

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



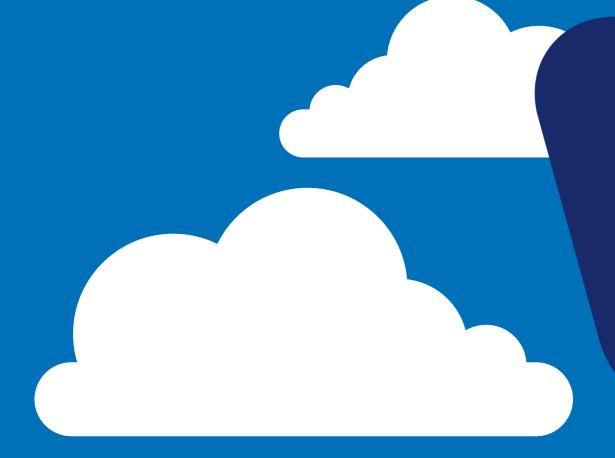
- Thank you for your participation in the engagement process and the invaluable feedback you provided.
- Did you meet us at Kircubbin Community Centre on 18 June 2024 when we held a public engagement drop-in session?
- Did you catch us in your village completing on-street surveys, or did you complete your survey online?
- We enjoyed visits to St Mary's Primary School and Kircubbin Primary School, where we met with pupils for interactive engagement sessions 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





How you currently view Kircubbin...



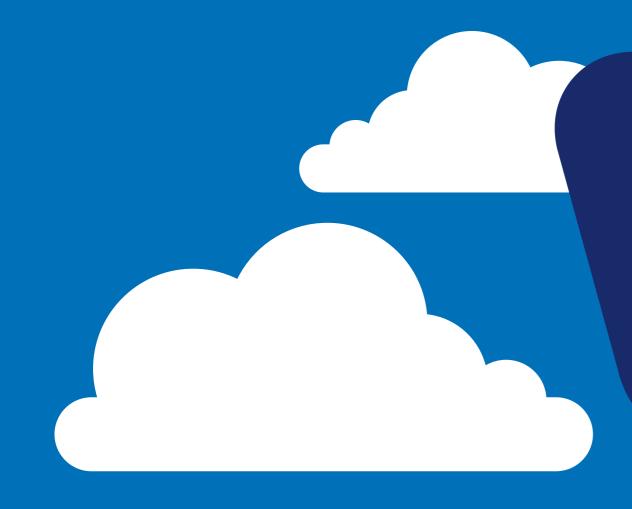
What you told us is desirable about Kircubbin...

- The most desirable aspect of Kircubbin was identified as the **shoreline location** along Strangford Lough. Many described their appreciation of being close to the water and the beach, as well as the scenic views across the water.
- Respondents also described the local shops and businesses as a desirable aspect of the village, recognising that for a village of its size, Kircubbin has a wide variety of shops and services. This includes numerous pubs, takeaways, cafés, the Eurospar and its petrol station. Coan Coffee was repeatedly mentioned as a highly appreciated new addition to the area.
- The access to services and amenities was also highlighted as a desirable feature. Kircubbin is home to numerous schools, a community centre, a local play park and has access to healthcare provision through a GP, a chemist and a dentist. Respondents therefore felt that in general, most services were available locally, despite the village's rural location.
- Respondents also identified the **local community and people** as desirable with respondents described the village as diverse, mixed and welcoming.

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

- 1 The most unique selling point for Kircubbin was identified as the **Scenic Coastal Location** on the shores of Strangford Lough. Access to the lough provides opportunities for recreational activities in and around the water and offers stunning views, with the Mourne Mountains visible across the water on a clear day. The beautiful shoreline provides the backdrop for life in the village. Many saw the historic harbour as an area that had the potential to be a unique selling point if repaired.
- 2 The local offering of **facilities and amenities** was seen as another unique selling point. Kircubbin was described as well-provided for despite its small size with the presence of a nursery school, two primary schools, the new play park, a wide range of small shops and key amenities. Great appreciation was also expressed for the recently opened Coan Coffee Shop.
- Residents also appreciate the **friendly community spirit** and the atmosphere in Kircubbin, as a quiet, picturesque seaside village.





Why you think people visit Kircubbin...



How you feel about Kircubbin...

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

"Living on the peninsula in such a beautiful place is a blessing"

"I have lived here all my life and just love the drive down the peninsula. No better place to live"

"Love the peaceful atmosphere, the water and the proximity to larger towns"

"Safe, comfortable"

"I love the sense of community and that everyone looks out for each other"

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

"It could be so much better"

"Love my village - but it could be cleaner"

"Sad that it is falling into decay and not harnessed as a tourist attraction"

"Has potential, town has regressed over the last couple of decades"

"Very proud of it, but it needs work done to the harbour to attract tourists to it and to make it more pleasing to the residents"

"I feel we are neglected, bad roads, footpaths are a disgrace"

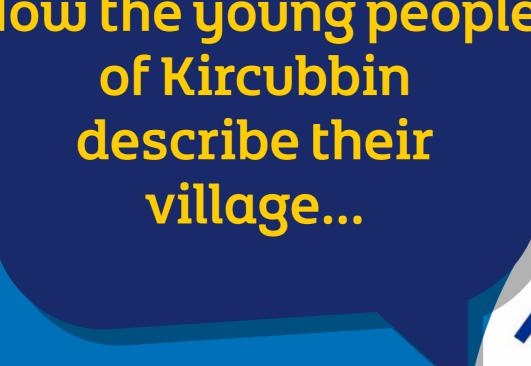
What you told us is undesirable about Kircubbin...

- The most undesirable aspect of Kircubbin was identified as the **disrepair of the harbour**. Many respondents expressed that the historic harbour could be a unique selling point and beautiful feature for Kircubbin, maximising the potential of the village's proximity to the lough. Significant decline of the harbour wall means the structure currently contributes negatively to the wider townscape.
- Lack of maintenance was highlighted as an issue. Respondents raised concerns mainly over dog fouling and litter, particularly on walkways but also around the harbour area. Maintenance of footpaths was also raised, with paths described as overgrown, dirty, slippery, and causing safety concerns for pedestrians. Issues of overgrown weeds and hedges and a general sense of the area being unkept were highlighted. Similarly, residents raised that the general look of the area could do with an uplift. Some described the village as "grey" and "drab", with others citing a lack of flowers, lights and colour. Issues of dereliction, run-down buildings and empty shops were also raised.
- Respondents raised **traffic and car parking issues** as another concern. The most commonly mentioned issue was congestion issues on Shore Road, caused by on-street car parking along residential cottages in this area. Other concerns raised were general lack of parking in the village and concerns over speeding.
- A **lack of facilities** was also highlighted with the main issue raised being the lack of facilities for older children and young people and a need for more hospitality sector establishments such as sit-in eateries.



by emailing Subscribe to village.plans@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

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





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

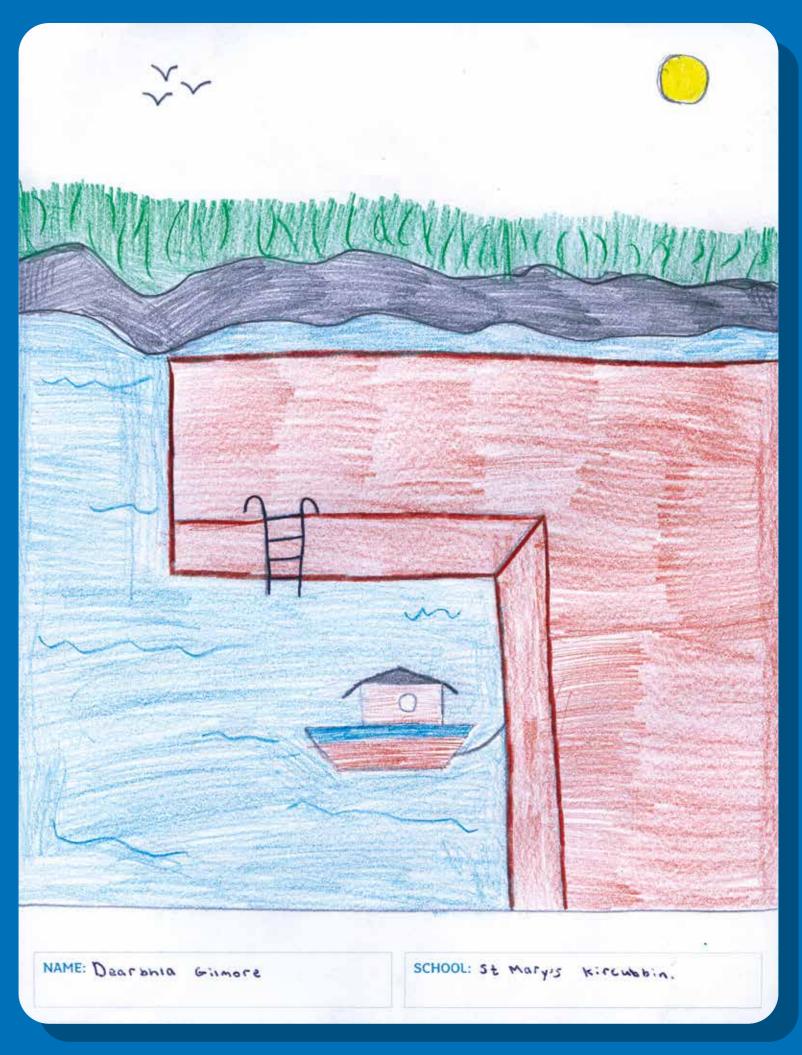
- Local Shops
- The Beach
- **✓** The Community Centre
- The School
- ✓ The Football Pitch
- The Play Park



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

There was no clear shared opinion among the children and young people about what they did not like about Kircubbin. Some of the concerns raised were lack of football pitches, lack of football netting, potholes, road works, the people, the litter, rats at the harbour and the small size of the village. A number of children and young people instead stated that they felt that there was nothing they disliked about Kircubbin.





St Mary's 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 Safe Roads • Traffic Calming Measures • Road Maintenance • Road Maintenance • Parking Survey • Enhance Existing Facilities • Enhance Lighting Infrastructure

Reinstate Harbour

- Liaise with Landowner
- Address Safety Concerns
- Improve and Enhance Promenade

Enjoying our Lough

- Water Sports and Recreation
- Walking Trails
- Enhancing Facilities

Protecting our Lough

Environmental
 Awareness Education
 Programme

Enhance Visitor Potential

- Support Hospitality Sector
- Marketing and Promotion
- Street Furniture Enhancement
- Explore Signage

Safe and Accessible Emerging Priorities for Kircubbin Places for People

Green and Clean

- Environmental
 Awareness Education
- Improved Waste
 Management Systems
- Flower and Planting Scheme

Active and Engaged

- Improved Green Spaces
- Enhance Recreational Opportunities

Youth Initiatives

 Enhance Youth Facilities

More Homes

 Consult with Housing Bodies/ Statutory Departments

Bring Back to Life

- Address Vacancy/ Dereliction
- Shopfront Improvement Programme

Attract New Businesses

 Support for Start-Up Businesses

Succeeding Streets

- Market Research Services
- Networking
- Shared Workspaces

Celebrate our Strengths

- Marketing Initiatives
- Seasonal Festivities
- Shop Local Promotions

