

Colmonell Development Group Village Survey, August 2016

Introduction

Colmonell Development Group was set up in late 2015 after a public meeting, and consists of 8 volunteers who wanted to access available funding in order to develop and improve our village and its amenities. The group consists of members of the Colmonell Community Association, Colmonell & Lendalfoot Community Council, Parent/Teacher Association, Colmonell's Head Teacher and our local licensee - we feel a fair representation of our village.

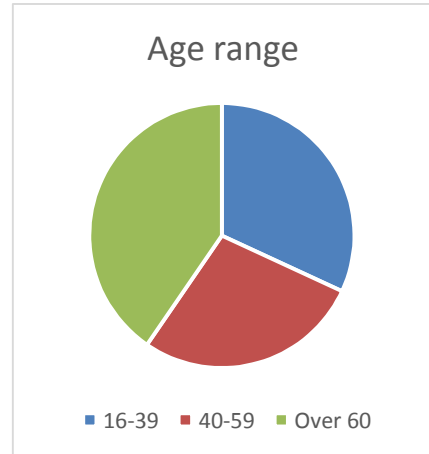
One of our main objectives was to ascertain what people in the community want, and, after much deliberation, in August 2016 we distributed our community survey. Slightly over 100 questionnaires were delivered, we had a return rate of slightly over 30%. This document gathers together the information returned to us, and we aim to use it as a blueprint for future actions.

The survey was funded by a small grant from Carrick Futures, administered by Colmonell & Lendalfoot Community Council.

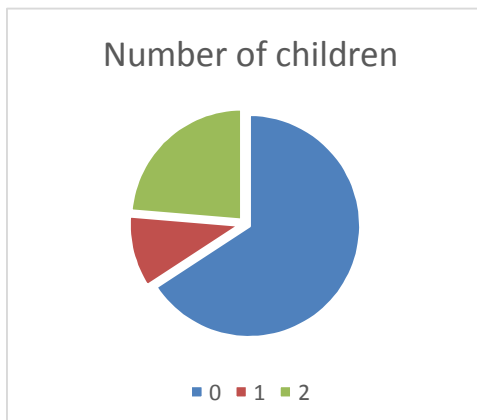
SECTION A

1. Household and personal information

The pie chart shows the age range of adults in village households. All 39 respondents answered this question. Most people are aged over 60, with an equal proportion aged 16-39, and 40-59.



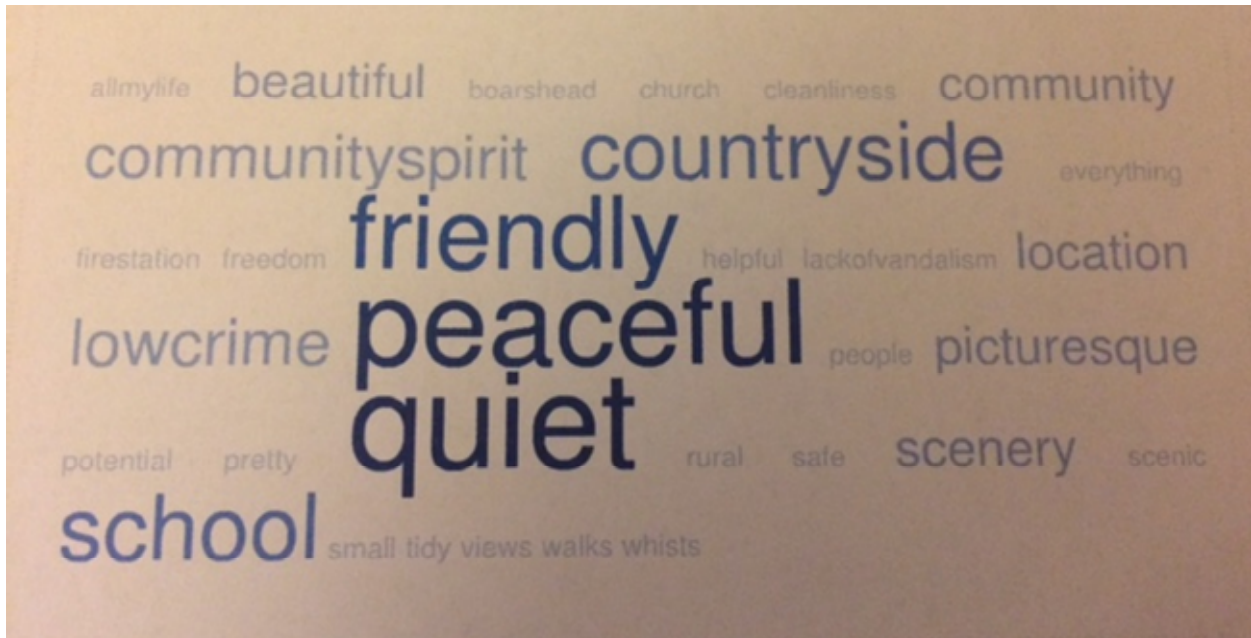
2. Number of children in household



This pie chart shows the number of children in village households. 38 out of 39 households answered this question. Around two thirds of households have no children, around a quarter have two children and around an eighth have one child.

3. What do you like best about Colmonell?

Respondents stated that they enjoyed the following qualities about the village. The words in larger text represent a higher proportion of people who answered in the same way:



4. What do you like least about Colmonell?

Respondents stated that they liked the following things least about the village. Again, the words in larger text represent a higher proportion of people who answered in the same way:



5. How do you rate the following amenities?

63% of people thought the community spirit in the village was either 'good' or 'excellent'.
54% of people thought the community facilities were either 'okay' or 'bad'.
25% of people said they didn't know what facilities for pre-school children were like, while 39% said they were 'good' or 'excellent'.
19% of people said they didn't know what facilities for primary school children were like, 25% said they were 'okay' and 19% said they were 'excellent'.
42% of people said facilities for secondary school were 'poor' or 'bad'.
57% of people said facilities for young people were 'poor' or 'bad'.
55% of people said facilities for older people were 'okay' or 'good'.
68% of people said policing and local safety was 'good' or 'okay'.

Of the comments received on amenities, a number of people mentioned the need for a village shop, an upgrade to the playpark (in particular equipment for older children), a doctor's surgery, an outdoor games area and public toilets. Poor public transport links, particularly to local doctor in Ballantrae, and to train station in Girvan, were also highlighted. A number of people suggested holding events or activities such as a fitness class, groups and activities for both adults and children (including during school holidays) or organised bus trips and outings. It was mentioned that activities for pre-school children were good but that clubs and activities were needed for older children and young adults. Other suggestions included a school crossing, neighbourhood watch and updates on police feedback.

6. How often do you use Colmonell Community Centre?

33% of people use the community centre on a weekly or monthly basis, 44% use it less often and 23% never use the community centre.

A number of suggestions were received on what would encourage people to use the community centre more often. These included events such as film nights, festivals, concerts, plays, exhibitions, dances, race nights, bingo, coffee mornings/evenings, fundraising events, car boot sales, quiz nights, party nights, farmers markets and craft fayres. People also suggested clubs including fitness classes, dancing, gardening, beekeeping, choir, art, craft and music; and learning activities or an internet café.

7. Please rate the following local services, in Colmonell and surrounding area.

The primary school was rated 'excellent' by 58% of people, and 'good' by 21% of people. No one rated it as 'poor'.

The secondary school was rated 'good' by 28% of people, and 53% of people answered 'don't know'.

60% of people rated local health services 'good' or 'excellent'.

31% of people rated access to other NHS services as 'poor'.

67% of people rated bus services as 'good' or 'okay'. No one rated it 'excellent'.

35% of people rated rail services as 'poor'. No one rated it 'excellent'.

39% of people rated broadband services as 'okay'. No one rated it 'excellent'.

68% of people rated mobile phone coverage as 'bad' or 'poor'. No one rated it 'excellent'.

8. Would you use a footpath leading to the cemetery, if this was extended?

83% of people responded positively to this question.

Most people thought it was a good idea as it was dangerous to walk on the road and would encourage people to walk instead of drive to the cemetery. People also walk this way for leisure and to walk dogs. Parking was said to be an issue for funerals so a footpath would enable people to walk to the cemetery. One person said they felt it was not a priority and the money could be better spent elsewhere.

9. If superfast broadband was made available in Colmonell would you be willing to pay an extra premium?

53% of people said they would be willing to pay extra for superfast broadband, however a number of people said that it would depend on the cost attached.

10. Do you feel that dog mess/litter is an issue in the village?

63% of people felt that dog mess was not an issue in the village and 86% felt that litter was not an issue.

Of the suggestions to improve dog mess and litter issues, 14 people said that more dog waste bins would be useful, 9 said that free dog waste bags would be useful, 6 said that more litter bins were needed, 5 said more notices were needed and 1 said that free litter pickers would be of use.

Some people suggested a litter bin in the park, or on the river walk and suggestions were made to educate people, including offending dog owners.

11. Community asset purchase

49% of people responded that they were aware community groups could purchase assets for their community that could provide long term income. 94% felt that this was a good use of funds, depending on the purchase. One person commented that it would be good to have somewhere for tea, coffee, snacks and toilets for residents and passers by, and one person queried if this was to be a shop.

12. Tourism facilities

68% of people felt that it would be useful to develop facilities for tourism in and around the village.

Several people commented that it would be good to have public toilets and a shop in the village. Others mentioned having somewhere to eat and drink, having a tourist information board, more local walks and signposting, more accommodation needed and advertising facilities available.

A number of people mentioned existing tourist attractions such as fishing, shooting, wildlife and the village's unique history, and the benefits that promoting tourism would bring, such as providing jobs for local people, helping to support local businesses and opportunities for villages in south Carrick to work together to promote and improve tourism facilities.

13. How can the health and wellbeing of the community be improved?

There were several suggestions for improving the health and wellbeing of the community, which included a shop combined with tea room and crafts, public toilets, walking groups, walking paths, sports hall/equipment store on waste ground behind hall, keep fit classes, tai chi, relaxation classes, floodlights on football pitch, gardening group,

learning/craft classes, improved public transport to local doctors, difficulty getting doctor appointment for same day, doctor surgery in village, promotion of heartstart classes/help available in an emergency, improvements to village such as flower planting, improved community spirit/events bringing community together, sports events with local sponsors, organised social outings/day trips/picnics, more seats around village to enjoy surroundings, cycle path, upgrade playpark, volunteers to run errands for older people, negotiating discounted rate with local businesses e.g. Pebbles spa and leisure, promote fortnightly free delivery of fruit and veg to the village.

14. What should the priorities be for Colmonell Development Group to improve Colmonell in the future?

People answered as follows.

Short term projects:

- More flower displays, tubs, bulb planting, keep verges nicer, hanging baskets, flowerbed at toilets
- Keep village tidy, village tidy up day
- More group activities, events, classes
- Good website
- Build car park behind hall
- Public toilets
- Paint wall around playpark
- Neighbourhood watch scheme
- Paint/update signage (street names, litter bins, fences)
- Accessible noticeboard
- Dog waste bins along river

Medium term projects:

- Local information point, website, local walking maps displayed
- Gardening club, community garden, gardening/handyman service for pensioners
- Toilets
- More events, activities - arts classes/crafts/outdoor activity, outings
- Purchase marquees/tents and equipment for Fun Day
- Village improvements - replace brick wall by playpark with a stone wall; replace broken fence at war memorial
- Use village hall for afternoon teas
- Information gathered for WWI Remembrance presented as a booklet
- Shop
- Superfast broadband
- Tourism projects to increase visitors to the area.

Long term projects:

- Upgrade playpark
- Community shop
- Purchase ground behind hall (community garden, wildlife area for children, multi-use games area)
- Community garden projects, wildlife/nature garden
- Tourist information point
- Public toilets
- Community riverbank and paths/fishing

- Upgrade footpaths and signposting
- Purchase assets for income and to improve amenities
- Speed notices (smiley face with a number) at each end of village
- Community bus to help people get to doctor's appointments
- Picnic areas
- Community woodland
- Buy community centre and upgrade it
- Pavement to cemetery and Garnaburn junction

10 people left their contact details to be kept informed with information from Colmonell Development Group.

SECTION B – Children's section

19 children were included in responses from 11 questionnaires. The ages ranges from 9 months to 16 years old. This included 8 children aged under 5, 6 children aged 5-11 years and 5 children aged 12-16 years. One adult felt that there were already a lot of activities and facilities for children and that more should be concentrated for people who did not have children.

The things children liked best about Colmonell were:

- The village
- Places to walk, go on bike
- The river and fishing
- Don't know
- Peace and quiet
- The school, small classes, school experiences
- The park

The things children liked least about Colmonell were:

- Nothing
- The park
- Having to get the bus for everything
- No 3G
- No shop
- Nothing to do

Children had the following ideas for the future:

- A shop
- Better park, zip slide
- 3G
- Ice cream shop