



IDP

**Inishowen
Development
Partnership**

ENVISION INISHOWEN SERIES

IDP Summary Report 2021

ABSTRACT

Inishowen -
connected communities
in conversation -
the story from across
the peninsula

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| EnVision Inishowen Series – Introduction | 4 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series – Background | 5 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series – Planning | 6 |
| Coordination | 6 |
| Approach | 6 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series - Participants | 6 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series – Youth Voice | 7 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series – Localities | 7 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series – What emerged from across Inishowen | 9 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series – Cross Cutting Themes | 30 |
| EnVision Inishowen Series – Recommendations | 37 |

Prepared by IDP from Consultation Reports presented by Francine Blaché-Breen (LOT1) and Caitriona Mullan (LOT2)

This summary will be used to inform the annual plans and priorities within IDP and as the local development company IDP will advocate for and support submissions for funding, resources, change, etc. as appropriate.

Keep involved or indeed join the conversation by connecting with us through this survey link

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDPEnVison>

If you notice any omissions, errors or inaccuracies please contact the IDP Team as follows:

Inishowen Development Partnership,
St. Mary's Rd.,
Buncrana,
Inishowen,
Co. Donegal.
F93WP61

Email: mmccallion@inishowen.ie or denise@inishowen.ie
Phone: **074 9362218**
Website www.inishowen.ie

EnVision Inishowen Series - Introduction

Inishowen is unique because of its location and circumstances. But is no different than any other border region in Europe, where people's resilience has evolved to tolerate the burdens of economic, social and health inequality and where the same resilience leads to creativity, locally derived solutions, an appreciation of plurality and diversity, and a capacity to celebrate and appreciate this uniqueness and duality.

- **Location** - close to the fourth largest city on the island but retaining a strong rural and maritime identity
- **Natural assets** - wild outdoors, with a maritime economy, a place where nature is a partner, and the green and blue economy have an eco-focus
- **History** - a place of industry and food production, strong appreciation of heritage, culture, and creativity
- **Future potential** - young population, access to two third level institutions at Derry and Letterkenny within each reach, strong rural development sector, vibrant arts, heritage and cultural sector, strong role to play in green growth and innovation, a place which supports health and wellbeing, and which welcomes newcomers.
- **Circumstances** - beginning of a circular, productive, rural economy which generates productivity, social inclusion, equality, and stability rather than being forced to restrict itself to being a consumer economy for services and goods while struggling with essential service gaps and community needs.

Quality of life and health and well-being benefits are core. Tourism is vital and the protection of the environment is crucial. People living in Inishowen cross the border daily for social, economic and development purposes. This is a two-way flow with those living in Northern Ireland also travelling to Inishowen for social, education, work, health etc. Remote working and investment in broadband, connectivity and shared office spaces could offer real alternatives to people. Some striking positives identified in Inishowen:

- inherent community and volunteering spirit
- strong local identity - enthusiastic sense of pride of place
- vibrant and active community sector - significant social capital
- proportion of younger and older generations - potential co-designers
- natural entrepreneurial spirit - needs to be developed for young people
- thriving creative and cultural sectors
- indigenous farming and fishing livelihoods and family businesses
- growing manufacturing sector
- flourishing tourism product with emphasis placed on ECO and the natural environment

- Community led initiatives for example:
 - Environmental and heritage activities
 - Well-being from Nature
 - Social Economy (ISEN)
 - Inishowen Foodbank Network
 - Men's Sheds in Carndonagh and Merville
 - Community Food Initiative
 - Social Prescribing Programme (Buncrana, Merville and Carndonagh/Clonmany)
 - Healthy lifestyles support –Park Run (Buncrana), Couch to 5k (Carndonagh), growth of walking, cycling and sea swimming across the peninsula

Inishowen has its challenges as well. For example, connectivity, shared office spaces, community venues, need for a training and education hub, connected transport links, Brexit implications, absent 25-44 age group – migrated for work, high deprivation, and disadvantage rates, under resourced youth service provision.

EnVision Inishowen Series - Background

EnVision Inishowen has its roots in the community development principles at the core of Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP). The approach taken by IDP when EnVision Inishowen was developed and was based on The World Cafe Approach. This approach is a simple, effective, and flexible format for hosting large group dialogue and is built upon 7 principles as follows:

- 1 Set the context for the conversation
- 2 Create a hospitable space
- 3 Explore questions that matter
- 4 Encourage everyone's contribution
- 5 Connect diverse perspectives
- 6 Listen together for patterns and insights
- 7 Share collective discoveries

In pre-Covid-19 times EnVision Inishowen sessions were held in Buncrana and Carndonagh and benefitted from the opportunity to meet and circulate between tables thinking out loud and growing ideas as participants' exchanged perspectives. The movement in circles and sharing while paying attention to the themes, patterns and insights strengthened and enhanced the conversations and the process. IDP had planned on continuing the EnVision Inishowen Series throughout 2020 – however because of the worldwide pandemic COVID-19 emergency from March onwards the focus was about adapting and responding to the needs of the people and communities we support and building capacity and the 'virtual infrastructure' to continue to engage, connect and innovate while supporting and underpinning the people, place, and progress of Inishowen.

EnVision Inishowen Series - Planning

Coordination

Having successfully put out to tender the Terms of Reference for EnVision Inishowen Series, two external consultants were appointed to facilitate EnVision across two Lots. They were LOT 1 - Francine Blaché-Breen who had worked with IDP in the earlier series (with Annette Patton) and LOT 2 - Caitriona Mullan who had recently worked on the Donegal County Council/ICLRD Strategic Strengths and Future Strategic Direction of Buncrana, County Donegal Report. Two of the IDP Team were to coordinate each LOT - Denise McCool (LOT1) and Mary McCallion (LOT2). IDP team members were invited to engage across the 10 localities, identifying locality and community assets, collating area profile data, scheduling and promoting engagement events, co-facilitate and note-take for the small group conversations, on-going liaison, as well as technical support in the promotion of the series and back-end moderation of all zoom sessions, orientation and support of participants in all sessions, technical assistance for archiving meeting records in all zoom connections. In all 15 of the IDP Team were involved. This approach represented significant added value to the investment in independent facilitation and from a facilitator's perspective allowed for the best possible use of resources.

Approach

The overall approach was one of co-design and community consensus - with the stakeholders within each locality cluster, with Inishowen Development Partnership as a partner and the two independent facilitators. The world café approach continued to be used aligned to Domains of Energy for Change model to create a framework where equal value is placed on human, non-monetary and non-physical capital in a community development context and that these were also highlighted as areas for investment in 'Energy for Change,' towards sustainability.

The emphasis throughout was on People, Place and Progress. The focus continued to be understanding the strengths; assets for development to identify and scope future development opportunities/priorities for each area across the 10 clustered localities of Inishowen. IDP's delivery of EnVision Inishowen has been an expression of one of IDP's core principles- that communities and their people are at the heart of this process – knowing what is needed, what needs to be sustained and what needs investment. This process has involved:

- Local facilitated conversation sessions looking at the potential of each area, listening to local voices. These were attended by local leaders, active groups, and individuals.
- Scoping of the localities – key assets, common factors, crossover, gaps, challenges, potential leads, etc.
- Ensuring that findings from the engagement in each locality can be fed into IDP's ongoing work, its communications plan and strategic vision for the coming years.
- Ongoing sharing out of the data, findings and potential opportunities with the participants and other key stakeholders to support existing and new initiatives by participants/stakeholders.

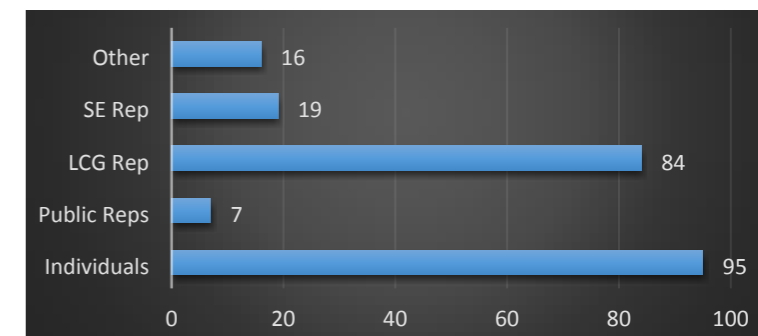
EnVision Inishowen Series - Participants

In all 221 participants attended these conversations – a combination of:

- **Individuals** – residents, interested people and volunteers, with broad interests such as environment, heritage, arts, tourism, sports.

- **Public Representatives** – engaging with the localities and the priorities
- **Local Community Group Representatives** – advocating for locally based priorities
- **Social Enterprise Representatives** – advocating for their local communities but also common purpose and social mission
- **Other** – representing businesses; Donegal County Council Staff; Co-operatives; Charities; Board of IDP; Schools

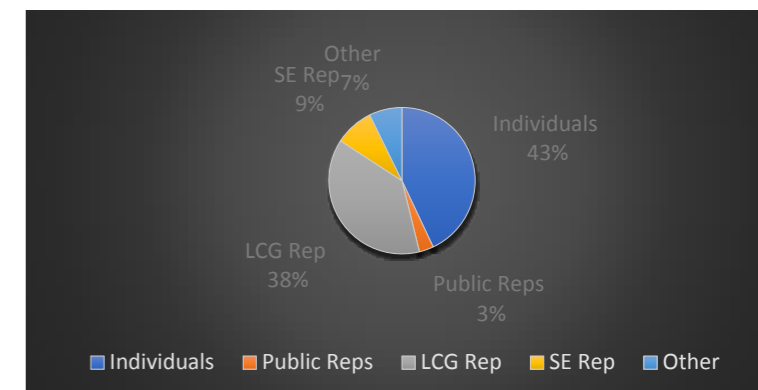
The EnVision Inishowen Series involved an approach which is thorough, which has elicited good quality holistic, qualitative information about the nature of local needs and the interdependencies between these in thematic, sectoral, and spatial terms.



EnVision Inishowen Participants Numbers

EnVision Inishowen Series – Youth Voice

For this process we also consulted 42 young people from the 13-27 year old age range in two focus groups. These came from the IDP IFI funded Chance Project Participants and IDP Youth Advisory Group. Their voice is represented in the Youth Table and the cross-cutting themes.



EnVision Inishowen Participants

EnVision Inishowen Series – Localities

In the autumn of 2020, due to Covid, we had to approach the EnVision Inishowen Series somewhat differently. Each session within the series had to be hosted online using Zoom but the conversations were just as rich and insightful and there was clarity and focus in the process of prioritising. We gathered virtually to have the EnVision Inishowen Series conversations across 10 localities - placed into 2 Lots, coordinated by two IDP Team members, and facilitated by two external facilitators. We gathered each locality twice between Autumn – Winter 2020/21.

| LOT | Clustered Locality Groups | Population Estimate for this locality | Facilitator | IDP Lead |
|-----|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | Clonmany, Urris, Ballyliffin, Cloontagh and surrounds | 3357 | FBB | DMcC |
| 1 | Malin, Glengad, Malin Head and surrounds | 2274 | FBB | DMcC |
| 1 | Culdaff, Carrowmena, Gleneely and surrounding environs | 2058 | FBB | DMcC |
| 1 | Quigley's Point, Redcastle, Whitecastle and surrounds | 2641 | FBB | DMcC |
| 1 | Carndonagh and surrounds (2019 (FBBB/AP) and revisited in 2021 (FBB)) | 4253 | FBB | DMcC |
| 2 | Moville, Greencastle and surrounding environs | 3382 | CM | MMcC |
| 2 | Burt, Inch, Fahan, Burnfoot and surrounds | 3468 | CM | MMcC |
| 2 | Border villages - Muff, Carrigans, Killea, Bridgend, Newtowncunningham and surrounds | 9023 | CM | MMcC |
| 2 | Buncrana Urban - Buncrana, Cockhill and surrounds | 3396 | CM | MMcC |
| 2 | Buncrana Rural – Desertegny, Illies, Drumfries, and surrounds | 6280 | CM | MMcC |

EnVision Inishowen Series – What emerged from across Inishowen

What emerged from all the conversations and dialogue at the locality clusters and in the youth focus groups was not only a strong sense of the place but also a strong sense of connectedness which tells us that people across Inishowen identify the peninsula as a place, a community, a space of intrinsic hope and opportunity. Issues, challenges, and infrastructural issues were also identified, as well as potential collaborators and other stakeholders.

1. Culdaff, Carrowmenagh, Gleneely and surrounding environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|---|--|
| Multi-faceted Heritage Project including the need for mapping | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Well in Culdaff • Gleneely School • Local Museum • Interactive heritage app that is sat nav enabled involves QR Codes and up-to-date mapping (could be considered for across Inishowen) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance • Public access onto private land • Improve signage • Getting online - online meeting training (Zoom) • Involvement of: - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local expertise and knowledge stakeholders 2. County Museum/Volunteer Centre Heritage Project 3. Lands of Eoghain Group – mapping monastic sites 4. Donegal County Council 5. IDP -Well-being from Nature 6. Spraoi agus Sport - Fab Lab 7. LYIT Students 8. Donegal Heritage Society 9. Colgan Heritage |
| Linking to this all the possible Local Walks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating and linking local walks including a forest walk, beach trail and possibly the creation of an 'Inishowen Trail'. This could be part of mapping/app for the Heritage Project. • Benefits included eco-tourism and positive mental health. | <p>Some issues identified included funding for the creation of a forest walk (planning secured on DCC land), protection of/impact on the environment, right of way and biodiversity survey.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Donegal County Council 2. Healthy Ireland 3. Donegal Sports Partnership 4. Solas Inishowen and the HSE 5. Culdaff Development Association 6. Coillte. |

1. Culdaff, Carrowmenagh, Gleneely and surrounding environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|--|--|---|
| Link Community Organisation & Volunteers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To examine how to better link local organisations and volunteers to create the conditions for better collaboration, collective activities, and shared volunteers. | The need for a Liaison Worker to support the sourcing of resources and funding and provide support in the management of these. IDP to consider how to provide a coordinated approach to this action involving - Culdaff Development Association; Tidy Towns Committees; Irish Traditional Music Project; Donegal Volunteer Centre; IDP; etc. |
| Broadband blackspots connect or alternatives offered | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While Culdaff has particularly good broadband, others that do not live near the R238 do not. It was also identified that the Wee Hall has particularly good broadband, has rooms for hire and provides office services to the community. There could be the component parts of a local 'hub'. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local knowledge Tidy Towns Eircom ESB Network Rural Broadband Scheme The 'blackspots' in broadband have come up in all the other EnVision discussions thus far. It may be that IDP could convene a group to look at this issue peninsula-wide with one function of this group to be lobbying. There is the need to clearly understand what is happening with the Government's Rural Broadband Scheme. |
| Diaspora | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be a valuable contact in examining how to bring remote working, low environmental impact employment to the region. | USA - Canada – Australia and worldwide - linking back to Inishowen. Donegal Diaspora Project - DCC |

2. Clonmany, Urris, Ballyliffin, Cloontagh and surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|--|---|
| The Creation of Sustainable, Managed Tourism with Natural Environment at the Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staycations in 2020 highlighted both the potential for tourism in the area and to address concerns/challenges. If a balance can be achieved, there is mutual benefit for all e.g., parking, waste, signage, lighting, etc. History & Heritage sites have the potential to contribute to tourism growth A Visitor Experience Plan for the whole county is needed. Consultation with community & collaboration with Donegal County Council is required Need to develop river walks as community now 'turns away' from the river Build on the assets and archives of McGlinchey Summer School Upgrade walks for use with young people/children Creation of a 'greenway' – cycling with stop off points for picnicking. | <p>It is important that tourism is appropriately managed so that locals are not irritated by visitors. Including-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking for cars and recreational vehicles is a real issue – while there is local caravan park, often just used to empty waste. Parking lots are not for overnight parking, but this has been happening. By-laws may be required. Rubbish/waste must be managed to develop tourism in the area Lack of signage is a real issue. Development of maps/apps/QR Codes to assist tourist Lack of lighting on some essential roads Stakeholders <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fáilte Ireland Donegal County Council Inishowen Rivers Trust (IRT) Tidy Towns – Ballyliffin and Clonmany Clonmany Village Renewal Group Local Businesses Community Organisations Explore Inishowen |
| Biodiversity Development/ River Management for a Thriving Community and Natural Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A project for Clonmany – natural flood measures that has a restorative outcome for adjacent land Alleviating flood incidents Consider Trinity study done Creation of a volunteer programme – Inishowen River Guardians Supporting local farmers to contribute to increased biodiversity Potential for community members to contribute a small amount of land to sustain biodiversity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners' engagement Flooding – community training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inishowen Rivers Trust Local Community Farming community |

2. Clonmany, Urris, Ballyliffin, Cloontagh and surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|--|--|--|
| Connected Communities Broadband, Digital Hubs & Smart Towns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of 'mini-Nerve Centre' – Film festival, music, youth • Use of local Community Centre as hubs – hot desks. Good broadband. Could be used for interviews, students, workers • Development of Co-working space • Creation of App/platform to keep community members/groups connected and support tourism. Community pages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help younger people be able to stay local • To address connectivity blackspots – leave nobody disconnected • Community actors • Perhaps LEADER supported Smart Villages scheme – IDP linking on this |
| Playground for Clonmany | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a playground like that at Ballyliffin • Examine possibility to lease the Parish Field | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine insurance issues • Donegal Co Co • Other Playground Committees |
| Examine Potential to link Music Traditions in the Area/Arts/Projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional signing groups in the area as a real asset • Potential for Intergenerational Projects – Music, crafting, art • Potential for John Toland Festival – 17th Century Philosopher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathering in times of COVID-19 • Loss of history and heritage through song and music communities • Inishowen Traditional Singers • Seamus Grant Weekend • unaccompanied traditional singing • Clonmany Musical Collective |

3. Malin, Glengad, Malin Head and surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|--|--|--|
| Connectivity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for improved broadband outside of Malin Town/Malin Head • Connected Hubs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glengad and environs a particular focus with regard to the National Broadband Plan/ Roll-out |
| Need to consider Public Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local transport/Local Links need better scheduling and connecting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to connect with services required by the community • Needs to consider how tourists could also use local transport to get to local sites of interest • Could help with traffic congestion during peak tourist months • Community Link Bus routes and connections • National Public Transport Plan • Minister Ryan invited to come and 'Bike to Work' |
| Need for increased Community Participation/ Communication Re Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure sustainable tourism and a welcoming community • Encouragement to attend Visitor Experience Workshops • Malin Head – signature point for the Wild Atlantic Way – Needs Visitor's Centre • Every village has the need for a Visitors Centre/Information Point/Visitor Touch Points • Encourage Café to locate at Malin Head Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine what has happened in Malin Head – the journey to this point • Creation of balance between development and environment • Link Tourism bodies with Community • Fáilte Ireland Training – Being an Ambassador Training for all/Key sites – other opportunities explore through IDP/ Leader |
| Need for Sustainable Environment/ Tourism Balance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication/ collaboration between agencies, community, business required to support development • Need to examine collectively issues – dunes erosion, heavy machinery on beaches, road repairs, footpaths as traffic increases. • ECO-focus across the villages involved – native and bio-diverse planting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require planning and funding for support infrastructure to develop – toilets, cafes, parking, etc.) • Donegal County Council • Inishowen Rivers Trust • Businesses • Learn from ECO Carn experience |

4. Quigley's Point, Redcastle, Whitecastle & Surrounding Environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Coastline as a major asset | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Foyle could be so much more – kayaking and other water sports, but it is currently too dangerous and cannot contribute to local tourism. Needs to be protected and managed - concerns about proliferation of oyster beds. While creates some jobs these do not outweigh the environmental issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental concerns Needs regulation and penalties Listen to the community voice on this issue. Loughs Agency EPA |
| Mapping of Local Walks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential for any number of collaborative projects – i.e., Autumn Walking Festival Marry walking with agriculture – Food trail, walking, local farmers, and producers Creation of a 'walking peninsula' Inishowen as a leader in farm diversity and collaborative working | <p>Need to work with farmers re: farm diversity/ biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources through LEADER Department of Agri/Marine Upland farmers Donegal County Council Tourism agencies Donegal Sports Partnership Explore Inishowen Community Members |
| History and Heritage Mapping Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording of folklore project Intergenerational possibilities Document stories of Inishowen Children's Tour/Guide to Inishowen – Horrible Histories-type project Integration of local histories to gaming potential – e.g., Minecraft | <p>Need for Heritage Officer/Committee for Inishowen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of local schools Local heritage groups Peninsula wide |
| Broadband | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connected Peninsula a great idea but not reality Need for increased broadband coverage Need for 'Smart Village'/digital hub locally | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major issue with roaming charges after Brexit – often only picks up UK signals National Broadband Plan 4G phone connectivity |
| Continued Networking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a local forum for continued networking/ communication/collaboration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't let this conversation drop Listen to the voice of the Communities Local area fora like this continued |

5. Carndonagh and surrounds (2018/19) and revisited in 2021

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| EnVision Carndonagh 2018/2019 | <p>This was the first of the EnVision Inishowen Series - much has happened since then as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration plan focused on unused buildings, walkways, creation of a youth space, creativity space, biodiversity planning, intergeneration benefits, etc. -- €8.5 million plan – proposal developed by DCoCo in partnership with Spraoi agus Spórt The establishment and progress of Eco Carn - wildflower projects and calendar; a Nature Positive sub-group has been set up While things on hold currently due to Covid, HSE has plans regarding a Retirement Village in Carndonagh Cycleway's plan funded; local cycle way mapped; Upcoming Greenway routes webinar Spraoi agus Spórt – Pride of Place Award; Fab Lab (digital fabrication and co-work hubs); Fadó and Thriftify IRT Projects; Training programmes run by IRT for volunteers Completion of the Community Leadership & Social Analysis Course Businesses moving online in response to Covid-19; Adaptation of local business to survive; New Car Sales business in Carndonagh; Local accommodation for tourists Creation of a range of initiatives such as: - the pollinator plan with Donegal Co. Council; Tree Planting; the Inishowen Foodbank – across peninsula; Well-being from Nature (IDP); Heritage projects in progress; Barrack Hill Park Green Flag. Colgan Hall has secured 18 laptops for training purposes. Currently, they are in discussions with the ETB about the possibility of loaning these for online courses Fáilte Ireland has released a report examining the tourist experience & destinations. Three themes have emerged. Heritage is one. Supports local work. There is a directory being developed to support access to Mental Health Services in the region including drop-in and listening ear services. There is the need to investigate bringing Work link-type creative services to the region. The Scouts have acquired the former GAA hall next to Colgan Hall. The building will be available to the community and needs to be renovated/retrofitted. Support welcome. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDP Donegal CoCo C&V Groups / EnVision Carndonagh Participants ECO Carn network SEAI Energy Master Plan for Inishowen nearing completion Youth voice being heard more – Transition Year Students on committees Fáilte Ireland Visitor Experience. Development Plan is being rolled out. <p>This year will mark the Centenary of the GAA in Donegal.</p> |

5. Carndonagh and surrounds (2018/19) and revisited in 2021

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|--|--|--|
| Carndonagh as a Smart Village | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the conditions for increased group connectivity through a flexible platform that could also be accessed by tourists. Necessarily, any platform would need to be monitored, managed, and regularly updated to be useful. It was suggested that with training, CE participants from Colgan Hall could provide this. Examining the E-towns platform. Currently, Inishowen Development Partnership has a LEADER funding application pending. If this application is successful, a sub-group will be formed. Carndonagh Traders a potential resource. Explore Inishowen could be a part of the sub-group. Link to Skibbereen project to be forwarded • Creation of maps, signage for various activities & heritage – QR codes, data maps, story maps; Walking festival across Inishowen in planning • Carn currently a Smart Rural 21 'Come Along' Village | <p>EnVision Participants Smart Villages - Smart27 app Local Groups and SEs DCoCo Leader / IDP – Inishowen wide Skibbereen Link https://www.ludgate.ie/</p> |
| Create a Working Group bringing together Environment /Heritage/ Well-Being to Progress Plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create & market reasons for tourists to visit & stay in Carndonagh. Creation of Carndonagh as an Eco-Heritage Town. This to include walking routes, river walks, cycling, greenways • Refurbishment of the Carndonagh Cross, 'The Rodden' and the Scout den could be included • Work with DCC to identify and clean existing verges that have become overgrown that when cleaned, could provide safer walking in several places • Inishowen Rivers Trust will be holding a mapping module online • Colgan Heritage has started an assessment of the Carn Cross which is need of restoration. The Heritage Council & the Office of Public Works have responsibility, but a local push is required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crowd Funding as a possibility for funding • Working group could include Eco Carn, natural heritage, heritage groups, well-being groups & individuals, Nature positive sub-group, • The Slieve Sneacht Centre • EnVision Participants • Leader • LCGs and SEs • DCoCo • IDP |

5. Carndonagh and surrounds (2018/19) and revisited in 2021

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|---|--|
| Progress Retirement Village – Creation of Working Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is a plan, (Alone and HSE) which is on hold due to Covid-19 there is a need to continue to advocate and progress • Any retirement village should be environmentally forward looking as well as being 'smart' & connected • In a study, 50% of older people would prefer to stay in homes and 36% -- 40% would prefer to move into shared accommodation • Need to promote the Warmer Homes Scheme to those wishing to remain in their homes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Peoples in Donegal County Council has responsibility within the Council • Examine projects implemented in Dundalk, other places, Clonmany model • There needs to be communication with both DCC and the Department of Health/Mental Health & Older People - letter writing inquiring as to the progress of the plan. |
| Supporting Volunteering in Inishowen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with the Donegal Volunteer Centre and Inishowen Development Partnership seek to set up a 'Volunteer Hub' for Inishowen. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVC • IDP • Active Retirement |
| Continue EnVision Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue twice yearly meetings to check in with development progress | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDP • EnVision Participants |

6. Merville, Greencastle, Kinnagoe and surrounding environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Sustainable and wellbeing tourism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The future development of this area needs to focus on wellbeing, a sense of belonging, and a sense of place. We need to harness that energy for developing the place in a sustainable and holistic way and include and support those- including artists and musicians who have a role to play in this. This offers a healing sensory experience which is very important especially during and post pandemic. Outdoors is the new normal. Signage for the overall area is required, connecting our local assets. Mapping and QR codes Leave-no-trace tourism essential learning from COVID-19 Invest in the terrestrial heritage and marine archaeological and geological significance of the area e.g., Kinnago, Greencastle, coastal communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore Inishowen Well-being from nature Project The river walk in Merville is an additional asset. Forest walks Farmers and landowners engaged Trinidad Valençera Armada Shipwreck at Kinnago St Colmcille and links with UU Magee Inishowen-wide walking festival. Additional exploration of local heritage assets, sites, and trails is needed |
| The local natural environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inishowen as the lungs of the North West Region We can see the stars We need to balance a digital future with a socially connected and healthy future, the natural environment of the wider area needs additional development and investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in the natural environment The Marine Economy Leader (LAG) FLAG Funds Hill/Upland farmers Fishing communities |

6. Merville, Greencastle, Kinnagoe and surrounding environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|--|--|
| Regeneration | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is significant potential for regeneration of the built environment in Merville as a driver for local development and there are people with the relevant skills who are living locally and would like to get involved in contributing to this process. More off-road, safe walking and cycling routes are needed The old AIB Bank project in Merville needs to be moved forward. Planners should be contacted about this. Merville is currently characterized by premises on the main street that are closed. Walking and gathering spaces should be a design feature of any new green infrastructure development in the area which could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shared rural regeneration spaces in the wider area, a town regeneration process for Merville, digital and community connectivity as a key element of the area's infrastructure. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Group needed to focus and advocate for this. Donegal CoCo and planners There is a wide range of talent and skills here, some we know about and some we don't yet know about. IRT Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration The existing and future LEADER programmes have a role to play in resourcing and coordinating the development of the area. Effective management and conservation plan for the site, disability access, provision of toilet facilities, and vehicular access that also includes room for emergency vehicle access. |
| Connected and collaborating communities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We need a forum to find out what is going on in the community and allow people to connect with a full range of information about this. This should be a one stop shop for snippets of local information. It needs to be accessible to people who are not plugged into digital services. Local community hubs - access to MABS; CIC; local information points; administration hubs needed; hot-desk facilities Support for the community sector: are we accepting lower levels of funding and access to opportunities because of our rurality? We need to be ambitious about accessing both programme and capital resources to do this kind of rural development which ultimately enhances the area and meets lots of strategic objectives for various public agencies as well as improving the quality of social and economic life in the area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artists, creatives, environmental carers live here. The Merville Family Resource Centre has to date done good work on this but this could be enhanced with support from IDP. Greencastle Community Centre The role of community leaders and carers as 'transmitters' of information Consider a local volunteer bureau for Inishowen |

6. Merville, Greencastle, Kinnagoe and surrounding environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Connectivity – digital and roads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for better local transport links- especially for getting to Carndonagh. • Effective broadband connectivity and resilience is needed to support both community life and economic life in the area, and to support investment. • Need for better digital connectivity. There is both a digital deficit and a digital overload depending on what section of the community we are talking about. • Need spaces and community focal points for people to meet, to ensure greater human connectivity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not every family has access to the necessary level of digital technology required for example to home-school during the pandemic. Digital poverty needs to be addressed in this context. • There needs to be a wider transport connectivity plan for the peninsula which considers modal shift needs and opportunities. People who do not have access to a car for transport are particularly excluded by the lack of local transport links. • Minister for Communications - letter from the people of the area. |

7. Buncrana Rural – Desertegney, Illies, Drumfries, and surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|---|--|
| Connected and collaborating communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive directory and information source • Community networking events - explore walk and talk events and virtual options– e.g. facilitated audio zoom walk and talk. • Involve new communities in planned activities that bring people together e.g. tree planting. • Explore how volunteering can be strengthened and extended to younger age groups. Target sections of the community who have more time, including active retirees with key skills. TY Students and especially those who may have retired to the area and may not relate to what is going on. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDP services in Inishowen have been a huge asset, especially the training courses which are a significant community resource. • Dunree has been made a digital hub this could be expanded. • Artlink at Dunree • Sliabh Sneacht Centre • Inch Wildlife Sanctuary is an asset and should be further developed. • Donegal County Council Strategic Planning Unit and the ICLRD report |
| Sustainable Communities and Tourism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave No Trace should be strengthened with better information campaigns about what it means. Message needs to be transmitted to people about not littering the area. We need to influence behaviour more. • Establishment of a Country Market (shared space, design to take account of wet weather and facilitate people coming in all weathers). • Develop family-based events for full family engagement. • Develop more walking trails, and signage/ interpretive information for the rural area to draw people in and to create awareness among people living locally about what is on their doorstep. • Explore the development of ‘wild’ camping facilities in the rural area. Sliabh Sneacht centre could be a focal point for this. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donegal Co Co • Explore Inishowen • IDP • Local Community Centres and groups |

7. Buncrana Rural – Desertegney, Illies, Drumfries, and surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Our Natural environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under-utilised green spaces in individual estates and areas should be developed into community gardens/orchards. • Revisit the idea of wildlife rangers in rural Inishowen to link with community projects and help create a respectful opening of access to the landscape and education about the environment, habitat and wildlife of the area. • Create a tree-planting corridor and involve people from the community in tree-planting. Use this also to educate children about the environment. • There should be an interpretive centre for wildlife at Inch, which addresses the locale and the rest of Inishowen. This would draw people to the general wider Buncrana rural area all year. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration Steering Committee needed • Progress ICLRD report findings • As above |
| Connectivity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads, transport, and broadband • Broadband connectivity and bandwidth/quality of connection are key needs. • Dunree digital hub should be extended to wider area. • Community Hubs • Learning and Development Space | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and make the case for connections |

8. Burt, Inch, Fahan, Burnfoot and surrounding environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Safe Open Spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for playparks in the area to be highlighted to Donegal County Council and also the need for these to be integrated into greenway planning (i.e. Should not only be accessible by car but also on foot/cycling.) • Organise outdoor activities to help people connect - walks, outdoor swimming, community treasure hunts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representations to be made to Donegal County Council regarding the need for safe walking access links to Inch Level from Burt and from other parts of the area which are only currently linked by road/car. Issues to be raised should include toilets, bike parks at all local environmental/heritage amenities and viewing platforms at Inch Level. Signage should also be highlighted as a need. • DCoCo • C&V Groups |
| Heritage and History – and tourism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with OPW in relation to conservation plan for Grianan Ailigh. This needs to consider the issue of appropriate visitor amenities at Grianan Ailigh, to include toilets/bike parks. • Discussion with Donegal County Council to include the matter of an overall visitor centre for the area to cover historical, environmental and social heritage. • Develop an QR Code/mapping App to be placed at each amenity to tell the history of the area but also to let people know of other amenities in the area (this will help distribute foot fall so that no one heritage site is over saturated) • IDP to promote the Trail Blazer Project and look at what economic/tourism micro enterprises that could develop. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPW, Explore Inishowen, Failte Ireland, LCG and SEs, DCoCo • Train local champions to tell the story of the area as part of the tourism offering. We also need a local ambassador who can go into the schools and talk about what is in the area, what people can visit. The best way of marketing an area is through the people of the area, but they need to know what is there. • Hold Community Group/s awareness days (this could be done by Zoom if Covid restrictions continue) inviting the already established groups to speak at this event. |

8. Burt, Inch, Fahan, Burnfoot and surrounding environs

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|--|---|
| Connected and collaborating communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community notice boards at popular footfall areas, to include information about outdoor activities. Community newsletter/bulletin- physically available, also using radio. Better digital working opportunities – remote working and selfemployed- look at digital community hub models such as those operated by Udaras na Gaeltachta in various locations. Bring students between the ages of 13 and 16 into local companies so they can see opportunities to stay locally or to return to work in the area. Digital training skills for retired people and people who need them to combat social isolation. Look at developing social opportunities for people aged 20-40 in the area who are an isolated group. Establish a Men’s Shed in the area Look at more support for parents in the area. Support further development of local volunteering. Bridgend- IDP to explore how it can support the development of a local community network/ development group? ** (further priorities for Bridgend contained in Border Villages report) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively engage with local companies around potential for them to get involved in supporting local community development with their resources- Business is not separate from the community. The idea of a local contributory fund for development was floated as a corporate social/ environmental responsibility option which could be offered to local companies. Connect the area with the Smart Villages Programme and IDP’s digital skills training. Inishowen has a huge population of creatives who are all self-starters. Need for a digital marketing and sales platform like Shop Ireland to promote Inishowen’s creative industries and products. |
| Environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a local environmental group to promote environmental awareness and facilitate local environmental enhancement and clean-ups. More supports for Young Farmers. Develop a local allotment scheme (develop relationships/participation of farmers in supporting?) Ongoing work required on air quality monitoring, water quality in lower Swilly, and in relation to concerns about historical landfill site at Bridgend close to border. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities Departments Businesses farmers, fishing communities |

9. Border villages - Muff, Carrigans, Killea, Bridgend, Newtowncunningham, & surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|---|--|
| Connected and Collaborating Communities - Resourced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Local community leadership training is needed, as is capacity building for local groups and networks around fundraising, applying for funding etc. Training is needed for local people to conduct community needs audits. ICT Training is needed locally especially for non-working residents. The youth club in Burnfoot should be explored as a potential hub for training and other activities in this regard. Supports needed for those who are active retirement- men’s sheds and women’s sheds- activities are needed. IDP to consider how border or ‘gateway’ villages can be included in the Smart Village Programme which is being rolled out in 2021. Virtual Community Hub - Digital Working Hub(s) in different locations Explore how volunteering can be strengthened and extended to younger age groups. Target sections of the community who have more time, including active retirees with key skills (especially those who may have retired to the area and may not relate to what is going on). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDP possibly through The Lighthouse Communities to promote facilities, events, programmes, and any other information that people want to put out there. Visit Inishowen Tourist office will take any information from local groups about what they want to do and will consider a collaborative approach to funding for key activities in the area, in the wider context of what it is doing across the peninsula. |
| Heritage and History | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a key opportunity to develop local history & heritage through trails and festivals, linking with the wider area (Burt, Inch, Fahan) and IDP should consider the border villages in the context of overall heritage developments and initiatives for the peninsula. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCoCo History and Heritage resources Tourism bodies IDP |
| Recreation and Open Spaces | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playparks needed in Newton, Burt, and Bridgend All locations need safer off-road walking options which are also suitable for older people to move around or people with mobility issues and people with disabilities. Walks should therefore have adequate access/egress along routes, be linked to all settlements in the area. Also have benches so that people can rest while out walking Improvement should include a Sli na Slainte for Newtowncunningham. Further attention needed on the issue of air quality monitoring and environmental pollution in the Bridgend/Burt areas. | <p>Dog fouling is an issue in all areas which has got worse since pandemic- something needs to be done about this in terms of public awareness/behaviour change and enforcement. Involve: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities DCoCo Representative bodies Local committees |

9. Border villages - Muff, Carrigans, Killea, Bridgend, Newtowncunningham, & surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Community Regeneration planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Newtoncunningham Focus Group as a local platform for various stakeholders in the community to come together to work for the overall good of the place. Identify achievable goals and begin with 4-5 small activity goals per year to build momentum. Explore the development of a community volunteer mentoring programme whereby the experience of older community activists and volunteers can be passed on to younger stakeholders who have an interest in helping to take things forward. This could be developed in a way which allows older local development leaders to obtain accredited training in community mentoring skills, a way of recognizing their input and rewarding their time and effort- as well as benefitting the younger people who will access the experience within the community. Newtowncunningham requires a funded local development officer to take forward the full range of things that would be possible locally- the lack of a development worker is the main obstacle to progressing things locally. The Rural Development Programme should be looked at by IDP to support this and perhaps also establish a wider network of local rural development officers. This would provide for younger people with a variety of relevant skills to access professional opportunities closer to home while making a contribution to their local community. Bridgend: Local Community Development Platform/Group to be established comprising local groups, Bridgend School, DCC representatives, IDP, other relevant stakeholders. There needs to be a focus on specific development of community and family supports (including a playgroup and youth space) at Bridgend. | <p>Creation of a community development fund for Bridgend based on contributions from key industrial firms in the area and surrounds.</p> <p>For all border/gateway villages- taking in a range of the potential priorities listed, especially those which relate to shared community spaces (including outdoor spaces which can be used by families, residents and visitors for recreation purposes) and improving quality of life experience in the border/ gateway villages:</p> <p>There may be potential in Donegal County Council with IDP exploring a strategic initiative for border villages aimed at the Rural Regeneration Fund- this would need to be explored with Donegal County Council planning department. The Rural Regeneration Fund requires strategically innovative approaches for projects, and the Border Villages are a feature unique to Donegal- this is worth exploring.</p> |

10. Buncrana Urban – Buncrana, Cockhill and surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|---|---|
| Establish a Community Development and Support hub | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old Garda Station as potential location - to include a focal point for local groups and social enterprises and also hot-desking and remote working facilities for local people. Offer training - Local Welding, Fitting, Fabricating training courses at Buncrana. Consider engaging ETB and developing active link to North West Regional College's North West Welding Academy – there is an MOU which includes ETB and NWRC for cross-border co-operation on education and skills in the North West. Locally available and accessible training across skillsets and other sectors and relating to the opportunities identified through the EnVision Inishowen series- e.g. tour guiding- LYIT run an online course for tour guiding but this is accessed at Killybegs rather than Inishowen. Investigate ways of improving volunteering - a database of skills/volunteers for Inishowen specifically. Promote outcomes of work being done by the Exchange on greater inclusion of BME communities and individuals in community life and group participation. Establish a community spirituality hub for people of all religions and none. Develop more water-based leisure activities at Buncrana, including on the surrounding rivers (kayaking etc). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study Connectivity is key – roads, phone and Broadband Donegal Co Co ETB NWRC LYIT ILCRD Report Findings Community leaders Social Enterprises (ISEN) DVC |
| Establish a Sustainable Energy Community for Buncrana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate feasibility of a hydro-electric scheme on the Crana river and in context of Fullerton Dam. Also work towards establishing Buncrana as a zero-waste town/sustainable town, covering circular economy, recycling, waste management, renewable energy generation, sustainable building technology and retrofit of existing building stocks (including housing). Both this and the SEC model should be considered as part of a peninsula-wide approach. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider context of the Inishowen Energy - Energy MP Completion Lead and Coordination needed for Master Plan. SEAI EMP Partners |

10. Buncrana Urban – Buncrana, Cockhill and surrounds

| Priorities | Incorporating | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|---|--|
| Local Sustainable Food Provision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a Shop Local campaign. Develop an overall Food Security/Sustainable Food initiative for Buncrana and surrounds to address food security and food poverty. To be done via establishing an allotment scheme/ community garden project in Buncrana town and develop stronger links with the one at Dunree. Link this with wider community activities around healthy cooking, growing food, and seed saving. Link community farming/food growing projects to a farmers market sponsored by local business. Develop farm diversification towards food security-develop a scheme to pay farmers to provide land for community food growing projects. This issue should be looked at in the context of rural development planning in general. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDP Chamber and traders Inishowen Foodbank Network Farming reps Social Enterprises |
| Heritage and History with a Tourism focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and run a local ambassador training course, accredited with a Local Ambassador Certificate, covering local history, genealogy, natural history, geology, archaeology and built heritage. * Could be run for people across Inishowen with additional local details for individual places. Develop local history tours and trails to incorporate different sites, develop awareness of different historical eras (including at Dunree) and of local links to key figures such as Wolfe Tone and Cahir O’Doherty, as well as key architectural features such as the bridge in the town and its overall built heritage. Archaeological Survey of Inishowen should be used to guide projects and activities in the heritage field. Placename project should be explored for Inishowen especially given the link with Brian Friel and the historical link with the Ordnance Survey that is depicted in the play ‘Translations’. Renovate O’Doherty’s Keep. Support West Inishowen History Group with resource for research- this is an investment in the area as an enriched place to live and as part of the destination offering in tourism terms. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donegal Co Co Explore Inishowen Heritage Groups Social Enterprises (ISEN) |

11. YOUTH VOICE from Chance Participants and IDP Youth Advisory Group

| What is not so great - can you say what is missing and what is needed to improve things for young people? | What is great - can you tell us what is good about living in Inishowen - what is here for young people? | Who/What would help to make this happen? |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Place for teens to go Not enough autism support Need a skate park Need a safe place No clubs for after school No mental health supports No alcohol and drug awareness and detox centre School does not suit everyone’s learning More 3rd level courses needed Driving is so expensive Transport is awful Not inclusive Bullying- online No public swimming pool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaches Parks for kids Walks Sweet shops I.C.A.R.E Sonas Youth Club GAA Views Inishowen Development Partnership Summer camps Donegal Youth Service and Foroige outreach programmes Peace programmes with cross border | <p>Investment in a youth and young adult mental health service for Inishowen</p> <p>Fund autism support services so all young people have every chance</p> <p>Invest in a Youth Service for Inishowen</p> <p>Support Young people in alternative club and camp activities from primary school</p> <p>Invest in listening to the youth voice and including young people in a meaningful way</p> <p>Engage young people as co-designers and co-developers</p> |



EnVision Inishowen Series - Cross Cutting Themes

Throughout the EnVision process, common purpose themes have emerged and been identified as priorities for the people, place, and progress of Inishowen and for each locality cluster and the communities involved. These highlight the interdependencies between some of the themes emerging, and to identify where investment in systemic approaches and capacity can help to underpin locally specific action- in a sense to provide that more hidden energy for change with a basis to sustain itself into the future. These emphasise the potential to connect possible projects/development/stakeholders across the peninsula and to facilitate continued development, while being mindful of climate change and the challenges ahead. The themes identified are:

- 1 Access to training and education
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Collaborative community information and connections - Connectivity - Resourcing the Community
- 4 Food Security
- 5 Green Growth
- 6 Health and Wellbeing- linking environment, amenities, and people.
- 7 Heritage and history
- 8 Marine Economy
- 9 Sustainable Tourism
- 10 The natural environment as the greatest asset of the peninsula
- 11 The voice of children and young people is sought and listened to



Cross-cutting Themes for Inishowen

| Themes | Needs | Why |
|--|--|--|
| Access to community, training, and education | Access to training and educational/skills opportunities for people of all ages was a theme which arose repeatedly. The potential for both Buncrana and Carndonagh to become access points as well as other areas to act as local satellites for training and education on an outreach basis. This could involve collaboration from a range of institutions within and beyond the wider North West City Region. | Virtual training and education, in the context of COVID-19, has highlighted the digital divide which presents as a combination of poor broadband quality, lack of equitable access for families to online learning facilities, and a lack of skills for participating in social activities which are now virtual. All these issues need to be addressed in relation to training and education. Consider Local centres as satellites – in terms of distance, transport, family care responsibilities are also factored to consider as barriers to accessing education. Local centres reduce these issues and costs, and community education encourages and supports adults returning to education and training – this is backed up in the Donegal Community Education Forum’s Review (2018) |
| Agriculture | Supporting farmers to be part of a green transformation/green growth phenomenon arose repeatedly, particularly in relation to wider environmental enhancement and protection opportunities which overlap with local rural economic growth Farmers using the resources they have but in new ways which provide more opportunities and better sustainability- arose repeatedly as an issue linked to food security, health and wellbeing, and the local rural economy including the development of coastal farmers’ markets. | Farmers to be supported in alternative and social farming, through strategic approaches where necessary e.g. in relation to regulations around land usage. Skills and resource development will be needed to facilitate engagement in wider community activity relating to biodiversity management and development of green corridors. Alternatives such as Community Power approach, Solar farms, biomass production, eco-tourism, social farming etc., highlight the need to connect more with our farming communities and relevant agencies for their expertise in developing and piloting innovative solutions. |

Cross-cutting Themes for Inishowen

| Themes | Needs | Why |
|---|---|--|
| Collaborative community information and connections | Need for new methods of networking, planning, information sharing and asset mapping using new technologies was highlighted. What emerged very clearly from the workshops was that there needs to be an integrated approach to static, hard copy community information in various formats which are accessible to people with different needs and reading habits, as well as to visitors or newcomers to the area. | <p>This was envisioned as operating at both the local and peninsula-wide levels and for development to be considered through an intergenerational lens with integration as the goal.</p> <p>Digital information was also raised but it was emphasised by participants that this should never become a substitute for good, up to date, coordinated information within communities about what's happening and where people can go to connect with others according to interest and needs. eTownz etc. IDP in its facilitation and development role can support smart village developments and local fora and networks. Central statistical and other information for the various groups and stakeholders as well as localised tailored information needs to be available to make progressing ideas, funding applications and joined up projects, keeping people connected and avoiding silos and loss of synergy.</p> |
| Connectivity – Broadband and 4G | For reliable, affordable broadband across the peninsula. One of the reasons people emphasised that community or tourism information should not be purely digital is because of poor phone signal coverage and poor broadband- an app is simply not reliably supported by the telecommunications infrastructure. Digital enablement of the peninsula is an ongoing issue requiring political attention and action at national level. | <p>This is viewed as foundational to all possible future development in the region, including, but not limited to the facilitation of working from home options and the creation of co-working facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBI – Eircode – you can input to see when updated • DCoCo - Digital Plan 10 access points in Inishowen • Proximity to Project Kelvin - transatlantic cable |

Cross-cutting Themes for Inishowen

| Themes | Needs | Why |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Food and Sustainability | Food poverty and poor nutrition impact on our health and wellbeing. The requisite local rural economic systems which will be required to support food security at a peninsula level and as part of a wider regional food economy need to involve producers, farmers, business, and communities. | <p>Alternative and social farming, skills for growing food in communities, community gardens, and addressing food poverty in a sustainable way need to be priorities within this theme, linking too with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Potential Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inishowen Foodbank Network (ISEN & IDP) • Community Food Initiative (IFAN/IDP) • Community Growers Network (Change Makers) |
| Green Transition and Growth | <p>There was a clear sense from participants in the workshops that people understand the interconnectedness of environmental stewardship, new 'green' economic development, green infrastructure (greenways, walking routes), clean energy, the circular economy, waste management and climate change.</p> <p>Specific discussion took place around the value of outdoor space for example greenway developments, children's play facilities, and examination of spin-off business and tourism.</p> | <p>The Inishowen Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) and the developing Energy Master Plan (EMP) will identify a range of actions to be taken forward in various locations. There was a high level of interest in supporting SEC throughout the peninsula by resourcing citizen engagement and leadership in this energy transition. Stakeholders could explore specific international best practice and evidence/ models relating to community-owned energy schemes such as those disseminated by international organisations like IRENA and the World Wind Energy Federation. Awareness also that this needs to be done within a Just Transitions model and the new national Climate Action Plan. Link and learn from projects like Community Power Claremorris and Limerick.</p> |

Cross-cutting Themes for Inishowen

| Themes | Needs | Why |
|--|---|---|
| Health and Wellbeing linking environment, amenities, and people. | Through the discussions all felt that health and wellbeing need to be considered when looking at natural environment resources and how they contribute to the quality of life of people living, working, or visiting in Inishowen. A unique selling point for Inishowen is the access to nature and the wellbeing that this can bring, physically, psychologically, and emotionally. Existing social prescribing schemes should be retained, and investment sought to ensure these can be offered across all ages. | Mental health and wellbeing is a priority and has been highlighted acutely in the context of the isolation of lockdown and Covid-19. For example, supports offered through the Inishowen Social Prescribing Programme, and development with IDP Transnational Leader project Well-being From Nature, DFI funded IDP Sea Swimming Project, Walking Festival developments, IFAN, etc. Addressing this in local public realm design, creating not only activities but places for people to meet outdoors in a safe way, to move around the area off-road, to exercise safely: all these issues matter in terms of the health outcomes of the local population. IDP is in a key position to influence agencies on the difference which codesign can make in shared community spaces, and to seek to lever best practice in the future for the benefit of the community. |
| Heritage and history | For continued research, mapping, QR codes and information dissemination regarding the rich local history and heritage. There is a significant opportunity for IDP to support innovative and participative approaches to heritage and tour guiding across the peninsula. This could create a sense of appreciation of place for people who live in Inishowen and to enhance the domestic and overseas visitor offering. Also supporting collaborations that this local community expertise gives to the sector - Benefiting both local communities and tourists | Specific accredited training in heritage (natural, built, archaeological, geological, cultural, and social topics) was seen as a potential investment in place, and also a way of capturing an older generation's memory, knowledge and interest as well as introducing younger generations to the richness of the area they live in. Investment in locally based historical research initiatives was seen to be an important complement to this, in addition to refurbishment of built heritage in terms of coastal town centres (e.g., Moville, Greencastle) and specific historical or archaeological sites (Grianan, Dunree, Kinnego). History/heritage/cultural spaces in local communities. (e.g. Clonmany, Colgan Heritage, Maritime museum Greencastle, Macklin, McGlinchey) Network of heritage groups and Sites supported. E.g.Crosses |

Cross-cutting Themes for Inishowen

| Themes | Needs | Why |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Blue Economy | The marine economy is crucial for Inishowen. Leisure and outdoor activities The marine history of the peninsula Water quality – shores and rivers Renewable services port Coastal communities and Diversification Peat/boglands SDGs, biodiversity loss and climate change | Atlantic Ocean, Swilly, Foyle, Local rivers. Greencastle Port Marine park potential IRT / River guardians programme and other initiatives Tidal currents BIM and Marine Institute EU Rural Development Programme and FLAG Coastal Communities – Consultation through BIM on BAR |
| Resourcing the Community | Resources for local communities to drive their own local development and consultation processes Community Development Officers with specific area or thematic briefs – for example heritage & history - border towns and villages – coastal communities - environmental groups – new communities as well as community mentoring and community and area planning as an urgent issue in the border villages Need for an Inishowen Volunteer Hub - Donegal Volunteer Centre involved at a local area level Existing and new businesses would thrive in flourishing communities. | EnVision actions will need to be resourced Driving local rural economic and physical development where perhaps there are local community/theme based platforms already established such as ISEN; IFAN; ICN; Inishowen Food Bank; Heritage Network; Youth Advisory Group - new ones such as disabilities, women's, Resourcing the arts and open spaces Well-being from Nature Project Older/retired volunteers with wealth of experience and knowledge |
| Sustainable Tourism | Environmental conservation, water and air quality, green infrastructure, arts and culture, local place-based knowledge of natural heritage, outdoor activities on water and land, joined-up information, and sustainable accommodation offering a different visitor experience to traditional hotels, are all part of a wider sustainable tourism offering for example through Local Community Groups and other Social Enterprises | Specific issues which came up in relation to this included the need for further investment in community capacity and skills to support a 'Leave No Trace' approach. This could ensure that the natural areas are protected, clean and pristine for future generations (and future generations of visitors). Continue to feed into developments, plans, initiatives, and consultations on sustainable and green tourism. Potential Partners - Explore Inishowen, Failte Ireland, Donegal CoCo and Wellbeing from Nature (IDP) |

Cross-cutting Themes for Inishowen

| Themes | Needs | Why |
|--|---|--|
| The natural environment as the greatest asset of the peninsula | For any development to be circular and create 'do no harm' and leave no trace eco-tourism possibilities. For support services such as environmentally sensitive parking, signage, toilets, and waste management to be planned, implemented, and sustained. Link to SDGs, Biodiversity Loss and Climate change | The need to balance development with maintaining and preserving the environment was viewed as core to the future of the peninsula. Potential to develop bio-diversity audits across 10 clusters areas with communities and develop action plan from these. Look at potential for decarbonizing zones, carbon sequestering. |
| The voice of the child and young people | Engage, in a meaningful way, children and young people and co-designers and co-developers in all planning and visions | A sustainable and inclusive future for all and to enhance all that is planned and envisioned |



EnVision Inishowen Series – Recommendations

- **Inishowen Peninsula Planning** - To consider the stated cross-cutting themes as peninsula-wide development priorities and perspectives.
- **Acknowledge and recognize the role played by Community and Voluntary and sporting organisations** - stepped up and stepped in to fill gaps in provision to the community at local level. Consider sustainability, multi-annual funding – resourcing local plans and solutions for resilience and recovery.
- **Keep the connecting and re-connecting** - mechanisms for continued and increased communication and connections. Some of this could be supported through initiatives such as eTownz and/or Smart Villages. Additionally, Inishowen Development Partnership might consider periodic EnVision Update Sessions in the designated locations.
- **Recognise the journeys already taken and build upon them** – the EnVision conversation started in 2018 – a very different time – but with the community mobilised several key initiatives have flourished thanks to community leadership across Carndonagh e.g. Eco-tourism, exploring the creation of Smart Villages, co-working hub development, town regeneration plans, retirement village models, and the upgrading of supporting tourist infrastructure that has a limited environmental impact – ‘leave-no-trace tourism’ and a sustainable future.
- **Focus on the community and town/village assets** - services, trades, businesses, social economy, and the natural environment of Inishowen while simultaneously sharing it in a sustainable manner.
- **Connectivity** - New technologies and the developing ‘virtual infrastructure’ because of a worldwide pandemic have the potential to support such sustainability goals as does the joining up of local public transport to support the needs of local communities and tourism alike.
- **Keep the conversations going** - The EnVision Series of community conversations have focused on the positives that surround us all – the assets of peninsular life. This should be maintained in any future discussions as well as sharing the priorities with a wider stakeholder circle - Donegal County Council, key Departments, as well as other statutory organisations.
- **Explore possibilities of** - Community Development and Heritage and History Officers (Resources and Recruitment); Community Grants pot or Mentoring Suite; Pump priming funds/pilots such as Country Markets, Bio-Diversity audits, Festivals – oysters/turf/bog.
- **An inclusive co-designed and co-developed approach** – including all voices from children to young people and onwards to those who are retired or aging gracefully

Our connected coastal community conversations are the beginning of this next phase of collaboration, planning, development, social innovation, and regeneration - watch this space – get involved.



Inishowen Development Partnership

Envision Inishowen
Local Area Workshop:
Culdaff/ Cleenely
Barrowmena & Environs

Date/Time:
Thursday
November 12
11.00am
All Welcome

As part of the Envision Inishowen series, Inishowen Development Partnership is hosting a community gathering of diverse groups, businesses and individuals to attend a morning facilitated discussion to envision innovative possibilities for the future of our local communities e.g. new activities, ideas, training programmes, projects, networking opportunities, possible collaborations with existing groups and organisations for environmental, social, economic change in the area.

These sessions will take place on-line due to Covid-19 restrictions. Join us via zoom. Register to receive a link to join the conversation.

Contact IDP 9362218 or email: denise@inishowen.ie

BE THE CHANGE
SHAPE THE FUTURE

People
Place
Programme



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union

EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Social Fund

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020

Registered Charity No: 20067786 CO. REG. 447893 CHY17949



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Social Fund

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020



Registered Charity No: 20067786 CO. REG. 447893 CHY17949

