



**Causeway  
Coast & Glens  
Borough Council**

**Community Planning  
Public Engagement Meetings  
June 2016  
Findings Report**

**Compiled by PR Rankin Associates  
July 2016**

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**CONTENTS**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	4
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	5
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS</b>	8
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK</b>	10
<b>HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURE?</b>	
District Electoral Area Feedback	11
Table 1: How can we improve the current infrastructure? Common responses/issues	18
<b>HOW CAN WE INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT?</b>	
District Electoral Area Feedback	20
Table 2: How can we increase economic opportunities and development? Common responses/issues	26
<b>HOW CAN WE MANAGE, DEVELOP AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT MORE EFFECTIVELY?</b>	
District Electoral Area Feedback	28
Table 3: How can we manage, develop and protect our environment more effectively? Common responses/issues	33
<b>HOW CAN THE SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF COMMUNITIES BE IMPROVED?</b>	
District Electoral Area Feedback	35
Table 4: How can the social well-being of communities be improved? Common responses/issues	41

**HOW CAN OUR COMMUNITY BECOME STRENGTHENED AND MORE RESILIENT?**

District Electoral Area Feedback 43

Table 5: How can our community become strengthened and more resilient? Common responses/issues 48

**HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY?**

District Electoral Areas' Feedback 50

Table 6: How can we improve the relationship between the planning partnership and community? Common responses/issues 55

**CONCLUDING COMMENTS** 56

## INTRODUCTION

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is the lead partner for 'Community Planning' across the borough. This statutory duty of Community Planning will require a process to be introduced which will mean that, "... the council, statutory bodies and the community and voluntary sectors will work together ... to promote the well-being of their area."

Community Planning is, "the process through which public sector organisations work together and with local communities and the voluntary sector, to identify and solve local problems, improve services and share resources." and it is, "A process where long term objectives are identified to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of a district and to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development." (*Statutory Guidance for the Operation of Community Planning, Oct 15*). Community Planning is intended to ensure that different sectors, including local communities, engage with each other. They will then work together to ensure that services continue to be provided for the greatest benefit of the area. There is a commitment by those providing the services to work together in a co-ordinated way to improve services and respond to the needs of communities.

Community Planning presents an opportunity for communities and individuals to have a say in how they are governed, in the decisions that affect their lives and the way public money is spent. There are a number of anticipated requirements in relation to Community Planning including:

- Councils must initiate, maintain, facilitate and participate in Community Planning.
- Councils and their Community Planning partners must ensure that 'arrangements are made' so that persons have the 'opportunity to express their views and have them taken into account'.
- Community Planning partners must 'participate in' Community Planning and 'assist' the council in relation to its Community Planning duty.
- Departments must 'aim to promote and encourage' Community Planning and have regard to any 'implications' of a community plan

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To provide the opportunity for communities and individuals to have a say in how they are governed, in the decisions that affect their lives and the way public money is spent Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council held community engagement sessions in each District Electoral Area across the Borough. There are seven District Electoral Areas in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. Ballymoney covers Ballymoney town and extends to surrounding villages of Rasharkin, Dunloy and Cloughmills. Bann covers Garvagh, Castlerock, Kilrea, Aghadowey and Macosquin. Benbradagh takes in Dungiven, Greysteel, Ballykelly and Feeny. Causeway extends across from Dervock to Portrush and Portstewart. Coleraine covers mainly the town of Coleraine. Limavady incorporates the town of Limavady and extends out to Magilligan. The Glens covers Ballycastle, Rathlin Island, Loughgiel, Stranocum and extends across to Cushendall, Cushendun and Waterfoot.

Engagement sessions were held throughout June 2016, both in the afternoon and in the evening to enable individuals across the Borough to access at least one of the engagement sessions. The community engagement sessions were independently facilitated by Clare Cuthbert and Fergal O'Donnell, PR Rankin Associates, to ensure impartiality and encourage open discussion and feedback to the questions posed.

### Participant numbers

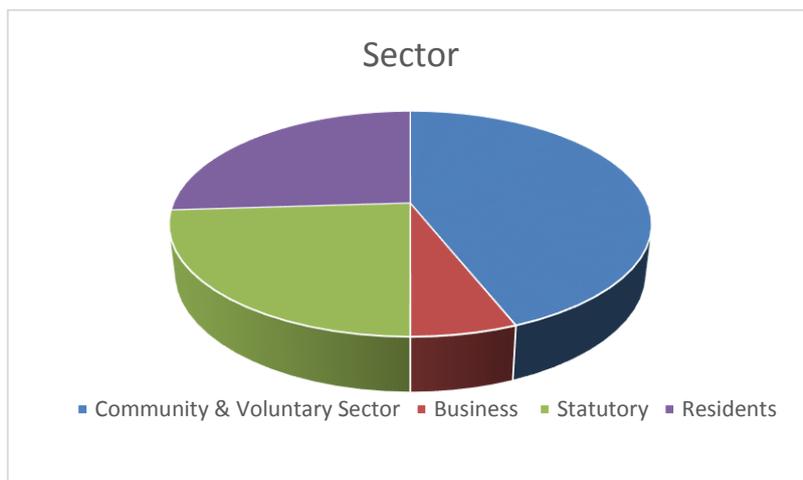
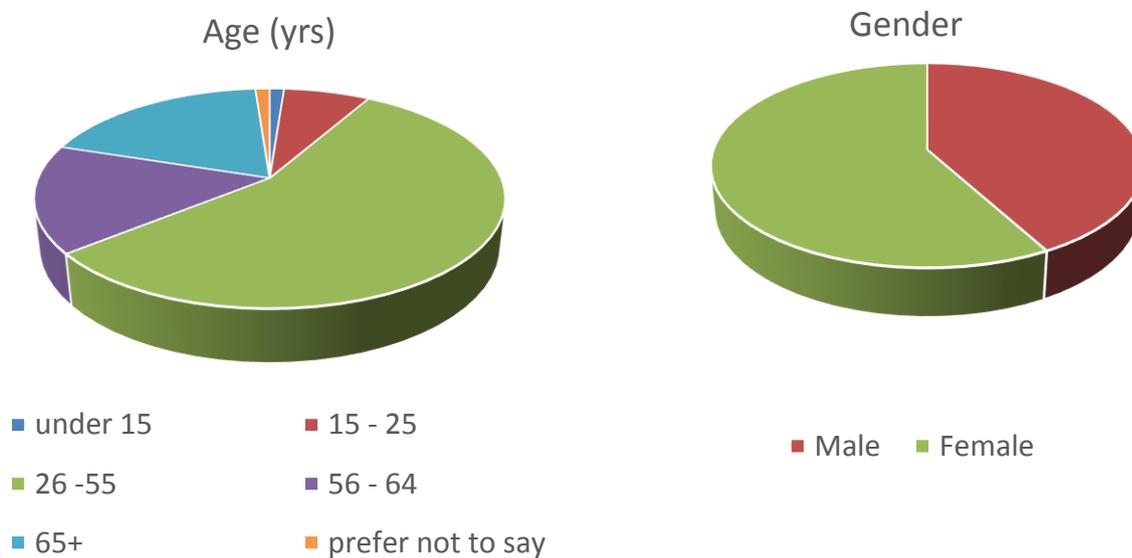
Each of the community engagement sessions attracted representation from across the District Electoral Areas. Participant numbers within each District Electoral Area are as follows:

Causeway	35
Ballymoney	29
Coleraine	36
Limavady	19
The Glens	56
Bann	31
Benbradagh	<u>26</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>232</u></b>

### Participant Representation

From participants who chose to complete the section 75 equality return form the following information was acquired.

The majority of participants, 58%, were female and were within the 26 – 55 age group, [56%]. There was a similar degree of representation from the 56 – 64 [15%] and the 65+ age [18%] groups with significantly lower from the younger age groups, 15 – 25 [8%] and under 15 [1%].



The majority of those participating identified with the community and voluntary sector (44%), 26% identified as residents of the Borough, 24% from the statutory sector and the remaining 6% from the business community.

The majority of participants, 96%, were of white race - 2% of participants were Indian and 1% Black Caribbean.

10% of participants were disabled having a physical or sensory disability, mental health condition, learning disability or difficulty, or long standing or progressive illness.

The majority of participants, 83%, were heterosexual and 3% were gay/lesbian.

Where cumulative category percentages do not reach 100, the remaining percentage of participants selected “preferred not to say” on completion of the equality return forms.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

### **Themed questions**

The engagement sessions sought to gain information from the communities within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on six focused topics through responding to the following themed questions. The themed questions were based around emerging priorities identified through consultation with Community Planning Partners and Elected Representatives of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in the Spring of 2016. The additional information, following each question, was used to prompt initial discussions enabling groups to deepen discussions and help individuals to identify a wider range of issues relating to each question.

#### **1. How can we improve the current infrastructure?**

- transport links
- broadband and phone
- housing / social housing
- use of outdoor space
- urban regeneration

#### **2. How can we increase economic opportunities and development?**

- tourism / bed availability
- employment
- leisure
- training
- industry / sustainability of industry

#### **3. How can we manage, develop and protect our environment more effectively?**

- access to and use of natural resources by locals & visitors
- balance of protecting the environment with innovation, enterprise and progression

#### **4. How can the social well-being of communities be improved?**

- social isolation
- safety
- health service provision / access to services

- education and personal development opportunities

**5. How can our community become strengthened and more resilient?**

- community networks
- connections from early years - older people
- volunteer sector
- community hubs
- good relations / inclusivity
- shared resources

**6. How can we improve the relationship between the planning partnership and community?**

- information share
- participation / involvement
- develop existing relationships

**Method**

The engagement sessions enabled each individual to have a voice through working in small groups. Each group responded to a specific question, recording their ideas on a flip chart page. This was then passed to the next group who added their views and so on until all groups had the opportunity to respond to each question.

Consensus by the whole group on the information was sought by the facilitator and an opportunity given to add any additional comments

Each participant was asked to identify one priority within all the comments.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

Feedback from the individual community engagement sessions are recorded under each of the themed questions; each theme having seven sections of response, one from each District Electoral Area.

Identified individual priorities are represented with a red asterisk - \* The number of asterisks represents the number of individuals who stated this as a priority.

Common responses/issues across all seven District Electoral Areas are recorded in Tables 1 - 6 following each respective question, referencing which District Electoral Areas stated the response. Although each area response focuses on the whole Borough area, there are some instances of responses that are unique to specific localities and these can be considered alongside the common responses/issues to inform the Community Plan.

Tables 1 – 6 identify common responses/issues across the District Electoral Areas.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Causeway

- \*Better public transport - More trains, cheaper, more transport on Sundays, increased frequency of buses, improved accessibility for wheelchairs, fewer obstruction, modernised
- More transport links across district e.g. Portrush to Ballycastle, Benone, Dunluce etc.
- Wider pavement design e.g. Causeway St. Narrower e.g. Waterfoot
- Even surfaces
- Better provision of Wi-Fi hotspots
- \*Excellent broadband and mobile phone (4G) coverage (increased access to other service providers)
- Better maintenance of cycle routes
- Scheme similar to Belfast bikes/Boris bikes (roads too narrow)
- \*More evident for guide dogs
- Promote existing schemes such as car share (insurance claim?) etc to reduce traffic on roads
- Charge for carparks and directly reinvest into / ring fence for infrastructure. (Dependent on parking context)
- Make sure dementia friendly communities in whole area
- In depth study on rural transport to hospitals and time expended reduced
- Social housing improved rather than just 'private'.
- Extension of dual carriage ways
- Improvement of electricity grid to support the above
- Support/promote healthy cycling/ walking – cycle path stops short of Portstewart – please extend. Improve horse riding trails and cross country bridle paths
- Park and Ride – (link to rural transport schemes). Reintroduce the Puffer in Portrush. Residents should be informed of all road changes/plans affecting them. Coleraine one-way carnage on a Friday – gridlocked.
- Community spaces – better playparks, outdoor gyms, gardens
- Mobile homes – parking needs enforced
- Issues of rubbish with mobile homes and marinas (boats visiting)

### Ballymoney

- \*Need for different sized houses. Affordable. Housing developments need green space and social space
- Improved transport (local). More frequent bus link & reasonable cost
- More choices between broadband and phone providers - more consistency. Fibre broadband. Some areas have no mobile network and limited broadband.

- Creating cost effective open spaces (people consultation / engagement e.g. Portstewart Crescent)
- Small supported housing in villages
- Community transport support / co-operatives
- Promote better signage / info boards / walks / scenic spots / activities
- Promote community groups
- Community / co-operative energy schemes
- \*Better integration between Translink and Community transport – keep service delivery local
- Integrate housing & infrastructure - transport. Houses should be built in areas where infrastructure is in place
- Financial commitment from government to ensure the development of infrastructure
- Enforce legislation to improve the look and structure of derelict buildings – owner responsibilities
- Encourage more living accommodation in town centre. Address derelict buildings and growth in housing market. Regeneration of existing buildings / town planning.
- Transfer of powers of urban regeneration passed to councils.
- Better broadband / Business opportunities / Home working / Global opportunities.

### Coleraine

- Increase usage of outdoor space & facilities, encourage responsible dog walking & enforcement re dog fouling. Green places / public area / play parks
- Co-ordination of Translink rail/bus timetables & joined up planning. Promote use of public transport
- Solution for rural developments – ensure reduced isolation – connected communities
- Improve A26/A2/A6 – main routes within CC & G area
- Digital broadband
- Mobile – improve coverage
- Re-thinking of how town centres are utilised / urban regeneration
- Need for increased housing, social / private (different types). Correct mixture of housing
- Improves area planning / zoning
- \*Ensure owners of derelict / empty unused buildings are responsible for them.
- Free Wi-Fi on Main Streets – (or appropriate technology for access)
- Disability access improvements. Shop mobility Coleraine
- Incentives to use public transport
- Meet community transport needs (integrated) education / health / community
- Ensuring short term parking to streets with small businesses

- Access proactively all possible funds for regeneration - UK / EU / NI wide
- Extend tourist routes outside hot spots such as Giant's Causeway
- Coach park for Coleraine – linked to increased facilities
- \*\*Utilise existing buildings for community purposes e.g. Portstewart Police station, Cloth Workers Building, Old Coleraine Hospital.
- Ensure flexible, accessible, affordable off street parking

### Limavady

- Faster broadband – universally available
- Mobile phone signal – universally available
- More frequent / flexible public transport – matching demand with supply. More frequent train stops, more relevant routes / stops e.g. Airport
- Better use of current housing stock. And transport stock
- Better partnerships with planners – available land
- Cycle routes link with train and bus
- More flexible price on transport for non-regular users
- Development of social housing – deprived areas. Those just outside areas of deprivation can't access facilities and benefits.
- NCCT – rural transport – more investment
- Better co-ordinated transport timetable
- Better links between transportation / services / facilities. \*Use community hubs as access point for services

### The Glens

- \*\*Better bus services (especially Ballycastle & Glens, & Bushmills & services to major towns, e.g. Ballymena and Coleraine) for economic development.
- Ensure housing is cost effective and fit for purpose (e.g. including older generation's needs)
- Facilitate more varied offering in centre for areas.
- Money for repainting / refurbishment – successful in Ballycastle
- Protect, enhance & promote council outdoor green space
- Capacity building. Invest in community infrastructure
- Lack of leisure facilities
- Shuttle bus for serving local tourist spots – coach tourist parking
- More social housing to compete with 2<sup>nd</sup> tourist homes
- Need improved broadband & phone links in rural areas
- Excellent outdoor space that could be promoted much better. Freedom to roam
- Council run caravan parks
- Achieve more funding for the benefit of urban regeneration

- More bins
- Discourage illegal parking motor homes – enforcement of regulations
- Planning should include green space
- Laybys at beauty spots – enable access and reduce traffic hazard
- Issues with dark hedges – overuse / spoiled / no parking – safety issue - opportunity to develop a greenway
- Beach cleanliness and dog fouling responsibilities
- Better broadband and phone connection
- Not enough leisure centres
- Public bin collections more often. More talk about rubbish collections
- \*Improved Local Bus Service
- \*Improvements needed on Cushendun – Torr – Ballyvoy Road (very dangerous and will soon be accident, possibly involving school bus)
- Better links to Scotland (tourism, trade and leisure)
- Improved coach parking (Cushendall, Waterfoot)
- Off-street parking needed (Cushendall in particular)
- Congested streets in Cushendall and Waterfoot
- \*\*Broadband strength poor in rural areas & mobile phone coverage
- Social housing needed urgently (previous scheme not accepted in Waterfoot)
- \*Affordable housing (particularly social housing)
- \*Lack of play areas
- Poor 'seaside' image (don't look like a seaside town, Cushendall, Cushendun and Waterfoot)
- More facilities for cyclists (cycle lanes)
- Fix pot holes and road quality
- Ballycastle road not gritted, really dangerous
- Transformation of outdoor/community facility in Glenariff stopped by Council
- \*Keep hedges trimmed on roadside as they can be very dangerous when driving
- Make additional viewpoints for tourism
- Scheme for development of derelict property
- Compulsory purchase required for parking at Grey Mares Tail
- More car parking – congestion – no room for buses to stop

## **Bann**

- \*Broadband provision in rural areas is appallingly bad – speed up & increase number of connectivity boxes
- More community buses, smaller buses. Introduce more flexibility for rural areas. Translink buses are not economically viable. Community transport and Translink

need to link better. \*Include Transport NI as a designated community planning partner

- Green issues – ensure environmental friendly management of hedgerows
- Build more social housing. Increase housing for pensioners and adapted housing for people with disability. Incentives for single people in large houses to move
- Improve maintenance provision for social housing
- More play park provision in communities / housing estates - well-resourced and well managed
- Better infrastructure / facilities for severely disabled – changing places
- Accessible playpark equipment for disabled children – wheelchair swings, accessible roundabouts etc. with appropriate changing facilities. More sensory gardens & activities
- Build proper cycle infrastructure – old railway route or along river
- Need cycle path from village to pitch about 1 mile outside Rasharkin village
- Provision of fold housing in rural settlements
- Grit rural roads
- Enforce speed limits and introduce traffic calming
- Don't forget community infrastructure

### Benbradagh

- \*Park n ride (planning for parking / bypass / town centre is currently underway)
- \*2 hr parking limit on main street
- \*\*By Pass 2019
- \*\*\*\*\*One-way system after bypass or other mechanism to reduce congestion
- Social housing (apex) bungalows
- Main street regeneration
- Community sport for all ages – facilities and programmes. Access throughout day – 7 days a week.
- More provision of different, flexible, affordable housing in relation to identified need
- Planning system needs reviewed and reformed – more efficient and effective. Current system is lacking
- \*Better broadband speeds needed especially in rural areas. Need broadband available everywhere e.g. Drum Rd
- Urban regeneration is critical
- Secure future funds for strategic projects
- \*\*\*Tackle empty/derelict buildings. Incentive for addressing derelict buildings
- Shared spaces – maintenance – with assistance of community
- Support for community transport – particularly for older people
- Housing for single people
- Green areas on Main St with local information and seating
- More public transport links to rural areas – links with community transport

**Table 1**                      **INFRASTRUCTURE**

COMMON RESPONSES/ISSUES	Causeway	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Limavady	The Glens	Bann	Benbradagh
Improved, more frequent public transport at reasonable costs. Increased transport links across Borough, especially rural areas. Joined up planning.							
Link transport and service provision e.g. access to hospitals, facilities etc.							
More co-ordinated transport provision including integration with community transport provision							
Sufficient car parking with varied, affordable charges relevant to individual contexts. More coach parking where relevant.							
Ensure infrastructure enables access and is user friendly to <b>all</b> disabilities							
Provision of high speed broadband and mobile coverage in <b>all</b> areas, many rural areas currently lacking							
Free Wi-Fi in town/village main streets							
Extend existing cycle routes/infrastructure							
Provision of more social housing							
Need for affordable and a variety of sized housing to meet different requirements							
Address derelict buildings – clean up frontage (enforce owner responsibility) or reuse							
Urban regeneration required – rethinking of how centres are utilised							
More effective and efficient zone/area planning							

Increase, enhance and maintain community spaces - playparks, green gyms, gardens							
Address dog fouling, enforce/encourage responsible dog walking							
Address litter, more bins in public places – collected more often							
Enforcement of regulations re motor home parking							
Increased and more accessible leisure facilities							

**Table key:**



District Electoral Area has stated this response/identified this as an issue



A priority response/issue - a minimum of 5 of the 7 District Electoral Areas have stated this response/identified this as an issue

## ECONOMY

### Causeway

- Developing links with partners such as National Trust, CCGHT, Central Government & Universities to safeguard, publicise and maximise natural heritage assets. Private sector links – joint funding
- Direct contact and debate – e.g. survey what the community want
- Development of mentoring schemes between businesses; sharing good practice
- Support business and small businesses in identifying and applying for funding schemes e.g. Coastal Communities Fund, central government grants etc.
- More efficient and effective planning & services to promote business
- Good services extending to ensure equality of services to all parts of CC&G area
- Promote hotel usage all year round e.g. conferences to potential entrepreneurs etc.
- Improved infrastructure (e.g. power grid) to support industry / business - not just tourism
- \*\*\*Good education and integration and family facilities all year round
- Discounted rent / rates for small businesses
- More realistic pricing for Giants Causeway - local pricing or no price for parking
- Don't give National Trust any more family silver. Most of the money goes towards National Trust properties in England
- Too many charity shops – not enough local small businesses – got to keep the rates down
- Reduce number of flags – how?
- High quality wifi to grow digital economy
- Residential development in town centres

### Ballymoney

- Enable local contractors to bid
- \*Support local firms
- Lower business rates / relief. Windfarm business rates – \*reinvest / ring fence in local area
- Local markets – co-ordinate / mentoring in upscaling craft trades / marketing
- Mentoring networks – share practice / skills
- \*Government support – MLA / Councillor / Invest NI / for inward investment
- Promote recreational opportunities / activities
- Education – young enterprise support / development possibly through markets / pop-ups
- Social enterprise development
- Community Voluntary sector able to tender for contracts

- Trade scheme to engage non-academic youths
- Major barriers in rural development programme for social enterprises (50% funding) – contradiction to push for social economy
- Diversity within large council area- linked to regional strategy
- Leisure centres – different activities / diversity – surfing & water sports / rambling / talk and tours
- Apprenticeship programmes
- Employment opportunities - e.g. between education provided versus skills required
- Encourage young entrepreneurship
- Community sector to engage with universities

### **Coleraine**

- \*Grow tourism. How? More jobs in tourism and better paid
- Digital enhancements: Project Kelvin, link to university, artisan product development local creative industries and talent
- Improved training and skills development – for all – continuous process
- Entrepreneurship – reduce dependence on public sector (dependent on context)
- Just do it mind-set
- Be less insular minded / export
- Build infrastructure
- Lower rates - Business rates. Charge charity shops a nominal rate
- Incentives for business start-up.
- Increase business mentoring &/or communicate what there is
- More links between Ulster University and businesses – to assess viability of projects
- Vocational skills training (apprenticeships) plus communicate what is available
- Better use of natural resources
- Supported sustainability
- Social enterprise
- Natural resources – wind, lignite (consider environmental impact), tidal
- Research investment – use Ulster University links
- Support for innovation – mentoring and start-up
- Actively seek business moves from UK and beyond
- Accept and realise voluntary work and volunteers as good business and social return
- Continue broadband development
- \*Capitalise on local river / heritage opportunities to attract business / visitors

### **Limavady**

- More high quality bed spaces – location specific
- Top range camping & glamping (feather down)

- \*Push tourism –marketing e.g. Game of Thrones. USP. Know the limit
- Attract families – quality outdoor spaces, picnic areas (especially Limavady, Dungiven, Portrush) & play spaces. \*Wet weather activities / facilities
- Develop trails, tourism linkages – experience packages
- Employment opportunities linked to tourism
- Ensure suitable sites for employment – attract new
- \*Work strategically with university / school – growth areas link to training
- Stabilise manufacturing – existing
- Training young people – Coleraine have good job club – roll out throughout borough
- Other forms of leisure promotion e.g. Running / cycling
- \*Downhill has no coach parking facilities
- Look at business rates – create incentive for industry / employment
- Better infrastructure links to Belfast, Dublin, Ports etc.
- Encourage small businesses
- Promote EU grants for small business
- Increase parking spaces on ‘brown’ sites and reduce parking charges
- Know what you are marketing
- Re-use derelict buildings
- Tourism development must be done in partnership across council area - packages

### The Glens

- British Open Golf 2019 – develop a golf resort. Wary of this being a sole council focus – imbalance of use of resources. Need bigger area focus -\* Need economic sustainability focus
- Tourism of Ballycastle golf facilities. Sell our golfing resources as a package across Borough
- Need to ensure that impact goes beyond golf course – ensure lessons are learned and applied
- Less negative attitude to motor homes. More Aires de Service provision -high quality facilities & legal parking.
- Employment comes naturally with tourism – needs collaboration with invest NI – investment within NI
- \*Top quality restaurants with flexible opening hours. More family friendly
- Internal opportunities for bodies to work together resulting in savings to rate payers.
- Supply and development of local projects i.e. \*flagship project trains – Tow river area integrated neighbourhood scheme. (community / social / environment). Coach park, indoor market, tourist shuttle bus, public space for tourist events
- Enterprise zone and e-commerce – broadband and mobile coverage
- Promote leisure facilities e.g. Glenariff & other public walks
- \*Reduce business rates to encourage start up employment & sustain those already open

- \*Transport (regular transport to and from Belfast. No link to train – mini bus.
- Cultural and arts hub in Ballycastle for CC&G (Rathlin) Bushmills - gateway.
- Provide more training – work experience (jobs)
- More jobs available - open up new businesses
- Remember the locals
- Social housing
- Affordable housing
- Transport to NRC as these have reduced training by specialising but not all accessible to all young people. (depends on where you live)
- Transport train service to Ballycastle
- Transport other than school service and seasonal to allow locals to commute
- \* Encourage public sector bodies (Council, Invest NI, Tourism NI, HSCB, Housing Executive, Education Authority/ CCMS) to take risks. Recognise best practice – maritime festival
- Create opportunities’ - reduce fear of failure and take economic opportunities – risk mind-set and long term commitment required
- Corporation tax reduction is difficult because of rural area
- Need agreement between councillors on bigger attractions i.e. Forest Park
- Industry buildings needed
- Make the area more attractive to tourists to entice them to stop, hedges cut etc
- Develop the area around the school i.e. tennis courts, 3G pitch
- Better broadband and phone services needed
- Training in rural areas is impossible due to buses and winter access is very difficult
- Good hotel in glens to attract tourists – minimum of 35 rooms
- \*Signage – Moyle and Ulster Way & Waterfoot beach
- \*Increased provision for business start ups
- Investment in Tourism facilities (e.g. cycling water sports, beaches) Tourism NI need to take account of Glenariff – not even mentioned in their literature
- Opportunities for apprenticeships
- \*\*\*Education and Training Outreach Centre in Glens Area
- ACE scheme arrangements
- Support for farm families
- Support small businesses
- Ensuring Glens community has a voice and has access to full council support in the new council and much needed community infrastructure which is lacking in the area.
- \*Need for wet day activity centre / soft ball area in mid Glens
- \*Respect for our cultural identity and heritage
- NISRA Multiple Deprivation Measures do not take account of rural poverty – if this is the measure of need many rural parts of CCGBC area will lose out

## **Bann**

- Manufacturing needs support – vocational skills and apprenticeships – partnership working with Invest NI and UUC for skills
- CC&G has high unemployment - support for people who become unemployed – re-training, confidence building
- How do we maximise tourism opportunities? e.g. 2019 Golf Open, beaches, the Glens, The Port, Dark Hedges.
- Insufficient hotels in CC&G area – Encourage all year round demand to enable increase in number of hotels. Hotels needed outside of coastal area
- Large agricultural focus yet no veterinary school
- Develop tourist facilities and provision i.e. destination parks etc
- Coleraine Enterprise Zone – address legislation etc. that inhibits economic development
- Highlight and identify more tourist destinations
- Promote more park runs
- Coleraine Triangle area lacks business / industry / entrepreneurship
- Support town centres / businesses
- Lack of life in town centres – needs invigorated
- Provide tourist information boards for rural areas and signage
- Ensure adequate road signage from main routes to rural settlements
- Entice large, high quality companies to the area – don't forget local entrepreneurs who will be loyal to the area
- Lower business rates for town centre and remove barriers / restrictions to businesses
- Improve the look & infrastructure of villages and towns e.g. litter / derelict buildings – enforce or adopt bylaws where they exist and encourage owners of buildings to maintain them

## **Benbradagh**

- Need clear points of contact for information and decision making. Enable access via directories. Stop passing from person to person – especially within new larger Council area. Create awareness of new Council responsibilities.
- Grants access – tourism
- Hill walks etc. timelines. Utilise existing natural and manmade facilities
- Industry – let people know what we have to offer. Use local contractors - enable local contractors to compete in tendering process
- Rates assistance
- Pilot schemes for business e.g. unit for free for a few months (trial)
- More vocational /creative opportunities for young people, with support. Mentorship schemes – local

- More to encourage people to shop locally
- Car parking for retail
- A6 bypass or one-way system.
- Support system for new business and information on grants available
- Development of local scenic spots/areas
- Improvements in cycling facilities
- More support for small scale leisure centres in rural areas
- More access to workshops for a range of activities
- Create tourist trail - old priory, Banagher, old church, dam, Bovedy
- Build a section of old railway
- Farmers' co-operative, create value added products – cheese etc.
- Bring Aldi to Dungiven – in balance with support for local business
- Local hotels
- Micro brewery

Table 2

## ECONOMY

COMMON RESPONSES/ISSUES	Causeway	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Limavady	The Glens	Bann	Benbradagh
Developing links with partners e.g. universities, public sector bodies							
Development of business mentoring schemes							
Trade schemes / Apprenticeship programmes							
Encourage support entrepreneurship							
Support / provide training (Including for young people) locally							
Develop and promote all year round hotel usage. Some areas lack hotel provision							
Lower business rates/rates assistance/discounted rates for small businesses							
Enable local contractors to tender							
Provide and promote family & recreational facilities all year round. Expand leisure centre facilities / activities. Include wet weather activities							
Support and develop social enterprise							
Renewable energy business opportunities (in balance with environmental impact)							
Capitalise on and promote local natural and heritage resources to attract business and tourism							
Improve infrastructure to support/attract industry/businesses							
Grow/maximise tourism, market existing and develop packages							

Support small & local business/firms. Identify & promote available funding & grants								
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**Table key:**



District Electoral Area has stated this response/identified this as an issue



A priority response/issue - a minimum of 5 of the 7 District Electoral Areas have stated this response/identified this as an issue

## ENVIRONMENT

### Causeway

- \* Urban & rural public transport
- Co-ordination of National Trust, Forest, NIEA service etc. & make accessible for all
- Promotion of volunteering / involvement
- Encourage Blue Flags for ALL our beaches & Eco flags for ALL schools
- Support outdoor classrooms & educational facilities (coastal zone) that are accessible to all ages and all year round
- Museums to promote future as well as past – where are our museums and artefacts?
- More dog bins
- Less noise pollution – more laws for council wardens for cruelty to dogs, locked up in kennels barking / enforcement
- \* More policing - more joint up working with emergency services. Vast geographical remit
- Traffic control
- Litter fines and enforcement
- Natural environment accessible
- \* Awareness of need to protect environment – natural & built
- Funding resources to keep the place clean
- Continuation of improvement to water supply
- Green energy – small & sustainable – appropriate for environment protection
- Accountable public planning – new developments
- More bins – recycling / butt / smart / dog waste included in all bins
- Public information regarding littering / value of environment
- Decreased light pollution – sensitive infrastructure / design
- Schools programme designed to focus on local issues

### Ballymoney

- \*\* More enforcement of litter control (spend the money better)
- Encourage personal responsibility – think long term
- Ban lignite – oil / gas, lift planning restrictions. Improve wind, wave, solar power
- More community / schools education – energy efficiency initiatives
- Walking trails / cycling
- Car sharing - public transport. Park & Ride / community transport
- Tourism – using local environment to drive and develop
- University research
- \* More & improved enforcement re dog fouling
- Improved enforcement of rules to protect environment
- Energy efficiency required more research

- Develop contributions for major planning proposals
- Community litter disposal facilities (& recycling)
- More community based environmental projects

### **Coleraine**

- Everyone takes responsibility for the environment
- More strategic investment
- Better collaboration between departments / organisations. Collaboration and co-ordination to reduce overlap and better use of resources
- Maintain Blue Flag standard beaches
- Maintain and improve accessibility
- Preserve existing resources. Education of the value of particular areas, flora, fauna, history. In schools to encourage this. Protection of the environment
- Involvement of farmers in community planning process & education of farmers
- Planning – look at needs in urban & rural settings – recognise the differences
- \*Enforcement of dog fouling rules. Harmonise rules across area
- More bins for all rubbish and empty them more often. Uniformity through area.
- Supply dog bags beside bins - might help. Dependant on individual responsibility
- Address fly tipping
- Raise environmental awareness land and sea
- Environmental education from early years
- Recycling more materials
- \*Tighten and review penalties for litter
- Litter clean-ups – invest
- Promote use of and investment in public transport
- Promote appropriate use of renewables / embrace positive technologies
- Promote economic value of a sound environment

### **Limavady**

- More clarity on who owns what – from individual through to agency/department
- Collective responsibility
- Better use & management of areas of natural beauty & special areas of conservation
- Removing old council boundaries – holistic tourism across whole council area
- No coterminosity of administrative boundaries – trusts and councils fall under different geographical remits. Who's who in council published / with responsibilities. New departments have increased confusion
- Hands on education of our environment for children and parents
- Ensure planning policies protect natural assets
- Farmers and land owners on board

- More green spaces within urban areas, quality play / picnic areas. \*\*Ballykelly has no picnic area. More greenery / village atmosphere in Limavady
- balance wind / solar farms
- personal responsibility to each household

### The Glens

- Air / land / sea – education – use local schools
- \*Anti-fracking
- Enforce EU water framework Directive 2020 – River protection – failing – no local fish, sand eels all dead.
- Need a mechanism for community involvement.
- No knowledge how to challenge or engage re environmental issues or what issues are
- Farming controls on slurry spreading – 20<sup>th</sup> century methods with 18<sup>th</sup> century controls & approach. (run off and air pollution). Ensure spreading is in dry periods. Also farm buildings in ANOB. DARD need to amend rules for more appropriate regulation and enforce.
- Wind farms – appearing in areas we thought would never appear – ANOB
- Promote renewables in correct areas – consider landscape and environmental impact
- Refer to UK energy vision report
- \*Ensure environment is protected (planning controls) – promote value
- Need information on issues and mechanism for engagement
- Community engagement needed
- More bins provided – blue / black
- Grow food locally Carbon emissions (travel decrease) Reduce carbon footprint. Promote community allotments – bring people together
- Promote protected sites – Garron (SAC), Rathlin Island
- Enhance council green space for people & wildlife
- \*Promote benefits of environment – mental and physical health, Preservation of peatlands – flood protection, water quality, carbon storage
- Litter – adults need educating – penalties need to be more severe
- Fly tipping, dog fouling – enforcement
- Dedicated bonfire areas – educate about carcinogenic materials used and pollution, safety issues
- Educate the people to recycle
- Schemes to protect wildlife, flora and fauna (existing Landscape Partnership, needs to take account of this)
- \*Maintenance of existing public paths and walkways – access to countryside
- \*\* Investment in forest parks – Glenariff

- Support for local environmental groups in villages – not just towns
- Encourage and awareness to keep area litter free
- Plant more trees (as long as they can stay as they have been vandalised in past)
- Council need to help with village flowers – more public flower arrangements
- Regular cleaning of beaches/regular emptying of bins in car parks especially at weekends
- Upgrade harbour facilities (Red Bay Pier)
- Clean rivers (of Japanese knotwood – Glenariff beach, riverside walk in Cushendall)
- Flood prevention (especially with deforestation)

### **Bann**

- Provide dog foul litter bins in Garvagh forest and villages. Needs partnership working between the forestry and council
- Support forest school enterprise project
- Garden area / public area – reduce vandalism – explore cctv coverage (needs more thought re mechanism)
- \*\*\*\*Garvagh High School regeneration
- Clean rivers from rubbish / litter
- Clean roadside litter - enforce penalties
- Start environment / citizenship classes in early years / primary school and continue throughout secondary school – eco schools already happening in schools
- Empty public bins regularly, not just in tourist areas
- Regular litter collections for all rural villages
- \*More local / social / family access to River Bann at more points – walking routes / cycle paths. Cycle greenways e.g. alongside Bann
- Protection for beaches – restrict vehicles
- Education programmes re protecting the environment
- Standardising bins across council – brown / blue / black / food caddy. More education on recycling
- Renewable energy is a must for the future – tidal power around the coast

### **Bendradagh**

- Support for clean ups – cohesion between community groups and statutory bodies.
- \*Interagency approach, events e.g. clean up week. Template created e.g. resources
- Guide of the local beauty spots – access resources nearby
- Improved signage – information for visitors about locality, local history
- Programmes with schools – pride in community – to tackle vandalism. Things for young people to do. Youth shelter with facilities especially outdoor.
- Competitions for tidy estates involving youth

- Monitor project and analyse results of progress so it can be improved on
- Provide incentives for households & businesses to be more environmentally friendly – reduce, reuse, recycle, conserve water
- Develop renewable energy in balance with the environment
- Ash trees die – enable farmers to manage
- Bee disease – address
- Better River Roe pollution management
- \*Educate young and old about respecting their environment
- Push government to set better example by making large industries and multinationals more accountable
- Encourage community ownership

Table 3

## ENVIRONMENT

COMMON RESPONSES/ISSUES	Causeway	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Limavady	The Glens	Bann	Benbradagh
Co-ordination of and collaboration between relevant bodies e.g. National Trust, Council, Forestry... and the community							
Improved enforcement re dog fouling. More dog bins							
Litter control - fines and enforcement.							
More public bins (emptied regularly) & recycling facilities. Uniformity throughout the council area							
Increased accessibility to and information on natural environment for locals & tourists. Increased walking trails and cycle paths							
Increased schools' programmes from early years / education re environmental protection, environmental issues							
Enable community engagement - information on issues and mechanisms for engagement							
Encourage collective responsibility/ownership							
Invest in appropriate renewable energy							
Investment in and encourage increased use of public transport							
Maintain blue flag standard beaches							
Educate and involve farmers and land owners in community planning							
More green spaces within urban areas/enhance council green areas for people & wildlife							
Ensure planning policies protect natural assets & enforcement of relevant legislation							

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Better river management - clean up vegetation and pollution							
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**Table key:**



District Electoral Area has stated this response/identified this as an issue



A priority response/issue - a minimum of 5 of the 7 District Electoral Areas have stated this response/identified this as an issue

## SOCIAL WELL-BEING

### Causeway

- Money – decision makers more consultation
- Communication – better communication between community & statutory
- Transport – more linked up and extended services
- Improve manufacture / create jobs in manufacturing
- Help remove stigma of troubles as perceived from outside N. Ireland
- More events – encourage social economy
- \*Local people are primary; tourists should be secondary for all resources – should there be a distinction? Equal? Disagree – be thankful they come and spend.
- Applying collaboratively for funds for community voluntary sector
- Good quality support for those who require support to remain in own homes
- Improved timely access to good quality health provisionally locally and regionally
- Maintain and develop informal community hub e.g. men's shed, community garden
- Social affordable housing which is located and integrated into the community e.g. 10% of new housing should be affordable.
- Inclusive education for children with additional needs
- Working with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and voluntary organisations to include socially isolated people within community
- \*Reduced stigma of disability / sexual orientation / mental health / dementia
- Provide opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public life
- Improved access for all
- \*Improved access to integrated education
- Improved use of the natural environment for health and well-being e.g. Portrush park run etc.
- Dementia friendly community to combat stigma (20.000 people in NI suffer)

### Ballymoney

- \*\*\*\*\*Community based social care to save resources at the base level & improve health and social care outcomes. (funding) Community programmes and projects to improve social well-being. Communities can improve personal development
  - \*Mental health
  - Libraries – hobbies / reading / community info / shared spaces
  - Library outreach – to improve personal development and education – care homes, schools, pre-school. Use schools and buses for community
  - Safety – roads, farms, home safety. Community partnerships
  - Funding of voluntary sector (administered more speedily across sector)
-

- Physical activity opportunities – like incredible edible Cloughmills - allotments
- Community transport
- Regional colleges outreach – into rural villages (especially evening classes)
- Home visitation for the isolated / lonely (not in receipt of any current care package)
- Run residential care home as social enterprise – community based care home
- Free internet packages
- \*Free access to leisure centre for 60yrs+ / disabled / unemployed / under 10yrs (as in Ballymena)
- Activities for a range of groups e.g. youth, young mums, hard to reach people. All ages can be isolated.
- \*Encourage personal responsibility – ‘prevention better than cure’ - invest in more recreational activities – more health promotion

#### Additional points

- \*Support of / access to community play groups / after school clubs etc.
- Health boards need to trust community service delivery - listen to how community can engage
- Care in community – under resourced. People need service & carer continuity

#### Coleraine

- \*Increased employment
  - Maximising benefits / \* reducing debt – satellite clinic (benefit checks)
  - \*Accessible information
  - Effective signposting
  - Accessible education – lifelong learning / skills based
  - Community cohesion activities / access to sport & facilities + recreational activities
  - Voluntary sector support based on need
  - Small business support
  - Brain drain – unemployed graduates. 5+ GCSE attainment – increased value in education
  - Nurturing from cradle up
  - Identification & need appropriate response to the vulnerable
  - Integration of communities – different cultures/language
  - \*Tackle poverty - food banks, fuel stamps etc. Do away with the need for them
  - Rural community - transport to help alleviate isolation. Busy bus. Rural transport network
  - Rural library service
  - Neighbourhood watch
  - Speed reduction
  - Extend community policing – targeted
-

- \*target education in drug hotspots
- Policing has to work (respond to concerns)
- Harass / address the drug dealers
- Identify the vulnerable across all the sectors
- Carry out social audit – connect with existing
- Increase funding to the arts/culture (local provision, increase use)
- \*prevention is better than cure
- Promote local accessible services
- \*investigate innovative solutions
- \*utilise libraries – existing hubs

### **Limavady**

- Improving access to needs based services (hubs) – transport – young people mentoring / be-friending / carers – rural access – intergenerational
- Reduction in anti-social behaviour – more services for young people, especially in evenings e.g. skate park. What young people want.
- Sustainable projects to provide support and preventative measures re mental well-being of young people. Early years' education. For everyone
- Health education re drugs & legal highs – parenting and early years
- \*Celebrating and promoting what is good in our community
- Community festivals – community led heritage trails
- Involve schools – communication is important
- Safety in evenings affects night time economy and culture. Lack of taxis, discourage going out
- Older people – reduce social isolation / increase access to services
- Lack of health service provision – local hubs – clinics for triage, minor injuries unit
- Promote events across the area / across sectors
- Promote social enterprises e.g. Shops / cafes / post office
- Promote volunteering

### **The Glens**

- Promote practical good neighbourly relations – community enhancement / cohesion
  - Social communication – e.g. community board. Include specialist clubs e.g. football, GAA, hockey, golf, bridge
  - Personal, face to face invitation to increase participation
  - Networking
  - Connect the dots – link groups, communities. Incentives to develop partnerships. Including more rural e.g. Rathlin, Glens
  - Light funding – finance available for goo old fashioned family fun
  - Safety – going out in the evenings e.g. clubs & outdoor space e.g. parks
-

- Better transport – all day time. Think less about tourists and more about the local's. Buses should run more than holidays and school time
  - Being too focused on school exams – more opportunities for young people re socialising – increased good mental health
  - \*Adult education facility lacking in Ballycastle – need to travel elsewhere
  - Encourage longer term funding for projects that work
  - Take some risks and fund new ideas rather than old ideas that don't really work
  - Retention and development of Causeway and Dalriada hospitals
  - Better & quicker access to GP
  - Fewer cancellations of procedures
  - More provision for aging population
  - More care packages for older people at home
  - Target the 'boy' racers
  - Sustainable luncheon clubs for older people
  - Teaching old crafts to younger people
  - Use depts. Of UUC (Psychology / sports / science / nursing depts.) to work with local communities
  - \*Develop link up of greenway from Ballycastle to Armoy / Stranocum / Ballymoney
  - Encourage lifelong participation in sport to improve mental / physical health. Support communities to socialise in a sports programme - everybody active (2020) / represented groups / 5 ways to wellbeing / social inclusion
  
  - \*Improving the quality of life of a growing elderly population (i.e. day care facilities, home help services, meals on wheels, bring back ACE scheme, better community transport)
  - \*\*\*\*Community facilities required in each community (Glenariff not served at all!)
  - Rural schools – children in rural areas should have the same opportunity as others – e.g. Breakfast clubs, after school clubs, Sure Start type programmes – too many people losing out due to postcode and not individual need)
  - Rural Childcare – access to affordable childcare – assisting young mothers to gain access to training and returning to work
  - \*Develop facilities for 'Special Needs'
  - Better and improved toilet facilities
  - Council must provide services out for the RDP – need to know budget
  - Young people gave the opportunity to work and live in their own area
  - Council support is allocated fairly across the whole of the Council area and not on sectarian grounds
  - Outreach medical facilities in middle glens
-

## Bann

- Ensure the grassroots communities have a voice – don't make decisions or express opinion on their behalf
- Improve rural transport. Integration of service across the CC&G extensive area. Link with other councils re periphery areas. Community transport boundaries are restrictive – ensure areas on periphery of CC & G are included and have accessible services
- Improve inclusion for all people in the community – particularly the disabled and chronically incapacitated
- Good access to natural environment – \*no charges for access to land by stakeholders e.g. cost of access to Giant's Causeway
- Bring communities together
- Disabled / \*decreased mobility access to all services / community facilities / natural environment. Ensure consideration of needs
- Increase cycle paths / walking routes & increase awareness of existing. Clear signage / maps
- More fold housing - rural villages – supported living
- Events for both young and old
- Activities to promote inclusion and address loneliness
- Build/create areas – outdoors and indoors – for social and physical activities e.g. green gym (communities can do this themselves)
- Volunteer led initiatives to ensure community buy-in and support for activities
- Build on MARA and other networks / networking projects that already promote social well-being, Men's Shed etc. Can be too much emphasis on networks / agencies. Networks can give rise to professional networkers rather than community networking
- \*Expand integrated education provision – local schools develop capacity to support working parents & shared education
- Increase community policing (use CPO)
- Decrease emergency response times – some areas 30 min response time

## Benbradagh

- \*\*\*Hearing community to have increased deaf awareness– learn basic sign. Increase social inclusion. Council ensure awareness of and responsibility for response to legislation. (current framework with view to sign language act)
  - Health service to have increased deaf awareness – need more sign language, interpreters
  - Need all public buildings to become deaf friendly – loop system
  - More facilities for hard of hearing to access health or well-being services
-

- Safe access to rural venues e.g. GAA. Owenbeg Centre of excellence
  - More rural community transport. Ensure accessible and affordable by all groups.  
Increase awareness of existing services
  - More cross community initiatives. Encourage more involvement
  - Parish sports day
  - More links with rural towns, villages, hamlets (e.g. minibus). Synchronise transport & work with other bodies effectively
  - Neighbourhood watch (decrease social isolation)
  - Utilise schools more effectively for wider community
  - Improve safety (speed limits on rural roads)
  - More appealing cross community initiatives – carrot and stick
  - Schools link more with community
  - Befriending scheme for elderly in turn addressing fear of crime/young pole
  - Equal regular access to information/resources especially for deaf, people with disabilities, learning difficulties. Deaf community currently have difficulty accessing citizen's advice
  - Remove pay parking for hospitals
  - Look at distance between parking and front door of hospitals
  - \*Access to sports facilities/classes
  - Mental health awareness and support
  - Out of hours first aid base
-

**Table 4**

**SOCIAL WELLBEING**

COMMON RESPONSES/ISSUES	Causeway	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Limavady	The Glens	Bann	Benbradagh
Improved access through linked up transport services including community transport							
Good quality support for those who require support to remain own homes							
Develop community hubs, utilise existing libraries & schools – link with community							
Include socially isolated people: home visitation, a range of activities - all ages can be isolated. Intergenerational befriending / young people mentoring							
Ensure inclusion of all in the community, particularly those with a disability. Ensure access to services, facilities, natural environment, events for those with a disability							
Improved use of / access to natural environment for health and well-being – park runs, increased cycle paths							
Encourage & increase access to leisure, recreational, sports facilities – more flexible opening, discounted/free for some (as Ballymena), allotments ...							
Accessible education / Regional college outreach into rural villages / rural children should get same opportunities							
Social communication - accessible information re activities, services - promote events							
Increased employment, job opportunities							
Integration of different communities/cultures/languages. Cross community initiatives. Encourage community cohesion							
Library outreach/rural library service							
Extend/increase community policing							

Increased safety in evenings							
Nurturing, education, sustainable programmes re mental & physical well-being from early years onwards							
Community festivals/events							

**Table key:**



District Electoral Area has stated this response/identified this as an issue



A priority response/issue - a minimum of 5 of the 7 District Electoral Areas have stated this response/identified this as an issue

## COMMUNITY

### Causeway

- Councillors need to listen – less meetings in ‘committee’
- Community needs to be included – transparency / open door policy
- Decisions need to be made with effective consultation
- Meeting times need to be more flexible / suitable to include everyone (2pm meetings do not support this)
- Each town needs a community centre (Portrush, Limavady & Ballycastle doesn’t have one) Community facilities that cater for all generations from cradle to grave
- \*Promoting integration throughout education (nursery – further education) Even if it upsets the status quo. Not forced.
- Community garden / spaces for community groups & activities. Accessible to all.
- Intergenerational support for young people’s education – i.e. residential home residents help with homework. Promote sharing spaces.
- Fork to fork / farm to fork messages - children be healthier and resilient
- Access to funding to develop facilities and resources e.g. CRUN for training
- Develop sense of community identity e.g. Portrush Heritage Group & Portrush Matters
- Develop CC & G identity as a unit
- Improved openness - inclusion for all
- Future / forward - think about generations to come
- \*More volunteering opportunities – new skills / experiences / friends / diversity
- Instil a sense of pride in your ‘place’
- Encourage 3<sup>rd</sup> sector and voluntary groups to become involved in local community
- \*Encourage shared use of schools / community space / libraries

### Ballymoney

- Engagement, networking & partnerships (promote existing, raise awareness & communication)
- Doing simple things (effective) - back to basics – bringing people together
- Encourage volunteering – develop & promote the benefits more. Capture people’s skills & experiences. Support for volunteers and develop skills of those in the community
- \*Have a community / voluntary voice at the strategic planning table
- More funding for the work of the community voluntary sector
- Encourage not for profit organisation to tender for service level agreements
- Health centre outreach – transport / communication
- Political leadership from the top to grassroots
- Communicate strategy e.g. access to online services

- Digital inclusion
- Recognising the value of the voluntary sector (group & individual contribution / services)
- Respect for the community voluntary sector and the role they play and contribution it makes
- Encourage volunteering within education sector i.e. schools / colleges
- Strive to break down more barriers that exist in our divided society
- Neighbourhood budgets or cross council or themes
- Communities vote on which projects council funding supports – participative budgets

### Coleraine

- Capacity building of personal skills, admin etc. & personal development
- Using available talents and making the sustainable – continuous development
- Young / old working together & cultures
- \*\*Connected communication - hub – hyper local (online newspaper) – community newspapers
- Need to identify community group with necessary skills
- Investment in infrastructure
- More support, awareness e.g. Named Council Community Liaison Officer
- More links with Council
- \*\*Two-way liaison – community network
- Encourage community inclusion opportunities
- Address / ensure truth & justice re the past – \*\*focus on balanced and inclusive civil leadership
- Community audit of community needs – define what community means
- Ensure strategy for most vulnerable
- encourage positivity – self empowerment
- More community events as opposed to tourism (funding)
- Develop collaboration and partnerships and support existing
- Ensure communities are not left isolated
- \*\*Voluntary sector acknowledgement and support and strong voice in community planning
- Investment in volunteers
- Community cohesion – activities supported
- Skills based training that benefits communities that they are based in
- Avoiding duplication in voluntary sector activity

## Limavady

- \* Increase knowledge of others, ensure no duplication
- Use resource effectively e.g. Libraries
- Increase awareness / impact of parenting, even from birth – social, mental health and well-being issues
- Link forums throughout borough – share issues, best practice
- Involve schools
- Community assets, link with private as well as public e.g. Ballykelly. If government sell assets ensure benefit to community
- Council draw together volunteer bureau (council do not officially support volunteer infrastructure/centres)
- Identify any weaknesses in community
- Support current intellectual capital
- Increase status of community sector e.g. Including community voluntary sector on the strategic planning partnership
- Statutory sector to invest in community voluntary sector
- \*\*\*\*\* Stronger families = stronger communities – investment in family and children’s support services
- 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses need to reflect economic development – school subjects e.g. geology (international students come to N.I. to study geology)

## The Glens

- Better communication
- More leisure centres / outdoor activities / cinemas. Building community
- Not enough cross community – make different groups do different activities
- Young people have stronger voice – ensure appropriate opportunities for young people representation
- Local drama groups
- Provide opportunities for activities / festivals / concerts etc. provide designed multi-functional public space
- Ensure that people are encourage to want to share resources
- Involve younger people in activities so they aren’t afraid to when they’re older
- Encouraging pride in place that we live & work
- Build confidence in the future
- Resources allocated to established need
- Community groups essential for volunteer sector
- Opportunity for retired people to share skills with young people - mentorship
- Sharing of religious resource e.g. church halls & school facilities
- \* Opportunity for community groups to meet and share experiences & networking opportunities

- Involve community groups in community planning (& special clubs & churches ✳)
- Peace IV money – public space development
- Build on existing good relations
- Question perceptions
- Develop cross community choirs
- Listen to our young people
- International opportunities
  
- Integration with different communities need to be encouraged – through shared interests i.e. photography, singing
- Need to open council chambers to the public
- More support from statutory agencies for existing local development groups
- Budget for community resilience groups (each parish should have one) (this is emergency response type groups in areas)
- Are volunteers and work done within local communities valued by Council?
- Heart of Glens festival needs continued support – it’s a very complex application and needs simplified as it’s a big boost to area
- That the capacity of the community is built to address its own needs and is recognised by the Council
- Ensuring ‘Glens Community’ has a voice and has access to full Council support in the new CCGBC area and much needed community infrastructure is lacking in the area

### **Bann**

- Make partnerships with groups both council and community level
- Focal points for groups to meet, interact. Provide information in rural areas (not just towns) on local events. Need to avoid too many layers of info
- Share information between agencies and the community
- Don’t isolate rural communities
- Resilience and capacity building programmes for all ages but starting at primary school and preschool. Many existing programmes
- Involvement of community in council managed community events and community run events where possible
- Support the networks & volunteer led organisations to develop group resilience - health & well-being programmes (community gardens etc.). Connect with local groups e.g. diamond clubs, school breakfast clubs, sports groups - football / cycling / walking
- ✳Enable free community space – use other statutory buildings for ‘free’ meetings – shared resources
- ✳Link to emotional well-being hub in Coleraine – promoting resilience and positive mental health

- Garvagh community bus as a resource for all groups. Buses should be kept locally e.g. Garvagh High
- Be mindful of limited resources and use effectively and efficiently to achieve successful outcomes

### **Benbradagh**

- \*Community hub – centre, library, men’s shed
- Community network – someone to phone, programmes to bring retired people together e.g. arts/crafts classes – could be more social economy (not for profit) – already exists in Limavady – perhaps needs support with marketing/promotion and roll out across CC&G
- More information about events and activities that are available. A community noticeboard on line for us to post would help
- More funding for developing & supporting youth community groups
- More recognition for community volunteers e.g. awards, small incentives, point system
- Forum in each town for shared resources between groups. Information on what’s available (e.g. tools, marques, equipment etc.) Exists in Dungiven and Limavady but would need more across CC&G
- More funding for cross community projects. Redefine cross community – not just Protestant & Catholic
- Care home in local area
- Using all methods available to communicate – fb, kiosk on street, local shops, text, info outlet, bongo drums!
- \*Increase involvement of young people
- More partnership working
- Sharing best practice and resources
- More and fairer accessible funding
- More intergenerational projects
- More celebratory events/fan-zones/festivals etc.
- Support when something goes wrong/doesn’t work

Table 5

## COMMUNITY

COMMON RESPONSES/ISSUES	Causeway	Ballymoney	Coleraine	Limavady	The Glens	Bann	Benbradagh
Effective representation and engagement - Councillors listen (including listen to young people) and communicate with communities							
Intergenerational support / activity / programmes / mentoring							
Community centre/hub/focal points within community – accessible to all							
Encourage and facilitate shared and effective use of resources - schools, libraries & community spaces							
Encourage volunteering – develop and promote more opportunities							
Encourage involvement of 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector in local community and recognise value of role and contribution (in general and in planning)							
Communicate information (strategies, activities, events etc.) effectively, using a variety of appropriate media							
Support & increase funding for work of community voluntary sector							
Encourage intergenerational opportunities							
Support and develop networking, sharing of best practice, collaboration and partnership working across CC&G							
Skills based training, capacity building programmes to enable communities to address own needs							
Community integration/cohesion/cross community activity (shared interests e.g. choir, photography etc.							

**Table key:**



District Electoral Area has stated this response/identified this as an issue



A priority response/issue - a minimum of 5 of the 7 District Electoral Areas have stated this response/identified this as an issue

## HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY?

### Causeway

- Flexible timing for consultations
- Email notification links – use the internet (accessible) use social media loads of community fb pages – free promotion
- Raise profile of planning partnership
- Feedback process
- Openness and consultation BEFORE decisions. Provide the draft plan for discussion prior to formal consultation – e.g. see the Marine plan for Wales
- Maximise links to existing community organisations & businesses, regional organisations, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector, schools & health
- Make use of existing facilities and promote
- \* Consultation involves everyone and is meaningful and public wishes are acted upon – not own agenda (not party political) and make particular arrangements for specific needs if required.
- Outline at start what are the limitations and goals of the community plan. Do not raise or lower expectations
- Single point contacts throughout the process where possible e.g. triangle area single point contact. An area rep as a single point of contact.
- The start of this process has not been well advertised – not a great start! Notice not up to expectations
- Community input to planning as community will be asked to deliver
- \*\*\* Integrated education have not been invited on to the planning partnership (state & Catholic are represented, integrated excluded! – not representative of our community!
- Open door policy to all council / planning partnership (minutes to ALL council meetings should be made public - freedom of information). Transparency please -not political gain.

### Ballymoney

- \*\*\* Representation from the community – how do we ensure the whole community is represented?
- \*\* Listen with open mind – trust their community reps
- Share updates / information via the 4 network groups / libraries / health centres
- Strategic planning partnership does not include representation from community sector
- Regular open community planning meetings with communities as of right

- Formal links with youth council
- 6 monthly reports on progress or problems
- Pilot community votes & participative budgeting - providing opportunities to participate
- Simple continuous communication channel – 2 way
- How are all the statutory groups in the partnership engaging with each other?
- Developments / actions need to happen soon or people will lose interest
- Visible evidence of quick wins
- Find a way to engage individuals
- How many on partnership are from CC&Gs. Needs ownership / vested people
- Involve local media to inform public (newspapers)
- Public forum – internet also

### Coleraine

- Raise the profile - SPP. Local paper, social media, named volunteers as link & hyper local community newspaper
- Public meeting as starting point
- \*Identify champions who will engage with the community and SPP
- Information sharing regular update – mechanism?
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis – impact measurement
- Use of proper media for age groups -Disability accessibility
- \*Two way communication - different channels of communications
- Listening is critical to a relationship
- This is the start of the process
- Explain the SPP – names/ photos / structure / background
- Pop up / roadshow
- Include community & Arts / Culture on SPP
- Annual report / update which will be distributed widely or quarterly
- Identify and respond to those who do not have/ or want access to internet / social media. (local based meetings, leaflet etc.)
- Link to advocate agencies to ensure inclusion of clients
- Links to other partnerships such as PCSP, Neighbourhood Renewal etc.
- Voluntary sector inclusion on SPP
- Community planning – community led voice of community – \*must be listened to and acted on so we get participatory democracy
- Clear communication of community planning remit
- \*Engaging people in decisions on issues which affect their lives – bottom up approach

## Limavady

- **\*** Have community representatives on the strategic planning partnership
- Regular communication – publish minutes
- Committed individuals
- Live and ongoing communication with community networks – links to 100s of members
- Change the perception of community planning as it appears to be a ‘closed shop’
- Top down approach – needs changed
- Language isn’t always public friendly – tailor to suit audience. Break down jargon
- Getting partner organisations to promote community planning through their own activities and events
- Suggestion box – ideas, encourage those who want to be involved – all public areas / offices
- Consider funding available for other non-statutory groups - could link in
- Promotion could be better – encourage all groups
- Promotion message, community planning ethos not new. Much partnership working already done / work going on already, just a more formal basis.
- **\*\*** Recognise existing partnership working – engage with this / acknowledge and take learning from existing practice

## The Glens

- Surveys, co-ordinating local researchers to knock doors (you go to them instead of them coming to you). Using youth councils to inform young people – young people friendly events. Use NISRA data
- Existing community networks involved in process, CRUN, NACN...
- Social media – opinion polls
- Visit school / nursing homes / clubs / mums & tots – link into their existing communication e.g. newsletter, Facebook
- Make a tv advertisement or poster so people understand the links of why it is important to contribute
- Use case studies to get points across
- Public meetings – cost effective. Problem getting people to attend
- Partnership must be open and honest about budget and funding
- Expand existing tourism survey to areas other than Belfast (e.g. airport surveys)
- More information on meeting before meeting to encourage participation – purpose
- **\*** Communities have already been consulted and aware of what issues are – not starting from scratch
- **\*\*** Engage with existing community groups / consultation & engagement with some e.g. BCRC, NACN, CRUN. Ask to join the partnership & community groups & youth council

- Cross party engagement to promote better future for all
- All special interest clubs should be included & churches
- Need greater inclusion
- PCSP should sit on it
- Pace & time bound – clear timelines to maintain interest and continued participation
- Community should sit on the partnership
- Use local facilities -e.g. Corrymeela
- Free food
- Advertise more
- Do surveys to get locals to talk to locals about similar interest and gather people with similar interests – go door to door
- Management of expectations – clear links to budgets and resources
- Use of existing strong assets / networks – part of partnership from beginning
- Possible links with Blu Zebra consultation / future search etc.
  
- Reduce red tape/complexity of application forms and evaluation process
- Community representation on Strategic Planning Partnership
- More regular consultation events/opportunities (people need more encouragement to attend these events)
- \*\*Council and Councillors to work better/more collaboratively for good of WHOLE Council area
- Council presence to be extended (to be inclusive) to the Glens (elected reps coming out more to a community)
- Decision makers should not use power to advance own agenda
- Concern we are not on the radar – welcome the opportunity to engage in this but it needs to be genuine and continued engagement
- \*Recognise the community infrastructure that exists – the community networks, NACN, CRUN & BCRC – utilise this to the benefit of reaching out with community planning and as a means of communicating with all types of groups.

### **Bann**

- \*\*By involving the ‘community’ right from the start, not half way thought the process. How? Build on this type of public meeting – small active groups – maximum 10 in each hub
- By consulting and including the community at all stages – resources / who funds this? How can we achieve this?
- By involving the community infrastructure organisations e.g. networks and umbrella bodies. They don’t necessarily speak for the grassroots community. Ensure they know the issues and have a relevant voice
- \*By ensuring that community reps are equal partners – not tokenistic

- Accessible information sharing – plain English & not all internet based. Too much is solely online
- Don't concentrate on the old 'triangle' area, include all areas. Treat all areas equally based on need. Don't ignore the outskirts of council area
- Funding too often concentrates on setting up groups / systems but not on sustaining them
- Community voluntary sector reps will/should be included in 5 thematic groups – that's where a lot of the real work will be done
- How do we connect people into networks / community groups and then into community planning? Have a menu of options / information so people know what services/groups exist
- \*\*Be inclusive as possible – involve all relevant community groupings
- In such a big council area it will be difficult to agree priorities between competing areas
- Advertise process – give it an identity through schools / churches / clubs. Tell people why this benefits them.

### **Benbradagh**

- Councillors keep community informed (good & bad info)
- Community groups to link together – need structure in place
- Make public more aware of access to council meetings
- Website user friendly – search tool for meeting minutes. Use social media to update people
- Statutory bodies to meet community groups more regularly
- Need a central point for information sharing between all groups/bossies. Networks in ALL areas – we have in Limavady
- Replicate successful projects from other areas
- Evaluate outcomes of ongoing projects
- Community need to be clear about current plans/projects for Dungiven & locality
- Suggestion – use library for above notifications or resource centre or other
- SPP attend network meeting – link in with community development officer to get a better idea of groups on the ground
- Less ticking boxes
- Ensure mechanism for participation in planning for deaf community – interpreter/loop system. Ensure access to clear communication for all via appropriate and varied mechanisms

**Table 6 HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE COMMUNITY?**

<b>COMMON RESPONSES/ISSUES</b>	<b>Causeway</b>	<b>Ballymoney</b>	<b>Coleraine</b>	<b>Limavady</b>	<b>The Glens</b>	<b>Bann</b>	<b>Benbradagh</b>
Raise awareness and profile of SPP – use existing facilities							
Ensure community input / representation on partnership.							
Clear, regular information update - goals, limitations, expectations & successes							
Use a variety of relevant communication mechanisms (face to face, written, online, local media, ...) Ensure appropriate for all communities/language, visual and hearing impaired.							
Increased collaborative work between civic representatives, statutory and community -Maximise existing links -use networks / key organisations / advocate agencies for communication & inclusion							
Inclusive, meaningful, regular consultation BEFORE decision making							
Transparency - open door policy to all meetings – minutes etc. made public							
Ensure 2-way communication. Connection with the community.							
Break down jargon, use public friendly language							
Promote community planning more effectively - relevance							
Provide mechanisms for ongoing meaningful engagement/participation at a variety of levels							

**Table key:**

 District Electoral Area has stated this response/identified this as an issue

 A priority response/issue - a minimum of 5 of the 7 District Electoral Areas have stated this response/identified this as an issue

## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

There may still be the need for promotion and awareness raising of the community planning process in general. There seems to be a misconception of what community planning is as the name seems to imply for many people that this is planning for the community/voluntary sector and therefore not relevant to the individual living in the local area. This is a new concept for Northern Ireland and may take some time for ownership and participation to permeate throughout the communities.

As with Community Planning, the Borough of Causeway Coast & Glens is a relatively new concept. It will take time for the area to gel as one Borough and for the communities to gain a collective identity. From the discussions within the DEAs it is apparent that throughout the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council area there is a legacy of inconsistent services resulting from the varying provision of the previously existing councils. For increased Borough identity and collaboration there may be a need for service continuity throughout.

The community engagement sessions enabled the community to engage with the Community Planning process from the outset and is to be commended. The responses relating to the Communities' relationship with the Strategic Planning Partnership emphasised the desire for community involvement, the necessity of clear 2-way communication via appropriate mechanisms and the strengthening of a collaborative relationship. It is therefore essential that communication with Causeway Coast & Glens stakeholders continues, outlining clear steps forward with opportunity for continuous appropriate engagement throughout the process.

*Facilitation of Community Engagement Public Sessions and Report compiled by:*

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