



# **Collated feedback from the first round of Community Planning Engagement Events**

## **February 2015 – March 2015**

Incorporating analysis of the online questionnaire



## Executive Summary

### 1.0 Introduction

The Shadow Newry, Mourne and Down District Council undertook an initial round of 9 engagement events across the District between 4 February and 24 March 2015 as outlined in the table below.

An introduction was provided at each session outlining the new concept of community planning before a 'speed engagement' approach was adopted to provide an opportunity for all participants to contribute their opinion on Education, Environment, Economic development, regeneration and tourism, Health and wellbeing, Safety and Planning.

## What is Community Planning?



Community Planning is a strategic planning process.

Put simply community planning is everyone working together to make life better for local people.

It means planning ahead to improve the big issues that matter to people like health, education, employment, safety and the environment

The people who deliver services will:

- Listen to what is important to local people
- Agree the things that need urgent attention
- Agree how to tackle them within the money available
- Keep everyone informed and involved in the community planning process

Please get involved, come to an engagement event or focus group.

These will be advertised in local press, on the Council website and facebook pages.

You won't have to talk if you don't want to but there will be opportunities to put your point of view even if you just write it on a post-it and put it on our board! Or you can complete a questionnaire on line.

*Have YOUR say - it's YOUR future*

Further information contact:  
Heather McKee - Community Planning Manager  
T: 028 3031 3031 / Email: [heather.mckee@newryandmourne.gov.uk](mailto:heather.mckee@newryandmourne.gov.uk)





## Events held across the District during February and March:

Wednesday 4 February 7pm, Newry Town Hall

Thursday 12 February 7pm, Market House, Ballynahinch

Thursday 17 February 7pm, Warrenpoint Town Hall

Wednesday 25 February 7pm, Annalong Community Centre

Thursday 26 February 10.30 am, Down Arts Centre

Tuesday 3 March 7pm Castlewellan Lodge

Monday 9 March 7pm, Down Arts Centre

Wednesday 18 March 7pm, Mullaghbawn Community Centre

Tuesday 24 March 10.30 am, Canal Court Hotel, Newry

Contributions from participants at each engagement event was captured by designated scribes. This information was later transferred to scribe forms and this is included in full at Appendix 1. A summary of this feedback is included in this executive summary.

For those unable to attend an engagement event, the option was provided to complete an online questionnaire. It is acknowledged that this online questionnaire was quite long and took approximately 15 minutes to complete which was a deterrent for some members of the community. There were however, a significant number completed and the full analysis from the online questionnaire is attached at Appendix 2.

The collective feedback from the questionnaire and the engagement events captured in this document will be used to inform the next, more intensive period of engagement. Ultimately this will assist the Council, the community and partners to address the issues that are important in the District.



## 2.0 Overview of Survey Results

The majority of respondents were aged 45-54.  
73% have lived in the area 15 years or more.  
The 2 highest rated things people would change are –  
More employment opportunities and more leisure facilities

### Social Wellbeing

The 3 highest rated priorities that people would address:  
75.91% selected Health and wellbeing, reducing health inequalities  
74.1% selected Community safety – reducing crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic violence  
72.6 % selected providing activities for children and young people

### Economic Wellbeing

The 3 highest rated priorities that people would address:  
86.25% selected job creation  
84.64% selected Investment in Newry, Mourne and Down  
73.29% Skills and employability

### Environmental Wellbeing

The 3 highest rated priorities that people would address:  
83.02% selected a cleaner environment  
74.06% Enhancement conservation/protection natural environment  
71.92% Public Transport

### General

The majority of respondents rated the provision of Arts and cultural activities as average

### People were most satisfied with

- Libraries
- Recycling and refuse collection
- Schools

### People were less satisfied with

- Roads
- Sport and Leisure facilities
- Public Transport

Opinion on problems in the area reflected the top 3 perceived problems as:

- Sectarian crime



- Boy racers
- Burglary

The top 3 perceived good relations challenges are seen as:

- Flags and emblems
- Silent sectarianism
- Lack of dialogue and respect

The top 3 issues selected that prevent people getting employment are:

- Lack of suitable jobs
- Lack of affordable child care
- Ill health



### 3.0 Summary of the scribe forms from the 9 engagement events:

#### **Economic Development, Regeneration and Tourism**

##### **What has worked:**

Development of leisure, sports, bike trails, parks  
Public realm schemes/regeneration  
Introduction of large employers  
Broadband /social media  
Events investment  
Good partnership working  
Business parks supported  
Tourism destination/activity based tourism/destination Mournes/Gullion  
Good partnership working  
Good business community / business development  
Arts/culture (limited)  
Funding / Capital Investment

##### **What hasn't worked:**

Weak tourism and lack of promotion, lack of accommodation  
Poor transport/infrastructure  
Lack of connection between social and economic development  
Rural broadband poor  
Lack of festivals  
Lack of coastal development beyond Newcastle  
Lack of capacity building for social enterprise projects  
Businesses not working together  
Lack of employment initiatives  
Support for farm diversification (planning, environment, restrictions and funding)  
Lack of affordable accommodation

##### **Priorities:**

Better use and development of existing assets, landscape, natural resources, pathways  
Branding  
Tourism development and promotion of Mournes, Ring of Gullion  
Development around Mourne Coastal route  
Develop more events and festivals  
Joined up economic development  
Better broadband  
Employment programmes – rural areas  
Business support  
Local skills development  
Capacity building and link to social and economic development  
Improved infrastructure



## **Safety**

### **What has worked:**

Engagement with youth and links in innovative ways with PSNI teams  
Collaboration and partnership working  
PSNI social media  
PCSP targeted, evidence based funding  
Capacity building to support involvement by communities in interventions and build relations with statutory agencies  
Neighbourhood policing  
Engagement with ethnic minorities  
Joint education initiatives by Partner organizations  
Neighbourhood Watch schemes – effective for engagement  
Better working relationship between community, voluntary sector and statutory sector  
Hallioween Projects

### **What hasn't worked:**

More follow up by PSNI when crime reported  
Traveller community, more engagement required  
More recognition of levels of sexual/domestic violence  
More intergenerational work needed  
Address drug dealers/ drug issues  
More initiatives around underage drinking and drugs  
Littering/dog fouling  
Road safety issues  
Flags and graffiti  
Cuts reduction in resources in staff/closure of stations  
Address manifestations of sectarianism – impact on tourism/economic development  
Youth facilities  
Rural crime still a big issue

### **Priorities:**

Engagement and capacity building to all sections of community  
Partnership working and collaboration  
Increased local visible policing particularly rural areas  
Alcohol and drug misuse to be addressed  
Joined up working with good relations around sectarianism and public disorder/impact on tourism and economic development  
More support/interventions domestic and sexual violence – safe housing/shelter  
More youth engagement - particularly aimed at teenager years



## **Environment**

### **What has worked:**

Outdoor activities/events, parks developed  
Recycling/upgraded amenity sites  
Biodiversity work  
Bonfire management  
Clean air/smokeless zone  
Street cleansing  
Coastal path development  
Mountain bike development  
Support for community clean ups  
NI Water upgrades  
Affordable warmth scheme  
Boiler replacement schemes  
Enforcement officers making a cleaner environment  
Public realm schemes  
Food Hygiene Rating Scheme  
Geotourism Project  
MARA Project  
Brown Bins

### **What hasn't worked:**

Lack of social housing/affordable housing  
Addressing fuel laundering/dumping/fly tipping  
Flooding  
Dog fouling and lack of bins  
Lack of developed walks and coastal paths  
Affordability of renewable energy  
Public attitude to social housing prevented development  
Poor tourism signage – associated poor provision  
Coast road dangerous  
Lack of public parks town/city centre  
Derelict buildings – not utilized  
Brown bins not available across all the district  
Car Parking  
Under utilisation of canals / water ways  
National Park debate

### **Priorities:**

Social housing/affordable housing  
Green space development  
Education/enforcement on dog fouling, noise, waste issues  
Develop/expand broadband and wifi





Harness nature resources  
(Sustainability)  
Improving civic pride – more buy in from communities  
More environmental education / information



## **Health & Wellbeing**

### **What has worked:**

Good health services – GPs, hospitals, pharmacy  
Good Leisure facilities – indoor and outdoor  
Good community voluntary sector services  
Outdoor activities, sport available  
Parks and green space  
Good projects/programmes already  
Good joint working  
Good participation  
Schools promoting health and wellbeing  
Community transport

### **What hasn't worked:**

Short term nature of funding  
Education around GP services – misuse of provision, can't get appointments, tackle causes  
Support services inadequate – for home care, mental health, teenagers  
Mental health services inadequate  
Transport impacts use of attendance at hospital  
Lack of rural transport an issue  
Community development/empowerment required  
GP services  
Too much fragmented delivery  
Waiting times too long  
Not enough affordable childcare / sure start places/ breakfast and homework clubs  
Not enough care for elderly – more home care support needed

### **Priorities:**

Mental health services  
Support services – look at what's needed  
Addressing Rural areas / isolation  
Development walk ways  
Prevention – early intervention, cause rather than symptom, education and prevention rather than reactionary  
Better collaboration between sectors  
GP services – longer hours, better access. education around provision  
Support for hospitals – explore service provision  
Link health with leisure provision  
Transport – rural isolation  
Establish need then commission delivery rather than ad hoc funding  
Teenage provision inadequate  
More communication / information on what services are available, what each sector / agency provides.  
More education on healthy living, health promotion/ nutrition.



## **Planning**

### **What has worked:**

Transparent process / impartial process  
Reasonable balance between urban and rural development  
Professional  
Good balance – social housing – good relationship with NIHE  
Support for development initiatives – public realm schemes across district  
Pre – application consultations helpful  
Integration of green energy – approvals for wind turbines  
Fast track service  
Compliance with disability legislation

### **What hasn't worked:**

Not enough info about process  
Not enough engagement  
More open space  
Not enough information on process, requirements  
Not enough social housing in rural areas  
Not enough business opportunities rural areas  
Not enough enforcement – inconsistency  
No central park – Newry  
Process too long  
Lack of developer support for communities  
Not enough infrastructure linkages to amenities for developments

### **Priorities:**

More information on process – what can/can't do  
Faster process and more engagement  
Development plan must balance urban and rural needs  
Requirement for parks/green space/shared space in villages/development  
More Social housing/regeneration/regulate Housing Associations/mixed development  
More information / standards / control in relation to renewable energy.



## **Education**

### **What has worked:**

Good quality schools  
Highly qualified staff  
High levels of educational attainment  
Good relationships with external agencies such as PSNI / PCSP / NIFRS  
SRC and SERC – good range of courses available  
High retention of schools in the district – not many closing  
Good apprenticeship schemes available  
Good mix of schools  
Neighbourhood renewal programmes  
Good linkages between schools  
Good Youth Initiatives around the district eg. Mourne Mountain Adventure, Work 4 U Programme, Youth Forum, Youth Council  
Good work by libraries  
Sharing of facilities with the community (limited)

### **What hasn't worked:**

Transport to schools – rural transport poor  
Not enough youth provision for teenagers – more needs to be done.  
Not enough university level courses available in the district – have to be completed in Belfast  
Not enough utilisation of school buildings by the local community.  
Courses offered not reflecting the skills shortage in the work force  
Not enough pre-school places  
Lack of special needs awareness  
Not enough before and after school clubs available  
Not enough IT education or outdoor /exercise activities during school

### **Priorities:**

Improve transport arrangements  
More use of school buildings for the whole community after school hours  
More affordable childcare and more pre-school places  
More breakfast and after school clubs needed  
More engagement with children aged 11+  
More life long learning and reskilling  
More linkages with school / college curriculum and the employment sector – addressing need in the work place  
Increase apprenticeships  
More special needs provision



## 4.0 Next Steps

The initial feedback received and compiled in this report together with statistical evidence from Partner organisations, the datahub and NISRA will inform the next part of the engagement process. It will also inform the first stages in outlining our Community Plan.

More engagement is being planned over the next 6 months with a view to the community plan being drafted towards the end of 2015.

In early 2016 the Council and its Partners will consult with the community on the draft plan and revise it based on the feedback received.

**For further details about the community planning process contact:  
Heather McKee, Community Planning Manager 028 0300 013 2233**