



# GROOMSPORT

Integrated Village Plan 2018-2023



## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	Introduction to Groomsport Village Plan	Page 5
<b>2</b>	The Village of Groomsport	Page 6
<b>3</b>	Groomsport Village Plan – Consultation Process	Page 11
<b>4</b>	Analysis and Findings	Page 14
<b>5</b>	Vision and Overarching Outcomes	Page 17
<b>6</b>	Detail of Village Projects	Page 19
<b>7</b>	Delivery of Groomsport Village Plan	Page 26
<b>8</b>	Appendices	Page 31
	Appendix A – Community Survey Results	
	Appendix B – Tracking and Monitoring Template	



# 1 Introduction to Groomsport 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.

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

The village plan provides a clear vision for Groomsport detailing the actions needed to build on the unique strengths and distinctive qualities the area has while seeking to address the issues that need to be tackled.

## 1.2 A (REVISED) VILLAGE PLAN FOR GROOMSPORT

A village plan for Groomsport was first produced through consultation with the local community in March 2013. Progressing the actions contained within the plan has remained a focus for Groomsport Village Association (GVA).

Therefore, it is important to recognise that this new village plan (2018–2023) represents a continuing development of the initial plan and the ongoing effort 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 GROOMSPORT PLAN

GVA led in producing the 2013 Integrated Village Plan. The plan was produced after extensive consultation with the local community and included 42 actions across a range of issues covering community facilities and services, village infrastructure, heritage and tourism, enterprise and the local environment.

GVA, in partnership with key stakeholders, has progressed a number of actions within the 2013 plan. A focus has been to improve interpretation and orientation signage within the village detailing key walking areas and nature in the local area. The boathouse is also a key aspect of the village and has seen recent improvements in terms of car park resurfacing, storage and the provision of litter bins.

## 1.3 METHODOLOGY – OVERVIEW

The village plan for Groomsport 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 have been identified to improve the overall physical, economic and social aspects of Groomsport 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.

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 require to be developed to a greater level of detail, including any further needs assessment, consultation with stakeholders, consideration of any deliverability issues with outcomes and indicators of success.

## 2 The Village of Groomsport

### 2.1 VILLAGE LOCATION

Groomsport is located two miles north east of Bangor. It is situated on the south shore of Belfast Lough and between Ballymacormick Point and Orlock Point.

### 2.2 HISTORY OF CLOUGHEY

Originally a small fishing village, Groomsport developed as a natural sheltered harbour between Ballymacormick Point and Cockle Island. The village is believed to be of Viking origin and its settlement history can be traced back to the ninth or 10th century. In 1636 'The Eagle Wing' set sail from Groomsport with 140 passengers and four ministers on board, for a new life in America. It was forced to turn back to Belfast Lough after eight weeks at sea and never reached New England.

It is claimed that the Duke of Schomberg, Commander in Chief of King William III's advance party of 10,000 soldiers, used Groomsport as a landing point on 13th August 1689.

By the 17th century Groomsport had its own Custom House and in the mid-1800s the village had a reasonable sized fishing fleet and a lifeboat station within the sheltered bay. Groomsport remained a fishing village through the Victorian and Edwardian periods until the 1920s. It still retains the identity and character of a small harbour village with its pier and sheltered anchorage together with its historic street pattern.

### 2.3 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

GVA works to retain and enhance the general character of the village. The association seeks to promote and encourage a range of activities, events and programmes across the village. The GVA funds and publishes a quarterly newsletter and distributes it to every household in the village. This is complemented by the website [www.groomsport.info](http://www.groomsport.info). In 2017 GVA also established a social media presence and now manages an active Facebook page with 271 members.

Groomsport has developed as a centre for water and shore-based recreation with facilities for activities such as sailing and power boating. The Cockle Island Boat Club is based in the boathouse on the pier. Two former fishermen's cottages by the harbour (Cockle Row Cottages) have been restored as an attraction for visitors. These are host to hundreds of visitors from Easter Sunday to the first Sunday in September each year with free themed activities for children and adults.












Figure 1: Location of Cloughey

The village also boasts beautifully landscaped picnic and play areas around the harbour, and beach area. It also has a recreation ground with two football pitches, tennis court and a historic boathouse at the harbour that dates back to 1884.

There is also a wide range of businesses within the village such as a coffee shop, public house, restaurant, hairdressers, off-licence, health clinic and Spar convenience store. In addition, there are three churches serving the local community.

### 2.4 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The community profile is derived from settlement data [SETT2015] for Groomsport based on the 2011 census. Information relating to the community profile for Groomsport has been sourced from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency through the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS). The NINIS 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 Groomsport.

 POPULATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Census Day [27 March 2011] the population of Groomsport Settlement was 1,214, living in 601 households, giving an average household size of two people</li> <li>The 2001 Census reported Groomsport as having 1,401 residents, meaning the population decreased by 187, which is 13.3%, over 10 years</li> </ul>
 AGE PROFILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13% of the population are aged 0–15</li> <li>11% of the population are aged 16–29</li> <li>17% of the population are aged 30–44</li> <li>28% of the population are aged 35–64</li> <li>31% of the population are aged 65+</li> <li>The average age is 51 years old</li> </ul>
 GENDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48.8% of residents are male</li> <li>51.2% of residents are female</li> </ul>
 RELIGION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.3% of residents belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion</li> <li>81.7% belong to or were brought up in a 'Protestant and Other Christian' religion</li> </ul>
 HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24.3% of people have a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities</li> <li>76.4% of people stated their general health was either good or very good; and</li> <li>15.4% of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others</li> </ul>
 EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33.7% of people have a degree or higher qualification</li> <li>32.6% of people have no or low-level qualifications</li> </ul>
 LABOUR MARKET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59.9% of people were economically active and 40.1% were economically inactive<sup>4</sup></li> <li>54.3% of people were in paid employment</li> <li>3.1% of people were unemployed</li> </ul>
 HOUSEHOLDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>72.9% of homes were owner occupied [43.4% owned outright] and 23% were rented</li> <li>20.6% of homes were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years</li> <li>2.8% were lone parent households</li> <li>14.3% of households did not have access to a car or van</li> </ul>
 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groomsport has a total of five retail and business units of which all are currently occupied</li> <li>The current vacancy rate is 0%</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> A total of 214 settlements are listed by NISRA in their key statistics data files, ranging from Belfast (Band A, 280,000) to Maydown (Band H, 500), the smallest settlement.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency ([www.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.nisra.gov.uk))

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

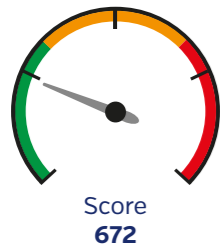
<sup>4</sup> Economically inactive persons are defined by the fact that they do not have a job and are either not actively looking for a job or are not immediately available to work (or both). Unemployment is when a person who is actively searching for employment is unable to find work.

## 2.5 LOCAL DEPRIVATION

An indication into the level of deprivation local areas experience can be identified through the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017<sup>5</sup>. This report identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Northern Ireland. All 890 super output areas (SOAs)<sup>6</sup> in Northern Ireland are ranked with a score of 1 being the most deprived and a score of 890 the least deprived.

Groomsport village lies within the Groomsport SOA. The SOA reflects an area which is geographically larger than the actual village; the population of Groomsport accounts for approximately 40% of the total population of the SOA. Therefore, the deprivation scores provide an indication into the level of deprivation experienced across a range of areas. However, it must be remembered that SOA level data may mask pockets of deprivation within the immediate village area.

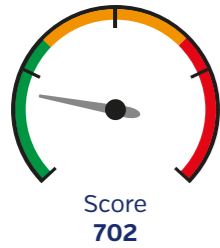
### INCOME DEPRIVATION



Groomsport ranks 672 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to income deprivation.

Groomsport is in the top third of areas in Northern Ireland which suffer least from income deprivation.

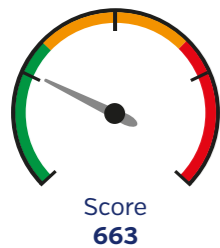
### HEALTH DEPRIVATION



Groomsport ranks 702 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to health deprivation.

Groomsport village is in the top third of areas which suffer least from health deprivation.

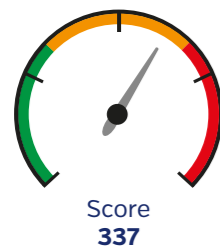
### EMPLOYMENT DEPRIVATION



Groomsport ranks 663 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to employment deprivation.

This means Groomsport village is in the top third of areas which suffer least from employment deprivation.

### ACCESS/PROXIMITY TO SERVICES



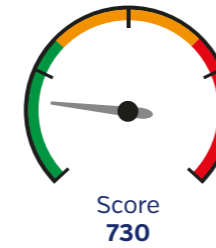
Groomsport ranks 337 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to poor or deprived access to key services.

This means Groomsport village falls just outside the top third of areas which have most difficulty accessing services.

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

<sup>6</sup> Northern Ireland is divided into 890 super output areas which are relatively small scale areas containing on average just over 2,000 people. SOAs are the core reporting geography of the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (2010)

### CRIME AND DISORDER



Groomsport ranks 730 out of 890 super output areas in Northern Ireland in relation to crime and disorder deprivation.

Groomsport is in the top third of areas which suffer least from crime and disorder.

#### To Summarise...

Groomsport is one of the least deprived areas in Northern Ireland across a range of measures including income, employment, health and crime. Accessing key services such as health, leisure, financial or postal services is the one measure in which Groomsport scores less well.

Groomsport has a relatively even gender split and the average age for people living in the area is 51 years old (compared to a Northern Ireland average of 37 years). Population change over

10 years for Groomsport is - 13.3% which is well below the Northern Ireland average of +7.5%.

A higher proportion of people living in the local area, when compared to the Northern Ireland average, have a degree and live in their own home. More people are economically inactive (i.e. retired) and a greater proportion of homes than the Northern Ireland average are made up of a single person living alone aged 65+ years.



## 2.6 GROOMSPORT VILLAGE PLAN – WIDER STRATEGIC FIT

The Groomsport 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’<sup>6</sup>, 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 link 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 Groomsport 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 the Council’s Corporate Plan and its three categories of People, Place and Prosperity.

The forthcoming Local Development Plan (LDP) shall provide a 15-year framework to support economic, environmental and social needs of the Borough while providing for the delivery of sustainable development. It shall 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 for example food, car parking or recreation. As these are updated and revised, it will be important to ensure a strong link between each strategy and the 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 Groomsport 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 GVA to ensure a partnership approach in the preparation and delivery of this village plan.

### 3.1 GROOMSPORT VILLAGE PLAN – REVIEW AND UPDATE

The revised village plan for Groomsport 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, 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 upon 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.

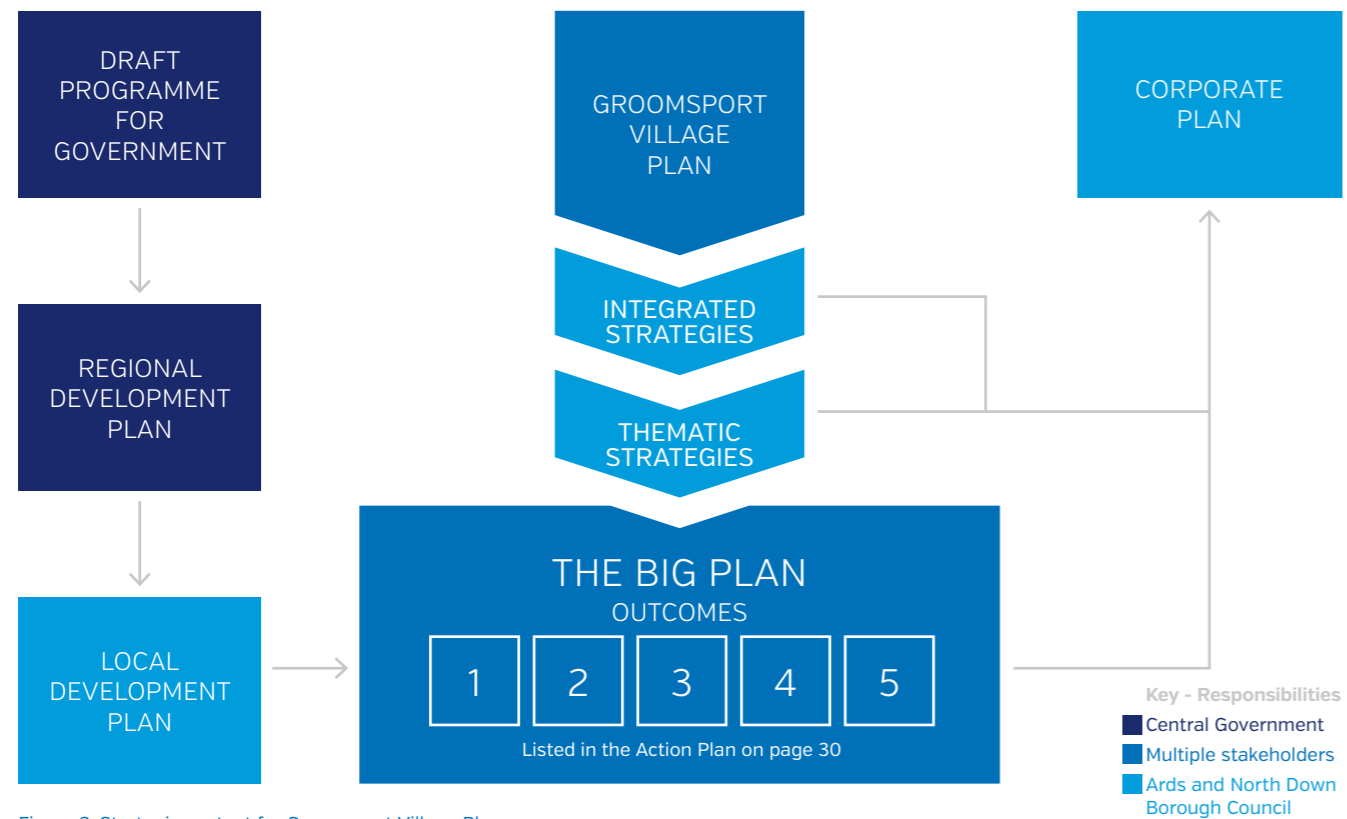
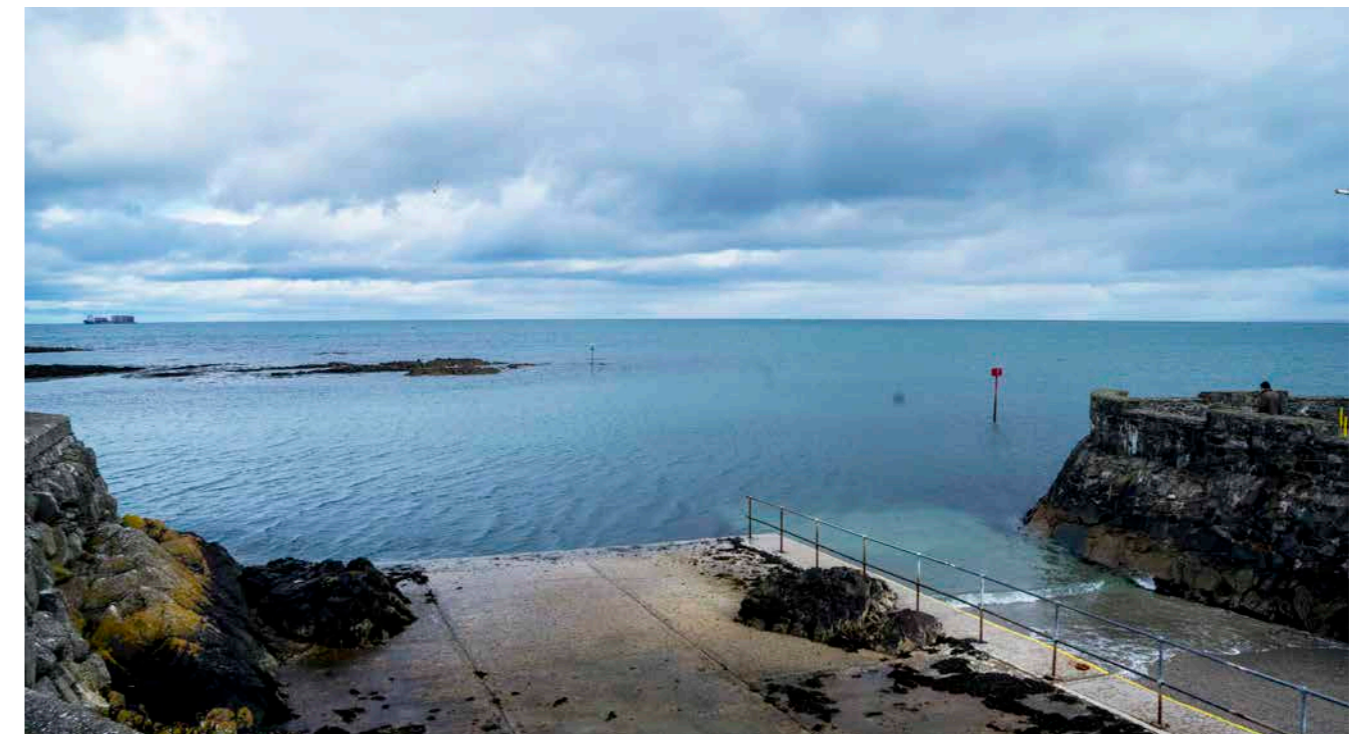


Figure 2: Strategic context for Groomsport Village Plan



<sup>6</sup> The Big Plan for Ards and North Down April 2017–2032.

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

STAGE	ACTION / ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN
1. Initial Community Engagement	Initial meeting with GVA 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 two consultation events. A public drop-in session was held on the afternoon of Thursday 23rd November 2017 in the boathouse, Groomsport. This session was aimed at engaging with people who may not have been able to attend the evening session due to family or other caring responsibilities. A public meeting was also held on the same evening in the boathouse, Groomsport. The meeting was facilitated by Insight Solutions and the Rural Development Council with assistance from the GVA. Approximately 30 members of the local community attended across both sessions. These engagement sessions helped bring the local community together to share their views on the village. They also generated considerable feedback regarding the strengths, weaknesses and future opportunities for the village.
4. Community Survey	A community survey was developed to ensure that everyone in Groomsport 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 including local shop and boathouse. In total 30 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 GVA 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 Groomsport's Village Plan?

## Public meeting to review and update the current Village Action Plan

Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7pm  
There will also be a drop in session from 3pm until 4.30pm  
Groomsport Boathouse

- 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](http://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/village-plans)



## 4 Analysis and Findings

A total of 30 surveys were returned, which together with the public engagement sessions, helped provide an insight into the actions to be included in the final village plan. Details of the findings from the community survey are contained in Appendix A.

"Groomsport is a quiet village with beautiful views and beautiful beaches."

"The air is clean and fresh, and every day the sea presents a different backdrop."

Most people, 77%, have lived in Groomsport for over five years and believe it provides a good quality of life, with many mentioning the scenic location, natural beauty and proximity to the sea. The ability to be active and enjoy the outdoors with the seafront and coastline is seen as key benefit of living in the local area.

"A picturesque village away from the busy town centre of Bangor but easily accessible."

Those consulted feel safe living in Groomsport and recognise that levels of crime or anti-social behaviour are low. Consultees enjoy the positive attributes of a tranquil village life, they also recognise the benefit of being close to larger towns such as Bangor and Donaghadee.

Those consulted are generally positive about the services and facilities within the area. Over three-quarters are aware of the services and facilities that are available, and over half use them at least on a weekly basis. Similarly, half of those consulted believe services and facilities are reflective of local need, and almost six in ten believe they are of a high standard. The key concerns and issues raised have been identified below.



### Environment and Village Appearance

- Update/modernise village area
- Improvements at The Point
- More greenery, planting and flowers
- Stronger theme or village identity
- More litter bins
- Gateway signage
- Make more of National Trust "Hidden Gems" Point Island
- Bio-diversity activities e.g. bird watching, plants and insects

### Seafront and Coastline

- Improvements along seafront
- Connected walkways
- Improve coastal path from Ballyholme to Orlock
- Improve access to beach
- Outdoor trim trail
- Install boardwalk along beach

### Community Facilities and Services

- More community activities and events
- Support greater community involvement
- Outreach of key services
- Better sharing of information
- Support for sports groups [e.g. football team]
- More activities and facilities for young people and older people [Men's Shed]

### Road Safety

- Increased road safety and traffic calming
- Tackle speed of traffic through village
- Poor condition of many roads
- Poor quality or lack of footpaths
- Enforce parking restrictions

### Tourism and Local Economy

- Build on potential of local area
- Facilities for overnight motor homes
- Local deals and voucher schemes
- Install public Wi-Fi
- More tourist information and signage
- Support for local craft/micro businesses
- Potential for sea-based activities and tourism
- National Trust "Hidden Gems" Point Island

"Church path/lane from Main Street to beach."

"Dog fouling on the beach."

"The Point. This road has deteriorated to the extent that it is dangerous."

"Promote the use of the sea, harbour, slipway and beach."

"Run down, drab appearance of overall village area."

"Speed through the village 30mph largely ignored."

"Triathlons have been very successful and walkers, birdwatchers use the coastal path."

## 4.1 IDENTIFYING PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS

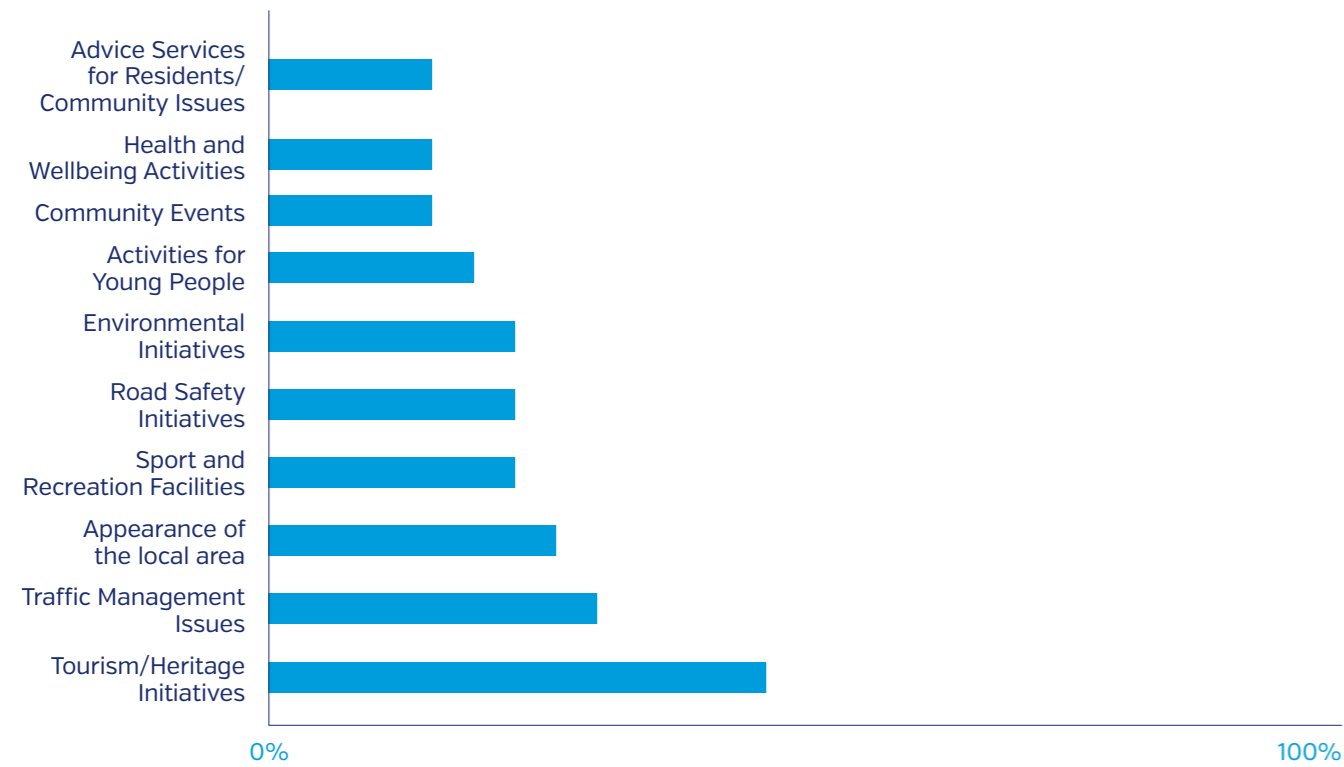


Figure 3: Programmes, activities and service priorities



Figure 4: Priorities for Groomsport

Those consulted were asked to prioritise the types of activities, programmes or services they would like to see in Groomsport (Figure 3). This is to ensure the village plan includes actions that go beyond those relating to the physical environment or infrastructure improvements within the local area.

Given the time spent discussing the topic of tourism at the public meeting, it is no surprise that tourism and heritage rank highly. This is followed by traffic management issues, appearance of the local area and sport and recreation facilities.

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

## 5 Vision and Overarching Outcomes

### 5.1 GROOMSPORT VISION STATEMENT

Groomsport is a vibrant, inclusive rural community which makes the most of its natural beauty and coastal location. The village is welcoming to everyone and provides a healthy environment for residents and visitors to enjoy. Groomsport has a strong community spirit, excellent leisure, educational and community facilities. The community celebrate their rich history and heritage whilst looking forward to the future with confidence.

### 5.2 OVERARCHING OUTCOMES

#### 1. Groomsport Achieving its Full Potential

- Community activities and programmes for young people
- Activities and services aimed at supporting older people
- Outreach of key community services
- Increase use of community space and venues
- Community events and information sharing

#### 2. A Healthy and Active Groomsport

- Improved facilities to support sea-based activities
- Trim trail
- Coastal path from Ballyholme to Orlock
- Provision of boardwalk along beach at Cove Bay
- Beach access from Main Street
- Beach access and changing facilities

#### 3. A Connected, Safe and Secure Groomsport

- Resurfacing of The Point access road (unadopted)
- Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads (and improve quality of footpaths)
- Railings at harbour area along Harbour Road
- Improved public transport provision
- Traffic calming measure (and speed warning)
- Pedestrian crossing

#### 4. Supporting the Local Economy and Employment

- Public free Wi-Fi access
- Local voucher/trader scheme
- Support for business start-up and growth
- Local identity or theme






#### 5. Supporting the Local Environment, History and Heritage

- Provision of gateway signage
- Dog fouling and litter bins
- Floral displays and tree planting
- Low level lighting along seafront
- Facilities for motor homes
- Promotion of local assets



### 5.3 GROOMSPORT – ‘AT A GLANCE’

The Groomsport 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 also sets out the actions people wish to see delivered over the next five years in terms of infrastructure, facilities and local services.

<p><b>At a Glance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 96% Rated Quality of Life as Good</li> <li>• 65% Rated Quality of Facilities as Good</li> <li>• 62% Rated Quality of Services as Good</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Key Issues</b></p>  <p>1. Litter and Dog Fouling</p>  <p>2. Facilities for Young People</p>  <p>3. Road Safety</p>  <p>4. Education and Training</p>  <p>5. Broadband Coverage</p>	<p><b>Best Part of Living in Groomsport</b></p> <p>Community spirit; scenery; beach; people are friendly; safe environment; community spirit; walks; rural setting; harbour; close knit; local shops, pubs, restaurant;</p> <hr/> <p><b>Top 5 Physical Improvements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilities for Young People</li> <li>2. Village Appearance</li> <li>3. Community Facilities</li> <li>4. Sport and leisure facilities</li> <li>5. Tourism and Heritage Facilities</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b>Top 5 Service Delivery Improvements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tourism and Heritage Initiatives</li> <li>2. Traffic Management</li> <li>3. Programmes to improve Local Area</li> <li>4. Road Safety Initiatives</li> <li>5. Environmental Initiatives</li> </ol>
<p><b>Priority Action:</b> Improve Beach Access (via Laneway) from Main Street</p>	



## 6 Detail of Village Projects

### OUTCOME 1: GROOMSPORT ACHIEVING ITS FULL POTENTIAL

#### 1.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICES

##### 1.1.1 Development of activities and programmes for young people

Those consulted commented on the lack of activities for young people in the local area. Comments focused on the need to support local clubs and groups to provide a greater range of programmes and activities for young people.

Actions include encouraging increased participation in sport and programmes to develop life skills, employability and personal development. In addition, programmes focused on mental health, self-esteem and healthy lifestyle choices such as nutrition, alcohol and drug awareness were felt to be important to support young people in the local area. A needs assessment with young people in the area could be undertaken to understand the range of activities and programmes to be delivered.

##### 1.1.2 Development of activities to support engagement and inclusion of older people

There is a view that activities organised for older people in the local area are limited – almost one third of the local population are aged 65+. This leads to concerns regarding social isolation, wellbeing and loneliness for older members of the community.

Programmes and services could be developed to support engagement and inclusion of older people especially older men who are often harder to engage. This could focus on developing activities such as a weekly coffee morning, luncheon club, Good Morning service, exercise and IT classes. For older men there is a specific suggestion to establish a Men’s Shed project within the village.

##### 1.1.3 Community events and information sharing

Those consulted are keen to support a programme of events and activities to be organised and delivered within the village throughout the year. It is suggested that events could be linked to sport and recreation, natural heritage, health and wellbeing, history or community fun days.

Sufficient sharing of information, community noticeboards, leaflets and social media, are required to support people to participate in community-based activities. Those consulted are keen to ensure that updates regarding delivery of the village plan and progress of actions are shared on a regular basis.

##### 1.1.4 Community space and usage

Groomsport enjoys a scenic location which could provide a beautiful backdrop to community events and activities. The area next to the boathouse could be better used to hold events and community-based activities. Similarly, consultees suggest that the old primary school could be used for the delivery of community programmes and activities. An assessment of the range of outdoor and indoor venues could be undertaken so that these could be considered for future community programmes and events.

##### 1.1.5 Outreach of key community services

The provision of services is a key concern for the community and will be a continuing focus for Groomsport over the next five years of the village plan. In particular, those consulted wish to see the outreach of key health services, community support, advice organisations, education and employment support. Examples of key services requested include mobile library, health screening, mental health support services and medicine dispensing. A needs assessment of services available within Groomsport as well as services people would like to see will be the first stage in taking forward this action.



## OUTCOME 2: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE GROOMSPORT

### 2.1 HARBOUR AND BEACH AREAS

#### 2.1.1 Improve facilities to support sea-based activities

Groomsport is a perfect setting to undertake sea-based recreational activities. There is a demand for improved access to the sea to support increased participation in sea-based recreational activities such as canoeing, boat tours and kayaking.

Improving the facilities and appearance of the boat storage area, which is next to the boathouse, could help increase participation in sea-based activities. Improved storage, surfacing, bollards and fencing along with planting and greenery would help improve the use and visual impact of this key area within the village.

#### 2.1.2 Trim trail

The local community and visitors to Groomsport access walks along the seafront for recreational activities and exercise. It is recommended that a trim trail is installed along the seafront to provide people with an opportunity to undertake health promoting activities.

A trim trail will provide a series of exercise stations along the shorefront walk such as balance beams, sit-up bars, chin-up bars, parallel bars and ladder walks, that can be used to develop balance, strength and coordination.

### 2.2 IMPROVED PATHS AND COASTAL/ BEACH WALKS

#### 2.2.1 Coastal path Ballyholme to Orlock

The North Down Coastal Path extends from Holywood in the west to Orlock in the east. A key stretch of this route is that between The Point in Groomsport and Ballyholme Beach which has archaeological interest. The village plan proposes, as did the previous one, that a condition assessment is undertaken along this 1.5 mile long stretch of coastline and a schedule of improvement works is identified and delivered as required along particular sections.

As part of this action the community highlighted the need for restoration works to be undertaken to the historic wall located at the eastern side of Jane's beach. Although these works are considered relatively minor it would make a positive difference to the local environment.



#### 2.2.2 Boardwalk along beach at Cove Bay

A boardwalk could be laid along the landward side of Cove Bay to formalise a key section of the North Down Coastal Path. This could provide improved access between the existing coastal path to the rear of Groomsport Parish Church and the informal path point (see action 2.2.3). The design of any structure must take into account the environmental impact of its development and should be pedestrian friendly.

#### 2.2.3 Beach access from Main Street

Improve access to the beach through the existing lane/pathway from Main Street. The works could include resurfacing to allow access by prams and wheelchairs and provide a safe walkway. The specification of works to be completed will need to be compatible with the existing laneway and in keeping with the surrounding area. Additional improvements in relation to planting and signage will be considered as part of wider village actions.

Priority Project



#### 2.2.4 Coastal paths and walkways

There is a range of walks and coastal pathways in Groomsport. An assessment is required to establish how these paths can be better connected and promoted to encourage greater use. The aim is to develop a range of walks which could be promoted as short, medium and long walks to suit all abilities.

#### 2.2.5 Beach access and changing facilities

Improved changing facilities and access to the beach for people living with a disability is needed in the village.

The provision of wheelchair walkways with Mobi-matting would enable easier access to the beach for wheelchair users. This could also see the creation of a square platform which creates a beach base for families, either by installing Mobi-matting or building a semi-permanent structure.

To help meet the aims of the Changes Places<sup>8</sup> campaign and improve changing facilities at the beach, the current disabled toilet should be enhanced to incorporate a changing facility. The entrance step into the male and female toilets needs to be removed to provide for disability access and a hoist could be installed as part of the works.

### 2.3 SPORTS AND RECREATION

#### 2.3.1 Increased participation in sport

As part of supporting healthy lifestyles those consulted is keen to encourage greater participation in sport. It is recognised that sport can also help attract visitors and support the local economy as demonstrated by the Groomsport Triathlon.

Support is needed for the development of a junior football team for ages 6+ at Meadows Football Club. In addition, a range of improvement works is required at the tennis courts in order to encourage increased use by the local community. The priority is to resurface the courts but there is also a need for repair works to fencing and signage.

## OUTCOME 3: A CONNECTED, SECURE AND SAFE GROOMSPORT

### 3.1 ROADS AND ACCESS

#### 3.1.1 Resurfacing of The Point

The Point, which is accessed off Main Street along the western edge of Groomsport's seafront area, is a private road which provides access to seven residences as well as a service access to a small pumping station at its northern end.

This street and turning circle is used by people, both by car and on foot, who wish to access the coastline for walks. However, the surface is in a very poor condition with a number of large potholes. The action, which was included in the previous village plan, is to lay an appropriate surface on this key street and turning circle with a view to seeking full adoption by Roads Service, in relation to its future maintenance. An assessment of options to deliver this action could be completed and a preferred option agreed with key statutory stakeholders.

#### 3.1.2 Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads

Consultation has 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 conditioning assessment is undertaken in the village and a prioritised programme of remedial works developed for future delivery.

#### 3.1.3 Improve the quality, surface and maintenance of key footpaths

Following consultation with the local community a programme of footpath improvement works to identify and prioritise problematic footpaths in the local area is to be agreed with the local community in consultation with the Department for Infrastructure. This will seek to address the poor condition of many existing footpaths in the local area.

Consultees also wish to see the clean-up of moss-covered paths and roads, as well as regular grass, hedge cutting and spraying of weeds along the bypass.

#### 3.1.4 Railings at harbour

The provision of railings around the harbour area, Harbour Road, could improve safety and the visual appearance of this area. As this is a functional, working harbour with boats requiring both access and storage the proposed design, location and scale of the railings will require careful consideration and consultation. The design of the railings should also be in keeping with the character of the village and suitably resistant to the marine environment.

<sup>8</sup> www.changing-places.org



### 3.2 PUBLIC TRANSPORT

#### 3.2.1 Increased provision of public transport services

A lack of public transport to surrounding areas, including Donaghadee and Bangor was highlighted as a barrier to accessing services, and visiting friends and family. 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.

### 3.3 ROAD SAFETY AND TRAFFIC CALMING

#### 3.3.1 Traffic calming measures

Excessive speeding through the village is a key concern for those consulted in Groomsport who highlighted that the 50mph speed limit along the Donaghadee Road is largely ignored.

A range of traffic calming measures could be considered in order to address and mitigate traffic speeds. 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.

#### 3.3.2 Pedestrian crossing and road signage

A pedestrian crossing is required between the boathouse and promenade. The road signage in Groomsport should be fixed, and maintained on a regular basis. A particular issue relates to road signage at Groomsport roundabout which appears to be damaged on a regular basis.

### OUTCOME 4: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

#### 4.1 SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

##### 4.1.1 Public access Wi-Fi

Those consulted believe that public access Wi-Fi, which is available in some larger towns and cities, could provide a positive experience for visitors to the local area. A study could be undertaken to examine the options and potential benefits that could be achieved by the provision of free to use Wi-Fi in public areas.

##### 4.1.2 Local trader scheme

A number of local businesses highlighted the potential of developing a local 'voucher' or discount scheme for visitors to the area. This could encourage visitors to visit businesses and avail of a special promotional rates or discounts. This action is about supporting local businesses to develop a 'group package' scheme to provide joined-up promotional offers or voucher schemes for tourists/visitors.

##### 4.1.3 Support for business start-up and growth

There are a number of micro and SME businesses focused on craft or food produce based in Groomsport. These businesses and start-ups could benefit from support in terms of business mentoring, business growth and encouraging routes to market. This could enable retailers to carry produce from these small craft and cottage businesses, supporting pop-up shops or encouraging owners to take stalls at farmers markets.

##### 4.1.4 Develop a local identity or theme

There would be a benefit from a stronger identity or agreed theme. This could support ongoing actions to promote the area, attract visitors and increase the profile of the village. The local community should work 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.

### OUTCOME 5: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE

#### 5.1 VILLAGE APPEARANCE

##### 5.1.1 Provision of gateway signage

Scope exists to improve the welcome signage in Groomsport. There are four key gateway points with the first along Bangor Road, two alongside Donaghadee Road either side of Springwell Road, and Springwell Road itself.

In addition, consideration could be given to placing artwork, planting, lighting and other visual improvements at key gateway points.

##### 5.1.2 Dog fouling and littering

A key concern expressed by consultees is the prevalence of dog fouling across the local area including the beach and coastal walks. This could be addressed via the installation of additional bins along these key walking routes and beaches within the village, supported by adequate enforcement and education. Those consulted also wish to see an increase in the provision of litter bins throughout the immediate village area, including replacement of old/broken bins, to address the problem of littering.

##### 5.1.3 Floral displays and tree planting

Groomsport has made significant progress with regards to the number and quality of floral displays, planters and hanging baskets within the village. This has been reflected in strong results in both Ulster in Bloom and Best Kept Village competitions. Those consulted wish to build on this success by using feedback from these competitions to improve floral displays, tree planting and greenery across the village over the next number of years.

##### 5.1.4 Low-level lighting along seafront

This proposal centres around the provision of low-level lighting along the seafront running from The Point to the harbour. New lighting would provide a safe environment for residents and visitors whilst improving the overall experience along the seafront. Lighting along this section must be restricted to low level to ensure that views over the coastline are not impaired. In addition the angle of security lighting at the harbour should be appropriate so as to prevent glare.

### 5.2 TOURISM AND PROMOTION OF LOCAL ASSETS

#### 5.2.1 Information on history and heritage of Groomsport

Groomsport has a long and fascinating history, dating back many centuries. There is an abundance of information to share in relation to its history, heritage, location and local wildlife. Its maritime history in particular provides an important theme to build upon in order to further grow tourism in the village. The design and installation of a series of linked information panels about the history and heritage of Groomsport could deliver benefits for the village in terms of tourism. Further consultation should be undertaken to agree the information to be presented and identify where best to locate the panels.

Those consulted also wish to see an updated tourist map for the local area to help promote the local area including key attractions, areas of interest and businesses.

#### 5.2.2 Facilities for motor homes

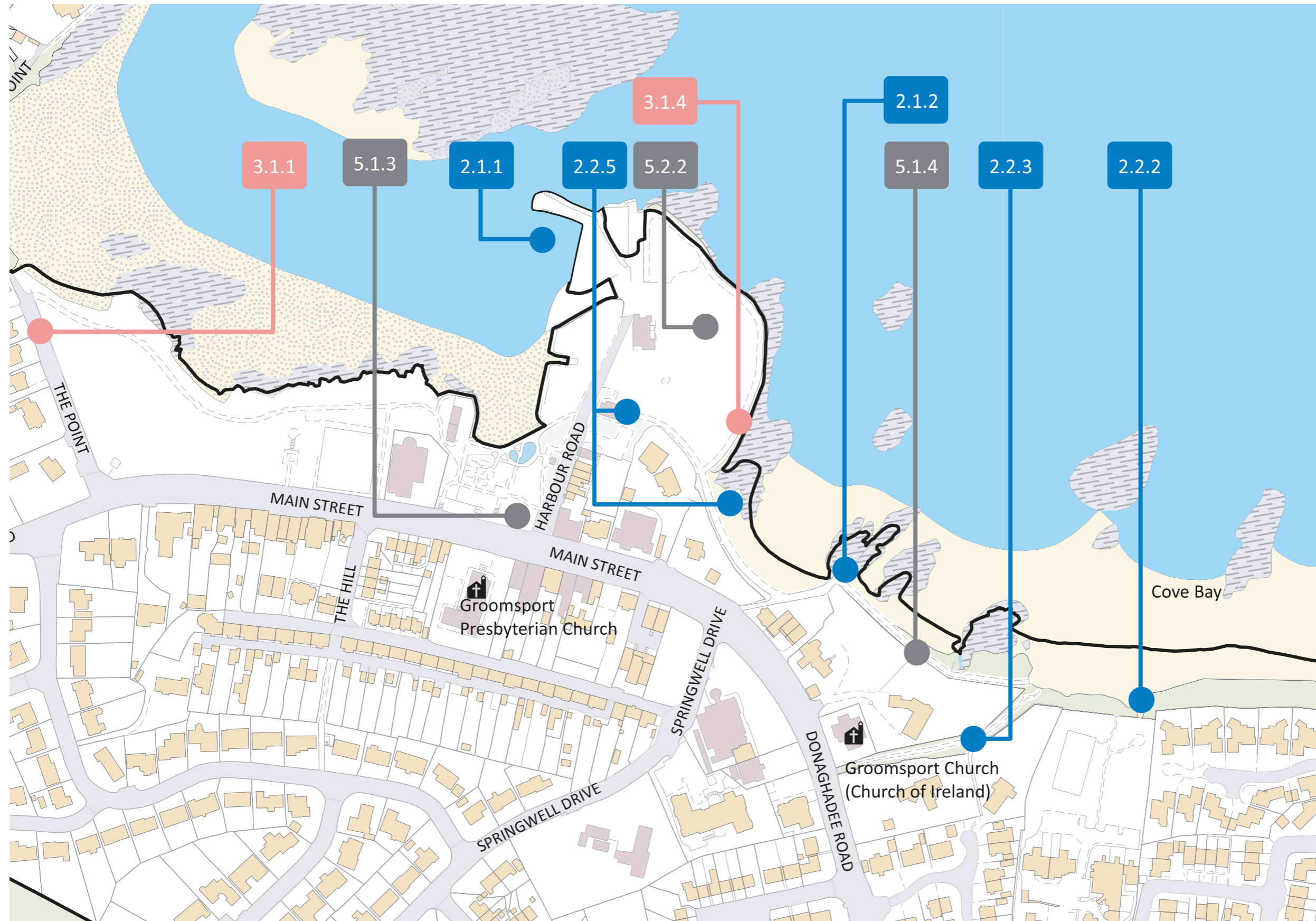
Those consulted would like to see the provision of suitable facilities for motor homes, overnight parking and associated services, toilets, charge points, fresh drinking water and waste water disposal, at the boathouse car park. This could encourage more people to choose Groomsport as a place to visit and as an overnight destination, which would contribute to the local economy.

#### 5.2.3 Promotion of environmental tourism

The tourism potential of Groomsport's coastal location and access to the sea should be capitalised on. It is important that the development of tourism initiatives is sensitively introduced to complement the character of the village and develop a distinct 'draw' for visitors. This is likely to build on the unique character of the village, its heritage and strong maritime history.

This action is about developing an agreed programme of activities to promote Groomsport as a tourist destination. Those consulted wish to maximise the potential from environmental tourism such as bird watching, marine environment, nature and coastal walks, and the marine environment. This will also link to the Council-wide strategy to encourage increased visitor numbers to the Ards Peninsula.

6.1 MAP OF GROOMSPORT VILLAGE ACTIONS



**OUTCOME 2 - A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE GROOMSPORT**

- 2.1.1 Improve facilities to support sea-based activities
- 2.1.2 Trim trail
- 2.2.2 Boardwalk along beach at Cove Bay
- 2.2.3 Beach access from Main Street
- 2.2.5 Beach access and changing facilities

**OUTCOME 3 - A CONNECTED, SAFE AND SECURE GROOMSPORT**

- 3.1.1 Resurfacing of The Point
- 3.1.4 Railings at harbour

**OUTCOME 5 - SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN GROOMSPORT**

- 5.1.3 Floral displays and tree planting
- 5.1.4 Low-level lighting along seafront
- 5.2.2 Facilities for motor homes

Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - © Crown Copyright and Database Right

\*Wider Village Projects - Location to be agreed

# 7 Delivery of Groomspport Village Plan

## 7.1 INTRODUCTION

The key aim of the Groomspport Village 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 Groomspport 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 upon 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 which 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 the 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 within 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 initial plan produced in March 2013. Some actions remain a priority so have been carried over into this plan, other actions have been amended to reflect the progress achieved (or changing need) whilst other actions will be new. Therefore, the action plan outlines the following indicators:

- Existing action: an action which has been included (in full) from the original March 2013 plan;
- Amended action: an action which had been included in the original March 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 March 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 has 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 Groomspport 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 each outcome and indicator are included in Table 2.

In addition, the action plan 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 (see 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 GROOMSPORT INTEGRATED VILLAGE ACTION PLAN (2018–2023)

OUTCOME 1: GROOMSPORT - 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 activities and programmes for young people	M	New	GVA	ANDBC, CDRCN	1.8, 2.4, 2.6
	1.1.2	Development of activities to support engagement and inclusion of older people	M	New	GVA	ANDBC, CDRCN	1.4, 1.8, 2.4, 3.5
	1.1.3	Community events and information sharing	S	Amended	GVA	ANDBC, CDRCN	1.4, 1.8, 2.4
	1.1.4	Community Space and usage	M	New	GVA	ANDBC, CDRCN	1.8, 2.4
	1.1.5	Outreach of Key Community Services	M	New	GVA	ANDBC, CDRCN, service providers	1.4, 2.3, 2.4
OUTCOME 2: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE GROOMSPORT							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
2.1 Harbour and Beach Area	2.1.1	Improve facilities to support sea-based activities	M	Amended	ANDBC (Leisure)	GVA, DfI	1.8, 2.4, 4.1, 4.5
	2.1.2	Trim trail	M	Amended	ANDBC	GVA, DfI	
2.2 Improved Paths and Coastal/ Beach Walks	2.2.1	Coastal path – Ballyholme to Orlock	L	Amended	ANDBC	GVA, DfI, ORNI	
	2.2.2	Boardwalk along beach at Cove Bay	L	New	ANDBC (Regen)	GVA, NIEA	2.4, 4.5, 5.7, 5.8
	2.2.3	Beach access from Main Street	S/M	New	ANDBC (Regen)	GVA, DfI	
	2.2.4	Coastal paths and walkways	L	Amended	ANDBC	GVA, DfI, NIEA, ORNI	
	2.2.5	Beach access and changing facilities	M	New	ANDBC (Env Serv)	GVA, Mae Murray Foundation	2.4, 4.5
2.3 Sports and Recreation	2.3.1	Increased participation in sport	M	New	GVA	ANDBC leisure	2.4

OUTCOME 3: A CONNECTED, SECURE AND SAFE GROOMSPORT							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
3.1 Roads and Access	3.1.1	Resurfacing of The Point	L	Existing	GVA, local residents	Dfi, ANDBC	3.2, 5.7
	3.1.2	Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads	S	Amended	Dfi	ANDBC, GVA	
	3.1.3	Improve the quality, surface and maintenance of key footpaths	M	Amended	Dfi	ANDBC, GVA	
	3.1.4	Railings at harbour	M	New	ANDBC	GVA	
3.2 Public Transport	3.2.1	Increased provision of public transport services	M	Existing	Translink	ANDBC, GVA	5.11
3.3 Road Safety and Traffic Calming	3.3.1	Traffic calming measures	M	Amended	Dfi	ANDBC, GVA, PSNI	3.2
	3.3.2	Pedestrian crossings and road signage	M	New	Dfi	ANDBC, GVA	

OUTCOME 4: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT IN GROOMSPORT							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
4.1 Supporting Local Business and Economy	4.1.1	Public access Wi-Fi	S	New	ANDBC	GVA	5.3
	4.1.2	Local trader scheme	M	New	Local businesses	GVA, ANDBC	4.2, 4.4
	4.1.3	Support for business start-up and growth	M	New	ANDBC (Regen)	GVA	1.5, 4.1, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8
	4.1.4	Develop a local identity or theme	M	New	GVA	ANDBC, GVA, TNI	

OUTCOME 5: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE IN GROOMSPORT							
Action	Plan Reference	Description	Timescale [S, M, L]*	Action Status	Lead Partner(s)	Stakeholders	Success Indicators
5.1 Village Appearance	5.1.1	Provision of gateway signage	S	Amended	ANDBC (Regen)	GVA, Dfi	2.4, 4.2, 4.4, 5.4, 5.7
	5.1.2	Dog fouling and littering	S	Existing	ANDBC (Env Serv)	GVA	
	5.1.3	Floral displays and tree planting	S	New	ANDBC (Regen)	GVA	
	5.1.4	Low- level lighting along seafront	M	New	ANDBC (Regen)	GVA	
5.2 Tourism and Promoting 'Local Assets'	5.2.1	Information on history and heritage of Groomsport	M	New	ANDBC (Regen)	GVA, TNI	4.2, 4.4, 4.5
	5.2.2	Facilities for motor homes	M	New	ANDBC (Tourism)	GVA, TNI	
	5.2.3	Promotion of environmental tourism	M	New	ANDBC (Tourism)	GVA, TNI, ORNI, Ulster Wildlife	

**Abbreviations:**

- GVA** – Groomsport Village Association
- DfC** – Department for Communities
- ANDBC** – Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Dfi** – Department for Infrastructure
- CDRCN** – County Down Rural Community Network
- PSNI** – Police Service of Northern Ireland
- NIEA** – Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- ORNI** – Outdoor Recreation NI
- 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

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

NB: these indicators may change and evolve over time.

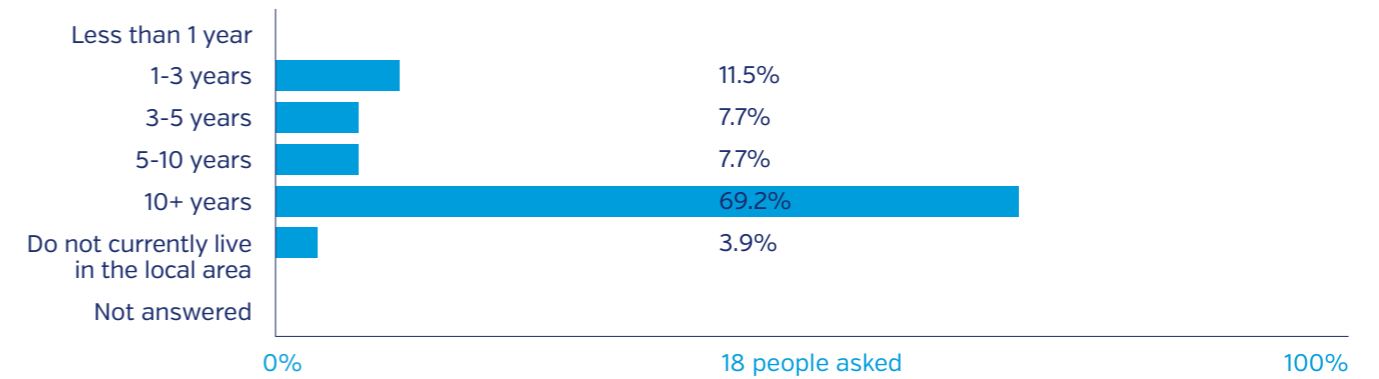
## 8 Appendices

### APPENDIX A – GROOMSPORT COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

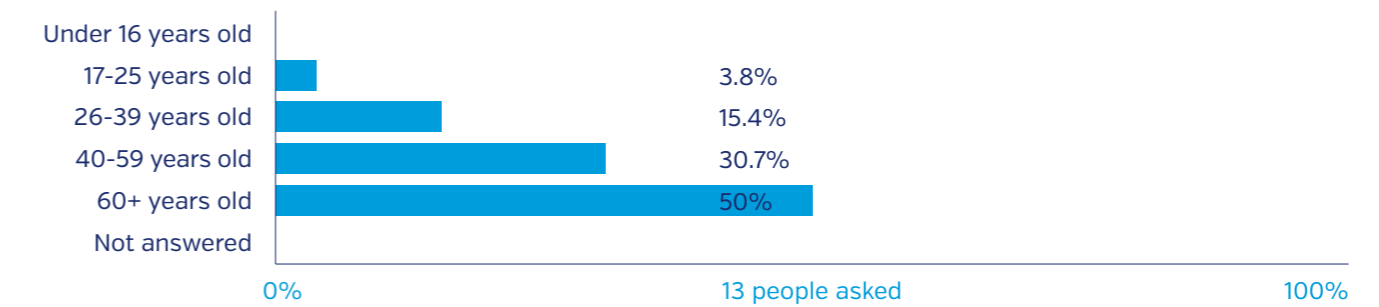
The summary results from all questions included in the community survey for Groomsport have been provided in this appendix.

#### GROOMSPORT COMMUNITY SURVEY – SUMMARY RESULTS

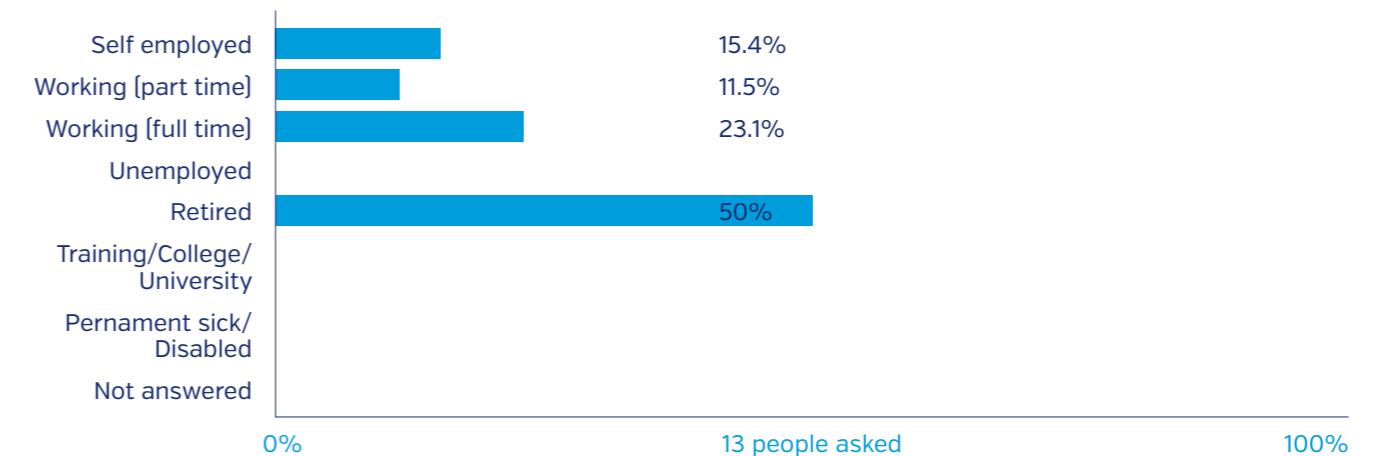
**Question 1:** How long have you lived in Groomsport?



**Question 2:** What is your age?



**Question 3:** What is your employment status?



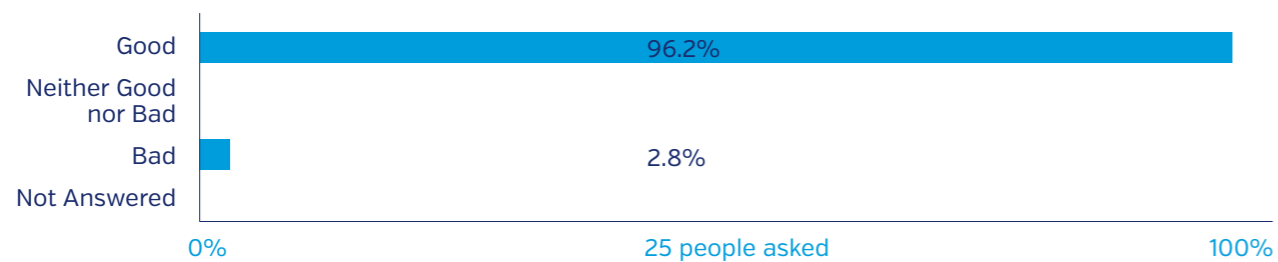
**Question 4 & 5:** How many people, including yourself, are there in your household in each of the following age groups?

Age Group		Number in Household										Not Answered	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+		
0-4	Male	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
	Female	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
5-17	Male	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
	Female	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
18-35	Male	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
	Female	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
36-50	Male	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
	Female	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
51-65	Male	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
	Female	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
65+	Male	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
	Female	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25

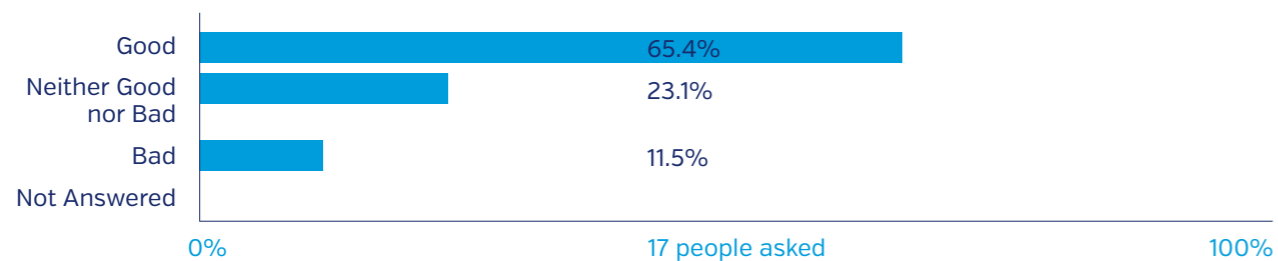
[Note: The number of people in each household has been presented according to age and gender. For example, in 'Age Group 0-4' there are three households with one male child, and nine households with one female child].

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

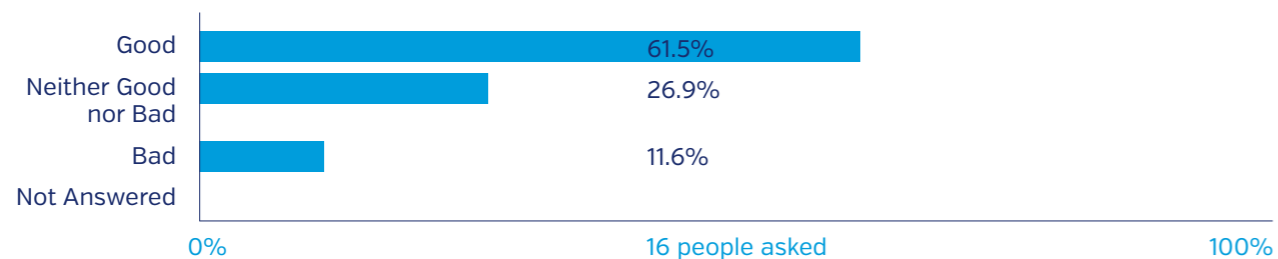
6.1 Rate the quality of life in Groomsport



6.2 Rate the facilities available in Groomsport



6.3 Rate the services available in Groomsport



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

- Little or no crime
- It's a village, rather than a town. It does not have vast complexes of shops and pubs yet is close to those amenities. Good beach, good walks, good representation by local shop keeper.
- Our fellow villagers some of whom we know for over sixty years. The absence of crime, the calm and beauty of the village.
- Usually peaceful and quiet, close to the seaside and country it's a small village and close to Bangor and Donaghadee, most of my family life here
- Quiet, friendly and beautiful place. Ideal for retired folk.
- Groomsport is a quiet village with beautiful views & beautiful beaches.
- I really enjoy the summer concert, last year the tribute band was amazing & the fireworks were brilliant, a brilliant family night.
- Cockle row cottages are great asset to the village with great free events for families at the weekend.
- Small quiet village. Born and bred here. Lovely beach, great for walks.
- Strong sense of community. Beautiful location
- The people
- The proximity to the sea
- Tranquility.
- Everything close-by
- Relaxation, coastal location, smaller community.
- This is a quiet village but still close to a large urban area and wider transport links locally and abroad. The main amenities relate to our local marine environment and include access to the North Down Coastal path and boating. There are significant numbers of wild birds to attract birdwatchers and occasional sightings of seals and sea otters. These would be our main reasons for liking the area.
- Plenty for children to do - beach, swings, park
- Groomsport is an idyllic, scenic town which is constantly maintained to keep it clean and tidy. Its beauty is in its traditional rural vista, the pleasure of Cockle Island with its Avian inhabitants, and the close proximity to National Trust Ballymacormack Point which is like a piece of Donegal. The air is clean and fresh, and every day the sea presents a different backdrop.
- Location and friendliness of people
- The beach
- Cockle row
- Freedom
- The swings
- The Spar
- Eating
- A picturesque village away from the busy town centre of Bangor but easily accessible
- Village atmosphere.

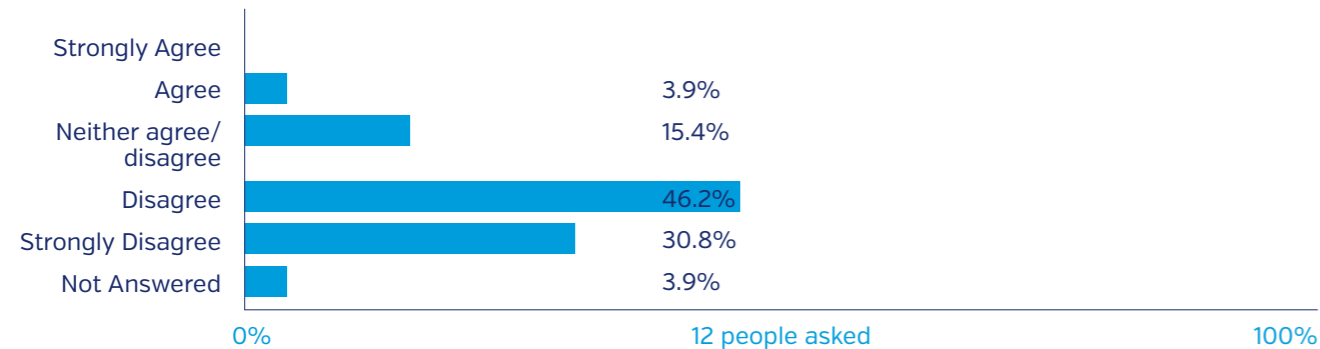


**Question 8:** What is the key issue that needs to be addressed in Groomsport?  
If you have ideas on how this issue should be addressed please let us know.

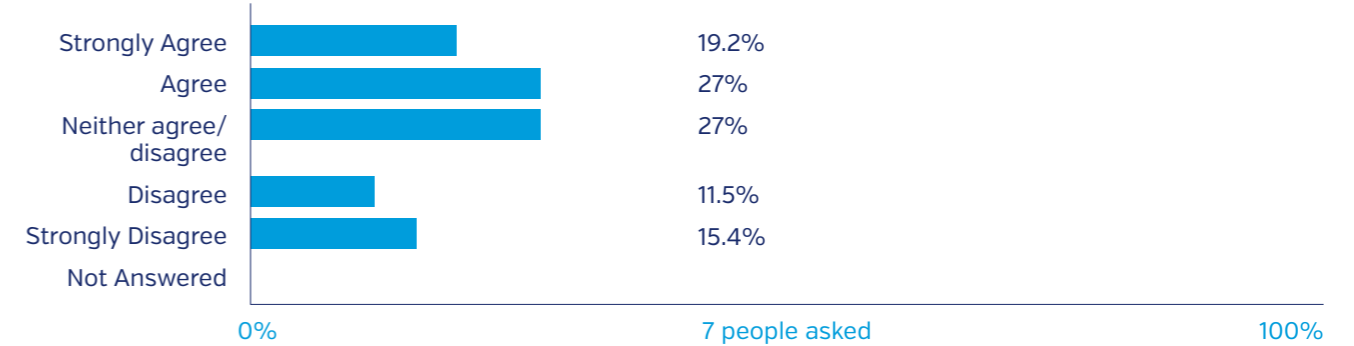
- Dog fouling on the beach
- Not enough litter bins on the main street. None between the Spar and Donaghadee bypass.
- Could do with some weed control on the bypass - may not be a local issue?
- Primary education
- Keeping the fields around Groomsport a green belt area.
- I find out walking a number of dog owners seem to let their dog foul anywhere and just leave it on the ground . I do not think a dog toilet would solve this problem.
- Parking on yellow lines on the Main St it's very difficult to see trying to get out from the Harbour Rd
- Get street lights that are out fixed more quickly, think the council should give the money to Roy for Village in Bloom instead of over kill with large planters .
- Speed through the village 30mph largely ignored
- Same on bypass Donaghadee Road - 50mph largely ignored
- The dog walking ban is unfair as the beach is mostly empty
- It needs modernised
- I am a resident of the Point and feel the roadway could be utilised to the benefit of all who use the area; a wide range of recreational walkers, joggers yachtsmen, birdwatchers etc and have tried over the years (30 plus) to engage to see if a scheme might be funded. Disability access is very poor; used to see wheelchairs being pushed up and down: not any more. As a gateway to National Trust Land it does rather let the village down.
- The Point. This road has deteriorated to the extent that it is dangerous. The Point is essential for residents to access their homes. It is designated as "unclaimed". Its majority usage is by the public and as a starting point for dog owners, walkers, or families wanting to picnic or play.
- The surface and appearance of The Point. It is used by locals and visitors to park and to access the coastal path and the park, yet the surface has degraded severely.
- Maintenance and upgrading of the environment
- The village association are a minority who do not speak for the residents. They nominate each other!
- It is now an eyesore whose restoration would greatly enhance the beauty of the village.
- It needs to be modernised instead of held back
- Lack of simple facilities to make the best use of the coastal paths
- Flag flying in the public realm which makes it into a 'politically active' zone instead of being a neutral zone.
- Keep Groomsport as a village, restrict housing development.
- Dog dirt along the path at the beaches.
- The undoubted attractiveness of our coastline is sadly not reflected in the areas of access to beaches and coastal path.
- Dog owners/ walkers need to be more vigilant about cleaning up their dog mess

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

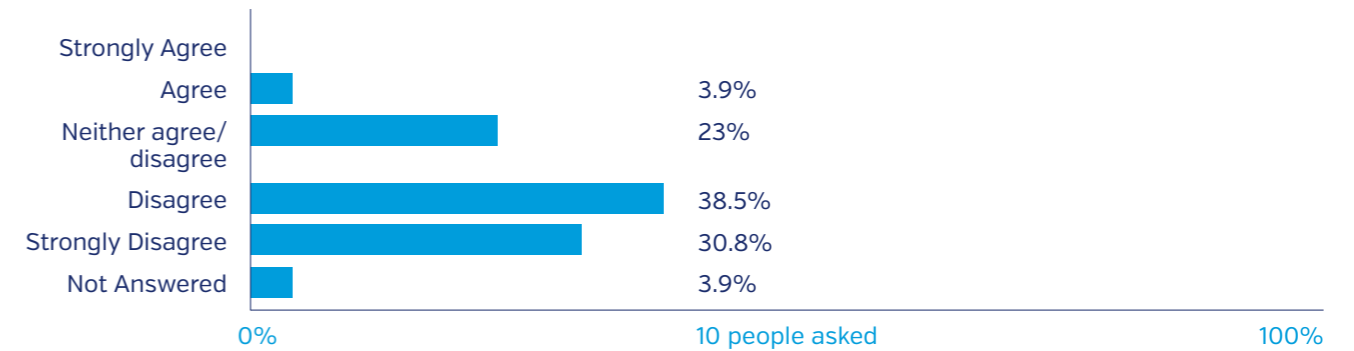
9.1 I am not aware of the range of services and facilities available in Groomsport



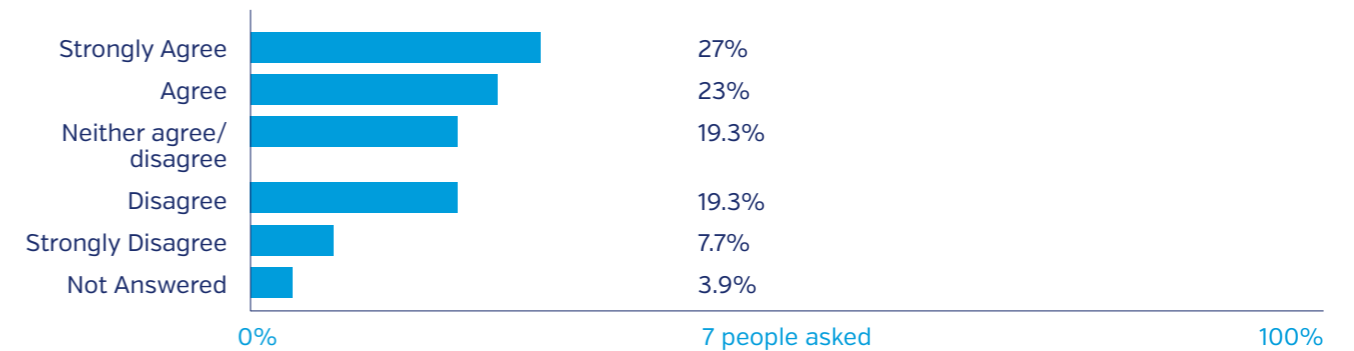
9.2 I feel that there is sufficient information about the services and facilities available in Groomsport



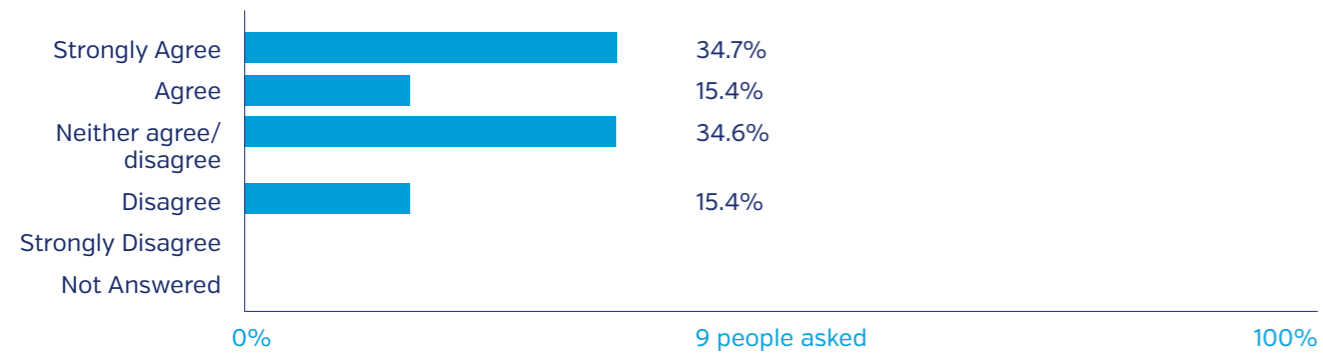
9.3 I find accessing services in Groomsport difficult and rarely use them



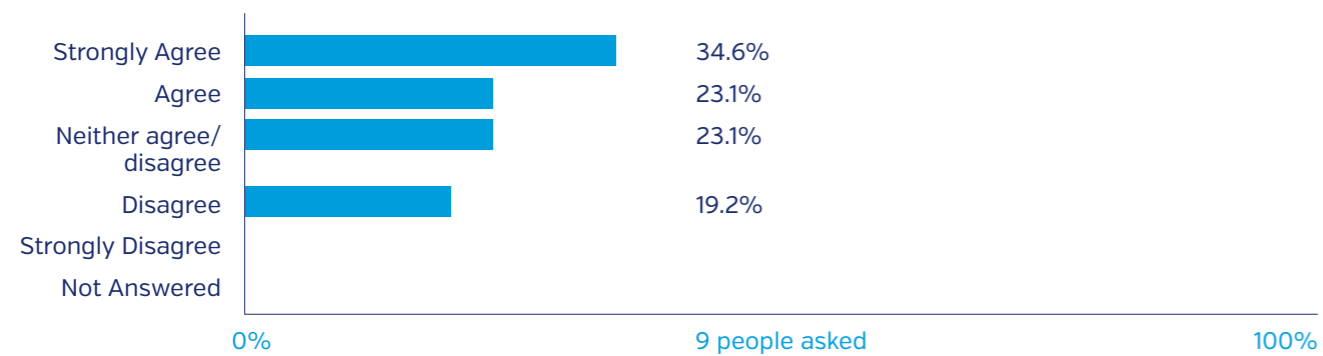
9.4 I access and use community facilities or services on a weekly basis



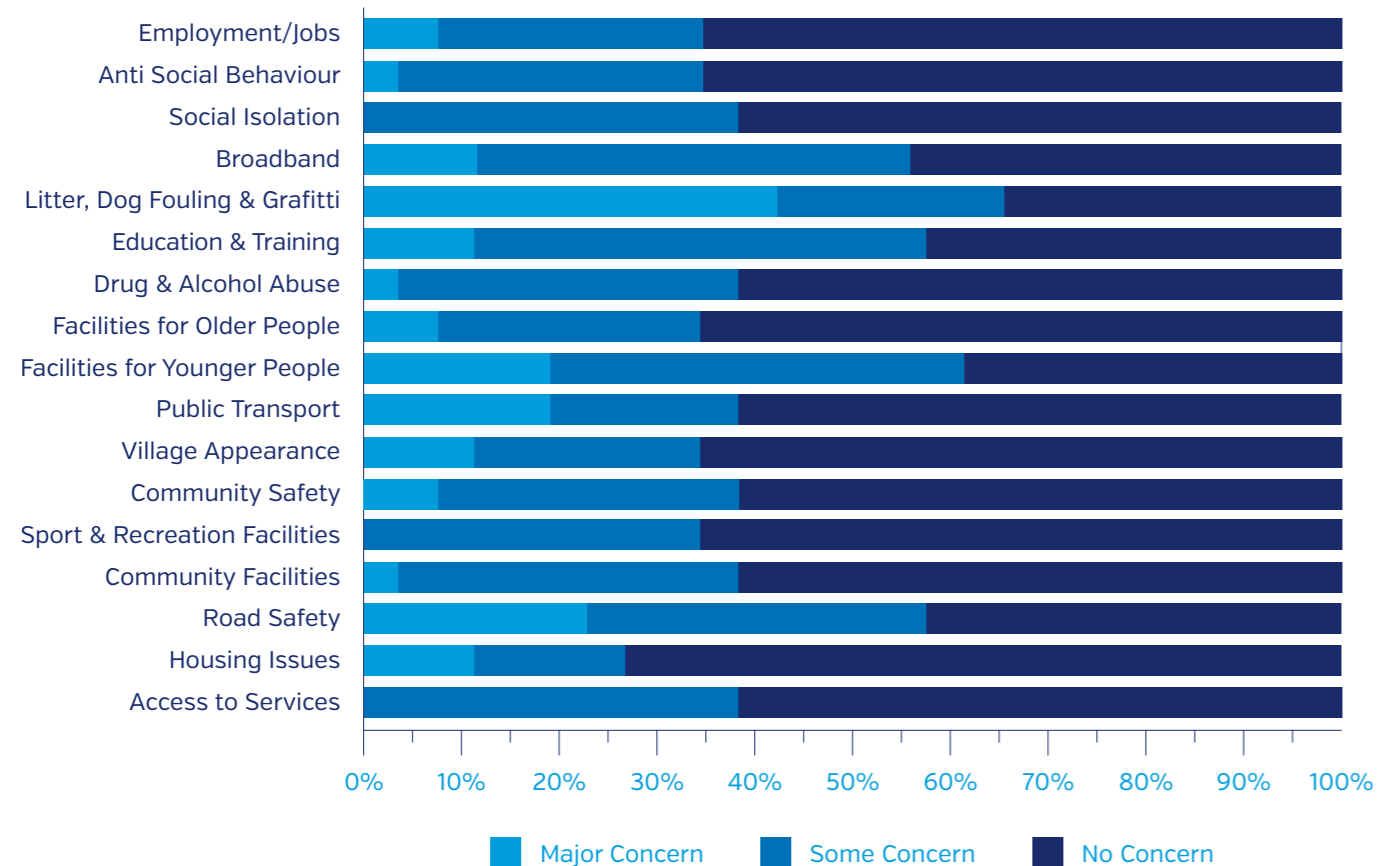
9.5 Services and facilities in Groomsport are reflective of local needs



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



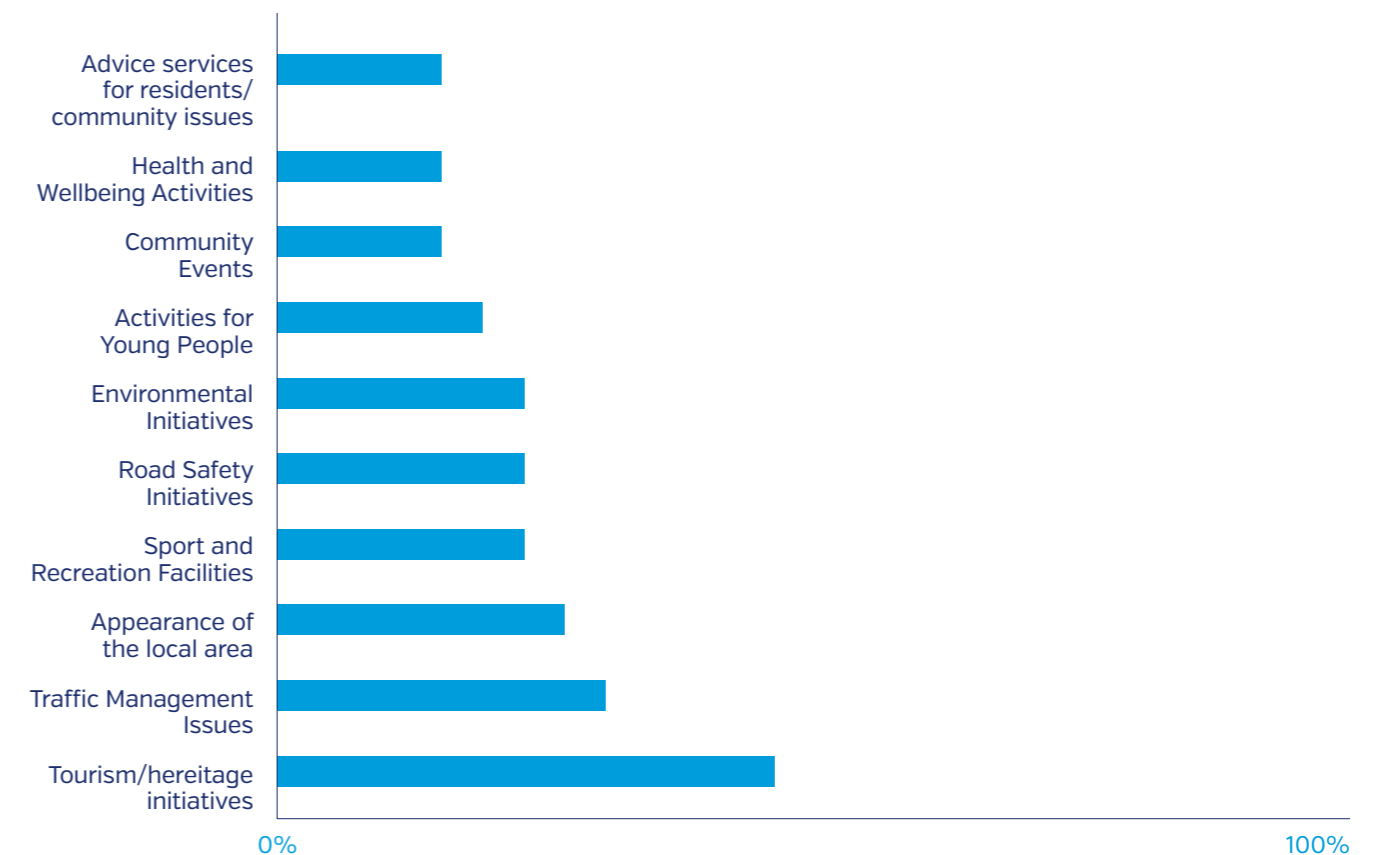
**Question 10:** A number of issues that may affect the local area are listed below - please respond to each of the issues listed as to whether you feel it is of 'No Concern', 'Some Concern' or 'Major Concern'.



**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 Groomsport.



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



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

- We would like more activities for older people in the village.
- Dog fouling on Groomsport beaches. Inattentive dog owners.
- Church path/lane from Main Street to beach needs to be refurbished for pedestrian access by all residents.
- More litter bins on Main Street and the harbour.
- We are an elderly community and we need to keep some emphasis on provision for the younger members of the community in employment and leisure activities
- How to have a voice as a normal resident
- Lighting on the bypass at night, especially in bad weather
- Promote the use of the sea/harbour/slipway/beach for out-of-peak-season users
- My priority is to have (as already mentioned) a religion/political passive public realm. The design of the public realm should facilitate a passive/neutral public realm.

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

- I know it will not happen but I would like a school back again, a health centre and a chemist
- The 2013 plan seems outdated already and although there are aspects of it that are still very appropriate the dog toilet and some aspects of the gentrification also seem outdated.
- Focus on bringing people into the village to enjoy our marine environment.
- Triathlons have been very successful and regular groups of walkers and birdwatchers use the coastal path.
- The Main St area is always going to be rather soulless so I think the harbour/cottage/beach areas are the main draw and should be the emphasis.
- Modernise the village. Approve progressive planning permission
- Modernise
- Stop the summer dog lead ban.
- Have a committee who actually represent the village
- Modernise. No going backwards
- Communicate what positive actions have been delivered from the previous village plan, to give the process some credibility and more community engagement.



**Appendix B. Tracking and Monitoring Template**

OUTCOME 1: GROOMSPORT - 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"> <li>• Complete needs assessment with older people / men.</li> <li>• At least one new programme for older people</li> <li>• At least one new programme for older men</li> </ul>	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 activities and programmes for young people			
	1.1.2 Development of activities to support engagement and inclusion of older people			
	1.1.3 Community events and information sharing			
	1.1.4 Community Space and usage			
	1.1.5 Outreach of Key Community Services			
OUTCOME 2: A HEALTHY AND ACTIVE GROOMSPORT				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs (date)	Status
2.1 Harbour and Beach Areas	2.1.1 Improve facilities to support sea-based activities			
	2.1.2 Trim trail			
2.2. Improved Paths and Coastal/ Beach Walks	2.2.1 Coastal path – Ballyholme to Orlock			
	2.2.2 Boardwalk along beach at Cove Bay			
	2.2.3 Beach access from Main Street			
	2.2.4 Coastal paths and walkways			
	2.2.5 Beach access and changing facilities			
2.3 Sports and Recreation	2.3.1 Increased participation in sport			

OUTCOME 3: A CONNECTED, SECURE AND SAFE GROOMSPORT				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs (date)	Status
3.1 Roads and Access	3.1.1 Resurfacing of The Point			
	3.1.2 Resurfacing of minor, access and connecting roads			
	3.1.3 Improve the quality, surface and maintenance of key footpaths			
	3.1.4 Railings at harbour			
3.2 Public Transport	3.2.1 Improved provision of public transport services			
3.3 Road Safety and Traffic Calming	3.3.1 Traffic calming measures			
	3.3.2 Pedestrian crossing and road signage			

OUTCOME 4: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs (date)	Status
4.1 Supporting Local Business and Economy	4.1.1 Public access Wi-Fi			
	4.1.2 Local trader scheme			
	4.1.3 Support for business start-up and growth			
	4.1.4 Develop a local identity or theme			

OUTCOME 5: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY AND HERITAGE				
Outcome	Action	Output/Indicator(s)	Update on Actions/Outputs (date)	Status
5.1 Village Appearance	5.1.1 Provision of gateway signage			
	5.1.2 Dog fouling and littering			
	5.1.3 Floral displays and tree planting			
	5.1.4 Low-level lighting along seafront			
5.2 Tourism and Promoting 'Local Assets'	5.2.1 Information on history and heritage of Goomsport			
	5.2.2 Facilities for motor homes			
	5.2.3 Promotion of environmental tourism			



Ards and North Down Borough Council  
Town Hall, The Castle, Bangor, BT20 4BT

**T: 0300 013 3333**

**E: [enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)**

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.



This project was part-funded under Priority 6 (LEADER) of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union