

# Barnmeen Village Renewal and Development Plans

Final Report  
September 2012



Prepared for



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## Revision Schedule

### Barnmeen – Renewal and Development Plan September 2012

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
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# 1 Introduction

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 was launched to build capacity within local communities and provide support for community economic development in the most disadvantaged rural areas. The NIRDP is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. A core principal of the approach to broader rural development in Northern Ireland has been and continues to be that the communities which most closely experience problems should be involved in the design and delivery of projects and programmes to tackle such problems and, thus, improve their quality of life.

The NIRDP contains a number of measures under each axis. These measures are specific areas where support is to be targeted. Each measure was selected from a menu of options provided by the European Union in order to target the aspects of rural life that are most important to Northern Ireland. Measure 3.5 targets Village Renewal and Development with the aim of “creating long term visions for villages and surrounding areas and to support initiatives promoting cross-community development”.

The objective is to enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full potential of their area is achieved and also to support integrated village initiatives.

## 1.1 How is the Programme administered at a local level?

The Southern Organisation for Action in Rural areas (SOAR) is the Joint Committee and Local Action Group for the Craigavon, Armagh and Newry & Mourne Council areas. They are responsible for the administration of the NIRDP within the rural areas of Craigavon, Armagh and Newry. SOAR local action group is comprised of local Councillors and Social Partner Representatives. Craigavon Borough Council acts as the Lead Council with responsibility for all financial and administrative matters.

## 1.2 Village Renewal and Development

Newry and Mourne District Council secured funding under Measure 3.5 for the preparation of Village Renewal and Development Plans for 13 pre-selected villages and clusters across the Newry and Mourne District Council Area.

URS were commissioned by Newry and Mourne District Council to facilitate the development of these plans. The plans will be prepared between February and June 2012, with potentially a second stage which will involve selected projects being taken forward to the stage of submitting an outline planning application, making a submission for funding or being ready to feed into an economic appraisal.

## 1.3 Methodology

This Village Renewal and Development Plan has been developed by the community for the community. The methodology was strongly consultation based and allowed a range of stakeholders including NMDC, local Councillors, community and voluntary groups and the general public to get involved.



for Government (PfG) and the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI). The Strategy takes account of key driving forces such as population growth and movement, demographic change, the increasing number of households, transportation needs, climate change and the spatial implications of divisions that still exist in our society. The RDS is not operational planning policy which is issued through Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) published by the Department of the Environment (DOE).

The RDS has a statutory basis under the Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, and the Order requires Departments to “have regard to the regional development strategy”.

The Strategy has four key elements:

- A Spatial Development Strategy which divides the region into 5 components based on functions and geography;
- Guidance at two levels;
  1. Regional level that is to be applied to all parts of the region, and
  2. Specific guidance for each element of the Spatial Framework
- A Regionally Significant Economic Infrastructure section which identifies the need to consider strategic infrastructure projects;
- Implementation.

The aims of the RDS:

- Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland;
- Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Londonderry as the principal city of the North West;
- Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential;
- Promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities;
- Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places;
- Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake;
- Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and
- Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world.

## 1.4 Policy Context

### 1.4.1 Regional Development Strategy 2035 ‘Building a Better Future’

The RDS provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. It does not redefine the other departments’ strategies but compliments them with a spatial perspective.

The RDS 2035 revises the original strategy published in 2001 and amended in 2008. The RDS influences various government strategy including the Programme

Chapter 3 of the RDS sets out the strategic guidance for the region focusing on the key principles of the economy, society and the environment. The guidance is also split into Regional Guidance (RG) and Spatial Framework Guidance (SFG).

There is a dedicated section regarding Rural Northern Ireland and the key guidance is set out below:

**SFG13: Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside**

- Establish the role of multi-functional town centres
- Connect rural and urban areas
- Revitalise small towns and villages
- Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations
- Encourage sustainable and sensitive development

**SFG14: Improve accessibility for rural communities**

- Improve the overall connectivity of rural communities to services and other parts of the Region by exploring innovative ways of bringing these services to the communities
- Integrate local transport

**1.4.2 Rural White Paper Action Plan (Draft)**

The Rural White Paper Action Plan is an Executive initiative aimed at addressing key issues and challenges facing rural communities. The development of the Action Plan is being led by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Public consultation on the draft Action Plan commenced on 13 March 2011 and finished on 13 June 2011, with the final Rural White Paper Action Plan anticipated to be published in early 2012.

The draft Rural White Paper Action Plan has been developed following extensive consultation with the Rural White Paper Stakeholder Advisory Group.

The RWP has been developed to provide a strategic framework for rural policy for the next ten years and will help guide the work of the Executive in this significant and challenging area.

The RWP identifies the Rural Vision:

**Our vision** is of a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region. We envisage **vibrant, strong rural communities**, resilient and receptive to global trends through **strong inter-linkages with urban areas** and market towns.

**Our vision** is for rural economies adapting to global trends and **improved infrastructure and transport systems** to ensure rural dwellers can avail of employment opportunities and **key services**.

**Our vision** is for rural areas that maintain their distinctive features as places of agricultural production, areas of outstanding beauty, places of social, historic and cultural uniqueness and places with a **strong community infrastructure** which can avail of **economic, social and cultural opportunities**.

**Our vision** is for the continuing development of **linkages between rural and urban** areas so that everyone can enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of rural places and the facilities and services of larger towns and cities.

**Draft Rural White Paper, p5**

In order to achieve the Vision the RWP identifies 5 key themes:

1. Urban / Rural Linkages
  - To support the development of an efficient transport and infrastructure system that facilitates effective rural – urban inter-linkages;
2. Access to Services
  - To promote fair and equitable access to key services for all rural dwellers;
3. Sustainable Rural Communities
  - To promote tolerance, health, well-being and inclusion for rural dwellers;
  - Seek to minimise, where it exists, disadvantage, poverty, social exclusion and inequality amongst those living in rural areas and in particularly amongst vulnerable groups;
  - To maintain a viable economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure in rural areas and seek to ensure that regional infrastructure disparities are minimised;
  - To preserve the cultural and social uniqueness of rural community life linked to its smaller population settlement;
  - To promote the development of effective and inclusive rural governance structures and sufficient community capacity to engage in these structures;
  - To enhance and refine the Rural Development Programme to ensure the maximum benefit from future Programmes for rural communities;

4. Sustainable Rural Economies

- To provide rural businesses with appropriate support to ensure the development of dynamic and innovative rural economies;
- To seek to maximise employment opportunities for rural dwellers;

5. Sustainable Countryside

- To support the development of a more sustainable agricultural sector, a more competitive agri-food sector and enhanced agri-environmental links;
- To safeguard the beauty and fabric of our rural areas and increase opportunities for all to enjoy the benefits of the countryside.

The RWP does on to set out a detailed Action Plan which is based on the 5 key themes set out above, consisting of some 90 specific actions.

**1.4.3 Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-2015**

This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to tackle rural poverty and social isolation.

The framework aims to:

- Build on the work of the Rural Anti-Poverty / Social Inclusion Framework 2008-2011;
- Provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people / groups in rural areas;
- Develop programmes / interventions to help alleviate poverty / social isolation amongst vulnerable people / groups in rural areas;
- Complement and add value to existing government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation;
- Empower rural communities to help themselves.

Programmes Implemented through the 2008-2011 Framework

1. Childcare Programme
2. Assisted Rural Transport Scheme (ARTS)
3. Maximising Access to Services, Benefits and Grants

4. Rural Challenge Programme

5. Rural Support

6. Rural Fuel Poverty

7. Community Development

**Action Plan 2011-2015**

Project	Budget
Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS – DRD)	1,800,000
Maximising Access Rural Areas (MARA – DHSSPS / PHA)	2,589,800
Community Development	4,800,000
Health Checks (PHA / Health Trusts)	383,000
Rural Support	351,000
Rural Challenge (Small Grants)	1,000,000
Older Peoples Rural Project 9Health Trusts / DHSSPS)	878,000
Youth Employability Programme (Advantage / DEL)	203,000
Youth Enterprise Scheme – Northern Periphery Programme	181,000
Safe Drinking Water Scheme	33,500
Emerging Issues	2,230,700
Potential Post Office Diversification Scheme	TBA
Vulnerable Groups in Rural Society Research Programme	TBA
<b>Capital projects</b>	
Fuel Poverty	1,871,605
MARA	68,080
Health Checks (PHA / Health Trusts)	60,315
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.45 M</b>

#### **1.4.4 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013**

The NI Rural Development Programme was approved by the European Commission in July 2007 and has three key elements:

Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors by supporting restructuring, development and innovation. Key measures include vocational training, adding value to agricultural products and marketing, farm modernisation and improving the supply chain. The upskilling and reskilling opportunities in this axis are a means of targeting farmer's income and potential to be more competitive both within farming, or outside if that is more appropriate.

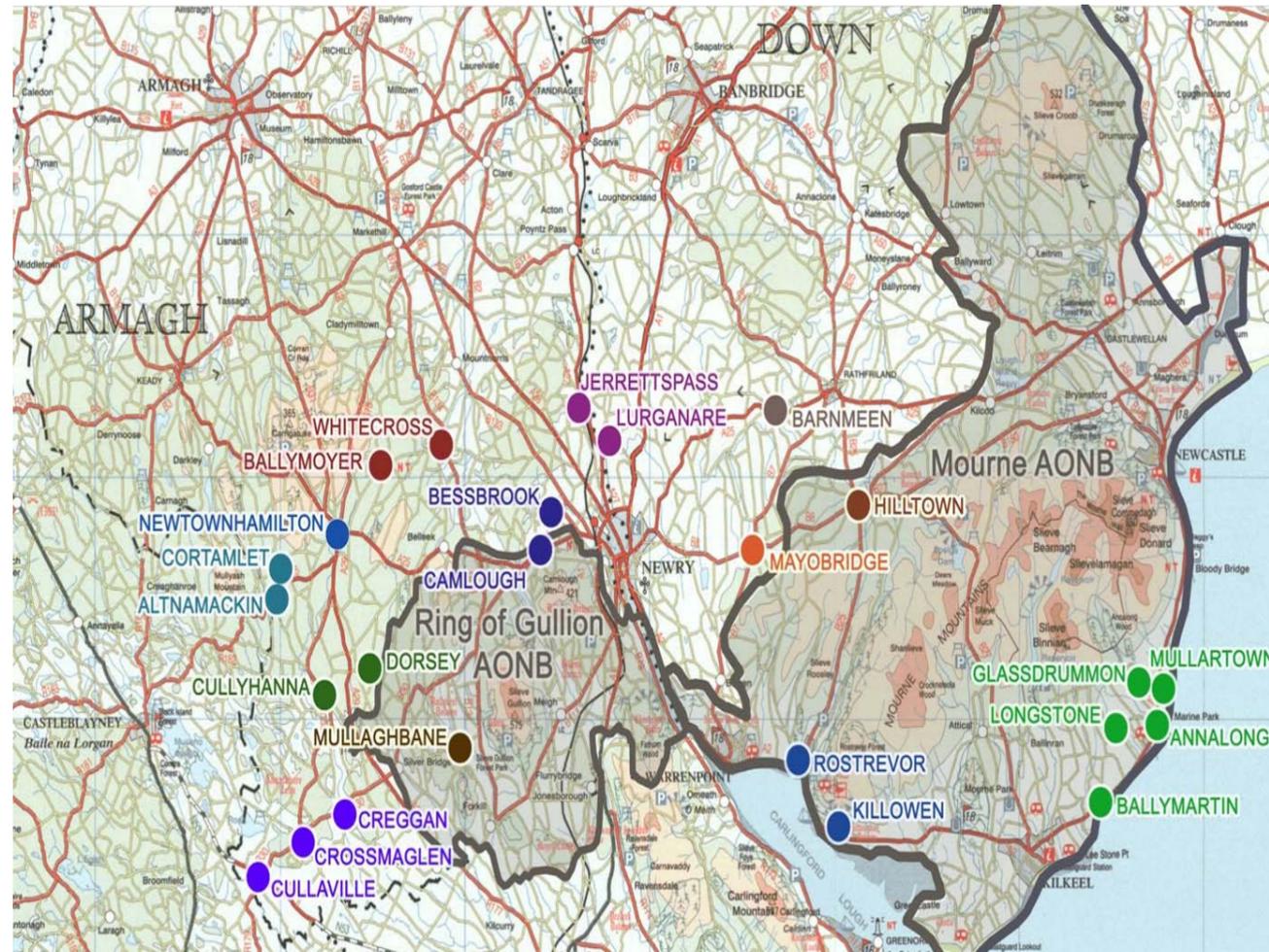
Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management. Key measures include agri-environment programmes and less favoured area compensation schemes.

Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of economic activity. Key measures include business creation, farm diversification, encouragement of tourism activities, support for basic services for the rural economy, village renewal and conservation / upgrading of the rural heritage.

#### **1.4.5 INTERREG IV Programme (Cross Border Rural Development)**

The INTERREG IV Programme focuses on the strategic development of the North and border counties of the South. The funds are targeted towards those disadvantaged rural communities that are most in need of cross border support

## 2 Overview



Although a number of villages have been included in a cluster for the purposes of the Village Renewal programme, Barnmeen has been defined as a single settlement with its own stand alone plan. The Barnmeen plan will identify the issues and current infrastructure within the village and include an action plan which identifies each of the future projects for the future development of the settlement.

### 3 Barnmeen Plan

#### 3.1 Town Profile

The settlement development limit has been designated to take account of land with extant planning permission for housing and sites that have not yet been approved but are at a stage in the planning application process where there is reasonable expectation that approval will be granted. The settlement development limit has been drawn to take account of the role of the settlement while protecting its extremely attractive natural surroundings. Three nodes have been identified for Barnmeen. The eastern node comprises Ivy Bridge Cottages and the site of a former factory, which is now the focus for new residential development. The more northerly of the two western nodes comprises St. Colman’s Church, primary school and community centre while the southern node encompasses St. Patrick’s Villas and a farm group. These two westerly nodes provide limited infill/redevelopment opportunities. There are extensive playing fields further to the west.

Barnmeen is located within the Mayobridge ward.

##### 3.1.1 Ward Information for Mayobridge ward

Profile last updated October 2011.

This page provides information on residents in Mayobridge ward.

##### 3.1.1.1 Geography

Mayobridge ward lies in the following administrative areas:

- Newry & Mourne Local Government District;
- South Down Parliamentary
- South Down Assembly Area 2011/ Westminster Parliamentary Constituency 2008;
- Southern Health and Social Care Trust; and
- Southern Education and Library Board.

Mayobridge ward is made up of the following Super Output Areas (SOAs)

- Mayobridge 1 SOA
- Mayobridge 2 SOA

Neighbouring ward(s): Spelga, Katesbridge, Mayobridge wards are classified as Rural according to the Inter-Departmental Urban-Rural Definition Group.

The nearest hospital to Mayobridge ward (as the crow flies) is Daisy Hill Hospital.

##### 3.1.1.2 Demography

On Census Day 29th April 2001 the resident population of Mayobridge ward was 2987. Of this population:

- 27.5% were under 16 years old and 12.2% were aged 60 and over;
- 51.1% of the population were male and 48.9% were female;
- 85.5% were from a Catholic community background and 14.2% were from a 'Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)' community background;
- 33.0% of persons aged 16 and over were single (never married);
- 32.3 years was the average age of the population; and
- the population density was 0.5 persons per hectare.

Comparisons	WARD	LGD	AA	N.IRELAND
	Mayobridge	Newry & Mourne	South Down	N.I
<b>Census 2001</b>				
<b>Resident population</b>	2987	87058	104658	1685267
<b>Persons under 16 years old (%)</b>	27.5	26.6	25.6	23.6
<b>Persons aged 60 and over (%)</b>	12.2	15.7	16.5	17.6
<b>Males (%)</b>	51.1	49.5	49.8	48.7
<b>Females (%)</b>	48.9	50.5	50.2	51.3
<b>Catholic community background (%)</b>	85.5	80.6	66.3	43.8
<b>Protestant and other Christian</b>	14.2	18.5	31.8	53.1

<b>community background (%)</b>				
<b>Persons aged 16 and over single (never married) (%)</b>	33.0	33.8	32.6	33.1
<b>Average age of population</b>	32.3	34.0	34.8	35.8
<b>Population density (persons per hectare)</b>	0.5	1.0	0.8	1.2
<b>Migration Data Sources</b>				
<b>Health card registrations from non-UK nationals (per 1,000 resident population) (2010)</b>	3.0	8.0	3.4	6.3

(NISRA Census)

The population for Mayobridge ward in 2010 was estimated at 3989, of which 27.5% were children, 34.8% were young working age adults, 27.1% were older working age adults and 10.6% were older people. Young working age adults are defined as 16-39 year olds, and older working age adults as males 40-64 and females 40-59 years. This represents an increase of 33.1% (991 individuals) from the estimated mid-year ward population in 2001.

Population estimates as at 30th June 2010 are shown below.

<b>Comparisons</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>N.IRELAND</b>
	<b>Mayobridge</b>	<b>Newry &amp; Mourne</b>	<b>South Down</b>	<b>N.I</b>
<b>Population Estimates</b>				
<b>Total population (2010)</b>	3989	99880	118332	1799392
<b>Children (%) (2010)</b>	27.5	23.9	22.7	21.2
<b>Young Working Age Adults (%) (2010)</b>	34.8	34.4	33.2	33.1
<b>Older Working Age Adults (%) (2010)</b>	27.1	27.1	28.3	28.5
<b>Older People (%) (2010)</b>	10.6	14.5	15.8	17.1
<b>Population Change 2001-2010 (%)</b>	<i>an increase of 33.1%</i>	<i>an increase of 14.3%</i>	<i>an increase of 12.6%</i>	<i>an increase of 6.5%</i>

In Mayobridge ward there were 65 resident births registered in 2009. Of these, 37 were male births and 28 were female births and 12 (18.5%) births were to unmarried mothers. The median age of mothers of new-born babies in 2009 was 31 and for fathers was 33.

In total 16 deaths were registered in 2009 in Mayobridge ward, of these 9 (56.3%) were under 75 years old. The median age at death was 72.

<b>Comparisons</b>	<b>WARD</b>	<b>LGD</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>N.IRELAND</b>
	<b>Mayobridge</b>	<b>Newry &amp; Mourne</b>	<b>South Down</b>	<b>N.I</b>
<b>Administrative Data</b>				
<b>Total births (2009)</b>	65	1577	1695	24910
<b>Male births (2009)</b>	37	805	855	12799
<b>Female births (2009)</b>	28	772	840	12111
<b>Births to unmarried mothers (%) (2009)</b>	18.5	31.9	33.2	39.8
<b>Median age of mothers of new-born babies (2009)</b>	31	30	30	29
<b>Median age of fathers of new-born babies (2009)</b>	33	32	32	32
<b>Deaths (2009)</b>	16	632	800	14413
<b>Deaths to those aged under 75 (%) (2009)</b>	56.3	43.2	38.4	38.4
<b>Median age at death (2009)</b>	72	77	79	79

(NISRA Demography).

### 3.1.1.3 Deprivation - NIMDM 2010

On the Multiple Deprivation Measure ward level summary Mayobridge ward has an overall rank of 337 out of 582 wards. All wards in Northern Ireland are ranked, 1 being the most deprived (Whiterock in Belfast) and 582 the least deprived (Wallace Park in Lisburn). Wards with ranks of 58 or lower are in the top 10% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland, this means Mayobridge, with a rank of 337, is outside the top 10% most deprived wards. Mayobridge ward's rank of 337 places it in the 50% to 60% band.

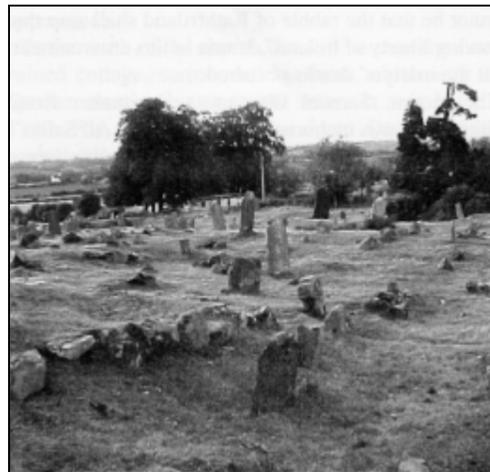
Mayobridge ward lies in Newry & Mourne LGD, which has 30 wards with ranks from 36 (Ballybot) to 480 (Burren and Kilbroney).

Mayobridge ward is ranked 335, while on the employment domain it is ranked 357

Ward Scores and Ranks (NIMDM 2010)	Ward Score	Ward Rank
<b>Multiple Deprivation Measure</b>	-	337
<b>Income Domain</b>	-	335
<b>Employment Domain</b>	-	357
<b>Health Deprivation and Disability Domain</b>	-	259
<b>Education, Skills and Training Domain</b>	-	401
<b>Proximity to Services Domain</b>	-	88
<b>Living Environment Domain</b>	-	524
<b>Crime and Disorder Domain</b>	-	477

Ward Ranks range from 1 (most deprived) to 582 (least deprived)] (NISRA).

3.1.1.4 Village History



Old Drumgath Graveyard

The historic Drumgath Cemetery is the resting place of the 'Barnmeen Martyrs' and their lawyer, Charles Christian. This little-known, ancient site is located half a mile or so beyond the present St. Patrick's Church in the direction of Mayobridge. Local legend claims that Saint Patrick preached to his followers in the district. He ordered a spear to be cast off Tamary Hill, which rises behind the graveyard, in order to choose the site for building a church. From this, the name of the townland and the parish is

said to derive: "Druim an ghaith," meaning "the hill of the spear". While this colourful legend is unlikely to have had any basis in fact, the old graveyard was indeed the location of an early Christian church or monastery. The site itself is circular in shape, like the ringforts of the time. Although overgrown, the remains of some buildings can still be identified. In the south-east corner a stone barrel-arch still stands. The graveyard is covered in crude granite gravestones most of which are now, sadly, illegible. Until Barnmeen graveyard was purchased in the mid-19th. century, Old Drumgath was the main burying ground for the parish.

In 1764, a local woman named Peggy McGivern found an ancient hand-bell somewhere in the hedge near the graveyard. It is similar in appearance to Saint Bronagh's Bell which can be seen in the parish church in Rostrevor. The Drumgath Bell, as it is known, was probably used in the church at the old graveyard. It is made of cast bronze with an iron clapper and is eight inches high. The only decorations are three grooves along the handle. There is a hole to one side, presumably to improve the tone.

For many years it was used on the altar of Barnmeen Church. The bell was given away in 1820 by the parish priest, Fr. Polin, to Issac Glenny of Glenvale. Glenny was a famous local antiquarian whose home is now the Carmelite convent. The Glenny collection was bequeathed to the Belfast Museum and the Drumgath Bell is now on display in the Down County Museum, in Downpatrick.

**THE BARNMEEN MARTYRS**

The story of the men known as the 'Barnmeen Martyrs', despite being almost two hundred years old, is still well remembered in the locality. In 1820, twelve men were tried in Downpatrick Courthouse for the murder of a Rathfriland man, Samuel Duncan. His death took place on the night of 1st. November 1819 on the old road between Newry and Rathfriland, not far from the present Drumgreenagh School. Of these twelve, seven were convicted and sentenced to death. Five of them were hanged outside the gates of the old jail in English Street, Downpatrick, and two more had their death sentences commuted to penal servitude for life.

In the early 19th. century sectarianism was rife in the area. Wolfe Tone had visited Rathfriland in 1792 to meet with local clergy in an attempt to calm local tensions following a sectarian faction fight known as the "Battle" of Ballyknappogue. One person had died and several others were injured in a fight between the Catholic Defenders and Protestant Peep o'Day Boys. The conflict arose out of Protestant objections to Catholics holding a burial at Drumballyronee graveyard on a Sunday. The owner of the Town Inn refused to serve Wolfe Tone. Tone satirically referred to Rathfriland as "that flourishing seat of liberality and refinement" and expressed the opinion that "it cannot be that the rabble of Rathfriland shall stop the growing liberty of Ireland". It was in this environment that the martyrs' deaths occurred.

The victim, Samuel Duncan, a shoemaker from Rathfriland, was on his way home from the All Saints' Day races at Carnbane, near Newry. Local tradition has it that he was drunk and cursing the Pope. It appears that he was struck over the head by someone. He was taken home to Rathfriland, where he died later that night.

Over the next few days, a large number of local men were arrested by local militia and brought to the jail in Downpatrick. They were tried at the assizes on 24th. March 1820. Local people believed the charges to be so preposterous that an acquittal was widely expected. The trial was presided over by Mr. Justice Bushe, a liberal man who went on to become Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. The accused were represented by Mr. Charles Russell Christian, a well-known solicitor from Caddell's Lane in Rathfriland who was a passionate advocate of Catholic Emancipation. The jury were all Protestant, as was normal for the time. They convicted seven of the men, notwithstanding the flimsy evidence against them.

A large number of Barnmeen people travelled to Downpatrick to be present at the execution on Monday 27th. March 1820. In those times hangings were held in public. The condemned men were attended by Fr. McAleenan (later parish priest of Castlewellan) and are said to have shown great composure in meeting their fate. They reportedly asked the priest on the scaffold "Do we die as martyrs?" to which he replied "You do, my children".

Their bodies were taken down and later secretly recovered by their families, rather than be buried within the confines of the jail as was required by law. They were laid overnight in the Catholic Church of Ballykillbeg, between Downpatrick and Clough. On the following day they were returned home in a cortege that was reputedly over two miles long. The bodies were buried side by side in the old graveyard in Drumgath. No memorial marks their resting place except for a single stone over the grave of Hugh Toman. Incidentally, their lawyer, Charles Christian, is also interred in the same graveyard in a prominent railed enclosure with a tablet bearing the words "Christian's Place".

The two men due for transportation were brought to Warrenpoint. There they boarded a prison ship bound for Liverpool and, thereafter, Van Diemen's Land - modern day Tasmania.

The stained-glass windows behind the altar in Barnmeen Church were erected by the people of the parish, in 1880, in memory of the martyrs.

### 3.2 Planning History



<b>PLANNING HISTORY - BARNMEEN</b>					
<b>No.</b>	<b>Planning Application Code</b>	<b>Site Location</b>	<b>Proposed Development</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Expiry Date</b>
BR1	P/2007/0808/F	Parochial Hall, 91 Newry Road, Rathfriland	Demolition of existing store and garage and retention of new disabled wc, store, garage and disabled ramp. Also alterations to entrance wall	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	21/07/2013
BR2	P/2009/1584/F	St Patricks Primary School, 40 Longstone Hill Road, Drumgreenagh, Rathfriland	Alterations and extension to existing primary school to provide new staff office/room	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	16/02/2015
BR3	P/2008/1331/F	Adjacent to and east of 13 Ivy Cottages, Newry Road, Rathfriland	Erection of 5 detached dwellings and domestic garages	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	07/08/2014
BR4	P/2008/1476/F	Adjacent to and 50 metres south-east of 18 Longstone Hill, Newry Road, Rathfriland	Erection of 4 no. semi-detached dwellings and 1 no. detached dwelling	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	10/04/2014

### 3.3 Consultation Process

Stage	Consultation Method	Date	Venue	Attendance / Responses
Draft Proposals	Stakeholder Forum meeting	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	Barnmeen community centre	10
	Questionnaires	March 2012		17
	Open display for Councillors	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Newry & Mourne District Council	15
Draft Village Renewal and Development Plan	2 <sup>nd</sup> Questionnaires returned			
	Draft Plan presented to Action Group	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	Newry & Mourne District Council	
Draft Village Plan and Action Plan	Draft Plan presented to Project Steering Group	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Newry & Mourne District Council	

### 3.4 Consultation Findings

#### 3.4.1 Information Gathering Stage

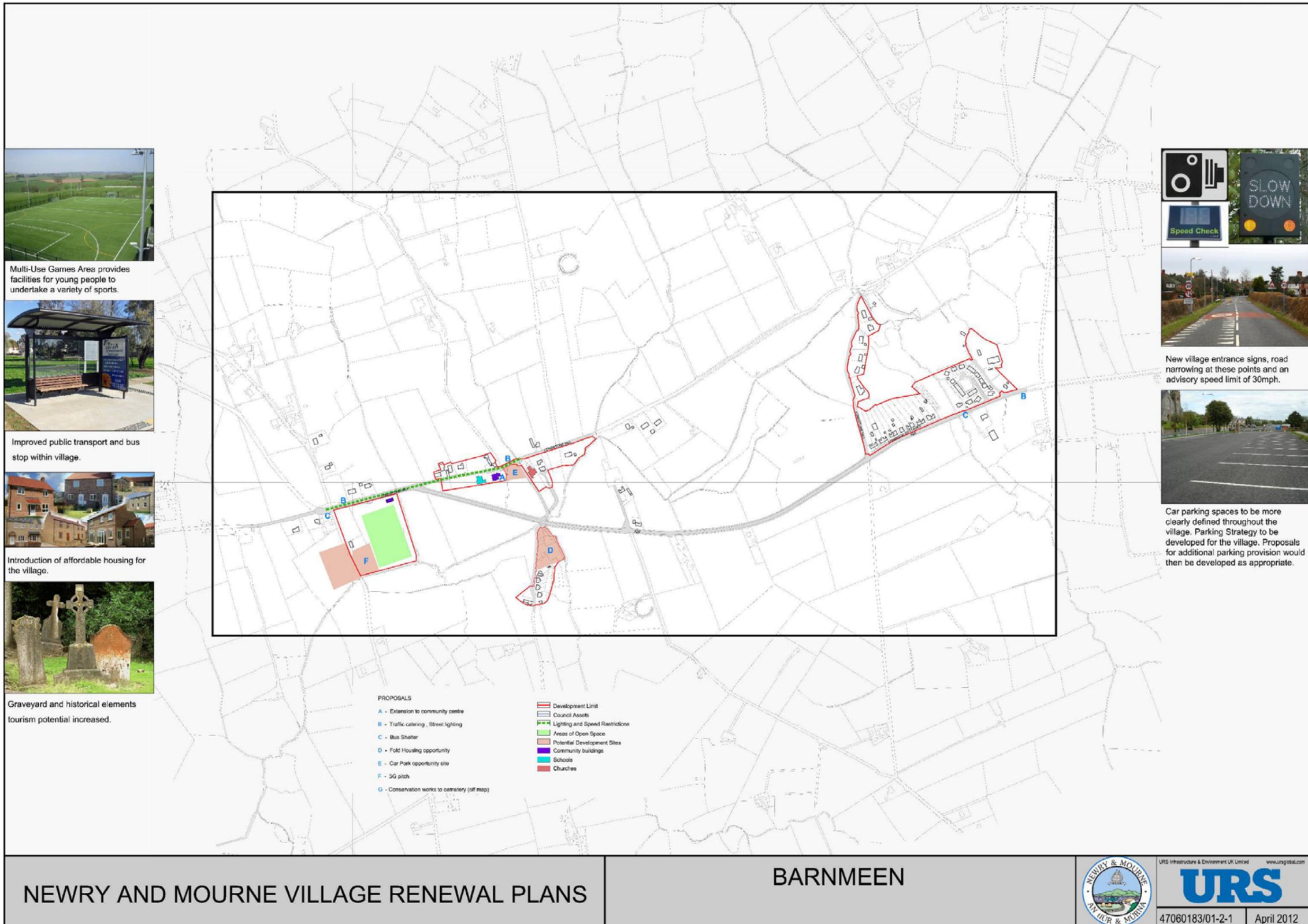
The SWOT Analysis below is a summary of the information gained during the early information gathering stage. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified during the initial consultation workshops and the initial questionnaire which was circulated throughout the community. The questionnaire addressed a range of factors, focusing on 3 general themes of Planning and Infrastructure, Essential Services and Economic and Community Development.

An introductory meeting was held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March with a range of stakeholders in order to gain an understanding of the main community issues.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New play park has been a success</li> <li>• Community centre is a good focal point</li> <li>• Heritage – Barnmeen Martyrs / The Longstone</li> <li>• Has a local pub – but limited opening</li> <li>• After schools club within Gaelic Club has been approved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited kitchen facilities in the community centre</li> <li>• Sewage infrastructure</li> <li>• Street cleaning and lighting</li> <li>• Lack of provision for after schools clubs</li> <li>• No parking for picking up children after school</li> <li>• Lack of parking around community centre</li> <li>• Lack of public transport – elderly confined to their houses</li> <li>• No recycling facilities available</li> <li>• No crèche</li> <li>• No speed limit signs/ traffic calming at primary school</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming signage/ flower beds to mark the village</li> <li>• Historic forts need protected</li> <li>• Preservation of tunnels</li> <li>• Mini bus for community</li> <li>• Old graveyard at Drumgath</li> <li>• An extension to the play park for younger children</li> <li>• Extension to the community centre</li> <li>• Fully floodlit 3G pitch at the Gaelic Club</li> <li>• A village festival</li> <li>• Need for Fold Housing</li> <li>• New car park beside the community centre</li> <li>• Town land signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewage capacity problems</li> <li>• An ageing population</li> <li>• Isolation and fear within elderly community</li> <li>• Traffic speeds</li> <li>• Rights of way have been removed on walking routes by farmers</li> </ul>

#### 3.4.2 Vision

An accessible, welcoming, and safe village, which has its community centre, primary school and church at its heart. The village will further develop its sporting infrastructure to cater for the whole community and to promote health and wellbeing throughout. The heritage and history of Barnmeen will promoted and conserved for future generations.



### 3.4.3 Draft Proposals

The draft Barnmeen Village plan was put on public display in Barneem Community centre for a two week period from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012. In order to gain further feedback from the public a questionnaire was available asking the community to comment on proposals as well as prioritise them.

In total there were 15 of the second set of questionnaires returned, with 17 of the information gathering questionnaires returned (Appendix 1) from a mixture of members of community groups and members of the public. The response was extremely positive with almost all the recipients 'liking' all the proposals, with no more than two people disliking any of the proposals.

The questionnaire also encouraged people to rank the projects and proposals in order of importance to help establish the key priorities. Clearly different members of the community have different opinions on what they feel are priorities for their area, however there are also key issues which people are clearly agreed upon. For example 11 out of 15 respondents identified the community centre extension as the number one priority project for the Village. All projects received a strong level of support from respondents.

3.5 Initiatives

3.5.1 Community centre extension new car parking and traffic calming

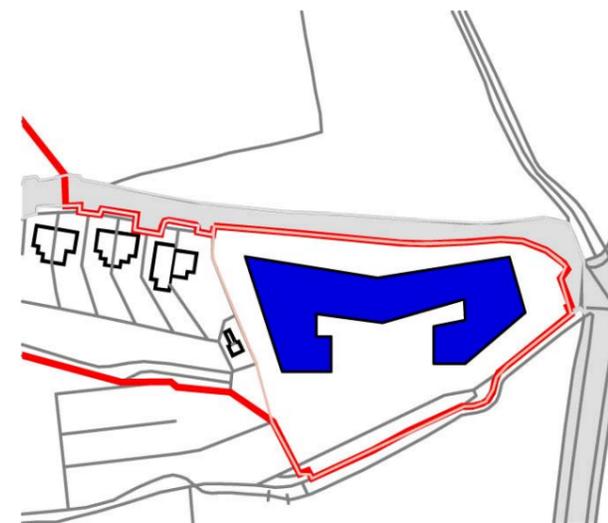


Community centre extension and new car park

Consultation with the Village stakeholder forum and questionnaire responses clearly showed a need and support for an extension to the existing community centre. Although the existing centre is in good condition, it is well used and the current kitchen facilities are inadequate. As the community centre is located next

door to St Patrick’s Primary School there are a large number of cars using this area, whether to drop off and pick up school children or to use the community centre. The current car parking arrangements are inadequate which causes a safety risk with cars parking on the road and visibility restricted. The field abutting the community centre to the south offers an ideal opportunity to provide additional car parking for both the school and community centre. In addition to this some traffic calming measures outside St Patrick’s Primary school are necessary. This could take the form of speed bumps, road markings or improved signage. Street lighting along this stretch of road was also proposed as people walking to and from the community centre at night time are doing so in darkness.

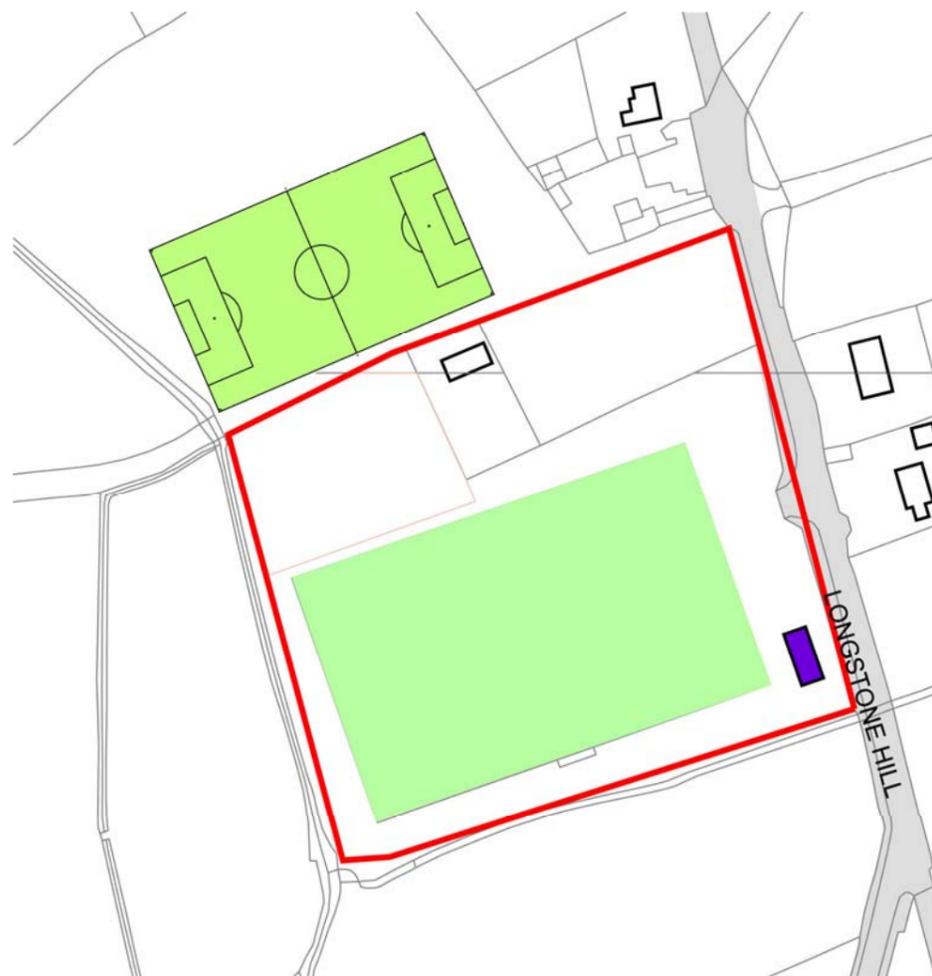
3.5.2 Fold Housing



Fold Housing, former farm site, Greenhill Road

The community forum raised the issue of a lack of housing designed for elderly people in the village. This was supported by the community questionnaires feedback. The derelict farm situated on Greenhill Road provides an opportunity for a Fold or elderly housing scheme to cater for this need. A housing association would be required to deliver this proposal following the acquisition of the site.

3.5.3 New 3G Football pitch



New 3G Football pitch proposal

Drumgath GAC has proposals to develop a new 3G football pitch adjacent to their existing Gaelic Football pitch on the Newry Road. The new pitch would be available for local schools and the local community to use. Clearly there are benefits to the community from this proposal. At a more strategic level support can also be found within the Sport NI document; Sport Matters – The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport & Physical Recreation 2009-2019. The

document outlines a broader Government commitment to sport and physical recreation which seeks to create,

“A culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport.”

The development would also be in line with government policies regarding;

- Benefits of increased participation in Sport and Leisure;
- Promotion of health and wellbeing;
- Improvement in the sporting infrastructure within Northern Ireland;

3.5.4 Action Plan

ACTION PLAN						
Initiative	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative costs
Extension to community centre	BCG	H	S/ M	RDP	Commission design work on extension to existing centre. Carry out economic appraisal on costs against community benefit of extension.	£20,000 - £60,000
Traffic calming street lighting outside St Patrick's Primary School/ Community centre	BCG, StP, RS	H	S	RS	Consult with Roads Service on health and safety concerns and potential for traffic calming measures to be put in place.	£40,000 - £70,000
New Bus shelter	Trans, BCG	H/ M	S/ M	Trans	Consult with Translink on potential for new bus shelter	£5000 - £10,000
Fold elderly housing opportunity	BCG, Priv	M	M	NIHE, Priv	Consult with landowner. Hold discussions with Housing associations to ascertain any identified need for elderly housing in the area.	N/A
Car park opportunity site	BCG, Priv	H	S/ M	RDP	Hold discussions with landowner on possibility of acquiring land. Hold discussions with Planning Service and site identified is within a Landscape policy area.	£60,000 - £80,000
New 3 G pitch	BGAA, BCG	H/ M	S/ M	SNI RDP	Barnmeen Gaelic club to source funding for new facility. Community benefit from the project would allow access to Rural Development funding.	£300,000 - £400,000
Conservation works to old Drumgath Cemetery	BCG, NIEA	M	S/ M	NIEA, Lot, RDP	Hold discussions with Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Built Heritage on opportunities to carry out conservation works to the Graveyard.	£10,000 - £30,000

Priority: H = High  
M = Medium  
L = Low

Timeframe: S = Short (1-3yrs)  
M = Medium (3-7 years)  
L = Long (7-15years)

Delivery Agents, Funders an Stakeholders:

AC	Arts Council	NITB	Northern Ireland Tourist Board
MNDC	Newry & Mourne District Council	Priv	Private Sector
DCAL	Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure	PS	Planning Service
Lot	Lottery Funding	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
RS	Roads Service	SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
RDP	Rural Development Programme	SELB	Southern Education and Library Board
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency	SNI	Sport Northern Ireland
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive	DOE	Department of Environment
DRD	Department for Regional Development – Street Lighting	RA	Rivers Agency
NIE	Northern Ireland Electricity	MCG	Barnmeen Community Group
BGAA	Barnmeen Gaelic Club	StP	St Patricks Primary School
Tran	Translink		
NIW	Northern Ireland Water	BT	British Telecom

\* Projects which have been identified by the community as a High Priority are outlined in more detail in the Initiatives section of this report.

### 3.6 Conclusion

The Village Plan for Barnmeen seeks to improve and regenerate the assets which are already in place. This is illustrated by the selected proposal for an extension to the existing community centre. The centre is currently well used with strong community capacity within the village. Additional kitchen facilities are necessary as a minimum to facilitate catering effectively for community events and gatherings.

With such a high level of interest generated it is now vital that improvements do take place and that people can see improvements in Barnmeen. The implementation team led by Barnmeen Community Group must now use this plan to lobby and source funding to realise its projects.

3.7 Appendix 1 BARNMEEN

Settlement: **BARNMEEN**  
(Please highlight which settlement you are addressing)

**Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013**

**Introduction**

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 was launched to build capacity within local communities and provide support for community economic development in the most disadvantaged rural areas. The NIRDP is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. A core principal of the approach to broader rural development in Northern Ireland has been and continues to be that the communities which most closely experience problems should be involved in the design and delivery of projects and programmes to tackle such problems and, thus, improve their quality of life.

The NIRDP contains a number of measures under each axis. These measures are specific areas where support is to be targeted. Each measure was selected from a menu of options provided by the European Union in order to target the aspects of rural life that are most important to Northern Ireland. Measure 3.5 targets Village Renewal and Development with the aim of “creating long term visions for villages and surrounding areas and to support initiatives promoting cross-community development”.

The objective is to enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full potential of their area is achieved and also to support integrated village initiatives.

**How is the Programme administered at a local level?**

The Southern Organisation for Action in Rural areas (SOAR) is the Joint Committee and Local Action Group for the Craigavon, Armagh and Newry & Mourne Council areas. They are responsible for the administration of the NIRDP within the rural areas of Craigavon, Armagh and Newry. SOAR local action group is comprised of local Councillors and Social Partner Representatives. Craigavon Borough Council acts as the Lead Council with responsibility for all financial and administrative matters.

**Renewal and Development Plans for NMDC Villages**

Newry and Mourne District Council have secured funding under Measure 3.5 for the preparation of Integrated Village Plans for 13 pre-selected villages and clusters across the Newry and Mourne District Council Area.

URS were employed by Newry and Mourne District Council to facilitate the development of these plans. The plans will be prepared between February and June 2012, with potentially a second stage which will involve selected projects being taken forward to the stage of submitting an outline planning application, making a submission for funding or being ready to feed into an economic appraisal.

**Questionnaire**

This questionnaire will help us establish the key strengths and weaknesses of your settlement. Please take a few minutes to fill it in as best you can and please give us as much information as possible.

1.	What is your interest?	Business		Community Group 4		Individual 13	
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**Section 1 – Planning and Infrastructure**

2. Please indicate which of the following issues are of concern or interest to your group:

ISSUE	Major Concern	Some Concern	No Concern
Traffic congestion/ Speeding through traffic	8	3	4
Parking availability	4	2	7
Pedestrian accessibility	1		8
Vehicular accessibility		1	8
Accessibility for disabled persons		1	8
Availability of housing for local people		4	6
Impact of new housing on your village		3	7
Quality of existing road network in the village		2	7
Sewage and Mains Water supply	1		8

If you indicated that you have concerns about any of the above issues please expand on your answers below or on a separate sheet:

- Speeding on Main Road – Introduce ramps
- Good quality infrastructure
- Flooding on rural roads
- Community Centre Parking increased
- Resurface of A25 road to reduce noise
- Social Housing scheme could be considered
- More parking needed
- Parking availability for Saturday night mass

3. Are there any development opportunity sites (i.e. sites or buildings which are derelict, or underused/vacant land, or something that may be described as an 'eyesore') within the

village that you are aware of? If yes, where and what would you like to see developed?

- Drumgrath Graveyard could be developed- lots of history.
- N/A
- Newry Road, Drumgrenagh Hill Road

**Section 2 – Essential Services** (Please expand on answers if possible)

4. Please indicate which of the following issues are of concern or interest to your group:

ISSUE	Major Concern	Some Concern	No Concern
Provision and access to local healthcare facilities	1	4	6
Provision and access to educational facilities		5	7
Quality of public open space		6	7
Availability of play areas for children		6	7
Public transport service in the area	2	3	7
Provision of public leisure facilities	1	5	5
Quality and provision of retailing/local shops	1	2	8

5. What services are you aware of and are you happy in general with the range of services currently provided?

- Translink- more frequent service needed
- Library
- Health Centre – new centre needed
- Play Parks-needs expanded
- Community Centres
- Local Shops
- Football Facilities
- Pre and after school activities

6. What other facilities or services do you feel should be provided for the village?

- Community Centre expanded
- Bus shelters at main bus stops
- More Street cleaning
- A Nursery attached to Primary School.
- Outreach Centre coordinated by Citizen Advice Bureau
- Lighting from Barnmeen Bridge to Johnny Arthurs corner.
- All weather Sports Field
- Public leisure facilities

**Section 3 - Economic and Community Development** – (Please expand on answers if possible)

7. Are there any attractions which you feel could be developed for tourists or for use by local people?

- Gaelic club fitness suite
- Standing Stone in Longstone – Historic importance
- The Old Glenn
- Barnmeen Marytrs Historical Interest
- Public Footpaths
- O Hares Fort
- Larger play area

8. Are there any features or assets within your village which you feel should be actively conserved?

- Longstone- on the Longstone Road
- Fort at Sugartown Road
- Watermill at McGaws

9. Are there good small business opportunities?

- Open up restaurant in local pub
- No

10. Are there sufficient facilities available to local community groups and are they well used?

- Make better use of community centre
- Sufficient but not enough interest.
- Lack of equipment in GAA Club
- Luncheon Club available to elderly should be provided.
- Kitchen in community centre

11. Are there regular or well known community events or festivals? If not, what would you like to see?

- No
- Carnivals
- Family day away in local GAA club annually
- Previously the 'Maid of Ballydoo' but stopped for insurance reasons
- Fitness classes
- Womans groups

**Section 4 - General**

Please tick the following statements to indicate your opinion:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree
The village is a generally attractive environment	2	10	1
The village centre has good places to eat and drink	2	4	7
The village is easy to find	3	8	3
Directions to public facilities are clearly signed	3	5	6
The village has an identifiable centre	4	6	4
The approach to the village is attractive and welcoming	3	6	6
The streets are kept clean of litter	1	9	3
Graffiti and vandalism in the village are a problem	1	6	7
There is a clear vision for the village centre	1	9	5
Street furniture is well maintained		5	6
Pavements are uncluttered and in good repair		7	5
There is value for money in local shops		13	
There is a good choice and range in shopping		12	3
There are suitable traffic calming measures		5	8
The police are involved in initiatives to cut crime		7	6
There are distinct and well used car parks		5	6
Building fronts and facades are well looked after		9	4
The village has a vibrant atmosphere		10	2
There is sufficient street lighting		6	7
The village is safe to walk around at all times		9	3

If you wish to expand on your answers to any of these statements please do so below or on a separate sheet:

- Speed ramps
- Extra Lighting
- Better Signage
- Removal of graffiti
- Play park expanded
- No clean up plans- litter