

# Cullyhanna - Dorsey Village Renewal and Development Plan

Final Report  
September 2012



Prepared for



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Revision Schedule

**Renewal and Development Plan for Dorsey and Cullyhanna**  
September 2012

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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 have been prepared between February and September 2012.

### 1.2.1 Methodology

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



Figure 1.1: Methodology Flow Chart

## 1.3 Policy Context

### 1.3.1 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 government strategy including the 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.

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

### 1.3.2 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 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 as follows:

**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 goes 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.

### 1.3.3 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.

Programmes Implemented through the 2008-2011 Framework

1. Childcare Programme
2. Assisted Rural Transport Scheme (ARTS)
3. Maximising Access to Services, Benefits and Grants
4. Rural Challenge Programme
5. Rural Support
6. Rural Fuel Poverty
7. Community Development

**Action Plan 2011-2015**

Table 1.1: Adapted from the 'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework Action Plan	
Project	Budget (£)
Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS – DRD)	1,800,000
Maximising Access Rural Areas (MARA – DHSSPS / PHA)	2,589,800
Community Development	4,800,000
Health Checks (PHA / Health Trusts)	383,000
Rural Support	351,000
Rural Challenge (Small Grants)	1,000,000
Older Peoples Rural Project 9Health Trusts / DHSSPS)	878,000
Youth Employability Programme (Advantage / DEL)	203,000
Youth Enterprise Scheme – Northern Periphery Programme	181,000
Safe Drinking Water Scheme	33,500
Emerging Issues	2,230,700
Potential Post Office Diversification Scheme	TBA
Vulnerable Groups in Rural Society Research Programme	TBA
<b>Capital projects</b>	
Fuel Poverty	1,871,605
MARA	68,080
Health Checks (PHA / Health Trusts)	60,315
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.45 M</b>

**1.3.4 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.

**1.3.5 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.

**1.3.6 Economic Regeneration: A Pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh (Crossmaglen and South Armagh Chamber of Commerce – July 2011)**

Tangible Ireland was commission by Crossmaglen and South Armagh Chamber of Commerce in December 2010 to prepare a well researched and written Feasibility Study / Business Plan for the development of the Chamber for the years ahead.

There was a wide variety of stakeholders consulted during the preparation of the feasibility study / business plan, which included regular meetings as well as one-on-one consultations.

In terms of the local economy the report states that due to the scale of the existing enterprise the town has limited employment opportunities. ICLRD's research in 2007-2008 suggested that 50% of the towns workforce were employed in the Republic of Ireland, notably in construction. With this sector now in decline the



future remains bleak unless strides are made in the development of tourism and high-tech SME's.

The report highlights several other key issues:

- Road Infrastructure is well below acceptable standards and needs upgraded;
- Lack of a motorway exit on the Dundalk-Armagh Road means the area lacks a natural gateway;
- Need for a commuter bus service between Dundalk Railway Station and Crossmaglen and maybe to Castleblaney or a loop through South Armagh. Currently tourists cannot get to South Armagh by public transport except through Newry;
- In the short term, better and more frequent directional signage would be of great assistance to locals and visitors alike.

**Strategic Vision 2012-2016**

To make Crossmaglen and South Armagh a vibrant hub of sustainable economic activity maximising the strengths and assets of its people, its geographic location and its natural beauty:

- The Chamber to take a leading role being the premier business organisation in the area in delivering this Vision.
- The Chamber to encourage and foster collaboration among all key stakeholders to deliver this Vision

**South Armagh Development Trust**

The report suggest that an all inclusive 'South Armagh Development Trust' is set up, which would consist of representatives of all stakeholders with a commitment to delivering this positive future for Crossmaglen and South Armagh.

**The report identifies 7 key aims which will help achieve its Vision:**

**1. Construct a 'South Armagh gateway' intersection on the M1 where it crosses the Dundalk-Armagh Road.**

- Improve the Castleblaney Road – N53 from the M1 particularly the dangerous bends near the exit from the M1
- Improve subsurface and the surface of the Dundalk Road between Crossmaglen and the N53
- Improve the road between Cullaville and Crossmaglen
- Upgrade of the Crossmaglen Newry Road

- Work with Ulster Bus and Bus Eireann to provide a commuter Bus between Dundalk Railway Station and Crossmaglen with the possible continuation to Castleblaney and other locations in South Armagh

**2. Initiate a village renewal scheme for Crossmaglen and other towns and villages in the area.**

- Safeguarding of key heritage assets and encouraging sympathetic and appropriate infill development on the various vacant blocks
- Enter one of the various Pride of Place competitions to help benchmark the towns and villages against their peers around the island
- Instigate the feasibility of an overall colour scheme for Crossmaglen and roll out to other villages if deemed successful
- Develop regular farmers market to promote unique local produce and help to develop and agri-food business sector

**3. Creation of high capacity broadband and an internet wireless zone in Cardinal O'Fiaich Square.**

- High capacity broadband to be provided in Crossmaglen and its hinterland
- Education programmes could be more intensely promoted and encouraged to raise the digital capability in the area.
- Enhance the potential for the creation of high-tech SME's
- Create a more diversified economic base, attract higher paying jobs and deliver new employment opportunities in Crossmaglen and South Armagh
- Training in Business and Entrepreneurship should be accentuated and initiatives to recognise achievements should be arranged such as local business Awards.

**4. Development of South Armagh sports academy and brand.**

**5. Make Slieve Gullion 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' a major tourist attraction.**

- Development of tourism products that are unique and comparable to the best available which can be promoted at a national level
- Annual programme of events
- Provision of a commuter bus to Dundalk

**6. Creation of flagship interpretative centre in Crossmaglen.**

- 7. Crossmaglen should become the premier venue for interpreting all aspects of the Troubles, particularly the conflict in the border region.
- 8. Procurement of a major relevant piece of art such as the Agreement by Shane Cullan

**9. Create a positive image for the area.**

This report raises many of the key issues affecting Crossmaglen and South Armagh and put forward several key projects and initiatives to address these. Many of the issues and opportunities were reiterated during our consultation events. We would endorse the projects highlighted in this report and have strived to build upon these. The concept of the ‘South Armagh Development Trust’ is interesting and we feel this would benefit the area greatly. It was noted during our consultation that there was a very strong voluntary and community sector within Crossmaglen and South Armagh, however lacking communication between groups. This approach would provide a solid overarching stakeholder group which would represent South Armagh as a whole.

**1.3.7 Ongoing Projects and Initiatives in the South Armagh Area**

**1.3.7.1 CASA Rural Investment Initiative**

The overall aim for the initiative is to benefit the rural economy of the Castleblaney and South Armagh (CASA) region by sensitive development of its natural resources to increase tourism and also by supporting rural businesses to help maintain and secure local jobs.

Funding for the £1.3 million project has been secured though the Special European Programmes Body, EU INTERREG IVA Programme within the framework of the Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Counties of Ireland and Western Scotland 2007 – 2013. DARD and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government are also providing financial support.

Over the next three years, the project will enable the creation of a Family Adventure facility and Amphitheatre at Slieve Gullion, and pathways at Slieve Gullion Mountain will also be restored to create an Adult fitness trail. Angling facilities will be improved at Lough Muckno and some additional family fun will be developed by creating a children’s play area. The project will also support rural start up businesses by developing 7 Enterprise Units in Ballybay, County Monaghan.

When launching the programme Minister Michelle O’Neill commented that

*"The Interreg funding awarded to the CASA Rural Investment Initiative will provide a well-timed boost for local rural businesses and the opportunity to develop world-class facilities such as those planned for Lough Muckno. My Department’s contribution to this project is evidence of our long term commitment to this area and to rural development through cross-border cooperation. The CASA Rural Investment Initiative is a tremendous opportunity for renewal and I am proud that DARD is supporting this project. I am confident that the partnership has the capability and determination to make this project a success."*

Mayor of Monaghan County Council Councillor Seamus Coyle also showed his support of the ongoing work and commented that *"Monaghan County Council’s project focuses on the unique resource of Lough Muckno and the vision is to establish Lough Muckno as Ireland’s leading nationally and internationally approved coarse fishing venue. In addition, through this project the council will deliver a children’s play area which will make the park more family friendly and broaden its appeal to visitors. I believe that these projects and the developments at Slieve Gullion which are being undertaken by Newry & Mourne District Council will indeed have a major impact for the wider CASA area and I look forward to their completion so that the facilities can be availed of and enjoyed"*.

CASA Rural Investment Initiative is managed by Newry and Mourne District Council in partnership with Monaghan County Council and Monaghan County Enterprise Board.



**Figure 1.2: Construction of the Adult Fitness Trail at Slieve Gullion**

## 2 Overview of the cluster

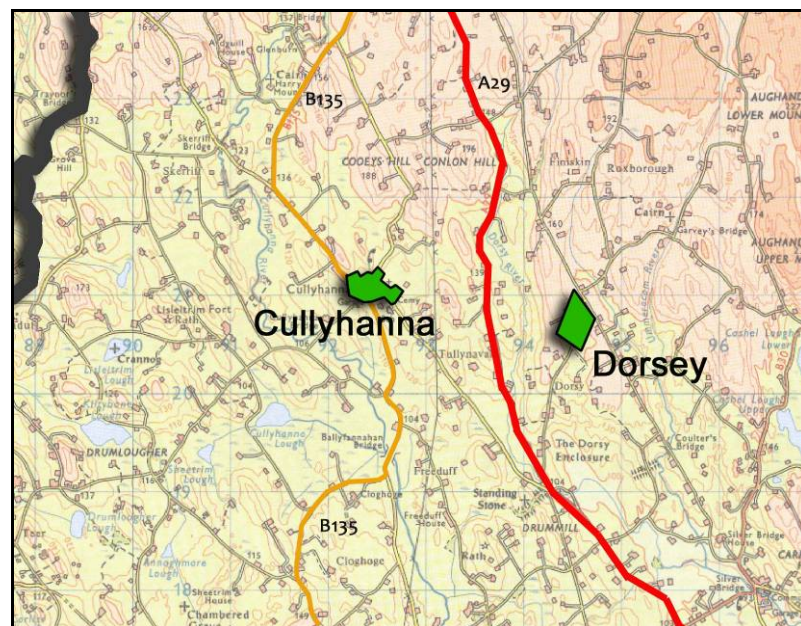
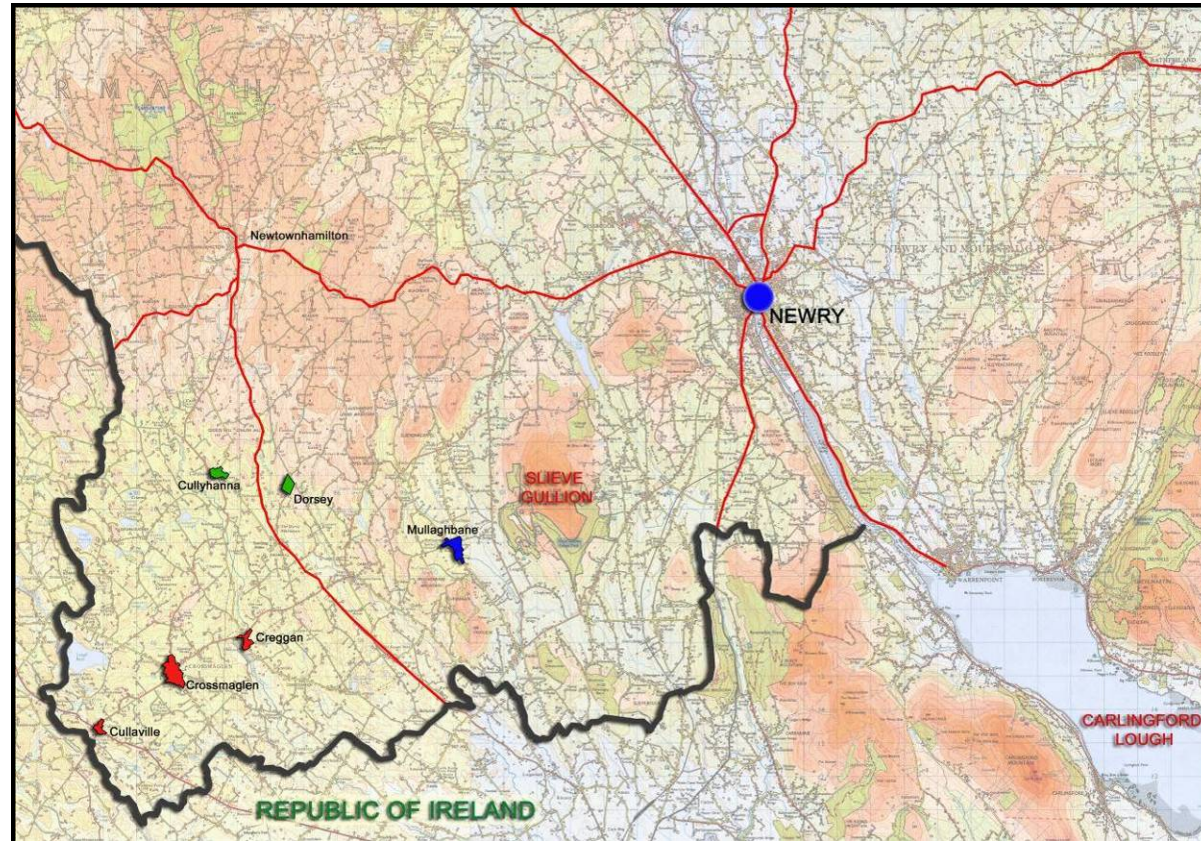


Figure 2.1: Geographic location of Cullyhanna and Dorsey

### 2.1 Introduction

This document includes renewal and development plans for the villages of Cullyhanna and Dorsey. It was highlighted early in the Plan process that these settlements have their own separate characteristics and issues which must be addressed. However it was stressed that there are projects which can benefit for the wider area of South Armagh and thus will have knock-on benefits for these individual settlements.

### 2.2 Deprivation

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 report was published on 26 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.

Crossmaglen is the second most deprived Rural Super Output Area, behind Castleterg in 2010, and is ranked 112 in whole of Northern Ireland.

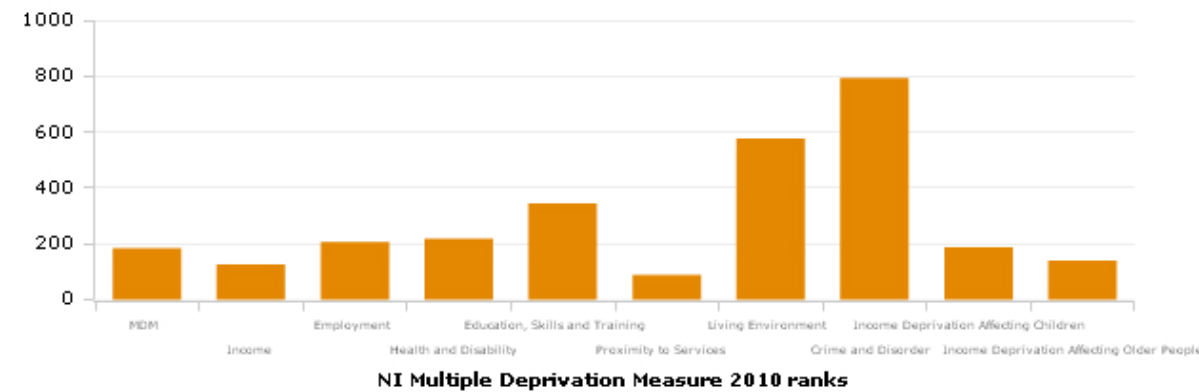
Cullyhanna is located within Creggan SOA 13<sup>th</sup> most deprived rural area in Northern Ireland and Dorsey is located within Silverbridge 1 SOA which is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived rural area in Northern Ireland.

	Extent Score % (Rank)	Income Deprived Scale (Rank)	Percentage of total Population Income Deprived (Rank)	Employment Deprived Scale (Rank)	Percentage of working age population employment deprived (Rank)
<b>Assembly Area</b>					
Newry and Armagh	17 (8)	30,654 (4)	28 (5)	8,783 (6)	14 (5)
<b>Local Government District</b>					
Newry and Mourne	19 (5)	28,156 (3)	29 (4)	7,864 (3)	14 (7)
<b>Super Output Areas</b>					
	Rank in Northern Ireland	Rank in Rural Northern Ireland			
Crossmaglen	112	2			
Silver Bridge 1	182	12			
Creggan	184	13			

Table 2.1: Multiple Deprivation Measures – Source: NISRA

2.2.1 Silverbridge 1 – Multiple Deprivation Measures

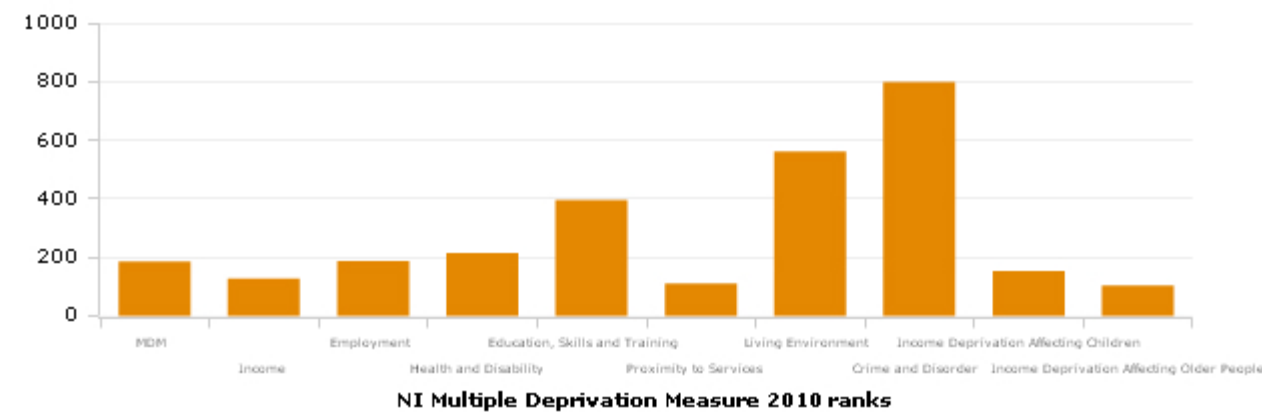
deprivation. Crime and disorder and the living environment tend to be less of an issue in rural areas.



The bar chart above illustrates the Multiple Deprivation Measure Rankings for Silverbridge 1 SOA, in which Dorsey is situated. It is important to note that this chart indicates the rankings in relation to Northern Ireland as a whole including urban and rural areas. Several key statistics can be taken from this:

- Silverbridge 1 is ranked quite highly with regard to several of the key indicators include proximity to services, employment and Income deprivation.
- Crime and disorder and the living environment do not appear to be major problems in comparison to other areas of Northern Ireland.

2.2.2 Creggan – Multiple Deprivation Measures



This bar chart indicates the Multiple Deprivation Measure Rankings for Creggan SOA, in which Cullyhanna is situated. Again the key issues are proximity to services, income deprivation for both children and older people and employment

## 2.3 Projects and Initiatives for the wider area

### 2.3.1 Infrastructure Improvements

#### 2.3.1.1 Upgrade of the B30 Newry Road and provision of footpaths between Creggan, Crossmaglen and Cullaville

The standard of the B30 Newry Road was identified very strongly throughout the preparation of the Village Renewal and Development Plan with many participants suggesting that it is a serious threat to the future development of South Armagh. The need for improved rural infrastructure is a prominent theme in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and the draft Rural White Paper Action Plan. The regional transportation document 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future: A new Approach to Regional Transportation' includes a specific Strategic Objective which addresses Rural NI:

***Improved Access in Rural Areas: As public transport provision is limited in rural areas, the car is the main mode of travel from rural areas to services and facilities located in and around our towns and cities, and to the countryside itself. The roads linking all rural areas to these services and facilities must be reliable; and our public and community transport must be timely and reliable.***

At a local level the study commissioned by Crossmaglen Chamber of Commerce titled 'Economic Regeneration – A pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh' identifies the need for improved transport infrastructure.

The upgrade to the B30 was identified as the number one priority by respondents to the draft Crossmaglen Village Plan, and the need for footpath linkages between the three settlements was highlighted by a majority of respondents in all three settlements.

**Consultation with DRD Roads Service highlighted several key infrastructure works which have been carried out or are in the programme for the short term:**

**Planned Works:**

B30 – Crossmaglen – Newry

DRD hope to begin maintenance works to this part of the B30 in the short term. This work has been in the Programme, however was delayed due to major infrastructure upgrades by NI Water.

**Action:**

To ensure improvements / upgrades to transport Infrastructure in South Armagh is prioritised. The area suffers from high deprivation levels and good quality transport infrastructure is essential to improving business, enterprise and employment opportunities in the area.

### 2.3.2 Lough Ross Redevelopment

The Rural Development Programme seeks to conserve and build upon the natural and built heritage as well as encouraging tourism and recreation. The potential of Lough Ross was highlighted during initial consultation with the public and community groups. In order to build upon the tourism and recreational potential we have proposed circular walking routes around the lough with footbridges over the Fane and Clarebane Rivers. There is also potential to link Lough Ross to the Monaghan Way which has the potential to provide a long distance community greenway (Monaghan Way). There should also be a walking trail north along the Clarebane River linking to Lough Muckno, thus complementing the CASA Project (see section 1.4.7).

There is an existing car park and toilet facility located off Loughross Road which provides the ideal focal point. We feel that this area would benefit from a high quality children's play area, to accommodate all ages. A Recreational Centre would encourage and build upon water-based recreation such as canoeing, sailing and fishing. Fishing stands should also be provided at specified sites around the lough. The site could also provide an area for camping and touring caravans. A feasibility study should be carried out to establish the scale and viability of specific facilities.

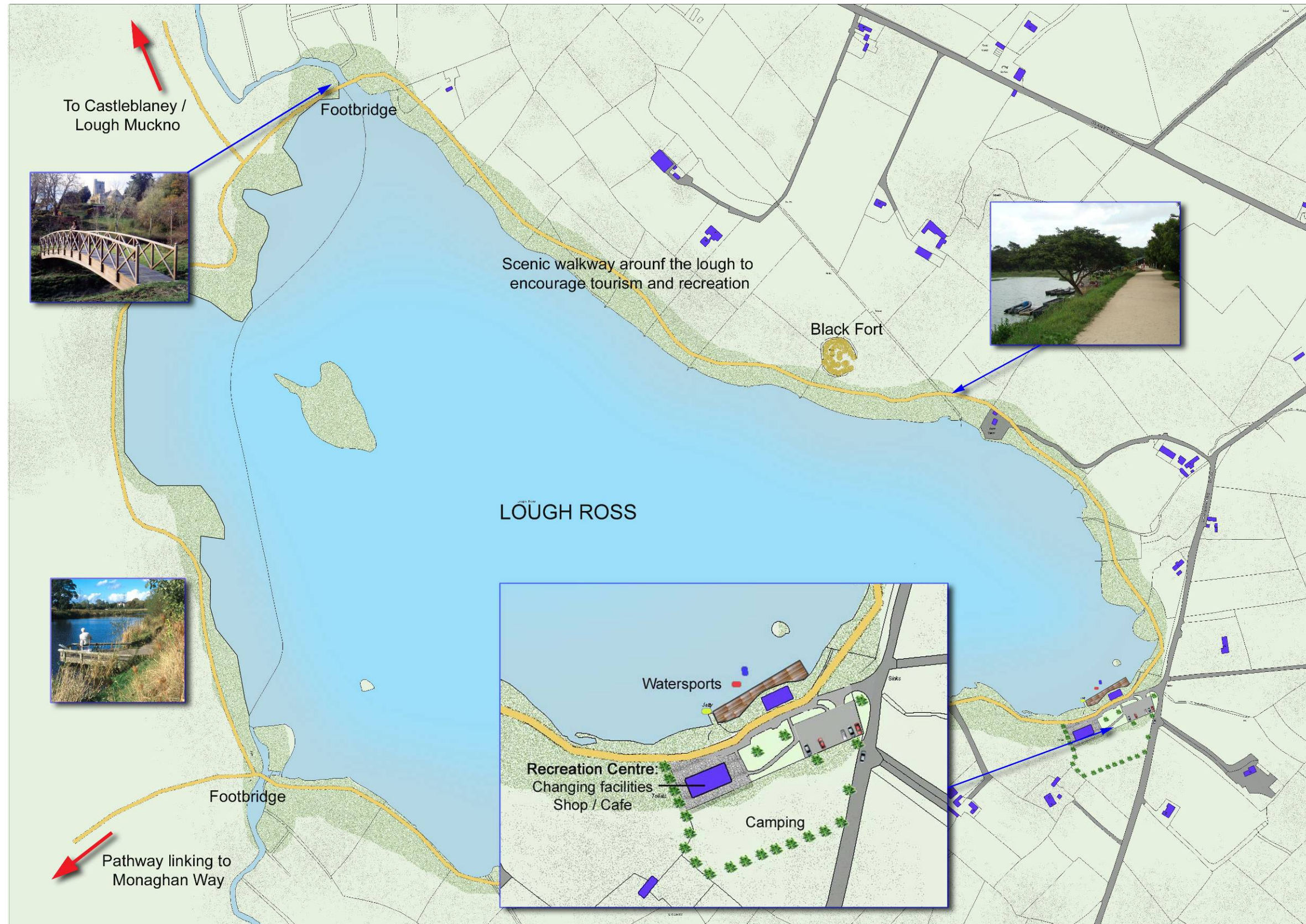


Figure 2.2: Indicative image of the redevelopment of Lough Ross

**2.3.3 Gateways Project**

The study commissioned by Crossmaglen Chamber of Commerce ‘A pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh’ highlighted the potential of a South Armagh Gateway’ intersection on the M1 where it crosses the Dundalk – Armagh Road, we agree that this would have a benefit for the South Armagh area, however we would like to build upon this by proposing a ‘Gateway Strategy’ for all the key settlements and attractions.

The gateways to towns and villages (main approach roads) are extremely important when providing first impressions of the area. By providing strong gateway features such as those below, the settlement can build upon it’s identity, whilst improving the environmental quality of the approach roads. Gateways can be strengthened by providing signage / public art which represents the area and landscape improvements

**Examples**

**Mourne Coastal Route**



**Patricks Gateway, Downpatrick**



such as tree planting and flower beds. It is also crucial to ensure that key buildings along the approach roads are kept in good condition and provide a positive impression to potential investors.

2.4 Action Plan

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<b>Rural Infrastructure</b>							
Upgrade of the B30	DRD	Community and Voluntary NMDC	H	S-L	DRD	<p><b>What's been done to date:</b> B30 - Cullaville to Crossmaglen Road has been resurfaced in the past 5 years – DRD do not consider further works to this road as being a priority in the short – medium term.</p> <p><b>Future Works:</b> B30 – Crossmaglen – Newry DRD hope to begin maintenance works to this part of the B30 in the short term. This work is in the Programme, however was delayed due to major infrastructure upgrades by NI Water.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure improvements / upgrades to transport Infrastructure in South Armagh is prioritised. The area suffers from high deprivation levels and good quality transport infrastructure is essential to improving business, enterprise and employment opportunities in the area.</li> </ul>	TBC



Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Provision and upgrade of footpaths	DRD	Community and Voluntary NMDC	H	S-L	DRD	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the provision of footpaths linking small rural settlement to the key facilities such as sporting clubs and primary schools are prioritised.</li> <li>• Ensure the timely upgrade and maintenance of footpaths where required.</li> </ul>	TBC
<b>Tourism, Leisure and Recreation</b>							
Lough Ross Redevelopment	SADT* NMDC	Community and Business Sector NITB CAAN	H	S	NIRDP NMDC NITB	<p><b>Issue:</b> Lough Ross is an underutilised asset in terms of tourism and recreational potential. Healthy living is a core aspect of government policy and encouraging active recreation is essential. The growth of tourism will have benefits for South Armagh, therefore the infrastructure needs to be put in place.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Preparation of Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Strategy which would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility / Economic Appraisal of the provision of recreational facilities for land and water based activities</li> <li>• Consider funding opportunities to implement such projects</li> <li>• Encourage youth clubs and schools to get involved and support the need for these facilities</li> <li>• Consider events to increase awareness of Lough Ross and its potential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sporting: Angling/Triathlon</li> <li>- Family Fun</li> <li>- Watersports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Improving the tourism potential of Slieve Gullion AONB	SADT* NMDC	Community and Business Sector NITB CAAN	H	S-L	NIRDP NMDC NITB	<p><b>Issue:</b> Slieve Gullion AONB is key asset for the area. It is already well used by locals and visitors. It would benefit greatly from the projects being implemented through the CASA Initiative. However the full potential of Slieve Gullion is not yet realised. Its strength lies within the natural and built environment, therefore the protection and enhancement of these features is priority. Projects should be sensitively designed to fit within the environment.</p> <p><b>Aim:</b> The aim is to promote and encourage the tourism potential of Slieve Gullion, while ensuring the natural and built heritage of the area is well protected.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Preparation of Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Strategy which would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare modern up to date promotional and marketing material, website and advertising campaign for the area.</li> <li>• Assess the current infrastructure to support activity based tourism such as walking and cycling.</li> <li>• Research case studies of similar successful areas and consider projects for the area.</li> <li>• Consider the role Mullaghbane and other settlements within the AONB - Provision of services and facilities for the tourist – Shop, Accommodation, Entertainment.</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<b>First Impressions</b>							
Gateway Project	SADT* NMDC	Community, Voluntary and Business Sector NITB	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> The need for strong gateways and improved signage came across very strongly throughout the consultation for all towns and villages in Slieve Gullion which Renewal and Development Plans were carried out. Rather than progressing gateway projects on an individual basis, we feel an overall gateway project for South Armagh would be much more beneficial, where a strong brand can be established for the area.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Lobby for the development of the 'South Armagh Gateway'</p> <p>Prepare a Gateway Strategy and brand for the South Armagh Area focusing on entrance features to settlements and tourist attractions, consisting of public art or unique signage for the area. This overall project should be taken forward by NMDC in conjunction with a range of local stakeholders. The Strategy should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique image / brand for South Armagh depicting the heritage of the area and its Vision for the future</li> <li>• Design and location of gateway features / signage</li> <li>• Commission public art through a design competition, encouraging unique and innovative designs from local artists</li> <li>• Tourist Trails – Walking / Cycling and Driving</li> <li>• Accompanying marketing and promotional material</li> </ul>	TBC

### 3 Cullyhanna

#### 3.1 Existing Conditions



Figure 3.1: Cullyhanna Existing Conditions

## 3.2 Village Profile

### 3.2.1 Background

Cullyhanna is a small village, with a total population of 306 in the 2001 census which lies on the main road between Newtownhamilton and Crossmaglen approximately 18 kilometres south west of Newry.

The village lies to the west of the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB). The character of this landscape provides a distinctive setting for the village. It is set in a landscape of rolling drumlins with broad areas of wetland, bog and attractive winding rivers in inter-drumlin hollows. The Cullyhanna River and its associated river corridor vegetation frame it to the southwest. To the north the settlement is bordered by a distinctive raised landform, which is visible from the southern part of the village. Lands to the west and east are generally more gently undulating.

The Chairdinéil Ó Fiaich Heritage Centre lies in the centre of the village, along Slatequarry Road. Cullyhanna is a service centre with a range of facilities including St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, a primary school, community centre and playing field. The settlement also has a public house, post office and a number of local shops.

### 3.2.2 Demographics

As Cullyhanna has a population of less than 500, no statistics are available for the village from the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

### 3.2.3 Planning Policy Context

The relevant planning policy for Cullyhanna is set out within the Draft Banbridge Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (August 2006), and is described as a small village and service centre. 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 which 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. In this regard the previous development limit is amended to exclude the important landscapes to the periphery of the settlement, in order to protect the rural setting of the settlement.

Within the village there are several land use designations including land zoned for housing, an Area of Archaeological Potential and Local Landscape Policy Areas.

Three Local Landscape Policy Areas have been designated in order to protect the features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of the area. These include; CA 04 Cullyhanna North, CA 05 Cardinal O'Fiaich Heritage Centre and CA 06 St. Patrick's Church.

The Housing Needs Assessment has identified a social housing need of 7 dwellings in Cullyhanna. A site at Sheetrim Road has been identified in whole or in part to meet this social housing need.

### 3.2.4 Planning History

A desktop review was carried out to identify any relevant planning applications which have been approved or currently pending within the study area. This review was carried out in July 2012 and the status of these applications may since have changed.

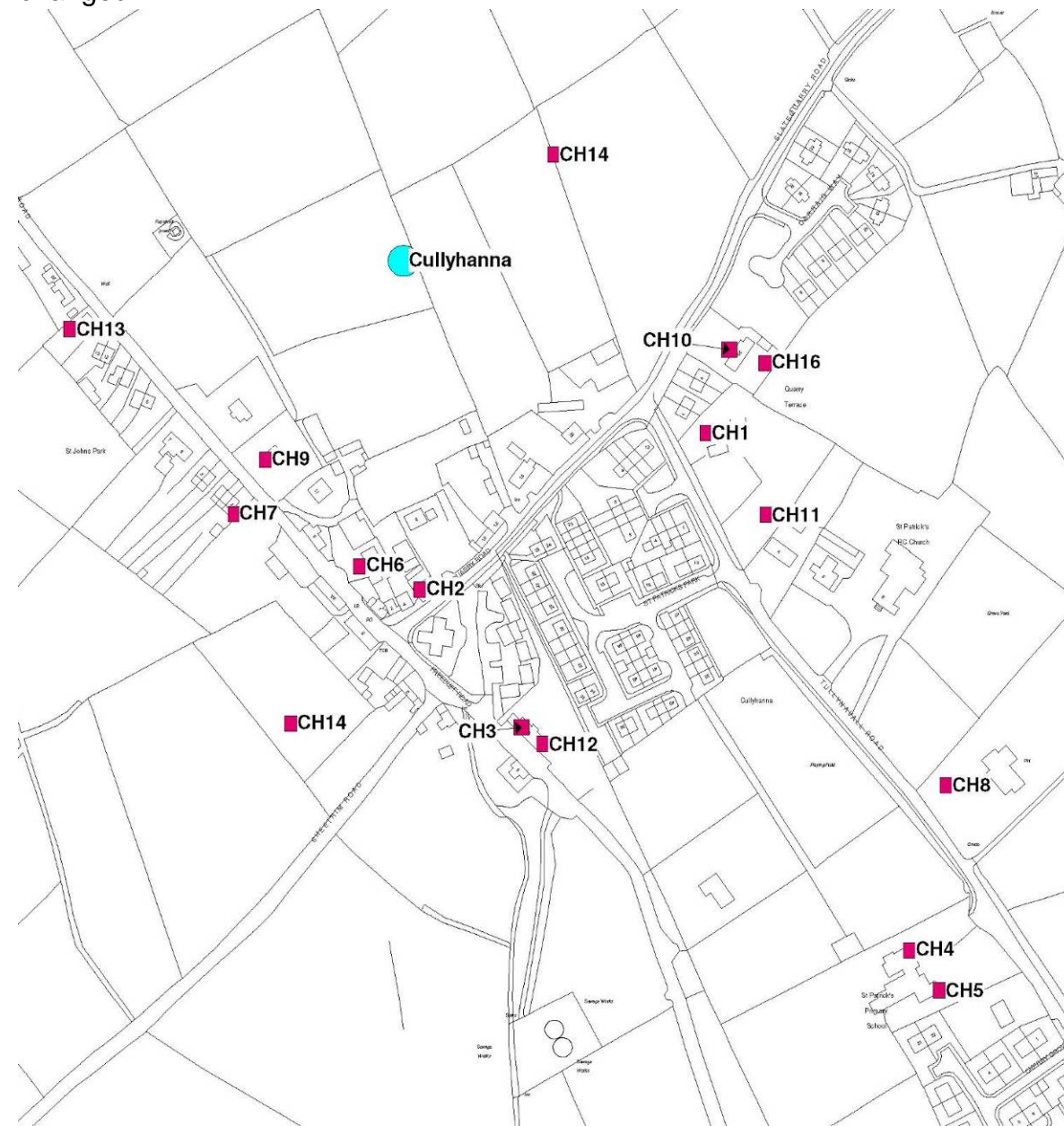


Figure 3.2: Location of planning applications

**TABLE 3.1: PLANNING HISTORY – CULLYHANNA**

No.	Planning Application Code	Site Location	Proposed Development	Decision	Expiry Date
CH1	P/2011/0521/F	2 Tullynavall Road Cullyhanna.	Reinstatement and redesign of existing hall.	APPLICATION BEING CONSIDERED BY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL GROUP	Pending
CH2	P/2011/0338/F	6 Slatequarry Road Cullyhanna BT35 0JH	2 no. existing single storey sheds to be demolished and replaced by 1 no. new single storey, mono pitch commercial storage unit incorporating a basement level and all associated site works	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	07/10/2016
CH3	P/2010/1422/F	No.10 Freeduff Road Cullyhanna Co.Armagh BT35 0JJ	Extension to site previously approved under application No. P/2007/0540/F for two additional houses	PRE-DECISION STAGE - RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES	01/07/2017
CH4	P/2009/1592/F	11 Tullynaval Road Cullyhanna Co.Armagh	Proposed building for use by Playgroup	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	12/03/2015
CH5	P/2008/0854/F	Saint Patrick's Primary School, 11 Tullynavall Road, Cullyhanna, Newry.	Erection of single storey extension to the existing school meals kitchen to provide staff accomodation.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	21/10/2013
CH6	P/2008/0771/F	7 Skerriff Road, Cullyhanna, Co. Armagh.	Erection of Replacement two-storey Dwelling.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	10/09/2013
CH7	P/2007/1710/F	Lands at corner of No.1 St. Johns Park, Cullyhanna, Newry.	Retention of storage sheds in relation to the existing Filling Station and shop and the retention of roadside wall and fence.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	11/03/2013
CH8	P/2007/1474/F	10 Tullynavall Road, Cullyhanna, Newry, Co.Armagh	New Public House with Off-Sales unit and associated storage facilities, with first floor Apartment.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	13/05/2013
CH9	P/2007/1089/O	13 Skerriff Road, Cullyhanna, Newry	Demolition of existing 2 storey detached house and erection of 4 townhouses and associated siteworks...	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	13/10/2012
CH10	P/2007/1031/F	23 Slate Quarry Road, Cullyhanna	Erection of Housing Development	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	11/05/2014
CH11	P/2007/0745/F	Adjacent to and NW of 4 Tullynaval Road and opposite 13 St. Patrick's Park, Cullyhanna, BT35 0PZ	Erection of dwelling	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	11/02/2013
CH12	P/2007/0540/F	10 Freeduff Road, Cullyhanna	Demolition of existing licensed premises and provision of 10 no. 2 storey dwellings	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	17/12/2013
CH13	P/2007/0014/F	20 Skerriff Road, Cullyhanna, Newry	Erection of housing development of 7 no. dwellings (4 house types) 5 no. dwellings onto private drive with 2 onto public road	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	01/03/2013
CH14	P/2006/1510/O	170 metres north of 20 Slatequarry road, Cullyhanna, Newry,	Erection of one and a half storey dwelling and detached garage	APPLICATION DEFERRED BY COUNCIL FOR OFFICE/SITE MEETING	
CH15	P/2006/1185/F	Lands at the junction of Freeduff Road and Sheetrim Road, Cullyhanna (comprising lands at No.3 Freeduff Road extending to the rear (south-west) of Nos 2 and 2A Skerriff Road)	Erection of residential development and associated works (comprising 21 No. dwellings with access off Sheetrim Road)	PRE-DECISION STAGE - RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES	Pending
CH16	P/2005/2034/F	Adjacent to 23 Slatequarry Road, Cullyhanna	Erection of 24no. dwellings (Amended scheme from previous approval granted under file ref. P/2002/0092/RM)	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	12/09/2012

### 3.3 Consultation Process

Stage	Consultation Method	Date	Venue
<b>Information Gathering</b>	Community Workshop	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2012.	Dorsey Community Centre, Roxborough Road (10.30am-12.30pm)
	Questionnaires	March 2012	N/A
<b>Draft Proposals</b>	Open display for NMDC	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	NMDC Offices
	Public Exhibition / Open evening	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	WALD Centre, Cullyhanna, Dorsey Community Centre
	Questionnaires		
<b>Draft Village Renewal and Development Plan</b>	Draft Plan presented to NMDC and Community Groups	June – August 2012	Various

### 3.4 Consultation Findings

#### 3.4.1 Information Gathering Stage

The SWOT Analysis (see table 3.3) 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 workshops 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. Please note that the comments are an expression of views of those responding to the questionnaire and not necessarily the views of any other party.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location, history and arts</li> <li>• Strong community</li> <li>• Proactive organisations supporting regeneration and renewal</li> <li>• Good quality schools</li> <li>• Áras an Chairdinéil Ó Fiaich Cultural Centre</li> <li>• Recent Environmental Improvements adjacent to the stream, Slatequarry Road. Funded through the Community Fund.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of public transport</li> <li>• Lack of sign posting throughout the village, especially on the entrances.</li> <li>• Lack of youth facilities (14-25 years old)</li> <li>• Childs play park existing (Council Owned) – potentially need for facilities for older kids and teenagers</li> <li>• No community gym</li> <li>• Áras an Chairdinéil Ó Fiaich Cultural Centre - Poor acoustics can be a hindrance to holding meetings and activities in the centre</li> <li>• Underused and run down buildings</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on the services / activities and programme of events facilitated through the community centre, such as Handball Alley and Children’s Play Park</li> <li>• Cultural Centre own No 1 Skerriff Road which is derelict. This is an opportunity building as it is in a prime location within the Village.</li> <li>• Potential to utilise the Cultural Centre for supporting tourism / recreation / cultural activities.</li> <li>• Youth programmes/volunteering / intergenerational activities</li> <li>• Redevelopment and extension to the Community Centre. Phase one is currently under construction which consisted of an extension to the building, part funded through SOAR and NMDC.</li> <li>• Community Gym</li> <li>• Social Enterprise</li> <li>• Youth Room/Activities</li> <li>• Family Focus Centre – Building on childcare / afterschool facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor Transport</li> <li>• Lack of facilities for disabled people</li> </ul>



- WALD Centre – Potential to utilise for educational / learning facility
- Upgrade to the play area

Table 3.4: Key opportunities prioritised	
SHORT TERM PRIORITIES (NEXT 3 YEARS)	MEDIUM / LONG TERM PRIORITIES (NEXT 3-7 YEARS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GAA – currently developing a new training field. Gym available but only to it’s members. Potential project could be for gym facilities for the whole community. Some equipment at the Community centre would compliment the other facilities such as the Child Care.</li> <li>• Upgrading existing play park</li> <li>• Action for the groups to come together to identify the key heritage assets of the area and what should be focused on.</li> <li>• Guided walks from the centre to surrounding interests, cultural / natural heritage</li> <li>• Interactive walking routes to encourage kids to walk to school</li> <li>• Current walking track could be upgraded to accommodate disabled users</li> <li>• Vacant units should be spruced up in the short term pending redevelopment (Animation / Paint Scheme).</li> <li>• Upgrading footpaths where needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play facilities – MUGA – Outdoor adult fitness equipment (example – Kilbroney Park).</li> </ul>

With regard to Cullyhanna, in total there were 3 questionnaires returned, from members of the community groups. The response was extremely positive with most the recipients ‘liking’ all the proposals, with only three people stating that they had ‘no opinion’ regarding the upgrading of roads and footpaths. Two people ‘disliked’ the traffic calming measures, signage and gateways, and two ‘disliked’ the provision of additional services and facilities at the Band Hall, with a further two having ‘no opinion’ on this proposal.

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, Phase 2 of the Community Centre was ranked highest priority by three respondents, as was the use of WALD centre as Educational/Learning, making these the overall top priorities. The Provision of additional services and facilities at the Band Hall was listed as least priority.

### 3.4.2 Draft Proposals

The draft Plan was put on public display in WALD Community Centre and Dorsey Community Centre 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 form the public a questionnaire was available and an open evening was held to allow people to raise any concerns with a member of the consultancy team.

3.5 Cullyhanna Village Renewal and Development Plan

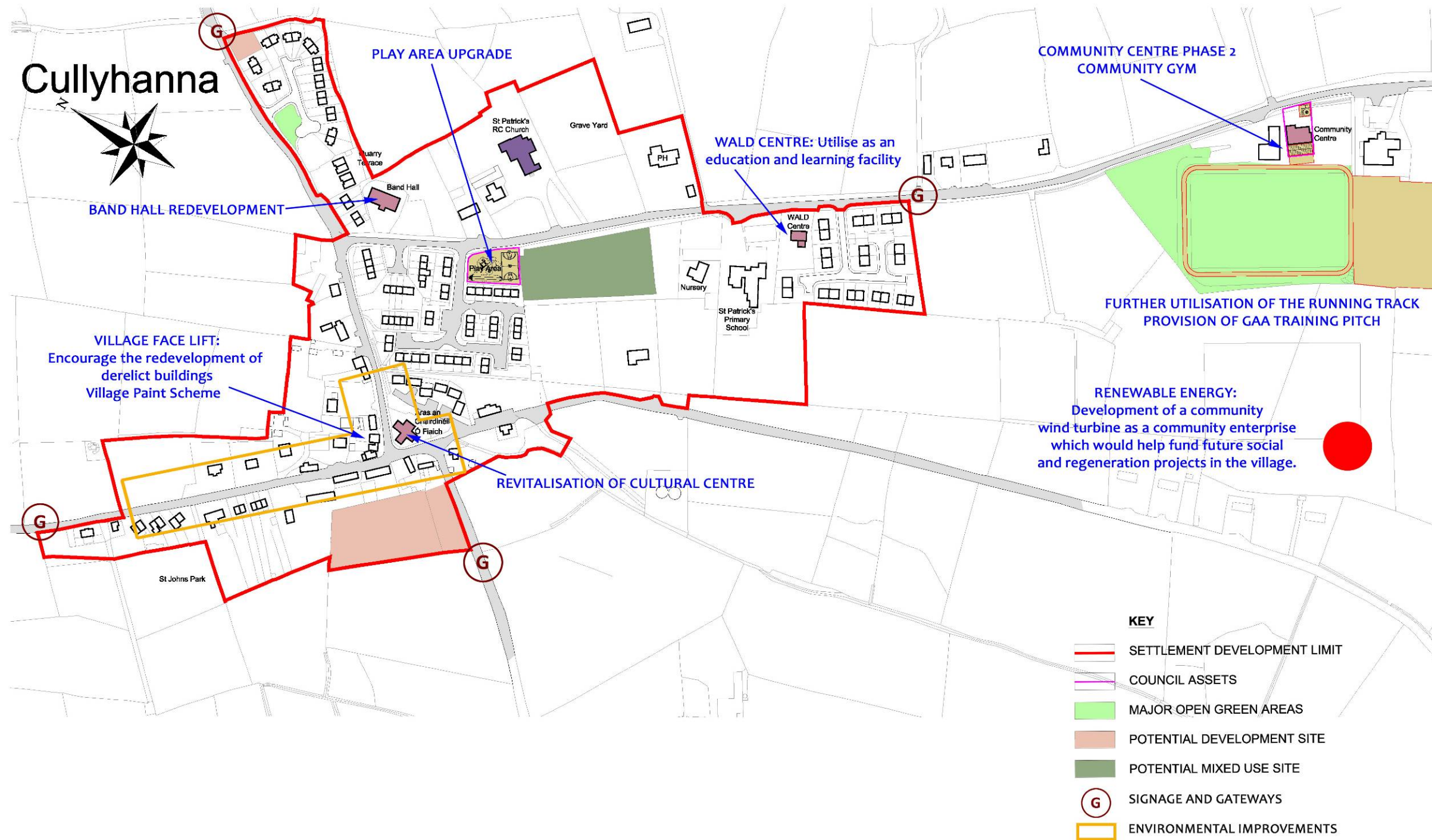


Figure 3.3: Cullyhanna Proposals Map

**3.5.1 Community and Youth Facilities**

**3.5.1.1 Community Facilities**

One of the obvious strengths of Cullyhanna is the number of community buildings within the village, including the newly refurbished Community Centre, WALD Centre and Cultural Centre. All of these facilities have a role to play in Cullyhanna, however they should be better utilised. The community centre in particular has the potential to provide a wide range of services and facilities to the local community. The Cultural Centre should encourage wider tourism uses building on the heritage of the area. The WALD Centre has the potential to develop educational and learning facilities. It is important for all the groups operating within the village to communicate and develop a universal strategy for the future development.

**3.5.1.2 Refurbishment of the Play Area**

It was noted during consultation that the existing play area is in need of upgrading. This is a priority and a wider range of equipment is required, such as the provision of a Multi Use Games Area, providing all weather football and basketball facilities for example. Adult fitness equipment has also becoming popular within / adjacent to play areas; which can be used by parents while taking their kids to the park.

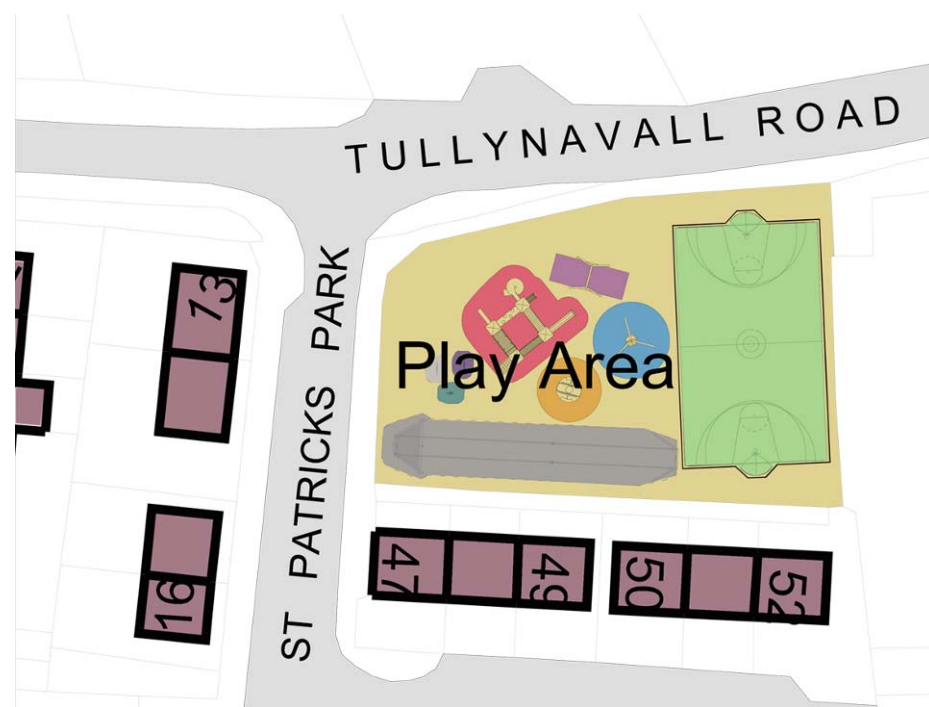


Figure 3.4: Indicative image of play park upgrade

**3.5.1.3 Community Gym**

The need for a community gym was identified. The gym could potentially be accommodated adjacent to the GAA grounds and Community Centre. Parking is currently available at the site. The possibility of developing a community gym in partnership with the GAA should be considered. It is important that this facility is available to the general public.

**3.5.2 Townscape and Environmental Improvements**

There are several derelict and underused buildings in Cullyhanna. The re-use of these buildings should be encouraged and in the short term they should be painted to improve the aesthetics of the village. Environmental Improvements are also needed throughout the village including the provision of landscaping, street furniture and lighting. The provision of entrance features can improve the image of the village while acting as an indirect traffic calming measure.



**3.5.3 Business Creation and Development**

**3.5.3.1 Development of Community Enterprise**

The Rural Development Programme recognises the importance of business creation and development in rural areas. There are sites allocated to industrial and mixed use development within the town which should be the focus for business creation. The development of an enterprise centre would support local business

creation and development. Improving basic services such as Broadband access and telecommunications is crucial to developing small business and enterprise.

The idea of developing an umbrella group for Cullyhanna, which would consist of key stakeholders should be established to drive forward the future development of the Village. This would allow for the sharing of information and the joint use of resources'.

3.6 Action Plan

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<b>Community and Youth Facilities</b>							
						<p>Community groups within the Village are encouraged to meet and discuss plans to fully utilise the various community assets. The formation of an overarching Community Association which includes representatives from all sections of the community would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of funding applications and enable the sharing of information and resources, enabling the positive development of the Village.</p>	
Revitalisation of Áras an Chairdinéil Ó Fiaich Cultural Centre	Community and Voluntary Sector	AC NMDC NITB	M	S-L	NIRDP Big Lottery Fund NMDC	<p>Build on the tourism, recreational and cultural potential of this centre. It is a strong asset for the community and is situated in a very prominent location within the Village.</p> <p>Potential to promote this as the hub of tourism activity, being the base for guided walks to encourage enjoyment of the built and natural heritage in the area.</p> <p>The acoustics within the centre was highlighted as a constraint on the activities and events which can be accommodated. Addressing this issue should be a priority.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Consider the employment of a guide to take tours of the area – based in the Cultural Centre</p> <p>Commission acoustic specialists to address this sound issue within the centre</p> <p>Prepare a programme of activities and events to encourage the wider community and visitors to take part in cultural events.</p>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Community Centre: Phase 2	COMMUNITY AND Voluntary Sector	NMDC Sport NI	H	S	NIRDP Big Lottery Fund NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> Cullyhanna is located within Creggan SOA which is the 13<sup>th</sup> most deprived rural area in Northern Ireland. Key issues include proximity to services, income deprivation for both children and older people and employment deprivation. Crime and disorder and the living environment tend to be less of an issue in rural areas.</p> <p><b>Work done to date:</b> Community Centre Phase 1: Redevelopment and extension of the community centre, which has been recently constructed. This project was part funded through NIRDP and NMDC. This was strongly welcomed by the community and provides the infrastructure which will enable the community to thrive. It is crucial now to determine a range of services and facilities which address the specific needs of all sections of the community.</p> <p><b>Projects and Initiative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a comprehensive programme of services and facilities</li> <li>• Provision of children’s play area</li> <li>• Provide Youth Facilities</li> <li>• Childcare facility</li> <li>• Family Focus Centre</li> <li>• Encouragement of Social Enterprise</li> <li>• Provision of an outdoor covered handball alley</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Groups to prioritise the specific projects under the Phase 2 scheme with regard to the specific needs of the community – this will require a joint effort by all groups, clubs and societies within the Village.</li> <li>• Put in place statutory approvals such as planning and prepare detailed feasibility studies of each project so that it can feed directly into a funding application.</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Provision of Community Gym – located beside the Community Centre and GAA	Community and Voluntary Sector GAA	NMDC Sport NI	H	S-M	NIRDP Big Lottery Fund NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> It was noted during the public consultation that there is a lack of publically available leisure and recreational facilities. The GAA have shown interest in providing health and fitness facilities which would be open to the whole community:</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project to be developed by the Community Association alongside the GAA.</li> <li>• Gain planning approval for the scheme if required</li> <li>• Secure funding</li> </ul>	£50,000 - £75,000
Develop the running / athletics facility at the GAA grounds into a specialised training area for disabled users. Seek to build this as a regional facility.	Community and Voluntary Sector GAA	NMDC Sport NI	H	S-M	NIRDP Big Lottery Fund NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> It was noted during the public consultation that there is a lack of publically available leisure and recreational facilities. The GAA have shown interest in providing health and fitness facilities which would be open to the whole community.</p> <p><b>Work done to date:</b> Recently the community in association with the GAA have secure funding and delivered a running track around the football pitch. This is a welcome addition to the sporting facilities in Cullyhanna, however the community feel there is a need to ensure that the running track accommodates everyone, especially disabled users.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project to be developed by the Community Association alongside the GAA.</li> <li>• Bring the existing facilities up to standard that they are suitable for disabled users with the aim of developing this into a regional facility for Paralympic training</li> <li>• Secure funding</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Provision of a new GAA Training Pitch	Community and Voluntary Sector GAA	NMDC Sport NI	H	S-M	NIRDP Big Lottery Fund NMDC	Secure funding and relevant statutory approvals	£60,000 - £80,000



Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Fully utilise the Wald Centre as a centre for education and life long learning.	Community and Voluntary Sector	SELB NMDC	H	S-L	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> Rural poverty and social isolation is a serious issue in NI and in particular in South Armagh, the document 'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolations Framework 2011-2015', outlines the governments actions in relation to this. This is an innovative local project which aims to provide specific education and learning programmes, tailor made to the needs of the local and wider rural community. Some rural residents are not able to travel to surrounding larger towns such as Newry and Crossmaglen to attend attend educational programmes. It was noted during the consultation with the community that there was a particular problem in South Armagh in recent years with the reduction of jobs in the traditional industries such as farming and construction. It is crucial to provide training and learning for those working age members of the community who have are now unemployed.</p> <p><b>What's been done to date:</b> Cullyhanna Community Partnership have delivered educational and learning programmes in the past. The WALD Centre currently has a good standard computer suite which is a major asset to the Village.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop this centre as an Educational / Learning facility for all sections of the community.</li> <li>• Liaise with the wider community regarding their specific needs and what courses and programmes would be more beneficial.</li> <li>• Liaise with SELB regarding the feasibility and support for providing specific courses from the WALD Centre.</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Band Hall: Rebuild and provide additional services and facilities	Community and Voluntary Sector	NMDC	H	M	NIRDP NMDC Private	<p><b>Issue:</b> The band hall was destroyed in a fire in recent years. Prior to this it was an important facility for the Village.</p> <p><b>Work done to date:</b> P/2011/0521/F – Planning application is currently in the system for the reinstatement and redesign of the hall.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain statutory approvals and source funding for rebuilding the Band Hall</li> <li>Ensure that it is a facility available for the whole community.</li> <li>Develop a programme of activities and events in conjunction with the wider public and groups in the Village</li> </ul>	TBC
Refurbishment of Play Area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New children’s play area</li> <li>Multi-Use Game Area</li> <li>Outdoor Fitness Gym</li> <li>Teen Zone</li> </ul>	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDC	DOE DRD	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> The standard of the existing play park was identified as the main issue and the number one priority for the village. The play park not only provides a core recreational facility for the village, but is also the central focal point. Again, the need to provide facilities for the whole community was highlighted; hence the future upgrades to this area should consider all age groups including disabled and older people. A high quality open space would provide a pleasant setting for parents and older people to enjoy the views of the river, while the children’s play park and multi use games are would accommodate children and teenagers.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commission consultants to establish layout and feasibility of particular uses and activities/costs etc and obtain planning approval;</li> <li>Source funding and match funding if required.</li> </ul>	£250,000 - £300,000

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<b>Infrastructure</b>							
Traffic calming, signage and gateways	NMDC DRD	Community and Voluntary Sector  DOE	H	S-L	DRD NIRDP	<p>SEE GATEWAY PROJECT SECTION 2.4</p> <p><b>Issue:</b> The quality and provision of directional signage is a particular problem at Cullyhanna – signage should be provided on the approach roads to ensure that drivers are aware that they are entering a built up area and to advise visitors of the facilities available in the Village.</p> <p>Traffic calming is also a major issue which should be addressed immediately. Creggan is located on the B30 which is a key route between Newry and Crossmaglen, and not enough advance warning is given to drivers passing the village.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and encourage gateway strategy.</li> <li>Liaise with NMDC and DRD regarding the need for traffic calming measures on the approach to Cullyhanna/DRD to consider various methods of traffic calming.</li> <li>Provide direction signage on the approach to Cullyhanna</li> </ul>	£25,000 - £40,000
Upgrade roads and footpaths where required.	DRD	Community and Voluntary Sector  DOE	M	S-L	NIRDP Private Big Lottery Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the provision of footpaths linking small rural settlement to the key facilities such as sporting clubs and primary schools are prioritised.</li> <li>Ensure the timely upgrade and maintenance of footpaths where required.</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<p>Encourage Renewable Energy Projects:</p> <p>Development of a community wind turbine as a potential social / community enterprise</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector	Private DOE	M	M-L	BLF NIRDP NMDC	<p>Renewable energy projects developed as a community enterprise can be an excellent way to raise funding for future projects within the Community, especially those which may require considerable funding such as providing broadband to the area. Wind turbines can produce a considerable revenue from selling energy back to the national grid and also produce subsidised electricity for the local community and community facilities. It is important that this is a community led project with clear community benefits. Projects such as this can also have wide ranging social benefits as the community are becoming more self sufficient and have joint ownership of a community enterprise.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the feasibility of a small to medium size wind turbine and establish the best location</li> <li>• Liaise with landowners regarding the project and possible lease of the land.</li> <li>• Gain all statutory approvals</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Provision of high standard telecommunications including broadband and wireless zones.	NMDC Telecoms Providers	Community and Voluntary Sector	M	S-L	Private NMDC NIRDP	<p><b>Issue:</b> Rural NI suffers from under investment in telecommunications. Cullyhanna in particular suffers as it does not have a standard broadband service. This will hinder the future provision of educational and learning facilities.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with telecom providers to encourage high quality services to rural areas.</li> <li>• Consider a community broadband scheme – where the infrastructure is funded through a social / community enterprise.</li> <li>• Consider the potential of utilising Project Kelvin.</li> <li>• Provision of broadband throughout the Village</li> <li>• Provision of improved mobile telephone networks.</li> </ul>	TBC
<b>Environmental and Townscape Improvements</b>							
Environmental Improvement Scheme	NMDC	DOE DRD Community and Voluntary Sector Retailers NITB	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and Implementation of a comprehensive public realm scheme to include paving, landscaping and street furniture. Address the issue regarding the 'electrics' for the Christmas Lights.</li> <li>• Lighting Scheme</li> <li>• Wireless Internet Hub</li> <li>• Create a multi-use shared space which will be accommodate a range of community events</li> </ul>	£150,000 - £300,000

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Village Face Lift:	NMDC Private	DOE  Community and Voluntary Sector	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> A number of derelict and run down buildings within Cullyhanna, some of which are in prominent locations around the village core. In the long term the full redevelopment of these building / sites is an ambition, however in the short term, it is crucial to improve the visual appearance of these buildings, ensure that they are secure form vandalism and do not detract form the a positive image which the Village is striving to achieve.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the redevelopment of vacant and underused opportunity sites. Liaise with landowners and provide technical and financial assistance.</li> <li>• Implementation of a paint scheme to brighten up buildings within the town centre and key approach roads.</li> <li>• Consider the re-use of vacant and derelict buildings for community and youth activities – encourage arts and crafts and showcase local talent.</li> <li>• Pop up shops – consider rate relief for short term uses.</li> </ul>	TBC
<b>Tourism, Leisure and Recreation</b>							
Develop an exciting programme of events for all the community and to entice visitors to the area	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDC	NITB DOE DRD	H	S-L	NMDC NIRDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison between community, voluntary and cultural groups and the Council regarding potential events for the Village and the wider area.</li> <li>• Consider and seek funding</li> </ul>	TBC

## 4 Dorsey

### 4.1 Existing Conditions



Figure 4.1: Existing conditions

## 4.2 Background

Dorsey has an estimated population of 130-160 people and includes about 30-35 houses.

*Na Doirse*, the gateways, is an extensive earthwork which runs through the South Armagh area. The Dorsey Ramparts, or 'The Walls' as they are known locally, are said to have been a fortified frontier post to the kingdom of Ulster.

Dorsey is one of the few monuments in the north which have been confirmed as Iron Age in date. It is a group of linear earthworks with a perimeter of 4 km, enclosing an area of 300 acres (1.2 km<sup>2</sup>). The Dorsey is part of a series of Iron Age earthworks, which run roughly across south Ulster. It extends for 4km and comprises banks, ditches and a wooden palisade (fence). Oak from this fence has been dated to between 140-90 BC.

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 compact form of this settlement, which centres around St. Oliver Plunkett's RC Church, which has been retained while making provision for a limited amount of development appropriate to its role. The settlement comprises a number of dwellings along Roxborough Road, the church and the community centre.

### 4.2.1 Demographics

As Dorsey has a population of less than 500, no statistics are available for the village from the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

### 4.2.2 Planning History

A desktop review was carried out to identify any relevant planning applications which have been approved or currently pending within the study area. This review was carried out in July 2012 and the status of these applications may since have changed.

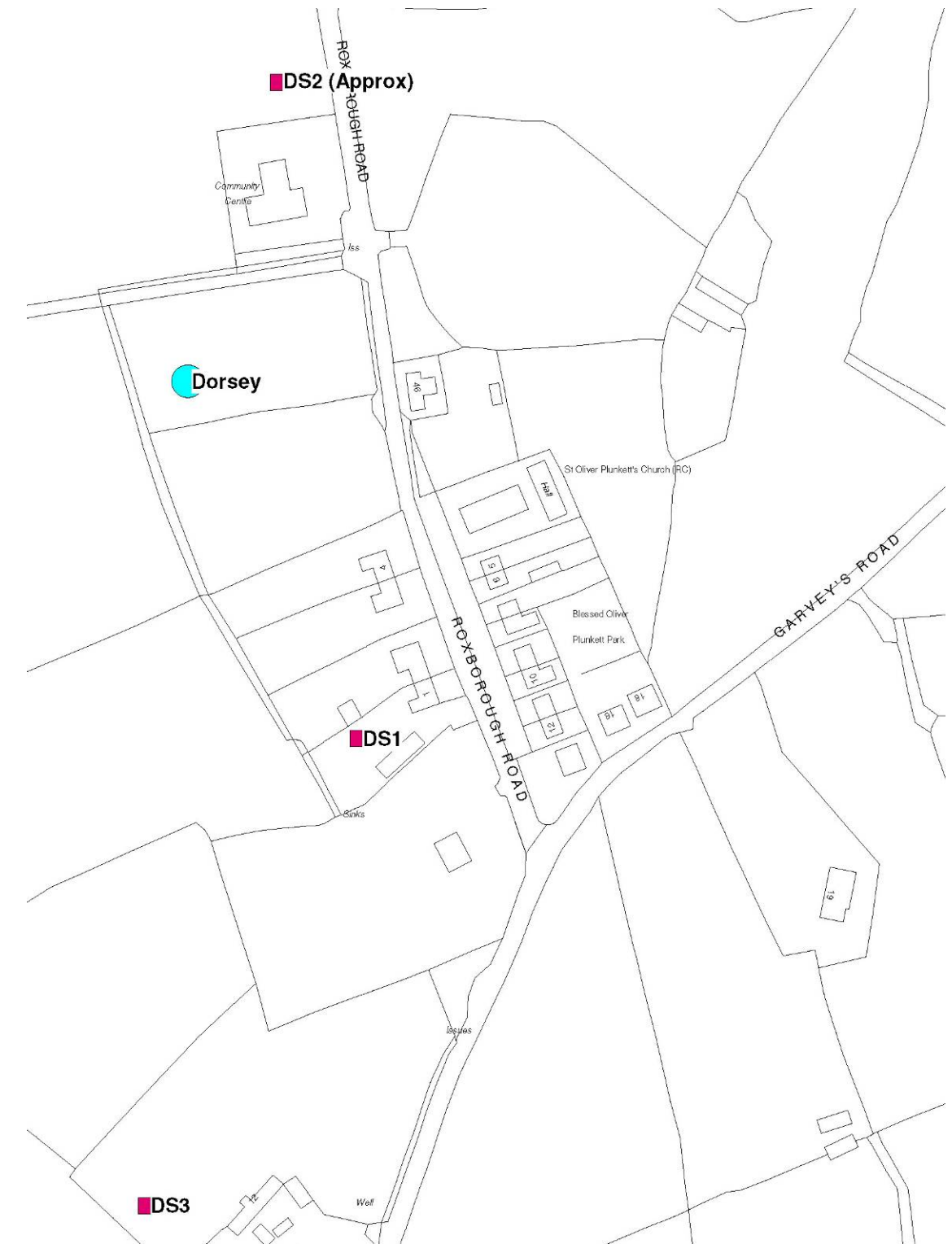


Figure 4.2: Location of planning applications (source: [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk))



**TABLE 4.1: PLANNING HISTORY - DORSEY**

No.	Planning Application Code	Site Location	Proposed Development	Decision	Expiry Date
DS1	P/2011/0826/F	Site located to the rear of no:1 Oliver Plunkett Park Roxborough Road Dorsey Cullyhanna Newry BT35 0QJ	Proposed new dwelling and domestic garage	PRE-DECISION STAGE - RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES	
DS2	P/2006/0889/F	Adjacent to an north of no. 50 Roxborough Road, Dorsey, Cullyhanna, Newry	Erection of dwelling.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	21/11/2012
DS3	P/2010/0235/F	40 metres west of 12 Garvey's Road, Cullyhanna.	Erection of Dwelling and Garage.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	15/07/2015

### 4.3 Consultation and Analysis

Stage	Consultation Method	Date	Venue
<b>Information Gathering</b>	Community Workshop	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2012.	Dorsey Community Centre, Roxborough Road (10.30am-12.30pm)
	Public Meeting	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Dorsey Community Centre
	Questionnaires	March 2012	N/A
<b>Draft Proposals</b>	Open display for NMDC	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	NMDC Offices
	Public Exhibition	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	Dorsey Community Centre WALD Centre, Cullyhanna
<b>Draft Village Renewal and Development Plan</b>	Draft Plan presented to NMDC and Community Groups	June – August 2012	Various

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History, the Dorsey Ramparts</li> <li>• Strong community</li> <li>• No anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Community Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of public transport</li> <li>• Roads – extremely poor</li> <li>• Speeding through village</li> <li>• Availability of housing for local people</li> <li>• Poor signage at access points to the town</li> <li>• Lack of info panels, signage and street furniture</li> <li>• Poor landscape e.g. planting, trees</li> <li>• Lack of leisure facilities, open space and play area</li> <li>• No local shop</li> <li>• Poor access to local healthcare facilities</li> <li>• Poor access to educational facilities</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract people to the area by promoting the Dorsey Ramparts</li> <li>• Play Area / Community Open Space</li> <li>• Local Shop</li> <li>• E.I Scheme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speeding through village</li> <li>• No public transport</li> <li>• Lack of an open space for community use</li> </ul>

#### 4.3.1 Information Gathering Stage

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 workshops 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. Please note that the comments are an expression of views of those responding to the questionnaire and not necessarily the views of any other party.

An introductory meeting was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March with a range of stakeholders, followed by a second Public Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March which was publically advertised to gain the best possible turnout.

Table 4.4: Key opportunities prioritised	
SHORT TERM PRIORITIES (NEXT 3 YEARS)	MEDIUM / LONG TERM PRIORITIES (NEXT 3-7 YEARS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus shelter area - Replace with modern unit, seating with kerbing, fencing and easy maintenance raised bedding area.</li> <li>• Some trees and street furniture e.g. benches and bins.</li> <li>• Water pump – Make it a feature</li> <li>• Information stands/boards on local history e.g. Dorsey Ramparts</li> <li>• Information Board – what’s on the area</li> <li>• Signage to Dorsey</li> <li>• 30 mile signs and rumble strip</li> <li>• Play Area / Open space</li> <li>• Public transport</li> <li>• Local shop</li> <li>• Leisure facilities for community use at Dorsey Emmetts GAA grounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further development of the Dorsey Ramparts as a tourist attraction</li> <li>• More council sites for community use</li> <li>• Local shop / Coffee shop</li> </ul>

**4.3.2 Draft Proposals**

The draft Plan was put on public display in Dorsey Community Centre 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 and an open evening was held to allow people to raise any concerns with a member of the consultancy team.

In total there were 13 questionnaires returned, from a mixture of members of the community group and members of the public. The response was extremely positive with almost all the recipients ‘liking’ all the proposals, with one ‘dislike’ for each suggestion. There were single ‘no opinions’ recorded in regard to proposals B & C (Refurbishment of Bus Shelter, and 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 11 out of 13 respondents noted the Provision of additional Community Facilities as the number one priority. Traffic calming measures, signage and gateways was the second highest priority, with Refurbishment of old Bus Shelter Area coming in third highest.

4.4 Dorsey Renewal and Development Plan

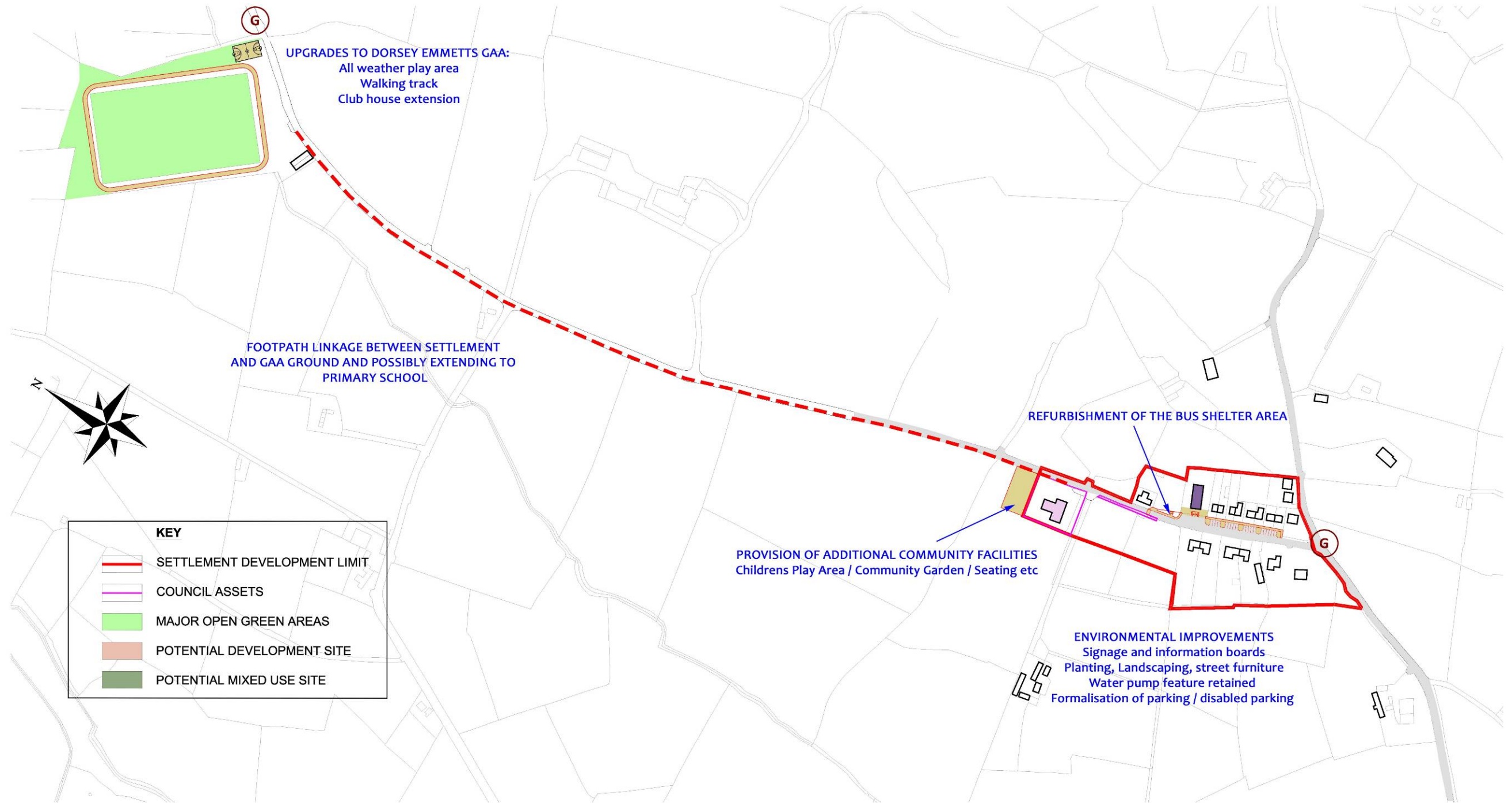


Figure 4.1: Dorsey Proposals Map

4.4.1 Provision of additional Community Facilities

Dorsey benefits from an excellent community facility for a settlement of its size, however it is lacking in basic facilities such as a children’s play park, local shop and seating areas. A new play facility is required and is likely to be most viable adjacent to the community centre. The viability of a local shop will depend on the demand in the area and could be considered by a private individual. Funding may be available to help start up costs through the Rural Development Programme.

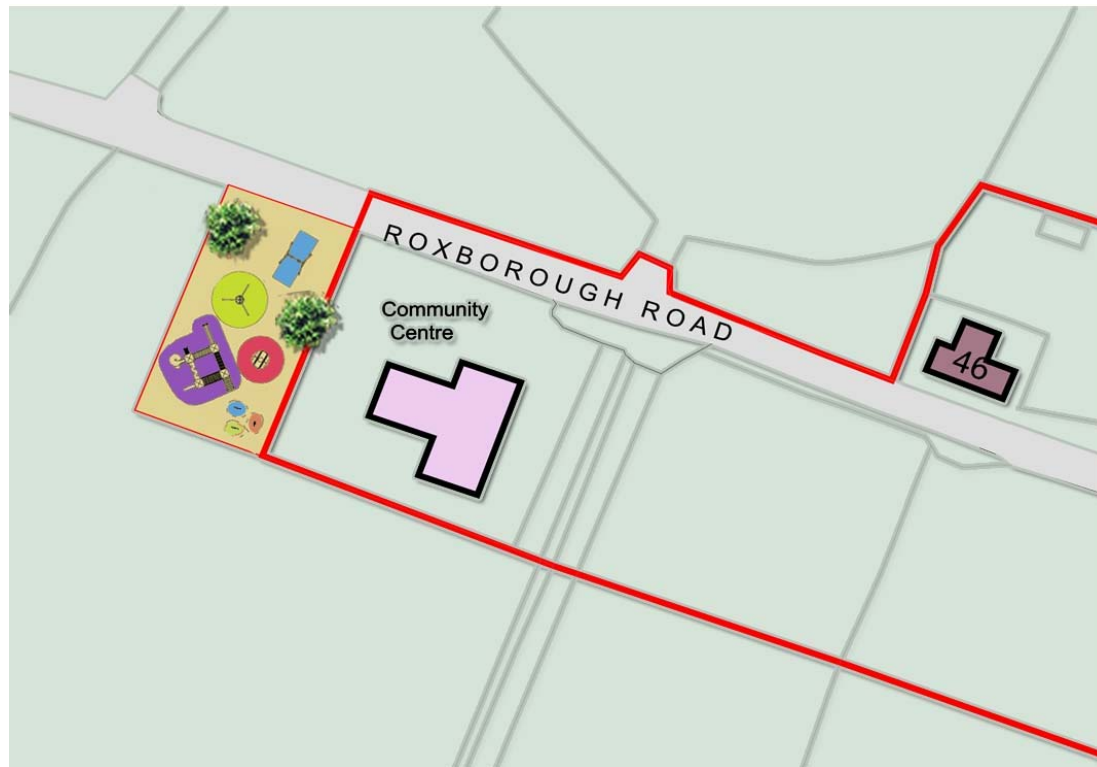


Figure 4.2: Indicative images illustrating a new play area adjacent to the Community Centre



4.4.2 Environmental Improvements

Dorsey would benefit from aesthetic improvements such as planting and landscaped areas. The bus shelter should be refurbished with seating provided in this area. Features such as the old water pump should be retained and incorporated into any future environmental improvement scheme. Information boards and signage are also important to promote the heritage assets of the area and to provide community updates. The parking along Roxborough Road should also be upgraded with disabled spaces provided adjacent to the Church.



#### 4.4.3 Gateways to the Village

The gateways to towns and villages (main approach roads) are extremely important when providing first impressions of the area. Gateways can be strengthened by providing signage, public art and landscape improvements such as tree planting and flower beds.



4.5 Action Plan

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Cost
<b>Community and Youth Facilities</b>							
Provision of additional community facilities: Play area to accommodate all ages Community garden / seating area	NMDC Community and Voluntary Sector	Private DOE DRD	H	S	NIRDP Private NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> Dorsey benefits from having a very good quality Community Centre which is well utilised and attracts residents from the wider area, however the Village lacks any recreational facilities. It was identified during the community consultation that the provision of leisure and recreational facilities is the number one priority for the Village. At present residents have to travel by car to surrounding areas to find a children’s play park.</p> <p><b>Work done to date:</b> DCA has liaised with the landowner of the land adjacent to the community centre with regard to providing additional facilities for the community. The landowner has indicated that he would be willing to negotiate.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree acquisition of land adjacent to the community centre for community use</li> <li>• Commission design and gain any statutory approvals</li> <li>• Source funding for the provision of a children’s play park and community garden</li> </ul>	£180,000 - £220,000

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Cost
Encourage the provision of a local shop	Private	Community and Voluntary Sector	M	M	NIRDP Private NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> There is no local shop in Dorsey. Residents have to travel to Cullyhanna for daily convenience goods.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the set up of a small local shop within the Village. This is likely to be an opportunity taken forward by an individual within the community and the feasibility of the business needs to be fully considered.</li> <li>Should a local shop not be feasible in the short term it might be worth considering daily community delivery service which would ensure that those residents unable to travel to surrounding towns can have their shopping delivered.</li> </ul>	TBC
Upgrades to Rory Mc Gee Park – Dorsey Emmets GAA:	GAA Community and Voluntary Sector	NMDC DRD	M	S-L		<p><b>Issue:</b> Dorsey Emmets GAA is a core part of the Dorsey Community and indeed the GAA is a key element within South Armagh. It was highlighted during consultation with the community that Dorsey Emmets GAA would benefit from improved facilities.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extension of club building to provide indoor playing facilities – should be open to the whole community.</li> <li>Provision of a MUGA to allow for all weather training – should be open to the whole community</li> <li>Provision of a walking track around the GAA pitch – Health Initiative</li> <li>Consider the provision of a mini-bus</li> <li>Aesthetic improvements to the grounds of the Club including a stone wall feature to the front</li> </ul>	TBC

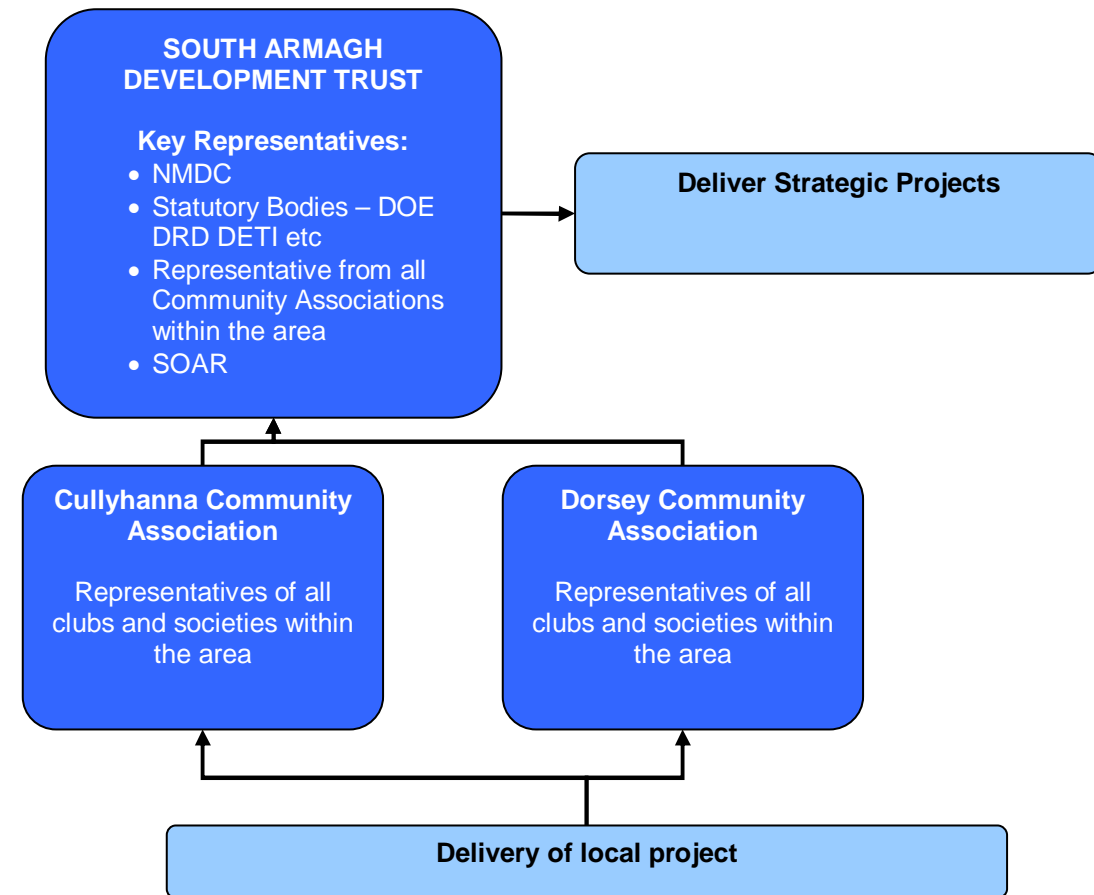


Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Cost
<b>Infrastructure Upgrades</b>							
Provision of a pedestrian footpath from Dorsey Village to Rory Mc Gee Park (GAA) and possibly to the Primary School.	DRD	Community and Voluntary Sector GAA	H	S	DRD	<p><b>Issue:</b> Currently there is no pedestrian footpath linking Dorsey to the GAA Club which is very well used by everyone within the community, especially kids. The Primary School is also a significant distance from the settlement, however there is not bus provision to the school. The provision of a footpath / cycleway is essential to provide a safe access to both the GAA and Primary School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the provision of footpath / cycleway is provided linking Dorsey to the GAA Club and Primary School.</li> </ul>	TBC
<b>Gateways to the Town</b>							
Traffic Calming and Gateways	SADT* NMDC DRD	Community and Business Sector NITB	H	S	NIRDP NMDC DRD	<p>SEE SECTION 2.3 FOR OVERALL GATEWAY PROJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic calming measures , signage and gateways</li> <li>• Pedestrian crossing point at Roxborough Road</li> </ul>	£25,000 - £40,000

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Cost
<p><b>Environmental and Townscape Improvements</b></p> <p>Environmental Improvement scheme along Roxborough Road</p> <p>Refurbishment and upgrades to the area around the bus shelter</p>	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDC	DOE DRD Translink	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> Dorsey has not benefited from any comprehensive public realm improvements in a long time. The Village is generally kept in clean and tidy, however the village environment needs spruced up.</p> <p>This area around the bus shelter was identified as a particular problem.</p> <p><b>Public realm improvements should include the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of a new bus shelter</li> <li>• Street furniture (benches, bins, fencing, planters)</li> <li>• Provision of parking, including disabled bays adjacent to the Church</li> <li>• Footpaths upgraded</li> <li>• Planting and landscaping</li> <li>• Retain the water pump feature</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission scheme design in consultation with the community and gain any statutory approvals required.</li> <li>• Source funding for the project and implement the scheme</li> <li>• Community information boards to allow the community to provide updates and promote activities and events in the area</li> <li>• Provide information for tourists and visitors to the Village – Ring of Gullion etc</li> </ul>	£80,000 - £120,000

## 5 Implementation

### 5.1 Management and Delivery of the Village Renewal and Development Plan



### 5.2 Potential Funding Streams

#### 5.2.1 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 Axis) 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.

**Table 5.1: Measure under Axis 3 of the NIRD**

Measure	Objective	Eligible Applicants	Type of Projects
3.2 Business Creation and Development	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 Encouragement of Tourism Activities	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 fit with local strategies.</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>	
3.4 Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Rural Population	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.	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>social economy enterprises;</li> <li>social economy enterprises*;</li> <li>councils.</li> </ul>	Examples of project could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outreach work providing access to a wide range of services (health &amp; well being; education; benefits; jobs; financial and debt counselling);</li> <li>• 'Door-step' delivery of a range of services;</li> <li>• ICT Services which provide access to information on housing; healthcare; benefits; jobs; financial and debt counselling; education or other services to rural communities;</li> <li>• Sharing of equipment and premises in order to deliver value for money services;</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Village Renewal and Development	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 such areas is achieved; To support integrated village initiatives	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>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• councils</li> </ul>	Examples of projects could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streetscape improvements</li> <li>• Village Action Plans</li> <li>• Aesthetic improvements</li> <li>• Promoting greater community inclusiveness/participation</li> <li>• Greater use of existing buildings</li> </ul>

<p>Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage</p>	<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>	<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 projects could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monument/heritage site conservation and protection</li> <li>• Access/signage/information re heritage sites</li> <li>• Culture, history and heritage</li> </ul>
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**NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

SOAR (Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas) is the delivery Agent for Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 – Rural Life. The partnership delivers funding for projects in eligible rural areas within the Armagh, Craigavon and Newry and Mourne council areas.

**APPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PROJECTS**

We are currently open for applications for strategic projects which are commensurate with the objectives of SOAR's rural development Strategy. You should note that this is a competitive process with limited funding available. The measures under which applications are being sought are:

- 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities
- 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population
- 3.5 Village Renewal and Development
- 3.6 Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage

Applications must be submitted on-line via the EU grants database ([www.eugrants.org](http://www.eugrants.org)) and any supporting documentation in hard copy to the SOAR offices on or before Noon on Friday 27th July 2012.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**  
In addition to the general eligibility rules of the scheme only those applications meeting the following evidence based criteria at the close of the call will be admitted as eligible for consideration:





1. Eligibility is limited to Local Authorities, NGO's and the Community Sector including Social Economy Enterprises;
2. Full Planning Permission (and other Statutory Requirements) must already have been applied for or already in place;
3. The proposed start date is no later than 1st April 2013;
4. The planned end date is no later than 31st December 2014;
5. The project grant requirement is above €250k and no more than €1million;
6. The Project must be either Capital or Infrastructure;
7. The Project Promoter/s matched funding must be at least 15%;
8. Robust project delivery costings must be in place at application stage;
9. A full business case or a recent (within last 12 months) independent Economic Appraisal to 'Green Book' standard must be in place; and
10. All applications must provide evidence of consultation with the appropriate Local Council as a key informant.

\*Where a project is deemed eligible and only a business case has been submitted, the applicant must submit a full independent Economic Appraisal to 'Green Book' standard before the application can move to assessment stage and in any event no later than 28th August 2012.

Please note projects will only be funded if there is adequate funding available.

To find out more about the call or to discuss your strategic proposal in more detail, contact the SOAR office T: 028 38 312573 or email: [Craigavon@soarni.org](mailto:Craigavon@soarni.org)

*The NIRDP 2007-2013 is part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.*

### 5.2.2 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 towns with a population under 3,000, therefore Crossmaglen, Creggan and Cullaville are all eligible.

A community enterprise is a business that is owned and operated 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).

### 5.2.3 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, and it 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.

#### **5.2.4 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’.

## 6 Conclusion

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

The Plan addresses the cluster in the context of the wider South Armagh region and identifies several strategic projects which will add to the attraction of the area. On the local scale there are a comprehensive set of projects and proposals which will address the needs of the local communities. The Plans were strongly consulted and therefore represent the hopes and aspirations of the communities.

In order to achieve deliver and manage the Plan, we have built upon the concept of the 'South Armagh Development Trust', which will be an overarching body to oversee the delivery of Strategic Projects. This groups will be formed with representative of all the Community Associations within the area and statutory bodies such as NMDC, DOE and DRD.

The community structure at the local level is crucial to the success of the South Armagh Development Trust. Community Associations for individual settlements are encouraged to include representative of all sections of the community and other clubs and societies. This will give the advantage of 'pooling' resources and working towards shared gains.



## 7 Appendix 1 – Cullyhanna Consultation Findings

### 7.1 Information Gathering – Consultation Workshop

- Cullyhanna Community Partnership
- Recent Project – Redevelopment and extension to the Community Centre. Phase one is currently under construction. Phase 1 consisted of extensions to the building, part funded through SOAR and NMDC.
- Opportunity – Phase 2 – Build on the services / activities and programme of events facilitated through the community centre. Handball Alley. Childrens Play Park
- Family Focus Centre – Building on childcare / afterschool facilities
- Youth Room / Activities
- Social Enterprise
- Recent Environmental Improvements adjacent to the stream, Slatequarry Road. Funded through the Community Fund.
- Lack of sign posting throughout the village, especially on the entrances.
- WALD Centre – Potential to utilise for educational / learning facility
- Áras an Chairdinéil Ó Fiaich Cultural Centre - Poor acoustics can be a hindrance to holding meetings and activities in the centre. Cultural Centre also own No 1 Skerriff Road which is derelict. This is an opportunity building as it is in a prime location within the Village. Suggestion that vacant units should be spruced up in the short term pending redevelopment (Animation / Paint Scheme). Potential to utilise the Cultural Centre for supporting tourism / recreation / cultural activities. Guided walks form the centre to surrounding interests, cultural / natural heritage. Action for the groups to come together to identify the key heritage assets of the area and what should be focused on.
- Play facilities – Childs play park existing (Council Owned) – potentially need for facilities for older kids and teenagers - MUGA – Outdoor adult fitness equipment (example – Kilbroney Park), upgrading existing play park
- GAA – currently developing a new training field. Gym available but only to it's members. Potential project could be for gym facilities for the whole community. Some equipment at the Community centre would compliment the other facilities such as the Child Care.
- Current walking track could be upgraded to accommodate disabled users
- Upgrading footpaths where needed

- Interactive walking routes to encourage kids to walk to school

### 7.2 Consultation on Draft Plan

#### 2. What is your interest?

Busine ss		Community Group	✓✓✓	Individu al	
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#### Section 1 – Proposals

#### 3. Please select how you feel about the following proposals:

Ref	Proposal	Like	Dislike	No Opinion
A	Revitalisation of existing Cultural Centre facilities.	✓✓✓		
B	Refurbishment of Play Area.	✓✓✓		
C	Traffic calming measures, signage and gateways.	✓✓	✓✓	
D	Environmental improvements.	✓✓✓		
E	Village face lift.	✓✓✓		
F	Community Centre Phase 2.	✓✓✓		
G	Community Gym beside Community Centre.	✓✓✓		
H	WALD Centre: Potential to utilise as an Educational / Learning Facility.	✓✓✓		
I	Band Hall: Provision of additional services and facilities.		✓✓	✓

J	Infrastructure: Upgrading roads and footpaths where required.			✓✓✓
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If you wish to provide additional comments about any of the above proposals please expand on your answers below or on a separate sheet:

Youth Action NI – My priority would be the need of young people aged 14-25. In the forthcoming years, and as a result of the recession we are likely to see increases in emigration. If funding is available for youth development and resources are created such as the WALD centre being developed into an education facility, courses in further and higher education being delivered to young people locally, removing the need to travel. Youth provision should remain a high priority so that future generations feel a connection to their community and this ensures a stable and healthy rural economy in the future

**Section 2 – Prioritising the Proposals**

4. 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	9	10
A	Revitalisation of existing Cultural Centre facilities.	✓	✓✓								
B	Refurbishment of Play Area.	✓	✓✓								
C	Traffic calming measures, signage and gateways.	✓		✓	✓						
D	Environmental improvements.		✓✓✓								
E	Village face lift.	✓	✓✓								
F	Community Centre Phase 2.	✓✓✓									
G	Community Gym beside Community Centre.		✓✓✓								
H	WALD Centre: Potential to utilise as an Educational / Learning Facility.	✓✓✓									
I	Band Hall: Provision of additional services and			✓	✓	✓					

	facilities.										
J	Infrastructure: Upgrading roads and footpaths where required.			✓✓		✓					

**Section 3 – Additional Comments**

5. 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):

- Childcare: funding to run childcare programmes / activities provision
- Maintain and develop childcare services for the Rural Community, and the avoidance of centralising services
- Youth programmes / volunteering / intergenerational activities
- General resources create for youth development projects in rural areas

## 8 Appendix 2 – Dorsey Consultation Findings

### 8.1 Information Gathering – Consultation Workshop

- The visual aesthetics of the village could be improved, with decorative street furniture, lighting, trees and planting. A basic EI Scheme would be a good project.
- A community information board would be welcomed
- Speeding through the village is a problem
- The Dorsey Ramparts
- A small shop would be useful to the community
- Disabled line markings beside church
- The water pump is a nice feature to the village
- Opportunity to provide an outdoor play area
- Transport an issue – no public transport servicing the village
- Bus shelter used by school kids – could be improved or replaced

### 8.2 Consultation on Draft Plan

#### 1. What is your interest?

Business		Community Group	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓	Individual	✓✓✓✓✓✓
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#### Section 1 – Proposals

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

Ref.	Proposal	Like	Dislike	No Opinion
A	Provision of additional Community Facilities: Play Area to accommodate all ages Community Garden, Seating Area Local Shop	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓	1 dislike for shop	
B	Refurbishment of old Bus Shelter Area: New Shelter (School Bus)	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓	1 dislike for bus	✓

	Street Furniture (benches, bins, fencing, planters) Low Maintenance Planting including trees	✓✓✓	shelter	
C	Traffic calming measures, signage and gateways: Pedestrian crossing with pedestrian restraint system in Roxborough road	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓	1 dislike for pedestrian crossing	✓
D	Environmental Improvements along Roxborough Road: Provision of parking, including disabled beside the Church Footpath upgrade Planting / Landscaping Water Pump Feature	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓	✓	
E	Information Boards: Community updates, what's on around the area, events. Dorsey Ramparts, Ring of Gullion	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓	✓	

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

- 1 person specifically disliked the local shop, bus shelter and pedestrian crossing point ideas.

#### 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
A	Provision of additional Community Facilities: Play Area to accommodate all ages Community Garden, Seating Area Local Shop	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓			
B	Refurbishment of old Bus Shelter Area: New Shelter (School Bus) Street Furniture (benches, bins, fencing, planters) Low Maintenance Planting including trees	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓	✓✓✓	
C	Traffic calming measures, signage	✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	

	and gateways: Pedestrian crossing with pedestrian restraint system in Roxborough road.					
D	Environmental Improvements along Roxborough Road: Provision of parking, including disabled beside the Church Footpath upgrade Planting / Landscaping Water Pump Feature			✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓ ✓
E	Information Boards: Community updates, what's on around the area, events. Dorsey Ramparts, Ring of Gullion			✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓✓

**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?**

Provision of a year young / always open community area such as a play area or green with seating is essential if the new/young families in the area are to have a place to meet eachother. Basic maintenance of greenery / fencing etc would improve the appearance of the area immensely. Would the DOE not be responsible for replacing the damaged bus shelter and provision of traffic calming measures. I also feel funds should be used for community events / trips to encourage community bonding.

9 Appendix 3 – Press Advertisement



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

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

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

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.

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.