

**Dunloy**

Village Plan

March 2024

**Contents**

[1.0 Introduction 3](#_Toc161963364)

[2.0 Strategic Context 5](#_Toc161963365)

[3.0 Socio-Economic Profile 8](#_Toc161963366)

[4.0 Community Engagement 11](#_Toc161963367)

[5.0 Key Findings 13](#_Toc161963368)

[6.0 Action Plan 17](#_Toc161963369)

[7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan 18](#_Toc161963370)

# A white background with black dots Description automatically generated1.0 Introduction

The name ‘Dunloy’ derives from the Irish ‘Dún Lathaí’, translating to ‘fort of the muddy place or marsh’, highlighting the village's historical roots and geographic features. Dunloy is located with convenient access to major roadways like the A26, along with good travel connections to nearby towns and cities, including Ballymoney, Ballymena, Coleraine, Belfast, and Derry/ Londonderry.

With a history dating back centuries, Dunloy's agricultural heritage is deeply ingrained in its identity, with remnants of its past visible throughout the village. Iconic landmarks such as the historic Dunloy Presbyterian Church and Dunloy Primary School serve as tangible testaments to the area's legacy.

An aerial view of a city

Description automatically generated

Figure 1: Aerial View of Dunloy Village, (Source: Google Earth)

The village boasts an array of key assets, including St Joseph's Parish Centre, St Joseph's Primary School & Nursery Unit, Dunloy Football Club, and the Dunloy Cuchullians GAA grounds, which serve as focal points for social gatherings and community events.

A building with a brick wall

Description automatically generated

Figure 2: Dunloy Cuchullains

The village also has an array of essential services, including a café, bakery, pharmacy/chemist, schools, a Parish Hall, Post Office, and various shops, ensuring residents' everyday needs are met.

Dunloy offers a variety of activities and programmes to enrich residents' lives. From Dunloy Cuchullians GAA and Dunloy Football Club to the inclusive Dunloy Stronger Together Group, residents have access to various activities and events catering to diverse interests. Other popular programmes include language clubs, Comhaltas, childcare services, and bereavement counselling, providing support and enrichment across the community.

Dunloy's surroundings offer opportunities for outdoor recreation, with walking and cycling trails, a play park, and activities like yoga, line dancing, and active aging initiatives fostering health and well-being among residents.

A mural on a building

Description automatically generated

Figure 3: Local Mural Located in Dunloy

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key Assets** | **Community Groups** |
| St Joseph’s Parish Centre  St Joseph's Primary School & Nursery Unit  Play Park  Dunloy Cuchullians GAA  Dunloy Football Pitch  Dunloy Presbyterian Church Hall | Dunloy Stronger Together  Dunloy Comhaltas  Dunloy Football Club  Dunloy Bereavement Group  Dunloy Community playgroup |

Table 1: Summary of Key Assets and Community Groups Located in Dunloy

# 2.0 Strategic Context

**A white background with black dots

Description automatically generated2.1 Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council: Community Plan 2017-2030**

At its core, community planning aims to develop a holistic, forward-looking strategy for the area. This involves a thorough examination of its requirements, priorities, and opportunities, integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations. A Community Plan aims to unite stakeholders and encourage collaborative endeavours to realise a collectively envisioned future.

The Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Community Plan serves as the leading vision for steering the area towards a better future. Through the Community Plan, the Council aspires to instigate positive change, foster sustainable development, and elevate community well-being.

Embracing inclusivity, the Community Plan is designed to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the whole community, positioning the area on a trajectory towards a prosperous, harmonious, and resilient future. It facilitates coordinated efforts to achieve improved outcomes in health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment.

Operating on both a Council-wide scale and within local and neighbourhood contexts, the Plan is a collaborative initiative developed in close partnership with key stakeholders. Extensive engagement with local communities, groups, and individuals ensures the Community Plan is reflective of the community’s diverse perspectives and tailored to address the unique needs of the area.

The Community Plan has three overarching, long-term strategic Population Outcomes, along with 12 Intermediate Outcomes in-line with the proposed Programme for Government, outlined below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A Healthy**  **Safe Community** | **A Sustainable**  **Accessible Environment** | **A Thriving**  **Economy** |
| Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a healthy, connected, and safe community that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone to live well together. | Individuals will value and benefit from a diverse, sustainable, and accessible environment, with an infrastructure that is fit for purpose and that enables connections. | Individuals will contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, built on a culture of growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. |

|  |
| --- |
| **A Healthy Safe Community** |
| * **Outcome 1:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing. * **Outcome 2:** Our children and young people will have the very best start in life. * **Outcome 3:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens can live independently, as far as possible, and access support services when they need it. * **Outcome 4:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area feels safe. * **Outcome 5:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships. |

|  |
| --- |
| **A Sustainable Accessible Environment** |
| * **Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes. * **Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access, and connections. * **Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area has a sustainably managed natural and built environment. |

|  |
| --- |
| **A Thriving Economy** |
| * **Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy. * **Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses. * **Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast & Glens area drives entrepreneurship & fosters innovation. * **Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast & Glens area will be knowledgeable and skilled. |

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for addressing multifaceted needs, ranging from health and education, to housing, public safety, communities, the economy, and the environment. This scope aligns with the objectives of the Village Plan, which is specifically tailored to address the unique characteristics and requirements of the individual villages within the Causeway Coast & Glens area. By strategically aligning these plans, we can create a cohesive and comprehensive approach that maximises resources, ensures efficient coordination, and facilitates targeted interventions at both the regional and local level.

**The Village Plan contributes to each of the three strategic Population Outcomes as follows:**

**A Healthy Safe Community**

The Village Plan is designed to foster a healthy, connected, and safe community that prioritises the well-being of residents. Through initiatives focused on public health, recreational spaces, and community programmes, the Village Plan aims to create an environment that nurtures resilience, promotes respect, and supports everyone in living well together.

Health and safety measures, including accessible healthcare facilities, community policing, and awareness campaigns will be integral components. By emphasising mental and physical health, fostering social connections, and implementing safety measures, the Village Plan contributes to building a community that is not only physically secure but also emotionally and socially supportive.

**A Sustainable Accessible Environment**

The Village Plan places a strong emphasis on creating a sustainable, accessible environment that values and benefits from diversity. This includes careful consideration of environmental conservation, green spaces, and infrastructure that supports accessibility for all residents. Sustainable development practices, such as energy-efficient technologies and waste reduction initiatives, will be incorporated.

The Plan envisions an environment where diverse ecosystems thrive alongside well-planned infrastructure that encourages connectivity. By investing in accessible public spaces, efficient transport systems, and environmentally friendly practices, the Village Plan aims to create an inclusive and sustainable environment that residents can value and benefit from.

**A Thriving Economy**

To contribute to and benefit from a thriving economy, the Village Plan adopts a holistic approach centred on growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and learning. Economic development strategies will be integrated to support local businesses, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract new investments. Educational programmes and initiatives that foster a culture of innovation and continuous learning will be promoted.

The Plan envisions a community where economic opportunities abound, creating a vibrant and dynamic local economy. By facilitating an environment that encourages business growth, job creation, and skill development, the Village Plan aims to contribute to the development of a thriving community with a robust and sustainable economy.

The Village Plan, being an integral part of the broader Community Plan, inherits the overarching goals and principles, tailoring them to the distinctive nuances of each village. Through collaborative efforts and shared objectives, the implementation of the Village Plan becomes an integral part of the larger narrative outlined in the Community Plan, fostering a sense of unity and purpose.

In conclusion, the strategic alignment of the Village Plan with the Community Plan presents a unique opportunity for collaborative development. By leveraging the strengths of both plans, we not only enhance the overall impact on the community but also create a roadmap that guides sustainable development, fosters community resilience, and promotes a harmonious future for the Causeway Coast & Glens area. This strategic integration will ensure that our efforts are coordinated, targeted, and collectively directed towards a shared vision of prosperity and well-being.

**2.2 Wider Strategic Alignment**

The implementation of the key actions contained within this Village Plan also represents an alignment with wider public sector policy:

| **Theme** | **Policy Alignment** |
| --- | --- |
| **Road Safety** | * Northern Ireland Road Safety Strategy 2020 (Department for Infrastructure) |
| **Environmental** | * Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) |
| **Capacity Building** | * PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) * Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office) |
| **Youth Development** | * Northern Ireland Children and Young People’s Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Department of Education) * Local Assessment of Need 2023 – Causeway Coast & Glens (Education Authority) |
| **Additional Programmes** | * PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) * Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office) |
| **Public Realms Improvements** | * Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Infrastructure) |
| **Communication** | * PEACE Plus (Special EU Programmes Body) * Together Building a United Community (The Executive Office) |

**2.3 Local Community Groups**

Local community groups will play a pivotal role in supporting the successful delivery of this Village Plan. These grassroots organisations are the heartbeat of the community, possessing an intimate understanding of needs, aspirations, and challenges. By actively engaging with and involving these groups in the planning and execution phases, the Village Plan gains valuable allies in its mission to create positive and lasting change.

First and foremost, local community groups serve as conduits of local knowledge and expertise. They have established trust and connections within the community, making them adept at identifying nuanced issues and opportunities that may not be immediately apparent. This grassroots insight is invaluable in crafting a Village Plan that is not only comprehensive but also tailored to the specific needs of residents.

Moreover, community groups bring a wealth of social capital to the table. Their established networks and relationships within the community facilitate effective communication and outreach. This social fabric enhances the Plan's reach, ensuring it resonates with a broad cross-section of the population. Through collaborative efforts with local community groups, the Village Plan can leverage existing community ties to garner support, participation, and feedback.

Additionally, local community groups often have a proven track record of delivering successful projects and initiatives. Their experience in mobilising resources, organising events, and driving community engagement can significantly contribute to the effective implementation of the Plan. By tapping into this wealth of experience, the Plan can benefit from tried-and-true strategies for fostering community cohesion and achieving shared goals.

By fostering collaboration with these local community groups, the Village Plan gains not only expertise and resources but also the collective energy and commitment of the community itself. Together, they form a powerful alliance dedicated to realising the shared vision for a vibrant, thriving, and inclusive community.

# A white background with black dots Description automatically generated3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

The statistics referenced in this Village Plan reflect the most current data available, extracted from the 2021 Census, and has been supported by analysis of the 2017 Multiple Deprivation Measures for the area. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey NI.

The village of Dunloy is covered by five Data Zones (Ballymoney G2; H2; H3; H5; and H6), which account for the population of the village but also the wider rural area towards Ballymoney and Cloughmills.

**3.1 Population**

At the time of the 2021 Census, the population of Dunloy was 1,120. This represents the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency figure obtained for the Dunloy settlement.

**3.2 Statistical Profile**

This statistical analysis accounts for key characteristics of the five Data Zones population. Data is also included from the September 2022 Business Register & Employment Survey.

It should be noted that the boundaries of these statistical zones vary from the boundaries of the NISRA Settlement area used to calculate the population figure presented at Chapter 3.1.

A map of a neighborhood

Description automatically generated

Figure 4: Map of ‘Ballymoney H3’ Data Zone, (Source: Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)

**3.2 Age Profile**

The population of Dunloy has an age profile slightly more youthful than local and regional averages across most age categories, evidenced by the composition of the village in the below table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Age 0-14 yrs** | **Age 15-39 yrs** | **Age 40-64 yrs** | **Age 65+ yrs** |
| Dunloy Statistical Zones | 21% | 31% | 33% | 14% |
| Ballymoney DEA | 19% | 30% | 33% | 18% |
| Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Area | 18% | 29% | 34% | 19% |
| Northern Ireland | 19% | 31% | 32% | 17% |

**Household Size**

The number of usual residents in the household on Census Day 2021 in Dunloy was:

* 1 person - 23%;
* 2 people - 27%;
* 3 people -17%;
* 4 people - 20%; and
* 5 people or more -13%.

**Household Tenure**

On Census Day in Dunloy, 75% owned their house (includes shared ownership), 10% social rented, 12% private rented and 3% lived rent free.

**3.3 Religion and Ethnicity**

* Approximately 73% of the population of the five Super Data Zones recorded their ‘Religion’ or ‘Religion brought up in’ as Roman Catholic, with 22% of the population recording Protestant or another Christian denomination.
* 4% of residents of the wider village area recorded no religious affiliation.
* 99% of residents reported being from a white ethnic background.

**3.4 Health**

Residents of the village and surrounding areas generally enjoy good levels of health and wellbeing. 83% of the local population report having either a ‘Very Good’ or ‘Good’ standard of general health, which is markedly higher than the Ballymoney DEA rate of 78%, the Causeway Coast & Glens rate of 77%, and the Northern Ireland national average of 79%.

Moreover, 81% of citizens note they are not limited by a long-term health problem or disability, a rate which is again higher than regional and national averages.

**3.5 Labour Market & Qualifications**

The 2021 Census compiled information relating to the economic status of those living in Dunloy and the surrounding areas, as well as a profile of skill and qualification level held. The area boasts an unemployment rate of just 2% and 34% of the population over the age of 16 are economically inactive - a rate that is significantly lower than the regional average of 44% and the national average of 41%.

The skills profile of the local population is presented below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **No Qualifications** | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Level 4+** | **Apprenticeship or Other** |
| Dunloy Statistical Zones | 23% | 5% | 15% | 17% | 30% | 11% |
| Ballymoney DEA | 27% | 6% | 15% | 16% | 27% | 9% |
| Causeway Coast & Glens Council Area | 26% | 6% | 14% | 16% | 29% | 9% |
| Northern Ireland | 24% | 6% | 14% | 16% | 32% | 8% |

Analysis of the skills and qualification profile indicates Dunloy’s skills profile is broadly in line with local, regional, and national averages.

**Industry of Employment**

In Dunloy on Census Day 2021 the classification of people aged 16 and over in employment by the industry they work in was as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Industry Classification** | **(%)** |
| Agriculture, energy & water | 6% |
| Manufacturing | 10% |
| Construction | 19% |
| Distribution, hotels & restaurants | 16% |
| Transport & communication | 7% |
| Financial, real estate, professional & administration | 10% |
| Public administration, education & health | 29% |
| Other | 3% |

**Number of Employee Jobs Based in Dunloy Ward**

According to the September 2022, Business Register & Employment Survery NI (BRES NI), the number of employee jobs based in the Dunloy ward excluding agriculture was as follows. An employee is defined as anyone aged 16 yrs+ that an organisation directly pays from its payroll.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Number of Employee Jobs Based In Dunloy** |
| 2022 | 742 |
| 2021 | 580 |
| 2020 | Not available due to Covid pandemic |
| 2019 | 537 |
| 2018 | Not available |
| 2017 | 608 |

**Car or Van Availability**

In Dunloy on Census Day the number of cars or vans that were owned, or available for use by members of a household (includes company cars & vans that are available for private use) was:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Car or Van Availability** | **(%)** |
| No cars or vans | 8% |
| 1 car or van | 35% |
| 2 cars or vans | 36% |
| 3 cars or vans | 12% |
| 4 cars of vans | 6% |
| 5 or more cars or vans | 3% |

**3.6 Deprivation Analysis**

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency published its findings in relation to the relative levels of deprivation facing communities across Northern Ireland. This analysis was carried out at a Super Output Area level, enabling detailed analysis of smaller populations to be carried out.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Dunloy population fell under the ‘Dunloy’ Super Output Area, which covered the village and surrounding rural areas. Key findings include:

* Dunloy was ranked as the 581st most deprived area in Northern Ireland (out of 890). This represents a relative improvement of 98 places since 2010, when the area was ranked 483rd.
* Although the area’s relative deprivation in relation to Income, Employment, Health, and Education all improved between 2010 and 2017, Access to Services worsened, and the Super Output Area now falls amongst the 10% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland in this regard.

**3.7 Conclusions**

Overall, the socio-economic landscape of Dunloy village exceeds both local and national averages in terms of education, employment, and health. However, there are challenges this statistical analysis has identified as being in need of addressing. In particular, the village faces high levels of isolation and disadvantage brought about by its rurality and the poor provision of, and access to, basic services.

# 4.0 CoA white background with black dots Description automatically generatedmmunity Engagement

**4.1 Consultation Phase 1: Setting Objectives & Gathering Data**

Causeway Coast and Glens Council facilitated the review and development of a Village Plan for Dunloy.

Phase 1 consisted of setting out a programme of works to finalise objectives and the consultation process required ensuring feedback from the community could be captured.

A comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the area was conducted to gain insights into the area's demographics, economic dynamics, and social trends. Dunloy Stronger Together was engaged acting as the lead partner in Dunloy.

A thorough site visit of Dunloy was conducted to understand the physical environment and infrastructure, further informing decision-making.

**4.2 Consultation Phase 2: Engaging Stakeholders & The Community**

Phase 2 focused on engaging stakeholders through a robust consultation process. Working closely with Dunloy Stronger Together (DST), two consultation events were organised, with one held during the day and one in the evening, to accommodate residents' diverse needs and schedules. This also ensured as many local people as possible had the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the development of the Village Plan. A range of consultation activities were undertaken, including:

* A site visit to the village on Thursday, 1st February 2024.
* A consultation day, held in St Joseph’s Centre, Dunloy, on Wednesday, 28th February 2024.
* An online survey, facilitated by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council between Friday, 9th February and Friday, 1st March 2024.

The DST team also arranged for engagement with a local Luncheon Club prior to the consultations. Extensive promotion and outreach efforts were made through various communication channels, including direct email outreach, social media campaigns, and via council platforms, to encourage broad participation. As a result, members of the local community were engaged in either the afternoon drop-in session or evening focus group.

A white and orange card with a blue and white text

Description automatically generated

Figure 5: Social Media Graphic to Communicate Consultation Events

Consultations were structured to ensure comprehensive engagement and participation from the Dunloy community. Through this structured approach, consultations fostered inclusive dialogue, ensuring broad community voices and perspectives were incorporated into the Village Plan. Consultations included:

* A presentation on the Village Plan process, offering a brief overview of its significance, key objectives, and strategic context, with a Q&A session for clarifications.
* Engagement activities, including an area profile facilitated discussion, where participants were divided into small groups to discuss specific aspects of the Plan.
* A SWOT analysis activity, allowing participants to move between stations, providing input on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to the Village Plan, with facilitators documenting responses on visual boards.
* An action planning session, encouraging participants to provide actionable ideas, with reference to the review of the previous Plan.
* Participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey, which was also made more broadly available for individuals to complete who were unable to attend an in-person consultation.

**4.3 Consultation Phase 3: Data Analysis & Draft Plan Development**

Following the stakeholder and community consultation, Phase 3 included data analysis, identifying key findings, and developing a draft Village Plan. Emphasising a co-design approach, key findings and a proposed Action Plan were shared with community groups for feedback. This approach ensured inclusivity and collaboration. Council was also provided with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Plan, ensuring alignment with strategic objectives and priorities.

This comprehensive process successfully engaged the Dunloy community, gathered valuable input, and developed a Village Plan that reflects the aspirations and priorities of its residents.

# A white background with black dots Description automatically generatedA white background with black dots Description automatically generated5.0 Key Findings

Through consultation, it was clear residents’ perceptions of Dunloy were positive overall. There are a range of capable community groups that are active in the area and are well linked. It was also acknowledged that Dunloy Stronger Together is recognised as being very active and driven but need resources to extend their programmes and community development activities.

The village was recognised as a good place for young families to settle, with plenty of activities for children. However, challenges were identified such as litter, poor road infrastructure, vandalism, and quality/availability of public footpaths. The following key Community Assets were identified:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Commercial Assets** | **Healthcare Assets** | **Youth Assets** |
| * Local shops and cafes | * Chemist / Pharmacy | * St Joseph’s Primary School * Play Park * Play Groups |
| **Sporting Assets** | **Community Assets** | **Other Assets** |
| * Dunloy Cuchullians GAA * Local Soccer Pitch | * Credit Union * Post Office * Parish Hall * Various Community Groups and Clubs | * Roman Catholic Church/St Joseph’s Parish Centre * Presbyterian Church/ Dunloy Presbyterian Church Hall * ‘Close Knit’ Community * Welcoming to Migrant People |

Existing activities, services, and programmes identified by those living in the area include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Health/Wellbeing Activities** | **Sporting Activities** | **Community Programmes** |
| * Bereavement Counselling * Active Aging Programmes * Line Dancing | * GAA Club * Cycling Club * Yoga | * Comhaltas Traditional Irish Music Group * Dunloy Stronger Together Group |

**5.1 SWOT Analysis**

Consultation participants provided an insight into daily life in Dunloy, before identifying strengths and weaknesses of the local community, and potential opportunities and threats:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| **Strength of Local Organisations:** including Dunloy Stronger Together, Dunloy Comhaltas, Dunloy Cuchullians GAA, Dunloy Bereavement Group, and Dunloy Football Club.  **Community Collaboration:** excellent working relationships between community groups. Several organisations share volunteers and jointly organise events.  **Quality of Local Services:** Post Office and Credit Union are recognised as being invaluable. There are also defibrillators available in the case of medical emergencies. | **Environmental:** problems with litter and village aesthetics, including the overall state of roads and abundance of potholes.  **Care Services:** lack of quality care packages, as well as an absence of a GP surgery and a residential home for elderly people.  **Infrastructure & Public Transport:** availability of public transport in the village is poor.  **Youth Facilities:** lack of youth facilities and services. |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| **Transport:** scope to lobby for better public transport. There is also the potential to develop a Park & Ride from Dunloy to Ballymena.  **Additional Services:** opportunity to further develop Dunloy by providing additional services such as allotments, a library/portable library, and also the establishment of a local youth club.  **Additional Classes & Programmes:** appetite in local community for additional programmes and community activities, such as arts and crafts.  **Public Realm Works:** a need to improve and extend footpaths and erect more street lighting around the village. | **Substance Abuse:** drugs and/or alcohol abuse is an ongoing challenge, which negatively impacts on life in the village.  **Availability of Funding:** limited financial resources at the disposal of community groups has an impact on the breadth and frequency of programme delivery.  **Cost of Living Crisis:** the ongoing cost of living crisis continues to adversely impact community, family, and civic life in Dunloy. |

**5.2 Survey Findings**

To supplement the findings of the consultation exercises, residents were afforded the opportunity to provide their views and highlight priorities to inform the development of the Village Plan via an online survey. The survey was open from Friday, 9th February 2024 and closed on Friday, 1st March 2024.

Questions posed to respondents sought to obtain the following information and insights:

* Demographic profile of respondents, such as age and gender.
* The length of time they have been residents in the village.
* Perceptions of the village, and an assessment of the quality of amenities, including:
  + Overall cleanliness and village aesthetics.
  + Infrastructure and connectivity.
  + Crime and anti-social behaviour.
  + Standard of facilities and public assets.
  + Availability and variety of Commercial Outlets.

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback in relation to their favourable aspects of living in the village, as well as their biggest challenges or concerns.

All questions were mandatory for all survey participants.

**Survey findings, and key emerging themes, are presented below:**

**5.2.1 Demographic Information**

* 36.6% of residents were aged between 15 and 39.
* 52.1% of residents were aged between 40 and 64.
* 11.3% of residents were aged 65 and over.

Most responses (71.8%) were received from female residents, with 25.4% being received by male residents. 2.8% of respondents preferred not to state their gender.

95.7% of respondents were residents of Dunloy, with 84.5% of these stating they had lived in the village for ten or more years. These findings provide survey legitimacy as a representative view of residents.

**5.2.2 Quality of Life**

Perceptions of village residents who responded to the survey were generally positive:

* 54.9% had either a ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’ perception of the village.
* 33.8% felt life in the village was ‘Acceptable’.
* 11.3% had either a ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’ perception of the village.

Moreover, most respondents stated on a Likert scale of 1-10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, they would be likely to recommend the village to others, with an average score of 6.6.

Respondents were asked to provide feedback on a range of aspects relating to life in the village. A summary of responses provided is presented below:

| **Aspect of Everyday Life** | **Commentary** |
| --- | --- |
| **Cleanliness of Streets** | Most respondents indicated the cleanliness of streets is ‘Acceptable’ (42.3%). However, 39.4% indicated street cleanliness is ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Condition of Streets** | Street condition was generally considered poor, with a majority of respondents (54.9%) stating they are ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Accessibility** | Accessibility was not considered to be a significant issue, with 50.7% of respondents choosing ‘Acceptable’. |
| **Pedestrian Friendly** | Survey respondents were generally negative regarding pedestrian friendliness, with 47.9% selecting ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’ and 40.9% selecting ‘Acceptable’. |
| **Availability of**  **Public Transport** | Public transport resonated with a sizeable majority of respondents as an issue that needs to be addressed, with 67.6% considering availability ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Traffic Congestion** | This was generally viewed negatively by survey respondents, with 42.3% selecting ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’ and 40.9% deeming traffic congestion as ‘Acceptable’. |
| **Street Lighting** | Street lighting had mixed views with survey respondents:   * 16.9% felt lighting was ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. * 43.7% felt lighting was ‘Acceptable’. * 39.4% felt lighting was ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Availability of**  **Car Parking** | Parking availability is perceived to be an issue, with most survey respondents (53.5%) selecting ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Village Signage** | The quality and quantity of village signage had mixed views:   * 39.4% felt signage is ‘Acceptable’. * 36.6% felt signage is ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. * 23.9% felt signage is ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Open Space** | Survey respondents had mixed views:   * 28.2% felt open space is ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. * 33.8% felt open space is ‘Acceptable’. * 38% felt open space is ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Sports Facilities** | Sporting facilities in the village were one of the highest rated aspects of community life with residents, with 66.2% stating facilities are either ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Community Centre** | The quality of community facilities in the village were considered to be ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’ by 67.6% of survey respondents. |
| **Anti-Social Behaviour**  **(ASB)** | This is not generally considered to be a prevalent issue. Although 28.2% of respondents felt ASB was either ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’, 38% believe it to be ‘Acceptable’, which was the most common response. |
| **Vandalism** | Vandalism is not considered to be a prevalent issue amongst the Dunloy community, with 45.1% of survey respondents believing vandalism levels are either ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Littering** | A sizeable majority of respondents (67.6%) believe littering in the village is either ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’, highlighting this as an aspect of community life that is in need of improvement. |
| **Derelict Buildings** | Overall, feelings toward the levels of dereliction are positive, with 42.3% of survey respondents selecting ‘Acceptable’ and a further 38% selecting ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Friendliness of People** | This was identified as a strength of the local community, with a resounding majority of respondents (81.7%) highlighting they find the friendliness of their neighbours and fellow residents to be either ‘Good’ or ‘Very Good’. |
| **Shops** | The quality and variety of local shops is not considered to be one of the village’s stronger assets. 49.3% of survey respondents feel the quality of local shops is ‘Acceptable’. However, 42.2% feel the variety of retail outlets is either ‘Poor’ or ‘Very Poor’. |
| **Eateries** | A mixed response was received in relation to the standard of cafes and takeaways in Dunloy. The prevailing sentiment is that eateries are at an adequate level, with 47.9% of respondents considering this to be ‘Acceptable’. |

**5.2.3 Favourite Aspect of Living in Dunloy**

Respondents were given the opportunity to state what they feel is the best thing about living in the area. Some of the most notable responses included:

* The people and sense of community spirit.
* The work of the local GAA Club, and their role in organising activities that bring the community together.
* The natural assets and the beauty of the local countryside.
* The quality of the local school.

**5.2.4 Key Issues To Be Addressed**

Respondents were also asked to provide feedback on what they believe to be the highest priority issues to be addressed in the village. The most salient responses included:

* Infrastructural issues, such as transport links, quality of local roads, and traffic congestion.
* The need for improved outdoor space such as a park.
* Quality of street lighting.
* Littering and general village aesthetics.

In addition, respondents were asked to select what they believed to be the top three priorities for Dunloy. The most selected responses included:

* Littering/Dog Fouling (39.4% of respondents).
* Public Transport (39.4% of respondents).
* Road Safety/Traffic (33.8% of respondents).
* Activities for children and young people (25.3% of respondents).

.

# 6.0 Action Plan

Following the completion of all research and consultation activities, the priorities for the Dunloy Village Plan are summarised below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme** | **Description** | **Why is it needed?** |
| **Road Safety** | Installation of traffic lights in the village.  Upgrade and expansion of footpaths. | Speeding and road safety are issues that resonate strongly with local people. |
| **Environmental** | Addressing issues associated with litter and village aesthetics. | Consultation identified litter and aesthetics are ongoing issues. |
| **Capacity Building** | Training of volunteers within community organisations in organisational development. | Although motivation and drive exists within the local community, the capacity for organisational development, as well as identifying and securing access to funding, is a recognised limitation amongst volunteers.  There is also a recognised need to reduce current reliance on the GAA Club for community organisation and development activities. |
| **Youth Development** | Additional activities and programmes aimed at engaging local young people.  Play Park improvements and upgrades | A lack of youth activities and services is an identified challenge in Dunloy. |
| **Additional Programmes** | Additional community and basic skills programmes such as Men’s Shed activities, sewing, cooking, and gardening. | A need for additional, non-sporting programmes was identified during consultation and community engagement. |
| **Public Realms Improvements** | Installation of additional bins and lighting around the village, as well as flower planting. | Need identified through consultation for aesthetical improvements in the village, including addressing identified issues of littering. |
| **Communication** | Additional communication efforts to promote community events. | Through consultation, it was identified that greater efforts could be made to promote community events and activities that are taking place in Dunloy, |

# 7.0 Implementation & Monitoring Plan

To see the range of priority actions addressed for the benefit of those living in Dunloy, the following implementation plan has been developed which sets out further detail in relation to the key responsible owners of each action, and the key milestones which would need to be reached.

| **Theme** | **Action** | **Key Activities & Milestones** | **Timeframes** | **Responsible Owners** | **Supporting Partners** | **Funding Sources** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Road Safety** | Exploration and installation of a range of road safety measures in the village, to include:   * Traffic Lights * Double Yellow Lines * Turning circle along the main road | Exploratory work to determine appropriate site for traffic calming measures.  Installation and operation of traffic calming measures. | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local community association | Local political representatives  Department for Infrastructure  Causeway, Coast & Glens Borough Council – PCSP  Roadsafe NI  PSNI  NIFRS | N/A |
| Upgrade and expansion of footpaths. | Undertaking of footpath improvement and expansion works. | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local political representatives | Department for Infrastructure  Causeway, Coast & Glens Borough Council  Roadsafe NI  PSNI  NIFRS | N/A |
| **Environmental** | Addressing issues associated with litter and village aesthetics. | Organise and deliver regular community litter picks. | Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local community stakeholders | Residents  Local businesses | N/A |
| **Capacity Building** | Training of volunteers within community organisations in organisational development. | Identify specific skills gaps in the community and organisations.  Identify suitable training delivery agents.  Secure funding to support the delivery of training and capacity development programmes. | Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Dunloy Stronger Together | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  Local Training Providers  Other Local Community Organisations | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  TNL Awards for All  Halifax Community Foundation  TBUC: Central Good Relations Fund |
| **Youth Development** | Additional activities and programmes aimed at engaging local young people. | Undertake more in-depth consultation to understand needs and priorities of local young people.  Develop youth club for the area, based on outcomes of youth consultation. | Within 18 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Dunloy Stronger Together | Bytes Project  Education Authority  EA Youth Services | Education Authority  TBUC  TNL Community Fund  Department of Justice - Asset Recovery Funding |
| **Additional Programmes** | Additional community and skills programmes such as:   * Men’s Shed activities * Sewing * Cooking * Gardening | Develop programme of events and activities.  Secure external finance to support with facilitation and delivery. | Designed within 6 months of finalisation of Village Plan.  Delivered on an ongoing basis, with annual review and updates. | Dunloy Stronger Together | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  Dunloy Luncheon Club | Groundwork NI  Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council |
| **Public Realms Improvements** | Installation of additional bins and lighting around the village, as well as identification of appropriate sites for flower planting. | Install additional bins and dog fouling bins around the village.  Install additional pots for flower planting around the village. | Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local Political Representatives  Local Community Stakeholders | Department for Communities  Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  Department of Infrastructure | Department for Communities |
| **Capital Development** | Development of St Joseph’s Parish Church as a community hub for the village, including car park | Identification of key capital priorities  Development of capital development plan, including costs and associated timeframes | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | St Joseph’s Parish Church | Other local community organisations  Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council | Multiple – depending on nature and scale of capital development project |
| Increasing accessibility to local playpark | Development of technical specifications to increase accessibility and user-friendliness of play park | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local Political Representatives | Other local community organisations  Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council | Multiple – depending on nature and scale of capital development project |
| **Communication** | Support quality communication between existing groups, use different communication methods such as social media platforms, posters, church bulletins, and leaflet drops to promote events and activities.  Creation of a Community Forum. | Develop communications plan.  Set up a Community Forum, including appointment of key Officers, and agree on roles and responsibilities. | Within 6 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Dunloy Stronger Together | Local Community Organisations and Sports Clubs | N/A |
| **Transport** | Exploring feasibility of improved public transport linkages. | Explore additional options associated with increasing the levels of public transport provision in the village. | Within 24 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | Local political representatives | DfI  Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council | N/A |
| **Health & Wellbeing** | Exploring measures to tackle problems associated with drugs and anti-social behaviour.  Development of initiatives to promote positive mental health. | Establish a health and wellbeing lead on the newly-established Community Forum.  Liaise with various statutory partners to bring about interventions to address identified social issues. | Within 12 months of finalisation of Village Plan. | New Community Forum | Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council  Department of Health  Local health and wellbeing charities | Public Health Agency  TNL – various funds |