

**Dervock Village Plan**

June 2018



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**1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

**Why Have a Village Action Plan?**

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

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

**Village Planning Framework**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2. THE BIG PICTURE**



*Credit: Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan*

**Community Plan**

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

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

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

**A Thriving Economy**

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

**A Healthy Safe Community**

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

**A Sustainable Accessible Environment**

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

**Northern Area Plan 2016**

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.

Dervock is designated a Village in the Settlement Hierarchy of the Plan. With regards to social housing, the Plan states that there is no social housing need requiring a Plan intervention in the village and identifies several locations which have been zoned for housing.

With regards to the physical layout of the village, the Area Plan remarks that “the centre of Dervock is somewhat unusual in that it has no market square or diamond, a characteristic feature of many rural settlements in the area. There is no built form which can be readily recognised even as an informal village centre. The only sense of formality is provided by the Market House and the widened main street on the approach to the bridge along Knock Road. Following on from the CRISP project and the physical and environmental benefits which this brought to the village, the Plan will, through the development management process, seek to create a more clearly defined village centre”[[2]](#footnote-2).

In terms of open space, an area of the riverbank is zoned for open space, being recognised as having potential as an informal amenity area within the village. Located north of the bridge, it is within a Local Landscape Policy Area, and the Area Plan notes it shall be retained for amenity use as an extension of the Riverside Park. An Area of Archaeological Potential is also identified, highlighting the heritage value of the village.

**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 Dervock Village Plan was the following:-

Environment

Dervock is one of twenty settlements identified as an Area of Archaeological Potential in the Borough while Dervock River is listed as a Local Landscape Policy Area.

Transportation

The Northern Area Plan 2016 identifies several former rail track beds which have potential to be developed as road lines or public transport routes as well as cycling or walking routes for recreational leisure. It is acknowledges that some challenges to development of these routes is that they tend to be in private ownership.

Ballymoney to Ballycastle via Dervock and Armoy is identified as one of the disused track beds in the Northern Area Plan. The Local Development Plan notes that Council is seeking funding from the Department of Finance for a greenway using the Ballymoney to Ballycastle rail track bed to provide a sustainable route to the Dark Hedges and linking into the National Cycle Network. This offers significant opportunity for Dervock as one of the communities who could potentially benefit from the development of the route.

Community Facilities

The village has a Council owned and managed community centre and is also served by a Post Office and mobile library service

Landscape Character

Dervock farmland and Garry Bog are both identified as two of the twenty four Landscape Character Areas within Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. These are areas which are seen as having a distinctive character and which represent a second tier (below AONBs) in the hierarchy of landscape classifications.

1. **THE LOCAL PICTURE**

Location, Context and History

Dervock is set on the banks of the Dervock River, situated approx. 3.5 miles north east of Ballymoney. The villages serves as a local service centre for its surrounding rural hinterland and is host to local businesses, a primary school and doctor’s surgery, as well as recreational and community facilities. Originally dominated by public authority housing estates, the period since the 1990s has witnessed a number of private housing developments in the area, with associated population growth.

The village has also benefitted from an International Fund for Ireland’s Community Regeneration and Improvement Special Programme (CRISP) in the form of the Market House community regeneration project and an environmental improvement scheme, including Riverside Park. Dervock was on the line of the Ballycastle Railway, a narrow gauge railway connecting Ballycastle and Ballymoney which closed in 1950. Recently efforts to establish a Greenway on this line have been explored, the route having been identified by NI Greenways as a potential route between the Dark Hedges and Dervock.

The history of the village is rich and varied, being the ancestoral home of former United States President William McKinley and the Olympian Ken McArthur who won a gold medal in the marathon whilst representing his adopted country of South Africa at the Stockholm Olympics in 1912.

Its proximity to several of NI’s key tourist attractions, including the Dark Hedges made famous through the television series *Game of Thrones*, the Giants Causeway and Coastal route and Bushmills Distillery presents Dervock with significant opportunity to develop its tourism product. Combined with the potential offered for recreational tourism through angling on the Dervock River, cycling and walking Dervock has much to offer both local residents and visitors to the area.

In terms of facilities, Dervock has a Council owned and managed Community Centre with pitch provision, a play area and green space in the village – Riverside Park. There remain a number of derelict/disused buildings in the village, impacting on the overall visual impression.

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| **Dervock Assets**   * River * Market House * Riverside park * Garry Bog * Narrow Gauge * History and Heritage |

Socio- Economic Analysis

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

* The resident population of Dervock Settlement recorded at the 2011 Census was 714 people
* The population of Dervock ward increased by 2.39% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
* 22.13% (2011) of the resident population are under 16 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 20.8% (2016)
* 9.10% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 5.18% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 91.04% (2011) belong to or were brought up in the Protestant and other Christian Community background
* The percentage of local people with low or no qualifications was 53.42% in 2011, which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 59.85% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years are economically active. This is lower than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 23.11% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* Dervock ward is one of the least deprived areas in NI, ranking within the top 62% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Proximity to Services Deprivation ranks within the top 32% most deprived areas in NI *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

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

The physical fabric of the village has seen improvements through a CRISP scheme, Groundworks NI initiative and environmental improvements which have brought about a number of positive features, including development of Market House, Riverside park area and graffiti removal. The village has also undergone significant population growth as a result of new housing developments. The construction of a new Community Centre with pitches and car parking has addressed many of the recreational needs identified previously and has provided the Dervock community with an important community asset in the form of accessible and high quality meeting and recreational space. These outputs provide a base from which to further regenerate Dervock to the benefit of both residents and visitors, building on tourism potential offered through the village’s location, natural assets and heritage.

While there have been improvements to the village’s capital assets, there remains a need to build community capacity, fostering participation beyond the work of the Community Association in order to engage more groups in community development and services and support the existing committee by generating new ideas and input. The resultant Action Plan aims to identify both capital and capacity measures in order to support the village renewal process in Dervock for the benefit of everyone.

**4.0 WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

The consultation process informing the Village Plan involved consultations with local groups and organisations from across the Dervock community as identified in the database supplied by Dervock and District Community Association, in addition to a review of the previous Village Plan and previous community consultation information. This included a Ward Visioning exercise in 2016 conducted by DCAL’s Ministerial Advisory Group and an NIHE Community Survey (2016).

On completion of consultations, a draft Action Plan was drawn up and circulated to groups in advance of an information evening held in Dervock Community Centre. 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**

**Community Activity**

While the NIHE community survey generally found that there were solid satisfaction ratings with village life in Dervock, consultation informing the Village Plan did identify some areas for consideration. These included the need for improved awareness around community activities; the Community Association has recently reinvigorated its membership, offering opportunity for more people to both become involved in the work of the Association and to develop linkages between the Community Association and other local clubs and organisations. The recently established North Antrim Villages Forum provides another capacity building mechanism for integration. Inter-generational relations were also identified as an area for attention, including provision of activities for families and young people.

Practical examples were put forward, including building on Dervock’s history of fairs and community events, in addition to developing projects such as community allotments which could bring people together while generating a range of health and environmental benefits. While the Community Centre (council owned and managed) is a welcome addition to community infrastructure, it was felt that there could be greater awareness of events and activities held there – this offers scope for the Community Association and Council to work together to raise awareness. It was felt that existing established events such as the Kennedy McArthur Running Festival held annually in July offer opportunity to further develop events to draw visitors to the area.

**Village Environment**

In terms of the physical fabric of the village, this is generally considered good with the village hosting attractive building such as the Market House and having a village green in the centre of the village. These are the legacy of an IFI CRISP project and an Environmental Improvement Scheme for the village Main Street, all of which have greatly improved the physical fabric and aesthetic of the village. It was felt that this investment is now at the point where maintenance work is required in order to ensure that the condition of the capital works is maintained to a good standard and the village retains its visual appeal. This is particularly important when developing measures to promote tourism in the village.

Dervock River offers much potential for contributing to village renewal through angling based activities. It was felt that this valuable asset could be better utilised, including educational programmes with schools, angling open days and competitions and provision of fishing stands and walkways. Such proposals link with the Area Plan which identifies the river bank north of the bridge as a potential informal amenity area, with designated open space provision.

Concerns were expressed about the location of the bonfire in the village and the potential for damage to the adjoining play area and equipment. Support was recorded for developing civic space in the centre of the village at the green area, providing a focal point for village life and recreation. Planting schemes were suggested to improve the appearance of the area, creating an attractive environment. It was noted that there also needs to be investment in maintaining and preserving key physical assets such as the bridge, fountain and memorial site while also undertaking ongoing environmental improvements in the village. The removal of the youth assault course at Riverside Park has added to the lack of activities and facilities for young people in the village.

Dervock is host to a number of derelict/disused sites and buildings, some of which occupy key strategic locations in the village. Development of these will have a significant impact on village life; at the time of writing of several of these properties had recently been purchased - however, their intended purpose was as yet unknown.

Interest has been expressed in developing social economy projects, including a possible printing business, and potential sites have been identified. These ideas offer much potential in terms of bringing currently disused sites back into use while also offering opportunity for local, particularly young people, gain valuable new skills and experiences.

**History and Heritage**

The consultation found that Dervock has a very rich heritage, in addition to a wealth of natural resources including Garry Bog (the second largest bog on the island) and the Dervock River which flows through the village. Being the ancestral home of a former United States President and an Olympic Gold Medallist, in addition to its proximity to the Dark Hedges which have now evolved into a key tourist attraction in NI presents Dervock with much opportunity to develop a strong tourism offer which can appeal to many market segments. It was felt that more could be done through signage and interpretation to develop and promote these features of village history, including its naval history. Due to its location close to the Dark Hedges and the Causeway Coastal route, Dervock sees a lot of coach transport travelling through the village; a key challenge is encouraging some of this traffic to stop in the village.

These opinions tie in with the findings of the Ward Vision report which identified a number of opportunities, including initiatives to promote local heritage to a wider audience and the development of links for international tourism, which could benefit the Dervock community.

**SWOT Analysis**

Following analysis of community consultation feedback, a Dervock village SWOT analysis was constructed as follows:

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Heritage and history of the village * Close to key tourism attractions – Dark Hedges, Giants Causeway, Bushmills Distillery * Community Centre and pitches * Residents feeling safe in the village * Natural assets including Garry Bog, the Dervock River | * Poor mobile phone coverage * Lack of awareness of Community Association activities; low community capacity/spirit and need for more leadership * Derelict/disused premises are negatively impacting on the village’s physical fabric * Lack of tourist accommodation * Lack of parking, especially at primary school * Lack of activities for young people and families; build inter-generational relationships; lack of activities for older residents |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Development of heritage and activity tourism packages; calendar of events to extend the tourist season * International tourism appeal through historical links, including N American linkages * Social economy projects/workspace; explore Community Asset Transfer * Efforts to develop a joint Village Forum with neighbouring villages * Build on existing community events and festivals * Engage more people in Community Association activities/membership * Riverside walk and amenities; Narrow Gauge Greenway | * Concerns about rubbish being deposited for bonfire and damage being caused to nearby play area * Lack of play facilities in new housing developments * Need to maintain the physical fabric of the village, including Memorial site, fountain and bridge * Anti-social behavior, including underage drinking |

**5.0 VISION AND PLAN FOR DERVOCK**

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

**Vision**

The vision set out for Dervock is:-

***“Dervock is a settled, peaceful and sustainable community, caring for its residents, welcoming visitors and renowned for its heritage and history”.***

**Strategic Themes**

Key to the Action Plan was developing a set of action which would preserve the village’s character and use its many natural assets as part of its renewal and sustainability. A series of strategic themes have been identified to help take the various Causeway Coast and Glens villages forward. Each theme will be underpinned by a series of priority actions for implementation. These are set out below and then expanded in turn in terms of their meaning in Dervock:

**Theme: Heritage and Tourism**

**Rationale:** Dervock has a strong heritage which the local community is keen to preserve, promoting the village’s character as part of its tourism offer and highlighting its many natural resources such as Dervock River and Garry Bog.

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkage to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| History and Heritage | The village has a rich heritage to share with both residents and visitors to the area | 1. Plan and promote calendar of events/activities 2. Training of tour guides and hosting of walks eg Garry Bog 3. Living history project 4. Community Festival | 1. High; ongoing 2. Medium; Year 2 3. Medium; Year 2 4. Low; Year 3 | 1. £10,000 2. £2,000 3. £5,000 4. £5,000 | 1. Tourism NI 2. Tourism NI 3. Awards for All 4. Council | Community Association  Local groups | Outcomes 5 & 6; Positive relationships; the area’s unique landscape is recognised and celebrated |
| Enhance and promote the tourism offer, lengthening the tourist season | There needs to be a wider awareness of what Dervock has to offer, particularly given its proximity to key tourist sites | 1. Provision of signage and interpretative panels in the village to accommodate tourist information 2. Devise a programme of walks and events to promote the area’s features and assets to visitors – local history, Ulster Scots, genealogy, Garry Bog, Dervock River 3. Work with other local groups/villages to develop historical links on a sub-regional basis 4. Establish if potential exists to restore the Narrow Gauge railway line | 1. **High; Year 1** 2. Medium; ongoing 3. High; ongoing 4. Medium; Year 2 | 1. **£15,000** 2. £15,000 3. £n/a   £10,000 | 1. **RDP Village Renewal** 2. Council/Tourism NI 3. - 4. Council/Heritage Lottery | Council  Local groups  Tourism NI | Outcomes 5 & 6; Positive relationships; the area’s unique landscape is recognised and celebrated |
| To enhance the role of the River and fishing in the village | Development of this key asset will add to the tourism and recreation offer for locals and visitors | 1. Liaison with landowners and Rivers Agency re access and restocking 2. Provision of a river walkway 3. Accessible fishing stands and safety equipment 4. Fishing programmes/open days inc. work with schools 5. Offer fishing licences | 1. High; Year 1 2. High; Year 2 3. High; Year 1 4. Medium; Year 3 ongoing 5. Medium; Year 3 ongoing | 1. £n/a 2. £20,000 3. **£25,000** 4. £10,000 5. - | 1. - 2. Council 3. **RDP Village Renewal** 4. Rivers Agency 5. Rivers Agency | Rivers Agency  Council  Local groups | Outcomes 6 & 8; The area’s unique landscape is recognised and celebrated |

**Theme: Community Capacity and Participation**

**Rationale:** Building community capacity enables residents and groups to play a fuller role in their village and helps sustain a vibrant village community

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkage to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| To attract new members and volunteers | Groups need an influx of new members, skills and ideas to help them sustain and expand their work | 1. N Antrim Village Forum 2. Capacity building and community leadership 3. Development of Community House as a community hub 4. Develop new interest/sectoral groups e.g. history, arts & culture, music 5. Recognise and reward volunteers | 1. High; ongoing 2. High; ongoing 3. High; ongoing 4. Medium; ongoing 5. Medium; ongoing | 1. £n/a 2. £n/a 3. £25,000 4. £n/a 5. £2,000 | 1. - 2. - 3. Peace IV 4. - 5. Council/ Volunteer Now | Community Association Council  Community Networks | Outcomes 1; 3; 4; 5  Health & wellbeing; Children and young people; Accessing support; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Services/activities for older people | To ensure older people are supported to play a full role in their local community | 1. Programme for older people including luncheon club, befriending service, social activities | 1. Medium; ongoing | £15,000 pa | BIG Lottery | All local groups  Community Networks  COAST | Outcomes 1; 3; 4; 5  Health & wellbeing; Accessing support; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Social Economy | To provide people with skills and confidence to explore training and social economy opportunities | 1. Provision of training and employment programmes 2. Explore potential for social economy projects/workspace e.g. Fane Valley site | 1. Medium; ongoing 2. Medium; ongoing | 1. £10,000 2. £5,000 | 1. Social Economy Agency 2. Council | NRC  Community Networks | Outcomes 9; 10; 11  Prosperous & fair economy; Profitable businesses; Entrepreneurship & innovation |
| Youth engagement programme | To increase the participation of young people in community life and ensure their views are heard | 1. Conduct a youth audit 2. Liaise with Youth Service 3. Programme development | 1. Medium; Year 2 | 1. £2,500 2. £n/a 3. £10,000 | 1. Council 2. - 3. Youth Service/ BIG Lottery | Dervock Youth Club  All groups | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5  Health & wellbeing; Children and young people; Accessing support; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Community allotments | To provide activity which all members of the village can participate in, including inter-generational working | 1. Identify site and project implementation | 1. **Medium; Year 2/3** | 1. **£30,000** | **RDP Village Renewal** | All groups | Outcomes 1; 5  Health & wellbeing; Positive relationships |

**Theme: Village Infrastructure**

**Rationale:** To create an attractive and welcoming village environment for Dervock’s 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)** | **Linkage to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Development of the village green space as a civic space | Concerns have been expressed that the current bonfire site is damaging to the nearby play area and memorial site | 1. Diversionary activities for young people | 1. High; Year 1 ongoing | 1. £5,000 | Youth Service | Dervock Youth Club  All groups | Outcomes 1; 2; 4; 5  Health & wellbeing; Children and young people; Positive relationships |
| Village enhancement scheme | To improve and maintain the visual appearance of the village for residents and visitors alike and make best use of open space, inc Riverside Park | 1. Provision of flower beds, tree planting and entrance features 2. Provision of seating/ street furniture 3. Tidy village competition/ Village in Bloom | 1. High; Year 1 2. High; Year 1 3. Medium; Year 2 | 1. **£10,000** 2. **£10,000** 3. £5,000 | 1. **RDP Village Renewal** 2. **RDP Village Renewal** 3. Council | Council | Outcomes 1; 4; 5  Health & wellbeing; Positive relationships |
| There are a number of derelict buildings in the village | 1. Lobby owners to repair, renovate or demolish 2. Offer support in accessing funding opportunities to minimise impact of building e.g. painting, screening, minor repairs | 1. Medium; Ongoing | £n/a | - | Council | Outcome 8; Sustainable environment |
| The physical fabric of the village is good but is in need of maintenance | 1. Shared village warden/handyman scheme to undertake work including:  * Clean up * Weeding * Upkeep of fountain | 1. Medium; Year 2 ongoing | 1. £20,000 | Lottery | Village Forum | Outcome 8; Sustainable environment |

**Prioritisation:**

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

1. Planters, flower beds and entrance features
2. Street furniture/seating
3. Signage and interpretation panels
4. Accessible fishing stands and safety equipment
5. Community allotments (pending site identification)

**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 the case of Dervock a number of issues have been identified which are of concern to the village community and in need of action:-

* The need to pursue play area provision in housing developments such as Castle Close
* There are a number of derelict buildings in the village vicinity; it is recognised that some sites have been purchased by private developers, however plans for these buildings are not known at present
* The old garage site is a central location in village, currently disused; this could form a site for a key strategic project in the village pending confirmation of ownership and identifying a potential option to purchase
* The need to lobby for a range of issues, including:-
* Provision of social housing in the village; identified in the previous plan, this remains an issue
* Upgrading of footpaths
* Additional street lighting
* Traffic management issues:- lobbying for traffic island at school, new zebra crossing and parking at Knock Road; speed ramps in the centre of the village; parking concerns at the school and Greystone housing development

**6.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

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

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

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

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

Appendix 1 - Detailed Socio-Economic Profile

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

**Dervock**

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* The population of Dervock ward increased by 2.39% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
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* 9.10% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 5.18% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 91.04% (2011) belong to or were brought up in the Protestant and other Christian Community background
* The percentage of local people with low or no qualifications was 53.42% in 2011, which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 59.85% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years are economically active. This is lower than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 23.11% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* Dervock ward is one of the least deprived areas in NI, ranking within the top 62% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Proximity to Services Deprivation ranks within the top 32% most deprived areas in NI *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

1. A Better Future Together – A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 - 2030 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Northern Area Plan 2016; page 29 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)