

# Altnamackin & Cortamlet Cluster Village Renewal and Development Plans

Final Report  
July 2012



Prepared for



Department of  
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## Revision Schedule

**Altnamackin & Cortamlet Cluster – Renewal and Development Plan**  
July 2012

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
01	14/06/12	First Draft Report	<b>Karen Crawford</b> Landscape Architect	<b>Richard Heasley</b> Principal Planner	<b>Richard Heasley</b> Principal Planner
02	31/07/12	Final Report	<b>Karen Crawford</b> Landscape Architect	<b>Richard Heasley</b> Principal Planner	<b>Richard Heasley</b> Principal Planner

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## 1 Introduction

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 was launched to build capacity within local communities and provide support for community economic development in the most disadvantaged rural areas. The NIRDP is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. A core principal of the approach to broader rural development in Northern Ireland has been and continues to be that the communities which most closely experience problems should be involved in the design and delivery of projects and programmes to tackle such problems and, thus, improve their quality of life.

The NIRDP contains a number of measures under each axis. These measures are specific areas where support is to be targeted. Each measure was selected from a menu of options provided by the European Union in order to target the aspects of rural life that are most important to Northern Ireland. Measure 3.5 targets Village Renewal and Development with the aim of “creating long term visions for villages and surrounding areas and to support initiatives promoting cross-community development”.

The objective is to enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full potential of their area is achieved and also to support integrated village initiatives.

### 1.1 How is the Programme administered at a local level?

The Southern Organisation for Action in Rural areas (SOAR) is the Joint Committee and Local Action Group for the Craigavon, Armagh and Newry & Mourne Council areas. They are responsible for the administration of the NIRDP within the rural areas of Craigavon, Armagh and Newry. SOAR local action group is comprised of local Councillors and Social Partner Representatives. Craigavon Borough Council acts as the Lead Council with responsibility for all financial and administrative matters.

### 1.2 Village Renewal and Development

Newry and Mourne District Council secured funding under Measure 3.5 for the preparation of Village Renewal and Development Plans for 13 pre-selected villages and clusters across the Newry and Mourne District Council Area.

URS were commissioned by Newry and Mourne District Council to facilitate the development of these plans. The plans will be prepared between February and June 2012, with potentially a second stage which will involve selected projects being taken forward to the stage of submitting an outline planning application, making a submission for funding or being ready to feed into an economic appraisal.

### 1.3 Methodology

This Village Renewal and Development Plan has been developed by the community for the community. The methodology was strongly consultation based and allowed a range of stakeholders including NMDC, local Councillors, community and voluntary groups and the general public to get involved.



Programme for Government (PfG) and the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI). The Strategy takes account of key driving forces such as population growth and movement, demographic change, the increasing number of households, transportation needs, climate change and the spatial implications of divisions that still exist in our society. The RDS is not operational planning policy which is issued through Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) published by the Department of the Environment (DOE).

The RDS has a statutory basis under the Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, and the Order requires Departments to “have regard to the regional development strategy”.

The Strategy has four key elements:

- A Spatial Development Strategy which divides the region into 5 components based on functions and geography;
- Guidance at two levels;
  1. Regional level that is to be applied to all parts of the region, and
  2. Specific guidance for each element of the Spatial Framework
- A Regionally Significant Economic Infrastructure section which identifies the need to consider strategic infrastructure projects;
- Implementation.

The aims of the RDS:

- Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland;
- Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Londonderry as the principal city of the North West;
- Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential;
- Promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities;
- Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places;
- Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake;
- Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and
- Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world.

## 1.4 Policy Context

### 1.4.1 Regional Development Strategy 2035 ‘Building a Better Future’

The RDS provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. It does not redefine the other departments’ strategies but compliments them with a spatial perspective.

The RDS 2035 revises the original strategy published in 2001 and amended in 2008. The RDS influences various government strategies including the

Chapter 3 of the RDS sets out the strategic guidance for the region focusing on the key principles of the economy, society and the environment. The guidance is also split into Regional Guidance (RG) and Spatial Framework Guidance (SFG).

There is a dedicated section regarding Rural Northern Ireland and the key guidance is set out below:

**SFG13: Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside**

- Establish the role of multi-functional town centres
- Connect rural and urban areas
- Revitalise small towns and villages
- Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations
- Encourage sustainable and sensitive development

**SFG14: Improve accessibility for rural communities**

- Improve the overall connectivity of rural communities to services and other parts of the Region by exploring innovative ways of bringing these services to the communities
- Integrate local transport

**1.4.2 Rural White Paper Action Plan (Draft)**

The Rural White Paper Action Plan is an Executive initiative aimed at addressing key issues and challenges facing rural communities. The development of the Action Plan is being led by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Public consultation on the draft Action Plan commenced on 13 March 2011 and finished on 13 June 2011, with the final Rural White Paper Action Plan anticipated to be published in early 2012.

The draft Rural White Paper Action Plan has been developed following extensive consultation with the Rural White Paper Stakeholder Advisory Group.

The RWP has been developed to provide a strategic framework for rural policy for the next ten years and will help guide the work of the Executive in this significant and challenging area.

The RWP identifies the Rural Vision:

**Our vision** is of a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region. We envisage **vibrant, strong rural communities**, resilient and receptive to global trends through **strong inter-linkages with urban areas** and market towns.

**Our vision** is for rural economies adapting to global trends and **improved infrastructure and transport systems** to ensure rural dwellers can avail of employment opportunities and **key services**.

**Our vision** is for rural areas that maintain their distinctive features as places of agricultural production, areas of outstanding beauty, places of social, historic and cultural uniqueness and places with a **strong community infrastructure** which can avail of **economic, social and cultural opportunities**.

**Our vision** is for the continuing development of **linkages between rural and urban** areas so that everyone can enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of rural places and the facilities and services of larger towns and cities.

**Draft Rural White Paper, p5**

In order to achieve the Vision the RWP identifies 5 key themes:

1. Urban / Rural Linkages
  - To support the development of an efficient transport and infrastructure system that facilitates effective rural – urban inter-linkages;
2. Access to Services
  - To promote fair and equitable access to key services for all rural dwellers;
3. Sustainable Rural Communities
  - To promote tolerance, health, well-being and inclusion for rural dwellers;
  - Seek to minimise, where it exists, disadvantage, poverty, social exclusion and inequality amongst those living in rural areas and in particularly amongst vulnerable groups;
  - To maintain a viable economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure in rural areas and seek to ensure that regional infrastructure disparities are minimised;
  - To preserve the cultural and social uniqueness of rural community life linked to its smaller population settlement;
  - To promote the development of effective and inclusive rural governance structures and sufficient community capacity to engage in these structures;
  - To enhance and refine the Rural Development Programme to ensure the maximum benefit from future Programmes for rural communities;

#### 4. Sustainable Rural Economies

- To provide rural businesses with appropriate support to ensure the development of dynamic and innovative rural economies;
- To seek to maximise employment opportunities for rural dwellers;

#### 5. Sustainable Countryside

- To support the development of a more sustainable agricultural sector, a more competitive agri-food sector and enhanced agri-environmental links;
- To safeguard the beauty and fabric of our rural areas and increase opportunities for all to enjoy the benefits of the countryside.

The RWP does on to set out a detailed Action Plan which is based on the 5 key themes set out above, consisting of some 90 specific actions.

#### 1.4.3 Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-2015

This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to tackle rural poverty and social isolation.

The framework aims to:

- Build on the work of the Rural Anti-Poverty / Social Inclusion Framework 2008-2011;
- Provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people / groups in rural areas;
- Develop programmes / interventions to help alleviate poverty / social isolation amongst vulnerable people / groups in rural areas;
- Complement and add value to existing government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation;
- Empower rural communities to help themselves.

#### 1.4.4 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

The NI Rural Development Programme was approved by the European Commission in July 2007 and has three key elements:

Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors by supporting restructuring, development and innovation. Key measures include vocational training, adding value to agricultural products and marketing, farm modernisation and improving the supply chain. The upskilling and reskilling

opportunities in this axis are a means of targeting farmers income and potential to be more competitive both within farming, or outside if that is more appropriate.

Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management. Key measures include agri-environment programmes and less favoured area compensation schemes.

Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of economic activity. Key measures include business creation, farm diversification, encouragement of tourism activities, support for basic services for the rural economy, village renewal and conservation / upgrading of the rural heritage.

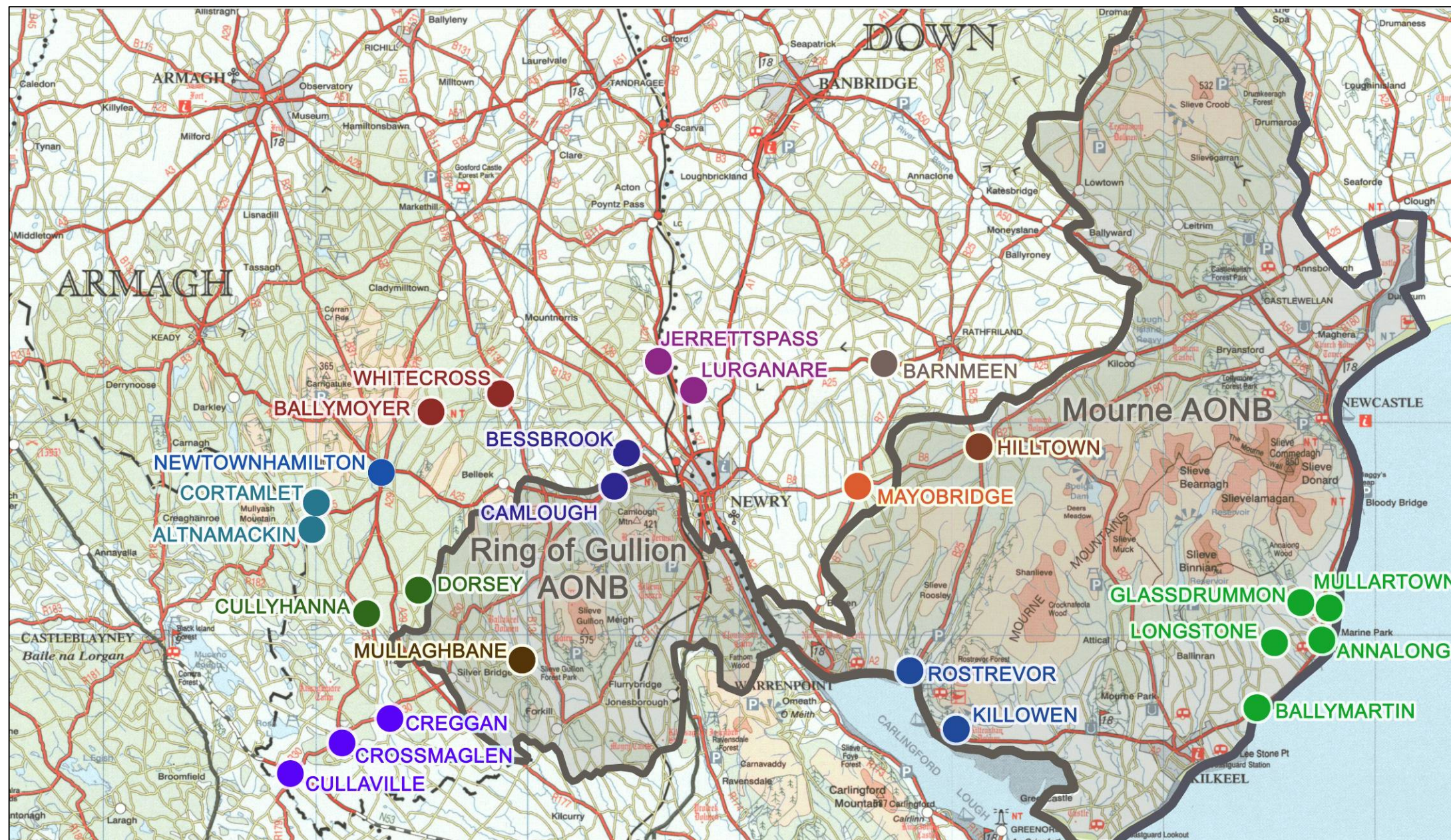
#### 1.4.5 INTERREG IV Programme (Cross Border Rural Development)

The INTERREG IV Programme focuses on the strategic development of the North and border counties of the South. The funds are targeted towards those disadvantaged rural communities that are most in need of cross border support.



## 2 Overview of the cluster

The Altnamackin and Cortamlet Cluster is comprised of the two villages. It was highlighted early in the Plan process that the settlements while separated physically have a fundamental interdependence. It is therefore stressed that improvements in one of the settlements could have secondary benefits for the other settlement. This is particularly evident as there is the potential for the shared use of basic services which would greatly increase their viability.



### 3 Altnamackin & Cortamlet



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### 3.1 Village Profile

#### 3.1.1 Background

Altnamackin and Cortamlet are small villages located 4 miles South West of Newtownhamilton in County Armagh. Altnamackin is the furthest west of the two settlements (0.5 miles from the Irish border) situated along the A25 Blaney Road and consists of a small number of dwellings and a post office. Cortamlet is 1 mile north east of Altnamackin and consists of a primary school, church and a small number of dwellings.

#### National Statistical Research Agency

There was no information available on the settlements from the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency (NISRA).

#### 3.1.2 Planning Policy Context

The Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 includes a number of designations which are listed below and are highlighted on the Designations Map.

#### Settlement Development Limit - Designation AC 01 Settlement Development Limit

There are two nodes to Altnamackin/Cortamlet. The settlement development limit is designated to take account of land with extant planning permission for housing and sites that have not yet been approved, but are at a stage in the planning application process where there is a reasonable expectation that planning approval will be granted. The settlement development limit also takes account of the role of the settlement whilst protecting its natural setting.

#### Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)

##### *Designation AC 02 Local Landscape Policy Area Cortamlet*

Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this LLPA are listed below:

- Clarksbridge Presbyterian Church;
- Locally significant farm building, associated grounds and planting;
- Stream Corridor, significant trees and wetland;
- Old school house presently derelict.

##### *Designation AC 03 Local Landscape Policy Area Blaney Road - Altnamackin*

Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this LLPA are listed below:

- Fane Valley House, a locally significant building, its views and setting including the new dwelling to the west.

##### *Designation AC 04 Local Landscape Policy Area Aughnagurgan Road - Altnamackin*

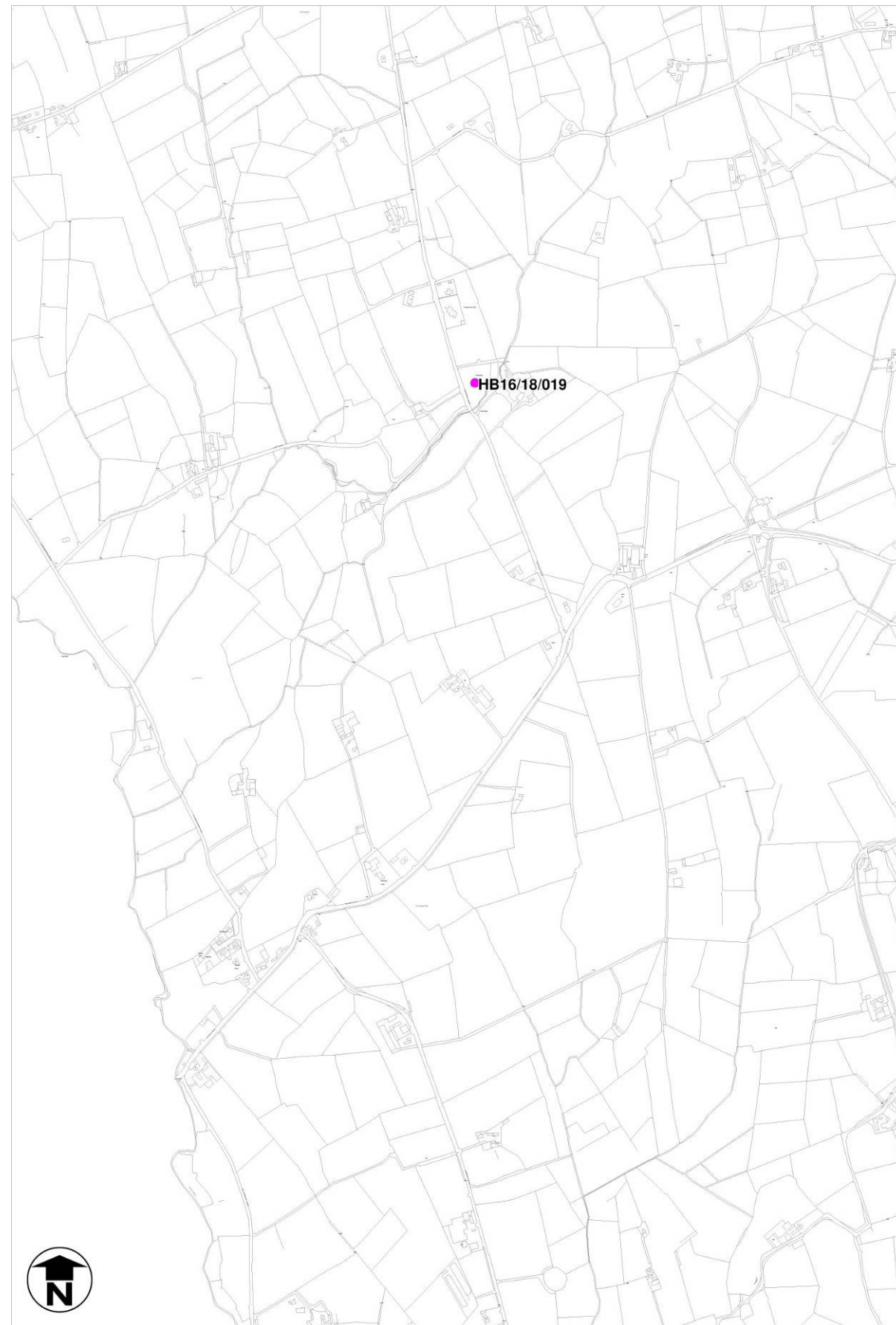
Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this LLPA are listed below:

- Locally significant building (old shop).

#### Listed Buildings

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) database revealed that there is only one listed building designated within the study area. This listed building is listed in the table below and indicated on the accompanying map.

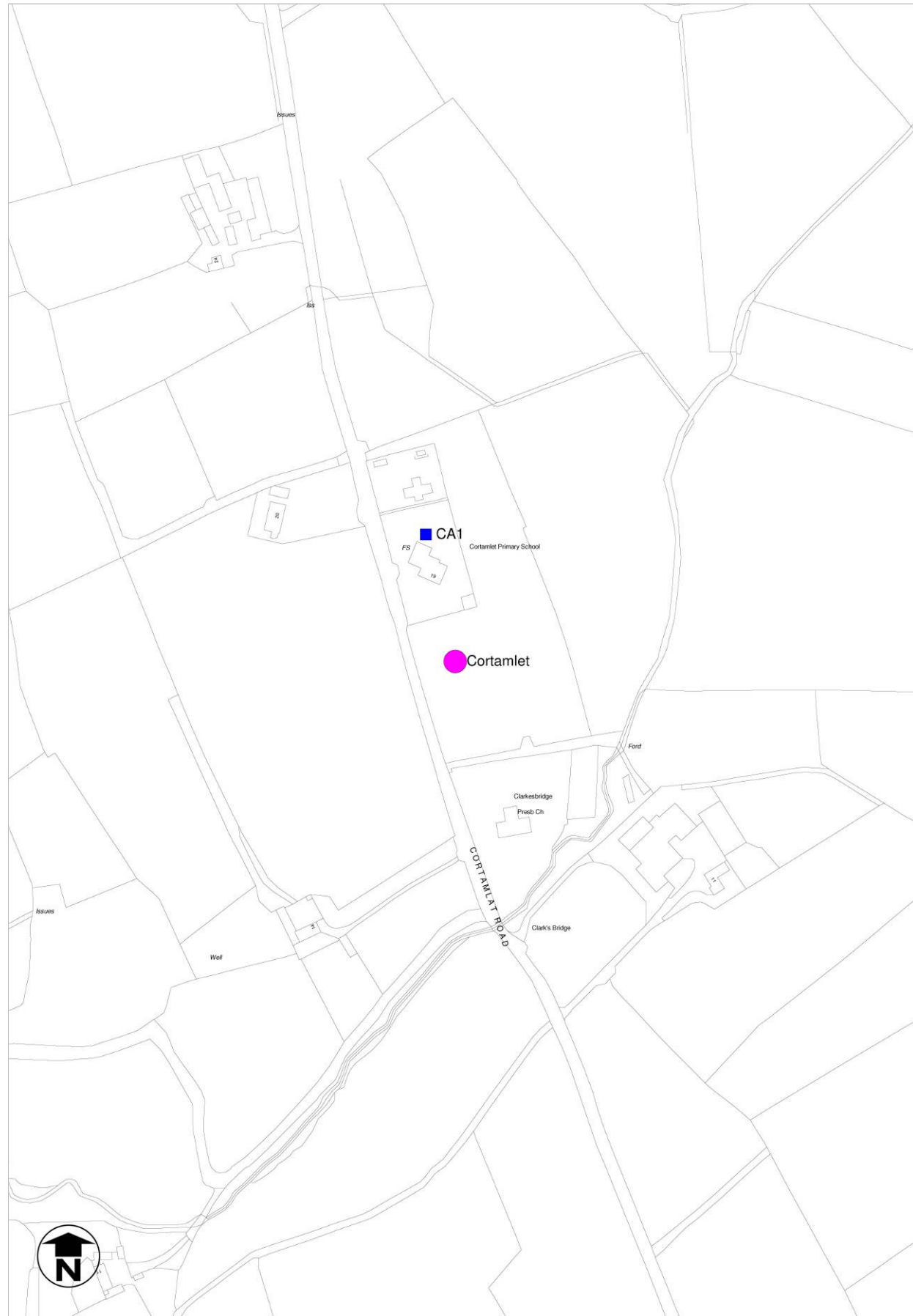
LISTED BUILDINGS – (Source of information for table NIEA)						
ID	HB Num	Council ID	Ward ID	Type	Address	Original
9183	HB16/18/019	16	18	CHURCH	CLARKSBRIDGE AND FIRST NEWTOWNHAMILTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CORTAMLAT NEWTOWNHAMILTON CO.ARMAGH	B



**Planning History**

The planning history search revealed that there is one recent planning application within Cortamlet village. The application is listed below and is indicated on the accompanying map. In addition there were two applications identified close to Altnamackin which are related to the expansion of Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club.

PLANNING HISTORY – ALTNAMACKIN & CORTAMLET					
No.	Planning Application Code	Site Location	Proposed Development	Decision	Expiry Date
CA1	P/2009/0658/F	Cortamlet Primary School, 19 Cortamlet Road, Altnamachin, Newry	Erection of mobile classroom	Approved	12/10/2014
AM1	P/2009/1045/f	50 metres north-east of 44 Blaney Road, Tullyvallen, Newry	Proposed third generation synthetic football training pitch with fencing and floodlighting.	Approved	09/10/2014
AM2	P/2006/2220/F	50m North East of 44 Blaney Road, Tullyvallen, Newry	Erection of clubhouse, incorporating changing facilities, function room, committee room and ancillary accommodation and provision of playing pitch.	Approved	21/08/2012



### 3.2 Deprivation

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 report was published on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The NIMDM 2010 updates and replaces the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 as the official measure of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland.

Newtownhamilton Super Output Area encompasses Altnamackin & Cortamlet and is ranked as the 293<sup>rd</sup> overall most deprived in Northern Ireland. The individual NI Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010 Ranks for Newtownhamilton are broken down as follows: Income: 298; Employment: 343; Health & Disability: 353; Education Skills and Training: 291; Proximity to Services: 120; Living Environment: 451; Crime and Disorder: 258; Income Deprivation Affecting Children: 359 and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People: 223.

### 3.3 Consultation Process

STAGE	CONSULTATION METHOD	DATE	VENUE	ATTENDANCE / RESPONSES
Information Gathering	Village Action Group Meeting	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2012.	Tullyvallen Orange Hall	4
	Baseline Questionnaires	March 2012	N/A	1 (See Appendix A)
Draft Proposals	Open display for Councillors	16 <sup>th</sup> March & 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Council Offices Newry	N/A
	Public Exhibition	30 <sup>th</sup> April to 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Fane Valley Stores	N/A
	Public Consultation Questionnaires	May 2012	N/A	6
Draft Village Renewal and Development Plan	Draft Plan presented to Project Steering Group	21 <sup>st</sup> June	Council Offices Newry	N/A

Consultation with key stakeholders and statutory agencies was also undertaken in the development of the plan. Newry and Mourne District Council, Planning Service NI, Roads Service, Department for Regional Development - Street Lighting, British Telecom, Northern Ireland Electricity, Northern Ireland Water, Translink and Northern Ireland Environment Agency were all consulted.

### 3.4 Consultation Findings

#### 3.4.1 Information Gathering Stage

##### Site Visits

This section of the report provides a summary of the key points and issues observed during our site visits in February 2012.

##### Altnamackin

- The main road through the village is very busy particularly and is dominated by heavy goods vehicles.
- The speed limit through the centre of Altnamackin is 60mph.
- There is a lack of community facilities in the village.
- There are derelict buildings that reduce the aesthetic appeal of the village.
- There is a well designed and well used play area in Fane Valley Park. Although improvements could be made to the pathways and seating areas immediately adjacent.

##### Cortamlet

- There is a lack of adequate street lighting and footpath provision throughout the village.
- The primary school and church buildings are well used.

**SWOT Analysis**

The SWOT Analysis below is a summary of the information gained during the early information gathering stage. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified during the initial consultation workshop and the initial questionnaire which was circulated throughout the community. The questionnaire addressed a range of factors, focusing on 3 general themes of Planning and Infrastructure, Essential Services and Economic and Community Development.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good community spirit.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of signage at the entrance to the Villages.</li> <li>• Speed Limit in Altnamackin very high for residential area 60 miles per hour.</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased provision of lighting in the two settlements.</li> <li>• Expansion of Football Club Facilities.</li> <li>• Review of traffic management and speed limits and signage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derelict Buildings.</li> <li>• Inappropriate development.</li> </ul>

**Key Issues / Opportunities**

The list below is a summary of the main issues and opportunities that have come to light as part of this process and particularly during the Village Action Group Meeting.

- Increased provision of lighting in the two settlements.
- Expansion of Football Club Facilities.
- Review of traffic management and speed limits and signage.

**3.4.2 Draft Proposals**

The draft Plan was put on public display in Fane Valley Stores for a two week period from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012. In order to gain feedback from the public a questionnaire was available for completion.

In total there were 6 questionnaires returned, from a mixture of members of the community group and members of the public. The response was mixed with respondents having different opinions of whether they ‘liked’ or ‘disliked’ the proposals. However, the opinion of two proposals was unanimous i.e. they ‘liked’ the ‘Expansion of Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club facilities’ and ‘Traffic Management Strategy with traffic calming measures’.

The questionnaire also encouraged people to rank the projects and proposals in order of importance to help establish the key priorities. Clearly different members of the community have different opinions on what they feel are priorities for their area, this is understood however there are also key issues which people are clearly agreed upon. For example 5 out of 6 respondents noted the ‘Expansion of Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club facilities’ as the number one priority.

A summary of the questionnaire responses is shown overleaf.



**'Village Renewal and Development plans'  
Newry Villages Community Questionnaire**



**Altnamackin & Cortamlet**

1. What is your interest?

Business	Community Group	1	Individual	5
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**Section 1 – Proposals**

2. Please select how you feel about the following proposals:

Ref.	Proposal	Like	Dislike	No Opinion
A	Gateway Signage and Artwork.	2	1	3
B	Introduction of Planter Boxes with floral displays.	3	1	2
C	Provision of Street Lighting.	5		1
D	Provision of floodlighting to the pitch at the rear of Cortamlet Primary School.	1	5	
E	Expansion of Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club facilities.	6		
F	Traffic Management Strategy with traffic calming measures e.g. speed limits and signage.	6		
G	Improvements to the seating area and path adjacent to the existing Playground at Altnamackin. Upgrading of safety surfacing in play area.	1	1	4
H	Resurfacing of Blaney Road and Fane Valley Park.	2	1	3

If you wish to provide additional comments about any of the above proposals please expand on your answers below or on a separate sheet:

Tullyvallen Rangers F.C. have floodlighting at there grounds that is used for community use so floodlighting pitch at Cortamlet Primary School which is 2 miles apart would be a waste of money.

I don't think there is any need for floodlighting at Cortamlet Primary School because Tullyvallen F.C. already has floodlights for community use.

Tullyvallen F.C. already have floodlighting at their pitch for community use, so therefore I don't think it is needed at Cortamlet Primary which is about 2 miles away.

Floodlighting not a necessity at Cortamlet Primary School.



**'Village Renewal and Development plans'  
Newry Villages Community Questionnaire**

No need for another flood lit pitch 2 miles from Tullyvallen.

**Section 2 – Prioritising the Proposals**

3. Please identify in the table below how you would prioritise the following proposals (i.e. 1 = Highest Priority , 5 = Lower Priority):

Ref	Proposal	Rank Order							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A	Gateway Signage and Artwork.			1	1	2	1	1	
B	Introduction of Planter Boxes with floral displays.			2			1	2	1
C	Provision of Street Lighting.		2	2		1	1		
D	Provision of floodlighting to the pitch at the rear of Cortamlet Primary School.				1				5
E	Expansion of Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club facilities.	5						1	
F	Traffic Management Strategy with traffic calming measures e.g. speed limits and signage.		4		1	1			
G	Improvements to the seating area and path adjacent to the existing Playground at Altnamackin. Upgrading of safety surfacing in play area.			1	1	1	3		
H	Resurfacing of Blaney Road and Fane Valley Park.	1			2	1		2	

**Section 3 – Additional Comments**

4. Is there anything which you feel you would change / modify in the Village Plan? Or any additional proposals which you would like to see included? (Please provide details below or on a separate sheet):

Proper road signs at the end of Skeriff, Auhangurghan and Cortamlet roads – indicating distance to relevant location.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.**

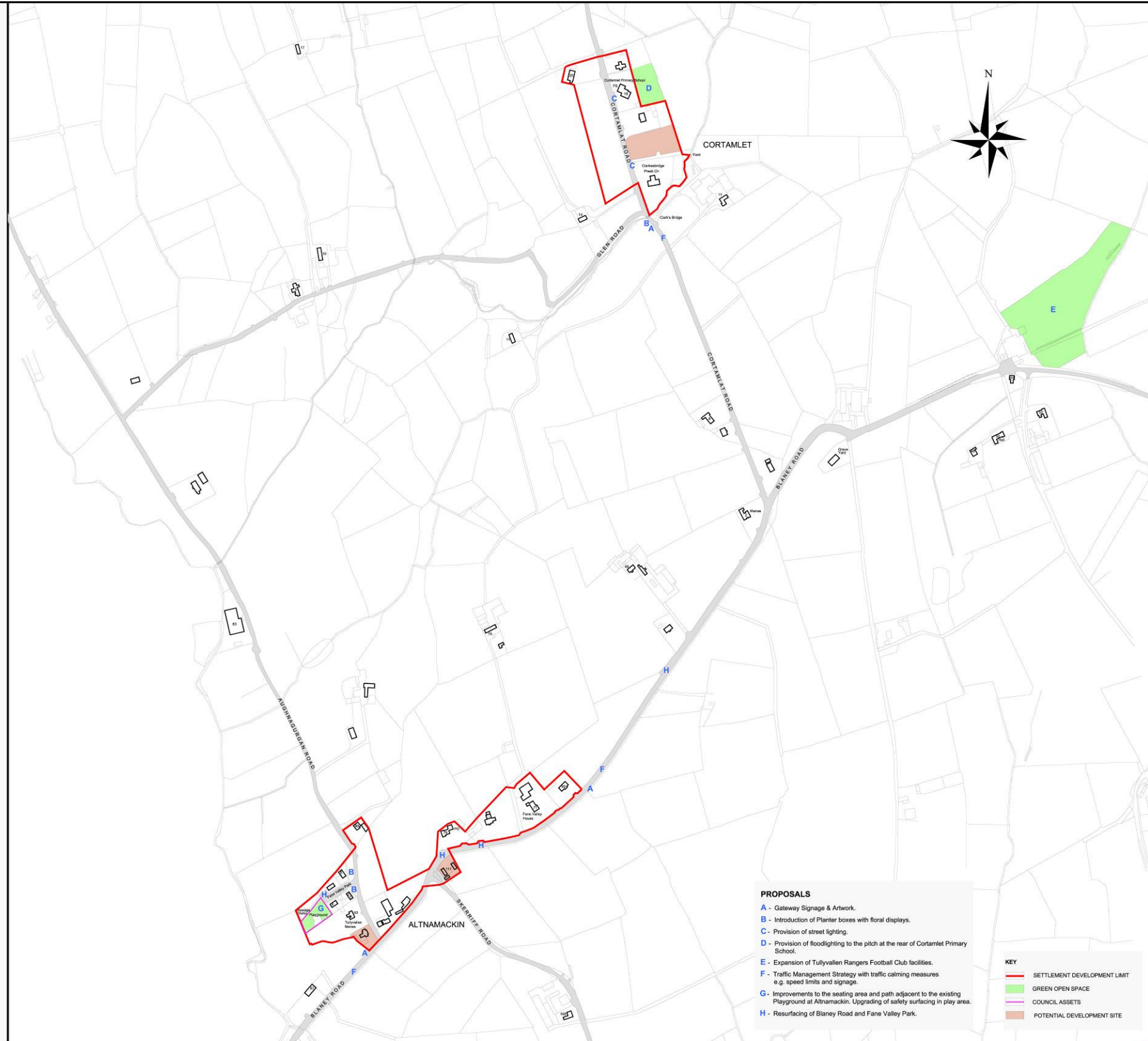




Gateway Signage & Artwork to promote the identity and highlight the entrance to the villages. Local residents to contribute to the design of the artwork.



Planting along the edge of the main roads and at the entrance to the villages to enhance the appearance of the villages.



- PROPOSALS**
- A - Gateway Signage & Artwork.
  - B - Introduction of Planter boxes with floral displays.
  - C - Provision of street lighting.
  - D - Provision of floodlighting to the pitch at the rear of Cortamlet Primary School.
  - E - Expansion of Tullyvalen Rangers Football Club facilities.
  - F - Traffic Management Strategy with traffic calming measures e.g. speed limits and signage.
  - G - Improvements to the seating area and path adjacent to the existing Playground at Altnamackin. Upgrading of safety surfacing in play area.
  - H - Resurfacing of Blaney Road and Fane Valley Park.

**KEY**

- SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT LIMIT
- GREEN OPEN SPACE
- COUNCIL ASSETS
- POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE



Provision of street lighting along Cortamlet Road in front of the Primary School and Church.



Floodlighting provision to pitch at rear of Cortamlet Primary School, facilitating community use of the pitch out of school hours.



Improvements to pathways, seating area and upgrading safety surfacing to the playground in Altnamackin.



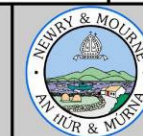
Resurfacing to Blaney Road and Fane Valley Park.



New entrance signs, advisory speed limit and crossing point to facilitate pedestrian access in both villages.

NEWRY AND MOURNE VILLAGE RENEWAL PLANS

ALTNAMACKIN & CORTAMLET



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47060183/09-1-1A April 2012

### 3.5 Initiatives

#### 3.5.1 Expansion of Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club Facilities

The public consultation responses highlighted the desire for the expansion of the facilities at Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club. All of the respondents indicated that they 'liked' the proposal. In addition five respondents ranked it as their first priority. The existing facilities at the club consist of a third generation synthetic football training pitch with fencing and floodlighting. The existing facilities are well used and the club has become the focal point for community activities. At present the football pitch is available for the community to use. The vision therefore is that the increased facilities would not only provide an enhanced experience for the footballer's at the football club but enable a greater number of activities and community events to be held at the club. At present a planning application is approved for: the erection of a clubhouse, incorporating changing facilities, function room, committee room and ancillary accommodation and provision of a playing pitch. It was submitted in 2006 and is due to expire in 2012.



Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club indicated in green above.

#### 3.5.2 Traffic Management Strategy

The speed of traffic along the Blaney Rd (Altnamackin) and Cortamlet Rd (Cortamlet) was identified as a major concern during the initial consultation. In order to address this significant issue consultation with DRD Roads Service will be necessary to establish any possible traffic calming measures including speed cameras and / or speed bumps. The community representatives also expressed the desire for revising the speed limit along this road.



Blaney Road (Altnamackin)



Cortamlet Road (Cortamlet)

An additional issue on the Blaney Rd (Altnamackin) was the large volume of heavy goods vehicles regularly using the road. In particular there is a large volume of vehicles regularly travelling through the village from a nearby quarry.

It is important to note that there are indirect measures which can influence the speed of traffic when it is travelling through the village, for example, signage to warn motorists that they are approaching the village. This could be achieved through the introduction of gateway features. Gateway features are also extremely important when providing first impressions of the area. The proposal of the introduction of a gateway feature got a mixed response through the public consultation exercise, with the majority of respondents stated that they had no opinion. The introduction of gateway features is therefore not unachievable but the design and location would need to be developed with a view to achieving significant community buy in.

3.6 Action Plan

ACTION PLAN						
Initiative	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs **
Gateway Signage and Artwork.	ACC, NMDC, Priv, PS, RS, DCAL, AC	M	S	NMDC, RDP, AC	Feasibility study, design work, statutory approvals, installation of gateway signage and artwork.	£20,000 - £25,000
Introduction of Planter Boxes with floral displays.	NMDC, ACC, Priv, RS	M	S	NMDC, Lot, RDP	Installation, Management and Maintenance.	£5,000 - £15,000
Provision of Street Lighting.	DRD, ACC, NMDC, RS	M	M	NMDC, RS	Design and installation of new street lighting.	£60,000 - £70,000
Provision of floodlighting to the pitch at the rear of Cortamlet Primary School.	SELB, SNI	L	L	SELB, SNI, Priv	Feasibility study, design work, statutory approvals, construction.	£20,000 - £30,000
Expansion of Tullyvallen Rangers Football Club facilities.*	ACC, DCAL, NMDC, Priv, SNI, PS	H	S	DCAL, SNI, DARD	Feasibility study, design work, renew / submit statutory approvals, construction.	£150,000 - £450,000
Traffic Management Strategy with traffic calming measures e.g. speed limits and signage.*	RS, NMDC, ACC	H	S	RS	Review of feasibility of traffic calming measures. Consultation with RS, road improvement works.	£10,000 - £15,000
Improvements to the seating area and path adjacent to the existing Playground at Altnamackin. Upgrading of safety surfacing in play area.	NMDC, ACC, DCAL, PS	M	S	NMDC, Lot, RDP	Feasibility study, design work, statutory approvals, construction.	£40,000 - £60,000
Resurfacing of Blaney Road and Fane Valley Park.	RS, NMDC	M	S	RS	Consultation with RS, road improvement works. RS have initially advised that the works would have to compete for inclusion on RS resurfacing programme for the annual limited funds available for this type of work.	£450,000 - £600,000

Priority: H = High  
M = Medium  
L = Low

Timeframe: S = Short (1-3yrs)  
M = Medium (3-7 years)  
L = Long (7-15years)

Delivery Agents, Funders an Stakeholders:

AC	Arts Council	NITB	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
MNDC	Newry & Mourne District Council	Priv	Private Sector
DCAL	Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure	PS	Planning Service
Lot	Lottery Funding	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
RS	Roads Service	SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
RDP	Rural Development Programme	SELB	Southern Education and Library Board
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency	SNI	Sport Northern Ireland
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	DOE	Department of Environment
DRD	Department for Regional Development – Street Lighting	ACC	Altnamackin and Cortamlet Community
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development		

\* Projects which have been identified by the community as a High Priority are outlined in more detail in the Initiatives section of this report.

\*\* Capital cost estimates have been produced in the absence of any design information and are purely indicative of costs for works of this nature. All figures are exclusive of VAT, Inflation, Professional Fees, Statutory Authority Charges and Land Purchase.

## 4 Implementation

### 4.1 Potential Funding Streams

#### 4.1.1 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

The European Union has set three main themes within which all Member States are to focus their Rural Development Programmes. These themes (known as axes) are:

Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting restructuring, development and innovation

Axis 2 – Improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management

Axis 3 – Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity

They also require at least part of all Rural Development Programmes to be delivered through a “LEADER-type approach” – under the NI Rural Development Programme 2000-06, numerous partnerships delivered parts of the Programme within their own geographical area.

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-13 (the “NIRDP”) contains a number of measures under each axis. These measures are specific areas where support is to be targeted. Each measure was selected from a menu of options provided by the European Union in order to target the aspects of rural life that are most important to Northern Ireland.

SOAR will deliver the following Axis 3 measures under the NIRDP using a ‘LEADER’; approach, that is, local people making local decisions.

Measure	Objective	Eligible Applicants	Type of Projects
3.2 <b>Business Creation and Development</b>	To create employment opportunities through promoting entrepreneurship and developing the economic infrastructure in rural areas.	Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area and have less than 10 employees (FTE – Full Time Equivalents) and an annual turnover of less than €2 million. These limits apply to individual or linked companies.  They may be;  private individuals, aged over 18 years;  private companies or partnerships  social economy enterprises*.  This measure will not provide support for applicants eligible under measures 3.1 and 3.3	Activities could be similar to those funded via the Northern Ireland LEADER+ Programme. Types of projects that might be supported under this Measure could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day-care facilities</li> <li>• Waste management facilities</li> <li>• Crafts</li> <li>• Traditional skills</li> <li>• Innovative manufacturing businesses</li> <li>• Light engineering</li> <li>• Innovative services</li> <li>• Renewable energy initiatives (as part of a larger project)</li> </ul>
3.3 <b>Encouragement of Tourism Activities</b>	To use the natural resources in Northern Ireland’s rural areas to attract visitors, and create new employment opportunities through the sustainable development of the rural economy.	Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area.  They may be; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• private individuals, aged over 18 years;</li> <li>• private companies or partnerships</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New and existing tourism products can be supported under this measure e.g. Activity tourism</li> <li>• Niche/specialist tourism markets/local crafts or produce Eco-tourism</li> <li>• Self-catering accommodation</li> <li>• Rural Signature Projects – enhancement or development of significant tourism infrastructure projects or programmes that impact significantly on rural tourism. Applicants will have to demonstrate</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non departmental public bodies</li> <li>• councils</li> </ul> <p>This measure will not provide support for applicants eligible under measure 3.1.</p>	fit with local strategies.
<p><b>3.4</b></p> <p><b>Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Rural Population</b></p>	To improve or maintain the living conditions and welfare of those living in rural areas, and to increase the attractiveness of such areas through the provision of more and better basic services, for the economy and the rural population.	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area. They may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>private individuals, aged over 18 years</li> <li>social economy enterprises</li> <li>social economy enterprises*</li> <li>councils</li> </ul>	<p>Examples of project could include:</p> <p>Outreach work providing access to a wide range of services (health &amp; well being; education; benefits; jobs; financial and debt counselling)</p> <p>‘Door-step’ delivery of a range of services</p> <p>ICT Services which provide access to information on housing; healthcare; benefits; jobs; financial and debt counselling; education or other services to rural communities</p> <p>Sharing of equipment and premises in order to deliver value for money services</p> <p>Better or multiple usage of existing or new community buildings or other public facilities in providing access to a wide range of services e.g. housing a number of key services such as healthcare; training; IT; childcare; library; community shop; pharmacy or other service provisions in the one building.</p>
<p><b>3.5</b></p> <p><b>Village Renewal and Development</b></p>	To enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area. They may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• private individuals, aged over 18 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of projects could include: Village Action Plans</li> <li>• Streetscape improvements</li> <li>• Aesthetic improvements</li> <li>• Promoting greater community inclusiveness/participation</li> <li>• Greater use of existing buildings</li> </ul>

	potential of such areas is achieved; To support integrated village initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• councils</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.6</b></p> <p><b>Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage</b></p>	To create opportunities to preserve and upgrade Northern Ireland’s rural heritage and to use the natural and built environment as the basis for sustainable economic growth in rural areas.	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area. They may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• private individuals, aged over 18 years</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of projects could include: Monument/heritage site conservation and protection</li> <li>• Access/signage/information re heritage sites</li> <li>• Culture, history and heritage</li> </ul>

**4.1.2 Big Lottery Fund Village ‘SOS’ Scheme**

Village SOS began in 2010 when six enterprising UK rural villages won Big Lottery Fund investment of around £400,000 to revive their communities through new business ventures.

Each village could draw on the expertise of their own Village Champion, a business expert who lived in the local area for one year, and use their knowledge and skills to get the local enterprise up-and-running.

Today, Village SOS aims to build on the experience of these ten projects and inspire the whole nation to join in and take the bold step towards starting a new business that will regenerate their own community.

Ongoing support, including expert advice and events, is on offer to help community led business ventures get off the ground, breathe new life into their areas, create new jobs and improve the quality of life of local people.

Funding through this scheme is open to all rural villages or small town with a population under 3,000 therefore Altnamackin and Cortamlet are eligible.

A community enterprise is a business that is owned and run by the community. With time, a community enterprise should be able to sustain itself without having to

rely on grants or other public funding and any surplus is reinvested back in to the community.

There is a wide range of community enterprise ideas which can be funded, such as village shops, community transport, training schemes, cafes and tea rooms, woodland projects, broadband initiatives, energy schemes and much more besides.

We are interested in original ideas that really take advantage of your local assets, whether human or physical. You should think carefully about the skills and experience local people have; one residents' hobbies or skills could become a successful and sustainable enterprise. And why stop there when you could have a whole range of products or services, all produced or delivered by local people with unique skills. You could also take advantage of local natural resources, technology or buildings.

Voluntary and community groups or organisations, social enterprises and some parish, town and community councils are eligible for funding:

- a registered or unregistered charity
- a community group such as a village committee, association or trust
- a village or community-based co-operatives
- a social enterprise or a company that reinvests any profit back into the community.

More information can be found [www.villagesos.org.uk](http://www.villagesos.org.uk).

#### 4.1.3 PEACE III Programme

PEACE III Programme is a distinctive programme part-funded by the European Union (€225 million from the EU with further national contributions of €108 million) through its Structural Funds programme. The full title of the PEACE III Programme is the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The programme covers the period 2007-2013.

The main aims of the PEACE III Programme are to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation by assisting operations and projects which help to reconcile communities and contribute towards a shared society for everyone.

The programme is divided into two main priorities. These are:

- Reconciling Communities

- Contributing to a Shared Society

It delivers these priorities through “themes” - these themes are:

- To build positive relations at the local level
- To acknowledge the past
- To create shared public spaces
- To develop key institutional capacity for a shared society

PEACE III follows on from the PEACE I and PEACE II Programmes and will carry forward some of the key aspects of the previous programmes. PEACE III has a renewed emphasis on reconciliation. Like the earlier programmes, it also has a focus on cross-border initiatives.

Operations and projects in the PEACE III Programme are delivered by Lead Partners which are public bodies or their equivalent.

There is a new strategic approach to achieve maximum impact from the funding available from the PEACE III Programme. As a result, community and voluntary groups can access PEACE III Programme funding in a new way.

Local Councils in Northern Ireland have formed themselves into eight clusters and play a much more strategic part in the delivery of PEACE III. The six County Councils in the Border Region of Ireland have the same role. Working in partnership with communities, they have developed local Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans.

PEACE III remains committed to a strong emphasis on the “grass roots up” approach to the development of projects which address shared issues and concerns. Community and voluntary groups are encouraged to contact their local authority for information on their cluster’s or County Council’s “Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan”, which may contain a small grants programme and opportunities to tender for the delivery of projects in the future.

Community and voluntary groups which are considering developing projects relating to acknowledging and dealing with the past should contact the Consortium of Pobal and the Community Relations Council (CRC), which has been appointed to deliver this theme.

#### 4.1.4 Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Funding

The Historic Buildings Unit (HBU), as part of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Built Heritage Directorate, is responsible for the protection of the built heritage. In carrying out this function, HBU operates the relevant provisions of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. The statutory authority to provide grant-aid is detailed in Article 106 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991.

##### Historic Buildings Grant Aid Scheme

To assist with the protection and retention of the 'special' interest of these historic listed buildings NIEA: HBU provide grant-aid for the repair or maintenance of listed buildings through the Historic Buildings Grant-aid Scheme. Advice on grant eligibility of buildings should be directed to the NIEA Historic Buildings Grants Team.

##### Built Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland (BHARNI)

Built Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland (BHARNI) is a programme run by NIEA in partnership with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) to identify listed buildings at risk. The aim of the programme is to support community organisations etc in their efforts to acquire, repair and re-use such buildings. NIEA has advised that it can offer financial assistance to Building Preservation Trusts to assist with the acquisition of listed buildings 'at risk'.



## 5 Conclusion

The Village Renewal and Development Plan for Altnamackin and Cortamlet presents an ambitious yet achievable list of projects and initiatives which will help the villages reach their full potential.

At the local scale they are a comprehensive set of projects and proposals which will address the needs of the local communities. The Plans were strongly consultation led and therefore represent the hopes and aspirations of the communities.

## Appendix A - Baseline Questionnaires

Settlement: **Altnamackin / Cortamlet**

1.	What is your interest?	Business	Community Group	Individual	1
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### Section 1 – Planning and Infrastructure

2. Please indicate which of the following issues are of concern or interest to your group:

ISSUE	Major Concern	Some Concern	No Concern
Traffic congestion/ Speeding through traffic			1
Parking availability			1
Pedestrian accessibility			1
Vehicular accessibility			1
Accessibility for disabled persons		1	
Availability of housing for local people			1
Impact of new housing on your village		1	
Quality of existing road network in the village	1		
Sewage and Mains Water supply			1

If you indicated that you have concerns about any of the above issues please expand on your answers below or on a separate sheet:

Disabled persons: Newtownhamilton local town – no ramps – footpaths not adapted and no access to local shops.

New housing – limited facilities for young people in the area leads to anti-social problems. Quality of Roads – road surfacing needs to be completed. Possible crash rails especially on Castleblaney road.

3. Are there any development opportunity sites (i.e. sites or buildings which are derelict, or underused/vacant land, or something that may be described as an 'eyesore') within the village that you are aware of? If yes, where and what would you like to see developed?

Newry Road in Newtownhamilton  
Land opposite the barracks.

### Section 2 – Essential Services (Please expand on answers if possible)

4. Please indicate which of the following issues are of concern or interest to your group:

ISSUE	Major Concern	Some Concern	No Concern
Provision and access to local healthcare facilities			1
Provision and access to educational facilities			1
Quality of public open space		1	
Availability of play areas for children		1	
Public transport service in the area		1	
Provision of public leisure facilities	1		
Quality and provision of retailing/local shops			1

5. What services are you aware of and are you happy in general with the range of services currently provided?

Bin Collection  
Library Van

6. What other facilities or services do you feel should be provided for the village?

Grass cut more regularly and grass gathered up. Main Road resurfaced (Blaney Road). Fane Valley Park re-surfaced.

**Section 3 - Economic and Community Development** – (Please expand on answers if possible)

7. Are there any attractions which you feel could be developed for tourists or for use by local people?

Walking Tours around the forests.  
Flower planting or involvement in best kept village would give people an interest on their village.

8. Are there any features or assets within your village which you feel should be actively conserved?

Not sure.

9. Are there good small business opportunities?

No.

10. Are there sufficient facilities available to local community groups and are they well used?

Scouts – well used.  
Aughnagurgan Older Peoples Group & Baby & Toddler – Well used.

11. Are there regular or well known community events or festivals? If not, what would you like to see?

Local Band Parades.

**Section 4 - General**

Please tick the following statements to indicate your opinion:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree
The village is a generally attractive environment		1	
The village centre has good places to eat and drink			1
The village is easy to find		1	
Directions to public facilities are clearly signed			1
The village has an identifiable centre			1
The approach to the village is attractive and welcoming			1
The streets are kept clean of litter		1	
Graffiti and vandalism in the village are a problem			1
There is a clear vision for the village centre			1
Street furniture is well maintained			
Pavements are uncluttered and in good repair			1
There is value for money in local shops		1	
There is a good choice and range in shopping			1
There are suitable traffic calming measures			1
The police are involved in initiatives to cut crime			1
There are distinct and well used car parks		1	
Building fronts and facades are well looked after		1	
The village has a vibrant atmosphere		1	
There is sufficient street lighting		1	
The village is safe to walk around at all times		1	

If you wish to expand on your answers to any of these statements please do so below or on a separate sheet:

Local crime  
- dumping of waste oil in the community.  
- Thieving also apparent.  
  
Signs old and need replaced.


**Please return this Questionnaire by Tuesday 13th March 2012.**

*Thank you for your help*

**If you require any further information on this project or would like to provide further information please contact:**

Ms Karen Crawford  
URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd  
Beechill House, Beechill Road  
Belfast, BT8 7RP  
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## Appendix B Community Consultation Advertisement



**COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN  
NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Newry & Mourne Village Renewal Action Plans**  
*(South Armagh Plans)*

**\* COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / VIEWING \***

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Newry & Mourne District Council and its appointed consultants (URS) are currently working in partnership with a number of pre-selected local rural communities across the region to have a total of 13 Village Renewal Action Plans completed.

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Draft proposals for the South Armagh Village Plans are now to be put on display from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in the following venues;

Crossmaglen / Creggan / Culloville Plan – Crossmaglen Community Centre, Creggan Church Hall & Culloville Youth Club

Cullyhanna / Dorsey Plan – WALD Centre Cullyhanna & Dorsey Community Centre

Mullaghbane Plan – Mullaghbane Community Centre

Whitecross / Ballymoyer – St Killan's GAC

Bessbrook/Camlough – Bessbrook Community Centre

Jerresspass / Lurganare - Jerresspass Village Hall

Newtownhamilton Plan – Newtownhamilton Community Centre

Altnamackin / Cortamlet – Cortamlet Primary School

Comments sheets will be available for you to have your say. Proposals can also be viewed and commented upon through the Councils Website of [www.newryandmourne.gov.uk](http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk)

Council and Community Stakeholder groups would encourage local communities to come along to view the draft proposals and feed your views into the process.

Signed: Mr T McCall  
Clerk & Chief Executive of Council

This project is part funded under the Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 by the European Union and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.