

Shaping the future

Your Vision for Portavogie



Since May 2024 Ards and North Down Borough Council have been undertaking a comprehensive engagement process to develop a new Portavogie 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 Portavogie Community Centre on the 22 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 a visit to Portavogie 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 Portavogie...

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

- 1 The most recognised unique selling point for Portavogie is its **Scenic Coastal Location**. Portavogie Harbour and fishing are prominent aspects of the village, especially Portavogie Prawns. As well as this long fishing heritage, the promenade and sandy beaches provide vital 'blue connections' which are a particular draw to both residents and visitors.
- 2 A standout feature of the village is its **community**, highlighted by respondents who emphasised the friendliness of residents that creates a welcoming environment.
- 3 The **New Quays Restaurant** is a seafood lovers paradise with the seafood lifted from the Harbour just a few yards away. It is seen by many as being of an excellent standard. Its location next to the Harbour makes it unique.
- 4 Another unique selling point is the village's **History and Heritage**. It's Ulster Scots Heritage is of particular importance to many of the residents.



What you told us is desirable about Portavogie...

- The village's most desirable aspect is its **Blue Connections**. Areas like the Harbour, two sandy beaches, sea and promenade were among the most responses to this question. The breathtaking scenery, both countryside and sea, in this part of the Ards Peninsula makes Portavogie a desirable place to live, visit and enjoy.
- The **Community** was recognised as being highly desirable in Portavogie. Words such as friendly, peaceful and welcoming were common in the survey responses as its community spirit makes it a close-knit place to live.
- Portavogie has many **Outdoor Attractions**. The beaches and countryside provide pleasant areas to walk, and the village also has play parks, a skate park, a multi-use games area (MUGA) and the football pitch.

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Why you think people visit Portavogie...

How you feel about Portavogie...

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

"I love living in the village"

"I've only lived in Portavogie 5 years but in that time have got to know our neighbours and local people. Very welcoming and lots of community spirit"

"Beautiful fishing village"

"Love the community spirit"

"I am proud of my village; the people are friendly and welcoming"

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

"It's a bit run down. Grass never cut and generally left to rack and ruin"

"Needs investment and better shopping facilities"

"Needs funding in certain areas like footpaths and roads"

"There is too much dog fouling and litter"

"Poor roads, many without footpaths making it dangerous for those walking in the village"



What you told us is undesirable about Portavogie...

- The main undesirable regarding the village was the **poor infrastructure**. Residents feel that the roads and footpaths are in a poor condition and are dangerous for the pedestrians, cyclists and drivers who use them. Lemon's Road was specified as an area that needs particular attention.
- Respondents expressed concern about the **insufficient facilities** in the village, citing a need for more activities and amenities, particularly for young people, despite the presence of play parks, MUGA, football pitch etc.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the **general maintenance** of the village with many frustrated with dog fouling and litter. **Dereliction** is also an issue with some buildings sitting empty and vacant for a long time. Some felt that flags, murals and the painting of kerbs were also undesirable.
- Many felt that the village has problems with **connectivity**. They feel that it is sometimes too rural, and the public transport provision is poor.

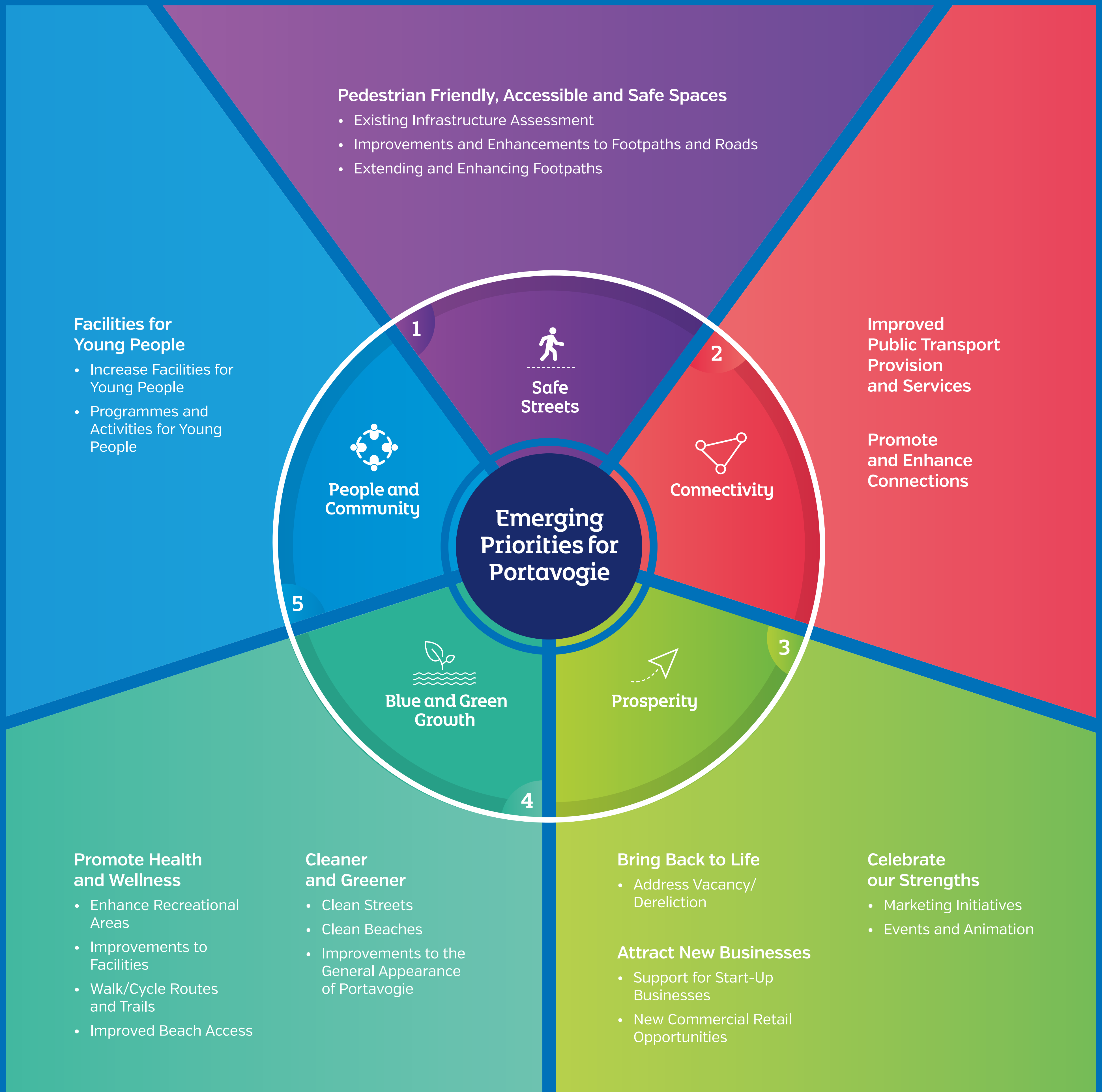
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The Vision

“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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