenade rejuvenation scheme * Sense of community * Derelict sites mostly addressed * Train station and rail connections * Community newsletter and Information Centre * Village Beautiful | * Lack of hotel/B&B accommodation * Lack of activities for young people * Lack of informal meeting space * Erosion of services in recent years * Lack of awareness of activities at Peter Thompson Hall * Lack of street lighting |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Strategic location on key tourism route * Increased profile of North Coast as a prime tourist destination * Walking tourism - Walk Fest (September); Appalachian Long Distance Trail * Peter Thompson Hall and adjacent recreational space * Golf tourism * Increase in number of year round water sports users such as surfers | * Freehall Road footpath provision * Prevalence and impact of second home owners * Footbridge at Railway Station requires repair work * Isolation of those not engaged in community activity |

Feedback from the consultation to update the Village Plan has been summarised as follows:-

A series of strategic themes were identified to help take the various Causeway Coast and Glens villages forward. Each theme will be underpinned by a series of priority actions for implementation. These are set out in the following section and then expanded in turn in terms of their meaning in Castlerock.

**5. VISION AND PLAN FOR CASTLEROCK**

This Section puts forward the plan proposals for Castlerock. An over-arching vision for the area is set out followed by proposals for action under each of the themes which emerged during the planning process.

**Vision**

The vision set out for Castlerock in Village Plan is:-

* ***To create a sustainable and welcoming village environment which uses our physical assets, heritage and culture to benefit residents and visitors alike***

**Strategic Themes**

A series of thematic actions and priorities have been developed, informed by both the consultation and a community survey conducted by Castlerock Community Association (September 2016) and building on the themes and actions set out under the previous Village Plan (2014; updated 2015). To provide consistency, the themes in the original Village Plan have been retained, with actions updated in order to reflect the current village position.

**Theme: Culture and Heritage**

Rationale: To preserve, celebrate and share Castlerock’s heritage and culture for the benefit of residents and visitors, recognising that the village has much to offer, including key assets like the railway footbridge and historical sites

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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** |
| Maintenance of Railway footbridge (listed building) | This key physical asset should be protected and retained in the village | 1. Lobby Council to ensure footbridge repairs are carried out 2. Maintenance schedule drawn up and implemented | High; Year 1 and ongoing thereafter | tbc | Council | Council  Translink | Outcomes 3 & 8  Access to Services; Environmental sustainability |
| Promote the various historic sites the village has to offer | To enhance the tourism offer for visitors and enable residents to share village history | 1. Provision of information/leaflets at Information Office 2. Annual Walk Fest 3. Preserve and promote and Railway heritage through Living History project/exhibition | High; ongoing | 1. £n/a 2. £5,000 3. £5,000 | Council  Tourism NI | Council  Community Association Tourism NI | Outcomes 5 & 6  Positive relationships; Landscape |

**Theme: Environment and Infrastructure**

Rationale: To create an attractive, welcoming and accessible village environment, building on work already undertaken and maximising the village’s coastal location

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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** |
| Village centre appearance | To create an attractive environment for residents and visitors alike | 1. Maintain and build on village planting scheme to celebrate village heritage and character 2. **Street furniture, inc. benches, planters and bins** 3. Best kept garden competition 4. **Purchase and installation of Promenade lighting** 5. Structural improvement to retaining wall at War Memorial (survey required) | High; Year 1 | 1. £2,000 2. **£15,000** 3. £1,000 4. **£80,000** 5. £tbc - survey dependent | 1. Council 2. **Village Renewal** 3. Council 4. **Village Renewal** 5. Council | Council; Community Association | Outcomes 1, 5 & 8  Health & wellbeing; Positive relationships; Environment |
| Enhancement of beach facilities | To accommodate the growing number of visitors, including water sports users | 1. **Installation of outdoor shower (and accessible unisex toilet) at existing toilet block** | **High; Year 1** | 1. **£15,000** | 1. **Village Renewal** | Council | Outcomes 1, 5, 7 & 8  Health & wellbeing; Positive relationships; Accessibility; Environment |

**Theme: Community Services and Development**

Rationale: To ensure access to services and support is available for Castlerock residents and visitors, contributing to community health and well-being

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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** |
| Maintain Information Centre as a village hub | To ensure residents and visitors have access to information and drop-in facility | 1. Volunteer contribution 2. Provision of information and signposting to advice/support agencies 3. Tourism and events promotion | High; ongoing | 1. £n/a 2. £n/a 3. £5,000 | Council  Tourism NI | Council  Community Association  Tourism NI | Outcomes 1; 3; 5;  Health and wellbeing; Access to information; Positive relationships |
| Peter Thompson Fields Project | The main civic area is the playing fields area – an important asset for the village but one which could and should attract a greater usage, including facilities/ activities for older children/young people | 1. Provision of natural play and wildlife area 2. Refurbishment of existing tennis courts as a multi-use recreational space, retained for tennis but also accommodating other sports 3. Programming of events/competitions at the space | Medium; Year 2 | £150,000- £250,000 | RDP Basic Services | Council  Community Association | Outcomes 1; 2; 5; 7  Health and wellbeing; Access to information; Positive relationships;  Structures & facilities which further access and connections |
| Networking and capacity building | Castlerock can benefit from joint working and learning from the experiences of other groups/villages | 1. Linkages with:  * Council * CRUN * Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust * Causeway Coastal Communities Consortium | Ongoing | £n/a | - | All partners | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5;  Health and wellbeing;  Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Increase participation in community based activities | To build a strong vibrant local community | 1. Programme of seasonal events, including work with schools 2. Living History project 3. Promote greater awareness of activities at Peter Thompson Hall – through Information centre, CA website and social media | High; Year 1 | 1. £5,000 2. £5,000 3. £n/a | Awards for All;  Heritage Lottery; Arts Council | Community Association  Council | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 7  Health and wellbeing;  Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships; Structures & facilities which further access and connections |
| Attract more volunteers | To avoid volunteer burnout and attract new members, ideas and thinking | 1. Form sub-groups in key areas such as heritage, environment, youth 2. Promote volunteering through community newsletter 3. Work with Council on volunteer recognition/awards | Medium; Year 2 | 1. £n/a 2. £n/a 3. £1,000 | Council | Community Association  Council | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5;  Health and wellbeing;  Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Health information | To ensure community’s access to health related information and support | 1. Provision of information at Information Centre 2. Work with local community networks on health related projects | Ongoing; High | £n/a | - | Community Association | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5;  Health and wellbeing;  Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |
| To build inter-generational relations | Address the threat of isolation amongst older people and provide opportunity to share and capture local knowledge | 1. Reminiscence events 2. Living history project with exhibition | Medium; Year 2 | £5,000 | Awards for All;  Heritage Lottery; Arts Council | Community Association | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5;  Health and wellbeing;  Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Highway to Health | Build on Castlerock’s growing reputation as a walking destination | 1. Walk leader training 2. Promotion of events in community calendar and newsletter | Medium; Year 2 | £1,000 | Council | Community Association  Tour guides | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5;  Health and wellbeing;  Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |

**Prioritisation:**

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

1. Purchase and installation of Promenade lighting
2. Street furniture (to include planters, benches and bins)
3. Installation of outdoor shower (and accessible unisex toilet) at existing toilet block

**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.

With respect to Castlerock, the following issues have been raised:-

* Guysmere represents a key strategic site on the village in a prime location. Owned by the Presbyterian Church, the future of the site is currently under consideration. While beyond the scope and capacity of the Village Plan, the subject was identified during consultation as a key issue for the village and much support has been expressed in seeing the site retained for the benefit of the Castlerock community.
* Ensuring that repairs at the railway station footbridge are carried out and a maintenance schedule drawn up to ensure the footbridge remains fit for purpose and a key component of the village’s character and heritage.
* Provision of a unisex disabled toilet at the existing toilet block to accommodate those with access issues.
* The lack of additional footpath on the Freehall Road is an ongoing issue, having been identified in the previous Village Plan and remaining unresolved. This is a subject which received very strong feedback from the community during the consultation process and efforts should continue to resolve the issue, including lobbying of elected representatives.
* The growing threat presented by sea buckthorn in the local village environment.
* Ongoing efforts to address the problem of dog fouling were highlighted; this is an issue across the Borough and one which requires a proactive approach by Council in areas such as Circular Road and may include application of the Dog Control Order.

**6.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

It is recommended that Castlerock Community Association establish a sub-committee to provide a co-ordination role to ensure the actions within this Plan are progressed. The sub-committee should be representative of the village community and should involve public, private and community interests.

Individual project actions will be taken forward by relevant organisations, individuals or collectives as identified in the Action Plan. Only the people in the area, familiar with its history and offerings, 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 Association will liaise with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on an ongoing basis to monitor progress and implementation of identified actions.

Appendix 1 - Detailed Socio-Economic Profile

**Usually resident population**

On Census Day 27 March 2011, the usually resident population of Castlerock Settlement was **1,256** accounting for **0.07%** of the NI total.

**Households**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, there were **1,256** people **(100.00%)** of the usually resident population) in Castlerock Settlement living in **554** households, giving an average household size of **2.07**.

**Demography**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Castlerock Settlement:

* **17.99%** were aged under 16 years and **22.93%** were aged 65 years and over
* **47.69%** of the usually resident population were male and **52.31%** were female
* **45** years was the average (median) age of the population

**Ethnicity, identity, language and religion**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Castlerock Settlement, considering the resident population:

* **99.20%** were from the white (including Irish traveller) ethnic group
* **16.48%** belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and **77.79%** belong to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)’ religion
* **72.29%** indicated that they had a British national identity, **9.87%** had an Irish national identity and **27.87%** had a Northern Irish national identity

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

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

* **3.38%** had some knowledge of Irish
* **16.23%** had some knowledge of Ulster Scots
* **0.99%** did not have English as their first language

**Health**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Castlerock Settlement:

* **20.54%** of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities
* **80.97%** of people stated their general health was either good or very good
* **12.50%** of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others

**Housing and accommodation**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Castlerock Settlement:

* **73.47%** of households were owner occupied and **22.56%** were rented
* **47.47%** of households were owned outright
* **13.00%** of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years
* **8.84%** were lone parent households with dependent children
* **16.25%** 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:

* **32.14%** had a degree or higher qualification
* **32.52%** 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:

* **59.56%** were economically active, **40.44%** were economically inactive
* **52.64%** were in paid employment
* **4.51%** 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 Castlerock Ward are given in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Rank  **Castlerock** |
| Multiple Deprivation Measure | 428 |
| Income Deprivation | 337 |
| Employment Deprivation | 431 |
| Health Deprivation and Disability Deprivation | 496 |
| Education Skills and Training Disability | 395 |
| Proximity to Services Deprivation | 177 |
| Crime and Disorder | 297 |
| Living Environment | 410 |

1. A Better Future Together – A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 - 2030 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Causeway Coast and Glens Local Development Plan Discussion Paper 7: The Coast [↑](#footnote-ref-2)