

## Screening Form - Equality

- 1. Is this a** Plan
- 2. Name of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service** Whitespots Country Park
- 3. Reference** R286
- 4. Category of Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service** New

### 5. Please provide a description of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service

Ards and North Down Borough Council (the Council/ANDBC) is required to complete an application process to receive funding to carry out detailed design on the potential development of Whitespots Country Park.

The project will deliver a £9.3M capital value environmental improvement scheme at Whitespots Country Park and surrounding areas. The Scheme boundary includes existing and new paths within Clondeboy Estate, Whitespots Country Park and Land at South of Whitespots. The Environmental improvement scheme shall see the use of sustainable material and creative design to deliver a safe and attractive destination for pedestrians through the Country Park, as well as one that celebrates and interprets the local history and architectural heritage.

The nature and scope of the service will predominantly comprise a combination of landscape and civil engineering design elements to enable the Council to deliver environmental improvement works.

### 6. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

Aims:

The environmental improvement scheme is to improve access and the ambience of the area identified.

- connecting tourist destinations within Newtownards town, the new City of Bangor and the wider Belfast Region
- wider and more connected paths throughout the Country Park and neighbouring Estates.
- improving street lighting and car park at the main entrance.
- resurfacing existing paths and creating new with sustainable material
- the incorporation of furniture and art
- possible improvement of traffic flow at the main entrance
- reflect and enhance the history of the site through new and existing features
- tree and shrub planting
- creation of a green link between Newtownards and City of Bangor

The current Country Park has not had investment at all except for grass cutting and verge clearance around historic features and is very hazardous with regard to uneven surfaces, lack of proper drainage and poor signage throughout. Upgrading these obvious issues will directly benefit some of the core section 75 groups, especially in regard to mobility.

Objectives:

Health and Wellbeing: Increase the number of local residents using the facilities for recreation and active leisure above the numbers using the facilities as at year 0.

Environmental Sustainability: Ensure the natural plant and animal species associated with the site in Year 0 are retained on the Site;

Ensure local schools, community groups and charities have visited the site for environmental education related purpose;

Implement an annual biodiversity audit on the Whitespots and Clondeboy sites;

Achieve an increase in the numbers using the greenways compared to the baseline following completion.

Employability and Skills: Create new full-time equivalent jobs within the Whitespots and Clandeboye sites directly because of the Complementary Fund financed capital development.  
Provide training to employees and volunteers to improve skills and employability;  
Provide volunteering opportunities (to assist employability).  
Tourism and economic development: Ensure Whitespots Park and Clandeboye Estate is recognised as providing a positive economic impact within reports from ANDBC Tourism team and Tourism NI (or equivalent organisations);  
Record an overall increase in the number of domestic visitors when compared to in the year ending March 2019;  
Record an overall increase in the number of visitors from ROI, UK and Out-of-State when compared to in the year ending March 2020.

**7. Who initiated or wrote the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?**

Julia Kane- Capital Project and Programme Manager

**8. Who is responsible for the implementation of the Policy/Strategy/Plan/Public Service?**

Graeme Bannister- Director of Community and Wellbeing

**9. Is this policy affected by timetables established by other relevant Public Authorities?**

Yes

# Equality

## **1. Are there any Section 75 categories which might be expected to benefit from the intended policy?**

Yes

### **1a. If Yes, which Section 75 categories are expected to benefit?**

All

### **1b. How are they expected to benefit?**

All Section 75 categories should benefit through these areas promoting shared spaces which are accessible to the majority of users and potential users where the topography of the site allows access.

## **2. Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the policy/decision?**

Yes

### **2a. If yes, are they:**

If the funding is not available for the Council to access or if the Council is unable to meet the funding criteria by the DAERA. Where areas are not accessible for reasons of land ownership or topography of the site and alternative routes are difficult to identify.

## **3. Who are the internal/external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the policy will impact upon?**

Staff, Service Users, Other Public Sector organisations, Voluntary/Community/Trade Unions, Potential Visitors

## **4. Is this policy associated with any other Council Policy (or Policies)?**

Yes

### **4a. If yes, please state the related Policy (or Policies)**

Dog Control Policy and Procedures.  
Sustainability and Environmental Policy  
ANDBC Corporate Plan.  
Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan.  
Lands and Property Policy.  
Corporate Complaints Policy and Procedure.  
Graffiti Policy.  
Cycle to Work Scheme.  
Erection of Fences on Council Property.  
ANDBC Rural Partnership Interim Rural Development Strategy.  
ANDBC PeacePlus.  
Strategy for the provision of public toilets.  
Parking Strategy.

## **5. Does this policy affect Internal or External users?**

Both

Evidence to help inform the Section 75 screening process may take many forms. Public authorities should ensure that their screening decision is informed by relevant data.

## **6. What evidence/information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy?**

Men and women generally

**Men and women generally evidence** Data from the current counters located at the Whitespots

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities for each of the following categories, in relation to the particular policy / decision?

**7. Please provide details of different needs, experiences and priorities for each of the categories**

The Country Park provides open space for individuals who wish to use them as shared space. Where possible they will be accessible and shared by all users and potential users. Signage will be used to indicate areas that are not suitable for a broad range of users due to the location, gradient, interface with traffic areas etc. and an alternative route will be indicated.

This will only occur where the geographical features of the area cannot sustain the greenway provision.

**8. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Religious belief?**

None

**9. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Political opinion?**

None

**10. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Racial group?**

None

**11. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Age?**

Minor

**11a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Age**

Signage will be used to indicate areas that are not suitable for a broad range of users due to the location, gradient, interface with traffic areas etc. and an alternative route will be indicated.

This will only occur where the geographical features of the area cannot sustain the greenway provision.

**12. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Marital status?**

None

**13. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Sexual orientation?**

None

**14. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Men and women generally?**

None

**15. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Disability?**

Minor

## 15a. Impact on equality of opportunity - Disability

Signage will be used to indicate areas that are not suitable for a broad range of users due to the location, gradient, interface with traffic areas etc. and an alternative route will be indicated.  
This will only occur where the geographical features of the area cannot sustain the greenway provision.

## 16. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, in relation to Dependants?

None

## 17. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories? If Yes, provide details. If No, provide reasons.

### Religious belief

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

### Political opinion

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

### Racial group

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

### Age

All users and their requirements will be considered in the development of these greenways. Consideration has been given to use by older people, younger people and those with a disability or carers of those using the facilities.

Signage will be used to indicate areas that are not suitable for a broad range of users due to the location, gradient, interface with traffic areas etc. and an alternative route will be indicated.

This will only occur where the geographical features of the area cannot sustain the greenway provision.

### Marital Status

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

### Sexual orientation

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

### Men and women generally

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

### Disability

Signage will be used to indicate areas that are not suitable for a broad range of users due to the location, gradient, interface with traffic areas etc. and an alternative route will be indicated.

This will only occur where the geographical features of the area cannot sustain the greenway provision.

### Dependants

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify

the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

**18. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and/or racial group?**

None

**19. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion and/or racial group?**

Yes

**19a. Please provide your reasons below**

The design will be open to Public Consultation in February 2024 for the duration of 12 weeks. Consultation will identify the needs of the range of potential users which will then be included in the greenway planning and development process.

## **Disability Discrimination Order (NI) 2006**

**20. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability?**

Yes

**20a. Provide details of opportunities identified**

The Outline Business Case and the potential of implementation of the Country Park Masterplan will ensure access for those with a disability where possible and where not possible reasonable adjustments will be provided and signed appropriately.

**21. Is there evidence to suggest that this policy would encourage the participation of people with a disability in public life?**

Yes

**21a. Provide details of opportunities identified**

The information about the consultations and the operation of the Country Park if they are in these areas will be communicated in a range of alternative methods.  
The use of the Country Park will be monitored for suitability and improvements made where possible to suit users as alternative adjustments become available.

## **Additional Considerations**

**22. Are there any potential impacts of the policy / decision (positive or negative) on people with multiple identities?**

No

## **Monitoring Arrangements**

**23. Outline what data you could collect in the future to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on equality, good relations and disability duties**

Consultation process comments will be identified before Planning Submission.  
Comments and complaints of users.  
Data collated where available on users and potential users.

**25. On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy/decision is**

Screened Out - No negative impacts

## **26. Monitoring Recommendations**

A Full Business Case will be prepared to include the final design and costing based on consultation result. A post project evaluation and monitoring will be detailed in the Full Business Case.

**Conclusion**

the above is a draft plan which will need to be discussed with Equality Officer to determined overall assessment scoring. I have given it a Mitigated Minor Impact.

**Please upload any supporting documents for review**



**Email:**

julia.kane@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

**Screening Panel Comments**

**Date of Council Meeting**

Tuesday, February 14, 2023



## Appendix - Religious Belief

### Religious belief (Internal)

\* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

	Catholic	Protestant & other Christian	Other religions	Total
<b>Males F/T</b>	33	388	34	425
	8%	84%	8%	100%
<b>Males P/T</b>	*	*	*	8
	25%	63%	13%	100%
<b>Females F/T</b>	58	223	6	287
	20%	78%	2%	100%
<b>Females P/T</b>	12	20	5	35
	32%	54%	14%	100%
<b>Total</b>	105	606	46	757
	14%	80%	6%	100%

### Religious belief (External)

The Northern Ireland Census 2011 (NISRA) statistics for the Borough area showed that 75% are or have been brought up in Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) religions. While this varied across the borough from 17% in Portaferry ward to 87% in Carrowdore ward this does not have any relation to this policy. These compared to 48% for Northern Ireland as a whole.

LGD	All usual residents	Catholic	Protestant & other Christian	Other religions	None
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1,810,863	817,385	875,717	16,592	101,169
		-45.14%	-48.36%	-0.92%	-5.59%
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	156,672	20,550	117,589	1,729	16,804
		13%	75%	1%	11%

## Appendix - Political Opinion

### Political opinion (External)

Electoral Office data from recent Local Government elections detail the political representation on Ards and North Down Council, The Stormont Executive for this electoral area and Westminster election. This data is an approximate measure of political opinion of the voting electorate within the Borough. Turnout to vote in North Down and Strangford constituencies tend to be lower than the rest of NI suggesting less strong political opinions. Of those who do turn out, the results show preferences for voting Unionist parties.

Political Party	Seats Held
Alliance	10
DUP	14
Green	3
Independants	3
SDLP	1
Sinn Féin	0
TUV	1
UUP	8

## Appendix - Racial Group

### Racial group (Internal)

\* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

Racial Group	Total	Percentage
White	682	78.66%
Black	*	*
Chinese	*	*
Other	*	*
Did not want to answer	*	*
Left Black	176	20.30%

### Racial group (External)

NISRA, NINIS and Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership data provide up to date data. The 2011 census showed that 32,000 (1.8%) of the usually resident population in Northern Ireland is from a minority ethnic background. Within the borough, the 2011 Census showed that 1.5% (2,300) were from a minority ethnic background. Across the borough this ranged from 5.2% in Loughview ward to 0.3% in Lisbane ward.

Total Usual Residents	156,672
White	154,365
Chinese	406
Irish Traveller	0
Indian	283
Pakistani	0
Bangladeshi	177
Other Asian	415
Black Caribbean	0
Black African	139
Black Other	132
Mixed	556
Other	199

## Appendix - Age

### Age (Internal)

Age Profile	Female	Female %	Male	Male %
16 to 29	20	6%	26	65%
30 to 39	75	23%	83	19%
40 to 49	105	33%	121	27%
50 to 59	80	25%	176	39%
65+	42	13%	41	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Age (External)

NISRA have published population projections for the Borough which show that the proportion of those aged 85 and over are expected to more than double within the next 25 years. ANDBC has the highest % population of older people in Northern Ireland.

Age Profile	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
0 to 15	385,200	29,801
16 to 39	583,116	43,239
40 to 64	591,481	54,094
65+	291,824	31,663

<b>Total</b>	1,851,621	158,797
--------------	-----------	---------

## Appendix - Marital Status

### Marital Status (Internal)

\* Small numbers removed as individuals could be identifiable

Marital Status	Total	Percentage
Single	180	20.76%
Married	405	46.71%
Divorced	35	4.04%
Co Habiting	14	1.61%
Separated	25	2.88%
Civil Partnership	*	*
Left Blank	207	23.88%

### Marital Status (External)

The 2011 Northern Ireland Census showed that 48% of adults (those aged over 16 years of age) in Northern Ireland were either married or in a registered same-sex civil partnership. Within the borough, 54% of adults fell into this category. This varies across the borough from 36% in Central (Ards) ward to 64% in Lisbane ward. See

Marital Status	Northern Ireland	Ards and North Down
All usual residents: Aged 16+ years	<b>1,431,540</b>	<b>126,945</b>
Single (never married or never registered a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	<b>517,393</b>	<b>36,730</b>
	36.14%	29%
Married: Aged 16+ years	<b>680,831</b>	<b>67,866</b>
	47.56%	53%
In a registered same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	<b>1243</b>	<b>123</b>
	0.09%	0.09%
Separated (but still legally married or still legally in a same-sex civil partnership): Aged 16+ years	<b>56,911</b>	<b>4,328</b>
	3.98%	3%
Divorced or formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved:	<b>78,074</b>	<b>8,548</b>
	5.45%	7%
Widowed or surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership: Aged 16+ years	<b>97,088</b>	<b>9,350</b>
	6.78%	7%

## Appendix - Sexual Orientation

### Sexual Orientation

It should be noted that no reliable data is available on sexual orientation-NISRA are currently examining methodology on how to measure this. However, the 2011 census indicates that less than 1% of the Northern Ireland adult population (those aged 16 years and over) were in a registered same-sex civil partnership. This was similar to the borough as a whole. The Continuous Household Survey in Northern Ireland estimated this figure between 0.9% and 1.9% in 2015-2016. The Office for National Statistics estimates a similar range for the United Kingdom (1.7%).

## Appendix - Men and Women Generally

### Men and women generally (Internal)

Male	Female	Total
511	356	867
58.94%	41.06%	100%

### Men and women generally (External)

According to census (NISRA) almost half of the population of Northern Ireland were male (49%) and this was similar throughout Ards and North Down Borough Council (48%).

LGD	Male	Female	Total
Northern Ireland	887,323	923,540	1,810,863
Ards and North Down	75,920	80,752	156,672



## Appendix - Disability

### Disability (External)

The 2011 Census (NISRA) showed that 20% of the population in Ards and North Down area had a health issue or disability (including those related to old age) which has lasted or expected to last at least 12 months. (This was similar to the Northern Ireland figure of 21%.)

<b>LGD</b>	<b>All usual residents</b>	<b>Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a lot</b>	<b>Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities limited a little</b>	<b>Long-term health problems or disability: Day-to-day activities not limited</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	1,810,863	215,232	159,414	1,436,217
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	156,672	16,696	14,808	187,141

## Appendix - Dependants

### Dependants (External)

In considering this dimension the following have been included: persons with responsibility for the care of a child, children, a person with a disability and or an older person. According to the Continuous Household Survey, 2013-2016, 37% of Ards and North Down claimed to have a dependent (This did not differentiate on the type of dependent).

According to the 2011 Census, 7,474 households in Ards and North Down had a dependent child under the age of 4 (This might give an indication on the numbers who would have buggies or prams).

	<b>All households</b>	<b>Dependent children in household: All ages</b>	<b>Dependent children in household: Aged 0-4 years</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	703,275	238,904	96,030
<b>Ards and North Down</b>	156,672	19,520	7,474