

Sharkin Plan-It



September 2022



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www.communityplaces.info

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Appendices

Appendix 1: List of Big Ideas in Priority Order

1. Sharkin Plan-It: A different approach

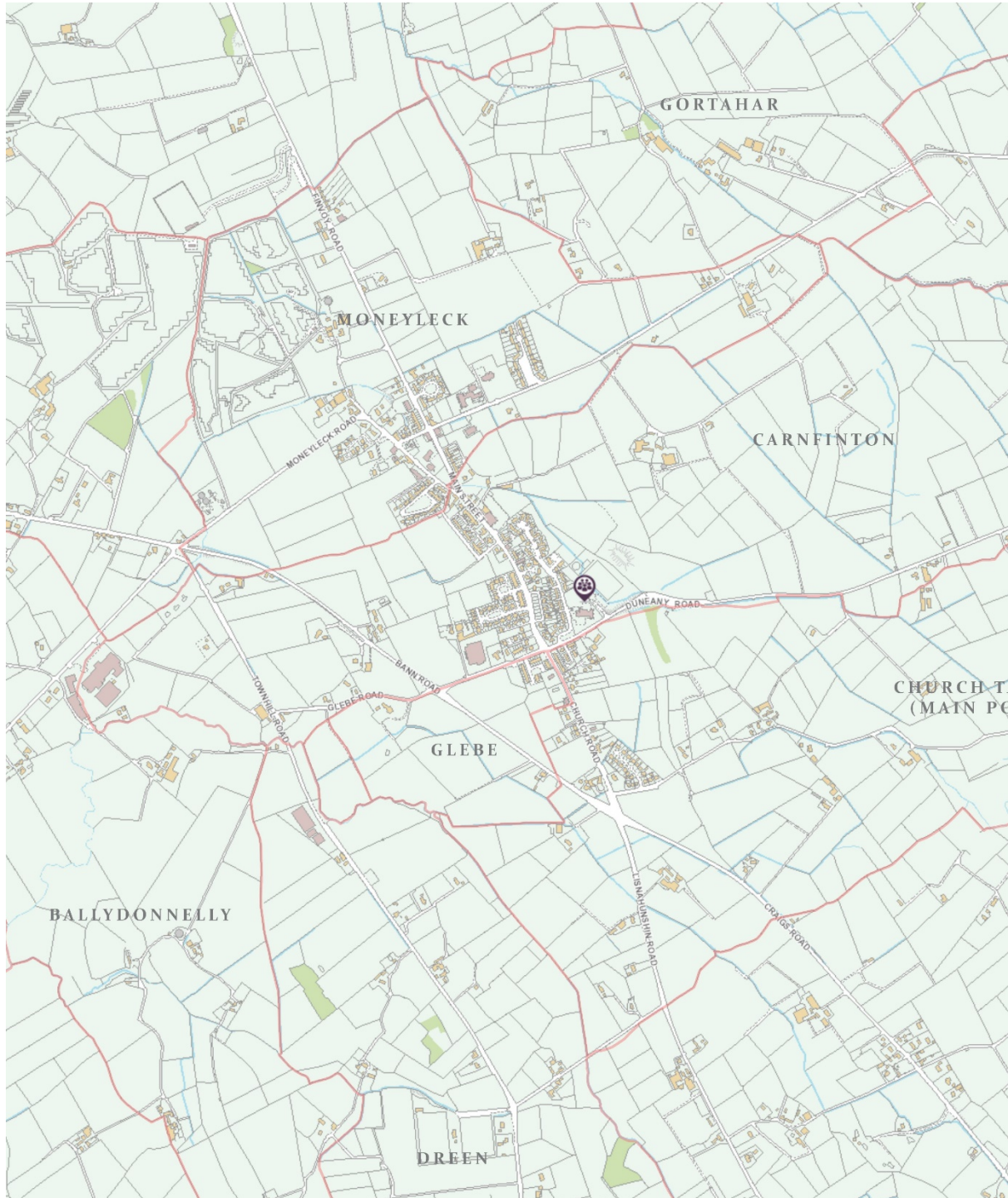
The Sharkin Plan-It process commenced in December 2021 and is an exciting project taking place in the Rasharkin and surrounding areas. The process guided by a Community Working Group has supported the wider community to come together to celebrate the many hidden treasures and assets within the village and surrounding area and to consider the 'little' and 'big' ideas that could help to make Rasharkin an even better place to live, work, play or learn. The project is hosted by Northern Area Community Network in partnership with a 'Helping Hands' group consisting of the local Multi-Disciplinary Social Work Team (MDT Social Work Team), Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Community Places and Participatory Budgeting Works.

The process has adopted an innovative approach combining a participatory budgeting and village place shaping process together to animate and support the local community, to consider and action what is most important to them and of benefit to the wider community. The pot of £6000 that enable the participatory budgeting process was provided through the MDT Social Work Team. At every step, efforts have been purposefully made to reach out to, re-energise and work alongside the local community at a pace directed by them to shape and deliver 'Sharkin Plan-It'. This was essential in responding to the isolating impacts of Covid-19 on community action. Efforts have also been made to connect the local community to key community planning and support partners to commence a new conversation about what is possible when projects and services are genuinely co-designed with the local community.

The Community Working Group at the outset agreed that the process would be about: new people working together for the community; encouraging community volunteering and partnership working; fostering renewed energy and enthusiasm; bringing people together and having fun; and sharing and having pride in the rich culture and heritage of the area. At the heart this process was a commitment to ensuring that local communities have a voice and a real say in decisions that matter to them. With this in mind, it was agreed that anyone aged 9 and over with an interest in or who lives, works, plays or learns in the Rasharkin area would be invited to:

- Come together to talk with their neighbours and put forward 'small' ideas which could make a positive difference to the community and could be delivered for £300 or less
- Consider the ideas put forward by the local community and vote for the top ten ideas, allocating a PB pot of £6,000, that they would like to see happen by December 2022
- Identify 'big' ideas which require more than £300 or the support of statutory or support services; and
- prioritise which of these 'big' ideas the community should focus their energy and efforts on over the next 3-5 years to deliver long-term benefits for the community.

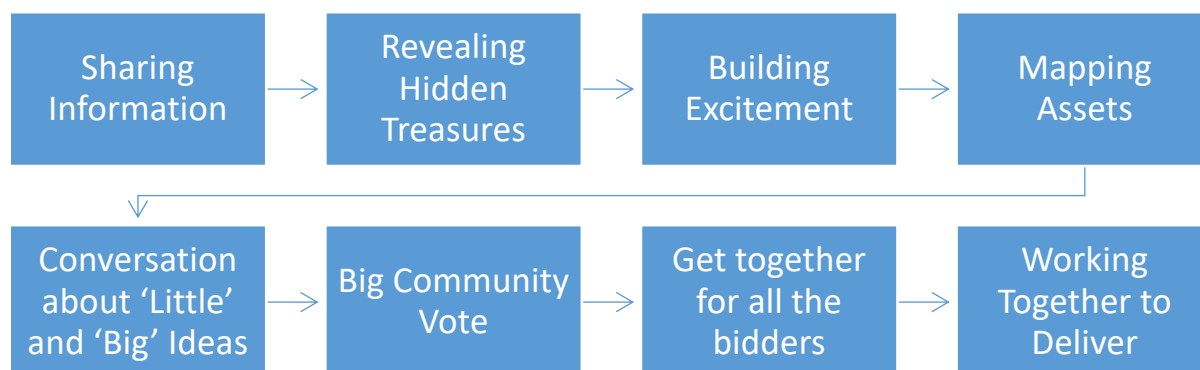
This is a working document, 'a not a plan' plan! that will support local communities to initiate and continue conversations with, lobby and influence the local council, statutory partners, other service providers and local businesses to respond to local needs and priorities. The document includes a number of thematic priority actions that have emerged through a series of engagement activities with the local community, interest groups, schools, businesses and key service providers in the area.



Map of Rasharkin Village and Surrounding Area, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council OS Interactive Maps

2. Sharkin Plan-It: Key Steps

The Sharkin Plan-It process involved a number of key steps:



- Sharing information and raising awareness about the process to secure agreement from the community to participate
- Revealing the hidden treasure and talents of the people in the community
- Building excitement and energy through a Village Treasure Hunt; Raffle; Family Treasure Pack; and Treasure Key Trail
- Preparation of infographics to animate area statistics
- Spatial analysis audit and mapping of assets
- Community engagement activities to identify 'Big' and 'Little' ideas
- The Big Community Vote for 'Little' Ideas and to Prioritise the 'Big' Ideas
- Announcement of winning 'Little Ideas'
- Priority Big Ideas and actions
- Get together for all the Bidders - supporting and connecting all the ideas
- Agreeing the Sharkin Plan-It document.

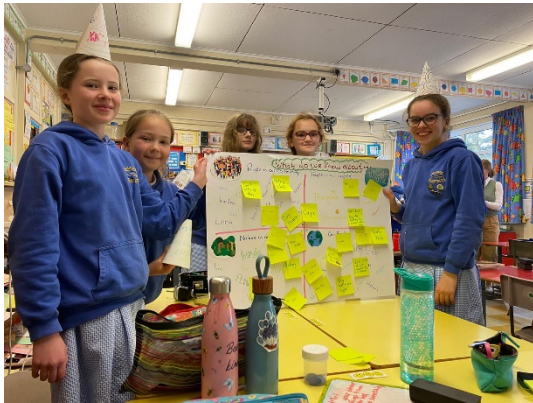
Each step informed and complemented the next, drawing together the research, community interest, energy and rich engagement findings.



Groups within the village were mapped and contacted to share information about the process and invited to get involved in the Community Working Group. Posters and flyers were distributed widely throughout the village and information was shared

though a Facebook Page to raise awareness of each stage of the process and how people could get involved in helping to shape the future of Rasharkin.

The Community Working Group met on an ongoing basis to plan and design each stage of the process. They agreed that three key Community Engagement events would be held to bring the whole community together to have their say. These took place at the Rasharkin Community Centre and included a Treasure Hunt, Treasure Festival and the Big Community Vote.



The Local Primary Schools supported and got involved with the Sharkin Plan-It process. Pupils from Rasharkin Primary School and St Patrick's Primary School took part in an Art workshop to create beautiful decorations for the Treasure Festival. Pupils also took part in a 'Thinking Cap' workshop and held their own idea generation workshop to develop bids for the 'Little Ideas'. This resulted in a number of bids from both primary schools and bids put forward by individual pupils.

Conversations about the Sharkin Plan-It process and how to get involved continued on a regular basis with the community as the project moved forward.

3. A Better Future Together, A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 – 2030

The Community Plan sets out a long-term shared vision for the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all who live in, work in and visit the area. It concentrates on three main issues:

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



A Better Future Together Community Plan, p.7.

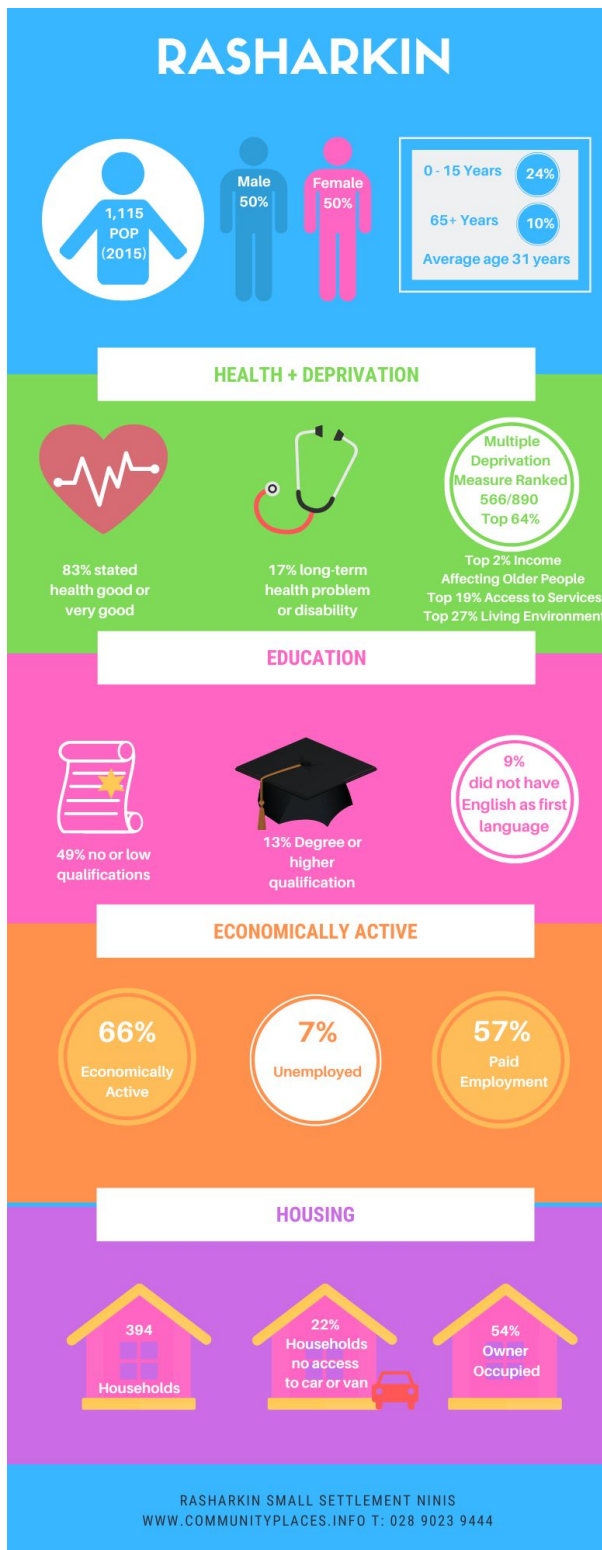
The Community Plan is the overarching framework for the area and acts as a strategic planning tool, bringing key statutory and support partners together to plan and deliver better outcomes for people in relation to health, education, housing, public safety, communities, the economy and the environment at a council wide area and at local and neighbourhood levels. The Community Plan was developed in close collaboration with key partners and with extensive engagement with local communities, groups and individuals. The Community Plan is linked to and reflects other key strategies and plans. This includes the new Local Development Plan 2030, which will provide the spatial framework for the Borough and will consider any land use planning aspects which emerge through the Community Plan, such as housing, employment, open spaces and connectivity.

As part of developing a new conversation and approach, Community Planning Partners and other support and service providers were invited to participate at every stage of the Sharkin Plan-It process. This was about building and deepening

relationships with the community. An online information session was held; partners were invited to each of the community engagement events and an in-room session took place to discuss the emerging themes and priorities.

4. Area Profile

Rasharkin village is located 13 km south of Ballymoney, approximately 7km southwest of Dunloy and 5 km east of Kilrea. Rasharkin lies within the District Electoral Area of Ballymoney within the Borough of Causeway Coast and Glens.



Population

The estimated population of Rasharkin is **1,115** people (2015), of which **559 (50%)** are male and **556 (50%)** are female. The average population age was 31 years, with some **24%** of the village being aged 0-15years, **10%** of the village was 65 years or over and the remaining **66%** were aged between 16 and 64.

Between 2011 and 2015 the population increased by **10** people or **0.9%**.

Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion

Considering the resident population on Census Day, 27 March 2011, **99.82%** of the normally resident population were from the white (including Irish Traveller) ethnic group. **75.6%** belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and **20.81%** belong to or were brought up in a Protestant and Other Christian religion. Some **23.41%** indicated that they had a British national identity, **42.60%** had an Irish national identity and **30.31%** had a Northern Irish national identity.

Considering the population aged 3 years old and over, **20.32%** had some knowledge of Irish and **12.35%** had some knowledge of Ulster-Scots. **9.12%** did not have English as their first language.

Health

On Census Day 27th March 2011, **16.95%** of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities. **83.23%** of people stated their general health was either good or very good. And **7.35%** of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others.

Housing and Accommodation

On Census Day 27th March 2011, **54.31%** of households were owner occupied ; **40.36%** were rented, and **23.35%** of households were owned outright. **10.15%** of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years and **6.09%** were lone parent households with dependent children. **22.08%** of households did not have access to a car or van.

The Causeway Coast and Glens Housing Investment Plan Annual Update 2019-2023: Annual Update 2021

The five (5) year Social Housing Need Units for the period 2020-2025 for Rasharkin village is 3. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has indicated that a programme of external cyclical maintenance on **142** units within the Rasharkin and Killyrammer areas was to have been completed by March 2022.

Housing Executive Stock (Sold stock in bold)

Rasharkin	Bungalow	Cottage	Flat	House	Maisonette	Total	Void
	61	6	0	54	0	121	0
	61	3	0	151	0	215	

Applicants and Allocations at March 2018

In Rasharkin there were 23 Applicants, 15 of which were experiencing housing stress and there were under 10 allocations.

Qualifications

Considering the population aged 16 years old and over, on Census Day 27th March 2011 some **13.40%** had a degree or higher qualification, while **49.00%** had no or low (Level 1*) qualifications. *Level 1 is 1-4 O Levels/CSE/GCSE (any grades) or equivalent.

Labour Market

On Census Day 27th March 2011, considering the population aged 16 to 74 years old some **66.04%** were economically active, **33.96%** were economically inactive, with **57.48%** in paid employment; and **6.54%** unemployed.

Multiple Deprivation

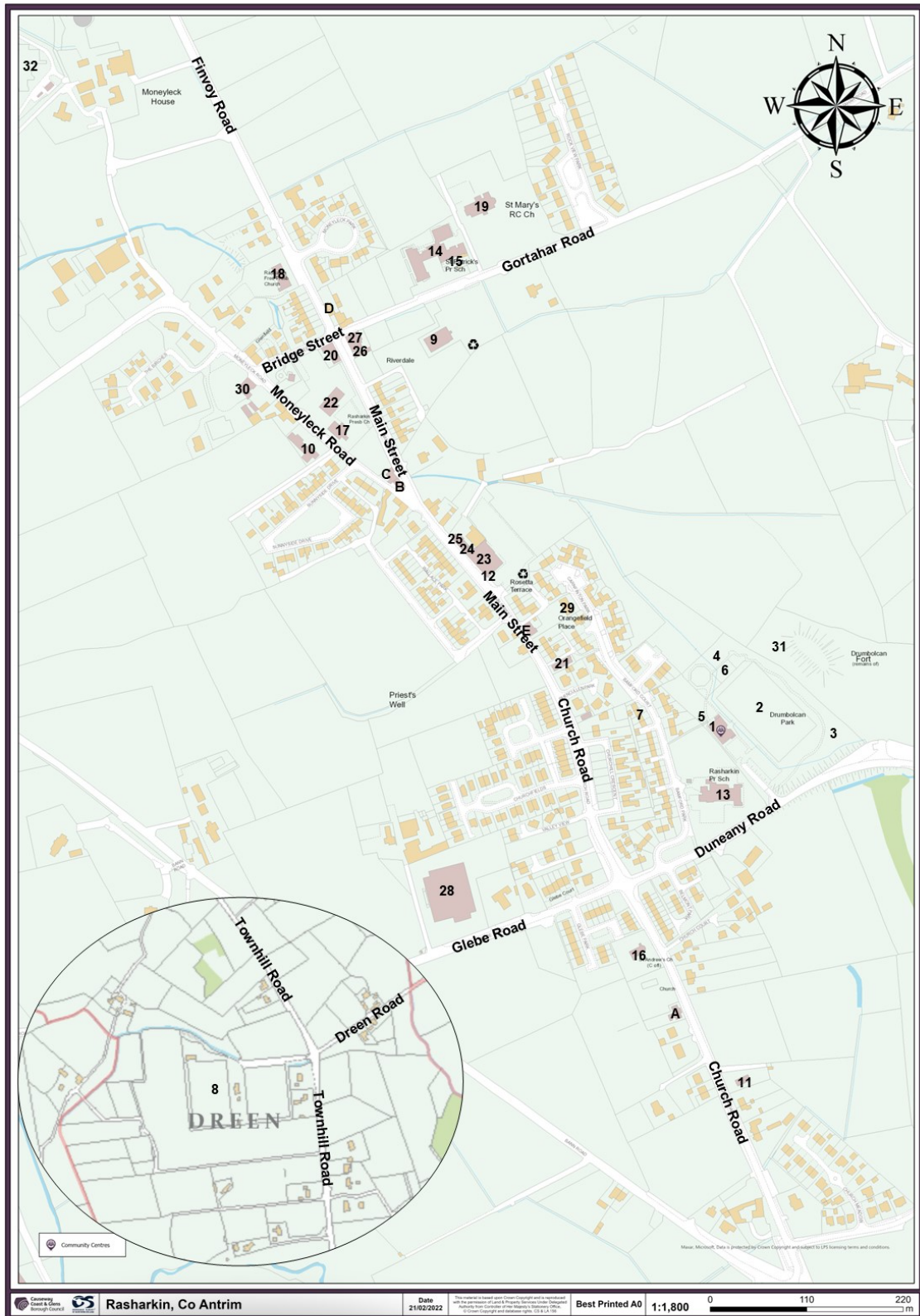
The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM) provides an overall measure of deprivation for small areas and further breakdown of information on seven key types of deprivation. The village of Rasharkin lies within Super Output Areas (SOAs) Killoquin Upper and Killoquin Lower, which have an overall deprivation ranking of 566 and 546 respectively, meaning that Rasharkin falls within the top 37% (330) of least deprived areas in Northern Ireland.

The SOA of Killoquin Lower fell within the top 10% of least deprived areas in terms of Crime and Disorder with a ranking of 819. The SOA of Killoquin Upper ranked within the top 25% of areas in terms of Health Deprivation and Disability, meaning that there was lower than average levels of health deprivation and disability. The



data indicates that both SOAs fall within the top 25% most deprived areas in terms of its access to services.

5. Spatial Analysis Audit

An audit was undertaken of the physical and community infrastructure and asset base of the village, this is illustrated in the map and table below:



Spatial Analysis Map

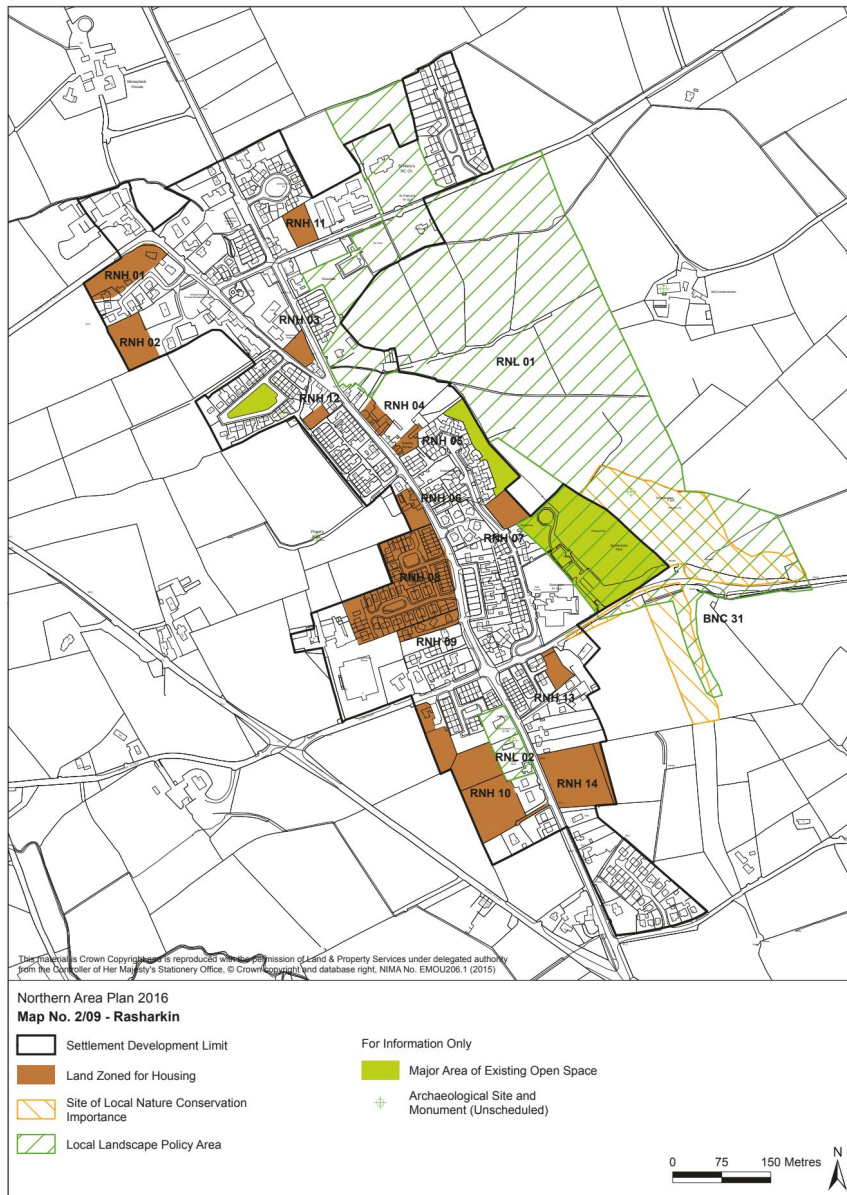
Asset	Name	Baseline Map Number
Key Services and Facilities	Recycling at Euro Spar Car park	
	Recycling at St Olcan's Parish Centre	
	Rasharkin Community Centre	1
	Football pitch	2
	Outdoor Gym	3
	Youth shelter	4
	Picnic benches	5
	Basketball Court (MUGA surface pitch)	6
	Drumbolcan House Rasharkin Women's Group	7
	Resource Centre	
	St Mary's GAC	8
	St Olcan's Parish Centre	9
Rasharkin Health Centre	10	
Kennedy's Pharmacy	11	
ATM at Eurospar	12	
Schools	Rasharkin Primary School	13
	St Patrick's Primary School	14
	St Patrick's Nursery Unit	15
Churches	St Andrew's Church of Ireland	16
	Rasharkin Presbyterian Church	17
	Rasharkin Free Presbyterian Church	18
	St Mary's Roman Catholic Church	19
	Gospel Hall	20
Halls	Rasharkin Orange Hall	21
	Rasharkin Presbyterian Church Hall	22
Businesses	Euro Spar Rasharkin (Post Office and Petrol Station)	23
	Chopsticks Chinese Takeaway	24
	The Beauty Boutique	25
	Maguire's Nearby Shop	26
	Mullaghan's Bar	27
	Hasson Structural Engineers	28
	Kaizenfit Health and Fitness	29
Residential Care Homes	Victoria House Private Residential Home	30
Forest	Drumbolcan Woods	31
Solar Farm	Bann Road Solar Farm	32
Derelict / Opportunity Sites	Derelict Church	A
	32-34 Mainstreet (Family Food store)	B
	36 Mainstreet (Diamond bar)	C
	306 and 306A Finvoy Road (Shear Design Salon)	D
	Sé Óg's Bar	E

Spatial Analysis Table

Northern Area Plan (2016)

Following the transfer of planning powers to local Councils in April 2015, each Council is preparing a new Plan for its own area. Causeway Coast and Glens are in the early stages of developing its Plan, it is anticipated that the Council will publish its Draft Plan Strategy for public consultation in Summer 2022.

This Plan, once adopted, will replace the existing Northern Area Plan 2016, and the existing suite of Regional Planning Policy Statements (known as PPSs). It will also be the key document used when making decisions on planning applications throughout the Borough. Until such times as the new Plan is adopted the existing Northern Area Plan (NAP) 2016 serves as the Boroughs Area Plan. NAP forms the basis of land use planning and decisions on planning applications within the Borough. It sets out what the Council area will look like and how land should be used and developed.



NAP classifies Rasharkin as a village, within the former Ballymoney Borough, within its settlement hierarchy. The NAP notes that Rasharkin comprises a mixture of public and private housing. A good range of educational, health, and community facilities are available within the settlement, but the range of shops is more limited.

NAP further notes that there are a number of locally important manufacturing and other commercial businesses providing significant employment for residents of Rasharkin and the surrounding rural area.

The village has good road links to Ballymoney, Ballymena and Kilrea, although, public transport connections are limited. The NAP has designated a number of sites for housing, of these sites, 10 remain that have not yet been developed out, one site has been used for the redevelopment of Fullan's Food Hall, a Eurospar convenience store on Main Street. There remains a significant volume of land available within the settlement limits zoned for the provision of housing.

The NAP has designated two Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) within and on the settlement boundary of Rasharkin. Glebe LLPA is fully contained within the settlement limit of the village, it has been designated due to its features contributing to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this area, namely Rasharkin Old Church, a medieval parish church site with post-medieval church ruins. A further LLPA, the Drumbolcan LLPA, is sited further northeast, with a large swathe of the LLPA siting outside Rasharkin's settlement limits. The Drumbolcan LLPA includes Drumbolcan Park, nearby woodlands and the earthworks of Drumbolcan fort. NAP notes that this area provides an attractive setting for the entrance to the village from Duneany Road and part of this LLPA is also within Drumbolcan Site of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI)

The Plan identifies three Major Areas of Open Space within the village, the largest being the Drumbolcan Park and playing fields in the southeast of the village adjacent to the SLNCI.

6. Treasuring March: Animating Sharkin Plan-It

The Sharkin Plan-It process was launched with a Treasure Hunt¹ to search out and reveal all of the hidden gems within the village. As part of the event participants completed a Raffle Ticket which asked people to consider what they liked most about Rasharkin; what could be improved or changed; and what they would like to do with £300 if two or three neighbours came together to make Rasharkin an even better place for all.



What do you like most about Rasharkin?

A strong sense of community was central to many of the responses with references to community spirit, the kindness of the people who are always willing to help and the close-knit nature of and strong values of the community. Community facilities and services such as the park, shops, GP surgery, Churches and local sporting groups were also highlighted as assets. People valued the local primary schools and the beautiful countryside in and around the Rasharkin area.



What do you like most about Rasharkin?

¹ Designed by Fred Kyle, History Group

What could be improved or changed?

Participants were invited to provide suggestions as to what could be improved or changed within Rasharkin. Animation and community activities for all ages were strong messages that came through, including social events, more cross community events, fun activities for children, Christmas lighting on Main Street, and an elderly social group. Access to the St Marys GAC was also considered an issue that could be improved, particularly the addition of a footpath to the club which lies to the southeast of the village.

Education and facilities for young people was highlighted as an issue that could be improved, with suggestions such as outdoor school learning and more facilities within the local park.



What could be improved or changed in Rasharkin?

It was suggested that key services could be improved with the addition of a small fire service, a coffee shop, cafe or restaurant, more shops and the provision of better public transport servicing the village. Small scale interventions to improve the general appearance of the village were also put forward including stopping littering, no flying of flags and the provision of more flowers within the village. Participants also highlighted their desire for greater community involvement, help in decision making and better cooperation with groups, bringing people within the village together, which may result in the reduction of antisocial behaviour.

‘Little’ Ideas that you and others can do for up to £300

A wide variety of ‘Little’ ideas were advanced ranging from Yarn Bombing, community events and activities, health and wellbeing activities and environmental improvements.

Yarn Bombing **Community Events** **Arts and Crafts** **Reading Group** **Activities for children and families** **Prayer Meetings** **Litter Picks and Clean Ups** **Outdoor learning** **Treasure Hunts** **Community Vegetable Plot** **Walking and Hiking** **Fun Days**

Community BBQ Community Bake-off Flower Displays Raised Beds Best Kept Garden Music Festival 10k/5k Run New school PE Equipment Youth Club Notice Board Dance Gymnastics Swimming Equipment for Football Team and Friendship League Seating Easter Egg Hunt Camp night in Forest Singing Acting Gaming night Vintage Rally and Tractor Run Chair Aerobics

Emerging 'Little' Ideas

'Big' Ideas that you can do with others or which service providers should do

Participants were asked to provide ideas that they could carry out in conjunction with other service providers, such as the Council, NIHE or the Education Authority. These 'Big' ideas included larger scale projects, that may require capital investments, such as a family hub, community garden and allotments, and a footpath from the village to the GAA Club and associated lighting. There were also some smaller scale interventions proposed such as more litter bins, dog waste bins and seating areas. Again, animation for projects including a music festival, fireworks and youth club activities were advanced.

Family Hub Early Years & Up Forest School & Outdoor Learning Area for Schools Food Bank Community Garden and Allotment Drumbolcan Woods and Forest Walk Developed Improvements to Park Extend Youth Club Activities Community Mini Bus Small Fire Department Footpath from village to GAA Club & Lighting Repair derelict buildings and houses Bigger Health Centre Fireworks Place for fostered or adopted children to feel supported Music Festival Arcade Litter Bins Dog Litter Bins Clothing Recycling Bike Safety Boxing Club Pitch & Putt Bowling Green Tennis Court Skate Park Christmas Lights Community Concerts & Plays Seating Men's Shed Volunteers Social Hub for Adults Drop-in space for teenagers Pop Up Events at Community Centre Homework Club Community Mural Notice Board Next Door App Book Club Traffic Calming Bus Shelter

Emerging 'Big' Ideas

'Golden Ticket' to reveal hidden treasure

To reflect on and reveal all the hidden treasures, talents and skills in the Rasharkin community, each family that attended the Treasure Hunt was asked to have a kitchen table conversation to consider: what their family cares about; special talents or passions and the things that their family enjoys doing the most.

Greetings Sharkin Treasure Seekers! I'm Polly and I need your help to discover all of the hidden treasures - talents and skills in your family! I can sing, paint and juggle, what does your family love to do?

What does your family care about? (e.g. getting outdoors, volunteering, caring for the environment)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Can you list 5 special talents or passions in your family? (e.g. gardening, farming, cooking, plumbing, crafts, singing, teaching)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

So we can create a Treasure Map of all the special talents in Rasharkin - please share

Street Name:
Postcode:
Townland:

What does your family enjoy doing the most?

What does your family care about?

Participants were asked what does your family care about? Activity and the outdoors were strong themes, with activities including exercise, getting outdoors, walking, hiking, cycling, swimming and GAA. There was a strong environmental response, with caring for the environmental, wildlife and pets, keeping the village clean and recycling being put forward. Families and friends were also highly valued as was playing and having fun.



What does your family care about?

Participants were asked to provide their top ten special talents or passions, topping the list was baking and cooking, with singing and sports coming in, second and third place respectively. Talents and Passions were similar to those activities that families cared about, including, swimming, dancing and fitness. Given the rural location farming was also included within the top ten special talents or passions.

Top Ten Special Talents or Passions



1. Baking and Cooking
2. Singing
3. Sport e.g., Football, Gaelic
4. Gardening
5. Dancing
6. Fitness e.g., Walking, Running
7. Swimming
8. Farming
9. Gymnastics
10. Reading

Top Ten Special Talents or Passions

What does your family enjoy doing?

Physical activity was central to many of the responses, with walking, football, running, sports and dancing named among those activities families enjoy. Time together also featured heavily with movie nights, getting together, picnics and trips referenced.



What does your family enjoy doing?

Treasure Festival

A Treasure Festival was held on Saturday 18 June 2022 bringing the community together with entertainment and food. The Hall was decorated beautifully and transformed into a Treasure Island by the Community Working Group and with the help of the local school children who designed birds of paradise and other treasure themed decorations.

Groups were invited to bring along a treasured item to showcase and celebrate their work in the community. A number of treasure keys were hidden around the village in the build up to the Treasure Festival and on the day, each retrieved key was turned to see if it would unlock a treasure chest revealing prizes and a mirror glass to illustrate that the community was the real treasure.



Participants were invited to comment on the existing strengths of the village and to share their ideas and ambitions on how the village and surrounding area could be enhanced and improved through 'big' ideas. Maps of the village, townlands and infographics were displayed to illustrate area statistics, in an engaging and accessible style. The bid forms for the 'Little' Ideas, were shared with the community and everyone was encouraged to think and talk about what they could do to improve the local area and put forward an idea.



7. Engagement Findings: Emerging Themes and ‘Big’ Ideas

A number of thematic areas emerged from the treasuring March engagement activities these included:



Caring for the Environment and Appearance of the Village



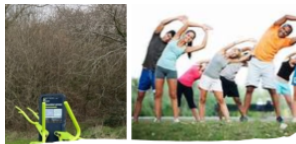
Youth and Family Facilities and Activities



Community Spirit: Bringing everyone young and old together



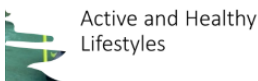
Moving around safely, pathways and access to Public and Community Transport



Active and Healthy Lifestyles



Community Facilities



These six themes helped shape further conversations on the ‘Little’ and ‘Big’ Ideas with the community, the Helping Hands Group, the MDT Social Work Team and other service providers, to consider actions to make Rasharkin an even better place for all.



Community Planning and Support Partners Conversations on Emerging Priorities Thursday 19th May 2022

Caring for the Environment and Appearance of the Village

Suggestions in relation to caring for the environment and appearance of the village centred on opportunities to develop a community garden and allotment, flower displays throughout the village, clean ups, a community mural, entering competitions such as Ulster in Bloom and Best Kept Gardens and painting derelict buildings to improve and enhance the appearance and attractiveness of the village. There was

also support to open and improve access to the Drumbolcan Woods for the whole community to enjoy.

Emerging Big Ideas	Comments and Actions	Potential Partners
Community Garden and Allotments	Flower Displays or Raised Beds for people with access needs e.g., Glebe Road Link with other groups e.g., Ballymaconnelly, Cloughmills to gain and share knowledge	Northern Area Community Network can help with nutrition around Garden and Allotments Northern Health and Social Care Trust Housing Executive –available for replanting, new planting areas Groundwork NI
Rasharkin In Bloom Competition	Best Kept Garden Village Clean Ups	Ulster in Bloom Ulster Garden Villages Love Here Live Here
Open Up Drumbolcan Woods for everyone to enjoy	Forest Walk Beauty spot for families to make wonderful memories together Make the wood safer, handles walking up and hut at the top. Working Party to clear the entrance to the Woods	Rasharkin Community Association Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – Tourism and Recreation DAERA: Forest Service Woodland Trust and Outdoor Trust
Summer Seats in the Park	Rasharkin host a chatty bench?	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Tourism and Recreation / Community Services
Community Mural	Could Artist in residence help?	Local Primary Schools Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Paint Derelict Buildings	Identify Buildings and Owners	
Additional Dog Litter Bins/ Bag	Dog fouling	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Environmental Services
Recycling Bin for Clothing	Encourage recycling	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Environmental Services Local Charities

Community Spirit bringing everyone, young and old together and Active and Healthy Lifestyles

Many activities were advanced to enhance and improve community spirit, while also encouraging active and healthy lifestyles, from community fun runs, opportunities to extend the walking and running groups and the development of a Men’s Shed. There

was support for a programme of community events including music festivals, community plays and arts and crafts activities. It was suggested that a hub or additional social space for older people could help address loneliness and complement the Luncheon Club. There was support for activities and events which would bring the two primary schools together. There was also recognition of the need to encourage and support volunteers in the community. It was felt that this would be essential to support the delivery of additional activities, events or programmes in the village. Others noted that Christmas Lights and Fireworks would be welcome additions to provide cheer and to celebrate the strong sense of community spirit.

Emerging Big Ideas	Comments or Actions	Potential Partners
Community Fun Walk and Run	From 5k to 25k walks/runs Grow the Walking Group, develop links with Ballymoney Walking Group	Walking Group Walk Leader Training Northern Health and Social Care Trust Running Group
Friendship Football League	Volunteers for friendship league	
Start a Men's Shed	NACN can provide support with healthy lifestyles Health and Wellbeing Team Training Directory and Northern Healthy Lifestyle Partnership Training	Northern Area Community Network Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Schools coming together	Schools coming together for events and activities	Rasharkin Primary School St Patrick's Primary School
Programme of Community Events	Concerts in Park, Music Festival, Community Plays, Arts and Crafts e.g. Pottery, Photography, Painting, in memory of Tommy McGoldrick (local artist) NACN can provide small amounts of funding for programme costs	Rasharkin Community Association Northern Area Community Network Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Community (Festivals Fund and Social Inclusion Grant) Local Businesses
Hub or social space for older people	Drop in at Community Centre, in addition to Luncheon Club Loneliness Network – could Rasharkin host a chatty bench?	Luncheon Club Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Promote opportunities to volunteer	Recognise work of volunteers Information Day – Highlight what is needed, Role and description for volunteer opportunities	Causeway Volunteer Centre Rasharkin Community Association Northern Area Community Network

in the Community		
More Christmas Lights	Christmas Lights	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Fireworks		Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Local Businesses

Youth and Family Facilities and Activities

A number of people suggested that the range of activities the Youth Club provides could be extended with a focus on dance, drama and arts and crafts. Others felt that a drop-in facility could be offered at the Community Centre to provide a safe place for young people to hang out. It was noted that a Homework Club could be offered so that young people could avail of the computers located at the Community Centre. Intergenerational learning could also be provided with the younger people supporting older people in the community to develop their digital and online skills. There was also interest in outdoor learning, cycle safety, boxing, and in the development of a family hub facility which could provide support to families and cater for all age groups from early years to teenagers.

Emerging Big Ideas	Comments or Actions	Potential Partners
Extend Youth Club Activities	Drop in for young people in the Community Hall, Dance, Singing, Acting and Gymnastics Classes, Arts and Crafts Mats for the Karate Club	Youth Club Social Work Multi-Disciplinary Team to look at developing youth club support Youth Service, EA
Bike Safety Sessions	Cycle safety	Sustrans Primary Schools and Youth Club
Outdoor Learning	Forest School	Primary Schools Nursery School Education Authority
Homework Club and Access to Computer facilities	Homework Club in Community Centre– Computers are available in the Community Centre On-line Access for Teenagers	Youth Club Rasharkin Community Association
Support Older People to	Intergenerational activities – linking younger and older people	Northern Area Community Network Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Age Friendly programme

use smart phones		Supporting Communities Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Boxing Club for Teenagers		
Family Hub – from Early Years Up	CYPSP (Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership) Activities and Funding. Arts and well-being activity and funding	Northern Health and Social Care Trust, CYPSP Youth Service, EA

Moving Around Safely, Pathways and Access to Public and Community Transport

It was suggested that a community mini-bus or community transport service would reduce isolation and improve access for activities such as shopping and hospital appointments for those without their own transport. A number of road safety and environmental improvements were advanced including traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossings, additional car parking, resurfacing of existing footpaths to aid wheelchair users and in particular the residents of Victoria House, and a new footpath to connect the village and GAA pitch. Other comments included the provision of additional bus stops and bus shelters throughout the village.

Emerging Big Ideas	Comments or Actions	Potential Partners
Community Minibus	Access for shopping and hospital appointments for those without their own transport	North Coast Community Transport
Road Safety Improvements and Traffic Calming	<p>Pedestrian Crossing at Fullan’s Shop and at School Bus Stop</p> <p>Speed Bumps at school where the 20 mph signs are</p> <p>Signage about considerate parking e.g., double parking at Fullan’s Shop, campaign to use the car parking facility available</p> <p>Additional Car-parking spaces in Glebe Park.</p> <p>Refresh Road Signage</p> <p>Junction at Chapel Lane – very busy and a blind spot</p> <p>Duneany Road beyond the Community Centre- slow signage and speed bumps. Accident black spot. Extension to footpath here</p>	<p>Department for Infrastructure – Roads</p> <p>Local Councillors and MLAs</p>

	Speed Cameras at Craigs Road	
New Footpaths	Footpath from the village to the GAA grounds Extension of footpath from Community Centre on Duneany Road Condition of Footpaths – causes discomfort for wheelchair users and residents from Victoria House	Department for Infrastructure – Roads
Bus Stops and Shelters	Bus Shelters at the bus stops. Bus Stop at Craigs Road to support elderly people	Department for Infrastructure – Roads Transport NI

Community Facilities

A variety of additional community facilities were suggested including a pop-up café, music evenings and gaming events at the community centre. Again, there was recognition that this would require community volunteers to support the running of additional activities. A number of people suggested upgrades to the equipment at the play park, the removal of the steps to make the area more pram and child friendly (the steps are being removed and replaced with a curved path- Summer 2022) and access to toilet facilities when the community centre is closed. There was interest in other facilities including a Mobile Library, Community Drop Box book exchange, extension to the Health Centre, a Foodbank, Dog Park, Support facilities for fostered and adopted children and improved access to sports and recreation facilities.

Emerging Big Ideas	Comments or Actions	Potential Partners
Pop Up's at the Community Centre	A Café on a Saturday, links to NHSCT Chatty Café, chatty benches and links to Loneliness Network Music on a Thursday Evening Gaming Night	Northern Health and Social Care Trust Causeway Loneliness Network Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – Community Services Volunteers to open the community centre for more activities and projects
Sharing Information and Promoting Events and Activities	Community Notice Board and Information Point Rasharkin 'Next Door' App to share information	Northern Area Community Network can provide support with communications Ballymoney Community Resource Centre Causeway Rural and Urban Network

Book Scheme Exchange	Community Drop Box, re-use an old phone box Mobile Library	Libraries NI
Foodbank		Trussell Bank Foundation Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Anti-Poverty Steering Group
Extend Health Centre		Health Centre
Support Facilities for fostered and adopted children	Signpost to services and information	Health Centre Women's Group CYPSP (Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership)
Improvements to the Play Park	Toilet facility, upgrade of play equipment and more accessible. Sensory Garden is being upgraded and the steps are being replaced with a curved path – to be completed Summer 2022. Accessible Park in Limavady – good practice visit	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – Leisure and Development Community Centre
New Sport and Recreation Facilities	Pitch and Putt, Bowling Green, Tennis Court and Skate Park	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council – Leisure and Development Social Economy or Private Business
Dog Park		Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Other	Access to nearest swimming pool Access to Sport and Recreation Facilities Access to Arcade Animal Rescue Service - Information to support services Small Fire Department - Fire Safety Awareness	North Coast Community Transport NI Fire and Rescue Service

All of the suggested 'Big' Ideas detailed above were presented to the community at the Big Community Vote. Participants were asked to consider the ideas and actions which they would like to see prioritised.

8. The Big Picnic and Community Vote

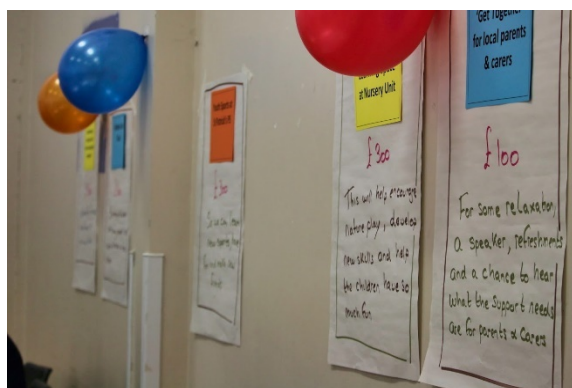


A Big Community Vote and Fun Day was held on Saturday 18 June 2022 at the Community Centre. This was an opportunity for everyone in the community to come together to hear and talk with others about which ideas would be of most benefit to the Rasharkin community and to cast their vote for a wide range of 'Little' ideas (ideas that can be delivered for £300 or less) that they wanted to support.

The 'Little' Idea Bids

Each of the bidders was invited to decorate a stall to share their idea with the wider community, make a request for volunteers to help deliver the idea and to ask for the community's support through the voting process.

A short summary of each of the bids was displayed around the hall.



The hall was full of local people, visiting each of the stalls and talking with all of the bidders about their ideas. Outside there was a carnival atmosphere with a variety of fun activities on offer including: face painting, build a bear, African drums, slush puppies, bouncy castle, picnics, singing, Sharkin sunflowers, traditional games and the opportunity to meet local fire fighters and check out the fire engine.

A polling station was set up and everyone aged 9 years and over was given a summary of all the ideas and allocated ten votes to choose the ideas that they wanted to support and see happen in the next few months. Voters spent time considering how best to allocate their top ten votes, allocating 10 votes for their preferred idea right down to the last idea that they wanted to support with 1 vote. Those who were unable to attend or who had specific access needs were supported to vote in advance.



A list of the 'Little' Idea bids is presented below along with the amount of money requested and with linkages to the thematic areas which emerged from the engagement activities. Many of the bid ideas related to community spirit, active and healthy lifestyles and youth and family facilities and activities.

Description Of Little Idea	Amount Asked	Thematic Area
Buying helmets for the team	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Community Larder	£250	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Lights & fluorescent gear for runners	£300	Community Spirit

Bingo Machine	£300	Community Spirit
Portable speaker and microphone for use at Community Centre	£100	Community Spirit
Summer School	£300	Community Spirit
Musician Memorial	£300	Community Spirit
Heritage Trail Signage	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of Village
Portable speaker and microphone for St Mary's RC	£100	Community Spirit
Flower displays/bed at Turnpike	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village
Signage at St Mary's RC	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village
Karate Equipment Accessories	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Chairs & Trike	£260	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Art Class with Art Sale	£300	Community Spirit
Yoga for All	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Community Allotments	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Buddy Bench	£175	Community Spirit
Hire of Bouncy Castle prior to Christmas Break	£250	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Group Outing for Boys Brigade	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Community Outing History Group	£300	Community Spirit
Workshops on dealing with grief	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Summer Soccer School	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Network of volunteers for clean up	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village
Fun Day with Ice-cream for both Schools	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Friendship League - Hall Hire/Football equipment	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Murals at Drumbolcan Park	£300	Community Spirit
Get together for parents	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Equipment for outdoor learning space – Nursery	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Youth Sports for St Patrick's PS school	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Flowers to brighten up Main Street	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village

Art lessons for Young People	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Bench in memory of those lost during COVID	£300	Community Spirit
Luncheon Club Day Trip	£300	Community Spirit
Luncheon Club Craft Classes	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Musical entertainment event + Ice cream van – Victoria House	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Garden Furniture – Victoria House	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Yarn Bombing	£300	Community Spirit
Rasharkin Rocks	£300	Community Spirit
Planting Trees around Rasharkin	£200	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village
Access to Drumbolcan Woods	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village
Rose Bed at Glebe Road	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village
Christmas Party for Young People	£300	Youth and Family Facilities and Activities
Bike Repair Session	£300	Active & Healthy Lifestyles
Planting Trees at Drumbolcan Woods	£300	Caring for the Environment & Appearance of the Village

After the Big Community Vote event all the votes were tallied, and the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Councillor Ivor Wallace announced the winning ideas through a Facebook Live post on the Sharkin Plan-it Facebook page. A list of the 21 winning ideas, in no particular order, is highlighted below. Each of these fantastic ideas will be delivered by the community by the end of the year, December 2022.

- Flowers for the Main Street
- Community Allotments
- Fun Day for Rasharkin PS & St Patrick's PS
- Summer Soccer School & Football Camp
- Increasing Access to Drumbolcan Woods
- Christmas Party for Young People
- Helmets for the Under 7 Hurling Team
- Outdoor Learning Space for Nursery Unit
- Karate Club Equipment
- Network of Volunteers for Clean Up
- Garden Furniture for Victoria House
- Workshops on Grief
- Planting more Trees in Rasharkin
- Remembrance Seating Area
- Chairs & Trike for Parent & Toddler Group
- Rasharkin Luncheon Club Trip
- Buddy Bench for Community Play Group
- Music & Ice Cream Event for Victoria House
- Equipment for Rasharkin Friendship League
- Youth Sports for St Patrick's PS
- Gear for Rasharkin Runners

Prioritising the 'Big' Ideas' Dot-mocracy

Everyone who attended the Big Community Vote was also invited to prioritise the 'Big' Ideas, actions which required more than £300 or require the support of service or support partners, to be delivered. Participants were invited to review, add to and prioritise the 'Big' Ideas which had emerged throughout each of the engagement activities including an online survey. Those aged 9 and over were given three sticky dots to vote for the ideas and projects, 'dot-mocracy' which they felt were the most important for the community to focus on over the next three to five years as part of the Sharkin Plan-It process.



The table below highlights the top ten priority ideas and actions which the community voted for. The priorities fell across all five of the Sharkin Plan-It thematic areas, with an emphasis on Caring for the Environment, Community Facilities, Youth and Family Facilities and Activities and Community Spirit. Links to the 'Little' Ideas have also been highlighted. A list of all the Big Ideas in order of preference is included at Appendix 1.

'Big' Ideas Top Ten

Theme	Priority Action	Votes	Links to Little Ideas
Caring for the Environment and Appearance of the Village	Open Up Drumbolcan Woods for Everyone to Enjoy	66	Increasing Access to Drumbolcan Woods Network of Volunteers for Clean Up
Community Facilities	Improvements to the Play Park Additional equipment such as rope swings, Trampoline (like People's Park in Ballymena) Equipment for younger children – aged 1-5 years – Similar to Park in Ballymoney Toilet Facilities	40	
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together and Active and Healthy Lifestyles	More Christmas Lights in the Village	38	Christmas Party for Young People
Moving Around Safely, Pathways and Access to Public and Community Transport	New Footpaths Too dangerous to walk to GAA pitch	22	
Youth and Family Facilities and Activities	Extend Youth Club Activities	19	Summer Soccer School and Football Camp Helmets for the Under 7 Hurling Team Karate Club Equipment
Youth and Family Facilities and Activities	Family Support Hub from Early Years Up	16	
Youth and Family Facilities and Activities and Community Spirit	Primary Schools coming together for events and activities	14	Fun Day for Rasharkin PS and St Patrick's PS Christmas Party for Young People
Community Facilities	Foodbank	14	Community Allotments Community Fridge
Moving Around Safely, Pathways and Access to Public and Community Transport	Road Safety Improvements and Traffic Calming	11	
Community Facilities	Dog Park Nearest dog parks are Antrim and Ballymoney	11	

With a clear majority of votes, there was support to open access to Drumbolcan Woods for the benefit of the whole community and to provide further opportunities to connect with, care for and enjoy nature. The next priority action was improvements to the Play Park with additional equipment, equipment for younger children and

access to toilet facilities when the Community Centre is closed. There was support for more Christmas Lights in the Village to strengthen and celebrate a sense of community. Other priority actions included addressing issues around safe mobility including new footpaths, safe access to the GAA pitch outside of the village, road safety improvements and traffic calming. Others wanted to see investment in youth and family facilities and activities including extending the activities offered through the youth club, a family support hub and opportunities for the two Primary schools to come together for joint activities and events. Other priorities included community facilities such as a Foodbank, reflecting the current cost of living crisis, and a Dog Park to enable dogs to exercise off-lead in a safe and controlled area.

9. Developing actions to address priority areas

Caring for the Environment: Community Access to Drumbolcan Woods

Throughout the Sharkin Plan-It engagement activities there was strong support from the community to have access to the Drumbolcan Woods. Many younger people already explore and use the space imaginatively. It was noted that in the past there has been dumping at the entrance to the woods and some trees have been damaged and uprooted. Opening up access to the woods offers the opportunity for the community to connect with nature and consider how they can ‘enjoy not destroy’ the woods. It also provides an opportunity to learn about and share stories that explore the rich history and mythology of the wood.

Key Actions – Short (S), Medium (M) and Long (L) Term	S	M	L	Potential Delivery Partners
Trustees of Drumbolcan Woods meet to discuss opening up access for the community				Trustees of Drumbolcan Woods, Rasharkin Community Association
Meet with the Countryside Officer in CCGBC to explore access plans for the Woods				Rasharkin Community Association, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Clear and secure the entrance point to the Woods off the Duneany Road ‘turn of the road’				Rasharkin Community Association, Community Volunteers
Hold a community event at the Woods in September to gather ideas to improve access to and care for the Woods and to encourage volunteers to come forward e.g., Friends of Drumbolcan Woods				Trustees of Drumbolcan Woods, Rasharkin Community Association, Community Volunteers, Local Schools, Clubs and Groups

Links to ‘A Better Future Together’ Community Plan

- A Sustainable Accessible Environment
- A Healthy Safe Community

Potential Funding Opportunities and other Useful Links

- National Lottery Community Fund www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/northern-ireland#section-1 Awards for All £300- £10,000; and People and Communities £10,000 – 500,000
- Keep NI Beautiful Initiative www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org
- Northern Area Community Network www.nacn.org
- Rural Community Network www.ruralcommunitynetwork.org
- Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
- Groundwork NI <http://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/northernireland>
- Causeway Coast and Glens Social Work Multi-Disciplinary Team alex.larson@northerntrust.hscni.net

Improving Community Facilities and Celebrating Community Spirit

Several of the top ten priority 'Big' Ideas related to new, or improvements to existing community facilities. While there was recognition that the play park was a good facility it was suggested that the addition of more active play equipment such as rope swings and trampolines and additional equipment for children aged 5 and under would be welcome. It was advanced that additional Christmas Lighting would act as a festive focal point and celebrate the strong sense of community. Other priorities included expanding the range of activities available through the youth club; support for families; joint events for the two Primary Schools; a Foodbank, reflecting the cost-of-living crisis and a Dog Park. It should be noted that plans are being developed to add to the facilities and community spaces available at the Community Centre and the suggestions advanced through the 'Sharkin Plan-It' process will inform and help shape this work.

Key Action – Short (S), Medium (M) and Long (L) Term	S	M	L	Potential Delivery Partners
Play Park: explore opportunities to include active play equipment and equipment for younger children as part of future upgrades to the play park				Rasharkin Community Centre, Clubs and Groups, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Festive Lighting: Lobby local councillors for additional Christmas Lighting as a festive focal point in the Village Encourage local businesses and each household to illuminate or decorate their front windows/ gardens as part of a Community Festival of Light				Clubs and Groups, Northern Area Community Network, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Youth Club: Promote the Youth Club and extend the range of activities on offer to include a drop-in space, dance, singing, gymnastics and arts and crafts				Youth Club, Rasharkin Community Association, Local Schools, Social Work Multi-Disciplinary Team
Family Support: As a first step, NACN bring together groups and organisations who provide services to families to share information on the support available and to identify any gaps				Rasharkin Women's Group, Parent and Toddlers Group, Nursery, Local Schools, Youth Club, Parents, Northern Area Community Network, Social Work Multi-Disciplinary Team
Joint School Events: Build on the success of the 'little' idea bid for a joint Fun Day for Rasharkin PS and St Patrick's PS Pupils plan a programme of joint events and activities which they can undertake during the school year				Rasharkin Primary School St Patricks Primary School
Food Bank: Undertake a scoping visit to a local food bank e.g., Ballymoney Foodbank Contact the Trussell Trust for information and advice on setting up a Food Bank Consider development of a Community Fridge or Larder to support people who are				Rasharkin Community Association, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Northern Area Community Network, Social Work Multi-Disciplinary Team, Trussell Trust

struggling with the cost of living and to reduce food waste			
Dog Park: Lobby the Council and local Councillors to provide a dedicated space for dogs to exercise safely Display posters to encourage responsible dog ownership including picking up after your dog			Clubs and Groups, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Recruit and support Volunteers to extend and enhance the community facilities and activities which can be offered to the wider community Liaise with Causeway Volunteer Centre about the EPIC Awards Empowering People in Communities			Rasharkin Community Association, Clubs and Groups, Northern Area Community Network, Causeway Volunteer Centre

Links to 'A Better Future Together' Community Plan

- A Sustainable Accessible Environment
- A Healthy Safe Community

Potential Funding Opportunities and other Useful Links

- National Lottery Community Fund www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/northern-ireland#section-1 Awards for All £300- £10,000; People and Communities £10,000 – 500,000; Empowering Young People £10,000 - £500,000
- Causeway Coast and Glens Social Work Multi-Disciplinary Team alex.larsen@northerntrust.hscni.net
- Asda Foundation Empowering Local Communities Grant <https://www.asdafoundation.org/foundation-grants>
- Tesco Community Grants https://www.groundwork.org.uk/grants_tesco-community-grants/
- Northern Area Community Network www.nacn.org
- Age Friendly Causeway www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/live/age-friendly
- Ballymoney Food Bank <https://ballymoney.foodbank.org.uk/>
- Trussell Trust <https://www.trusselltrust.org/>
- Causeway Volunteer Centre <https://www.causewayvc.org/>
- Volunteer Now www.volunteernow.co.uk/

Moving Around Safely: Lobbying for Road Safety Improvements

The Rasharkin Community Association and other groups in the Village are critically aware of the need for road safety improvements and will continue to lobby and campaign with local councillors, MLAs and the Department for Infrastructure for investment to address these issues. Information on how to access the North Coast Community Transport scheme should be promoted within the village. This could help to address unmet transport needs and improve access to hospitals, GP surgeries, youth facilities and cultural and social facilities.

Key Action – Short (S), Medium (M) and Long (L)Term	S	M	L	Potential Delivery Partners
Continue to lobby Department for Infrastructure – Roads with MLAs and Local Councillors for improvements to the condition of existing footpaths and the introduction of a new footpath or a safe off-road walking route from the village to the GAA pitch				Clubs and Groups, Northern Area Community Network, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, GAA Club
Lobby Department for Infrastructure - Roads with MLAs and Local Councillors for introduction of traffic calming measures including slow signage adjacent to both schools and safe crossing points along Main Street				Rasharkin Community Association, Clubs and Groups, Northern Area Community Network, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Local Schools
Undertake a Feasibility Study to Identify options for additional car-parking at Glebe Park				Residents of Glebe Park, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Link to and promote existing Community Transport Services to address unmet travel needs				Clubs and Groups, North Coast Community Transport, Northern Area Community Network
Lobby together with other villages in the Council area on road safety and traffic calming issues				Rasharkin Community Association, Northern Area Community Network

Links to ‘A Better Future Together’ Community Plan

- A Sustainable Accessible Environment
- A Healthy Safe Community

Potential Funding Opportunities or other Useful Links

- National Lottery Community Fund www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/northern-ireland#section-1 Awards for All £300- £10,000
- Department for Infrastructure <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/roads>
- Sustrans NI <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/about-us/our-work-in-northern-ireland/>
- Northern Coast Community Transport <https://www.northcoastcommunitytransport.com/>

10. Working Together – Next Steps

Central to the successful implementation of Sharkin Plan-It will be the continued commitment from the Community Working Group, GP Federation MDT Social Workers, Helping Hands Group, Northern Area Community Network, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Rasharkin Community Association, key groups and clubs within the village and volunteers to work together; continue conversations with; and lobby statutory and support partners to drive forward the implementation of the priority actions. The Sharkin Plan-It Community Working Group will be supported by the Northern Area Community Network and Helping Hands Group to bring key stakeholders and local representatives together on a quarterly basis to discuss implementation and support the delivery of the priority projects and actions. The process of purposefully designing and developing each stage of the Sharkin Plan-It initiative with the local community has brought people together, strengthened relationships, and has garnered energy and built support to implement the identified priorities.

Connections have already been made between several bidders including those who were successful and those who were not. For example, between the Parent and Toddler Group and the Nursery and those who put forward ideas around the Community Allotment, Remembrance Bench and Rasharkin Rocks.

Next steps to keep energy levels high will include:

- A Sharkin Plan-It WhatsApp group to facilitate groups and individuals to stay connected and share news and progress on both the 'little' and 'big' ideas
- Regular (quarterly or bi-monthly) meetings of an Implementation Group
- A community event in Drumbolcan Woods in September (visit woods, litter pick, engage children and young people)
- A community event at the Community Allotment in October
- A Sharkin Plan-It Celebration Event in December – where all the winning bids will share the positive outcomes they have achieved for the community; and progress can be shared on the implementation of the priority actions.

It is important to note that in the immediate future, other actions or development opportunities may arise to improve and enhance Rasharkin. It is clear from the levels of engagement with the Sharkin Plan-It process that the wider community is committed to continuing to enhance and improve village life for all who live, work, play, visit and learn in Rasharkin.

Appendix 1: List of 'Big' Ideas in Priority Order

Theme	Priority Action	Votes	Links to Little Ideas
Caring for the Environment and Appearance of the Village	Open Up Drumbolcan Woods for Everyone to Enjoy	66	Increasing Access to Drumbolcan Woods Network of Volunteers for Clean Up Tree Planting
Community Facilities	Improvements to the Play Park Comments Additional equipment such as rope swings, Trampoline (like People's Park in Ballymena) Equipment for younger children – aged 1-5 years – Similar to Park in Ballymoney Toilet Facilities	40	
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together and Active and Healthy Lifestyles	More Christmas Lights in the Village	38	Christmas Party for Young People
Moving Around Safely, Pathways and Access to Public and Community Transport	New Footpaths Too dangerous to walk to GAA pitch	22	
Youth and Family Facilities and Activities	Extend Youth Club Activities	19	Summer Soccer School and Football Camp Helmets for the Under 7 Hurling Team Karate Club Equipment
Youth and Family Facilities and Activities	Family Support Hub from Early Years Up	16	
Youth and Family Facilities and Activities and Community Spirit	Primary Schools coming together for events and activities	14	Fun Day for Rasharkin PS and St Patrick's PS Christmas Party for Young People
Community Facilities	Foodbank	14	
Moving Around Safely, Pathways and Access to Public and Community Transport	Road Safety Improvements and Traffic Calming	11	
Community Facilities	Dog Park Nearest dog park is Antrim	11	
Community Facilities	Swimming Pool / Arcade	8	

Youth and Family Facilities and Activities	Homework Club and Access to Computer Facilities	7	
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together and Active and Healthy Lifestyles	Community Fun Walk and Run	6	Gear for Rasharkin Runners
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together and Active and Healthy Lifestyles	Pop Ups at the Community Centre	5	
Community Facilities	Animal Rescue Services	5	
Moving Around Safely, Pathways and Access to Public and Community Transport	Community Minibus	5	
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together	Programme of Community Events	4	Christmas Party for Young People
Active and Healthy Lifestyles	Start a Men’s Shed	4	
Community Facilities	New Sport and Recreation Facilities	4	Summer Soccer School and Football Camp Helmets for the Under 7 Hurling Team Karate Club Equipment
Community Facilities	Hub or social space for older people	3	Rasharkin Luncheon Club Trip Garden furniture for Victoria House Music and Ice cream Event for Victoria House
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together	Fireworks	3	
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together and Active and Healthy Lifestyles	Community Garden and Allotments	3	Flowers for the Main Street Community Allotments Planting more trees in Rasharkin
Caring for the Environment and Appearance of the Village	Rasharkin In Bloom Competition	3	Flowers for the Main Street Planting more trees in Rasharkin
Community Spirit – Bringing everyone young and old together and Active and Healthy Lifestyles	Friendship Football League	3	Equipment for Rasharkin Friendship League Summer Soccer School and Football Camp
Caring for the Environment and Appearance of the Village	Paint Derelict Buildings	2	Network of Volunteers for Clean Up

Community Facilities	Extend the Health Centre	2	
Moving Around Safely, Pathways and Access to Public and Community Transport	Bus Stops and Shelters	2	
Community Facilities	Mobile Library	1	
Caring for the Environment and Appearance of the Village	Additional Dog Litter Bins/Bags	1	

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