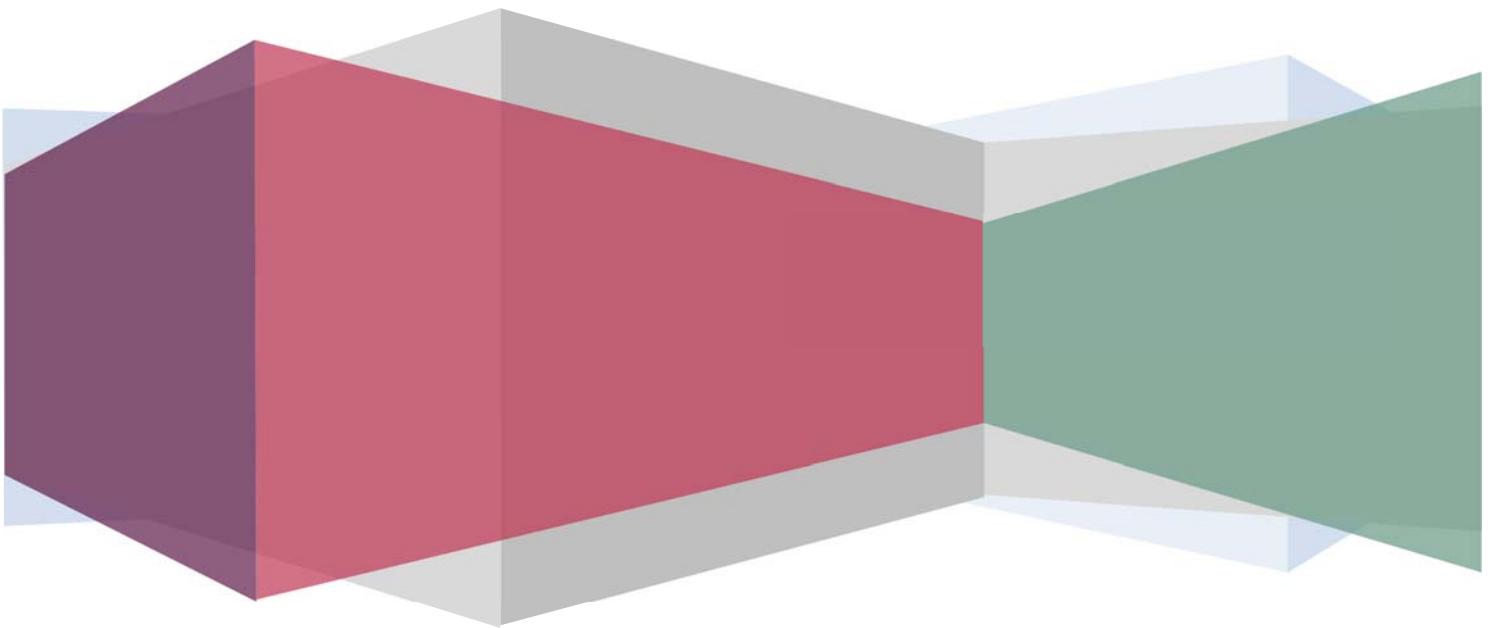


Community Places

# Community Planning is here: Get Involved!

Community Visioning Workshop 3  
Annalong Community Centre  
Friday 08 April 2016



This report was prepared by Community Places.



## **Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Community Visioning Workshops and Citizen Reporting**

This is the report of the third and final community visioning workshop taking place in the Mournes District Electoral Area, Newry Mourne and Down District Council. The visioning workshops are part of the Community Planning is here Get Involved! Project which aims to raise awareness of the new power of Community Planning and to provide opportunities for people to get involved in shaping the planning and provision of places and local services which matter to them.

Community Places, working together with Co Down Rural Community Network; Confederation of Community Groups Newry and District and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, facilitated the Community Visioning Workshops.

The visioning workshops offered participants the opportunity to:

- find out more about the new Power of Community Planning
- contribute ideas to improve the Mournes DEA
- discuss the role which Community Transport can play in addressing rural isolation and improving access to services
- work together with others to identify actions to make a difference.

The visioning workshops created a space for local people and organisations; councillors; council officers; service providers and other interested individuals to discuss these issues and to work together to address them. Complementing the community visioning process participants were also invited to take part in Citizen Reporting.

The project is supported through the Building Change Trust's Civic Activism Programme [www.buildingchangetrust.org/civic-thinking/Civic-Activism](http://www.buildingchangetrust.org/civic-thinking/Civic-Activism)

## Introduction

Louise O’Kane welcomed participants to the third and final Community Visioning Workshop. Louise reminded participants of the background to the project and activities undertaken to date. At the second workshop participants had considered priorities for the area and discussed initial actions. The focus of the third workshop was to build on this work, further develop and refine the emerging actions under each agreed priority; consider the key stakeholders who need to be involved to progress actions; and to develop a shared vision for the Mourne DEA.

## Refining Actions and Activities

Participants were invited to work together in groups to further develop and refine actions and activities which could help to address the agreed priorities. Each group was asked to identify 3-5 key actions. Participants were asked to focus on actions which they felt the people, knowledge and assets in the room could practically progress.

## Community Transport Services, Access to Services and Addressing Social Isolation

The primary priority area for action concentrates on maximising Community Transport services, improving access to services and addressing social isolation.

<p><b>Joint Priority A</b></p> <p><b>Increase Awareness of and Maximise Community Transport Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mourne Home to Hospital</li> <li>- Newry and Mourne Community Transport</li> <li>- Down Community Transport</li> <li>- Extended Service Provision</li> </ul>	<p><b>Joint Priority A</b></p> <p><b>Access to Services and Social Isolation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing information on services and support available e.g. carers’ grant</li> <li>- Mental health services</li> <li>- Drug and alcohol support</li> <li>- Child care provision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agreed Vision Statement</b></p>	<p>“To have a seamless Community Transport system to meet local needs and to connect service providers/support agencies to design a coherent referral system.”</p>
<p><b>Key Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarify and Maintain Mourne Home to Hospital scheme (Approximately £10,000 per DEA).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Who needs to be involved?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newry and Mourne Community Transport</li> <li>- SPACE</li> <li>- Southern Public Health Agency</li> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council (Funded by Southern PHA and Council).</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build a business case and create a Pilot for Down (South East) Home to Hospital scheme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Down Community Transport</li> <li>- County Down Rural Community Network</li> <li>- South Eastern Public Health Agency</li> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council (Funded by South Eastern PHA and Council).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure that South Eastern and Southern Trust's Drugs + Alcohol Coordinators work together to Map and Promote "who does what and where" in Mourne DEA and throughout the NMD Council area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trust Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordinators</li> <li>- County Down Rural Community Networks</li> <li>- Confederation of Community Groups Newry</li> <li>- Umbrella Community organisations.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All partners need to proactively work together to implement all current and future programmes tackling "Access to Services and Social Isolation" delivering in local towns and villages across the Mourne DEA. Develop this work at DEA and Thematic Forums.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level</li> <li>- Umbrella bodies</li> <li>- Statutory partners.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Link key partners into a "hub" to fast track individuals to information and services (e.g. CAB)</li> <li>- Recruit and train Core Volunteer Car/Driver scheme to sign post clients to other services and increase visibility of existing programmes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Citizens Advice Bureau</li> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level</li> <li>- Community Transport Volunteers</li> <li>- Community.</li> </ul>



*Participants refining actions under priority themes*

## Economy and Job Opportunities

The second priority area focuses on strengthening the local economy and creating job opportunities through tourism, the creative industries and local industry.

<p><b>Priority B</b></p> <p><b>Economy and Job Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tourism</li> <li>- Local industry</li> <li>- Good school provision</li> <li>- Manufacturing and Construction</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Vision Statement</b></p>	<p>“A thriving tourism destination that supports a broader community, creating jobs locally and reducing the number of commuters/young people leaving the area daily.”</p>
<p><b>Key Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Who needs to be involved?</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Target film and media development using the strengths of Mourne (beauty/mountains/sea)</li> <li>- Explore the opportunities from creative industries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level</li> <li>- Southern Regional College</li> <li>- South Eastern Regional College</li> <li>- Community Regeneration Groups.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitate high level discussions to ensure there are no barriers to creative industries using local sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NI Water</li> <li>- Translink</li> <li>- Forest Service</li> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level</li> <li>- Community.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take a serious look at Access Infrastructure to boost tourism and local business e.g. Greencastle Ferry, Roads, Parking, Cruise Ships docking facilities, Bridge at Narrow Water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level</li> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council through Local Development Plan process</li> <li>- Department for Infrastructure</li> <li>- Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</li> <li>- Community.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and promote events and activities to attract visitors both local and external</li> <li>- Bring experiences to life e.g. lobster touch tanks, Silent Valley events, Festivals,</li> <li>- ‘Bad weather’ facilities and activities</li> <li>- Marine Based Tourism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Tour Guides</li> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level</li> <li>- Tourism NI</li> <li>- Mourne Heritage Trust.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kilkeel Development Association</li> <li>- Community Groups</li> <li>- Bus operators.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revisit a “Mourne Brand” discussion</li> <li>- National Park for the High Mourne: building trust and benefits over time</li> <li>- Coastal Path “Portavogie to Greencastle” – our version of the Wild Atlantic Way.</li> <li>- Promote and link with “The Ancient East” Tourism Agenda</li> <li>- Business Networking and Clustering.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level</li> <li>- NI Water</li> <li>- Mourne Heritage Trust</li> <li>- Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership</li> <li>- Rural Community</li> <li>- Farming Community</li> <li>- Business Community.</li> </ul>



*Participants refining actions under priority themes*

### **Investing in Infrastructure**

Addressing the lack of investment in infrastructure was seen as the third priority area for action. Participants acknowledged that the preparation of the Local Development Plan by the Council offered a major opportunity to address many of these physical and spatial challenges. It was also noted that the visioning process offered an opportunity to enhance the link between the Community Planning process and the Local Development planning process, informing both processes and enabling better co-ordination and synergy between them.

**Priority C****Lack of Investment in Infrastructure**

- Roads
- Public transport
- Street lighting
- Broadband and telephone
- Banking services (cash businesses)
- Social and Affordable housing

**Vision Statement**

“Less talk – more action: Communities to be better connected. Co-ordination of plans and service providers.”

**Key Actions****Who needs to be involved?**

- Encourage use of mobile units by banks: e.g. Ulster Bank has a mobile unit
- Learn from good practice in rural areas of Wales where mobile units with both bank and post office facilities are available
- Encourage banks to come together to inform customers of this service
- Explore other ‘mobile’ services.

- Banks: Chief Executive Officer and Public Relations
- Local press
- Community notices.

- Raise and address major infrastructure issues through the Local Development Plan process
  - Sewerage infrastructure (at Annalong) to support approved Housing
  - Road infrastructure improvements
  - Transport Options
  - Housing
- Coordination of road openings by operators and service providers (telephone, broadband, gas etc.)
- Maintain scenic quality of area whilst also improving infrastructure.

- Planners, Newry Mourne and Down District Council
- Transport NI
- NI Water.

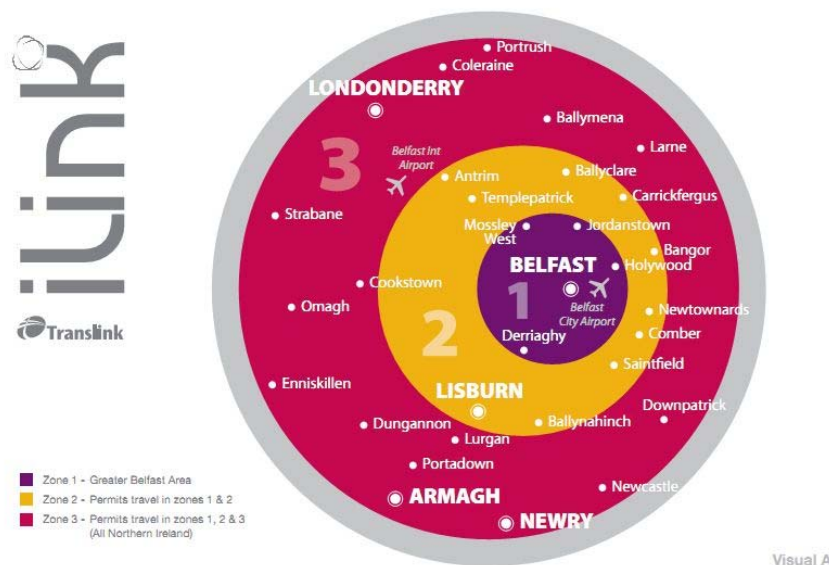
- Key stakeholders to sit on ‘Environment and Spatial’ Community Planning Thematic Group.

- Planners, Newry Mourne and Down District Council
- Community Planning Partnership Board
- Transport NI



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NI Water.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Explore Park and Ride service into Newcastle on peak days to reduce traffic congestion- along with a dedicated Bus Lane.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translink</li> <li>- Local transport companies.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lobby to improve telephone and broadband provision</li> <li>- Investigate investment BT made in 'Star Network' for broadband supply (A 'Star' network is defined as three or more sites connected via 2 or more circuits in a star configuration emanating from a central hub site. A Star network is no longer available for new supply.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BT</li> <li>- Broadband providers</li> <li>- Newry Mourne and Down District Council.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage local bus companies to offer travel options- similar to Rooney Transport to cater for commuters, older people and tourists</li> <li>- Explore changes to timetables to provide early/late transport options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Translink</li> <li>- Community Transport providers</li> <li>- Mourne bus companies.</li> </ul>

Participants raised a query over the Translink Zones which cover the region. It was thought that the limit of travel within zones 1 and 2 was shorter to the south of Belfast, therefore increasing costs for those living in the Newry Mourne and Down area. The zone coverage is illustrated below, although the schematic is not representative of distance, taking for example Antrim in the north of Zone 2 and Ballynahinch in the south of Zone 2, both are approximately 18 miles from Belfast.



## Networking

The fourth priority area for action focuses on effective co-ordination and networking between groups within the Mourne DEA and across the wider Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

<b>Priority D</b> <b>Networking Between Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better co-operation and working together</li> <li>- Effective groups and partnerships</li> </ul>	
<b>Vision Statement</b>	“Empowered groups effecting positive change and cohesion for all in our community.”
<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Who needs to be involved?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interagency meetings (expand Newry model across the other DEAs).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community, Interest, Sports and Faith groups and clubs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working through existing structures and networks: support community development, create connections and share ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community Network Organisations</li> <li>- DEA Co-ordinators.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop an On-line Directory Begin to scope and identify all groups across the Mourne DEA under the 4 Community Planning Themes: Economic Development and Regeneration; Health and Wellbeing; Environment and Spatial; and Safety and Good Relations.</li> <li>- Use this as a pilot for other DEAs</li> <li>- Develop and promote On-line Directory of Groups- involve young people in its development</li> <li>- Link with Voluntary and Community Forum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All community/voluntary groups within the Mourne Area</li> <li>- DEA Co-ordinators</li> <li>- Chairs of each of the Community Planning Thematic Groups</li> <li>- Voluntary and Community Forum.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to broaden and build on the Community Visioning process – could this be organised and developed by each DEA coordinator across the Council area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DEA Co-ordinators, Newry Mourne and Down District Council</li> <li>- Community Development Network Organisations.</li> </ul>

## Developing a Community Vision for the Mourne DEA

Participants were asked to work in groups to discuss and develop a community vision for the Mourne DEA.

Group A posed the question: What is unique about the Mourne? They agreed that it was the landscape and natural environment which was special. They also noted that there was a need for pragmatic development- which could bring jobs and income while safeguarding and protecting the environment. Group A proposed the following wording:

*“Balanced and appropriate development which preserves and protects the landscape and heritage and supports indigenous business.”*

Group B advanced key words which they felt were at the heart of the Mourne. These are presented in the following wordle cloud.



From these words they produced the following vision:

*“Healthy, vibrant, welcoming communities from the mountains to the sea.”*

The two vision statements can be merged to produce the following community vision for the Mourne DEA:

***“From the mountains to the sea, a place where balanced development preserves and protects the landscape and heritage; supports indigenous business; and where healthy, vibrant and welcoming communities are fostered.”***

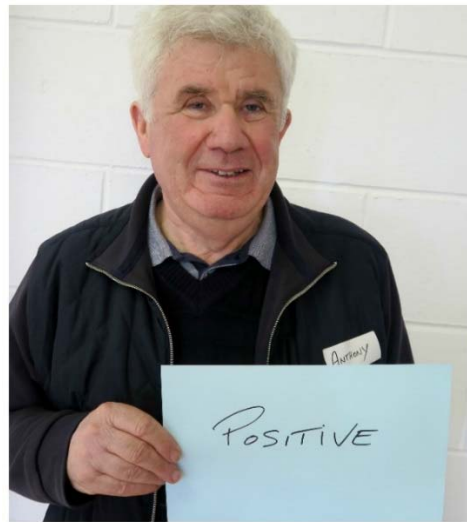
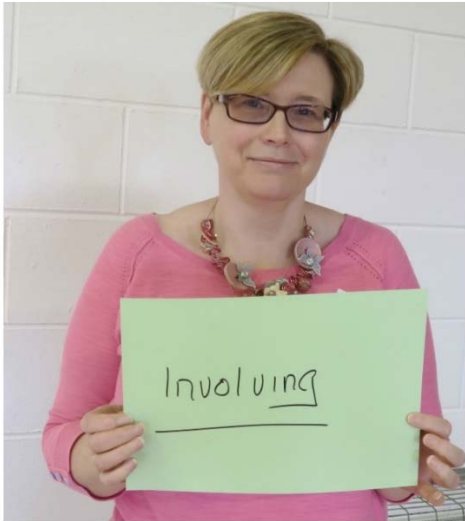
Interestingly, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's draft Community Planning Vision reflects and captures much of the aspiration of participants:

***“Newry, Mourne and Down is a place with strong, safe and vibrant communities where everyone has a good quality of life and access to opportunities, choices and high quality services which are sustainable, accessible and meet people’s needs.”***

### **Citizen Reporting – Reflecting on the Visioning Process**

As part of the citizen reporting technique participants were invited to reflect on their experience of participating in the visioning process. A selection of the messages and images are displayed below and have been shared through social media.





One of the participants below, getting to grips with Twitter and sending his first tweet at the workshop -Citizen Reporting in action!



## **Next Steps and Progressing the Vision**

Louise O’Kane thanked everyone for their time and the continued and active engagement which they gave to the community visioning process. Participants were encouraged to avail of opportunities to stay connected to the Community Planning process within the Mournes DEA. Several of the participants and representatives noted their commitment to continuing to work together to progress the priorities which had emerged from the community visioning process:

- **Increase Awareness of and Maximise Community Transport Services**
- **Improve Access to Services and Reduce Social Isolation**
- **Improve the Economy and Increase Job Opportunities**
- **Address Lack of Investment in Infrastructure**
- **Increase Networking Between Groups**

Heather McKee, Assistant Director- Community Planning acknowledged the good work which participants had produced through the visioning process and stressed that the process and findings would be utilised to inform community planning at the Mournes DEA level as it evolved over the coming months. It was felt that the three community visioning workshops had helped to place the Mournes DEA in a strong position which would support and advance local community planning activity.

Both County Down Rural Community Network and the Confederation of Community Groups Newry stressed the importance of working together with key stakeholders to advance action on the priority areas which had emerged through the visioning process. Louise O’Kane noted that it would be essential to continue to develop linkages with the Mournes DEA Forum and to build on rather than replicate the work emerging from the visioning exercise. It was also noted that many of the areas for action can be addressed through the Local Development Plan process, highlighting the need for both the Community Planning and Development Planning processes to complement and inform each other.

In order to aid dissemination of the community visioning findings, Community Places will produce a Report of the Workshop and a Summary Document outlining the visioning process and priority areas for action.

The reports and summary document will be shared widely, including on the project website [www.communityplanningishere.org](http://www.communityplanningishere.org), and can be used by participants and other key stakeholders to progress action.

## Appendix 1: List of Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Group or Organisation</b>
Aine McKeown	SPACE
Alex Ballas	Community Places
Anthony Corrigan	Murlough Community Association
Aisling Rennick	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Barbara Porter	Public Health Agency
Brian Groves	Newry and Mourne Community Transport
Camilla Fitzpatrick	Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership
Colette Burden	Glasdrumman GAC
Dan McCartan	Glasdrumman GAC
Heather McKee	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Louise O'Kane	Community Places
Marian Cully	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Nicholas McCrickard	County Down Rural Community Network
Pamela Houston	Kilkeel Development Association
Raymond Jackson	Confederation of Community Groups Newry
Rosemarie McDonnell	Citizens Advice Newry and Mourne





For further information on the Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Project please contact Louise O’Kane, Community Places:

[louise@communityplaces.info](mailto:louise@communityplaces.info) or alternatively call 028 9023 9444

[www.communityplanningishere.org](http://www.communityplanningishere.org)



[twitter.com/communityplaces](https://twitter.com/communityplaces)  
#getinvolved



[facebook.com/communityplaces](https://facebook.com/communityplaces)



Community Places

