

Shaping the future

Your Vision for Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn



Since May 2024 Ards and North Down Borough Council have been undertaking a comprehensive engagement process to develop a new Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn 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 Crawfordsburn Primary School on the 18 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 Crawfordsburn 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
Helen's Bay and
Crawfordsburn...



What you think are the Unique Selling Points for Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn...

- 1 The most recognised unique selling point for Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn is the **Country Park**. The park is 3.5km of lovely beaches and riverside rambles that form part of the North Down Coastal Path. With two excellent beaches and spectacular views across the Lough.
- 2 Crawfordsburn grew around a 17th century coaching house which is now a luxury hotel. Grey Point Fort in Helen's Bay is one of the best-preserved early 20th century coastal forts anywhere in the British Isles. From these notable assets, the areas **Heritage** is also deemed a unique selling point by respondents.
- 3 The stunning **Coastline** provides picturesque views across Belfast Lough which offers vital 'blue connections' and is a significant draw for residents and visitors.

What you told us is desirable about Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn...

- The village's most desirable aspect is its **Green Spaces and Blue Connections**, namely the Country Park and the beaches providing many walks and trails.
- 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 range of **Facilities and Attractions** within the village make this a desirable location, with a Golf Club, Tennis Club, Church and a range of unique retailers. The location provides excellent **Connectivity** to Belfast and Bangor given the close proximity to train links.

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Why you think people visit Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn...



How you feel about Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn ...

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

"People know each other"

"Lovely community"

"It has a great community atmosphere"

"Love it"

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

"Traffic too fast"

"Needs more shops"

"Could be busier"

"Overdevelopment"

"Volume of traffic"

What you told us is undesirable about Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn ...

- The primary undesirable aspect highlighted was **traffic-related issues**, particularly the scarcity of parking spaces and instances of double parking, which contributed to safety risks in the village. Additionally, the increased traffic volume and instances of excessive speed further exacerbate these safety concerns.
- Concerns were expressed regarding **maintenance** issues such as overflowing bins and excessive dog waste in the parks.
- Respondents acknowledge the **infrastructure** within the village is inadequate, outlining the lack of pedestrian crossings and cycle lanes.
- The **anti-social behaviour** on sunny days in the village, particularly at the Country Park, was widely acknowledged as significant concern.
- The overdevelopment of The Old Inn was raised as a concern by respondents.

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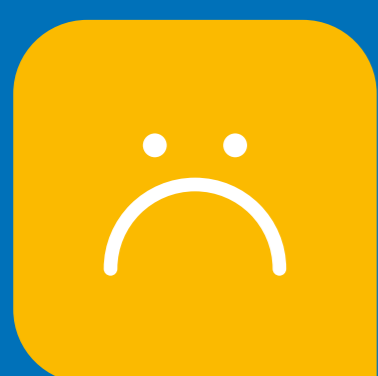
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How the young people of Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn describe their village...



What the young people of Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn like about their village...

- ✓ **Local Businesses**
Spar, Ice Cream
- ✓ **Attractions/Facilities**
Tennis Club, Golf Club, Primary School
- ✓ **Green Spaces**
The Country Park and Children's Play Park
- ✓ **Blue Spaces**
The Beaches
- ✓ **Connectivity**
Close to Train Stations and Bus Stops



What the young people of Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn do not like about their village...

The young people expressed concerns about the narrow roads and the dangerous parking on either side of the road within the villages. They also stated that there were maintenance issues outlining overflowing bins and excess dog waste.



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

Shaping the future



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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