

Community Planning

Community Planning in Ards and North Down | Issue 1 November 2015

What public service improvements would make your life better?

What issues do you think public agencies should make a top priority?

What do you hope Ards and North Down will be like in 15-20 years' time?

**What if your opinion actually made a difference?
Good news! It can.**

In April 2015 all the newly formed Councils in Northern Ireland gained a brand new power known as community planning.

What is Community Planning?

In Ards and North Down lots of organisations are involved in providing services for our local communities. Community planning is about joining up the efforts of these public sector, business, voluntary and community organisations and making sure they are working with local people for a common goal of improving all aspects of community life. It will help public agencies work together, with the wider community, to plan and deliver better services.

Community planning can be a confusing term. It is often mixed up with community development or spatial planning, but it is not the same.

Community planning will provide a fantastic opportunity to work with our citizens and across government departments, to improve life in the Ards and North Down area for everyone.



Developing a Community Plan

Ards and North Down Borough Council is responsible for facilitating the development of a Community Plan, but it is not a Council document. It is a high level vision for the borough that will include cooperation and partnership from a range of other organisations.

The process of developing the Community Plan will involve agreeing a 15-20 year vision for the Ards and North Down area, i.e. what do we want Ards and North Down to look and feel like in 15-20 years? A Community Plan will then be developed, with shared responsibility for implementation, to work together towards achieving the shared vision.

Community planning is fundamentally about working together to deliver better, more co-ordinated services for everyone in our borough.

A Strategic Community Planning Partnership

A Strategic Community Planning Partnership has been formed that includes representation from the following organisations:

- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
- Education Authority
- Health and Social Care Board
- Invest Northern Ireland
- Libraries NI
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Public Health Agency
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- Sport Northern Ireland
- Tourism Northern Ireland
- South Eastern Regional College



Government departments such as Environment, Social Development, Regional Development, Education, Finance and Personnel and the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister are also involved.

This partnership is responsible for agreeing the high level strategic direction of the Community Plan.

How can you get involved?

Tell us what you think by joining Ards and North Down's BIG CONVERSATION.

Consider: What do you think the Ards and North Down area should look like in 15-20 years?

- Do you value our beautiful coastline and high quality outdoor spaces?
Do you think these could be improved?
- Do you love our vibrant town and village centres?
Do you think a lot more could be made of these?
- Does our area provide you with sports, arts and cultural activities?
- What do you think about issues such as ;
 - health provision
 - job opportunities
 - safety and policing
 - housing standards
 - planning policies
 - education provisions
 - coastal erosion
 - planning
 - drug and alcohol use
 - unsafe driving
 - rural isolation
 - transport links
- Which of the above issues are a priority in the Ards and North Down Area?

Then answer the following questions :



- **What do you like about our area?**
- **What do you dislike about our area?**
- **What issues do you think we should prioritise?**

We want to hear your opinions about the delivery of services within the Ards and North Down area, not just those that the Council has direct responsibility for. This feedback will be used, alongside other statistical evidence and data, to identify what objectives and actions should be included in the Community Plan.

**Tell us what you think by joining Ards and North Down's BIG CONVERSATION
#myvoicemyAND**

How can you help?

Fill in a BIG CONVERSATION feedback postcard, available from Council Civic buildings, libraries, constituency offices, the Council's website and Borough Magazine.

Postcards can also be requested by emailing communityplanning@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk. Completed postcards can be posted to Bangor Town Hall or left at any Council building so they can be forwarded to Community Planning.

See the Council's website (www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk) for up to date information on where you can pick up a postcard and where completed postcards can be left where they will be forwarded to Community Planning.

Alternatively, **click on the logo below** which will take you directly to the online version.



How can you get updates on the Community Plan?

Minutes of the Strategic Community Planning Partnership will appear (once adopted) on the Council's website. Reports and the results of any consultation activities will also appear here, as will newsletters, surveys and events. If you would like to be added to the distribution list to receive updates on community planning activities in Ards and North Down please e-mail communityplanning@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk or phone **0300 013 3333**.

Follow us on twitter @myvoicemyAND and tweet about issues (good or bad) using the #myvoicemyAND

Please forward this newsletter to any interested parties.