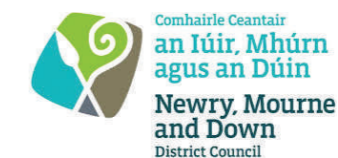


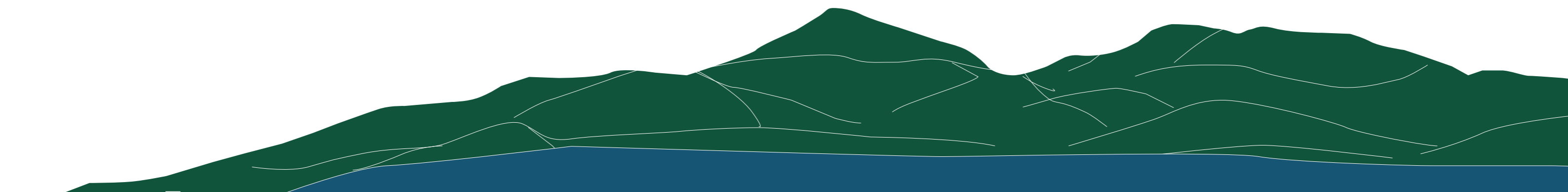
January 2018

# Forkhill Village Renewal Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



# ARUP





*Forkhill River Bridge*



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*View towards Urney Graveyard ( Credit - Forkhill FB)*

# 01 | Introduction

The Village Renewal Plan has been developed by the community in conjunction with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to meet the requirements of the Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland 2014-2020.

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

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

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

The Village Plan is a working document that requires the support of the community and in many cases the community working in partnership with other agencies and statutory bodies.

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

***It is important to note that some projects and initiatives set out within the action plan may be subject to future feasibility studies and analysis, detailed design, landowner agreements, statutory approvals and available funding.***





*Giro d'italia ( Credit - Discover Northern Ireland)*

## 02 | Context

### Village Location

Forkhill is a compact linear settlement situated within the catchment of the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), approximately 8.5 miles southwest of Newry. The village rests upon an ascending landscape to the western area of the Forkhill river. The river and steeply sloping hills to the west and east of the settlement are a distinctive feature of the surrounding drumlin landscape. The Forkhill river acts as a natural buffer to eastern expansion with the attractive rural landscape of the hills providing a natural sense of enclosure. The village acts as a local service centre with a ranging variety of amenities comprising the St. Oliver Plunket's Church, a primary school, a community centre, playing fields, and an amenity park. Furthermore, it also consists of a petrol filling station with shop, hairdresser and hot food bar and many more basic community services and amenities. The recently completed shop along with the small business developments at Main Street have benefitted the develop of the village greatly. Furthermore, with the additional environmental improvements, the village has retained and conserved its historical character and heritage and revitalised the traditional village streetscape.

### Village Character

The village of Forkhill expresses a unique and rural character within a visually stunning landscape. The Main Street, Old Bridge Road and Mill Road offer a unique and attractive historic epicentre to the settlement which strengthens the culture and heritage of the community. In relation to the current built fabric of the village, its residential morphology comprises post-war housing, both private and public sector and is located to the south, west and north of this village core. Recent new residential development has taken place at the junction of Main Street and School Road and to the north of Slieve Gullion Park, with recent social housing delivered on the former barracks site. Additionally, the former army barracks site within the village offers a substantial regeneration opportunity for Forkhill with recent initiatives such as the Peace Forest landscaping project being delivered.



Forkhill Gateway Bridge (Credit - Forkhill FB)

## History and Development of the Village

The history and development of Forkhill has been highly influenced by its location and natural landscape. The morphology, form and layout of the village had been influenced by key lines of transport and communication throughout the surrounding area. The Forkhill River passes through the core of the village which provided power for the industry within Forkhill between 1832 and 1846. Additionally, a key aspect of the village had been the constabulary barracks which had been established between 1846-1862. Over time the barracks became increasingly prominent across the Forkhill landscape as it became heavily fortified during 'The Troubles'. Furthermore, the village consolidated its form and layout along Church, Main and Shean Street respectively. Today, the village comprises a compact linear form similar to that of its initial development. The village expresses a strong sense of heritage and culture.

## Village Profile

Resting within the Forkhill ward with a population of 4,719, the village comprises a predominantly youthful population as 27.32% of residents are under the age of 16, whilst 9.92% are over 65 years of age.

The village comprises a relatively healthy population with 82.78% of residents stating that their general health was good or very good, whereas 16.83% stated that they had an ongoing long-term health problem or disability that limited their day to day needs. It is vital that future development of services and amenities address the needs and requirements of each demographic sector within the village.



Former Parish Church



St. Oliver Plunkett's School



Main Street



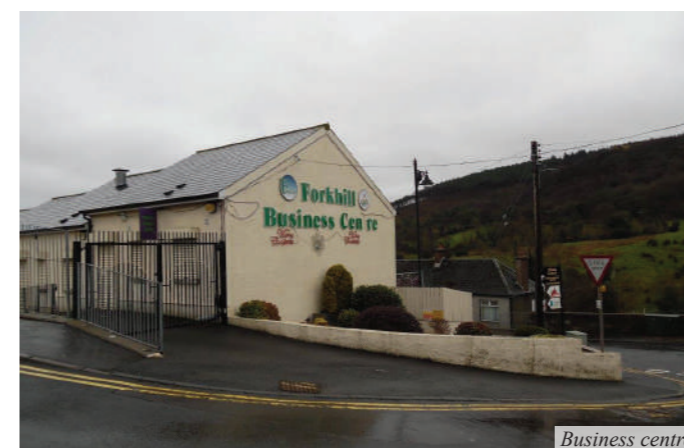
Local shop



Gateway signage



Old Barrack's Site



Business centre



Mill Road



## Future Development

There has been continuous population growth within the Forkhill electoral ward as shown in recent census data. As a result, development pressure for residential accommodation has expectedly increased and below highlights a number of new developments that have/are seeking planning permission within Forkhill. It is important that this plan takes into account any new or proposed developments so that the future needs of new residents can also be taken into consideration in the plan development. There is clear development pressure in Forkhill due to its proximate location close to Newry and Armagh.

## New Community and Leisure Facilities

Mixed Use Regeneration Project at the former Barrack Site. Planning Ref. P/2013/0200/O. Status: Permission Granted

*Proposed mixed use development to include community uses (class D1), retail (A1 & A2) and light industrial/business units (B1 & B2). Children's play areas, multi-use games area, access and parking.*

Mixed Use Regeneration Project at the former Barrack Site. Planning Ref. LA07/2016/0330/F Status: Complete

*Proposed open space development, provided designed green spaces including new planting and seating areas connected by a series of pedestrian footpaths*

## New Housing Developments

Proposed development of 20 no. social & affordable houses for Fold Housing Association. Planning Ref. P/2011/0833/F. Status: Complete

*An application to increase the provision for social housing within the village at the former PSNI Station, School Road.*

New Primary School Facilities at lands adjacent St. Oliver Plunkett's Church Planning Ref. P/2010/1044/F. Status: Complete

*Proposed new 5 classrooms primary school, hall, kitchen and ancillary accommodation and associated playgrounds, drop-off, parking and access.*

New Housing Development for site at Bog Road south-west of junction with church road. Planning Ref. LA07/2016/1122/F. Status: Pending

*Proposed new housing development of 16 no semi-detached & 4 no townhouses and associated site works.*



Social Housing Development



Forkhill Masterplan



Pathway Project Entrance



Public Art

# 03 | Policy Analysis

## 3.1 Planning Policy

### Regional Development Strategy 2035 'Building a Better Future'

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) is a statutory plan, and sets the spatial vision for the region up to the year 2035. One of the central aims of the RDS is to support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential.

*Our rural areas including our towns and villages have a key role in supporting economic growth. They offer opportunities in terms of their potential for growth in new sectors, the provision of rural recreation and tourism, their attractiveness as places to invest, live and work, and their role as a reservoir of natural resources and highly valued landscapes (RDS, p19)*

The RDS sets out Strategic Guidance for the economic, society and the environment. RG7 highlights the need to support rural renaissance which is about revitalising the centres of small towns and villages so that they meet the immediate needs of the communities they serve.

The RDS emphasises the need to sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside and to improve accessibility for rural communities.

### Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) 'Shaping a Better future'

The SPPS covers the whole of Northern Ireland and sets out the strategic policies for the sustainable development of the region, which it defines as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

The policy objectives for development in the countryside are to:

- manage growth to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development which supports a vibrant rural community;
- conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution;
- facilitate development which contributes to a sustainable rural economy; and
- promote high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development.

### Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (BNMAP)

The BNMAP was adopted in October 2013 and sets out a number of site specific statutory policies relevant to Forkhill village that should be taken into consideration by developers, landowners, the Council and the local community in the forward planning of the Village. Due to the strategic location of the village there is a natural pressure to accommodate residential expansion of the village. BNMAP identifies 1.68 hectares of land is for housing (max 20 dwellings) at lands west of School Road and south of Bog Road. Furthermore, 3.24 hectares of land have been zoned for mixed use to potentially include residential, leisure, employment and retail uses.

### Living Well Together: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan (2016)

Community planning is a new function of Councils here in Northern Ireland since the reorganisation of local government in 2014. Councils have a requirement to create a Community Planning Partnership for their District whose role is to work in collaboration with all partners to achieve the aspirations of the Community Plan.

The overarching principles of the Plan are ensuring effective community engagement in the planning and delivery of services, utilising the strengths and resilience within communities, promoting equality and tackling inequality, adopting a preventative approach, driving efficiency and performance improvement, supporting a sustainable approach to development, holding each other as partners to account for delivering the community plan outcomes in collaboration and creating a Partnership Board responsible for monitoring and directing impact.

### Emerging Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) will deliver a 15-year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the District, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The new Local Development Plan will be the key consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the Council area. The next stage of the LDP process is the publication of the preferred options paper which will contain a series of options for dealing with key issues in the District, as well as the Council's justification for its proposed approach. The POP will indicate the Council's preferred options for growth and development in the District. The POP will be subject to public consultation. It is at this stage in the plan preparation process, that the public and stakeholders will have their first opportunity to put forward views and influence the LDP.



### 3.2 Other Strategies, Plans and Initiatives

The Village Plan seeks to align with wider strategies and plans for the District, taking into account the importance of the Mourne Mountains in encouraging tourism and economic development into the area, and finding areas of complementarity where different stakeholders could work together to deliver such shared ideas and projects. Below is a snapshot of the strategies and plans that have been taken into consideration in the development of the Village Plan.

#### NMDDC Corporate Plan 2015-2019

The Newry Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan for 2015-2019 aims to envisage a new era for the District. The plan strives to strike a balance between the ambitions of the district whilst taking account of key issues which can influence the future of the district area and its population. Additionally, the corporate plan aims to create opportunities for local people and local communities to thrive by supporting sustainable economic growth over time and helping them to lead fulfilling lifestyles. The visionary stance of the strategy aims to create a district that is that is attractive to visit and do business, where people and communities can unlock their enterprising spirit as well as play their part in contributing to its social and economic development along with a district that facilitates and encourages healthy lifestyles. By 2019, the corporate plan will aspire to create a premier tourism destination for the island of Ireland, attract investment and support the creation of new jobs and support the improved health and well-being of its people.

#### conomic Regeneration & Investment Strategy 2015-2020

The Strategy aims to develop the Newry, Mourne and Down region to be recognised as a vibrant, dynamic and connected region of enterprise and economic growth; a place of sustainable natural beauty and a premier tourist destination encompassing excellence in culture and arts and enabling and creating opportunities for all. The Strategy is developed around five themes: 1.) Economic Development, 2.) Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events, 3.) Urban Development and Regeneration, 4.) Rural Development and Regeneration, 5.) Arts, Culture and Heritage. The strategy aims to develop a synergy between the five themes that need to be developed in the period to 2020. Within each theme we have a number of strategic priorities which will be delivered against.

#### Newry, Mourne and Down Tourism Strategy 2017-2022

The Tourism Strategy for Newry, Mourne and Down aims to maximise tourism growth for the district area by adopting a new and fresh approach that recognises the distinctive elements and strengths which sets the district apart to other destinations. The Tourism Strategy focuses on a key thematic headline 'Mountains, Myths and Maritime' which outline the core elements that shape a distinctive and strong image for Newry, Mourne and Down

#### Newry, Mourne and Down Sports Facility Strategy 2016

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This is one of 11 Local Strategies to be developed in the context of the NI-wide work. A consistent approach to developing the Local Strategies has been undertaken. The same methodology for applying supply and demand standards for sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities have been used in all 11 Local Authority Strategies and agreed with Sport NI. The Strategy rationale is to develop a framework for the future prioritisation and development of sporting facilities within the district..

### Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Play Strategy 2017-2022

The play strategy for NMDDC identifies need for new or upgraded play facilities in the district. In it, two play areas, located at Fairview and Bog road scored 91 and 73 in their play value ratings. Building on this, the play value assessment highlighted a need and requirement to upgrade and renew the play provision condition of the play facilities within the village. The play areas at Bog road and Fairview are aimed at a combination of local residents and visitors into the area. Given their dual purpose i.e. meeting residential and visitor play need it is recommended that the play areas to be upgraded/enhanced to increase play value of the site. Having established this, indicative costings for upgrade is £25-000 - £65,000.





- Coastal Path
- NI Future Greenways Network
- Mourne and R.O.G Public Art Trail
- MCDR Trail
- MCDR Links
- MCDR stop off sites
- On coastal path route
- Close proximity to path route
- Visitor Walking Hub



*Forkhill Greenspace Project*

# 04 Consultation Process

Forkhill village Plan has been developed in collaboration with the local community, key aspects of the process are outlined below.

## Village Walkabout

A community walkabout took place in Forkhill on 25th May 2017 with representatives of the Council, the consultant team, and members of the local community. The objective was to gain a better understanding of the background and context of the Village, key assets, issues and potential ideas of how the Village could be improved.

## Community Event

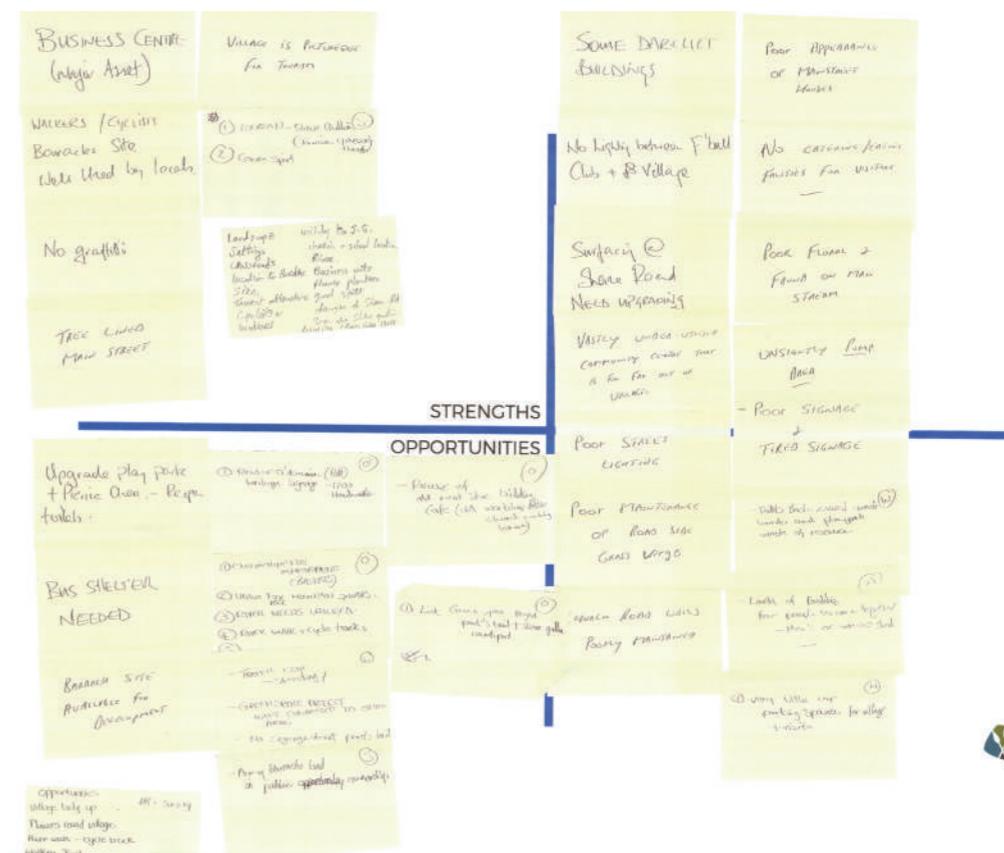
A public consultation event was held on the evening of 5th October 2017 in the Forkhill Community Centre. The purpose of the event was to present the findings of the desktop research, site walkabout, together with draft proposals for actions and priorities for tackling the issues identified by the local community and village analysis work.

The event was publicly advertised via the Council's website and social media. Council officers also distributed details of the event to community and voluntary groups in the area, and a public advertisement was placed in the newspaper.

This draft Village Plan was then prepared and published for public consultation in January 2018.



Consultation Venue - Forkhill Community Centre



Community Placecheck Exercise



Forkhill River (Credit - Forkhill FB)

# 05 | Site Analysis



## Strengths

- Community Spirit - *integrated working, collaboration and engagement.*
- Strategic location - *Forkhill offers effective linkages with the Republic of Ireland, Newry and Armagh*
- Setting - *Situated within the Ring of Gullion AONB*
- Community Facilities - *GAA club, community centre and local school provide strong community core*
- Green Space - *green space offers a key recreational space*
- Townscape - *Expresses history and strong character*
- Natural Resources - *Forkhill River passes through the heart of the village*



## Weaknesses

- Derelict Buildings - *creates a sense of abandonment within the village*
- Connectivity - *Community centre and play parks lack connectivity to village core*
- Lighting - *poor provision, quality and standard of lighting between sports club and village centre*
- Linkages - *lack of continuous footpath separates the village from North to South*
- Environmental Quality - *Could be enhanced on Main Street*
- Speeding - *concerns over pedestrian safety due to speeding and traffic flow*
- Accessibility - *no footpath from village centre to GAA facilities*



## Opportunities

- Community Facilities - *Former Barracks Site remains under-utilised - Masterplan to be reviewed and updated in line with community aspirations*
- Play Facilities - *relocation, consolidation and upgrade would serve the whole community*
- Community Hub - *dedicated community hub where everyone feels welcome*
- Gateways - *improved visual appearance of gateway sites*
- Linkages - *improved connectivity between the community centre, GAA club and village core*
- Traffic Calming - *traffic calming measures*
- Walking Routes - *off road walking routes linking up key resources to the village core*
- Bus Shelter - *new bus shelter for the community*






























## Threats

- Potential lack in funding to deliver, support and maintain the projects
- Housing Provision - *lack of housing for younger families eroding the village population*
- Road Safety - *remains a problem if not addressed*
- Parking - *lack of parking for visitors and residents in the village.*





**FORKHILL SITE ANALYSIS**

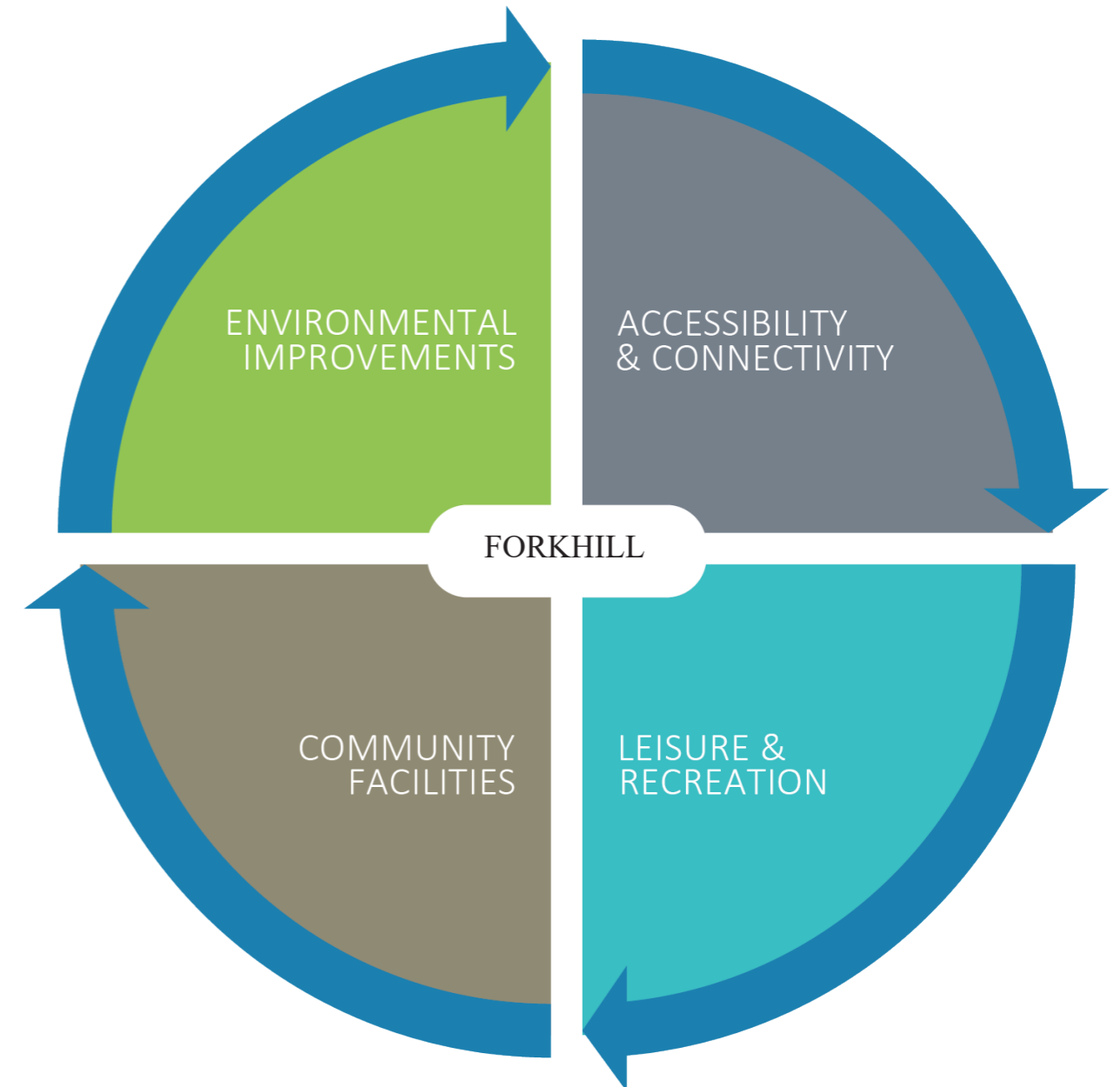
-  Settlement Boundary
-  Water Course
-  Primary Circulation Road
-  Secondary Circulation Road
-  Primary Gateway
-  Secondary Gateway
-  Village Core
-  The Poet's Trail Walking Loop
-  Post Office
-  Bus Stop
-  Church
-  School
-  Shop
-  G.A.C Pitches
-  Community Centre
-  Public Access
-  Play Park
-  Public Open Space
-  Scenic Views
-  Barracks Open Space Development
-  Social & Affordable Housing Development
-  Housing Policy Area
-  Area of Archaeological Potential
-  Area of Townscape Character
-  Land Zoned for Education
-  Land Zoned for Mixed Use
-  Local Landscape Policy Area  
Considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and must therefore be protected from undesirable or damaging development.

# 06 Opportunities

Following consultation with the community of Forkhill, various projects have been identified which could contribute to the social and physical renewal of the community. The projects outlined in this draft plan are aspirations which are achievable with the relevant support. Constraints will face all the projects identified such as land ownership, funding and the requirement for statutory consents. However, such constraints can be addressed and overcome through dedicated and ongoing work by the community and other key stakeholders.








The opportunities presented in this plan range from enhanced gateways and traffic management initiatives to landscaping and public art installations at the entry to the former barracks. One of the key projects identified aims to increase levels of access to the river through the provision of a new walking and cycling pathway. A further opportunity which would be of substantial benefit to the community is to reuse the derelict building adjacent the business centre for potential community use or social enterprise. Additionally, a project to deliver a dedicated highway to health around the GAA pitch to offer a safe, attractive and dedicated community walking path. There is also the possibility of linking this area to the former Forkhill Barracks which has recently had the new walway installed.

***Please note that all illustrations within this plan are conceptual. Any improvements to Forkhill will require the development of detailed designs through consultation with statutory bodies, landowners, local businesses and residents.***





FORKHILL OPPORTUNITIES

-  Settlement Boundary
-  Water Course
-  Primary Circulation Road
-  Highway to Health
-  Proposed Pathway Route
-  Proposed River Walkway
-  Opportunities
- A** Gateway Enhancements & Traffic Calming
- B** Landscaping & Public Art at former Forkhill Barracks
- C** Riverside Walk / seating / picnic area
- D** G.A.C Highway to Health
- E** Reuse of Derelict Building (*Café*)
- F** Environmental Improvements
- G** Walking / Cycling link (*GAA to former Barracks site*)
- H** Interpretation Signage (*Poet's Trail*)
- I** Parking and Forkhill Floral Display
- J** Proposed New Housing Development
- K** New Bus Shelter
- L** Review and update of Masterplan for the former Forkhill Barracks site

# 06 Opportunities

## A | GATEWAYS ENHANCEMENTS & TRAFFIC CALMING

The village of Forkhill has a distinctive layout and form due to its historical development. As such, the settlement comprises both primary and secondary gateways which experience differing levels of footfall and vehicular activity. The primary gateways of the village are located along the eastern boundary which accommodate traffic movement from the Longfield, Newry and Carrickasticken Roads. The secondary gateways within the village facilitate much lower volumes of traffic activity and are located at the Church, Bog and Shean Roads.

This project will aim to improve levels of road safety by introducing improved traffic management initiatives at key gateway sites. This may include gateway signage, public art and / or traditional traffic calming measures. Each gateway may require a bespoke set of measures. For example, the speed and intensity of traffic flow at the primary gateways within the village along the eastern linear boundary, may require rumble strips and speed restricting surfacing.

The visual appearance of the gateways can be achieved through improved landscaping, boundary treatments and vibrant planting in order to create a sense of arrival.

In order to successfully implement this project, further work is needed to establish the exact location and design of the gateway features. This should be combined effort between the community and statutory bodies. Identifying an appropriate funding source is important so that the scale and design can be matched accordingly. The Department for Infrastructure will be an important consultee in relation to the siting of the gateway features beside the public highway.



Predestrian Crossings



Shared Space



Indicative illustration



### ENHANCING THE VILLAGE CORE

A project focused on improving levels of road safety at key gateway sites within the village via traffic management initiatives alongside environmental, visual and physical enhancements.

## B | LANDSCAPING & PUBLIC ART - FORMER FORKHILL BARRACKS ENTRANCE

The former Forkhill Barracks site is an important part of the heritage of Forkhill. It offers a great regeneration opportunity for the community and at present comprises the Peace Forest Project which expresses peace, reconciliation and heritage through community led landscaping and planting to form a successful green space within Forkhill. The Masterplan for the site is now near 10 years old and it is the opportune time to review and update this in line with the aspirations of the community.

This review of the Masterplan should consider enhancements to site entrance through a public art and landscaping initiative. A section of the boundary walls of the Barracks offer an opportunity and canvas for a community led art scheme to uplift the visual appearance of the site. By involving children from the local primary school and wider members of the community, the wall can provide an opportunity to express the future aspirations for Forkhill. Additionally, the integration of high quality landscaping at the site will have the potential to create a meaningful, unique and visually pleasing space.

The central core of the site remains underutilised and the review of the Masterplan should review the uses proposed in the previous Masterplan. It is important that the site is maximised for wider community. Depending on the future use of the site, it may be worth considering relocating one of the existing play parks to the site, to create a lively community space.

Further consultation with the community and key stakeholders will be crucial and should be carried out during the review of the Masterplan. Key stakeholder include the Council and Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.



Green Bay Art Space



Wayfinding



Community engagement

### IMPROVING THE OPEN SPACE

A project to enhance the visual and environmental quality to the entrance of the Green Space Project within the village at Slieve Brac Park. Public art and high quality landscaping have the potential to visually uplift the appearance of a place.



Indicative illustration

## C | RIVERSIDE WALK / SEATING / PICNIC AREAS

The development of Forkhill has been influenced by the river that passes through it. Early industry used the river as a source of power for the Mill located along the inner river bank. Today, the river quietly meanders through the village creating a distinctive village character, however it feels like an underutilised asset.

This project aims to enhance the quality of walking provision within the village by unlocking the leisure and recreational potential of the river. The river walk will have the potential to link key elements such as the twinned bridges with existing walking trials and beyond. This should also include the provision of picnic benches / seating for people to relax and enjoy the setting.

The first step in developing this project is to engage with the private landowners to seek agreement in principle. If this is achieved then the feasibility of the pathway can be explored in greater detail and a dedicated action groups formed to progress this project.



Environmentally sensitive boardwalk



Walking Route



Interpretation Signage



Indicative illustration



### ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

A project to enhance the connection with the Forkhill river to create a pathway suitable for walking and cycling within the centre of the village.

## D | G.A.C HIGHWAY TO HEALTH

The community have raised health and safety issues when walking throughout the village due to the speed of passing vehicles. The pathway around the former barracks site has provided an important community asset and it is important to build upon this. By providing a 'highway to health' around the perimeter of the GAA facilities another safe walking route can be created. Even more exciting is the possibility to link this to the former barracks site which would create a much longer, safe and accessible route, whilst providing the opportunity for greater social cohesion. The project should include high quality landscaping, planting and boundary treatment along the route.

The feasibility of this project would need to be explored further, including detailed consultation with private landowners, the community and key stakeholders. The first phase of the route around the GAA facilities can be progressed in the short term should funding become available.



Indicative illustration



Planting



Pedestrian loop



Natural setting

### CREATING A PATHWAY TO HEALTH

A project to create a safe, attractive and designated walkable pathway at the GAA pitched located in the north west of the village.



## E | REUSE OF DERELICT BUILDING

There is quite a prominent derelict building in the heart of the village, overlooking the river. This offers an exciting opportunity to bring the building back in to use as a community space or private venture. Given the unique setting it provides an opportunity for a coffee shop or workshop which can exploit the central location and amazing views. The unit could comprise a space to accommodate meeting rooms for the community to act as a key focal point for the future development of the area.

The community should explore the opportunity to develop the project based on a social enterprise. The greatest barrier may be land ownership. It is understood that the building is in private ownership at present. Should the owner of the site be open to a sale / lease then funding sources should be explored and the business case developed.



### CREATING A COMMUNITY CORE

A project to reuse and revitalise the derelict building situated on Mill Road, adjacent the business centre at Main Street.



# 07 | Impementation

This plan is designed to improve the social and economic fabric of the area. The Village Renewal Plan provides an indication of the key tasks which need to be undertaken to progress specific projects. This often includes detailed scheme design, preparation of the business case and funding application, and in some cases further feasibility and analysis.

The source of funding will often dictate the order in which tasks need to be undertaken, for example the Rural Development Programme expects all statutory consents to be place before the funding application is submitted. There are potential sources of funding available for the projects and initiatives set out within this Village Renewal Plan. It is important to note that reference to potential funding is a guidance only. Other funding opportunities may become available during the lifetime of this plan, and all projects will be subject to appropriate eligibility checks, application and assessment procedures as set by each funding body.

The Acton Plan (Section 8) provides an indication of the priority level of each project based on discussions with key stakeholders during plan preparation. Alongside this, a lead delivery agent and key stakeholders have also been noted. There may also be other interested groups who should be engaged during project implementation or those whose agreement must be sought, such as a private landowners or statutory bodies. It is also important to recognise that priorities may change as funding opportunities become available.



# 08 | Action Plan

	Regeneration Initiative - refer to Opportunities Plan on p16.	Priority Level H- High M-Medium L- Low	Timeframe for Delivery Short (0-3 years) Medium (3-9 years) Long (9+ years)	Stakeholders	Potential Funding Source
A	Gateway enhancements and traffic calming	H	S	Com	RDP, NMDDC, DfI
B	Landscaping and Public Art at entrance to the former Forkhill Barracks	H	S	NMDDC, DAERA	RDS, NMDDC, DAERA
C	Riverside walk / seating / picnic area	M	M	DAERA, Com, Private Landowners	DAERA, NMDDC
D	GAA Highway to Health	H	S	Com	RDP, Sport NI
E	Reuse of derelict building (cafe)	M	S	Com, DfC	RDP, NMDDC, DfC
F	Environmental Improvements	H	S	Com, DfC	RDP, NMDDC, DfC
G	Walking / Cycling link from the GAA to the former Barracks site	M	M	Private landowners	RDP, NMDDC, DfI
H	Interpretation signage (Poets Trail)	M	M	Private Landowners	RDP, NMDDC
I	Parking and Forkhill floral display	M	S-L	DAERA	Live Here-Love Here, DAERA, NMDDC
J	Proposed new housing development	M	S-M	-	Private
K	New bus shelter	H	S	Com, Translink	TNI
L	Review and update of Masterplan for the former Forkhill Barracks site	H	S	DAERA, Com	NMDDC, DAERA, RDP

- DAERA Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- NMDDC Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- NIHE Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Priv Private Landowners
- TNI Transport NI
- Com Community Groups
- DfC Department for Communities
- DfI Department for Infrastructure
- DAERA Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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