

Shaping the future

Your Vision for Ballyhalbert



Since May 2024 Ards and North Down Borough Council have been undertaking a comprehensive engagement process to develop a new Ballyhalbert Village Plan.

The engagement process was designed to gather a diverse range of input through various methods, including public workshops, involvement of community groups and local schools, engagement at public events, on-street surveys and online surveys. This approach helped to ensure all members of the community were provided an opportunity to share their views.



Primary School Drawing Competition winners with Mayor of Ards and North Down, Alistair Cathcart Bangor City Hall 2024.

- Thank you for your participation in the engagement process and the invaluable feedback you provided.
- Did you meet us at Ballyhalbert Village Hall on Wednesday 5 June 2024 when we held a public engagement drop-in session?
- Did you catch us in your village completing on-street surveys, or did you complete your survey online?
- We enjoyed a visit to Victoria Primary School where we met with pupils for an interactive engagement session and a drawing competition.

We have collated all the information received through the various forms of engagement and developed a series of proposed priorities and actions. Please have a read and tell us what you think. Feedback can be provided online at www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/article/2141/Current-Engagement-Opportunities or scan the QR code.



Closing date for feedback on proposals: 12noon on Friday 28 February 2025

For further information visit www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/villageplans or email us at village.plans@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

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How you
currently view
Ballyhalbert...

What you told us is desirable about Ballyhalbert...

- The most desirable aspect of Ballyhalbert was identified as the proximity and **connection to the sea**. Residents and visitors emphasised the desirability of nearby 'blue connections' such as the harbour and the beach, which provide quiet, picturesque places to connect with nature and enjoy recreational activities such as walking, running or swimming. The combination of rurality and coastline access make for a unique and charming atmosphere.
- The **community spirit** of Ballyhalbert is characterised by the 'wee' nature of the village as home to a small, peaceful, friendly and passionate group of residents, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- Residents appreciate the **small scale** of the village, offering tranquillity, peace and safety. While the small scale means that local amenities are limited, there is great **appreciation for existing traders** such as the local award-winning chip shop, Talbot's Catch, as well as the local Spar, who provide essential services for the residents and visiting populations.



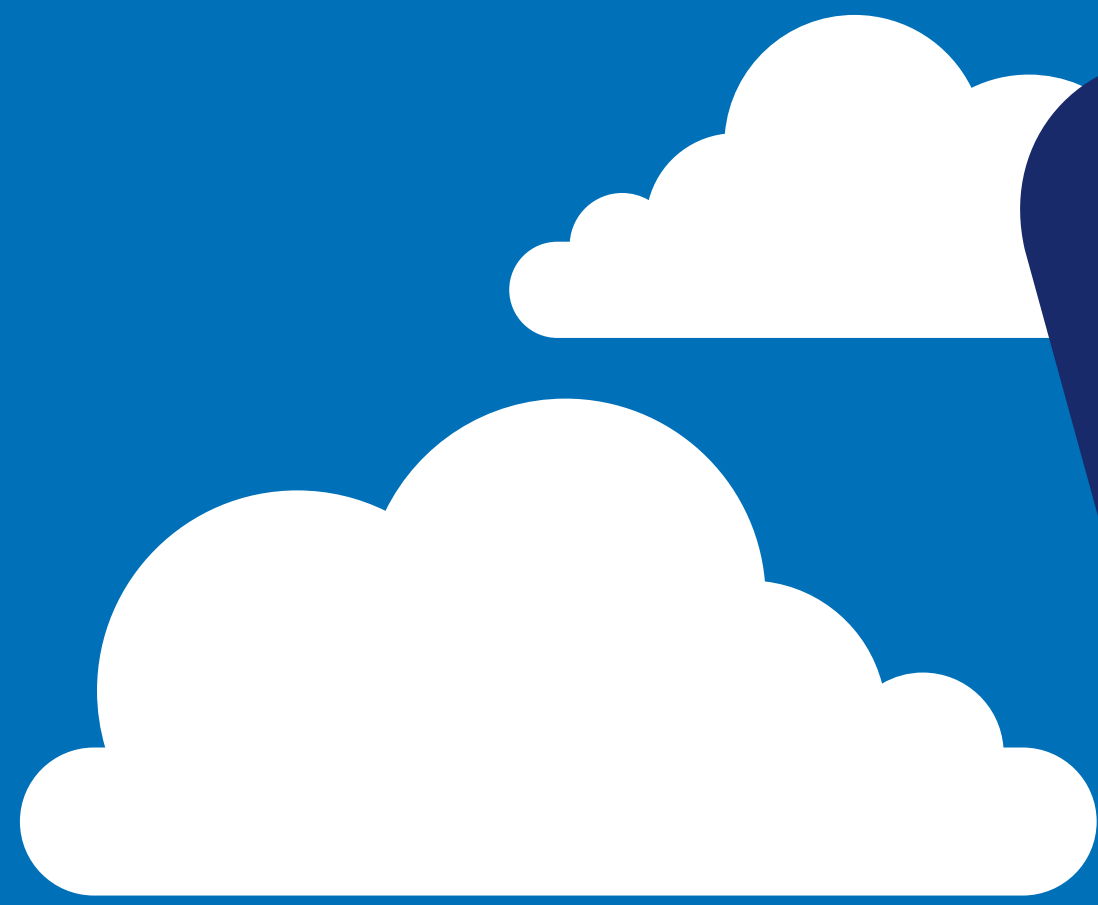
What you think are the Unique Selling Points for Ballyhalbert...

- 1 **Burr Point**, the most easterly point on the island of Ireland, was identified as the most recognised Unique Selling Point for Ballyhalbert. The viewpoint faces out towards the Irish Sea, with stunning views of the nearby Burial Island and Scotland on a clear day.
- 2 The **coastal location** of Ballyhalbert provides a scenic backdrop for quaint village life that is interconnected with the sea. Residents and visitors alike utilise the harbour and beach for recreational opportunities, with sea swimming with the local swimming group 'Burr Point Buoys' being particularly popular.
- 3 Ballyhalbert is steeped in **history**. From traces of the 12th century Anglo-Norman invasion, including the Anglo-Norman church ruins and the pre-historic standing stone of the nearby motte, as the Royal Air Force airfield used during World War 2, Ballyhalbert has numerous historical sites of interest.

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Why you think people visit Ballyhalbert...



How you feel about Ballyhalbert...

50 respondents shared their **positive** feelings about the Village, some of the comments received:

"I love the village and the people who live here. It is by far the friendliest community I have ever had the privilege to be a part of"

"I love it the way that it is...sleepy, small, beautiful"

"I love it as remote and rugged – fab views and nice community feel"

"I really like living here, it is quiet and a nice place for now to raise our young family. It feels safe and familiar"

"Proud to be a resident"

"I think the village is unreal to be honest"

"I love it and I am protective of it"

"I feel very lucky to live here"

62 respondents shared their **negative** feelings about the Village, some of the comments received:

"I love my village, but it's forgotten about"

"I wish the home owners would take greater pride in their properties by painting their houses, weeding gardens and power washing their outside areas."

"Infrastructure has not kept up with housing developments"

"There's not really anything here and the cars speeding on the main road is very annoying"

"I used to love it but in recent years things has changed. There's no community, people argue and fight with each other."

"There needs to be more things for the youth to do"

"Needs better infrastructure, transport, footpaths and cycle paths"

What you told us is undesirable about Ballyhalbert...

- The most undesirable aspect of Ballyhalbert was identified as the **lack of safe, pedestrian footpaths** across the village. This includes the lack of footpaths from the newer housing developments St Andrews along Shore Road into the village as well as from one end of the village to the other. Pedestrian connectivity and safety was raised as the most prominent concern by residents, particularly for young children walking home from school.
- The **lack of a wider variety of facilities** was identified as undesirable. There is a need for more amenities in the area for children and young people. The need for a wider remit of commercial offerings in the village was highlighted, both to provide for resident locals with opportunities to socialise in the village and to attract outside visitors into the village itself to stimulate the local economy. The absence of hospitality services such as a café, coffee shop, pub or a restaurant, was seen as undesirable, as was the lack of essential services such as a pharmacy and a petrol station.
- **Poor access to the beach** was highlighted as a key issue. With the access to the sea being a key feature of the village, the lack of connectivity and safe access to the beach, diminishes the impact of one of Ballyhalbert's most important features.
- Residents cited a lack of **general maintenance** of the village as impacting on their view of the village, namely due to littering, debris along the shore and a lack of bins. Some residents also highlighted the lack of lighting in certain parts of the village, including towards Glastry College.
- Concerns were also raised over **traffic and road conditions**. Frequent potholes, roads in need of resurfacing and consistent speeding by by-passers was identified as undesirable.

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How the young people of Ballyhalbert describe their village...



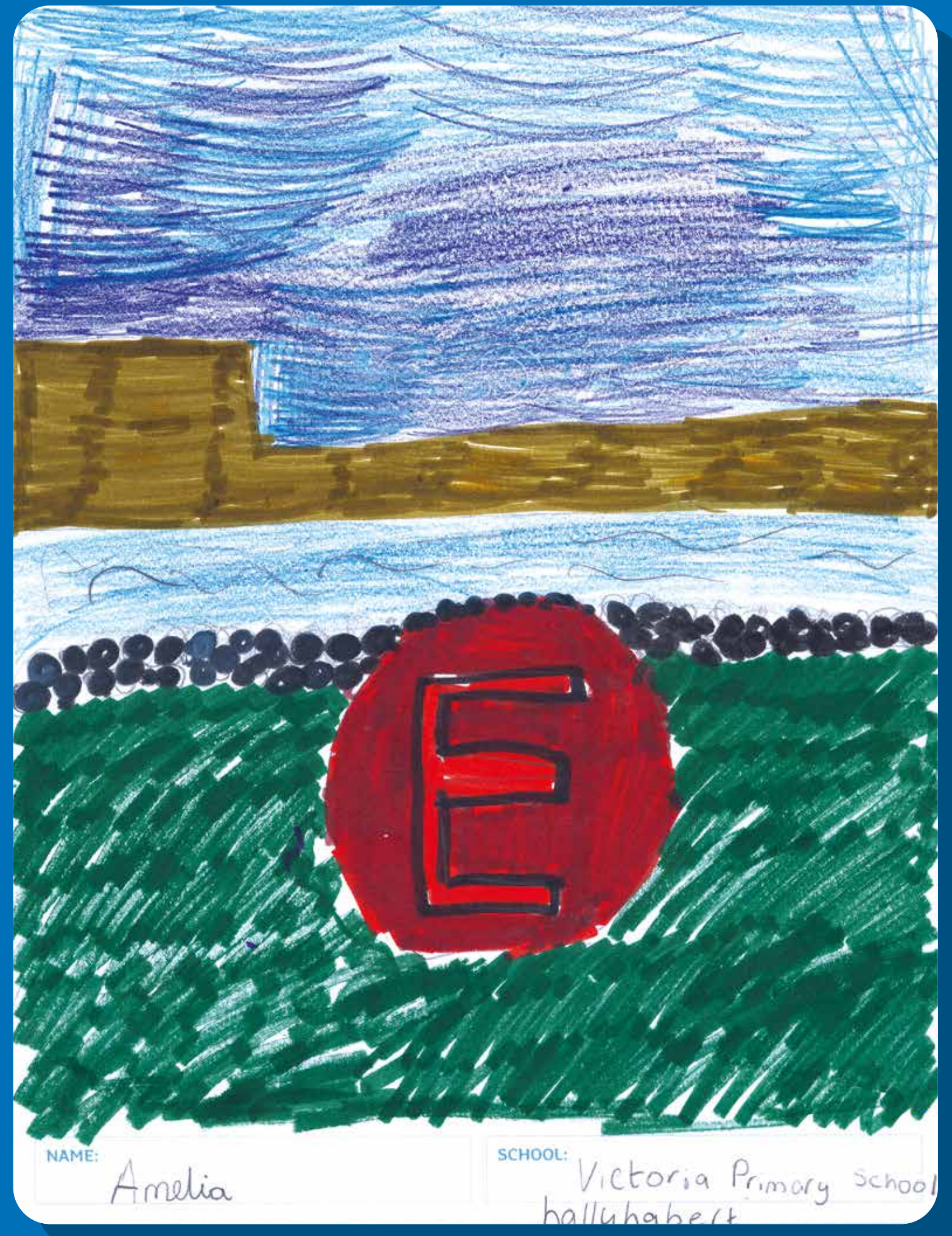
What the young people of Ballyhalbert like about their village...

- ✓ **Blue and Green Spaces**
Beach | Harbour | Park
- ✓ **Activities**
Car Boot Sales
- ✓ **History**
The Airfield
- ✓ **Local Shops**
Talbot's Catch and the Spar
- ✓ **Connectivity**
Being close to friends and family and being able to walk



What the young people of Ballyhalbert do not like about their village...

The main concern raised was regarding the maintenance of the village, with the young people citing littering, lack of bins and lack of grass cutting outside the school gates as well as the lack of adequate footpaths. Some of the young people did not like that there are no football nets in the village and felt that there should be more shops in Ballyhalbert.



Victoria Primary School – Competition Winner
“Draw what you think makes your village the best”

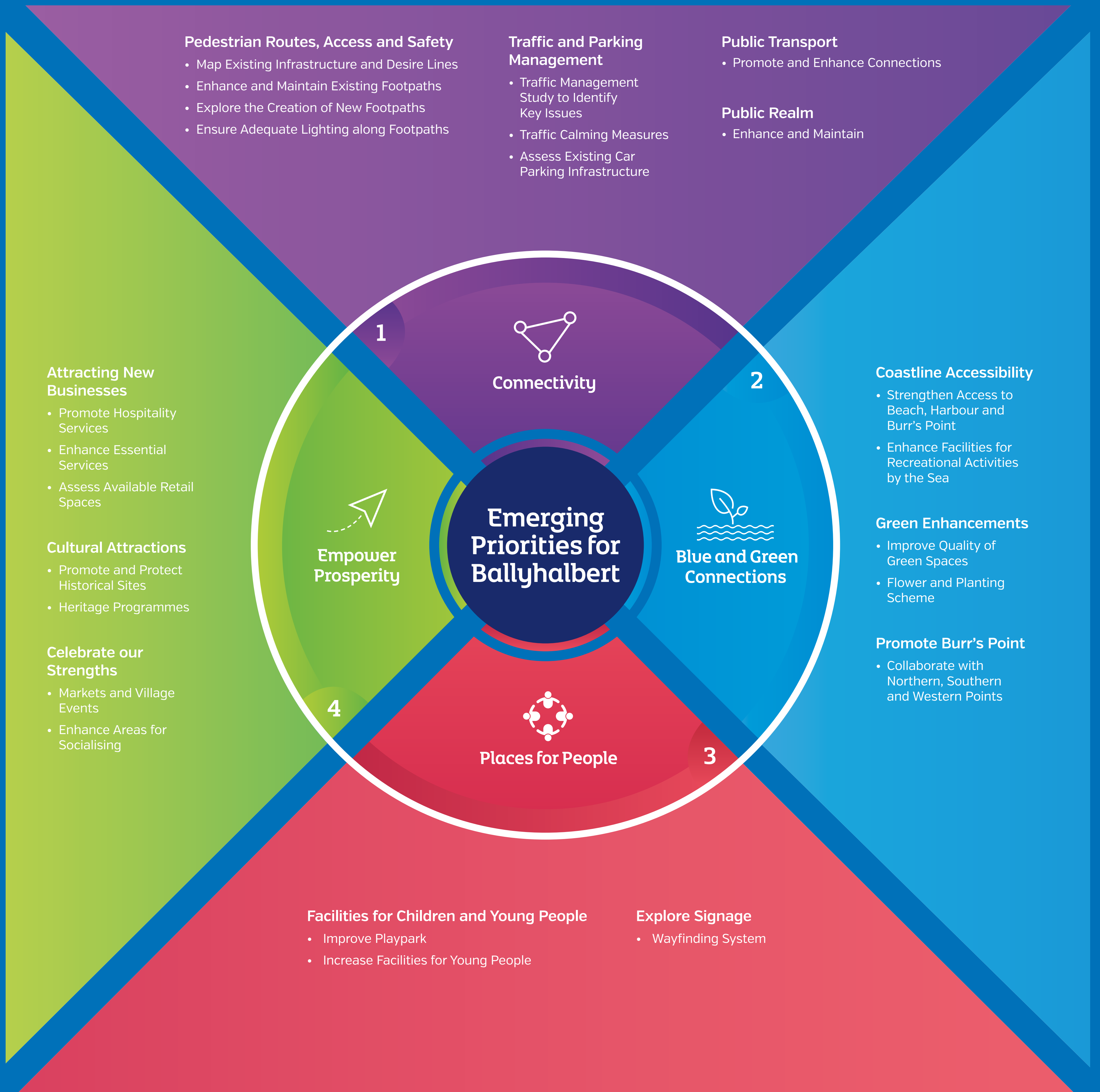
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The Vision

“To be a sustainable village which is a thriving place for people to do business, socialise, shop, be creative and use public services as well as being a great place to live”

High Street Task Force, NI Executive



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