

Shaping the future

Your Vision for Groomsport



Since May 2024 Ards and North Down Borough Council have been undertaking a comprehensive engagement process to develop a new Groomsport 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 Groomsport Boat House on Tuesday 9 July 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 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 Goomsport...



What you told us is desirable about Goomsport...

- The village's most desirable appeal largely stems from its picturesque **blue connections**, with the beach and harbour serving as the central hub for both visitors and locals to engage in recreational activities like walking and swimming.
- A key aspect that enhances the village's charm is its **friendly atmosphere** and strong **community spirit**, which is evident through the active community groups.
- The village's current **cafés and restaurants** were also highlighted as key desirable features.
- The **townscape** of Goomsport significantly contributes to its desirability, characterised by vibrant floral displays, tree lined streets, and breathtaking scenery that creates a charming and inviting environment.

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

- 1 The most recognised unique selling point for Goomsport is its **sandy beach** and **picturesque harbour**. The harbour, which was once a major fishing port welcomes visitors all year round whilst the beach boasts one of Northern Ireland's few fully accessible beaches for all ages and abilities.
- 2 The lovingly restored **Cockle Row Cottages** thought to be 400 years old was once a pair of fishermen's cottages and represents the heritage of Goomsport.
- 3 Stunning **natural scenery** in the area offers residents and visitors alike an idyllic backdrop for leisurely walks.

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Why you think people visit Groomsport...

How you feel about Groomsport...

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

"Proud"

"Very Happy"

"Lucky"

"Love It"

"If it was in Donegal people would be raving about how lovely it is."

"I love living in Groomsport and I feel proud and lucky to live here"

"The standout is the authenticity of its history, a step back in time with the cottages and nautical links."

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

"Needs investment from the council, not just the local community"

"Requires more entertainment and support for the churches youth projects"

"What was once a quiet village is now plagued by too much traffic!"



What you told us is undesirable about Groomsport ...

- A primary concern in the village is the **children's play facilities**, particularly the splash pad area and the need to replace or upgrade this facility.
- Another drawback identified was the **lack of choice** when it came to **shops and cafés**, particularly emphasising the need for more grocery shopping options to better serve the community's daily needs.
- **Ongoing maintenance** emerged as a concern in the village, particularly regarding issues like litter, dog waste, and overgrown weeds, which detract from the overall aesthetics of the village.
- **Traffic and car parking** were identified as significant issues, primarily due to the high volume of vehicles, excessive speeds and irresponsible car parking by users, which collectively contribute to safety concerns.

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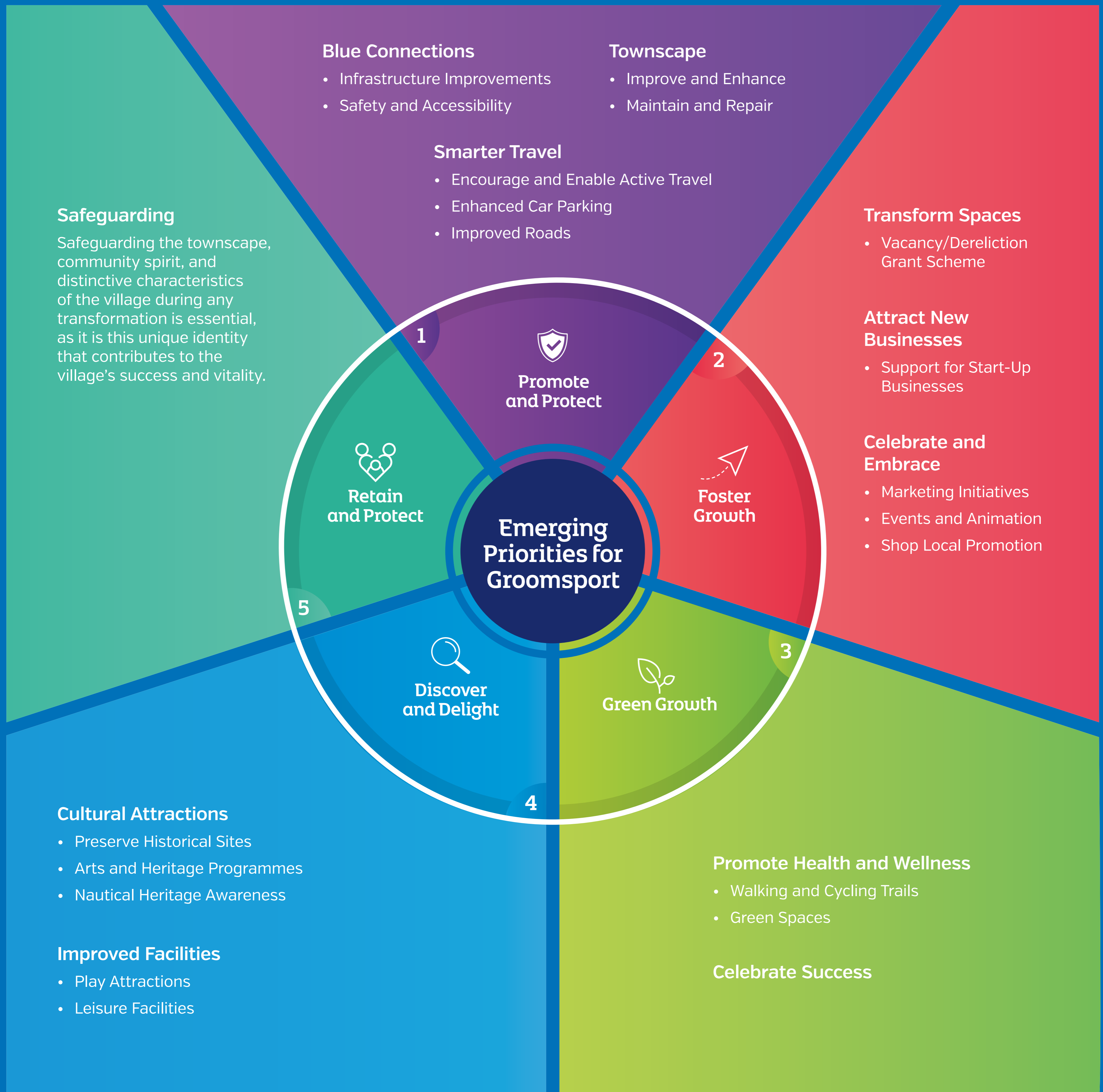
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The Vision

“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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