

IT'S ALL ABOUT BUNCRANA

Town Team Research Report 2025





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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 FOCUS OF THIS STUDY

This report explores what members of our community value about our town and their suggestions for improvements.

Our aims were to:

- Consult a wide cross section of ages and demographics
- Gather qualitative and quantitative findings on what people value about the town and areas for improvement.
- Gain a greater understanding of the concerns and challenges facing our community.
- Compile a wide range of suggestions in order to evaluate short, medium and long-term priorities for action and investment.
- Identify “low hanging fruit” – easy / quick fixes.
- Ensure future developments are evidence-based

1.2 WHY DO WE NEED THIS RESEARCH?

Public consultation has become a key principle in Ireland with Government bodies, the HSE and County Councils regularly inviting opinions from the general public on a range of issues. The over-riding principle has been one of: “Nothing about me without me.” Policy indicates consultations should be more than a “tick box” exercise and involve genuine engagement and real listening. However, in practice, ordinary people often do not hear about consultations or do not feel able to contribute to policymaking and decisions that affect their lives.

The Buncrana Town Team was unanimous in agreeing that consultation with our

community must underpin all our work both in these early stages and at every stage of the development of a Town Plan. This means prioritizing research and giving careful consideration to the findings both of our own research and other studies that have taken place (for example the recent research on Nighttime Economy and Eco Strategy).

1.3 METHODOLOGY

An online survey formed the basis for the research, gathering 718 anonymous contributions from across the community. Participation was on a voluntary basis, and we were successful in gaining contributions from a wide range of different ages and backgrounds. Some paper copies of the questionnaire were produced in order to target specific demographics (e.g. the elderly) and then entered manually by town team members. Volunteers also gathered responses using a tablet.

1.4 DATA ANALYSIS

When considering the qualitative data, the comment sections were analysed in detail using the following protocol.

1. Comments were extracted and listed in a spreadsheet.
2. Each comment was reviewed individually to extract all descriptive terms and keywords
3. These were then reviewed to create summary categories for recurring comment themes.
4. This process resulted in a list of recurring thematic categories for the comments sections, and how frequently those categories were represented in the comments.

1.5 LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

While all possible efforts were made to reach out to a wide cross section of people across Buncrana by distributing the online survey links through a range of networks and by extensive social media sharing, we recognise that an online study will inevitably exclude those who are not digitally literate.

By targeting specific groups through paper copies, and harnessing the networks of the town team members, it was possible to strengthen participation from specific age groups and demographics.

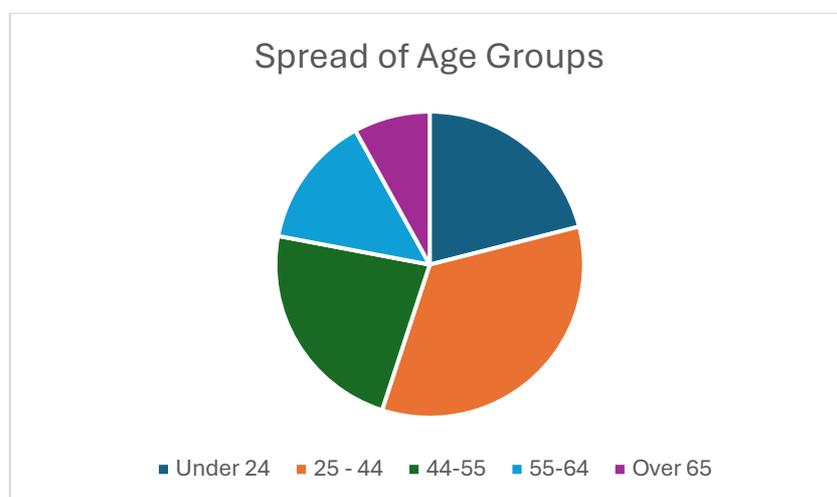
As a small, localised study this gives important insights but by no means claims to be comprehensive. There is an estimated margin of error of 3% (based on standard measures). This includes test, duplicate and spoof responses. Despite its limitations, however, we believe the research provides a significant contribution to our understanding and can guide strategy as we move forward.

1.6 DEMOGRAPHICS

The online survey received 718 responses. Providing personal data was optional. Of those who responded to questions about gender 31% were male (213), and 66.3% were female (457). Of the remaining 2.7% 17 preferred not to give a gender and two people identified as other.

We are aware that there was greater ethnic diversity than was demonstrated in the findings. A number of migrants and asylum seekers have told us verbally that they took part in the survey but did not choose to provide data on their ethnicity. Of the 101 people who did answer this question (only 14% of all participants), 89% described themselves as White Irish, 5% as Any Other White Background, 1% as White Irish Traveller, 2% as Mixed or Other and 3% Prefer Not to Say. A broad spectrum of ages was represented: See tables below.

Age Ranges									
6-12	13-15	16-17	18-24	25-44	45-54	55-64	65-75	76-85	+85
0.56%	12.57%	4.24%	3.95%	33.90%	23.16%	13.98%	5.65%	1.69%	0.28%
4	89	30	28	240	164	99	40	12	2



“

Buncrana has it all: beautiful scenery, great walks, beaches, hills and parks, with Swan's Park a magnificent amenity. Buncrana was described by a travel writer in the 19th century as "Parthás Éireann", Ireland's Paradise. The gateway to Inishowen, Ireland in miniature, Buncrana has everything you could hope for in a vibrant town with a strong community spirit. Buncrana is blessed to have very good schools, lots of organisations for children and adults alike. We are fortunate, also, to have the best of restaurants and cafes, and a good range of accommodation for visitors. One of our greatest assets is the wonderful Tidy Towns committee who keep Buncrana beautiful!

”

2.0 WHAT IS GREAT ABOUT BUNCRANA?

community friendly
beaches good Buncrana
lovely people great
walks beautiful
Swan Park scenery town location

With 688 comments, it was clear that people were excited to share what is great about Buncrana. Despite the open-ended nature of the question, there was significant convergence. The two over-riding themes were the people and the scenery / natural beauty of the town. Although a small minority (1.5%) had a negative response, 98.5% of comments were extremely positive and many used strongly positive language.

People & Community

- People – 101
- Community & Community Spirit – 57
- Friendliness – 20
- Atmosphere – 4
- Peaceful – 5

Location & Scenery

- Scenery – 100
- Beaches - 66
- Swan Park / Green Spaces– 46
- Location - 38

- Natural Beauty - 27
- Seaside / Coastline – 26
- Walks - 19
- Shore Front – 10

Buncrana Tidy Towns – 18

Amenities

- Shops – 8
- Food / restaurants - 9

Everything – 9

N/A or Nothing – 11

“The people are so welcoming and friendly. On a sunny day it’s so picturesque. The amount of work done on swan park has made it so much better and it’s such a lovely walk and more friendly for all ages now.”



“

*I love the atmosphere of the place, friendly, kind people.
I love Swan Park, such a great safe green space accessible to everyone.
I love the beaches. I love Fort Dunree and Artlink, The Exchange,
The Plaza, St. Mary's Hall, the pubs and cafés.
I love the Christmas Lights, St. Patrick's Day parade,
Inishowen Pride, Feel Good Fortnight and all the public
celebrations of kindness and culture.*

”

3.0 WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE ABOUT BUNCRANA?

A total of 706 people (98% of survey participants) provided suggestions for how to improve Buncrana. Responses were wide ranging. However, across the three possible comment options, clear themes emerged. It was clear that there were a few “test” and duplicate entries.

However, these were not sufficient frequent to detract from the overall findings (see margin of error). While the quantity of responses is highlighted, this does not necessarily confer weight or value to those suggestions. It can however, be helpful to indicate the level of community concern about particular issues.

Suggestions are grouped into broad categories listed in alphabetical order except for the “Miscellaneous” section at the end. Many of these broad categories are the responsibility of specific statutory bodies, agencies or groups - or example Education (Department of Education and/or ETB) and Tackling Crime (An Garda Síochána) – which should make it easier to identify suggestions that are within the remit of the Town Team.

3.1 ACCOMMODATION

Better / More Affordable Housing – significant concern was expressed about the shortage of rented accommodation (all types) and the need for affordable housing in Buncrana – 28 mentions (4%)

100% Redress / Defective Blocks scheme – it is perhaps surprising (given the scale of the crisis in Buncrana) that this was only mentioned seven times. The focus of the comments was on ensuring a workable scheme for everyone as well as help and support for householders and affordable housing during rebuilding. It seems likely that the single mention of “green rebuilding” refers to rebuilding of houses affected by defective blocks.

More apartments / accommodation in Main Street – four people mentioned making more or better use of accommodation in Main Street including apartments above shops, etc.

Restrict Air B&Bs – three people identified the use of properties as Air B&Bs as exacerbating the shortage of housing and called for more restrictions.

Safe Housing for the Elderly – two mentions

A Group home for people with disabilities – one mention

3.2 COMMUNITY ISSUES

Creating a Friendly and Welcoming Community – There was strong support for celebrating diversity and promote inclusion with a focus on ensuring our community is friendly and welcoming. Many advocated to combat racism and mis-information and work for integration of migrants and refugees. For some it means a return to “the way it used to be”, for others a more intentional effort to ensure every resident of Buncrana is valued and included. 26 mentions (3.6%)

Anti-immigrant Feeling – in contrast, there were ten comments suggesting “getting rid of migrants / asylum seekers.” This represents just over 1% of those surveyed.

Community Spirit - the importance of maintaining and developing community spirit was highlighted in nine comments with one respondent describing this as “always a strong point for our town.”

Collaboration & Working Together – there were calls for more collaboration between businesses and community groups for the benefit of the whole town.

Other community-based issues and amenities were as follows:

- Develop safe spaces for LGBT+ community – two mentions
- Developing a Community Hub / Multi-purpose community centre – three mentions
- More parent and toddler groups – two mentions

- Keep up the great work of Tidy Towns – three mentions
- Keep The Exchange /old people’s lunch – three mentions
- Ensure autism-friendly spaces – one mention

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Tackle Dog mess /keep dogs on leash / hire a dog warden – in equal tenth place was the frustration and concern about dog mess with various suggestions made about how to tackle the problem - 39 mentions (5.5%)

More Waste Bins, Less Litter & Cleaner Streets and other steps to reduce litter such as enforced fines and litter wardens were of significant concern - 64 mentions (9%).

Cleaner Beaches / Sea Water – concern for the quality of sea water (especially for sea swimming and also the cleanliness of our beaches was a recurring theme. 23 mentions (3%)

Protect our Natural Environment, landscape and greenspaces – 14 people (2%) expressed concern to protect the existing green spaces and the natural environment within the town, especially with regard to future developments.

Other environmental issues included:

- Developing a Community Garden and/ or Allotments – four mentions
- Upgrading our sewage and water systems – four mentions

- More Tree Planting – three mentions
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity – one mention
- Having a dedicated Recycling Centre in Buncrana (because it is the largest town in Inishowen by far) – one mention
- Protecting our Rivers – one mention

3.4 MAINTENANCE, RENOVATION, REDEVELOPMENT & DECORATION

Redevelop Fruit of the Loom Factory – there were a wide range of suggestions as to what to do with it, but agreement that the current factory is both an eyesore and provides untapped potential in a prime location*** - 39 mentions (5.5%)

***Also linked to suggestions for an Indoor Centre, Arts Centre, Shopping Centres and Enterprise hub (apprenticeship training)

“Turn the old FOTL building store front into an apprenticeship workshop for the likes of, plasters, carpentry, builders, electricians etc.”

Shore Front Upgrade: There were various suggestions for upgrading, redeveloping or rejuvenating the shore front area to attract tourists and ensure a more vibrant look and feel. 28 mentions (4%)

It would be wonderful to see more hospitality opportunities on the shore [front], creating a real promenade feel.

Connect Town with Shore – two mentions

Facelift for Main Street– a number of comments dealt with the outward appearance of shops and buildings in the Main Street with the view to creating a vibrant and attractive town centre. Suggestions included ensuring all of the buildings and shops are painted regularly, colourful paint for exteriors, ending the use of shutters so people can window shop at night, prettier shopfronts “like Kinsale” and more attractive, themed window displays in shops. - 22 mentions (3%)

Paint buildings on Main Street that need to be spruced up.

A streetscape enhancement programme and colour scheme.

Other suggestions were connected to the desire for an attractive and vibrant main street:

- **More Christmas Decorations / More buy in for Christmas Lights** - two mentions
- **Remove rubble at Plaza** - two mentions
- **Funding for old buildings such as The Plaza / St. Mary’s Hall** – one mention
- **Market Square improvement** – one mention

Renovate Derelict Buildings – considerable concern was expressed about the number of empty and derelict buildings around the town, especially in Main Street. Many comments made suggestions of how these buildings could be used if brought back up to standard (e.g. accommodation, new businesses, shops, etc.). - 20 mentions (3%)

Remove / Move Buncrana Sign at shore front – There were a number of mentions of the new shore front Buncrana sign. All were in favour of removing it or moving it to another location. - 12 mentions (1.75%)

Lighting for parks and walks: while the need for street lighting was highlighted in connection with road safety, there was also interest in providing lighting in parks, along the shore front (etc.) to enhance the areas both for locals and visitors.

- **Lighting for Swan Park** – six mentions
- **Lighting shorefront & nature walks** - two mentions
- **Lighting for Cockhill Graveyard** - one mention

Other suggestions for maintenance, renovation/ redevelopment & decoration:

- **Upgrades to scenic walks / prune bushes on shore path** – three mentions
- **Better infrastructure (no specifics)** – two mentions
- **More public art/ murals** – two mentions

- **Connect Town with Shore** - two mentions
- **Redevelop the pier** – one mention
- **More Irish architecture** – one mention
- **Landscaping** – one mention
- **Redevelop Ned's Point Fort** – one mention
- **Improve entrance to Swan Park** – one mention
- **Extend Swan Park** – one mention
- **Boardwalk on shorefront** – one mention
- **Better upkeep of Camper Van Site** – one mention

3.5 NIGHTTIME ECONOMY

More late night coffee shops / cafes and alcohol free activities esp. at night – a significant number of people advocated for alternatives to pub culture with a desire for safe comfortable spaces both for adults and teenagers - 32 mentions (4.5%)

[I would like] a lovely little cafe that stays open to around 11pm that is not overly expensive with bit of panache.

There is nowhere to have a cup of tea after 5.30pm.

Night Club – while there were a variety of suggestions for nightlife / nighttime economy, one of the most popular was a call to bring back a night club - 26 mentions (3.5%)

Other comments / suggestions for Nighttime Economy:

- **Improved night life (no specifics)** – eight mentions
- **Evening opportunities for youth*** - one mention
- **Later opening for restaurants** – two mentions
- **Late bar** – one mention
- **Speakeasy bar** – one mention
- **Sound-proof pubs** – one mention
- **Less pubs** – two mentions
- **Somewhere to dance** – one mention
- **Comedy Nights** – one mention.

*See also youth facilities

3.6 PUBLIC TOILETS

More / Better Public Toilets – This is a category on its own because it overlaps a number of different areas and issues. There were a lot of requests for public toilets in a variety of specific locations including Main Street, Swan Park, Ned's Point, the Shore Front, Ludden Beach and the shore walk as well as requests for cleaner (better) public toilets. - 68 mentions (9.5%)

3.7 RETAIL, BUSINESS AND HOSPITALITY

More / diverse shopping options – while developing a thriving retail offering was mentioned frequently, respondents varied drastically on the types of shops they would like to see in Buncrana, from large chain stores to artisan shops and independent craft or fashion boutiques – 88 mentions (12.5%)

- **Ethnic food shop** – two mentions

[Buncrana] to be developed further as a "shopping destination" with independent traders on the Main Street.

Food Businesses – while there was considerable interest in more variety of restaurants, cafes and takeaways, this topic was of most interest a younger demographic. Of a total 39 mentions 5.5% (see below), 32 of these were from respondents under the age of 24.

- **More cafes, restaurants & food outlets** - 9 mentions
- **More takeaway options and /or lower prices** - 17 mentions
- **MacDonald's** - 11 mentions (all from under 18s).
- **Street food vendors** – 2 mentions

More Employment opportunities/ job creation – providing diverse employment options was a deep concern with mentions of the proliferation of part-time, low paid, unskilled work rather than career options. 25 mentions (3.5%)

Shopping Centre/ Shopping Mall – of all the references to the desire for a shopping centre, all of them came from respondents under the age of 24. Some suggested the Fruit of the Loom Factory as a possible location. 17 mentions (2.5%)

Markets / Farmers Market – There was interest in developing a regular market for Buncrana (perhaps using the Market Square) with a range of stalls including Farmers Markets but also

incorporating local arts and crafts, etc.
- 11 mentions (1.5%)

*Town Market for selling
local produce and crafts*

Support for Businesses / Entrepreneurship:

- **Reduce business rates to help town centre** – three mentions
- **Diversify businesses / encourage entrepreneurship** – one mention
- **Support for new businesses** - two mentions

Opening Hours

- **Late opening for shops** – one mention
- **Sunday opening for pharmacies (rota?)** – one mention
- **Longer opening hours for takeaways** – two mentions

Other suggestions in retail / town centre regeneration

- **Restore Chamber of Commerce** – two mentions
- **Town voucher scheme** – two mentions
- **Street entertainment to create a more vibrant Main Street** – one mention
- **Covered area in Main Street to develop a Café culture** – one mention
- **Get rid of vape shops** – two mentions

“An independent Chamber of Commerce dedicated to driving economic growth and prosperity for the town. Focused on supporting local businesses, fostering sustainable development, attracting investment, and creating job opportunities, this organisation would work proactively to shape a thriving local economy. By advocating for business-friendly policies, facilitating strategic partnerships, and championing innovation, it would serve as a powerful force for long-term economic success— separate from the Council to provide strong advocacy and accountability, yet united in the vision of a stronger, more vibrant community.”

3.8 SPORTS, LEISURE AND RECREATION AMENITIES

There was a large number of suggestions relating to sports, leisure and recreation with many comments linking these areas to Buncrana’s significant tourist potential.

Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre - By far the greatest concern of survey participants was the need for the new swimming pool & leisure centre. With 314 mentions, this recurring theme represented 44.5% of those who made suggestions for the improvement of the town. Many comments expressed a sense of frustration at the delays that have taken place. This was certainly a universal concern as people of all ages mentioned the need for the swimming pool to be re-instated as a matter of priority and urgency.

“Our leisure centre re-opened is a priority.”

“The leisure centre would make a huge difference in Buncrana. At the moment money is being spent in other towns for swimming and entertainment. It could all be spent in Buncrana.”

An Indoor Centre or all-weather facility - this was a popular suggestion although details varied widely from bowling and ice-skating to laser tag and arcades. Many also mentioned this in conjunction with tourism, youth facilities and redevelopment of old or derelict buildings (e.g. Fruit of the Loom). This was particularly popular among young people (under 24s) - 45 mentions (6%)

Shore Front Upgrade – there were a wide variety of suggestions linked to a redevelopment or upgrade of the shore front with strong support to protect and enhance the green space / beauty of our scenery - 28 mentions (4%)

Events and Activities

- **More Family events/ Community Events/ Seasonal Events/Outdoor events:** one of the most frequently mentioned of these was the Christmas Market in Swam Park but people also mentioned a wide range of other outdoor, seasonal and family fun events - 24 mentions (3.5%)
- **More facilities / activities in general (no specific suggestions)** – 13 mentions
- **Music Festival** – a number of comments called for a change

of location for the music festival (e.g. back to the Main Street) or looked for more frequent music festivals – six mentions (2%)

- **More events for the elderly/over 50s** - three mentions
- **More gigs / bands / live music** - three mentions
- **More social clubs** – two mentions
- **More Festivals / Food Festivals** - two mentions
- **Social events for adults (not sports related)** – one mention

Children’s Facilities & Activities

- **More Children’s Activities** - comments looking for a greater quantity and variety of activities for children and especially free-of-charge after school clubs or programmes. 22 mentions (3%)
- **More play parks** – two mentions
- **Refurbish the play park** – two mentions
- **Monkey bars in play park** – one mention

Sports & Sports Facilities

While the Swimming Pool / Leisure Centre dominated this section in terms of sports facilities there were also calls for a wider range of sports on offer, new facilities and improvements to existing facilities.

- **Water Sports** - eight mentions
- **Sports Centre or better sports facilities** – five mentions
- **Upgrade/refurbish tennis courts** – four mentions

- **Mini Golf/ pitch and put** – four mentions
- **Snooker hall/ pool/darts** – four mentions
- **Athletics Track** - three mentions
- **More football pitches** – two mentions
- **Skate Park** - two mentions
- **Astro Pitch for Buncrana Hearts** – one mention
- **Safe place for kids to play football** – one mention

Accessibility

While there were only a few mentions, it is clear for those affected, the accessibility of our town is a key issue. Ensuring new facilities are fully wheelchair accessible and upgrading existing buildings to be more accessible, is key issue to consider, not just for sports and recreation but also for all aspects of town life.

- **Wheelchair accessible swimming pool** – one mention
- **Disability services / equipment** – one mention
- **Wheelchair accessible sports facilities** – one mention
- **Wheelchair access to public buildings** – two mentions
- **Wheelchair access to shorefront/ beach** – two mentions

Beach Facilities

Comments demonstrated an interest in providing more facilities on or close to the beach, especially to support sea swimming and other water activities.

- **Beach Facilities (changing rooms, etc.)** - 15 mentions (2%)

- **Sauna on the beach** – one mention

Tourism And Leisure Facilities

- **More tourist attractions** – While highlighting the need to attract more visitors to the area, this section of comments did not provide many concrete suggestions except for the swimming pool and the need for some kind of Indoor Centre (one person suggested “like Portrush”) - 14 mentions (2%)
- **More / better public seating** – This was of particular concern to older respondents who specified the need for senior citizens to be able to find safe and comfortable places to sit around the town. - 10 mentions (1.5%)
- **Cinema** – more films, tiered seating, updated decor, etc. were suggestions that came almost entirely from younger participants (under 24s) – 9 mentions
- **More entertainment venues** - four mentions
- **Dog Park** - three mentions
- **More walking trails** – two mentions
- **Arcade** – one mention
- **Rollercoaster** - one mention
- **Covered area for outdoor events** - one mention
- **Outdoor gym (callisthenics)** - one mention
- **Outdoor exercise space** - one mention

“The Co. Council has removed all the seats in the Market Square and they have not been put back in again. Myself and all my brothers and sisters were born and brought up just a few doors up on the Main Street and it is nice to sit there on a nice day and talk to people or just watch the world go by and it is also helpful if you are elderly and partially disabled. We need many more seats all over the town to sit down and have a rest.”

Culture, Arts And Heritage

The value and importance of our sharing and building on our cultural heritage (both in terms of history and the arts) was highlighted by a small number of the survey participants.

Develop the work that has been done to explore our rich history by creating mire trails and information points about events from our past: the story of Cahir O’Doherty, Wolf Tone etc.

- **A museum** – nine mentions (1%)
- **Cultural / Arts Centre or Arts Café** - four mentions
- **Information points (history and heritage)** - three mentions
- **A theatre venue** - three mentions
- **Guided historical walking tour (using a podcast)** – one mention
- **Drama Society** – one mention
- **More Arts Funding** - one mention

3.9 TACKLE CRIME

Better Garda presence at nighttime to curtail underage drinking in pubs and to deal with drug abuse.

- **Greater visibility of Garda** – 15 mentions (2%)
- **Crack down on drugs** – six mentions
- **Boy/ girl racers** – one mention
- **Reduced Vandalism** – two mentions
- **More security cameras** – one mention
- **Anti-social behaviour** – one mention

3.10 TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT AND ROAD SAFETY

Traffic flow / congestion management was a huge concern with particular and frequent mention of hot spots such as the West End and where Cassey Road joins Cockhill Road. Various suggestions were made including calls for a bypass, more traffic lights. A few suggested reversing the direction of the Main Street on-way system. 83 mentions (12%)

Better Public Transport - the ease of reaching Letterkenny, Derry and beyond was a huge concern for many of those completing the survey with frequent mention of the challenges after 5pm - 60 mentions (8.5%)

- **Shuttle bus from Buncrana to the parish, Dumfries & the Illies** – one mention

Improved Taxi Service / Taxi Rank - connected to public transport (often mentioned together) and a boost to our tourism / nightlife, this was a popular suggestion. 43 mentions (6%)

“A proper taxi service. I cannot understand why the pubs and other businesses are not making more noise about this. We rarely socialise at night in Buncrana because we cannot get a taxi home.”

More Parking/ Free parking – many people advocated extending free parking on the Main Street or abolishing paid parking and providing other (preferably free) parking options - 38 mentions (5.5%)

- **More understanding traffic wardens** – one mention
- **Underground car park** - one mention

Road repairs and Improvements – frequent mentions of the Cockhill and Derry roads in these comments along with general calls for road repairs. 23 mentions (3%)

Improved Street Lighting (roads & pavements) – Concern was expressed about the need for street lighting (e.g. installation or fault repairs) on a number of roads/ footpaths. Safety concerns appeared the priority in these comments. 18 mentions (2.5%)

Street lights or wash/replace cats eyes opposite Applegreen as that footpath will be mounted and someone killed - this is an accident waiting to happen due to bad lighting

Street lighting that people can walk in winter and feel safe.

Cycling

Cycle Paths / Cycle Lanes and completed Greenway – Cycle paths and cycle lanes were most frequently mentioned in connection to the completion of the Greenway project. One suggestion of extending the Greenway to Fort Dunree. 19 mentions (2.5%)

- **Cycle bays / bike parking** - two mentions
- **Electric bike hire** - one mention
- **Cycle Hire** - one mention

Push for activity based infrastructure projects to improve health of community and attract those from afar. (Derry to Buncrana greenway)

Footpaths and Road Safety

- **Improved Footpaths & accessibility** – 11 mentions (1.5%)
- **Pedestrianised main street** – five mentions
- **Pedestrian crossings / Zebra Crossing** – two mentions
- **Crossing attendant** – one mention
- **Restore ancient rights of way** – one mention
- **Speed Ramps** – two mentions

3.11 YOUTH FACILITIES

More and better youth facilities - 117 mentions but with diverse suggestions and possibilities Of these, 55 mentions were from young people aged 24 or under. (16.5%)

Safe place to sit and/or hang-out/socialise

– this was the most popular suggestion by young people themselves. The focus was on a safe, preferably-covered place to sit, hang out and socialise with friends ideally without any cost. 35 mentions (17 from under 24s)

[We need] a hang out spot where you don't have to buy something to sit down.

- **Under-age disco and/or nightclub** – 14 mentions (including 10 from under 24s)
- **Evening and “no alcohol” spaces for youth** – seven mentions with some overlap with other categories (five from under 24s)
- **Youth club** – six mentions (two from under 24s)
- **Hub or Drop In Centre** - nine mentions (all over 24)
- **Skate Park** – two mentions
- **Pool hall** – one mention
- **More Activities** – this category was not specific with variations around “more activities for teens”, “more things to do” etc. – 33 mentions (including 12 from under 24s)
- **More Facilities** – no specific suggestions, just a desire for more facilities for teenagers and young people. 17 mentions (including 9 from under 24s)
- **More Opportunities for teens/ Invest in teens** – two mentions

[We need] places we can sit in when it's raining

3.12 MISCELLANEOUS

There were 14 comments that did not provide any suggestions (e.g. variations of “test”, “n/a” or “nothing”). Three comments were eliminated by the author because they were clearly “spoof” comments or negatively naming individuals. The remaining miscellaneous comments have been roughly grouped into similar categories.

Advertising and Promotion

- What's On Website (1 mention)
- Annual Calendar of events (1 mention)
- Better advertising / promotion of the area (7 mentions)
- Visitor guide (1 mention)
- Improved signage (3 mentions)

Health Service Improvements

- Mental Health services (1 mention)
- Better Health services/ hospital/Xray machine (4 mentions)
- Ambulance Station in Buncrana (1 mention)

Management of / attitude towards change

- Openness to change (1 mention)
- Determination to get things done (2 mentions)
- Strategic delivery of priority projects for the town (1 mention)

Democracy / Politics/Governance

- More consultation for changes (4 mentions)
- Bring back town council (1 mention)
- Better council offices in town (1 mention)
- Change politicians (3 mentions)

Other Suggestions

- Reduce screentime (1 mention)
- A blacksmith's forge (2 mentions)
- Respite Care for Adults (1 mention)
- Floral Displays (1 mention)
- Veterinary Clinic (2 mentions)
- Volunteer awards (2 mentions)
- Marina at Buncrana Pier (1 mention)
- Invest in Fahan Marina (1 mention)
- Invent a plate of "local food" (1 mention)

“ *Buncrana should pitch themselves as the North West version of Westport* ”

”

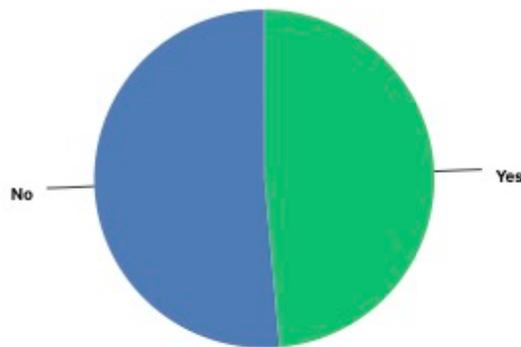
4.0 Buncrana Town Team

“A Buncrana town team! Great to see this formed.”

4.1 Awareness of the existence of the Town Team

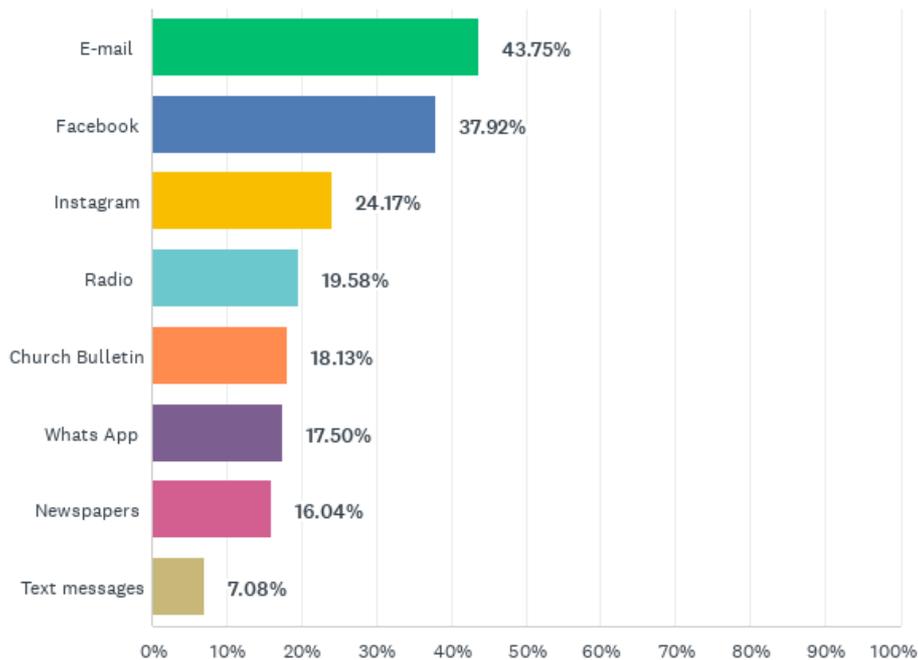
Q4 Are you aware of the Buncrana Town Team?

Answered: 710 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	48.59%	345
No	51.41%	365
TOTAL		710

4.2 Preferred Methods of Communication





Acknowledgements:

The author would like to thank all the participants for generously sharing their time and perspectives to complete the survey. I'm grateful to my fellow Town Team members for gathering so many responses and to the Inishowen Development Partnership for hosting the survey on their platform. As a team, we are grateful for the support of Donegal County Council in the process of developing a town plan.

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