



BALLYGOWAN

Integrated Village Plan 2018-2023



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1 Introduction to Ballygowan Village Plan

1.1 BACKGROUND TO VILLAGE PLANNING

As part of the Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, Ards and North Down Borough Council provided support to help villages within the Council area revise and update their village plans. These plans identify the specific needs of each village and set out a range of agreed actions to be delivered over the next five years that will help improve the village.

The village plan is a working document that has been developed through a process of engagement with the local community. The plan sets out the key issues, concerns and priorities, consultee's wish to see addressed in order to improve the quality of life within the local area.

The village plan sets out a clear vision for Ballygowan detailing the actions needed to build on the unique strengths and distinctive qualities whilst also seeking to address any additional issues accordingly.

1.2 A (REVISED) VILLAGE PLAN FOR BALLYGOWAN

A village plan for Ballygowan was first produced through consultation with the local community in September 2013. Progressing the actions contained within the plan has remained a focus for Ballygowan and District Community Association ever since.

Therefore, it is important to recognise that this new village plan [2018–2023] represents a continuing development of the initial plan and the ongoing efforts of the local community to help achieve the agreed actions. As five years have passed since the initial plan was produced it is important to now review, revise and update the village plan to ensure the actions remain relevant and consider any emerging issues or concerns.

1.2.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE 2013 BALLYGOWAN VILLAGE PLAN

Ballygowan and District Community Association took the lead when producing the 2013 Ballygowan Village Plan. The plan was produced after extensive consultation with the local community and included 34 actions across a range of issues covering community facilities and services, village infrastructure, heritage and tourism, enterprise and the local environment.

Ballygowan and District Community Association, in partnership with key stakeholders, has progressed a range of actions from the 2013 plan. A defibrillator has been installed at the Costcutter store and local teachers and voluntary group leaders trained in its use.

Picnic tables, planters and park benches have been installed at the park on Belfast Road whilst picnic tables have also been installed at Comber Road park. Flowerbeds have been planted in the village hall grounds.

The Community Association has organised an annual village clean-up day, and helped establish an adult choir and walking group. Local people can participate in an oil buying scheme which is facilitated by Bryson House.

The local community has also faced challenges in progressing actions which require the support of statutory agencies. This includes the development of a local community health hub, road safety, parking, traffic management and improvement of facilities at the village hall.

1.3 METHODOLOGY – OVERVIEW

The village plan for Ballygowan sets out a vision for how the local area can continue to improve and sustainably develop. Through in-depth community engagement a range of key actions and improvements has been identified to improve the overall physical, economic and social aspects of Ballygowan and help address local needs.

Agreeing priorities and developing a plan also provides opportunities for funding by providing a central point of reference for future investment throughout the area, whether this is through the public sector, private sector or community and voluntary sector.

Whilst the plan includes a range of actions, which assign priorities and timescales to the improvement projects, this document should not be treated as a final blueprint for development. Instead it should be viewed as a series of priorities and actions that will deliver significant benefits for the area. Each action will be required to be developed to a greater level of detail, including any further needs assessment, consultation with stakeholders, consideration of any deliverability issues as well as outcomes and indicators of success.

2 The Village of Ballygowan

2.1 VILLAGE LOCATION

Ballygowan is a rural village located 13 miles south of Bangor and mid-way between Comber and Saintfield. Less than 10 miles from Belfast, Ballygowan is a busy commuting bypass. The village is located on the [A23] from Belfast and [A21] between Newtownards and Ballynahinch.

2.2 HISTORY OF BALLYGOWAN

The area around Ballygowan was sporadically populated by members of the great 'Neill clan of Castlereagh' until the early 1600s when residents of the Scottish Lowlands came to form Ulster-Scots settlements on land given by King James I to James Hamilton and Hugh Montgomery.

There was a decline in the number of inhabitants around the village during the mid-19th to early 20th century as residents emigrated to North America or moved to neighbouring areas such as Comber, Saintfield and Belfast to find work. Ballygowan village grew during the period prior to the introduction of the Belfast and County Down Railway in 1850. The railway station operated for 92 years before finally closing in 1958.

Ballygowan is known for the Olivet home. This imposing building has dominated the village since 1886 and is the village's main feature. The building was originally erected as an orphanage by Alexander Orr Reid and was purchased by Ballygowan Presbyterian Church in 1918. Until the 1980s, when the new Alexander Dickson School was built, it was used as the village primary school. Since then it has been used exclusively as a church hall.

2.3 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Ballygowan residents have access to a number of amenities in the area including a pharmacy, hardware store, fish and chip shop and coffee shop. Most of the village's commercial activity is centred around the Square and Belfast Road. Translink operates its bus depot from the Saintfield Road.

There are a number of churches within the village including Ballygowan Presbyterian Church on Church Hill and Ballygowan Free Presbyterian on Belfast Road, each of which has its own youth group. Ballygowan Free Presbyterian Church has recently employed a dedicated youth worker and new groups have started since September 2018.



Within the village there are playparks on Belfast Road and Comber Road. The village hall has an adjoining playpark and green space and there are playing pitches located along the Moss Road. Two schools service Ballygowan: Alexander Dickson, in the centre of the village and Carrickmannon, located just outside Ballygowan.

Ballygowan has an active Residents Association which works to improve the village and supports the active participation of the local community. The Association maintains a website (<http://www.ballygowan.org.uk/>) which provides information on things to do in and around the village, information about local businesses as well as being a reference guide to residents on topical issues such as health and wellbeing.

2.4 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Ballygowan village is a rural settlement captured within the Ballygowan1 and Ballygowan2 super output areas (SOAs)¹. Information relating to the community profile for Ballygowan has been sourced from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency² through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS). The NINIS³ website provides access to statistical and locational information about small areas across Northern Ireland. It contains datasets on a range of socio-economic themes at small-area statistical geographies. These area profiles can be used to provide a statistical snapshot of a local area such as Ballygowan, as shown overleaf.

¹ Northern Ireland is divided into 890 super output areas which are relatively small scale areas containing on average just over 2000 people. SOAs are the core reporting geography of the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure [2010]

² Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (www.nisra.gov.uk)

³ NINIS (<https://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx>)

 POPULATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Census Day (27 March 2011) the population of Ballygowan was 2,942, living in 1,070 households, giving an average household size of 2.7 The 2001 Census reported Ballygowan as having 2,671 residents, meaning the population increased by 271, which is 10%, over 10 years
 AGE PROFILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22% of the population are aged 0–15 18% of the population are aged 16–29 21% of the population are aged 30–44 28% of the population are aged 45–64 11% of the population are aged 65+ The average age is 38 years old
 GENDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49.5% of residents are male 50.5% of residents are female
 RELIGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the residents living in Ballygowan 8.4% belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion 82.6% belong to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian' religion
 HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.1% of people have a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities 84.8% of people stated their general health was either good or very good; and 13.8% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others
 EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23.1% of people had a degree or higher qualification 33.9% of people had no or low-level qualifications
 LABOUR MARKET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75.1% of people were economically active and 24.9% were economically inactive 68.4% of people were in paid employment 3.4% of people were unemployed
 HOUSEHOLDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86.6% of homes were owner occupied (32.3% owned outright) and 11.3% were rented 7.3% of homes were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years 6.6% were lone parent households 7.9% of households did not have access to a car or van
 SCHOOL NUMBERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2016/17, 98 pupils were enrolled in Alexander Dixon Primary School 8.6% of the children were entitled to free school
 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ballygowan has a total of 25 retail and business units of which 21 are currently occupied The current vacancy rate is 16%

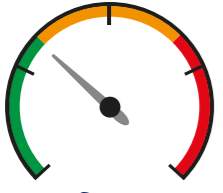

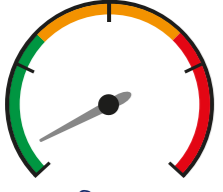

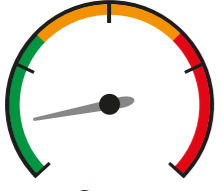
⁴ Economically inactive persons are defined by the fact that they do not have a job and are either not actively looking for a job or are not immediately available to work (or both). Unemployment is when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work.

2.5 LOCAL DEPRIVATION

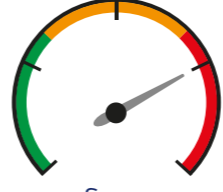

An indication of the level of deprivation local areas experience can be identified through the *Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017*⁵. This report identifies small-area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. All 890 super

output areas in Northern Ireland are ranked with a score of 1 being the most deprived and a score of 890 the least deprived.



As Ballygowan lies within the Ballygowan1 and Ballygowan2 super output areas the information from these areas has been used to reflect the community profile of the village, as shown below.

INCOME DEPRIVATION		
Ballygowan1 SOA	Ballygowan2 SOA	
 <p>Score 600</p>	 <p>Score 655</p>	<p>Ballygowan1 ranks 600 and Ballygowan2 ranks 655 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to income deprivation.</p> <p>This means that Ballygowan village is in the top third of areas which suffer least in terms of income deprivation.</p>
HEALTH DEPRIVATION		
Ballygowan1 SOA	Ballygowan2 SOA	
 <p>Score 825</p>	 <p>Score 605</p>	<p>Ballygowan1 ranks 825 and Ballygowan2 ranks 605 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to health deprivation.</p> <p>This means that Ballygowan is in the top third of areas least likely to suffer from health deprivation.</p>
EMPLOYMENT DEPRIVATION		
Ballygowan1 SOA	Ballygowan2 SOA	
 <p>Score 776</p>	 <p>Score 714</p>	<p>Ballygowan1 ranks 776 and Ballygowan2 ranks 714 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to employment deprivation.</p> <p>This means Ballygowan village is in the top third of areas which suffer least from employment deprivation.</p>

ACCESS/PROXIMITY TO SERVICES

Ballygowan1 SOA	Ballygowan2 SOA	
 <p>Score 230</p>	 <p>Score 290</p>	<p>Ballygowan1 ranks 230 and Ballygowan2 ranks 290 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to poor or deprived access to key services.</p> <p>This means Ballygowan village is in the top third of areas which have most difficulty accessing services.</p>

CRIME AND DISORDER

Ballygowan1 SOA	Ballygowan2 SOA	
 <p>Score 850</p>	 <p>Score 637</p>	<p>Ballygowan1 ranks 850 and Ballygowan2 ranks 637 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to crime and disorder deprivation.</p> <p>This means Ballygowan village is in the top third of areas which suffer least from crime and disorder.</p>

To Summarise...

Ballygowan is in the top third of areas in Northern Ireland which experience least deprivation across a range of measures including income, employment, health and crime. Accessing key services such as health, leisure or financial services is the one measure where Ballygowan experiences a higher level of deprivation.

Ballygowan has a relatively even gender split and the average age for people living in the area is 38 years old which is similar to the Northern Ireland average of 37 years. Population change for Ballygowan is +10% over 10 years which is slightly above the Northern Ireland average of +7.5%.

A higher proportion of people in the local area, when compared to the Northern Ireland average, are economically active, rate their health as good and live in their own home. More people in the local area provide unpaid care to family and friends than the Northern Ireland average. However less people report having a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities.

At a Northern Ireland level over 1 in 5 households [22.7%] do not have access to a car. On average across Ballygowan 7.9% of households do not have access to a car which reflects the need for a vehicle to access services in the local area.

⁵ <https://www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017>

2.6 BALLYGOWAN VILLAGE PLAN – WIDER STRATEGIC FIT

The Ballygowan Village Plan is focused on the specific issues and actions needed within the local area. However, it does not exist in isolation – the plan links closely to the focus and outcomes of the ‘Big Plan’⁶, and issues relevant to other statutory stakeholders including health, education, policing and public transport.

The village planning process ensures the involvement of local communities in agreeing actions to address local needs, which is essential to securing sustainable improvements and positive outcomes for each village.

Engaging with local communities and supporting the development of village plans is a key activity for local councils. The actions contained within each village plan links closely to the broad remit of council in terms of supporting regeneration, facilitating economic development, promoting tourism, protecting the environment and encouraging participation in health and wellbeing activities.

The action plan for Ballygowan is structured around five key outcomes which match the outcomes contained in the Big Plan for Ards and North Down. The village plans also feed into to the Council’s Corporate Plan and its three categories of People, Place and Prosperity.

The forthcoming Local Development Plan (LDP) will provide a 15-year framework to support economic, environmental and social needs of the Borough while providing for the delivery of sustainable development. It will guide development decisions within the Borough up to 2030.

There is also a range of thematic Council strategies which provide a specific context for many of the actions contained within each village plan. These relate to key issues or sectors including, food, car parking or recreation. It will be important to ensure a strong link between each strategy and village plan.

Village plans also link to and help deliver wider government policy at a local level, including the Draft Programme for Government, Regional Development Strategy, and sector specific policies for tourism, investment and regeneration.

3 Ballygowan Village Plan – Consultation Process

The key aim of village planning is to ensure the local community has a clear role and input into agreeing the issues to be addressed and actions to be taken forward as part of the plan.

At the beginning of this process engagement took place with Ballygowan and District Community Association to ensure a partnership approach in the preparation and delivery of this village plan.

3.1 BALLYGOWAN VILLAGE PLAN – REVIEW AND UPDATE

The revised village plan for Ballygowan has been developed through several stages which provided opportunities to consult with the local community. Engagement with a range of stakeholders including Ards and North Down Borough Council, statutory partners, businesses, community and voluntary groups was undertaken to help develop the final action plan.

The village plan has been shaped by a thorough assessment process including site analysis, village profiling, public consultation and the gathering of information through the distribution of questionnaires.

The plan seeks to build on partnership working and capacity building within the community by consolidating existing and creating new working partnerships. Through the plan, responsibilities are also placed on identified groups, organisations and stakeholders to lead on specific actions.

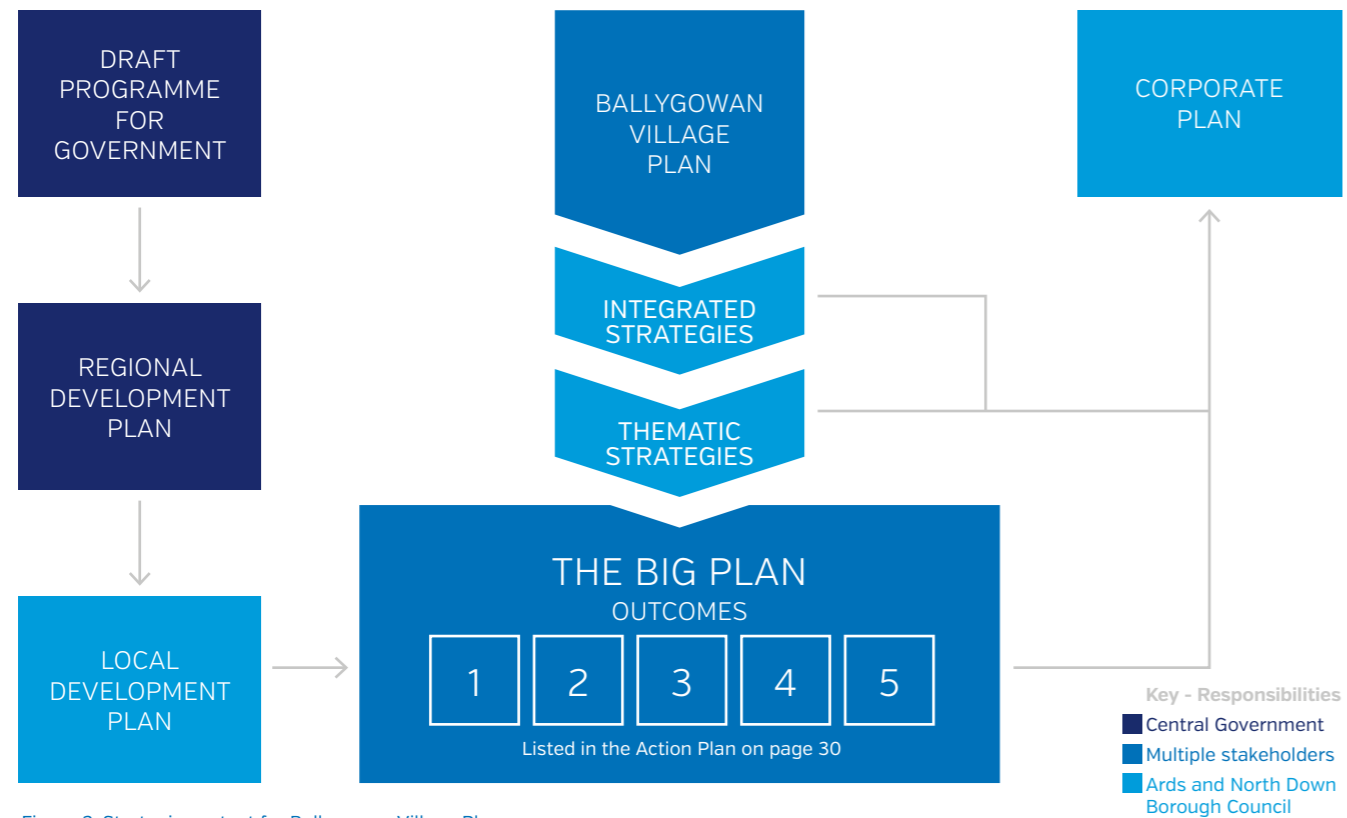
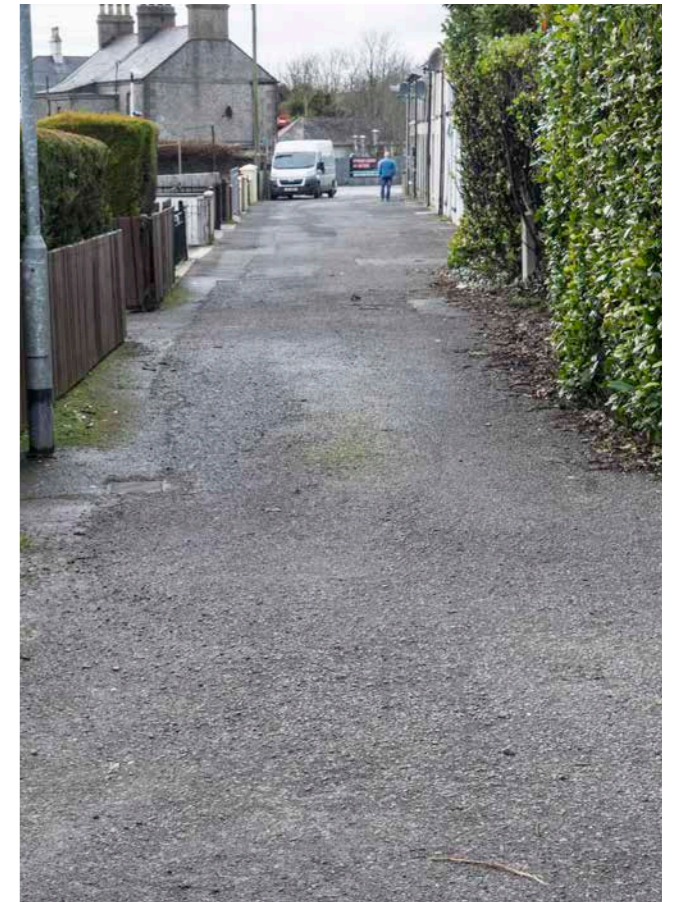


Figure 2: Strategic context for Ballygowan Village Plan

⁶ The Big Plan for Ards and North Down April 2017–2032.



The key stages in developing the Ballygowan Village Plan are detailed in Table 1:

STAGE	ACTION / ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN
1. Initial Community Engagement	Initial meeting with Ballygowan and District Community Association to secure engagement in the village planning process. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the current plan and achievements as well as emerging issues and priorities.
2. Village Plan Review, Profiling and Analysis	An in-depth review of the current village plan was undertaken including an assessment of delivery against agreed actions. In addition, a review of all available statistical information was undertaken alongside a review of documentation and desktop research to establish a detailed profile of the area.
3. Community Consultation [Stage 1]	The local community was invited to attend a consultation event on Monday 20th November 2017 in Ballygowan Village Hall. The meeting was facilitated by Insight Solutions and the Rural Development Council with assistance from Ballygowan and District Community Association. Approximately 35 members of the local community attended the meeting. A meeting was held with local traders from Ballygowan on Monday 6th November 2017 in Ballygowan Village Hall. Representatives from 10 businesses attended the meeting which provided an opportunity to identify actions to support local enterprise and business development. A meeting was also held with the owners of the local quarry. These engagement sessions helped bring the local community together to share their views on the village and generated considerable feedback regarding the village strengths, weaknesses and future opportunities.
4. Community Survey	A community survey was developed to ensure that everyone in Ballygowan could partake in the village planning consultation process. The survey was designed to allow residents to comment on the key issues, concerns and priorities they felt existed in relation to the local village area. The survey was circulated online and hard copies were provided at key locations throughout the village (e.g. shop). In total 227 responses were returned. Details of the findings from the community survey are contained in Appendix A.
5. Community Consultation [Stage 2]	Based on the initial profiling, consultation and community survey a draft village plan was developed. The draft plan aimed to 'shape up' and reflect the issues raised by the local community. A meeting to agree the draft plan was held with Ballygowan and District Community Association to ensure it reflected local needs and was deliverable.
6. Final Village Plan	In the context of the feedback provided in relation to the draft plan, a final village plan was produced for 2018–2023.

Table 1 – Community Consultation and Engagement Process

Want to have your say on Ballygowan's Village Plan?

Public meeting to review and update the current Village Action Plan

Monday 20th November 2017 at 7.30pm
Village Hall

- Have your say on issues affecting the local community
- Identify priority actions to help improve your local area
- Help develop a plan to secure funding and support

For more information and to complete the online survey visit www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/village-plans



4 Analysis and Findings

A total of 227 surveys were returned (97 received online and 130 hard copy) which provides a strong source of information on actions to be included in the final village plan. Details of the findings from the community survey are contained in Appendix A

Over half (60%) of consultee's believe Ballygowan provides a good quality of life. The rural location with quick and easy access to Belfast and Lisburn for work are key strengths. Consultee's feel safe in the area and enjoy the community spirit and friendliness of neighbours. Being close to family and a sense of belonging were also cited as the best things about living in the area. The majority (85%) of survey respondents have lived in Ballygowan for over five years.

Community Facilities and Services

- Extend and refurbish village hall
- Provision of community health hub
- Outreach of key health services
- Support local groups and community activities (walking groups, exercise classes)
- More activities for young people
- Address anti-social behaviour
- Lack of public transport services

Roads, Traffic and Parking

- Lack of suitable parking throughout village
- Inappropriate all-day (commuter) parking and parking outside residents' homes
- Lack of parking restrictions (e.g. 1 or 2 hour)
- Road safety, traffic calming and condition of roads
- Volume of traffic especially heavy traffic (from quarry)
- Poor re-instatement work by utility companies
- Poor quality or lack of footpaths

Village Appearance, Dog Fouling and Litter

- Run down, tired look of village
- Increased planting, greenery and street furniture
- Gateway signage and focal point (roundabout)
- Maintenance of hedges and grass verges
- Dog fouling and littering
- More investment in local area



Consultee's are less positive about the facilities available in the area with 43% of people describing them as bad, with a similar view in relation to services available in Ballygowan. Overall, it would appear that whilst there are many aspects of Ballygowan making it desirable to live in, residents strongly believe local facilities and services could be improved. The key concerns and issues raised have been identified below.



4.1 IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

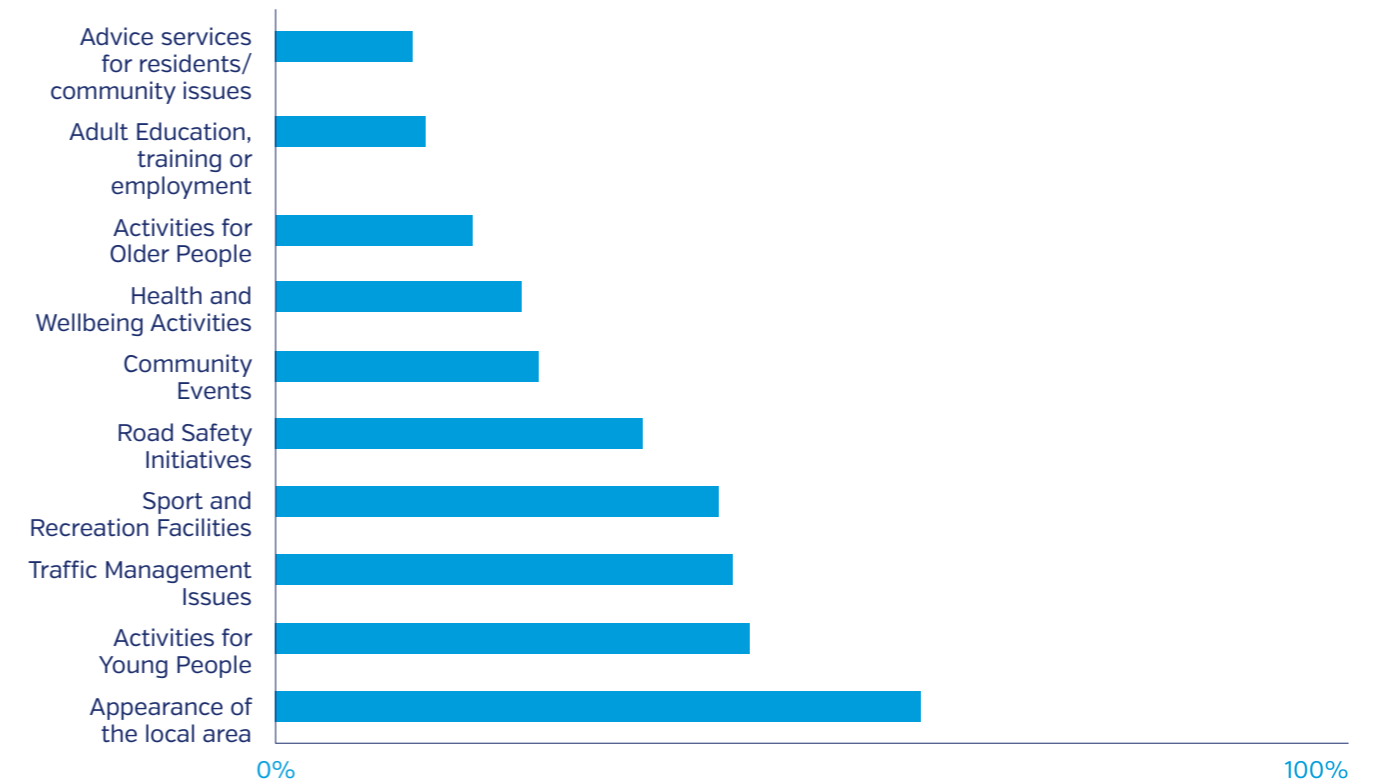


Figure 3: Programmes, activities and service priorities

Consultee's were asked about the key issues impacting on the local area as well as the types of activities, programmes or services they would like to see in Ballygowan (Figure 3). This is to ensure the village plan includes actions that go beyond those relating to the physical environment or infrastructure improvements within Ballygowan.

Given the strength of consultee's feeling it is no surprise that when asked to prioritise community services, programmes or activities, the appearance of the local area, activities for young people, road safety initiatives and traffic management are at the forefront of people's minds.

When survey respondents were asked to prioritise the key issues affecting the local area (see Figure 4) facilities for young people were ranked in first place, followed by road safety in second and community facilities in third.

There is agreement on the need to improve the appearance of the village, implement better maintenance of roads and footpaths, improve connectivity, strengthen the local economy and provide better community facilities for all residents, especially young people.



Figure 4: Priorities for Ballygowan

5 Vision and Overarching Outcomes

5.1 BALLYGOWAN VISION STATEMENT

Ballygowan is a vibrant, sustainable rural community which provides a healthy environment for all its residents and a good place to live, work and play within a caring and organised community.

5.2 OVERARCHING OUTCOMES

1. Ballygowan Achieving its Full Potential

- Community activities and programmes for young people
- Community education programmes
- Outreach of key community services
- Community food project
- Community events and information sharing
- Ballygowan community website /community noticeboard
- Development of village hall

2. A Healthy and Active Ballygowan

- Community health hub
- Recreational facilities at Moss Road (playing fields)
- Playing surface – Moss Road
- Walking trails and cycle paths
- Information and signage on trails/paths

3. A Connected, Safe and Secure Ballygowan

- Improved road safety and traffic calming
- Options to address impact caused from high volume of lorries passing through village
- Additional car parking within village, time-restricted parking and 'park and ride/park and share'
- Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads [and improve quality of footpaths]
- Re-instatement work by utility companies
- Improved public transport provision
- Address anti-social behaviour and low-level crime

4. Supporting the Local Economy and Employment in Ballygowan

- Local traders forum
- Employment and skills development
- Local apprenticeships and work experience

5. Supporting the Local Environment, History and Heritage in Ballygowan

- Provision of gateway signage
- Environmental improvement/public realm plans
- Focal point at roundabout [art piece/sculpture]
- Dog fouling and litter bins
- Community planting schemes and street furniture
- Village hall – green space and play facilities
- Promotion of local assets



5.3 BALLYGOWAN – ‘AT A GLANCE’

The Ballygowan infographic summarises the key findings and issues emerging from the community consultation. It highlights the positive aspects about living in the local area and summarises the key concerns of residents. It sets out the actions consultee's wish to see delivered over the next five years in terms of infrastructure, facilities and local services.

At a Glance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% Rated Quality of Life as Good • 43% Rated Quality of Facilities as Good • 37% Rated Quality of Services as Good
Key Issues 1. Facilities for Young People 2. Village Appearance 3. Sports and Recreation 4. Litter and Dog Fouling 5. Road Safety	Best Part of Living in Ballygowan Community spirit; location; friendly; countryside; quiet; feels safe; people are friendly; environment; walks; rural setting; close knit; local shops; nature; affordable housing; low crime rate; close to Belfast; peaceful	
	Top 5 Physical Improvements:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilities for Young People 2. Road Safety Measures 3. Community Facilities 4. Village Appearance 5. Sports and Leisure Facilities
	Top 5 Service Delivery Improvements:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Programmes to Improve Local Area 2. Activities for Young People 3. Traffic Management 4. Sport and Leisure Programmes 5. Road Safety Initiatives
Priority Action: Improved Provision of Car Parking		



6 Detail of Village Projects

OUTCOME 1: BALLYGOWAN ACHIEVING ITS FULL POTENTIAL

1.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICES

1.1.1 Development of community activities and programmes for young people

The youth club is undertaking important work to improve programmes for young people in the local area. Around 80 young people currently attend across a range of ages.

Comments focus on the need to support the youth club in terms of the range of programmes and activities that could be provided in the area. In addition, many consultee's feel there is a lack of youth friendly facilities in the village which results in young people having nowhere to go in the evening or during school holidays.

Although activities should be aimed at supporting all young people in the area, there is a need to focus on those young people aged 12–18. Actions include encouraging increased participation in sport and programmes to develop life skills, employability and personal development. A needs assessment with young people in the area will be undertaken to understand the range of activities and programmes to be delivered.

1.1.2 Community Education Programmes

Those consulted would like to see a greater range of community-based programmes and activities offered locally. This includes educational classes (e.g. IT), and recreational classes which will support social interaction in the area. A needs assessment should be undertaken to determine the range of programmes to be delivered.

1.1.3 Outreach of key services

The provision of services in Ballygowan is a key concern for the community.

Those consulted highlighted a need for the outreach of key health services linked to the development of a community health hub (action 2.1.1). Beyond specific health services those consulted were interested in wellbeing services or programmes that focus on mental health, health promotion and supporting healthy lifestyles.

With the roll out of Universal Credit there is a specific demand for regular outreach services by advice organisations such as Advice NI in relation to financial capability, debt advice and welfare reform.

The first stage of this process is to undertake an assessment of existing services available in order to identify any gaps in current provision.



1.1.4 Community food project

Initial work were undertaken during the previous plan for the small-scale growing of herbs and vegetables at the village hall. There was a lack of involvement by the local community this led to the project not progressing as initially planned.

However, this is an issue some consultee's would like to revisit by identifying opportunities to become involved with the 'Incredible Edible' network which provides support for small-scale community food growing projects.

1.1.5 Community events

This is in response to a demand for a greater range of programmes and activities to be organised and offered locally. The focus of events could be linked to sport and recreation, natural heritage, history or community fun days.

1.1.6 Ballygowan community website

Residents often learn about events and activities through the church notice board, weekly bulletin, the schools and word of mouth. It is proposed to link up and complement these means with a single website for use by residents, as well as local groups, businesses and visitors. The site should be simple and easy to use, providing space for events to be announced, to support local groups and encourage communication between residents. The setting up and regular maintenance of a 'one stop shop' community website and/or social network site could benefit residents and local groups by facilitating the sharing of information and encouraging participation in community-based activities.

1.2 COMMUNITY SPACE

1.2.1 Development of village hall

There is support from the local community for the redevelopment of the village hall to ensure that it continues to provide a key community resource.



The village hall is well used, in the evenings, by a range of local groups. However, the current design of the hall, which provides one large meeting space, means that it isn't possible to hold more than one activity at a time. In addition, the village hall lacks suitable storage and currently makes use of a large container located at the back of the hall.

An extension of the current hall to the back and/or side of the existing building could increase capacity by providing additional meeting and activity space whilst also increasing available storage.



OUTCOME 2: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE BALLYGOWAN

2.1 HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES

2.1.1 Feasibility study – community health hub

It is clear from the last village plan and through the current community engagement process that there is a demand for improved provision of health, social care and wellbeing services within Ballygowan. It is suggested that a community health hub could provide GP services, a pharmacy, mental health support, optician, dentist, health promotion activities and allied healthcare services (e.g. Occupational Therapist, podiatrist).

A feasibility study has been completed with findings presented to Ballygowan and District Community Association AGM in October 2018 with the following key recommendation:

'Help inform Ballygowan residents about their options with respect to GP and dental surgeries, and about public and community transport choices. Co-ordinating appointments may make travel easier. Community momentum could be kept up through meetings with key parties (e.g. Public Health Authority, GPs) to pilot more community-based health outreach programmes in Ballygowan.'

The focus now is to ensure the local community works in partnership with key statutory agencies including council and the health sector to implement the recommendations arising from the feasibility study.

2.2 SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

2.2.1 Feasibility study – recreational facilities at sports pitch site on Moss Road

Currently the pitches at Moss Road provide playing space for use by local groups and sporting clubs. This is an open site which could be improved to provide better facilities to support sports and recreational activities. This includes the provision of a walking loop/trail and outdoor gym.

A feasibility study will be undertaken to determine the potential of developing additional recreational facilities at the sports pitch site at Moss Road and consider the benefits this would deliver for the local area.





2.2.2 Playing surface and facilities at the sports pitch on Moss Road

The need to improve the actual playing surface of the sports pitch on Moss Road. These pitches suffer from poor drainage, poor marking out of pitch and the goalposts/netting could be improved. Many residents who use the pitches, especially with younger groups, reflect that the changing facilities and toilets also need to be improved.

2.2.3 Walking trails and cycle paths

Ballygowan is situated within a scenic, rural location which provides an excellent setting for people to walk and cycle. During the consultation exercise many residents felt more could be done to ensure Ballygowan is connected to other walks in order to encourage more people to get outdoors and enjoy the local area.

To examine the opportunity to develop a walkway/link to Comber (onto the Comber Greenway). In addition, to determine the potential of extending the Comber cycle path to Ballygowan via the old County Down Railway line.

2.2.4 Information on walking trails and signage to provide village information

During the public engagement it was agreed that improved information and signage in relation to walks and parks in the local area could be beneficial for both residents and tourists.

Appropriate signage to provide information on walking paths and routes could be erected at key sites throughout the local area. Further work could be undertaken to agree the information to be presented and identify where best to locate the panels. Information could also be provided on local history, heritage and nature.

OUTCOME 3: A CONNECTED, SECURE AND SAFE BALLYGOWAN

3.1 ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING

3.1.1 Road safety and traffic calming measures

Excessive speeding through Ballygowan is a key concern for consultees. This is an issue which appears to effect all routes into and through Ballygowan including Moss Road, Belfast Road, Saintfield Road and Comber Road.

Consultees wish to see traffic calming measures at key entry/exit points are introduced. This could include the incorporation of speed warning signage, speed humps, and if required, the narrowing of the carriageway/road through the use of build-outs or chicanes.

In addition, the quality of street lighting throughout the village needs improving. An assessment of the current provision of street lighting across the village is to be undertaken to identify improvements required. Consideration should be given to bespoke design of street lighting that contributes to local identity.

3.1.2 Identify options to address impact caused by high volume of lorries passing through village

A high volume of lorries passes through the village from the quarry on the Moss Road, which causes a range of issues such as congestion, speed and impacts on the quality of the road network. However, residents recognise the contribution the quarry makes to the local economy and accept that it works within current operating restrictions. Likewise, engagement with the quarry owners demonstrates a willingness to work with the local community to find sustainable solutions to reduce the impact on the local community.

The positive relationship and engagement between the local community and quarry owners should be maintained and regular meetings organised in order to fully consider the impact on the village from quarry traffic and identify potential solutions.

3.2 CAR PARKING

3.2.1 Additional car parking within village

Car parking is a key issue for people living in Ballygowan. Those consulted reported that there is a lack of suitable parking for people visiting shops or businesses in the village. Spaces that are intended for people visiting shops are often used inappropriately for all-day commuter parking. As a result, people wishing to visit local shops often have to park in the village hall car park which has a knock-on effect on people using the village hall or adjacent playpark.

Options which would increase the provision of car parking spaces available in Ballygowan must be developed. This action will require engagement with key stakeholders and organisations that have parking provision within the village and may be open to entering into an agreement which would allow wider public access and use.

Ards and North Down Borough Council has undertaken a review of car parking provision across towns and villages, including Ballygowan. The village plan will, where appropriate, support delivery of the recommendations contained within the Car Parking Strategy as they relate to Ballygowan.

Priority Project

3.2.2 Time-restricted parking along Main Street

The car parking spaces located at the front of the shops along Main Street are intended to facilitate short-term parking for people using the shops. However, businesses report that these spaces are often used all day by commuters who are travelling on to Belfast.

To address this issue these spaces could be subject to time-restricted parking. The time limit is to be agreed with the local community but restricting parking to less than a full day would prevent these spaces being blocked each day and increase turnover trade for local businesses.

3.2.3 Park and ride/park and share

Many people living in Ballygowan commute to places such as Belfast and Lisburn for work. With an increasing population, the numbers commuting will only continue to increase. A feasibility study should be undertaken to determine the benefits of providing a park and ride/park and share at Moss Road. If provided this could also have a positive impact on the lack of parking within the immediate village area.



3.3 IMPROVED ROADS AND ACCESS

3.3.1 Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads

The roads are in poor condition at the key entry/exit points to the village. The consultation has also shown that many roads within the village are in a poor state of repair, with numerous potholes and uneven surfaces being commonplace. It is suggested that a full roads condition assessment could be undertaken throughout the village and a prioritised programme of remedial works developed for future delivery.

3.3.2 Improve the quality, surface and maintenance of key footpaths

The poor quality and condition of footpaths throughout the village was highlighted as an issue. Following consultation with the local community, a programme of footpath improvement works to identify and prioritise problematic footpaths in the local area could be agreed with the Department for Infrastructure.

Those consulted also wish to see the clean-up of moss-covered paths and roads, as well as regular grass and hedge cutting.

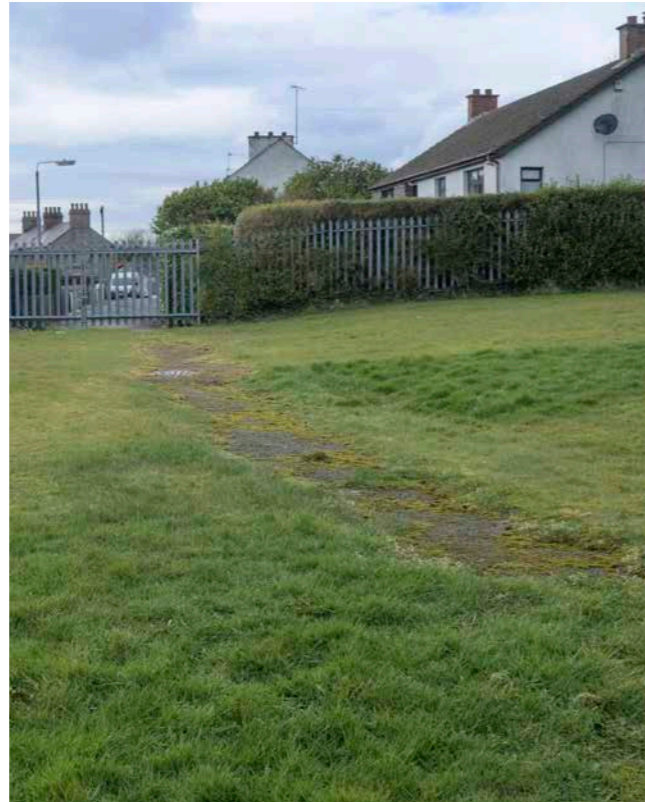
3.3.3 Reinstatement work by utility companies

Those consulted commented that the condition of roads and pathways throughout the village were returned in following works by utility companies was not satisfactory. In particular the poor quality of reinstatement works along Church Hill and the entrance to Dickson Park was highlighted. Engagement with relevant utility companies will be undertaken to explain the concerns of residents regarding reinstatement works and seek assurance on future works.

3.3.4 Improved public transport provision

A lack of public transport to surrounding areas was highlighted as a key issue preventing access to local services and hampering visits to friends and family. Many residents commented that they would use the bus more if there were regular services to Saintfield, Crossgar and Downpatrick. During weekends and public holidays the bus service to Belfast and Newtownards was also considered infrequent and poor.

It is suggested that engagement takes place with public transport providers including Translink and Down Community Transport to secure improvements to services where these are deemed to be required.



3.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY

3.4.1 Address anti-social behaviour and low-level crime

Those consulted report an increasing occurrence of anti-social behaviour and low-level crime in the local area. Therefore, it is intended to develop a range of activities working alongside the Police and Community Safety Partnership and other key statutory agencies to help reduce anti-social behaviour and low-level crime.

3.4.2 Address fear of crime

Rural crime and the fear of crime are concerns for some consultee's in the local area. This was particularly evident for older people living in Ballygowan. People living in the local area wish to see an increased visible police presence to help address these concerns. Community-based programmes that can help inform and reassure older people in relation to home safety, crime prevention, scam awareness and bogus callers could also be implemented over the course of the village plan.



OUTCOME 4: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT IN BALLYGOWAN

4.1 SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

4.1.1 Develop a local traders forum in Ballygowan

There is a range of active businesses in the local area. As a result of the village planning process it has been agreed to establish a local traders forum in Ballygowan. This will allow traders to come together to consider issues affecting businesses in the village, and consider actions which could both support businesses and improve the retail offering in Ballygowan.

A local business register could be developed and businesses profiled through social media, the internet, and word of mouth.

4.1.2 Employment and skills development

Employment, growing the local economy and supporting job opportunities are important issues for the local area. To support the delivery of programmes in partnership with statutory agencies, community and voluntary

sector to increase employability and entrepreneurship amongst key groups such as young adults and unemployed people.

This will require a strategic approach, which involves all key stakeholders (statutory, private and community), to focus on supporting skills, employment and attracting investment to the local area.

People will not have accessed educational, skills or training opportunities in a number of years there could be support from community-based organisations to increase confidence and encourage participation in training and educational programmes.

4.1.3 Local apprenticeship/work experience scheme

Supporting young people to develop skills and experience that would help them enter the job market was a focus for discussions during the community engagement. Several businesses highlighted that an approach which offers work-based placements could be a positive development. The potential of developing a local apprenticeship/work experience scheme to help schoolchildren consider career options and develop skills could be examined.

OUTCOME 5: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN BALLYGOWAN

5.1 VILLAGE APPEARANCE

5.1.1 Environmental improvement schemes/public realm

The consultation reported that Ballygowan is run down and tired with many areas of the village requiring environmental improvements. There is a desire to see a range of environmental improvements implemented across the village which could help with improving the general appearance of the entire area. It is important to ensure a joined-up approach is taken to planning any improvement works to ensure an overall theme or identity for the local area is developed.

The implementation of a programme of works to include streetscaping, landscaping, public art, lighting, planting, street furniture and signage would positively impact on the appearance of the village, and has the potential to attract further investment to the area.

Initially various concept designs could be developed with a view to capital works being implemented in the future.

5.1.2 Provision of gateway signage

There are a number of key routes into and through Ballygowan which could be considered for gateway signage. This includes Belfast Road, Comber Road, Saintfield Road, Moss Road and Carrickmannon Road.

This action will ensure the provision of appropriate welcome signage and in addition, and where appropriate, artwork, planting, lighting and other visual improvements.



5.1.3 Signature art piece/sculpture at roundabout

The roundabout in the middle of Ballygowan is a key focal point as almost all traffic uses it to access the village or as part of their onward journey. However, there is consensus that it is unappealing and does not add to the aesthetics of the local area.

A new piece of artwork could be commissioned for installation at the roundabout. The artwork, such as an appropriately scaled sculpture, could have specific resonance with the history and heritage of Ballygowan.

5.1.4 Dog fouling and littering

A key concern expressed by residents is the prevalence of dog fouling and littering across the village. This could be addressed via the installation of additional bins along key walking routes in the village, supported by adequate enforcement and education.

5.1.5 Floral displays and planting

Residents and businesses wish to see a range of landscaping improvements in Ballygowan to help improve the general appearance of the village. This action proposes to extend the planting of flower beds and greenery throughout the village.

Those consulted wish to ensure that any improvements to street furniture and streetscape are in keeping with the character of the village.

5.1.6 Village hall – green space and play facilities

The existing village hall, playpark and green space require improvement works. This could include landscaping, planting, benches and fencing along the banking and roadside which would improve use of the space by families and children.



5.2 TOURISM AND PROMOTION OF LOCAL ASSETS

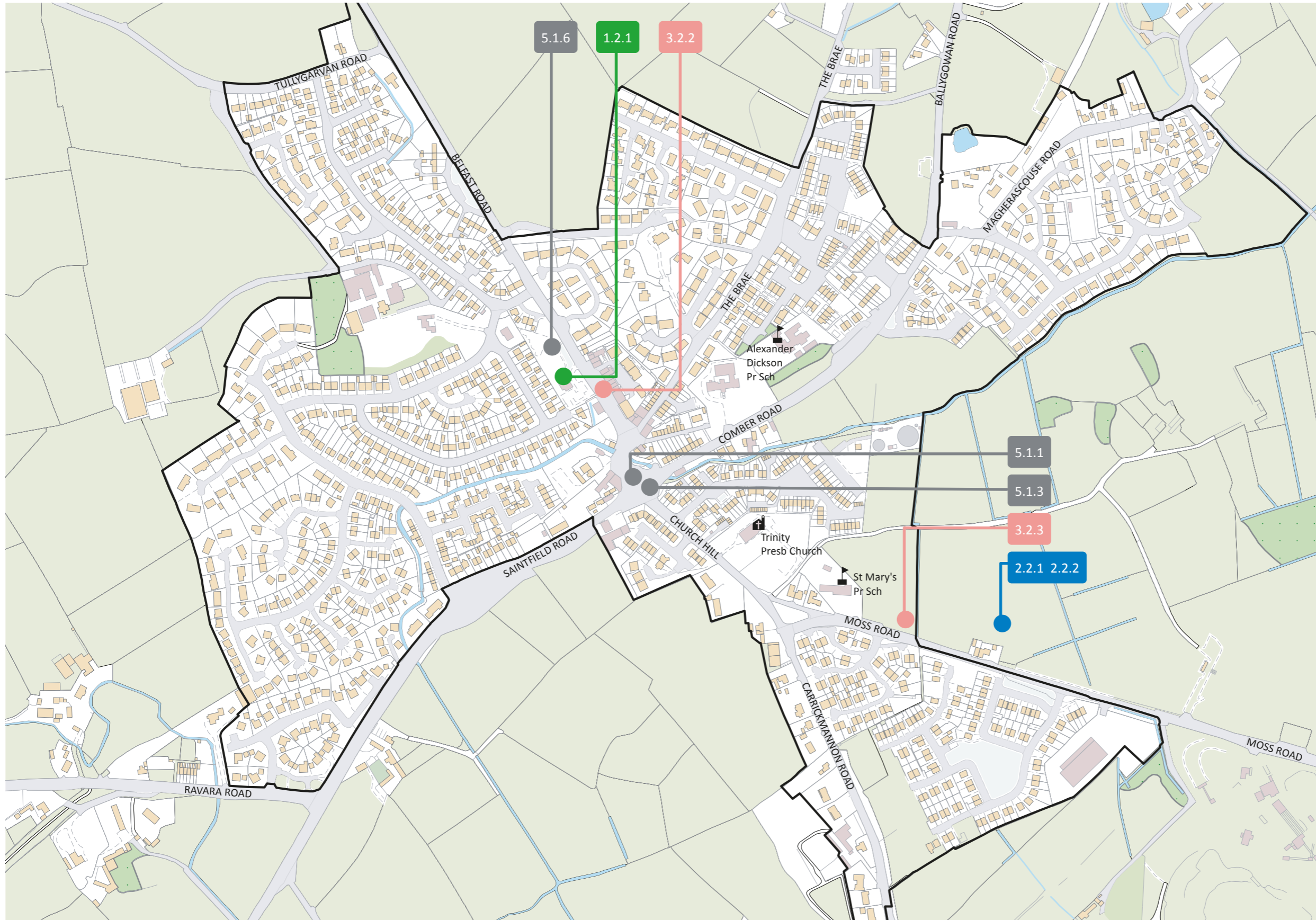
5.2.1 Promotion of key village assets and attractions

Ballygowan has a rich history dating back many centuries. An overarching approach to develop a joined-up tourist product which reflects key attractions in the local area could be a positive step. The local community works with key statutory agencies to develop an agreed theme/identity for the village. This could be linked to its heritage, history and culture which can be incorporated across information, promotional activities and events.

Part of this proposal will involve improving the availability of information and providing signage for visitors on the history and heritage of Ballygowan and key village assets such as walkways, fishing and the old railway.



6.1 MAP OF BALLYGOWAN VILLAGE ACTIONS



OUTCOME 1 – BALLYGOWAN ACHIEVING ITS FULL POTENTIAL
 1.2.1 Development of village hall

OUTCOME 2 – A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE BALLYGOWAN
 2.2.1 Feasibility study – recreational facility at sports pitch site on Moss Road
 2.2.2 Playing surface and facilities at the sports pitch on Moss Road

OUTCOME 3 – A CONNECTED, SAFE AND SECURE BALLYGOWAN
 3.2.2 Time restricted parking along main street
 3.2.3 Park and ride/park and share

OUTCOME 5 – SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN BALLYGOWAN
 5.1.1 Environmental improvement schemes/Public realm
 5.1.3 Signature art piece/sculpture at roundabout
 5.1.6 Village hall – green space and play facilities

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*Wider Village Projects – Location to be agreed

7 Delivery of Ballygowan Village Plan

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The key aim of the Ballygowan Action Plan is to prioritise projects which have been identified through the community consultation process.

The successful achievement of these actions will require input from a wide range of organisations across the public, private and community sectors. A review of available funding streams will also be important on an ongoing basis to ensure that the actions in the plan are implemented and that Ballygowan can achieve its long-term vision for the future.

7.2 DELIVERY STRUCTURES

It is important that there are appropriate local structures in place to maintain a focus on delivering the plan and tracking its progress. This will ensure actions to be progressed by the local community are delivered, but also provide a mechanism to ensure actions led by statutory partners or other stakeholders are kept live and progress reported on a regular basis.

It is proposed that a local steering group will be established with the support of Ards and North Down Borough Council. The key focus for this group will be on the delivery of the village action plan. The steering group will monitor and report on progress, whilst also considering any issues that may impact (or delay) the successful completion of actions within the plan, ensuring accountability across all stakeholders.

To support delivery of the action plan a monitoring framework has been included in Appendix B. This will allow the local steering group to agree priorities, identify key actions, oversee delivery, track progress and report on achievements over the lifetime of the village plan.

7.3 SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF THE ACTION PLAN

There is a wide range of funding sources available from public, charitable and corporate sectors which can help the local community maximise opportunities to deliver their village plan. Notable funding bodies and organisations include the Big Lottery Fund, Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, Children in Need, Comic Relief and Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

However, the eligibility criteria, application process, focus and money available will be specific to each funder and individual programmes. Each village will be supported, where appropriate, by the Regeneration, Development and Planning Directorate and any other relevant Council departments, including on how to track and identify suitable sources of funding available in Northern Ireland.



7.4 ACTION PLAN

The action plan links through to the outcomes of the Big Plan. This ensures that the plan is set within the context of the wider strategic fit.

Included in the action plan is the priority of each project (high, medium and low), based on the demand expressed by the local community, and likely impact it will have on the area. Each project has been allocated a short, medium or long-term timeframe, which relates to the following timescales:

- Short-term projects are those actions the community would like to see progressed within 18 months;
- Medium-term refers to those projects which are to be taken forward within 18 months to three years;
- Long-term actions would be delivered over the next three to five years.

As previously highlighted this action plan reflects the ongoing work from the previous plan produced in September 2013. Some actions remain a priority so have been carried over to this plan, other actions have been amended to reflect the progress achieved (or changing need) whilst other actions are new. Therefore, the action plan outlines the following indicators:

- Existing action: an action which has been included (in full) from the original September 2013 plan;

- Amended action: an action which had been included in the original September 2013 plan which has been amended or changed for the revised plan (due to changing needs or the action has partially been delivered);

- New action: an action which was not included in the September 2013 plan.

The action plan is structured around the five key outcomes of the Big Plan for Ards and North Down. As part of the Big Plan an initial set of indicators have been identified to measure progress towards each outcome – these are the ‘Agreed Indicators’. In addition, there is a series of indicators currently being progressed for which data is not yet available or robust enough – these are the ‘Indicators to be developed’. In the Ballygowan Village Action Plan the ‘Success Indicator’ column links each action to an indicator (either agreed or to be developed) from the Big Plan. The keys used for indicators are included in Table 2, page 33.

In addition, the action plan also identifies the stakeholders, including lead partner, whose involvement in the relevant action or project would be necessary. It is important to note that the action plan should be used as a live document to ensure progress is monitored regularly and updated accordingly (Appendix B). It is only natural that priorities may change over time or new projects and opportunities will arise in future, and these should be assessed against the overarching aims identified in the action plan where appropriate.



7.5 BALLYGOWAN VILLAGE ACTION PLAN (2018–2023)

OUTCOME 1: BALLYGOWAN ACHIEVING ITS FULL POTENTIAL							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
1.1 Community Engagement and Services	1.1.1	Development of community activities and programmes for young people	S	New	BDCA	CDRCN, ANDBC	1.8, 2.4, 2.6, 3.6
	1.1.2	Community education programmes	M	New	ANDBC	BDCA, CDRCN, EA, local colleges, HSCT	1.3, 1.5, 4.1, 4.7
	1.1.3	Outreach of key services	M	New	BDCA	ANDBC, CDRCN, CAB, Advice NI	1.4, 2.3, 2.4
	1.1.4	Community food project	S	Existing	BDCA	ANDBC, CDRCN	1.8, 2.4
	1.1.5	Community events	M	Amended	BDCA	BDCA, CDRCN, HSCT	1.4, 1.8, 2.4
	1.1.6	Ballygowan community website	S	New	BDCA	Local traders forum, ANDBC	1.4, 1.8, 2.4
1.2 Community Space	1.2.1	Development of village hall	M	New	ANDBC	BDCA	1.8, 2.4

OUTCOME 2: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE BALLYGOWAN							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
2.1 Health and wellbeing services	2.1.1	Feasibility study – community health hub	S	Amended	ANDBC [CPP]	HSCT, BDCA, BRG	1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6
2.2 Sports and Recreation Facilities	2.2.1	Feasibility study – recreational facilities at sports pitch site on Moss Road	M	New	BRG	BDCA, ANDBC	1.8, 2.4, 3.4
	2.2.2	Playing surface and facilities at the sports pitch on Moss Road	S	New	ANDBC [Leisure]	BDCA, BRG	
	2.2.3	Walking trails and cycle paths	L	New	ANDBC [Leisure]	BDCA, NMDDC	2.4, 4.5, 5.7
	2.2.4	Information on walking trails and signage to provide village information	S	New	ANDBC [Regen]	BDCA, DfI	

OUTCOME 3: A CONNECTED, SECURE AND SAFE BALLYGOWAN							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
3.1 Road safety and traffic calming	3.1.1	Road safety and traffic calming measures	M	Existing	DfI Roads	ANDBC, BDCA	3.2
	3.1.2	Identify options to address impact caused by the high volume of lorries passing through village	M	New	DfI Roads	ANDBC, BDCA	
3.2 Car Parking	3.2.1	Additional car parking within village	S	New	ANDBC	DfI Roads, BDCA	3.2, 4.2
	3.2.2	Time-restricted parking along Main Street	S	New	DfI Roads	ANDBC, Local traders, BDCA	
	3.2.3	Park and ride/park and share	S	New	DfI Roads	ANDBC, BDCA	3.2, 4.2, 5.11
3.3 Improved Roads and access	3.3.1	Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads	S	Amended	DfI Roads	ANDBC	3.2, 5.7
	3.3.2	Improve the quality, surface and maintenance of footpaths	M	Existing	DfI Roads	ANDBC, BDCA	
	3.3.3	Reinstatement work by utility companies	M	New	DfI Roads	PNG, ANDBC, BDCA	5.11
	3.3.4	Improved public transport provision	M	New	Translink	RCTP, ANDBC, BDCA	
3.4 Community Safety	3.4.1	Address anti-social behaviour and low-level crime	M	New	PSNI	ANDBC, BDCA	3.3, 3.4, 3.5
	3.4.2	Address fear of crime	M	New	PSNIv	ANDBC, BDCA	

OUTCOME 4: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT IN BALLYGOWAN							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
4.1 Support for Local Business and Economy	4.1.1	Develop a local traders forum in Ballygowan	S	New	Traders forum	BDCA, ANDBC	4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7
	4.1.2	Employment and skills development	M	New	ANDBC	BDCA, CDRCN, EA, local colleges	1.5, 4.1, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8
	4.1.3	Local apprenticeship/work experience scheme	M	New	ANDBC	BDCA, CDRCN, EA, local colleges	

OUTCOME 5: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN BALLYGOWAN							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
5.1 Improved Village Appearance	5.1.1	Environmental improvement schemes/public realm	S	New	ANDBC	DfC, BDCA	2.4, 4.2, 4.4, 5.4, 5.7
	5.1.2	Provision of gateway signage	S	New	ANDBC	DfI Roads, BDCA	
	5.1.3	Signature art piece/sculpture at roundabout	M	New	ANDBC	DfI Roads, BDCA	
	5.1.4	Dog fouling and littering	S	Existing	ANDBC	DfI Roads, BDCA	
	5.1.5	Floral display and planting	S	Amended	ANDBC	BDCA	
	5.1.6	Village hall – green space and play facilities	S	Amended	ANDBC	BDCA	
5.2 Tourism and Promotion of Local Assets	5.2.1	Promotion of key village assets and attractions	M	New	ANDBC	DfC, TNI, BDCA	4.2, 4.4, 4.5

Abbreviations:

- ANDBC** – Ards and North Down Borough Council
- BDCA** – Ballygowan and District Community Association
- BRG** – Ballygowan Regeneration Group
- CDRCN** – County Down Rural Community Network
- CPP** – Community Planning Partnership
- DfC** – Department for Communities
- DfI** – Department for Infrastructure
- EA** – Education Authority
- HSCT** – Health and Social Care Trust
- NMDDC** – Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- PNG** – Phoenix Natural Gas
- PSNI** – Police Service of Northern Ireland
- TNI** – Tourism NI

***Timescales:**

- S** – Short (0–18 months),
- M** – Medium (18 months – 3 years),
- L** – Long (3–5 years)

****Actions Status:**

- Existing** – An action which was included in the March 2013 plan
- Amended** – An action which has been updated or changed since the March plan
- New** – A new action (not included in March 2013 plan)

Success indicators

This is an indication of how individual actions may contribute to the overall Big Plan. NB: these indicators may change and evolve over time.

Table 2: Big Plan Outcomes and Indicators (Agreed and To Be Developed)

The 'Big Plan' Outcomes	Agreed (Success) Indicators	(Success) Indicators to be Developed
OUTCOME 1 All people in Ards and North Down fulfil their lifelong potential	1.1 Gap between % of non-free school meal entitlement school leavers and % FSME school leavers achieving level 2 or above (In English and Maths) 1.2 Percentage of babies born at low birth weight 1.3 Number of further education regulated enrolments by age	1.4 Number of older people living independently or in care i.e. having the correct support to allow them to live as they wish. 1.5 Breakdown of types of skills and different demographics who are engaged in further education. 1.6 % of children at appropriate stage of development in the immediate preschool year 1.7 % of schools found to be good or better 1.8 Number of people formally and informally volunteering
OUTCOME 2 All people in Ards and North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing	2.1 Number of anti-depressant drug items dispensed per head of registered population 2.2 Number of admissions to hospital per 100,000 for drugs or alcohol-related causes 2.3 Number of preventable deaths per 100,000 population	2.4 % of the population participating in exercise (sports and physical activity) one, three or five times per week. 2.5 Monitoring of extent of long-term health conditions such as diabetes. 2.6 GHQ12 scores as a measure of mental health
OUTCOME 3 All people in Ards and North Down live in communities where they are respected, safe and feel secure	3.1 Number of hospital admissions due to accidents 3.2 Number of road traffic casualties per 10,000 3.3 Number of recorded crime offences 3.4 Number of recorded anti-social behaviour crime offences	3.5 % of the population who feel safe in their community 3.6 Opportunities for children to be involved in shared education
OUTCOME 4 All people in Ards and North Down benefit from a prosperous economy	4.1 Working age population – skill levels 4.2 GVA – Value of Estimate (£m) – Ards and North Down 4.3 Proportion of working age population who are economically inactive [%] 4.4 Total spend (£m) during overnight trips	4.5 Breakdown of visitors to local tourism facilities, public parks, nature and historic sites. 4.6 Breakdown of wages by sector e.g. tourism, arts and crafts, agri-food, technology etc. 4.7 A skills barometer – matching skills of people to businesses and a better jobs index. 4.8 Breakdown of people who are economically inactive and proportions of those who don't want to work
OUTCOME 5 All people in Ards and North Down feel pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment	5.1 Number of applicants on Social Housing Stress list 5.2 Area of pollinator friendly plants by Ards and North Down Borough Council (m2)	5.3 Availability of good broadband and mobile phone coverage. 5.4 Number of people in urban areas who live within 1km of quality green space. 5.5 Number of designated sites in favourable condition and number of buildings at risk. 5.6 Number of biodiversity audits (habitat and species surveys) undertaken on publicly owned land 5.7 Length of greenways, walking routes, canoe trails and cycle paths. 5.8 Extent of coastal changes and the economic social and environmental impacts. 5.9 Reporting of invasive species on publicly owned/managed land. 5.10 % of energy from renewable sources (generated or used within Ards and North Down). 5.11 Investment in and use of transport infrastructure (private and public).

NB: these indicators may change and evolve over time.

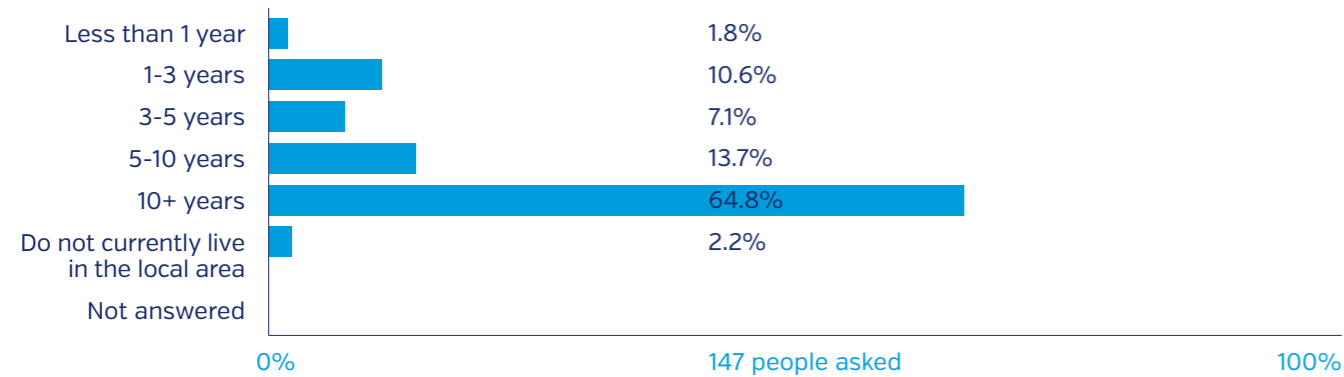
8 Appendices

APPENDIX A – BALLYGOWAN COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS AND QUESTIONNAIRE

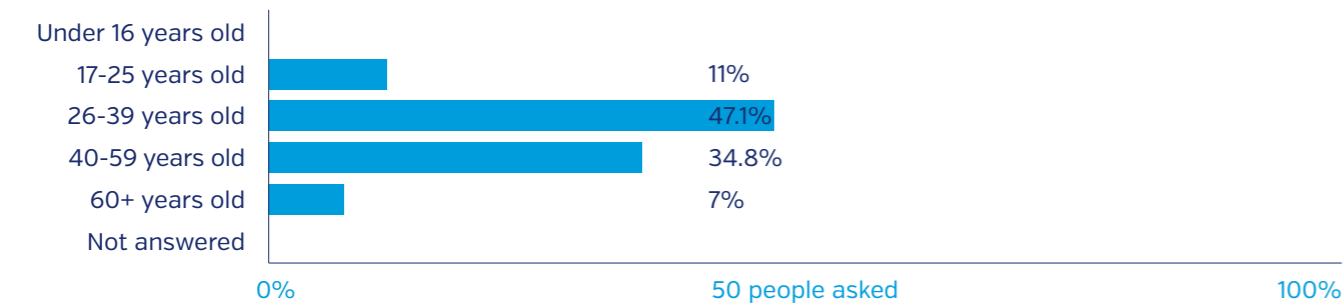
The summary results from all questions included in the community survey for Ballygowan have been provided in this Appendix.

BALLYGOWAN COMMUNITY SURVEY – SUMMARY RESULTS

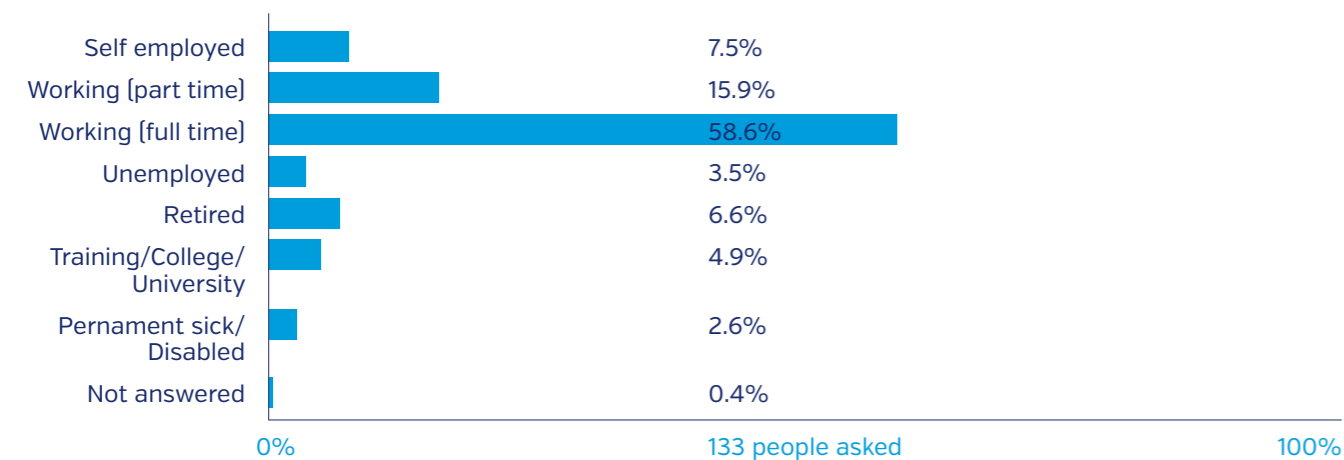
Question 1: How long have you lived in the local area?



Question 2: What is your age?



Question 3: What is your employment status?

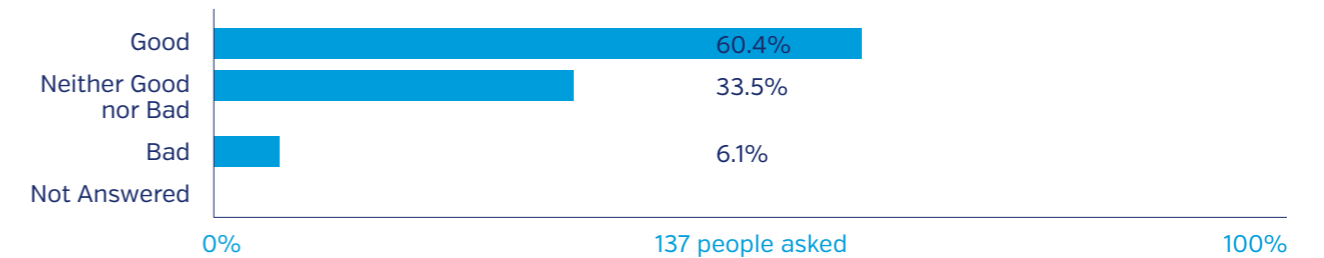


Question 4 & 5: How many people, including yourself, are there in your household in each of the following age groups?

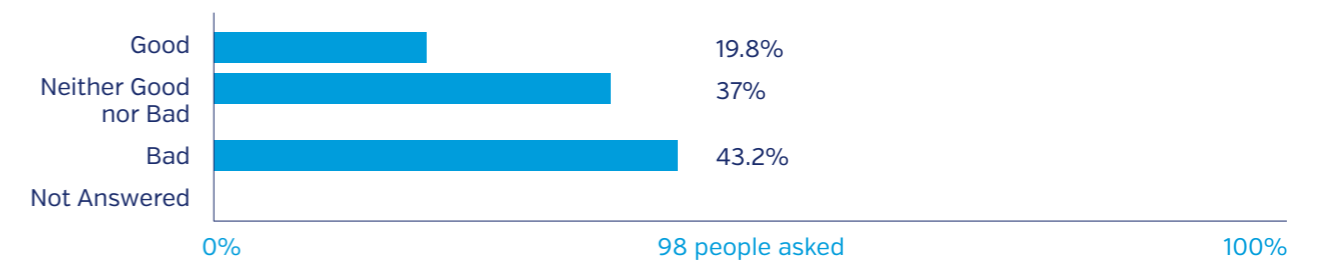
Age Group		Number in Household										Not Answered
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+	
0-4	Male	30	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	183
	Female	38	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	178
5-17	Male	48	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	166
	Female	49	13	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	161
18-35	Male	78	13	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	135
	Female	90	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132
36-50	Male	80	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	144
	Female	91	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	136
51-65	Male	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	177
	Female	43	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	184
65+	Male	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	224
	Female	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	219

Question 6: Overall, taking all into consideration how would you...

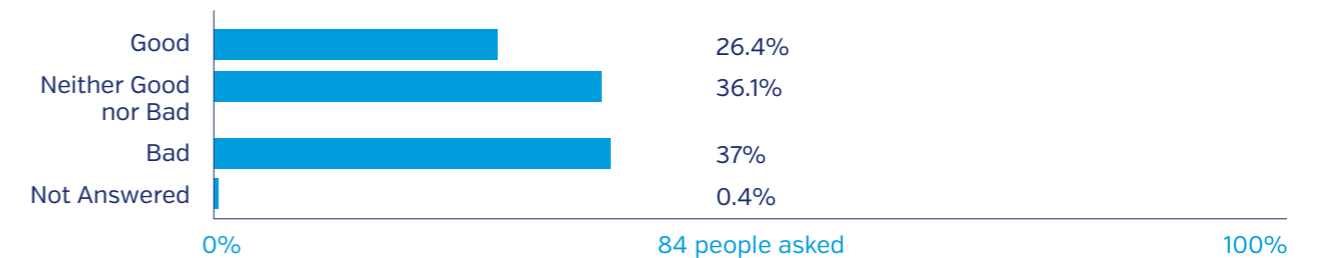
6.1 Rate the quality of life in Ballygowan



6.2 Rate the quality of facilities in Ballygowan



6.3 Rate the quality of services in Ballygowan



Question 7: What do you feel is the best thing about living in Ballygowan?

- Peaceful surroundings away from the hustle and bustle of Belfast but an easy commute.
- Small community
- The people, the shops and the community feel
- Village life better than town life
- Nothing
- I live just outside the main housing developments and appreciate the green fields, peace and quiet.
- Friendly familiar faces
- Our neighbours
- Countryside
- Being close to Belfast, Comber and Newtownards but being a small village having a local community
- We live in the countryside outside the village which is scenic and peaceful.
- Good community spirit
- The affordability of housing and the advantage of being in the countryside but only 10/15 mins from the city
- Low crime rate and friendly place.
- Lots of local shops available
- Ballygowan is quiet, feels safe and people are warm.
- Council have provided a great recycling facility on the Moss Road
- The local shops and services.
- Rural living.
- All amenities close. Not too far from Belfast
- Close to our Belfast commute, but far enough out of the city to be peaceful.
- Neighbours
- Shops and close to Belfast
- Rural location
- In the country
- Location. Rural but village feel
- Everyone knows each other
- The friendship and community.
- Commute & location in general
- Handy to Belfast but far out enough to be quiet and in the countryside
- It's is a lovely quiet village and has everything on your door step.
- Family.
- Sense of community.
- Accessibility to main towns both for work and leisure.
- Peaceful with friendly people.
- Close to Belfast, Lisburn, Newtownards
- House prices reasonable
- Quiet area
- It's close to a lot of amenities. We also like that the village has a rural feel.
- Ballygowan has been my home for 19 years. Most people are friendly and has good amenities.
- Beautiful scenery
- Majority of people are very friendly and it's just generally a lovely place to live.
- Community spirit and good neighbours and friends. Great school in ADPS which participate great within the community
- A small rural community which is very friendly
- It has the best of flute and pipe band [both Irish & Scottish] to be found anywhere
- We have lived here and raised our family for 40 years. We love our home but due to continued development, the community feel is long gone.
- Local businesses and play parks for children.
- Local people
- The sense of community
- The best thing would be the community
- Friendly enough place to live. Facilities haven't changed much in the 50 years I've lived here.
- Have never lived anywhere else and although things have changed some not for the better I still love the fact that it's where I belong
- Friendly culture
- I enjoy the village life.
- Community centre and park for kids
- Community spirit when events organised
- Local shops and community. Good bus service.
- Living in a community with people that you've known all your life. People who want their community to be better
- Its closeness to towns in the area and house prices
- Close to work
- It is quiet most of the time
- Lovely village with everything you need
- The people are what makes this village. I am nearly 41 years of age and there is nothing more now in Ballygowan than there was when I was growing up. Easy commute to all surrounding towns
- The people
- Great sense of community.
- I moved back after being away for 14 years. I luv Ballygowan but its v v run down and not great facilities when u look at Saintfield and Comber...
- It is near to family and easy to get to Belfast.
- Our friends and family are here. If they weren't here we would be away. That's it!!!!!!
- It's quiet no hassle
- Proximity.
- I grew up here so it is home
- The countryside being so close.
- There is shops on your door step, and there is a bus service
- The people
- Friendly people everybody willing to help you if needed.
- The number of different shops available and friendly community
- It's a good commuter town and is nearby many villages
- Variety of shops
- Handy bus links to Belfast
- The local businesses.
- Safe community feel for bringing up children
- Friendly village atmosphere and close enough to Belfast for short commute into work. Good variety of local businesses (garage, Craigs newsagents, hairdressers) and chippys.
- Locality to other towns and Belfast
- The only good thing about living in Ballygowan is being close to family.
- I have lived in Ballygowan on and off since I was born here in the 70's and it does make me sad to see how well neighbouring villages of Saintfield and Comber have been looked after and Ballygowan has barely changed at all. There have been numerous roadworks/Phoenix gas in the prospect Oakdale area and the road has been left a complete mess not what I thought I paid my road tax for it's like a jigsaw puzzle
- All amenities are there chemist shops butchers cafe hairdressers beauty etc
- It's a nice quiet area and you know most people and most people are friendly and nice and also kind.
- Being close to family.
- Commute to Belfast
- The people are so friendly and nice. There is such good community spirits. The pizza shop and Mauds ice cream are also amazing :]
- Rural location
- Convenient to shops
- Good positioning to local towns.
- Living in the country but close to Belfast
- Small quiet community.
- Community spirit.
- There is nothing good about this place now I am a native of the village and it's just got worse as the time goes on no doctor's library
- I'm originally from Belfast so I like the country feel BG still has to it
- It's quiet. Small community.
- The sense of community and peaceful environment.
- Close to all other towns and villages, quiet area.
- Proximity to Belfast, small community, rural setting
- Access to other towns/cities.
- Country environment.
- Location - It's quiet and close to Belfast.
- Being close to other places that have great facilities i.e Comber, Dundonald and Ards etc.
- It has a good community, and has the potential to be a great little town. Cannot sustain or continue with the lorries going through it, the dirt and state of the village and roads is appalling. It is a pity because with good investment the town has the ability to be a good place. But there will be no point with the current number of lorries etc going through it from the quarry.
- Keeping my horses close to me. And my elderly parent
- Living in the country, with a short travel time to Belfast. The people are brilliant!
- Easy routes to Belfast/Comber/Ards/Lisburn, great facilities nearby,
- Close to Belfast by still rural
- Ease of access to Belfast
- Close to Comber, Saintfield, Ards and east Belfast
- Good for commuting
- Close to lots of towns. Good local shops, butcher fish man petrol chemist etc. Hardware store too. The village hall is good as well. Drawback is no GP surgery anymore. Parking difficult when something on at the hall. 3 churches within the area too. Local shopkeepers friendly and get to know u quickly. Good beautician and hairdressers. Petrol station local, cost cutter good. Various events on during the year. Variety of shops now have Mauds and dry cleaners. Close to countryside for walks. Events like musical evenings in the village hall. Church does a big breakfast, Christmas stalls.
- Rural access
- The community
- Was a good commute to Belfast.
- The community, it's a small village, everyone knows each other and it's nice for the kids
- Friendliness
- Living close to people you know
- Ballygowan is fairly central to other locations.
- Being able to live rural on a farm but commute easily to work
- Rural but convenient location
- It's quiet
- Nice to be in a rural community
- Accessible to shops to get groceries we need for dinner
- The village can be peaceful. You can say hello to people walking down the street
- It's rural positioning yet close proximity to Belfast/Bangor/Lisburn
- Close proximity to Belfast and M1 for commuting purposes
- The community feel from a village
- Proximity to Belfast and Ards
- Family and friends.

- location with good means of public transport.
- well i have been here 37yrs. I have seen many an increase in population. Mostly people moving in from Belfast, due to the property prices being relatively cheaper than neighbouring villages such as Saintfield/Comber.etc. I have issues with traffic and the lack of any response from roads service to introduce traffic calming measures. I also have issues with heavy quarry lorries passing through, destroying roads leaving pot holes.
- Community spirit
- Quiet village.
- The dump is probably the most effective and useful thing in Ballygowan
- The people.
- House prices
- I feel it is generally a safe place to live
- The local shops are fantastic
- Quiet yet connected to local towns and villages.
- Good community relations.
- Community.
- Close to Belfast but still far enough away.
- Feeling welcome when you walk down the street. Always someone to chat to.
- It's a rural, quiet area.
- Good access to all amenities.
- Living more rural, but 15 minutes from the town when I need it.
- Handy commute to Belfast and Ards.
- Proximity to Belfast.
- Small enough shops to get a more personal experience.
- Proximity to local towns.
- Close to Belfast and other major towns.
- Easy commute.
- Reasonable variation of shops and pretty, friendly place to live.
- Handy garage shop. Other shops good.
- Near parents. Great bus route to Belfast. Great schools.
- Convenient location to Belfast.
- Only place I've ever lived
- It's nice and quiet, it has a community spirit which you don't get in the city. It is convenient to the city.
- Mums and tots, play park, local so know a lot of people
- Access to numerous motorways easily
- It used to be the community, everyone knew each other and other families. I suppose now the best thing is simply that it is out "in the country" at the minute.
- Small friendly village
- Small community
- I'm not sure I could really say there is something specific that is "the best". I enjoy living in Ballygowan as it is outside of Belfast
- Proximity to other towns and cities
- Community
- It's quite and it's a lovely community, village life is great
- Its small and friendly
- Good commuting village
- It is very out dated and has few facilities apart from shops. Most of the roads are horrendous in and around Ballygowan
- Road cleaning
- Enough room to walk on footpaths
- The grass is not cut regularly, lots of street lights are currently out around the village, the village needs cleaned and tidied up, the park is a mess lots of rubbish and spray paint around, the cage in the back corner of the park is a real eye sore not to mention the grass beside the park on the Belfast Road which is never cut
- Dog fouling
- Public footpaths are in a poor state
- Car parking. Better bus service. Decent broadband speed.
- Keeping communal areas tidy, streets, estates etc.
- Run down, drab appearance of overall village area.
- Lighting, paving etc urgently required improvement.
- Public transport also requires improvement.
- Dirt and get to road from quarry vehicles
- coming into the village
- Dog fouling people should be fined
- Better playpark area.
- 4g football pitch to replace grass pitch on Moss Road.
- A bank in the village.
- Longer garage opening hours.
- More done with green areas to tidy up the look of the village.
- Policing
- Speeding
- Update the village
- Dog fouling
- Poor shopping
- Pot holes and disruptive youths drinking in the streets
- Roads
- Parking
- The state of the roads, traffic management, footpaths, lack of pedestrian crossings & parking management are shocking.
- No sense of community nor village life. All because of availability of shops and services
- Dog fouling especially on the brae is always bad other than that I can't think of anything outstanding
- Run down and appears to be forgotten about in development terms.
- The quarry lorries - village in a complete mess!
- No doctor or health facilities
- Young people
- Appearance
- Updating of local amenities within the village, parks, playing fields, village hall.
- The quarry lorries damaging the roads.
- Improve parking at the shops in the square.
- Doctors surgery needed. Pedestrian crossing on the Comber Road for school children.
- More litter/dog poo bins.
- Roads are disgraceful in and out.
- The biggest issue would seem to be the excessive heavy vehicle traffic
- Underage drinking
- The look of buildings, footpaths, greenery and roads are in a terrible state
- footpaths - Very narrow and unsafe.
- lacks community feel
- Increased bus service. Quality of footpaths
- Absolutely this is the quality of the roads and most importantly the footpaths. More facilities and shops
- Vandalism & destruction of property
- The quality of the shopping area and the streets. Every footpath is wonky & covered in muck.
- It's a drive through village with no real centre.
- Public parking issues and shop signage Dog poo
- Restaurant would be nice, gift shop, Doctor, friendly pub, library, exercise area indoors and outdoors.
- Very little makes it a desirable place to go
- Condition of the roads. Investment needed for community groups/ youth centre and activities.
- More plants and flowers
- Lack of hedge cutting on roads
- Not much for kids, only youth club
- Ballygowan seems to be a forgotten town when you look at the work Comber etc gets. We pay rates too!!
- Village is a mess. Whole park area and village hall not well kept. Shopping facilities, toilets, clean parks and community areas, vandalism in parks, roads conditions, many houses but not enough services
- The state of the village is disgusting. Phoenix Gas have left a terrible mess but the footpaths through the village are an eyesore Maybe more clubs and stuff to do for children and the senior citizens
- Parking in the village
- Parking and anti-social behaviour
- Flags being placed in areas where the majority of people do not want them, and where the people putting them up do not live. People living in the Forge signed agreements not to put up flags of

Question 8: What is the key issue that needs to be addressed in Ballygowan? If you have ideas on how this issue should be addressed please let us know.

- Quality of roads following Phoenix gas installations.
- More facilities/ services
- A doctors surgery in the village and something more for the children to get them off the streets
- Def the roads are bad and very hard on the cars! Then the rubbish at the side of the roads
- The village is looking tired. All of the roadworks we have endured through Phoenix Gas installation has destroyed the roads and pavements throughout the village.
- More activities and facilities for the youth particularly primary school children.
- Potholes and lack of bins
- Anti-social behaviour in the play park. Also dog fouling
- Roads
- Parking
- Footpaths
- Bus service to Belfast
- Area of waste land beside the chemist
- The lorries make so much mess and dirt of the roads they need to be covered to prevent this as the village is also very dirty from it.
- Also nothing for teenagers to do hanging about the streets.
- The village is very run down. In comparison to Comber and Saintfield there are few shops and the area is run down and I slightly with no appealing shops / coffee shops. There needs to be investment in the area to improve it in order to draw in new investors and shops.
- Dog fouling and pot holes
- Run down areas are an eyesore
- Playground could be improved and maintained better
- We have to travel for leisure facilities eg no swimming pool close, restaurants, libraries, childcare and good schools.

any nature so they should not be placed outside the development as an advertisement or anything else as this is a mixed area and it is unwanted by residents.

- Roads around the village are a disgrace they've dug them up that much
- Improvement of roads and appearance of Ballygowan to attract more residents
- More facilities need to be provide to the area especially for children.
- A homework and revision club and courses for all the community.
- A doctors surgery would be beneficial
- Roads and a decent chemist and in need of a few decent shops.
- Hedges need tidied and town needs a good tidy up. More dog poo bins esp Moss Road
- The kids park is good but it badly needs updating
- Drug use, underage drinking, anti-social behaviour!!!
- No community spirit, becoming a satellite village. Condition of roads. Dog fouling in abundance.
- Potholes
- Unkempt grass and hedged areas
- Parking at the main shops.
- The speed of hgv traffic during the week.
- Better village hall which is open to public
- Better shops And a doctors surgery
- State of roads, footpaths, roads into
- parking.
- Public toilets.
- Pavement/Pedestrian access
- 1) Quality of infrastructure 2) Lack of recreational facilities
- Better public transport. More facilities for teenagers.

- The roads are in a terrible state and grass cutting/maintenance has gone downhill.
- No fibre optic internet is available in the area
- Dog poo never being lifted
- The road conditions.
- No support for youth work.
- Anti-social behaviour
- Roads and footpaths.
- We desperately need a doctors surgery in Ballygowan.
- General upkeep and investment in the village.
- Dog dirt
- Litter on country roads
- Potholes are everywhere! Roads are not of a good standard in a lot of places!
- The kids need something to do.
- Ballygowan is not very welcoming.
- The pavements are in terrible condition, uneven full of holes and large puddles.
- There is no parking can't get parked to run into the shops or chemist or even to the hairdresser
- Very poor sporting provision in the area. This is particularly an issue for young people and during the winter months.
- A car park
- Nice flowers
- Speeding and pot holes
- Volume of traffic using the village, most concerning is the large number of lorries now using the village frequently. Noise starting very early at 6a.m. most mornings!
- Speeding cars and lorries and there needs to be a bus stop between the Moss Road and the square.
- Cleanliness. Appearance. Facilities.
- There is no decent public bar facilities in the town

- Anti-social behaviour
- Nothing for teenagers to do.
- Poor walkway facilities
- The speeding traffic through the village is horrifying
- Speeding. Trying to get out of the row of shops is nightmare people definitely doing over 30mph. It looks rather dull. A sort of nothing place u drive thru. Could do with a few more flowers about it. Maybe community allotments?
- Parking and speeding through village especially at the children's park
- Traffic calming
- Better facilities for youths
- Better lighting
- Speeding through the village
- On approach from any direction the place looks filthy and unkept. Footpaths sunk, full of puddles and road debris.
- New parks, pavements, brighter happier village! New roads speed limits, maybe a speed camera!
- Zero facilities in the area, Ballygowan is awful compared to other villages and towns in the area. Nothing has been put into the village for decades, no greenway, no cycle lanes, no 5-a-side pitches, not even a park large enough for a one mile park run.
- More flowers and plants to brighten the place up.
- A community centre!! The village hall is dated and unsuitable
- We need traffic calming measures for boy racers and lorry drivers!
- Lack of bins for dog waste
- Lack of lighting in the Comber Road Park
- Heavy goods traffic constantly through the village roads are destroyed
- Lack of doctors

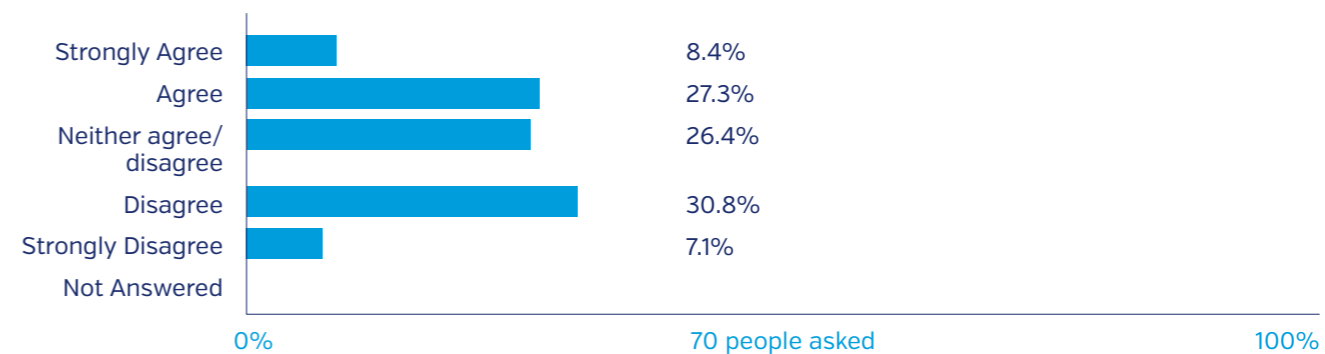
- The footpaths and roads are an absolute disgrace!!
- Underage drinking in the play park
- Parking of vehicles on corners of streets obstructing views to exit streets safely
- People need to stop using the community centre car park as a park and ride
- Lack of bus service to Ards at weekends and public holidays
- Parking to access the shops and play ground.
- Better public transport and services.
- Totally inadequate parking.
- Moss Road football pitch not great.

- More for teenagers to do
- Main issue for me is playpark - glass and rubbish.
- Doctors surgery needed.
- The village looks so dreary and run down. Traffic goes too fast.
- Road conditions.
- Road safety.
- Speed bumps needed
- Areas to walk
- Area around playing fields could easily be developed for walking.
- I also believe the asset of the river flowing through Ballygowan should be brought into the plan
- Lack of medical doctor services

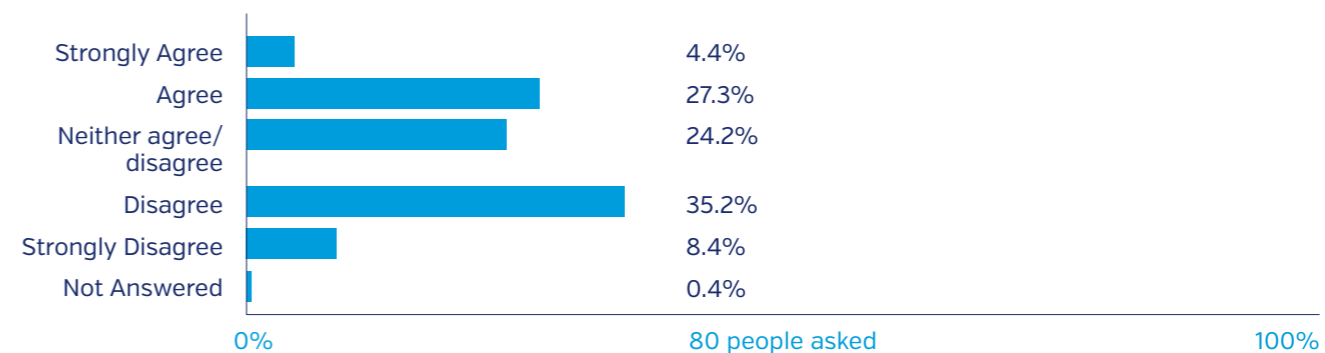
- Parking on the hill of the Brae.
- Lack of activities for children particularly primary level
- Hedges & grasses cut.
- More disability kerbs.
- More flowers & plants.
- A better hall with multiple rooms so it can be better utilised.
- 30mph speed limit sign at the top of the Moss Road just past the church
- Footpaths, lighting, roads, grass cutting, weed spraying and care of our flower beds and roundabout have not been taken care
- Litter
- Zebra crossing at the roundabout at all exits.

Question 9: Please respond to the following statements regarding the facilities and services available in Ballygowan...

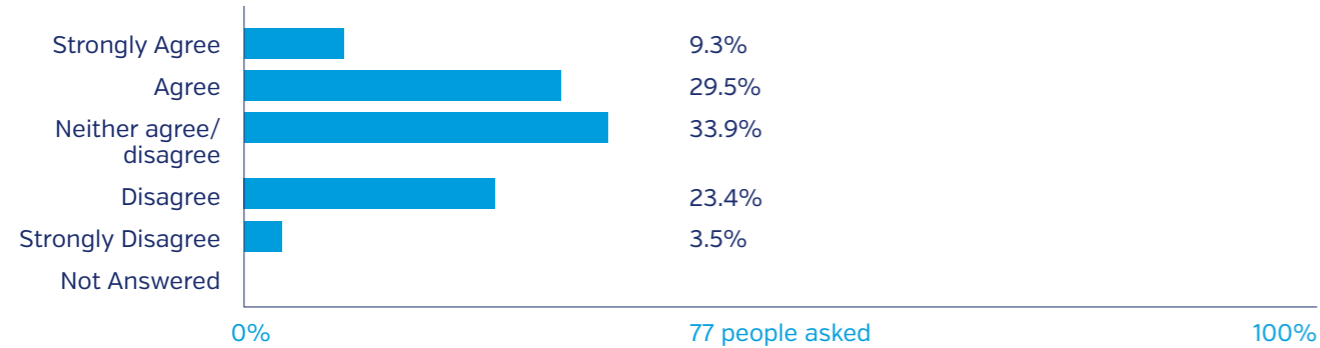
9.1 I am not aware of the range of services and facilities available in Ballygowan



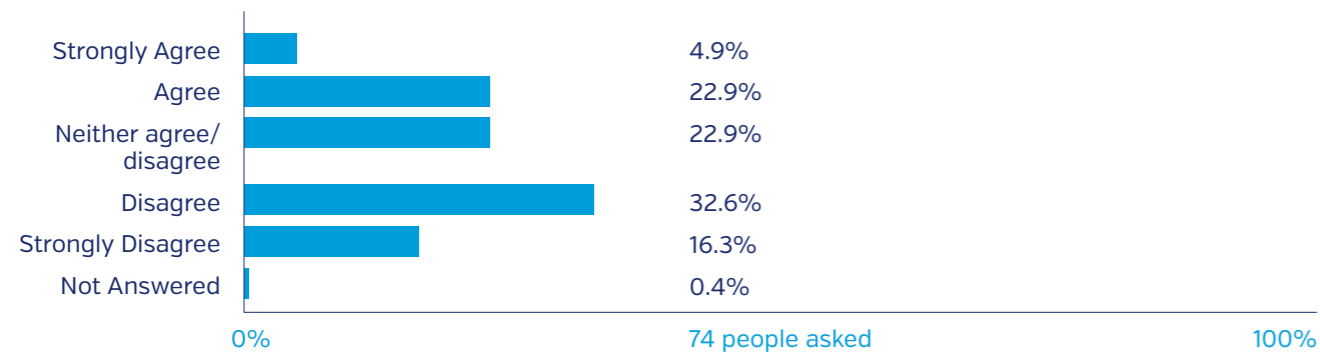
9.2 I feel that there is sufficient information about the services and facilities available in Ballygowan



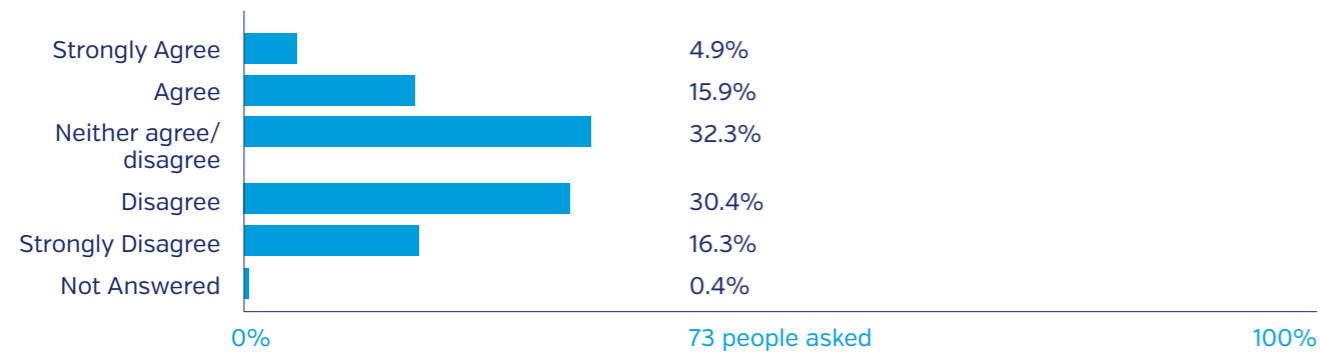
9.3 I find accessing services in Ballygowan difficult and rarely use them



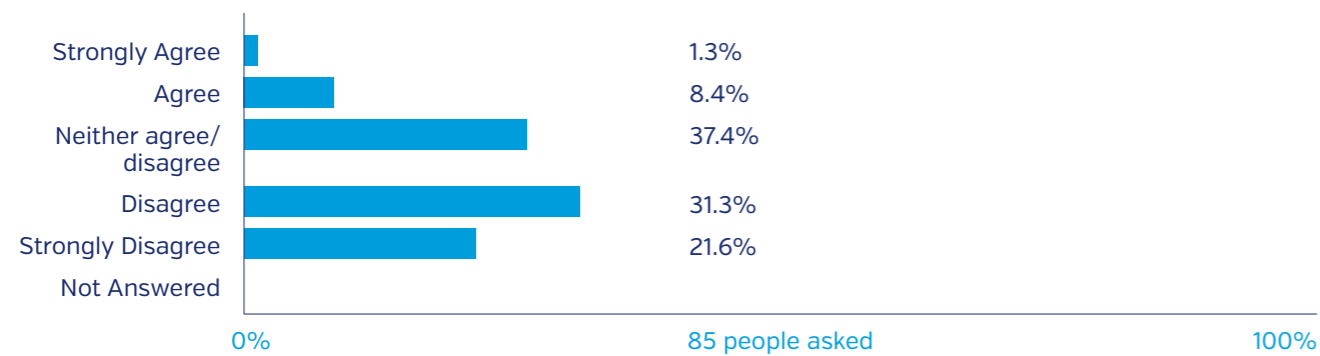
9.4 I access and use community facilities or services on a weekly basis



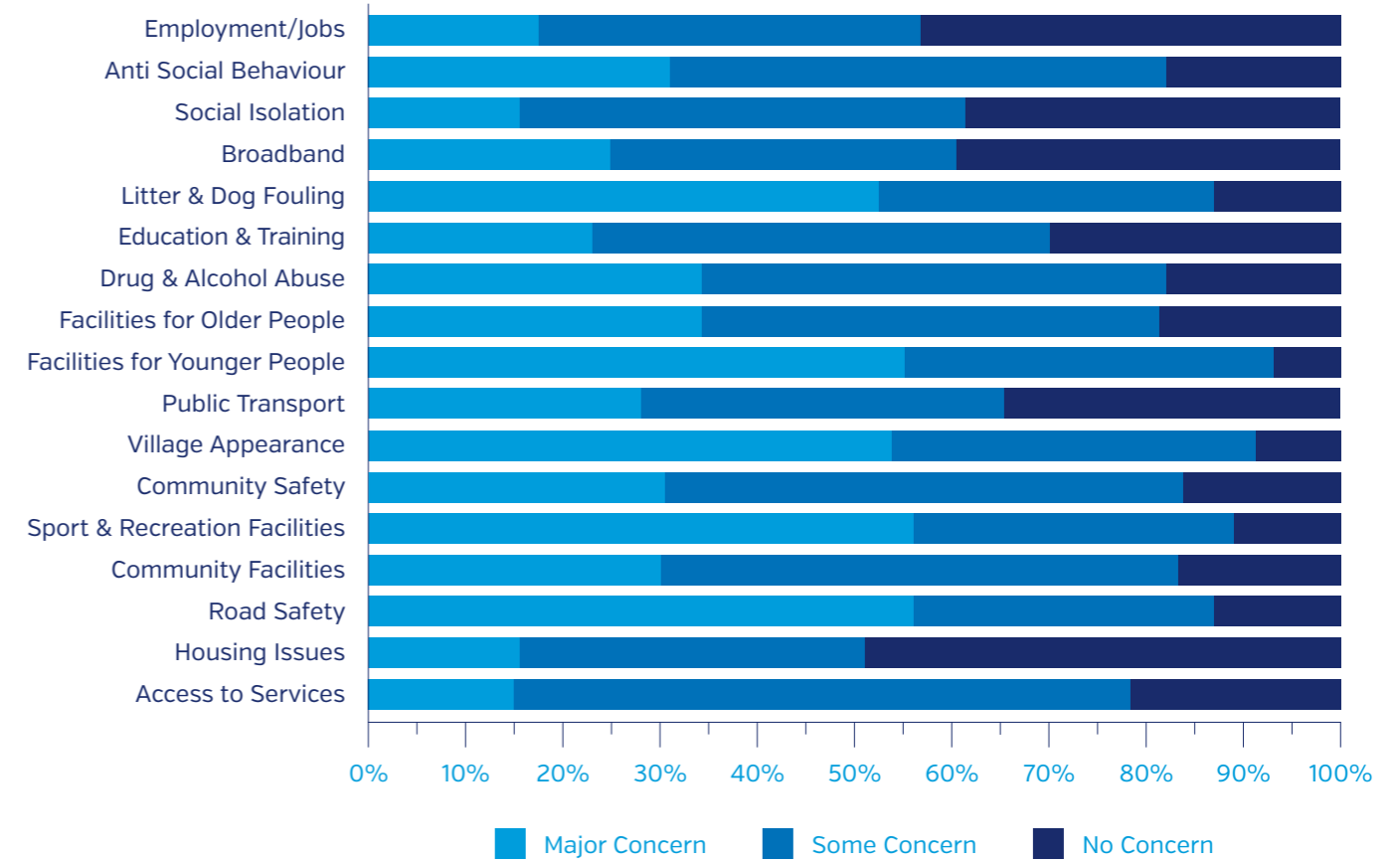
9.5 Services and facilities in Ballygowan are reflective of local needs



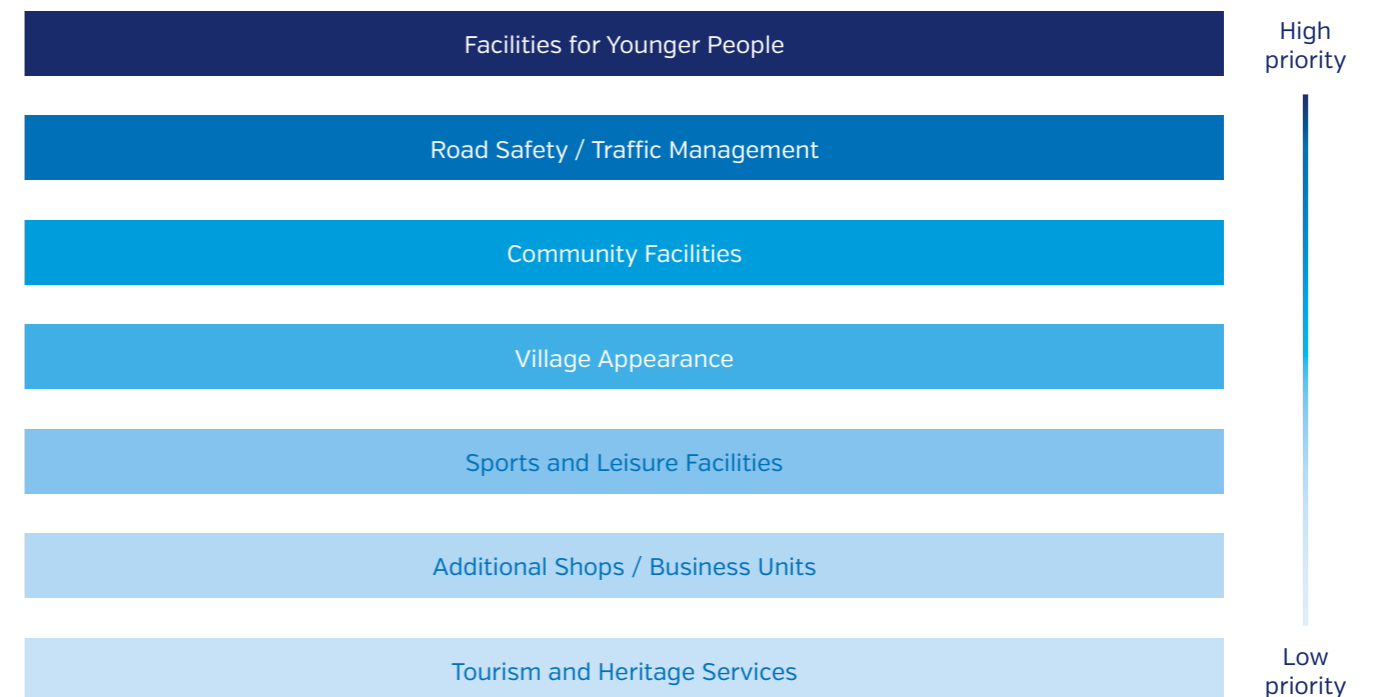
9.6 I feel community facilities are of a high standard and meet local needs



Question 10: A number of issues that may affect the local area are listed below - please respond to each of the issues listed as to whether you feel it is of 'No Concern', 'Some Concern' or 'Major Concern'



Question 11: Please consider the following list and RANK IN ORDER OF PRIORITY with 1 being the MOST important issue you feel should be addressed through to 7, which is the LEAST important issues to address for Ballygowan.



Question 12: In terms of community services, programmes or activities please mark the ones that you feel should be prioritised for Ballygowan. Please select a maximum of 3.

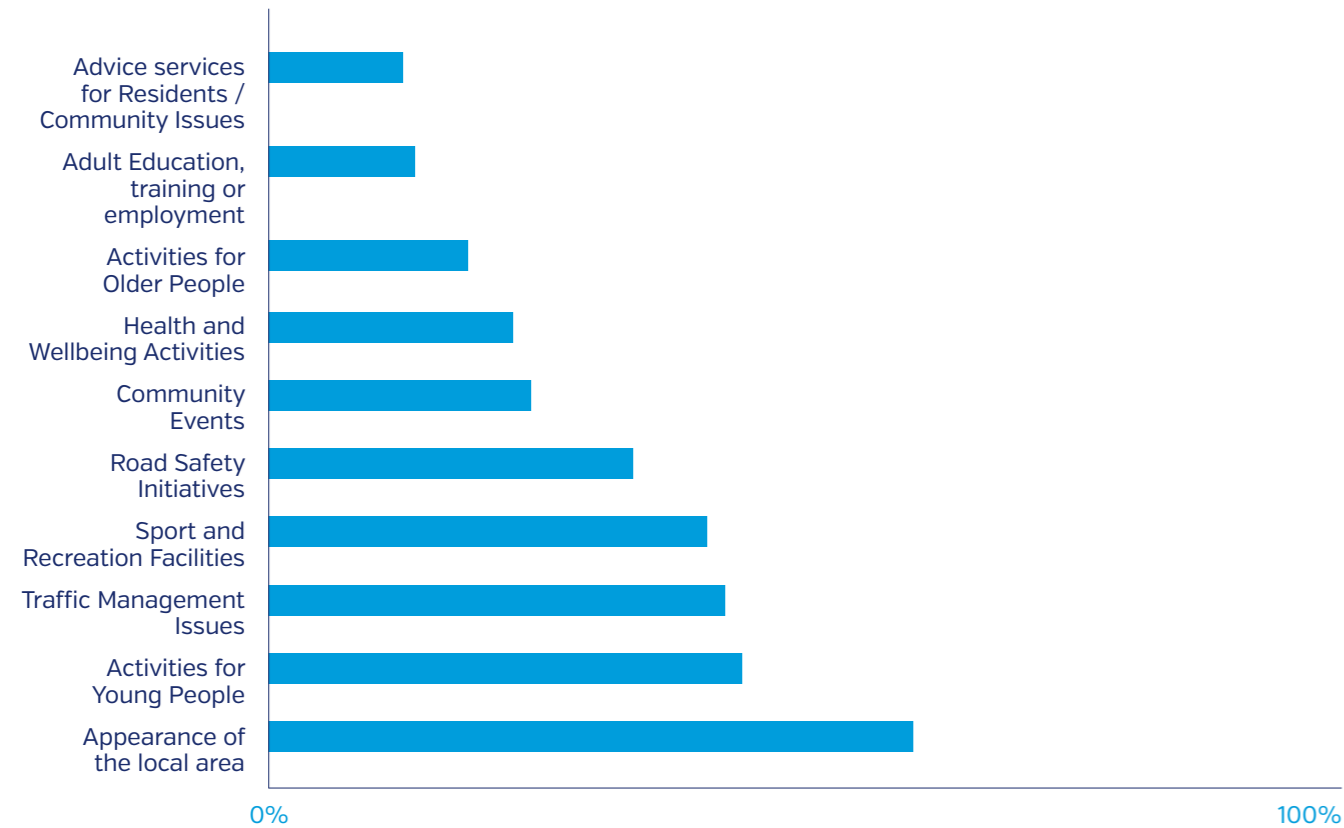


Figure 3: Programmes, activities and service priorities



Question 13: Are there any other needs, issues or actions you would like to highlight or feel should be prioritised for Ballygowan

- The dog fouling in Ballygowan is ridiculous. Also a growing concern is the number of inconsiderate drivers parking up on pavements inhibiting people with wheelchairs and pushchairs with young children often having to walk along the road
- There needs to be outcomes as a result of this survey otherwise the community will become disillusioned even further. Action is required.
- More buses into Belfast on Friday and Saturday nights and home
- General appearance of the local area and drawing in new shops and facilities.
- No doctor surgery in this area and it was a very poor service when it was here
- General safety of the village
- Improve village appearance
- Improve transport links and regularity
- Sports and leisure facilities
- Facilities for residents - all ages
- Simply the village is tired. A few pot plants and the odd collection of refuse is not going to do anything.
- The quarry lorries
- Health Centre
- No support for the local Ballygowan youth club
- I love a regular bus route to Saintfield/Crossgar/Downpatrick other than the school bus. Also would love a foot path to Comber so we could hook up with the Greenway
- Safer dog parks n bins for waste
- Vandalism to the play park is continuous, littering also here.
- Lack of beauty to the village. Look at Comber and Saintfield compared to here. Such a shame. The Christmas tree is awful every single year.
- Footpaths
- Speeding through the village and the need for more housing
- Community hub
- Speed bumps on the Belfast Road
- Paths need cleaned on Belfast Road
- Trees and hedges kept neater
- Traffic control is terrible
- Childrens play park always being vandalised.
- Make the village look nice! It is so depressing!
- What about a park and ride - utilising the bus services.
- Village hall playground could be updated.
- Doctors surgery.
- The local use of the playing fields by young people drinking and destroying the grass with their scrambler bikes
- The football pitch that Ballygowan FC PLAYED on down Moss Road is a disgrace. It would be amazing if a 4g full size pitch was put there you could have football sessions for the kids, training and matches for other teams as well
- Roads need fixed asap more dog bins in the village
- Doctor surgery
- The state of Ballygowan has been ongoing for over 30 years.
- Parking
- Public toilets
- Signage
- A new community hall.
- Pot holes
- The dog litter is terrible.
- The cutting or grass in front of park on verge of footpath needs to be looked at more regular
- The extreme over use of paramilitary and union flags in Ballygowan, particularly in July lower the tone of the village and are used to intimidate residents. It lowers the tone of the village and makes it look like an undesirable place to live or visit.
- Parking for businesses and those using public transport.
- Overall look of Ballygowan-hanging baskets, benches around town etc. maybe an art piece or symbol that represents Ballygowan in middle of roundabout.
- Outdoor gym area
- There needs to be more facilities in the local park for wheelchair users
- Definitely feel that Ballygowan would greatly benefit from fitness facilities.
- Also feel that in rural areas that there should be more lighting.
- Sport and recreation area would be good. Especially for kids.
- Perhaps could have a public first aid course in the village hall.
- Vandalism of playgrounds
- Ballygowan is in desperate need of work to fix its appearance.
- The bus service is appalling and needs to be addressed.
- Public toilets are needed.
- Better lighting.
- Extension needed for village hall.
- Inadequate car parking in the village.
- Moss Road football pitch isn't great.

Question 14: Please make any additional comments that you feel would help to develop a village plan for Ballygowan

- Feedback on the actions taken as a result of this survey needs to be published and visible to the community.
- The potential is evident when you look at Saintfield and Comber
- I would like to use public transport to travel to work however the bus service is so irregular this is not a practical option.
- Better parking around the centre of the village.
- There should be an area such as a 3G training pitch where young people can keep fit.
- The traffic issues should be looked at, such as speeding through the village.
- The quarry should be forced to clean the muck off the roads and the footpaths.
- The grass verges need to be cut more often and flowers would brighten the village up.
- Ballygowan is looking rundown and neglected!
- Definite traffic calming required.
- Possibility of a community newsletter??
- The village appearance is grey, shabby and neglected looking. I feel local council has forgotten our village.
- Nothing is ever done same old same old.
- Pedestrian access to Comber, Saintfield, Moneyreagh.
- When addressing any activity for the various age groups to get their opinion on what they would like. Without their insight and feedback the initiative is more likely to fail.
- Stop building more houses
- Parking for access to local businesses FREE OF CHARGE to encourage their growth and therefore jobs. Would also help with people taking buses to work etc
- When the village plan is finalised, there needs to be actions taken to ensure that it is actually implemented.
- Prioritise road safety.
- We need action. We need community involvement. The Community Association does not have the impetus to carry this forward.
- Create a group that will spearhead this change.
- Create a website that is dedicated to this venture allowing feedback, comments, ideas etc.
- More information on meetings etc, or community events
- We need nice communal areas
- The village hall is quite small and the car park fills up very quickly if there is something on.
- Daycare facility might do well. Maybe classes in the hall for new mothers for support.
- The village population has increased resulting in infrastructure problems.
- The village is a commuter bypass now for Belfast bound traffic. We need a bypass.
- Ballygowan would benefit from a health centre. Ballygowan's population has grown over this past few years with the new developments being built.
- The village is completely neglected
- The two main priorities currently I feel are condition of the footpath and extreme lack of car parking. Health provision is also a major issue for residents.
- More information about what's on and when. Maybe a few community notice boards or a newsletter to let parents know what's on for children and themselves.
- More visibility of local Councillors.
- Bring businesses and jobs to the area - this would make traffic management a higher priority than it is now.

APPENDIX B - TRACKING AND MONITORING TEMPLATE

OUTCOME 1: BALLYGOWAN ACHIEVING ITS FULL POTENTIAL				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs (date)	Status
Community Engagement (EXAMPLE)	Provision of services aimed at supporting engagement and inclusion of older people and specifically older men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete needs assessment with older people / men. • At least one new programme for older people • At least one new programme for older men 	Completed needs assessment with 112 older people (including 47 men) providing views (Nov 18) 'Good Morning Service' established and running for two months. Work underway to establish 'mens shed' (Dec 18)	Ongoing (on track)
1.1 Community Engagement and Services	1.1.1 Development of community activities and programmes for young people			
	1.1.2 Community education programmes			
	1.1.3 Outreach of key services			
	1.1.4 Community food project			
	1.1.5 Community events			
	1.1.6 Ballygowan community website			
1.2 Community Space	1.2.1 Development of village hall			
OUTCOME 2: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE BALLYGOWAN				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs (date)	Status
2.1 Health and wellbeing services	2.1.1 Feasibility study - community health hub			
	2.2.1 Feasibility study - recreational facilities at sports pitch site on Moss Road			
2.2 Sports and Recreation Facilities	2.2.2 Playing surface and facilities at the sports pitch on Moss Road			
	2.2.3 Walking trails and cycle paths			
	2.2.4 Information on walking trails and signage to provide village information			

OUTCOME 3: A CONNECTED, SECURE AND SAFE BALLYGOWAN				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs [date]	Status
3.1 Road Safety and Traffic Calming	3.1.1 Road safety and traffic calming measures			
	3.1.2 Identify options to address impact caused by the high volume of lorries passing through village			
3.2 Car Parking	3.2.1 Additional car parking within village			
	3.2.2 Time-restricted parking along Main Street			
	3.2.3 Park and ride/park and share			
3.3 Improved Roads and Access	3.3.1 Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads			
	3.3.2 Improve the quality, surface and maintenance of footpaths			
	3.3.3 Reinstatement work by utility companies			
	3.3.4 Improved public transport provision			
3.4 Community Safety	3.4.1 Address anti-social behaviour and low-level crime			
	3.4.2 Address fear of crime			

OUTCOME 4: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT IN BALLYGOWAN				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs [date]	Status
4.1 Support for Local Business and Economy	4.1.1 Develop a local traders forum in Ballygowan			
	4.1.2 Employment and skills development			
	4.1.3 Local apprenticeship/work experience scheme			

OUTCOME 5: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN BALLYGOWAN				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs [date]	Status
5.1 Improved Village Appearance	5.1.1 Environmental Improvement schemes/public realm			
	5.1.2 Provision of gateway signage			
	5.1.3 Signature art piece/ sculpture at roundabout			
	5.1.4 Dog fouling and littering			
	5.1.5 Floral display and planting			
	5.1.6 Village hall – green space and play facilities			
5.2 Tourism and Promotion of 'Local Assets'	5.2.1 Promotion of key village assets and attractions			

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The Council extends its thanks to all who have contributed to this plan and looks forward to continued collaboration through the course of its delivery. If you would like any more information about this plan or how to get involved please get in touch.



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