Bangor Waterfront Survey Analysis
The online public survey was launched with an aim of unpacking the qualities which make Bangor waterfront special and hopes for the future of the waterfront. By capturing the public's vision and insight, together we can build a vision for Bangor's waterfront.

This phase of the process is about discovery, listening and gathering to understand the area's actual and perceived character. We believe that through this method of engagement we are able to collect data and knowledge that is based on fact, encourage the people who have an interest in Bangor's waterfront, to explore local distinctiveness, and develop a vision for their waterfront which is adaptable enough to achieve buy-in from all sectors of the community. It hopes to uncover the inside story from local residents, visitors and workers to give an accurate insight into what it's really like to live, work in and visit Bangor. An honest assessment of its challenges and opportunities. This following document is an analysis of the responses from the survey. The data will then be used to help inform and support the masterplan and vision.

The following results were taken from 12/11/2019 at which time the survey had closed at a total of 1890 participants.

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**Key stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Devices</th>
<th>Desktop</th>
<th>Mobile</th>
<th>Tablet</th>
<th>Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responses</strong></td>
<td>1,890</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total visits</strong></td>
<td>4,472</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Unique visits</strong></td>
<td>3,473</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Completion rate</strong></td>
<td>54.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average time to complete</strong></td>
<td>19:04</td>
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</table>
Overall the ages of participants are spread across different demographics, with the largest percentage of respondents falling in the 35-44 year age bracket. 10% of respondents are under the age of 24, an impressive total given this age group can often be hard to reach.

Over 80% of respondents live in Bangor and the local area, 12% live elsewhere in Northern Ireland, very few of the survey respondents live outside Northern Ireland.

### WHICH AGE BRACKET DO YOU FALL IN TO?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Bracket</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35-44 years old</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>465 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54 years old</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>411 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64 years old</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>314 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34 years old</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>291 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74 years old</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>134 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 years old</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>128 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 years or younger</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>88 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 years or older</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>30 resp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bangor and local Bangor area</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>1K resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland other than Bangor</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>134 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>62 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republic of Ireland</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>13 resp.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HAVE YOU EVER VISITED BANGOR?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>381 resp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>17 resp.</td>
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</table>
Whilst perceptions of Bangor waterfront are generally mixed it is clear that a large number of survey respondents feel that currently the waterfront is unloved and underutilised, though has opportunity to become a vibrant public space for the town, its residents and visitors.

(Figure 01 is a word cloud composed of words stated by survey respondents to describe Bangor waterfront. The size of each word indicates the frequency used)
28% of survey respondents visit Bangor several times a week or more.

The large majority of respondents drive and park in the town. Only 7% of respondents walk or cycle as a primary means of travel, this could reflect a number of issues, including the ease of access by car and availability of car parking.

The daytime is the most common time for respondents to visit Bangor. However it is positive that almost 50% of respondents visit at ‘lots of different times’. The low number of evening visits suggests that there is little night-time economy in the town.

### When are you most likely to go there?

- 47% of respondents go there at ‘lots of different times’
- 25% on the weekend in the daytime
- 24% on a weekday in the daytime
- 2% on a Friday or Saturday evening
- 2% on a weekday evening

### How often do you visit Bangor?

- 30% several times per month
- 28% a few times per year
- 19% several times per week
- 14% less than once per year
- 9% everyday

### How do you usually travel to Bangor?

- 72% drive and park in town
- 21% take public transport
- 4% walk
- 3% cycle
Survey respondents were asked to share how they like to spend their time in Bangor and their favourite places to visit in the town. The overwhelming majority of responses relate to the natural environment and outdoor activity such as the waterfront walking routes, green spaces, access to and views of the seafront. Bangor’s independent cafés, restaurants, and Pickie Park are also viewed as key assets to the town.
Other common responses include:

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN BANGOR?**
- Meet with friends
- Visit restaurants and bars
- Walk along the coastal path
- Cycle the coastal path
- Support independent shops and cafés
- Attend Open House
- Spend time with family
- Exercise
- Visit playgrounds
- Fishing
- Open water swimming
- Picnic

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KEEP IN BANGOR?**
- Old bathing pool beside sea cliff road
- Public toilets
- Wide public walkway
- Natural landscape
- Open spaces
- Sailing club
- One way traffic
- An area for markets/concerts
- McKee Clock
- Nesting places for the black guillemots
- Affordable family friendly activities
- Heritage buildings
Learning from elsewhere

Survey participants were asked what they feel are the best features of other waterfront destinations they have visited.

Cleanliness, plenty of places to eat and drink overlooking the waterfront, and a diverse mix of outdoor activities for all ages are recurring features.

“Cleanliness, access to the water, spaces being actively used”
35-44 years

“Restaurant/bar fronting onto waterfront. Difficult to replicate in colder climates”
35-44 years

“Plenty going on”
65-74 years

“The places to stop and have a drink or coffee”
45-54 years

“The buzz of people”
18-24 years

“Waterfront restaurants”
18-24 years

“Iconic structures (genuinely interesting statues or the bandstand in Naples), local food provision, restaurants with stunning sea views”
18-24 years

“The integration. Cafés overlooking the water or boats. Leisure mixed with retail.”
35-44 years

“Restaurants/bars with roof terraces/views of the sea, promenades and watersports”
35-44 years

“Undisturbed views, unrestricted access (no imposing railings distracting from the natural surroundings), the cleanliness of the areas, well maintained equipment and pathways. The less is more approach, letting the outstanding beauty speak for itself”
35-44 years

“Engaging all age groups in activities like surfing, canoeing, cycling. Also, having somewhere to shower and get refreshments.”
45-54 years

“They have an abundance of things for young people to do”
35-44 years

“La mar bella skatepark in Barcelona, right on the beach and beside restaurants and bars. Absolute perfection”
18-24 years

“In Cairns, Australia they have a free skatepark, free outdoor gym facilities, free basketball, clean public toilets and tennis courts, tables with BBQ grills, a man made beach lagoon and lockers. I know their weather is a lot better than here, but it was a lovely sense of community. Everyone was having fun, no matter age or gender. People seemed healthier and fitter, lots of people using the parks and workout equipment, and also encouraged other to bike ride, free skate, dog walk and jog. They also had different waterfront activities held each day, e.g. yoga, pilates etc.. Shops nearby were all open and encouraged.”
25-34 years

“Portrush has a great feel about it, very touristy, maybe Bangor could be more like that, ice cream stalls, candy floss, Bangor stick of rocks, stalls selling bucket and spade”
25-34 years

“The buzz from markets, attractions and cafés.”
55-64 years

“Cleanliness, tourism opportunities and facilities”
65-74 years

“Modern, aesthetically pleasing and usually have watersports businesses located I think them or nearby i.e... paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing rentals/lessons,”
65-74 years

“Places of interest clearly identified with information board”
75 year or older

“Lovely promenades with cafés and small artisan shops”
65-74 years

“Sweden - in summer months a large area was used as entertainment area for children's and teens. Inflatables, kites, circus equipment etc..”
35-44 years
Respondents were asked what they felt Bangor Waterfront needs in order to make it a more enjoyable place for residents and visitors.

More places to eat and drink overlooking the water are the most popular response, with better public spaces to hold events and festivals, dedicated waterfront cycle and walking routes, and infrastructure that gives permission to enjoy the natural environment closely behind.

Respondents also felt that the waterfront would benefit from offering more spaces and activities for young people.

**WHAT DO YOU THINK BANGOR WATERFRONT NEEDS TO MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE FOR PEOPLE TO ENJOY?**

- **More places to eat and drink overlooking the water**: 79% (1488 resp.)
- **Better public spaces to hold events and festivals**: 60% (1130 resp.)
- **Infrastructure that gives you permission to enjoy the natural environment (benches, shelters, bird watching hides etc..)**: 59% (1116 resp.)
- **More landscaped spaces and access to the marina**: 54% (1026 resp.)
- **A dedicated cycle and walking route**: 45% (851 resp.)
- **More spaces for young people**: 42% (797 resp.)
- **More child friendly spaces (Play areas, splash parks etc..)**: 35% (660 resp.)
- **Better facilities for watersports**: 26% (488 resp.)
- **More parking**: 25% (468 resp.)
- **Less parking**: 18% (349 resp.)

**IF OTHER WHAT DO YOU THINK BANGOR WATERFRONT NEEDS?**

- “Move car park back and build cafés restaurants closer to sea with views.”
- “More free parking but not on the seafront.”
- “Places for people to live who will create an underlying footfall in the area.”
- “Local artists should be encouraged to create more mosaic panels on Eisenhower Pier. With a bit of imagination and investment this could become a unique all-year round visitor attraction.”
- “Beach or swimming pool for all ages not just splash pool for toddlers.”
- “Respect the natural beauty of what is already there. Do not over develop inappropriately as in so doing it will destroy the very thing which makes the coastline so special.”
- “An artificial beach would be a big attraction for families.”
- “Investment on the piers to make them attractive.”
- “Art and sculpture.”
Future

Figure 02 shows further analysis of responses based on age demographic.

Having more places to eat and drink overlooking the water is most popular across all age groups.

Unsurprisingly, respondents under the age of 25 favoured an increased provision of spaces for young people.

For those aged between 25 - 64, a designated cycle and walking route along the waterfront is a priority.

Infrastructure that gives permission to enjoy the natural environment is more of a priority for those aged over 45.

Figure 02
Future

Figure 03 shows further analysis of responses based on the respondents residential location. Interestingly, respondents from outside of Northern Ireland felt that less parking on the waterfront was required.
WHAT 3 THINGS WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE ALONG BANGOR WATERFRONT?

Common suggestions include:

- Reduction of car parking on the waterfront
- Increased cafe/restaurant offer with sea views
- A more accessible waterfront walking and cycling route
- Cleanliness
- Public seating provision
- Quality and diversity of eateries
- Access to Ballyholme beach
- Public facilities - toilets, changing etc..
- Access to the water
- Swimming facilities
- Appearance and accessibility of piers
- Surfacing (public paths and walkways)
- Leisure offer: more options and variety for all age groups
- More waste bins & recycling
- Night-time economy
- Events space & provision
- Lighting
- More green space / quality of public gardens
- Marina / Bregenz House appearance and accessibility
- View points
Activities

95% of survey respondents (who have previously visited Bangor) have visited Pickie Park. Perceptions of the park are generally positive, however the majority of respondents felt improvements could be made.

Almost 40% of respondents (who have previously visited Bangor) visit Ballyholme beach on a weekly basis. Common suggestions to improve connectivity from the Marina to Ballyholme include; improved walking and cycling paths and an increased leisure offer between the two destinations.

### Have you ever visited Pickie Park?

- **Yes**: 95% (730 resp.)
- **No**: 5% (39 resp.)

### What is the best part of Pickie Park, and could it be improved? If so, how?

**Best features:**
- Free activities
- Pickie Puffer
- Location
- Playground
- Swans
- Crazy golf

**Improvements:**
- Increased offer/number of attractions
- Quality of cafe offer
- Needs covered facilities
- In need of modernisation
- Longer opening hours in summer
- Better advertising
- Cater to a wider age demographic
- More events space
- Larger water play/splash park

### How often do you visit Ballyholme Beach?

- **Weekly**: 39% (443 resp.)
- **Several times a year**: 23% (350 resp.)
- **Monthly**: 19% (238 resp.)
- **Less than once a year**: 13% (104 resp.)
- **Never**: 6% (50 resp.)

### How can we make Ballyholme better connected to Bangor Town Centre?

**Suggestions include:**
- Bike hire opportunity
- Improved cycle lanes and walking paths
- Regular transport (especially in spring and summer months)
- Shuttle bus / land train
- More activities or points of interest between the marina and Ballyholme
- Improved signage/wayfinding
Activities

Swimming, kayaking and picnic spots/seating provision are activities/facilities the public survey respondents would most like to find at Long Hole.

Other activities people would like to see include paddle-boarding and fishing.

A few respondents also expressed concerns about this area being over-developed, stating that they like the Long Hole how it currently is.

87% of respondents said that a dedicated path along the waterfront would encourage them to cycle/walk/run more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT 3 ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO PARTAKE IN OR SEE PROVIDED AT THE LONG HOLE?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seating and picnic spots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird watching (Guillemots)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</table>

IF THERE WAS A DEDICATED PATH ALONG THE WATERFRONT FOR CYCLING/WALKING WOULD IT ENCOURAGE YOU TO CYCLE/WALK/RUN MORE?

Yes | 87% | 1K resp. |
No | 13% | 240 resp. |

Suggestions include:
- Paddle-boarding
- Fishing/crabbing spots/pontoons
- Nothing - leave it natural
- Shelter
- Cycle track over the water
Survey respondents were asked what facilities they would like to see at Kingsland. A waterfront cafe/restaurant, adventurous children's play, natural landscaping and skateboarding facilities were the most popular options of those suggested.

**KINGSLAND PROVIDES GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR A NUMBER OF LEISURE FACILITIES. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HERE?**

- **Waterfront café/restaurant**: 76% (1K resp.)
- **Adventurous children’s play equipment constructed from natural materials**: 54% (845 resp.)
- **Natural landscaping**: 50% (621 resp.)
- **Skateable landscaping**: 47% (781 resp.)
- **An improved yacht club facility**: 24% (334 resp.)
- **Information and learning facility that celebrates Bangor’s history**: 22% (366 resp.)
- **Holiday accommodation**: 13% (113 resp.)
- **Other**: 11% (135 resp.)

**IF OTHER, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT KINGSLAND?**

Other suggestions include:

- Leave as natural as possible
- Camper-van hire / parking opportunity
- Seating and opportunity to look out over the water
- Events space and programmed events
- Multi-purpose pitches
- Bird watching facilities
- Improved dog park facilities
- Outdoor gym equipment
Survey respondents that have not previously visited Bangor were asked several questions in regards to the current facilities/offer and what Bangor needs in order to encourage them to visit in the future.

**WHERE WOULD YOU GO FOR A COASTAL EXPERIENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND? WHY DO YOU VISIT THIS PLACE FOR A COASTAL EXPERIENCE? WHAT DOES IT OFFER?**

**Responses include:**
- Millisle: Lots on offer
- Portaferry
- Portrush: Surfing
- Coleraine: Surfing

**WHAT WOULD BANGOR NEED TO OFFER IN ORDER TO MAKE YOU VISIT?**

- More spaces for young people: 41% (7 resp.)
- Better public space to hold events and festivals: 35% (6 resp.)
- More landscaped spaces and access to the marina: 24% (4 resp.)
- More places to eat and drink overlooking the water: 24% (4 resp.)
- A dedicated cycle and walking route: 18% (3 resp.)
- Better facilities for watersports: 18% (3 resp.)
- Infrastructure that gives you permission to enjoy the natural environment: 18% (3 resp.)
- Better access so I don’t have to drive there: 12% (2 resp.)
- More parking: 12% (2 resp.)
- Less parking: 6% (1 resp.)
- More child friendly spaces (Play areas, splash parks etc.): 6% (1 resp.)

* Note there were only 17 responses to this survey question
**Vision**

Finally respondents were of their vision for Bangor waterfront.

**Imagine you are responsible for redesigning Bangor waterfront to revitalize Bangor’s economy and increase tourism, what would you do?**

"Better access along the path; more seating areas; more waterfront cafés - to encourage people to walk/cycle"

55-64 years

"Play more to Bangor’s strengths; access to watersports, sea swimming and wellness. More high end hotels and luxury accommodation"

25-34 years

"Create safe bathing and swimming areas and a dedicated path along waterfront"

55-64 years

"I would ensure there are lots of high quality parks for children made of wood and other natural play e.g. Mount Stewart. Easy access to the beach. Keep the swans and Pickie puffer train at Pickie Park. Ensure high policing of litter and dogs dirt. Pedestrianise the seafront and keep coastal path. Make Bangor a centre of sports, swimming and outdoor activities. I would focus money on everyday instead of annual events. Good maintenance of simple activities and limit plastic/tacky activities"

55-44 years

"Focus on the youth of the town, give them something to do, somewhere to go, make the area around the McKee clock a proper hub"

25-34 years

"The Kingsland area is ideal for a leisure area for families"

65-74 years

"Create a fully linked walking/cycle path close to water’s edge with seating and access to coffee/ice-cream’s etc., which has innovative interpretation and charging points for mobile phones within the public realm"

45-54 years

"Make it inclusive to everyone. Young people need somewhere to go and hang out but be safe"

35-44 years

"Seafront cafés and restaurants overlooking the marina"

45-54 years

"Dedicated and safe cycle/walking infrastructure and lessening the focus on transport by car is crucial in my opinion. This should link in with the new Queens Parade proposal which is desperately needed to revitalise the marina. Public transport should also be integrated into this"

25-34 years

"Improve the promenade and one way system that pushes traffic past more of the seafront"

35-44 years

"Small coffee shops, cafés and restaurants along waterfront. Public swimming/lido at pickie"

45-54 years

"Pedestrianise as much as possible, make it more accessible by having parking near by, lots more cafés and restaurants and nice bars that have sea views, more organised activities for community to get involved in, more for families and young people"

25-34 years

"Provide free parking (without a view), bars and restaurants with views and outside dining space, encourage more shops back into the town"

35-44 years

"Indoor and outdoor event space, coffee shops and lots of walks. This is what people come to Bangor for! The views, the sea and the beach! If you could bring that all together that would be great. Maybe less cars would be great too"

25-34 years

"Increase the access and promotion to water activities - watersports shops for equipment and equipment hire opportunities"

18-24 years

"Create more seating areas with a range of facilities catering for all needs. Usable all year round"

35-44 years

"Move the car parks back. They currently have the best sea views"

55-64 years

"I would have more small places to eat and drink, with a view, and outdoor covered areas. Nice walking and bike paths."

35-44 years

"Regular market on the seafront - local and craft goods"

45-54 years

"Create more to Bangor’s strengths; access to watersports, sea swimming and wellness. More high end hotels and luxury accommodation"

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55-64 years

"I would have more small places to eat and drink, with a view, and outdoor covered areas. Nice walking and bike paths."

35-44 years

"Regular market on the seafront - local and craft goods"

45-54 years
“It’s a naturally beautiful area which is now bordered by derelict buildings and a car park. Could we build something unusual or iconic to attract visitors. Could we use natural materials to create or define spaces. Promote café culture, green spaces, farmers markets, gardens. Support independent traders to come and set up businesses”

45-54 years

“Change the marina walls so not as much of an eyesore and block to natural views”

35-44 years

“Include a skatepark, make the seafront more appealing by placing shops and cafés that are open and friendly, and put in more waterfront lighting”

17 years or younger

“Keep it simple, open spaces, access to the sea, utilise our best resource, the sea. Signpost and advertise our coastal path and beaches. Sea swimming facilities (sea-filled pool at Skippingstone & shelter), watersports facilities (paddle-board, kayak routes along coast, with access points along the way), well lit coastal paths, something for teenagers (skatepark). Don’t take out what already works but add to them. More accommodation for families e.g. Pickie Park and Kingsland play parks, (skatepark). Don’t take out what already works e.g. Pickie Park and Kingsland play parks, but add to them. More accommodation for families e.g. glamping pods to boost night time economy”

35-44 years

“Improve information points along the seafront relating to sites of historical relevance. Connect Pickie and Ballyholme with one path”

18-24 years

“Make Ballyholme beach more of a destination with facilities”

35-44 years

“Cafés / family eateries overlooking the water”

45-54 years

“Create a promenade that is wide and can accommodate pop up stands for local food vendors, possibly even have permanently installed units which can be leased for short periods of time to allow small independent local businesses to benefit from the visitor influses. Allow people to access the sea, it’s our best feature. Provide areas for events and social gathering with plenty of seating and cover for those days which aren’t as dry as we’d like to think. Amenity lighting that is maintained and functions properly along the full length of the promenade so that it is accessible at all times, street lighting is for the road users and doesn’t lend itself well to none road users”

35-44 years

“Connect it all together with running and biking trails. Remove the cars parked along the edges and make staggered parking areas. Allow better and safer access to the Long Hole. Make picnic/relaxing opportunities around the coast and not just in pickie or specific ballyholme spots. Provide an open space for people to get exercise while doing hobbies. Less coloured plastic materials and more environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing design for parks/picnic/ information etc.”

35-44 years

“Encourage more independent shops and cafés staying open late to dilute the drinking culture, don’t just encourage chains. Have good music venues and performance spaces. Make the focus pedestrian friendly”

45-54 years

“Bike lanes everywhere: no use only having them at the waterfront. Get a good bike connection to Belfast. Dedicated shuttle bus/train to Queen’s Parade, then Ballyholme beach & back to the train station.”

35-44 years

“Create an environment which encourages and supports local crafts and business to be established and flourish”

65-74 years

“Undo much of what is there. Provide infrastructure. Join things up. Look at the Bay Trail in East Bay”

55-64 years

“Create more space for families. Space for local artists /craft / food artisans to sell their goods and celebrate the best of the local area (e.g. Made in Mourne in kilkeel) , cafés / restaurants and a theatre”

45-54 years

“Create an environment which encourages and supports local crafts and business to be established and flourish”

65-74 years

“More opportunities for young people”

18-24 years

“Turn it into a family friendly resort that people will want to travel to/holiday at. Activities for kids will always draw people but keep it classy, no arcades!”

35-44 years

“Create a separate cycle path which is family friendly. Restaurant overlooking water.”

35-44 years

“Open Long Hole again and give affordable access for boaters and kayakers”

35-44 years

“A cycle/skateboard path along to Ballyholme”

24-34 years

“Attract diverse restaurants to waters edge. Outdoor experiences like kayak tours, SUP tours, boat trips and internal experiences like an amazing family spa. Rooftop bar that is more refined than existing clubs. Frequent markets that are different: young fashion designers, artists, water expo, music”

45-54 years

“Keep / enhance Victorian character. Promote town as arts venue. Build the Greenways, link the coast to Belfast for cyclists. Redirect through traffic away from town centre and offer car parking away from seafront. Lower pier walls - they remove the sea from the seafront. Provide facilities for teenagers. Make the marina (or part of it) more publicly accessible. It is rarely more than 70% full, there is bound to be scope for increasing its use beyond private boat owners”

35-44 years

“Redevelop Ballyholme Promenade, introduce iconic street lighting and paving along the waterfront area, introduce dedicated cycle/ walking paths, provide more opportunities for seafront cafés”

45-54 years
“Make better use of the area around the marina... Better uses than a car park, free access to the sea front is important”
45-54 years

“Cycle and walkway improved/widened along entire length with a finish that flows along entire length all the way to ballyholme. Ballyholme beach is the most under utilised part of Bangor. Encourage watersports and bring back the diving boards and rafts. Perhaps there would need to be enlisted cover as on North Coast. Have coffee shops/bars to encourage people to sit down and spend time there with outdoor seating areas and proper changing/toilet facilities for beach users. Perhaps in summer months have deck chairs to hire at far end of beach”
35-44 years

“Multicoloured lighting on the piers along with colourful murals and sculptures. Waterfront café and restaurants with watersports centre. Key to opening up the waterfront is an uninterrupted path from Carnalea to Ballyholme along the seafront past the front of Breganze house and Central Pier which are currently closed to the public. There needs to be interesting information boards, activities and sculptures at regular intervals”
45-54 years

“Less cars, more outdoor activities. Less flashy signs and ugly buildings/infrastructure, more focus on scenery and natural landscape”
25-34 years

“Make it a foodie hub. Big brand names no longer draw people in but independent, quirky/environmetnally friendly shops do. Make it a space that people want to come to. Open house festival does this every summer. Needs to be year round”
25-34 years

“Put better public transport in. Make people more aware of Ballyholme beach many people don’t know it’s there. More waterfront eateries. Better parking. Fix the derelict buildings. Weekly farmers market with free shuttles from the station”
Unknown

“Tasteful cafés and restaurants, proper outdoor swimming pool, e.g. lido, with heated water and good changing facilities, don’t overdevelop-retain natural landscaped areas as well. Accessible parking. Changing facilities for outdoor swimmers”
45-54 years

“Make it feel more like a seaside town. There’s hardly a venue or a cafe that overlooks the sea. We’ve lost that essence from our DNA. Open House does lots to bring people in from outside but an iconic venue near the front which regularly holds cultural events/exhibits”
45-54 years

“Have watersports available to the general public rather than members only”
45-54 years

“Encourage more events like open house festival to cater for a wide range of interest. Provide opportunity for new businesses in a trendy and exciting redeveloped waterfront. Ensure all plans improve the existing natural beauty of the coastline. Everything should complement the natural coastline and provide more access and opportunities to view and partake in activities along the coast. Linking Ballyholme yacht club to water sport activities and opportunity to engage in water sport activities”
25-34 years

“The marina should be the star of our seaside town but it is hidden away from visitors by a big ugly car park. We need to be able to eat & drink on the waters edge”
35-44 years

“Add more places to eat/drink that actually overlook the sea. Create more child friendly areas with picnic benches and play-parks. Create modern and clean public toilets. Make a walking and cycle lane that is very wide to cover the whole front from Bangor to ballyholme. Invest in new businesses along the front promenade of Bangor (which overlooks pickie car park) e.g. hotels and shops to bring footfall to the area”
35-44 years

“Redevelopment of the whole waterfront area to include landscaped areas, dedicated walking and cycling paths, space for portable vendors/street food, cafés and restaurants, space for events, watersports area, skatepark facilities and kids playground”
25-34 years

“Invest in cleaning Ballyholme beach including the water quality. Improve ability for people to move around without a car. I happily cycle to Helen’s bay from Conlig but would never think of going Ballyholme as takes too long trying to cross roads and it’s not safe with children on bikes. The waterfront isn’t visually appealing, there’s no landscaping or destination spots along the area mentioned”
35-44 years

“I would utilise the natural landscape by making it more accessible for walking and cycling. I would celebrate our Victorian heritage. I would love to see Bangor take a lead form seaside towns in Devon / Cornwall,more independent shops and restaurants. Beach huts at Ballyholme, safer beaches in terms of water quality. I would not add any more pavement lighting, lets go for tasteful not tacky”
55-64 years

“Keep it simple and traditional! Make the most of the outstanding natural beauty and compliment it, not reinvent it. All inclusive yet managed multi purpose pathway. Locally sourced, fresh, reasonably priced food outlets or stalls along the route with designated eating/picnic tables. Beach hut changing facilities along ballyholme promenade, I’d also personally bring back the raft and diving boards! Mobile home park at Kingsland. And ‘Sea Bangor’ shuttle bus as previously stated.”
35-44 years