

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



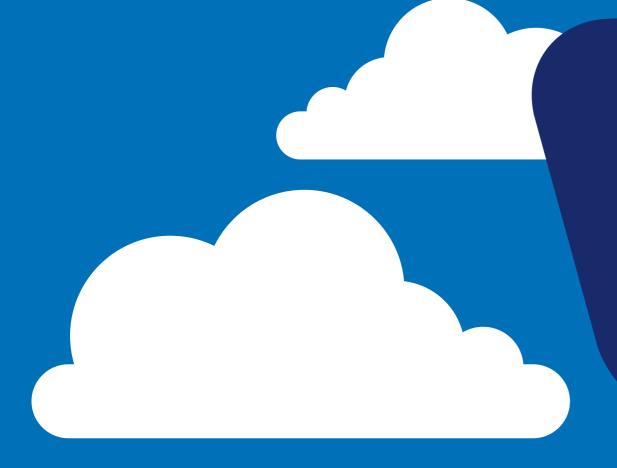
- Thank you for your participation in the engagement process and the invaluable feedback you provided.
- Did you meet us at Greyabbey Village Hall on the 27 June 2024 when we held a public engagement drop-in session?
- Did you catch us in your village completing on-street surveys, or did you complete your survey online?
- We enjoyed a visit to Grey Abbey 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 <a href="https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/article/2141/Current-Engagement-Opportunities">www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/article/2141/Current-Engagement-Opportunities</a> or scan the QR code.



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





How you currently view Greyabbey...

### What you told us is desirable about Greyabbey...

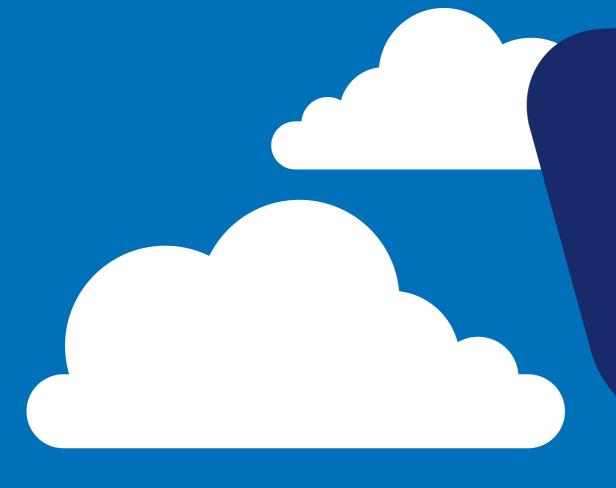
- The village's most desirable aspect is its rich Heritage prominently highlighted by the historic Grey Abbey, which serves as the centrepiece of cultural significance. The charming character of the surrounding buildings, including the church, cemetery and war memorial further enhances the village's historical appeal.
- Independent retailers contribute to the village's appeal by offering unique **Products** and **Experiences**, complimented by distinctive eateries and antique shops that create a vibrant atmosphere.
- The People of the village are highly recognised for their friendliness. The strong Community Spirit and active community group creates a sense of belonging amongst residents.
- The **Blue Connections** to the lough are highly desirable, offering breathtaking scenery, stunning views and access to the water and nature, making it an appealing destination for everyone to enjoy.
- The village's unique settings make this a **Unique Destination** with a picturesque scenery, charming rural atmosphere, combined with ease of accessibility, making it highly desirable.



### What you think are the Unique Selling Points for Greyabbey...

- 1 The most recognised unique selling point for Greyabbey is the historic **Grey Abbey** dating from 1193, one of the most impressive examples of early Gothic architecture. The remains of the Abbey are situated in the beautiful parkland on the outskirts of the village.
- 2 The diverse range of **Eateries** and **Antique Shops** not only showcase local culinary delights but also offer a unique shopping experience with a distinctive charm.
- 3 The stunning **Strangford Lough** which serves as a picturesque backdrop provides vital 'blue connections' and is a significant draw for residents and visitors.





Why you think people visit Greyabbey...



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

"I love it"

"It's home"

"It's been my home for over 60 years, and I have no plans to leave it because I love everything about it"

"I love my village and feel very protective of it"

"Proud to live here to be part of lovely community spirit"

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

"Not as well kept as when we first moved here"

"It's forgotten about by the Council"

"Tired, bored, abandoned"

'Could have more for children"

"Feels like facilities have not improved for years"



### What you told us is undesirable about Greyabbey ...

- The main undesirable regarding the village was the **lack of ongoing maintenance**, this focused on litter, dog waste and overgrown weeds.
- The lack of adequate facilities in the village, particularly the condition of the public toilets, the absence of youth-orientated amenities, and the poor condition of the play park was widely acknowledged as significant concern.
- Respondents identified traffic and car parking as significant issues, primarily due to the high volume of vehicles, excessive speeds and insufficient car parking facilities, which collectively contribute to safety concerns.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the condition of the existing Infrastructure, issues such as poor pavement conditions, potholes and lack of adequate footpaths.
- Respondents acknowledge the prevalence of dereliction and vacancy within the village, both residential and commercial.



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



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

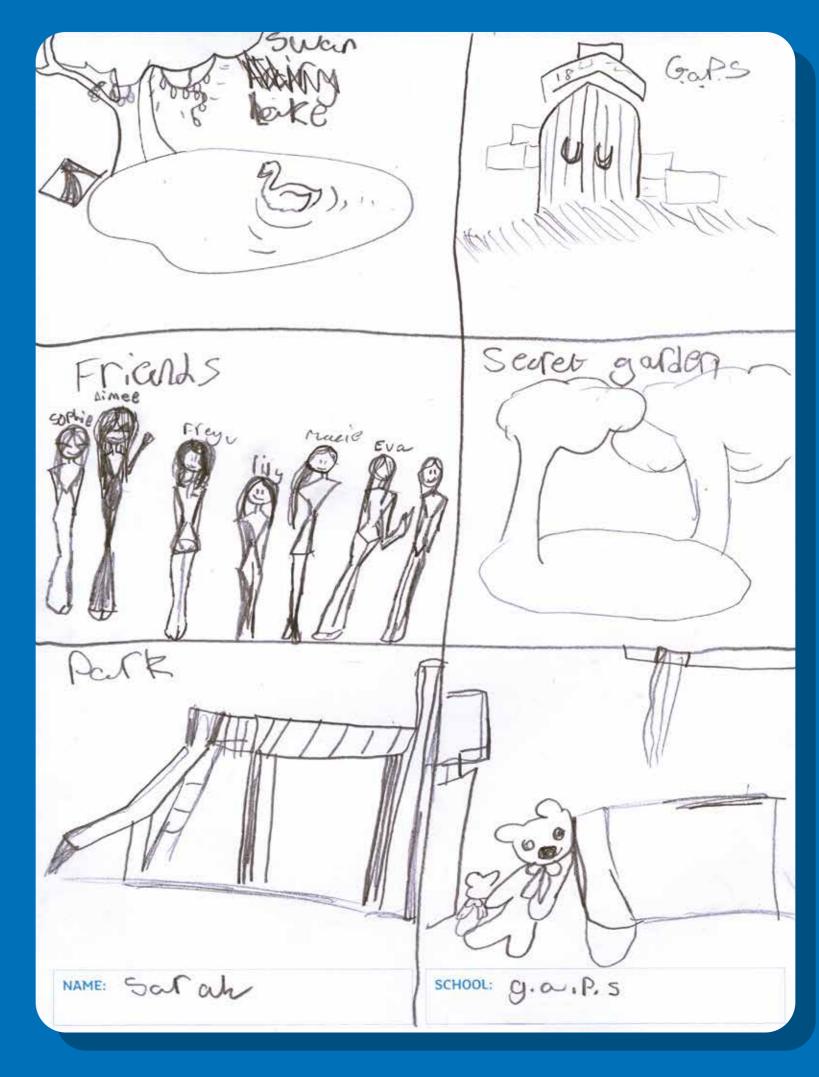
- Local Businesses
   Coffee Shops | Cafés | Antique Shops
   Vivo | Takeaway
- Attractions / Facilities
  Football Pitches and Village Hall
- ✓ Green Spaces
  The Forest | Greba Gardens | Bluebell Walk
- Community
  The People
- Heritage
   Church | Abbey | War Memorial
   Rosemount House | Orange Hall



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

The young people expressed concerns about the maintenance of their village, particularly issues with dog waste and litter. Additionally, they voiced concern over the limited eateries.





**Greyabbey Primary School – Competition Winner** "Draw what you think makes your village the best"





#### 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** 

#### **Traffic Calming**

- Traffic Management Study
- Traffic Calming Measures

#### Pedestrian Friendly, **Accessible and Safe Spaces**

- Existing Infrastructure Assessment
- Improve and Enhance
- Maintain and Repair

#### Walkable Areas

Empower

**Prosperity** 

 Promote and Enhance Connections

#### **Mixed-Use Spaces**

- Residential, Commercial and Recreational - A Dynamic Rural Environment
- Enhanced Convenience
- Live, Work and Enjoy

#### **Cultural Attractions**

- Promote and Protect **Historical Sites**
- Arts and Heritage Programmes

#### **Explore Signage**

Wayfinding System

# Safe Streets

Discover Spaces

Emerging Priorities for Greyabbey

**Green Growth** 

 Vacancy/Dereliction **Grant Scheme** 

**Bring Back to Life** 

#### **Attract New** Businesses

- Support for Start-Up Businesses
- Market Research Services
- Networking
- Shared Workspaces

#### **Celebrate Our Strengths**

- Marketing Initiatives
- Events
- Shop Local Promotion

#### **Promote Health and Wellness**

- Enhance Recreational Areas
- Walking and Cycling Trails
- Increased Green Spaces

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#### **Cleaner and Greener**

- Environmental Awareness Education Programme
- Improved Waste Management Systems

