

Why is this important to me?

The work of the DEA Fora will bring formerly unconnected organisations together so that previously unaddressed issues can be talked about. The areas which the fora will work with include sporting/community organisations, faith groups and other key collectives.

How can I be involved?

The DEA Coordinator serves as the primary point of contact and can give information relating to the next public meeting's date and time or address any other queries.

Who can I contact?

DEA Coordinator details:

**Oifig an Iúir
Newry Office**
O'Hagan House
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

**Oifig Dhún Pádraig
Downpatrick Office**
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

District Electoral Area Fora

across Newry, Mourne and Down

CROTLIEVE

DOWNPATRICK

NEWRY

ROWALLANE

SLIEVE CROOB

SLIEVE GULLION

THE MOURNES

What is it?

The DEA Fora are to assist with communication, consultation and engagement. In short, it is a place to share ideas, identify priority issues for the area and to reach agreement on the way forward.

Why do we need it?

The Fora will be a key component in allowing the community to have a voice on the matters affecting their area. Community and Voluntary groups are central to this aim and they “have a crucial role to play in improving the quality of life for local communities through their expertise.”

(source: DOE)

Who runs it?

Each DEA Forum is run collectively by its membership with assistance from the DEA Coordinators appointed to each district.

Who is involved?

The membership is composed of elected councillors and up to eight key community representatives. Meetings will be chaired by a chairperson who will serve on a rotating basis and is always a councillor. Statutory agencies will regularly contribute to its discussions.

What will it do?

The DEA Forum will:

- 1 Serve as a support for identifying useful services, funding sources etc and assist with developing a collaborative approach to use them most effectively.
- 2 Offer a place for shared ideas to flourish.
- 3 Make efforts not to exclude any group or prioritise the needs of one organisation over another.
- 4 Maintain strict impartiality.

How will it do this?

Each Forum will meet its objectives through regular meetings and public events. Regular updates on the ongoing work of the DEA Fora will be available through newsletters and other media. Public meetings open to all in each DEA will enable community groups and individuals to ask questions, put forward suggestions and discuss shared priorities for their DEA.

