

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

To: Leisure & Development Committee

Ballymoney Community Facilities: Audit of Need and Options Appraisal

12th January 2016

For Decision

Report to Committee

Linkage to Interim Corporate Plan	
Strategic Themes	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities: Council will work to develop and promote stable and cohesive communities across the Borough
Lead Officer	Julie Welsh – Head of Community & Culture Louise Scullion – Community Services Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A at this stage

The Purpose of this report is to both provide a summary of the Audit of Need and Options Appraisal that has been carried out in relation to Community Facilities in Ballymoney town, and to present a series of recommendations in relation to decision making around future investment in community facilities in Ballymoney.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Shadow Council approved a Community Development Strategy in March 2015. One of the key strategic priorities within the strategy is 'Supporting Communities to achieve their maximum level of sustainability', which includes facilitating the strategic development of a Community Centre Policy framework for the Council. It is envisaged that such a framework will put forward Council's position in relation to the provision of, and support for community centres.

An Audit of Community Centres and Halls was carried out in Spring 2015 by the 4 legacy Councils of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle in association with Community Foundation NI. The Audit Report mapped out the location, scale and use of those community facilities that fitted the 'community centre' definition ie. a multipurpose centre available for community use and or service provision by a range of user groups or for public hire.

The Report highlighted that there was a need to carry out a wider audit of facilities in the entire area in order to get a full picture of what level of activity and opportunity lies in existing buildings, in order to reduce duplication, promote sharing and increase service provision in local areas.

Alongside the Community Centre strategy development work there were 2 capital projects put forward to the new Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council by the legacy Ballymoney Borough Council:

- i. Refurbishment works at The Social Centre on Edward Street in Ballymoney; and
- ii. Acquisition of the former Ballymoney Music Centre from Education Authority (formerly North Eastern Education and Library Board).

A Pre-planning Business Case was prepared for The Social Centre at Edward Street which highlighted that, in the absence of a wider audit of facilities in the entire Borough area, a Ballymoney Town Based Needs Analysis and a Feasibility Study should be carried out.

As a result, in August 2015, Council approved a recommendation to commission an Audit of Need and Options Appraisal in relation to facilities for community use in Ballymoney in order to help inform decision making in relation to capital expenditure on community facilities in Ballymoney town. Blu Zebra Consultants were commissioned to carry out the piece of work, which was completed in December 2015. A Workshop for Elected Members took place on 10th December. A copy of the report is attached, see Annex A.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was:

- To get a clear understanding of the facilities in Ballymoney Town which are available for use of the local community - available space & how well used;
- To understand the community facility needs of community and voluntary user groups in Ballymoney - what they currently use, how often, and any gaps in provision or provision that isn't fit for purpose;
- To identify a number of options for addressing any gaps that exist either
 - within existing Council owned provision;
 - through proposed Council facility refurbishment or acquisition; or
 - through improved access to community owned facilities.
- To carry out an appraisal of the options for addressing any gaps that exist in community facility provision in Ballymoney Town, framed against the two capital projects that were put forward by the legacy Ballymoney Borough Council in relation to Edward Street Social Centre and the former Music Centre.

Methodology

The following approach was undertaken in order to carry out the audit of need:

- A list of all known community based facilities in Ballymoney Town was created;
- Site visits were undertaken to all Council facilities and the majority of other facilities, including a site visit to the Music Centre with some Education Authority staff.
- A Facilities Survey was carried out with 37 of the facilities identified (others could not be contacted).
- A User Group Survey was designed and issued to over 200 community groups in the Ballymoney town catchment area - 37 were completed – a 15% response rate.
- The User Group Survey was complimented with stakeholder interviews, including Ballymoney Regeneration Company.
- Telephone interviews took place with all Ballymoney DEA Elected Members.
- On-going meetings took place with Council staff.

Research was also carried out into the current standard for community facility provision. There is little official guidance on minimum standards for the provision of community facilities in local authorities in Northern Ireland or indeed the rest of the UK. However there are two guidance documents that are useful as a proxy to assist with the analysis of community centre provision. 'Village and Community Halls – Design Guidance' by Sport England provides best practice guidance in relation to size and layout of community buildings. The other. 'Shaping Neighbourhoods: A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality' (an English

model created by Hugh Barton, Marcus Grant and Richard Guise), suggests that the catchment population required to sustain one community centre is around 4,000 people.

Findings

Some of the key findings of the Audit are as follows:

1. There are 48 facilities in Ballymoney that are available for the use of the local community. Of these:
 - i. Approximately 14 are open to the public broadly without restrictions – 3 of these are Council facilities (Ballymoney Town Hall, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and Social Centre on Edward Street)
 - ii. 12 are open to the public but are restricted in their use as they are membership or congregationally based facilities but which would consider usage by others.
 - iii. 10 are not open to the public at all and are restricted in their usage as they are membership or congregationally based facilities.
 - iv. 11 the study could not access any information about, but worked with the assumption that they would be restricted in their usage.
 - v. 1 is not open but is regarded as a potential “open to all” venue – Music Centre.
2. The Council facilities have an average of 25% occupancy (this relates only to rooms for hire for community use within Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and the Town Hall).
3. Guidance available, as noted above, states there should be 1 community centre (3,000sqft) for about every 4,000 population. This provides Ballymoney with a current requirement of about 2.5 community centres (8,000sqft) rising to about 4 community centres (12,000sqft) by 2025 (based on Regional Development Strategy projections for population growth within the catchment area).
4. Room hire costs were cited as being a barrier to use of facilities by community groups. Other priority requirements of user groups were location, quality of the facility; opening times; access; car parking and heating.
5. There is poor quality of provision within Edward Street Social Centre.
6. There is a need to utilise, promote and network the existing facilities more effectively, in particular those which are open to the public and are both accessible and neutral.
7. There is a need to network with other facilities to explore how additional community space can be created from the existing supply of ‘restricted’, particularly those that are willing to expand on current usage – e.g. some churches and schools.
8. There is a need to review with a view to standardising the pricing policies of Council-owned facilities. This could result in increased usage if supported by a good promotional campaign.
9. The Music Centre, a centrally located building is currently available under a long term lease agreement from the Education Authority. There is evidence of early demand for the development of the centre as a community/cultural hub from a number of local community and cultural heritage based organisations.

Options Considered

Options	What this means	Social Centre Edward St	Music Centre	Cost
A Maintain Status Quo (Implement decision of BBC)	The new Council stands by the decision of the previous Council to proceed with the refurbishment of the Social Centre and buys the lease for the Music Centre.	Complete the development - £300k	Lease Only £70k	£400k (incl fees)
B Implement BBC decisions to full effect and invest in Music Centre	The new Council stands by the decision of the previous Council to proceed with the refurbishment of the Social Centre and buys the lease and fully develops the Music Centre.	Complete the development - £300k	Complete capital build £1.2m	Circa £1.5m
C1 Social Centre development	The new Council stands by the decision of the previous Council to proceed with the refurbishment of the Social Centre only.	Complete the development - £300k	-	£300k
C2 Increased capacity at Social Centre	As with the option above but using a larger footprint by expanding the site and using the Scout Hall site to do so.	Expanded development - £400k	-	£400k
D Fully develop the Music Centre as a medium to long term aim	Put in place a plan to raise capital for the long term development of the Music Centre with a range of different organisations and accessing other funds and not doing anything with the Social Centre.	Transfer existing Social Centre activity to existing facilities	Complete capital build £1.2m	Circa £1.2m
E Absorb all additional usage in current facilities	Accept that capital investment at this time is not in the interests of the council; do not proceed with the Social Centre or Music Centre and meet the needs of users by making better use of existing resources. This should encompass negotiating with “single use providers” to see if space such as church halls can be used more creatively.	Transfer existing Social Centre activity to existing facilities	-	-

An Analysis of the capital costs of the options was carried out as well as an analysis of the non-monetary benefits. Costs were weighted at 30% and non-monetary benefits were weighted at 70%, and when the weightings were combined Option E emerged as the preferred option, followed by Option D. (The full scoring can be accessed on pages 33-35 of Audit of Need and Options Appraisal in relation to Community Facilities in Ballymoney Town attached)

Conclusions

1a. The **Social Centre on Edward Street** is in need of investment, although there are limitations in terms of the site, (one main hall for hire), parking and access. There is a possibility of an expanded site with the adjacent Scout Centre although there is still a restricted site & limited parking. There is an occupancy rate of 29% of available booking slots at the Social Centre. There is a challenge to find a way to invest in this facility that would yield long term benefits for the community and Council.

1b. There is **capacity in the Town Hall and Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre** for the short and medium term to **accommodate significant additional community use including that from the Social Centre**. In addition, there are **11 non-council venues** which are open and accessible to the public with usable spaces. A proactive campaign would be required to improve the co-ordination of bookings and marketing of these facilities in order to make the best use of the current space and optimise the benefits.

2a. The **former Music Centre**, a centrally located building is currently available under a long term lease agreement from the Education Authority. Proposals have been put forward by local groups to create a **multi- functional community/ cultural hub** in the area. The capital cost of completing this project is high but has the potential to attract external funding from other sources, dependent on the findings of a the business case. There is evidence of early demand for this project from a number of local community and cultural heritage based organisations.

2b. There are at least **48 facilities available for community use in the area**, 33 of which are more restrictive of their use by the general public. In order to optimise the use of the available space and new space for the local community a **proactive programme could be developed to explore the opening up of those facilities which have more restrictions on their usage, such as churches, schools and sports clubs, for wider community use**.

3a. Objective evidence indicates that the **most viable option is not to proceed with investment and to meet the needs of users by making better use of existing facilities**. User groups from the Social Centre could be accommodated in the Town Hall or Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and this could also encompass negotiating with “single use providers” to see if space such as church halls can be used more creatively. It is noted that the Social Centre was gifted to Council by the Evergreen Club on the basis that they would be assured a permanent meeting place in perpetuity and it is assumed that Council would wish to honour this. This could for example include free use of a room at the Town Hall.

3b. In conjunction, based on the decision of Ballymoney Borough Council to purchase the lease on the former Music Centre, Council may wish to consider **working with interested parties to see if a sustainable Business Case for the former Music Centre can be developed** as a medium to long terms aim. This would require a further extension from the Education Authority to delay purchasing the lease on the former Music Centre pending development of a Business Case.

Recommendation:

Option E

1. The report demonstrates that:

- Whilst Edward Street Social Centre is no longer fit-for-purpose without significant capital investment;
- Significant capital investment is unlikely to yield benefits for the community and Council.

- Furthermore community facility over-provision does exist and;
- Suitable alternative locations do exist to accommodate the Edward Street Social Centre users.

It is therefore recommended that officers:

- Proceed with the relocation of the Edward Street Social Centre users, to suitable alternative locations.
- Present alternative options to Council for the Edward Street Social Centre site.
- Relevant to wider community group access to existing facilities, review all fees and charges at community facilities to increase occupancy rates.

Option D

2. Relevant to the Ballymoney Music Centre proposal, engage with key stakeholders (including the Education Authority) to develop the concept, economic appraisal, business case and investigate grant funding availability, for Council's future consideration.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Audit of Need and Options Appraisal in relation to Community Facilities in Ballymoney Town

Prepared by Blu Zebra Ltd

November 2015



Contents

Section 1: Introduction and Terms of Reference	3
Section 2: Introduction to Ballymoney Town	5
Section 3: Methodology	7
Section 4: Defining a Community Hall Facility and standards for community facilities	8
4.1: Definition of a Community Centre	8
4.2: Standards for community facilities	8
4.2.1 Sport England – Village and Community Halls – Design Guidance	8
4.2.2 The Shaping Neighbourhood Guidance	11
Section 5: Some initial observations about community facilities in Ballymoney Town	13
5.1 Community facilities in Ballymoney Town	13
5.2 Existing Council Provision	16
5.3 Users of the community rooms in the three Council owned facilities	19
5.4 Need Identified	20
5.5: Summary of need	25
6.1 List of Options considered	30
6.2 Capital Cost Analysis of Options	31
6.3: Consideration of non-monetary benefits	32
6.4: Recommendations for Operations.....	34
6.5: Conclusions	34
Appendix 1: Review of rooms available in those facilities which adhere to the definition of a community centre.....	37
Appendix 2: Socio Economic Profile of Ballymoney Town.....	41
Appendix 3: Ballymoney Facilities Users Survey	45
Appendix 4: Those who completed the User Survey	59

Section 1: Introduction and Terms of Reference

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Shadow Council approved a Community Development Strategy in March 2015. One of the key strategic priorities within the strategy is 'Supporting Communities to achieve their maximum level of sustainability', which includes facilitating the strategic development of a Community Centre Policy for the Council which will put forward Council's position in relation to the provision of and support for community centres.

An Audit of Community Centres and Halls was carried out in Spring 2015 by the 4 legacy Councils of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle in association with Community Foundation NI. The Audit mapped out the location, scale and use of those community facilities that fitted the 'community centre' definition i.e. a multipurpose centre available for community use and or service provision by a range of user groups or for public hire. A range of other community facilities were not included in the remit of the Report such as church halls, parish centres, Orange Halls, GAA clubs etc.

Further to the completion of this scoping study/audit, a workshop was held on the 18th June to facilitate further discussion among Elected Members on the key conclusions and observations of the Audit Report, in order to help inform and shape future vision and strategy in relation to Community Centre provision.

The Report highlighted that there was a need to carry out a wider audit of facilities in the entire area in order to get a full picture of what level of activity and opportunity lies in existing buildings, in order to reduce duplication, promote sharing and increase service provision in local areas.

Alongside the Community Centre strategy development work there were 2 capital projects that were put forward to the new Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council by the legacy Ballymoney Borough Council:

- Refurbishment works at The Social Centre on Edward Street in Ballymoney; and
- Acquisition of Ballymoney Music Centre from Education Authority (formerly North Eastern Education and Library Board).

A Pre-planning Business Case has been prepared for The Social Centre at Edward Street which highlighted that a Ballymoney Town Based Needs Analysis and a Feasibility Study should be carried out.

As a result Council decided to undertake an Audit of Need in relation to community facility provision in Ballymoney and, on the assumption that a need is identified, prepare an Options Appraisal in relation to how that need can be met. This will help inform the proposals for investment in the centre of Ballymoney and allow Council to make some rational decisions in relation to capital expenditure.

It was intended that templates will be developed for carrying out the Audit of Need that can be used in any further similar studies in other towns and villages in the Borough.

An initial scoping exercise has been carried out and Ballymoney community register identifies 27 groups operational within the town of Ballymoney; 11 of these are leisure/sporting groups and 16 are community groups.

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council owns several key facilities in Ballymoney Town including Ballymoney Town Hall, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and The Social Centre at Edward Street. In addition there are up to 7 church halls, 2 community houses (leased from NIHE to community groups) and other facilities including Ballymoney Community Resource Centre.

Terms of Reference

The key objectives of the study are:

1. To get a clear understanding of the facilities in Ballymoney Town which are available for use of the local community or which provide services to the local community and to gather information about the available space in these facilities and how well they are being used;
2. To get a clear understanding of the needs of community and voluntary user groups in Ballymoney to identify their needs in relation to community facilities, including what facilities they currently use, how often and any gaps in provision or provision that isn't fit for purpose.
3. To identify a number of options for addressing any gaps that exist in community facility provision in Ballymoney Town either within existing Council owned provision; through proposed Council facility refurbishment or acquisition; or through improved access to community owned facilities.
4. To carry out an appraisal of the options for addressing any gaps that exist in community facility provision in Ballymoney Town

Section 2: Introduction to Ballymoney Town ¹

Ballymoney is a typical Northern Ireland market town situated 75 kilometres north west of Belfast and 55 kilometres east of Londonderry. Its population at the time of the 2011 census was 9,665, although as the only town in the Borough it serves a much wider catchment area; with a population in the region of 31,000 people. The population has increased from the 2001 census total, which was 9,009. In 1994, part of the town was designated as a Conservation area.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) identifies Ballymoney as a local hub sitting strategically along the Northern corridor which links Belfast to Londonderry. As such, the town has excellent road and rail links to all parts of the region and to the national ports and airports.

Little is known about the establishment of Ballymoney, except that the original settlement developed around two Celtic forts approximately on Castle Street and Meetinghouse Street. The name “Ballymoney” is thought to derive from Irish, meaning “town of the bog” due to its close proximity to extensive areas of lowland bogs.

The town began to grow during the period of the Ulster Plantation.

- 1609 King James I Plantation of Ulster began. Land was offered to settlers from England and Scotland who chose to come to Ulster. The English Crown had always found Ulster the most difficult region to control. James hoped that by ‘Planting’ Protestant families, Ireland would be ‘Anglicised’ and eventually conform to English rule.
- 1642 The town of Ballymoney, including the recently built church, were burned during the Irish Rebellion. The church was later rebuilt and survived as a place of worship until 1782. During the Irish Rebellion, Scottish settlers in this region were attacked by Irish people who resented attempts to impose English rule, with strict new laws and the Protestant faith. Battles took place at the Leaney (just outside the present town of Ballymoney) and Portna (a ford near Rasharkin). A castle Cross, close to the River Bann was also attacked by Rebel Irish armies. The Rebellion failed and is remembered for the bloody atrocities committed by each side.
- 1775 The original Ballymoney Town Hall was completed. Since then, it has served as a Town Hall, Market House, Courthouse, jail and is now the Masonic Hall.
- 1777 Ballymoney First Presbyterian Church completed, the oldest building still in use in the Borough.
- 1798 Following the failed United Irish Rebellion, the town of Ballymoney was burned by Crown forces. The predominantly Presbyterian population of this region had supported the liberal objectives of the Rebel army and they suffered bloody retribution for their disloyalty.
- 1850 The streets of Ballymoney town are first lit by gas.

¹ Extracted from Ballymoney Master Plan 2014

- 1866 The current Ballymoney Town Hall was opened, almost entirely paid for by public subscription.
- 1934 After renovations, Ballymoney Town Hall re-opened and within weeks hosted the first ever Ballymoney Drama Festival. This annual event is the oldest provincial drama festival in Ireland and attracts modest audiences every year.
- 1977 Ballymoney is granted Borough status.

Section 3: Methodology

This assignment was executed through the following methodology

- A list of all known community based facilities in Ballymoney Town was developed and contact details sourced for each. It was found that there were at least 48 facilities - almost double that initially envisaged. Contact details were found to be difficult to access in some cases
- Site visits were undertaken to all Council facilities and as many other venues as possible across the different genres - church, school, other
- A facilities survey was designed in partnership with Council and sent to all facilities by email and post or through a face to face meeting with the facility manager – some 37 were completed – 11 of the 48 were not contactable for a range of reasons despite many attempts to make contact. This included making contact with those with an interest in refurbishing the old Music Centre
- A list of all groups in the Ballymoney town area was identified through the Ballymoney Community Resource Centre and through the Council database. In total there were 237 groups on this database, not all of which were town based groups but all of which are based in the Ballymoney area
- A users survey was designed in partnership with Council and sent to all users by email and post or through a face to face meeting with the facility manager - some 237 were sent the survey and 35 completed – a 15% response rate
- Interviews were undertaken with a range of different users as well to complement the user survey
- We undertook telephone interviews with all Ballymoney town elected members to ascertain their views on the facility needs in the area. We were unable to access one elected member whom we also emailed with our questions
- Interviews with a range of Council staff members with a knowledge of the facilities in Ballymoney town
- Interview with the Ballymoney Regeneration Company
- Site visit to the Music Centre with some Education Authority staff
- On-going meetings were held with the Community Development Manager of Causeway Coast and Glens Council as well as with the SIB Project Manager in assessing the cost options on the options appraisal

Section 4: Defining a Community Hall Facility and standards for community facilities

4.1: Definition of a Community Centre

The definition of a community hall is set out below:

- 1) A community hall is a building that has as its primary function the provision of a space for general community activities and is available for the public to hire. The facilities should be used primarily by the community and / or the voluntary sector;
- 2) The activities that can be supported in the community facilities can include community or community group activities (e.g. birthday parties, WI), sports activities (e.g. badminton, volleyball, bowls, dance clubs/ classes), social activities (e.g. play group, coffee mornings), public meetings etc. Essentially, it should be there to support local community activity in all its forms;
- 3) There should be no required prerequisite to be a member of a club, company or religious or cultural group in order to hire the facility.

4.2: Standards for community facilities

There is little official guidance on minimum standards for the provision of community facilities in local councils in Northern Ireland or indeed in the rest of the UK. There are however two guidance documents which we have used as a proxy to assist with the analysis of community facility provision in Ballymoney Town. These have been used by other councils in the rest of the UK. One is Sport England's Village and Community Halls – Design Guidance and the other is the "Shaping Neighbourhoods - A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality" – Hugh Barton, Marcus Grant and Richard Guise.

4.2.1 Sport England – Village and Community Halls – Design Guidance

Where new community buildings are developed in England, it is recommended that the report "Village and Community Halls"² by Sport England is considered. This report outlines best practice in the design of new community buildings, highlights the most effective layouts for a range of sizes of community facility, and considers every important aspect of community hall development.

The report shows a number of different sizes of buildings accommodating various facilities with different layouts based on the principles outlined in the Sport England document. All buildings should also contain toilets, changing facilities, a kitchen, foyer, store and office. We have included floor plans for a range of typical layouts prepared by Sport England to give a sense of the different types of rooms required in a range of different community halls with different functions, and indeed catchment populations.

With the onset of community planning, the multi-purpose functions of community centres and the importance of co-location of activity is very important. Having a range of different rooms makes venues more flexible but they also need to be promoted as well.

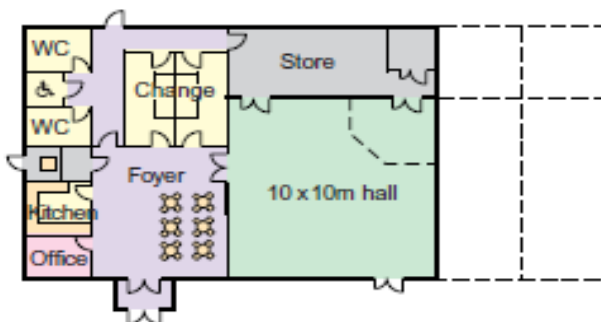
² ISBN 86078 130 6 £10 Sport England SE/1038/5M/01/01 www.english.sports.gov.uk
http://www.sportengland.org/se_facilities_village_halls.pdf

The various hall configurations are outlined below.

- I. 10m x 10m hall – total building size = 280 sq.m
- II. 18m x 10m hall plus a community room – total building size = 350 sq.m
- III. 18m x 10m hall plus a stage area and a community room - total building size = 520 sq.m
- IV. 18m x 10m hall with an additional 10m x 10m hall plus a lounge/community room - total building size = 575 sq.m
- V. 18m x 17m hall with a stage - total building size = 700 sq.m

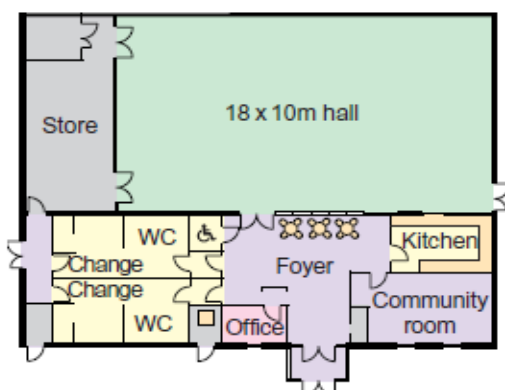
A building of the absolute minimum size, as detailed in i) above is outlined below and would be around 280 square metres in size and would include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • main activity and assembly space • entrance foyer • equipment and furniture store • kitchen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toilets, including facilities for disabled people • changing provision • cleaner’s store • boiler or plant room
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



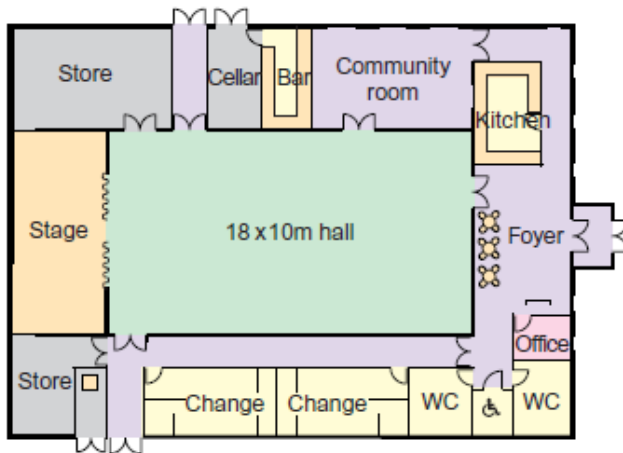
Smallest hall with the minimum support accommodation shown with potential extensions.

Community hall type ii) is illustrated in the figure below and includes the addition of a community room. It is approximately 350 sq m. in size.



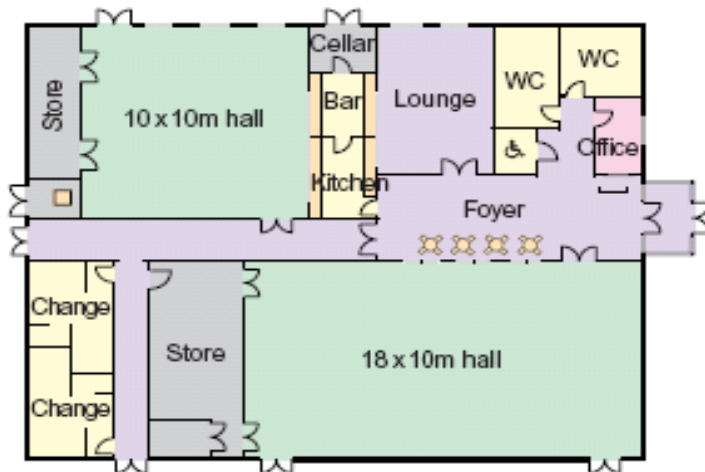
One-court badminton size hall with compact ancillaries including combined WCs and changing.

The next size up, as outlined in iii) is a hall with a stage and a community room, stores, a bar, kitchen and toilets and changing rooms and is approximately 520 sq m in size.



Symmetrical support accommodation around a hall with a separate stage.

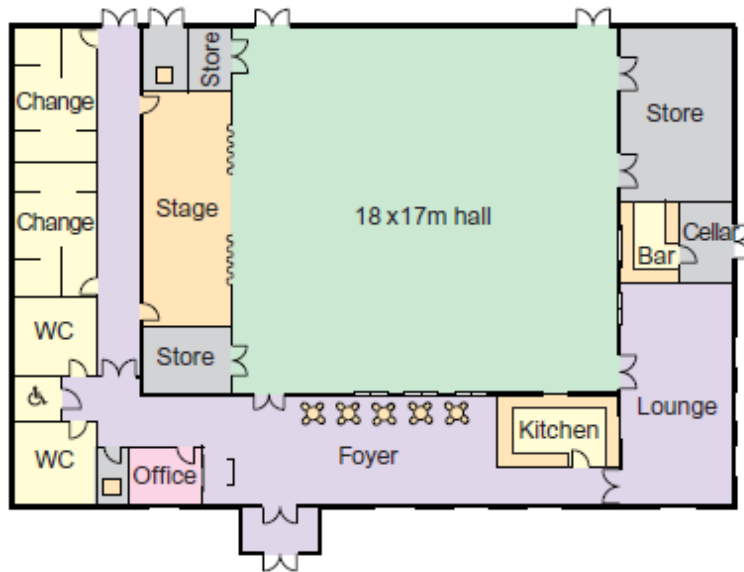
Where new provision or improvements to local community meeting facilities are required, it is recommended that the minimum standard should be a building which can accommodate a range of activities and provide for many different community groups. Using the Sport England design guide this would mean a centre with a main hall, a secondary hall and a lounge/community room, as shown in iv) above. A building this size would be around 575 square metres – example shown below.



Centre with a second hall and a lounge/meeting room served by a bar as well as a kitchen.

The final sized facility outlined in the Sport England document is outlined in v) above. The layout has a two court badminton sized hall with a separate stage and a lounge/ meeting room. Storage is a key component of all of these buildings.

Two-court badminton size hall with separate stage and a lounge/meeting room.



In Ballymoney town, considering those facilities owned by Council, it should be noted that Edward Street Social Centre does not have changing facilities, and that those changing facilities within the Town Hall are part of the Green Room area for stage productions while the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre has adequate changing facilities. Edward Street Social Centre has limited storage space and the toilets, stage area and kitchen are in need of significant refurbishment.

It should also be noted that this document also gives guidance on the internal planning of the buildings as well as guidance on how to extend a school for community use at a minimal cost.

4.2.2 The Shaping Neighbourhood Guidance

In considering the level of provision that would be appropriate for Ballymoney Town, best practice has also been considered based on guidance outlined in “Shaping Neighbourhoods: A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality”³ a handbook for planners, designers, developers and community groups. The book focuses on the physical fabric of neighbourhoods. This Guide suggests that the catchment population required to sustain one community centre is around 4,000 people.

There are no specific national or NI standards for the provision of community facilities.

Based on this guidance, and in a town the size of Ballymoney with a population in 2008 estimated at 10,355, there should be 2.5 community centres in the town.

However there is likely to be growth in the population of Ballymoney town as outlined in the Regional Development Strategy 2035⁴ and as such this needs to be factored into the equation as well. Within this strategy, Ballymoney Town has been identified as a Local Hub, one of 5 local hubs in Northern Ireland. (Ballycastle has also been designated as a local hub in the CCG area while Coleraine is identified as a Main hub for population growth).

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) identifies Ballymoney as a local hub sitting strategically along the Northern corridor which links Belfast to Londonderry. As such, the town has excellent road

³ Shaping Neighbourhoods – A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality – Hugh Barton, Marcus Grant and Richard Guise
⁴ Regional Development Strategy 2035 – Building a Better Future

and rail links to all parts of the region and to the national ports and airports. Its role in servicing the rural catchment is also acknowledged.

The RDS 2035 states

“Ballymoney with a population of around 10,500 is the administrative, commercial and educational centre for the rural hinterland. The town is straddled to the west by the River Bann and to the north by the River Bush and part of the Borough lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Lower Bann Valley with numerous opportunities for outdoor recreation. Ballymoney benefits from being on the main link road to the northwest and on the Belfast to Londonderry railway line. Agriculture, manufacturing and the availability of commercial sites are important to the local economy”. It goes on to say

“The towns of Coleraine, Ballymoney, Ballycastle and Limavady have the potential to cluster. The cluster is reasonably well connected with journey times between centres ranging from 20 minutes to just under an hour. The journey times to both Belfast and Londonderry increases the need for this cluster to be able to provide all the level 3 services”.

The Housing Growth Indicators for 2008-2025 for Ballymoney area (old council area) within the RDS estimate the number of new dwelling requirements for Ballymoney at 3,500 units by 2025 which, given approximately two people per household, would give a conservative increase in population of 7,000 people. If this is then translated into the guide recommendation for the catchment population required to sustain one community centre of around 4,000 people then this would equate to the need for 4 community centres in the Ballymoney town area at the wider population level. It is reasonable to assume that most of this growth will be accommodated in the town itself but that some of this housing growth will be in the smaller villages and hamlets surrounding Ballymoney town. It is also reasonable to assume that many rural people use some of the community facilities in the town. These Housing Growth indicators are baselines which can/will subsequently be adjusted in the light of the Housing Market Analysis for their areas which will be undertaken in due course by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

We understand that these are both English models and therefore need to be seen in that light. Other considerations may need to be taken into consideration in regard of a NI based model in terms of how comfortable or safe people feel using a particular venue. This places another layer onto the decision making process. However, based on the Programme for Government and OFMDFMs Together: Building a United Community Strategy, there is a greater focus on trying to ensure that shared spaces and opportunities for shared meeting takes place across local areas.

Section 5: Some initial observations about community facilities in Ballymoney Town

There are approximately 237 groups registered with Ballymoney Community Resource Centre which are based within what was the legacy council area of Ballymoney. Some of these are Ballymoney town based groups while others are rural based. Many people from the rural hinterland also use the town based facilities as well.

Ballymoney town has a population of 10,355 people based on NINIS Population estimate in 2008.

There are at least 48 facilities in the Ballymoney Town area with facilities, some of which are open to the public and others which are restricted in their use for their members/ congregations. Others while being church based are willing to open up their facilities to others but groups still have to go through a booking process that has to be approved by a committee before others can use the facility. There is also the added issue of some of the facilities not being willing to share any details of their premises and as such we have been unable to estimate how much space they have. Many of these halls have varying sizes of rooms available which we have gleaned from on line information and from knowing the centres.

5.1 Community facilities in Ballymoney Town

Table 1 below gives a list of all known community facilities in Ballymoney town. Not all of these facilities are open to the public so we have given each a code which demonstrates if they are open to all or if there is some restrictive access or if they are available in the main for their members or congregations only.

- **Open to all - OTA**, no restrictions on usage;
- **RA (OTA)** – Mostly for members, church congregations or school usage but would be prepared to open it to the general public so long as they meet the ethos and values of the host organisation;
- **RA** - Restricted access for members, church congregations or school usage only

We have also listed where we have not been able to glean a response from some facilities. This is demonstrated by a NA/ NR label.

- **NR or NA** - No response or didn't want to complete

Alongside this we have then matched these with the broad definition of a community centre, indicating the types of venues that could be regarded as community facilities in Ballymoney Town. It should be noted however that some of these are smaller than others with less facilities than would constitute the minimum requirement of what Sport England, in its guidance, would recognise as a minimum size for a community centre. However, we were as much interested in the total amount of space available as we were in the size of spaces in each facility.

Table 1: Community Facilities in Ballymoney Town		
Name of Facility	Status	Adheres broadly to the definition of a community centre
1. Ballymoney Townhall (Council owned)	OTA	x
2. Edward Street Social Centre (Council owned)	OTA	x
3. Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre (Council owned)	OTA	x
4. Ballymoney Scout Hall, Edward Street	OTA	x
5. Cheers Youth Club	RA (OTA)	
6. Compass and Can Recycling	OTA	x
7. Wave Trauma Centre, Main Street	RA	
8. Ullans Centre, Main Street	OTA	x
9. Ballymoney Community Resource Centre, Acorn Centre	OTA	x
10. Ballymoney Library, Queen Street	RA (OTA)	x
11. St Patrick's Church of Ireland - Old School House, Queen Street	OTA	x
12. St Patricks Church of Ireland Parish Centre, Queen Street	RA (OTA)	
13. Ballymoney 1st Presbyterian Church Hall, Meetinghouse Street	RA	
14. St James' Presbyterian Church , St James Road	RA	
15. Trinity Presbyterian, Rodeing Foot	NR	
16. Church of Our Lady and St Patrick, Parish Centre, Castle Street	RA (OTA)	
17. Ballymoney Reformed Presbyterian Church, Charlotte Street, Old Court House	RA (OTA)	
18. Ballymoney Reformed Presbyterian Church – Charlotte Street, Church hall	RA	
19. Ballymoney Hebron Free Presbyterian Church halls and rooms, Market Street	RA	
20. Ballymoney Baptist Church, Ballymena Road	N/A – No response yet	
21. Ballymoney Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Ballybrakes Road	NR	
22. Ballymoney Church of God, Garryduff Road, Youth Hall	RA	
23. Ballymoney Methodist Church Hall, Seymour Street	N/A – No response	
24. Ballymoney Elim Pentecostal Church, The Warren, Knock Road	N/A – No response	
25. The Barn Fellowship, The Connect Centre, Ballymoney	OTA	x
26. Mount Calvary Pentecostal Church	No contact details	
27. Salvation Army Church, Meeting House Street	N/A – No response	
28. Dalriada School, St James Road	RA	
29. Ballymoney High School, Garryduff Road	OTA (RA)	x
30. Ballymoney Model Primary School, North Road	N/A – No response	

Table 1: Community Facilities in Ballymoney Town		
Name of Facility	Status	Adheres broadly to the definition of a community centre
31. Ballymoney Nursery School, North Road	OTA (Never thought of it before) (RA)	
32. Ballymoney Independent Christian School, Market Street-	RA	
33. Our Lady of Lourdes School, Castle Street	RA	
34. St Bridget's Primary School, Castle Street	RA	
35. Leaney Primary School, Stuart Park	OTA (Never thought of it before) (RA)	
36. Northern Regional College, Coleraine Road	N/A – No response	
37. Carnany Community House, Carnany Drive	OTA	x
38. Castle Community Centre, Castle Street	OTA	x
39. Glebeside Community House	OTA	x
40. Royal British Legion Hall	OTA	x?
41. Independent Orange Hall, Edward Street	RA (OTA)	
42. Ballymoney Orange Hall, High Street	N/A – No response	
43. Masonic hall	N/A – No response	
44. Ballymoney United Football Club	RA (OTA)	
45. Ballymoney Showgrounds	RA (OTA)	
46. Ballymoney Rugby Club	RA (OTA)	
47. Ballybrakes Community Indoor Bowling Club, Ballybrakes Road	OTA	x
48. Music Centre – not open currently	OTA (Not Open)	-

In total, there are **14 “Open to All” Facilities** in the area. This include the three council facilities. Within these there is a significant amount of space available to rent in Ballymoney Town.

The Council owns three facilities – all of which are open to the general public and can be booked through the council.

- Ballymoney Town Hall** was erected by public subscription in 1866. It was then renovated and enlarged in 1933 and opened in February 1934. With an auditorium which seats 350, the Town Hall is widely used by the local community for arts and cultural events including Ballymoney Drama Festival, the oldest Drama Festival in Ireland. The newly refurbished and extended Town Hall houses a multi-purpose auditorium and a three meeting rooms of varying sizes which are all available for hire. The Town Hall is widely used by the local community for arts & cultural events including Ballymoney Drama Festival, the oldest Drama Festival in Ireland. The building also houses a variety of different sized rooms which are used on a regular basis by local community and voluntary groups.

- Formerly the **Evergreen Hall, Ballymoney Social Centre** is a multi-purpose hall with kitchen facility which is widely used by the local community for a variety of activities such as aerobics, talks, concerts, dancing and other social events. It is also the regular meeting place of many local groups. The social centre is in need of significant refurbishment and is not currently fit for purpose. It does not have a well equipped kitchen and the toilets are in need of significant upgrading. The stage also needs some remedial work.
- **Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre** has a Health Suite, 2 Swimming Pools, Spa Pool, Sports Halls, Fitness Studio with the latest Pulse Fitness equipment, Cardio Theatre including 48" television screens, Dance Studio, Conservatory Restaurant, Treasure Island Soft Play Centre, Sauna and Steam Room. It also has four meetings rooms which are open to the public to book for community use. While some community groups use the Leisure Centre these are mostly leisure linked groups but there is scope for future usage in this facility

5.2 Existing Council Provision

We examined the three community facilities in Ballymoney town which are owned by Council.

A typical weeks booking in each of the three Council facilities is outlined below. This demonstrates a number of rooms where occupancy could be increased. Note: Booking Codes – W = Weekly; M= Monthly; Y= Yearly; OO= One Off; Q= Quarterly.

Venue 1: Town Hall

Room 1: Name room: Mc Arthur Room...							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning			Citizens Advice Bureau (W)	Citizens Advice Bureau (W)			
Afternoon	Citizens Advice Bureau (W)	Alzheimer's Society (M)	Citizens Advice Bureau (W)	Citizens Advice Bureau (W)			
Evening	Creative Writing Class (Wx10)						

Room 2: Name room: Cramsie Room							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning			Electric Blanket Testing (Y)	JM Wreath (Q)			
Afternoon	Calligraphy Class (Wx10)		Electric Blanket Testing (Y)				
Evening	Patchwork Class (Wx10)	Creative Writing Class (Wx10)					

Room 3: Name room: Shiels Room							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning	DSD Appeals Service (M)		Painting Class (Wx10)	JM Wreath (Q)			

Room 3: Name room: Shields Room							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Afternoon	DSD Appeals Service (M)		Painting Class (Wx10)				
Evening	Youth Service Meeting (OO)	Patchwork Class (Wx10)	Painting Class (Wx10)				

Room 4: Name room: Auditorium							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning			Music Event (M)				
Afternoon			Music Event (M)				
Evening	History Talk (M)		Music Event (M)		Ulster Scots Concert (Y)		Gospel Mission (4 week period every October un-Fri)

Venue 2: Edward Street Social Centre

Room 1: Name room: Main hall							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning		NE Beacon Service 10-12 (W)	Compass Advocacy (OO)			Worldwide Church of God 9-1 (W)	Worldwide Church of God 9-1 (Q)
Afternoon					Ballymoney Evergreen club Sept to June) 1-3 (W) Mc Dowell Irish Dancing 4-7 (for 17 weeks)	NI Fife Fancy Cage Bird Assoc (Y Nov.) NI Gloster Cage Bird Assoc (Y Oct) Birthday parties (OO)	Craft Fair (OO)
Evening	Laverty Irish dancing 5- 7 (W)	Barazania youth choir (Sept-June) 5.30-7 (W)(29 weeks)	Laverty Irish dancing 5- 7 (W) Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots (Sept – June) 7.30-9.30 (W x 3 10 week periods- 30 weeks)	Ballymoney Gateway Club (F) (Sept-June) 7-9 (15 weeks) Castle Comm Assoc (OO) Trinity College Assoc (Twice a year	Bendooragh Comm Assoc (OO)	Church Social (OO) Enagh Branch DUP (Y)	

Venue 3: Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre

Room 1: Name room: Committee Room							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning	Richard Timms (All day) (Q) Pain Mgnt (F)		Pain Mgnt (W)	Jobs Fair (Y)	R&F Mechanical all day (OO)		
Afternoon	Home care (M) Independent Living	Balnamore PS (Q)					
Evening	Ballymoney Cycling Club(Q) BASC(M)		Sports Advisory committee (Q) Sport NI (Q) Disability Sport NI (Y)				

Room 2: Name room: Lecture Room							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning				Jobs Fair (y)			
Afternoon		Respiratory Team (W)	Chronic Fatigue (W)				
Evening							

Room 3: Name room: Conference Room							
	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat	Sun
Morning	Probus (F) Recovery College (M)	Phy educ Seminar (OO) Early Days Nursery (Y)	Chronic Fatigue (W) Early Days Nursery (Y)	Probus (F)	GP Referral Training Course (OO) Global Learning Programme		
Afternoon							
Evening			Pilates (W) BASC (W)	Yoga (W)	Ballymena Baptist (W)		

5.3 Users of the community rooms in the three Council owned facilities

The users of the three council owned facilities currently are outlined in the table below. As can be seen the Town Hall has the greatest variety and number of users.

Users of the community rooms in the three Council owned facilities		
Town Hall	Social Centre	Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre
1) Alzheimer's Society	1) Laverty School of Irish Dancing	1) PROBUS
2) Aware	2) NE Beacon Service	2) Pain management programme
3) Ballymoney Royal British Legion	3) Worldwide Church of God	3) Swimming Club
4) Ballymoney Baptist Church	4) Barazania Youth Choir	4) Cardio rehab Programme
5) Ballymoney Gospel Hall	5) Kingdom of Dalriada (Scottish dancing)	5) Pulmonary rehab Programme
6) Ballymoney Irish Dancing Festival Committee	6) Ballymoney Gateway Club	6) Marie Curie
7) Ballymoney Literary & Debating Society	7) Ballymoney Evergreen Club	7) Church groups
8) Ballymoney Borough Arts Committee	8) NE Gloster Cage Bird Association	8) Chronic fatigue
9) Ballymoney Women's Institute	9) NI Fife Cage Bird Association	9) Yoga/Pilates
10) Ballymoney Road Safety Committee		10) Global learning programme
11) Ballymoney Twinning Association		11) Road safety
12) Ballymoney Photography Club		12) NEELB youth service
13) Ballymoney Drama Festival Committee		13) Northern Health trust
14) Ballymoney Home Accident Prevention Group		14) Slimming world etc.
15) Ballymoney Community Resource Centre		15) Local community groups from time to time
16) Carecall		
17) Citizens Advice Bureau		
18) Compass Advocacy Group		
19) DSD Appeals Service		
20) Education Authority		
21) Finvoy Pipe Band		
22) JM Wreath & Co		
23) JML Irish Dancing School		
24) Kindgom of Dalriada Ulster Scots		
25) Lisnagaver YFC		
26) Millbrooke Manor Management Committee		
27) NEELB Music Service		
28) Northern Health & Social Care Trust		
29) North Antrim Agricultural Association		
30) North Antrim Horticultural Association		
31) North Antrim Community Network		
32) Robinson & Co Accountants		
33) St James's Lodge		
34) University of 3rd Age		
35) Ulster Farmers Union		
36) Vision4Kids		
37) University of 3rd Age		

5.4 Need Identified

The need was established based on visits to a significant number of the centres, facility audits on the 48 facilities, a user survey sent to 237 groups (15% response rate) as well as telephone interviews with elected members from the Ballymoney area and other key stakeholder in the area. The results are summarised below.

1. There are at least **48 community based facilities** in Ballymoney town. There is little networking between local community facilities in the town and little promotion or awareness of all of the various facilities that are available to rent. There is a need to **utilise, promote and network the existing facilities in Ballymoney Town more effectively, in particular those which are open to the public and are accessible and neutral**. Of these:
 - a. Approximately 14 are open to the public broadly without restrictions – (OTA)
 - b. 12 are open to the public but are restricted in their use as they are membership or congregationally based facilities but which would consider usage by others RA (OTA)
 - c. 10 are not open to the public at all and are restricted in their usage as they are membership or congregationally based facilities (RA)
 - d. 11 we could not access any information about, many of which, we would assume would be restricted in their usage (NR/ NA)
 - e. 1 is not open but is regarded as a potential “open to all” venue – Music Centre
2. Based on Sport England – Village and Community Halls – Design Guidance recommendations, there is a **need to ensure that where new provision or improvements to local community meeting facilities are required, the minimum standard should be a building which can accommodate a range of activities and provide for many different community groups - this would mean a centre with a main hall, a secondary hall and a lounge/community room**.
3. The “Shaping Neighbourhoods: A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality guidance document, suggests that the catchment population required to sustain one community centre is around 4,000 people. There are no specific national or NI standards for the provision of community facilities. In a town the size of Ballymoney with a population in 2008 estimated at 10,355, there should be 2.5 community centres in the town. Within the Regional Development Strategy 2035⁵, housing growth indicators for 2008-2025 identify a growth of housing units of 3,500 by 2025 which given approximately two people per household, would give a conservative increase in population of 7,000 people. **This would therefore equate to the need for 4 community centres in the Ballymoney town**.
4. The audit demonstrates that there are three facilities in the area which are owned by Council, two of which, the Town Hall and the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre have spare capacity currently and one of which is not fully fit for purpose. **All council facilities should be fit for purpose and meet with needs of the local community, in particular where gaps in other facilities exist**.

⁵ Regional Development Strategy 2035 – Building a Better Future

5. The audit demonstrates a need to **address the poor quality of provision within Edward Street Social Centre**. It cannot be left as it is as the centre is not fit for purpose and the needs of the community are not being met adequately within it currently. It does not have any car park spaces of its own although these can be accessed from a public car park which can be accessed via some steps from the back of the facility. The street on which the facility is located is a mainly residential street with some commercial units at the bottom of the street. To one side of the Social Centre is a Scout Hall and to the other side is an Independent Orange Hall, neither of which have any car parking spaces either. Opposite the social centre is a Church which allows the centre to use its car park when larger functions are on. The history and gestation of the Edward Street Social Centre is very close to the hearts of many in the area, including the 90+ members of the Evergreen Club who are aged between 60 and 90. There is a significant sentimental attachment to the centre by the original owners of the hall - the Evergreen Club, which bequeathed the hall to the Council in 1988. An ex-Mayor of the Council, Ald Molly Holmes OBE JP, was very much to the forefront in securing the build of the original Social Centre which was built for local people through public subscription. The Evergreen Club however believes that over the years, very little has been done to look after the asset that it gifted to the Ballymoney Borough Council. It is very disappointed that the promise of refurbishment of the hall has not yet transpired. It believes that Council has a duty of care to address the current poor facilities faced by the current nine user groups and that promises made need to be met in some way in moving forward.

6. There is a need to **address and utilise the spare capacity** that exists in the existing council facilities and in the other town based facilities which are open to the public. The audit identified that there are 14 "Open to All" facilities in the area with a significant amount of space within them. All are willing to open their facilities to the general public. (Some support in helping groups market their spaces and increase the revenue that they generate from their facilities would assist in improving the sustainability of local groups and networking between existing local communities).
 - a. The **Town Hall** also has spare capacity, in particular in its main auditorium, which could be utilised more effectively.
 - b. While the **Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre** has three rooms open and available for community use, it is still regarded as a Leisure Centre by many. Some additional marketing of its rooms for community use may address this issue. Also, anecdotally, some people have issues with its neutrality with flags on lampposts on the road alongside the facility making it less welcoming for those from a nationalist perspective
 - c. The **Social Centre** has spare capacity during the day but has issues with its suitability as a venue due to its current state of repair- people are moving to other venues
 - d. The audit demonstrates that there are a number of other community facilities in the area with varying types of community spaces where there is spare capacity and which are open to the public to rent
 - I. The **Ballymoney Community Resource Centre** located in Acorn Business Centre is open to the public and has an ICT suite, and a board room, a training room and a small consulting room available for use. It would be interested in a town based central location with car parking, although it is very satisfied with its current facilities
 - II. **Two newly refurbished church based facilities** are increasingly receiving regular community bookings. These are well located and have excellent modern and

refurbished community rooms and halls available to the public. **St Patrick's Church of Ireland - Old School House**, in particular is keen to see more use of its facility in the centre of the town. With excellent car parking it is an ideal addition to community space in Ballymoney town. **Ballymoney Reformed Presbyterian Church's, Old Court House** also adds significant extra community space, although it is slightly more restrictive to users but is a great venue for use by local people. U3A currently use the facility

- III. **A Regional Indoor Bowling Centre** is located in the town which has significant space for rent in particular during the summer months. It has a hall which can accommodate over 1,000 people and also a conference room which could be used during the week by other groups
 - IV. All **three community houses are open to the public to use** - Carnany Community House, Carnany Drive; Castle Community Centre, Castle Street and Glebeside Community House and have a range of meeting rooms available
 - V. The **Scout Hall** is interested in opening its centre to others when its hall is not being used by its members. It needs more storage and is about to refurbish its toilets and kitchen
 - VI. **The Ullans Centre** – has a committee room and a function/ exhibition area which can be hired by groups upon request
 - VII. **Can Can recycling** is about to open a new drop in centre in town which will be open to the public to use its committee rooms and has a large and a small room in its existing facility which it can hire out to groups
 - VIII. **Royal British Legion Hall** is open to the public and has two large function rooms that can be used by the community. It has a very well maintained dance floor and can accommodate catering and has a full bar service as well. The Royal British Legion is located beside the Town Hall and is interested in more partnership work in the future with the local community
 - IX. **The Bann Fellowship** has a large room/ hall which it is keen to let out to groups to use
7. The audit demonstrates that there are other facilities in the area that are restricted in their use as they are linked to a church or school but there is some potential for some of these to be opened up to more community use. There is a **need to network with other facilities to see how much more open community space can be created from the existing supply of more restricted spaces but those that are willing to open up** – e.g. some churches and schools
 8. The population of the Ballymoney area is likely to increase in the next 10- 20 years with Ballymoney town's designation as a local hub in the Regional Development Strategy 2035. It has grown from 5,697 in 1971 to 10,355 in 2008 (estimate). There is also a **higher than average older population in Ballymoney town** in comparison to the rest of NI. There is a **need to ensure there is sufficient community facilities to accommodate the additional population growth**
 9. There are pockets of deprivation in Ballymoney Town across its five main wards. There are three community houses supported by the NIHE in Ballymoney town which could benefit from some refurbishment based on their purpose as acting as local community hubs for their local communities. They are located in areas of higher deprivation. **There is a need to work with the**

NIHE and the three Community Houses to ensure they are connected to wider community planning opportunities. These are

- a. Carnary Community House, Carnary Drive
- b. Castle Community Centre, Castle Street
- c. Glebeside Community House

10. A Community Resource Centre exists in the area - Ballymoney Community Resource Centre located in the Acorn Business Park on the edge of town. It is and has been interested in the development of a community hub in the area – other groups have also expressed an interest in pursuing this option with it including Can Can Recycling, the Ullans Group, and now the Scout Group. A feasibility study was undertaken under the PEACE II programme in 2006 for the refurbishment of the Music Centre for this purpose. Due to the funding limitations, this did not progress. There is a **need to identify the feasibility for a community hub in 2015, given the increasing need for more engagement with the local community** through the Council's new community planning remit. There is a **need to explore the feasibility of working in partnership with others who wish to pursue the provision of more flexible and appropriate facilities and examine the types of financial resources that could be secured for such a project.**

11. A Scout group is located in Edward Street next door to the Edward Street Social Centre. It owns its own premises and would be interested in a partnership based project with the Council in regard of a new facility on the existing sites of both it and the Social Centre. Ideally it would like to have a slightly bigger venue. It currently owns its own facility. It would be interested in a facility similar to that provided in the Peter Thompson Hall in Castlerock with the Scout Group there. It has previously written to Ballymoney Council with a view to addressing some of its facility requirements which it feels could be better. (There is also an issue with its side door not being able to open properly due to its proximity to the Edward Street Social Centre's fence). There is a **need to explore the feasibility of working in partnership with others who wish to pursue the provision of more flexible and appropriate facilities and who may have additional resources to contribute to the overall resource pot.**

12. The Music Centre is an existing building in the centre of the town, leased currently by the Education Authority. There is a long history to the Music Centre. In 1905 a lease was granted by the Earl of Antrim to the Antrim County Council. On Wednesday, 21st November, 1906, Their Excellencies, The Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and the Countess of Aberdeen, paid an official visit to Ballymoney and officially opened the new Technical School building on Charles Street. It is believed that the monies which funded the construction was raised through rates. The lease from the Earl of Antrim to the former Antrim County Council transferred, on reorganisation of local government in 1973 to the Ministry of Education and the then NEELB took over the management of the building. It was used as a Teachers Centre and later also a Music Centre. Many groups are interested in preserving the Music Centre from an architectural perspective and also developing it for a number of uses including a community hub building or as an Ulster Scots Museum for the Town. It is currently being offered on lease to the council for £70,000 from the Education Authority. Ideally this transaction needs to be completed before the

end of this 2015-16 financial year⁶ before the building goes out to the open marketplace, although this timeline seems to be quite flexible. A feasibility study was undertaken on the Ulster Scots Hub concept by the NaRush Group (North Antrim Regional Ulster Scots Hub) in 2010. This feasibility study was passed to DCAL but their economist did not pass the appraisal (but no reason given). The proposal, while still fully backed by the NaRUSH Group has not progressed in the last three years due to a lack of funding opportunities. However, there **a need to explore the feasibility of working in partnership with others who wish to pursue the provision of flexible and multi-functional facilities within the Music Centre in particular from a heritage, education and tourism perspective and linked to the Ulster Scots culture and traditions and the history and heritage around World War I** – we have spoken with the NaRUSH group, the Ullans group and the Ballymoney and District Cultural and the Heritage Society all of which have outlined their desire to pursue this concept. The BDCHS leads on the WWI and II work. **There is also a need to link this proposed use with the potential other use of the Music Centre as a Community Hub and those interested in pursuing this option – the Ballymoney Community Resource Centre, Can Can Recycling and the Ullans Group. Heritage Lottery is a potential funder for the refurbishment of the Music Centre** possibly either under its Townscape Heritage or Heritage Enterprise programmes. The Music Centre is not located in the conservation area but would still be regarded as an historic building worth preserving. The Ballymoney Regeneration Group has demonstrated an interest in helping with such applications if required.

13. Some people find the cost of hiring the Council based centres too high. 27% of users found the cost of hiring the Town Hall too high; 21% found the cost of the Edward Street Social Centre too high and 30% found the cost of Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre too high. **There is a need to review pricing policy of community facilities in Council owned facilities, all of which are different currently.** This could result in increased usage as well, if matched with a good promotional campaign.
14. The ten most important things for groups to consider when booking a facility in Ballymoney town were:
 - Quality of the facility
 - Cost of hiring the facility
 - Location of facility
 - Car parking
 - Physical accessibility to the facility
 - Opening times
 - Adequate heating
 - Disabled toilets
 - Physical accessibility within the facility
 - Availability of large rooms for a range of functions

Any new or existing facility needs to take into account these requirements from groups

⁶ As indicated in recent email communication between EA and the Council

15. **There is a need to take account of the new Community Planning remit of the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough council** and ensure that community engagement can be adequately accommodated with a range of different groups within the community facilities. Other agencies need to be able to engage with citizens in these facilities about issues that address their needs – e.g. PSNI, PCSP, Education Authority Youth Service, NIHE, Health Trust, Council, PHA etc.
16. **There is a need to link with the new Interim Council Corporate Strategy 2014-15** which has the following vision - “Making the most of our natural assets, we will provide inclusive, customer focused, innovative services, to shape our area for residents, workers and visitors”. One of its six strategic themes is Community – which includes partnership working and community planning including capacity building. Another is Sustainability, which includes environmental protection; sustaining our natural heritage; being economically prudent and meeting waste targets.

5.5: Summary of need

The above needs can be summarised under two main headings - **Facilities Needs** and **Operational/Management Needs**

Facilities’ Needs:

1. Based on Sport England – Village and Community Halls – Design Guidance recommendations, there is a need to ensure that where new provision or improvements to local community meeting facilities are required, the minimum standard should be facilities that can accommodate a range of activities and provide for many different community groups - this would mean a centre with a main hall, a secondary hall and a lounge/community room.
2. The “Shaping Neighbourhoods: A Guide for Health, Sustainability and Vitality guidance document, suggests that Ballymoney Town will need 4 community centres by 2025, assuming most population growth will be in the town .
3. All council facilities should be fit for purpose and meet the needs of the local community, in particular where gaps in other facilities exist.
4. The audit demonstrates a need to address the poor quality of provision within Edward Street Social Centre.
5. There is a need to future-proof community facilities to accommodate population growth
6. A Community Hub feasibility study may be required - given the increasing need for more engagement with the local community through the new community planning remit. This could be for meetings and/or small conferences to consider the best way to create the working relationships and partnerships to involve communities in the activities and potential activities in the area and to improve service delivery in the local area. For example, within the Music Centre in particular with heritage, education and tourism projects linked to Ulster Scots and World War I alongside the Ballymoney Community Resource Centre and the Ullans Centre.
7. There is a need to ensure that any new or existing facilities in Ballymoney Town take into account the priority requirements of user groups, namely Quality of the facility; Cost of hiring

the facility; Location of facility; Car parking; Physical accessibility to the facility; Opening times; Adequate heating; Disabled toilets; Physical accessibility within the facility; Availability of large rooms for a range of functions

In addition there are overarching social needs that need to be taken into account. These are linked to the community development goals of the current Causeway Coast and Glens Community Development Strategy.

8. Increase community development capacity in the local area and build leadership within communities
9. Promoting productive engagement and partnership work of and with local communities as well as building connections, cohesion and good relations locally
10. Addressing TSN and Equality
11. Is centrally located and quality focused provision
12. Feels open, safe, shared, accessible and reasonably priced for all
13. Has the potential to lever in additional resources

In addition to the above, the research has revealed a need to focus on the management of the provision of services through the facilities regardless of the future development. These will be particularly important as a new provision is being considered.

This report identifies these issues as emerging from the research and is not meant to be a comment on existing operations or management.

Operational/Management Needs

1. There is a need to utilise, promote and network the existing facilities in Ballymoney Town more effectively, in particular those which are open to the public and are accessible and neutral. This will help to utilise spare capacity.
2. There is a need to network with other facilities to see how much more open community space can be created from the existing supply of more restricted spaces but those that are willing to open up – e.g. some churches and schools
3. There is a need to work with the NIHE and the three Community Houses to ensure they are connected to wider community planning opportunities
4. There is a need to review and possibly standardise the pricing policies of Council-owned facilities. This could result in increased usage if supported by a good promotional campaign.
5. While delivering services, due attention needs to be paid to the new Community Planning remit of council, and the drive for improved engagement with the local community and better service delivery and that all work complements the new corporate strategy.

Income and Expenditure and Occupancy of Council owned centres in 2014/2015

As part of the audit, we were asked to examine the income and expenditure of the Council facilities as well as the occupancy levels in each to see if and where there was spare capacity.

By way of comparison, the table below illustrates the Income and Expenditure and the occupancy of the main rooms available for community use in **2014/2015** in Council facilities.

It was also agreed with Council that the weekly schedules for each of the three centres represented a typical weeks booking and could be used for occupancy estimation purposes. It should be noted that the JDLC is closed on Sunday mornings and evenings and on Saturday evenings, bringing the number of slots available to rent down to 54 across its three rooms in comparison to the Town Hall and the Social Centre which are available when people wish to book it. For the purposes of estimating the occupancy rates, JDLC supplied us with this information. In the case of the Town Hall and the Social Centre, we have estimated occupancy levels based on a typical weeks data supplied to us by Council and outlined in page 16 and 17 and based on weekly and monthly bookings only.

	Income	Expenditure	Occupancy Sessions ⁷	Occupancy Rate
4 Rooms at Town Hall	£38,885 ⁸	£182,085 ⁹	20/84	24%
3 Rooms at JDLC	£5,146 ¹⁰	£5,726 ¹¹	11/54	20%
1 Room at Social Centre	£8,506	£37,003 ¹²	6/21	29%

It is clear that there is capacity and revenue shortfalls at all facilities although the Social Centre is the venue that requires capital expenditure if it is to continue to serve the community appropriately. This is also the venue with poor access due to lack of car parking facilities.

Current Areas Available and Income per Sq. Metre.

We then examined the cost per square metre of the facilities and the specific rooms within them based on the income from the hire of each room.

Venue	Rooms Available	Area Sq. M	2014/15 Revenue	2014/15 Revenue per Sq. M
Ballymoney Town Hall	Mc Arthur Room	30.25	£6,411	£211.90
	Cramsie Room	38.50	£6,415	£166.60
	George Shiels Room	66.00	£9,378	£142.10

7 This denotes the number of session spaces which are available in a week which is regarded as a "typical week" and the number that are actually booked

8 This figure was taken from the monthly figures shown on the pdf from JDLC reports.

9 Per pdf "Annual Running Costs 2014-15 JDLC and ORS"

10 This figure is net of VAT to compare with the figures at the Town Hall and Social Centre. (The Gross Revenue generated was £6,175 Incl. of VAT).

11 From the £1.87m expenditure at the JDLC, including the restaurant, Community & Sports Development and the Summer Scheme, it is not a simple task to accurately isolate the costs of running the Conference, Committee and Lecture Rooms. The figure offered is highly subjective but based on a fee of 0.5% of Capital Charges (£1,148), 1% of the Utilities, Insurance costs and Buildings Maintenance (£3,382) plus 10% of Conference/Course Expenses (£461) and 10% of Room Hire Costs (£63) plus 10% of the room hire income (£672) to cover staff costs.

12 Per pdf "Annual Running Costs 2014-15 JDLC and ORS"

Venue	Rooms Available	Area Sq. M	2014/15 Revenue	2014/15 Revenue per Sq. M
	Auditorium	162.00	£16,681	£103.00
	Sub Total	296.75	£38,885	£131.00
Edward Street Social Centre	Main hall	180.00	£8,506	£47.26
Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre ¹³	Committee Room	36.00	£2,777	£77.14
	Lecture Room	36.00	£500	£13.89
	Conference Room (L Shaped) total area given	81.75	£1,843	£22.54
	Sub Total	153.75	£5,120	£33.30

The Town Hall is generating £131 p sq. m (with a 24% occupancy) compared to £47 p sq. m in Social Centre (29% Occupancy) and £33 p sq. m in the JDLC, (20% occupancy). In particular it is worth pointing out that the Lecture Room is generating £13.89 compared to the Committee Room's rate of £77 p sq. m.

The above illustrates that there is room for both income generation and efficiency (occupancy) in all facilities.

Increasing Revenue Streams

The table below shows the new space that is made available via the options and the potential increases in income through these various options.

Option	Rooms available for Community and Area	Comment	2014/15 Income	Potential Income
Existing Social Centre (Options A & C1)	1 Room	Building is not fit for purpose but refurbishment should allow for 15-20% uplift in revenue	£8,321	£9,569 - £9,985
Expanded Social Centre (Option C2)	As above + 20%	Expanding the footprint (Option C2) should again increase revenue by 20% plus the uplift above	£8,321	£11,233 - £11,649
Music Centre (Options B & D1)	Ground – 5 Rooms of various sizes from 14 sq. m to 49 sq. m plus a Lounge or Conference Room of 93 sq. m (Total 210 sq. m)	This assumes a major investment in the music centre and creates a significant area with excellent access – at the centre of the town and with good car parking	£0	£62,487 Assuming the Music Centre can match the Town Hall for Inc. rates per

¹³ Income figures given net of VAT

Option	Rooms available for Community and Area	Comment	2014/15 Income	Potential Income
	1 st Floor – 7 Rooms of various sizes from 22 sq. m to 54 sq. m (Total 267 sq. m) Total - 477 Sq. m			sq. m. and assuming refurb to same standards of quality and provision
Town Hall	McArthur, Cramsie, Shiels Rooms and the Auditorium	The Town Hall with a current occupancy rate of 24% has the capacity to absorb all traffic from the Social Centre although the entire income would not be available because of the commitment to the Evergreen Group	£38,885	£47,398 ¹⁴
JDLC	Committee Room, Lecture Room and the Conference Area	The 3 rooms at the JDLC have an average occupancy rate of 20%. There is capacity to absorb some of traffic from the Social Centre although access to this centre, as it is slightly out of town may be an issue. We have assumed an increase of 30%.	£5,146	£6,690 ¹⁵

¹⁴ This assumes all the revenue from the Social Centre comes to the Town Hall (equivalent to a 21% increase in income)

¹⁵ Assumes a 30% increase.

Section 6: Options

6.1 List of Options considered

Through the audit a number of options were then considered. These are outlined below with their capital costs attached. These are framed against the two capital projects which were put forward to the new Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council by the legacy Ballymoney Borough Council:

- Refurbishment works at The Social Centre on Edward Street in Ballymoney; and
- Acquisition of Ballymoney Music Centre from Education Authority (formerly North Eastern Education and Library Board).

Council decided to undertake an Audit of Need in relation to community facility provision in Ballymoney and, on the assumption that a need is identified, prepare an Options Appraisal in relation to how that need can be met. These are the options. This will help inform the proposals for investment in the centre of Ballymoney and allow Council to make some rational decisions in relation to capital expenditure.

Options	What this means	Social Centre Edward St	Music Centre	Cost
A Maintain Status Quo	The new Council stands by the decision of the previous Council to proceed with the refurbishment of the Social Centre but buys the lease for the Music Centre	Complete the development - £300k	Lease Only £70k	£400k (incl fees)
B Implement BBC decisions to full effect and invest in Music Centre	The new Council stands by the decision of the previous Council to proceed with the refurbishment of the Social Centre and buys the lease and fully develops the Music Centre	Complete the development - £300k	Complete capital build £1.2m	Circa £1.5m
C1 Social Centre development	The new Council stands by the decision of the previous Council to proceed with the refurbishment of the Social Centre only	Complete the development - £300k	-	£300k
C2 Increased capacity at Social Centre	As with the option above but using a larger footprint by expanding the site and using the Scout Hall site to do so	Expanded development - £400k	-	£400k
D Fully develop the Music Centre as a medium to long term aim	Put in place a plan to raise capital for the long term development of the Music Centre with a range of different organisations and accessing other funds and not doing anything with the Social Centre	Transfer existing Social Centre activity to existing facilities ¹⁶	Complete capital build £1.2m	Circa £1.2m
E Absorb all additional usage in current facilities	Accept that capital investment at this time is not in the interests of the council; do not proceed with the Social Centre or Music Centre and meet the needs of users by making better use of existing resources. This should	Transfer existing Social Centre activity to existing facilities	-	-

¹⁶ This may mean exploring other options for the Evergreen group such as using the Church of Ireland hall.

Options	What this means	Social Centre Edward St	Music Centre	Cost
	encompass negotiating with “single use providers” to see if space such as church halls can be used more creatively.			

6.2 Capital Cost Analysis of Options

The table below gives an indication of the capital costs of the options. It is beyond the scope of this paper to prepare a Green Book Appraisal, but it is prudent to present as much information as is available to aid the decision making process. It should be recognised that recurrent income and expenditure should be considered before a final decision is made.

	Maintain Status Quo	Implement BBC decisions to full effect and invest in Music Centre	Social Centre development only	Increased capacity at Social Centre only	Fully develop the Music Centre as a medium to long term aim only	Absorb all additional usage in current facilities
Option	A	B	C1	C2	D	E
Capital Cost	Capital cost £400k	Capital cost £1.5m	£300k	£400k	£1.2m	-
Notes		Based on R. Robinson Report 2006 Refurbishment costs	Previously estimated at £179k the cost has been recalculated recently	Based on other recent similar projects ¹⁷		
Ranking	=3	6	2	=3	5	1

As can be seen Option E is the optimum option from a capital costs perspective as it is the least expensive in terms of capital costs. There would however be some support costs attached to this.

¹⁷ Similar projects to those carried in the Ballymoney Council area

6.3: Consideration of non-monetary benefits

		Maintain Status Quo	Implement BBC decisions to full effect and invest in Music Centre	Social Centre development only	Increased capacity at Social Centre only	Fully develop the Music Centre as a medium to long term aim only	Absorb all additional usage in current facilities
Non-Monetary Benefits/ Scores out of 100	Weight	A	B	C1	C2	D	E
i. Feels open, safe, shared, accessible location, and reasonably priced for all	35	45	70	40	55	70	45
ii. Increase community development capacity and promoting productive engagement, partnership and good relations	30	50	60	45	55	60	60
iii. TSN, Equality & Diversity	25	60	65	50	55	65	60
iv. Compliance with “Shaping Neighbourhoods: i.e. need for 4 community centres by 2025 and thus future-proof community facilities to accommodate population growth	10	15	70	15	20	55	40 ¹⁸
Scores	100	4,725	6,575	4,150	5,150	6,425	5,275
Ranking		5	1	6	4	2	3

The weightings above are based on awarding the options that best meet the current needs of the local community as identified by survey and consultation. Benefits i. and ii. are concerned with the development of the community and its future development. Benefit iii. is concerned with supporting the aims of statutory responsibilities. Benefit iv. with the ability of each option to meet the future capacity needs of the area. The scores are out of 100. Each of the four scores per option is then multiplied by its weight and then added up with the total score noted at the bottom of the table.

Based on this non-monetary benefit analysis, Options B and D appear to most meet the needs of the communities but of course, these options are also the most costly options. However, Option E also

¹⁸ Note: While additional facilities are not being built under this option, it is about making accessible a range of facilities for use by the local community and creating more shared spaces. This is increasing the supply without capital building.

scored well by addressing many of the identified needs and in particular being a proactive initiative to involve the wider community and centres in the community development activities and work. Essentially this option examines the way in which current facilities are used to use improve efficiency and usage. It should not ignore the opportunity afforded by working with other stakeholders to open up other space to wider use and as this option requires the least capital, there may be an opportunity to use seed capital to create opportunities. Such an initiative would also increase partnership working and inclusion.

Bringing the two scores together to identify best option

The table below attempts to reconcile the Monetary and Non-monetary Benefits.

Costs have been weighted @ 30% and non-monetary benefits have been weighted @ 70% to properly take account of the objective of achieving community benefit. This assumes that while capital costs are important, they do not reflect the sole purpose of providing the facility in the first instance. This therefore gives a 30/70 split - 30% capital and 70% non- monetary.

The Monetary Score was worked out in the following manner - lowest cost given full marks (100) and highest cost given half marks (50) with the rest of the costs scored pro-rata accordingly between lowest and highest.

	Maintain Status Quo	Implement BBC decisions to full effect and invest in Music Centre	Social Centre development	Increased capacity at Social Centre	Fully develop the Music Centre as a medium to long term aim	Absorb all additional usage in current facilities
Option	A	B	C1	C2	D	E
Capital Cost	£400k	£1.5m	£300k	£400k	£1.2m	£0
Monetary Score (100)	87	50	90	87	60	100
Monetary Score (30)	26	15	27	26	18	30
Non-Monetary Score (raw)	4,725	6575	4,150	5,150	6,425	5,275
Non-Monetary Score (100)	47.3	65.8	41.5	51.5	64.3	52.8
Non-Monetary Score (70)	33.1	45.3	29.1	36.1	45.0	36.9
Total Score	59.1	59.6	56.1	62.1	63.0	66.9
Rank	5	4	6	3	2	1

When combined, Option E is likely to be the preferred option subject to a more detailed economic appraisal, followed by Option D and then Option C2. Due cognisance should be taken of these results in the decisions for further capital expenditure planning. The results demonstrate that there is both a need to improve provision and a capacity in the area to accommodate this in the short to medium term with careful and innovative re-planning and marketing. There are clear alternatives to increasing capital spend in the area on community centres.

6.4: Recommendations for Operations

On Page 25 there are 5 “needs” that emerged from the research and these refer to the management and operations of service provision.

It is a recommendation of this report that due cognizance is given to addressing these needs while simultaneously tackling the needs for physical facilities.

In summary Council is concerned with optimising the use of the available space and new space for the local community and this should include a proactive programme to explore the opening up of facilities that are within the control of churches and schools for example, many of which have either restricted use of their premises or which have never really thought of opening their premises up to consider using them for wider community use.

Transfer of Use to Existing Council Facilities

It is clear by inspection of the booking schedules for the Social Centre, Town Hall and JDLC that much of the usage of the Social Centre can be accommodated in the other Council Buildings and through scheduling of available rooms and space in the existing Council facilities at the Town Hall and JDLC.

For example, the Evergreen Club meets on a Friday afternoon at the Social Centre and on Friday afternoons the Town Hall is typically unused with three rooms and the auditorium empty and available.

The work to date has identified a total of 48 Community Facilities in Ballymoney. Of these, the three Council facilities and twelve of the non-Council facilities have been identified as neutral venues that are open to all.

Where needs arise that cannot be accommodated through scheduling at the Town Hall and JDLC, Council staff can facilitate and enable the need being met by brokering access to one or more of the other twelve neutral venues.

Such an approach can meet the needs of the community at a lower capital and revenue cost to Council than refurbishing or building new facilities and has the added benefit of improving the sustainability of both the Council and non-Council facilities and engaging with the community more effectively.

Additionally, a number of groups have cited high room charges as a barrier to them using the Town Hall and JDLC. From a Council revenue perspective, refurbishing and building additional space may exacerbate this problem rather than solve it.

An option to deal with the high room charge barrier is to reduce the room charges at the Town Hall and JDLC and to then maximise their use through better scheduling so as to maintain (or even increase) the overall revenue position.

Evergreen Club

It is noted that the Social Centre was gifted to Council on the basis that the Evergreen Club would be assured a permanent meeting place in perpetuity and it is assumed that Council will want to honour that.

In this respect, Council may wish to offer the Evergreen Club up to four hours per week permanent free use of a room at the Town hall which would have a Net Present Value of circa £60,000

Given the maintenance liabilities, the current market value of the Social Centre is uncertain.

Should the Social Centre be sold at some point in the future, Council could consider at that time how it wished to use the difference between the capital realised and the cost of the alternative permanent provision for the Evergreen Club.

6.5: Conclusions

- 1a. The Social Centre on Edward Street is in need of investment, although there are limitations in terms of the site, parking and access. There is a possibility of an expanded site with the adjacent Scout Centre although there is still a restricted site & poor parking. There is an occupancy rate of 29% of available booking slots at the Social Centre. There is a challenge to find a way to invest in this facility that would yield long term benefits for the community and Council
- 1b. There is capacity in the Town Hall and Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre for the short and medium term to accommodate significant additional community use including that from the Social Centre. In addition, there are 11 non-council venues which are open and accessible to the public with usable spaces. Proactive work could be done to improve the co-ordination of bookings and marketing of these facilities given booking patterns in order to make the best use of the current space and optimise the benefits.
- 2a. The former Music Centre, a centrally located building is currently available under a long term lease agreement from the Education Authority. Proposals have been put forward by local groups to create a multi- functional community/ cultural hub in the area. The capital cost of completing this project is high but has the potential to attract external funding from other sources. There is evidence of early demand for this project from a number of local community and cultural heritage based organisations.
- 2b. There are at least 48 facilities available for community use in the area, 33 of which are more restrictive of their use by the general public. In order to optimise the use of the available space and new space for the local community a proactive programme could be developed to explore the opening up of those facilities which have more restrictions on their usage, such as churches, schools and sports clubs, for wider community use.
- 3a. Objective evidence indicates that the most viable option is not to proceed with investment and to meet the needs of users by making better use of existing facilities. User groups from the Social Centre could be accommodated in the Town Hall or Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and this could also encompass negotiating with “single use providers” to see if space such as church halls can be used more creatively. It is noted that the Social Centre was gifted to Council by the Evergreen Club on the basis that they would be assured a permanent meeting place in perpetuity and it is assumed that Council would wish to honour this. This could for example include free use of a room at the Town Hall.
- 3b. In conjunction, due to the commitment carried over from Ballymoney Borough Council to purchase the lease on the former Music Centre, Council may wish to consider working with interested parties to see if a sustainable Business Case for the former Music Centre can be developed as a medium to long terms aim. This would require a further extension from the Education Authority to delay purchasing the lease on the former Music Centre pending development of a Business Case.

Appendix 1: Review of rooms available in those facilities which adhere to the definition of a community centre

Venue	Rooms Available	Size of rooms	Sq m size	Seating Capacity	Charge per hour
1. Ballymoney Townhall (Council owned)	Mc Arthur Room	5.5 x 5.5m	30.25	30 theatre style	Hourly rate – £11.50 Daily- £39 Evening- £39 All day -£80
	Cramsie Room	7 x 5.5 m	38.5	36 theatre style	Hourly rate- £12.50 Daily -£50 Evening-£50 All day-£100
	George Shiels Room	12x 5.5 m	66	80 theatre style	Hourly rate-£15 Daily -£57 Evening-£57 All day-£116
	Auditorium	18x 9 m	162	225 theatre style	Hourly rate-£26 Daily -£98 Evening-£98 All day-£194 Rehearsal/ set up £11 ph
	Balcony	-		90 fixed seating	-
2. Edward Street Social Centre (Council owned)	Main hall	18mx10m	180	200 theatre style	Hourly rate £14 Daily 9am- 6pm £51 Evening 6pm to midnight £51 All day 9.00am to midnight £105 Rehearsals set up £8 ph
3. Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre (Council owned)	Committee Room	8m X 4.5m	36	40 (Seats theatre style) 20 Board rooms style	£16 per hour
	Lecture Room	8m X 4.5m	36	40 (Seats theatre style) 20 Board rooms style	£16 per Hour
	Conference Room	8m X 6m 7.5m x 4.5m “L” shape layout	48 33.75	60 (Seats theatre style) 30 Board rooms style Both rooms max 100 theatre style	£20 per hour

Venue	Rooms Available	Size of rooms	Sq m size	Seating Capacity	Charge per hour
4. St Patrick's Church of Ireland - Old School House, Queen Street	Medium Sized hall			150 people theatre style	£15 per hour
5. Ballymoney Scout Hall, Edward Street	Scout hall	60 x 30 ft (18 x 9 m)	162	60	
	Small patrol room	10 x 12 ft (3 x 3.6m)	10.8	6	
6. Castle Community Centre, Castle Street	Committee room	27 x 20 ft (8 x 6 m)	48	80 people	£10 ph
	Big Hall	78 x 69 ft (23 x 21m)	483	150 people	£10 ph
	Youth Club			40-50 people	£10 ph
	Scout hall	24 x 69 ft (7.3 x 21 m)	153	30 people	
7. Carnary Community House, Carnary Drive					
8. Glebeside Community House	Large meeting room	96 sq ft	8.9	40 people	No Charge
	Large meeting room	72 sq ft	6.6	30 people	No Charge
	Small meeting room	20 sq ft	1.85	20 people	No Charge
	Office			2 people	No Charge
9. Ballybrakes Community Indoor Bowling Club	Main area of stadium	200 x 200 ft (approx) 60 x 60 m	3600	800 to 900	£4.50 per rink for 2 hrs £33 per hr for Northern zone to use
	Ferguson room	13.5 ft x 35 ft – 4 x 10.6m	42.4	30	Management decision- - depending on who is using it
	Dining room	25.5 ft x 35 ft – 7.7 x 10.6m	81.6	70	Management decision- -

Venue	Rooms Available	Size of rooms	Sq m size	Seating Capacity	Charge per hour
					depending on who is using it
	2 changing rooms	17 ft x 20.5 ft – 5 x 6.2m	31	24	Management decision- - depending on who is using it
10. Ballymoney Community Resource Centre, Acorn Centre	Training Room			60 theatre style	£10 per hour
	Board Room			16 @ round table	£8 per hour
	IT Suite			12 @ round table and 12 @ computers at perimeter benches	£8 per hour for meeting room £15 per hour for use of laptops
	Counselling room			2-3 people	
11. Royal British Legion Hall	Large function room downstairs which can be divided off to create two rooms	54 x 48 ft – 16.4 x 14.6 m	239	200 seated	£10 ph
	Upstairs bar area	40 x 26 ft 12 x 7.9 m	94.8	100 people	No Charge
	Snooker room	40 x 25 ft 12x 7.6m	91.2	30 people	Donation
	Large meeting room	12 x 18 ft 3.6 x 5.4m	19.4	10 people	No Charge
12. Ullans Centre	Large meeting room	9 x 3 m	27	20 people	Minimum charge
	Class room	4 x 5 m	20	20 people	Minimum charge
	Exhibition space	14 x 4 m	56	15 people	Minimum charge

Venue	Rooms Available	Size of rooms	Sq m size	Seating Capacity	Charge per hour
	Radio space	4 x 4 m	16	3 people	Minimum charge
13. Compass and Can Recycling	Large training room	100 x 100 ft 30 x 30m	900	100 people	
	Small training room	6 x 6 ft 1.8x1.8m	3.24	6 people	
	New space from next April in Main Street Ballymoney	14 x 14 ft 4.2x4.2m	17.6	20 people	
	Training Room	21 x 15 ft 6.4 x 4.5	28.8	25 people	£7.50 ph
14. Barn Fellowship	Main hall	2,800 sq ft whole complex	260	100-200 people	£24 ph
	Smaller hall			<100 people	£12 ph
	Meeting room			<6 people	£10 ph
	Meeting room	260 sq m		<6 people	£10 ph
Estimated Total			7,032 sq m		

Appendix 2: Socio Economic Profile of Ballymoney Town

This socio economic profile for Ballymoney Town is based on the five wards of Carnany, Glebe, Fairhill, Newhill, and Route from 2011 census data.

Demography

	All	0-15 years	16-39 years	40-64 years	65-84 years	85+ years
Carnany	1,999	394 19.7%	635 31.8%	675 33.8%	275 13.8%	20 1.0%
Fairhill	1,798	391 21.7%	532 29.6%	526 29.3%	322 17.9%	27 1.5%
Glebe	1,719	262 15.2%	451 26.2%	614 35.7%	316 18.4%	76 4.4%
Newhill	2,507	539 21.5%	917 36.6%	782 31.2%	240 9.6%	29 1.2%
Route	1,529	249 16.3%	390 25.5%	514 33.6%	330 21.6%	46 3.0%
Totals	9,552	1,835 19.2%	2,925 30.6%	3,111 32.6%	1,483 15.5%	198 2.1%
N Ireland		20.9%	32.8%	31.7%	12.8%	1.7%

Source: Ninis: Census 2011: Usually Resident Population by broad age bands and sex

The five wards that make up Ballymoney Town have a total population of 9,552.

- 19% of the population are under the age of 15 years, which was below the average for Northern Ireland;
 - Glebe ward has just 15.2% of the population falling into this age bracket
 - Fairhill has almost 22% of the population under the age of 15 years;
- Just under 31% of the population of the area is between the ages of 16-39 which is below the N Ireland average of almost 33%;
 - Newhill ward has almost 37% of the population within this age bracket
 - Route is below average with just 25.5% of the population between the ages of 16-39
- 15.5% of the population is between the ages of 65-84 which is almost 3% above the Northern Ireland average;
 - Newhill has just 9.6% of the population within this age range
 - Route ward and Glebe ward have the highest older populations

Religion or religion brought up in

Ward	All usual residents	Catholic (%)	Protestant and Other Christian (%)	Other religions (%)	None (%)
Carnany	1,999	16.70%	76.60%	0.55%	6.1%
Fairhill	1,798	16.60%	76.30%	%	6.1%
Glebe	1,719	16.20%	77%	1.20%	5.6%
Newhill	2,507	13%	80.40%	0.50%	6.1%
Route	1,529	22.80%	71.20%	0.98%	5%
Total	9,552	16.6%	76.7%	0.8%	5.9%
N Ireland		45.1%	48.4%	0.92%	5.6%

Source: **Ninis Census 2011: Religion or Religion Brought Up In: KS212NI**

The majority of the population of the five wards that make up Ballymoney Town are Protestant or other Christian – 76.6% which is above the N Ireland average of 48%

- Just 16% of the population are Catholic which is far below the N Ireland average of 45%
 - Route ward has the highest percentage of the population brought up in the Catholic religion – 22.8% compared to Newhill at just 13%
- Almost 6% of the population have stated they have no religion

Ethnic Group

	Totals	Carnany	Fairhill	Glebe	Newhill	Route	N Ireland
White	99.2%	99.6%	99.4%	98.5%	99.3%	99.2%	98.21%
Chinese	0.36%	0	0.33%	0.52%	0.4%	0.59%	0.35%
Irish Traveller	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.07%
Indian	0.25%	0.25%	0	0.81%	0.08%	0.2%	0.34%
Pakistani	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.06%
Bangladeshi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.03%
Other Asian	0.02%	0	0.06%	0	0.04%	0	0.28%
Black Caribbean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.02%
Black African	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.13%
Black Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.05%
Mixed	0.13%	0.15%	0.22%	0.06%	0.16%	0	0.33%
Other	0.02%	0	0	0.12%	0	0	0.13%

Source: **Ninis Ethnic Group: KS201NI**

The majority of the population of the wards that make up Ballymoney Town are from a White Ethnic background – 99.2%

- Chinese is the second largest ethnic group with 0.36% of the population belong to this group
- 0.25% of the population are from an Indian ethnic background
- There are no Irish Travellers living within the area

Health

	All usual residents	Day-to-day activities limited a lot (%)	Health Good or Very Good	Provides no unpaid care (%)
Carnany	1,999	14.6%	77.2%	88.54
Fairhill	1,798	12.8%	77.5%	90.21
Glebe	1,719	15.9%	76.8%	86.97
Newhill	2,507	12.4%	77.4%	89.35
Route	1,529	16.4%	72.6%	89.99
Totals	9,552	14%	76.5%	89.0%
N Ireland		11.9%	79.5%	88.2%

Source: Ninis Health and Provision of Unpaid Care: KS301NI

- 14% of the population have a long term disability which limits their day to day activities, which was higher than the N Ireland average of 11.9%
- The general health of the population of the five wards is good to very good – 76.5%
- 11% of the population provide unpaid care

Qualifications

	All usual residents: Aged 16+ years	No qualifications	Highest level of qualification: Level 4 and above%
Carnany	1,605	34.2%	18.2%
Fairhill	1,407	38.1%	12.2%
Glebe	1,457	32.1%	24.5%
Newhill	1,968	35.8%	13.8%
Route	1,280	39.5%	18.3%
Totals	7,717	36%	17%
N Ireland		29.1%	23.7%

Source: Ninis Qualifications and Students: KS501NI

- Over one third, 36%, of the population of the areas over the age of 16 do not have any qualifications which is 7% greater than the N Ireland average of 29%;
- Route has almost 40% of the population over the age of 16 with no qualifications
- 17% have a qualification at level 4 (Degree level) or above with Glebe ward having almost one quarter (24.5%)

Labour Market

	Economic Active	Economic Inactive	In Paid employment	Unemployed
Carnary	61.3%	38.7%	53.2%	6%
Fairhill	62%	38%	54.6%	6%
Glebe	63.8%	36.2%	56.8%	5.3%
Newhill	64.3%	35.7%	53%	8.3%
Route	54.6%	45.4%	47.6%	5.3%

Source: Ninis: Census 2011: Economic Activity: KS601NI

- Of the five wards that make up Ballymoney town, Route ward has the lowest percentage of the working age population that are economic active – 54.6% compared to 64% for Newhill;
- Route has the lowest percentage in paid employment -47.6% compared to 56.8% for Glebe;
- Newhill have the highest percentage unemployed at 8.3%

Deprivation

	Multiple Deprivation	Income	Employment	Health Disability	Education, Skills and Training	Proximity to Services	Living Environment	Crime
Carnary	204	162	155	221	194	427	299	258
Fairhill	239	203	218	218	158	378	252	426
Glebe	394	380	209	412	491	516	195	255
Newhill	112	106	105	94	89	489	166	388
Route	192	180	90	261	378	466	144	152

Source: Ninis: Deprivation 2010

- Newhill ward falls within the top 20% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland under four of the seven wards, Income, Employment, Health and Education and also the Multiple Deprivation measure (MDM);
- Route ward falls within the top 20% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland under the employment domain;
- All the five wards fall within the top 40% most deprived in relation to employment;
- Of the five wards Route is the most deprived in terms of employment, living environment and crime;

Appendix 3: Ballymoney Facilities Users Survey

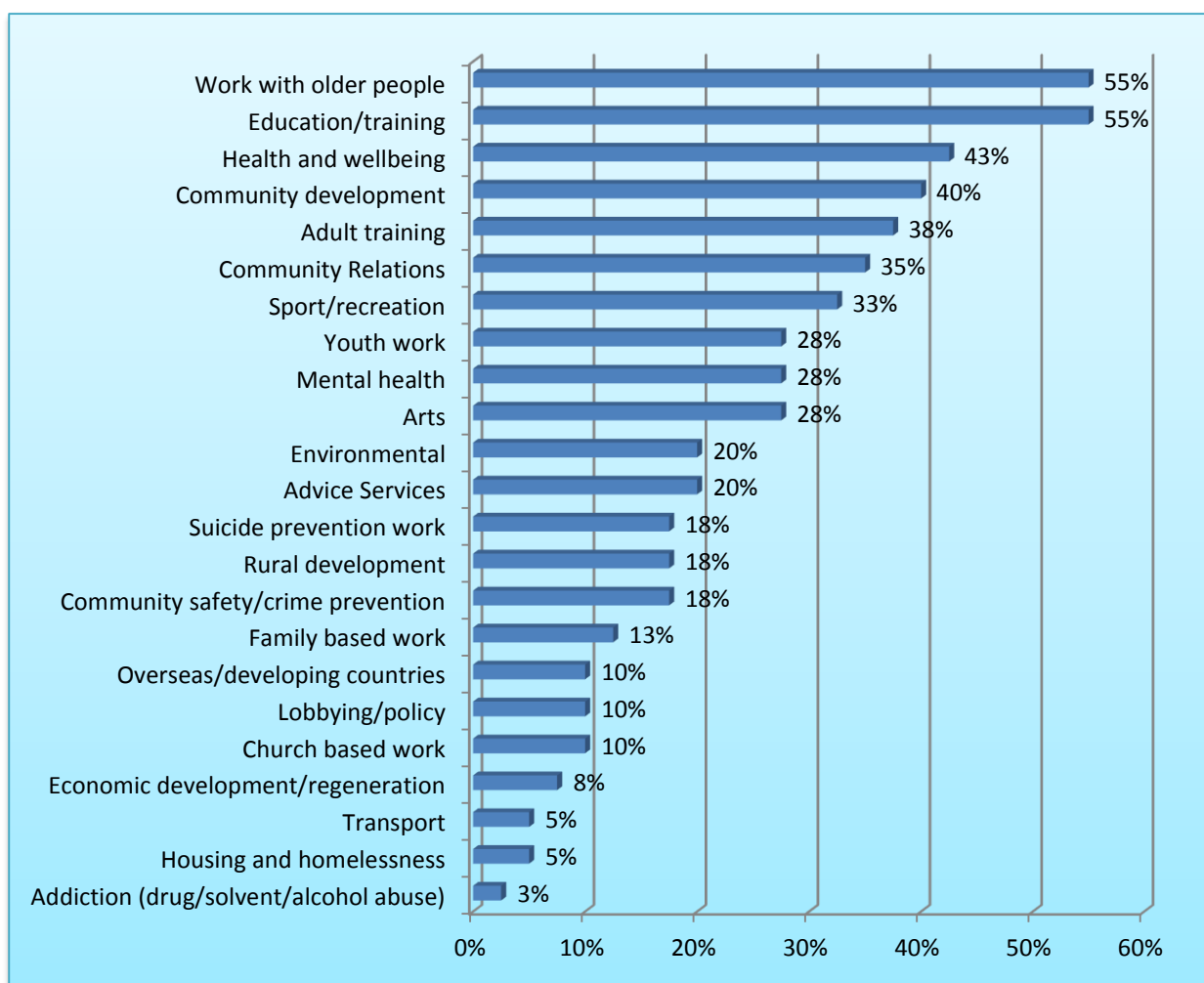
Ballymoney Users Survey

This survey was sent to 237 groups in the Ballymoney area by email or post. Of these 37 responded giving a response rate of 15%. This list was sourced from Ballymoney Community Resource Centre which sent out the survey to all of its members on our behalf. This was supplemented by additional phone calls and emails to users of the three council venues particular by the Council and the consultants.

Ballymoney Users Survey

37 organisations participated in the survey. Details of the organisations is in appendix 1

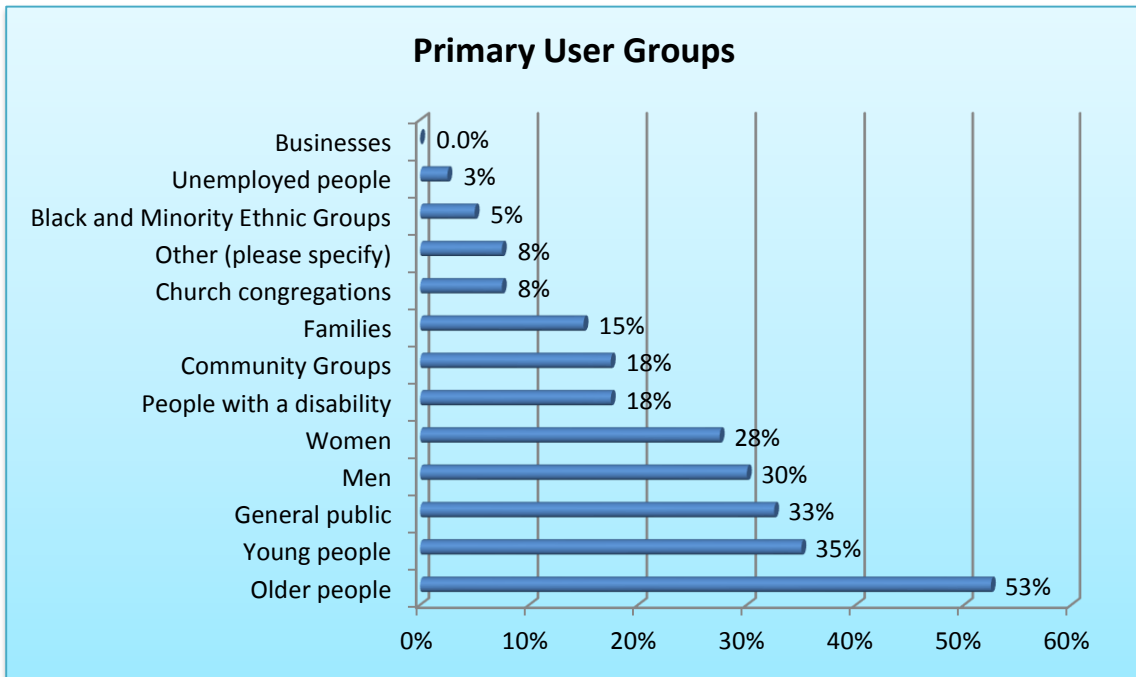
Q3: What type of work does your group/ organisation undertake?



- The top 5 types of work the respondent undertook were:
 - Work with older people – 55%
 - Education/training - 55%
 - Health and wellbeing 43%
 - Community development – 40%

- Adult training 38%

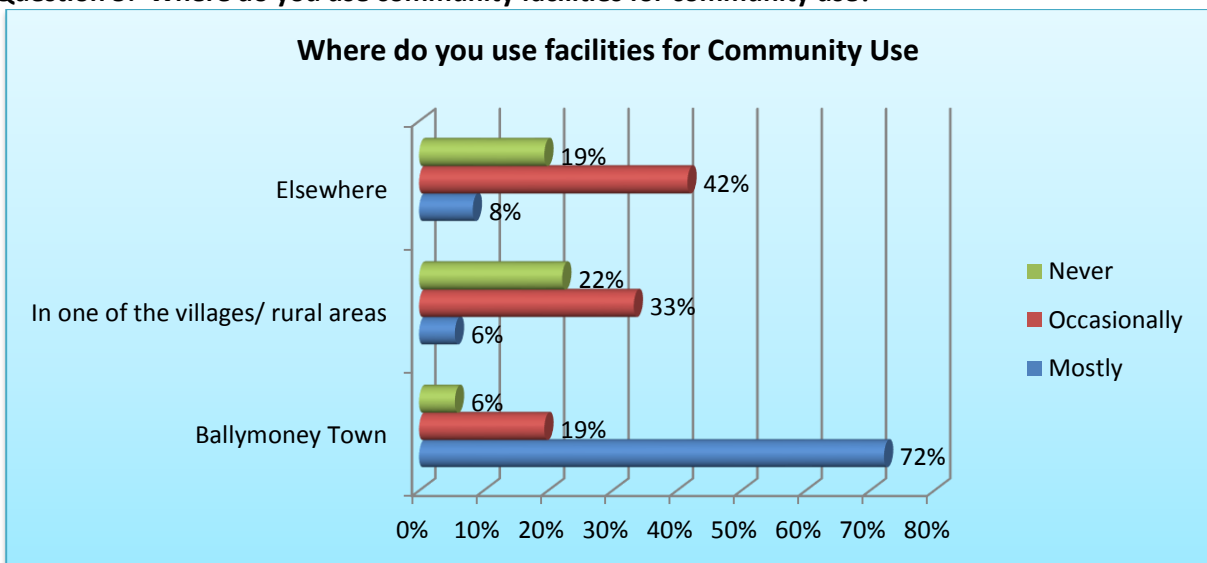
Q 4: Who are the primary user groups



The Top 5 Primary user groups are:

- Older people – 53%
- Young people – 35%
- General public – 33%
- Men – 30%
- Women -28%

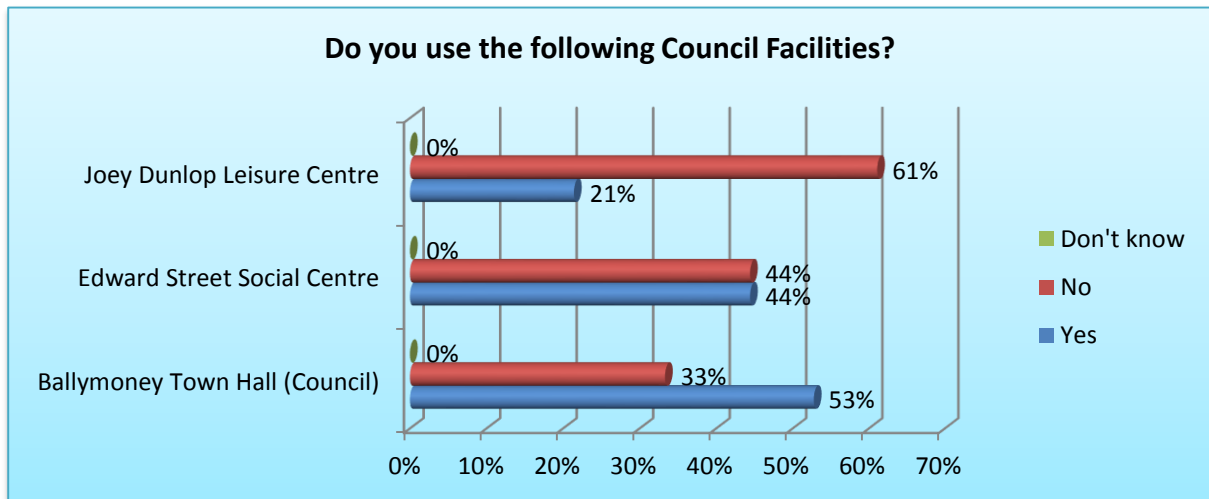
Question 5: Where do you use community facilities for community use?



- 72% of respondents mostly use facilities in Ballymoney Town

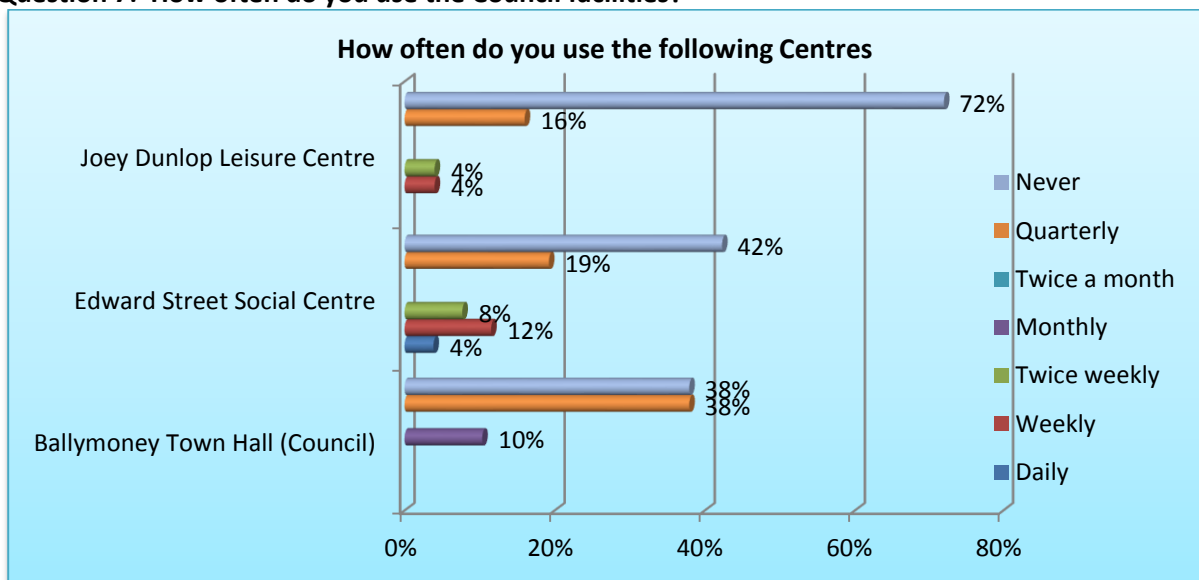
- Only 6% never use facilities in Ballymoney Town
- 19% occasionally use facilities in Ballymoney Town
- 33% occasionally use facilities in villages/rural areas and elsewhere

Question 6: Do you use the following Council facilities?



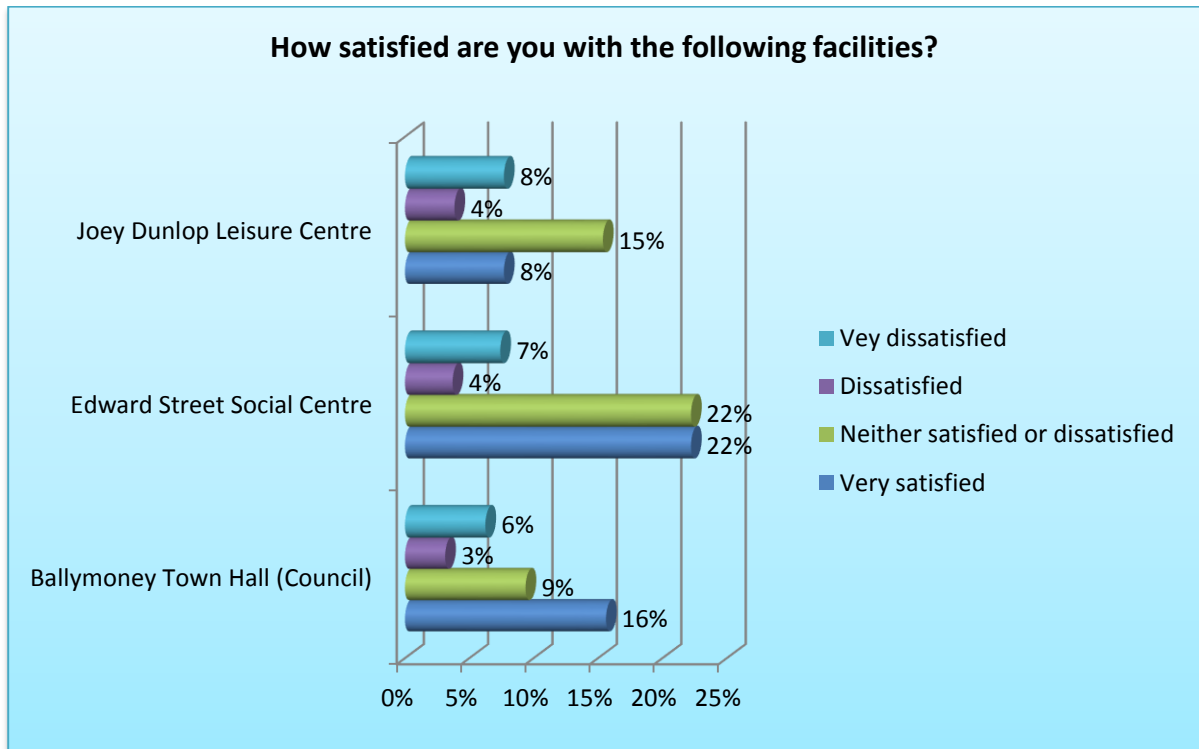
- 53% of respondents use Ballymoney Town Hall however 33% do not use this facility
- 61% **do not** use the Joey Dunlop Centre
- 44% use the Edward Street Social Centre however 44% **do not** use it Social centre

Question 7: How often do you use the Council facilities?



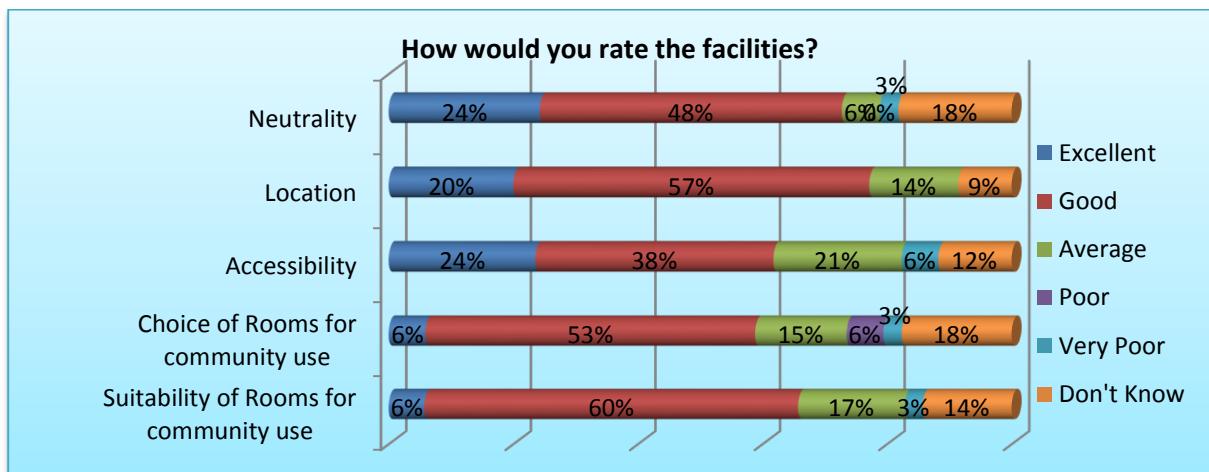
The results demonstrate usage on a quarterly basis, with the Social Centre being most often used on a weekly, twice weekly or daily basis by a few groups. Town hall is mostly used by the respondents on a quarterly or monthly basis.

Question 8: Level of satisfaction with Council facilities



Respondents were asked to rank their satisfaction of the three council centres with a score of 1 being very dissatisfied and 5 being very satisfied. Levels of satisfaction were varied across all three centres as can be seen by the graph.

Question 9: How would you rate the Town Hall Facilities?



The majority of respondents rated the facilities at the town hall as either Average, Good or Excellent

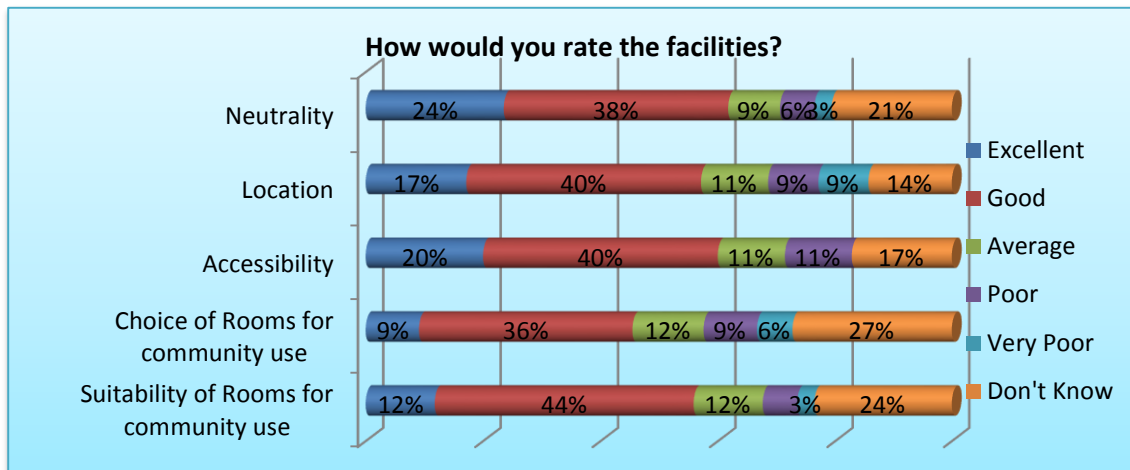
- The Neutrality, Location and Accessibility of the Town Hall was rated as **Excellent** by 24%, 20% and 24% of respondents respectively
- The majority of respondent rated as **Good** the
 - Neutrality of the Town Hall – 48%

- Accessibility -38%
- Location – 57%
- Choice of Rooms – 53%
- Suitability of Rooms for community use – 60%
- **Just 3% rated as poor or very poor the**
 - choice of rooms
 - the neutrality and
 - Suitability of rooms
- **6%** rated the accessibility as very poor

Some Comments:

- The Town Hall has poor accessibility for people with any degree of poor mobility. It can be quite a walk from the back of the Townhead Street Car Park to the Town Hall entrance.
- While there is access for disabled people (lifts) they are not located very well
- When attending events in the Town Hall we are hindered somewhat because there is only a lift capable of taking 1 wheelchair at a time. As we have a number of wheelchair users it takes us some time getting members to their seats.
- Some staff very unhelpful and rude to people with learning disabilities.
- It's an excellent facility, in a superb location.
- We would often like a larger room.
- Ballymoney Town Hall has excellent car parking facilities and is in an excellent location for easy access. Within the Town Hall itself, access for people with disabilities is excellent. Cost of the facilities can be expensive for small groups.
- Some members have mobility problems
- As we are now renting a premises on Main Street we no longer need the use of the Ballymoney Town Hall
- Never used the Town Hall for community activities, don't even know what they can offer a community group.
- While there is access for disabled (lifts) they are not located very well
- Town Hall has poor accessibility for people with any degree of poor mobility. It can be quite a walk from the back of the street car park to the Town Hall entrance
- Cost of facility an issue- we are now moving our quarterly meetings to the Independent Orange Hall as it is a quarter of the price. Also venue not that suitable for bringing cages in and out for old people due to the amount of stairs and levels in town hall.

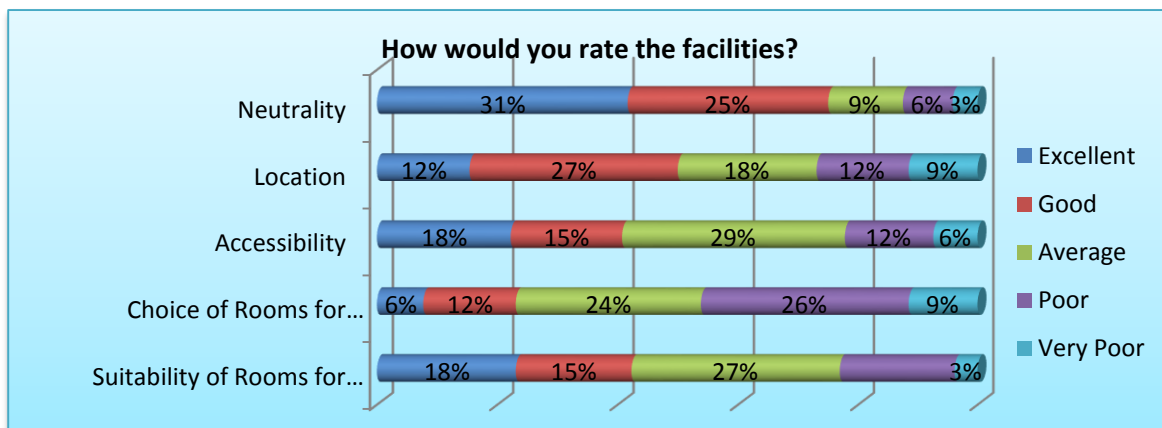
Question 10: How would you rate Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre?



The majority of respondents rated the facilities at the Joey Dunlop Centres as either Excellent, Good or Average;

- We require a room for committee members, from 20 to 40 people. Rooms are not very suitable and they are costly.
- There is quite a walk from parts of the car park to the entrance of the Joey Dunlop Centre. The location would only suit a small number of Evergreen Club Members.
- Very good facilities but overpriced compared to other locations.
- Rarely use the JDLC - Perhaps once per year for a youth club outing. Very poor/dated facilities and not enough activities for the varied age group of the large group of children we usually have at youth club.
- Just used here when Town Hall was closed for renovations
- As an organisation we use the Town Hall because of the locality where members can walk to it and the use of a kitchen. However I must impress that the Joey Dunlop centre is an excellent facility too but too out of town for our use at present.

Question 11: How would you rate Edward Street Social Centre?

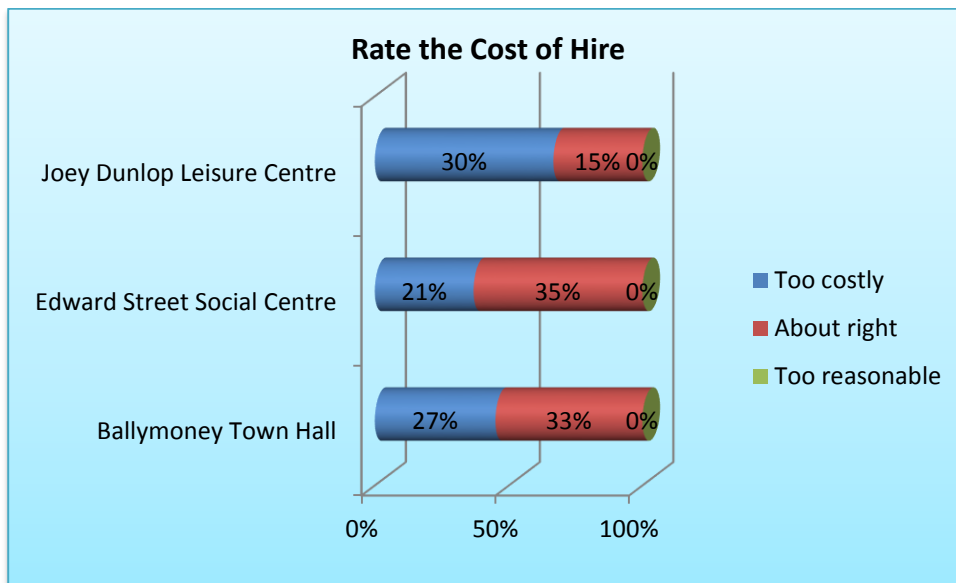


- The majority of respondents rated the **Neutrality** of the Edward St Centre as either Excellent (31%), Good (25%) or Average (9%)
- 21% rated the **Location** of the Centre as either Poor (12%) or Very Poor (9%)
- 29% rated the **Accessibility** of the Edward St Centre as Average with 18% rating it as Poor or Very Poor
- 35% rated the Choice of Rooms as either Poor (26%) or Very Poor (9%)

Comments Received:

- The hall in the social centre is an excellent shape and size for the activities of the Evergreen Club. There is always a good atmosphere in it. The building is very accessible as there are no steps from the kerb to the platform with swinging double doors. The distance from the kerb is very short. The location is very central for club members coming from all directions, without being in a very busy thoroughfare. (There are no schools nearby). Another room might be useful. The social centre hall has always been considered a neutral, shared space in the town. It has always been available for use by any group for a function.
- Lack of car parking facilities when there is a big event on
- Building is old and dated
- This hall is excellent for the purposes of our club. The floors aren't slippery. There are no steps, thus wheelchair access is good. There is a stage for use at parties. It is not too big for the number of members we have and yet is big enough for us to invite guests along to activities.
- Poor Car Parking facilities
- Never been in it
- Could not provide the space needed
- The location is poor because of the difficulty of parking
- Building is in poor condition and needs updated
- We used this venue in the past for Old Tyme dances. Poor parking facilities outside and the building was very tired and used looking inside
- lack of car parking space if a big event is on
- Car parking poor. Tried to get the church car park across the road to open when we are having a big event but they would not let us use it. Have been using this venue for 20 years - very suitable bar car parking. All on the one level which is good. We also use the British Legion hall for meetings now which is much cheaper. Kitchen could do with a makeover. We have 20-30 cars at our big events and can't get parking on those days which is not good. We have people coming from Ballymena, Larne, Newry all over...judges come from England.
- We had to leave Edward Street as there are no parking facilities but this is our most preferred option for our meetings. There is a large car park right opposite the hall but it is privately owned by a gospel hall who will not lend it out. If they did it would be an excellent choice for us. Such a pity it has to be barricaded shut.
- Only use Edward Street, could do with a sound system and projector and screen

Question 12: Rate the cost of hire of the Council facilities

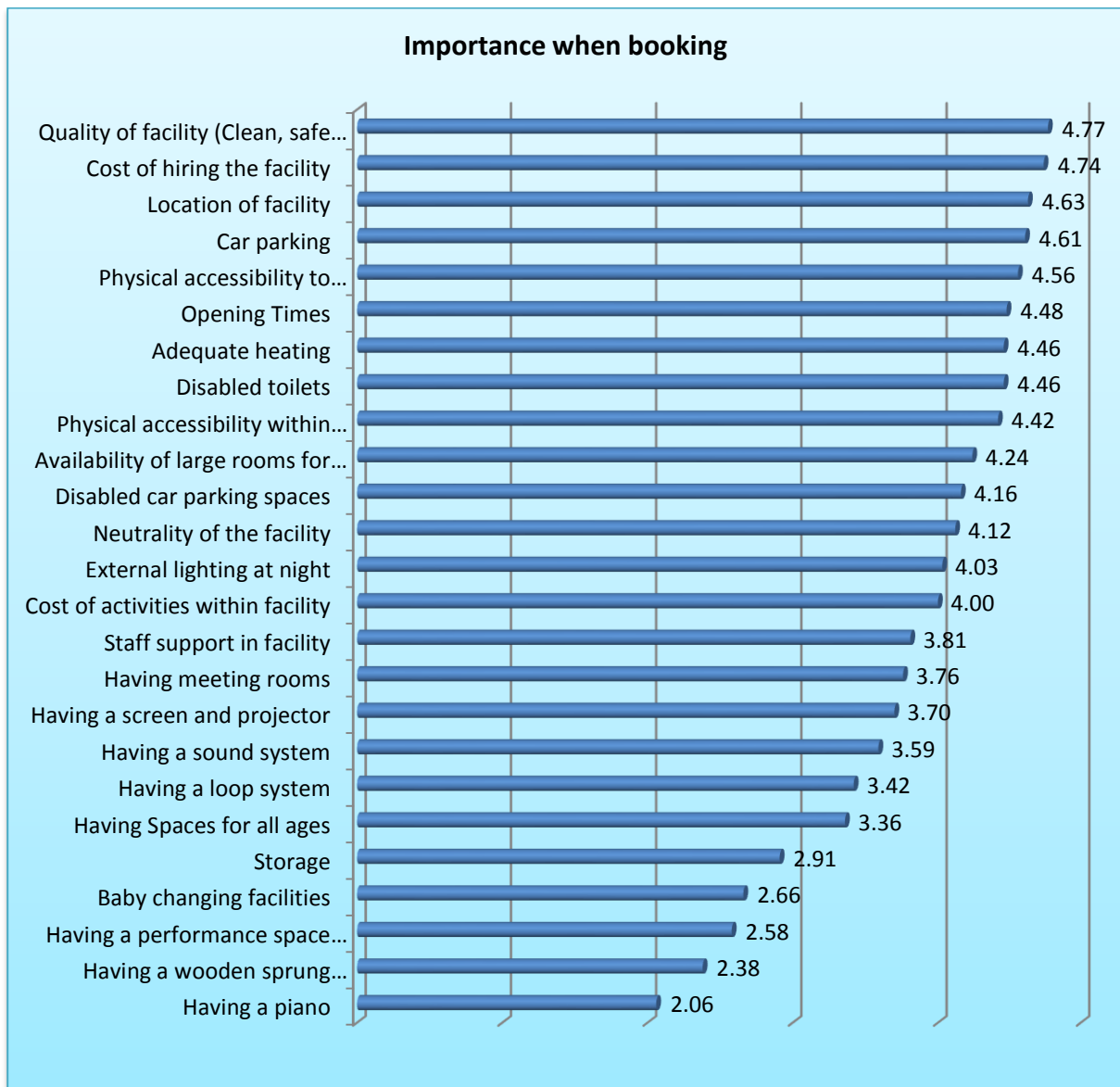


- The majority of respondents (30%) believed the cost of hire of the Joey Dunlop Centre to be too costly.
- 35% believed the cost of Edward Street to be about right, while 21% believed it was too costly
- 27% believed the cost of hire of the Ballymoney Town hall to be Too costly with 33% believing it to be About Right
- No respondent thought any of the facilities were too reasonably priced

Comments:

- The Evergreen Club has never hired rooms in the Town Hall or the Joey Dunlop Centre. We have free use of the Social Centre Hall as the club gifted it to Ballymoney Council in 1988.
- Council policy
- Overpriced. Putting local clubs at the verge of pulling the plug through lack of funds.
- As previously stated this can prove costly particularly in relation to smaller groups and organisations.
- Club are allowed the use of hall free as instructed by founder member.
- We have looked and are looking at other venues but have not found anywhere suitable yet. As we are a cross community non-profit making organisation the cost of the rent bleeds us dry. We will not in the future be able to sustain the rent but will try to support our local council as long as we can.

Question 13: Important considerations when booking a venue in Ballymoney Town



When booking a facility the top ten most important features are:

- Quality of the facility
- Cost of hiring the facility
- Location of facility
- Car parking
- Physical accessibility to the facility
- Opening times
- Adequate heating
- Disabled toilets
- Physical accessibility within the facility
- Availability of large rooms for a range of functions

Comments:

- A screen and projector would be useful when we have guest speakers. Currently they have to bring the projector/ laptop and show their slides on the wall
- We often use PowerPoint presentation in the town hall and proper projector and large screen are essential
- Town hall and Council run facilities are all too expensive
- As we have members from both sides of the community, (about 50/50), it is very important that we meet on neutral premises
- We're happy enough with facilities, apart from prices.
- We don't need much heating but we do need accessibility and car parking
- The facilities are not too bad but a better kitchen would be an asset. Very little refrigeration in kitchen and limited facilities.

Question 14**Are there any Council facilities in Ballymoney Town that you have stopped using for community activities, and if so, why?**

- We have stopped using the Social Centre for our dances and cookery demonstrations as the kitchen is not suitable
- All council facilities are too expensive and we are out of town a bit
- None
- No
- We don't use the Joey Dunlop Centre very often because of the cost. With 40+ members an evening can become expensive. Anytime we have used it e.g. the launch of a cd by one of our members the staff have been excellent. We have attended events at the Town Hall where the organisers have given us a special rate as a charity.
- Joey Dunlop centre because of lack of information and times plus too expensive
- Ballymoney Town Hall due to the attitude of some of the staff. The reception and admin staff are lovely and most of the caretaking staff are nice but there is one individual who is extremely rude and offensive especially to people with disabilities.
- Town Hall - due to expensive hire costs.
- Training facilities because they weren't always available in the winter.
- "We held initial meetings in Town Hall but for on-going activities we now hire more suitable accommodation
- Town Hall could not provide the facilities we need
- No
- Edward Street; poor parking, run down facility
- Edward Street. We now have Stranocum Community Centre to use for events
- Yes, Town Hall as it is too expensive to hire for our smaller quarterly meetings....we can go to the British Legion Hall or the Independent Orange hall for almost a quarter of the price. Joey Dunlop is just too big for what we need. Edward street size is good.
- Always used Social Centre as the person who established the association is from Ballymoney so meetings are always in Ballymoney but people come for Londonderry to the talks as well - 20 ish people come to these

Question 15

What improvements/ changes would you like to see being made to Council based facilities that you use in Ballymoney Town?

Ballymoney Town Hall

- Projector and screen in auditorium
- Cheaper to use
- Projector and screen fitted
- Easier booking
- Its's fine.
- It is good
- Excellent hall that suits our needs
- Reduce cost
- Decrease in rent

Edward Street Social Centre

- Renovated to an acceptable standard please
- Improved kitchen
- Closed and revamped
- A new coat of paint would freshen up the facilities. Access to wifi might allow us to use the internet for games. This would have to be supervised of course.
- The whole place up-dated
- Car Parking?
- Modernised and sound system etc. improved.
- Old building needs updated.
- Needs updated and decorated.
- Modernization
- Updated and modernised
- Whole refurbishment- new floor, stage (splinters from old wooden boards), toilets, heating- no air conditioning, rooms always cold, poor parking
- Kitchen and car park needed
- Car Parking
- Loop system, sound system

Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre

- Should be moved into town
- Enlarged indoor football, 4G pitch
- Friendlier access and staff with more realistic prices
- Prices brought down.
- Good building
- Updated and modernised - wider range of activities.

Question 16

Facilities that you use in Ballymoney Town

- Castle Community Centre
- Ullans centre
- Library
- Balnamore Community Centre
- R.B.L
- 1st Ballymoney Church
- Dalriada 3g pitch
- Portballintrae Village Hall
- Riverside park
- St Patrick's Parish Hall, Ballymoney
- Old Court House, Charlotte Street, Ballymoney
- Ballymoney Royal British Legion
- Ballymoney Parish Centre, Queen St.
- The Open Door
- Stranocum Community Centre
- Glebeside Community house
- Church of Ireland
- Football Club
- Millbrook Adult Centre
- Various gyms when weather is bad.
- Ballymoney Community Resource Centre
- Loughgiel Millennium Centre
- Carnany Community house
- Japanese Cultural Centre
- Church of Ireland Hall
- Ullans Centre
- Manor hotel for fundraising events.
- Cheers Youth Club
- St James church hall
- Ballymoney First Presbyterian Church
- Independent Orange Hall
- Members' homes
- Trinity Presbyterian Church Halls

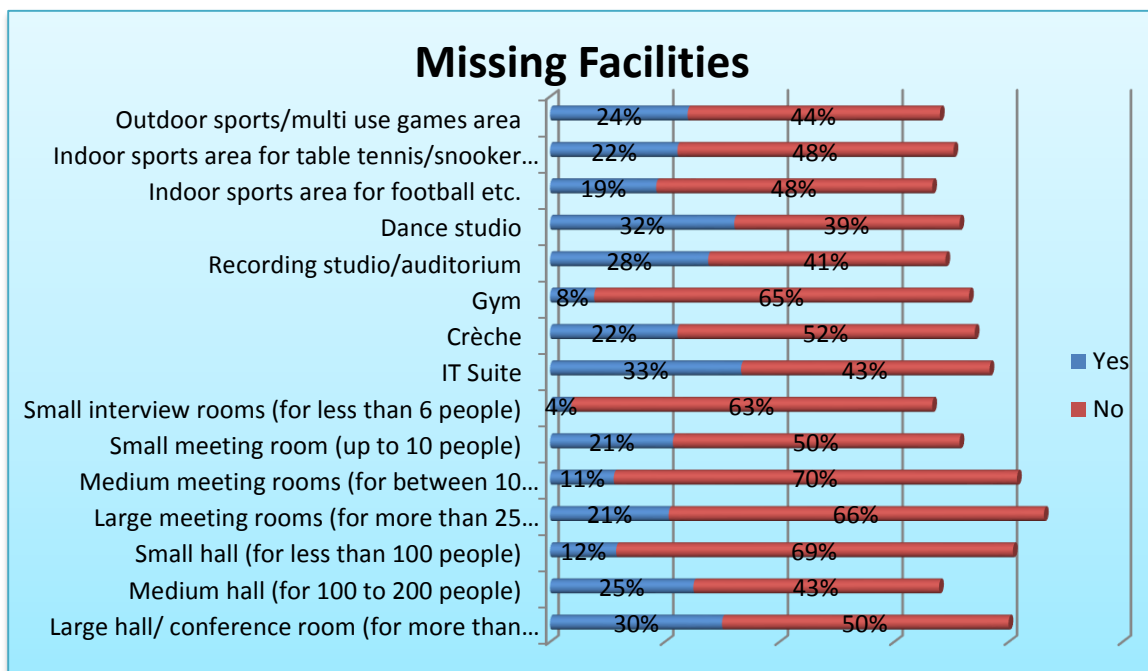
Question 17: Ballymoney Town has all the facilities it needs to meet the needs of all groups. Do you agree?

12 - Yes, 10 - No 8 - Don't know

- The town hall - It is not very easily accessible- inside or out
- Should have more different sized rooms available
- Lack of medium sized performance space

- Too much lip service and no real facilities
- Poor car parking
- 45 facilities seem more than enough. Better advertising is needed for all these premises.
- We always manage to get a room etc. when needed
- There is nothing modern and fresh in the town centre to appeal to local groups. Everything is old fashioned and comes with so many red tape barriers.
- No central Hub for advice and guidance especially for men and ex-service.
- It has always met our needs.
- Hotel needed in town. No conference space for large groups. Large facility for youth activities/ community groups in town.
- We need separate rooms where small groups can meet
- Ballymoney Town Hall provides facilities to meet the needs of our group. I don't know if our needs would be the same as other groups.
- There is not one decent building/venue to host a major attraction such as conference/residential facilities which could attract other major groups and organisations from within Northern Ireland.
- It is not very easily accessible (inside or out)
- Have had meetings in town hall to find the hall upstairs being used at the same time and the noise through the roof has been so loud we could not hear ourselves talk.
- No hotels or B and B in town. Our judges and visitors from South or GB have to stay outside town.
- No cinema. No conference centre

Question 18: Missing facilities in Ballymoney Town Hall



Opinion differed greatly over the type of facilities missing from Ballymoney Town

- 30% of respondents stated Large Hall/conference room to be missing however a further 50% stated it not to be missing

- 33% stated an IT suite to be missing while 43% stated it not to be;
- The majority of respondents stated that small, medium and large meetings rooms, along with small interview rooms are not needed.

Comments

- It would be excellent to have other facilities in town centre. Joel Dunlop Centre is not within walking distance of much of the residential area.
- There is nowhere for us to have an event to launch our show. We have been using "Lissanoure"
- An actual cross community meeting place that deals with real people and not paper people
- Large indoor facility for conferences and entertainment
- We have a bridge group which needs a large room
- Ballymoney needs a Cinema and a large space to ensure that events can still go ahead if the weather is unpleasant during winter and summer
- Adequate free parking for the disabled

Appendix 4: Those who completed the User Survey

- North Antrim Agricultural Assoc
- Ballymoney Photographic Club
- Dunloy Accordion Band
- Vision 4 Kids
- Ballymoney Evergreen Club
- NI Gloster Cage Bird Assoc
- Ballymoney Womens Institute
- Trinity College Association
- Ballymoney Evergreen Club
- Vision 4 kids
- Castle Community Centre
- Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster-Scots Society
- WAVE Trauma Centre
- Ballymoney Independent Gateway Club
- Japanese Cultural Centre
- Ballybrakes community indoor bowling club
- Northern Ireland Fife Fancy Canary Club
- CAN Can Recycling
- Ballymoney Arthritis Care Branch
- Loughgiel Community Ass
- Ballymoney Royal British Legion
- Glebe Rangers Football Club
- Cheers Youth Centre
- North Antrim Agricultural Assoc. Ltd
- Cloughmills Community Action Team
- Ballymoney U3A
- Alzheimer's Society
- Ballymoney Scout Group
- Benvardeen community association
- Triangle
- North Antrim Community Network
- Ballymoney & District Gardening Club
- Ballymoney district Cultural and Heritage Society
- Ballymoney Evergreen Club
- The Open Door
- Stranocum & District Development Group