

Prepared by Community Places  
For De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association

2010

# A Local Community Plan for De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Area

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providing advice on planning issues and supporting community planning, consultation, research and building projects

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## Vision

Our vision is to:

**'improve the services, facilities and the general quality of life for all residents'.**

## Aim and Objectives

The aim is to provide a focus to local residents and statutory and voluntary organisations in addressing the needs and issues of the community.

The agreed objectives towards achieving this aim relate to improving the physical environment, improving health and well being of residents, improving access to existing services and facilities and supporting the local Residents' Association in delivering community activities.

## Community Planning Process

To achieve our vision the Resident's Association, together with key statutory agencies and voluntary organisations participated in a series of workshops facilitated by Community Places to develop this Local Community Plan. The initial workshop included a walkabout of the area to clarify the main issues impacting on the local community.

The subsequent workshops enabled participants to discuss, negotiate and agree the main issues and actions; identify the lead partner for each of the agreed actions and to agree the next steps towards implementation. As the process unfolded the workshops also provided partners with an opportunity to update participants on progress relating to the priority issues identified and provide additional information relevant to the local community.

### Local Community Plan – the Partners

The partners who participated in developing this Local Community Plan and who will take forward the actions arising from it include:

- Ards Borough Council
- Ards Development Bureau and Community Network
- De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
- Clanmil Housing
- Cllr Simon Hamilton MLA
- Helm Housing Association
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Roads Service
- Police Service of Northern Ireland



## Overview of De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley

The De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley area includes the housing areas of Laburnum, Upper Crescent, Bruce Avenue, Cherryvalley and De Wind Drive. The area is located on the east edge of Comber village, just off the main Comber-Newtonwards Road (see map below).



### Local History of the Housing Area

The following timeline outlines key dates in the development and redevelopment of the Cherryvalley and De Wind area:

1926	Upper Crescent
1958/1959	De Wind Drive
1967/1968	Cherryvalley Crescent, Cherryvalley Drive and Cherryvalley Walk
1982	Laburnum Grove
1984	Lower Crescent
1992	Laburnum Court, Laburnum Crescent, Laburnum Place and Laburnum Way
1998	Laburnum Close, Laburnum Gardens and Laburnum Park
2005	Upper Crescent
2009	Upper Crescent

Key:

Constructed

Demolished

Rebuilt

## Facts and Figures

**Table 1**

	Population	Households	Under 16	60+ years	Lone Parent Households with dependent children	Lone Pensioner Households
Ards Borough Council	73,244	28,689	21.3%	18.7%	6.0%	12.6%
De Wind/Bruce Avenue	259	114	15.5%	31.4%	8.6%	11.2%
Cherryvalley/De Wind	371	138	25.1%	14.6%	13.0%	8.0%
Upper Crescent	114	50	39%	2.6%	10.5%*	22.8%*
Laburnum	241	118	23.8%	25.8%	22.7%	16.0%

([www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk))

The Multiple Deprivation Measures 2005 Report, which identifies small area concentrations of multiple deprivation ranks the Laburnum area within the top 20% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. Statistics in relation to dependency on benefits demonstrates the high levels of poverty and disadvantage in Cherryvalley/De Wind area and in particular in the Laburnum housing developments (see table 2).

**Table 2**

	Income Support (total number of claimants 2009)	Incapacity Benefit (total number of claimants 2009)	Housing Benefit (total number of claimants 2009)
Ards Borough Council	2,406	2,490	4,581
De Wind/Bruce Avenue	11	10	22
Cherryvalley/De Wind	15	9	29
Upper Crescent *	3	3	18
Laburnum	27	15	60

([www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk))

\* Statistics for Upper Crescent also include those for housing areas located outside of the Cherryvalley/De Wind area of interest. The true statistics for the Upper Crescent area have therefore been masked by those of the more affluent areas.

### Housing Statistics for the Comber Area

In the Cherryvalley/De Wind area, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has a total of 56 properties currently tenanted. Statistics relating to housing waiting lists is only available at a town level. Therefore the following information will only give an overview of the housing needs in the area.



## Comber Housing Applications Waiting List (All)

Elderly	Large Adult	Large Family	Single	Small Adult	Small Family	Total
77	5	15	90	34	81	302

## Comber Allocations to Applicants (All)

Elderly	Large Adult	Large Family	Single	Small Adult	Small Family	Total
7	-	-	8	-	8	23

(Housing statistics provided by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive).

## Health Issues for the Comber Area

It is important to note that the Cherryvalley/De Wind area falls into two Super Output Areas (Comber East 1 and Comber East 2) therefore the information provided below is a 'reasonable' picture of health issues in the local area.

- The area has an above average death (mortality) rate compared to the rest of the Ards Borough Council area and the Northern Ireland average.
- In 2001, 30.3% of the population in Comber East 1 and 16.7% in Comber East 2 had a long term illness, health problem or disability. This compares with the Northern Ireland average of 20.4%.
- In 2001, 55% of people in Comber East 1 and 73% in Comber East 2 said their health was good.
- Life Expectancy is only available to Local Government District level, however modelling would suggest that the Life Expectancy for males is greater than 70 but less than the Northern Ireland average of 76.2%, for females it is greater than 75 but less than the Northern Ireland average of 81.0%.



The main issues for Health Improvement in the Comber area relate to:

- Tackling Health Inequalities
- Obesity
- Smoking
- Alcohol/Drugs
- Unplanned Pregnancies
- Suicide Prevention

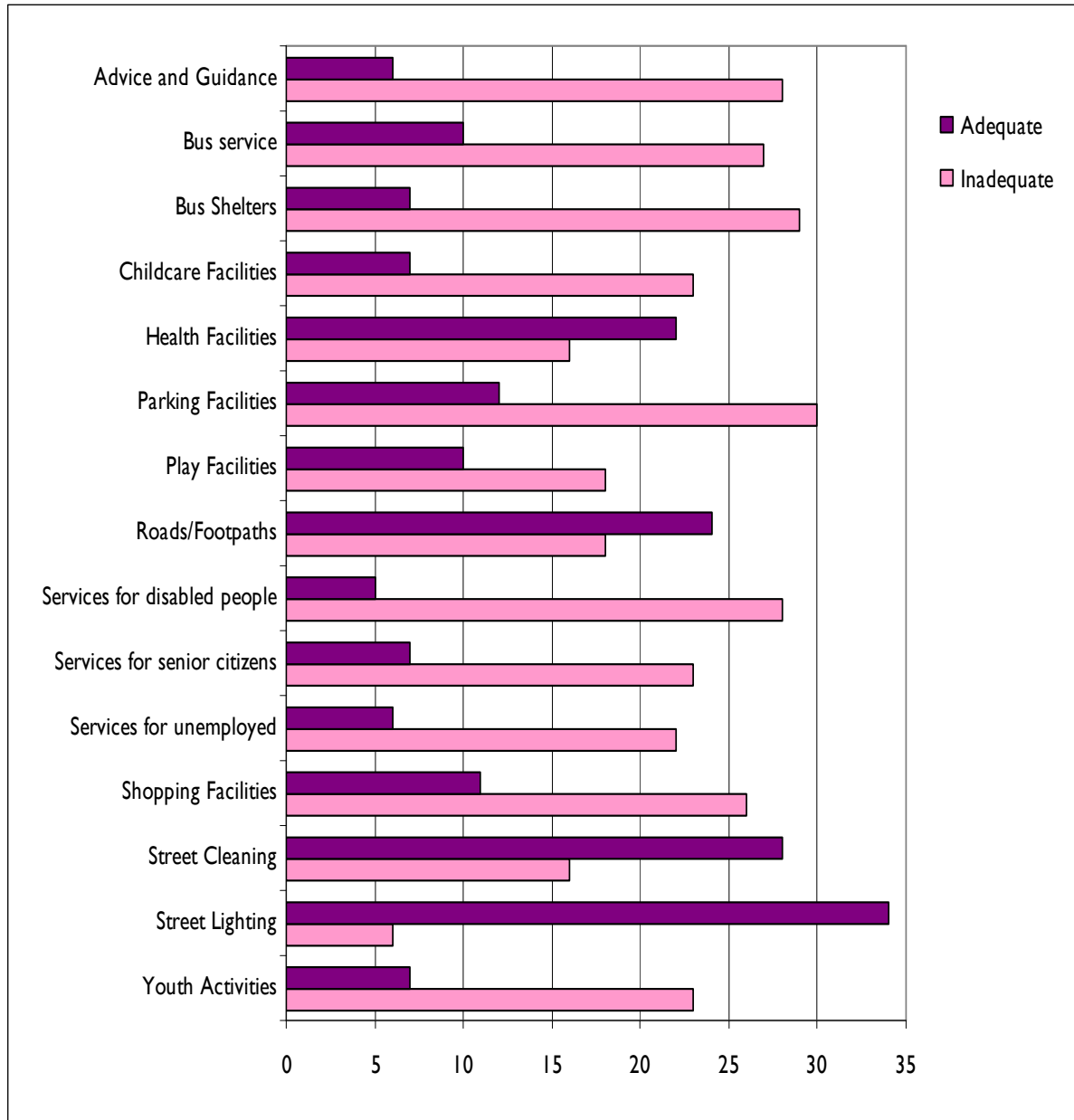


(This information was provided by Investing for Health and sourced from the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service website - [www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk))

## De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association's Community Survey – Summary

With the assistance of Ards Borough Council, the De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association undertook a community survey in spring 2009. The key priorities identified in the community survey are presented below.

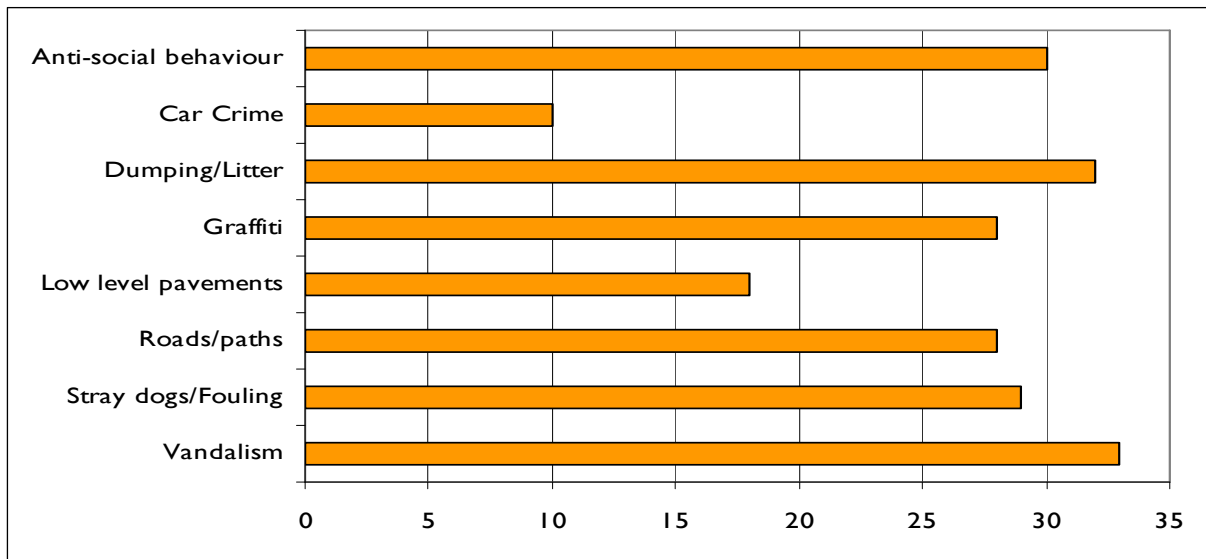
In terms of service delivery, respondents were asked to highlight whether current services were of an adequate standard:



The key priorities for service delivery include:

- Parking Facilities
- Bus Service
- Advice and Guidance
- Bus Shelter
- Facilities for Disabled people

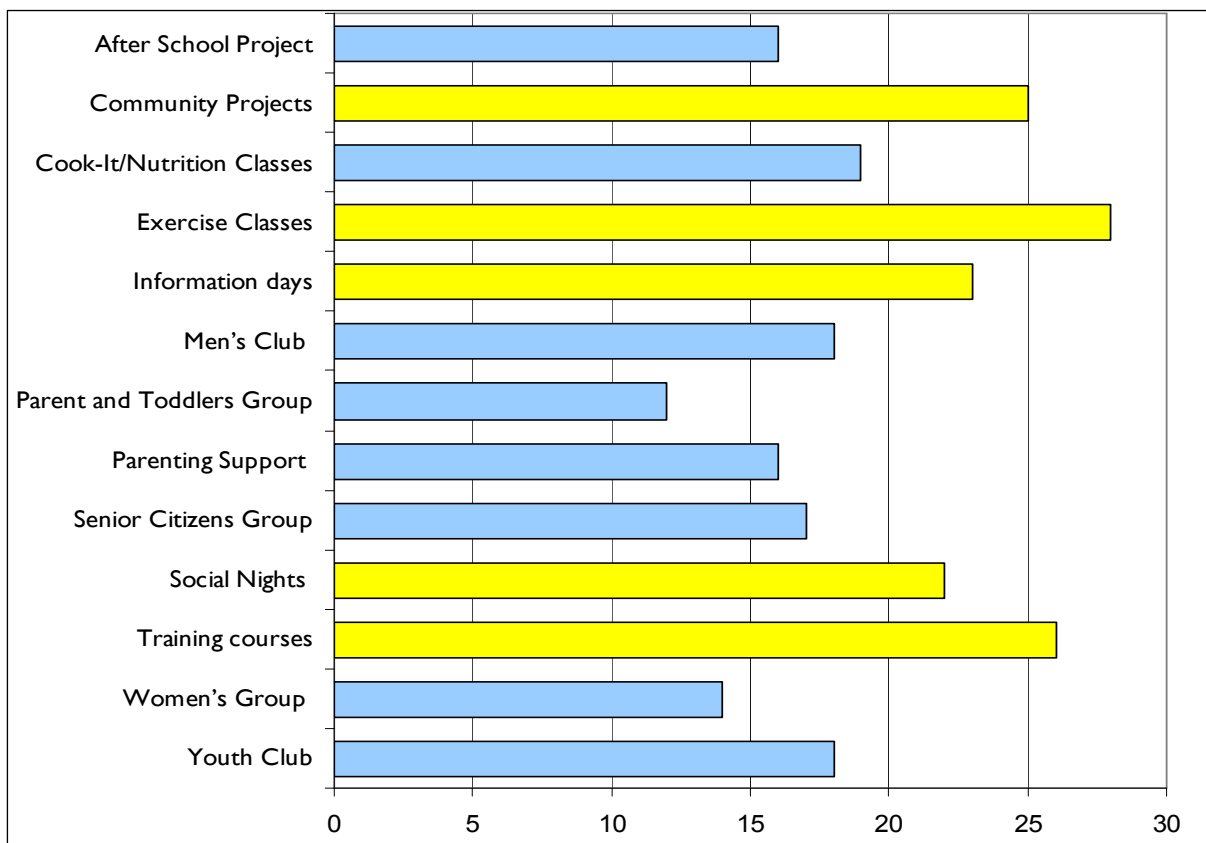
In relation to the physical and environmental issues impacting the area, respondents were asked to determine which issues caused greatest concern:



The key priorities in terms of physical environment include:

- Vandalism
- Anti-social behaviour
- Roads
- Dumping/Litter
- Stay dogs/fouling

Respondents were also asked to highlight future activities that they would like to participate in. The main activities identified are highlighted in yellow below.





## Agreed Objectives and Actions

The Community Survey and walkabout of the area by the Resident's Association, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations identified a range of issues relating to the physical environment and health and well being of residents in the De Wind Drive/Cherryvale area. To address these issues effectively a number of objectives were agreed together with a range of actions.



### Objective 1: Improve the physical environment across the housing areas

The main issues relating to the physical environment focused on the 'Muckers' field- an area of waste ground attracting negative behaviour such as scramblers, underage drinking and dumping; the lack of appropriate lighting along pathways and health and safety concerns with regards to the 'Swamp' area - a swampy area near the playground that is further compounded by dumping. The actions below are designed to address these issues.

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>
1	Establish ownership of the pathways within 'the Muckers'	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
2	Landscaping of 'the Muckers'	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
3	Street Lighting provided in 'the Muckers'	Roads Service
4	Obtain information on the long term plans for 'the Muckers'	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
5	Establish ownership of the 'Swamp' area	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
6	Clean up and physical improvement of 'Swamp' Area	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
7	Develop consensus on whether an access at the rear of Laburnum Drive should be provided	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
8	Lower bushes at the entrance to De Wind Drive	Roads Service
9	Removal of fallen trees at the rear of the cemetery	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
10	Develop a woodland area to the rear of the cemetery	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
11	Establishment of ownership of steps onto De Wind Drive	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
12	Address traffic and parking issues within the area	Ards Borough Council
13	Organise a Clean up within the area	Ards Borough Council
14	Identify solutions to the fencing issues in Upper Crescent	Helm Housing

## Objective 2: Improve access and links with existing facilities and services in the Comber and the wider area

The Community Survey highlighted the need for greater access to services and facilities within the Comber area. The following actions are to address these issues through identifying the services and facilities which are available in the Comber area and exploring the potential for improving access to these services in terms of appropriate transport or how these services are promoted in the local community.



	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>
1	Identify the availability of the library and Castle Espie for community activities	Ards Borough Council
2	Establish the availability of Comber Net for community activities	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
3	Improve bus service provision in the local area through dialogue with Translink	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association

## Objective 3: Improve the take up of health and wellbeing opportunities by residents in the area

The low levels of health and wellbeing in the area are demonstrated through the health statistics for the area and the Community Survey. The priorities emerging from the survey identify a real need for health awareness, exercise and wellbeing activities and activities specifically targeting school children and older people. The actions below are a first step in identifying existing opportunities for improving health and wellbeing.

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>
1	Identify the health needs of local residents through a baseline survey	Ards Development Bureau and Community Network
2	Identify current activities and user groups of the Leisure Centre and opportunities for increasing use by local residents	Ards Borough Council

## **Objective 4: To support the Residents' Association in the delivery of community activities for all age groups**

The community survey identified a number of key priorities in relation to developing a sense of community spirit in the area through community based activities and family fundays. The following actions will support the local Residents' Association in delivering activities for all age groups and sections in the community.

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Lead Partner</b>
1	Residents' Association to become a member of Ards Network	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
2	Organise coffee mornings for older residents	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
3	Strengthen links with Cherryvalley Youth Hall Owner	Ards Borough Council

### **Progress Report**

A Progress Report has been devised to take forward the agreed actions. The partners will meet regularly to review progress and to ensure that the objectives are taken forward. Reviewing the actions through this report will provide partners with a clear understanding of how the Community Planning process is progressing and to explore new issues and actions as and when they arise.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Regular meetings of the Residents' Association and relevant agencies and partners will be held. Progress reports on each of the themes will be given at these meetings. A report on the progress of the Local Community Plan will be presented at the De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association's Annual General Meeting.

### **Acknowledgements**

De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association would like to thank all who contributed to the Local Community Plan and those who are working to ensure that the issues and actions that have been identified are being addressed in an efficient and effective manner.

The Association would also to thank Community Places for its work in preparing this plan and for facilitating the planning workshops with all partners and to Ards Development Bureau and Community Network for their support since our formation in March 2009.

## Contacts

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## Appendix One - Participants

Those who participated in the workshops to develop this Local Community Plan for the De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Area were:

Name	Organisation
Jack Bennett	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
Derek Brown	Roads Service
Roberta Campbell	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
Joyce Cobain	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Keith Cochrane	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Marian Cushnan	Helm Housing
Janice Gilmore	Ards Development Bureau and Community Network
Cllr Simon Hamilton MLA	Ards Borough Council
Sgt. Basil Hutton	PSNI
Const. Stephen Jamieson	PSNI
Lorraine Lindsay	Investing For Health
Valerie McVea	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
Stephen Mills	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
Heather Morrice	Clanmil Housing
Jim Murdock	Ards Borough Council
Crawford Perry	De Wind Drive/Cherryvalley Residents' Association
Geoffrey Porter	Ards Borough Council
Keith Porter	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Cathy Rice	Ards Development Bureau and Community Network
Nigel Sterrett	PSNI