

Annsborough

Village Renewal and Development Plan

Addendum and Updated Action Plan: November 2017

The Village Renewal and Development Plan review was funded under Priority 6 (LEADER) of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.



Mourne,
Gullion &
Lecale
Rural Development
Partnership



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council

ARUP

1. Introduction

The Annsborough Integrated Village Plan (Village Plan) was initially produced in 2012. This has now been reviewed and updated by the community in conjunction with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The review has taken the form of an addendum to the initial Village Plan and should be read in conjunction with it. The addendum includes an updated Action Plan (see Section 2), which identifies which projects and initiatives have been implemented since the original plan was published and highlights projects which could be focused on over the next phase of implementation.

Ove Arup and Partners (Arup) was appointed as the consultancy team to facilitate the review and update of the Action Plan. This update has been facilitated by a stakeholder workshop. The outcome of this is an updated Action Plan which includes a range of projects and initiatives that we believe will have a real impact on the area.

The review of the Village Plan was funded under Priority 6 (LEADER) of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union, and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

The Rural Development Programme uses the LEADER approach which adopts a community led model to assist rural communities to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in their local area, through the allocation of funds based on local need. Village Renewal and Development is an important element of the Rural Development Programme.

The Village Plan is a working document that requires the support of the community and in many cases the community working in partnership with other agencies and statutory bodies. It is important to note that some projects and initiatives set out within the action plan may be subject to future feasibility studies and analysis, detailed design, landowner agreements, statutory approvals and available funding.

2. Implementation

This plan is designed to improve the social and economic fabric of the area.

The Updated Action Plan provides an indication of the key tasks which need to be undertaken to progress specific projects. This often includes detailed scheme design, preparation of the business case and funding application, and in some cases further feasibility and analysis. The source of funding will often dictate the order in which tasks need to be undertaken, for example the Rural Development Programme expects all statutory consents to be place before the funding application is submitted. There are potential sources of funding available for the projects and initiatives set out within this Village Renewal Plan. It is important to note that reference to potential funding is a guidance only. Other funding opportunities may become available during the lifetime of this plan, and all projects will be subject to appropriate eligibility checks, application and assessment procedures as set by each funding body.

The Updated Action Plan also provides an indication of the priority level of each project based on discussions with key stakeholders during plan preparation. Alongside this, a lead delivery agent and key stakeholders have also been noted. There may also be other interested groups who should be engaged during project implementation or those whose agreement must be sought, such as a private landowners or statutory bodies. It is also important to recognise that priorities may change as funding opportunities become available.

It should be noted that the progressing of a 'Village Plan' under the Rural Development Programme does not mean that the settlement or area, to which the 'Village Plan' applies, is designated as a village in the settlement hierarchy as identified in the current development plans that apply to the district (i.e. the Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015, and the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015) or the Council's new Local Development Plan for the District, which is currently under preparation.



2. Annsborough- Review of 2012 Action Plan

		2012 Action Plan				2017 Update			
	Action substantially complete / situation has improved								
	Ongoing / no change								
	Major constraint to implementation / situation has got worse								
	New Project								
Regeneration Initiative	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Time frame	Potential Funders	Progress @ November 2017	Priority H, M, L	Timeframe	Actions	
1	Community Facilities								
1.1	Build new community building	ACF, PLO	H	L	RDP, EN, BIG, NMDDC	Phase 1 complete, Phase 2 still to be completed with plans in place. Subject to funding.	H	M	Monitor progress of phase 2 planning application.
1.2	Extensions to social club to provide community space	GAA, A GAA, PLO, ACF, CDRCN	H	S	NIHE, RDP	Closely linked with initiative 1.1, Phase 2 of community building to supply required social club / community space.	H	S	Monitor progress of phase 2 planning application for initiative 1.1, to support delivery of initiative 1.2.
1.3	Re-name social club	GAA, AGAA, PLO, ACF	H	S	NIHE, RDP	Social club has been successfully renamed (Annsborough Social Club).	N/A	N/A	N/A – Action complete
1.4	Develop a community garden	ACF, PLO, NIHE	M	M	EN, BIG, NMDDC	No progress to date. Need to identify a suitable site in the village and liaise with landowner.	L	M/L	Identify suitable site(s) through consultation with the local community. Secure agreement from landowner. Undertake design and costings. Identify funding and develop.
1.5	Develop allotments / grow your own	ACF, PLO, NIHE	M	M	EN, BIG, NMDDC, RDP	No progress as of yet, continue to monitor initiative.	L	M/L	Initiative will remain in plan.

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	1.6	Community lease of football pitch and upgrading of facilities.	ACF, NMDDC	N/A	N/A	NMDDC, BIG	A project to explore enhancement of and community facilities within Annsborough.	H	S	<p>Upgrades to include: Improve the condition of current car parking facility Introduce signing at the top of Meadow Row Explore potential for new building to accommodate ancillary uses such as changing facilities, showers, meeting rooms and kitchen.</p> <p>Fencing around the pitch perimeter.</p> <p>Improvements to current flood lighting.</p> <p>Installation of ball stops Explore options to improve safety around perimeter of pitch Community walkway to the pitch (link to Action 16-18.</p>			

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2		Environmental and Townscape Improvements								
	2.1	Improve sense of arrival and village identity	ACF, TNI, NMDDC	M	S	TNI, NMDDC, RDP	Completed.	N/A	N/A	N/A – action completed
	2.2	Develop a village green	ACF, PLO, JIHE	M	M	EN, BIG, NMDDC, NIHE, RDP	No progress.	L	M/L	Feasibility options, detailed design and costings, including planning permission (if applicable). Secure funding.
	2.3	Environmental improvements to key streets	ACF, TNI, NMDDC, CDRCN	M	S	TNI, NMDDC, EN, RDP	No progress.	M	S/M	Continue to monitor situation and engage in discussions with public bodies through interagency meetings.
	2.4	Preservation of mill buildings	NIEA, PLO	H	M	HLF, PS, RDP	Ongoing. Mill buildings are in private ownership.	L	M/L	Continue to lobby private owners to develop a suitable strategy that ensures the preservation of mill buildings.

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	2.5	Preservation of mill ponds	ACF, PLO, NIEA	M	M	NIEA, EN, RDP	No progress.	L	M/L	Engage in discussions with landowner to explore options for effective preservation and ongoing management of mill ponds.
	2.6	Flooding and water management (Ballybannon River)	ACF, PLO, DFI, NMDDC, NIW	H	M	DFI	Ongoing lobbying with NIW.	H	S/M	Continue to monitor situation and liaise with NIW.
	2.7	Maintenance of community areas, including grass verges on Main Road	ACF, TNI, TL, NMDDC	H	S/M	BIG, NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas for improved maintenance throughout the village. Liaise with TNI to improve management of grass verges. Engage with other public bodies about maintenance of their land 			

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	2.8	Environmental Improvements within lands of social club / community centre.	GAA, A GAA, PLO, ACF, NMDDC, ACF, PLO		N/A	N/A	NMDDC, RDP, BIG, NIHE, RDP		A project to explore the potential to improve the environmental and physical quality of lands within the social club / community centre.	H	S/M	Engage with community in relation to the intended / desired landscaping proposals. Carry out a feasibility and costing study with regard to potential design options. Works to include: resurfacing of car park. installation of community noticeboard outside the community centre. Fencing. Signage on main road showing location of the Community Centre. Secure funding and relevant statutory permissions.

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3		Tourism, Leisure and Recreation								
3.1	Creation and upgrade of walks around the village	PLO, TNI, ACF, MHT, ONI	H	S	EN, RDP, DFI, NMDDC	MHT developing walking routes.	M	M	Work in partnership with MHT to identify suitable walking routes. Conduct feasibility study and secure funding to develop.	
3.2	Heritage trail	PLO, TNI, ACF, MHT	M	S	HLF, RDP, DFI, NMDDC	To link in with Action 15 above.	M	M	See above.	
3.3	Fitness trail	ACF, GAA	M	S	NMDDC, EN, BIG	To link in with Action 15 & 16 above.	M	M	See above.	
3.4	Springwater enterprise (Ballybannon River)	ACF, PS	L	L	PS, RDP	Ongoing.	L	M	Progress feasibility study to outline and explore potential. Secure relevant statutory permissions and funding.	

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3.5	Mourne Signature project - consider ideas to attract tourists	ACF, MHT, TourNI, NMDDC		M	S	MHT, NMDDC, TourNI	No progress.	L	M/L	Collaborate with stakeholders to develop ideas for tourist attraction into the Village.
3.6	Castlewellan mountain bike trail - associated business	ACF, MHT, NIYB, NMDDC, ONI		M	M	MHT, NMDDC, TourNI	No progress.	L	M/L	Feasibility study, detailed design and costings. Secure relevant statutory permissions and funding.
3.7	Budget accommodation - campsite and hostel provision	ACF, PS, TONI, NMDDC		L	L	PS, TourNI	No progress.	L/M	M/L	Identify operator and suitable location. Seek agreement from landowner and secure relevant statutory permissions.
4	Infrastructure and Services									
4.1	Installation of pelican crossing (Mill Hill Road)	TNI, ACF		H	M	TNI	No progress.	H	S	Engage in discussions with public bodies through interagency meetings.

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4.2	Traffic calming to reduce speeds (Mill Hill Road)	ACF, TNI	H	M	TNI	No progress.	H	S	Engage in discussions with public bodies through interagency meetings.	
4.3	Reduce traffic congestion (Ballylough Road)	ACF, TNI	H	M	TNI	No progress.	M	S	Engage in discussions with public bodies through interagency meetings.	
4.4	Lighting and pavement provision (Corry wood industrial estate)	ACF, TNI	M	M	TNI	No progress and continues to be a high priority. Community would like to see a continuation of the footpath and lighting.	H	S	Engage with TNI about potential additional provision via interagency meetings.	
4.5	Improved signage (Corry wood industrial estate and Standard Mill)	ACF, TNI, PS, NMDDC	M	M	TNI, NMDDC, PS	No progress. Need for one sign with all businesses listed on it.	M	M	Engage with business owners in relation to implementation.	
4.6	Improve bus shelter provision	ACF, TNI, TL	H	S	TL	Initiative complete, however there is a requirement for continuous maintenance i.e. grass cutting (interagency)	H	S	Liaise with TL in relation to location and feasibility of improved bus shelter provision.	

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	Green	4.7	Improve layby provision	ACF, TNI, TL	M	L	TL, TNI	Has not been progressed, and identified as not likely to happen.	L	L	N/A	
Stakeholders and Potential Funders	<p>ACF - Annsborough Community Forum A GAA - Annsbourough GAA BIG - Big Lottery / Awards for all DAERA – Department for Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs DE - Department of Education DFI – Department for Infrastructure DFC – Department for Communities GAA - Down County GAA RDP – Rural Development Programme</p>											
	<p>CDRCN - County Down Rural Community Network EN - Entrust - landfill tax HLF - Heritage Lottery Fund NIEA - Northern Ireland Environment Agency NMDDC – Newry Mourne & Down District Council ONI – Outdoor NI PSNI - Police Service Northern Ireland PCSP – Policing and Community Safety Partnership</p>											
<p>PS - Private sector PLO - Private land owner RA - Rivers Agency TourNI – Tourism NI TNI – Transport NI TL - Translink</p>												