

January 9th, 2023

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 11th January 2023** at **7:00 pm** in **Church Street, Newtownards.**

# Agenda

## Zoom Guidance

📎 *Zoom Guidance.pdf*

*Not included*

## Agenda

(Agenda attached)

📎 *11.01.2022 CWB Agenda.pdf*

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### 1. Apologies

### 2. Declarations of Interest

### 3. Deputation from Holywood Football Club

### 4. PEACEIV Shared Spaces Project - Post Project Evaluation

📎 *4. PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project - Post Project Evaluation.pdf*

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📎 *4.1 Appendix PPE PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services.pdf*

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### 5. Community Development Seeding Grant, Ballywalter Men's Shed

📎 *5. Community Development Seeding Grant Ballywalter Man's Shed.pdf*

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### 6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Communities and Place Green Spaces Application

(Report attached)

📎 *6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Communities and Place Green Spaces application.pdf*

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### 7. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants

📎 *7. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG December 2022).pdf*

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📎 *7.1. Appendix 1 Successful Coaching Report for Approving.pdf*

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📎 *7.2. Appendix 2 Successful Goldcard Report for Noting.pdf*

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📎 *7.3. Appendix 3 Successful Individual Travel Accommodation Report for Noting.pdf*

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## 8. Rewilding Update and Extension of Scheme

📄 *8. Rewilding Update and Extension of Scheme.pdf* Page 37

📄 *8.1 Appendix Stricklands Glen.pdf* Page 40

## 9. Kinnegar to Donaghadee Additional Public Engagement

📄 *9. Kinnegar to Donaghadee Additional Public Engagement.pdf* Page 41

📄 *9.1. Appendix SMR Kinnegar to Donaghadee Greenway Survey Report.pdf* Page 45

## 10. Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 Update

📄 *10. Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 Update.pdf* Page 88

📄 *10.1. Appendix 1. Minutes of 1st Meeting Sharing of the Workplan for the Private Tenancies Act 2022.pdf* Page 90

📄 *10.2. Appendix 2. Presentation Update on the Implementation of the Private Tenancies Act.pdf* Page 92

## 11. Update on Portavogie 3G Pitch Project

📄 *11. Update on Portavogie 3G Pitch Project.pdf* Page 110

📄 *11.1. Appendix1. Letter to DFI.pdf* Page 112

📄 *11.2. Appendix 2. Response from DFI.pdf* Page 114

## 12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Thompson and Adair

That Councils task officers to bring forward a report on options and potential funding opportunities to enhance and improve Council Football Pitches at Abbey Road Millisle to ensure that they can be used and enjoyed by the local sporting clubs and community of Millisle.

## 13. Any Other Notified Business

**\*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

**No items in confidence**

## **ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

5 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via zoom) of the Community and Wellbeing Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 11 January 2023** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council

### **A G E N D A**

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Deputation from Holywood Football Club
4. PEACEIV Shared Spaces Project - Post Project Evaluation (Report attached)
5. Community Development Seeding Grant. Ballywalter Men's Shed (Report attached)
6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Communities and Place Green Spaces Application (Report attached)
7. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (Report attached)
8. Rewilding Update and Extension of Scheme (Report attached)
9. Kinnegar to Donaghadee Additional Public Engagement (Report attached)
10. Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 Update (Report attached)
11. Update on Portavogie 3G Pitch Project (Report attached)
12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Thompson and Adair:  
That Councils task officers to bring forward a report on options and potential funding opportunities to enhance and improve Council Football Pitches at



Abbey Road Millisle to ensure that they can be used and enjoyed by the local sporting clubs and community of Millisle.

### 13. Any Other Notified Business

**\*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

No items in confidence.

### MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)

Alderman Carson	Councillor Adair
Alderman Irvine	Councillor Woods
Alderman S Wilson (Vice Chair)	Councillor McArthur
Councillor Boyle	Councillor Moore
Councillor Chambers	Councillor Smart
Councillor Douglas	Councillor T Smith
Councillor Edmund (Chair)	Councillor Thompson
Councillor Irvine	Councillor McRandal

Unclassified

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## ITEM 4

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	19 December 2022
File Reference	142040
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project - Post Project Evaluation
Attachments	Appendix PPE PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services

In line with the Councils Capital Management Handbook a Post Project Evaluation (PPE) should be carried out on all capital projects, typically within 12 months of construction. The PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services project, funded through the Peace Programme administered and funded by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) was completed by the project deadline of 31 September 2022.

The Post Project Evaluation (PPE) is service led and is an assessment of the projects results, activities, and processes. It is an essential tool to show that the project objectives have been met and, in terms of public accountability, to demonstrate what has been achieved with the investment of public funds.

It also facilitates recognition of project achievements and acknowledges people's work. This phase is also used to capture any learnings gained from the project while the memory of any issues encountered are still recent.

The PPE primarily evaluates:

## Unclassified

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- If the benefits, scope and deliverables of the project, as stated in the Project Brief, have been met
- The performance of the building/facility
- Lessons to be learned from the experience which may help future projects

The PPE for the PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services Project is attached at Annex 1. Members should note that SEUPB still need to verify the final claim and until they do this, the figures contained within the report are subject to change.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

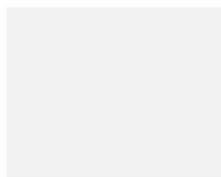
2021

**PROJECT NAME**



**Ards and  
North Down**  
Borough Council

## CONTACTS



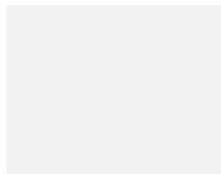
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**Ards and North Down  
Borough Council**

2 Church Street  
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BT23 4AP

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**NAME OF SENIOR USER**  
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**Ards and North Down  
Borough Council**

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Newtownards  
BT23 4JT

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## VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Author	Checker	Approver	Changes
1.0	04/01/2023	JN	BMcS	GB	

This report dated 04 January 2023 has been prepared by the Jan Nixey . For avoidance of doubt, no other person(s) may use or rely upon this report or its contents, and Ards and North Down Borough Council accepts no responsibility for any such use or reliance thereon by any other third party.

# CONTENTS

<b>FACTSHEET</b>	<b>Summary</b>	Prepared by Client Team in coordination with Corporate Project Unit
<b>SECTION 1</b>	<b>Strategic Case Review</b>	Prepared by Client Team
<b>SECTION 2</b>	<b>Economic Case Review</b>	Prepared by Client Team
<b>SECTION 3</b>	<b>Commercial Case Review</b>	Prepared by Client Team
<b>SECTION 4</b>	<b>Financial Case Review</b>	Prepared by Client Team in coordination with Corporate Project Unit
<b>SECTION 5</b>	<b>Management Case Review</b>	Prepared by Client Team in coordination with Corporate Project Unit
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>Supporting Documents</b>	

PPE SIGN OFF	
Stage 6: In Use Stage	
Date: _____	Date: _____

**FACTSHEET:** This document covers the items listed below. This is a suggested minimum coverage reflecting a project run under PRINCE2. A Post-Project Evaluation provides important input into a Gate 5 Review. The purpose of a Post-Project Evaluation (PPE) is to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of a project in realising the proposed benefits as outlined in the Business Case.
- Compare planned costs and benefits with actual costs and benefits to allow an assessment to be made of the project's overall value for money.
- Identify specific aspects of the project which have affected benefits either positively or negatively; from which recommendations for future projects can be derived.
- Reveal opportunities for increasing the project's yield of benefits, whether they were planned or became apparent during or after implementation, and recommend what actions are required to maximise benefits.

**SUMMARY**

*Please complete summary of key indicators below after having completed sections 1 to 5*

Key Indicators	Yes /No /Partial
<b>Was the project delivered on time?</b>	<b>Yes, with a short extension approved by the funder</b>
<b>Was the project delivered on budget?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<p><b>Were the objectives met?</b></p> <p><b>Objective 1:</b> Engage 4 towns/villages and 80 people to transform existing public spaces into shared spaces (Fully Achieved)</p> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Engage in dialogue sessions in each area (Fully achieved)</p> <p><b>Objective 3:</b> Workshops around horticulture and biodiversity and good relations involving local communities (Not Achieved)</p> <p>The scheme was reduced due to cost and considerations of residents, the workshops were to be delivered with participants attending the allotments, MUGA, community green and kick about area, however these did not proceed as part of the overall scheme.</p> <p><b>Objective 4:</b> Develop the 4 shared space projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Portavogie: Outdoor gym, community garden, wheel park.</li> <li>○ Holywood: allotments, a multi-use games area and a community trail for walking or running</li> <li>○ Comber: install a path network with lighting, a wheel park, community green and family kick about area</li> <li>○ Portaferry: facilitate community allotments and also a fitness trail</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objective 1 – Yes</b></p> <p><b>Objective 2 – Yes</b></p> <p><b>Objective 3 – No</b></p> <p><b>Objective 4 – Partial</b></p>



<p><b>Objective 5:</b> Eight Community groups engaged</p> <p><b>Objective 6:</b> Six Schools Engaged</p> <p><b>Objective 7:</b> Forty BME Community Representatives Engaged</p> <p>Work commitments hindered attendance of fishermen</p>	<p><b>Objective 5 – Yes</b></p> <p><b>Objective 6 – Yes</b></p> <p><b>Objective 7 – Partial</b></p>
<p><b>Have any recommendations been documented?</b></p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p>

*If any answer to the above Key Indicators is not 'Yes' please ensure details are provided at relevant section.*

**SECTION 1: STRATEGIC CASE REVIEW–Demonstrate how the proposal provided a strategic fit through consideration of project requirements, aims and objectives and alignment with strategic policies.**

<b>INTRODUCTORY NOTES</b>	<i>A brief note outlining the project being evaluated, who commissioned the report (e.g., the Project Board, Steering Committee), those who produced the report, and anyone who helped with technical or user advice, or who played a part in its production, e.g., by providing quality review. Those who attended the Benefit Review Meeting should also be identified.</i>
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The Project which is being evaluated is the Shared Spaces and Services Project funded under the Ards and North Down PEACE IV Action Plan. It consists of capital improvements to the following sites:

- **Redburn/Loughview Nature Park**
- **Portavogie, skatepark and outdoor gym**
- **Portaferry, Nugents Wood and Ropewalk Path**
- **Comber, skatepark and pathway improvements**

This post project evaluation report (PPE) is initiated in accordance with the requirements of the approved Economic Appraisal (under Monitoring and Evaluating section). Its intention is to build on strengths and learn from weaknesses. Its goal is to develop a disciplined process for evaluating project success, and to create standard, formalised, best practices that can be applied for future initiatives.

Representatives from the Councils PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project Board, AECOM, the PEACE IV team, Capital Projects Team, Assets and Property Team and Finance Team have all contributed to this Post Project Evaluation.

The evaluation is based on actual project data taken from: -

- Final Account prepared by Lead Consultant
- Capital Card prepared by ANDBC Finance
- Early Warning Register
- Communication Register
- Income and Expenditure
- Recurrent Costs
- Usage Figures
- End-users’ feedback and customers satisfaction survey.
- PEACE IV Monitoring

<b>PROJECT CONCEPT</b>	<i>A brief description of the project, its terms of reference (including the main objectives – which will be found in the original Business Case), and an outline of its progress, identifying those who played major roles, e.g., SRO, Project Manager, Senior User.</i>
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The project’s aim was the creation of a more cohesive society through an increased provision of Shared Spaces and Services, in four locations across the Borough:

- Holywood
- Comber
- Portavogie
- Portaferry

The original works planned for each site included:

- Open space at Redburn/Loughview which was no in use but maintained by the Council. The land had been previously used as a bonfire site. The original programme included the provision of allotments, a multi-use games area (MUGA) and a community trail for walking or running, to provide a shared space to enhance the local area and foster intergenerational work.
- Open space in Comber, known locally as Muckers Field, which had previously been used as a bonfire site and which was underutilised. The aim was to transform the area into a shared space, for use by all members

of the community. Original plans were to install a path network with lighting, a wheel park, community garden and family kick about area.

- The enhancement of leisure facilities in Portavogie – the plans included the installation of an outdoor gym, community garden and wheel park to enhance the local environment and provide a shared space for the local community. Peace IV Community consultation and consultation on the village plan for the area both stated that there was little or no provision for youths in the area. The wheel park would provide a space for all youths to meet and youth workers from the Education Authority together with the Ards and North Down Community Wardens would use the facility to engage with the youths.
- The enhancement of the Nugents Wood Nature Trail, in Portaferry. Plans originally included two new shared space areas identified in the town are i.e. a community garden and also a fitness trail. The project aimed to ensure intergenerational work can take place and the allotments are a shared space for people of all backgrounds and ages in the community. Due to costs and community considerations the project was amended to include improvements at Nugents Wood walking trail and at the Ropewalk.

Those who played a major role in the development and implementation of the projects were the Councils PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project Board, AECOM, the PEACE IV team, Capital Projects Team and Finance Team and FP McCann the appointed contractor.

<b>POLICY ALIGNMENT &amp; DEMAND</b>	<i>A brief description of the user/organisation, its aims and structure, and the reasons for the required business change.</i>
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Ards and North Down Borough Council serves a population of 159,593 over 228 square miles. The Council has an annual operating budget of approximately £58 million and a workforce of approximately 800, delivering a range of services to residents and local businesses. These include refuse collection and disposal, street cleaning, recycling, community development, economic development, environmental health, building control, leisure services, parks and play areas, arts, heritage, and tourism provision and events.

The project aligned with the following policies:

- Ards and North Down PEACE IV Strategy and Action Plan [PEACE IV PLAN.pdf \(ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk\)](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/PEACE_IV_PLAN.pdf)
- Ards and North Down Estate Strategy 2020-2025 [https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/Ards\\_and\\_North\\_Down\\_Estate\\_Strategy\\_-\\_November\\_2018.pdf](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/Ards_and_North_Down_Estate_Strategy_-_November_2018.pdf)
- Ards and North Down Corporate Plan 2020-2024 (Draft) [https://engage.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/corporate-plan/2020-24/supporting\\_documents/Draft%20Corporate%20Plan%20202024%20preconsultation%20181219.pdf](https://engage.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/corporate-plan/2020-24/supporting_documents/Draft%20Corporate%20Plan%20202024%20preconsultation%20181219.pdf)
- Ards and North Down - The Big Plan 2017-2032 [https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/The\\_Big\\_Plan\\_Second\\_Edt\\_d2.pdf](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/The_Big_Plan_Second_Edt_d2.pdf)

<b>PROJECT TIMETABLE</b>	<i>If there was a delay in completing the project, please provide narrative and details below</i>
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<b>Project Start Date (estimated):</b>	January 2018	<b>Project Start Date (actual):</b>	January 2018
<b>Project Completion Date (estimated):</b>	31 March 2022	<b>Project Completion Date (actual):</b>	30/09/2022

<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	<p><i>Each of the main objectives of the project/programme, as laid out in the Business Case, should be examined, to determine how far they were met, and reasons given for any shortfall. It may be useful to include this in a tabular format.</i></p> <p><i>Assess to what extent the objectives outlined in the economic appraisal were achieved using the key provided below and give a short explanation of each of them.</i></p>
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<b>KEY</b>	++ Fully Achieved	+ Partially Achieved	N/A Not Achieved
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Objective	Extent Achieved	Explanation
<b>Objective 1:</b> Engage 4 towns/villages and 80 people to transform existing public spaces into shared spaces (Fully Achieved)	++	
<b>Objective 2:</b> Engage in dialogue sessions in each area (Fully achieved)	++	
<b>Objective 3:</b> Workshops around horticulture and biodiversity and good relations involving local communities (Not Achieved)	N/A	Reduced scheme implemented due to costs and residents objections i.e allotments, multi use games area in Holywood and family kick about in Comber were not progressed as part of the scheme
<b>Objective 4:</b> Develop the 4 shared space projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Portavogie: Outdoor gym, community garden, wheel park.</li> <li>○ Holywood: allotments, a multi-use games area and a community trail for walking or running</li> <li>○ Comber: install a path network with lighting, a wheel park, community green and family kick about area</li> <li>○ Portaferry: facilitate community allotments and also a fitness trail</li> </ul>	+	Partially Implemented  Reduced scheme implemented due to costs and considerations of the residents i.e allotments in Holywood and Portaferry, multi use games area in Holywood and family kick about in Comber were not progressed as part of the scheme, due to cost and residents objections.
<b>Objective 5:</b> Eight Community groups engaged	++	
<b>Objective 6:</b> Six Schools Engaged	++	



<b>Objective 7: Forty BME Community Representatives Engaged (BME Fishermen)</b>	+	Partially Implemented  Work commitments hindered attendance from the fishermen
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*Please include any additional information below (if applicable):*

In general, the main benefits of the project were:

1. The enhancement of four open spaces, in Holywood, Comber, Portavogie and Portaferry, which has been achieved
2. Establishment of sustainable working relationships around 4 biodiversity projects: Portaferry (walking trail), Holywood (planting) Portavogie (community garden) Comber (drainage) and community groups in each of these areas have been involved in the final design and implementation of these projects
3. Significant upgrades, improvement, projects completed for up to 4 communities which are rural and where silent sectarianism and racism sometimes prevails
4. Reduction in the influence of residual paramilitary structures. Unknown to Council as this influence is affected by many external factors including the Protocol and the political instability in Stormont.
5. Creation of more cohesive spaces for people to engage in locally – a greater sense of belonging and reclamation of land that previously was contested and not owned or looked after by anyone which created a lack of hope and pride in these areas.

Unexpected benefits included:

1. Increased use/footfall at all sites.
2. Increased interest in skating and increased opportunity to work with other statutory partners at the skatepark to engage with CYP
3. Youth Shelters installed at Skatepark sites offering further opportunities to engage with young people. The shelter were also funded through Peace IV.

**RISKS & CONSTRAINTS** *Assess to what extent the risks identified in the original appraisal occurred and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Also, identify any additional risks associated with the project that were not foreseen in the economic appraisal.*

**KEY**      ++ Fully mitigated      + Partially mitigated      N/M Not Mitigated

Risk	Extent Mitigated Against	Explanation of the effectiveness of Risk Mitigation Measures
1. Budget - whilst cost should not initially limit the development of a vision, identified related option must be feasible and evidenced as value for money within the context of limited financial resources	++	At pre-tender stage the outline designs for each site had not been accurately costed, due to unforeseen issues. This resulted outline designs having to be scaled back, which required extended consultation and further agreement with local communities. During the construction phase, several other challenges presented, resulting in the project costing

		higher than initially budgeted for. However, additional funding was secured – see section 4 for further details.
2. Funding – including external funding. There was a risk that funding could be withheld by the funder if expenditure was deemed ineligible or targets were not met	+	The project was funded through the EU PEACE IV programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). There was also a minimal final cost to Council, in addition to the time and expertise of Council Officers in the delivery of the project. See section 4 for further details.
3. Financial		As above.
4. Regulatory including planning and environmental policies		All regulatory, planning and environmental policies were followed and obligations met.
5. Legal – Surrender of existing leases (where applicable).		A surrender of existing leases was not applicable. A triparty licence agreement was required to carry out some of the works at Nugents Wood. This took a significant time to get agreed by all parties. It was still not in place when the works were due to commence and resulted in both delays and increased costs.
6. Land ownership –	++	All of the land, with the exception of Nugents Wood, which is owned by the National Trust was in the ownership of the Council. The development of the Nugents Wood trail was carried out in close consultation with the National Trust and the adjacent land owner.
7. Timescale / Reputational –.	++	With a slight extension to the project, approved by the funder SEUPB, the project was delivered on time and within budget. There was no reputational risk to the Council.

*Please include any additional information below (if applicable):*

In general, the risks were:

- Managing community expectations.
- Delivering the project in time and within budget
- The delivery of a large-scale capital project over four locations across the borough
- Managing legal, statutory and environmental obligations
- Managing the unforeseen impact of Covid on project delivery and cost.

SECTION 2: ECONOMIC CASE REVIEW – Selection of the most preferred option	
<b>THE IDEAL OPTION</b>	<p><i>Was the preferred option identified after options had been fully developed and appraised at the Outline Business Case stage? Was it fully implemented? Was there any change to the scope of works which resulted in re-evaluating the most preferred option?</i></p>
<p>An Outline Business Case was not completed for this project. The project was developed through a co-design approach as required by the funder.</p> <p>At pre-tender stage the outline designs for each site had not been accurately costed, due to unforeseen issues. This resulted outline designs having to be scaled back, which required extended consultation and further agreement with local communities. Amendments to the original projects also had to be agreed with the funder, SEUPB.</p>	
<b>LESSONS LEARNED</b>	<p><i>What lessons learned from similar projects were identified and taken into consideration?</i></p>
<p>The projects were defined through a co-design process in 2015-2016, with funding awarded by SEUPB in December 2016, with stage 1 commencing in early 2018. Council introduced its Capital Handbook in 2020 to underpin the Councils Project Management Policy and its principles to be followed for the development, management and delivery of all projects. Stages 0-1 of the project could have been improved if a Project Board had been in place at that define and discover stages of the scheme.</p> <p>Council was not made aware by the funder that CPU needed to be involved in the procurement process from the outset. This requirement had not been included in the formal Letter of Offer from the funder. CPU approval had to be secured retrospectively which caused some initial delay to the appointment of the contractor.</p> <p>There were a number of concerns raised by members of the community at a late stage in the process. Some residents had not been involved in the initial co-design process and objected to some aspects of the plans in certain areas e.g. the location of the proposed multi use games area, allotments and outdoor gym. Further community consultation was required which resulted in changes to the original project designs. These issues may have been mitigated against by seeking full planning permission at the outset, rather than progressing with permitted development.</p> <p>Capital projects not on Council land can cause significant delays and costs.</p> <p>Invest resources at the define and discover stages of a project to ensure a business case is produced to adequately scope out and prepare preliminary estimates, risks, restrictions, land issues, statutory approvals, procurement etc, however this needs to be balanced with the completion dates for the project as specified by the funding body.</p> <p>Revenue funding to animate/programme the capital improvements would have enhanced the projects and encouraged community buy in and engagement.</p>	
<b>NON-MONETARY COSTS &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<p><i>Each of the benefits projected in the Business Case should be examined to determine how fully they have been realised.</i></p> <p><i>If possible, please include evidence of how the non-monetary benefits have been achieved. If non-monetary benefits have not been realised, please explain why</i></p>
<p><b>KEY</b>      ++ Fully Achieved      + Partially Achieved      / Not Achieved</p>	



Benefit (as specified in economic appraisal)	Extent Achieved	Description of how benefit was achieved? Explanation of why benefit was not achieved
Establishment of sustainable working relationships between 4 communities around 4 biodiversity projects	++	Biodiversity improvements have been made in, Portaferry (walking trail), Holywood (planting) Portavogie (community garden) Comber (drainage)
Removal and/or softening of territorial markings in a post conflict society	+	Many areas where largely unused before the implementation of the projects. They are now widely used shared spaces
Significant upgrades, improvement, projects completed for up to 4 communities which are rural and where silent sectarianism and racism sometimes prevails	++	
Reduction in the influence of residual paramilitary structures	Unknown	Affected by other external factors including the Protocol and political instability
Creation of more cohesive spaces for people to engage in locally – a greater sense of belonging and reclamation of land that previously was contested and not owned or looked after by anyone which created a lack of hope and pride in these areas.	++	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFO – UNEXPECTED BENEFITS OR DISBENEFITS</b>	<i>Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 2: Economic Case Review e.g. Any benefits which emerged during the lifespan of the project/programme which were not predicted in the Business Case should be outlined. If there were no unexpected benefits please record a note of this here.</i>	
<p>Unexpected Benefits Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased use/footfall at all sites.</li> <li>• Increased interest in skating and increased opportunity to work with other statutory partners at the skatepark to engage with children and young people</li> <li>• Youth Shelters installed at Skatepark sites offering further opportunities to engage with young people</li> </ul> <p>Unexpected Disbenefits Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact of the covid pandemic in terms of the timeframe for the delivery of the project and overall costs</li> <li>• Skatepark noise (Comber) – received ongoing complaints from residents regarding the noise from the skatepark when in use. However, an independent noise consultant deemed the noise was not a nuisance. A number of remedial measures were put in place dull the noise at additional cost to the project.</li> <li>• Temporary problems with drainage – this was an issue at each of the sites, which have now been remediated.</li> </ul>		





**SECTION 3: COMMERCIAL CASE REVIEW – demonstrate how the ideal option resulted in a well-structured deal (where applicable).**
**DEMAND & BENEFITS** *Did the project meet the demand?*

The PEACE IV Plan, summarised the needs of the Borough and in particular the needs identified through the Shared Spaces and Services theme. These included:

1. A lack of Shared Spaces in the Borough
2. Residential segregation
3. Sports opportunities for young people
4. Greater use of vacant properties within the borough
5. Demarcation of residential areas
6. Addressing silent sectarianism and racism
7. Using the environment as a link between communities The natural environmental assets of the area were identified as a means of linking people in the area – loughs, sea, greenways, parks, etc. thus creating natural cross community links between people.
8. Addressing a perceived class and place divide on a local level - need for a greater sense of belonging There was a view that class issues were as much a dividing factor locally as sectarianism. Creating connections between communities was viewed as important.

The Shared Spaced Theme focused on 4 towns and villages in the Ards and North Down Borough: Portavogie; Portaferry; Holywood and Comber and aimed to transform existing public spaces into shared spaces through dialogue, connecting workshops around horticulture, biodiversity, leisure and sports with communities across the areas, leading to the creation of welcoming consensual spaces and a more cohesive and connected society.

The public consultation exercise and co-design process identified the need to maximise usage of existing shared space within the Borough for community use with a focus on cross community and cross border use. Consultees also identified the need to enhance the local environment and to enhance shared space and the Boroughs natural environment.

The proposed projects transformed four community spaces in the Borough into inclusive community shared space and provide a PEACE IV legacy in each of the four areas.

**IMPLEMENTATION** *Outline how this project was procured?*

The project was procured in line with CPD requirements, as a design and build project.

**OPERATIONS** *How was the project managed and operated?*

The delivery of the project was managed by a project board and delivered by AECOM and FP McCann

**ADDITIONAL INFO** *Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 3: Commercial Case Review*

**SECTION 4: FINANCIAL CASE REVIEW – demonstrate that the ideal option was affordable.****MONETARY COSTS AND BENEFITS**

*Briefly explain whether the costing assumptions and estimates of targeted benefits made at the project's inception proved realistic; a comparison of estimated and actual cost savings and efficiency improvements*

**Capital Cost**

Total Capital Cost (excluding OB)	Total Estimated OB Adjusted Capital Cost (A)	Actual Cost (B)	Variation between A and B (%)
N/a	£1,027,158*	£1,172,297	£145,139

\*Note this was the total expected infrastructure and works capital cost per SEUPB letter of offer dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

*Please explain any variation in capital cost below:*

The final actual cost was higher than originally expected. This increase in costs was identified around August 2020 and was mainly due to compensation events associated with Covid 19, a number of surveys which were not originally anticipated and extra costs due to ground conditions e.g. contamination, rock etc. However, additional funding was secured through both SEUPB reallocations within the total award to Council and DFC covid-specific funding. Also, due to minor delays in some elements of the project, a final retention payment could not be made within the programme closure date, resulting in a small amount being payable by Council. See section below on funding for further details.

**Recurrent Cost**

Year	Estimated Cost per annum (A)	Actual Cost per annum (B)	Variation between A and B (%)
2024/2025 Property Services		N/A	
2024/2025 Technical Services		N/A	
2024/2025 Direct Expenditure		N/A	
<b>TOTAL</b>			

*Please give an explanation for any variation in recurrent cost below:*

CAPITAL FUNDING	<i>How was the project funded?</i>												
<p>The final capital funding breakdown is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>SEUPB Infrastructure &amp; Works**</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,081,736</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEUPB External Expertise &amp; Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1,815</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DFC (Covid-19 costs)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£86,498</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2,248</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total Funding</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£1,172,297</b></td> </tr> </table>				SEUPB Infrastructure & Works**	£1,081,736	SEUPB External Expertise & Services	£1,815	DFC (Covid-19 costs)	£86,498	Council	£2,248	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£1,172,297</b>
SEUPB Infrastructure & Works**	£1,081,736												
SEUPB External Expertise & Services	£1,815												
DFC (Covid-19 costs)	£86,498												
Council	£2,248												
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£1,172,297</b>												
<p>**Note that following the aforementioned identification of increased costs, SEUPB issued a revised letter of offer for infrastructure and works dated 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021 of £1,108,347. The final infrastructure and works costs of £1,081,736 resulted in an underspend against the revised letter of offer of £26,611.</p> <p>The £2,248 is the amount of retention for the upgraded equipment in Portavogie, which could not be claimed by the programme close off date of 30 September 2022 and therefore must be incurred by Council.</p>													
NPV/NPC CALCULATIONS	<i>The estimated NPV in the Business Case should be compared with the actual NPV and reasons given for any variance. It would be useful if you could append both the original NPV and the actual resultant NPV. If NPVs were not carried out in the Business Case, please record a note of this here.</i>												
	<b>Economic Appraisal</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Variation between EA and Actual</b>										
<b>Total Capital Cost £ (without Optimism Bias)</b>	<b>£1,027,158*</b>	<b>£1,172,297</b>	<b>£145,139</b>										
<b>Total Annual Net Recurrent Cost (£)</b>													
<b>Total Annual Benefit (£)</b>													
<b>Net Present Cost £ (without Optimism Bias)</b>													
<b>Non-Monetary Benefits Ranking</b>													
<b>Risk Assessment (H/M/L)</b>													
<p>*Note this was the total expected infrastructure and works capital cost per SEUPB letter of offer dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017. As no Business Case was carried out for the project rows 3-7 cannot be completed.</p>													
ADDITIONAL INFO	<i>Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 4: Financial Case Review</i>												



**SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT CASE REVIEW – Demonstrate robust plans were in place for delivery, monitoring and evaluation.**
**GOVERNANCE**

*The purpose of this section is to identify factors that went well or did not go well with respect to the management of the project and which can be applied to future projects. Please consider:*

Factors	Comments
a) What aspects of the project management structure worked well?	The project board meetings and the professional working relationships between all parties
b) Were there any aspects that worked poorly or were lacking?	There was a lack of formal collaboration between key-stakeholders during the define and discover stages of the project, which was overcome with the establishment of a formal project board at stage 5
c) Is there anything that could have been done differently?	See (b) above
d) Did any unforeseen issues arise that affected the project management process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The global pandemic.</li> <li>• A tri-party lease agreement required for access and the development of Nugents Wood.</li> <li>• Community objections to the Multi Use Games area and allotments.</li> </ul>
e) How well were the risks managed?	All risks were managed by the project board and between the Peace IV team the funder, including increased costs due to compensation events mainly resulting from the Covid pandemic.
f) Are there any remaining issues which need to be addressed?	No, the project has been fully delivered within time and budget
g) Did the scope of the project change during implementation?	Yes, some aspects of the original schemes had to be reviewed and scaled back due to community concerns and costs.



h) Were there problems with the contractor/contracted party?	No, all problems/queries were resolved
i) Were quality expectations met?	Generally speaking, the quality of the works was satisfactory – there were some complications, but these have been addressed.

<b>LESSONS LEARNED &amp; RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<p><i>A high-level summary of the main recommendations/lessons learned with respect to the implementation of the project.</i></p> <p><i>Identify factors which can be usefully applied to future projects. Also make recommendations as to how to improve future appraisals and future management of projects.</i></p>
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<b>Lesson Learned</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
Councils Project Management Policy and its principles to be followed for the development, management and delivery of all projects.	The processes outlined in the Councils Capital Handbook must be followed from Stage 1 - project conception
For PEACE funded Capital projects CPU involvement is required in the procurement process	Involve CUP in the procurement process for PEACE funded capital projects
Full planning permission is not required for some capital schemes on Council land, as these can be undertaken through permitted development, however the planning process may highlight unforeseen issues which can then be mitigated against at an early stage.	Consideration should be given to seeking planning permission for works on Council owned land.
Capital projects not on Council land can cause considerable delays and added costs	Consideration should be given to delivering capital projects on land that is not owned by the Council where budget and timescale is restricted.
The define and discover stages of a capital project are essential and the preparation of a business case is required to adequately scope out and prepare preliminary estimates etc	Invest resources at the define and discover stages of a capital project to ensure a business case is produced to adequately scope out and prepare preliminary estimates etc
Capital improvements benefit from an element of revenue funding to animate/programme the space e.g.	Consider, where possible, the inclusion of a revenue budget to animate capital schemes

skatepark summer schemes for the wheel parks.	
<b>ADDITIONAL INFO</b>	<i>Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 5: The Management Case</i>

Once Completed, the Post Project Evaluation is signed off by the relevant Senior Responsible Owner and reported to relevant Council Committee and Council.

Detailed guidance on project appraisal, evaluation, approval and management is available from the Strategic Capital Project and Programme Unit at [PCU@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:PCU@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk) ext. 40604

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 Bangor, BT20 4BT  
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**ITEM 5****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	05 December 2022
File Reference	CDV31
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Community Development Seeding Grant Ballywalter Men's Shed
Attachments	None

As members may be aware, Council provides a Community Development Seeding Grant for newly formed community/residents groups. The seeding grant provides financial assistance with the costs involved in formally constituting a community/residents group.

On the 21 March 2022, Council received a seeding grant application from the Chairperson of Ballywalter Men's Shed. The application was reviewed by a Community Development Officer and the Community Development Manager. The application was complete and met the criteria for receipt of a Community Development seeding grant.

Ballywalter Men's Shed were awarded a seeding grant of £200.00. Under delegated authority, the seeding grant was approved and signed off by the Director of Community and Wellbeing.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council note this report.

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## ITEM 6

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	06 January 2023
File Reference	CW 158
Legislation	Youth and Recreation Service (NI ) Order
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Communities and Place, Green Spaces Application.
Attachments	None

On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023, officers attended a briefing session held by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) along with other NI Councils concerning an allocation to each Council for Green Space initiatives under the UKSPF.

Councils were advised that each had been allocated on the basis of their population a share of circa £1.3m. For Ards and North Down this amounts to £113,925. The deadline for applications was 16<sup>th</sup> January with a decision target date of 6<sup>th</sup> February. Any project applied for must be practical, visible and a capital expenditure and delivered by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

As a result of the briefing which detailed the criteria, including community consultation, proof of need, and an analysis of intended outcomes, it became clear that options for delivery in such a tight timescale were limited.

However, plans for delivery of enhancements of open spaces include playgrounds. Council will be aware that an extensive consultation process was undertaken in relation to the development of its play strategy, which included analysis of need and

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the other measures required to support an application under this measure. Council has already pre-tendered for a designer and installer of its playgrounds for a period of years and also has a schedule of priorities for the current year for delivery of fixed play facilities.

The next play facility due for installation is a replacement facility at De Wind Drive Comber. The estimated cost of this facility would use all of the grant application offered. Although the annual refresh of the prioritisation of playground work is still to be completed (due before end of March), it is next on the current prioritisation list for action.

Therefore, officers, having considered this opportunity and other possible schemes, have determined that an application for the funding for the De Wind Drive Playpark would present the best opportunity to Council to allow the funding to be secured and deliver a project in the timescales required in accordance with the UKSPF criteria. Officers have completed the application on this basis because of the tight application deadline and intended to submit this by 16<sup>th</sup> January and wish to request retrospective approval for doing so from Council. Funding that was required for this scheme from Councils own budgets can then be invested elsewhere in the future.

Although this is not ideal because of the timescales, there are two more years of UKSPF funding available under this measure (and other elements going forward). The DLUHC representatives advised that going forward more time in year would be available to consider future applications for projects and schemes.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council retrospectively approves that an application to be made under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Communities and Place Green Spaces measure for funding for a new playpark to replace its facility at De Wind Drive Comber.

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## ITEM 7

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure and Amenities
Date of Report	13 December 2022
File Reference	SD109
Legislation	Recreation and Youth services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG December 2022)
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Successful Coaching Report for Approval Appendix 2 - Successful Goldcard Report Appendix 3 - Successful Individual Travel & Accommodation Noting Report

Members will be aware that on the 26 August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £40,000 had been allocated within the 2022/2023 revenue budget for this purpose.

The Council further authorised the Forum under delegated powers to award grants of up to £250. Grants above £250 still require Council approval. In addition, the Council requested that regular updates are reported to members.

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During November 2022, the Forum received a total of 11 grant applications: 1 Coaching, 2 Goldcard and 8 Individual Travel/Accommodation. A summary of the 11 successful applications are detailed in the attached Successful Coaching, Goldcard and Individual Travel & Accommodation Appendices.

For information, the annual budget and spend to date on grant categories is as follows:

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded November 2022	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	£250
Coaching	£3,000	*£300	£592.50
Equipment	£11,000	£0	£3,535.14
Events	£6,000	£0	£1,700
Seeding	£500	£0	£250
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£1,090.00	*£96.03
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000
New category under development	£3,000	£0	£3,000
*Goldcards proposed during the period November 2022 is 2 (16 Goldcards in total during 2022/23).			

\* The proposed remaining budget for Coaching of **£592.50** is based on a proposed award of **£300.00** for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£96.03** is based on a proposed award of **£1,090.00** – for Noting, and withdrawn costs of £5.72.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the attached applications for financial assistance for sporting purposes valued at above £250, and that the applications approved by the Forum (valued at below £250) are noted.

## Successful Coaching Applications - for Approving

December

2022/23

AppName	Application	Course	Benefits	Facilitator	Start Date / End Date	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Asylum Weightlifting Club	Coaching	2022 BWL Level 3 Diploma in Coaching Weightlifting	Course will continue to develop & educate club coaches, Meet technical needs of athletes competing at international level, Develop new coaches within club	British Weightliftin	08/12/2022 31/01/2023	£300.00	£300.00	All documentation provided. Current guidelines state funding limits for Governing Body sports coach qualification – up to 75% of costs up to a maximum of £300. Recommend funding of £300.
						<b>Total Proposed</b>	<b>£300.00</b>	

## Successful Goldcards - for Noting

December

2022/23

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Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Start	End	Gvm	Proposed	Notes
Bobby Driscoll	N Ireland	Sailing	2023 Laser Youth Europeans	12/07/2023	19/07/2023	Bangor Aurora & Queens	Awarded	Goldcard valid from 19 December 2022 to 19 July 2023.

Tom Driscoll	Ireland	Sailing	2023 Topper World Champ	24/07/2023	28/07/2023	Bangor Aurora & Queens	Awarded	Goldcard valid from 19 December 2022 to 28 July 2023.
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## Successful Travel/Accommodation - for Noting

December

2022/23

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Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Location	Start/ End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Cullen Courtney	N Ireland	Taekwondo	2022 World Championships	Glasgow, Scotland	11/11/2022 13/11/2022	£150.00	£150.00	Selection letter from Recognised NGB, SCoT, advises Cullen has qualified for the World Championships, on 11-13 November, in Glasgow. Recommend funding of £150.
Kyle Thompson	Ulster	Running & Athletics	2022 All-Ireland Cross Country Championship	Rossapenna Golf Course, Donegal	20/11/2022 20/11/2022	£198.10	£100.00	NGB selection letter advises Kyle has qualified for the All-Ireland Cross Country Championships, on 20 November, in Donegal. Recommend funding of £100.
Kyle Thompson	Ulster	Running & Athletics	2022 Home Counties International Cross Country	Milton Keynes, England	12/11/2022 12/11/2022	£50.00	£50.00	NGB selection letter advises Kyle has qualified for the Home Counties International competition, on 12/11/2022. Recommend funding of £50 (amount requested by applicant).

Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Location	Start/ End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Luke Stirling	N Ireland	Taekwondo	2022 Open Taekyon Tournament	Oss, Netherlands	27/11/2022	£669.96	£170.00	Selection letter from Recognised NGB, SCoT, advises Luke has qualified for the Open Taekyon Tournament, 27 November, in Netherlands. Recommend funding of £170.
Luke Stirling	N Ireland	Taekwondo	2022 ITF World Championships	Glasgow, Scotland	12/11/2022 13/11/2022	£498.82	£150.00	Selection letter from Recognised NGB, SCoT, advises Luke has qualified for the World Championships, on 11-13 November, in Glasgow. Recommend funding of £150.
Ryan Stirling	N Ireland	Taekwondo	2022 Open Taekyon Tournament	Oss, Netherlands	27/11/2022	£669.96	£170.00	Selection letter from Recognised NGB, SCoT, advises Ryan has qualified for the Open Taekyon Tournament, 27 November, in Netherlands. Recommend funding of £170.

Applicant	Representing	Sport	Event	Location	Start/End	Requested	Proposed	Notes
Ryan Stirling	N Ireland	Taekwondo	2022 ITF World Championships	Glasgow, Scotland	12/11/2022 13/11/2022	£498.82	£150.00	Selection letter from Recognised NGB, SCoT, advises Ryan has qualified for the World Championships, on 11-13 November, in Glasgow. Recommend funding of £150.
Soul-Be Courtney	N Ireland	Taekwondo	2022 World Championships	Glasgow, Scotland	11/11/2022 13/11/2022	£150.00	£150.00	Selection letter from Recognised NGB, SCoT, advises Soul-Be has qualified for the World Championships, on 11-13 November, in Glasgow. Recommend funding of £150.
						<b>Total Proposed</b>	<b>£1,090.00</b>	

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## ITEM 8

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks & Cemeteries
Date of Report	16 December 2022
File Reference	PCA63
Legislation	Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Rewilding Update and Extension of Scheme
Attachments	Appendix Stricklands Glen

Members will be aware that the Parks and Cemeteries Service initiated a Rewilding initiative in 2018. This was part of a wider Grassland Management Strategy to ensure best sustainable use of our resources and promote biodiversity. Rewilding requires converting closely mown amenity grasslands to managed grassland habitats capable of supporting a much more diverse range of floral species, pollinators and insects and thus improving Biodiversity. At present 49,195m<sup>2</sup> of grassland is being managed for rewilding. The purpose of this report is to update members on the initiative and provide detail on expanding the scheme across further locations. In addition to Biodiversity Net Gain, our Rewilding initiative has climate change advantages by reducing carbon / using less fuel by cutting less grass and improves workload planning by enabling to staff to have more capacity to work in other areas within our parks and open spaces.

Rewilding is about the restoration of natural ecosystems and encourages a balance between people and the rest of nature where each can thrive. It is not something that is solely focused on rural landscapes. The creation and maintenance of meadow grasslands is taking place in public open spaces across the UK and making real improvement to biodiversity.

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The promotion of biodiversity is a statutory requirement under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Biodiversity is defined as the variety of life on earth. Moreover, it is the variety of flora and fauna and the functions that exist between them. Once such function is the interaction between the natural environment and recreational value of open spaces.

By improving the biodiversity and creating a place for wildlife to thrive we have opened opportunities for education by creating outdoor classrooms where schools and local members of the community can discover the natural world and develop understanding of environmental issues through first-hand experience. Educational activities have been carried out in our meadow grassland including bug hunts, flower species identification, sketching flowers etc. Regular positive feedback on the benefits of these sites to constituents and visitors' experiences within the Borough highlight the positive impact this scheme has made to people's lives in addition to the obvious biodiversity benefit.

**Current Sites**

It is the intention that the current sites will continue to be subject to the alternative management techniques outlined above with a view to encouraging increased variety of species. The rewilding scheme includes areas at the following council owned sites:

- Ballystockard Open Space, Comber
- Cloughey Road, Portaferry
- Tullymalley, Portaferry
- Linear Park, Bangor
- Ballymenoch Park, Holywood
- Stricklands Glen/Connor Park, Bangor
- Seapark, Holywood
- Brompton Coastal Path, Bangor
- North Street, Greyabbey

In addition to the ongoing maintenance, the schedules will be altered to take account of infrequent event use on certain sites. It is critical that the rewilding project works in harmony with the overall use of parks and a balanced offering is available across the parks portfolio. Events and community use will be catered for in the integrated grassland management of each chosen site.

Following community engagement, one of the current sites at Stricklands Glen/Connor Park is recommended for an adjustment to the current mowing regime. In order to provide a balance between recreation and sustainable management, the following is proposed and shown in the plan in Appendix 1:

- Retain areas of amended mowing across the site to fit with the All-Ireland Pollinator objectives
- Provide an open area for passive recreation
- Carry out tree planting to integrate the mature woodland with the open site of Connor Park

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**Inclusion of Additional Sites**

In 2020 the update Rewilding Parks report to Council committed to the continued monitoring of sites to evaluate the success of the management changes and if successful, consideration would be given to further sites being included at a future date.

A further audit of grassland maintenance across the Borough has been undertaken by the Council Parks Officers and found significant potential to extend our existing rewilding portfolio. Officers secured funding through Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership for a bespoke piece of mowing equipment designed to provide a cut and lift across smaller areas of land. On that basis, it is possible to roll out the initiative across a range of new sites.

It is recommended to include further sites under the Rewilding Scheme as detailed in the list below:

- Bowtown Road, Newtownards
- Lands Adjacent (Parsonage Road) to Kircubbin Cemetery
- Demesne View, Portaferry
- Whitespots Country Park
- Glenlyon, Holywood
- Windmill Stump, Portaferry
- Whiterock Car Park

This will take the total area within the Rewilding Initiative to just over 90,000m<sup>2</sup>. It should be noted that land at Bowtown Road and Parsonage Road are under a conacre agreement until January 2023, bringing both locations under the rewilding/tree planting initiative will return them to public amenity use. It is anticipated, if approved that these schemes could commence immediately, and the benefits noted above could begin to be achieved in 2023. However, the intention is to manage this roll out with consideration for our resources across the section.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council continues to approve the above initiative and supports the ongoing development of the rewilding project as outlined within this report to enhance and promote biodiversity across the Borough.

Appendix 1

Proposed Amendment – Stricklands Glen/Connor Park





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## ITEM 9

**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks & Cemeteries
Date of Report	20 December 2022
File Reference	CW30
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Kinnegar to Donaghadee Additional Public Engagement
Attachments	Appendix SMR Kinnegar to Donaghadee Greenway Survey Report

**Background**

Following a Council decision in December 2021 to carry out additional public engagement in relation to the greenways project, clarification was sought in February 2022 from members on the nature of this engagement and that the intention was to apply it only to the Kinnegar to Donaghadee section of the project underway.

In March 2022, Ards and North Down Borough Council commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake a programme of research to further inform the proposal to develop a coastal path greenway from Kinnegar/Hollywood to Donaghadee. In accordance with the Council's decision, the research was based on two elements: a survey of a representative sample of Council residents; and a survey of users of the existing North Down Coastal Path. The research was conducted in October and November 2022 and in accordance with the ISO202252 giving a result which was a statistically significant, 95% confidence level. To achieve this, 404 residents were surveyed, and 108 users were interviewed.

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**The aim of the surveys was to explore the following:**

- Use of the existing path
- Perceived benefits of the existing path
- Satisfaction with the existing path
- Suggestions on how the existing path could be improved
- Awareness of the Council's proposal to develop and extend the existing path to Donaghadee
- Likelihood of using the path if developed by the Council
- Views on the proposal to develop and extend the existing path
- Suggestions for further improvements to the proposed new coastal path
- Support for the proposal to develop and extend the path from Kinnegar/Hollywood to Donaghadee.
- Any further comments on the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar/Hollywood to Donaghadee.

Copies of the survey questionnaires are included in Appendix 1 of the attached report.

**Survey Methodology*****Residents' Survey***

The survey was based on a representative sample of 404 residents aged 16+, with quotas applied for age, gender, social class and District Electoral Area. The survey was conducted using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing or CATI (a profile of the sample is included within attached report). Fieldwork on the survey was conducted between 21 October and 5 November 2022. All interviews were conducted by telephone (landline and mobile) with interviewers briefed before the commencement of fieldwork.

***Coastal Path User Survey***

The survey is based on a sample of 108 users of the existing coastal path. The survey was conducted on a face-to-face basis using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Fieldwork was undertaken between the 15 and 19 October 2022 (a profile of the sample is included in Appendix 2 of the attached report).

**Actual survey days:**

- 15th October 2022 (weather conditions, 12 degrees, scattered clouds).
- 16th October 2022 (11 degrees, passing clouds, light showers).
- 18th October 2022 (14 degrees, sunny, passing clouds).
- 19th October 2022 (11 degrees, overcast, scattered light showers).

It should be noted that the original survey dates were changed to those stated above due to weather warnings in place at the time of the original proposed dates.

The surveys were conducted between three pairs of points along the pathway namely:

- Seapark to Seahill (near the bridge).
- Helens Bay to Crawfordsburn (near the beach); and

## Unclassified

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- Brompton to Pickie (near Brompton Bay).

The surveys were taken over six hours with the market researchers rotated between these sets of locations.

The research was conducted in line with ISO20252 of which Social Market Research (SMR) is fully accredited.

### Key Findings

#### Council's Proposal to Develop the Coastal Path from Kinnegar/Holywood to Donaghadee

- 40% of residents are aware of the Council's proposal [54% of users of the existing path].
- 76% of residents are supportive of the proposal [78% of users of the existing path].
- 79% of residents see the development of the path as being positive for the area [existing users, 65%].

#### Current Use of the Existing Coastal Path

- 76% of residents use the existing North Down Coastal Path
- 73% use it for walking (dog walking, 21%) [existing users: walking, 57%: dog walking, 42%].
- 76% are satisfied with the existing path [existing users: 90%].
- 23% of residents say they use the path on a weekly basis [existing users: 57%].

#### Future Use of the Coastal Path

- 85% of residents say they will use the path if developed [existing users: 98%].
- 79% of those who say they will use it will use it for walking [existing users: 67%].
- 33% of those who say they will use it will use it on a weekly basis [existing users: 44%].

### Conclusions

This research shows that a majority of residents, and existing users of The North Down Coastal Path, are supportive of the Council's proposal to develop a coastal path/greenway from Kinnegar/Holywood to Donaghadee. Moreover, most residents and current path users, see the Council's proposal as being a positive development for the area.

The findings also show that a substantial number of those consulted use the existing path on a weekly basis, with most users satisfied with the existing path. Walking is the most common reason for using the existing path, followed by dog walking.

If the coastal path were to be developed in line with the Council's proposal, the research suggests that there will be increased use among residents, with almost all current users saying they too would use the path. As with current use, walking was cited as the most common reason for using the redeveloped path.

## Unclassified

44

Both residents and current users of the path highlighted a range of benefits associated with the existing path and the proposed redeveloped path including health benefits, the provision of open space and the scenery, views and beaches.

The research also provided residents and current path users with opportunities to say how the existing path could be improved with these suggestions including: the provision of more bins/dog bins; wider paths; improved surfaces; and additional lighting.

Finally, a relatively small number of residents and existing path users, (11%) were unsupportive of the Council's proposal with their concerns focusing on the environmental impacts for the redevelopment and a need to prioritise spending on other areas.

**Notes on Reporting**

Please note that due to rounding, row and column totals in tables and figures may not sum to 100. Also, please note that any differences between respondent subgroups alluded to in the report commentary are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. The use of [-] within tables denotes less than 1%.

More than three out of four (76%) of residents said they are supportive of Ards and North Down Borough Council's proposal to develop a coastal path/greenway from Kinnegar/Hollywood to Donaghadee (very supportive, 52%; supportive, 24%).

Five percent (5%) are unsupportive (not very supportive, 2%; not at all supportive, 3%). Approximately one in five (19%) are undecided.

**Public Information Meetings**

Public Information meetings to discuss the proposed Greenway have been confirmed for:

- Monday 23rd January: Donaghadee Community Centre from 6.30-8.30pm.
- Tuesday 24th January: Council Chamber Bangor Town Hall from 6.30-8.30pm.
- Wednesday 1st February: Queens Leisure Complex Hollywood from 6.30-8.30pm.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the results of the public survey and continue to support the ongoing development of the North Down Community Greenway Network including that from Kinnegar to Donaghadee which in part follows the North Down Coastal Path. Members are also asked to note this is still progressing through the planning process with an accompanying Environmental Statement.



# Ards and North Down Borough Council

## Greenways Report (Kinnegar to Donaghadee)

21 December 2022

FINAL



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## Executive Summary

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In March 2022, Ards and North Down Borough Council commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake a programme of research to inform a proposal to develop a coastal path / greenway from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee. The research is based on two elements: a survey of a representative sample of 404 Council residents; and a survey of 108 users of the existing North Down Coastal Path. The research was conducted in October and November 2022 and in accordance with the ISO202252 Standard. This report presents the findings from the research.

### Key Findings

#### Council's Proposal to Develop the Coastal Path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee

- 40% of residents are aware of the Council's proposal *(54% of users of the existing path)*
- 76% of residents are supportive of the proposal *[78% of users of the existing path]*
- 79% of residents see the development of the path as being positive for the area *[existing users, 65%]*

#### Current Use of the Existing Coastal Path

- 76% of residents use the existing North Down Coastal Path
- 73% of residents who use the existing path use it for walking (dog walking, 21%) *[existing users: walking, 57%; dog walking, 42%]*
- 76% of residents are satisfied with the existing path *[existing users: 90%]*
- 23% of residents say they use the path on a weekly basis *[existing users: 57%]*

#### Future Use of the Coastal Path

- 85% of residents say they will use the path if developed *[existing users: 98%]*
- 79% of residents who say they will use it will use it for walking *[existing users: 67%]*
- 33% of residents who say they will use it will use it on a weekly basis *[existing users: 44%]*

### Conclusions

This research shows that a majority of residents, and existing users of The North Down Coastal Path, are supportive of the Council's proposal to develop a coastal path / greenway from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee. Moreover, most residents and current path users, see the Council's proposal as being a positive development for the area.

The findings also show that a significant number of those consulted use the existing path on a weekly basis, with most users satisfied with the existing path. Walking is the most common reason for using the existing path, followed by dog walking.

If the coastal path were to be developed in line with the Council's proposal, the research suggests that there will be increased use among residents, with almost all current users saying they too would use the path. As with current use, walking was cited as the most common reason for using the redeveloped path.

Both residents and current users of the path highlighted a range of benefits associated with the existing path and the proposed redeveloped path including: health benefits, the provision of open space and the scenery, views and beaches.

The research also provided residents and current path users with opportunities to say how the existing path could be improved with these suggestions including: the provision of more bins / dog bins; wider paths; improved surfaces; and additional lighting.

Finally, a relatively small number of residents, and existing path users, were unsupportive of the Council's proposal with their concerns focusing on the environment impacts of redevelopment and a need to prioritise spending on other areas.



## 1. Introduction

Ards and North Down Borough Council is proposing to develop a coastal path / greenway from Kinnegar / Hollywood to Donaghadee. The proposed Greenway begins at Airport Road West in Kinnegar Hollywood and ends at The Commons Park in Donaghadee. The route mostly follows the existing North Down Coastal Path (NDCP) from Kinnegar to Bangor and then the A2 to Donaghadee. This means that the current path would be improved in places as well as building new sections of path.

In March 2022, the Council commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake a programme of research to support the Greenways proposal (Kinnegar to Donaghadee). This report presents the findings from this research.

### 1.1 Research Focus and Survey Content

The research was based on two elements:

- a research exercise with a representative sample of residents to ascertain their views on the Council's proposals to develop a greenway from Kinnegar to Donaghadee; and,
- a survey of existing users of the North Down Coastal Path.

The aim of the surveys was to explore the following:

- Use of the existing path
- Perceived benefits of the existing path
- Satisfaction with the existing path
- Suggestions on how the existing path could be improved
- Awareness of the Council's proposal to develop and extend the existing path to Donaghadee
- Likelihood of using the path if developed by the Council
- Views on the proposal to develop and extend the existing path
- Suggestions for further improvements to the proposed new coastal path
- Support for the proposal to develop and extend the path from Kinnegar/Hollywood to Donaghadee
- Any further comments on the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar/Hollywood to Donaghadee

Copies of the survey questionnaires are included as Appendix 1.

### 1.2 Survey Methodology

#### Residents' Survey

The survey is based on a representative sample of 404 residents aged 16+, with quotas applied for age, gender, social class and District Electoral Area. The survey was conducted using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing or CATI (*a profile of the sample is included in Appendix 2*). Fieldwork on the survey was conducted between 21 October and 5 November 2022. All interviews were conducted by telephone with interviewers briefed before the commencement of fieldwork.

#### Coastal Path User Survey

The survey is based on a sample of 108 users of the existing coastal path. The survey was conducted on a face to face basis using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Fieldwork was undertaken between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 (*a profile of the sample is included in Appendix 2*).

The research was conducted in line with ISO20252 of which Social Market Research (SMR) is fully accredited.

### 1.3 Notes on Reporting

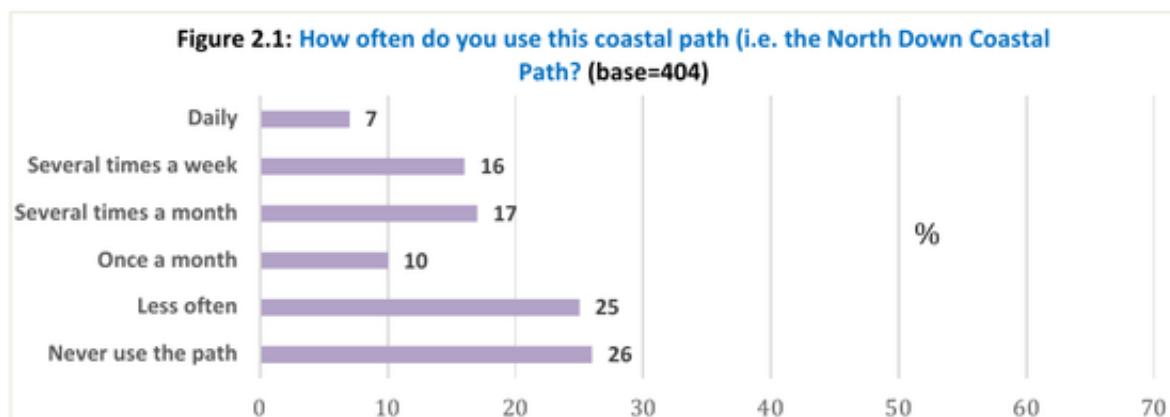
Please note that due to rounding, row and column totals in tables and figures may not sum to 100. Also, please note that any differences between respondent subgroups alluded to in the report commentary are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. The use of [-] within tables denotes less than 1%.

## 2. Survey of Residents

### 2.1 Current Use of the Coastal Path by Residents

Residents were asked if they currently use the existing North Down Coastal Path which runs between Airport Road West in Kinnegar Holywood to Bangor, and travels through Seahill, Helen’s Bay, Crawfordsburn, Brompton Bay through to Pickie Park in Bangor.

Figure 2.1 shows that 74% of residents said they use the existing North Down Coastal Path, with 7% using it daily, 16% several times a week, 17% several times a month, 10% once a month and 25% less often.



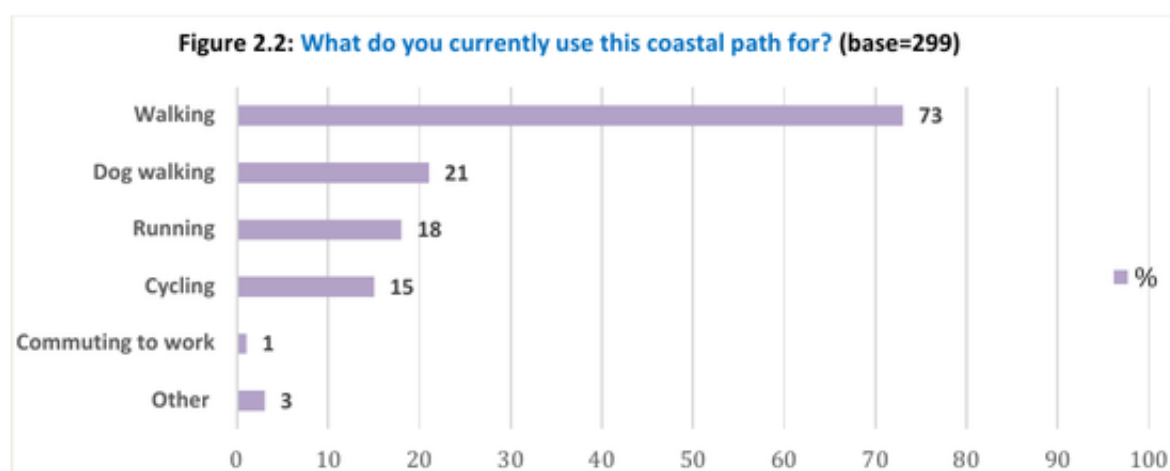
#### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

The following groups were more likely to say they use the existing North Down Coastal Path

- Residents aged under 65 (18-34, 77%; 35-64, 77%; 65+, 62%)
- ABC1 residents (79% vs. C2DE, 70%)
- Non-disabled residents (78% vs. 59%)
- Economically active residents (79% vs. 67%)
- Relatively better educated residents (low, 61%; medium, 86%; high, 78%)<sup>1</sup>

#### 2.1.1 Reasons for Using The North Down Coastal Path

Among those who said they use the North Down Coastal Path (n=299), 73% said they use it for walking, 21% for dog walking, 18% for running, 15% for cycling and 1% for commuting to work. Three percent said they use the path for other things<sup>2</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> Note that educational attainment level has been classified as followed to facilitate data analysis: low (O Level or below); medium (A Level or ONC / BTEC); high (higher education).

<sup>2</sup> Included: family outings (n=3); when at Pickie (n=1); with grandchildren (n=3); scooter (n=1); and walking with friends (n=1).

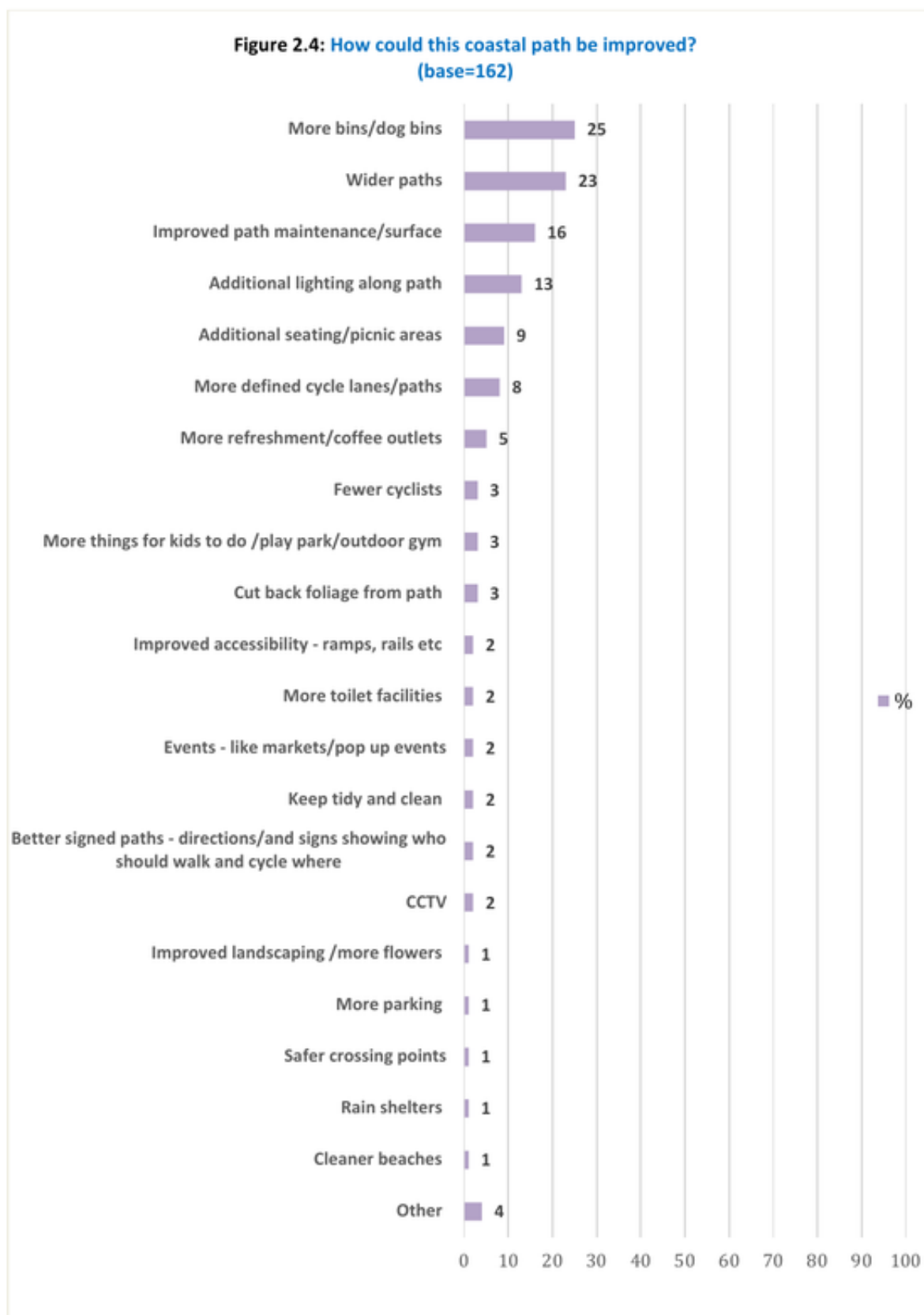
2.1.2 Single Most Important Benefit of The North Down Coastal Path

Residents who currently use the path were asked to say what is the single most important benefit of the path to them, with the most common benefits being: getting out for exercise / health reasons (26%); and to get fresh air / outdoors / open spaces (15%).



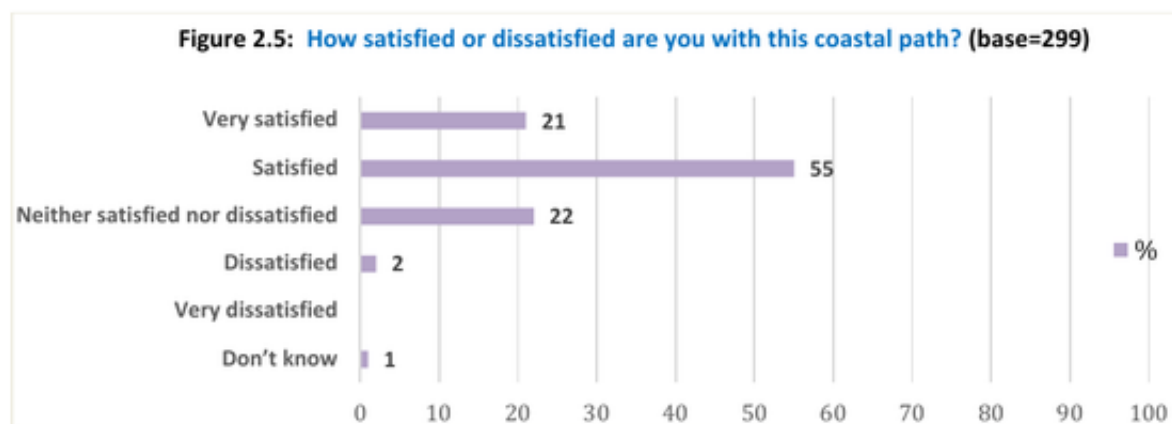
2.1.3 Suggestions on How The North Down Coastal Path Can be Improved

Residents who currently use the coastal path made a number of suggestions for improving the existing path, and the most common included: more bins / dog bins (25%); wider paths (23%); improved path maintenance (16%); and additional lighting along the path (13%).



### 2.1.4 Satisfaction with the Existing North Down Coastal Path

Approximately three out of four (76%) residents who use the existing path said they are satisfied with it (very satisfied, 21%: satisfied, 55%), with 22% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 2% dissatisfied<sup>3</sup>. One percent were undecided.

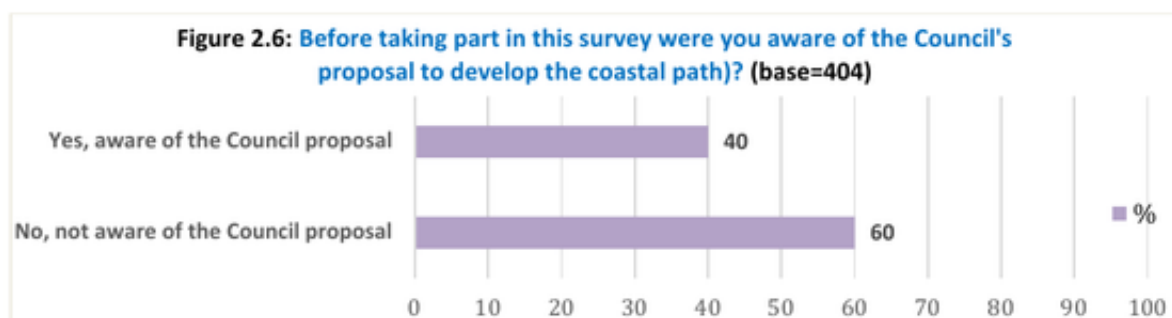


### 2.2 Resident Awareness of Council Proposal to Develop the Coastal Path

As part of the survey, residents were provided with the following information on the Council's proposal to develop the existing North Down Coastal Path:

*Ards and North Down Borough Council is proposing to develop a coastal path / greenway from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee. The proposed Greenway begins at Airport Road West in Kinnegar Holywood and ends at The Commons Park in Donaghadee. The route mostly follows the existing North Down Coastal Path (NDCP) from Kinnegar to Bangor and then the A2 to Donaghadee. This means that the current path would be improved in places as well as building new sections of path.*

Figure 2.6 shows that less than half (40%) of residents were aware of the Council's proposal to develop the existing coastal path.



#### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

The following groups were more likely to say they were aware of the Council proposal to redevelop the path:

- Residents aged 35-64 (18-34, 29%: 35-64, 47%: 65+, 36%)
- ABC1 residents (49% vs. C2DE, 32%)
- Those with dependents (48% vs. 33%)
- Economically active residents (45% vs. 32%)
- Those living within a mile of the path (within 1 mile, 49%: 1-3 miles, 37%: more than 3 miles, 30%)
- Those living in Bangor East and Donaghadee (69%) (compared with an average of 40% for all areas)

<sup>3</sup> Reasons for dissatisfaction included: can be uneven in places and dangerous (n=1); it's boring and not many people use it (n=1); it's not great to look at and nowhere for dogs to get a good run (n=1); not great to get to and needs a good tidy up (n=1); and there is no light; we run with head torches; poles up but no light in them (n=1).

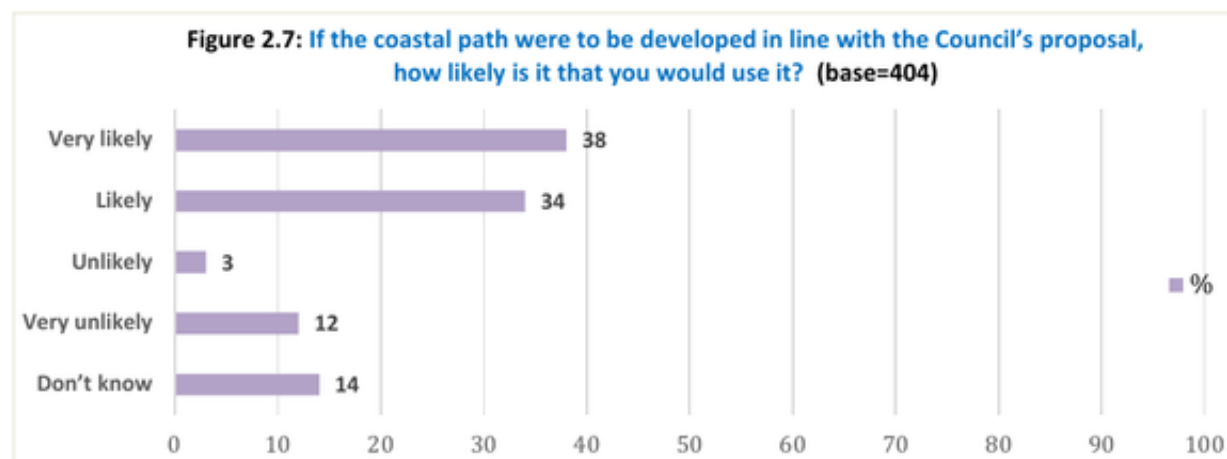


## 2.3 Likelihood of Using the Coastal Path when Developed

53

Among all residents, 72% said they would be likely to use the path when developed in line with the Council's proposal (very likely, 38%; likely, 34%).

Fifteen percent (15%) said they would be unlikely to use the coastal path (unlikely, 3%; very unlikely, 12%), with 14% undecided.



### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

The following groups were more likely to say they would be likely to use the path when developed in line with the Council's proposal

- Residents aged 35-64 (18-34, 72%; 35-64, 79%; 65+, 54%)
- ABC1 residents (78% vs. C2DE, 67%)
- Non-disabled residents (78% vs. 48%)
- Those with dependents (81% vs. 65%)
- Economically active residents (80% vs. 57%)
- Relatively better educated residents (low, 61%; medium, 86%; high, 78%)<sup>4</sup>
- Those living within a mile of the path (within 1 mile, 84%; 1-3 miles, 70%; more than 3 miles, 55%)

### 2.3.1 Reasons for Being Unlikely to Use the Coastal Path

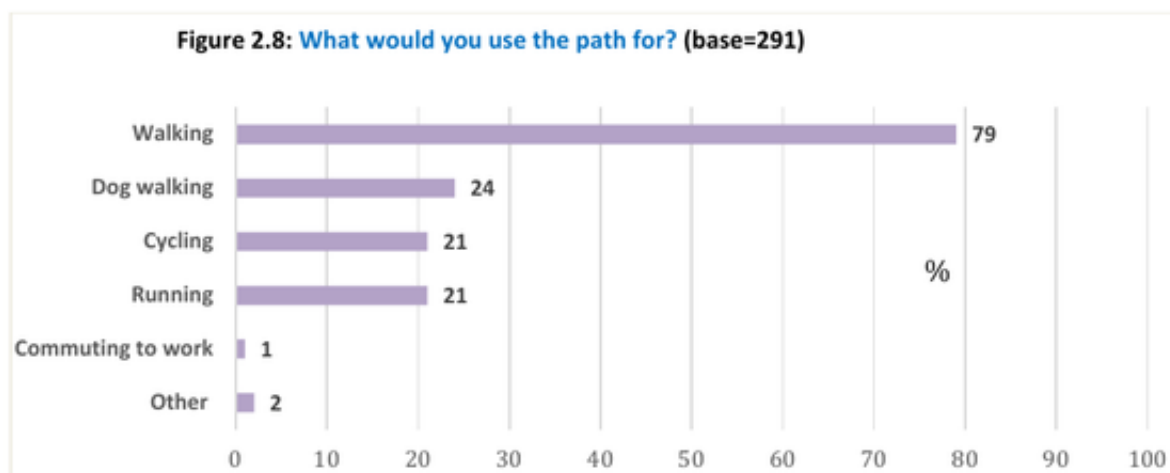
Those residents (n=57) who said they are unlikely to use the path were asked why this is with poor mobility / health issues etc. being the most common reason cited (n=14).

- Poor mobility / can't walk too far / health issues / too old (n=14);
- Don't use it (n=6);
- it's too far away to be practical (n=6);
- No time (n=5);
- Don't go out walking (n=4);
- Don't go out much / can't go out (n=3)
- Always in work / working (n=3);
- No interest (n=3);
- Can't get out much now (n=2);
- Don't like that dogs are poisoned on greenways. Read it on Facebook all the time. Dog poo is not lifted (n=1);
- Get exercise at work (n=1);
- I think it would destroy it and it's a waste of money (n=1);
- I would walk in woods with dogs as there isn't as many people (n=1);
- It's not safe no lights dangerous for women walking on their own (n=1);
- Never heard of it (n=1);
- Plenty to walk in the country (n=1);

<sup>4</sup> Note that educational attainment level has been classified as followed to facilitate data analysis: low (O Level or below); medium (A Level or ONC / BTEC); high (higher education).

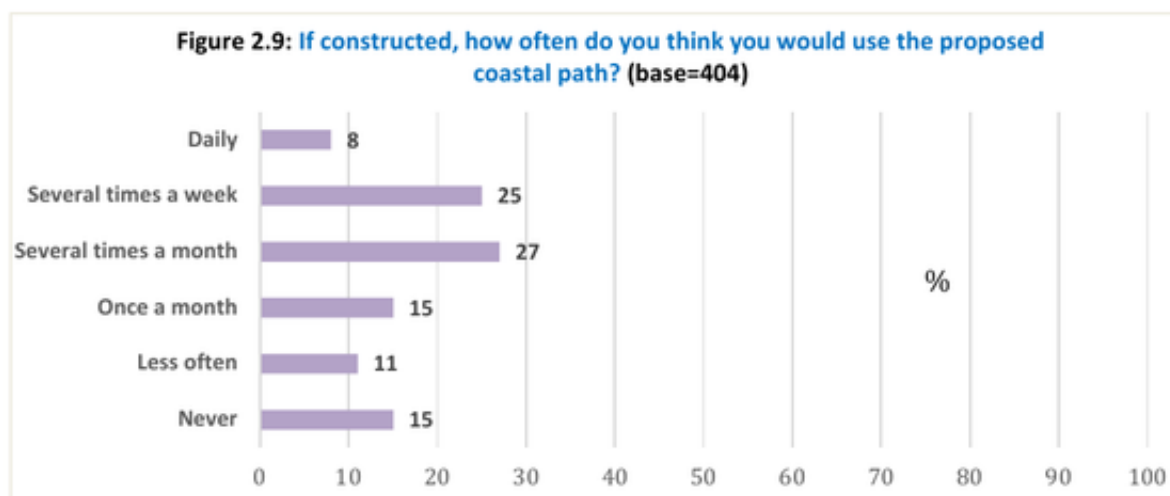
### 2.3.2 Reasons for Being Likely to Use the Coastal Path

Those who said they would be likely to use the path (n=291) were most likely to say they would use it for walking (79%), 24% would use it for dog walking, 21% for cycling, 21% for running and 1% for commuting to work. Two percent said they would use the path for other reasons<sup>5</sup>.



### 2.3.3 Likely Frequency of Using the Coastal Path

If constructed, 8% of residents said they would use the coastal path on a daily basis, 25% would use it several times a week, 27% several times a month, 15% once a month and 11% less often. Fifteen percent said they would not use the coastal path.



### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

The following groups indicated that they would use the path more often (i.e. at least weekly):

- Residents aged 35-64 (18-34, 32%: 35-64, 38%: 65+, 17%)
- ABC1 residents (40% vs. C2DE, 25%)
- Non-disabled residents (38% vs. 11%)
- Those with dependents (40% vs. 26%)
- Economically active residents (37% vs. 21%)
- Better educated residents (low, 20%: medium, 28%: high, 47%)<sup>6</sup>
- Those living within a mile of the path (within 1 mile, 39%: 1-3 miles, 31%: more than 3 miles, 23%)
- Those living in Holywood and Clondeboye (49%) (compared with an average of 33% for all areas)

<sup>5</sup> Included: grandchildren outings (n=3); meeting friends (n=1); scooter user (n=1); sea swimming (n=1).

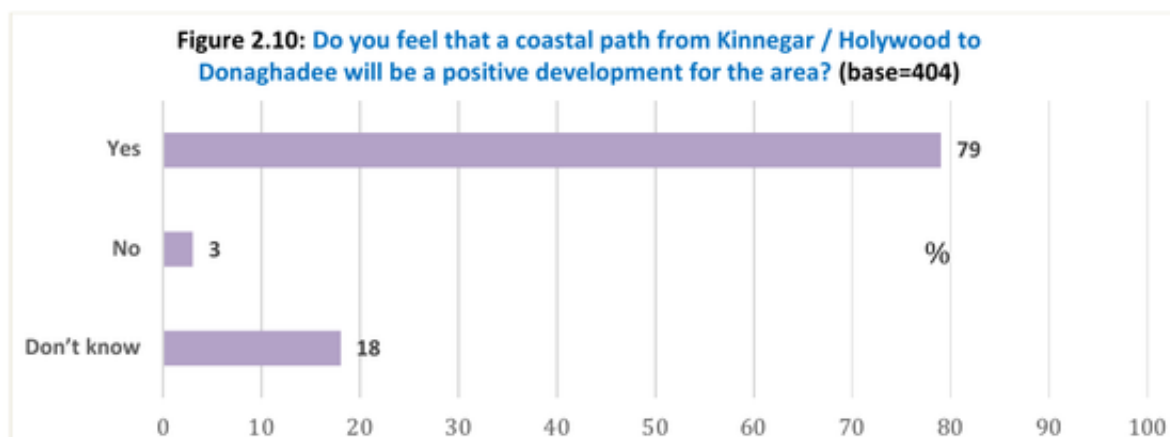
<sup>6</sup> Note that educational attainment level has been classified as followed to facilitate data analysis: low (O Level or below); medium (A Level or ONC / BTEC); high (higher education).



## 2.4 Resident Perception of the Proposed Development of the Coastal Path

55

Almost eight out of ten (79%) residents believe that a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee will be a positive development for the area, 3% said it would not and 18% were undecided.



### Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

The following groups were more likely to see a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee as a positive development for the area:

- Residents aged 35-64 (18-34, 75%; 35-64, 84%; 65+, 70%)
- ABC1 residents (87% vs. C2DE, 72%)
- Non-disabled residents (82% vs. 71%)
- Economically active residents (83% vs. 72%)
- Relatively better educated residents (low, 63%; medium, 89%; high, 90%)<sup>7</sup>
- Those living within a mile of the path (within 1 mile, 87%; 1-3 miles, 79%; more than 3 miles, 67%)
- Those living in the Ards Peninsula (100%) (compared with an average of 79% for all areas)

<sup>7</sup> Note that educational attainment level has been classified as followed to facilitate data analysis: low (O Level or below); medium (A Level or ONC / BTEC); high (higher education).

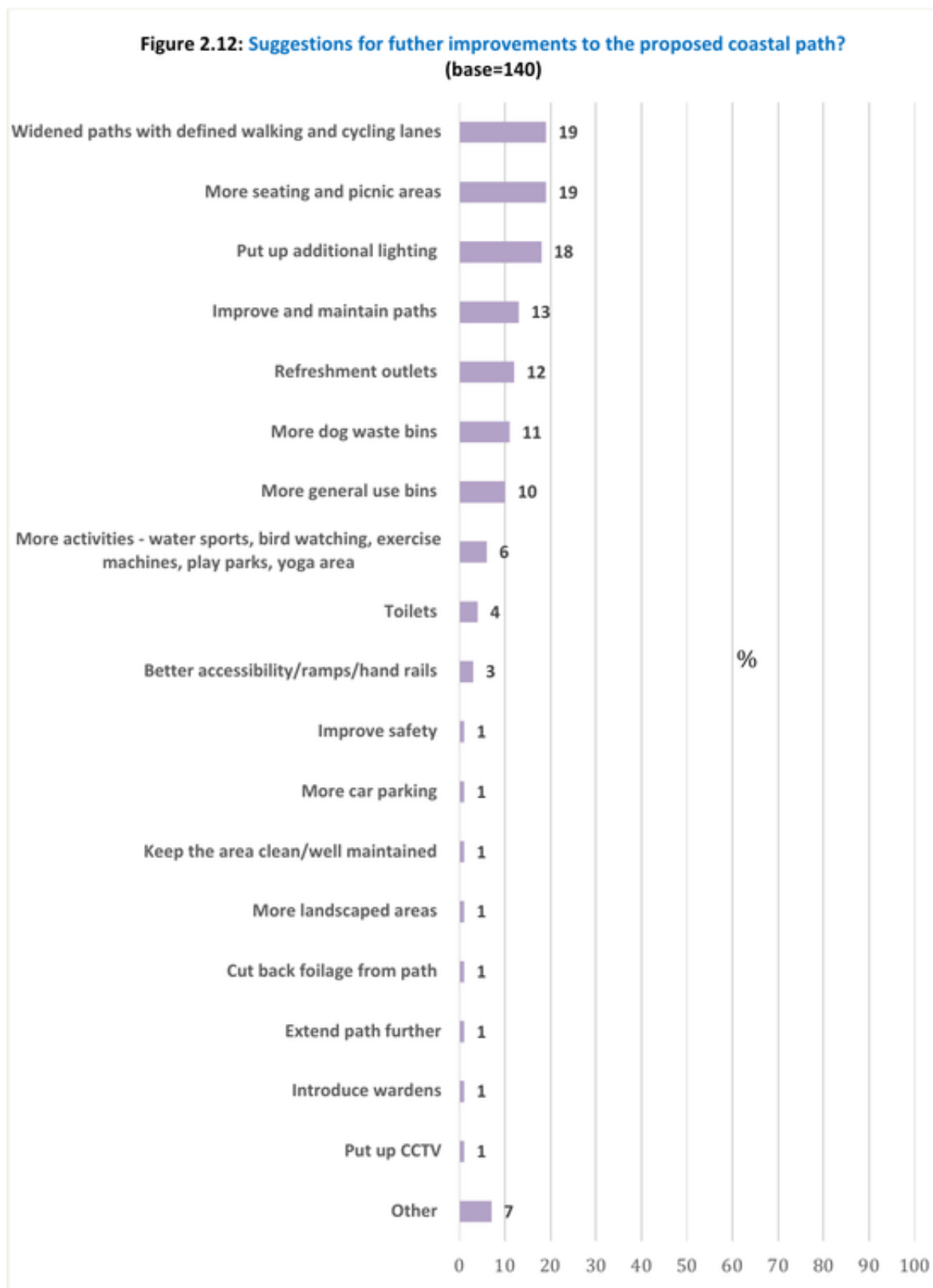
2.4.1 Reasons Why Coastal Path Perceived as a Positive Development for the Area

The most common reasons why residents believe that a redeveloped coastal path will be a positive development for the area included: good / positive development for the area (19%); good for the area and people / families living near it (16%); will encourage people to get out more (9%); and will provide extra green space and longer more enjoyable walks (7%).



2.5 Suggested Further Improvements for the Proposed Coastal Path

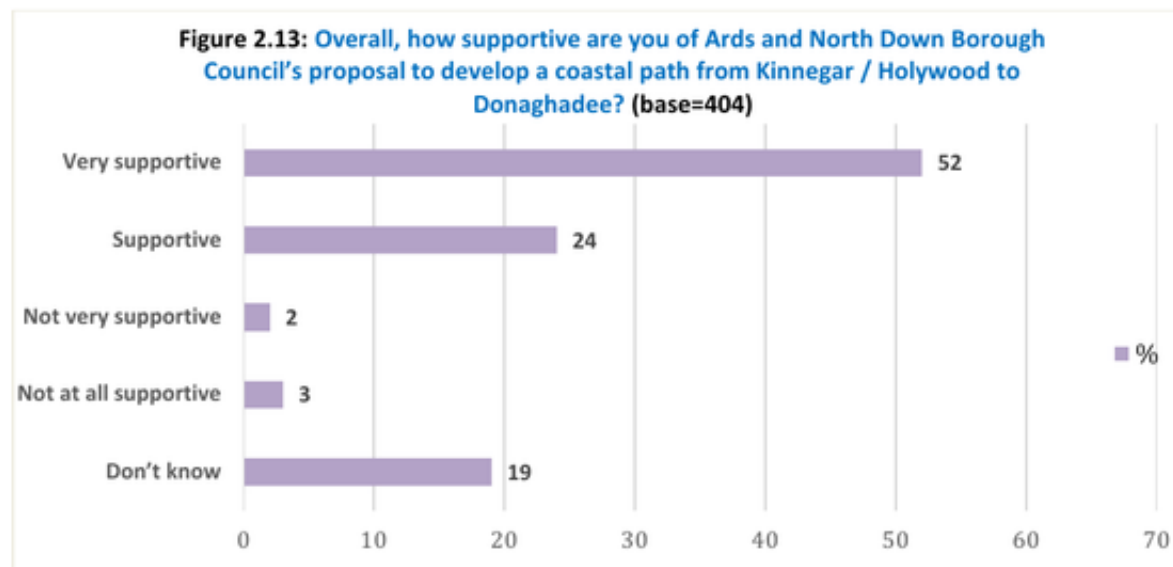
Residents were asked if they had suggestions on any further improvements they would like to see along the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee, with the most common suggestions including: wider paths with defined walking and cycling lanes (19%); more seating / picnic areas (19%); additional lighting (18%); and improve and maintain paths (13%).



**2.6 Support for Proposal to Develop a Coastal Path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee**

More than three out of four (76%) residents said they are supportive of Ards and North Down Borough Council’s proposal to develop a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee (very supportive, 52%: supportive, 24%).

Five percent (5%) are unsupportive (not very supportive, 2%: not at all supportive, 3%). Approximately one in five (19%) are undecided.



**Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups**

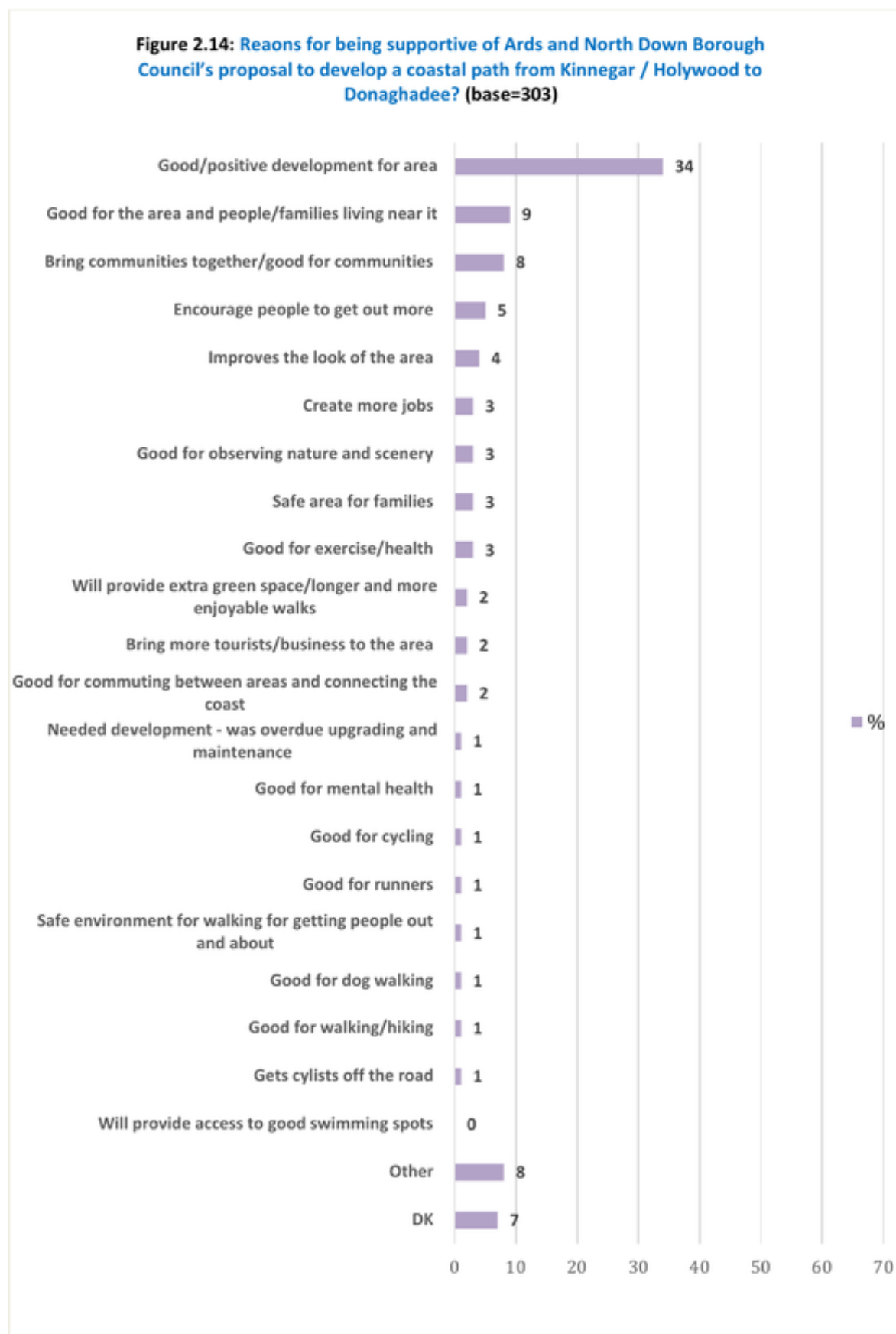
The following groups were more likely to say they are supportive of the Council’s proposal to develop a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee:

- ABC1 residents (85% vs. C2DE, 68%)
- Those with dependents (85% vs. 69%)
- Relatively better educated residents (low, 63%: medium, 88%: high, 85%)<sup>8</sup>
- Those living in the Ards Peninsula (100%) (compared with an average of 76% for all areas)
- Residents who currently use the existing path (83% vs. 57%)

<sup>8</sup> Note that educational attainment level has been classified as followed to facilitate data analysis: low (O Level or below); medium (A Level or ONC / BTEC); high (higher education).

2.6.1 Reasons for Being Supportive of the Council's Proposal

The most common reasons for being supportive of the Council's proposal to develop the coastal plan included: it is a good / positive development for the area (34%); good for the area and people and families living near it (9%); and brings communities together (8%).



## 2.6.2 Reasons for Being Unsupportive of the Council's Proposal

The reasons why some residents are unsupportive of the proposal included: not using the path (n=1); not a good idea / waste of money (n=3); money should be spent on improving NHS and schools (n=1); Council never seems to do much (n=1); no interest (n=3); spend money wisely (n=1); existing path not maintained (n=1); very lazy (Council) – overgrown (n=1); very slow at doing jobs (Council) (n=1); and want the Council to clean up the moss around my home – area around it is terrible (n=1).

## 2.6.3 Reasons for Being Unsure about the Council's Proposal

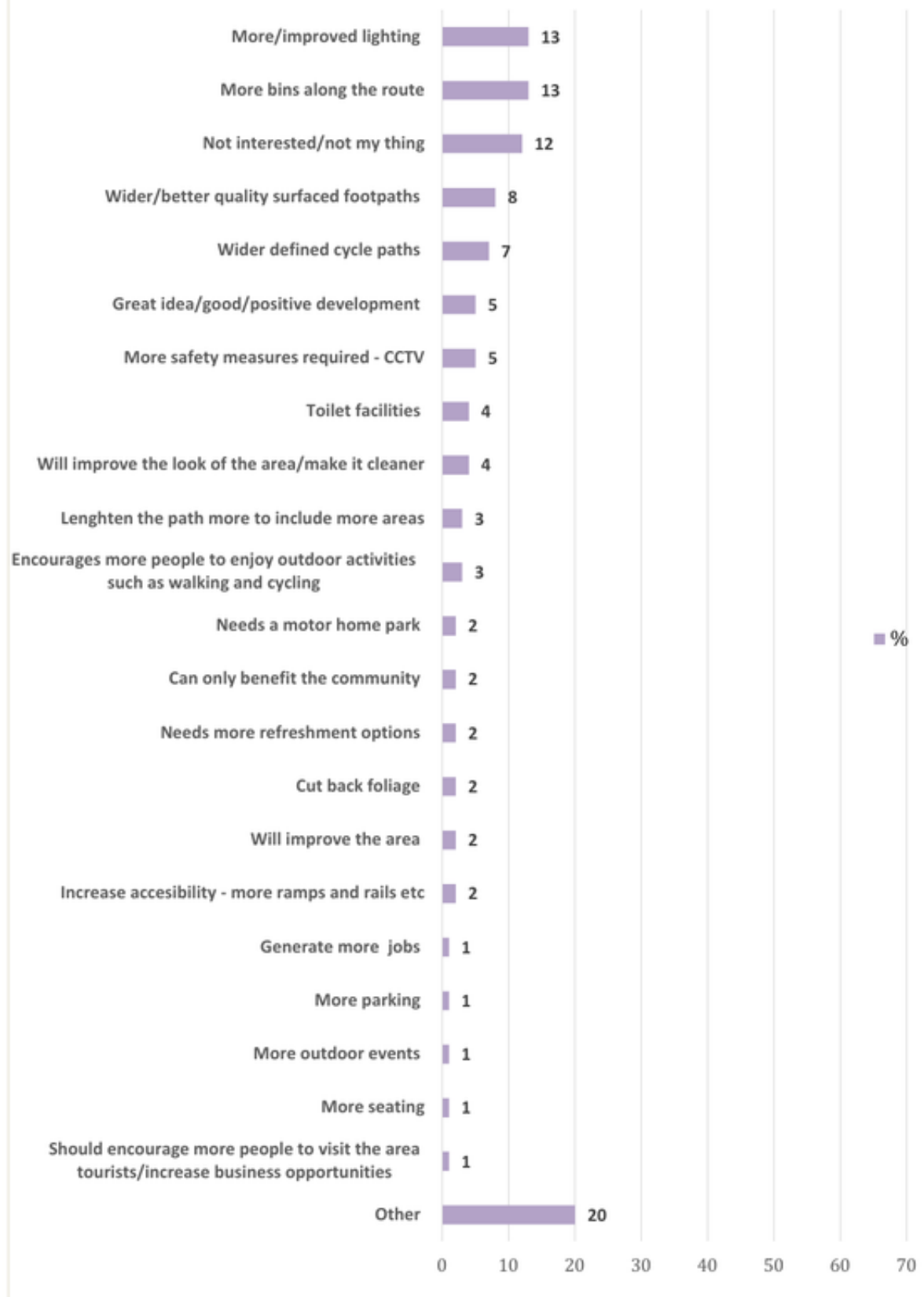
The reasons why some residents answered 'don't know' included: don't know a lot about it (n=2); don't know if it needs it (n=1); don't know if money should be spent elsewhere (n=3); no interest (n=4); don't know anything about the Council (n=5); don't know if anyone would walk that far but suppose it is for young people and families (n=1); don't do much myself (n=1); don't think it should be developed if cost outweighs the benefits (n=1); don't use it and will not use it (n=1); agoraphobic (n=1); haven't used path so don't know (n=2); not sure what use throwing money at it will do for the community (n=1); money is short at the moment (n=1); moving from the area (n=1); never out of the house (n=2); not sure it needs improved and wouldn't want wildlife disturbed (n=1); think we need money invested in hospitals more (n=1); and wouldn't like them to go on farmland (n=1).



2.7 Final Comments on the Council’s Proposal

Residents were asked if they had any final comments on the proposed coastal path with the most common being: more / improved lighting (13%); and more bins along the route (13%).

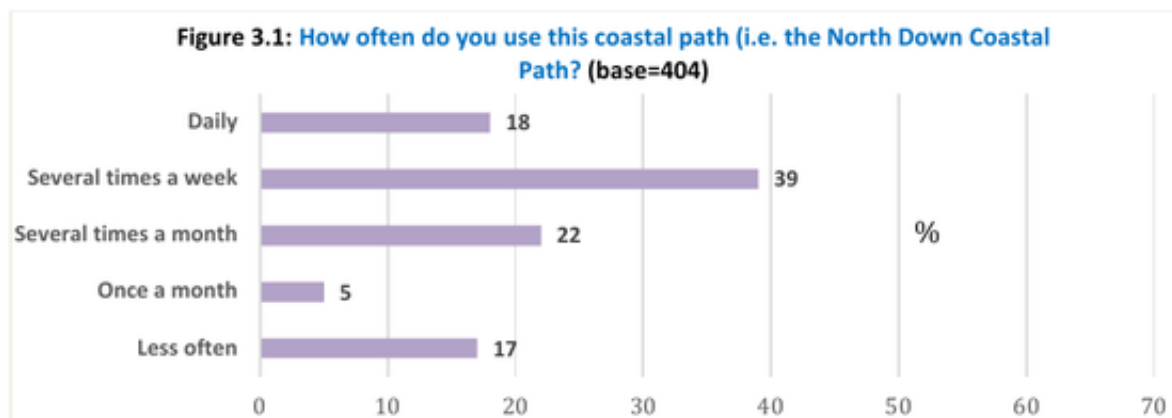
**Figure 2.15: Please list any other comments on the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee which you feel are important. (base=128)**



3. Survey of Coastal Path Users

3.1 Current Use of the Coastal Path by Users

Figure 3.1 shows that 18% of current users said they use the existing North Down Coastal Path on a daily basis, 39% use it several times a week, 22% several times a month, 5% monthly and 17% use it less often.



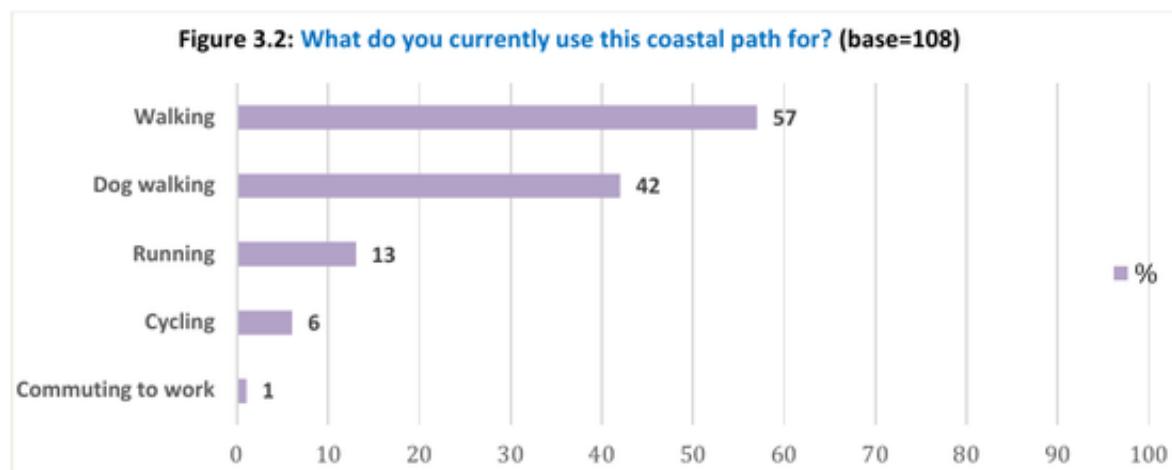
Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups

The following were more likely to use the coastal path on a daily basis:

- Older users (18-34, 40%; 35-64, 49%; 65+, 86%)
- Users who are residents of the Council (66% vs. 11%)
- Users living within 1 mile of the path (within 1 mile, 87%; 1-3 miles, 35%; more than 3 miles, 19%)

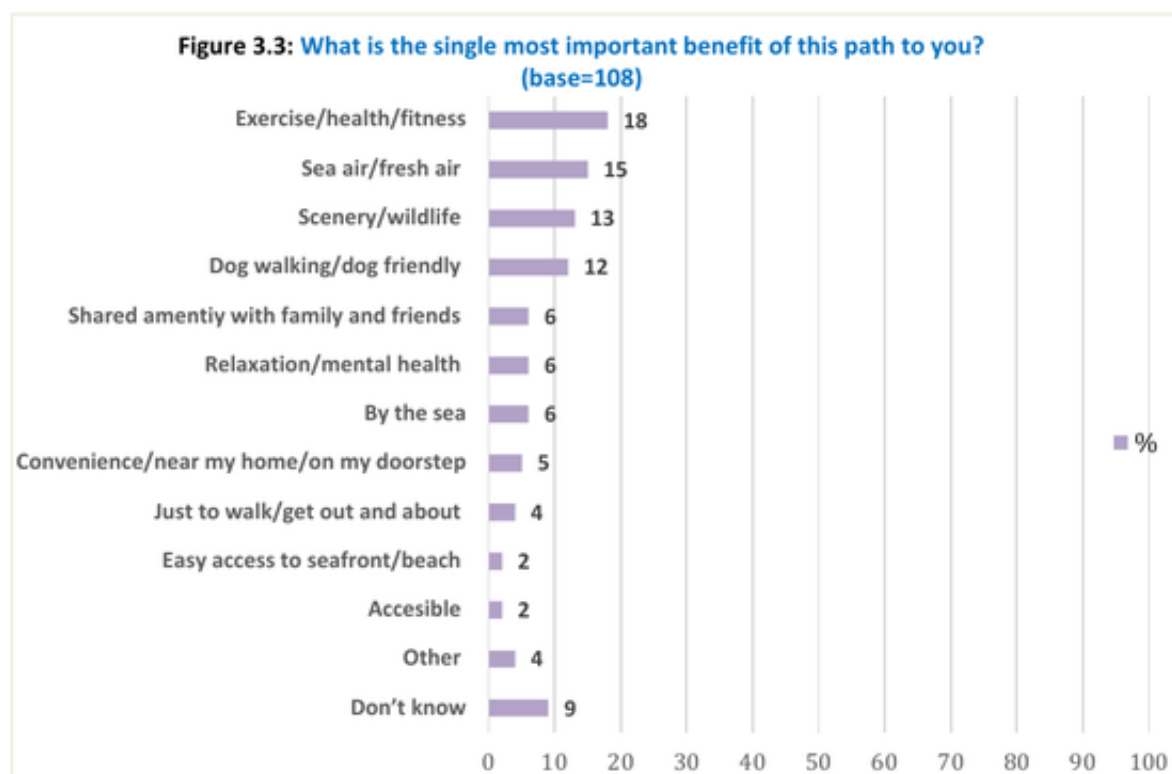
3.1.1 Reasons for Using The North Down Coastal Path

Among existing coastal path users, 57% said they use it for walking, 42% for dog walking, 13% for running, 6% for cycling and 1% for commuting to work.



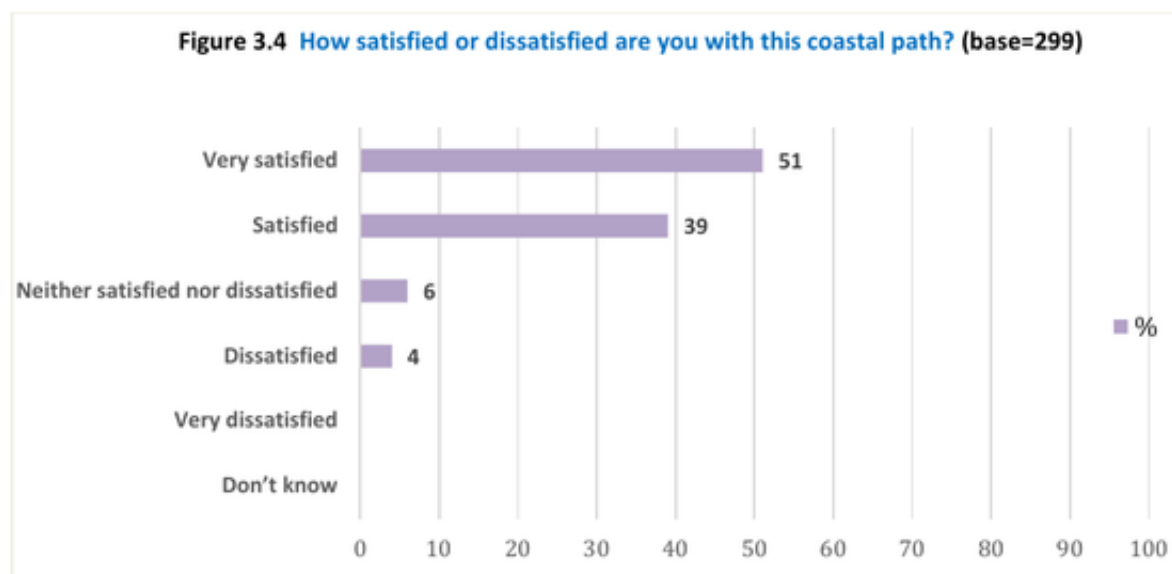
### 3.1.2 Single Most Important Benefit of The North Down Coastal Path

Existing path users said that getting out for exercise / health reasons (18%), and getting fresh air / outdoors / open spaces (15%), are the most important benefits of the path.



### 3.1.3 User Satisfaction with The North Down Coastal Path

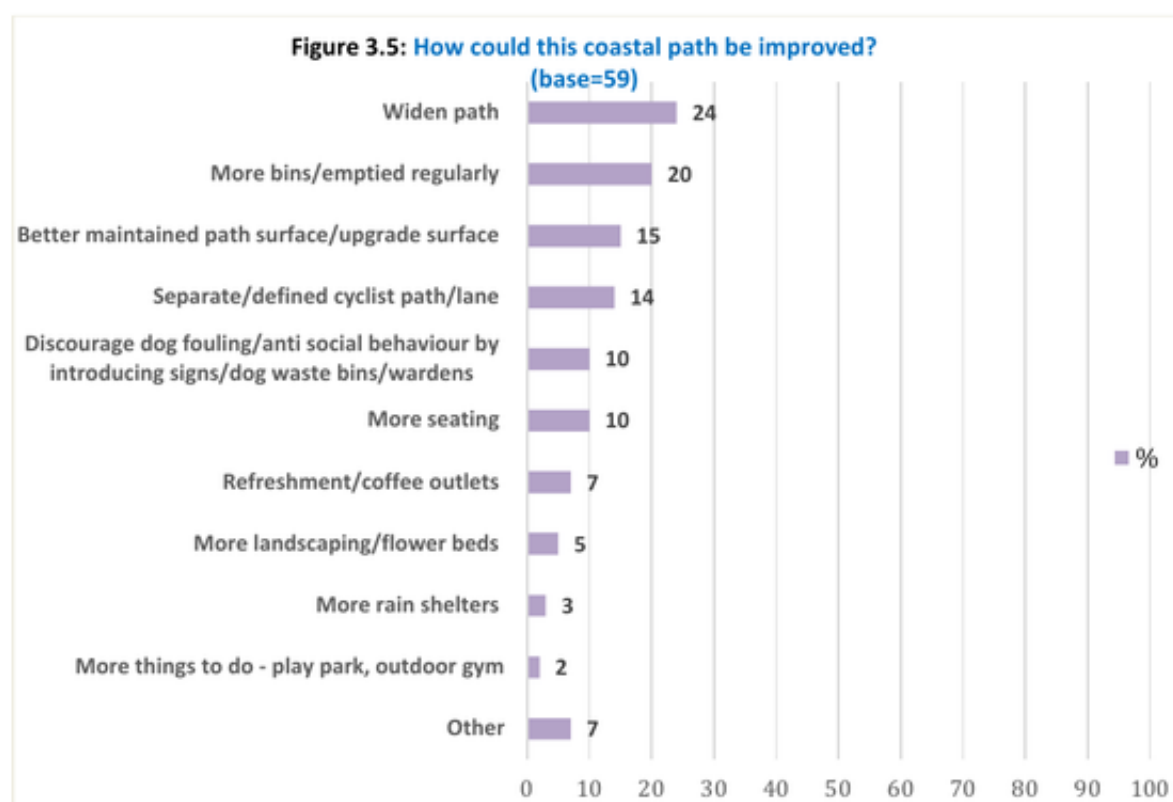
Nine out of ten (90%) users of the existing coastal path said they are satisfied with the path (very satisfied, 51%; satisfied, 39%), with 6% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 4% dissatisfied<sup>9</sup>. Note that there were no significant differences in level of satisfaction between different user groups (i.e. between men and women, different age groups etc.)



<sup>9</sup> Reasons for dissatisfaction included: not enough bins (n=1); not enough space to cycle and a lot of dog fouling (n=1); poor surface (n=1); too many nasty people growling at dogs – the path should be for everyone (n=1).

### 3.1.4 Suggestions on How The North Down Coastal Path Can be Improved

Current users of the coastal path made a number of suggestions for improving the path, and the most common included: widen the path (24%); more bins / empty bins regularly (20%); better maintained path surface (15%); and separate defined cyclist path / lane (14%).

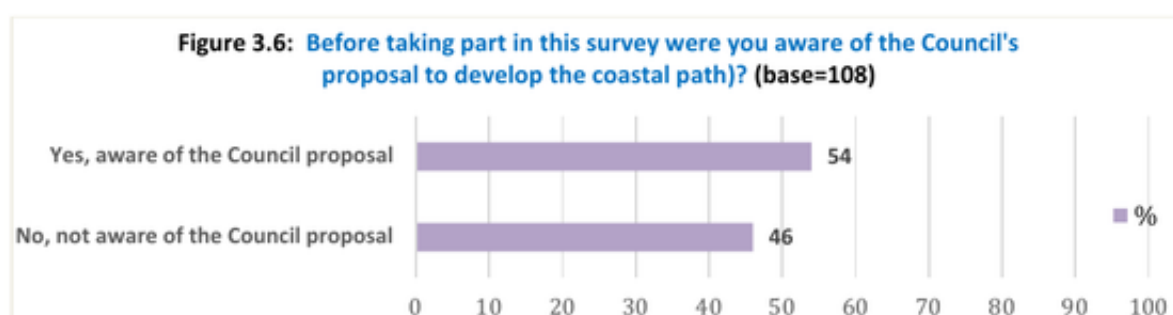


### 3.2 Resident Awareness of Council’s Proposal to Develop the Coastal Path

As part of the survey, users of the existing path were informed that Ards and North Down Borough Council is proposing to develop a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee. This means that the current path would be improved in places as well as building new sections of path.

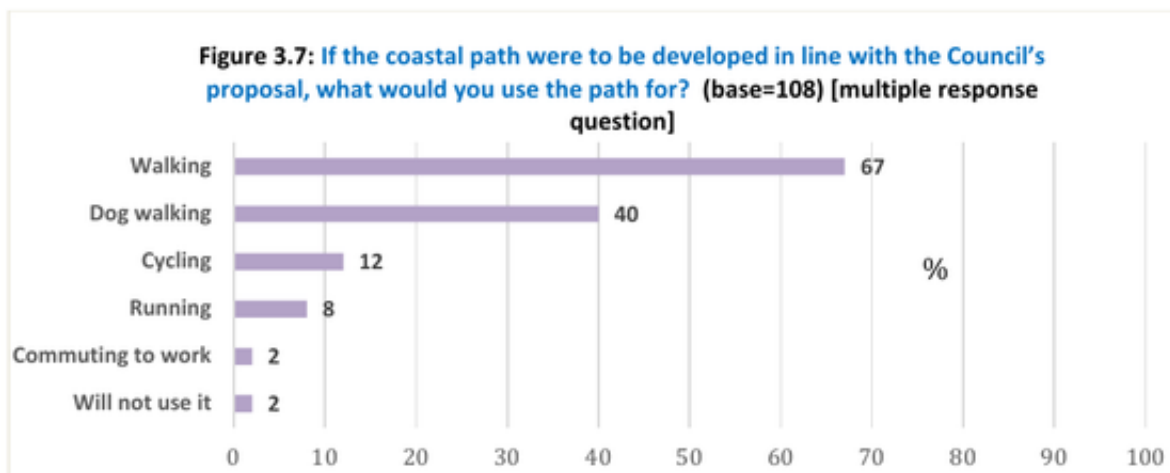
With this information, current path users were asked if they were aware of the Council’s proposal, with 54% saying they were aware and 46% saying they were unaware of the proposal.

Existing path users who are Council residents, were more likely to be aware of the proposal (61% vs. 21%).



**3.2.1 Reasons for Being Likely to Use the Coastal Path**

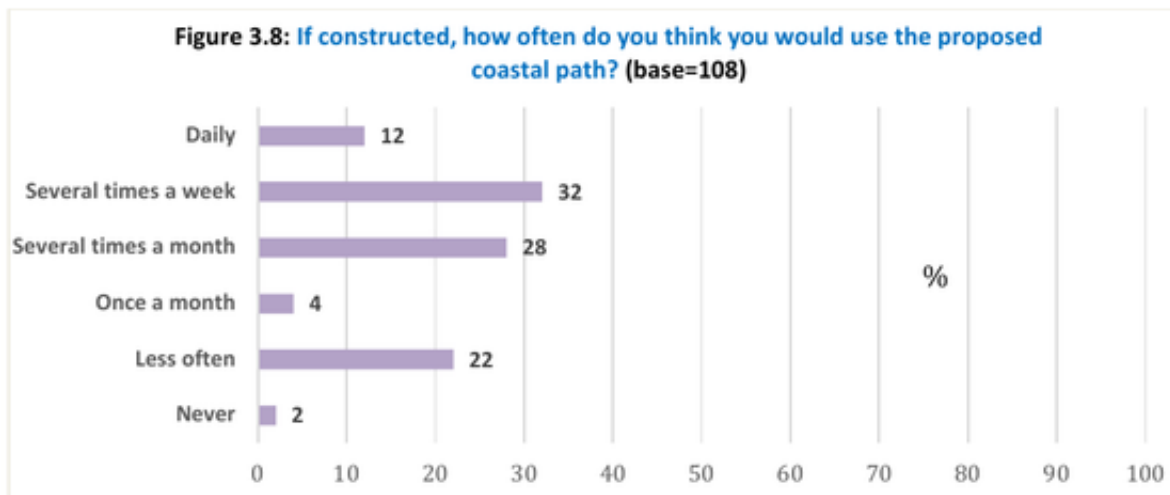
Current path users said that if the coastal path were to be developed in line with the Council’s proposal, they would be most likely to use it for walking (67%), with 40% saying they would use it for dog walking, 12% for cycling, 8% for running and 2% for commuting to work. Two percent said they wouldn’t use it,



**3.2.2 Frequency of Using the Coastal Path among Current Users**

If constructed, 98% of existing path users said they would use the redeveloped path, with 12% saying they would do so on a daily basis.

Approximately one in three (32%) said they would use the new path several times a week, 28% several times a month, 4% once a month and 22% less often. Two percent said they would not use the coastal path.



**Statistically Significant Differences between Respondent Groups**

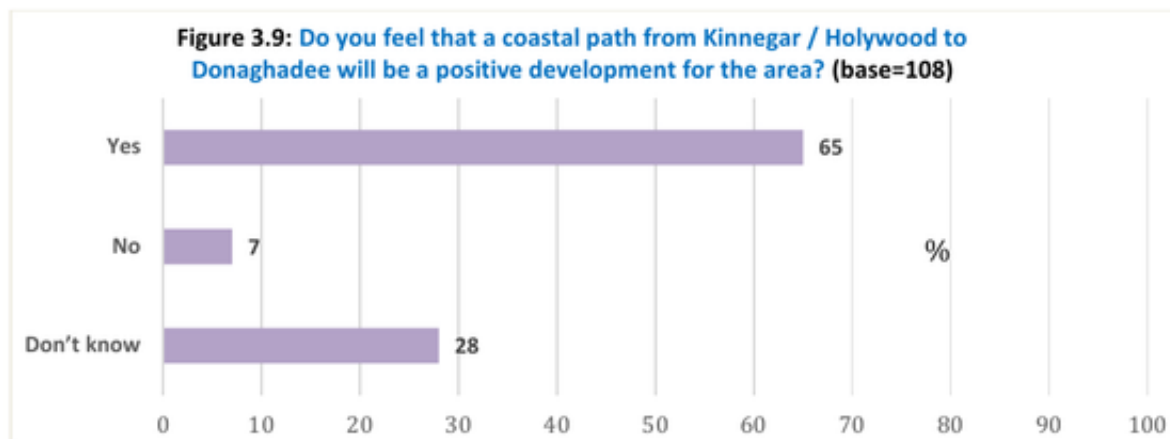
The following path users indicated that they would use the path more often (i.e. at least weekly):

- Residents more than non-residents (52% vs. 5%)
- Those living within a mile of the path (within 1 mile, 57%; 1-3 miles, 45%; more than 3 miles, 15%)

### 3.3 User Perception of the Proposed Development of the Coastal Path

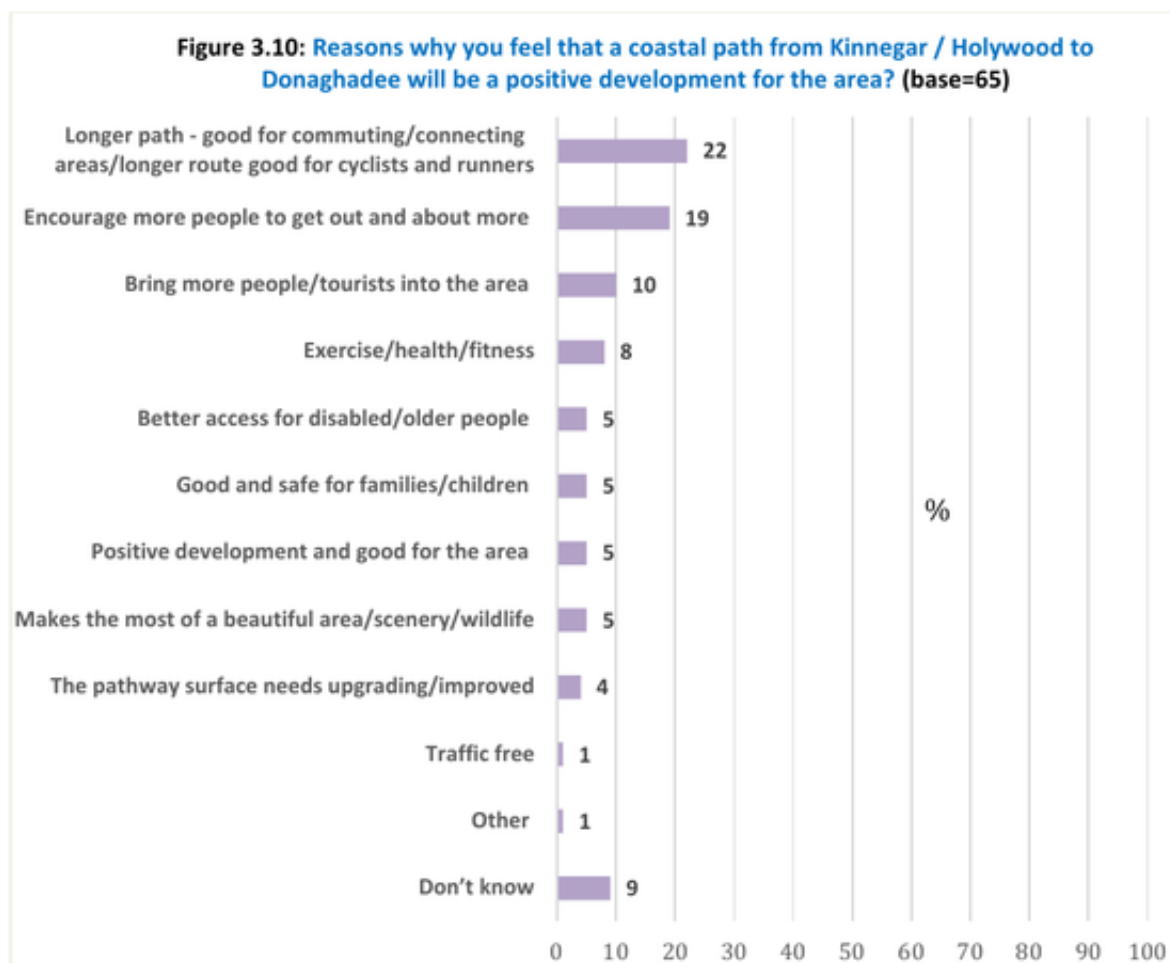
Almost two out of three (65%) current users believe that a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee will be a positive development for the area, 7% said it will not be a positive development and 28% were undecided.

Note that there were no statistically significant differences in response to this question between different path user groups (i.e. by gender, age group, resident and non-resident etc.).



#### 3.3.1 Reasons Why Coastal Path Perceived as a Positive Development for the Area

The most common reasons why current path users believe that the coastal path will be a positive development for the area included: longer path / good for commuting / connecting areas / longer route for cyclists and runners (22%); and it will encourage more people to get out and about more (19%).





### 3.3.2 Reasons Why Coastal Path Not Perceived as a Positive Development for the Area

67

A small number (n=8) of current users listed reasons why the proposed coastal path would not be a positive development for the area and these included: money could be spent on more important things (n=1); the proposal could have a negative impact on wildlife (n=5); and a need to avoid damaging the natural look of the area (n=2).

### 3.4 Suggested Further Improvements for the Proposed Coastal Path

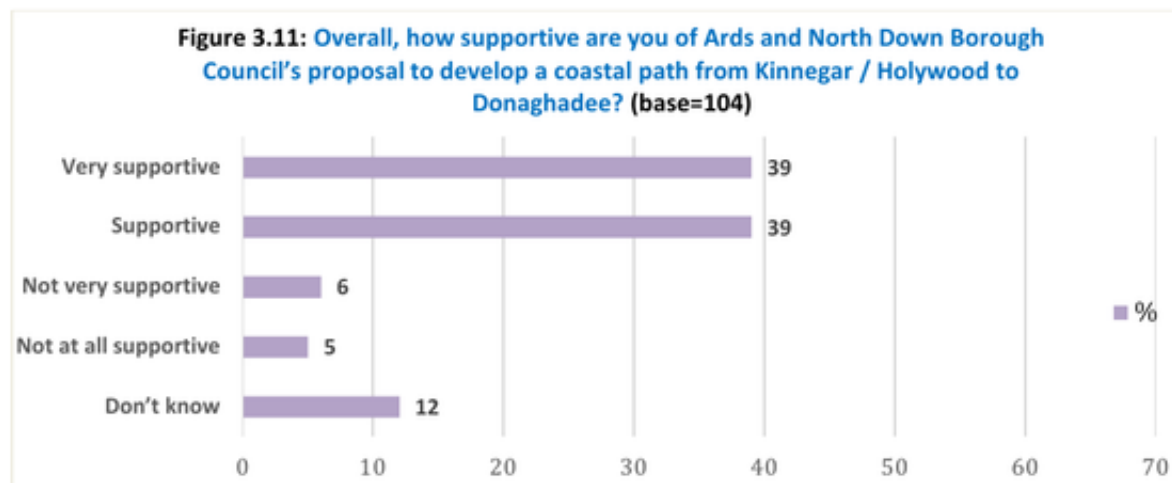
Approximately one in four (24%) current path users suggested further improvements they would like to see along the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee, with these suggestions listed on a verbatim basis below:

- *A coffee shop*
- *A small train running along from Belfast to Donaghadee; stopping at points of interest / good for tourism*
- *Bins for dog waste and water taps for dogs / more bins in general*
- *Green areas; somewhere to place and dispose of hot BBQ for safety reasons*
- *Bird watching enclosure*
- *Boat trips; things for kids to do in the water; encourage people to respect wildlife, birdwatching stations*
- *Coffee areas and more seats and bins*
- *Fixe for wheelchair use*
- *Good car parking facilities*
- *More cafés or vans for hot food*
- *More eating places to enjoy coffee / lunch overlooking the sea*
- *Notice boards explaining wildlife etc.*
- *Offer things to do along the route for kids and tourists*
- *Park areas for children*
- *Parks*
- *Pathways wide enjoy; for pram cyclists etc.*
- *Seating areas*
- *Seating areas; safer pathways*
- *Separate cycle lane from the path*
- *Shelters and seating areas*
- *Some areas to sit and relax*
- *Stop off areas*
- *Stop off places to encourage people to use areas of interest like the museum*
- *Water sport areas*
- *Wider and better paths*
- *Wider pathways more water sports*

### 3.5 Support for Proposal to Develop a Coastal Path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee

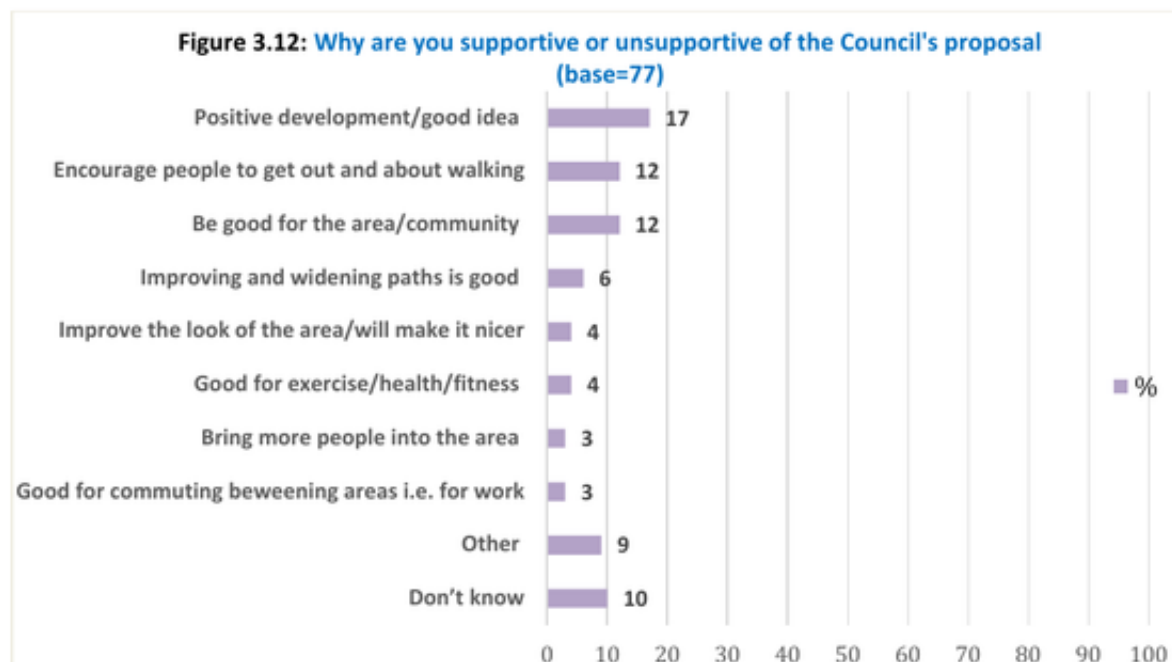
More than three out of four (78%) current coastal path users said they are supportive of Ards and North Down Borough Council’s proposal to develop a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee (very supportive, 39%: supportive, 39%). Eleven percent (11%) are unsupportive (not very supportive, 6%: not at all supportive, 5%). Twelve percent (12%) are undecided.

Note that there were no statistically significant differences in the level of support for the Councils’ proposal between different path user groups (i.e. by gender, age group, resident and non-resident etc.).



#### 3.5.1 Reasons for Being Supportive of the Council’s Proposal

The most common reasons for being supportive of the Council’s proposal to develop the coastal path included: it is a positive development / good idea (17%); it encourages people to get out and about walking (12%); and it will be good for the area / community (12%).



#### 3.5.2 Reasons for Being Unsupportive or Undecided about the Council’s Proposal

The most common reasons (n=9) for being unsupportive or undecided about the Council’s proposal to develop the coastal path included: the path is fine the way it is and there is no need to change it (n=4); and the proposal will damage nature/affect wildlife negatively (n=5).

### **3.6 Final Comments on the Council's Proposal**

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A small number of existing coastal path users made additional comments and these included: providing areas to have food and drinks (n=1); there are health benefits (n=2); a reluctance to have crowds of people on narrow pathways (n=1); should use the path to promote tourism (n=1); take wildlife into consideration when improving (n=1); and a wish not to see natural wildlife affected and maybe more protection of species especially birds in nesting seasons (n=1).

## Appendices

## Appendix 1 (Questionnaires)



# Ards and North Down Borough Council

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**RESIDENT SURVEY**

**Greenways Research (Kinnegar to Donaghadee)**

**V4**

**13 OCTOBER 2022**



3 Wellington Park  
Belfast  
BT9 6DJ

T: 02890 923362  
F: 02890 923334

info@socialmarketresearch.co.uk  
[www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk](http://www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk)





**INTERVIEWER READ OUT:**

Hello and good morning / afternoon I am calling you on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council. My name is XXXX from Social Market Research and we are conducting a survey on resident's views on the North Down Coastal Path which currently stretches from Kinnegar / Holywood to Bangor.

Your responses will be confidential and your rights are protected under GDPR. You don't have to answer any question you don't want to, and you can end the interview at any time. Please be as honest as possible in your response. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers. If you have questions about this survey, I will provide you with a telephone number for you to call to get more information.

X1. This call may be recorded for training and quality purposes are you happy with this? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2

X2. Are you happy to consent to take part in the survey? **(Single Code)**

Yes, continue	1
Yes, but not at this time and arrange a callback	2
No – terminate interview (thank and close)	3
Other (please specify)	4

X3. INTERVIEWER: Insert your interviewer ID number

X4. INTERVIEWER: Insert Sample Number

## Section A: Using the North Down Coastal Path

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The North Down Coastal Path currently runs between Airport Road West in Kinnegar Holywood to Bangor. The path travels through Seahill, Helen's Bay, Crawfordsburn, Brompton Bay through to Pickie Park in Bangor.

- A1. Can I start by asking you how often you use this coastal path? (Single Code)

Daily	1
Several times a week	2
Several times a month	3
Once a month	4
Less often	5
Never use the path	6

## ASK IF A1 NE 6

- A2. What do you currently use this coastal path for? (Select all that apply)

Walking	1
Running	2
Cycling	3
Commuting to work	4
Dog walking	5
Other (please specify)	6

## ASK IF A1 NE 6

- A3. What is the single most important benefit of this path to you?

## ASK IF A1 NE 6

- A4. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with this coastal path? (Single Code)

Very satisfied	1
Satisfied	2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3
Dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	5
Don't know	6

## ASK IF A4 EQ 4 OR 5

- A5. Why are you dissatisfied?

## ASK IF A1 NE 6

- A6. Do you have any suggestions on how this coastal path could be improved? (Single Code)

Yes	1
No	2

## ASK IF A6 EQ 1

- A7. How could this coastal path be improved?

## Section B: Proposal to Develop the Coastal Path from Kinnegar to Donaghadee

- B1. Ards and North Down Borough Council is proposing to develop a coastal path / greenway from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee. The proposed Greenway begins at Airport Road West in Kinnegar Holywood and ends at The Commons Park in Donaghadee. The route mostly follows the existing North Down Coastal Path (NDCP) from Kinnegar to Bangor and then the A2 to Donaghadee. This means that the current path would be improved in places as well as building new sections of path. Before taking part in the survey, were you aware of this? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2

- B2. If the coastal path were to be developed in line with the Council's proposal, how likely is it that you would use the path?

Very likely	1
Likely	2
Unlikely	3
Very unlikely	4
Don't know	5

**ASK IF B2 EQ 3 OR 4**

- B3. Why do you say that?

**ASK IF B2 EQ 1 OR 2**

- B4. What would you use the path for? **(Select all that apply)**

Walking	1
Running	2
Cycling	3
Commuting to work	4
Dog walking	5
Other (please specify)	6

- B5. If constructed, how often do you think you would use the proposed coastal path? **(Single Code)**

Daily	1
Several times a week	2
Several times a month	3
Once a month	4
Less often	5
Never	6

- B6. Do you feel that a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee will be a positive development for the area? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

**ASK IF B6 EQ 1 OR 2**

- B7. Why do you say that?

## Ards and North Down District Council: Greenways Research (Kinnegar to Donaghadee) (2022)

- B8. Do you have any suggestions on any further improvements you would like to see along the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2

**ASK IF B8 EQ 1**

- B9. Please say what these are.

- B10. Overall, how supportive are you of Ards and North Down Borough Council's proposal to develop a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee? **(Single Code)**

Very supportive	1
Supportive	2
Not very supportive	3
Not at all supportive	4
Don't know	5

- B11. Why do you say that?

- B12. Please list any other comments on the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee which you feel are important.

## Section C: About You

Finally, in this final part of the survey I will ask you some questions about yourself.

C1. Are you...? (Single Code)

Male	Female	Transgender	Prefer not to say
1	2	3	4

C2. What age are you? INTERVIEWER RECORD AGE:

C3. Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Include problems related to old age. (Single Code)

Yes, limited a lot	1
Yes, limited a little	2
No	3
Prefer not to say	4

C4. What is your community background. (Single Code)

I am a member of the Protestant community	1
I am a member of the Roman Catholic community	2
I am not a member of either the Protestant or the Roman Catholic communities	3

C5. What is your ethnic group? (Single Code)

White	1
Chinese	2
Irish Traveller	3
Indian	4
Pakistani	5
Bangladeshi	6
Black Caribbean	7
Black African	8
Black Other	9
Mixed ethnic group (please specify) [pop up box]	10

C6. Do you have dependants or caring responsibilities for family members or other persons? (Single Code)

Yes	1
No	2

**ASK IF E6 EQ 1**

C7. Please indicate which of the following caring responsibilities you have. **(Code all that apply)**

A child or children	1
A person with a disability	2
An elderly person	3
Other (please specify) [pop up box]	4

C8. Are you currently.? **(Single Code)**

Employed full-time	1
Employed part-time	2
Unemployed	3
Self-employed	4
Full-time homemaker	5
Retired	6
Still studying	7
Disabled or too ill to work	8
Prefer not to say	9

C9. What is the occupation of the chief income earner in your household? **INTERVIEWER RECORD OCCUPATION**

C10. **INTERVIEWER RECORD SEG OF CHIEF INCOME EARNER: (Single Code)**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

C11. What is the highest level of education qualifications you have obtained? **(Single Code)**

Degree or higher degree (or currently studying for a degree or higher degree)a	1
Higher education qualification below degree level	2
A-levels (or equivalent)	3
ONC/BTEC	4
O-level or GCSE equivalent (Grade A-C)	6
O-level or GCSE (Grade D-G)	7
No formal qualifications	8
Other (please specify) [pop up box]	9
Prefer not to say	10

C12. Please confirm which of the following areas you live in? **Single code only**

Ards Peninsula	1
Bangor West and Central	2
Bangor East And Donaghadee	3
Comber	4
Hollywood And Clandeboye	5
Newtownards	6



C13. Please say if any of the following apply to you.

I work in this local area / have a business in this area <i>(please specify the location you work / business)</i>	1
I am a local councillor/elected member <i>(please specify the area you represent)</i>	2
I belong to a local group/community/voluntary organisation <i>(please say which area you group is based)</i>	3
None of the above apply to me	4

C14. How far do you live from the North Down Coastal Path? **(Single Code)**

Within a quarter of a mile	1
Within half a mile	2
Within a mile	3
1-3 miles	4
4-5 miles	5
6-10 miles	6
More than 10 miles	7

**THANK AND CLOSE**



# Ards and North Down Borough Council

## QUESTIONNAIRE V2

Greenways Research (Kinnegar to Donaghadee)

FINAL

6 October 2022



3 Wellington Park  
Belfast  
BT9 6DJ

T: 02890 923362  
F: 02890 923334

info@socialmarketresearch.co.uk  
[www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk](http://www.socialmarketresearch.co.uk)



**INTERVIEWER READ OUT:**

Hello and good morning / afternoon my name is XXXX and I am carrying out a short survey on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council. The Council is interested in the views of those who use the North Down Coastal Path. As a user of the pathway your views will feed into a wider Council consultation.

Your responses will be anonymous and confidential and your rights are protected under GDPR. You don't have to answer any question you don't want to, and you can end the interview at any time. Please be as honest as possible in your response. Remember that there are no right or wrong answers. If you have questions about this survey, I will provide you with a Council telephone number for you to call to get more information.

X1. Are you happy to consent to take part in the survey? **(Single Code)**

Yes, continue	1
No – terminate interview (thank and close)	2

X2. INTERVIEWER: Insert your interviewer ID number

X3. INTERVIEWER: Insert Point Number

X4. Details of Interview:

Time of interview	
Date of interview	

**Section A: Using the North Down Coastal Path**

A1. Can I start by asking you how often you use this coastal path? **(Single Code)**

Daily	1
Several times a week	2
Several times a month	3
Once a month	4
Less often	5

A2. What do you currently use this coastal path for? **(Select all that apply)**

Walking	1
Running	2
Cycling	3
Commuting to work	4
Dog walking	5
Other (please specify)	6

A3. What is the single most important benefit of this path to you?

A4. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with this coastal path? **(Single Code)**

Very satisfied	1
Satisfied	2
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3
Dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	5
Don't know	6

**ASK IF A4 EQ 4 OR 5**

A5. Why are you dissatisfied?

A6. Do you have any suggestions on how this coastal path could be improved? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2

**ASK IF A6 EQ 1**

A7. How could this coastal path be improved?

**Section B: Proposal to Develop the Coastal Path from Kinnegar to Donaghadee**

- B1. Ards and North Down Borough Council is proposing to develop a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee. This means that the current path would be improved in places as well as building new sections of path. Before taking part in the survey, were you aware of this? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2

- B2. If the coastal path were to be developed in line with the Council's proposal, what would you use the path for? **(Select all that apply)**

Walking	1
Running	2
Cycling	3
Commuting to work	4
Dog walking	5
Other (please specify)	6

- B3. If constructed, how often do you think you would use the proposed coastal path? **(Single Code)**

Daily	1
Several times a week	2
Several times a month	3
Once a month	4
Less often	5
Never	6

- B4. Do you feel that a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee will be a positive development for the area? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

**ASK IF B4 EQ 1 OR 2**

- B5. Why do you say that?

- B6. Do you have any suggestions on any further improvements you would like to see along the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee? **(Single Code)**

Yes	1
No	2

**ASK IF B6 EQ 1**

- B7. Please say what these are.

Ards and North Down District Council: Greenways Research (Kinnegar to Donaghadee) (2022)

B8. Overall, how supportive are you of Ards and North Down Borough Council’s proposal to develop a coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee? **(Single Code)**

Very supportive	1
Supportive	2
Not very supportive	3
Not at all supportive	4
Don’t know	5

B9. Why do you say that?

B10. Please list any other comments on the proposed coastal path from Kinnegar / Holywood to Donaghadee which you feel are important.

**Section C: About You**

Finally, I would like to ask a few questions about you. This will allow us to analyse the results by different groups.

C1. Are you...? **(Single Code)**

Male	Female	Prefer not to say
1	2	3

C2. What age are you?

C3. Please say if any of the following apply to you.

I am a resident of Ards and North Down Borough Council <i>(please specify the area you live in)</i>	1
I work in this local area / have a business in this area <i>(please specify the location you work / business)</i>	2
I am a local councillor/elected member <i>(please specify the area you represent)</i>	3
I belong to a local group/community/voluntary organisation <i>(please say which area you group is based)</i>	4

C4. How far do you live from the coastal path? **(Single Code)**

Within a quarter of a mile	1
Within half a mile	2
Within a mile	3
1-3 miles	4
4-5 miles	5
6-10 miles	6
More than 10 miles	7

C5. Finally, what is occupation of the head of your household?

**THANK AND CLOSE**



## Appendix 2 (Technical Appendix)

### Resident Survey Sampling and Profile

Given the importance of the survey, and the contribution of the survey results to providing the Council with a robust evidence base, it was essential that the sampling methodology produced survey results representative of all residents aged 16+ across the Borough.

To this end, the survey was conducted using quota sampling with tightly controlled quotas applied for resident: age; sex; social class; and, location within the Borough. Table 1.1 presents the sample profile compared with known population parameters and shows that sample estimates are broadly in line with census estimates. The 95% Confidence Intervals are also presented.

		Population (%)	Sample (%)
Sex	Male	48	48
	Female	52	52
Age	16-34	28	25
	35 to 64	50	55
	65+	22	20
Social Class <sup>10</sup>	ABC1	55	48
	C2DE	45	52
District Electoral Area	Comber	12	13
	Bangor East and Donaghadee	18	19
	Newtownards	15	14
	Bangor West	12	12
	Bangor Central	15	15
	Hollywood and Clondeboy	13	13
	Ards Peninsula	15	15

Source: Northern Ireland Census of Population

The survey was conducted using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing. Fieldwork on the survey was conducted between 21 October and 5 November 2022. Interviewers were briefed before the commencement of fieldwork with the project completed to the ISO20252 Standard.

<sup>10</sup> Social class definition based on the National Readership Survey (NRS) and used widely in market research to classify occupations (A: upper middle class; B: middle class; C1: lower middle class; C2: skilled working class; D: working class; E: non-working)

## User Survey Sampling and Profile

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The survey of coastal path users was conducted on a face to face basis between 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. Every third user on the path was approached for interview. Table 1.2 provides an overview of the profile of the achieved sample in terms of sex, age, social class and area of residence.

		Sample (%)	n
Sex	Male	52	56
	Female	48	52
Age	16-34	23	25
	35 to 64	51	55
	65+	26	28
Social Class <sup>11</sup>	ABC1	57	62
	C2DE	43	46
Area	Bangor	49	53
	Holywood	24	26
	Helen's Bay	6	7
	Crawfordsburn	6	6
	Cultra	3	3
	Newtownards	3	3
	Belfast	2	2
	Belfast Road	2	2
	Sydenham	2	2
	Newtownabbey	2	2
	Holywood Road	1	1
	Knocknagoney	1	1

Source: Northern Ireland Census of Population

<sup>11</sup> Social class definition based on the National Readership Survey (NRS) and used widely in market research to classify occupations (A: upper middle class; B: middle class; C1: lower middle class; C2: skilled working class; D: working class; E: non-working)

Unclassified

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**ITEM 10****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health Protection and Development.
Date of Report	06 December 2022
File Reference	CW145
Legislation	Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 Update
Attachments	Appendix 1. Minutes of Private Tenancies Workplan meeting. Appendix 2. Presentation Update on the Implementation of the Private Tenancies Act.

Members may recall previous updates in relation to the Draft Private Tenancies Bill. The subsequent Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent in April 2022, and a phased approach to its commencement was proposed by Department for Communities (DfC) in September 2022.

The planned first phase related to the implementation of Sections 1-6 of the Act on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. In preparation for this, DfC were to issue guidance documentation to councils and provide training if necessary. However, this has not been provided to date and DfC have notified the Council that the implementation date has been pushed back until 1 April 2023.

- Sections 1 and 2 of the Act relate to information that the landlord must provide to the tenant; DfC will provide a prescribed form in relation to these provisions.

## Unclassified

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- Section 3 will make it a requirement for landlords to provide receipts of payments for any transaction not carried out electronically.
- Section 4 restricts the deposit amount requested by a landlord to the equivalent of one month's rent.
- Section 5 increases the time available to landlords to secure a deposit in an approved tenancy deposit scheme from 14 to 28 days.
- Section 6 removed the statutory time bar in relation to prosecuting tenancy deposit offences.

While it is disappointing that the new legal provisions are delayed, the three-month postponement will enable the Council to be fully prepared for the new requirements contained in the Act. A further report will follow prior to the implementation of Sections 1-6, as the Council must agree on the level of fixed penalty notices that can be issued on those guilty of committing an offence.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the report and the delayed implementation of Sections 1-6 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

## Sharing of the Workplan for the Private Tenancies Act 2022

Wednesday 7 September, 10am

### Present:

Conrad Murphy, DfC (Chair)

Eilish O'Neill, DfC (Co Chair)

Karen Barr, DfC

Paul McLaughlin, DfC

Ingrid McKinney, DfC

Heather Cammock, DfC

Audrey Fallon, DfC

Richard Smyth, LANI

Justin Cartwright, CIH

Kate McAuley, Housing Rights

Henry Griffith, Property Mark

Christine Crossan, Renters Voice

Gareth Kinnear, PHH

Brigitte Anton, Renter's Voice

Fiona McGrath, NIHE

David Gillian, DfC HAB

### Apologies:

Richard Harvey, PHH

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Conrad welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending today. Introductions were made.

### 2. Aim, Context, Assumptions

Conrad set out the aim of the meeting, some context and also shared some assumptions including the need for a working NI Assembly to scrutinise some of the Regulations.

### 3. The workplan for Sections of the Private Tenancies Act

Members of the team then took attendees through the various Sections of the Act detailing work required and target dates.

### 4. Q & A

There followed a Q&A session where attendees were given opportunity to raise questions which were answered by DfC officials.

### 5. Recap on arising action points



**AP1:** DfC to find out if a Commencement Order can be made without an Assembly in place.

**AP2:** DfC to send copy of slides to all attendees

**AP3:** DfC will arrange to speak to Richard separately if he has any questions arising from the slides.

## **6. AOB**

None

## **7. Potential date for next meeting**

DfC will schedule a date in November for a further meeting to update the group on progress made.

# Implementing Phase 1 of Private Rented Sector Reform

## Aim

1. To set out the immediate plans – both work required and timing - to implement Phase 1 of the Reform of the Private Rented Sector (PRS);  
and
  2. Seek your support for engagement, co-design etc.
-

## Context

- The Department for Communities (DfC) is implementing a series of policy and legislative changes to reform the Private Rented Sector (PRS), based primarily on proposals for change published in 2017;
  - Reform, in two phases, will provide improvements to the safety, security and standards in the PRS;
  - The Phase 1 Reforms are contained in *The Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022*:
    - Received Royal Assent on 27 April 2022;
    - Contains 15 Sections and 3 Schedules;
    - Requires Commencement Orders and/or Regulations to bring Sections 1 – 12 of the Act into operation; and
    - Requires guidance for landlords, tenants and councils for each Section.
-

# Assumptions

- Implementation of Phase 1 Reforms will remain a priority for any new incoming Minister;
  - The subordinate legislation includes both “*Negative Resolution*” and “*Draft Affirmative*” regulations – which require Committee for Communities scrutiny and/or NI Assembly in place;
  - Sector Stakeholders – Landlords, Tenant Groups, District Councils, Technical Experts will provide input via co-design/consultation.
-

## Sections 1 and 2 and Schedule 1

- Sections 1 and 2 give the Department the power to make Regulations on the information that must be provided by the landlord to the tenant within 28 days of the tenancy starting;
- A working group has been established to look at the required information with the current statement of tenancy terms being used as a starting point. When the group has reached agreement on the contents, a model document will be produced;
- This will feed into the Regulations on the required content, the Regulations for Section 1 and 2 are passed by Negative Resolution;
- Guidance will be produced for tenants, landlords and councils setting out their rights and responsibilities under the Regulations;
- The aim is for Sections 1 and 2 to be operational by 31 December 2022.



## Section 3

- Section 3 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 introduces the requirement for a landlord to provide a written receipt for any payment made in cash in relation to a tenancy in substitution for the current Article 5 of the Private Tenancy Order 2006;
  - Guidance for landlords, tenants & councils needs drafted and approved and shared with Key Stakeholders;
  - The aim is for Section 3 to be commenced and approved guidance published by 31 December 2022.
-

## Section 4

- Section 4 limits the amount of deposit payable to a maximum of one month's rent;
  - Guidance for landlords, tenants & councils needs drafted and shared with Key Stakeholders;
  - A Commencement Order will be made;
  - This Section will commence by 31 December 2022 with guidance published and the changes communicated before this takes effect
-

## Section 5

- Section 5 increases the time limit to protect a tenancy deposit from 14 days to 28 days and allows a landlord extra time to notify a tenant of where the deposit is protected from 28 days to 35 days;
  - Advice needed on any impact on The Tenancy Deposit Schemes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012;
  - Guidance for landlords, tenants & councils needs drafted and shared with Key Stakeholders;
  - A Commencement Order will be made;
  - This Section will commence by 31 December 2022 with guidance published and the changes communicated before this takes effect.
-

## Section 6

- Section 6 makes the failure to protect a tenancy deposit a continuing offence and removes the 6 month time limit on prosecutions;
  - Guidance for landlords, tenants & councils needs will be drafted and approved;
  - A working group will need to be set up and approved guidance shared with stakeholders to check for understanding;
  - A Commencement Order will be made;
  - This Section will commence by 31 December 2022 with guidance published and the changes communicated before this takes effect.
-

## Section 7

- Section 7 - Regulation of rent - places a duty on the Department to research, consult and report on a rent freeze or cut for up to 4 years (7a) and gives the Department the power to limit a rent increase to once every 12 months (7b);
- The research report on rent freezes and cuts must be laid before the Assembly by 27 October and this report is in its final stages;
- The Department is awaiting the outcome of the research report before commencing Section 7b which limits the frequency of rent increases;
- This Section also gives the Department the power to make Regulations to restrict the frequency of rent increases to once every two years and to make exceptions, for example, in the case of a newly refurbished property;
- Further work will be needed following the research report to determine the best way forward and any Regulations made to cut or freeze rents must be by Draft Affirmative procedure.



## Section 8

- Section 8 of the Act creates the power for the Department to make Regulations on fire, smoke and carbon monoxide in private rented properties to reduce the risk of injury or death;
  - Given these Regulations will require technical expertise an Expert Advisory Panel has been already been set up to develop a model for Northern Ireland;
  - The target date is to have regulations ready for consultation by the end of March 2023 if not before.
-

## Section 9 and Schedule 2

- Section 9: gives the Department a power to make Regulations concerning the energy efficiency of dwelling houses let under a private tenancy;
- This area is cross cutting and will involve other Departments such as DoF, DAERA and in particular DfE;
- Crucial we get it right on this one so resource commitment is currently being considered;
- No set timeline scoped out at present.... however
- This work also forms an action in the DfE new Energy Strategy – “*The Path to Net Zero Energy*” – Action Plan. Milestone (by 31 March 2023) to have a plan to take this forward. [The Path to Net Zero Energy. Safe. Affordable. Clean. \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)



## Section 10 and Schedule 3

- Section 10 gives the Department a power to make Regulations concerning electrical safety standards in dwelling houses let under a private tenancy;
  - Similar to Section 8 - allocated to the Expert Advisory panel as technical in nature. They will consider and a Northern Ireland model will be brought forward for consideration;
  - Current target = draft regulations ready for consultation by March 2023;
  - Recognised certification process and definition of 'competent person' will need explored with industry alongside discussing enforcement issues with Councils;
  - This is Draft Affirmative legislation so Executive will need to be in place to progress.
-

## Section 11

- Section 11 gives the Department the power to make Regulations on exceptions to notice to quit periods;
  - A business case and specification needs to be completed and approved to complete a research paper into notice to quit periods and define further evidence for exceptions;
  - Draft research report May 2023;
  - Establish working group to evaluate report and develop proposals for consultation;
  - Draft Regulations will likely require legal advice (via Departmental Solicitors Office);
  - Consult on Regulations with tenants, landlords & councils;
  - Regulations must be laid before Assembly within 2 years of Royal assent 27 April 2024.
-

## Section 12

- Section 12 give the Department the power to make Regulations to ensure a tenant is given a choice of payment methods for rent and other payments during a tenancy;
  - This Section places a statutory duty on the Department to consult on methods of payment, lay and publish a report by 27 October 2023;
  - Commission research and have research completed by May 2023;
  - Any Regulations regarding methods of payment must be made by Draft Affirmative procedure.
-

## Workplan for Private Tenancies Act

Section	Regulation Type	Other Workstreams	Target Date(s)
Section 1	Negative Resolution	Co-Design Guidance	In place by 31/12/22
Section 2	Negative Resolution	Co-Design Guidance	In place by 31/12/22
Section 3	Commencement Order	Guidance	In place by 31/12/22
Section 4	Commencement Order	Guidance	In place by 31/12/22
Section 5	Commencement Order	Guidance	In place by 31/12/22
Section 6	Commencement Order	Guidance	In place by 31/12/22
Section 7a	Draft Affirmative (if required)	Research/Consultation on Rent Freeze/Rent Cut.	Report to be laid at NI Assembly by 27/10/22
Section 7b	Draft Affirmative	Dependent on outcome of 7a	TBC
Section 8	Negative Resolution	Co-Design Guidance	Complete work to inform regulations by 31/3/23
Section 9	Draft Affirmative	Co-Design Guidance	TBC
Section 10	Draft Affirmative	Co-Design Guidance	Complete work to inform regulations by 31/3/23
Section 11	Draft Affirmative	TBC	Research Report by 31/5/23
Section 12	TBC	Consultation on Payment Methods	Consultation Report by 27/10/23

# Engagement and Co-Design

- Two Groups already established:-
    - Working Group on Tenancy Terms
    - Advisory Panel on Smoke, Fire, Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Electrical Safety
  - Seek Feedback from Stakeholders when guidance and other documentation developed;
  - Some sections of the Act place statutory duty on Department to consult before policy introduced or regulations made, e.g.
    - 7B - Frequency of Rent Increases
    - 9 - Energy Efficiency
    - 10 - Electrical Safety Standards
    - 11 - Notice to Quit (NTQ)
    - 12 - Payment Methods
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# Questions/Discussion

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Unclassified

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**ITEM 11****Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 January 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	20 December 2022
File Reference	PCU 32 / CW74
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order 1985
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Update on Portavogie 3G Pitch Project
Attachments	Appendix 1. Letter to DFI Appendix 2. Response from DFI

Members will recall the update brought on the Portavogie 3G Pitch project in October 2022. As a result the following recommendations were adopted by Council:

1. Members to acknowledge that unforeseen circumstances have resulted in a significant uplift in estimated costs and therefore a review of the value for money and need against outcomes should be carried out, in the form of an addendum to the original OBC completed in 2017. The finding of which will be reported to members on completion.
2. Officers continue to liaise with NI Water on their exact requirement and establishment of Council financial commitment.
3. Officers request that Planning NI reconsider NI Water's recommendation for refusal and manage the resolution of the identified matter, as a condition to the planning approval instead.
4. Members write to NI Water Minister with the recommendation that these works are general area improvement works and therefore NI Water should cover the cost and carry out the works directly.



Unclassified

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In relation to recommendation 4, in the absence of a Minister, a letter was sent instead to the DFI permanent Secretary on 21 November 2022. A response has now been received (attached).

In response, **the Chief Executive has now** written to the Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Water.

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the attached reply from **the DfI Permanent Secretary and the further letter sent to the Chief Executive of NI Water and her response will be reported back when received.**

21 November 2022

Ms Julie Harrison  
Permanent Secretary  
Department for Infrastructure  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8GB

Via email: [julie.harrison@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:julie.harrison@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Dear Permanent Secretary

**RE: Objection by Northern Ireland Water to planning application  
LA06/2020/0844/F, New 3G Pitch and Pavilion at New Harbour Road Portavogie**

Ards and North Down Borough Council submitted a planning application in September 2020 to replace its grass football pitch and changing rooms at the above location, with a new synthetic pitch and pavilion constructed to IFA intermediate standards.

On 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 13 months after the application was submitted, Northern Ireland Water (NIW) indicated their objection to the application, stating that the foul and storm water drainage system infrastructure was inadequate in the area, and that the applicant (Council), should carry out investigations, design development and drainage improvement works at its own cost, in order to improve both systems to the satisfaction of NIW. Whilst NIW are content that the storm water drainage upgrades can be conditioned to any planning permission, they have insisted that a detailed proposal to address the public foul sewer capacity in this area is required before NIW would consider withdrawing its objection to the planning application.

This is the only outstanding matter in relation to Council securing planning approval for the development. The recommended way forward will significantly delay receipt of planning approval further and has already increased projected costs and delayed delivery of this much need sporting facility.

A Drainage Assessment, and investigatory works were carried out by Council as requested by NI Water and reported back through the planning system. The impasse was also reported to the Community and Wellbeing Committee of the Council on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, and the Council at its meeting later that month. Council discussed the fact that this objection has caused a significant additional delay to the application and as a result projected costs have escalated as a result of the current level of construction inflation and the additional estimated costs of the work imposed by NIW.



**Ards and  
North Down**  
Borough Council

The Council resolved to write to the Department as it has become clear through our investigations and considerations of this objection that the works are general area required improvement works and not just required in order to support any additional loading on the system due to Councils proposed development. Therefore, given NIW's statutory responsibility to provide adequate public water services and infrastructure, Council is of the opinion that NI Water should cover the cost of works to effect improvements that meet at least current demands, and carry out those works at cost to NIW and these works should be prioritised.

Council would accept that if additional works are required over and above NIW's statutory duty because of its new proposed development, a contribution in proportion to this additional loading can be considered.

I look forward to your response to this matter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

**STEPHEN REID**  
**Chief Executive**



Department for  
**Infrastructure**  
An Roinn  
**Bonneagair**  
[www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

**Water and Drainage Policy Division**

Steven Reid  
Chief Executive  
Ards and North Down Borough Council  
Town Hall  
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Bangor  
BT20 4BT

Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8GB

Tel: (028) 9054 0836

09 December 2022

Email: [Paula.Howard@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:Paula.Howard@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

Our reference: STOF-0080-2022  
Your reference:

Dear Mr Reid

I refer to your letter of 21 November 2022 to the Permanent Secretary, regarding the objection by Northern Ireland Water to planning application LA06/2020/0844/F, for a new 3G Pitch and Pavilion at New Harbour Road, Portavogie. This has been passed to me to provide a response.

Water and sewerage considerations relating to planning applications are an operational matter for NI Water. You should, therefore, direct your questions regarding this planning application to Roy Mooney via [waterline@niwater.com](mailto:waterline@niwater.com).

Yours sincerely

*[signed]*

**JULIE ANN DUTTON**  
**Water & Drainage Policy Division**