

**REPORT**

**Newtownards Community  
Relations Audit**

## Introduction

This is a report on the audit of community relations in the town of Newtownards carried out by Macaulay Associates between May and October 2004.

The Link Family & Community Centre commissioned the research.

The report includes:

- An executive summary of the key findings and recommendations
- An explanation of the research methodology
- A presentation of the main findings and conclusions
- A series of recommendations based on the findings
- A set of associated appendices

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

This is a report on the audit of community relations in the town of Newtownards carried out between May and October 2004.

## Key Findings

The key findings were as follows:

- 1 In terms of community background, Newtownards has a large Protestant community (86.2%) and a small, but stable Catholic community (8.2%).
- 2 There is evidence that in general the Catholic community feels safe, but at times invisible and unwelcome in Newtownards.
- 3 In relation to stated religion, the two largest religious groups are Presbyterian (37.5%) and No Religion/Religion Not Stated (23.5%); both well above the Northern Ireland average.
- 4 The ethnic minority population of Newtownards is 0.9% of the total population. The main groups are Chinese and Bangladeshi people. 19% of all Northern Ireland resident Bangladeshi people live in Newtownards.
- 5 Newtownards experienced a relatively low level of sectarian conflict during the Troubles and in general continues to have a relatively low level of violent conflict.
- 6 Newtownards does not have physical sectarian interfaces and does not experience the community relations problems associated with such interfaces.
- 7 While most parts of Newtownards experience little or no community conflict, the most socially deprived housing estates are experiencing significant community conflict within the Protestant/Loyalist community. There has been a significant rise in intra community conflict within and between loyalist paramilitary groups in recent years. While this is not confined exclusively to socially deprived housing estates, it is the residents of these areas that are experiencing the most negative impact of this conflict. This conflict is having a particularly negative impact on women, children, elderly people and young people. It is also having a negative impact on community development, provision of services, economic development and employment in these areas.
- 8 Paramilitary organisations are often perceived as policing the estates rather than the PSNI.
- 9 While the level of reported/recorded levels of crime and intimidation is low, this does not reflect a significant level of unreported intimidation within the housing estates. However this is generally not of a sectarian or racist nature.

- 10 There are a small number of community activists who are working very hard within the estates in an attempt to address these issues, and there are some good examples of inter agency support and partnership. However community infrastructure is generally weak and limited resources have been accessed to address these issues in a holistic manner.
- 11 The Newtownards Community Forum has been a positive development in the past year. It may prove to be a model of good practice for other parts of Northern Ireland.
- 12 While there have been some positive partnerships and initiatives developed to address some of the issues in housing estates, there is little evidence of an effective cross party political, multi sectoral or interdepartmental strategy to address the serious problems in the socially deprived housing estates that exist in Newtownards.
- 13 Reported levels of sectarian and racist incidents are low. However there is evidence from interviewees of some incidents of a sectarian and racist nature, mainly verbal abuse, that are not reported and that can result in minority communities feeling unwelcome in the town.
- 14 There are widespread concerns about the level of knowledge and understanding of local history, culture, citizenship, democracy and diversity. This is contributing to anti social behaviour and racial/sectarian prejudice by some young people.
- 15 There are very limited cross community and inter racial learning opportunities for young people or adults to develop understanding and respect of diversity.
- 16 Some community leaders believe that the town has good community relations and that few community conflict problems exist that need to be addressed.
- 17 Very few groups in the town have accessed grants available to directly address community relations issues.
- 18 There is a significant social divide in the town. Some of the most affluent wards in Northern Ireland are located beside a few of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland. The Noble Indices of deprivation by ward mask areas of social deprivation within wards that include both affluent private developments and social housing estates in close proximity. In some areas walls/fences separate newer private housing developments from social housing estates. There is limited integration between residents from the different types of housing.

- 19 Newtownards shows significantly lower levels of electorate turnout, well below the Northern Ireland average. There was an exceptionally low turnout (29.7%) in the most recent EU elections for the Most Deprived Ward, Scrabo (which includes the West Winds Estate). Some community leaders in these areas describe a feeling of apathy, disempowerment and alienation from politics.
- 20 There is clear evidence of significant progress in the past two years in terms of community cohesion in Newtownards. However there is a need to continue to improve community cohesion between areas, sectors and groups and particularly across social, political, religious and church divisions. There are also concerns about a level of apathy in relation to community participation that is typical of many growing “satellite/commuter belt” towns.
- 21 There has been significant progress within civic society in addressing some of the issues highlighted above in the past few years and there is a strong desire and commitment among those involved to continue to attempt to build greater community cohesion.

# Executive Summary continued

## Key Recommendations

- 1 The positive work on improving community cohesion that has begun in recent years should be consolidated and adequately resourced. This includes the work of the Newtownards Community Forum, the Churches Forum, the Community Network, The Link and the local community based initiatives and partnerships within the estates.
- 2 Local community groups, churches and agencies should carry out more localised audits of community relations and community conflict in their immediate areas and develop appropriate responses to the issues raised from within their communities.
- 3 The elected representatives in the town should consider developing a strategy for addressing the issues in housing estates that have been highlighted in this research. The Council could organise a one day seminar that would include input from key community and statutory organisations and that would develop a “joined up” and strategic approach. This should link into other initiatives being developed by the Department for Social Development.
- 4 A strategic interdepartmental approach to the future planning of housing in the town should be developed to create more mixed housing that will contribute to the reduction of the social divisions that exist.
- 5 Local groups should contribute to the Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency’s review of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures, indicating the need for a smaller spatial scale to identify pockets of deprivation within wards in the town.
- 6 A multi sectoral partnership should be established to develop a community based education initiative aimed at young people in the town. It should attempt to provide community based and “youth friendly” social education in history, culture, democracy and diversity. It should also attempt to draw young people together from different parts of the town and from different social, religious and ethnic groups. It should operate within and between local communities and include cross community and inter racial residential encounters.
- 7 The District Policing Partnership should continue the development of effective community policing throughout the town and consider models of best practice in high visibility and proactive policing in housing estates.
- 8 Community groups based in areas of low electoral turnout should consider developing a voter/democracy education initiative with the support of local elected representatives.

## 2 Background

### 2.1 The Link

The Link Family and Community Centre is an independent Christian-based community development organisation working alongside disadvantaged groups and communities in Newtownards.

It began in 1997 as a social action initiative of Regent St Presbyterian Church, and later became an independent interdenominational group running a wide range of community projects including initiatives dealing with community relations, youth, parents, senior citizens and addiction.

The main strategic aims of the group are:

1. To stimulate, challenge, enable and facilitate the community to address community relations issues that affect their lives.
2. To provide a safe place where the young people of the community of Newtownards can access a range of activities and resources to enable them to develop as responsible and active citizens.
3. To support and enable people who are socially excluded because of alcohol dependency to move towards greater inclusion and a healthier lifestyle.
4. To facilitate services to parents/carers and their children.
5. To identify the needs of older persons and help to facilitate services to meet those needs.

In the past two years the group has started to research and develop pioneering new work in Newtownards involving churches, paramilitary groups, statutory agencies and local communities with low community infrastructure.

## 2.2 Research

In 2003 The Link secured funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust to carry out an Action Research Project into Inter-Church and Church-Community Relations in the town.

The findings, conclusions and recommendations were published in the report entitled “Inter Church and Church Community Relations in Newtownards”. As a result of the research a new Ards Churches Forum was established to draw together a wide range of churches from across the community to consider and respond to community needs and civic issues.

The report included a number of interesting comments on community relations in Newtownards in general:

“Newtownards is predominantly Protestant so inter Protestant relations are seen as most important.”

(Semi Structured Interview)

“Because there is such a Protestant majority, the minority voice is not heard and therefore community relations is not seen as an issue”

(Semi Structured Interview)

Following this research in 2003 and a number of practical outcomes based on its recommendations, The Link was keen to gather further information and consult as widely as possible on the issue of community relations in Newtownards.

At the beginning of 2004 The Link secured funding from the Community Relations Council and Ards Borough Council to carry out the first comprehensive Community Relations Audit of Newtownards.

Once again the organisation was keen that this would be community-based research, that it would involve a wide range of sectors, groups and agencies and that it would be oriented around assessing what practical action was required to meet the needs of the local community.

Following a tendering process The Link appointed independent consultants, Macaulay Associates to undertake the research.

## 2.3 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the research project were as follows:

“To carry out action research into community relations/community conflict in Newtownards to inform the development of a new community relations strategy involving different sectors and sections of the community in the Newtownards area.”

The essential elements of the action research were:

- Finding out “the reality on the ground” in local areas
- Seeking the opinions on what people believe the community relations issues are in the town
- Consultation with statutory, voluntary and community organisations, churches and elected representatives
- Finding out the level of community conflict that exists and how well conflict within and/or between communities is being handled
- Establishing a base line of community relations in the town
- Informing all stakeholders of the findings

## 3 Research Methodology

A research methodology was designed by the consultants as the most appropriate way of investigating these issues thoroughly within the resources available and to ensure a robust set of findings and recommendations.

The methodology described below was discussed and agreed with the Research Partnership Group as an effective way of gathering the relevant information. The research was conducted with an “action learning” approach in order to maximise the learning from the process itself for both the organisation and others engaged in the research.

The following research methods were used:

### 3.1 Initiation Meetings

There was an initial meeting with The Link to discuss the proposed methodology, to gather initial information and details regarding the key stakeholders to be consulted, and to agree the dates for the various meetings and agreed practicalities.

### 3.2 Research Partnership Group

A Research Partnership Group made up of key stakeholders was established to direct, inform and manage the process.

The group was established to ensure that the research was advised and informed by a cross section of local people from a range of community, voluntary and statutory agencies, the churches and elected representatives.

The group met at the beginning, middle and conclusion of the project. A list of the members of the Research Partnership Group is in Appendix I. The letter inviting members to participate is in Appendix II.

### 3.3 Desk Research

The consultants gathered and analysed a range of secondary sources on the demography and level of community conflict and community relations activity in Newtownards.

### 3.4 Consultation Workshops

The consultants facilitated two consultation workshops with key stakeholders to identify and explore community relations/community conflict issues in Newtownards.

The first of these was a Community Consultation Workshop on 29th June. The programme for the workshop is in Appendix III, the letter of invitation to 50 stakeholders is in Appendix IV and the list of attendees is in Appendix V.

At an interim stage in the research this was followed by an interim findings workshop to “test out” the findings at that date with a range of stakeholders.

The Interim Findings Consultation Workshop took place on 24th August 2004. Participants gave feedback on a draft set of main conclusions. A list of attendees is in Appendix V.

### 3.5 Stakeholder Interviews

The consultants carried out 56 semi structured interviews with key stakeholders to gather views of different sectors and groups on community relations in Newtownards.

To ensure a thorough consultation the interviews included representatives from:

- Statutory agencies
- Voluntary groups
- Local community groups
- Churches
- Elected representatives
- Business community

In addition a focus group with six young people took place on 12th August in The Link Drop In Centre.

A list of the interviewees is in Appendix VI and the framework of semi structured interview questions is in Appendix VII.

### 3.6 Associated Research

Two associated research projects were completed during the course of the audit. Firstly, Will Glendinning Consulting was commissioned by The Link Family and Community Centre in July 2004 to undertake an audit of the perceptions of the Catholic minority community in Newtownards.

Secondly, Ards Borough Council commissioned Vision Management to conduct an Audit of public opinion on Good Relations issues through the completion of a borough-wide postal survey. This was a follow up to a similar survey the Council had been a part of in 1994, which assessed the views of local residents on community relations issues.

While the detailed results of these associated research projects will also be published, their main findings have been fed into this community relations audit research process and are therefore reflected in the main conclusions and recommendations.

### 3.7 Draft Reports

Drafts of the main conclusions of the Community Relations Audit were presented at the interim consultation workshop for comments by a range of stakeholders. Similarly the Research Partnership Group gave feedback on the draft recommendations and various drafts of the findings. The aim of this was to check out the accuracy of the findings and the viability of the proposed recommendations before the final publication of this report.

## 4 Findings

The main research findings are as follows:

### 4.1 Relevant Demographic Information

Newtownards is the main town in the Ards Borough Council area.

The 2001 Census indicates that the population figure for the town was 29,796<sup>1</sup>, which is a significant 13.1% increase on the population in 1991.

#### 4.1.1 Community Background

The percentage of people from a Protestant community background is 86.2%. This is higher than the percentage for the Ards Borough Council area (82.5%) and significantly higher than the percentage for Northern Ireland (53.13%).

The percentage of people from a Catholic community background is 8.2%. This is lower than the percentage for the Ards Borough Council area (12.6%) and significantly lower than the percentage for Northern Ireland (43.76%).

Table 1 Community Background

	<b>N'Ards Town</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>Ards District</b>	<b>% Total</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>% Total</b>
All persons	29796	100%	73,244	100%	1,685,267	100%
Catholic	2457	8.2%	9,228	12.6%	737,412	43.76%
Protestant & Other Christian	25672	86.2%	60,440	82.5%	895,377	53.13%
Other Religions	149	0.5%	273	0.4%	6,569	0.38%
None	1518	5.1%	3,303	4.5%	45,909	2.72%

Between 1971 and 1991 the Catholic population in Ards Borough Council area declined by 3.7% and since 1991 has grown by 0.3%.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated all Census data and statistical tables have been sourced from the NISRA web resource NINIS (Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service).

### 4.1.2 Religion

According to declared religious belief in the 2001 Census, the two largest religious groups are Presbyterian (37.5%) and No Religion/Religion Not Stated (23.5%); both well above the percentage for Northern Ireland.

Roman Catholic is 5.8%, about half the percentage for Ards Borough Council area (10.4%) and significantly lower than the percentage for Northern Ireland (40.2%).

Table 2 Religion

Religion	N'Ards Town	% Total	Ards District	% Total	Northern Ireland	% Total
Presbyterian Church	11173	37.5%	27913	38.2%	348742	20.7%
Church of Ireland	4968	16.7%	12129	16.6%	257788	15.3%
Roman Catholic	1717	5.8%	7641	10.4%	678462	40.2%
Methodist	1837	6.2%	3674	5.0%	59173	3.5%
Other Christian (inc Christian related)	2956	9.9%	6602	9.0%	102221	6.1%
Other Religions and Philosophies	129	0.4%	203	0.3%	5028	0.3%
No religion/ religion not stated	7016	23.5%	15082	20.6%	233853	13.9%

### 4.1.3 Ethnic Group

In 2001 the ethnic minority population of Newtownards was 0.9% of the total population. This is higher than the percentage in Ards Borough Council area (0.6%) and higher than the percentage in Northern Ireland (0.8%).

The main ethnic minority groups were Chinese, Mixed and Bangladeshi.

Newtownards has a significantly higher proportion of Northern Ireland's Bangladeshi population than other areas. 23% of all Northern Ireland resident Bangladeshi people live in Ards Borough Council area and 19% of all Northern Ireland resident Bangladeshi people live in Newtownards.

There is a small Mosque in the town.

Table 3 Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	N'Ards Town	% Total	Ards District	% Total	Northern Ireland	% Total
White	29519	99.1%	72776	99.4%	1670988	99.2%
Irish Traveller	9	0	17	0%	1710	0.1%
Mixed	56	0.2%	142	0.2%	3319	0.2%
Indian	11	0%	20	0%	1567	0.1%
Pakistani	3	0%	6	0%	666	0.0%
Bangladeshi	48	0.2%	58	0.1%	252	0.0%
Other Asian	0	0%	5	0%	194	0.0%
Black Caribbean	3	0%	5	0%	255	0.0%
Black African	7	0%	11	0%	494	0.0%
Other Black	6	0%	7	0%	387	0.0%
Chinese	98	0.3%	156	0.2%	4145	0.2%
Other Ethnic Group	24	0.1%	41	0%	1290	0.1%

#### 4.1.4 Levels of Deprivation

According to “Measures of Deprivation in Northern Ireland” (Dept of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Oxford: 2001), Ards Borough Council is ranked 24th out of the 26 Local Councils in Northern Ireland under the multiple deprivation measure. This moves the Borough of Ards up two places from its 22nd place in 1994 (Robson: 1994) making it the third most affluent local Council area in Northern Ireland.

However there are a few wards where the level of deprivation is high, particularly West Winds, Scrabo and Central Wards.

Deprivation is defined by levels of unmet need in living conditions and experiences in terms of income; employment; health care, education, skills and training development; access to services; social environment and housing stress, all of which affect people’s quality of life.

West Winds is in the top 20% for Income Deprivation in Northern Ireland.

There is a significant difference in levels of deprivation between wards in the town. For example West Winds is ranked 61st most deprived ward in Northern Ireland while Whitespots is 545th. (See Appendix VIII for Measures of Multiple Deprivation by Ward).

#### 4.1.5 Economic Activity

Newtownards has a higher percentage of people in both full time (42.4%) and part time employment (12.1%) than the percentage for Northern Ireland as a whole (37.6% and 9.9% respectively).

Table 4 Economic Activity

All persons aged 16 - 74yrs	N'Ards Town	% Total	Ards District	% Total	Northern Ireland	% Total
<i>Econ Active Persons</i>						
Employees F/T	9176	42.4%	21056	39.8%	445789	37.6%
Employees P/T	2617	12.1%	6070	11.5%	117981	9.9%
Self Employed	1546	7.3%	5284	10%	98234	8.3%
Unemployed	756	3.5%	1694	3.2%	49098	4.1%
Econ Active F/T Student	469	2.2%	976	1.9%	28032	2.4%
<i>Economically Inactive</i>						
Retired	2466	11.4%	6427	12.2%	130313	11%
Student	894	4.1%	2239	4.2%	67623	5.7%
Looking after Home/ Family	1449	6.7%	3625	6.9%	88207	7.4%
Permanently Sick/Disabled	1622	7.5%	3930	7.4%	110787	9.3%
Other	663	3.1%	1577	3%	51015	4.3%

## 4.2 Social Divisions

Both the demographic information presented above and the semi-structured interviews indicate a significant social divide in Newtownards.

Some of the most affluent wards in Northern Ireland are located beside a few of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

In addition, the Noble Indices of deprivation by ward mask areas of social deprivation within wards that include both affluent private developments and social housing estates in close proximity.

In some areas walls/fences separate newer private housing developments from social housing estates.

“People from the developments use the estates as dumping grounds... they dump stuff that doesn’t burn at the bonfire sites...in one place they tip their grass cuttings over the wall into the estate”

(Semi structured interview)

Some interviewees highlighted the social divide in the town as an important community relations issue.

“Conflict can be as much a class issue as a religious issue”

(Semi structured interview)

Interviewees spoke of limited integration between residents from the different types of housing.

“In the nice areas there are no community relations issues at all...they are not affected!”

(Semi structured interview)

“There can be class problems ...with private and public housing estates at times social classes don’t mix. There is a need for affordable and mixed housing in the future.”

(Semi structured interview)

### 4.3 Levels of Democratic Participation

Newtownards tends to have a below average turnout at each election, well below the Northern Ireland average indicating lower levels of democratic participation. The turnout in the town at the last three Council elections was 56% (2001), 36.4% (1997) and 37.9% (1993).

The Northern Ireland Electoral Office records of the turnout at the polling stations for each of the town wards at the most recent European Parliament election on June 10th 2004 is a recent indicator of democratic participation. Those wards most socially deprived (as per Noble indicators, Scrabo and Central) are highlighted in the table below. A significant finding is the exceptionally low turnout (29.7%) in the most deprived ward, Scrabo (which includes the West Winds Estate).

Table 5 Recent Electoral Turnout

Turnout	Scrabo	Central	Strangford	Northern Ireland
EU Election 2004	29.7%	45.8%	39.9%	51.7%
Assembly 2003	45.8%	47.9%	57.1%	64.0%

Interviewees who work and/or live in the estates in the town referred to a sense of disempowerment and disillusionment with the political process in these areas.

**“Most people in working class estates don’t vote...they don’t see the point”**

(Semi structured interview)

## 4.4 Perceptions of Community Relations

Perceptions of community relations in Newtownards were explored in some depth during the semi-structured interviews.

### 4.4.1 Defining Community Relations

The researchers decided not to impose a narrow definition of community relations for the interviews, but rather to allow the respondents to explain what they perceived to be community relations issues in Newtownards.

Most interviewees understood community relations to be about the level and nature of relations between different groups and communities.

In particular community relations in Newtownards is mainly regarded as:

- Inter community relations between the two main religious/cultural/political communities: Protestants/Unionists/Loyalists and Catholics/Nationalists/Republicans
- Intra community relations within the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist community
- Relations between the majority white community and minority ethnic communities

In addition to this, some respondents also understood community relations as including:

- Relations between people of different social backgrounds
- Relations between men and women and people of different sexual orientation
- Inter generational relations
- Relations between “old Newtownards” residents and newcomers from Belfast

#### 4.4.2 Different Perceptions

There was a significant diversity of opinion in response to the question: How do you see community relations in Newtownards?

A significant minority of respondents said that there were no community relations problems/issues in the town or that community relations were very good or excellent.

“There is no interface, no assaults, and therefore no real community relations problem”

(Semi structured interview)

“There is little display now of orange and green symbolism”

(Semi structured interview)

“The stigma associated with community relations in Newtownards is unwarranted”

(Semi structured interview)

A small number of the interviewees who perceived no community relations problems in the town also expressed concern that the research itself would create problems that do not exist.

“Are there real problems or perceived problems? We have to make sure we don't talk problems up...if it's not broke, don't fix it”

(Semi structured interview)

Some interviewees said that community relations appeared to be good on the surface, but beneath the surface there are many problems that are generally avoided or denied.

“There is denial by most major agencies that a problem exists”

(Semi structured interview)

“On the surface it's very good because of a disproportionate majority and there are no physical examples. But there are underlying trends of strong discrimination against Catholics and ethnic minorities...there is no acceptance.”

(Semi structured interview)

However the most widespread view was that while community relations were fairly good due to an absence of sectarian interfaces there were a number of important issues that needed to be addressed.

Most interviewees perceived community relations as having either remained the same or grown steadily worse in the past five years. Comments included:

“Things have got worse as paramilitary control has become entrenched in estates”

(Semi structured interview)

“It has got harder to engage young people in CR work and much of it is single identity work only, as capacity is insufficiently developed to allow for more engaging work to be done”

(Semi structured interview)

“It is worse since the ceasefires as paramilitaries have moved into the area from Belfast to establish new empires after the end of the troubles or as a result of loyalist feuds”

(Semi structured interview)

“There has been a decrease in the number of “neutral spaces” and more of a sense of ghettoism”

(Semi structured interview)

The 1994 Survey of Public Opinion on community relations issues found that 29.2% of respondents felt there had been an improvement in relationships between the Protestant and Catholic communities over the previous five years, compared to 25.2% who felt there had been an improvement over a five-year period in the 2004 returns.

Some interviewees perceived community relations as having improved in the past five years:

“...relationships have improved with a great sense of engagement and equality”

(Semi structured interview)

The following recent developments were mentioned as indicators of improved community relations:

- a greater willingness of clergy now to meet with other denominations to discuss issues and also to make the Church more relevant, and the development of the Churches Forum
- Newtownards Community Forum and the “Bonfire Committee” as an example of good practice between the community and statutory sectors.

## 4.5 Inter Community Relations

Newtownards does not have physical sectarian interfaces and does not experience the inter-community relations problems with such interfaces.

A significant number of interviewees explained that that the predominance of one tradition has lessened tension and the town has escaped much of the violence of the Troubles.

“There is not really a problem from a physical point of view...there is more confrontation when there is a big group on both sides”

(Semi structured interview)

The minority Catholic community is well established and stable.

However there is evidence of continued political tensions between Unionists and Nationalists:

“Removal of flags from Council venues received ten times more communication than a 10% rise in rates reflecting that the community is still concerned over such matters”

(Semi structured interview)

“I would like to see more integration but the reality is that it doesn't work. For example in Housing Executive estates integration is a long way off”

(Semi structured interview)

However others commented that the demography of the town also resulted in limited opportunities for cross community contact for the majority Protestant community:

“Many ordinary Protestants in the town never meet or get to know a Catholic person”

(Semi structured interview)

“Because Catholics are in such a minority, many Protestants don't meet them and therefore suffer from negative perceptions. This is not true for Catholics who know Protestants much more.”

(Semi structured interview)

The Council's Borough-wide Good Relations Audit found that:

- For 67.8% of respondents, all or most of their friends are of the same faith group
- For 80.5 % of respondents, all or most relatives are of the same faith group
- For 68.9% of respondents, all or most neighbours are of the same faith group

There is evidence of some contact and some integration between the two main communities:

- Mixed communities in middle class areas of the town
- A history of inter church marriages in the town

“There are a significant number of mixed marriages in the town. This is not new but is something that goes back over generations. It may be an important factor in the degree of ‘mixing’ among people from established local families in what was often termed as ‘old Newtownards’. People are used to living amongst each other and there are no perceived ‘Catholic areas’ in the town.”

(From “Examining the perceptions of the Catholic community in Newtownards of life as a minority community”, Glendinning, W)

“Inter- marriage in Newtownards has played a constructive role in blunting some sectarianism.”

(Semi structured interview)

- Rotation of Council posts and civic leadership
- A united carol service held every Christmas and the Inter Church Group, which has been going for over 15 years
- Mixing within some sporting and voluntary organisations

There is also some evidence of a desire for greater integration between the two main communities.

The Council’s Borough-wide Good Relations Audit found that 70.2% of respondents were either in favour of having integrated education or had no preference. In terms of neighbourhoods, only 11.4% were in favour of “own religion only” neighbourhoods, with 13.1% in favour of “own race only” neighbourhoods. Views in relation to workplaces were even more supportive of integration with 86.5% not specifying any separation and 73.9% supportive of workplaces being integrated racially.

However there are currently very limited cross community learning opportunities for young people or adults to develop an understanding and respect for diversity.

“People don’t make much effort to understand each other”

(Semi structured interview)

“There is low conflict because there is low interaction”

(Semi structured interview)

Some interviewees commented that this had a negative impact on the community:

**“Lack of exposure to different cultures means communities are slow to move forward”**

(Semi structured interview)

The Council’s Borough-wide Good Relations Audit indicates that there is a significant level of interest in this within the Borough. 81.7% of respondents either strongly or very strongly agreed that understanding the history and culture of people from different ethnic, political and religious backgrounds was important to them.

There are also widespread concerns about the level of knowledge and understanding of local history, culture, citizenship, democracy and diversity that is contributing to anti social behaviour and racial/sectarian prejudice by young people.

**“Young people have a lack of understanding of their own history and culture...one of them thought King Billy fought in the Battle of the Somme in the Second World War!”**

(Semi structured interview)

While there is evidence that in general the Catholic community is stable and feels safe, at times members of the Catholic community feel “invisible” in Newtownards and the predominance of flags and loyalist paramilitary murals result in Nationalists feeling “unwelcome” in the town.

**“There was a clear distinction made between ‘welcoming’ and ‘safe’ by respondents. Almost universally Newtownards was seen as ‘safe’ for members of the Catholic community. The exception would be public housing estates where in the past a number of Catholics had had to leave due to threats or attacks. While some Catholics have remained in estates the numbers are very small and they have lived there for a long time. It was seen as unsafe for Catholics to move into housing in these estates. This has implications for housing choice for those who need access to social housing.”**

(From “Examining the perceptions of the Catholic community in Newtownards of life as a minority community”, Glendinning, W)

**‘When there is a minority community it is especially important that the majority recognise the need to be inclusive. It is very easy to forget’**

(Semi structured interview)

**“Catholics just keep their heads down and get on with it”**

(Semi structured interview)

There is some evidence of unreported incidents of sectarian verbal abuse in the town but a low level of related violence.

## 4.6 Intra-Community Relations

The most commonly expressed view by interviewees was that intra community relations and conflict within the Protestant community are the main community relations issues facing Newtownards.

**“Inter community relationships appear good but intra community relationships are difficult”**

(Semi structured interview)

**“Intra community conflict even spills over into schools”**

(Semi structured interview)

A significant number of respondents talked about a significant rise in intra community conflict within and between loyalist paramilitary groups in recent years.

These issues are considered in more detail in section 4.9 under Community Conflict.

There is little evidence of a strategic and managed approach to address the underlying issues.

## 4.7 Ethnic Minority Communities

A significant number of interviewees expressed concern that the increase in racist incidents in other parts of Northern Ireland should not be allowed to happen in Newtownards.

**“There is a growing fear that racial incidents elsewhere will begin to spring up in Ards”**

(Semi structured interview)

Most respondents (54.7%) in the Council’s Borough-wide Good Relations Audit indicated a belief that prejudice had risen in the last five years towards Ethnic Minorities.

While reported levels of racist incidents are low, there is evidence from interviewees of incidents of a racist nature, mainly verbal abuse, that are not reported and that can result in ethnic minority communities feeling unwelcome in the town.

**“Ethnic minorities have to put up with racist abuse on a regular basis”**

(Semi structured interview)

While there has been a low level of racist violence and intimidation in Newtownards several interviewees referred to a recent incident:

**“Some Pakistan and Muslim families were put out of an estate...racism may become a problem in future.”**

(Semi structured interview)

There is no evidence of inter-racial learning opportunities for young people or adults to develop an understanding and respect for diversity.

#### **4.8 Perceptions of Community Conflict**

Once again there was a divergence of views among interviewees on the existence of community conflict in the town.

A significant number of interviewees indicated that there is little or no community conflict in Newtownards.

**“I’m not aware that it exists in any shape or form”**

(Semi structured interview)

However a more widespread view was that that there is a problem of intra community conflict within the Protestant community among and between paramilitary groups particularly in the most socially deprived housing estates in the town.

Perceptions of community conflict tended to be at odds with statistical evidence available, with many interviewees from different sectors commenting that reported crimes, intimidation figures etc do not reflect the whole reality as many cases go unreported and therefore unrecorded.

**“All local CR problems are not being reported to the police as they are not seen as the “policers” of these communities”**

(Semi structured interview)

The most common view of interviewees was that while most parts of Newtownards experience little or no community conflict, the most socially deprived housing estates have been experiencing a significant level of community conflict within the Protestant/Loyalist community.

## 4.9 Community Conflict

### 4.9.1 Troubles Related Deaths

A search of the Sutton Database of deaths during the political unrest during the period July 1969 to December 2001 identified 6 people who were killed in Newtownards.

There have been 4 further deaths between 2002 and the time of the research.

All 10 deaths are attributed to Loyalist paramilitaries.

8 of the victims were Protestants and 2 of the victims were Catholics.

The number of recorded deaths as a result of the Troubles is relatively low but significantly higher in recent years.

### 4.9.2 Crime

Recorded crime can be another indicator of community conflict.

According to the statistics available, reported crime levels increased minimally between the reported years 1999 and 2000.

The crimes recorded were at similar levels to Northern Ireland as a whole. The exception was Crimes against the State which were twice the level of the rest of Northern Ireland.

According to the figures in the Ards Divisional Command Unit District Policing Partnership Brief for the period January to April 2004, crime has continued to decline in the Newtownards sector. The number of Offences against the Person had dropped in the Ards Divisional Command Unit by 36.4%.

### 4.9.3 Intimidation

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive record figures for those tenants moved from their homes or offered alternative accommodation as a result of threats of violence or both sectarian and racist intimidation. This can be an indicator of community conflict. In the past year these were recorded as follows.

Table 6 Households awarded intimidation status and rehoused

	West Winds Estate	Bowtown Estate
July 2003 - Dec 2004	4	1
Jan 2004 - June 2004	0	0

#### 4.9.4 Press Reports

Press reports in regional media may also be an indicator of community conflict.

A search of the BBC Northern Ireland News Website for instances of crime and violence reported in the Newtownards area resulted in a description of 25 incidents between 2002 and summer 2004.

Three of these incidents were murder related, three related to blast/pipe bombs, two reported arson attacks, three were about shootings, five incidents involving firearms were reported and there were descriptions of ten punishment style attacks/beatings.

Other reports in regional media relate to the disagreements relating to the flying of National Flags on the Council Building.

#### 4.9.5 Conflict Related Murals

The existence of conflict related murals can also be an indicator of community conflict.

24 Loyalist political and paramilitary murals were evident in the town and recorded for the Mural Directory by Dr Jonathan McCormick in January 2003.

They were located in the Bowtown, West Winds, Scrabo, Glen and Movilla estates.

#### 4.9.6 Conflict in Estates

Among interviewees there were widespread and strong concerns about the impact of paramilitary control, rivalry, organised crime and violent feuds on residents living in the most socially deprived estates.

There are particularly strong concerns about the fear and trauma experienced by some of the most vulnerable residents in those estates and the negative impact on community development, provision of services, economic development and employment in these areas.

Comments included:

**“There is an issue about the cost to health of living in a society with paramilitary control”**

(Semi structured interview)

**“Paramilitaries controlling supply of drugs...can make recovery from addiction more difficult.”**

(Semi structured interview)

“The impact of paramilitaries on wider community development has been to disadvantage wider socio-economic growth of the Borough”

(Semi structured interview)

A significant number of respondents talked about a significant rise in intra community conflict within and between Loyalist paramilitary groups in recent years. While this is not confined exclusively to socially deprived housing estates, it is the residents of these areas that are described as experiencing the most negative impact of this conflict.

This community conflict is having a particularly negative impact on women, children, elderly people and young people.

“Young people’s lives are being controlled in estates by paramilitaries”

(Semi structured interview)

“90% of young people in our youth club are members of paramilitary groups and most of them are under 18! It’s a way of making money, it’s like their family and it’s got excitement and challenge. There’s also a perceived threat if you don’t join”

(Semi structured interview)

“Young people in schools are being bullied in the playground to join differing paramilitary organisations”

(Semi structured interview)

“Young people find it more profitable to be a “runner” for the local paramilitary than to take a job training placement”

(Semi structured interview)

“Young people are very insular...they are tied into their own estates/turfs”

(Semi structured interview)

Paramilitaries are often perceived as policing the estates rather than the PSNI.

While the level of reported/recorded levels of crime and intimidation is low, many interviewees commented that this does not reflect a significant level of unreported intimidation within the housing estates, although this is generally not of a sectarian or racist nature.

However there is evidence of a small number of community activists who are working very hard within the estates in an attempt to address some of these issues, and there are some good examples of inter agency support and partnership.

“In the Scrabo estate we have got a residents group running, a base to work from and we are working with the Housing Executive, the PSNI, The Link and the Ards Community Network”

(Semi structured interview)

“There is a significant level of voluntary commitment in some of the estates...some people do unbelievable work behind the scenes to keep a lid on things”

(Semi structured interview)

“They are working hard to mend the divisions and mechanisms are being put in place to help sort things out...some of the paramilitaries are trying to find a different way of doing things...people who have come through the Troubles and have learnt need to be listened to...they’ve done their time and they should be heard”

(Semi structured interview)

However community infrastructure is generally weak and to date only limited resources have been accessed to address these issues in a holistic manner.

The recently established Newtownards Community Forum was mentioned by several interviewees as something which could have a wider impact in the community as concerns from the estates are brought to the Forum for discussion.

While there have been some positive partnerships and initiatives developed to address some of the issues in housing estates, there is little evidence of an effective cross party political, multi-sectoral or interdepartmental strategy addressing the serious problems of the socially deprived housing estates that exist in Newtownards.

Initiatives mentioned by interviewees were:

- The government strategy for disadvantaged estates
- Community Conventions
- The Task Force on Addressing Needs of Working Class Protestant Estates (DSD)
- The Local Community Fund

Some interviewees were critical of a lack of an effective strategic approach:

“Some of the initiatives have been short term and politically driven...there seems to be almost a deliberate avoidance...a lack of political consensus or political will and institutional will...who cares about these estates?”

(Semi structured interview)

#### 4.10 Community Cohesion

There is evidence of a general lack of community cohesion between areas, sectors and groups. There is limited cohesion across social, political, religious and church divisions in the town.

Interviewees highlighted social, political, religious, church and paramilitary divisions as having a negative impact on the town. There is a perception that these divisions have greatest negative impact on the most socially deprived areas of the town and the most vulnerable residents in those estates, e.g. older people and children.

There are also concerns about a level of apathy in relation to community participation and a reduction in “good neighbourliness” that is typical of many growing “satellite/commuter belt” towns.

“There are so many people not involved in community issues...there is a whole part of the town who don't do anything”

(Semi structured interview)

#### 4.11 Community Relations Work

A search through Community Relations Council grants indicates a very low level of direct engagement in community relations work by groups in Newtownards.

Among the statutory groups interviewed, for some community relations has been an issue at the core of many of their services, whereas for others community relations has been a peripheral issue that they either addressed as it arose or addressed as part of a statutory duty.

Apart from the local Council few, if any, had considered a strategic and planned approach to community relations.

In the recent Audit, current perceptions of how well the Council promotes Good Relations showed that only 15.8% believed Council was doing well in this regard with 77.5% believing that Council could do a little better or much better.

This may be explained by Audit results showing that 59.1% of respondents were not aware of the Council employing a Community Relations Officer. However 64.3% believed that the Council should spend less than £70,000 per annum on Good Relations i.e. less than £1 per resident of the Borough.

## 5 Main Conclusions

- 5.1 In terms of community background, Newtownards has a large Protestant community (86.2%) and a small but stable Catholic community (8.2%).
- 5.2 There is evidence that in general the Catholic community feels safe, but at times invisible and unwelcome in Newtownards.
- 5.3 In relation to stated religion, the two largest religious groups are Presbyterian (37.5%) and No Religion/Religion Not Stated (23.5%); both well above the Northern Ireland average.
- 5.4 The ethnic minority population of Newtownards is 0.9% of the total population. The main groups are Chinese and Bangladeshi people. 19% of all Northern Ireland resident Bangladeshi people live in Newtownards.
- 5.5 Newtownards experienced a relatively low level of sectarian conflict during the Troubles and in general continues to have a relatively low level of violent conflict.
- 5.6 Newtownards does not have physical sectarian interfaces and does not experience the community associated relations problems with such interfaces.
- 5.7 While most parts of Newtownards experience little or no community conflict, the most socially deprived housing estates are experiencing a significant level of community conflict within the Protestant/Loyalist community. There has been a significant rise in intra community conflict within and between loyalist paramilitary groups in recent years. While this is not confined exclusively to socially deprived housing estates, it is the residents of these areas that are experiencing the most negative impact of this conflict. This conflict is having a particularly negative impact on women, children, elderly people and young people. It is also having a negative impact on community development, provision of services, economic development and employment in these areas.
- 5.8 Paramilitary organisations are often perceived as policing the estates rather than the PSNI.
- 5.9 While the level of reported/recorded levels of crime and intimidation is low, this does not reflect a significant level of unreported intimidation within the housing estates. However this is generally not of a sectarian or racist nature.
- 5.10 There are a small number of community activists who are working very hard within the estates in an attempt to address these issues, and there are some good examples of inter agency support and partnership. However community infrastructure is generally weak and limited resources have been accessed to address these issues in a holistic manner.
- 5.11 The Newtownards Community Forum has been a positive development in the past year. It may prove to be a model of good practice for other parts of Northern Ireland.

- 5.12 While there have been some positive partnerships and initiatives developed to address some of the issues in housing estates, there is little evidence of an effective cross party political, multi sectoral or interdepartmental strategy to address the serious problems in the socially deprived housing estates that exist in Newtownards.
- 5.13 Reported levels of sectarian and racist incidents are low. However there is evidence from interviewees of some incidents of a sectarian and racist nature, mainly verbal abuse, that are not reported and that can result in minority communities feeling unwelcome in the town.
- 5.14 There are widespread concerns about the level of knowledge and understanding of local history, culture, citizenship, democracy and diversity that is contributing to anti social behaviour and racial/sectarian prejudice by some young people.
- 5.15 There are very limited cross community and inter racial learning opportunities for young people or adults to develop understanding and respect of diversity.
- 5.16 Some community leaders believe that the town has good community relations and that few community conflict problems exist that need to be addressed.
- 5.17 Very few groups in the town have accessed grants available to directly address community relations issues.
- 5.18 There is a significant social divide in the town. Some of the most affluent wards in Northern Ireland are located beside a few of the most deprived wards in Northern Ireland. The Noble Indices of deprivation by ward mask areas of social deprivation within wards that include both affluent private developments and social housing estates in close proximity. In some areas walls/fences separate newer private housing developments from social housing estates. There is limited integration between residents from the different types of housing.
- 5.19 Newtownards shows significantly lower levels of electorate turnout, well below the Northern Ireland average and decreasing in recent times. There was an exceptionally low turnout (29.7%) in the most recent EU elections for the Most Deprived Ward, Scrabo (which includes the West Winds Estate). Some community leaders in these areas describe a feeling of apathy, disempowerment and alienation from politics.
- 5.20 There is clear evidence of significant progress in the past two years in terms of community cohesion in Newtownards. However there is a need to continue to improve community cohesion between areas, sectors and groups and particularly across social, political, religious and church divisions. There are also concerns about a level of apathy in relation to community participation that is typical of many growing “satellite/commuter belt” towns.
- 5.21 There has been significant progress within civic society in addressing some of the issues highlighted above in the past few years and there is a strong desire and commitment among those involved to continue to attempt to build greater community cohesion.

## 6 Recommendations

In response to the findings of this research the following recommendations are offered:

- 6.1 The positive work on improving community cohesion that has begun in recent years should be consolidated and adequately resourced. This includes the work of the Newtownards Community Forum, the Churches Forum, the Community Network, The Link and the local community based initiatives and partnerships within the estates.
- 6.2 Local community groups, churches and agencies should carry out more localised audits of community relations and community conflict in their immediate areas and develop appropriate responses to the issues raised from within their communities.
- 6.3 The elected representatives in the town should consider developing a strategy for addressing the issues in housing estates that have been highlighted in this research. The Council could organise a one day seminar that would include input from key community and statutory organisations and that would develop a “joined up” and strategic approach. This should link into other initiatives being developed by the Department for Social Development.
- 6.4 A strategic interdepartmental approach to the future planning of housing in the town should be developed to create more mixed housing that will contribute to the reduction of the social divisions that exist.
- 6.5 Local groups should contribute to Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency’s review of the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures, indicating the need for a smaller spatial scale to identify pockets of deprivation within wards in the town.
- 6.6 A multi sectoral partnership should be established to develop a community based education initiative aimed at young people in the town. It should attempt to provide community based and “youth friendly” social education in history, culture, democracy and diversity. It should also attempt to draw young people together from different parts of the town and from different social, religious and ethnic groups. It should operate within and between local communities and include cross community and inter racial residential encounters.
- 6.7 The District Policing Partnership should continue the development of effective community policing throughout the town and consider models of best practice in high visibility and proactive policing in housing estates.
- 6.8 Community groups based in areas of low electoral turnout should consider developing a voter/ democracy education initiative with the support of local elected representatives.

# Appendix I

## Community Relations Audit Research Partnership Group

1. Kim Leebody, Ulster Community Hospitals Trust and Vice Chair of Ards Community Safety Committee
2. Michael Taylor, NI Housing Executive
3. Peter Brett, PSNI
4. Jim Shannon MLA, Alderman and Chair of District Policing Partnership
5. David Smyth, Councillor (UUP) and Chair of Ards Community Safety Committee
6. Kieran McCarthy MLA, Councillor (Alliance)
7. Jim Murdock, Community Relations Officer, Ards Borough Council
8. Alistair Bates, Minister of Scrabo Presbyterian Church and Chair of Ards Community Forum
9. Ken Higgins, Minister of Movilla Abbey Church of Ireland and Chair of Inter Church Group
10. John Alderdice, Minister of Movilla Abbey Methodist Church and Vice Chair of Ards Community Forum
11. Joseph Gunne, Parish Priest, St. Patrick's Church
12. Valerie Richmond, Ards Borough Council and Chair of Ards Community Network
13. Margaret Cameron, West Winds Residents Association
14. Yvonne Coulter, Community Development Worker, Glen Ward Community Development Association
15. David McAlonan/Walter Doak, Scrabo Residents Association
16. Mandy Cowan, North Down and Ards Women's Aid
17. Lester Black, SEELB Youth Service
18. Gerardine Cunningham, The Link Management Committee
19. Paul Killen, Youth Worker, The Link
20. Diane Holt, Community Relations/Development Officer, The Link

# Appendix II

## Letter to Research Partnership Group

Dear  
2nd June 2004

Re: Research Partnership: Newtownards Community Relations Audit

I am writing to invite you to be a member of the Research Partnership Group for a Community Relations Audit of Newtownards.

The Link has secured funding from Ards Borough Council and the Community Relations Council to carry out the first audit of community relations/community conflict in the town and we have appointed Macaulay Associates to carry out the research.

The audit will involve a wide consultation throughout the community including over 50 interviews, two consultation workshops and several focus groups.

We are very keen to ensure that the research is advised and informed by a cross section of local people from a range of community, voluntary and statutory agencies, the churches and elected representatives. As a result we have decided to bring together a Research Partnership Group and we would be delighted if you could be part of this group.

The Research Partnership Group will meet three times between now and September.

The dates of the meetings are:

Thursday 17th June: 11.00am-1.00pm

Tuesday 24th August: 11.45am-1.00pm

Tuesday 7th September: 9.30am -11.00am

The meetings will take place in Ards Development Bureau and Community Network, Frances St.

I do hope you will be able to be involved in the project and I would be grateful if you would let me know if you can be a part of the group.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

**Diane Holt**

# Appendix III

## Newtownards Community Relations Audit Consultation Workshop - 29th June 2004

9.30am Arrival/Welcome/Introductions

9.45am Where Are We Now?

Small Group Discussion

How do you see community relations in Newtownards?

What are the main community relations issues?

What, if any, community conflict is there in Newtownards?

Has there been any change in community relations/community conflict in Newtownards in the past 5 years?

Feedback and Discussion

11.15 Where Do We Want To Be?

Small Group Discussion

What would be your ideal situation?

What needs to change to make the ideal situation happen?

What needs to be done to make the ideal situation happen?

Who is responsible for making the ideal situation happen?

Feedback and Discussion

12.00 How Do We Get There?

Small Group Discussion

What are the barriers to your ideal situation becoming a reality?

What opportunities do you see for making the ideal situation happen?

What resources are needed to make the ideal situation happen?

Feedback and Discussion

12.45 Next Steps and Thanks

1.00 Lunch

# Appendix IV

## Letter of Invitation to Workshops and Interview Request

Dear  
18th June 2004

Re: Newtownards Community Relations Audit

I am writing to inform you about research we are carrying out in Newtownards at present in the hope that you will be able to participate.

Macaulay Associates has been engaged by The Link Family & Community Centre to carry out the first audit of community relations/community conflict in Newtownards. The Link has secured the funding from Ards Borough Council and the Community Relations Council.

The audit will involve a wide consultation throughout the community including over 50 interviews, two consultation workshops and several focus groups.

We are very keen to ensure that the research includes the views, experiences and ideas of a cross section of local people from a range of community, voluntary and statutory agencies, the churches and elected representatives.

As a result one of our researchers will be in touch with you in the near future to ask if you would be interested in participating in a short confidential interview.

I would also like to invite you to participate in two consultation workshops. The first workshop will be an opportunity to have an input into the research and the second will seek your comments on the interim findings. The dates of the consultation workshops are as follows:

Tuesday 29th June: 9.30am -1.00pm in the Town Hall

Tuesday 24th August: 9.30am -11.30am in Ards Development Bureau and Community Network, Frances St.

I do hope you will be able to be involved in this important project as we believe your input is vital.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely

**Tony Macaulay**  
Senior Researcher

## Appendix V

### List of participants in the Community Consultation Workshop 29th June 2004

Walter George, North Down Community Assistance  
 Teresa Hazzard, Mencap  
 Diane Holt, The Link  
 Paul Killen, The Link  
 Charlie Kinkead, North Down Community Assistance/Bowtown Youth Club  
 Kim Leebody, Ulster Community Hospitals Trust  
 David McNarry, MLA (UUP)  
 Jim Murdock, Community Relations Officer, Ards Borough Council  
 Cathy Rice, Ards Development Bureau and Community Network  
 Michael Taylor, NI Housing Executive, Ards District Office

### List of participants in the Interim Findings Consultation Workshop - 24th August 2004

Diane Holt, The Link  
 Paul Killen, The Link  
 Kim Leebody, Ulster Community & Hospitals Trust  
 David McNarry, MLA (UUP)  
 Cathy Rice, Ards Development Bureau and Community Network  
 Michael Taylor, NI Housing Executive, Ards District Office  
 Alistair Bates, Scrabo Presbyterian Church  
 Ken Smyth, St. Marks, Church of Ireland  
 Hugh Mitchell, St. Marks, Church of Ireland  
 Joseph Gunn, St. Patricks Catholic Church  
 Rosemary Wade, Little Doves Playgroup  
 David McAlonan, Scrabo Residents Association  
 Walter Doak, Scrabo Residents Association  
 Ken Higgins, Movilla Abbey Church of Ireland  
 Linda Higginson, Citizens Advice Bureau

# Appendix VI

## Interviewees

Kim Leebody, Community Development & Health Worker, UCHT

Marty Cardwell, Addictions Team UCHT

Mike Taylor, NIHE

Supt. David Green, District Commander, PSNI

Sgt. Peter Brett, Community Safety Sgt, PSNI

Mr McNulty, Principal, Movilla High School

Mr Naismith, Principal,

Regent House Grammar School

Tom Rowley, Ards LSP

Dorothy McGrath, Juvenile Justice Agency

Mary Cumming, Probation Officer, PBNI

Jim Murdock, Ards Borough Council CRO

Ashley Boreland, Chief Executive,

Ards Borough Council

Winston Ward, Youth Service CR Worker, SEELB

Trevor Mawhinney, Manager,

District Policing Partnership

Bob Wilson, Community Safety Officer,

Community Safety Partnership

Cathy Bell, NSPCC

Linda Higginson, CAB

Mandy Cowan, Women's Aid

Clive O'Neill Snr, Market Traders Association

Jackie Brown, Chamber of Commerce

Eleanor Mearns, NIPPA

Teresa Hazzard, MENCAP

Paddy McKibbin, Sports Development Officer,  
Ards Borough Council

Bobby Murphy, Youth Development Officer,  
Ards FC

Colin Campbell, District Master, Orange Order

Syd Woods, President, Apprentice Boys

Jim Shannon, District Master, Royal Black  
Perceptory / MLA, Councillor (DUP)

Billy Sproule, West Winds Residents Association

Yvonne Coulter, Community Development Worker,  
Glen Ward Community Development Association

David McAlonan, Scrabo Residents Association

Walter Doak, Scrabo Residents Association

Charlie Kinkead, Bowtown Residents Association

Cathy Rice, Ards Development Bureau &  
Community Network

Anne Drysdale, East End Residents Association

Rosemary Reid, Bees Nees Playgroup

Joanne Amos, NITAP

Paul Killen, The Link

Diane Holt, The Link

Abdul Robb, Newtownards Muslim Community

Alison Wightman, Community Change

Alan Holt, MARC Project Worker, The Link

Joseph Gunne, St. Patricks Catholic Church

Ken Smyth, St. Marks Church of Ireland

Rosemary Wade, Little Doves Playgroup

Alistair Bates, Scrabo Presbyterian Church

David Rutherford, Ards Evangelical Church

Ken Higgins, Movilla Church of Ireland

Allen Sleith, Regent St Presbyterian Church

Pastor Raymond Cotter, Elim Pentecostal Church

Iris Robinson, MP (DUP)

Kieran McCarthy, MLA, Councillor (Alliance)

David McNarry, MLA (UUP)

Daniel McCarthy, Councillor,  
(Independent Nationalist)

Hamilton Gregory, Mayor of Ards (DUP)

Eddie McDowell, Churches

Community Work Alliance

Angela Clarke, Department for Social Development

## Appendix VII

### Newtownards Community Relations Audit Semi Structured Interview Questions

How would you describe community relations in Newtownards?

What, if any, community conflict is there in Newtownards?

What is the impact of community relations/community conflict on your work?

What is the impact in the wider community?

Has there been any change in community relations/community conflict in Newtownards in the past 5 years? If yes, explore.

How could community relations be improved in the future?

How could community conflict be reduced in the future?

What are the barriers to improving community relations and/or reducing community conflict?

What opportunities do you see for improving community relations and/or reducing community conflict?

Have you any other comments you would like to feed into the community relations audit?

## Appendix VIII

### Measures of Multiple Deprivation by Ward

Ward Name	Multiple Deprivation Rank in Ards	Multiple Deprivation Rank in NI	Multiple Deprivation ScoreRank in Ards
West Winds	1	61	45.52
Central	2	183	25.22
Portaferry	3	238	21.52
Scrabo	4	248	20.78
Portavogie	5	289	18.17
Loughries	6	323	16.04
Donaghadee South	7	340	15.19
Kircubbin	8	360	14.38
Glen	9	361	14.28
Ballywalter	10	369	13.93
Comber North	11	390	12.73
Millisle	12	418	11.00
Killinchy	13	467	7.94
Comber South	14	495	6.41
Donaghadee North	15	504	5.93
Ballygowan	16	507	5.69
Movilla	17	515	5.26
Comber West	18	529	4.29
Bradshaw's Brae	19	531	4.21
Whitespots	20	545	3.18

Source: Noble Indices

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## Notes