

Ardglass

Village Renewal and Development Plan

Addendum and Updated Action Plan: December 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 Ardglass in January 2014. 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. Ardglass- Review of 2014 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 @ Jan 2017	Priority H, M, L	Time frame	Actions
1. Environmental Improvements										
1.1	Provide flower beds, tree planting, additional street furniture with view to entering village in Ulster in Bloom competition	Residents Group, NMDDC, NIHE, School, Conservation Volunteers, Groundwork NI, Woodland Trust	H	S-M	RDP, NMDDC	N/A	Project Complete	N/A	N/A	No further Action Required
1.2	Annual Community Clean Up to be undertaken	ADA, NMDDC, Tidy NI, Primary School	M	Per Annum	RDP, NMDDC	N/A	As part of annual festival beach clean takes place	N/A	N/A	No further action required – continue to maintain beach clean up.
1.3	Mount campaign locally to encourage owners to use poop scoops and lobby NMDDC to take action against offenders	ADA, NMDDC	H	S-M	RDP, NMDDC	N/A	Ongoing	M	S	Project to remain in plan.
1.4	Provide entrance features at each end of village	ADA, NMDDC, Groundwork NI	H	S-M	RDP, NMDDC	N/A	New community garden One at Strangford Rd disappeared Need gateways	H	S	Liaise with wider community in relation to agreed gateway features. Engage with statutory authorities with regard to feasibility and implementation.

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1.5	Ensure existing castles and buildings are retained and maintained – especially Isabella’s Tower	ADA, NMDDC, Groundwork NI		L	RDP, NMDDC, NIEAHB, HLF	N/A	Work has been done to Jordan’s Castle. Now in DfC ownership. Currently trying to get group of volunteer key holders.	M	M/L	Continue to engage with wider community with regard to creation of volunteering group. Continue to liaise with key stakeholder regarding maintenance of key landmarks.	
1.6	Clean up and improve beach	ADA, NMDDC		S	NMDDC	N/A	Project Complete	N/A	N/A	See project 2	
1.7	Lobby Transport NI to improve footpaths and lighting at specified locations	ADA, TNI, NMDDC		S-M	TNI	N/A	Ongoing ADA supported application for greenway from Ardglass to Killough	H	S-M	Project to remain in plan. Continue to liaise with statutory bodies in relation to project delivery.	
1.8	Provide “covers” for selected derelict buildings	ADA, NMDDC		M-L	RDP, NMDDC, DfC	N/A	Buildings overlooking harbour need work. Development of a paint scheme for Arms Hotel is currently being progressed with DfI	M	M-L	Continue to engage with wider community regarding possible options for old railway. Continue to engage with DfI to deliver paint scheme for Arms Hotel.	
1.9	Lobby for improvements to derelict buildings	ADA, NMDDC		L	RDP, NMDDC	N/A	Same as above			Project to remain in plan. Tackling Dereliction is critical, needs private sector support: a lot of privately owned properties. (link with project 1.8).	
1.10	Support shop owners to improve shop fronts	ADA, Traders, NMDDC, SDLP		S-M	RDP, NMDDC	N/A	SDLP are looking for derelict and shopfront grants	H-M	S	Continue to engage with statutory agencies in relation to delivery of project.	

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1.11	Boardwalk around the Harbour on top of the rocks out to the pier. Would complement the recently refurbished breakwater bathhouse	NMDDC, ADA, TOURISM NI, NIW		M-L	CCF, RPD	New project raised via community representatives during site visit. Project lead to be identified Project subject to appropriate feasibility studies and analysis to determine feasibility of completion Project subject to statutory approvals and securing finance for delivery				
1.12	Castle Place – Potential improvement works	NMDDC, ADA, Priv		M	RPD	New project raised via community representatives during site visit. Project lead to be identified Project subject to appropriate feasibility studies and analysis to determine feasibility of completion Project subject to statutory approvals and securing finance for delivery				
1.13	Training for businesses e.g. 'Designated workplace village' and 'World Host Training'	NMDDC, ADA, Priv.		M	RPD	New project raised via community representatives during site visit. Project lead to be identified Project subject to appropriate scope to determine private sector buy in and training needs requirements				
1.14	Regeneration of the Old Arms Hotel – includes addressing parking issues outside	TOURISM NI, ADA, NMDDC		M-L	Tourism NI, RPD, BLF	New project raised via community representatives during site visit. Project lead to be identified Project subject to appropriate feasibility studies and analysis to determine feasibility of completion Project subject to statutory approvals and securing finance for delivery				

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2. Community Facilities										
2.1	Development of youth club and computer centre	ADA, Parents		S-M	SEELB, EFF	N/A	Ongoing	M	S	Project to remain in plan.
2.2	Lobby for improvements to library service	ADA, Other Community/Voluntary Organisations		S-M	Libraries NI	N/A	Ongoing	M	S-M	Project to remain in plan.
2.3	Explore potential for additional workspace in village in conjunction with Down Business Centre	ADA, DBC, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, EFF, NMDDC	N/A	No progress as yet.	L	M	Project to remain in plan.
3. Infrastructure & Services										
3.1	Devise and deliver programme of activities including meals on wheels, day trips and indoor activities for older people.	Friendship Group, SEHSCT		S-M	SEHSCT, Big Lottery	N/A	Pensioners club exists. Street Safe are doing some initiatives.	M	S-M	Engage with key stakeholders in order to support existing clubs and explore potential to improve initiative throughout wider community.
3.2	Improve communications locally by creating community notice boards, newsletter and village Facebook site.	ADA, Other Community/Voluntary Organisations		M	RDP	N/A	Numerous Facebook sites setup including ardglasstour.com which contains all businesses on it	M	S	Potential to explore multiple forms of communication and media in order to facilitate a wide demographic within the village.

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3.3	Deliver capacity building programme for local community and voluntary groups	ADA, CDRCN		M	CDRCN	N/A	CDRCN work ongoing including good governance training	M	S	Project ongoing and to remain in plan.	
3.4	Establish Neighbourhood Watch scheme and support Safer Streets Scheme			S-M		N/A	Ongoing Not a high priority as PCSP and residents' association do ongoing initiatives but keep it in as longer terms goal – check with PCSP.	L	S	Project ongoing and part of longer term plans for the village. Project to remain in plan.	
3.5	Promote grant aid schemes for insulation and energy efficiency	ADA, Energy Saving Trust NI		S-M		N/A	Project Complete – MARA project finished	N/A	N/A	No further Action required	
3.6	Provide defibrillator and train locals in its use	ADA		S-M	Sponsorship / Fund Raising	N/A	At least four installed across the villages - Complete	N/A	N/A	No further Action required	

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3.7	Lobby for pedestrian crossing/traffic lights/ramps on Downpatrick Road and other key locations	ADA, NMDDC		M-L	TNI	N/A	Ongoing - Footpaths still required, flashing lights at the school – still priority	H	S	Project to remain in plan as high priority. Continue to engage with statutory agencies in relation to feasibility, delivery and completion of project.	
3.8	Ask police to monitor parking infringements and take necessary enforcement action	ADA, NMDDC		S-M	PSNI	N/A	Ongoing	M	S	Project to remain in plan and continue to liaise with PSNI regarding project delivery.	
3.9	Ask police to continue to monitor speeding through and around village	ADA, NMDDC		S-M	PSNI	N/A	Ongoing	H	S	Project to remain in plan and continue to liaise with PSNI regarding project delivery.	
3.10	Lobby for more off-street car parking	ADA, Other Community/Voluntary Organisations		S-M	TNI	N/A	Parking at the Meadow. Ongoing but not priority	L	M	Project to remain in plan.	

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3.11	Lobby for new fish processing factory	ADA, NMDDC, Fishing Interests			M-L	EFF, CCF, DBC	N/A	Consult Seafairers & Fishermen's Mission	M	M-L	Continue to consult with relevant stakeholders with regard to feasibility of project.		
3.12	Support fishing interests to have repair dock at harbour	ADA, NMDDC, Fishing Interests			M-L	EFF, CCF	N/A	Consult Seafairers & Fishermen's Mission			As above		
3.13	Support fishing interests to have drying out berth at harbour	ADA, NMDDC, Fishing Interests			M-L	EFF, CCF	N/A	Consult Seafairers & Fishermen's Mission (Rod Hainey)			As above		
3.14	Support fishing interests to have gates added to old dock	ADA, NMDDC, Fishing Interests			M-L	EFF, CCF	N/A	Consult Seafairers & Fishermen's Mission (Rod Hainey)			As above		

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	Green	Action substantially complete											
	Yellow	Ongoing											
	Red	Major constraint to implementation											
	Orange	New Project											
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	3.15	Establishment of Parent / Teacher Association (PTA) at Primary School		ADA, Com, PS, CDRCN	H	S	-	Engage with wider community and key stakeholders regarding the establishment of a Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Liaise with interagency groups in relation to starting-up and support of the association.					
4. Tourism, Leisure & Recreation													
	4.1	Provide all weather multi-sports complex and changing facilities at the Meadow		ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, NIHE, NMDDC	N/A	Work starting soon for a grass turf pitch Council owned land Site also used for Annual Festival	H	S	Continue to monitor project progress and maintain engagement with key stakeholder to ensure project delivery and completion.	
	4.2	Provision of MUGA to serve lower end of village		ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, NIHE, NMDDC	N/A	Done – at back of Seaview. Some objections re, fencing and lighting. Need for a park at lower end of the town, few families at the Meadow.	N/A	N/A	No further Action required.	
	4.3	Provision of outdoor gym trail at the Meadow		ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, NIHE, NMDDC	N/A	Ongoing	M	S-M	Project to remain in plan.	

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	4.4	Provide water recreational activities at harbour	ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, Sport NI, NMDDC	N/A	Project Ongoing. There is a need for development around the harbour. The Marina is in private ownership and rests along the south-east coast canoe trail.	M/L	M	Continue to engage with private landowners regarding redevelopment of marina. Continue to consult wider community in relation to potential recreational options within harbour.
	4.5	Explore potential for outdoor bowling green, putting green and tennis courts	ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, Sport NI, NMDDC	N/A	Project Ongoing, Although Bowling Club has previously closed. Potential to revive the bowling club by relocating to a new bowling green at the Meadow.	M	S-M	Liaise with private landowners as to potential acquisition of land at meadows to explore potential for outdoor bowling green, putting green and tennis courts. Engage with statutory agencies and wider community as to feasibility and delivery of project.
	4.6	Market and promote Ardglass as a heritage village with two main themes, built heritage and fishing	ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, NMDDC, NIEA HB, DFC, HLF	N/A	Ongoing via various community social media channels promoting the village	M	S-M	Continue to engage with key agencies with regard to implementation, management and delivery of project.

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4.7	Develop Halloween Festival in Ardglass to make use of castles e.g. ghost trails etc.	ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, NMDDC, NIEA HB, DFC, HLF	N/A	Various events taking place in the village: - Annual Ardglass Festival - Viking Festival Individual festivals by clubs and groups etc.	L	M	Continue to engage with wider community in relation to feasibility of a Halloween festival and seek relevant funding options.	
4.8	Develop other events around harbour to include yachting regatta and water sports centre	ADA, NMDDC, local businesses, Marina, Other Community/ Voluntary Organisations		S-M	RDP, NMDDC, CCF	N/A	opportunities for additional events/activities E.g. Rowing Club.	L	M-L	Engage with wider community as to possible options at the harbour. Liaise with statutory agencies regarding the feasibility of preferred water based activities.	
4.9	Support additional accommodation especially hotel and guesthouses; explore potential for transit site for camper vans	ADA, NMDDC		S-M	RDP, EFF, TOURISM NI	N/A	Additional accommodation in the village – two new B&Bs. Aspiration to renovate the Arms Hotel into 6-7 room guesthouse. Golf course is one of the best in the UK – potential to attract more overnight visitors.	H	M	Engage with wider community and business owners regarding preferred options. Liaise with NMDDC and Tourism NI in relation to preferred options and in order to assess feasibility for project.	
4.10	Produce general tourism brochure on area	ADA, NMDDC, Local Businesses		S-M	RDP, NMDDC, CCF, Sponsorship	N/A	Done and ongoing.	N/A	N/A	No Further Action Required	
4.11	Walkway around the pitch at the Gaelic Club.	Gaelic club, NMDDC, ADA	M	S-M	RDP	New project raised via community representatives during site visit. Project subject to statutory approvals and securing finance for delivery.					

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	4.12	Outdoor Fitness Equipment at site adjacent Primary School	NMDDC, ADA, PLO, PS, ORNI	M-H	S-M	RDP, HLF, BLF, Fundraising	New project raised via community to explore potential to develop outdoor fitness equipment at site adjacent Primary School. Engage with wider community, statutory bodies and private land owners regarding project. Assess feasibility for project, source statutory approvals and seek funding.				
Stakeholders and Potential Funders	<p>ADA – Ardglass Development Association NMDDC – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council DBC – Down Business Centre TOURISM NI - Northern Ireland Tourist Board Priv - Private sector NIW – Northern Ireland Water Lot – Lottery funding DCAL – Department for Culture, Arts and leisure NIHE – Northern Ireland Housing Executive SEHSCT – South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust CCF – Coastal Communities Fund</p> <p>TNI – Transport NI DRAP – Down Rural Area Partnership SNI – Sport Northern Ireland RDP – Rural Development Programme SLF- Sports Lottery funding BLF- Big lottery funding NITHC – Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company EFF – European Fisheries Fund NIEA HB – Northern Ireland Environment Agency – Historic Buildings PLO – Private Land Owner ORNI – Outdoor Recreation NI</p>										