

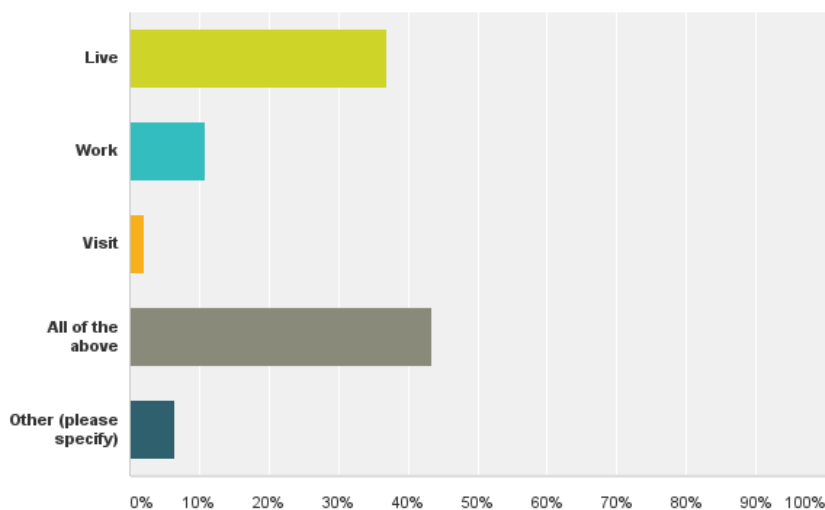
STAGE ONE: ONLINE COMMUNITY PLANNING ENGAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS

JULY 2015

An online survey was rolled out during engagement stage one of Community Planning, to coincide with the public events held in June and July. The purpose of this was to allow people who couldn't attend events to respond online and for those that did attend, to submit supplementary comments. 50 validated online responses were received and collated. Responses incorporated all themes including social, economic and environmental. An overview of the results is outlined below.

Q1 Do you live in, work in or visit in the Fermanagh and Omagh area?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 2



As you can see from the graph above there was a variety of representation with the least responses received from visitors to the area.

Q2. What do you like best about the Fermanagh and Omagh area?

Image tells a thousands words.

Town Fermanagh Family Scenery Community
Natural Landscape Beauty Countryside
Rural Life Lakes Park Shops

A list of the verbatim responses received is outlined below for your information. Those which relate to each theme have been color coordinated to assist you in feeding these into your reports. i.e. **social**, **economic**, and **environmental** or **cross cutting**.

- The natural beauty of the area and the diversity of habitats.
- natural rural environment
- Quality of life
- Heritage & Lakelands
- Family friendly culture
- The people and the scenery.
- Pleasant rural area with low level crime and anti social behaviour
- Beauty of the landscape
- Relatively un-spoilt nature of the area
- The Natural Environment - the mountains, bogs and lakes.
- Trails and lakes
- Rural location
- Things to do in and around area
- The clean, rural environment and the friendliness of the people.
- How relatively un-crowded it is.
- The beautiful lakes of Fermanagh
- The landscape. Friends.
- Rural area but central to both cities and close to most amenities
- Sense on belonging and community
- The scenery and mainly un-spoilt natural assets - the loughs, forests & hills. Also the numerous small, family run businesses
- Omagh has a lot to offer - love the town!
- Natural landscape
- It's fantastic for short breaks
- Beautiful scenery & small town feel
- Its natural beauty and sense of rural community.
- The rural life.
- The beautiful countryside, the lakes...
- The mix of country glens and good shops
- I love Omagh town - the people and shops are great. Oasis is great and I love public parks here. The Ulster American folk park is good too.
- Scenery
- Good sizes of towns - yet retaining countryside
- Natural beauty, hills, lakes
- Lough Erne and Cuilcagh mtn park
- It's home
- Its beauty, convenience to other places in NI. our library is successful, I'm fairly happy with my children's schools. Leisure facilities are basic and ok but we still travel to Lisburn and Derry for fun for children.
- Nothing
- Fermanagh tourist attractions
- The shops and people are very helpful

- Rurality and beauty of the area
- The beautiful scenery
- Natural environment

Q3. In 10 years time, what would you most like to see improved in the Fermanagh and Omagh area?

A list of the verbatim responses received is outlined below for your information. Those which relate to each theme have been color coordinated to assist you in feeding these into your reports. i.e. **social**, **economic**, and **environmental** or **cross cutting**.

Image tells a thousands words.

Thriving Gortin Public Cycle Paths Young
 People Improved Litter Local
 Fracking **Omagh** Employment
 Opportunities **Town** Trails **Jobs** Walking and
Cycling Routes **Community** Economy **Natural**
Environment

Better communications, transport, telecommunications. A vibrant community with opportunities for local jobs that utilise the natural assets of the area. Better tourist facilities, cheaper hotels, indoor attractions, better walking and cycling routes. Outdoor recreation better promoted e.g. Mountain biking trails. Local distinctiveness celebrated. Natural environment better protected and joined up. An audit and register of our natural assets and a value put on them. Better waste management, especially in respect of corporate waste and fly tipping. Other areas promote them selves as city of culture, technology, food, technology, music etc this area should decide on what it is best at and promote itself as such a destination and do what it can to nurture those assets especially providing resources for young people who can develop businesses and jobs in those fields. Be at the forefront in Northern Ireland at preserving and enhancing biodiversity of the area. Have a major tourism attraction that utilises the natural assets of the area e.g. Carickareed rope bridge, Giants Causeway, Gobbins. More people appreciating and getting involved in protecting our environment. Citizen science and recording projects. People proud to live in the area and a better United 2 counties, less us and them thinking.

More recognition for how important the environment is and less destruction of hedgerows, town parks.

Increased employment including a higher percentage of our businesses engaging in online commerce and generating more jobs.

Built heritage should not only account for sites and monuments, but also F&O's listed buildings and conservation areas. I would like to see a proactive approach to public engagement with built and natural heritage, fostering pride in built and natural environment which makes Fermanagh particularly, so distinct.

1. Broadband. 2. Anti-social behaviour, including littering. Anti-littering initiatives in schools and encouragement / small funding for local communities to 'adopt a road / street' and take ownership of its upkeep as regards litter and verge cutting. Introduction of text-based community alert systems linked into tiered community and police systems. 3. An end to fracking; the closure of Gortin's gold mine on the basis that it does nothing long term for Gortin apart from create pollution; the abandonment, or at the very least, the introduction of independently peer-reviewed setback distances from, noisy onshore industrial wind farms - and a corresponding support for larger, more efficient offshore wind farms; and a far greater emphasis on supporting onshore solar technology (which is set to grow in efficiency by circa 300% in the next decade – it's not widely known that, even today, the efficiency of solar technology in our cloudy part of the world is running at a fantastic 80% of that what it is in even desert regions). 4. Tax breaks to encourage small businesses to rejuvenate local villages, including active outreach encouragement and training / resources in entrepreneurship for all ages. 5. Encouragement for semi-organic and organic farming methods and moves towards a permanent local farmers' market for farm produce to cut out the middlemen. 6. Strengthened post office network. 7. Moves towards encouraging retention of natural hedgerows in rural areas when houses are being built instead of what usually happens – destruction of hedgerows and their replacement with inappropriate suburban shrubbery such as Leylandii and unnecessary suburban walls and suburban wooden fencing, none of which are in keeping with a rural character – see good advice in this document at e.g., pages 20 and 21: <http://www.corkcoco.ie/co/pdf/578944050.pdf> 8. A rail network.

Greater efforts made to keep it litter free and the upkeep of public pathways. walking and cycling routes and more funds invested in general tourism

Infrastructure - rail, better road system, local airport utilised

A more nature-friendly way of managing the countryside. More eco-tourism and the jobs it could bring about. Fracking banned forever. General population more aware of environmental issues.

I would most like to see the relationship of the people to the natural environment change to one increased sense of stewardship to take care what

is currently present and to improve the range of habitats to sustain a thriving biodiversity. I would like to see communities united in the process of doing the efforts to take care of the land in which we all live.

More leisure/running/cycling trails.

Better infrastructure, motorway to Belfast

I hope there will be lots of cycle paths in and around Enniskillen.

Improvements in the local tourism and more accommodation

Reduction in heavy industrialization and much more emphasis on renewable energy provision.

More community projects in villages with more localised waste recycling, up cycling and composting.

Protection for ASSI and ANOBs

Much less litter. need to get the children involved. Less dog barking and fouling. More communication between the people of both council areas
The threat of fracking entirely removed. The arts to be less segregated by "The Divide" .

Greater employment opportunities to attract and retain our young people. The A5 dual carriageway completed making Omagh more accessible. A thriving local hospital in Omagh and a thriving acute hospital in Enniskillen
Opportunities for young people to stay and work in the area

I would like to see improved cycle paths and infrastructure, both in the towns of Enniskillen and Omagh, but also on country roads. Many of our road users drive dangerously when passing cyclists, so there also needs to be greater awareness. I would also like to see more footpaths along country roads, so that residents can walk safely. As obesity is becoming an increasing burden on our health service, these kinds of initiatives, that make it easier for people to exercise outdoors close to their homes, will not only improve health and wellbeing, but also save public money. The majority of our roads are currently not safe for cycling and walking, due to their design and the volume and speed of traffic. I would also like to see improved express bus services to Belfast - the current service from Enniskillen is extremely slow and sporadic, so most people will choose to drive if they can. A big wish - bring back the railway! This would enable people to avail of the work and leisure opportunities offered in larger towns, as well as help to attract the skilled professionals that our local depends upon. Why should only the North and East of our country be able to avail of rail?! Finally, I would like to see improved support for small creative businesses, craftspeople and designers, as this would add to our tourist offering and help stop the drain of talent to larger towns/cities. This support could take the form of specialist training courses for creative businesses (such as that currently offered by Craft NI in

Belfast and other local authorities), affordable studio premises and promotional craft trails/tourist literature.

Healthcare needs to definitely be improved in Omagh - lack of hospital and lifesaving services for good honest hard working people.

Educational and employment opportunities for young people, increased skills base, higher level skills, more jobs in higher value areas, lower economic inactivity, unemployment and NEETs rates, more business start ups, (a vibrant economy) improved infrastructure (transport, broadband)

I have visited Fermanagh and Omagh for short holidays - I have at times really struggled to find things for the kids / families to do while we were there. It might be that it needs marketed better in terms of facilities. But an investment in quality family friendly activities such as crazy golf, water slides etc would make it a more attractive option for us.

More cafe/wine bar/ pop-up stalls along the lakeside in fermanagh-nowhere in Enniskillen for tourists or locals to sit in the evening & absorb beautiful views.

Town centre car park times increased from 1 hour to 2 hours. Before you get your child/children out of the car its nearly time to be back! Baby changing areas in the town centre..You shouldn't have to go into pubs in the town with your baby or toddler to change nappies. They need to be separate from public toilets so dads can change nappies too!!!

An improvement in infrastructure, community development and better use of shared space free from. I would like to see an improvement in the community events such as festivals and seasonal events such as the Christmas lights switch on. More opportunities for part time work via the structures of the new council. Some outreach courses to help people in rural communities understand and develop their own areas. Lastly further investment in the diversionary programmes run by the PCSP such as The Street Safe Project and the quest for Purple Flag status for Omagh.

Community relationships, a lot of intolerance from a very small minority of people who hold the rest to ransom.

A thriving town centre; more to do in the evening time and restaurants of a top class quality that offers high class food. Better parking for workers in the town centre. Utilisation of the Oasis for events to bring trade to the town . Jobs for young people inward investment.

Facilities for children, skateboard area (you might not like it but they will love it and use it) a nice park in omagh ,duck pond ,picnic area, playground, flower beds etc. good hospital facilities, and A5 to get the go ahead.

I would like the marketing message of Omagh to be re-invented, I don't think it really is a "bustling market town". I would like more support in terms of getting decision makers from the tourism board down to help us promote the area.

Omagh should be branded as a great commuter town for business tourism, the hub of business tourism. More incentive for business to partner together and give each other more support. The Omagh Cycling event should have been an amazing opportunity for the town but there was not a lot of locals out to support the event, need to instill pride in the town and accountability to support the town. I like the shuttle bus idea that Armagh Council are doing from Belfast. A business tourism forum for the town should be established. The Council should send out an action plan of what has been achieved and when other actions will be completed. I live in Newry and the perception of Omagh seems to be that its "out in the sticks" however there are more good shops etc here than there would be in Armagh, the nightlife is also busier. A decision needs to be made on which age group you are marketing too , Visit Newcastle seem to be very good at branding to appeal to a certain age group. It is frustrating that the main focus of NITB is always in Belfast, they do an excellent job however I think more of a focus on Omagh is required. Any omagh publications on what Omagh has to offer is not clear and concise enough

Healthcare in Omagh definitely! No acute services.

Towns and villages being looked after better. In lishnaskea at the minute the amount of unkempt verges trees and shrubbery growing is a eye sore.

A5 upgrade, new ring road connecting Gortin road to Dromore Road,

Fibreoptic broadband to all rural households

Retail and tourism improved .

Infrastructure for tourists and locals to enjoy our natural environment.

Thriving economy - not public sector reliant.

Nice restaurants, strict flags rules so we are not labelled when tourists come to our town. Presently they are dragging down the look of where we live. Beautiful shops in town, where businesses are not driven out with high rates. Better provision of Irish language.

Road infrastructure, bus improvements, shop choice, parks and play areas in Omagh area.

Better parking facilities ; better road infrastructures to and from main towns ; more jobs for our young people and better careers advice in school that is relevant.

Improved recognition of the beauty of the area, care with planning permission and careful stewardship of the area, less mindless sectarian bickering amongst our councillors and a better example to us all. The civic pride and respect afforded to and by the chair and vice chair positions need to be replicated across all councillors.

The number of jobs available.

Employment opportunities.

END/

For more information or clarity on any of the contents of this report please contact Kim Weir, Community Planning officer on extension 20826 or at kim.weir@fermanaghomagh.com