

Shaping the future

Your Vision for Millisle



Since May 2024 Ards and North Down Borough Council have been undertaking a comprehensive engagement process to develop a new Millisle 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 Millisle Community Hub on 20 August 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 visiting Millisle 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

To keep up to date on the latest developments, sign up for the Village Plan Newsletter, by emailing *Subscribe* to village.plans@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

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How you currently view Millisle...

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

- 1 The village's most unique feature is its picturesque **blue connections**. The beach has been awarded Seaside Awards for its facilities & water quality and the Lagoon serving as the central hub for both visitors and locals to engage in recreational activities like swimming and water sports.
- 2 The village's **Heritage** was identified as a unique selling point with focus surrounding the historic Ballycopeland Windmill. This key heritage site fell into disrepair during the First World War but was gradually restored between 1950 and 1978 to full working order. Ballycopeland Windmill celebrates its place as a unique historical asset and brings to life the fascinating stories of those who lived and worked in this last functional Windmill in Northern Ireland.
- 3 Respondents identified a unique selling point as the **friendly atmosphere and strong community spirit** in the village, which is evident through the active community groups and connections to the Primary School and Abbey Villa Football Club.



What you told us is desirable about Millisle...

- The most desirable element detailed from respondents was the **Blue Connections** given the villages coastal location on the Ards Peninsula; being able to avail of beach access and the lagoon, and picturesque views.
- **Facilities and Trade** such as the local park, shops, garage, eateries, and Primary School were also highly desirable, along with the Abbey Villa football Club.
- The **Community** was detailed as desirable with numerous responses relating to the villages 'friendly people' who are welcoming.

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Why you think people visit Millisle...

How you feel about Millisle...

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

"Love, love, love it"

"It's a lovely quiet place"

"Wonderful"

"I love it. It's not perfect but its unique"

"I feel lucky that I live here"

"Very Tranquil"

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

"Disappointed it has been allowed to rundown so much"

"Absolutely horrified by how it has become over the last 30 years"

"Do with more investment compared to Donaghadee"

"Embarrassed"

"Honestly embarrassed I now on the outskirts of the village thankfully as horrific to see how impoverished it looks."

"It has gone to the dogs over the past few years"



What you told us is undesirable about Millisle ...

- The main feature of the village that was identified as undesirable was the **Dereliction and Vacancy** of buildings on Main Street. The run-down aspect of these buildings makes the village look tired and empty.
- A lack of **Maintenance** was also identified as an issue in the village. Responses focused on infrequent grass cutting and weed spraying, dog fouling and litter not being lifted regularly and the organic growth on the beach due to it not being cleared.
- Respondents also noted the lack of **Retail and Hospitality** offerings in the village as many businesses have closed along the Main Street with no businesses moving in to replace them.

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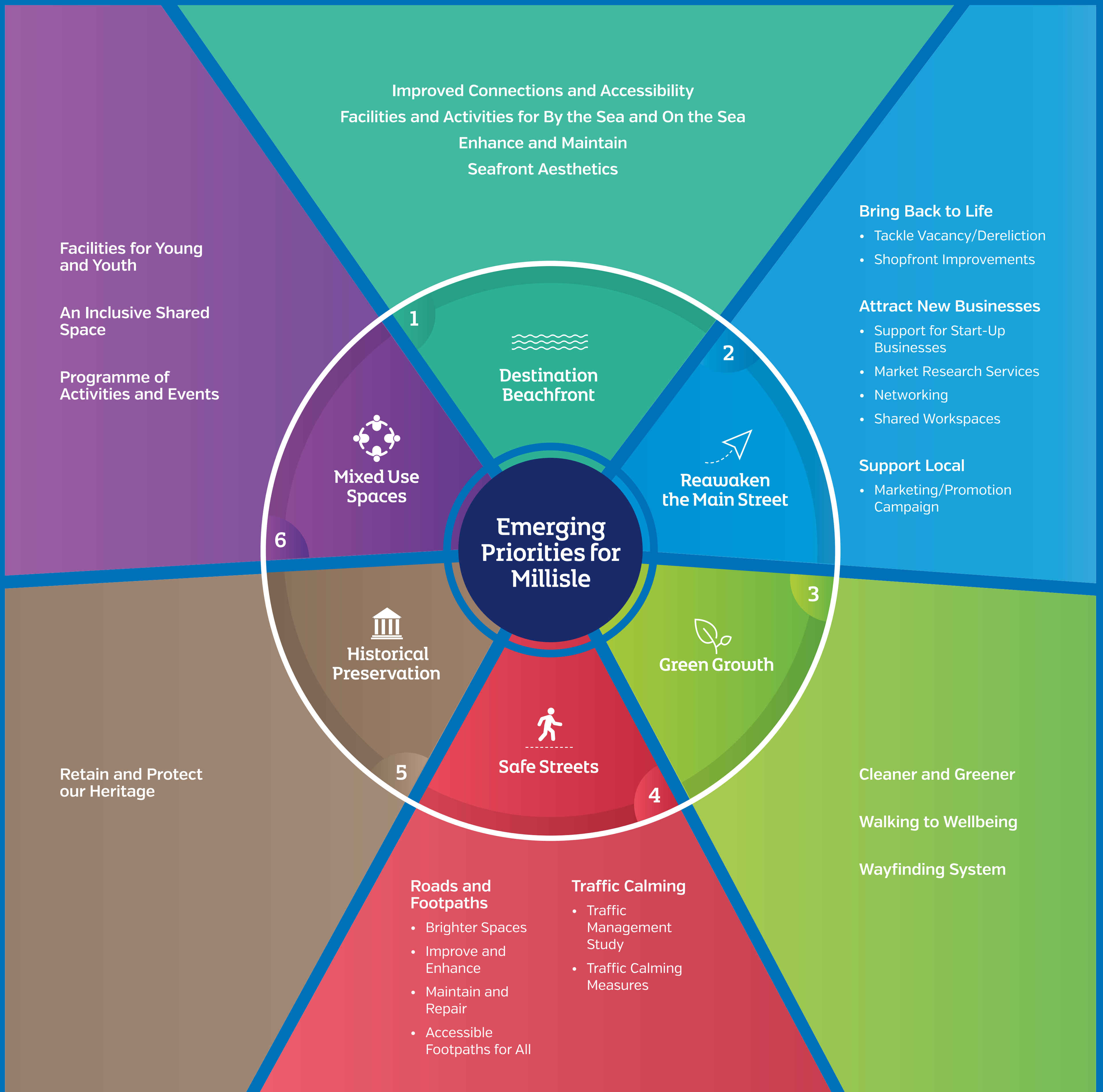
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The Vision

“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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