



Community Places

Community Planning is here: Get Involved!

Community Visioning + Citizen Reporting

Mournes DEA Newry Mourne and Down District Council
June 2016



This report was prepared by Community Places June 2016



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Introduction

This is a report summarising a six-month Community Visioning process which took place between November 2015 and April 2016 as part of the Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Project in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area. Separate visioning workshop reports have been prepared and are available on the project website www.communityplanningishere.org

Project Background

The Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Project aims to raise awareness of the new power of Community Planning and to provide opportunities through the application of innovative engagement techniques for people to get involved in shaping the planning and provision of places and local services which matter to them. As part of the project we tested two engagement techniques: **Community Visioning** and **Citizen Reporting** in the Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA), in Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC).

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 process.

The project is supported by the Building Change Trust's Civic Activism Programme www.buildingchangetrust.org/civic-thinking/Civic-Activism

The Visioning Approach

Over the course of three workshops the visioning approach enabled participants to review and assess the area; explore issues; and identify priorities and actions to enable progress to be achieved:

Reflecting - the views of the community;
Realising - the distinctive characteristics of the Mournes area;
Releasing - the talent, skills, and energy of local stakeholders;
Recognising - local problems and exploring opportunities to overcome them;
Respecting - that there will be different views and opinions; and
Reimagining - how the Mournes area could be in the future¹.

What is Community Planning?

Community planning is a new way for councils, the community, voluntary and statutory sectors to engage with communities in working together to improve services where change is most needed. It will play a key role in the planning and delivery of local services and shaping local places.

¹ BIGLOCAL

The Local Government Act (2014) states: the Community Plan must identify long-term objectives and actions for:

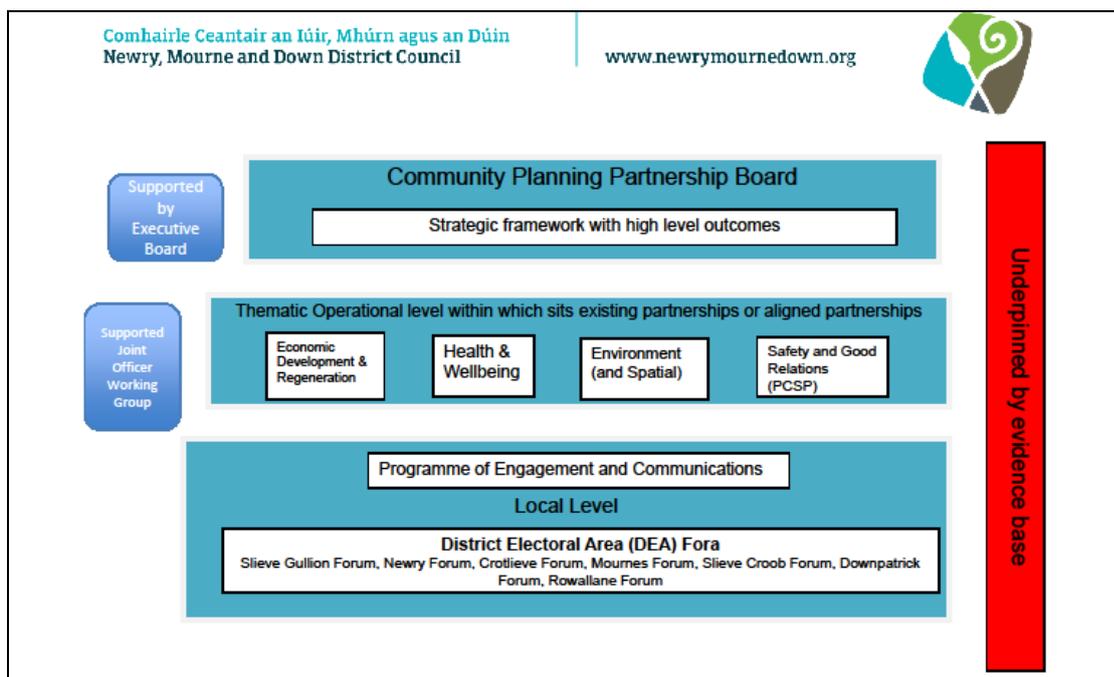
- improving social, economic and environmental well-being and tackling poverty, exclusion and disadvantage;
- contributing to achieving sustainable development across the region; and
- planning and improving public services.

Community Planning in Newry Mourne and Down District Council

A draft Community Planning Vision has been developed for the area:

“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.”

A Community Planning Partnership Board will oversee the delivery of the Community Plan which will be a strategic framework document with high level outcomes. There will be four key thematic operational areas: Economic Development and Regeneration; Health and Wellbeing; Environment and Spatial; and Safety and Good Relations. There will also be local community planning at a District Electoral Area level as illustrated in the diagram below.



Community Planning Structure

Mournes District Electoral Area (DEA)

Interestingly, the Mournes DEA is the only DEA that straddles the two legacy councils and operates across two Social Care Trusts and Education Authorities. It has the longest coastline of all the DEAs stretching from Murlough down to Killowen on the shores of Carlingford Lough. It neighbours both Slieve Croob and Crotlieve

DEAs. It is represented by 7 councillors: 2 SDLP, 2 Sinn Fein, 1 DUP, 1 TUV and 1 UUP covering the following 7 wards: Lisnacree, Binnian, Annalong, Donard, Murlough, Kilkeel and Tollymore. A detailed outline of key area facts and figures relating to Demographics; Safety; Health and Well-being; Economic Development and Regeneration; Environment and Education can be found in the Community Visioning Workshop 1 Report at www.communityplanningishere.org

Mournes DEA Forum

Alongside a strategic community planning process, Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) are adopting a local community planning process based at a District Electoral Area (DEA) level. There will be 7 DEA Forums established across the new Council area each with a DEA Co-ordinator. NICVA have been appointed to oversee the nominations process and all nominees must be a member of a network organisation. The Forum meetings will be minuted and reported at a strategic level in the Council. There will also be 4 - 5 public meetings per year for those who are not part of the forum to contribute to the process.



Mournes DEA

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 Mourne 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 process created a space for local people and organisations, councillors, council officers, service providers and other interested individuals to explore priorities and to work together to address them. Complementing the community visioning process participants were invited to take part in Citizen Reporting.

Workshop 1: Participants heard about Community Planning; worked together to identify the strengths and assets within the Mourne DEA; and considered the challenges faced by those living in or visiting the area.

Workshop 2: In groups, participants discussed and prioritised the issues informed by a Place Standard check process.

Workshop 3: Participants worked together to develop and refine actions and activities which could help to address the agreed priorities. Each group was asked to identify 3-5 key actions.

Throughout the process participants were asked to focus on issues and actions which they felt the people, knowledge and assets in the room could practically progress.



Participants at Workshop 1

Hidden Gems

Participants championed some of the assets and 'hidden gems' within the area, responses are presented below in the form of a word cloud. The Mourne Mountains, Coastline and coastal paths and Mourne Home to Hospital Service were some of the key gems identified.



Word Cloud of Hidden Gems

Strengths and Assets

The natural beauty and amenity of the area were highlighted as a key strength and asset. This included for example, the Mourne Mountains, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Silent Valley, Murlough, Greencastle, Forest parks and Coastal paths. It was noted that the area has enormous tourism potential with quality accommodation, a variety of restaurants and access to high quality produce, but that the area is in need of improved tourism infrastructure. Several participants highlighted the history and culture of the area. Others drew attention to the good sense of community, the people, the strong community infrastructure and networking between groups, the support provided through local sporting and church clubs and a strong volunteer base.

A number of participants stressed the value of community transport, specifically Mourne Home to Hospital, Newry and Mourne Community Transport, and Down Community Transport. Participants felt that community transport projects were an excellent example of partners working together to develop a local solution. Others noted that there are a number of existing local plans that should be drawn upon. Several responses related to the good school provision within the area and employment through BE Aerospace. It was felt that there were good levels of political cooperation and support for community projects. A number of people noted that while some areas across the Mournes DEA do have access to good services and facilitates other areas are extremely isolated and have little local service provision.

Challenges

Infrastructure provision was highlighted as a key challenge particularly in relation to roads; street lighting, public transport; and broadband, telephone and banking services (particular issue with a majority of cash businesses). The road infrastructure was identified as on the one hand a tourist asset (coastal route) and on the other an impediment to tourism development and to accessing services. The physical location was also seen as a challenge in relation to accessing hospitals and accident and emergency, located approximately 20 miles from health services in both Downpatrick and Newry. In addition, it was noted that many treatments are only provided further afield in Craigavon and Belfast. It was also stressed that it was difficult for non-car drivers to get to hospital and often very expensive if they had to rely on private taxis. Others noted that the area suffers from the highest rates of cancer yet it is one of the areas furthest away from treatment.



Participants exploring issues

The lack of other services including mental health services, drug and alcohol support, childcare provision, vocational training, social care and social and affordable housing were also highlighted. It was felt that poor access to such services contributed to a deep sense of social isolation. Others noted that getting information and 'the message' out to people e.g. carers' grant was also difficult and made more challenging due to the fact that two Social Care Trusts and two Education Authorities operated within the area. Some participants felt that the existing community transport provision should be extended to better meet the needs of people in the area and that it could be advertised more widely to increase awareness of the service and resultant usage. Employment was also identified as a central challenge however, a number of participants noted there were job opportunities in some local industries e.g. tourism, granite, agriculture and fishing. Others felt that it was hard to get people and especially younger people involved in local activities. One participant raised the issue of segregated communities noting that the majority of areas are either predominantly Protestant or Roman Catholic.

Emerging Issues

The following ten issues, both positive and negative, emerged from discussions at Workshop 1 and are summarised in the table below:

<p>Sense of Community and Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong sense of community (in some areas) - Support from community and sporting clubs - People are active and get involved (both young and old) but more could be done 	<p>Natural Beauty and Tourism Potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural beauty and coast line - Good accommodation, local produce and restaurants - Celebrate history and culture more - Better tourism infrastructure needed
<p>Networking Between Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better working together required - More effective groups and partnerships 	<p>Proximity and Access to Hospital and A&E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downpatrick & Newry Hospitals over 20 miles away which is a challenge - Access to cancer services in Craigavon and Belfast is poor - Expensive for non-car owners relying on taxis
<p>Community and Good Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better community relations needed - People feel safe and welcome 	<p>Increase Awareness and Maximise Community Transport Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mourne Home to Hospital - Newry and Mourne Community Transport - Down Community Transport - Need to strengthen and extend these services
<p>Access to Services and Social Isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing information on services and support available e.g. carers' grant - Limited mental health services - Limited drug and alcohol support - Limited child care provision 	<p>Lack of Investment in Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roads, Street lighting - Public transport - Broadband and Telephone - Banking services (cash businesses) - Social and affordable housing
<p>Good Political Co-operation and Support for Community Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillors work together well - Councillors support community projects 	<p>Economy and Job Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential to develop Tourism - Local industry - Good school provision

Prioritisation Process – Place Standard

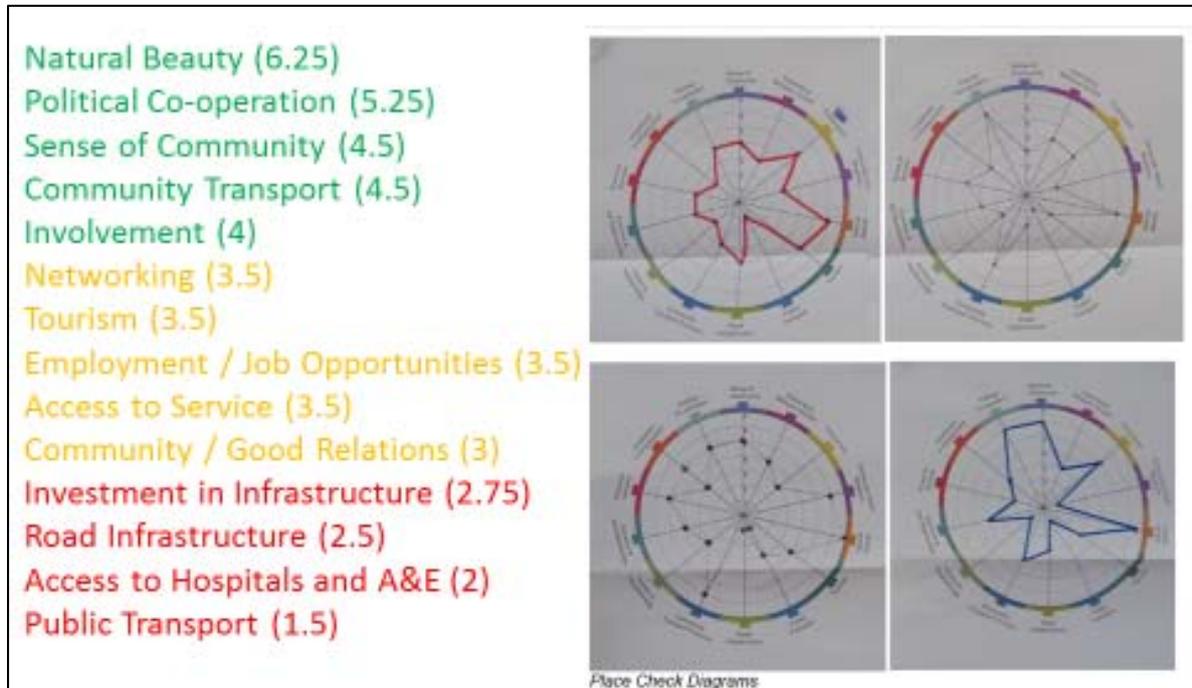
In order to aid the prioritisation process participants undertook a Place Standard check. Place Standard works by considering an issue and rating it on a scale of 1 to 7 where 1 means there is a lot of room for improvement and 7 means there is very little room for improvement. The tool was tailored to the Mournes visioning process and reflected the issues emerging from Workshop 1. Place Standard has been developed by the Scottish Government and is used by Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland to help plan activities and prioritise actions.



Participants undertaking Place Standard Check

The process produced a visual analysis of the area enabling stakeholders to see at a glance which issues require improvement. Participants worked in four groups to discuss and reflect on each issue, noted comments on a work book and then rated each issue on the scale of 1-7. Full responses for each Place Standard exercise are available in Workshop Report 2 www.communityplanningishere.org

The image below illustrates the results of the Place Standard exercise. The issues highlighted in green were considered to be performing well while those in red were viewed as needing the most improvement. Interestingly, the patterns which were produced have a number of similarities and several points and comparisons can be drawn from the results.



Place Standard Results

The Natural Beauty of the area scored highest across all four groups and was seen as a key asset. Political Co-operation was also considered as strong scoring an average result of 5.25. The Sense of Community and the existing Community Transport Provision also scored well with an average score of 4.5.

The issue of Community and Good Relations produced a mixed response with one group scoring it 6 with little room for improvement, while the other three groups considered it to be an area for further improvement scoring the issue a 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Public Transport scored the lowest with an average score of 1.5 and was the issue which participants felt needed the most improvement. Access to Hospitals and A&E was also identified as an area in need of improvement. Road Infrastructure scored poorly with an average of 2.5. These issues in particular further underline the important role which Community Transport services can play within the Mournes DEA in addressing social isolation and improving access to services.

Having had time to consider and explore the issues during the Place Standard exercise participants were invited to vote for those which they felt were most important. Crucially, participants were asked to choose those issues which they felt the people, knowledge and assets in the room could practically help to address. Participants also had the opportunity to suggest additional issues - two further issues were identified, facilities for young people and tackling anti-social behaviour.



Participants Voting for Priority Issues

The following five issues were prioritised by participants:

- Increase Awareness of and Maximise Community Transport Services (12 Votes);
- Access to Services and Social Isolation (12 Votes);
- Economy and Job Opportunities (11 Votes);
- Lack of Investment in Infrastructure (9 Votes); and
- Networking Between Groups (9 Votes).



Participants Voting for Priority Issues

All of the issues and respective votes can be found in Appendix 1 or Workshop Report 2 www.communityplanningishere.org

Developing and Refining Actions

Participants worked together in groups to develop and refine actions and activities which could help to address the agreed priorities and to agree a vision statement for each. Each group was asked to identify 3-5 key actions. Again, participants were asked to focus on actions which they felt the people, knowledge and assets in the room could practically progress.

Participants chose to link two of the priorities: Increase Awareness of and Maximise Community Transport Services and Access to Services and Social Isolation. These were the two issues which received the most votes and participants felt that it was essential to address them together given how they related and connected to each other.

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>Joint Priority A</p> <p>Increase Awareness of and Maximise Community Transport Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mourne Home to Hospital - Newry and Mourne Community Transport - Down Community Transport - Extended Service Provision 	<p>Joint Priority A</p> <p>Access to Services and Social Isolation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing information on services and support available e.g. carers' grant - Mental health services - Drug and alcohol support - Child care provision
<p>Agreed Vision Statement</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>Key Actions</p>	<p>Who needs to be involved?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clarify and Maintain Mourne Home to Hospital scheme (Approximately £10,000 per DEA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newry and Mourne Community Transport - SPACE - Southern Public Health Agency - Newry Mourne and Down District Council (Funded by Southern PHA and Council).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build a business case and create a Pilot for Down (South East) Home to Hospital scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Down Community Transport - County Down Rural Community Network - South Eastern Public Health Agency - Newry Mourne and Down District Council (Funded by South Eastern PHA and Council).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that South Eastern and Southern Trust's Drugs + Alcohol Coordinators work together to Map 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trust Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordinators - County Down Rural Community Networks

<p>and Promote “who does what and where” in the Mourne DEA and throughout the NMD Council area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confederation of Community Groups Newry - Umbrella Community organisations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level - Umbrella bodies - Statutory partners.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link key partners into a “hub” to fast track individuals to information and services (e.g. CAB) - Recruit and train Core Volunteer Car/Driver scheme to sign post clients to other services and increase visibility of existing programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citizens Advice Bureau - Newry Mourne and Down District Council at DEA level - Community Transport Volunteers - Community.



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

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

<p>Priority C Lack of Investment in Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banks: Chief Executive Officer and Public Relations - Local press - Community notices

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise and address major infrastructure issues through the Local Development Plan process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planners, Newry Mourne and Down District Council - Transport NI - NI Water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key stakeholders to sit on 'Environment and Spatial' Community Planning Thematic Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planners, Newry Mourne and Down District Council - Community Planning Partnership Board - Transport NI - NI Water
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explore Park and Ride service into Newcastle on peak days to reduce traffic congestion- along with a dedicated Bus Lane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translink - Local transport companies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lobby to improve telephone and broadband provision - Investigate investment BT made in 'Star Network' for broadband supply <i>(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.)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BT - Broadband providers - Newry Mourne and Down District Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage local bus companies to offer travel options- similar to Rooney Transport to cater for commuters, older people and tourists - Explore changes to timetables to provide early/late transport options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Translink - Community Transport providers - Mourne bus companies

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.

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

A Community Vision for the Mournes DEA

Participants worked together to discuss and develop a community vision for the Mournes DEA. They considered what makes the Mournes area unique and identified key words which they associated with the area – illustrated in the word cloud below. It was noted that there is a need for pragmatic development which could bring jobs and income while safeguarding and protecting the environment.



The following community vision for the Mournes DEA was developed:

“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.”

Citizen Reporting

As part of Citizen Reporting participants were invited to take part in a number of exercises where they 'reported' on their ideas and experiences in their own words:

- To think of one word which describes a strength, asset or challenge facing the Mournes DEA;
- To pen a postcard highlighting a future vision for the Mournes DEA in 2030; and
- To reflect on the experience of participating in the visioning approach.

The images below illustrate citizen reporting in action. They have been shared on the project website and disseminated through social media using the hashtag #getinvolved.





Participants above highlighting strengths, assets and challenges

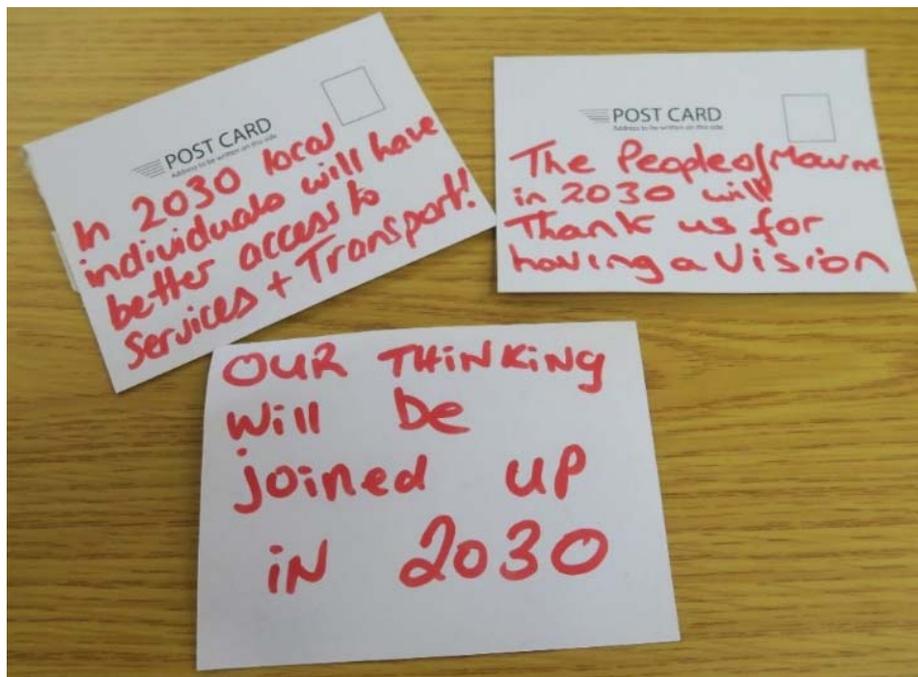
A selection of the messages which participants noted on post cards of how they would like to see the Mourne DEA in 2030:

"Thriving tourist destination"

"Political parties and councillors, MLAs, MPs working closer together"

"Better transport links to medical services"

"By 2030 the Mourne will be a world renowned tourist destination - welcoming and friendly"



"Tourism and economic development but not at expense of natural beauty of the area"

"Vibrant community"

"Closer working relation with all community groups"

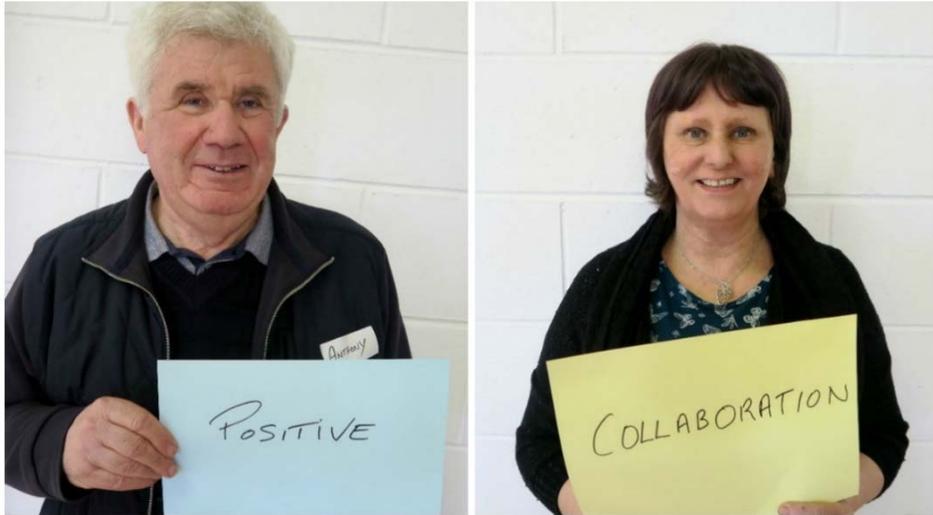
"Improved co-ordination of planning and infrastructural links"

"Good community relations"

"Full employment"

A selection of comments on participants' experience of taking part in the community visioning process:





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



Progressing the Vision

Participants were encouraged to stay connected to the Community Planning process within the Mourne 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 Mourne DEA level as it evolved over the coming months. The three community visioning workshops have helped to place the Mourne DEA in a strong position and will help support and advance local community planning activity.

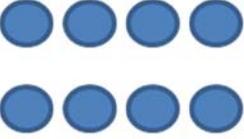
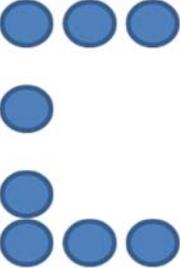
Both County Down Rural Community Network and the Confederation of Community Groups Newry stressed the importance of working together with key stakeholders to advance action on the priority areas which had emerged through the visioning process. Louise O’Kane, Community Places noted that it would be essential to continue to develop linkages with the Mourne 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.

The Community Visioning Workshop Reports are available on the project website www.communityplanningishere.org

Special thanks to all of the participants; County Down Rural Community Network; the Confederation of Community Groups Newry and District; and Newry Mourne and Down District Council for their continued and active engagement throughout the community visioning process.

Appendix 1: Priority Issue and Votes

Priority	Votes	Total
Increase Awareness of and Maximise Community Transport Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mourne Home to Hospital - Newry and Mourne Community Transport - Down Community Transport - Extended service provision 		12
Access to services and Social Isolation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing information on services and support available e.g. carers' grant - mental health services - drug and alcohol support - child care provision 		12
Economy and Job Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tourism - local industry - good school provision 		11
Networking Between Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - better co-operation and working together - effective groups and partnerships 		9
Lack of Investment in Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - roads, street lighting - public transport - broadband and telephone - banking services (cash businesses) - social and affordable housing 		9

<p>Proximity and Access to Hospital and A&E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downpatrick and Newry Hospitals 20 miles away - Access to cancer services in Craigavon and Belfast - Expensive for non-car owners relying on taxis 		<p>8</p>
<p>Natural Beauty and Tourism Potential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - natural beauty and coast line - accommodation, local produce and restaurants - celebrate history and culture (events) - better tourism infrastructure e.g. Ferry 		<p>8</p>
<p>Good Political Co-operation and Support for Community Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - councillors working together - support for community projects 		<p>6</p>
<p>Community / Good Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better community relations - People feel safe and welcome 		<p>3</p>
<p>Sense of community and Involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strong sense of community - support from community and sports clubs - people are active and get involved (young and old) 		<p>1</p>
<p>Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities for Young People 		<p>0</p>
<p>Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour 		<p>0</p>

Appendix 2: List of Participants

Name	Group or Organisation
Alex Ballas	Community Places
Allan Kilgore	Annalong Community Development Association
Alison Slater	SPACE
Ann Grant	Kilcoo Community Association
Anne McArdle	Mourne Home to Hospital
Anthony Corrigan	Murlough Community Association
Aine McKeown	SPACE
Aisling Rennick	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Barbara Porter	Public Health Agency
Ben Anderson	Student
Brian Groves	Newry Mourne Community Transport
Cllr Brian Quinn	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Briege Jennings	County Down Rural Community Network
Camilla Fitzpatrick	Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership
Catherine O'Connor	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Clare McGrath	Community Places
Clare Sheils	County Down Rural Community Network
Cllr Laura Devlin	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Colette Burden	Glasdrumman G.A.C
Dan McCartan	Glasdrumman G.A.C
Daniel Jack	Age NI

David Gordon	Kairos Cares and Annalong Community Safety Initiative
David McCauley	Annalong Community Development Association
David Patterson	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Fergal O'Brien	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Cllr Harold McKee	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Heather McKee	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Ingrid Perry	Newry Mourne Community Transport
Irene Quinn	Ladies of Mourne
Janine Connolly	County Down Rural Community Network
Kathleen Magee	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Louise O'Kane	Community Places
Maire McKibbin	Ballymartin GAC
Margaret Ritchie	MP
Margo Cunningham	Ladies of Mourne
Marian Cully	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Nicholas McCrickard	County Down Rural Community Network
Odhrán Rodgers	Shimna College (student)
Pamela Houston	Kilkeel Development Association
Raymond Jackson	Confederation of Community Groups Newry
Rita Lewis	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Rosemarie McDonnell	Citizens Advice Newry and Mourne
Cllr Willie Clarke	Newry Mourne and Down District Council
Tania Bailie	Drumgath Ladies Group
Ursula Sloan	Drumgath Ladies Group

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

louise@communityplaces.info or alternatively 028 9023 9444

www.communityplanningishere.org



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