

The Commons, Donaghadee

Concept Masterplan



Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC) have appointed AECOM as a landscape design led multi-disciplinary team to re-imagine the Commons Park as a great destination that can strengthen the market positioning and appeal of Donaghadee. Through offering a differentiated, compelling and appropriate experience it will add to both Ards and North Down as well as the wider Northern Ireland Tourism offer.

Donaghadee has a long maritime heritage with key assets in the harbour and RNLI Sir Samuel Kelly. It also has a wealth of listed buildings, structures and monuments which give the town its unique traditional character. Conservation Area status has protected the built heritage within its boundary. The coastline is also a major natural heritage asset protected through RAMSAR, ASSI and Outer Ards SPA designations. The town has also benefited from retaining its open spaces of which the Commons is the most significant. This provides a unique opportunity to create a linear coastal park of local and regional significance which will appeal to both locals and visitors building on its combined maritime, built and natural heritage assets to create a unique and distinctive visitor experience as part of the popular Mourne Coastal Route.

The Concept Masterplan offers:

- A new mixed use Visitor Hub with a primary focus on Donaghadee's impressive history.
- Creation of a modern, high quality and sustainable Coastal Park that is a hub for leisure and recreation providing connections to the Town and into the wider greenway networks currently being developed.
- Eco trail exploration of the old railway line.
- Integration of the Marina / Boatyard / Tennis / Bowls clubs into the wider park proposals.
- High end recreational activities such as a site, an in ground pump track, skate park and natural play area / outdoor gym to encourage all ages.

VISITOR HUB

CYCLE HUB

OUTDOOR GYM

IMPROVED PUBLIC REALM

PUBLIC ART

AIRE DE SERVICE CARPARK

PUMP TRACK

ACTIVITY PLAY ZONE