

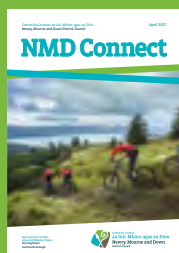
NMD Connect





Welcome

I have been amazed by the talent, community spirit and passion to succeed shown throughout our entire outstandingly beautiful area.



Front cover: Red Bull Fox Hunt 2016 at Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor. Image courtesy of Red Bull.

I have laughed a lot and have experienced new adventures right here on my doorstep, I have acquired new skills and I have learned from the people that live and love here most. More than that, I have been inspired by the passion and dedication they have for their neighbours, the environment, our schools, the arts, our health and community services and the economic growth of our district.

The vision of Council is to 'improve the quality of life for all our people' and I am delighted that the district's first Community Plan has just been launched. This will be used as a road map by all the services in the area to

work together to achieve our vision (page 6) and bring about real change for local people and communities.

I have always been very proud to come from this area, it is part of my identity and culture but now, after having the privilege of being First Citizen of Newry, Mourne and Down district, it means so much more.





Off-Road and On Course

World-class, cross-border and off-road: the great green getaway is underway!

The first phase of the Carlingford Lough Greenway – from Dublin Road Bridge, Newry to the Weir on the Middlebank has been completed.

Running parallel to the Newry – Carlingford road, the traffic-free corridor, when completed will eventually extend along the Cooley Peninsula through Omeath and Carlingford to Greenore. It will form the northern section of an ambitious scheme ultimately linking Belfast and Dublin that will enable walkers and cyclists to travel off-road on a mix of greenways and quiet coastal byways.



Your Local Councillors

To find out who they are and how to contact them visit our website newrymournedown.org/elected_members



It's all going swimmingly in Newry...

Work is well underway on not one but two major Council leisure projects with a total investment by Council of £36 million.

Following the opening of Newry's state-of-the-art swimming pool in 2015, Phase 2 of the city's Leisure Centre development project will add a range of facilities offering the most modern and advanced leisure amenities. The £18 million investment by Council will see the new leisure centre almost double in size with two sports halls, gym, spinning studios, squash and handball facilities, a cafe, soft play area – and even a birthday room!

The work is due for completion during summer 2017. For more information on the opening of the new facilities and leisure services, check out the Newry Leisure Centre facebook page or call 028 3031 3190.



...and Downpatrick

Construction is also in progress on the town's new £14.5 million Down Leisure Centre. Due to open in early 2018, the new 6,000 square meter centre will include a 25metre, six lane pool and learning pool with a movable floor, a four-court sports hall, handball/squash court, luxury spa facilities, plus a state-of-the-art fitness suite with over 80 stations. The three-storey Centre is being constructed within the boundary of the existing facility at Market Street and will open during 2018. Once work is completed, the old building will make way for a 140-space car park.

Down Leisure Centre is still open for business. For opening times, classes and facility information, please call 028 4461 3426.

Funding for Castlewellan

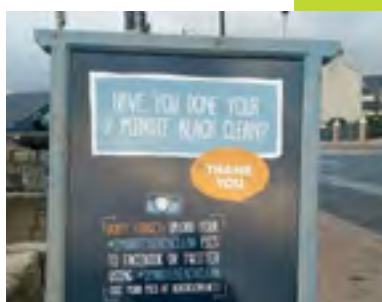
The Social Investment Fund has approved funding totalling £527,951 for the essential refurbishment and extension of the Castlewellan Community Centre. The plan includes creating a dedicated pre-school area with a secure, self-contained yard.

Work is due to be completed by June 2018, and the improved facilities will enable the centre to expand its services to youth training schemes, local community development activities and summer schemes.



Game on

We are delighted to have secured over £2 million through the Northern Ireland Office's Social Investment Fund to provide 3G football pitches in Downpatrick, Ballyhornan and Kilcooley. The award will also help redevelop Castlewellan Community Centre into a modern and accessible venue. All the projects are due to be completed by June 2018.



#2minute BeachClean

We are the first Council to introduce the 'Two Minute Beach Clean' initiative. This scheme allows anyone out enjoying our coastline to do their small bit to help keep our beaches clean. If everyone simply took two minutes to remove litter, beaches will practically be litter-free as a result. Don't forget to take a snap of the litter you collect and post it on social media using **#2minutebeachclean**

Work It is Working

The Social Investment Fund's Southern Zone, 'Work It' training and employment programme has just celebrated its first year of delivery and there's plenty to celebrate.

To date, around half of the 160 participants who completed the programme have found employment, and nearly 300 community projects have been delivered. Families and the wider community are benefiting from the personal and professional development this initiative provides. Participants have been able to avail of essential skills training, team-building and personal development sessions – plus the opportunity to deliver valuable projects for their own communities.

For further information please contact our Programmes Unit on programmesunit@nmandd.org



Cross-community tea dance at Ash Grove community centre delivered by participants of 'Work It'.



LIVE LOVE HERE HERE

We are an enthusiastic supporter of the Live Here Love Here campaign, administered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB).

It is a positive, people-powered initiative focused on improving local environments and encouraging a sense of pride among local communities. In 2016 the Live Here Love Here campaign held a small grants scheme for participating Councils and awarded a total of £13,000 to eleven projects in our Council area to undertake civil pride projects. This Spring KNIB will once again be launching their 2017 small grants for volunteer and community groups, schools and third-level education organisations, youth groups and sports clubs. Keep an eye on the Live Here Love Here website liveherelovehere.org for details.

Last year we also ran our own financial call and awarded £38,000 to 16 organisations for projects ranging from tackling dog fouling and reducing litter to promoting civic pride. The 2017 financial call was held in March and we look forward to hearing about the projects that local community groups have carried out to improve their local area.



Major Peace IV Funding Boost

We have secured a major funding boost totalling approximately £4.2 million under the EU's PEACE IV Programme to support local projects that will promote positive relations between people from different communities and ethnic backgrounds. These will be delivered in partnership with the Policing Community Safety Partnership and the Education Authority under each of the following themes.

Children & Young People

Participants will have the opportunity to develop their soft skills and respect for diversity through personal initiatives, youth leadership and engagement, shared history and culture and citizenship programmes.

Shared Spaces and Services

This strand will feature programmes including re-imaging and regeneration; a flags, emblems and bonfires protocol; ex-military site legacy issues; a number of shared-space engagement and capacity-building initiatives plus a programme for disengaged communities and local leaders.

Building Positive Relations

Designed to develop meaningful, sustained contact between communities, this theme will include programmes on capacity-building and engagement; civic leadership; mediation and conflict resolution; 'older people, good relations', shared history and culture; ethnic minority culture and integration; and cross-community and intercultural events.

For information on all the above projects, please contact the Programmes Unit on programmesunit@nmandd.org

**Don't
Miss
Out**

Chairperson's

Charity Ball 2017 Gala Evening

7pm Friday 12 May, Canal Court Hotel, Newry
To book tickets email:
democratic.services@nmandd.org

Living Well Together

Our first Community Plan

The very first Community Plan has just been published for our area. The plan provides an exciting new vision for how our public and key community services should be delivered which will ultimately improve the lives of everyone living here.

Over the past two years we have been engaged in a community planning process. Our Community Planning Partnership has been asking people throughout the area what's really important to them. We've taken into account community structures, geographies and opinions within the district, and now we have a plan that will help us work better together all the way through until 2030. Our aim is for a society with low rates of offending and violence, one that is able to remove the circumstances that create childhood trauma. We envisage a society that encourages positive lifestyle choices and promotes good physical and mental health, where education creates opportunity and celebrates diversity.

The plan is based on five key outcomes or quality of life considerations:



To have a good start in life and fulfil lifelong potential

To enjoy good health and wellbeing

To benefit from prosperous communities

To enjoy a clean, good quality and sustainable environment

To live in respectful, safe and vibrant communities

Level of Early Years Support

Level of Educational Wellbeing

Level of Quality of School Life

Level of Connectivity

Level of Lifelong Learning

Level of Life Expectancy

Level of Work Life Balance

Level of Preventable Death

Level of Health Status

Level of Jobs and Earnings

Level of Income and Wealth

Level of Economic Investment

Level of Tourism Revenue

Level of Sustainable Energy

Level of Quality Housing

Level of Quality Living Environment

Level of Social Connections

Level of Social Capital

Level of Civic Participation

Level of Personal Safety and Crime Rate

What's the Next Step?

By June, we will publish our initial two year flexible action plan which will address specific work initiatives and programmes focusing on each of the five outcomes. We will constantly measure our progress to ensure these outcomes are delivered and make changes when necessary to improve our performance. We are confident we have a plan that will deliver real improvements for everyone who lives, works, studies, visits and invests in Newry, Mourne and Down.

For further information please email communityplanning@nmandd.org



Busy First Year for District Electoral Area Fora

District Electoral Area (DEA) Fora are local partnerships set up to ensure that members of the public have their views or issues heard on local public services. It is the platform for which local people can engage with us and our Councillors more effectively. Through co-operation, we would hope to deliver on those issues which the community attaches greatest importance to. Over the past year the seven DEA coordinators and members have been working tirelessly to get established, recruit new members and meet with communities. **The numbers speak for themselves:**

21	Public meetings with residents that have attracted over 1,600 attendees
7	Interagency action planning workshops
7	Action planning workshops to develop DEA community action plans
70+	Private forum meetings
180+	Face to face meetings with individuals, groups, statutory and voluntary agencies

Providing advice and support, and establishing good community relations are crucial to the work of the fora. To ensure you have your say on issues that matter to you and your community, we would encourage you to attend the public meetings or contact your local DEA Councillor/Forum Member or Co-ordinator.

For details of your local DEA Forum go to newrymournedown.org/community_planning



On Target for Off-Street Car Parks

In May 2015 we took responsibility of 41 off-street car parks from Transport NI (TNI), 11 are pay car parks and the remainder are free. By maintaining our commitment of offering a mixture of free and pay parking facilities, we've been able to ensure that our parking charges are among the lowest in Northern Ireland.

With demand for parking increasing year on year, our challenge is to maximise usage of all off-street car parks. We will therefore be carrying out a feasibility study to determine how best to use parking to support our businesses and shoppers and our communities.

Revenue from the 11 pay car parks will be used to manage and maintain all of the 41 that we inherited. The Council does not intend to generate profit from the car parks.

Opening times and parking tariffs vary. Check the on-site signage for details.



Peace of Mind On a Plate

With almost 2000 food outlets throughout the district, you're never far from a place to shop or eat. But what about its hygiene standards? The answer is on the door.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme provides information about restaurants, pubs, cafés, takeaways and hotels as well as supermarkets and other food shops. Outlets are rated at the time of inspection from 0 (urgent improvement necessary) to 5 (very good). Businesses are legally obliged to display their score at the door.

All the ratings can be viewed at food.gov.uk/ratings

If you're concerned about any food business in the Council area, contact our Food Safety Team on 0300 013 2233.



Planning the Big Picture -

Local Development Plan

We are actively preparing a Local Development Plan (LDP) which will be the primary tool in the determination of planning applications and guide future development across the district up to 2030. The LDP, while reflecting our Corporate Plan, will be intimately linked to the Community Plan and will support the economic and social needs of the area by setting out the policy framework and land use proposals that will guide sustainable development decisions over the next 15 years.

By reflecting the spatial land use of the Community Plan, the LDP will provide a vision of how places should change and what they will be like in the future.

An initial plan timetable, setting out the key milestones and time lines through to adoption, will be available this summer as will the 'Statement of Community Involvement' which will describe how residents can get involved in the preparation of the

LDP through an active programme of community consultation. Check local press for further details.

For advice on an application or to make an appointment, call 0300 200 7830, email: planning@nmandd.org

Visit our website newrymournedown.org/planning

Streamlining the planning process

When planning transferred to the Council from central government in April 2015, we inherited a large number of live applications. To help process these, we've been investing in resources and in streamlining some of our processes. Consequently, as of December 2016, we've managed to cut the number of outstanding live applications by nearly 40% in 12 months, and average processing times by nearly seven weeks. There's more to do, but we're getting there.



Planning some building work? Get a free expert check.

Our Building Control Section offers a free consultation service for commercial building control applications to help you and your design team determine whether your application is likely to be approved. This gives you the chance to make any necessary amendments to your design before proceeding to full working drawings.

If you wish to avail of this service please contact 028 3031 3000 or email: buildingcontrol@nmandd.org

'Old Homer' branches out to Europe

'Old Homer', a wonderful and much-loved holm oak in Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor, has won the Woodland Trust Tree of the year for Northern Ireland and now goes forward to the 2017 Tree of Europe Competition.

The purpose of the project is to highlight the significance and cultural heritage around old trees, their stories and, above all, their connections to local people.



Grant Assistance for Rural Dwellers

Mourne Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership is responsible for the delivery of grant assistance to the rural dwellers across Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

Grant opportunities exist under the schemes of:

- **Rural Business Investment**
- **Village Renewal**
- **Rural Basic Services**

To find out more on this grant opportunity, including eligibility, grant rates, when and how to express an interest in this grant, please contact Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership. Call 0300 013 2233 (ext 2503), email: info@mournegullionlecale.com or visit our website mournegullionlecale.com

Blooming Brilliant Newcastle

In the Britain in Bloom 2016 competition Newcastle won the prestigious Silver Gilt award, a massive achievement for a first-time entrant. Over 1,600 cities, towns and villages take part each year, and Newcastle was one of just 80 UK finalists last year.

The team now have their sights firmly set on a Gold in 2017, and perhaps winning the best 'Small Coastal Town' category. Success in Britain in Bloom requires a year-round programme of activity to enhance and maintain the town, and get the community engaged in keeping things looking their best.

If you'd like to get involved, please contact the Council on 0300 01 322 33 or email info@nmandd.org.



Congrats!

Councillors Laura Devlin, Barra Ó Muirí, Pól Ó Gribín, Sinéad Ennis and Naomi Bailie all welcomed new additions to their families in 2016. We want to congratulate them on their new arrivals.

Please retain
for information

Important changes to your bin collection

From April 2017, food waste regulations dictate that food waste must be collected separately. This means that no food waste can be disposed in your Black bin - ALL food waste MUST go into your Brown bin.

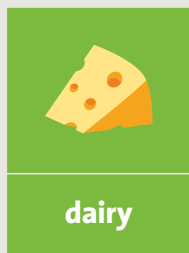
- If you already have a Brown bin, you must recycle all your food waste in it. Black bins containing food waste may not be emptied.
- If you do not have a Brown bin yet, we will be issuing one to you soon.

Your Brown Bin – Food for Thought

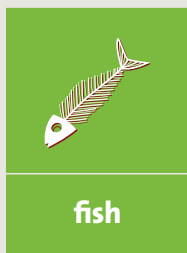
Remember there is no amount too small. The best thing we can do with our food is enjoy it but some waste like banana skins, tea bags and plate scrapings are inevitable. After recycling your food waste, any spare capacity in your Brown bin can be used to recycle your garden waste.



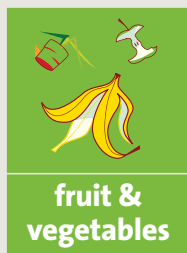
YES PLEASE



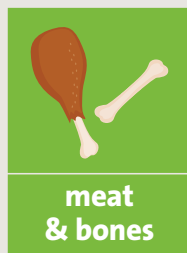
dairy



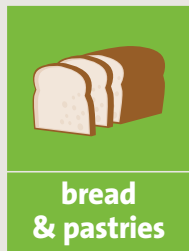
fish



fruit &
vegetables



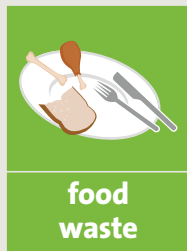
meat
& bones



bread
& pastries



tea & coffee
grounds



food
waste



garden
waste



NO

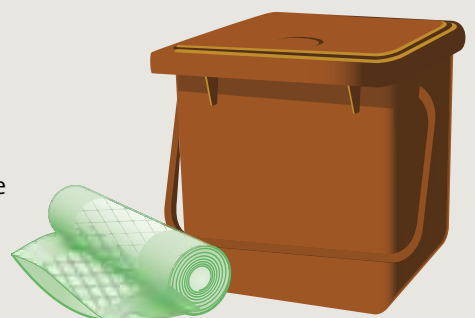
- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Soil or stones
- ✗ Liquids
- ✗ Oil or liquid fats
- ✗ Packaging of any sort
- ✗ Plant pots

You can also recycle small amounts of food contaminated cardboard (torn up) i.e. pizza boxes, shredded paper and used kitchen roll.



Compostable Bin Liners

When recycling food waste you can use compostable liners that bear the 'seedling logo'. Compostable liners are available in many local shops and supermarkets. Please note no other liners are acceptable. Alternatively food may be wrapped in newspaper or placed loose in the Brown bin.



Are you Throwing your Money Away?

In Northern Ireland we throw away about a third of the food we buy - half of which is edible! By thinking about the food waste you create and taking positive steps to shop smarter you can significantly reduce your waste - and save money too. For practical advice on how to reduce food waste and save up to £50 per month on your food bill visit: lovefoodhatewaste.com



good to know

Food waste sent to landfill doesn't harmlessly breakdown. It has a big impact on the environment as it rots and releases methane, a harmful greenhouse gas. When you recycle your food waste it is turned into compost.

Think before you put anything in your Black bin. Can it be reused or recycled? Remember, rubbish doesn't become waste until you throw it away!



Recycled plastic bottles can be made into fleeces, socks, hats - even park benches.



Glass can be recycled over and over again to make new containers.



Tin cans can be melted down and eventually become parts of cars or bikes.



Recycled paper makes up 70% of the raw materials for UK newspapers.

Packaging

No packaging should go in your Brown bin. All packaging must be removed and, where recyclable, should be rinsed, squashed and placed in your Blue bin.



Thank you for using your coloured bins correctly.

Driving Home the Recycling Message

Have you seen arc21's colourful Wastebuster Bus taking the 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' message out on the road? arc21, an umbrella waste management group representing six councils including Newry, Mourne and Down, has been helping us promote the message in schools. The bus provides educational puzzles, games and competitions to stimulate young minds about waste and how we all need to deal with it better.

We are encouraging everyone to recycle all food waste, so it's important that pupils see how the waste we put in the brown bin can be transformed into a rich, useable compost.

Next stop for the bus? Local Household Recycling Centres and town centres across the area promoting our Food Waste Recycling campaign.

To request a visit from the Wastebuster Bus please contact: ehealth@nmandd.org



County Down Joins World's Top 100 Sustainable Destinations

On World Tourism Day 2016, Green Tourism, the largest certification programme of its kind, announced that County Down was joining its prestigious Top 100 Sustainable Destinations list.

The list recognises green-minded areas around the world for their commitment to value authenticity, biodiversity, nature, culture, community and the environment for future generations of citizens and visitors.



Down your Street and Cleaning up Our Act

Our Health and Wellbeing Department has been helping local schools, community groups and organisations get proactive about tackling litter through our 'Down Your Street' campaign. At the 'Down Your Street' celebration event in May at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre, eight schools and seven organisations were presented with framed certificates and prizes for all their hard work.

If you would like to get involved, you can request one of our free Clean-Up Kits containing a supply of litter-pickers, vests, gloves and bags. Kits are available while stocks last. Your group must commit to more than a single clean-up, and priority will be given to groups able to undertake several over a period of time. **For full details, contact the Health and Wellbeing Department by email: health@nmandd.org**



Free Home Safety Checks

A great many accidents in the home are preventable and the 'Helping You Towards a Safer Home' initiative is here to do just that. It focuses on those most at risk:

- **older people over 65 years of age**
- **families with young children under five years of age**
- **vulnerable children and adults**
- **Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups.**

The scheme's designated Home Safety Officer carries out free home visits, offering information and, where appropriate, free home safety equipment ranging from touch lamps and plug covers to carbon monoxide monitors and fire-guards. They can also make referrals to agencies such as the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Police and Community Safety Partnership, Good Morning Good Neighbour and Occupational Health.

To request a home safety visit, contact ehhealth@nmandd.org



Becoming Beautifully Bee-licious

We have been helping our important wild insect pollinators through 'Bee-licious', a project supported by the National Lottery's Heritage Lottery Fund, to improve semi-natural habitats across Northern Ireland, by making them more pollinator-friendly.

Free family events in March and April helped raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and how we can all do our bit to help them. More will be happening this autumn so keep an eye on our facebook page and check the local press for more details.

If you would like to get involved, contact our Biodiversity Officer ehhealth@nmandd.org



What You Can Do

Your garden can be a haven for pollinators, and you can help.



Let your grass grow, it provides food for pollinators. If you don't want your garden to become completely wild, wait until mid-April to mow, after the dandelions have flowered.



Plant native species of trees, shrubs and wildflowers, they'll provide nectar for pollinators all year round. For hints and tips, visit **butterfly-conservation.org**



Build nest sites for pollinators. You can buy bug boxes fairly cheaply or make your own. See **biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan**



Reduce pesticide use in your garden, they can harm pollinators and their habitats.



Be Your Own Boss

Thinking of starting your own business? The Council's Go For It programme is a comprehensive package of advice, training and support to help get you going.

The programme consists of three stages:

- a one-to-one meeting with an experienced business advisor to discuss your business idea, gather some basic information and plan the next steps;
- a half-day seminar covering essentials such as registering as self-employed, business set-up, tax, VAT, national insurance and bookkeeping;
- a one-to-one meeting with an experienced financial adviser to help complete your business plan.

Call us today on 0800 027 0639 or 0300 013 2233 or email: business@nmandd.org
For more information visit goforitni.com



'Make it Local' makes a difference

In 2016 we launched the 'Make it Local' campaign to encourage shoppers to support traders and small independent shops on their doorstep.

We are working with towns' Chambers of Commerce to deliver events to promote the campaign with initiatives such as craft fairs and markets and a voucher scheme to keep shoppers local. By supporting the campaign, you can help keep your local economy vibrant, successful and sustainable for years to come.

For further information on Make It Local events please check our facebook page or contact us on 0300 013 2233.



Upgrading Warrenpoint Park

We have match funded £850,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore and upgrade facilities at Warrenpoint Municipal Park, resulting in a total investment of £1.49 million.

The project will safeguard the park's many historic features. The listed bandstand will be restored, whilst original planting will be reinstated and pathways resurfaced. The children's play area will be upgraded alongside new facilities. An interpretative centre, telling the story of the park, will be created in the restored pavilion building. Work will be completed in 2018 and a community engagement programme will be rolled out for users and visitors to engage with the heritage of the park. Keep updated on our facebook page for details.



Cataloguing Memories of The Arts

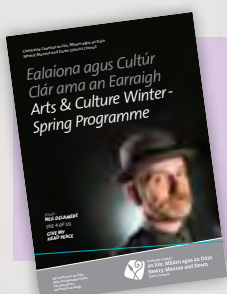
Newry and Mourne Museum is delighted to have secured funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, for a two-year project to catalogue and capture memories from those who have been involved in performing arts organisations, many of whom have gone on to great things at national and international level.

The Museum is working with the Newry Musical Feis, Newpoint Players, Newry Drama Festival, Lislea Drama Society and Newry Panto Players to create five temporary pop up style

exhibitions which will be featured in various public places throughout the Newry and Mourne area.

If you have any stories or artefacts that you believe would be of relevance, the Museum would like to hear from you. Email museum@nmandd.org or call 028 3031 3173.

For further information on the pop-up exhibitions and other events, check the museum website bagenalscastle.com.



Pick up your free copy of our Arts & Culture programme

available from our visitor information centres, museums and arts centres or download from our website newrymournedown.org/events

Gullion and the Mournes are on the ASCENT

ASCENT is an innovative project to address the environmental challenges facing seven northern European upland areas, including peaks in the Ring of Gullion and the Mournes, helped by experts from the Scottish Highlands.

The combination of unregulated access to upland sites plus natural erosion have resulted in degradation, loss of unique bio-diversity and bio-resources in some areas of natural beauty. The ASCENT project – Apply Skills and Conserve our Environment with New Tools – sets out plans and measures to address future economic and environmental sustainability. This will provide better access to our uplands without impacting on our sensitive environment.

For more information go to ringofgullion.org

GIANT ADVENTURES

...a Giant Success!



Creating Epic Moments

We have just launched our Tourism Strategy for 2017 – 2021, which aims to maximise tourism growth for the area by adopting a fresh approach focused on recognising what sets us apart from other destinations. Three elements 'mountains, myths and maritime' have been identified as the fundamentals that will create a strong and distinctive image for our area. Our promise, 'delivering epic moments' is focused on redefining our visitor destination experiences.

The development of new festivals under the Giant Adventures brand, in tandem with established events, is

one of the positive steps we took in 2016 to positioning our area as one of the premier tourism destinations on the Island of Ireland. These festivals embody the scale of our ambition to host world-class events, drawing on our mountains and coastline and those stories unique to us.

Giant Adventures Across the Land

Last summer's Giant Adventures programme across the district were a fabulous quartet of festivals from Strangford to Slieve Gullion. If you enjoyed 'Skiffie World 2016', 'Festival of Flight', 'Wake the Giant' or 'Footsteps in the Forest', good news, we've even more Giant

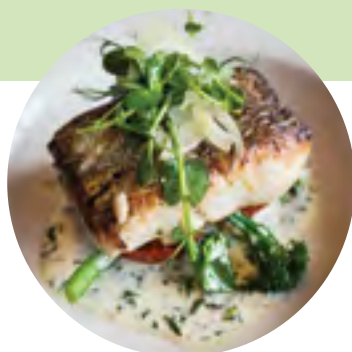
Adventures planned for 2017, plus a new addition, 'The City of Merchants'. Created to boost our beautiful region's tourist appeal, the Giant Adventures festivals, and related events, were enjoyed by approximately 250,000 visitors from as far away as Tanzania, Canada, USA and across Europe and Great Britain, and generated around £8m for the local economy.

For event info check out
visitmournemountains.co.uk

Ballykinler Armstrong Hut for Down County Museum



Down County Museum is planning to reconstruct one of the historic 'Armstrong' huts salvaged from Ballykinler Camp when they were demolished in 2013. The hut will be rebuilt in the Old Gaol/Museum courtyard. A new exhibition will be created telling the story of the Camp and its occupants from about 1900 to recent times, including men who trained for trench warfare in World War One and internees held there in 1920-21. The Museum would like to work with members of the Ballykinler community and surrounding area to gather artefacts and all history to create a unique exhibition once the hut has been constructed in the Museum courtyard. If you would like to get involved, please email: mail@downcountymuseum.com



Food for Thought...

Held as part of the NI Year of Food and Drink, our 'Food Junction' initiative showcased the fantastic produce available right on our doorstep during 2016 and was a fantastic year for local foodies. Every month there were food tours, twilight markets, beer festivals and special menus. The themed markets at our summer events were a big hit, and we've since seen our waiting list for new traders grow.

This year we are building upon this success with even more food and drink events. Our brand new 'Coastal Flavours and Culinary Feasts' festival was a nine day

celebration held during March. The festival featured producers and restaurateurs from our area and showcased our world-class food and drink.

Plans are already in place to continue featuring local produce in all our events throughout the year. If you are a local food producer, retailer or restaurateur and want to know how you can get involved, email our events team: info@nmandd.org.

For more information on our events, check out our facebook page and website visitmournemountains.co.uk

Epic Events in 2017

3-4 June

Footsteps in the Forest
Slieve Gullion Forest Park

23-25 June

Mourne International Walking Festival

22-23 July

Skiffie, Strangford Lough
Delamont Country Park

4-5 August

Festival of Flight
Newcastle

26-27 August

Wake the Giant
Warrenpoint

30 September-1 October

City of Merchants
Newry

27 October

Hallowe'en
Newry

31 October

Hallowe'en
Newcastle

23 November

Christmas Switch On
Newry

24 November

Christmas Switch On
Downpatrick

visitmournemountains.org

Save the Dates

Promoting Irish language in the District

We are dedicated to facilitating and protecting the Irish language as part of our shared cultural heritage. **We therefore undertake to:**

- accept and respond to correspondence in Irish
- enhance and protect the visibility of Irish through bilingual signage
- erect bilingual street/road nameplates, if requested by residents
- provide opportunities to use Irish in social and community settings
- provide Irish versions of key corporate documents on request
- increase awareness to the economic and social value of Irish
- meet all our obligations towards the Irish language under the European Charter for Regional or Minority languages

If you would like to learn Irish, our Irish Language Unit will signpost you to appropriate courses and connect you with Irish speakers throughout the area.

For more information on our work promoting Irish language in the district please contact our Irish language Unit on 028 3031 3076 or email: info@nmandd.org

Bailte Fearainn – Townlands Naming our Places

By promoting the ancient townland names and placenames of the area and including townland names on street and road signage, we believe this helps connect people to the land and reaffirms their sense of place.

Irish	English	Meaning
Áth na Long	Annalong	Ford of the ships
Rinn an Mhadaidh	Ringawaddy	Point or promontory of the dog
Ard Ghlais	Ardglass	Green height
Fofannaigh	Fofanny	Place abounding in thistles
Cill Ó Laoch	Killyleagh	Church of the descendants of Laoch
An Duifrian	Dufferin	Derivation of Dubhthrian or black third (a division of land)
Baile Caol	Ballykeel	Narrow townland
Lios Liath	Lislea	Grey fort
Alt na Meacan	Altnamackan	Glen/height of the Parsnips
Leamhchoill	Longfield	Elmwood
Áth na nGeallóg	Aghyalloge	Ford of the sticklebacks/whitebellied eels
Cill Shléibhe	Killeavy	Church of the mountain
Creamhchoill	Cranfield	Wood of the wild garlic
Baile Mhic Giolla Mhártain	Ballymartin	Gilmartin's townland



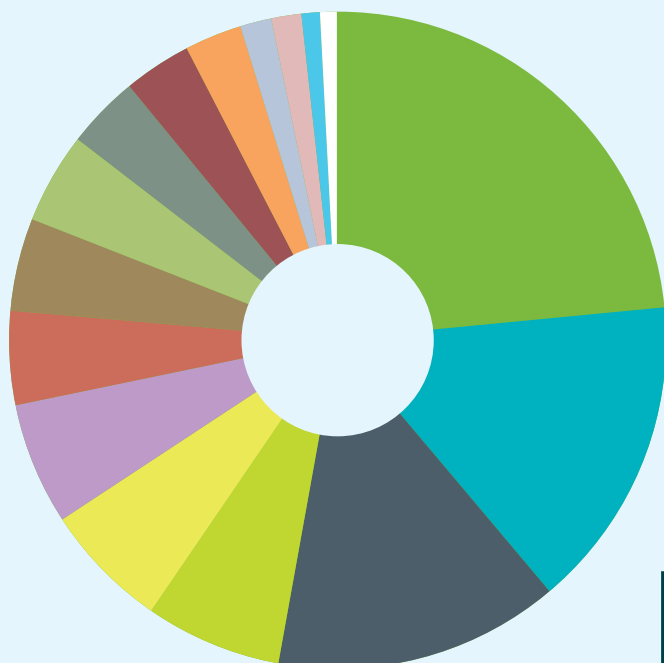
Student Placements and Work Experience Opportunities

Every year we offer a number of both paid and unpaid student training placements as well as work experience for schools. All are supervised and mentored by Council employees.

Student placements last for up to one year. In 2015/2016 we had a total of 13 placements, while in the current year we have nine students in departments ranging from Engineering, Health and Wellbeing, IT and Marketing to Leisure, PCSP and Building Control. **To find out more, call 0300 013 2233.**

Rates

In our Annual Report we have highlighted our achievements in 2016 and detailed our plans for the coming year. We have now set the district rate for the year ahead which will be used to deliver our services and facilities. The chart below demonstrates the cost per service based on an average household valued at £100,000.



**2017-2018 Cost of Services
per Household valued at £100k**
Cost based on £780 p.a.

23%	Waste Collection (£183)
15%	Capital Financing (£120)
14%	Recreation & Sport (£109)
7%	Tourism (£53)
6%	Other Cleaning & Public (£50)
6%	Environmental Health (£46)
5%	Community Services (£36)
5%	Culture & Heritage (£36)
4%	Democratic Representation and Management (£34)
4%	Economic & EU Rural Development (£28)
3%	Other Services (£26)
3%	Minor Works / Licencing / Cemeteries (£22)
2%	Planning Policy (£13)
1%	Building Control (£11)
1%	Waste Disposal (£7)
1%	Community Planning (£7)



**Full details can be found in
our annual report.
To download a copy, go to:
[newrymournedown.org/
annual_report_released](http://newrymournedown.org/annual_report_released)**

For information on
your rates bill visit
nidirect.gov.uk/rates

or contact Land and Property
Service (LPS) helpline
0300 200 7801 (calls
charged at local rate)

For information about
district rates contact Newry,
Mourne and Down District
Council at **0300 013 2233**

**Have
your
say...**



**Liam Hannaway
Chief Executive**

We hope you enjoyed this edition of NMD Connect and we are interested in your comments. If there are any matters within your community that you would like us to address we would love to hear from you.

Please email us
**info@
nmandd.org**

We strive to provide high-quality services to everyone, every day. But we also accept that sometimes things do go wrong. When that happens, we want to know - because it tells us exactly what to improve.

To register a complaint:

- Speak to a member of staff responsible for the service
- Write to or email Council at **complaints@nmandd.org**
- Fill in the complaints form, available from our staffed premises, and send it to the Customer Services office at the address on the leaflet.

Getting in touch - useful numbers

Arts Centres and Museums

Down Arts Centre
Downpatrick
028 4461 0747

Down County Museum
Downpatrick
028 4461 5218

Newry & Mourne Museum
Bagenal's Castle, Newry
028 3031 3182

Sean Hollywood Arts Centre
Newry
028 3031 3180

Cemeteries

0300 013 2233
Lough Inch, Ballynahinch
Monkshill, Newry
Struell, Downpatrick
Rostrevor
Warrenpoint

Community Centres

Ballynahinch
028 9756 1950

Bessbrook
028 3083 9666

Bridge Centre
Killyleagh
028 4482 8648

Cloughreagh
028 3083 8454

Crossmaglen
028 3086 1949

Dan Rice Hall
Drumaness
028 97 561449

The Market House
Ballynahinch
028 9756 4050

Country Parks

Delamont Country Park
028 4482 8333

Kilbroney Park
028 4173 8134

Slieve Gullion Country Park
028 3031 3170

Leisure Centres

Ballymote Health and Wellbeing Centre
028 4461 2919

Down Leisure Centre
Downpatrick
028 4461 3426

Kilkeel Leisure Centre
028 4176 4666

Newcastle Centre Complex including Tropicana, Rock Pool and Castle Park
028 4372 5034

Newry Leisure Centre
(swimming pool)
028 3031 3190

Newry Sports Centre
028 3031 3130

St Colman's Sports Complex
028 3025 6166

Visitor Information Centres

Crossmaglen
028 3086 8900

Kilkeel
028 4176 2525

Newry
028 3031 3170

Newcastle
028 4372 2222

Downpatrick
028 4461 2233

Slieve Gullion
028 3084 8190

Warrenpoint Town Hall and Tourist Office
028 4175 2256

Household Recycling Centres



0300 013 2233
Aughnagun
Ballykine, Ballynahinch
Bann Road, Castlewellan
Camlough
Cloonagh Road, Downpatrick
Crossmaglen
Drumakelly
Hilltown
Kilkeel
Newry
Newtownhamilton
Warrenpoint

Others

Environmental Health
Animal Welfare
028 3751 5800

Planning
0300 200 7830

0300
013 2233
www.newrymournedown.org

 /nmdcouncil
 @nmdcouncil

This document is available in other formats on request

Return Address: Oifig Dhún Pádraig, Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre, Downshire Estate
Ardglass Road, Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

