

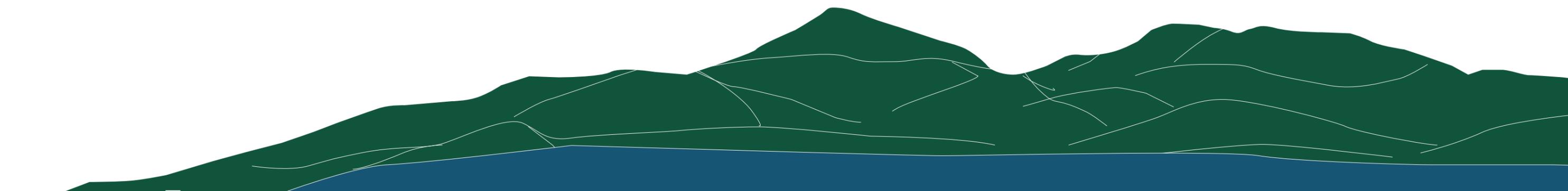
January 2018

Burren Village Renewal Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



ARUP







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Burren Aerial South View (Credit - Pak Aerial Media)

01 | Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





Burren Aerial North View (Credit - Pak Aerial Media)

02 | Context

Village Location

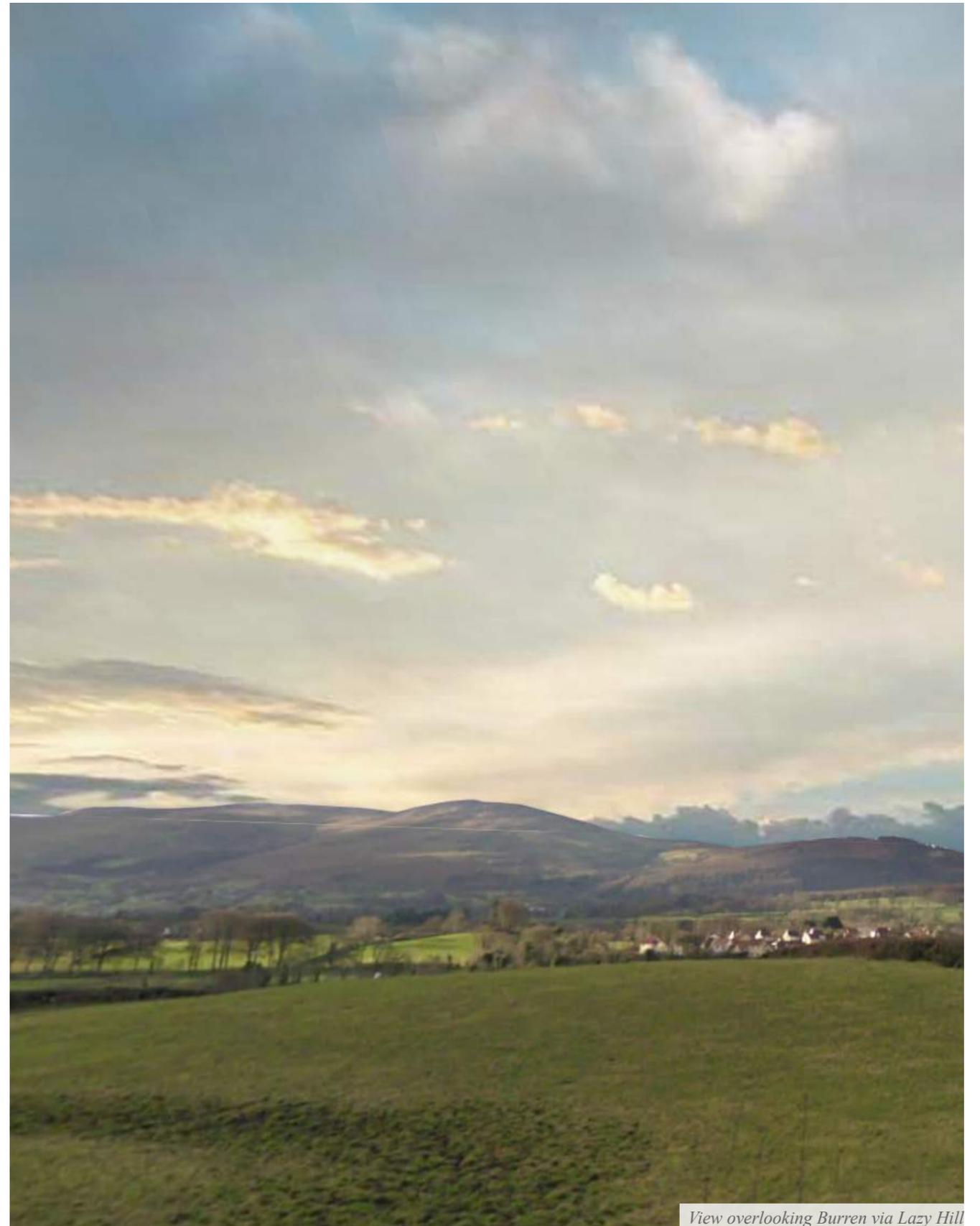
Burren is a small village in the southeast of County Down, located in the Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA), one of seven DEAs within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NMDDC) area. The Village sits slightly north-west of Warrenpoint, a small town with an estimated population of 8,732 in 2011. The village of Burren sits within the settlement development limit of Warrenpoint as set out in the Newry, Mourne & Down Area Plan. Burren is located 7.5 miles south-east of Newry City and 2 miles north of Warrenpoint, providing the Village with strategic orientation in relation to its wider settlement network.

The Village sits within the South Down Hills and in the shadow of the spectacular Mourne Mountains, making it an area of tourism interest and potential. The Village also benefits from being located on the edge of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which is a spectacular mountainous region of Northern Ireland and hosts significant natural and built heritage features.

Village Character

The main centre of Burren village is at its northernmost end, where the Main B7 meets the Carrogs Road, Burren Hill and Burren Road. The Village Green offers a focal point for the community, where the playpark and Millennium Wall is located. The school, community centre and a number of other buildings front on to the green and provide good natural surveillance over the space.

There is a grey security fence surrounding the green which is not in keeping with the historic character of the village and South of the green is St. Mary's Parish Church. A number of protected mature oak trees line the entrance to the Village from the south and Granite stone walls offer visual connectivity towards The Green. Linear development along arterial routes out of the Village characterises the remainder of Burren Village and more recent development along Milltown Street has caused the Village to sprawl southward towards Warrenpoint. There is significant development pressure within Burren Village as it sits just outside the protected AONB and along the Main Newry to Dublin Road, and therefore is an attractive location for new housing development. This is also evidenced in the significantly large number of planning applications for future development.



View overlooking Burren via Lazy Hill

History and Development of the Village

The Village of Burren derives its name from the Gaelic term “Bhoirinn”, translating as the “Rocky District”. Burren has a historical narrative dating back beyond the early 19th century focused around the Roman Catholic parish of St. Colman’s. Due to the street layout, Burren naturally concentrated its initial growth and development at the split junction at Bridge Road whilst development was noticeable along the southern gateway into the Village. Between 1846-1862, Burren established its National school along Bridge Road and as a result played a key role in consolidating the development of the Village at the wedge-like junction within the village core. Development patterns remained consistent throughout the village, primarily focused along the main thoroughfare, however between 1957-1986 the Village began to expand west toward Burren Hill Road with the creation of Marie and Rosaleen Villas. Today, Burren has maintained consistent development patterns in relation to its historical growth due to the continuous consolidation of built form nearby the Bridge Road junction. Furthermore, building on from this point Burren has experienced further growth along the south eastern gateway with the Ballydesland Road facilitating additional residential development.

Village Profile

Burren is a growing area, with the Village and surrounding area experiencing a 26% population growth since 2005. This means there may be a need for additional services in the Village to accommodate this growth, which appears include a growing younger population settling in the area. Burren has a relatively young population on average age six years below the NI average and a small proportion of older people. Family size in the area is higher than the NI average, and this is reflected in household composition, with a low proportion of over 65s living in single households.

Burren also boasts a relatively healthy population, with nearly 90% in good or very good health in 2011. Whilst more of the population is highly qualified and in paid employment than the NI average, the unemployment rate still sits close to the NI average at 4.29%, meaning access to employment may be an issue in this rural area.

According to the Multiple Deprivation Index 2010, the area is within the top fifth least deprived areas in Northern Ireland, however it does lack in sufficient access to basic services, where it is placed in the fifth most deprived areas. This is a common characteristic of rural villages in this area, where residents have to travel to Warrenpoint, Newry and further afield to access many services that are not available within the village.

Burren and its surrounding area is characteristic of a healthy working population living and settling in the area, as reflected by a high proportion of economically active residents, larger family sizes, high owner occupied housing stock, and a young and quickly growing population.

This has implications for understanding future needs of the Village, where services and amenities for families and young people should be a key consideration in the proposals going forward.



Saint Mary's Parish Church



Heritage Centre



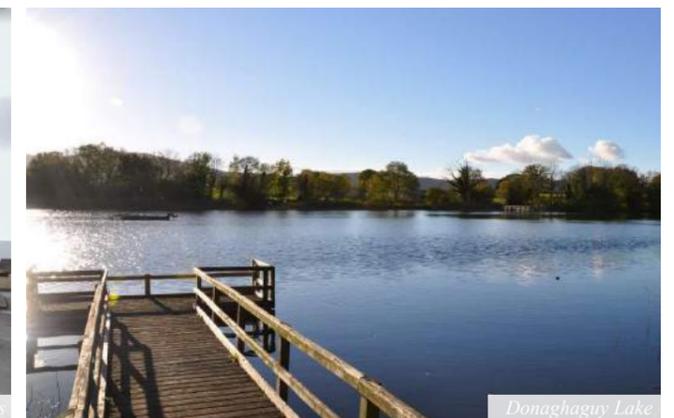
Milltown Street



Millennium Wall Park



Marie Villas



Donaghaguy Lake



Carrogs Road



Upper Burren Road

Future Development

The Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 designated a number of new sites for housing growth, a number of these have yet to be realised.

The village has grown significantly as shown in recent census data. Below highlights a number of new developments that have/are seeking planning permission within Burren village. It is important that this plan takes into account any new or proposed developments so that the future needs of new residents can also be taken into consideration in the plan development.

There is clear development pressure in Burren due to its proximity to Newry and Warrenpoint. As well as below, there are a large number of applications for single dwellings in the countryside, outside of the main settlement development limit. Furthermore, there are a large number of applications for industrial development to the south of the Village. It is important that this pattern of development does not impact negatively on the character and amenity of the main village centre through increasing traffic and congestion and that these considerations are built into future population growth in the area.

New Community and Leisure Facilities

Burren Vision proposal for the 'Burren Community Development Project' on Carrogs Road, to include: 4 court sports hall, fitness & well-being areas, crèche area, youth club, changing facilities, meeting rooms, gym, stores and associated site works. Planning Ref. LA07/2016/1192/F. Status: Permission Granted.

Development at Warrenpoint Town Football Club to include conversion of main pitch from grass to 3G synthetic, installation of new floodlights and extension to main clubhouse to provide changing rooms, social area, office/boardroom and associated site works. Planning Ref. P/2014/1045/F. Status: Permission Granted.

Proposal for new meeting room at 500m south of junction of Burren Road and The Avenue. Planning Ref. P/2011/0586/RM. Status: Permission Granted.

New Housing Developments

Proposed residential development totalling 16 no. dwellings at 90m north west of Clontafleece Road. Planning Ref. P/2014/0934/F. Status: Permission Granted.

Proposed residential development to include 6 no. detached dwellings and 2 no. semi-detached dwellings at 73 Carrogs Road. Planning Ref. P/2014/0464/F. Status: Permission Granted.

Total of twelve separate planning applications for houses at The Avenue. Most recent Planning Ref. LA07/2017/0520/F. Status: Varies.

Erection of housing development of 12 no. dwellings opposite 18 Bridge Road. Planning Ref. P/2010/0970/F. Status: Permission Refused.

Proposed housing development of 5 no. houses opposite 18 Bridge Road. Planning Ref. P/2011/0459/F. Status: Permission Granted.



Warrenpoint Football Club (Credit: graydesignltd)

03 | Policy Analysis

3.1 Planning Policy

Regional Development Strategy 2035 'Building a Better Future'

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

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

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

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

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

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

The policy objectives for development in the countryside are to:

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

Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Plan 2015 (BNMP)

The BNMAP was adopted in October 2013 and sets out a number of site specific statutory policies relevant to Burren village that should be taken into consideration by developers, landowners, the Council and the local community in the forward planning of the village.

BNMAP outlines that Warrenpoint/Burren requires up to 123 social housing units throughout the lifespan of the area plan. Additionally, the settlement has 16.94 hectares of land zoned for economic development which is highly influenced via the commercial activity within the port.

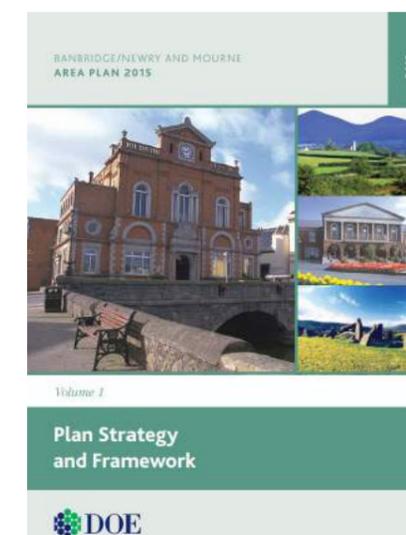
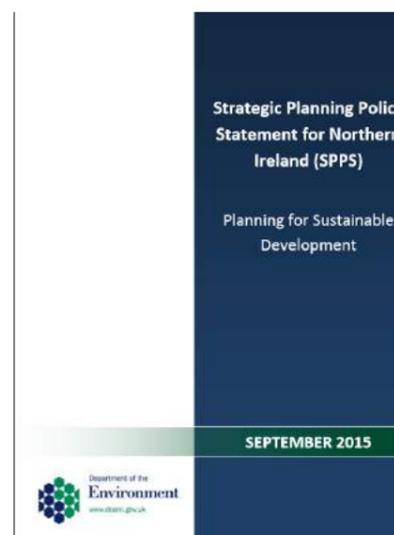
Living Well Together: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan (2016)

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

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

Emerging Local Development Plan

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



3.2 Other Strategies, Plans and Initiatives

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

NMDDC Corporate Plan 2015-2019

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

Economic Regeneration & Investment Strategy 2015-2020

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

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tourism Strategy 2017-2022

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

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tourism Strategy 2017-2022

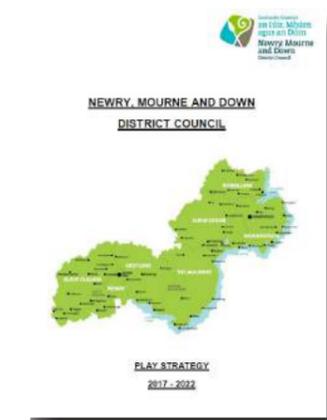
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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Facility Strategy (October 2016)

The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at a local level, to meet identified community need. The strategy indicates the important value held via the Burren Vision Project. The project will provide a new community hub which will harness and enhance improved levels of health and well-being for the locality of the settlement through improved sport and leisure facilities.

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

The Play Strategy for NMDDC identifies need for new or upgraded play facilities in the district. In it, the play park for Burren Village Green is recommended for upgrading and enhancement to increase the play value rating. These works are costed at between £25,000-£65,000.





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

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

IRISH SEA

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH

ROWALLANE

North Down & Ards

ARMAGH, BANBRIDGE & CRAIGAVON

DOWNPATRICK

SLIEVE CROOB

THE MOURNES

CROTLIEVE

SLIEVE GULLION

NEWRY

CARLINGFORD LOUGH

STRANGFORD LOUGH

Dundalk

Lisburn

Belfast

Newtownards

Dungannon

Aughmacoy

Armagh

Monaghan

Craigavon

Banbridge

Lowtown (Dechomet)

Ballyward Gargory

Derragh Cross
Derryboye
Strigley
Killyleagh
Crossgar
Kilmore
Teconnaught
Annacloy
Drumaness

Loughinisland

Ballyalton

Strangford

CHAPELTOWN

Ballyhoman

Dunsford

Coney Island

Ardara

Clough

Dundrum

Belleek

Newry

Ballyholland

Burren

Warrenpoint

Meigh

Killeen

Killeavy

Drumintee

Jonesborough

Silverbridge

Forkhill

Annalong

Ballymartin

Greentastle

Dunnaval Area

Granfield



04 | Consultation Process

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

Village Walkabout

A community walkabout took place in Burren on 25th May 2017 with representatives of the Council, the consultant team, and members of the local community. During this time a site survey was carried out to understand the background and context of the Village, key assets, issues and potential ideas of how the Village could be improved.

Community Event

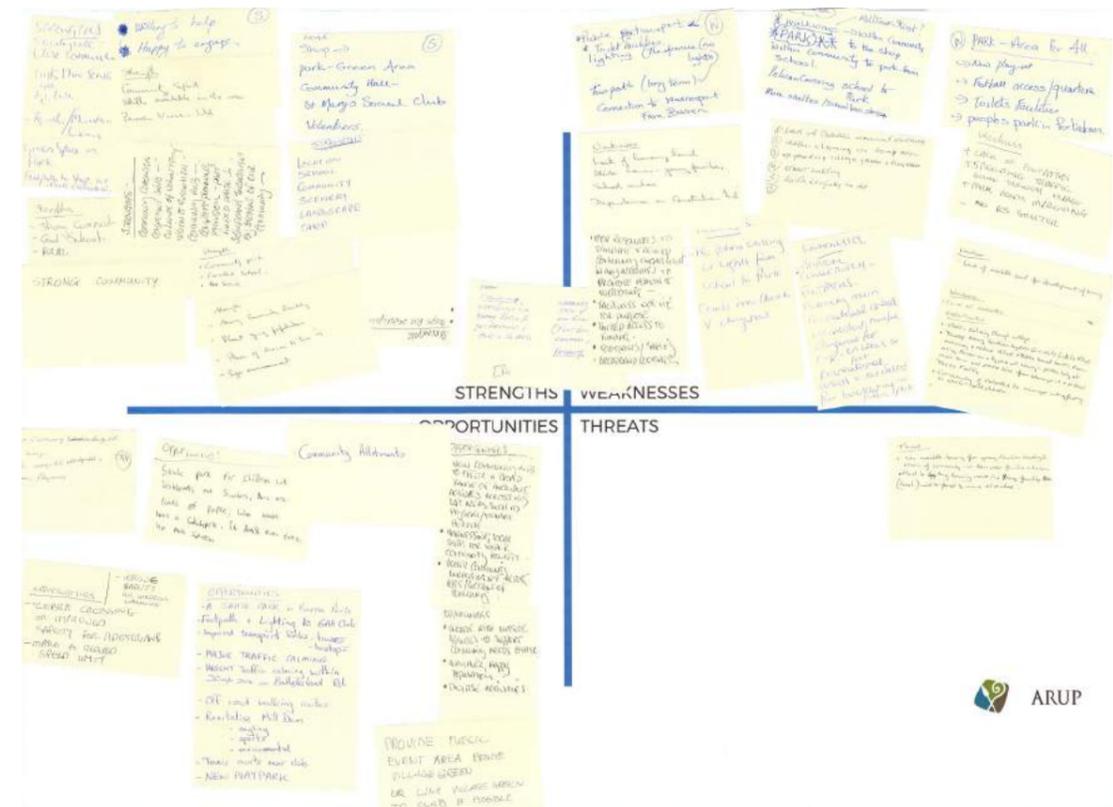
A community consultation event was held on the evening of 3rd October 2017 in the Heritage Centre. The purpose of the event was to present the findings of the desktop research, site walkabout, together with draft proposals for actions and priorities for tackling the issues identified by the local community and village analysis work.

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

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



Consultation Venue - Burren Community Centre



Community Placecheck Exercise



05 | Site Analysis



Strengths

- Community Spirit - *integrated working, collaboration and engagement.*
- Strategic location - *situated between Newry and Warrenpoint.*
- Setting - *picturesque drumlin landscape and rural views*
- Community Facilities - *GAA club and local school provide strong community core*
- Green Space - *green space located to the north of the village offers a key recreational space*
- Safe - *low level of anti-social behaviour*
- Natural Resources - *Mill Dam Reservoir to the west and Donaghaguy Waterworks to the east.*



Weaknesses

- Transport- *poor provision of public transport*
- W/C Facilities - *No toilet facilities accessible to public on weekends*
- Lighting - *poor provision, quality and standard of lighting*
- Linkages - *lack of continous footpath separates the village from North to South*
- Resourcing - *lack of resources for promoting health and wellbeing activities*
- Speeding - *concerns over pedestrian safety due to speeding and traffic flow*
- Accessibility - *no footpath from village green space to GAA facilities*



Opportunities

- Recreational Facility - *potential for a skate park within the village for younger population*
- Community Allotments - *enable residents to have a gardening club*
- Community Hub - *dedicated community hub where everyone feels welcome*
- Local Community Skills- *engage the entire community in building skills (e.g.dramatic society)*
- Linkage with Burren Vision / GAA Club - *safe pedestrian route due to Burren Vision expansion*
- Traffic Calming - *traffic calming measures along Ballydesland Road*
- Walking Routes - *off road walking routes linking up key resources to the village core*
- Mill Dam - *opportunity to utilise Mill Dam for environmental and recreational uses*



Threats

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



BURREN SITE ANALYSIS

Settlement Boundary	Housing Policy Area	Archeological Monument	Shop	Village Core
Water Course	Land zoned for Economic Development	Golf Pitch & Putt	Football Pitches	Walking Route
Primary Circulation Road	Local Nature Conservation Importance Site	Industrial Park	G.A.C Pitches	Heritage Centre
Secondary Circulation Road	Historic Park, Garden & Demesne	Fishing Stands Access	Community Centre	Bus Stop
Primary Gateway	Local Landscape Policy Area <small>Considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and must therefore be protected from undesirable or damaging development.</small>	Public Open Space	Church	Church
Secondary Gateway		Play Park	School	School
		Scenic Views		

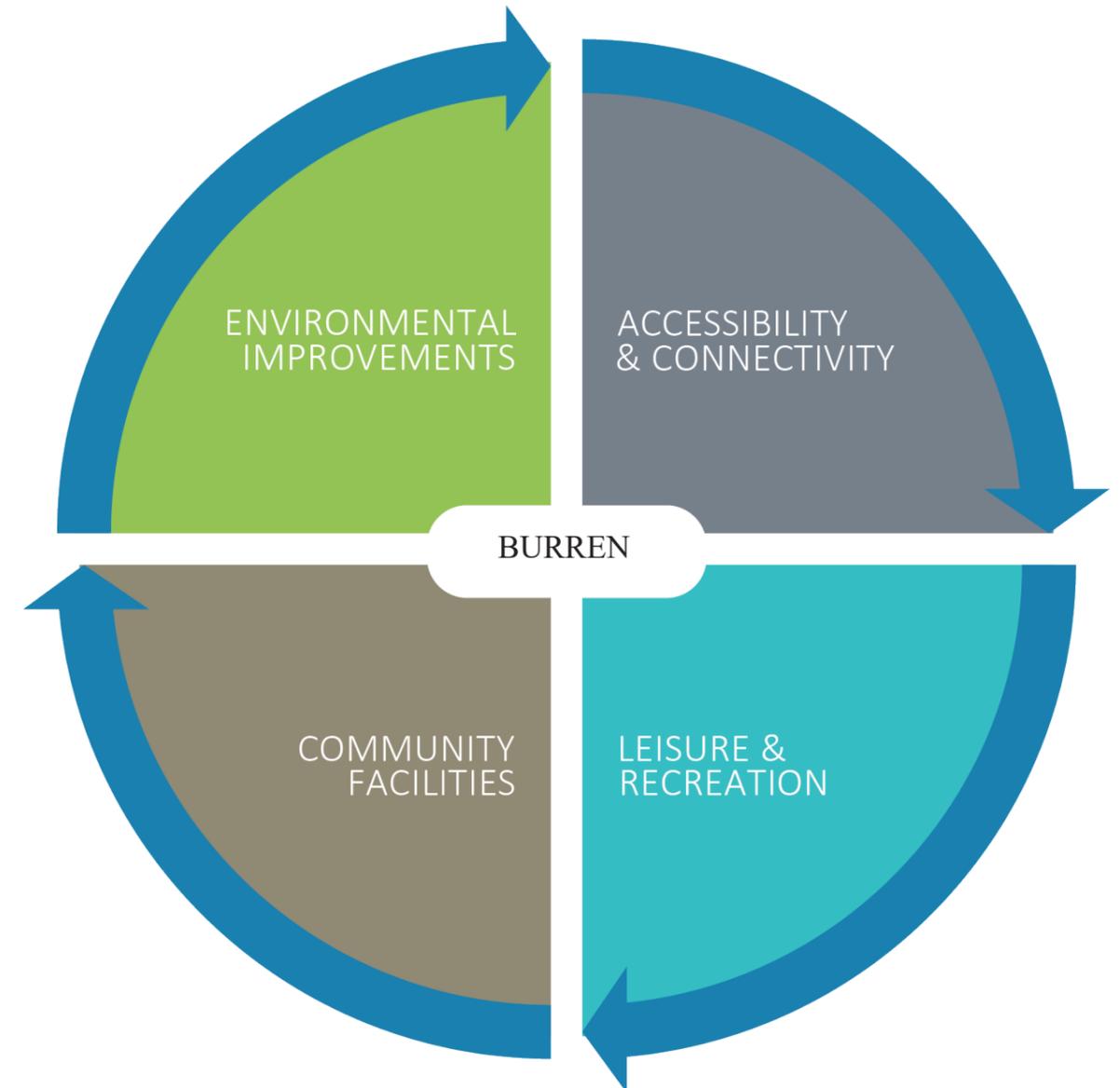
06 Opportunities

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

The project and actions identified in the draft village plan aim to adopt four key components which are interconnected; environmental improvement, Accessibility and Connectivity, Community Facilities and Leisure and recreation.

The opportunities presented in this plan range from gateway enhancement, to an improved village centre and the potential to reconnect the two nodes of the Village. One of the key projects identified aims to address the disconnected nature of the two distinctive nodes within the village by creating a safer, attractive and pedestrian friendly linkage. A further opportunity that would be of substantial benefit to the community is to enhance the village centre. Burren is a linear settlement with a core greenspace forming the heart of the Village to the north which offers much greater potential. By improving the village centre, the features and distinctive elements of Burren will be enhanced to provide an improved space to be enjoyed by everyone in the Village.

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





BURREN OPPORTUNITIES

- Settlement Boundary
 - Water Course
 - Primary Circulation Road
 - Highway to Health
 - Walking Route
 - Footpath Provision
 - Opportunities
-
- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Park Project B Landscaping at Marie Villas Site C Footpaths, Crossings & Traffic Calming D Gateway Enhancements E Church Lookout F Mill Dam Reservoir G Burren Vision Linkage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H Environmental Improvement Scheme I Upgrade of Busy Bees Playgroup Facility and Collection Point J Proposed Training Facility and Highway to Health (Burren Vision Proposal) |
|---|---|

06 Opportunities

A | PARK PROJECT

A project to enhance the environmental quality of the village green, with additional tree planting, landscaping and improved boundary treatment with the addition of a new stone wall. Such a project is evident due to the growing youthful population within the village (28.67% aged 16 or under) along with the need to enhance the facilities available for younger people within Burren. Furthermore, it had been stated that there had been road safety concerns between the school and central green space within the village to which the project will aim to address.

The project will enhance the leisure and recreational value of the green with the possible inclusion of a recreational facility such as a MUGA or skate park for the older children. The design and location of this would require further consultation with the community. It was noted earlier that the play equipment in is due to be upgraded in year 2 of the Play Strategy at an indicative cost of between £25,000 to £65,000. Building on this, the need for such a project is evident due to the growing youthful population within the village (28.67% under the age of 16) along with the need to enhance the facilities available for younger people within Burren. Furthermore, it had been stated that there had been road safety concerns between the school and central green space within the Village to which the project will aim to address.

Further consultation with the community and with key stakeholders will be required to explore suitable options and funding sources. There are also many different designs options for the village green therefore further thought should be given to the type of facility that is needed.



Seating, landscaping and skatepark - Westport



Indicative illustration

ENHANCING THE VILLAGE CORE

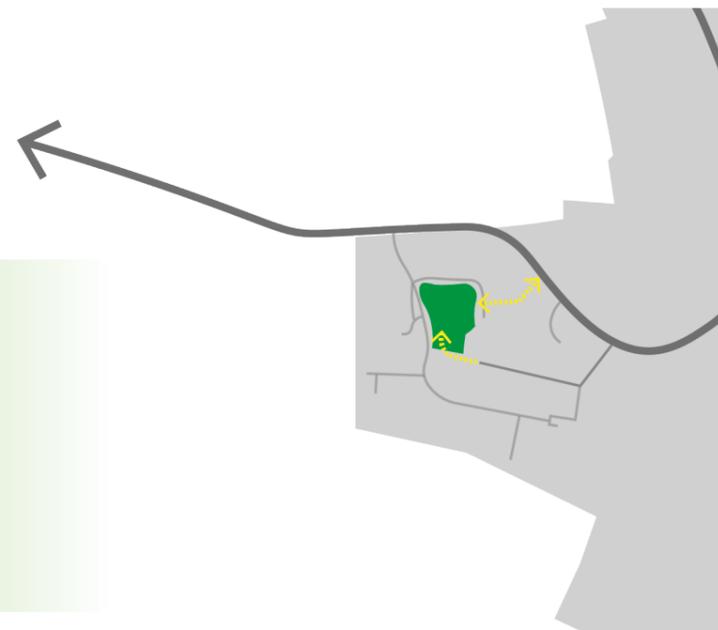
The quality of the physical environment has the ability to express the character of the village. A project which aims to enhance the physical landscape to revitalise the unique and picturesque setting of the village.



B | LANDSCAPING - MARIE VILLAS SITE

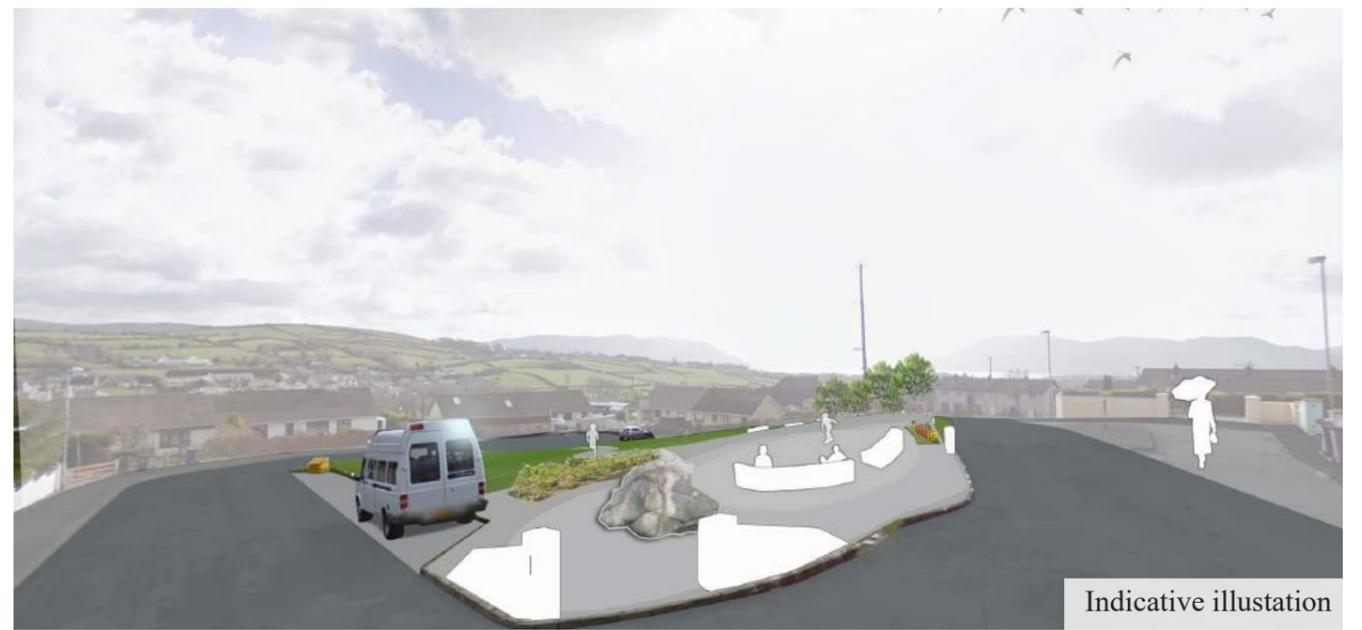
This project will focus on making better use of an existing green space at Marie Villas to include a viewing / seating area along the upper bank of the site to include high quality landscaping boundary treatment and floral planting. The project aims to take advantage of the unique and vast surrounding drumlin landscape, in particular the panoramic views of the Mourne & Cooley Mountains along with Carlingford Lough and the Newry Canal to the south.

The site offers vast potential to provide a high quality public / community space within the residential area. The green space at Marie Villas is tired and in need of such a project to maximise the potential of the area. To successfully deliver this project, further consultation with the community, statutory approvals and necessary funding would need to be secured.



IMPROVING THE OPEN SPACE

High quality open space plays an important role in our physical and mental wellbeing. Creating a space for active recreation, socialising and community pride will improve the quality of life.



C | FOOTPATHS AND TRAFFIC CALMING

Speeding traffic has been highlighted as a serious problem, which is enhanced by the lack of footpaths linking the main parts of the village. This initiative aims to improve overall standards of pedestrian / road safety by providing improved linkages along the main residential spine by inserting higher quality walkable infrastructure.

The need for such a project is evident due to the increasing residential capacity at the southern portion of the Village spine along with development planned within the back-land plots within this area. Moreover, with the recent development of Carrick Primary School, the need to strengthen connections along the linear Village corridor is paramount to better connect existing and future community services. This project aims to better integrate the community within Burren as there is a feeling of disconnection along the residential spine within the Village. This initiative will improve access to services and facilities for everyone. If the project were to develop in future, the linear spine of the village could be transformed into a cultural corridor to compliment the heritage of settlements rich townlands.

To progress this project, ongoing consultation with the Department for Infrastructure will be needed to raise awareness and seek support to address the issue.



Seating



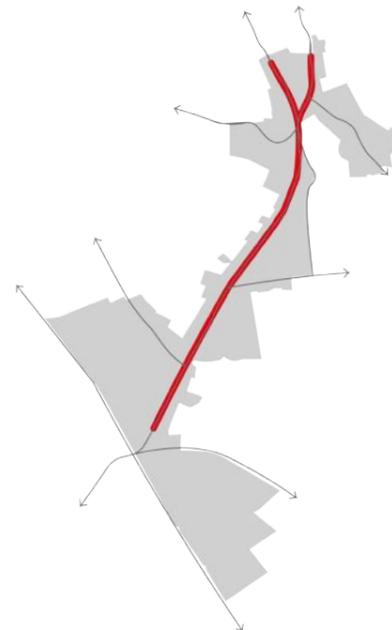
Pedestrian Crossings



Paving



Indicative illustration



ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

Safety and connectivity are crucially important for community mobility, therefore a project which strengthens the key linkages within the village will improve levels of community safety

D | GATEWAY SIGNAGE

Enhancing the key gateways into the village will improve the character of the village and also act as a visual traffic calming measure. Key gateways have been identified at the north and south of the settlement. Creating something which is unique to Burren will also help the village, as it presently feels disjointed.

The project will aim to promote the 'village feel' of Burren to distill and express a distinctive entry point to the village. The project will aim to enhance the quality of landscaping, boundary treatment and floral planting at the key sites within the village in order to revitalise their physical appearance. The use of ancient stone dolmen elements would enrich the heritage of the village further at each gateway site. The gateway sites of the village are dated, tired and in need of urgent enhancement to compliment the character and vibrancy of the community.

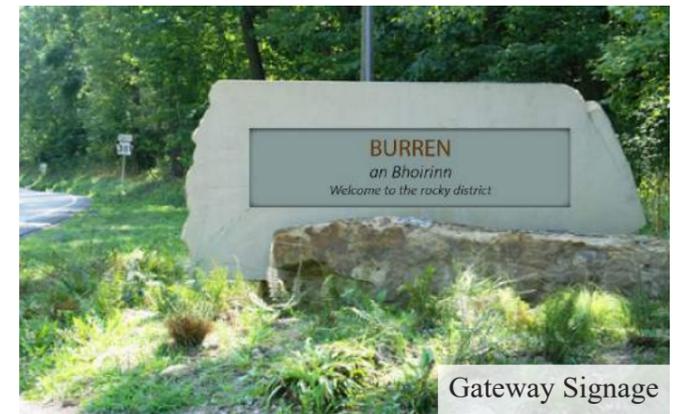
In order to successfully implement this project, further work is needed to establish the exact location and design of the gateway features. This should be combined effort between the community and statutory bodies. Identifying an appropriate funding source is important so that the scale and design can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



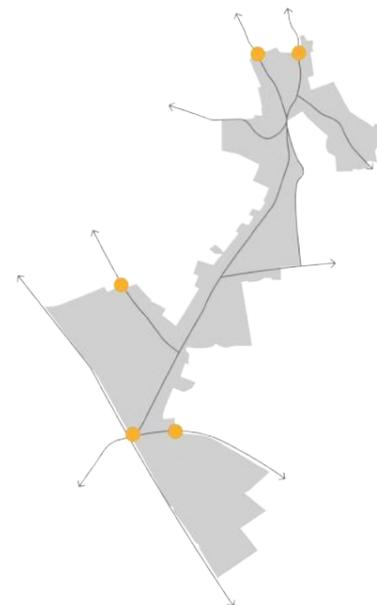
Indicative illustration



Planting



Gateway Signage



CREATING A SENSE OF ARRIVAL

An initiative to create a sense of arrival into the village on entry. Improved signage, wayfinding and floral features will reinforce the mindset of arriving into a village setting and aid in traffic calming measures.



Indicative illustration

E | CHURCH VIEWPOINT

The Church is an important heritage feature in Burren. This project will enhance this area by creating a peaceful area which can be used by the community. St. Mary's Parish Church is a significant landmark and asset within the Village due to its historical influence and architectural character. A landscaping proposal which reflects the built and natural heritage of the village will offer a new space for the community with vast and panoramic southern views of the Mourne & Cooley Mountains along with views of Carlingford Bay and the Newry Canal.

In order to successfully implement this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders would need to be undertaken. The feasibility of the project should then be explored further including indicative costs. Detailed design would need to be undertaken and statutory approvals / funding would need to be secured.



CREATING RECREATIONAL SPACES

Enhancing recreational space within the village to provide all residents and visitors with the opportunity to appreciate the natural setting and mountain views.



F | MILL DAM RESERVOIR

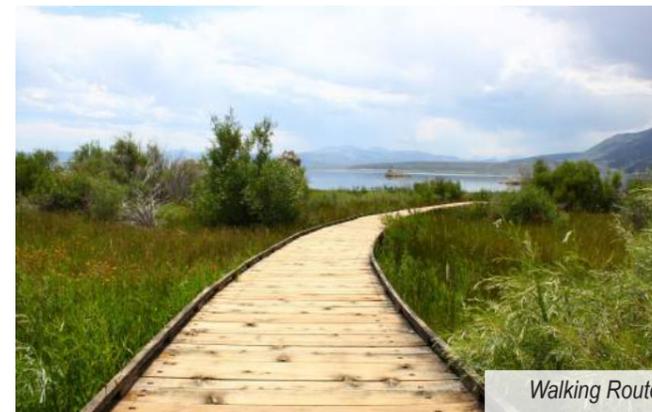
This project will harnesses untapped recreational and leisure potential to facilitate activities such as (along with angling) a designated walking / running trail along with educational activities surrounding nature conservation and the previous industrial use of the Dam.

Donaghaguy Lake provides an important leisure and recreational resource. It is located at the southern end of the village and was recently upgraded and part of the 'Mourne Coastal Route' project. The Mill Dam Reservoir is an additional leisure resource located to the north west of Burren. Although quite close to the village, access needs to be improved. Similar upgrades to Donaghaguy would greatly enhance this asset, providing walkable paths. Around the reservoir, picnic area, interpretation boards to compliment the exiting finishing stands.

In order to successfully implement this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders would need to be undertaken. The feasibility of the project should then be explored further including indicaitve costs. Detailed design would need to be undertaken and statutory approvals / funding would need to be secured.



Indicative site plan



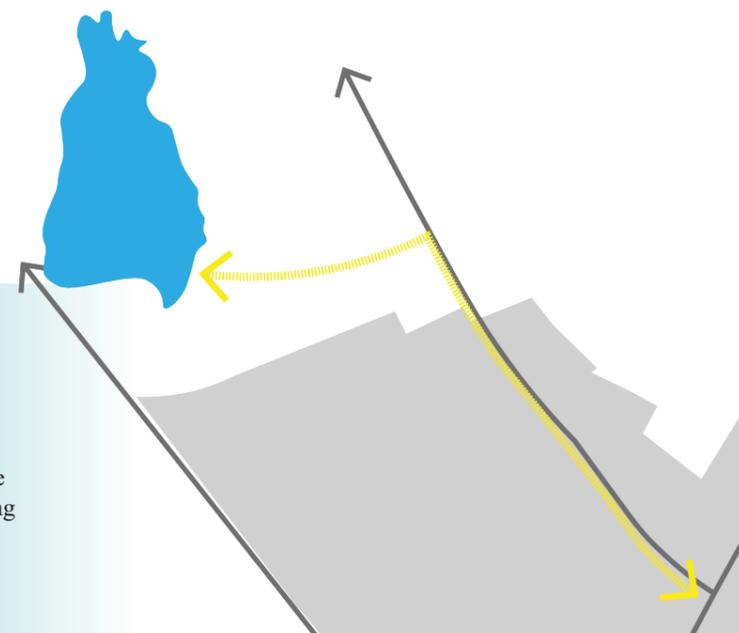
Walking Route



Interpretation Signage

ENHANCING NATURAL RESOURCES

Leisure and recreation play a crucial role within the community in relation to health, wellbeing and activity. A project which aims to enhance the provision for leisure and recreation will improve levels of health and wellbeing throughout the village



Indicative illustration

G| LINKAGE TO BURREN VISION

The Burren Vision is generally supported as being an inclusive community project. Currently the greatest threat to the project is the pedestrian connection to the village.

A project aimed at strengthening the connection with the future Burren Vision development and the Village centre. The Burren Vision project aims to provide a multi-purpose sporting and community facility at the current St. Marys Burren GAA site. Due to steady population growth, current facilities are in need of improvement in order to accommodate for the growing needs of the community. The current provision for safe walkable paving is absent, from the village green space to the existing site. In order to achieve a safe walkable connection between the site and village core, the provision for high quality footpaths is required.

To progress this project, ongoing consultation with the Department for Infrastructure will be needed to raise awareness and seek support to address the issue.



St. Marys Burren GAA Site



Burren Vision



Indicative illustration

STRENGTHENING THE CONNECTION

An initiative which aims to enhance, improve and benefit the community by providing a project to harnesses the vibrancy and activity of the village



07 | IMPLEMENTATION

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

The source of funding will often dictate the order in which tasks need to be undertaken, for example the Rural Development Programme expects all statutory consents to be 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 a guidance only. Other funding opportunities may become available during the lifetime of this plan, and all projects will be subject to appropriate eligibility checks, application and assessment procedures as set by each funding body.

The draft Acton Plan (Section 08) provides an indication of the priority level of each project based on discussions with key stakeholders during plan preparation. Alongside this, a lead delivery agent and key stakeholders have also been noted. There may also be other interested groups who should be engaged during project implementation or those whose agreement must be sought, such as a private landowners or statutory bodies. It is also important to recognise that priorities may change as funding opportunities become available.



08 | ACTION PLAN

	Regeneration Initiative	Priority Level H- High M-Medium L- Low	Timeframe for Delivery Short (0-3 years) Medium (3-9 years) Long (9+ years)	Stakeholders	Potential Funding Source
A	Park Project	M	S	Com, NMDDC	NMDDC, RDP
B	Landscaping - Marie Villas	L	M	Com, NMDDC	RDP, Com
D	Gateway Signage	H	S	Com, NMDC, TNI	NMDDC, TNI, RDP
C	Footpath and Traffic Calming	H	S	Com, TNI, NMDDC	TNI
E	Church Viewpoint	L	M/L	Com, NMDDC	RDP
F	Mill Dam Reservoir	L	S	Com, NMDDC	NMDDC
G	Linkage to Burren Vision	H	S	Com, NMDDC, TNI	TNI
H	Environmental Improvement Scheme	M	S/M	Com, DfC, NMDDC, Priv	DfC, RDP, NMDDC, BIG
I	Upgrade of Busy Bees Play Facility and Collection Point	H	S	Com, Priv, NMDDC	Fundraising, RDP, BIG, Fundraising
J	Proposed Training Facility & Highway to Health (Burren Vision Project)	H	S/M	Com, GAC, Priv, NMDDC	RDP, NMDDC, BIG, HLF, Fundraising

Com	Community Groups
DfI	Department for Infrastructure
DAERA	Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
NMDDC	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Priv	Private Landowners
TNI	Transport NI
CDRCN	Co. Down Rural Community Network
PSNI	Police Service Northern Ireland
RDP	Rural Development Programme
DfC	Dept. for Communities
BIG	BIG Lottery Fund
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
ORNI	Outdoor Recreation NI
GAC	Gaelic Athletic Club

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