

Urban Council Mannar
February, 2012

Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022

The People's Plan

Visioning Our Future - Restoring Our Heritage



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Community Visioning Project was conceived by the Urban Council Mannar as a means of developing a ten year vision and roadmap for the development of Mannar Urban Centre. It is anticipated that this visioning exercise will spear-head a resident inspired approach to integrated planning by the Urban Council.

Firstly, Council wishes to acknowledge the many people who reside, work and study in Mannar Town and who participated in the Mannarin Marumalarchi activities. Through their active participation they demonstrated a real commitment and love for this place along with a desire to be partners in Mannar's development. Special mention is also made of the staff of the Urban Council and their contribution to the success of the event.

Secondly, Council wishes to thank Mr. Surath Ravindra, Government Agent Mannar District for giving his blessing for the project, members of the Steering Committee who 'grounded' the project; Divisional Secretary, Mrs. Stanley De Mel who effectively coordinated the Grama Niladharis (GN), who in turn ensured the participation of people from the five villages. Council is also grateful for the presence and valued contribution of Mr. Lalith Mutukumarana, Ms. Selvi Sachithanandam, Ms. Nirmala de Mel and Professor Siri Hettige, planning professionals from Colombo.

Here, Council wishes to acknowledge the financial contribution of Exxon Mobil, Colombo, without whose support this program could not have taken place.

Thirdly Council is indebted to the many people who labored hard and long to see this project to fruition, for Mr Sinclair Peter of the Mannar Citizen's Committee, for his belief, drive and extensive networking support; for Mr Saveriyan Mariathan Croos, the former Government Agent, for his loyalty to the people of Mannar and his leadership; for J Kamal Raj and his strong belief in the project, tireless interpreting and coordination support, for Suseelan Majuran for his expert logistical backing; for the large contingent of Community Forum Facilitators who ensured participants provided quality information; and for the many young people of Mannar who through their efforts ensured the smooth running of all the events, particularly, A Sayan Khan, P Prathaipa, LMDP Joice Marie and S Sherin Thuram.

Lastly, Council is appreciative of the work of Jeremy Liyanage and Diaspora Lanka (Australia) for project support, encouragement and assurance of ongoing assistance to the Council. Diaspora Lanka comprises Sri Lankan across all ethnic and religious groups who have pledged a long term commitment to the development of Mannar District.



Mr Santhanpillai Gnanapragasam
Chairman



Mr James Jesuthasan
Vice Chairman



Mrs Bernadette Croos
Secretary

Mannar Urban Council
February, 2012

PART I

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A Vision for the Future

After three decades of conflict, life in civic spheres in the Northern Province is slowly returning to normal. The recent handing over of the administration of Local Authorities to elected representatives is evidence of this shift. As it is at this level of local administration that people interface closest with government, the Mannar Urban Council planned and operationalized Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022, a public participatory approach to establish a people-centred vision and direction for its work. The program was undertaken in November and December of 2011, six months into the cycle of the newly elected Council. This venture follows in the steps of many Urban Councils (UCs) around the world who adopt community visioning exercises at the commencement of a term in office to provide a conceptual understanding of what the people of an area want their newly elected council to deliver.

The Mannarin Marumalarchi (Restoring Mannar) 2022 exercise was initiated by the Urban Council of Mannar with the support of Diaspora Lanka Australia as a basis for the Council's future plans and programs for the development of the Mannar urban area. The process actively engaged a broad cross section of the citizens of Mannar Town together with the support of a steering committee. The project was conceived within the broad parameters of the Government of Sri Lanka's *Vaddakkin Vasantham (Northern Spring Development Plan)* development program and the *National Physical Planning Policy and Plan 2011 – 2030*¹ (NPPPP 2011-2030).

1.2 Strategic Location of Mannar

The Mannar District lies in the North-West of Sri Lanka. Its strategic geographical location makes it a significant player in Asian geo-politics, primarily involving the Indian subcontinent and China. In addition, Talaimannar in the western-most tip of the Mannar Island is 18 kilometres from the Indian shores, and as the closest point to India, becomes strategic in terms of trade, tourism and security arrangements between the two countries. This District is one of five in the Northern Province that was severely affected by the civil war which took place between Government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). A military intervention to the nearly three-decade war brought the conflict to an end in May 2009. In this post-conflict period, the Government's strategy, through its National Physical Planning Policy and National Physical Plan, is to re-establish the North as a hub of thriving business and social activity as part of a national thrust to develop the entire country.

1.3 Development Opportunities for Mannar District

According to the NPPPP 2011- 2030, Mannar has been targeted for development as a special purpose city and a transport hub for Sri Lanka primarily through the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway projects. Talaimannar is to be made an entry port connecting various parts of the country and the Indian subcontinent. With Mannar's close proximity to South India, and once the proposed highway to Hambantota, rail link to

¹ The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, EXTRAORDINARY, No.1729/15, October 27, 2011

Trincomalee and the proposed domestic airport become reality, travel times and cost between the Indian subcontinent, South Asian neighbours and many parts of Sri Lanka will be drastically reduced.²

These development initiatives would attract an increased surge of tourists, business people and pilgrims from other countries through the Indo Sri Lanka transport network, creating a greater demand for better accommodation, business support services, culinary outlets and leisure activity within Mannar. The free trade agreement between India and Sri Lanka, a refurbished port, regional off shore gas and petroleum exploration, a proposed export processing zone and a 24 acre industrial estate have also been planned, creating the potential for significant prosperity.³



1.3 Incorporating People into the Plan

Although many plans affecting Mannar have been developed, the people of Mannar, until now, have not been afforded the opportunity to actively contribute to the development of their place and to articulate the sort of future they would envisage for this unique part of Sri Lanka. By and large, Mannar's citizens still function from a "bunker mentality" as they recover from the war, educate their children and rebuild livelihoods so an intervention was required which would kick-start their interest and involvement in this area's future.

Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 (MM2022) is an Urban Council of Mannar initiative to both lift the vision of the people of Mannar, encouraging them to recognise and embrace a positive future, and also to establish a clear mandate for the Council's work during the Council's first and current term in office. The saying, "without a vision, the people perish," is true both for the people of Mannar and their public servants.

² ibid

³ ibid

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 A stark choice

As the District of Mannar slowly emerges from war, its people are reticent to make the mental transition from war to peace and deprivation to prosperity. Feelings of uncertainty and fear about what lies ahead ensures that they focus on daily survival and past woes. One gets a strong impression that they have already surrendered to a fatalistic view of the future, victims of other people's plans and designs. Harboring such feelings, however understandable, will only prevent them from benefitting from the significant opportunities coming their way, the result of government and private sector plans for the district.

There is a window of time for the people and the district to either work to optimise the benefits that could well flow to them as a result of these far-reaching plans or see their beloved Mannar slip into greater degrees of social and economic marginalisation. To capitalize on a positive future, the people of Mannar will need to consider a fresh mindset, identify new business opportunities, embrace technological innovation and at the same time preserve the best of their culture, traditions and way of life. An alternative scenario based on disengagement and inaction will likely deliver more profound social and economic marginalization. These were the choices that people who attended the visioning sessions had to grapple with.

2.2 A community setting its own agenda

The Mannar Marumalarchi 2022 (Restoring Mannar) community visioning project was instigated by the Urban Council of Mannar to arrest a society's despondency and to empower its constituents to be the 'authors of their own destiny'. Elected in March 2011 after an absence of 30 years, the Council was keen to incorporate a people's perspective into Council deliberations about its direction and priorities. In so doing, it gave the people of Mannar a stake in determining their own future and Council an understanding of the people's wishes. In line with international best practice, this visioning process has provided opportunities for public participation in Council's planning and program development, especially important at the commencement of a council's first term in office.

The ***Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022*** (MM2022) project links strategically to the development plans of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) as described in its ***Vaddakkin Vasantham (Northern Spring Development Programme)*** and ***National Physical Planning Policy and Plan 2011-2030⁴*** (NPPPP 2011-2030). It also builds upon local planning efforts outlined in the ***Urban Council Mannar Resource Profile of 2008***. These linkages will enable the people of Mannar to be vital players in both national and international arenas. The MM2022 initiative is the first step to reverse Mannar's decades-long isolation and to restore the fortunes of this once proud and resource-rich place.

Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 consisted of a survey of 210 people residing, working and studying in Mannar, four village-based workshops and a large community forum. These different activities ensured that a broad cross-section of people deliberated, debated and negotiated a common vision for their beloved Mannar urban centre. The summary of findings below provides clear guidance to the Urban Council as it embarks on a people-centred approach to planning and program development.

⁴ ibid

2.3 What people said

Eight key themes were highlighted by those who participated in the survey, village workshops and community forum. Six of the eight themes come within the gambit of Council responsibility - the environment, town planning (municipal services, public facilities, drainage, garbage and roads), community programs, women's development, tourism and finance. The other two priorities, education and business development, fall somewhat outside the scope of local government and will be pursued by other government and private sector agencies. Participants joined enthusiastically in all activities including drawings depicting their idea of an ideal Mannar community in 2022. Raucous discussion, moments of humour and plenty of good will characterized the sessions. In brief, what appear below are the key messages from the people of Mannar to those responsible for the development of their urban centre during the next ten years.

a. Education

Education was an issue highlighted frequently, particularly for young people up to the age of 30 years. Further education was seen as essential for laying a solid foundation for Mannar's future. Respondents expressed concern at seeing their youngsters leaving Mannar for other parts due to a lack of local tertiary education facilities.

Of utmost importance were the establishment of:

- Well-equipped technical colleges
- A branch of a university
- Investment in research and innovation
- Language teaching in English and Sinhala
- Educational support services and scholarships, particularly for Advanced Level students.

b. Business development

Although there was a great emphasis on business development in relation to fisheries, other areas like tourism (covered separately), the need for 'value add' opportunities for the agricultural sector and a focus on IT development of all sectors were also highlighted. Fishermen expressed many concerns, including the possible effects of future oil drilling on access to their fishing and sea cucumber grounds, inadequate action taken against Indian fishing trawlers and Sinhala and Muslim fishermen from outside Mannar and the threat this posed to their future livelihood, the restrictive pass system, little technological advancement or 'value-add' to their industry and restrictions on deep sea fishing.

For overall business development in Mannar, the following initiatives were highlighted:

- Construction of a large and technically modern fish market with state of the art freezer facilities and fish collection centres (vadi houses)
- Refurbishment of the port and fishing harbours at South Bar, Keeri and Thalvupadu with facilities for big boats and trawlers
- Provision of training and support in business planning and IT and awareness of modern technology
- Establishment of fish farms and value added seafood industries
- Support for a thriving garment industry
- Attracting government stimulus for a reinvigorated cottage industries sector especially in the areas of carpentry, dhobis and tailoring, coconut products, toddy manufacture, an expanded and modernized palmyrah industry and gypsum production from salt
- Establishment of specific commercial precincts.

c. Environment

The people of Mannar admitted their complete dependency on the natural environment for their survival. There was a great desire to protect their environment for future generations and a resentment of sandmining, dynamiting of coral reefs to ensure quick fish catches and the filling in of traditional ponds for housing with disastrous effect on the Town's natural drainage systems.

However the people's greatest fear centred on rising sea levels, holding fears that the island of Mannar would be submerged altogether. Their plea was to:

- Build rock walls around vulnerable areas to protect against rising sea levels
- Find alternative sources of sand and soil to halt erosion caused by sand mining
- Overhaul building codes and introduce strict zoning to mitigate against the effects of natural disasters
- Develop effective early warning systems and adequate programs to prepare for natural disasters
- Plant more trees to stop soil erosion and to beautify the place
- Help the natural drainage system by restoring the natural ponds.

d. Town planning (municipal services, public facilities, drainage, garbage, roads)

Although residents demonstrated commitment and loyalty to their beloved Mannar Town, they expressed great disappointment about the 'look and feel' of the place. They felt that the town was badly planned and 'messed up'. Perennial problems of flooded streets due to poor drainage, ad hoc development, illegal encroachment on other people's land, lack of drinking water, a failed sewerage system, an intermittent electricity supply, outdated public facilities and services, 'moon scaped' roads and few recreational facilities particularly for children, had all taken their toll on the place.

Their greatest desire was to ensure that proper town planning occurred and that it took into account their views. Many suggestions were recorded:

- Redesign the town - all government offices and utilities in one precinct, make Mannar Town beautiful, affordable permanent housing for all, underground drainage, sewerage and electrical cables, drinking water from Murunkan and not Keeri, proper drainage and sewerage systems, and street lighting
- Work with the Urban Development Authority to produce a people-centred town plan for Mannar
- Modernize facilities - modern general hospital, modern shopping complex, a big Town Council building complex, new fish market and harbour, clock tower at the roundabout, efficient train system, a modern library with IT facilities, and tourist facilities
- Cater for children and young people – big modern sports stadium with swimming pool, children's parks, modern DTX theatres with air con and surround sound
- Introduce efficient transport facilities – modern train and bus depots with public toilets.

e. Community programs

There was a significant minority who wanted to see the Council instigate community service programs for the betterment of the not so well off, particularly for the elderly, war widows, orphans and the disabled. A number of respondents indicated that they would volunteer for such programs. They also bemoaned the rapid disintegration of the moral fabric of their society since the end of the war, witnessing the rise of domestic violence, teenage pregnancy, child sexual abuse, the abuse of war widows and alcohol and drug dependency.

The following welfare initiatives were suggested:

- Identify the needs of the elderly and develop programs to help them live in dignity
- Develop a drug and alcohol program which includes lobbying for the relocation of the centrally sited Wine Store in Mannar
- Undertake programs to stamp out teenage pregnancy, domestic violence and child abuse
- Instigate programs to address sliding moral and religious standards.

f. Women's development

It was decided to form a separate women's development committee so that the issues and aspirations of women would not be lost or side-lined among the plethora of other priorities. Among the specific women's issues most discussed were:

- Self-employment services for women, particularly livelihoods for war widows
- Exploration of income generation initiatives in new untapped fields
- Community awareness programs focused on the abuse of women and children.

g. Tourism

Throughout the visioning process, residents began to see the benefits of tourism for the area and the need to take control of it themselves in order to minimize any adverse effects. They preferred small-scale, culturally sensitive, economically sustainable and eco-friendly approaches to tourism over the 'high end' imposed western resort-styled models. They also talked about a custodial approach to tourism in which they both preserved their heritage and shared their unique local knowledge with others. Of central importance, however, was the need for a military withdrawal especially from public places as this would not be conducive to attracting fun-loving tourists.

They contributed many ideas to encourage tourism in Mannar:

- Construct a modern transport hub for public and private busses and a modernized railway station
- Consider the withdrawal of the military from Thalladi camp so it can be converted into an airport
- Develop attractive tourist facilities including good quality tourist-standard restaurants, culturally sensitive beach resorts and hotels, a tourist attraction near the bridge, and "star" class hotels
- Upgrade and restore the following tourist attractions and sites - Madhu Church, Thiruketheeshvaram Kovil, Silavathurai Sea (pearl diving), Mannar Fort, Arippu Fort, Baobab Tree in Pallaimunai, Puthukudiyiruppu Light House, Thalaimannar Harbour, Thottaveli and the Giant's Tank
- Develop attractive publicity about what Mannar has to offer tourists.

h. Finance

Although there was no specific request from respondents to form a finance committee, it was taken for granted that such a committee would be vital in developing a financial strategy for the procurement of funds to bank-roll the people's ten year 'wish list'.

The tasks below were identified as requiring further exploration by the finance committee:

- Determine which of the people's initiatives are already on the drawing board of government agencies so that partnership arrangements can be negotiated
- Identify central and provincial government financial allocations that can be utilised for priority projects
- Develop plans to attract outside investment
- Review current revenue raising strategies of Council to determine how these can be enhanced.

2.4 If you were the Chairman of the Urban Council...

As a final exercise at the Community Forum, participants were asked to rank what priorities they would pursue if they were the Chairman of the Urban Council. A number of typical roles of Council were listed on cards and stuck to walls. Each participant was given three sticky dots and asked to affix them on one, two or three of the cards as their indication of what should be the top priorities for action by the Council. Although 'drainage' was the winner, along with 'roads', both are part of routine considerations in town planning. Taking this into account, the exercise clearly demonstrated the great importance that Mannar's residents placed on proper

town planning, ranking this ahead of what might have been considered as far more pressing issues during this post-war period. The results of the voting are recorded below:

1. **Drainage – 79 votes**
2. **Town planning – 62 votes**
3. **Roads – 40 votes**
4. Garbage – 30 votes
5. Environmental care – 22 votes
6. Library – 22 votes
7. Leisure park – 12 votes
8. Social service / volunteering – 12 votes
9. Community unity – 11 votes
10. Tourism – 5 votes



2.5 The People's Plan

The inspired title, Mannarin Marumalarchi (Restoring Mannar), was conceived by a young person from the town, Kamal Raj. The title received instant acceptance and now rolls off the tongues of many locals. Mannarin Marumalarchi has become the new vehicle of hope for this town's dreams and aspirations for the future. In total, over 500 people contributed to negotiating a ten year vision for the Mannar Town Division. Their overall messages were clear. They articulated a vision, a set of principles and a raft of actions to bring their dreams to fruition.

Vision Statement

"Mannarin Marumalarchi – Visioning our future restoring our heritage"

Principles

- Well planned
- Sensory-attractive
- Heritage preserving
- Forward-thinking
- Environmentally sound
- Diversity affirming
- Leadership inspired

Action objectives

- To establish a sound educational footing for Mannar
- To undertake responsible business development
- To ensure environmentally sustainable development
- To pursue effective town planning solutions
- To develop community programs that advance the needs of the most vulnerable
- To affirm the rights, roles and contribution of women and children
- To undertake culturally sensitive and eco-friendly tourism development
- To ensure ethical and Mannar-advancing financial planning.

This section concludes with two participants' reflections of the community visioning project. Each describes the journey of the residents of Mannar Town through the visioning exercises, from suspicion and resignation to one of hope for a bright future in which they play a central role.

Father Victor Sosai, Vicar General, Catholic Church, Mannar

"This is the first time I have been at a gathering in Mannar at which there has been such a broad representation of people from different walks of life - rich and poor, Muslims and Catholics, educated and uneducated, women and men, the elite crowd from Sinnakadai and ordinary residents from rural areas.

The youth especially were very happy and wanting to get involved in the process of developing their city and getting more infrastructure and facilities for it. They also discussed the importance and availability of new technologies.

People got the message. This was a great opportunity for people to voice their desires and requirements, to present at a public forum what they want for their city and for future generations."

Mr Sinclair Peter, Member, Mannar Citizens Committee

“At the very beginning of the workshops, people were not motivated; they thought that with the government’s interference nothing could be done according to their wishes. They were negative about every development plan that had been put forward. After the workshop everybody had hope for the future. They were no longer negative or passive. Their thinking pattern had changed. This was an eye opener for them, that they had been given an opportunity to think and plan their future.”

“They also believe that talk is not enough. They wanted to get involved in the development process themselves. They were ready to contribute in every possible way. They also wanted organizations like the Urban Council and even Jeremy’s organization (Diaspora Lanka) to do the follow up, push these matters forward and especially keep the public aware of the progress.”



Below are sample drawings and group write-ups from the various village workshops and forum.



⑦ லிஸ்ட் 56-7

- * விளையாட்டும் கிராமம் விரிவாக்கணமும் உள்ளதாம்.
- * விளையாட்டும் ஆர்வமும் பற்றும் பாரம்பரம் உள்ளதாம்.
- * குழப்பம் மையநகரங்கள் உள்ளன.
- * தேசிய, சிறந்த M.L.L. நகரம் ஒன்று பெற்றதாம்: sxl: (தொழில், உற்பத்தியும்)
- * மொத்த நகரமும்.
- * தரவம் புகளும்
- * விலக்கு தொட்டிகள்.
- * சேயல், பண்ணை வளர்ச்சி
- * கிழக்கு உயர், கி.நி. கல்யாணம் லாஸ்தாம் பாரம்பரம்.
- * கணம், தொண்டர்கள், ஓரணம் (மேலும்) தயாரிப்பு



2022ல் மகிமை எவ்வாறு திரைக்க வேண்டும்.

1. சுகாய விமானப் போக்கு வரத்து.
2. கிடல் போக்கு வரத்து
1. இந்தியா, 2. கல்பிடடி, 3. யாழ்ப்பாணம் (கல்கடவாள்)
3. டிராம் போக்கு வரத்து.
4. புறகயிரதம். 1. இந்தியா, 2. தொழில், 3. யாழ்ப்பாணம், 4. மல, 5. கிருக்கேதிலாவம்.
தலைமன்னாரிலிருந்து இந்தியாவுக்கு பாலம் சமைத்தல்.
நகரம் மேம்பாடுகள் சமைத்தல்.
5. தனியார் ஒவ்வொருவரிடமும் ரொந்து வாசனம் (முச்சக்கர வண்டி, காள்)
6. முச்சக்கர வண்டிக்குப் பதிலாக டாக்ஸி.





3. THE VISIONING PROCESS

3.1 Community visioning

Community visioning provides a safe yet robust space for residents, government, businesses and not for profits to negotiate their future together. People with diverse perspectives are brought together by leaders to resolve differences and develop strategies to address complex issues that affect the future. It is a space that allows people to focus on public deliberations and consensus building.

Community visioning is used to bridge the gap between the wishes of the people and the actions of their elected leaders. Many Urban Councils around the world utilize such visioning exercises particularly at the start of a term in office to give it a broad conceptual understanding and direction mandated by the people. The Council translates this information into its various business operations, often through the advice of formally established Committees of Council.

The process involves three basic steps:

1. Establishing a Steering Committee which is responsible for the oversight and organization of the process
2. Conducting community workshops and public meetings to discover what people want for the future
3. Convening taskforces of small groups that work on specific issues affecting the community.

To the extent possible, all community visioning activities should:

- Be inclusive of ethnic, caste, religious, gender, educational and status diversity
- Have open membership and reach out across community, public, private and not for profit sectors
- Embrace different opinions and perspectives
- Be future-oriented and not get stuck in the past.

3.2 Mannar's community visioning

In November 2011, the Urban Council of Mannar convened a Steering Committee for the Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Program. It comprised the Government Agent, representatives of line ministries, local non-government organisations (NGOs), community based organisations (CBOs), religious and private sector representatives, young people, citizens and Urban Council staff. The meetings were facilitated by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Urban Council. At the meetings, decisions pertaining to geographic coverage, visioning activities, facilitators, invitees and logistics were discussed.

Three primary ways of gathering data were chosen. These included a semi structured community survey, four village workshops and a large community forum. The three methods were adopted to triangulate the data, ensuring that a wide range of opinions could be compared and contrasted.

3.3 Survey

The survey sought to identify what people loved about Mannar, what they wanted to preserve and what they wanted to see changed. Also, they were specifically asked to identify what would be their three top priorities for the Council's consideration and action. The semi-structured survey had a combination of open and closed questions. This quantitative method of data gathering was designed to complement the more qualitative approaches of the workshops and forum.

The survey was designed in English before being translated into Tamil. The survey was conducted by a group of 20 young volunteers who were the enumerators. A test run of the survey was undertaken with the young people themselves and their feedback was used to refine the next version. Due to lack of time, the final version was not field-tested. The young people were briefed about the amended instrument and how to administer it before being assigned specific sectors of Mannar Town for survey deployment. Each enumerator completed between ten to fifteen forms, altogether totalling 146. Surveys were also given to those who attended the Community Forum and a total of 56 people filled them there. In this instance the respondents were not assisted to complete the forms. Of the aggregate who completed the survey, 55% were male and 45% were female.

The two diagrams provide some background information about who completed survey forms. It depicts age range and length of residence in Mannar Town.

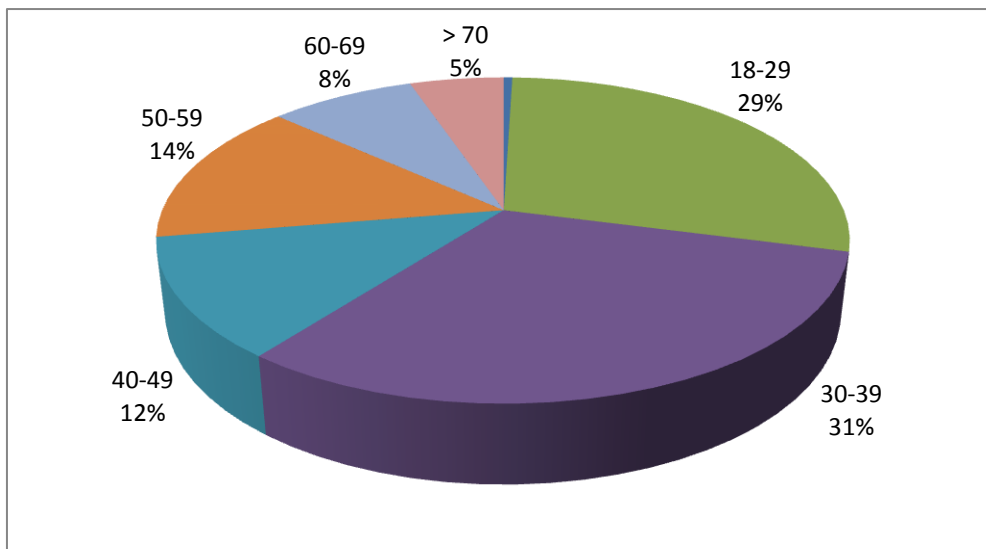


Figure 1: Age of respondents

The survey respondents represented a wide range of ages. Children under the age of 18 were not included in the survey. Two age groups were fairly equally represented - the under 30 (29%) and the under 40 (31%), with the other third aged 40 and above.

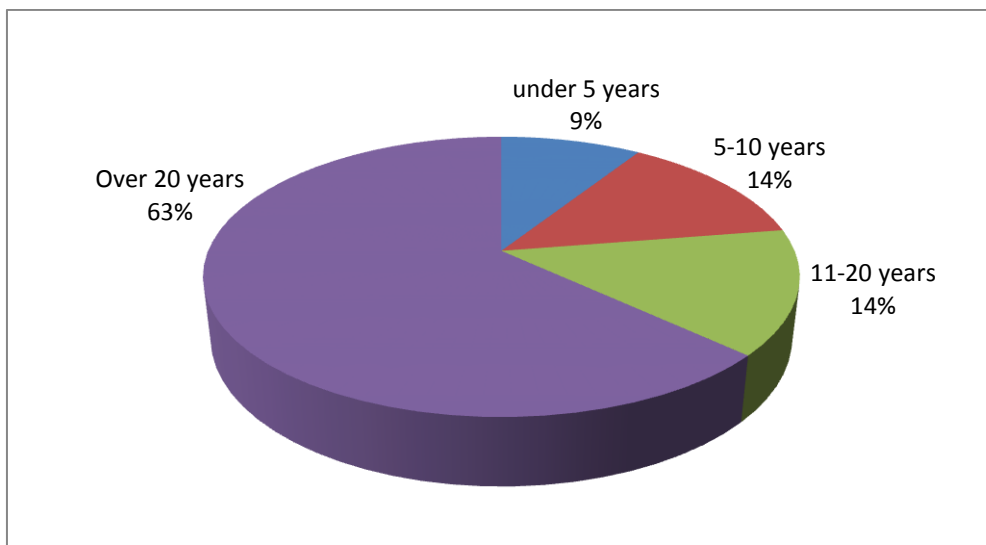


Figure 2: Length of residence in Mannar

Approximately 63% of those who responded to this question were long standing residents of Mannar and had lived in the area for more than 20 years. A significant 73% had lived in the area for more than 10 years with only 9% of the respondents having lived here for less than 5 years. Low mobility patterns would suggest a strong intact community deeply rooted to the area with minimal outside influence. This would suggest both benefits, in terms of possible loyalty and commitment to the area, and challenges including social isolation and strongly fixed ways of thinking and operating.

3.4 Community Workshops

Four Village Workshops were conducted in five villages which were chosen for their historic significance within the Mannar Urban Council boundary. The assistance of the Divisional Secretary (DS) was sought to publicize the workshops through the Grama Niladharis (GN). The GNs ensured that there was a good turn-out at each of the villages of Uppukulam (East), Pallaimunai (North), Panankattukottu (South) and Pettah and Sinnakadai (Central).

Broadly, the people of Pallaimunai are believed to be the decedents of the Portuguese. Pannakattukottu is a thickly populated area, with some parts inhabited by the urban poor. Uppukulam consists mainly of Muslims and most of the population have returned to Mannar in the recent past having been displaced in 1990. Pettah and Sinnakadai are in the heart of the town where the more affluent and educated population live. The details of the Village Workshops are as follows:

Date/time	Event	Venue	Attendance
Tuesday 29 November 2:30 to 5:00pm	Village Workshop #1 Panankattikottu	St Sebastian's Catholic Church Hall	35
Wednesday 30 November 2:30 to 5:00pm	Village Workshop #2 Pallaimunai	Reawakening Community Hall, Pallaimunai	38
Thursday 1 December 2:30 to 5:00pm	Village Workshop #3 Uppukulam	Rural Development Society Building, Pallaimunai Road	42
Saturday 10 December 10:00am to 12:00pm	Village Workshop #4 Pettah & Sinnakadai	Pettah Community Hall	28

Table 1: Community Workshop Schedule

The Community Workshops focused on two primary questions. The first, "What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years?" was asked within a plenary session context. For the second question, "What would you like Mannar to be in the next ten years?" participants were asked to divide into small groups and depict their joint answers by means of a drawing on flip chart paper. A spokesperson from each group was then required to explain the content of the drawing to the others.

3.5 Community Forum

The Community Forum sought to bring together a wide cross-section of Mannar residents in a constructive dialogue. Although there was much pressure from the Steering Committee to segregate the crowd into heads of departments together with professionals and separate meetings for the residents, it was finally decided to create a space for combined robust conversations among the different strata of Mannar society. The activities

planned for the forum were based on two participatory rural appraisal tools – a resource register to document the strengths and weaknesses within Mannar (which is also a part of a SWOT analysis) and a dream map which builds on the ‘strengths’ to envisage a brighter future.

After a period of introductions and formalities, the large group was divided into small groups of ten, each with a facilitator and each allocated one of seven themes. These were chosen based on the major themes that had emerged from the survey:

1. Natural resources (land, sea, water, environment)
2. People and skills (relationships, education, tourism)
3. Livelihood (income, employment, commerce)
4. Built environment (buildings, roads, facilities)
5. Important places (things and places that make Mannar unique)
6. Transport (private and public transport and facilities)
7. Leisure (relaxing activities, sports, hobbies).

Due to the large number of participants, groups 8, 9 and 10 repeated the first second and third themes respectively.

Although it was planned to also complete the ‘Opportunities’ and ‘Threats’ of the SWOT analysis in the small group settings, due to time constraints caused by the lengthy and passionate reporting back from each group, a combined conversation was held instead, in which they spoke about how they could prepare themselves for the opportunities coming its way. Toward the conclusion of this session, a suggestion to form a Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Committee to secure the momentum, was made and adopted. The session wrapped up with an open invitation to those who wanted to join the Committee to record their names at the registration desk.

At the first scheduled meeting after the Community Forum on the following Saturday, approximately 40 people turned up. Participants nominated the groups in which they would like to participate. Out of eight groups, only two would not be under the jurisdiction of the Urban Council – education and business development. Vigorous discussion about the structure of the committees and the warning not to duplicate any official structures in the setting up of these committees led to seek Council endorsement for the formation of formal committees of Council for the remaining six areas – town planning, environmental care, community programs, women’s development, tourism and finance.

Additional mechanisms are also being established to support the work of the Urban Council. The ‘Rebuilding Mannar’ Think Tank comprising Colombo-based experts in fields as diverse as ITC, security, urban design, environment and tourism have pledged their support to the Urban Council and the Mannar District. The setting up of a similar think tank in Melbourne, Australia, is also planned and will offer expertise and knowledge transfers when required. Connecting Mannar nationally and internationally will also serve to break down the isolation that many people in Mannar feel, and also aid the important work of reconciliation across ethnic, religious, national and global boundaries. Overall the people of Mannar responded positively and enthusiastically to Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 and have pledged their ongoing support for its activities.



PART II

4. RESULTS IN DETAIL

4.1 Introduction

This section will discuss all aspects of the community vision process in detail, from the findings of the survey to the learning derived from the Village Workshops and Community Forum, with the material organised under the following headings:

- A. **Mannar's mindset** - where are people at currently?
- B. **Mannar's opportunities** – what is coming Mannar's way?
- C. **Mannar's vision** – what is a people-centred future for Mannar?
- D. **Mannar's actions** – how do we make it a reality?

4.2 Mannar's mindset - where are the people at currently?

“There will be a lack of water and poor sanitation management. The city will look bad flooded with water with bad internal roads and drainage, no electricity – all messed up.”

When posed with the question, “What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years?” there was a common thread of pessimism about the future shared by participants at all four Village Workshops. A litany of woes, based both in reality and imagined, seemed to have overtaken them. They concluded that the place would become an untidy ‘messed up’ town, with bad internal roads and poor electricity supplies, a lack of care for stray dogs, cattle and donkeys. They feared that the place would continue to be inundated during the rainy season and that the Mannar Island may even disappear because of rising sea levels. They were anxious about environmental degradation that could result from drilling for oil and restrictions on fishing that could lead eventually to the disappearance of their fishing villages themselves. They felt that natural disasters such as cyclones, tsunamis, rising sea levels and floods would lead to the destruction of their way of life. As Mannar is not a planned city, they felt that there would be even more environmental disasters ahead.

“Everyone talks about development but nothing will happen. This is based on my experience of living in Mannar for the past 58 years. Nothing has changed.”

They also felt that the local culture would be destroyed by tourism and that western culture would undermine their rich cultural heritage and threaten their moral way of life. This would occur through easy access to net cafes, movies, the internet, television, compromising clothing and mobile technology. They felt certain that after ten years they would be like slaves under the control of others just as they are now, even though the war has ended. They feared that in ten years’ time Sinhala or Muslim people would colonize them and that they would be their masters. Because people’s economic prospects were poor and their capacity to invest in Mannar low, this would lead to outsiders coming in and taking over. Poverty would be blamed for forcing people to sell their native lands to outsiders for low prices. Currently the military was also exerting pressure on those who lived close to the camps to vacate their homes to the forces. Some had given their houses for rent to the military at very nominal rates and were paying exorbitant sums for alternative housing elsewhere. If this was their reality now, they shuddered to think what grave prospects the future would hold.

“At this rate in ten years’ time what we are earning for a month will only be enough for one day.”

Only a handful of people thought that there may be a positive future ahead, with increased factory employment, more houses, businesses and common facilities, advances in education and educational facilities, roads in good condition, and accompanied by rapid population growth (for more information, refer to workshop notes from each village in Annex 3).

Below is the more complete list of responses to the question, “What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years?” given by participants at each of the four village workshops. It was a sobering to think what could have led a community to ponder their future with such trepidation.



Village Workshop – Panankattikottu

- Mannar will become a city
- After ten years we will feel like slaves. We will be under someone else’s control just like now. The war has ended yet we don’t have freedom
- Mannar will be an untidy and messed up town
- The drilling for oil will severely restricts fishing, the sea cucumber trade and make the provision of passes more difficult
- With petroleum rigs and drilling to 4,000 foot depths will disrupt fishing. Mannar Island could disappear!
- The outside of Mannar will look nice but the people will be crushed
- Rising sea levels will drive us from here

- Mannar City will look fine but the fishermen cooperatives will disappear
- There will be a lack of water and poor sanitation management. The city will look bad flooded with water with bad internal roads and drainage, no electricity – all messed up
- Local culture and heritage will be destroyed due to tourism
- We will make good lanes and roads but we won't care for the stray dogs, donkeys and cattle
- More natural disasters will occur. The position of facilities and buildings are not taking into consideration these disasters. No preparation for natural disasters
- More employment from factories will be a positive thing
- If we consider some of these things and do something about it then some good can come
- Good things will happen if we do something.



Village workshop – Pallaimunai

- Advances in education and educational facilities
- Unemployment will increase and you will only be able to get employment if you bribe officials
- Rising sea levels will affect us badly and will affect drainage
- There will be large developments and building of large houses
- Gravel roads will be in good condition and tarred (carpeted)
- There have been previous plans but they haven't been implemented so it will be just the same in 10 years
- There will be more restrictions on fishermen in 10 years
- 80% of this area is fishing communities, restrictions have increased and our representatives are Tamil
- After 10 years Sinhala or Muslims will be here and they will be our leaders
- After 10 years we won't be able to get ahead

- War ended three years ago. Thirteen houses have been rented by the forces. The army wants to rent them but we want them back. They damage our houses
- Ten house owners who live near the military camp have vacated their homes to the forces due to fear. The forces rent them for Rs600 a month but these people are paying heavy rent to live in someone else's house. They informed the GA but because orders came from higher authority, nothing is done
- In other seaside areas, naval officers are putting pressure on people to sell their land to them. Some of these officers have been stationed in Mannar for 5 years
- At this rate in ten years' time what we are earning for a month will only be enough for one day
- In ten years Mannar will be under water.



Village Workshop - Uppukulam

- Uppukulam is a special place
- In ten years' time many parts of Mannar will be under water as the sea moves closer to the land
- Residents have to move away to make room for government buildings and dwindling land
- Education will be destroyed as students leave for Jaffna, Vavuniya and Colombo for studies
- Increased religious conflicts
- Day to day expenses will rise and families will be brought down
- Women's issues will be raised – their livelihood, incidents of abuse, etc
- Private education sector will develop and the standard of public schools will fall
- Because people's economic prospects are poor so their capacity to invest in Mannar is low so this will lead to outsiders coming in and taking over
- Because of lack of capital, people are selling their original native lands to outsiders for high prices because they need money
- The urban population will increase rapidly and this will lead to a poor medical service.



Village Workshop - Pettah and Sinnakadai

- Many buildings and infrastructure will go up
- Roads will be well maintained
- There will be rapid population growth and the town will be full of people, roads and facilities
- Everything will be messed up, no place to build houses and nothing will be planned
- Disaster threats will increase – cyclones, tsunamis, rising sea levels, sea floods and rain floods which will lead to soil erosion
- Ten years ago there was no bridge so we had to imagine it. Now it is here
- Everyone talks about development but nothing will happen. This is based on my experience of living in Mannar for the past 58 years. Nothing has changed
- Many NGOs and government officers live in Pettah but still no drainage
- Living standards will decrease as the population increases
- No employment so it is a fight to maintain living standards
- Already we have dengue caused by a lack of proper drainage so with population increases the situation will get worse
- Foreign cultures will come and destroy our culture. Western culture is affecting our morality and this is happening through the development of net cafes, movies, internet, TV channels, dresses and cell phones.

Mr Kamal Raj, a steering committee member, Mannar resident and project assistant, was present at all the MM2022 activities. He reflected....

“A common feature of all four workshops was at the outset there was an overall feeling of despondency, negativity and lack of control over their destinies among the people. They consistently voiced their fears of environmental degradation, the erosion of their unique culture, fear that technology will be abused by the youth and that their children would migrate to other areas owing to limited opportunities to study in the district.

At this point Jeremy (the facilitator) challenged them as to why they were not leaving Mannar as it didn't sound like a very nice place to live in.

The people had to be motivated to take charge of their destinies rather than be despondent about the future. At the end of the workshop they left hopeful.”



4.3 Mannar's opportunities - what is coming Mannar's way?

An important aspect of the local equation is that Mannar will not be left to its own devices for much longer. As outlined in the introduction, a number of significant developments have either commenced or are in the pipeline and include:

- Restoration of the rail link from Medawachchiya to Talaimannar and hence reconnection to the national rail network. New railway stations and facilities will complement this development
- Restoration of port facilities at Talaimannar together with the recommencement of the ferry service to India that will boost trade, tourism and pilgrim travel
- Petroleum exploration that will commence in the waters off Mannar, designated as Block 8, as soon as exploration in Block 1 in the Mannar Basin, currently underway, has concluded. The Block 8 exploration covers an area of 4,995 sq km. Once the exploration starts in Mannar there will be urgent demand for goods, services and labour, creating forward and backward linkages in the areas of banking, insurance, construction, transportation, utility services, technical and other infrastructure related services⁷
- Mannar being earmarked as one of two Special Purpose Cities with a population that is expected to double, according to the National Physical Planning Policy and Plan 2030 (NPPP 2011-2030). The plans outline many developments including an expressway and rail link from Mannar to Hambantota, a new railway connecting Mannar and Trincomalee, a domestic airport and the Trans Asian Railway which will make the District a critical transport hub. The proposed land bridge between Rameswaran in India and Talaimannar, alone, will see sizeable impact on economic growth as it links to the fast growing South Indian states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka⁸
- New road development linking Mannar with the capital and Jaffna and significantly reducing the duration of travel
- Opportunities to tap the lucrative ecotourism market. Places like the Ramsar Site provides a safe haven for migrant birds as it is their last stop at the end of the Central-South Asia flight path. This area alone sustains well over 20,000 water birds in approximately 4,800 ha⁹. The proximity of Wilpattu National Park will also act as a tourist draw card.

Already the South is marching into Mannar. Many Colombo franchise companies are moving in and establishing more sophisticated operations there. They bring with them their own employees and the profits flow out of the District. The opportunities listed above will also lead to significant change for the Town and its people. This once sleepy, isolated outpost will be transformed into a nerve centre of development and transnational crossing. What remains absent from this dynamic scenario is the concerted involvement of the people of Mannar in putting their mark on the Town's future. The people of Mannar have demonstrated their cunning and resilience though having survived thirty years of civil war, multiple displacement and substantial loss. This fighting spirit and survivor mentality will again prove vital in the next stages of their journey. The Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 visioning exercise was seen as the tool to challenge residents' despairing outlook and act as stimulus for shaping the fortunes of a Town and its people, while they still had the chance to do so.

In the Community Forum, the final question of the day addressed what needed to occur to place the residents of Mannar in a commanding position to best shape this inevitable development. This proved difficult at first as participant after participant returned to more pessimistic ways of thinking. Among those voices, others started to catch the vision and commenced to suggest practical initiatives, for example, that a strategy to develop tourism and train guides be enacted, that English and Sinhala language programs be established and

⁷ Prassan, Jude, *Mannar Town in the Urban Hierarchy of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka* p33

⁸ ibid p34

⁹ ibid p37

an emphasis made on ITC training and the computerization of Mannar. They also felt the need to establish technical training facilities for the fisheries industry, develop 'value-adding' industries particularly for the fisheries and agricultural sectors, and proposed new industries including a paper factory. The formation of a Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Committee to continue this work was also recommended and well supported.

Some general comments from the floor included:

“Are we really prepared to embrace the future?”

“We need to get together for the future development of Mannar based on our religious and cultural traditions. Otherwise we will face many social evils.”

After all the discussions, meetings and workshops, what remained was a sense of resoluteness among participants to forge ahead and reclaim the reigns of Mannar's future development, to speak in its defence, and embrace the future ensuring that its cultural heritage remains intact.



4.4 Mannar's vision – what is a people-centred future for Mannar?

The question about what people love about Mannar was included in the survey to understand the nature of people's connection to this place. Their answers to this question seemed more objective than those given in the Village Workshops. There the participants used the opportunity to cathartically unload about their worries and concerns. Yet when people were asked to focus on what they loved about this place, they seemed to be more circumspect and balanced in their reflections, recognising that there were indeed many aspects that they appreciate about life in Mannar. In the Community Forum participants were asked to analyse both the 'strengths' and 'weaknesses' of Mannar. This section starts with people's positive take on the place and concludes with more sobering reflections on the difficulties they face.

What do you love about Mannar?

Responses	Frequency	Per cent
Natural environment	49	23.7
Good changes, development and strategic outlook	39	18.9
Improving living standards	28	13.5
Special buildings and sites	25	12.1
Unique/cultural heritage/historically significant	14	6.8
Peaceful, connected people	13	6.3
Social diversity	12	5.8
Good facilities	8	3.9
Other	8	3.9
Well educated respected people	4	1.9
Proud to be from Mannar	4	1.9
Post war peace	3	1.5
Total	207	100

Table 2: What people love about Mannar

Almost a quarter of the respondents expressed appreciation for the natural environment, and in the Workshops and Forum, admitted to their complete dependence on it. They made several pleas for its protection. Overall, the land and sea loomed large in their lives. Respondents also recognized that the ending of the war had brought positive changes, particularly a more strategic economic outlook, new development plans (19%) and an improved standard of living (14%). What they also loved was the uniqueness of this place with its historic and religious sites, a rich part of their enduring cultural heritage (19%). Although they were aware of ethnic and religious conflicts, they appreciated the cultural and religious diversity of Mannar and that, overall, they were a peace-loving and connected people (12%).

Many of these sentiments were also expressed at the Community Forum in greater detail when participants were asked to identify the 'strengths' of the area. They described many including ease of communication due to a single language, of Tamil, spoken by most, the commitment to social co-existence and recognition of the cordial nature of relations among the major religions (at the surface level at least) and high standards of discipline the result of a good religious upbringing. They also acknowledged that Mannar had its fair share of educated people in every field and that literacy levels were high. Many top sportsmen and sports instructors hailed from Mannar and were rated highly at an international level. Again in step with the survey results, Forum participants recognized the opportunities they had to achieve good livelihoods in Mannar particularly in the fisheries sector and in cottage industries like carpentry, dhobis and tailoring, coconut and palmyrah production. They affirmed that Mannar Town possessed a highly skilled workforce, a significant number of government services and ready support from NGO and donor agencies.

Frequently emphasized was Mannar's unique and significant historical sites including the Madhu church complex, Thirukketheeswaram Temple, the Dutch Fort in Mannar Town, Aripu Fort in Silavathurai, Pallaimunai biobab tree, Puthukudiyiruppu Lighthouse, Thalaimannar Harbour, Thottaveli, the Giant's Tank and its importance in inland fishing and agriculture, Mannar salterns, the traditional herbs from Thalladi and the pearls of Silavathurai.



What physical features of Mannar should be preserved?

The standout responses for physical features which should be preserved and protected was the environment (53%) and archaeological, religious and cultural sites (33%) as listed above. Answers which focused on the environment included sea and shore protection, preserving the sources of the Island's drinking water, restoring inland ponds, not cutting down natural forests and stopping the removal of mineral sands, raising Mannar above sea level, protecting coral reefs and sea and land creatures. The biobab tree and bird sanctuaries were also mentioned.

Responses	Frequency	Per cent
Environmental/natural resources	175	53.2
Archaeological/tourist sites	81	24.6
Places of culture and worship	28	8.5
Common buildings, facilities and infrastructure	20	6.1
Cottage industries	18	5.5
Unique features	7	2.1
Total	329	100

Table 3: Physical features to be preserved

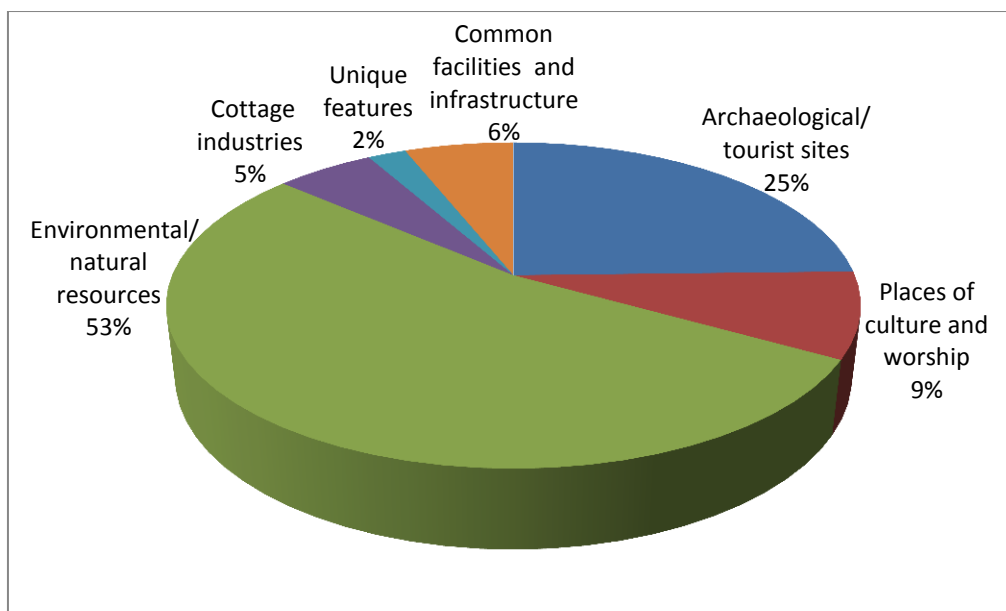


Figure 3: Physical features to be preserved

What social characteristics should be preserved?

Answers to these questions mirrored what had been spoken about in the Workshops and Forum. The most stated response was about the preservation of their cultural heritage (33%). Responses included the preservation of historical books, the Christian culture, traditional habits, classical music and arts, folk dance, drama and Tamil culture. There was a number of people who resented the intrusion of ‘alien’ cultures and were adamant that western cultural influence should be stopped in the name of protecting their Tamil culture.

Response	Frequency	Per cent
Cultural heritage	103	32.8
Morality, virtue, rights	73	23.3
Community unity	72	22.9
Other	24	7.6
Hope for the future Mannar	15	4.8
Volunteerism/social service	13	4.0
Community cooperation and participation	8	2.7
Care for the environment	6	1.9
Total	314	100

Table 4: Social characteristics to be preserved

The issue of morality, virtue and rights (23%) emerged frequently through all the information gathering exercises and took the organizers by surprise. There was a deep seated concern that the moral foundations of their society were starting to crumble after the war. People were anxious about where this would all lead. There were pleas to properly discipline children, get rid of wine shops or else move them from their central location, adopt a god-fearing life, stop the exploitation of children and violence against children, stop the misuse of widows, stop the use of liquor and narcotics, create a good society, stop anti-social behaviour, bring in law and order, respect elders, and promote gender equality.

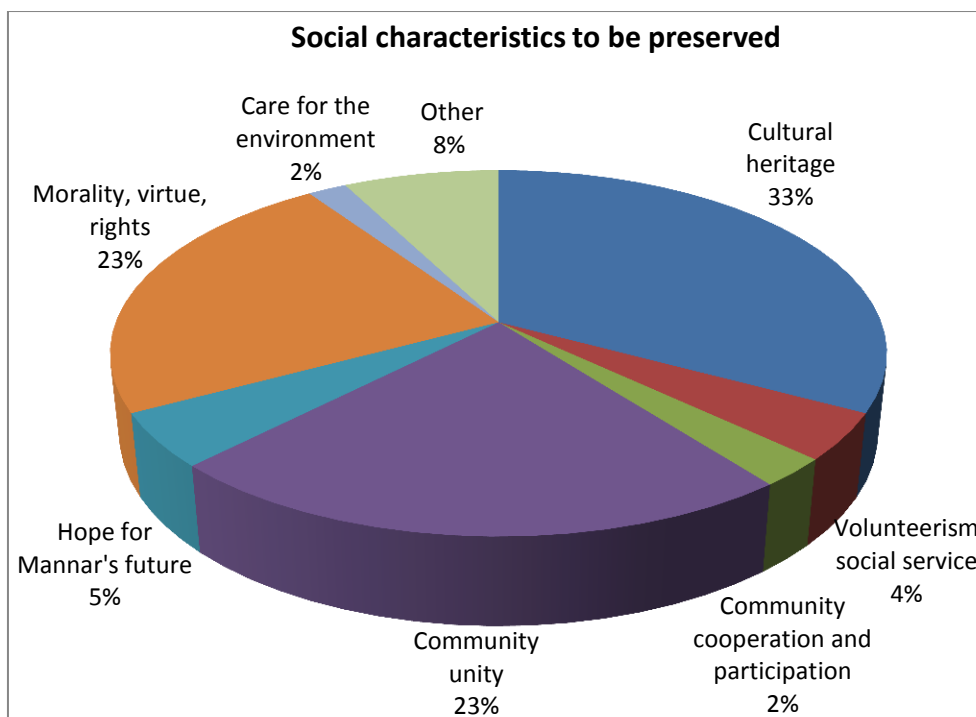


Figure 4: Social characteristics to be preserved

Another area of some anxiety for respondents concerned a diminished socially cohesive society. In Mannar relationships between Muslim and Tamil, among the different religious groups and toward the Government had soured yet 23% of respondents yearned for better times and better relations. Respondents urged their fellow citizens to create activities that brought about reconciliation among the communities and which removed differences between races. They wanted people to pursue village harmony, encourage unity among fishermen and organize social and religious 'get-togethers' to restore good relationships among the communities.

What would make Mannar a better place?

There was an uncanny consistency in the messages of the people of Mannar, not only to the Urban Council, but to anyone who would listen. Proper town planning (26%), livelihoods (21%), further education (9%) and social cohesion (8%) were now recurring themes. Although much noise had been made of inadequate garbage collection and frustratingly unreliable electricity supply, the residents of Mannar have kept returning to a limited number of themes.

Response	Frequency	Per cent
Town planning, facilities, roads, drainage	133	25.8
Livelihood and economic development	107	20.7
Further education	48	9.3
Community unity and people's participation	42	8.1
Environmental care	38	7.4
Improved transport	31	6.0
Clean city	21	4.1
Utilities- electricity and water	21	4.1
Tourism	19	3.7
Other (inc land deeds and housing)	17	3.3
Health Facilities and services	15	2.9

Moral/rights/legal codes	15	2.9
Arts/culture/leisure	9	1.7
Total	516	100

Table 5: Suggested improvements to Mannar

Mannar’s residents want town planners to make Mannar beautiful by building a new and different town. They want Mannar to be a world-famous city based on sustainable development with attractive public spaces, cultural centres and modernized facilities. They want a thriving local economy based on public private partnerships, large scale industrial estates on the one hand and the preservation of cottage industries on the other. They want a socially responsible dimension incorporated into any development aimed at improving the livelihood of poor people and employing women and jobless youth. They want Mannar to be computerized, to exploit India’s links with Sri Lanka and to be self-sufficient, not donor dependent. Above all, they urge other residents to think about the country’s future, to be patriotic and support the national interest, giving respect to all views and working for Sinhala/Tamil/Muslim unity. Their plea is not to pursue self-interest but instead focus on developing ‘common wealth’. One respondent stated, “People living in Mannar have to be united, we have to think that it is our place.” Another added, “All religious people get together and support ‘Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022’.”

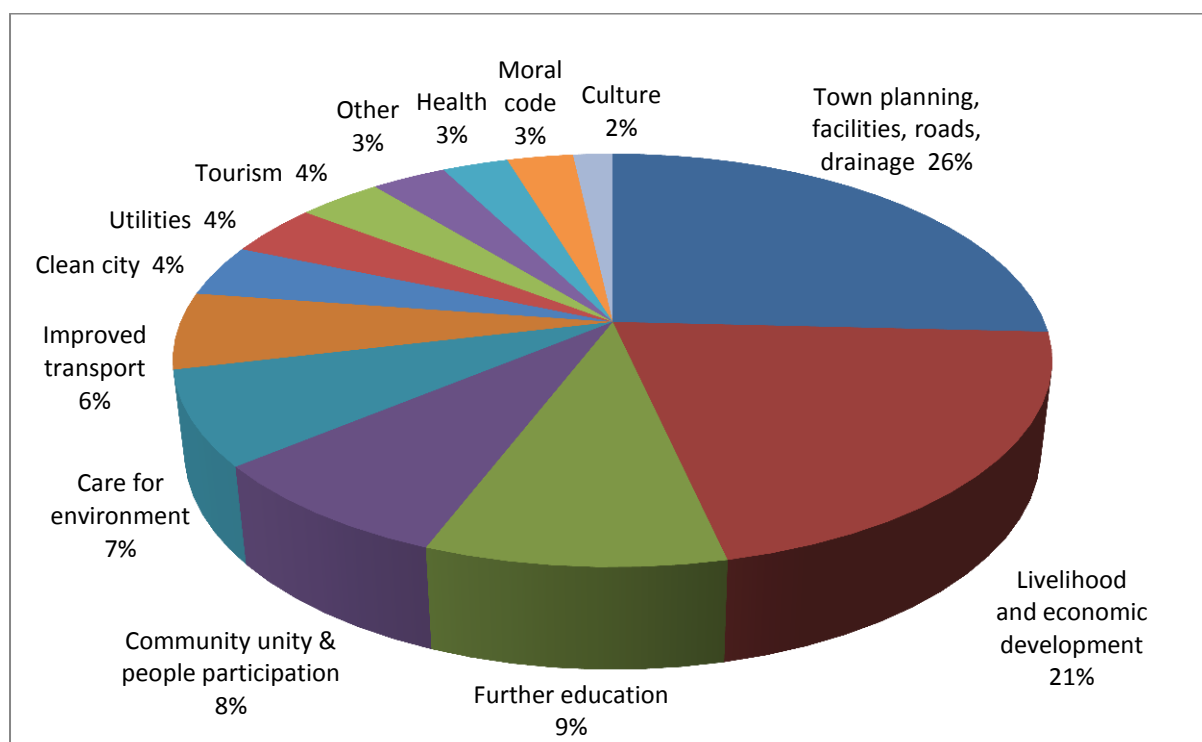


Figure 5: Making Mannar a better place

In their comments, respondents also warned against inter-religious conflict and religious fanaticism. They bemoaned the fact that people showed little interest in learning new things such as IT or other languages like English and Sinhala. The fishermen had little awareness of modern and sustainable methods of fishing, and technological advancements were not incorporated into current approaches. Their view was that politics shatters the peaceful life of people and that political interference only divides the community. They were concerned that because job opportunities were scarce, people especially those who were educated were leaving Mannar for better prospects elsewhere. The same was true for youngsters who sought to pursue higher education and had to depart for Jaffna or Colombo to do so.

Sector specific issues also concerned them. Fishermen continue to endure Government restrictions in many forms. Restrictions on deep sea fishing, the banning of certain equipment giving fishermen from outside

Mannar an unfair advantage, the inefficient pass system and the constant boat and vehicle checks, created even more stress. They also mentioned clashes between fishermen from different areas and that little or no action had been taken against Indian trawlers fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

Other setbacks were also discussed, that there was no public involvement in planning and that residents did not cooperate with authorities when roads needed to be widened. The entire drainage system for the Town was inadequate and that there was no recycling system in place, nor an appropriate site for the dumping of garbage. Often big contractors from elsewhere were engaged in large development projects, bypassing smaller local contractors.

Other weaknesses centred on insufficient tourist facilities and the presence of the military which seriously hamper efforts to maximize tourist numbers. Examples of the impacts include during major religious festivals at Madhu Church and the Thirukketheeswaram Temple and at Silavathurai where there was once a thriving pearling industry but now occupied by the army. Some people were scathing that the Mannar Fort, seen as a valuable tourist asset, was not utilized because of military restrictions and occupation. They also grieved that the younger generation of Mannar had never had the opportunity to explore the fort. Similarly, Thalladi was once famous for its herbal medicinal plants but now it is a restricted area. (Since the Forum, the military has waived any restrictions and provided open access to the Fort.)



What are three goals important to you that you would like to tell Council?

Respondents were asked to prioritize three goals they wished Council to pursue. The question was to gain an understanding of individuals' values and a sense of what was important to them. One's first response was given a weighting of three, their second, two and their third, a value of one. Percentages were calculated to discover the important priorities for the aggregate of the Mannar sample.

Response	First Preference		=%*3	Second Preference			Third Preference		TOTAL	TOTAL %
	Frequency	%		Frequency	%	=%*2	Frequency	%		
Protect the natural environment	81	38.57	115.71	23	10.95	21.90	28	13.33	150.94	25.1
Provide basic infrastructure	55	26.19	78.57	46	21.90	43.81	31	14.76	137.14	22.9
Look after most vulnerable, public involvement, volunteering	27	12.85	38.57	44	20.95	42.11	43	20.48	100.96	16.8
Encourage sustainable economic development	22	10.48	31.43	48	22.86	45.71	21	10.00	87.14	14.5
Value children and young people	4	1.90	5.71	12	5.71	11.43	40	19.05	36.19	6.0
Celebrate cultural heritage	15	7.14	21.43	15	7.14	14.29	1	0.48	36.19	6.0
Create visually attractive town centre	4	1.90	5.71	13	6.19	12.38	34	16.19	34.29	5.8
Introduce new recreational facilities	2	0.95	2.86	9	4.29	8.57	12	5.71	17.14	2.9
Total	210	100		210	100		210	100		100

Table 6: Resident goals for Council

In accord with the results of the Village Workshops, Mannar residents' connection to land and sea, expressed in the words, "Protect the natural environment," was at the forefront of their personal values and the message they wanted to communicate to the Council. Environmental protection was the dominant value chosen by 25% of respondents. Another value of particular note was the significant support expressed for Council to instigate community based welfare and human service initiatives (16.8%). There was less surprise when respondents thought that Council should maintain basic infrastructure (23%) and encourage sustainable economic development (15%).

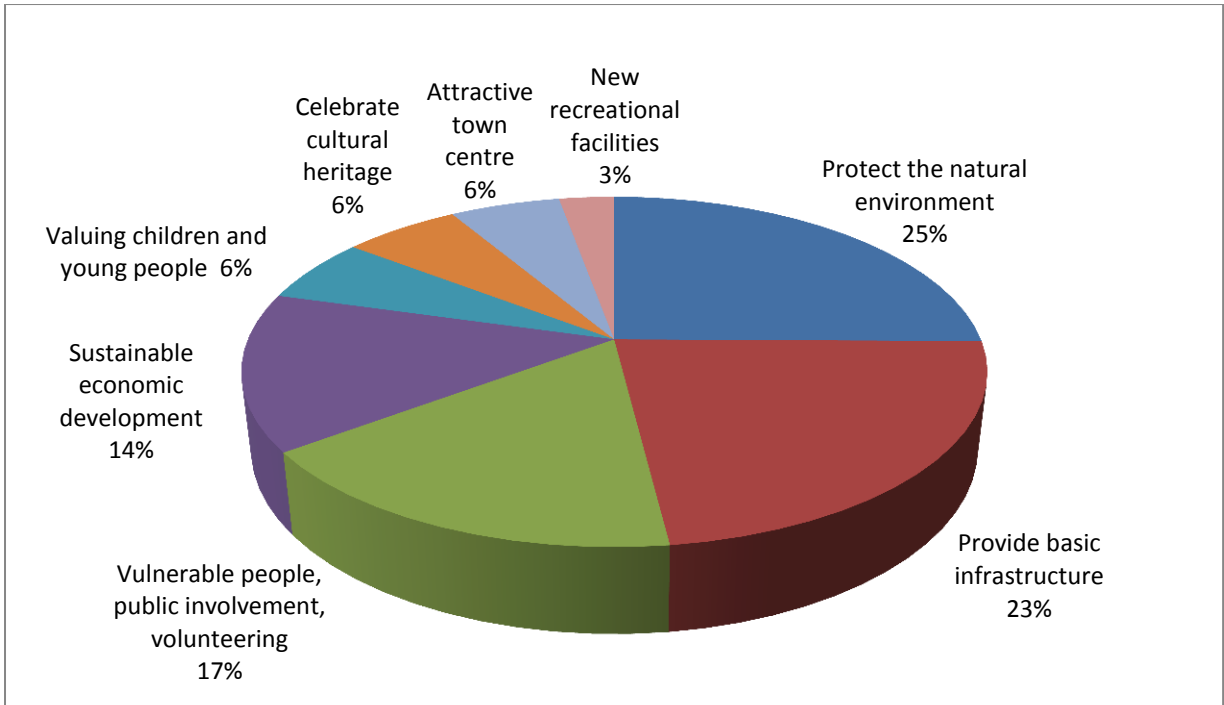


Figure 6: Personal goals you would like to tell Council (aggregated)

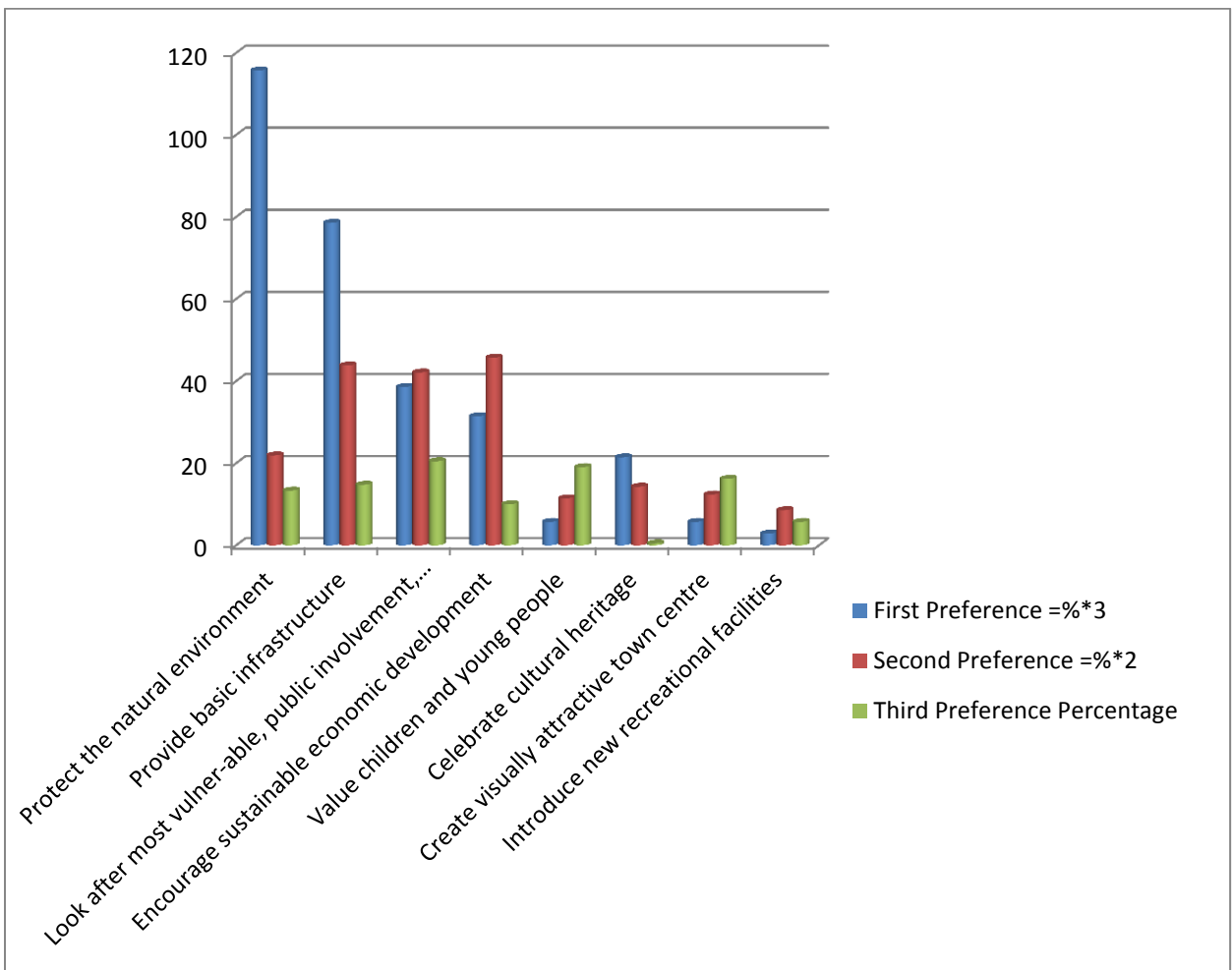


Figure 7: Personal goals you would like to tell Council (by preference)

4.5 Mannar's actions - how do we make it a reality?

The Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 activities netted a significant amount of information. Making headway from generalities to specifics and awareness to action is vital in the visioning process. This section makes one final attempt at clarifying the people's priorities for Council action. Later in this section participants are asked whether they would like to become actively involved in the development of Mannar and are given a number of suggestions from which to choose.

If you were the Chairman of the Mannar Urban Council...

The question, "If you were the Chairman of the Urban Council, what would be your three top priorities for action?" was intended to put respondents in the driver's seat of Council to sharpen their thinking and focus. Although the results of the survey on this question vary slightly with a similar ranking exercise undertaken at the Community Forum, the top three priorities for Council remain the same – roads, drainage and town planning. (Please note that the exclusion of 'Health' from the list at the Community Forum poses some difficulty for a direct comparison between the two results.)

Survey results	Community Forum results
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roads – 22% 2. Drainage – 20% 3. Town planning – 13% 4. Environmental care – 11% 5. Social service/volunteering – 11% 6. Garbage – 10% 7. Health – 4% 8. Leisure facilities – 3% 9. Community unity – 2% 10. Tourism – 1% 11. Library – 1% 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drainage – 27% 2. Town planning – 21% 3. Roads – 14% 4. Garbage – 10% 5. Environmental care – 8% 6. Library – 8% 7. Leisure facilities – 4% 8. Social service / volunteering – 4% 9. Community unity – 4% 10. Tourism – 2% 11. (Health was not included as a choice)

Table 7: Priorities for the UC chairman

As with previous tables of this sort, the percentage for the first preference was multiplied by three and the percentage for the second preference was multiplied by two so as to ascribe a different weighting to a respondents' first, second and third preferences.



Response	First Preference			Second Preference			Third Preference		Total	Total Percentage
	Frequency	%	=% * 3	Frequency	%	=% * 2	Frequency	%		
Roads	42	28	84	22	16.30	32.59	16	17.39	133.98	22.4
Drainage	28	19	56	41	30.37	60.74	4	4.35	121.09	20.2
Town planning	13	8.67	26	23	17.04	34.07	16	17.39	77.47	12.9
Environmental Care	21	14.00	42	7	5.19	10.37	13	14.13	66.50	11.1
Volunteer/social services	10	6.67	20	13	9.63	19.26	25	27.17	66.43	11.1
Garbage	18	12.00	36	11	8.15	16.30	6	6.52	58.82	9.8
Health	8	5.33	16	9	6.67	13.34	5	5.43	24.1	4.0
Leisure facilities & cultural activities	4	2.67	8	3	2.22	4.44	3	3.26	15.71	2.6
Community unity	3	2.00	6	4	2.96	5.93	2	2.17	14.63	2.4
Tourism	1	0.67	2	2	1.48	2.96	2	2.17	7.14	1.2
Library and library Services	2	1.33	4	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	4.00	.6
Total	150	100		135	100		92	100		100

Table 8: Priorities for the UC chairman (by preference)

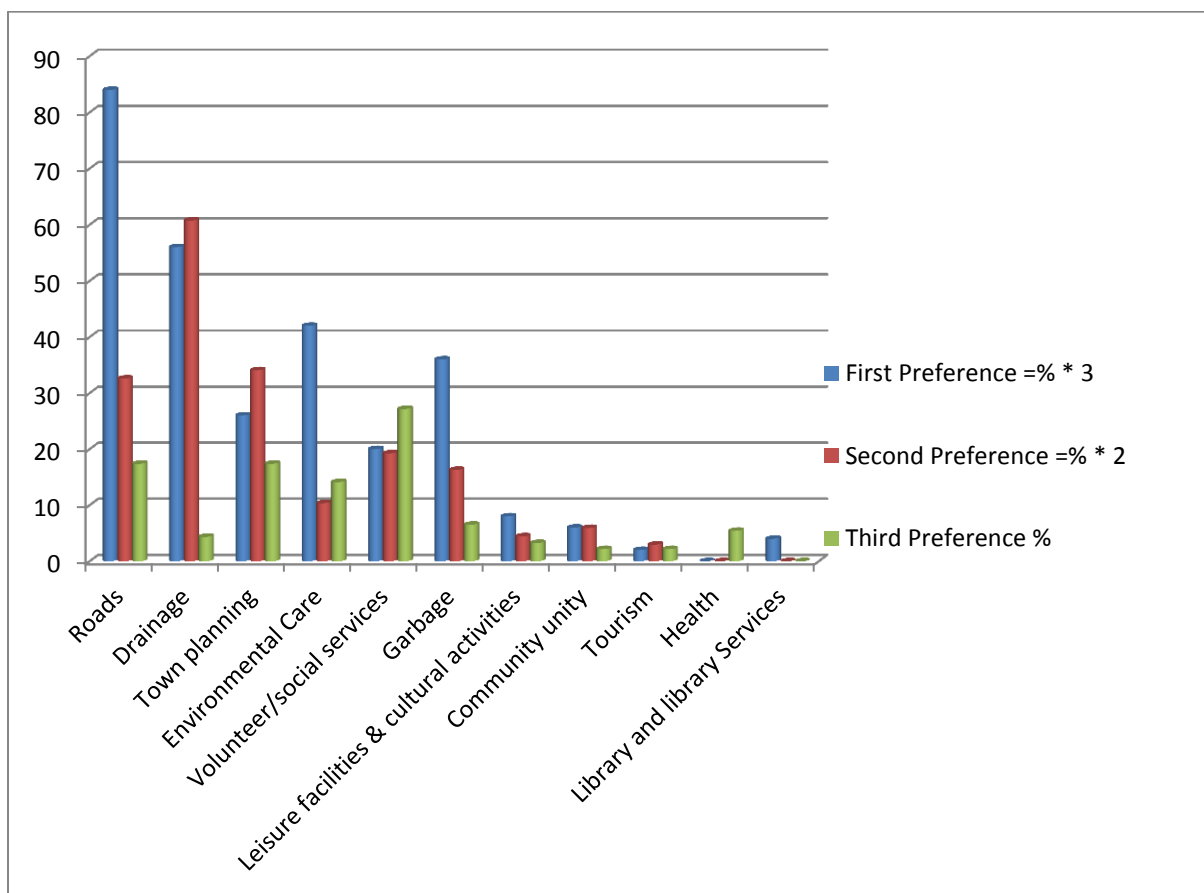


Figure 9: Priorities for the UC chairman (by preference)

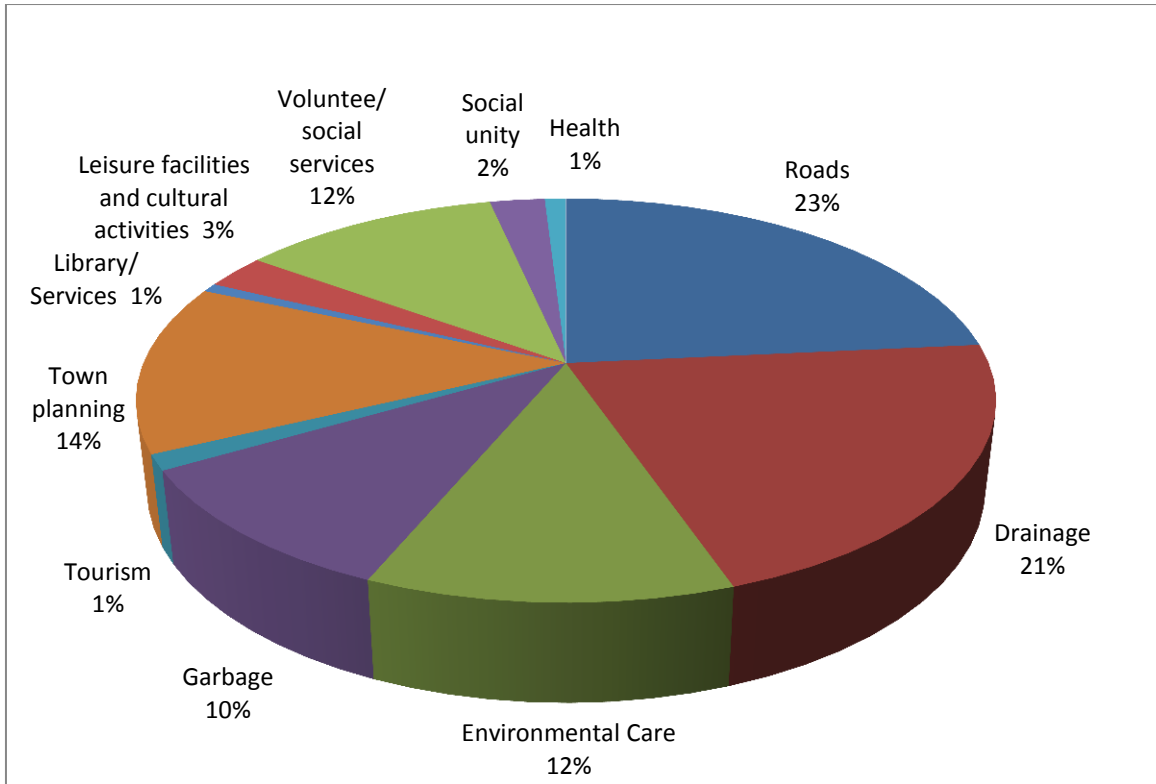


Figure 8: Priorities for the UC chairman (aggregated)



Involvement in the future development of Mannar

A large number of respondents in the survey indicated that they would be interested in participating in the development of the Mannar Urban Centre. Many put their names down for a number of different options. Getting involved in environmental projects topped the list (28%), followed by being a member of the advisory committee (21%) and volunteering for social service (20%). Taking part in shramadana activities (11%) and helping Council organise cultural events (8%) were also positive indications that the people of Mannar wished to play an active role in the development of their Urban Centre.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Environmental projects	124	28.25
Advisory committees	93	21.18
Social service volunteer	86	19.59
Shramadana	48	10.93
Cultural events	36	8.20
Provide technical expertise	24	5.47
Look after stray animals	19	4.33
other	9	2.05
Total	439	100.00

Table 9: Sign up for MM2022 follow up action

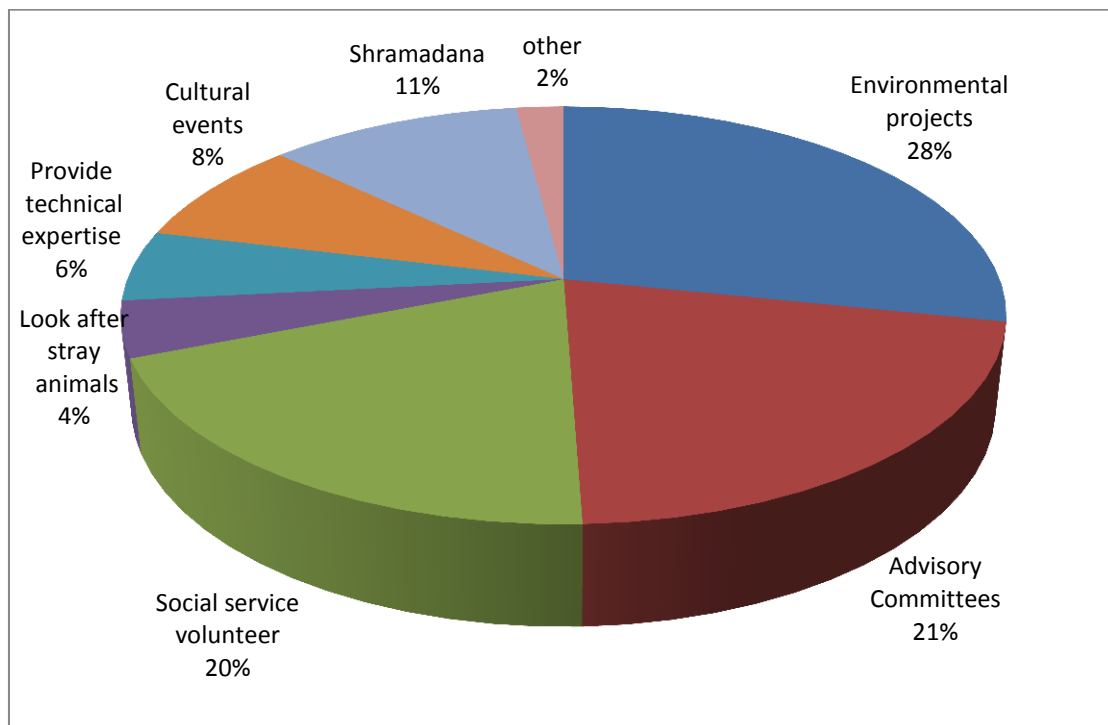


Figure 9: Sign up for MM2022 follow up action



Post visioning plans and activities

On Saturday 10 December, 2011, a follow up meeting was held at the Urban Council Mannar. Forty people attended including the Vice Chairman, Council Members and residents of the Town. They wanted to be a part of committees that supported the Urban Council in its implementation of the Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 project. Lengthy discussions were held about forming eight MM2022 sub committees. To avoid duplication of functions, the Urban Council Mannar was asked to consider appointing several committees as formal Committees of Council in accordance with the Urban Council Ordinance. The proposal made to the Urban Council Mannar was to consider the establishment of the following six committees each under the chairmanship of a Council Member:

1. Town Planning (including municipal services and public facilities)
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Community Programs
4. Tourism Development
5. Women's Development
6. Finance

Chairpersons will be sought for the remaining two committees from outside Council but these committees will function in close partnership with the other six. Their focus will be:

7. Further Education
8. Business Development.



Functions of Urban Councils

Below are two articles from Sri Lanka's Urban Council Ordinances (1988) which clearly set out the role of Council in reference to its constituency and also how its constituency can assist the Council in the carrying out of its duties. This forms the basis of the Committees of Council referred to above.

4. The Urban Council constituted for each town shall, subject to the powers reserved to or vested in any other authority by this Ordinance or by any other written law, be the local authority, within the administrative limits of the town charged with the regulations, control and administration of all matters relating to the public health, public utility services, and public thoroughfares, and generally with the protection and promotion of the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people and the amenities of the town. (Urban Councils Ordinances Chapter 25, page 2, 1988)

29. (1) An Urban Council may from time to time appoint committees consisting either of members of the Council or partly of members of the Council and partly of other inhabitants of the town, for the purpose of advising the Council with reference to any of its powers, duties or responsibilities, or any matter under the consideration of the Council, and may from time to time, subject to such instructions or conditions as it may determine, delegate any of its powers or duties to such committees other than the power to raise any loan, to levy any rate, or to impose any tax¹⁰.



¹⁰ Urban Councils Ordinances Chapter 25, page 9, 1988

Getting closer to action

During the meeting, participants chose committees of interest, identified others who could be invited onto the committees and commenced to explore possible strategies for each of the areas. A follow up meeting is planned for early January, 2012, at which the findings of the Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Report will be available.

The main points generated in the groups are listed below:

Group 1: Town Planning

- Obtain UDA's draft town plan for Mannar
- Consider housing complexes and apartments
- Modernize toilet and sewage systems
- safe drinking water (consider calcium additives)
- Well planned drainage system
- Beach road
- Cheap electricity from India
- More roundabouts

Group 2: Environmental Care

- Soil erosion
- Rising sea levels
- Environmental assessment of oil and gas industries
- Drinking water and underground water sources
- Palmyrah resources

Group 3: Community Programs

- Address alcohol and drug addiction
- Campaigns to stamp out child abuse and sexual abuse
- Programs that instil strong religious/moral values
- Change the location of the Wine Store
- More emphasis on care for the elderly

Group 4: Tourism

- Development of leisure places eg beach shelters
- Bird sanctuary
- Value add to the biobab tree as a tourist attraction
- Renovate the Mannar fort

Group 5: Women's Development

- Training for self-employment
- Job opportunities for widows
- Income generation in new fields
- Small industry opportunities

Group 6: Finance

- Partnerships with government on projects identified by both them and MM2022
- Identify central and provincial government financial allocations for priority projects
- Develop plans to attract outside investment
- Enhance current revenue raising strategies of Council.

Group 7: Further Education

- Technical college
- English language training
- Mannar as IT world leader

Group 8: Business development

- New small business development to capitalise on future opportunities
- Value add to cultivation
- Self-employment
- Promote industrial park to local businesses
- Paper factory.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The value of the Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 experiment will be the extent to which the staff and elected members of the Urban Council and the people of Mannar digest the findings, commit themselves to being involved in its implementation, and through their combined actions, realise a different Mannar Urban Centre. The completion of the MM2022 project is the first step of many toward achieving a desired future and restoring Mannar to a place of restored prominence.





PART III

ANNEXURES

- 1. Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 poster**
- 2. Workshop and Forum: Sample drawings and discussion points**
- 3. Complete notes from village workshops and community forum**
- 4. Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Survey and responses**

Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 poster



Complete notes from village workshops and community Forum



Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022

Visioning our future Restoring our heritage

Aim

To cultivate a positive vision of a thriving and unique Mannar District which preserves the best of its heritage and embraces a sustainable future.

Objectives

1. To contribute toward a shared positive vision for Mannar District's future
2. To conserve and protect the unique attributes of the District's culture and heritage
3. To carve out a niche for Mannar in a global 21st century context, based on sustainable social, economic and environmental foundations.

Challenge

Research conducted in Mannar last year found that people experienced uncertainty about the future and had developed a 'bunker mentality' as a result. Understandably, community efforts were largely focused on survival and rebuilding based on familiar past practices in a place which developed separately from the rest of Sri Lanka. A primary challenge for Mannar will be its ability to straddle past realities and future opportunities in a globalised 21st century context.

For Mannar, there are numerous plans in the pipeline – recommencement of the ferry service between India and Sri Lanka, building of the coastal Colombo to Mannar road that would accelerate the District's accessibility to the capital, Sri Lanka's free trade agreement with India, oil and gas exploration, wind farms for energy self-reliance, a bird sanctuary to attract the eco tourist dollar and a renewed emphasis on agriculture and livestock. These developments present opportunities for Mannar to reassert itself as smart, vibrant, attractive, resource rich community... if the public and private sectors catch this vision.

In this post-conflict era, there are also opportunities to re-imagine, retrofit and reconstruct this community with an approach to development that improves the long-term social, economic and ecological health of the district. This could be realised through efficient land use, efficient public transport, efficient resource use, less pollution and waste, restoration of natural systems, affordable housing and clean living environments, a healthy social ecology, a sustainable

economy, civic participation and preservation of local culture and wisdom. In this venture, there is a valuable and constructive role for both diaspora and domestic Sri Lankans to play.

Engaging the community

So what do Mannar residents value about their place? What do they want Mannar to look like physically, socially, economically and environmentally? To find out, residents will be consulted in various ways to develop a common vision for the future. Community workshops, 3 minute video clips, drawings, surveys and other creative tools will be used to coax local people to imagine Mannar ten years from now.

Sample questions

- What are 3 things you like about Mannar?
- What unique features in Mannar would you like to preserve?
- What are 3 things which will really improve Mannar?
- Name 3 places you would take out-of-town visitors
- Name 3 places you would avoid taking visitors

Sparking civic commitment

Other world cities have conducted similar visioning processes and have reaped the benefits of both a pro-active population making valuable civic contributions and authorities with better integrated planning outcomes with the support of the community. Such processes start with community conversations that spark fresh belief in and loyalty to one's home turf. The rich and positive information gained from residents will feed into the short and long term plans and programs of the Urban Council.

2011 Program

Date/time	Event	Venue
Tuesday 29 November 2:30 to 5:00pm	Village Workshop #1 Panankattikottu	St Sebastian's Catholic Church Hall
Wednesday 30 November 2:30 to 5:00pm	Village Workshop #2 Pallaimunai	Reawakening Community Hall, Pallaimunai
Thursday 1 December 2:30 to 5:00pm	Village Workshop #3 Uppukulam	RDS Building Pallaimunai Road
Friday 2 December 3:00 to 5:00pm	Facilitator's Briefing Meeting,	Divisional Secretary's Office
Saturday 3 December 9:00am to 1:30pm	Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Community Forum	Town Hall
Saturday 10 December 10:00am to 12:00pm	Village Workshop #4 Pettah & Sinnakadai	Pettah Community Hall
Saturday 10 December 3:00pm to 5:00pm	Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Committee Meeting	Urban Council Mannar

Village Workshops

Objectives:

1. Identify a people's vision for Mannar for the next ten years
2. Provide broad direction to the Urban Council for its plans and programs

Time	Activity and persons responsible	Who	Resources
2:30pm	Arrive and registration	Young people	Registration sheets pens Camera
2:45pm	Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome from GS • Purpose of workshop • Intro to Diaspora Lanka and Jeremy • Jeremy 	GS Mr Croos Kamal Jeremy	Mannarin Marumalarchi banner
3:00pm	Q: What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others' agendas for Mannar • What about your agenda for Mannar? 	Jeremy Kamal – interpreter Young person – scribe	Flip chart Whiteboard markers Bluetac
3:30pm	Q: What would you like to see happen in Mannar in the next 10 years? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would it look like? (physical) • How will people relate to each other? (social) • What will people be doing? (economic) • How will people think about the natural environment? (environmental) • How will our leaders act toward us? (political) 	Jeremy Kamal – interpreter	
3:45pm	Our Blueprint for Mannar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work in 5 table communities – number each participant 1-5 • Role play: each group representing the Urban Council is given a program area (physical, social, economic, environmental and political) and must develop a plan to take to the forthcoming election • Participants draw their Mannar blueprint 	Jeremy Kamal – interpreter	Flipchart paper Coloured markers Bluetac Short eats Drinks Dust bin
4:15pm	Group presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group nominates a spokesperson • Group presentations 	Kamal Presenter	Bluetac
4:45pm	Close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing addresses from UC and GS • Invitation to attend community forum on Saturday 	UC rep GS Kamal Jeremy	

Village Workshop – Panankattikottu

Q1: What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years?

- Mannar will become a city
- The drilling for oil will severely restrict fishing, the sea cucumber trade and make the provision of passes more difficult
- The outside of Mannar will look nice but the people will be crushed
- With petroleum rigs and drilling to 4,000 foot depths will disrupt fishing. Mannar Island could disappear!
- Rising sea levels will drive us from here
- After ten years we will feel like slaves. We will be under someone else's control just like now. The war has ended yet we don't have freedom
- Mannar City will look fine but the fishermen cooperatives will disappear
- There will be a lack of water and poor sanitation management. The city will look bad flooded with water with bad internal roads and drainage, no electricity – all messed up
- Local culture and heritage will be destroyed due to tourism
- We will make good lanes and roads but we won't care for the stray dogs, donkeys, cattle
- Mannar will be an untidy and messed up town
- More natural disasters will occur. The position of facilities and buildings are not taking into consideration these disasters. No preparation for natural disasters
- If we consider some of these things and do something about it then some good can come
- More employment from factories will be a positive thing
- Good things will happen if we do something.

Q2: What would you like to see happen in Mannar in the next 10 years?

Group 1

- Rock embankments stop rising sea levels and soil is obtained from suitable areas so that soil erosion does not occur
- Rocks deposited in the sea to break the power of the waves
- Fishing harbours at South Bar, Keeri and Thalvupadu
- Boating area from the new bridge to the railway station
- A children's park and playground on the land near the bridge
- A modern stadium
- A new fishermen's housing scheme at Panankattikottu as currently the huts are untidy and an eyesore
- An industrial estate
- An alternative power station
- Modern emergency hospital; now serious cases go to Vavuniya and some die on the way
- A growing seafood industry
- A tourist hotel
- Modern shopping complex.

Group 2

- Churches of different faiths
- Fishing harbour
- Affordable housing
- 'star' hotels
- Children's parks
- Modern DTX theatres with air con and surround sound
- Modern hospital
- Rock walls to prevent the sea from coming in
- Trees lining the streets
- Street lights
- Underground electrical cables
- Modern railway and bus services with techno facilities

- Modernized businesses
- Expanded and modernized palmyrah industry.

Group 3

- Repaired Mannar port and a fishing harbour at South Bar
- Large and technically modern fish market with proper freezer rooms and fish collection centres (vadi houses)
- Rock walls to protect against rising sea levels
- Parks with trees and flowering plants
- Tourist resort near bridge
- High tech supermarket
- Specific commercial precincts – hardware, jewellery, electrical
- Clock tower at roundabout
- Three storey hospital
- Thriving garment industry
- Modern railway
- Big Town Council building complex
- Relocate government offices to a separate precinct
- An expanded modern bus service and station
- Big boats and trawlers
- Thalladi airport instead of Thalladi military camp.

Group 4

- All government offices and utilities in one precinct
- Modern transport hub for private busses, CTB, autos next to a petrol shed
- Attractive tourist facilities including good restaurants, beach resorts and hotels
- Redesigned town with underground drainage and sewerage, new fish market, harbour, clock tower, big sports stadium, children's parks, modern general hospital and an efficient train system
- Modern technical college and a well-equipped science lab.

Group 5

- Lots of trees and street lighting
- Permanent housing for all
- Modern hospital
- Technical training college
- Boating facilities for locals and tourists
- A refurbished port
- Good quality tourist standard restaurants
- Children's park
- Swimming pool
- Clock tower
- Modernized bus station
- Fish farms and increased gypsum production from salt.

Village Workshop – Pallaimunai

Q1: What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years?

- Advances in education and educational facilities
- Unemployment will increase and you will only be able to get employment if you bribe officials
- Rising sea levels will affect us badly and will affect drainage
- There will be large developments and building of large houses
- Gravel roads will be in good condition and tarred (carpeted)
- There have been previous plans but they haven't been implemented so it will be just the same in 10 years

- There will be more restrictions on fishermen in 10 years
- 80% of this area is fishing communities, restrictions have increased and our representatives are Tamil. After 10 years Sinhala or Muslims will be here and they will be our leaders
- After 10 years we won't be able to get ahead
- War ended three years ago. Thirteen houses have been rented by the forces. The army wants to rent them but we want them back. They damage our houses
- Ten house owners who live near the military camp have vacated their homes to the forces due to fear. The forces rent them for Rs600 a month but these people are paying heavy rent to live in someone else's house. They informed the GA but because orders came from higher authority, nothing is done
- In other seaside areas, naval officers are putting pressure on people to sell their land to them. Some of these officers have been stationed in Mannar for 5 years
- At this rate in ten years' time what we are earning for a month will only be enough for one day
- In ten years Mannar will be under water.

Q2: What would you like to see happen in Mannar in the next 10 years?

Group 1

- Bunds to protect the whole island
- Beach hotel and restaurants
- University and technical college
- Zoo near South Bar
- Swimming pool
- Tourist hotels and resorts
- A modern railway station
- Multi-storey buildings.

Group 2

- All roads will be carpeted
- Rock embankments will protect the land from the sea
- There will be a fishing harbour, supermarket and an international standard stadium
- New flats and buildings
- Technical college and university
- Garment, tin fish and other factories
- Proper drainage system which will take all water to the sea
- There will be a bridge linking Mannar and India.

Group 3

- Grand techno fishing and palmyrah industries and sea shell product manufacturing
- Permanent housing for all
- Water supply to all areas
- Street lighting for all roads
- Computerized libraries
- Computerization of all sectors
- Specific shopping precincts and supermarket
- Rock walls to protect the sea shore.

Group 4

- Unity among all cultures and businesses
- Rocky bund to protect the land
- Tree planting to prevent soil erosion
- Fishing harbour with freezer storage facilities
- Deep sea fishing facilities
- Space for gardening and cultivation
- University, technical college, vocational centres
- Modern hospital
- Road signs and pedestrian crossings

- Paved internal roads and good water supply
- Underground electrical wiring
- Modern highways
- Domestic airport.

Group 5

- Unity of all local religions
- Freedom to fish in all areas
- Community entertainment and relaxing and attractive parklands
- Clean and attractive beaches
- Swimming pool
- Childcare centres
- Computerized techno library
- Modern railway station.

Village Workshop – Uppukulam

Q1: What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years?

- In ten years' time Uppukulam is a special place
- Many parts of Mannar will be under water as the sea moves closer to the land
- Residents have to move away to make room for government buildings and dwindling land
- Education will be destroyed as students leave for Jaffna, Vavuniya and Colombo for studies
- Increased religious conflicts
- Day to day expenses will rise and families will be brought down
- Women's issues will be raised – their livelihood, incidents of abuse, etc
- Private education sector will develop and the standard of public schools will fall
- Because people's economic prospects are poor so their capacity to invest in Mannar is low so this will lead to outsiders coming in and taking over
- Because of lack of capital, people are selling their original native lands to outsiders for high prices because they need money
- The urban population will increase rapidly and this will lead to a poor medical service.

Q2: What would you like to see happen in Mannar in the next 10 years?

Group 1

- Restore the Dutch fort
- Retail concentration through a multi-storey commercial complex
- Government and administrative functions under the one roof
- IT park
- Children's park, playground and proper football stadium
- Modern library facilities
- Housing schemes
- Roundabout with respective religious symbols
- Tourism development
- Domestic airport.

Group 2

- Wave breakers for flood protection
- Technical college and teachers training college
- Government departments under one roof
- Four-lane highway into Mannar
- Children's park
- Multi-storey development
- Modern hospital complex.

Group 3

- Complete drainage system to prevent flooding.

Group 4

- Wide roads with moderate traffic
- Wave breakers to prevent flooding from rising sea levels
- Modern facilities for fisheries including cold storage.

Group 5

- Harbour
- Supermarket
- Domestic airport.

Village Workshop – Pettah & Sinnakadai

Q1: What do you think will happen to Mannar in the next ten years?

- Many buildings and infrastructure will go up
- Roads will be well maintained
- There will be rapid population growth and the town will be full of people, roads and facilities
- Everything will be messed up, no place to build houses and nothing will be planned
- Disaster threats will increase – cyclones, tsunamis, rising sea levels, sea floods and rain floods which will lead to soil erosion
- Ten years ago there was no bridge so we had to imagine it. Now it is here
- Everyone talks about development but nothing will happen. This is based on my experience of living in Mannar for the past 58 years. Nothing has changed
- Many NGOs and government officers live in Pettah but still no drainage
- Living standards will decrease as the population increases
- No employment so it is a fight to maintain living standards
- Already we have dengue caused by a lack of proper drainage so with population increases the situation will get worse
- Foreign cultures will come and destroy our culture. Western culture is affecting our morality and this is happening through the development of net cafes, movies, internet, TV channels, dresses and cell phones.

Q2: What would you like to see happen in Mannar in the next 10 years?

Group 1

- Technical college for English language learning
- Branch of a university or technical college
- Modern hospital
- Modernized bus station and busses
- Attractive parks, theme parks and tourist facilities
- International cricket stadium
- Many factories including ice, salt and garment, storage and freezer facilities for fish, crabs and prawns
- International and domestic airports
- Restoration of ponds
- Common buildings and permanent houses
- Bridge between Sri Lanka and India
- Mannar seashore lined with trees.

Group 2

- Rock walls to prevent sea erosion
- Tourist hotel near bridge
- An attractive entrance to the town with views of a fishing harbour

- Good town plan with separate precincts – cultural, commercial, health, education, government
- Clean beaches
- International standard sports ground
- Bridge between India and Sri Lanka opens up opportunities.

Group 3

- Entrance to bridge is developed for relaxing
- Highway to Talaimannar
- Technical college, English medium international school
- Street lamps
- Storied flats
- Lodging for tourists
- Resettlement schemes for people from all countries
- Moderns supermarket
- Modern railway service
- Bridge to India
- Bunds to protect the land from the sea.

Group 4

- Recreational facilities near bridge
- Walls to protect the land from the sea
- Maintained church buildings
- Modern hospital complex
- Elders homes
- Supermarket complex
- Factories
- Leisure parks, children’s parks, sports stadium
- Environmental care and plenty of trees
- Tourist hotels
- Systematically planned town

Community Forum

Objectives:

1. Identify a people’s vision for Mannar for the next ten years
2. Provide broad direction to the Urban Council for its planning and programs

Activity 1: Identifying ‘strengths’ and ‘weaknesses’ of Mannar

Description	The Resource Map will show a community’s living environment – its natural resources, people & skills, livelihood, built infrastructure, important places.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To gain an overview of the strengths of the area • To find out and discuss problems connected to people’s living environment • To learn about access to and control over resources.
Key Questions	1. NATURAL RESOURCES (land, sea, water, environment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What natural resources make Mannar strong? • Who can use these resources and who can’t?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can these resources be better used? • What are the main environmental problems to be addressed? <p>2. PEOPLE AND SKILLS RESOURCES (relationships, tourism, education)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are relationships like between different groups? • What are the issues that divide the community? • How can the people of Mannar live in greater harmony? • How are outsiders treated by local Mannar people? • How can the people of Mannar better develop their knowledge and skills? <p>3. LIVELIHOOD RESOURCES (income, employment, commerce)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the strengths of Mannar’s working population? • What are the elements of successful businesses in Mannar? • Who gets ahead and who doesn’t? • What will improve livelihood and business development? <p>4. BUILT ENVIRONMENT RESOURCES (buildings, roads, facilities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the positive aspects of the built environment? • What are their current condition? • How can they be improved? • What new facilities are needed? <p>5. IMPORTANT PLACES RESOURCES (things and places that make Mannar unique)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the important places and elements in Mannar? • Currently, are there any problems associated with them? • Who knows about them, and who doesn’t? • How can this resource be improved? <p>6. TRANSPORT (private and public transport)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do people travel around Mannar? • What are positive aspects of current transport systems? • What are the difficulties people experience with current ways of travelling? • How can public transport be improved? <p>7. LEISURE (relaxing activity, sports, hobbies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do different groups in Mannar relax and enjoy themselves? • Are there negative ways that people entertain themselves? • What new entertainment facilities are needed? • What are low cost options for relaxing and enjoyment?
Remarks/Hints	<p>The Resource Map is a good place to start. It is easy and fun for local people to do. It helps initiate discussion amongst the group members themselves. Apart from starting a joint process of information gathering and analysis, Resource Mapping is also a helpful tool to make outsiders familiar with the people and their area, because it provides an overall orientation to the features of the group and its resources.</p>
Facilitation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This activity will focus on the ‘strengths’ and ‘weaknesses’ inside Mannar 2. Ask participants to discuss the questions and write their answers on the flipchart paper under the headings, ‘strengths’ and ‘weaknesses’

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Once somebody has made a statement, ask the others, whether they agree, disagree or want to add something – again and again encourage the contribution of all persons present 4. Draw what you would like to see in ten years' time on a separate sheet of paper 5. Don't forget to label the map with the number of the group and date 6. Before closing the session, thank participants for their contributions 7. Report back to the larger group – list the strengths, weaknesses and explain the drawing of your desired future.
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Activity one responses

(Information incomplete for some groups due to interruptions to interpreting)

Group 1: Natural Resources

Map

- Stones placed around the island like in the Maldives to protect Mannar from rising sea levels

Group 2: People and Skills

Strengths

- Generally people coexist
- Mannar has educated people in every field so they should be used to train the younger generation

Weaknesses

- Many clashes among different groups
- Many inter-religious conflicts
- Too much religious fanaticism

Map

- Well-equipped hospital complex
- Modernization and relocation of the CTB bus station
- Coastal road right around Mannar Island

Group 3: Livelihood

Strengths

- Fishing
- Cottage industries especially carpentry, dhobis and tailoring
- Thriving businesses based on coconut, palmyrah and toddy making
- Mannar has highly skilled workers
- Many hire vehicles

Weaknesses

- No deep fishing as fishermen only concentrate their efforts in shallow water
- No proper place for business people to meet and discuss
- Many shop owners don't have legal papers to verify their ownership
- Clashes between fishermen from different padus (fishing grounds)
- Little awareness of modern and sustainable methods of fishing
- Technological advancements are not incorporated into current approaches
- No freezer system for fish
- No value add for the fishing industry
- Restrictions on fishermen
- Little action against Indian trawlers fishing in Sri Lankan waters
- Many people have encroached on state land and have settled there so many problems associated with the ownership of land

Map

- Mannar Town is planned in a systematic way

Group 4: Built Environment

Strengths

- Skilled human resource in the construction sector
- Support from NGOs and donor organisations
- Strong fishing resources and salterns
- Fisheries 'value add' has commenced eg crab factory in Pesalai
- Long term plans for Mannar are there in theory

Weaknesses

- Not enough land to construct new buildings
- No public involvement in planning
- People don't cooperate with development eg widening narrow roads
- Inadequate drainage system
- Problem of dumping and garbage disposal
- No recycling system
- Big contractors from elsewhere bypass smaller local contractors

Map

- Multi-story buildings eg three to four stories instead of single story buildings
- People don't live near beach because of rising sea levels

Group 5: Special Places

Strengths

- Madhu church complex, Ketheeswaram temple, Dutch fort, Aripu and the biobab tree are all good tourist attractions
- Historical significance of Silavathurai

Weaknesses

- Insufficient facilities at religious sites during major festivals eg Madhu
- Silavathurai was historically significant due to the pearling industry but now it is occupied by the army
- Fort is an asset but no one is allowed to see it due to military restrictions; Mannar's youngsters have never been there
- Thalladi was once famous for its herbal medicinal plants but now it is a restricted area
- Consequences of saltern expansion are people losing their houses

- What pre-emptive measures have the government planned in times of flood so tens of thousands don't have to be displaced

Map

- Government officers get together to respond to the many weaknesses and issues of the area, leaving politics out of their decision-making

Group 7: Leisure

Strengths

- There are many top sportsmen and sports instructors at an international level in Mannar

Weaknesses

- Lack of training facilities for professional sports people
- Insufficient medical facilities for sports people
- There are no good playgrounds
- Public library is out-dated, facilities are poor and no provision for the rural areas
- Insufficient parks
- Women need more sewing machines.

Group 8: Natural Resources

Strengths

- Coral reefs
- Sea resources

Weaknesses

- Local methods are not good for fishing
- Fishermen from elsewhere are encroaching on Mannar waters
- No budgeting or income planning among fishing families so experience boom and bust cycles in income generation
- Rising sea waters are threatening Mannar and its people's way of life
- Shortage of drinking water
- Due to poor drainage water remains stagnant and is a breeding ground for mosquitoes
- People don't take initiative
- Many stray animals including dogs and donkeys make the place untidy and dangerous
- Collection and disposal of garbage remains a problem
- People have little environmental awareness

Map

- Mannar waters have no illegal fishing
- No mosquitoes
- Beautiful natural surroundings.

Group 9: People and Skills

Strengths

- Uni-lingual which enables easy communication
- Close relations among the major religions at the surface level
- Unique and significant historical sites
- Discipline is high because it is based on good religious training
- Literacy levels are high in the town area

Weaknesses

- People don't show interest in learning new things eg IT
- 'Politics' shatter the peaceful life of people here
- Job opportunities are scarce so people especially those who are educated are leaving Mannar for better prospects elsewhere
- Serious clashes between religious communities
- Insufficient facilities for tourists
- People don't show an interest in learning other languages eg English and Sinhala.

Map

- Introduction of culturally sensitive tourist facilities
- Historically important places are promoted
- Sufficient numbers of guest houses
- Everyone can speak English
- A modern library facility
- Youngsters have meaningful work

Group 10: Livelihood

Strengths

- Rich sea resources
- Potential for the production of palmyrah products
- Significant number of government services in Mannar Town

Weaknesses

- Pass system for fishermen restricts efficiency and quality of product
- Political interference divides the community
- Restrictions on importing important fishing equipment gives an unfair advantage to fishermen from outside Mannar
- Lack of awareness among fishermen on sustainable approaches to fishing
- Higher education is not available in Mannar so our youngsters are leaving for Jaffna and Colombo
- Lack of professional training centres

Map

- A proper market complex on the main road
- Training centre for palmyrah products
- An expanded saltern industry
- Increased number of ice factories in coastal areas
- A higher education institution

Activity 2: If you were the UC Chair, what would be your top three priorities?

Whole group activity	<p>Priorities for Council action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There are 10 Council responsibilities each written separately on card and stuck to a wall2. Each participant is given three green dots to place on the council responsibility they think is most important. They can place all the dots on one priority or divide them among two or three choices3. After participants have placed all their dots, counters tally up the score for each duty4. Ask the audience which priority they think will be the 'winner'5. Provide them with the results.
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Voting results

1. Drainage – 79 votes
2. Town planning – 62 votes
3. Roads – 40 votes
4. Garbage – 30 votes
5. Environmental care – 22 votes
6. Library – 22 votes
7. Leisure park – 12 votes
8. Social service / volunteering – 12 votes
9. Community unity – 11 votes
10. Tourism – 5 votes

Activity 3: Identifying ‘opportunities’ that are coming Mannar’s way

Whole group activity	<p>This activity will focus on the ‘opportunities’ on the horizon for Mannar and planned by public and private agencies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask participants to think about the future ‘opportunities’ they are aware of coming Mannar’s way2. Discuss how people from Mannar can prepare for the opportunities ie what new businesses, business support services, tourist facilities, entertainment ideas, etc need to be developed to make use of these opportunities3. Record answers.
Commitment to MM2022	<p>The final task will focus on consolidating and harnessing the interest of participants</p> <p>Ask those who are serious about developing Mannar and have the time and commitment to give to this ongoing project to write their contact details at the registration desk.</p>

Activity three responses

(Due to insufficient time and poor interpreting this session was not well executed.)

To prepare for future ‘opportunities’ planned for Mannar, participants suggested the following initiatives:

- Develop a tourism strategy and train tour guides
- Establish English and Sinhala language programs
- Place an emphasis on ITC training and the computerization of Mannar
- Establish technical training facilities for the fisheries industry
- Develop ‘value-adding’ industries particularly for the fisheries and agricultural sectors
- Establish new industries including a paper factory
- Convene a Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Committee.

Some general comments from the floor included:

- “Are we really prepared to embrace the future?”
- “Preparing youngsters to get into new areas of work and development is in the hands of the government.”

- “We need to get together for the future development of Mannar based on our religious and cultural traditions. Otherwise we will face many social evils.”

Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Committee Meeting

Held on Saturday 10 December at the Urban Council Mannar to which 40 people attended. Present were the Vice Chair, Members and residents of the town. Lengthy discussions were held about forming eight MM2022 Committees. To avoid duplication of functions, the Urban Council Mannar was asked to consider appointing several committees as formal Committees of Council in accordance with the Urban Councils Ordinance. The proposal made to the Urban Council Mannar was to consider the establishment of the following six committees each under the chairmanship of a Council Member:

- Town Planning (including municipal services, public facilities)
- Tourism Development
- Environmental Sustainability
- Women’s Development
- Community Programs
- Finance

Chairpersons will be sought for the remaining two committees focused on Education and Business Development.

Participants chose committees of interest, identified others who could be invited onto the committees and commenced to explore possible strategies to develop a vision for each of the areas. A follow up meeting is planned for Saturday 7 January, 2012 at which the findings of the Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Report will be available.

The main points generated in the groups are listed below:

Group 1: Education

- Technical college
- English language training
- Mannar as IT world leader

Group 2: Tourism

- Development of leisure places eg beach shelters
- Bird sanctuary
- Value add to the biobab tree as a tourist attraction
- Renovate the Mannar fort

Group 3: Business development

- New small business development to capitalise on future opportunities
- Value add to cultivation
- Self-employment
- Promote industrial park to local businesses
- Paper factory

Group 4: Community Programs

- Address alcohol and drug addiction
- Campaigns to stamp out child abuse and sexual abuse
- Programs that instil strong religious/moral values
- Change the location of the Wine Store
- More emphasis on care for the elderly

Group 5: Environmental Care

- Soil erosion
- Rising sea levels
- Environmental assessment of oil and gas industries
- Drinking water and underground water sources
- Palmyrah resources

Group 6: Women's Development

- Training for self-employment
- Job opportunities for widows
- Income generation in new fields
- Small industry

Group 7: Town Planning

- Obtain UDA's draft town plan for Mannar
- Consider housing complexes and apartments
- Modernize toilet and sewage systems
- safe drinking water (consider calcium additives)
- Well planned drainage system
- Beach road
- Cheap electricity from India
- More roundabouts

Group 8: Finance

This group didn't formally meet but people were identified for membership.

Functions of Urban Councils

4. The Urban Council constituted for each town shall, subject to the powers reserved to or vested in any other authority by this Ordinance or by any other written law, be the local authority, within the administrative limits of the town charged with the regulations, control and administration of all matters relating to the public health, public utility services, and public thoroughfares, and generally with the protection and promotion of the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people and the amenities of the town. (Urban Councils Ordinances Chapter 25, page 2, 1988)

29. (1) An Urban Council may from time to time appoint committees consisting either of members of the Council or partly of members of the Council and partly of other inhabitants of the town, for the purpose of advising the Council with reference to any of its powers, duties or responsibilities, or any matter under the consideration of the Council, and may from time to time, subject to such instructions or conditions as it may determine, delegate any of its powers or duties to such committees other than the power to raise any loan, to levy any rate, or to impose any tax. (Urban Councils Ordinances Chapter 25, page 9, 1988)

Survey and responses

Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022 Survey

Have your say!

The Urban Council wants to work with the Mannar Town community in planning the future development of this unique place. Your views will help the Council to understand what you think is great about your town today and how it could be developed in the future. Please complete this survey and help shape Mannar for the next ten years.

Do you live study or work in Mannar Town?

How long have you lived in Mannar all together?

under 5 years 5-10 11-20 over 20 years

Gender: Male Female

Age: under 17 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69
 over 70

Q1 What do you love about Mannar?

1. Good facilities (eg electricity, hospital)
2. Peaceful, connected people (eg hospitality)
3. Improving living standards (eg agriculture, fishing, increased occupational opportunities, business development)
4. Social diversity (good understanding of people, respect for women)
5. Well educated respected people
6. Natural environment (sea, beaches)
7. Special buildings and sites (places of worship, fort, biobab tree)
8. Good changes, development and strategic outlook (eg road development, educational facilities, economic development, industrial expansion, increased social services, orphanages, tourism, petroleum exploration, greater range of shops)
9. Proud to be from Mannar
10. Post war peace
11. Unique/cultural heritage/historically significant
12. Other (eg everyone speaks Tamil, Christian majority, sports, bridge, enough living space)

Q2 What are special physical features and also social characteristics of Mannar which should be preserved?

Physical features	Social characteristics

Physical features to be preserved

1. Archaeological/tourist sites (eg archaeological sites, fort, Aliraani, biobab tree, bird sanctuary)
2. Places of culture and worship (eg Madhu church, Thirukketheeswaram Temple)
3. Environmental/natural resources (eg sea, beaches, drinking water, plants, tree planting, inland ponds, prevention of sand erosion, natural forests, mineral sands, stop removal of sand, raise Mannar above sea level, preservation of coral reefs, natural resources to be preserved, sand dunes, reptiles, stop cutting trees)
4. Cottage industries (eg palmayrah, coconut)
5. Unique features (eg donkeys, historical symbols, Mannar identity)
6. Common buildings, facilities and infrastructure (eg health facilities, good roads, bridge, harbour facilities, housing schemes, playgrounds)

Social characteristics to be preserved

1. Cultural heritage (eg historical books, Christian culture, traditional habits, prevent intrusion of alien cultures, classical music and arts, folk dance and drama, Tamil culture, stop western cultural influence)
2. Volunteerism/social service (eg fulfil various needs of society, look after elders, give loans and advice for livelihood development among poorest, identify low income groups, give and take, look after orphans and children)
3. Community cooperation and participation (eg recognise we are one brotherhood, engage people in action, social feelings, give priority to fishermen)
4. Community unity (eg create activities to bring about reconciliation among the communities, remove differences between races, village harmony, unity among fishermen, social and religious 'get togethers', reconciliation, good relationships between the communities)
5. Hope for the future (eg eliminate frustrations experienced by youths, employment for youth, fate of Mannar is in our hands, organise people to love Mannar, respect the ideas of the youth, future economic development, people's freedom, maintain a peaceful environment, give priority to new ideas, encourage leadership qualities)
6. Morality, virtue, rights (eg discipline children, get rid of wine shops, adopt a god-fearing life, stop the exploitation of children and violence against children, stop misuse of widows, liquor and narcotics to be stopped, create a good society, stop anti-social behaviour, bring in law and order, respect elders, sexual equality, move the location of the wine shop, religious observations, rights for the people, individual rights)
7. Care for the environment (eg stop removing sand from beaches, protect coral reefs, stop cutting trees, restore inland ponds, plant trees, stop throwing rubbish, recycle)
8. Valued human resources [combine category 8 & 9] (eg prioritize language learning especially English and Sinhala, equal education for both sexes, better education for students)
9. Other [originally category 10] (eg social activities, familial relationships)

Perhaps due to the loss of meaning in translating the question from English to Tamil, this question was badly answered. Instead of focusing on what physical and social aspects should be preserved, many respondents wrote what should be done to improve life in Mannar.

Q3 What are your ideas to create a bright future for Mannar to make it a better place?

1. Transport (eg build the railway quickly, toilet facilities at bus station, modernize busses)
2. Livelihood and economic development (eg affordable cost of living, commercial sector to be modernized, use local raw materials for manufacturing, improve the livelihood of poor people, employment for women, exploit India Sri Lanka connection, sea food industrial development, computer sector development, self-sufficient Mannar, public private partnership, introduce large scale factories, paper factories, more exports, cottage industries for women)
3. Clean city (eg stop garbage dumping in cemetery area, more regular collection of garbage, keep town clean)
4. Community unity (eg no partiality among people, think about the country's future, be patriotic, support the national interest, give respect all views, Sinhala/Tamil/Muslim unity, not selfish but common wealth focus, people living in Mannar have to be united, we have to think that it is our place, all religious people get together and support "Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022")
5. Further Education (eg English Sinhala language training, provide technical college and university, provide community education, modern technical education, fund new research and inventions, encourage students to complete Advance Level education, provide scholarship for further education)
6. Environmental care (eg plant trees, natural resource development, stop beach erosion, stop illegal sand mining, build sea shore bunds, develop disaster management plan)
7. Health facilities and services (eg introduce health awareness programmes, better hospital facilities, introduce prevention programs, dengue eradication)
8. Town planning and facilities (eg street lamps and maintain old ones, children's park, public places should be developed, make Mannar beautiful, modernise library and services, introduce street signs, build a new different town, sustainable development, build a beach park, expand the town space, build playground, build cultural centre, make Mannar world famous city, build shopping complex, give awareness to people on how to develop Mannar town)
9. Road development (eg construct beach road around the island, connected to internal roads, repair old roads and pave new ones, widen the roads)
10. Drainage (eg restore ponds, modernise drainage system)
11. Utilities-Electricity and water (eg stop taking water from Keeri and take it from Murunkan, ensure dependable power supply, build pipe lines for drinking water)
12. Moral/rights/legal codes (eg young generation need to be changed, law has to be applied to all, prevent political influencing, ensure responsible and honest offices, everything has to be shared justly and equal, no partiality in aid distribution, good governance, pursue equal rights, develop the soul)
13. Tourism (eg restore the fort, beautify the beaches, provide tourist accommodation, develop Keeri and South bar beaches, preserve religious places, build tourist resorts, renovate Thalaimannar light house, Thalaimannar tour development, construct a relaxing place near the bridge)
14. Other (eg manage stray animals, introduce modern cremation methods, collect taxes, ensure good administration, increase town council income, give training to UC and Pradesiya Sabha members, don't mislead the people, improve the connection between Mannar and other districts, introduce latest modern communication methods, spend Government's fund without sending it back, use Mannar's resources sustainably)
15. People's participation (eg create awareness among the people about Mannar's development, implementation should be done through local groups and CBOs, development should involve indigenous people of the area, everyone should support the

vision and the works, ask local people’s opinion, commit to development, develop youth shramadana, Mannar will be a better place through the involvement of youngsters, each and every one has to be committed to Mannar’s development, we need to determine our future, give everyone an awareness of “Mannarin Marumalarchi 2022”)

16. Arts/culture/leisure [eliminate category]

17. Land deeds and housing (eg short out conflicting land deeds, provide permanent housing for returnees).

Q4 What are three important goals for you that you would like to tell Council?

Please place 1, 2, 3 against your top three goals from the list below.

- Protecting the natural environment
- Celebrating the cultural heritage of the people
- Looking after the most vulnerable people
- Encouraging sustainable economic development
- Providing basic infrastructure eg roads, drainage, garbage
- Developing community spirit and public involvement in Council programs
- Introducing new recreational facilities
- Creating a visually attractive town centre
- Promoting and resources community volunteering
- Valuing the role of children and young people

Any other goals that are important to you?

-
-
-

- C4 Ensure no political interference
- C19 Cultural activities
- C19 Recreational facilities
- C20 Town planning – beautify Mannar
- C20 Recycling
- C20 We need to be socially and environmentally vigilant
- C26 Reading circle
- C26 Media website
- C30 Street signs
- C30 Maintenance of public facilities
- C30 Management of stray animals

- C31 Reclamation of low lands for settlement
- C38 Tutoring services established within schools
- C38 School hostels opened to students of all religions
- C39 New nurseries and schools
- C40 Get rid of fishing pass system
- C42 Introduce public markets
- C46 Protect children and young women
- C48 Beautify Mannar Town
- C50 Sea beach to be protected from erosion
- C50 minimize the bad effects of modern culture
- C62 Act only after knowing the wishes of the people
- C72 Ensure all street lights are working
- C74 Recognize people who have served Mannar
- C76 Maintain roads regularly so they don't go beyond repair
- C77 Conduct seminars for youth on how to behaviour like a good citizen
- C77 Hired cleaners should do they job properly
- C78 Encourage more home gardening
- C78 Beaches should be cleaned and seating provided
- C81 Develop children's parks and playgrounds
- C88 Organize awareness programs that the average person can understand
- C92 Volunteering to be promoted and volunteers supported
- C96 Lead Mannar toward development
- C103 Learn from other districts
- C106 Computer knowledge should be brought to the people
- C114 Keep the cemetery clean and the crematorium site maintained
- C116 Town cleaning should be a high priority
- C129 Use arts activities and other innovative ways to address anti-social behaviour
- C132 All communities should be brought together as one for its development
- C135 Youths and students should be protected and provided with employment
- C140 Develop intrinsic motivation in public officers and not through bribes
- C143 Decentralize commercial centres and introduce new technology
- C145 Improve the library and its services
- C147 Renovate the Town Hall
- C149 Look after elders
- C150 Give training to aspiring sports people
- C151 Improve the education and lives of women
- C152 House numbers to be identified clearly
- C153 Redevelop the stadium
- C157 Establish speed limits in congested areas
- C172 Widen roads
- C172 Establish shops and the commercial precinct in a planned manner
- C172 Incorporate proper town planning

- W1 Restore the fort and Ali Raani sites
- W4 Increase the number of specialists at the Mannar General Hospital
- W6 Building codes should be complied with in all new construction
- W7 Identify all mosquito breeding grounds and control the spread of dengue
- W8 Divert the main road away from the centre of town
- W10 Create a 'helping hand' movement for all community projects
- W12 Attract back Mannar's intellectuals who left as a result of the war
- W12 Create vocational training and sports facilities for both genders
- W12 Recycle garbage and unwanted objects
- W13 Modernize public transport
- W14 Council Members to be united in pursuing the same vision with positive relationships between Members and staff
- W22 Construct modern storied buildings in Mannar
- W32 Construct wonderful beautiful streets
- W37 Stop illegal encroachment on other people's land
- W38 Construct a clock tower in the centre of town
- W41 Introduce peace awareness programs
- W41 Resettle Muslim people effectively
- W44 Electricity! Electricity! Electricity! Take appropriate action
- W47 Construct modern apartments to make effective use of land
- W53 Reclaim land to address rising sea levels
- W55 Construct roundabouts at large intersections

Q6 If you were the Chairman of the Mannar Urban Council what would be your three top priorities for action?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- 1. Roads
- 2. Drainage
- 3. Environmental care
- 4. Garbage
- 5. Tourism
- 6. Town planning
- 7. Library and library services
- 8. Leisure facilities and cultural activities
- 9. Volunteer/social services
- 10. Community unity
- 11. Health (eg health, stray animals, drug abuse)
- 12. Other (eg collecting taxes)

The survey developer made an incorrect assumption that participants would be familiar with the responsibilities of local government. The results attested to the fact that few people are familiar with what are the roles and duties of an urban council. As a result, many answers lay outside the

scope of local government. This question was effectively answered in the large community workshop when participants were asked to rank their priorities from an existing list of council responsibilities.

Q6 How would you like to be involved in the future development of Mannar Town?

- Get involved in Council's environmental projects
- Become a member of one of Council's advisory committees
- Be a social services volunteer
- Help look after stray animals eg donkeys, dogs, cows and goats
- Provide technical expertise in the area/s of
- Assist Council in developing a cultural events program for the town
- Getting involved in shramadana programmes
- Other:

Please complete the details below:

Name: Mobile:

Phone: Email:

Thank you

Please return this completed survey to the Urban Council Mannar to win prizes including a Nokia mobile phone and umbrellas.