

**Burnfoot Village Plan**

June 2018



**CONTENTS**

1. **BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

* Why have a Village Plan
* About the Plan
* The Process
* Village Planning Framework

1. **THE BIG PICTURE**

* Regional Policies and Plans
* Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Context

1. **THE LOCAL PICTURE**

* Location, Context and History
* Socio- Economic Analysis
* Building On Foundations

1. **WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

* Consultation Process
* Summary Findings
* SWOT Analysis

1. **A VISION AND PLAN FOR BURNFOOT**
2. **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

**Appendices**

* Appendix 1 - Detailed Socio-Economic Profile

**1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

**Why Have a Village Action Plan?**

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

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

**About the Plan**

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

**The Process**

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

**Village Planning Framework**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2. THE BIG PICTURE**



*Credit: Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan*

**Community Plan**

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

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

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

**A Thriving Economy**

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

**A Healthy Safe Community**

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

**A Sustainable Accessible Environment**

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

**Northern Area Plan 2016**

The Northern Area Plan 2016 is the development plan for the four legacy Council Areas of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle and operates as the local development plan for the Council area until the Council adopts its own Local Development Plan. Burnfoot is designated as a Village for the Plan purposes and considered to have a good range of social, educational and recreational facilities. While it is seen as having potential for future residential development, the plan acknowledges that commercial services are limited.

The Plan further acknowledges the walking opportunities presented, including riverside walks such as the looped walk which extends from the village into the rural area with the banks of the River Roe and Bovevagh along part of its route. The village has good road links via Dungiven to the Londonderry to Belfast key transport corridor but has limited public transport connections.

**Local Development Plan**

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

Environment

Identified as a Local Landscape Policy Area were the following locations in the Burnfoot catchment:-

* Altahullion/ Bovevagh
* Glebe/Roe
* Gelvin/Roe

Community Facilities

Burnfoot is host to a Post Office, Primary School (no unfilled places) and a Community Centre.

**What the Regional Picture Says About…**

**Burnfoot**

~ Scope for village development does exist, with much village infrastructure in place

~ Riverside walking trails offer potential for recreation and leisure

~ Good road links located adjacent to key transport corridor

1. **THE LOCAL PICTURE**

Location, Context and History

Burnfoot lies less than three miles from Dungiven and seven miles from Limavady along the main Limavady/Dungiven road on the banks of the River Roe. The village’s riverside location has characterised its development, the village evolving in a linear model along the river’s banks.

The River Row forms a focal point for the village, its banks having provided opportunity for development of a series of walking routes, some of which include disabled fishing stands. In terms of recreational facilities Burnfoot also has pitch and changing room provision and a community centre. The Roe Valley County Park is located approx. 5 miles from the village, offering further recreational activity in the area.

The village is also host to a local Primary School – Drumrane Primary School – and Playgroup while the local churches have historical significance, Bovevagh Old Church dating back to the Middle Ages.

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| **Burnfoot Assets**   * River Roe * Walking trails * Proximity to the main Limavady/Dungiven Road * Community Centre * Orange Hall * Sports provision – football pitch * Playgroup * Listed buildings |

**Socio- Economic Analysis**

The previous Burnfoot Village Plan (2011), used statistics from the 2001 Census and the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. Figures from the 2011 Census became available from June 2013, and this report uses them along with mid-2016 NISRA Mid-term Population Estimates. The NIMDM 2010 has not been updated as yet, so figures from it remain unchanged. The village of Burnfoot is located in the Highlands Ward.

**Burnfoot/The Highlands Ward**

* The resident population of the Highlands Ward recorded at the 2011 Census was 1,969 people and 2,061 at 30 June 2016 population estimates
* The population increased by 22.37% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
* 23.31% (2011) of the resident population are under 16 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 20.8% (2016)
* 11.68% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 49.11% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 49.01% (2011) belong to or were brought up in the Protestant and other Christian Community background
* 50.33% of local people had low or no qualifications in 2011, which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 62.37% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years were economically active. This is lower than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 17.62% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* The Highlands ward falls within the top 25-30% of most deprived areas in NI *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Proximity to services deprivation ranks within the top 10% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

**Building On Foundations**

In terms of building on previous projects, one of the most notable achievement has been the development of the Riverside walk which is 3.5 miles along the River Roe. Scope now exists to further extend this walk, forming a circular route back into the village and also accommodating signage and seating. This will add to the recreational offer in the village, benefiting residents and visitors, including those pursuing angling interests.

Work on the village streetscape has also been carried out, improving the physical appearance of the village although there is scope for additional works. In terms of developing the community centre as a village hub, supporting the work of the local Playgroup can play an important role, including assisting in the further development of facilities.

A key achievement has been the acquisition of the former Primary School; this facility now acts as the base for the Community Centre and playgroup, from which a range of services and activities are provided.

A key challenge for the continuing development of Burnfoot and successful implementation of the village plan will be addressing the issue of community capacity. While the current Association has successfully delivered projects for the village, there is a need to strengthen capacity and membership in order that existing members are supported in their work. Given the large youth population in the village – almost one quarter under 16 years – there is a real need to support and further energise the work of the Association in order that younger generations can access facilities and opportunities to realise their full potential, including continuing to live and eventually work in the village and its surrounding area, contributing to the overall process of Village Renewal.

**What the Local Picture Says About…**

**Burnfoot**

~ Significant population growth, including youth population

~ Challenges in accessing services – ranked in the top 10%

~ Progress in relation to promotion of walking and angling – provides scope for further development

~ Support required to build community capacity and support the Association

~ Existing sports provision can form a basis for further development

**4.0 WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

Consultation informing the Village Plan was undertaken through consultation with members of Burnfoot Community Development Association, Playgroup and a community drop in event and school bag drop.

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

**Summary Findings**

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

**Recreation**

Walking trails offer significant potential for Burnfoot, offering recreational activity for both local residents and visitors to the area. Desire was expressed to see the completion of the riverside walkway, to be completed by provision of accessible fishing stands and walkways. It was also noted that there is a need to consider replacement of the “fishermen’s bridge.” This will require consultation with Rivers Agency in relation to clarifying roles and responsibilities. Developing accessible facilities was identified in order that all members of the local community, including older people and those with mobility issues can benefit from the potential of the River Roe.

The village community is keen to make best use of its riverside location and strong interest was expressed in further developing the riverside walkway. The Community Development Association is keen to liaise with Rivers Agency and landowners to progress this issue. This would build on work previously carried out under the last village plan and RDP support. In terms of facilities for younger children, playgroup facilities in the village require some attention, including small capital works to enhance and extend existing facilities. The Association has also expressed a strong wish to proceed with provision of changing facilities at the sports grounds as this issue is in need of urgent attention.

**Community Capacity**

Community capacity is a priority issue for the Association and village. It was recognised that the community centre has the potential to act as a “community hub”. However, more support and input is required in order to enable the Centre reach its full potential. It was suggested during consultation that funding options could be explored to employ an officer to undertake administrative duties in addition to and researching funding opportunities and explore new ideas to help develop community activities.

Engagement with young people was also identified as a need; this is backed up by the demographics for the village which indicate a large (and above regional average) youth population – almost one quarter of the ward population is aged under 16 years. Participation can best be achieved through programming of activities. In terms of current activities for young people there is an existing youth group. It was felt that provision of sports and recreational facilities such as changing facilities and 3G pitch would further encourage Burnfoot’s youth to become more involved in the work of the Association, providing a practical and physical engagement tool.

**5.0 VISION AND PLAN FOR BURNFOOT**

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

**Vision**

The following vision has been established for the village:-

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| To provide the Burnfoot village community with facilities and services to promote health and wellbeing, building a sustainable village environment for residents and visitors |

**SWOT Analysis**

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

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Community spirit * Riverside location * Population growth, including large youth population * Road links via Dungiven to the L’derry/Belfast key transport corridor | * Low community capacity * Lack of engagement by younger people * Limited public transport connections |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Walking tourism; greenway loop between Ballykelly and Limavady * Angling * Provision of changing facilities at sports ground | * Sustainability of the Association |

Findings from the consultation were drawn together under priority themes in order to take Burnfoot forward. They are reflective of the previous Village Plan themes in order to provide consistency; in some cases themes have been amalgamated to provide greater cohesion and efficiency in implementation.

As much as possible, the identified actions sought to build on the previous plan in addition to needs identified through consultation in addition to considering the wider policy and strategic environment, including the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens. The following Action Plan was subsequently drawn up:-

**Theme: Maximising our Assets**

**Rationale:** This theme incorporates the previous themes of*Realising the Village’s Setting* and *Enhance the Welcome Experience* which wereformulated for the 2011 plan. It seeksto create an attractive village environment which can offer activities appealing to both residents and visitors.

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Walking trails | To provide residents and visitors with access to a safe and attractive walking route with associated health benefits | 1. **Additional walkway, signage and seating at Riverside path** to link with Drumneecey hamlet 2. **Signage and safe parking lay by at Bovevagh ancient monument remains** | 1. **High; Year 1** 2. **Medium; Year 2** | **£60,000**  **£20,000** | **RDP Village Renewal**  **RDP Village Renewal** | Council  Community Dev. Assoc. | Outcomes 1; 7; 8  Health & wellbeing; Accessibility; Sustainability |

**Theme: Recreation and Leisure**

**Rationale:** This theme incorporates the *Formalising a Recreational Hub* theme in the previous 2011 Plan with a view to providing a high quality recreational offer to contribute to quality of village and community well-being.

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Upgrading of sports facilities as identified in previous Village Plan | Upgrading of facilities would encourage village’s young people youth to be more involved in village life and the Community Development Assoc., in addition to supporting general health and well-being | 1. Feasibility study to explore potential for a 3G pitch 2. Provision of changing rooms at the soccer pitch | 1. High; Year 1 2. High; Year 1 | 1. £3,500 2. £100,000 | Council | Council  Community Dev. Assoc. | Outcomes 1; 2  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people |
| Provision of facilities at play area | Supported under previous Village Renewal monies, provision of additional works at the play facility is now needed | 1. **Surfacing of the outdoor play area at rear of premises** 2. **New seating** “mini picnic tables” for smaller children in that area | 1. **Medium; year 2** 2. **Medium Year 2** | 1. **£30,000** 2. **£5,000** | Council  Awards for All | Council  Community Dev. Assoc. | Outcomes 1; 2  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people |

**Theme: Raising the Profile of Burnfoot**

**Rationale:** To build on the priorities identified in this theme in the previous plan and ensure that the Burnfoot community has the capacity and energy to drive forward the Village Plan and generate benefit for the village

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Expand membership of Burnfoot Community Development Association | The Association could benefit from new members to share the workload and bring new ideas and energy to the group | 1. Liaise with Council and Networks to access capacity building support 2. Promotional strategy to attract new members with support from Council and Networks 3. Explore potential for employing an officer (part-time) | 1. High; year 1 2. High; Year 1 3. Medium; year 3 | 1. £n/a 2. £n/a 3. £20,000 | -  -  Lottery | Council  Community Network  Community Dev. Assoc. | Outcomes 1; 3  Health &wellbeing; Accessibility |
| Increase capacity to develop and deliver community activities | The Association requires advice and support on developing funding applications | 1. Liaise with Council and Networks to access support on funding 2. Ensure Association is informed of any funding opportunities by signing up to community newsletters 3. Develop calendar of community events and promote volunteer opportunities | 1. High; year 1 2. High; Year 1 3. Medium; year 2 | 1. £n/a 2. £n/a 3. £n/a | -  -  - | Council  Community Network  Community Dev. Assoc. | Outcomes 1; 2; 3  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people; Accessibility |
| Further development of youth club | To ensure that young people are catered for and their voices heard | 1. Recruit more volunteers for youth club 2. Undertake youth leadership training programme 3. Inter-generational projects e.g. Living History | 1. Medium; Year 2 2. Medium; Year 2 3. Low; Year 2/3 | 1. £n/a 2. £1,500 3. £7,500 | -  Youth Service  Arts Council | Community Dev. Assoc. | Outcomes 1; 2  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people |

**Prioritisation:**

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

1. Provision of additional walkway at Riverside path
2. Signage and safe parking lay by at Bovevagh ancient monument remains
3. Provision of facilities at play area

**Community Planning Outcomes**

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

**Outcome 1:**

All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing

**Outcome 2:**

Our children and young people will have the very best start in life

**Outcome 3:**

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

**Outcome 4:**

The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe

**Outcome 5**:

The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships

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

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

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

Environment

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

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

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

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

**Other Considerations**

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

In this regard, the issue of the footpath from Drumrane Primary School towards Limavady was raised – it was reported that this stretch of road requires upgrading/resurfacing due to water running on it.

**6.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

It is recommended that Burnfoot Community Development Association establishes a sub-committee to provide a co-ordination role to ensure the actions within this Plan are progressed. The sub-committee should be representative of the village community and should involve public, private and community interests. The Plan represents an ideal opportunity to establish the Village Plan as a framework for the future development of the Burnfoot community and get more people involved in the work of the Association.

Key to developing actions and implementing the Plan as part of village renewal for Burnfoot is acknowledging and addressing issues around low community capacity and participation. While existing committee members are committed and dedicated, having brought about many project achievements, there is a need to increase Association membership and participation in order to support existing members, energise the Association and minimise the potential of this Village Plan and associated actions in renewing and sustaining Burnfoot. It is recommended that Council and Community Networks work with the existing Association to progress this issue.

Individual project actions will be taken forward as identified in the Action Plan. Only the people in the Burnfoot area, familiar with its history and offerings, can make the Action Plan become reality and one which can add value to both local life and the visitor experience.

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

It is recommended that the Association monitor progress and report to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on a quarterly basis.

Appendix 1 - Detailed Socio-Economic Profile

Ballyvoy is located in the Glenshesk Ward.

**Population estimates**

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

This was made up of:

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

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

**Usually resident population**

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

**Households**

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

**Demography**

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

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

**Ethnicity, identity, language and religion**

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

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

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

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

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

**Health**

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

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

**Housing and accommodation**

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

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

**Qualifications**

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

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

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

**Labour market**

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

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

**Deprivation**

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

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

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

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