

Mullaghbawn

Village Renewal and Development Plan

Addendum and Updated Action Plan: November 2017

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



1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Implementation

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

The Updated Action Plan provides an indication of the key tasks which need to be undertaken to progress specific projects. This often includes detailed scheme design, preparation of the business case and funding application, and in some cases further feasibility and analysis. The source of funding will often dictate the order in which tasks need to be undertaken, for example the Rural Development Programme expects all statutory consents to be in 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 for guidance only. Other funding opportunities may become available during the lifetime of this plan, and all projects will be subject to appropriate eligibility checks, application and assessment procedures as set by each funding body.

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

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



3. Mullaghbawn - Review of 2012 Action Plan

		2012 Action Plan					2017 Update			
	Action substantially complete									
	Ongoing									
	Major constraint to implementation									
	New Project									
Regeneration Initiative		Key Stakeholders	Priority	Time frame	Potential Funders	Actions	Progress @ Dec 2017	Priority H, M, L	Time frame	Actions
1. Community Facilities										
1.1	Revitalisation of existing Community Centre facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Tourism/Recreation/ Cultural Activities • Guided Walks • Programme of activities and events for all the community • Educational and further learning programmes • Ensure the provision of key services for the local community 	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDDC SELB DCAL TADA	H	S	NMDDC RDP	<p>Issue:</p> <p>The centre currently provides essential services including the Women's and Family Health Initiative</p> <p>The Community Centre has the potential to support various tourism activities, such as walking and cultural groups. 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>Work carried out or underway:</p> <p>The community association have delivered many services in the Community Centre, however these need to be updated and refreshed to address the needs of the wider community.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source funding and liaise with partner organisations • Consult with the local community regarding needed services, activities and events 	<p>Women and Family Health Initiative is no longer operating therefore there is no longer an anchor tenant.</p> <p>Viability of community building is an issue. Need for more sustainable long-term solutions.</p> <p>Potential to provide tourism facilities in line with the NMDDC Tourism Strategy 2017-2021.</p>	H	M	<p>See 2012 actions.</p> <p>Conduct audit of existing community infrastructure.</p> <p>Explore the potential to have the brand / name of the centre visually displayed.</p> <p>An opportunity to lease current office units within the centre to emerging / existing business within the area. Explore potential expansion of office units / supply within the centre to harness local business. The centre could facilitate a hot desk rural hub for south Armagh.</p> <p>Explore options for a creative hub / units.</p> <p>Explore feasibility of centre to provide a wide range of sporting activities such as badminton and indoor football etc.</p>

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						<p>and the type of educational courses which would be beneficial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Secure funding to ensure the future retention and growth of the Women and Family Health Initiative. • Develop as an information centre for the surrounding Area 				<p>Express previous heritage / history of the building via interpretive art boards on the internal walls of the centre (former shoe factory).</p> <p>Explore options to develop a 'Wall of Fame' within the centre to commemorate local community members who have contributed to the development of the centre and overall village. Develop a community network using a visual map guide within the centre to highlight key figures within the community who can support certain / specific projects.</p> <p>Continue efforts / Explore improved promotion of centre and activities.</p> <p>Explore the development of a village business plan with dedicated targets to assess and track overall community and business development within the village.</p>
1.2	Re-use of derelict and underused buildings whilst encouraging business set up and community use:	Community and Voluntary Sector, Private,	H	S/L	NMDDC NIEA HLF RDP BLF	<p>Issue: There are several derelict and underused buildings throughout Mullaghbawn, especially along Maphoner Road. The</p>	Provision of drop in internet café in Ti Chulainn for one year - was hugely successful.	M	M	<p>See 2012 actions which are still relevant.</p> <p>Undertake work to identify what</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of an internet café / social facility for the youth of the village – this could be developed as a social enterprise by the community 	NIEA, TNI, NMDDC				<p>redevelopment and re-use of these buildings would have environmental benefits in terms of the visual amenity of the village, and should also be encouraged to address social and economic issues by providing premises for start-up business / social enterprise and community / youth facilities.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with landowners to determine the possibility for purchase or lease of buildings. Consider the provision of an internet café / social facility for the youth of the village Encourage local entrepreneurs to re-use vacant and underused buildings before considering new build Liaise with funding bodies regarding the re-use of buildings. Ensure the protection and conservation of important built heritage including those industrial heritage assets such as the Mill buildings. 	Empty buildings and dereliction continues to be a problem. Need for partnership working to progress reuse of empty and derelict buildings.			<p>services/businesses have potential to open in the area and their requirements in terms of space, location etc.</p> <p>Continue to support the provision of an internet café in the village.</p> <p>Seek funding to restore buildings of heritage significance in the village.</p>
1.3	<p>Refurbishment of Play Area (adjacent to Conway Park):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of Play Area, Fencing, Teen Zone 	NMDDC Community and Voluntary Sector DFI	H	S	NMDDC RDP	<p>Issue:</p> <p>The existing play area is devoid of seating, picnic tables and toilet facilities and is of some concern to the community. Animals can get into the play area as there is no fencing around the park. As the only communal play area for children in the village, it is important that the facility is maintained and</p>	NMDDC Play Strategy 2017-2022 identifies Conway Park as requiring no upgrades but continued monitoring of play value and maintenance.	H	M	Continue to monitor the need for enhanced play facilities.	

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						<p>offers enough space and a range of activities for the needs of all. There is a good sized area of land around the play park which should be utilised to provide modern high quality play facilities for the community. It has also been suggested that the population of Mullaghbawn is expanding due to new housing development which has consequently led to a rise in the number of children and young families.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission design and implementation of refurbishment and extension scheme through consultation with the local community. • Secure funding and liaise with the wider community regarding proposals for the park. • Secure relevant statutory approvals: Planning etc 				
1.4	Provision of children's play facilities at the southern end of the village	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDDC DFI	M	S	NMDDC RDP	<p>Issue: There is currently one play park within the village adjacent to Conway Park. This is an excellent facility however it is not easily accessible for young children living in the southern end of Mullaghbawn. They would have to walk along the Maphoner Road which can be dangerous due to traffic.</p> <p>Action:</p>	<p>NMDDC Play Strategy 2017-2022 does not outline need for additional Council play facilities in the village</p> <p>Council can however support community efforts to obtain funding from outside sources for additional play facilities</p>	H	M	<p>Explore option for the provision of a play facility as a community led project.</p> <p>Obtain relevant statutory permissions (e.g. planning).</p> <p>Identify and make applications to the appropriate funding sources.</p>

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a children's play park in the southern end of the village. There is potential to locate this within Glebe Park on the open grassed area. 				
1.5	Public WC Facilities	MCA, NMDDC	H	S-M	NMMDC, Fund raising	Engage with wider community and key stakeholder regarding feasibility and support for project. Identify ideal / preferred site or location for public WC unit and engage further with wider community and necessary parties. Carry out design and feasibility study to assess potential for project. Seek necessary statutory approval, source and secure funding.				
2. Environmental Improvements										
2.1	Improved Signage, attractive landscaping feature at the gateways to the village	SADT* NMDDC Community and Business Sector TOURISM NI RGLP	H	S	RDP NMDDC	The wider Gateway Project for the South Armagh Area.	<p>Any planting should be indigenous to the area.</p> <p>Need to ensure appropriate management and mitigation of invasive species of plants.</p>	M	S	Engage with Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership on design of appropriate environmental improvements that are in keeping with the wider AONB Management Strategy 2017-2022. Explore options to integrate attractive floral arrangements at key gateway sites.
2.2	Environmental Improvements throughout the Village	NMDDC Community and Voluntary Sector DFI TNI RGLP	H	S	RDP NMDDC	<p>Issue:</p> <p>Mullaghbawn benefits from an excellent setting within Ring of Gullion AONB There is very little street furniture in Mullaghbawn, and setting at Glebe Park and</p> <p>What's been done to date:</p>	<p>No progress to date,</p> <p>Need to tidy up the relief wall and agree regular maintenance programme.</p> <p>Potentially more opportunities to expand</p>	H	S	<p>See 2012 actions.</p> <p>Engage with relevant partners on the design and development of an environmental improvement scheme in the village to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Street furniture

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						<p>Mullaghbawn Community Association delivered the walkway along the river in order to utilise the pleasant setting of the river. This project has been very successful and has benefitted the aesthetic character of the village.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Improvements at Forkhill Road/Glebe Park Junction. By providing landscaping and seating. • Fully utilise and maintain the river setting and timber walkway • Commission the design of a comprehensive Environmental Improvement Scheme through consultation with the local community. 	<p>activities relating to the river.</p> <p>Need to ensure all plans align with Ring of Gullion AONB plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary school partnership and eco-committee - Mullaghbawn tree nurse 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seating - Lighting - Planting - Signage - Hedge row treatment <p>Materials and design should be in keeping with the natural setting and character of the village.</p>
2.3	Village face lift	NMDDC Private Community and Voluntary Sector DFI NIEA	M	S/L	RDP NMDDC	<p>Issue:</p> <p>A number of buildings within the village are dilapidated, and detract from the overall character of the town, making it look untidy.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate a shop frontage improvement scheme for derelict and underused buildings throughout the town centre • Implementation of a paint scheme to brighten up buildings within the town centre and key approach roads. Derelict and underused buildings should be given a face lift to improve their visual impact on the Village in 	Dereliction and dilapidation continues to be a problem in the village, especially along main roads.	H	S	<p>See 2012 actions.</p> <p>Explore funding sources including central government, sponsorship by a local paint company and community volunteering.</p>

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						the short term, however the redevelopment of these sites or re-use and conversion of the buildings should be encouraged.				
2.4	Footpath to GAA- Cranny Road • Acquisition of land, Footpath and Lighting Scheme.	TNI Community and Voluntary Sector DFI NMDDC	H	S	TNI RDP NMDDC	Issue: Street lighting around Mullaghbawn is insufficient, particularly the route to one of the main community facilities-the GAA Club. There is no footpath provision to this facility, making it a dangerous road for pedestrians. Work carried out or underway: An extension to the footway was carried out in 2009 from the North east side of Tullymacreeve Road, opposite no 1 Cranny Road to no 15 Tullymacreeve Road – this now needs to be extended along Cranny Road to the GAA Ground. Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with landowners regarding the potential purchase of the required lands • Liaise with TNI regarding the potential for this project to be implemented in the short term programme, otherwise consider the possibility of the Community leading the project with the assistance of NMDDC. • Commission design of scheme. 	This is a priority as is a well-used route. The community need to have a say in plans to improve pedestrian safety along this road.	H	M	Liaise with TNI regarding the need for this project to be implemented in the short-term. Consider the possibility of the Community leading the project with the assistance of NMDDC, however this will be difficult if third party land is required.
2.5	Protect and conserve important aspects of	Community and	H	S/L	HLF RDP	Issue: Mullaghbawn has several important assets in terms of built	There are a number of strategies relating to tourism, the AONB and	H	M	Implement the Industrial Heritage Action Plan and continue to encourage

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	the natural and built heritage	Voluntary Sector NIEA NMDDC DFI				heritage including the Bridge, flax scotching mill and store. The village is also within the Ring of Gullion AONB and benefits from incredible views of the surrounding mountains. It is crucial to preserve and enhance these assets as they provide the unique character of the area. Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the retention and preservation of the industrial heritage within the village. Seek grant aid to restore these feature where required. • Ensure the retention or key views of the surrounding AONB. • Provide information and signage regarding the natural and built heritage, for both locals and visitors. • Encourage the concept of 'leave no trace' for people walking and cycling in the area. • Consider the provision of guided tours of the area. 	heritage that are relevant to protecting and conserving the area. Need to engage partners involved in delivering these strategies to encourage a coordinated approach. AONB Management Plan 2017-2022 contains recommendations and actions for conservation and enhancement of the area.			the retention of buildings of heritage significance in the village. Develop programmes of activities that showcase and promote important natural and built heritage. Continue to represent the interests of the village on The Ring of Gullion AONB Partnership Board. Explore potential for a tourism ambassador scheme for local tourist guides - this could operate across several villages where there is interest.
2.6	Ensure continued maintenance and management of community and public buildings, spaces etc. throughout the village.	MCA, NMDDC, RGLP, DFI, Community and Voluntary Groups.	H	S	NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore potential for a maintenance group within MCA to ensure coordination of maintenance and management of the village, community buildings, public spaces, street lighting etc. • Ensure future maintenance and management of new buildings/spaces/street furniture is considered from the outset of all projects. 				
2.7	Strategy for tackling fly tipping, emptying of bins and littering in the village with a view to competing as a tidy town across the district.	MCA, Community and Voluntary Groups, NMDDC, DFI	H	S	DFI, NMDDC, Tidy NI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to engage with statutory bodies to report fly-tipping/littering/dog fouling etc. Enforcement of offences is crucial. • Carry out annual programme of community clean ups to encourage local stewardship and pride in the village. • Work towards 'Tidy Towns' or other similar competitions. 				

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2.8	Rejuvenation of village River Walk	MCA, NMDDC, Community and Voluntary Groups, NI Water, NIEA	M	S-M	RDP, BIG, NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with wider community and key stakeholders as to feasibility and support for such a project. Explore removal of overgrown trees and shrubbery which block light / majority of solar path. Replacement of boardwalk. Adjustment of weir to improve water flow by reducing build-up of blockages. Development of "Dipping Platform" for educational use. Action will benefit children and schools in education surrounding environmental sciences and ecology. Development of area surrounding bus stop as a wildlife zone. Adjustment of river bank to improve access. 				
2.9	Floral arrangements throughout village	MCA, NMDDC, PLO	M	S	RDP, BIG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential for community owned floral arrangements within the village to support the environmental quality of the village. Engage with key stakeholders and wide community regarding the support and feasibility for such a project. Explore and identify sites, carry out design / feasibility study, seek statutory approvals, explore and secure funding for project. 				
2.10	Improve the appearance of derelict buildings	MCA, NMDDC	H	M	RDP, HLF, BIG, NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore options to improve the visual quality of derelict buildings within the village Identify key sites Carry out design and feasibility studies for preferred options regarding the visual improvement of derelict buildings Seek statutory approvals if required Source funding Secure funding Explore options to retain floral planting within community ownership 				
2.11						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 				
3. Tourism, Leisure and recreation										
3.1	Information boards and signage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's on in the area Poet's Trail Slieve Gullion (Walks, Play Area, Outdoor Gym) 	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDDC TOURISM NI DFI TNI	H	S	RDP TOURISM NI HLF RDP	Issue Lack of information available about the area to both tourists and local community. Potential to promote the village as the hub of tourism activity, being the base for guided walks to encourage enjoyment of the built and natural heritage in the area.	South Armagh Signage Survey completed in 2016. Links into action above and need for coordinated approach for tourism provision in the village.	M	S	Implementation of South Armagh Signage Survey. Continue to engage heritage, tourism, leisure partners to ensure coordinated delivery of plans and strategies within the AONB.

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						<p>Actions:</p> <p>Consider the employment of a guide to take tours of the area – based in the Community Centre</p> <p>Prepare a programme of activities and events to encourage the wider community and visitors to take part in cultural events.</p>				<p>Collaborate with wider community as to potential community art integrated into informational signage.</p> <p>Explore potential to develop improve pic-nic areas.</p>
3.2	Development of Events/Festivals: Sporting, Cultural, Family Fun	MCA NMDDC TOURISM NI	H	S	NMDDC TOURISM NI	<p>Issue</p> <p>Popular festivals within the community have been discontinued due to lack of funding. It has been indicated during consultation that the Slieve Gullion traditional signing weekend and The Scoile Sliabh Gullion should be a priority to revive. In addition, Christmas festivals are also popular, especially with families with young children.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the implementation of initiatives set out in the Chamber of Commerce document 'A Pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh' including building on the Ring of Gullion AONB. Establish events committee to develop 	<p>Lunasa Festival organised by Ring of Gullion Partnership annually with events in Mullaghbawn.</p> <p>Tourism Strategy Engagement Forum in Council – potential to engage with this to develop events.</p>	M	S	<p>Continue to support opportunities for events in Mullaghbawn.</p> <p>Explore potential to revive local community events in Mullaghbawn as well e.g. Christmas lights</p> <p>Apply for funding under Council's annual financial assistance programme to community groups to run events.</p>

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						events calendar for both local events for the village and work					
3.3	Ring of Gullion Ranger service for AONB and surrounding area	MCA, RGLP, NMDDC, Tourism NI	H	S	DAERA, NMDDC, RGLP	Continue to support youth ranger initiative in Ring of Gullion AONB Management Plan 2017-2022 and Ring of Gullion Landscape Conservation Action Plan. Explore potential for Mullaghbawn to act as cultural centre for South Armagh through the development of traditional cultural arts festivals throughout the year.					
3.4	Summer Gaeltacht Scheme	MCA, NMDDC	M	S	RDP, HLF, BIG	Explore potential to develop a summer Gaeltacht Scheme within the village for community and wider rural area.					
3.5	Cycle Hire Facilities	MCA, NMDDC	M	S-M	RDP, HLF, NMDDC	Explore options to develop a cycle hire scheme within the village to benefit surrounding heritage trails and community health and well-being. Explore potential sites to accommodate use. Engage with wider community and key stakeholders regarding feasibility of scheme.					
3.6	Glamping Pods / Sites within village or surrounding area	MCA, NMDDC, PLO	L	M	Priv., Fund raising, RDP	Explore options to develop glamping pods / sites within the village or surrounding rural area to provide improved tourism / camping facilities. Engage with wider community and key stakeholders regarding support and feasibility of project. Carry out feasibility and design studies to assess potential for project. Seek necessary statutory approvals and secure funding.					
3.7	Enhanced Visitor Activities	MCA, Tourism NI, NMDDC, PLO	L	S-M	RDP, BIG, Fund Raising	<p>Explore potential for a wide range of visitor related events / activities such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragliding School • Tennis Academy • 2/3 Day Horse trekking visiting key sites within district • Café for visitors • Walking / running trail around foot of Slieve Gullion • Slieve Gullion Mountain Race • Adventure Centre • Storytelling Weekends (Linked to NMDDC tourism Strategy) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camping Skills Course • Writing & Arts Competitions • Further development of bus tours • Recreational facilities for youth • Develop walking trails further • Local HUB as Tourism Office • Wellness, health and self-awareness events • Photography workshops / exhibitions • Cycling weekends • Archery and Clay Pigeon Shooting <p>Explore potential for project within the surrounding rural area. Engage with wider community and key stakeholder regarding feasibility and support for project. Carry out feasibility and design studies to assess potential for project. Seek necessary statutory approvals and secure funding.</p>					

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4. Infrastructure and services

	4.1	Traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing points	TNI Community and Voluntary Sector DFI	H		TNI	<p>Issue: Traffic speeding through the village, particularly on the straight at Dunreavy Park is a safety issue. Pedestrian crossings are limited in the area, with particular concern being in the vicinity of the Primary School, where a number of roads are used by pupils.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and encourage gateway strategy. • Implement pedestrian crossing • Liaise with NMDDC and TNI regarding the need for traffic calming measures on the approach to Mullaghbawn/TNI to consider various methods of traffic calming. 	No progress to date.	H	S	<p>See 2012 actions.</p> <p>Remains a high priority for the village.</p> <p>Need to explore different ways to naturally slow traffic such as planting, trees, twenty's plenty signage etc. the preference would be away from humps and bumps on the road.</p> <p>No footpath at new housing development in the village. floral</p>
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5. List of Stakeholders and Potential Funders

NMDDC	Newry Mourne and Down District Council	AC	Arts Council
Priv	Private Sector	AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland	DAERA	Department for Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs
RDP	Rural Development Programme	DfC	Department for Communities
RGLP	Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership	DFI	Department for Infrastructure
SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust	Lot	Lottery Funding
SELB	Southern Education and Library Board	MCA	Mullaghbawn Community Association
SNI	Sport Northern Ireland	NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
TNI	Transport NI	NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
TourNI	Tourism Northern Ireland		