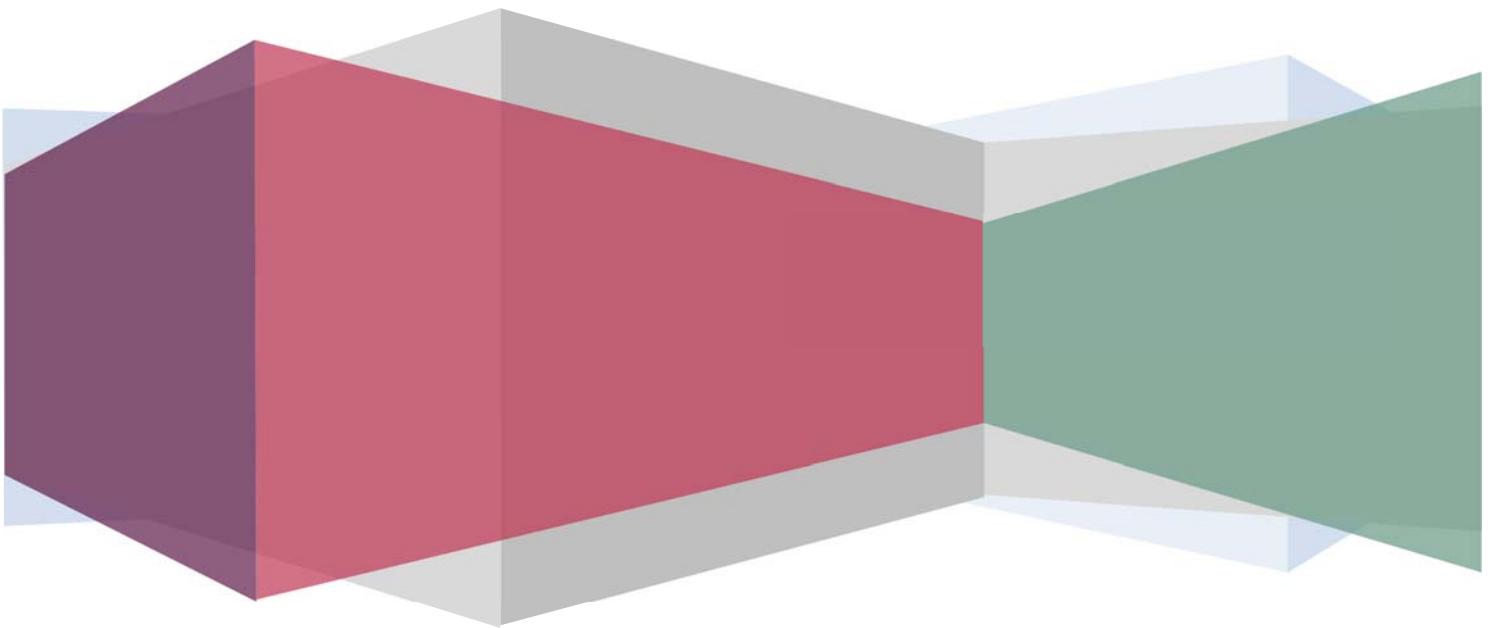


Community Places

Community Planning is here: Get Involved!

Community Visioning Workshop 2
Annalong Community Centre
Friday 19 February 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 second in a series of three community visioning workshops taking place in the Mourne 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, will facilitate the Community Visioning Workshops.

The visioning workshops will offer 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 workshops will create 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 will also be 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

Introduction and Community Visioning Process

Louise O’Kane welcomed participants to the second Community Visioning Workshop and reminded participants of the background to the project and activities undertaken to date. Louise then outlined the visioning approach adopted for the workshops explaining the process of:

Reflecting - the views of the community;

Realising - the distinctive characteristics of the area;

Releasing - the talent, skills, and energy of local stakeholders;

Recognising - local problems and exploring opportunities to overcome them; and

Respecting - that there will be different views and opinions.

The visioning approach enables participants to review and assess the area; explore issues; and identify priorities and actions to enable progress to be achieved.

Mournes DEA Forum

Alongside a strategic community planning process, Newry Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) are also adopting a local community planning process based at a District Electoral Area (DEA) level.

Kathleen Magee, the DEA Co-ordinator for the Mournes area participated in the workshop and provided an update on progress on the development of local DEA Forums. Kathleen explained that there will be 7 DEA Forums established across the new Council area. She highlighted to participants that a public meeting will be held on 08 March 2016 at Newcastle Cinema Club to explain how the nomination process for representatives to the Mournes DEA Forum will work. Kathleen explained that NICVA have been appointed to oversee the nominations process and the Forum meetings will be minuted and reported at a strategic level in the Council. Kathleen noted that there will also be 4- 5 public meetings per year for those who are not part of the forum to have their say. Kathleen stated that the nomination period will close on 09 April 2016- and highlighted that nominees must be a member of a network organisation. Kathleen highlighted that NMDDC are the first council to establish local DEA Forums. Raymond Jackson noted that potential candidates should be made aware that it is likely that there will be 14 plus meetings per year as part of the DEA Forum process. David Patterson, DEA Co-ordinator for Downpatrick commented that the aim is to nominate 8 people by 09 April 2016 – he stressed that this is a short period of time and that proactive work will need to be done to ensure good representation on the Forum.

Louise thanked Kathleen for the information provided and stressed the importance of ensuring continued alignment between the Community Visioning process and the future work of the Mournes DEA forum.

Emerging Issues from Workshop 1

Louise O’Kane, outlined the content and progress of the first community visioning workshop. A range of issues were discussed and highlighted by participants during the first workshop. These are summarised below:

Sense of Community and Involvement

- Strong sense of community (in some areas)
- Support from community and sports clubs
- People are active and get involved (both young and old) but more could be done

Natural Beauty and Tourism Potential

- Natural beauty and coast line
- Good accommodation, local produce and restaurants
- Celebrate history and culture more
- Better tourism infrastructure needed

Networking Between Groups

- Better working together required
- Effective groups and partnerships

Proximity and Access to Hospital and A&E

- 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

Community and Good Relations

- Better community relations needed
- People feel safe and welcome

Increase Awareness and Maximise Community Transport Services

- Mourne Home to Hospital
- Newry and Mourne Community Transport
- Down Community Transport
- Need to strengthen and extend these services

Access to Services and Social Isolation

- Sharing information on services and support available e.g. carers’ grant
- Limited mental health services
- Limited drug and alcohol support
- Limited child care provision

Lack of Investment in Infrastructure

- Roads, Street lighting
- Public transport
- Broadband and Telephone
- Banking services (cash businesses)
- Social and affordable housing

Good Political Co-operation and Support for Community Projects

- Councillors work together well
- Councillors support community projects

Economy and Job Opportunities

- Potential to develop Tourism
- Local industry
- Good school provision

Louise explained that there would be further opportunities during the course of the workshop to amend or add to these issues.

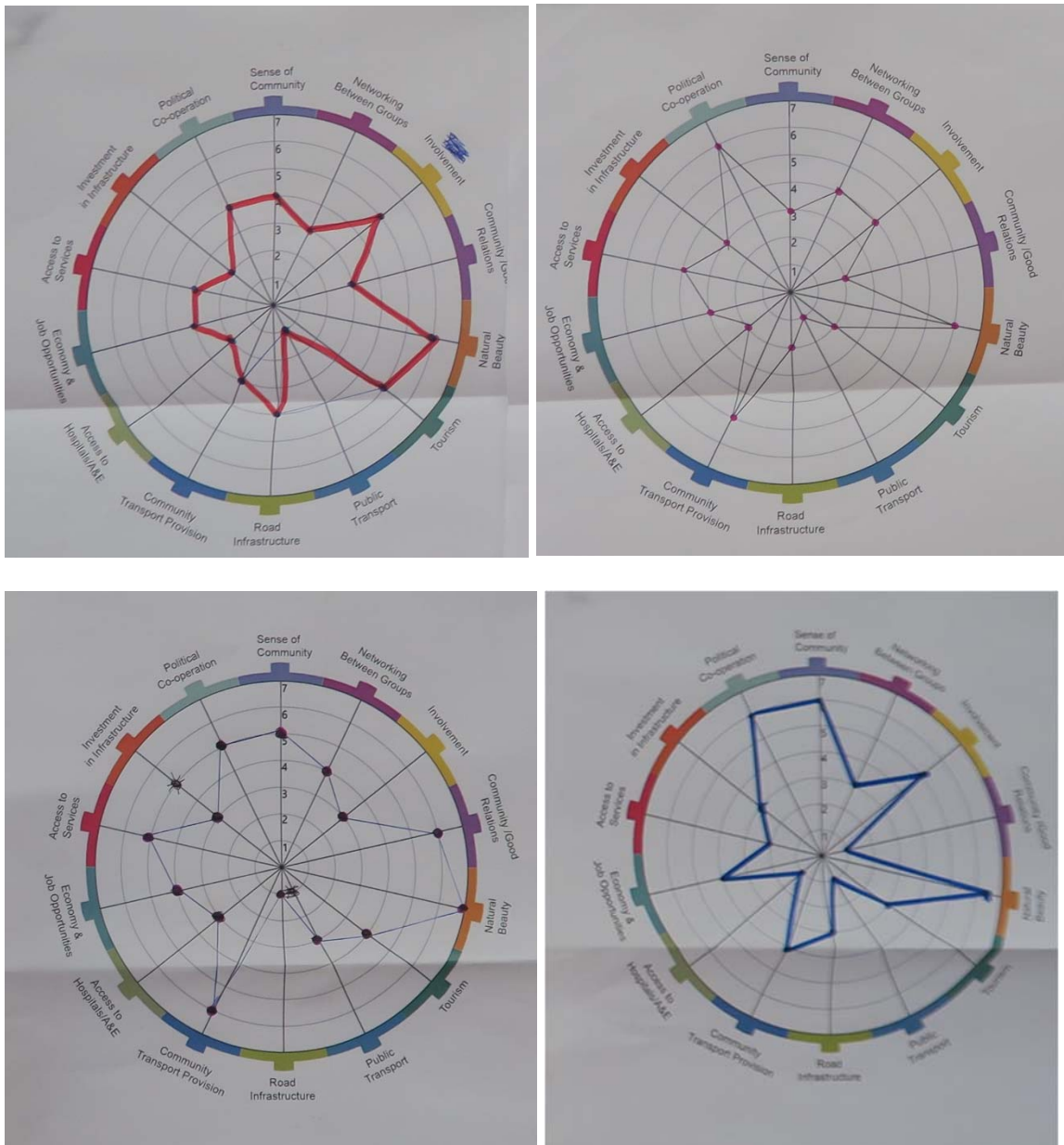
Place Check

Louise introduced participants to a Place Check exercise. Place Check has been developed by the Scottish Government and is used by Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland to help plan activities and prioritise actions. Louise explained that the Place Check tool was tailored to the Mournes visioning process to reflect the emerging issues from the first workshop. The Place Check Tool 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 process produces a visual analysis of an area enabling stakeholders to see at a glance which issues require improvement. Participants worked in four groups to discuss and reflect on each issue, they noted comments on a work book and then rated each issue on the scale of 1-7. Full responses for each Place Check exercise are available in Appendix 2.

The images below illustrate the results of the Place Check exercise. Interestingly, the patterns which were produced have a number of similarities and several points and comparisons can be drawn from the results.



Place Check Diagrams

The Natural Beauty of the area scored highest across all four groups. Political Co-operation was also considered as good 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 a 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.






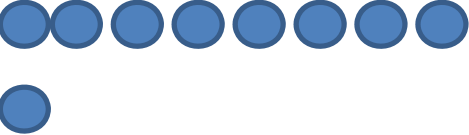


Prioritisation Process






Having had time to consider and explore the issues during the Place Check 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. The table below illustrates the issues and associated votes.

Participants prioritised the following five issues:

- 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).



| Priority | Votes | Total |
|--|--|-----------|
| <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 |  | 12 |
| <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 |  | 12 |
| <p>Economy and Job Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tourism - local industry - good school provision |  | 11 |
| <p>Networking Between Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - better co-operation and working together - effective groups and partnerships |  | 9 |
| <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 |  | 9 |
| <p>Proximity and Access to Hospital and A&E</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downpatrick and Newry Hospitals 20 miles away |  | 8 |

| | | |
|--|---|----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to cancer services in Craigavon and Belfast - Expensive for non-car owners relying on taxis |  | |
| <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 |  | 8 |
| <p>Good Political Co-operation and Support for Community Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - councillors working together - support for community projects |  | 6 |
| <p>Community / Good Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better community relations - People feel safe and welcome |  | 3 |
| <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) |  | 1 |
| <p>Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilities for Young People | | 0 |
| <p>Other Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour | | 0 |



Developing Actions

Participants were then invited to work together in groups to begin to develop actions and activities which could help to address the issues which had been identified as priorities and to agree a vision statement for each.

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 consider them together given how they related and connected to each other.

Priority A

Increase Awareness of and Maximise Community Transport Services

- Mourne Home to Hospital
- Newry and Mourne Community Transport
- Down Community Transport
- Extended Service Provision

Access to Services and Social Isolation

- Sharing information on services and support available e.g. carers' grant
- Mental health services
- Drug and alcohol support
- Child care provision

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>What actions could be taken to address this?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press PHA for funding in South East Area (Nicholas McCrickard, CDRCN) • Press PHA to maintain funding in Southern Area (Aisling Rennick, NMDDC) • Link key partners into a “Hub” to fast track individuals (e.g. Citizen’s Advice Bureau (Rosemarie O’Donnell) • Get all relevant agencies aware of the scheme and get into fast track system • Recruit and training of Core Volunteer Car/Driver scheme to sign post clients to other services. |
| <p>Vision Statement</p> | <p>“To have a seamless Community Transport system to meet local needs and to connect service provider’s/support agencies to design a coherent referral system.”</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Priority B Economy and Job Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tourism - Local industry - Good school provision - Manufacturing and Construction | |
| <p>What actions could be taken to address this?</p> | <p>More support to tourism businesses (marketing, training, mentoring) – new tourism businesses New tourism infrastructure – people need things to do/activities/bad weather facilities etc. Increased access (e.g. ferry) assists tourism and business in general Build on strengths of area (e.g. fishing, stone working, natural beauty etc.) Coastal path development Marketing Major attractor – “big hook” Business networking and clustering Marine based tourism</p> |
| <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> |

**Priority C
Lack of Investment in Infrastructure**

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

What actions could be taken to address this?

Roads – major proposal – need to maintain scenic quality of Area (Newcastle) whilst also improving infrastructure
 Street lighting – is good
 Banking services – raises issues of security/burglaries for businesses as banks located in Castlewellan and Downpatrick. Closure of Ulster Bank (Newcastle) an issue.
 Harbour – recreational (Council facility) closed at present– this needs to be addressed
 Hedges cut along main routes
 Surface of roads
 Sewerage infrastructure is not fit for purpose in Annalong (Planning permission approved for 300 houses and sewage facilities are not fit for purpose).
 Phone signal is very poor – O2
 Broadband – some improvements but particularly rural/outlying areas
 Bank is located at Barbican Supermarket – local people not major issue but perhaps not case for businesses
 Public Transport – Zone 4 – cost is expensive Newcastle to Belfast
 Who depends on public transport? Commuters, old people, School buses specially catered for
 Times need to change to allow early/late transport options.

Vision Statement

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

**Priority D
Networking Between Groups**

- Better co-operation and working together
- Effective groups and partnerships

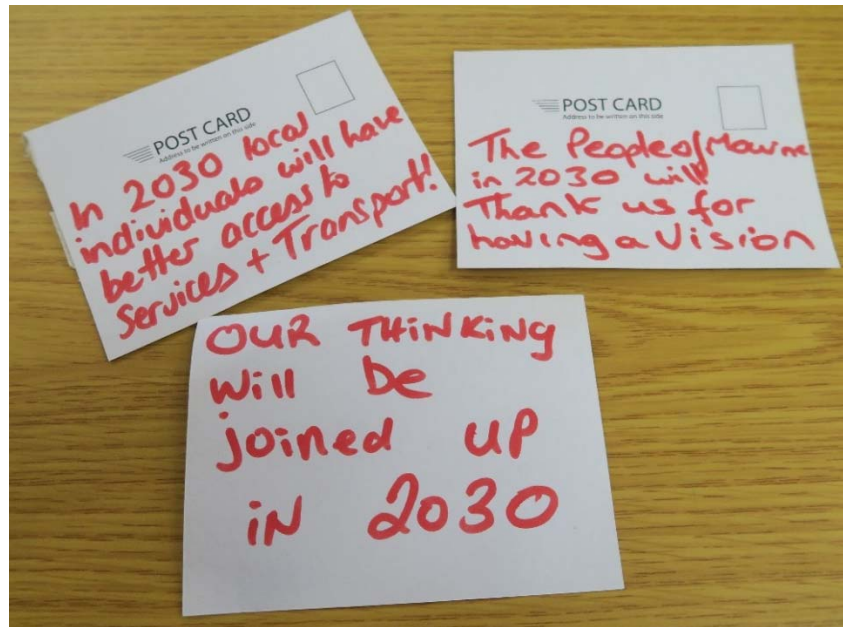
Better communication
 Community approaches and shared resources

| | |
|---|---|
| What actions could be taken to address this? | Community Development support Working through existing structures and Networks Connection – sharing of ideas and opinions |
| Vision Statement | “Empowered groups effecting positive change and cohesion for all in our community.” |

These initial actions will be further developed and refined at the third community visioning workshop.

Citizen Reporting – Post card exercise

As part of the citizen reporting technique participants were invited to write a postcard highlighting their vision for the Mourne DEA in 2030. A selection of the postcard messages and images are displayed below and have been shared through social media to highlight and raise awareness of the messages (See Appendix 3).



"Thriving tourist destination"

"Better transport links to medical services"

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

"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"

"Improved co-ordination of planning and infrastructural links"

"Vibrant community"

"Good community relations"

"Closer working relation with all community groups"

"Full employment"

Next Steps

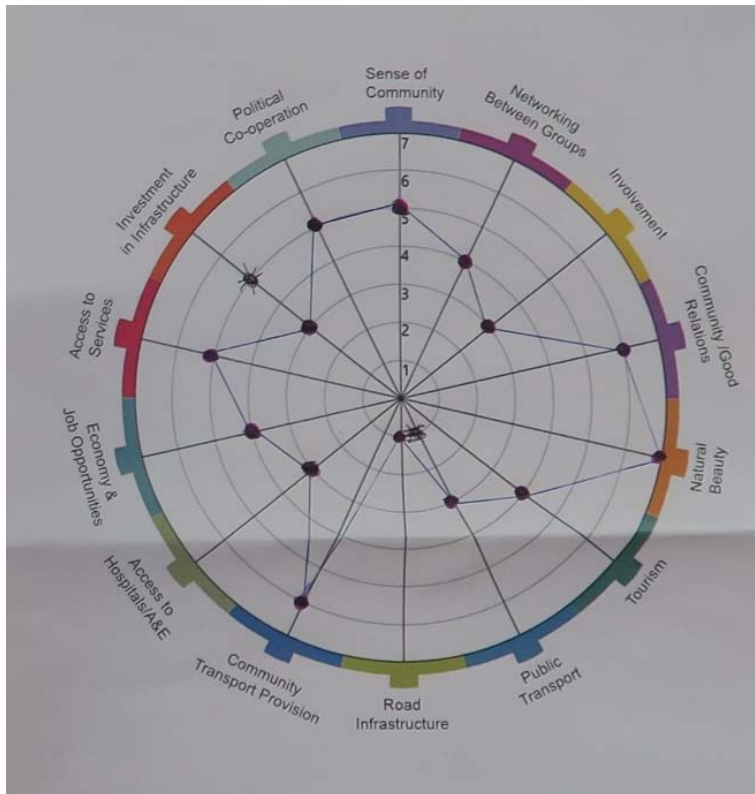
Participants were encouraged to tell other people about the opportunities to get involved in the project by traditional word of mouth and by using the project hashtags: #getinvolved and #civicactivismni on their social media accounts.

The third community visioning workshop is scheduled for **Friday 08 April 2016** at 10.30 am in Annalong Community Centre.

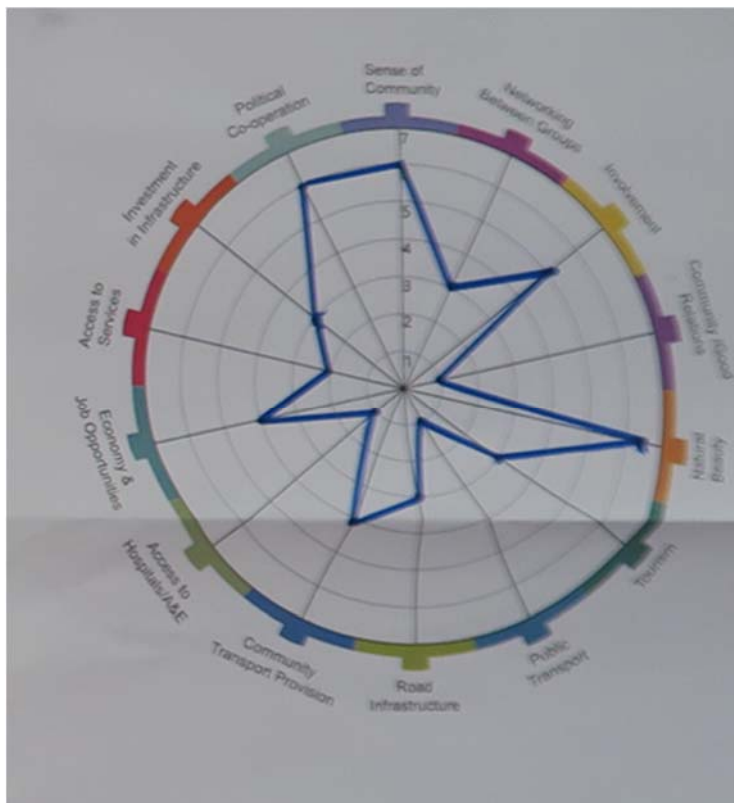
Appendix 1: List of Participants

| Name | Group or Organisation |
|---------------------|--|
| Aine McKeown | SPACE |
| Alan Kilgore | Annalong Community Development Association |
| Anthony Corrigan | Murlough Community Association |
| Aisling Rennick | Newry Mourne and Down District Council |
| Briege Jennings | County Down Rural Community Network |
| Camilla Fitzpatrick | Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership |
| Clare McGrath | Community Places |
| Clare Sheils | County Down Rural Community Network |
| Dan McCartan | Glasdrumman G.F.C |
| Daniel Jack | Age NI |
| David McCauley | Annalong Community Development Association |
| David Patterson | Newry Mourne and Down District Council |
| Cllr Harold McKee | Newry Mourne and Down District Council |
| Kathleen Magee | Newry Mourne and Down District Council |
| Louise O'Kane | Community Places |
| Nicholas McCrickard | County Down Rural Community Network |
| 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 |
| Tania Bailie | Drumgath Ladies Group |
| Ursula Sloan | Drumgath Ladies Group |

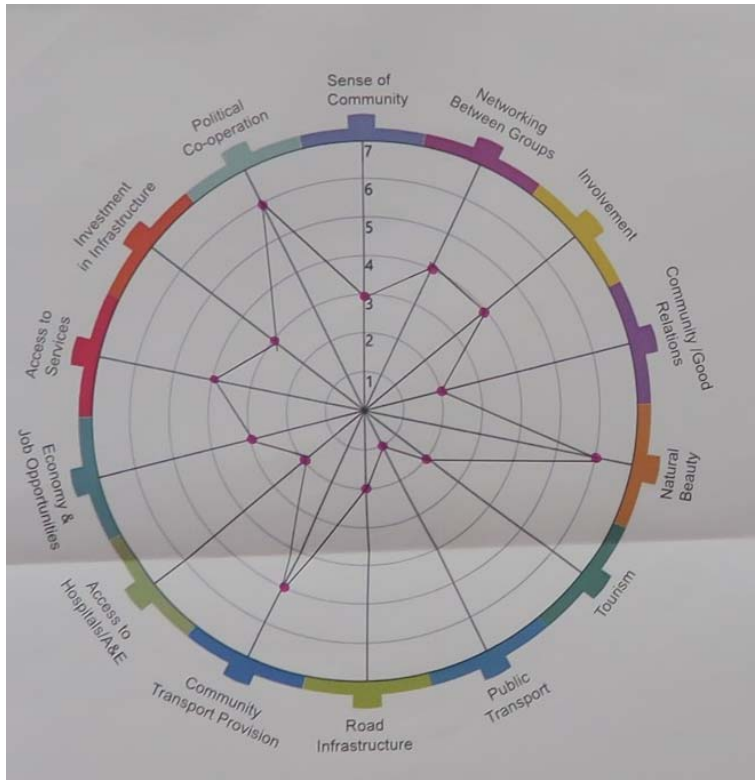
Appendix 2: Place Check – Rate your Place Diagrams and Workbook Content Group 1



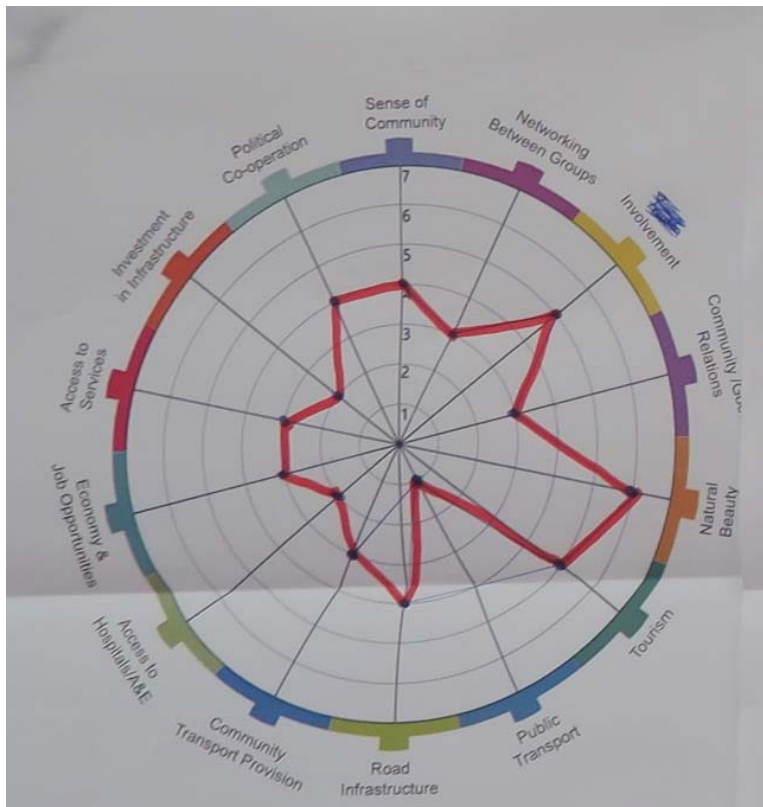
Group 2



Group 3



Group 4



Place Check Work Book

Sense of Community

Group 1

Score 5

Good sense of community

Issues – churches across all churches

Movement out of the troubles

Perception of Kilkeel is worse than reality

Group 2

Score 6

Group 3

Score 3

Quite segregated/ pockets of areas ok

Good local sense of community but not integrated

Newcastle more integrated

Group 4

Score 4

Very strong at very local level but can be very limited

Networking Between Groups

Group 1

Score 4

Group 2

Score 3

Good in Annalong e.g. minibus in Kilkeel Development Association KDA but weak between villages

Group 3

Score 4

Effective – when together but this does not happen often

Some more cross cutting

Partnership e.g. young/Sure Start etc.

can check needs more

strengthened to make it work

Group 4

Score 3

Two distinct centres of gravity (CR issues) things are beginning to happen really about community structures

Involvement

Group 1

Score 3

Group 2

Score 5 – good but localised and dependent on a few very busy people

Group 3

Score 4

Young are less involved– not enough for young people to do – direct link to infrastructure

More sports related activities but not outside this

Older people– active in Newcastle (Age Concern) – KDA etc. – involving

Relates to community transport issue and isolation issue

Group 4

Score 5

Youth that are involved are strong but are young people getting involved in the structures or is it just things are provided for them – also a lot of young people not involved.

Community and Good Relations

Group 1

Score 6

Group 2

Score 1 – flags, inter community tension, very entrenched views.

Group 3

Good Relations Overall Score 2

Area needs a lot of work:

Religion (1)

Gender (1)

Disabilities (3)

Group 4

Score 3

Are some visual problems – flags etc.

Migration? - have been major studies – family is what is important – look after their own

Insular culture

Natural Beauty and Amenity

Group 1

Score 7 Scenery

Group 2

Score 6.5 – infrastructure is under pressure

Group 3

Score 6

Has excellent natural beauty but issues need to be addressed (dumping, parking etc./litter) these are threats

Group 4

Score 6

Issue of management of natural environment.

Tourism

Group 1

Score 4

Lack of parking – Old town Road – Carrick Car park

Security at car parks – Blakely Bridge – Main Road single file traffic due to cars parked

Lack of ferry to assist in tourism – will increase access and puts Dublin on the doorstep for Mournes.

More marketing for Mournes – “need champion”

Pontoon required at Greencastle

Festival at Carlingford Lough (Greencastle)

Pleasure boat Kilkeel, Newcastle etc.

Scenery

Need big attractions – e.g. Gondola at Slieve Donard

Wet weather facilities

Access to marine based tourism

Open up Silent Valley more to tourism - tours

Group 2

Score 3

Still not attracting “money” tourism on a big scale.

Huge potential (scenery, golf, outdoor products).

Group 3

Score 2

Under-utilised completely

Group 4

Score 5

Scope for improvement.

Public Transport

Group 1

Score 3

Services poor to Newry

Not enough early/late buses to Newry – Last bus 5.30 pm

Group 2

Score 1

Tourist in Hilltown? How to get around?

Group 3

Score 1

Very limited – limited re Rambler

Public transport is very poor

Connections are very poor

Group 4

Score 1

Very poor

very difficult if you can't drive

very poor internal public transport.

Road Infrastructure

Group 1

Score 1

Travellers coming to Mourne via Newry find it difficult to get through Newry – need to take people from Dublin off at Ballymac roundabout – help increase tourism

Cleaning at roadsides is poor - across Mourne DEA (verges need cleaned back to edges (including S Relief Road)

Four key routes – Newry, Lisburn, Banbridge, Belfast. Coastal routes (flooding)

Mountain routes – (snow/ice issues).

Group 2

Score 3

Really slow to get from key towns (Newry to Downpatrick).

Surface is poor.

Roads need addressed without losing character.

Group 3

Score 2

Pot holes don't do anything for tourism

Lay byes etc. required

Poor quality road surfaces

Group 4

Score 4

Conflict between scenic road and locals feel doesn't address their needs
Standard and upkeep of A class road not up to scratch.

Community Transport Provision

Group 1

Score 6

Community buses available – limited voluntary drivers available.

Used well by bowls, churches, over 60s, Boys Brigade and youth clubs.

A lot don't know about it – work being done to promote the bus to get extra drivers via Annalong Community Association.

Rambler bus to operate during winter would be good (Newcastle to Mourne)

Group 2

Score 4

Good Community Transport schemes

Budget not adequate

Home to hospital needs maintained and widened.

Group 3

Score 5

Yes, and requires further funding

More communication required – need more

Identify needs – mobile service

Group 4

Score 3

Dependent on short term funding

Lot of room for improvement

Access to GPs is OK.

Access to Hospitals/A&E

Group 1

Score 3

Out of Hours is very poor

Group 2

Score 1 (one hour to hospital even in emergency)

Group 3

Score 2

Rubbish – worst area to get from home to hospital A&E (20 – 30 mins) (Score 1 – 3)

Group 4

Score 2

Limited by both geographies.

Economy and Job Opportunities

Group 1

Score 4

BE Aerospace is key to jobs in area. If it shuts it will be devastating to the Mournes DEA.

Short term contracts – BE Aerospace

Construction – England – further afield – people leaving

Not a focus to invest in Mournes

Group 2

Score 4

Fishing

Aerospace

Farming

Construction

All vulnerable but all potential growth areas

Group 3

Score 3

Not much local economy about except fishery/BE

Most have to travel outside area

Tourism could help alleviate issues

Group 4

Score 3

Predominately rural

Dependence on limited numbers of industries.

Access to Services

Group 1

Score 5

Kilkeel – new health centre, library, new ambulance station

Newcastle services poor

Good capital structures

Group 2

Score 2

Drive time to main service centres

Rationalisation of Health has hit this area

Group 3

Score 4

There are outreach and others

Health Service in Kilkeel

Mournes get in way

* Need more information

Group 4

Score 3

Access to leisure etc. is good

Basic services limited.

Investment in Infrastructure**Group 1**

Score 3

Poor overall

Bypass Ballynahinch

Kilkeel Harbour investment is needed

Road system in Newcastle is poor

A lack of investment in last 50 years

Newcastle promenade – good

Group 2

Score 3

Footpaths on coast road non existent

Broadband and Mobile phone still weak

Group 3

Score 3

Not adequate investment in affordable housing nor to some sports facilities
(Newcastle Leisure Centre – tiny and atrocious)Social housing – social issues now moved to Newcastle (e.g. drugs, anti-social
behaviour)

Footpaths – not enough e.g. between Newcastle and Bryansford

Group 4

Score 2

Annalong 300 houses planned but no plan for improvement of infrastructure.

Political Co-operation**Group 1**

Score 5

Councillors work well together – some agree to disagree

Political party differences

7 councillors in Mourne DEA are now working well together in the new Forum

Lack of political clout in Mourne DEA

MPs also try best for area.

Group 2

Score 6

Group 3

Score 6

On the whole yes – work well together as required over certain issues.

Group 4

Score 4

Priorities for Action

Group 1

Economy and Jobs – more manufacturing and construction – exporting products

Tourism

Road Infrastructure

Investment in infrastructure

Group 2

Community/ Good Relations

Public Transport

Access to Hospitals and A&E

Access to Services

Group 3

Public Transport

Tourism

Road Infrastructure

Community / Good Relations

Group 4

Investment in Infrastructure

Public Transport

Access to hospital and A&E

Community and Good Relations

Economy and Job Opportunities

Appendix 3: Citizen Reporting Messages from Post-Card Exercise

- *“Thriving tourist destination”*
- *“Accessible”*
- *“Good infrastructure”*
- *“Safe”*
- *“Our thinking will be joined up in 2030”*
- *“In 2030 local individuals will have better access to services and transport”*
- *“The people of Mourne in 2030 will thank us for having a vision”*
- *“Good community relations”*
- *“Better transport links to medical services”*
- *“Remember my good works!”*
- *“Improved co-ordination of planning and infrastructural links”*
- *“Better roads”*
- *“More tourism”*
- *“Major tourist attraction”*
- *“Safe, clean and tidy”*
- *“Full employment”*
- *“Vibrant community”*
- *“Tourism and economic development but not at expense of natural beauty of the area”*
- *“By 2030 the Mourne will be a world renowned tourist destination – welcoming and friendly”*
- *“Closer working relation with all community groups”*
- *“Political parties and councillors, MLAs, MPs working closer together”*
- *“New modern harbour for Kilkeel”*
- *“New link road between M1-A1 – Warrenpoint Dual Carriageway”*
- *“Involvement”*

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



twitter.com/communityplaces
#getinvolved



facebook.com/communityplaces



Confederation of
Community Groups
Newry & District



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

Community
Places



BUILDING
CHANGE
TRUST