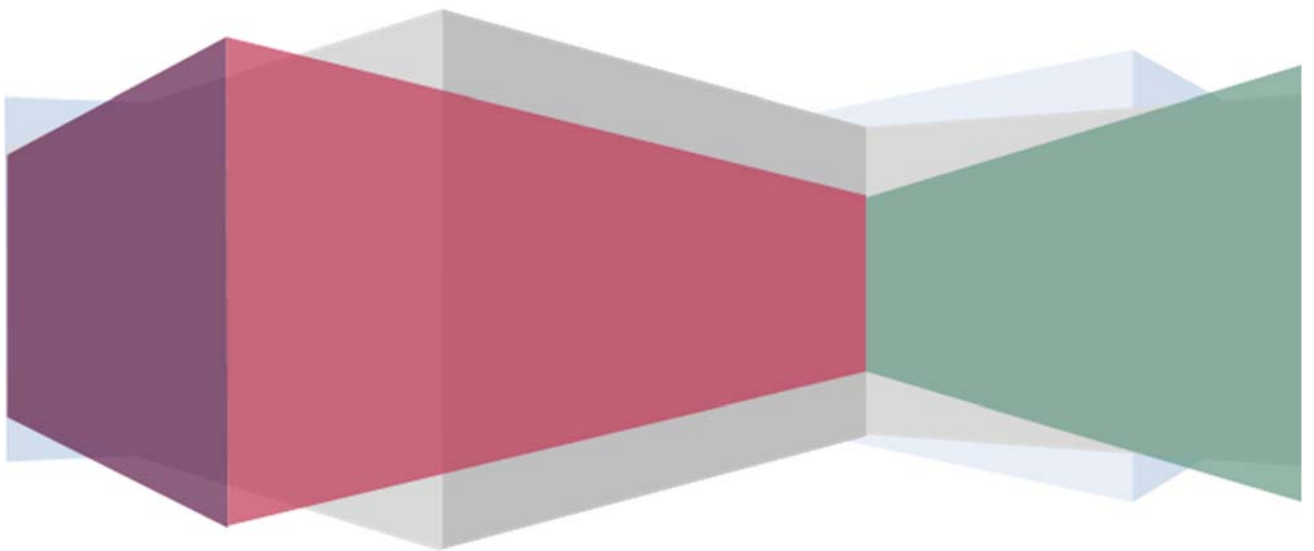


Community Places

Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Pop-Up Democracy

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Area



Community Places



Introduction

This is a report summarising three Pop Up Stalls which took place between April and September 2016 as part of the Community Planning is here: Get Involved! Project in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area.

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 **Pop – Up Democracy** in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area.

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

Pop - Up Democracy

Pop-Up Stalls were held across the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area with the aim of reducing barriers to engagement by reaching out to people in some of the more rural areas of the borough. After discussion with the Council three areas were chosen: Templepatrick, Ballyclare and Straid. Working with South Antrim Community Network we contacted and met with local groups in the area to raise awareness of the project and to ask local people where they thought it would be most beneficial to 'Pop- Up'. This informed the choice of three locations:

- Spar Store in Templepatrick, 13 April 2016
- Ballyclare May Fair, 24 May 2016
- Ballylagan Organic Farm, 09 September 2016.



Ballyclare May Fair

Raising Awareness of Community Planning

At each of the pop up events we distributed project leaflets to raise awareness of the new power of Community Planning and talked informally with people about Community Planning and the issues which mattered to them about where they live. We asked people to use coloured dots to indicate if they had heard about Community Planning before. And, if they thought it was important to have opportunities to get involved in Community Planning in their area. The majority of people who we spoke to (81%) had not heard of Community Planning before. In this respect, we were able to reach out to a new audience and to people who had not taken part in any formal community planning engagement processes which the Council had undertaken.

Have you heard of Community Planning?

Yes!

18%

No!

82%



Spar Store, Templepatrick

Interestingly, after talking with us and hearing more about Community Planning the majority of people (96%) thought that it was important to have opportunities to get involved in the process in their area.

Do you think it is important to have opportunities to get involved in Community Planning in your area?

Yes!

96%

No!

4%

Exploring Issues

A project post-card was designed for the Pop-Up Events. Given that there would be limited time with people at the events the post-card posed two basic questions: what do you like about your area? and what could be improved in your area? A summary of the issues identified are presented below and the full responses can be found in Appendix 1.

What I Like about my area...

Several people commented positively on the fact that while they can enjoy the rural nature of the area they are also in close proximity and well-connected to Belfast. The Park and Ride at Ballymartin and the Airport Bus Service were identified as important transport connections. Respondents noted that crime rates are low, communities are settled, and that there were good schools and GPs. In Templepatrick: footpath improvements; flowerbeds; and the work of Parkgate Community Association were identified as positive features within the area. In Ballyclare: The May Fair; proximity to Belfast and Larne; settled community; and low crime were noted as what people like about the area. In Straid: the rural nature of the area; proximity and transport connections to Belfast and the International Airport; 200-year-old Church; Flower planters; Straid and District Community Association; and education provision were identified as positive aspects of the village.

What I think could be improved...

A number of key themes emerged from the suggested aspects which could be improved across each of the three areas. These centred on the need to improve road infrastructure; need for traffic calming and tackling speeding (particularly along

the Seven Mile Straight). It was also noted that while there was a need for traffic calming in some areas consideration needed to be given to farming traffic and that consequently speed bumps were inappropriate. Other issues included poor broadband connections; affordable/social housing; bin collections and recycling; activities for older people; access to healthcare and pharmacy services and village aesthetics.

Levels of participation

Around 115 people took part in the Pop-up Events: Project leaflets were distributed to around 60 people at the pop-up events; an additional 55 people took part in the 'dot-mocracy' process and 26 people gave us more detailed comments about their area to feed into the Community Planning process. While pop up democracy clearly helps to reduce barriers to participation it is not a well-established technique here. As a result, there was a degree of apprehension from people who thought that there may be a hidden agenda e.g. electioneering, collecting for charity on selling a product or service. Despite this the process did reach a new audience and those who had not taken part to date in the formal Community Planning process across Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

Appendix 1: Post-Card Responses

Pop Up Stall, Spar Store Templepatrick, 13 April 2016

We would like to hear from you about where you live...

What I like...	What I think could be improved...	Nearest town or village
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic coming through the village - need traffic calming - 150 houses built 	Templepatrick
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need more social housing as local people currently have to move out of the area - need more affordable housing for community 	Burnside
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parkgate Community Association really good. They have developed seating, features, points of information etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Old stone walls – coping of walls vandalised - Templepatrick Action Group could do more 	Templepatrick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy with my area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 	Templepatrick
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speed on Seven Mile Straight is an issue 	Seven Mile Straight
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Street lighting - Bin collection - Road surface 	Templepatrick
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus service along Seven Mile Straight - Transport links - Can't use bus pass 	Knutts Corner Roundabout, Crumlin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bus into Belfast: only stops at Great Victoria Station and at Debenhams's – stop in actual city centre needed - Broadband connection very poor, better speed needed - Big Brown Bin would be good instead of food waste bin - Why not recycle glass in Blue Bin? 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath on Seven Mile Straight is good • Spar Store is going to be extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seven Mile Straight – car speeds on the road near Ballyrobin Rd – need speed limit - Planners for Blue, Brown, Black Bins out – know when to put them out - No Bus Service on Seven Mile Straight 	Seven Mile Straight
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Street cleaning on rural roads e.g. Bridgend Road (a lot of rubbish) - No Community Hall in village - Old library premises could be used as a neutral community facility - Health centre/surgery closes half day, should be open! - Train halt to Airport required - Bypass for Airport Traffic - Ballymartin Park & Ride Monday to Friday - Need integrated transport 	Templepatrick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus service into Belfast is great – good access to it • Flower beds etc. on roundabout good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Path from Motorway on Templepatrick side could be improved - Bridgend Road footpath is overgrown 	Templepatrick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More flexible planning - needs to be easier to get planning permission so that children can stay in the area - More affordable or social housing in the village Templepatrick, not enough of that at the moment 	Templepatrick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus Service Belfast – Airport used to be 24 hr. (stopped 11 – 4am) • New Park & Ride Ballymartin good but no halt – could be opened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No train line – used to be a halt but not anymore - Library closed, especially for families with young children – nearest is Glengormley or Carmoney - Affordable housing - Wi-Fi + Broadband poor – could be faster 	Templepatrick

Pop-Up Stall Ballyclare May Fair: Tuesday, 24 May 2016

What I like . . .	What I think could be improved	Nearest Town or Village
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Community Planning isn't going to work – it's only keeping people in jobs (former councillor) 	Ballyclare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to: • Belfast • Airport • Larne • Settled community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bypass – Bus shelters – Police enforcing speed limit – Movement of traffic – Extension to Milestone causing more traffic problems 	Templepatrick
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet • Not much crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Traffic 	Doagh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very positive – a good borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ring road and housing – traffic really bad 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Fair – but needs more volunteers/people to get involved • Opportunity to say/have your input • Advertise meetings of fair committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Areas need to be improved – Crossroads at ASDA (school times traffic blocks) – Fair not as many stalls – Green fields at leisure centre – Big community day – Dropping off kids for school – when fair is on takes parking spaces away – Traffic – Horse sellers – nowhere to run them 	Ballyclare
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free bus pass • Free prescriptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More activities for older people – Less strenuous activities (snooker, darts) – U3A - University of 3 Age 	Muckamore
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Planning is a good thing – just need to make sure that everyone joins in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Run down shops in Square – Iceland – Express M&S – Indoor play area – Cinema – Dunnes – clothes – affordable – Family entertainment 	Ballyclare
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reliable road – traffic/jams in the town – Increase of house development – still no reliable road – planning – Fair – not traditional, horses on street. Close the road – over 200 years – “lost something precious”. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadband – can't use a dongle currently - The roads – especially one out of Ballyclare 	Tulldarg Road
--	--	---------------

Pop-Up Stall Ballylagan Organic Farm, Straid Friday 09 September 2016

What I like . . .	What I think could be improved	Nearest Town or Village
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural nature of area - Good proximity to Belfast - Park and Ride at Ballymartin is really good- - Good transport links - Close to Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traffic in Doagh is very busy and road layout has not been upgraded in line with intensification of traffic - Doagh could be prettier e.g. white washing, flower baskets etc. 	Doagh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Church in Straid is 200 years old- Council provided flower tubs which was great and really helped the aesthetics of the village - Planters at Orange Hall - Straid and District Community Association - Ambulance and Doctors good - Education provision excellent- good primary and secondary school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chemist shop in Ballynure does not have a licence to dispense as yet. Local people have to go to Larne or Ballyclare. This is particularly difficult for older people. - It would be good to have access to a defibrillator in the village – could save someone's life - Refuse collection- sometimes new bin operatives aren't aware of the area they cover and miss our bins - Roads could be gritted in the winter time- very bad bend near house - Ditch/ Seughs not cleaned out they flood onto the road washing it away - Entrances to the village are very bleak and unwelcoming – need flowers - Farmers do not want speed ramps – they cause major issues for farming equipment- cameras are fine but no speed ramps - Could make more of the Church being 200 years old- celebrate the heritage of area. 	Seskinamaddy, Straid

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pavements recently replaced with granite – money could have been used for better issues in the community - Also caused a lot of disruption - Really dislike the ‘Ye Olde Blacksmiths’ stickers on old building beside ASDA – it’s supposed to make building look better but it’s awful – not relevant to the town in anyway. 	Ballyclare
-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shortage of summer seats- near the health centre at Whitehead – no seats for older or sick people to rest at. - Health centre has moved from Islandmagee end to Whitehead – lack of seating not good for older people or those with younger children. - Hospital waiting lists – waiting on physio appointments for over 10 months - Need better health provision in the area - more resources into health and well-being - Dog fouling in Whitehead – issue for mothers with prams and people in wheel chairs. 	Whitehead