periscope

Northern Ireland Green Spaces	**0098**		
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Workshop 2 Comments / Main Themes

Vision Pillar: Community & Well-being

Key Priorities

Summary	Key Points	Score	Priority	Notes
Knowledge sharing, better communication between different groups and organisations, as well as cultivating a sense of ownership are primordial steps for better community-managed urban green spaces. A diverse network of bodies and organisations that work with different communities should be brought together binding the local and neighbourhood plans and strategies together and understanding the special well-being aspects that need to be addressed for each area and community group. Health sector and education can play a big role in this. Inclusive community engagement and active participation through programme in UGS. Open opportunities for all ages and groups, open feedback. Food growing is a key opportunity for people to come together, however, training and up-skilling is required for their management.	**Community-managed green spaces**	12 + 19 + 21 + 12 64	🟥	Knowledge-sharing and sense of ownership required as first steps. Not just the usual organisations. Ensuring a sense of ownership locally including building appetite amongst those who haven't yet considered this is something for them
	Integrated neighbourhood planning	12 + 14 + 17 + 15 58	🟥	Existing community plans and link to a network of local communities and bodies that are already working with them. Neighbourhood integration managers in different councils to work together. Linking into the locally identified well-being priorities in the Community Plans. Place-based approach and Community Plans are already in place with well-being outcomes mapped out. Read across these is important. Add value to existing local partnerships rather than re-inventing the wheel is key.
	Inclusive programming, events and social animating with and for communities	12 + 12 + 14 + 19 57	🟥	Accessible and open opportunities for people to feed in. Importance of community feedback loops - how they use the UGS, how they don't, and how they might
	Intergenerational engagement	12 + 9 + 7 + 15 50	🟥	Be aware of what different ages want on the UGS
	Health prescriptions / social prescribing	9 + 12 + 14 + 12 47	🟧	Existing network & partnerships. BCC existing programme. Healthy Living Centres. Belfast Health Trust and Public Health Agency. Rural Health Hub and other rural health partnerships.
	Food growing and allotments as social drivers	9 + 12 + 10 + 4 35	🟧	Sense of ownership & up-skilling needed. Social Farms and Gardens is an applicable model to investigate. Allotments waiting list is large. Food is an easy way to engage and connect people.
	Knowledge-sharing and communications between communities	9 + 7 + 7 + 12 35	🟧	This is the Phase 1 starting point. Contribute to people's confidence in being able to support the UGS and other local groups
	Training and up-skilling / shared skill-bank	16 + 7 + 3 + 8 34	🟧	This point could fall within the community-managed urban green spaces. This is the Phase 1 starting point
	Post COVID-19 well-being strategies	2 + 5 + 7 + 4 18	🟦	That point falls within health prescriptions.
	Focus on positive attitude-changes	7 + 5 + 0 + 0 12	🟦	This could happen through all other means. From a community point of view, smaller attitude-oriented gestures could support a larger engagement

Vision Pillar: Access & Inclusivity

Key Priorities

Summary	Key Points	Score	Priority	Notes
Improve access for all Green inter-connectivity through greenways and active travel These are already Belfast City Council priorities Some of the tools to improve access are -among others-: multi-benefit holistic vision for the street design with green elements and SuDS, pedestrian-priority animated routes, public transport improvements in particular in peripheral city and town areas, better relation with landowners to allow routes through where needed, environmental justice and equity to vital green spaces. The latter is key and can be achieved through a coherent approach to UGS that are connected and not single-managed. All groups should be addressed including young generations and people with disabilities which were less represented during the consultation events and through the survey. Animation of spaces will increase sense of safety in particular at night time. Intergenerational and inclusive programming required.	**Improve access to existing green spaces for all**	15 + 17 + 24 + 20 76	🟥	Including people of different ages and people with disabilities. Access to and within the UGS.
	Enhanced green connectivity and greenways	12 + 20 + 24 + 16 72	🟥	Inter-connectivity. Connecting between urban parks and smaller urban green spaces within a green environment to allow longer walks without using car or public transport. Facilitate the perception of different green spaces as a connected entity, not as single-managed ones.
	Improve cycling and pedestrian routes (designated trails, increased links, safety)	18 + 17 + 12 + 8 55	🟥	Sustrans is already acting as an agent for DFI (Active Travel)
	Safety by design tackling anti-social behaviour	7 + 22 + 8 + 4 41	🟧	Outdoor recreation is key. Community Safety Partnership. Understand the current perceptions around safety and isolation. Gender and safety. Females more likely to opt out of going to isolated spaces.
	Environmental justice to provide access and quality of urban green spaces for all	10 + 2 + 12 + 16 40	🟧	One of the tools to improve access for all
	Improve access through relations with landowners	10 + 10 + 4 + 12 36	🟧	One of the tools to improve access for all
	Increase public transport across towns and villages	10 + 10 + 4 + 12 36	🟧	One of the tools to improve access for all, to be developed in parallel/synergy with programming, giving a reason for the visit of certain spaces. Recent survey and stakeholder workshop comments show that this is key. Divis survey showing 97% car visits (peripheral spaces to towns and cities). Many UGS are only accessible by irregular bus services. An outcomes-based approach is needed to lead to the realisation of interdependencies and better collaboration between departments.
	Raised social awareness and social data sharing to forefront inclusivity	10 + 0 + 4 + 12 26	🟧	Young people's voices need to be included in understanding how they use and want to use the UGS. Particular thought about the groups that need to be connected together. Talking to organisations such as disability NI is vital.
	Better street design (cross-generational use, active transport, flood mitigation)	8 + 2 + 8 + 0 18	🟦	One of the tools to improve access in cycling and pedestrian routes.

Vision Pillar: Climate & Biodiversity

Key Priorities

Summary	Key Points	Score	Priority	Notes
Nature-based solutions The main aim is the creation of a green and blue infrastructure network that	**Connecting green and blue spaces through ecological corridors, pocket parks & wetlands**	16 + 17 + 19 + 24 76	🟥	Flood water management and integrated SuDS are part of the green and blue network. Blue spaces should be considered and linked. Blue carbon habitats

derives from a multi-agency approach considering the existing green spaces and offers balanced ecological approaches. This includes greenways and green corridors, tree coverage, SuDS, urban pocket parks, coastal sites, green roofs, planted terraces, meanwhile sites. Flood management should be an overarching target.

Enhanced strategies for biodiversity increase and nature recovery processes will benefit from a balanced approach between rewilding and managed spaces. Lots of aspects to be considered. Rewilding of brownfield sites could significantly contribute to biodiversity increase.

Long-term thinking and data availability: requires involvement of communities and biodiversity monitoring as well as dedicated training and community-ownership.

Collaboration is key.

Key Points	Score	Notes
Enhanced strategies for urban biodiversity increase and nature recovery networks	16 + 26 + 12 + 10 = 64	Rewilding VS managed spaces is key. A balanced approach to ecological processes. Understanding nature needs. Soil management addressing fundamental aspects of biodiversity. Soil impact and consideration of other habitats. C-sequestration beyond tree planting. Rewilding our Cities link https://www.zsl.org/science/news/rewilding-our-cities-could-reduce-impacts-of-extreme-weather-says-new-report
Long-term thinking on using open space for nature	12 + 10 + 12 + 19 = 53	Who needs to be involved, how we connect with the communities that can provide support on this. Long-term management should cultivate a different way of thinking to address new challenges such as wildfires, grass cutting regime, and pruning. Link to education to understand management needs and specificity. Significant amount of green spaces are in private gardens. How can NI UGS can encourage 'good management' through piloting and demonstrating biodiversity improvement through specific management solutions
Flood water management and integrated SuDS	6 + 17 + 12 + 5 = 40	Collaboration and a multi-agency approach is key to best and/or most mitigating use of SuDS. Linked to the Living with Water programme in Belfast - new programmes/capital projects asked to consider their impact on LWW
Increased tree coverage, tree equity initiatives and scoring	10 + 7 + 12 + 10 = 39	Trees should proposed in the right places, not in expense of what types of biodiversity are there. Increased tree coverage ties in with the ecological corridors.
Re-using brownfield, industrial and meanwhile sites	10 + 7 + 12 + 5 = 34	Rewilding opportunities, also read together with enhancing strategies for urban biodiversity.
Increase biodiversity monitoring and data availability	14 + 10 + 3 + 5 = 32	Communities having access to data availability is a starting point, it is read in association with Long term thinking measures. Multiple assessments of greenspace - community to ensure it is being used for the best. Also, making data accessible is a priority as it informs decision-making
Dedicated training on conservation matters	10 + 3 + 3 + 14 = 30	Read in association with long term thinking measures.
Sustainable food provision and urban food forests	6 + 3 + 9 + 5 = 23	How will such spaces look in the public realm, who manages them could be challenging
Solutions tackling coastal erosion	0 + 0 + 3 + 5 = 8	Part of the larger blue network

Overarching Aim: An Integrated Approach

Key Priorities

Summary	Key Points	Score	Notes
The assessment and communication of the ecological and health benefits of the urban green spaces is key to unlock funding as well as increase people's engagement with UGS Close collaboration between health, environmental, and climate sector is key. Balanced approach between soft areas that are animated and areas that let biodiversity to thrive while performing as SuDS Management of UGS is important, starting point to understand local communities' knowledge and share skills when support is required. Sense of ownership is helpful to create long-term relations between local community groups and well-managed green spaces	**Acknowledgement and assessment of the economic value of green spaces**	16 + 17 + 28 + 12 = 73	This is key for different sectors and people to understand the value of green spaces. Also, crucial to communicate the health benefits from connecting with nature. Is there enough education around holistic wellbeing and access to/engagement with green spaces?
	Increased collaboration between crises approaches - health, climate and nature	18 + 17 + 11 + 18 = 64	Nature-based solutions to integrate across climate, nature, health. Forum to address these topics. How can we work together. A shared approach is needed for the different departments to work together
	Balance between areas for people and wildlife	14 + 17 + 11 + 12 = 54	SuDS to be included as well, land use for 'soft' sustainable urban drainage
	Integrated management between public spaces	10 + 17 + 17 + 6 = 50	
	Deliver conservation at a landscape scale	6 + 6 + 11 + 24 = 47	Connected to the assessment of the economic value of UGS and by such, enhancing the measurable importance of conservation strategies supporting it.
	Sustainable repurposing of town and city centres	16 + 11 + 0 + 12 = 39	Circular economy for sustainable community development
	Adoption of the '15-Minute City' concept	10 + 17 + 6 + 0 = 33	
	Cross-disciplinary engagement	6 + 0 + 11 + 12 = 29	This falls within the second point (increased collaboration)
	Dedicated training on shared management strategies	0 + 0 + 6 + 6 = 12	Skill-sharing and data-sharing. Don't assume what communities know or have access to
	Support strategies to lower skill-gaps	4 + 0 + 0 + 0 = 4	