

CLOUGH

Village Development Plan (May 2012)

Addendum and Updated Action Plan: November 2017

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



1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Implementation

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

The Updated Action Plan provides an indication of the key tasks which need to be undertaken to progress specific projects. This often includes detailed scheme design, preparation of the business case and funding application, and in some cases further feasibility and analysis. The source of funding will often dictate the order in which tasks need to be undertaken, for example the Rural Development Programme expects all statutory consents to be 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. Update of 2012 Action Plan

		2012 Action Plan			2017 Update				
	Green	Action substantially complete							
	Yellow	Ongoing							
	Red	Major constraint to implementation							
	Orange	New Project							
Regeneration Initiative		Key Stakeholders	Time frame	Potential Funders	Progress @ November 2017	Priority H, M, L	Time frame	Actions	
1	Community and Youth Facilities								
1.1	Green	Provision of play ground on site adjoining school	CA	S/M	RDP, NIHE, NMDDC	Delivered	N/A	N/A	N/A – action complete
1.2	Yellow	Provision of outdoor gym trail	CA, NMDDC	S/M	RDP, NIHE, NMDDC	This has not been progressed, however there is a potential site at the Castle grounds beside the playpark.	M	S	Initiate a feasibility study to assess options and costs. Engage with landowners and other bodies such as NIEA.
1.3	Red	Lobby for provision of nursery unit at Cumran Primary School, possibly using vacant building adjoining school entrance	CA, parents	M/L	n/a	No progress to date and has become a main priority due to school expansion. Parents having to take children out of the village for nursery provision.	H	S	Undertake feasibility study to include engagement with the primary school.
1.4	Green	Lobby for improvements to library service	CA	S/M	n/a	Mobile library service now in place.	N/A	N/A	N/A – action complete
1.5	Yellow	Devise and deliver Programme of activities including meals on wheels, day trips and indoor activities for older people. Walking Group identified as a new action.	CA, SEHSCT	S/M	SEHSCT, Big Lottery	Tuesday club now setup and supported by CDRCN. Would like to develop more activities in the local area for older people.	M	S	Development and promotion of a walking club in the village. Continue to explore other initiatives.

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1.6	Provision of youth club	CA, SEELB Youth Service	S/M	SEELB Youth Service, Big Lottery, Churches, PSNI	Activities currently run on Friday nights during September – March by church youth members in the church hall - this is open and accessible to all youths.	N/A	N/A	N/A – action established	
1.7	Provision of a summer scheme	CA, SEELB Youth Service	S/M	SEELB Youth Service, Big Lottery, Churches, PSNI	Summer school has been running for 3 years with annual financial assistance from NMDDC.	N/A	N/A	N/A – action established	
1.8	Improve communications locally by creating community notice boards, sustaining existing newsletter and creating village Facebook site	CA	S/M	RDP	There are two community noticeboards in the village that are used and kept up to date. CA have a facebook page that is active and well used. Suggested that there is still apathy from some sections of the local community to engage in village activities.	H	S	Explore initiatives for increasing volunteers within CA.	
1.9	Continue to liaise with the Council on Good Relations Programme to include bonfire forum and flags and emblems forum.	CA, NMDDC, CDRCN, PCSP	S/ M	NMDDC	This is a sensitive matter that the local community feel is best addressed by the Council through their Good Relations Strategy/Peace IV Programme. Flags and emblems continue to be displayed along arterial routes through the village which affects footfall and local business' trade at certain times of the year.	H	M	Work with Peace IV programme to raise awareness and embrace funding opportunities for good relations type projects	
1.10	Explore potential for neutral community venue in village, to include neutral space and activities for young people.	CA, Down District Council		NMDDC	Clough Old School refurbishment completed. Usage has doubled in one year.	N/A	N/A	N/A – largely complete, however potential to explore the potential of further shared recreational / leisure space for young people	

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1.11	Deliver capacity building programme for local community and voluntary groups	CA, CDRCN	S/M	CDRCN	This work is ongoing with support from CDRCN.	M	M	Action established, however continue to identify and deliver capacity building initiatives for local community groups.	
1.12	Investigate need for additional childcare and if established explore potential for parent and toddler group/playgroup	CA, SEHSCT	S/M	SEHSCT, Early Years, NICMA	Parent and Toddler Group now running in the Hall.	N/A	N/A	N/A – action complete	
1.13	Establish Neighbourhood watch scheme	PCSP	S/M	n/a	Neighbourhood watch scheme has been setup in the village. Opportunities for further expansion and promotion.	L	M	Action established – however requires ongoing communication and promotion of Neighbourhood Watch.	
1.14	Lobby for additional Community policing	CA PCSP	S/M	PSNI	Increased number of burglaries in the area so need for increased resourcing for community policing.	L	M	Continue to engage with PSNI.	
2	Environmental and Townscape Improvements								
2.1	Market and promote motte more effectively to draw tourists to stop in village; Lighting scheme, Picnic tables, Change gate to allow access to prams. Provide mural to show how motte looked in its day.	CA, NMDDC, NIEA	S/M	RDP, NMDDC, NIEA, HLF	Work to the gate has been completed however the gravel path to the Castle is inaccessible to wheelchairs and prams. Currently poor communications between local community and NIEA who manage the site. Need for literature about the Castle, information panels, walking trails and picnic tables. Community would like to engage with NIEA to maximise the opportunities associated with the Castle e.g. hosting events like Dundrum Castle.	H	M	Explore opportunities for better partnership working between NIEA and the CA to use and promote the Castle for community/tourist events. Undertake EI Scheme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting - Paths - Picnic tables - Artwork - Parking provision 	

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	Lobby for coach parking area to facilitate visitors to motte							
2.2	Develop entrance features at each end of village	NMDDC, CA	M	RDP, Big Lottery, Live here Love Here	Rhododendron beds have been planted at entrance to the village. Planters and hanging baskets throughout the village. Need for high quality signage at entrances to Clough.	M	S	Develop gateways further with appropriate signage / features.
2.3	Provide flower beds, tree planting, additional street furniture and entrance features with view to entering village in Ulster in Bloom competition	CA, NMDDC, NIHE, school, Conservation Volunteers, Groundwork NI, Woodland Trust	S/M	RDP, NMDDC, Sponsorship	Ongoing.	L	M	Explore the potential for a comprehensive environmental improvement scheme should funding become available.
2.4	Annual Community Clean Up to be undertaken	CA, NMDDC, Tidy Northern Ireland, School	Annually	RDP, NMDDC, Sponsorship	Ongoing. Site behind bus shelter is overgrown and continues to have a negative visual impact.	L	M	Continue to encourage and support annual community clean up.
2.5	Mount campaign locally to encourage owners to use poop scoops and lobby NMDDC to take action against offenders	CA, NMDDC	S/M	NMDDC, Sponsorship	Has reduced but remains an ongoing issue.	L	M	Continue to engage with dog owners and raise awareness of the issue.

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2.6	Explore potential to refurbish pond	CA, NMDDC, Conservation Volunteers, Groundwork NI, Woodland Trust	S/M	RDP, NMDDC, Sponsorship	No progress to date.	L	L	Seek landowner agreement for refurbishment.	
2.7	Prune old chestnut tree and add seating; explore potential for lighting tree and old pump behind school at night	CA, NMDDC, Conservation Volunteers, Groundwork NI, Woodland Trust	S	RDP NMDDC Sponsorship	Lighting at the pump has been installed and seating installed in the village. Ongoing maintenance and management issues regarding old chestnut tree.	M	S	Action largely completed Carry out tree survey to assess condition, and engage with landowner about potential improvements.	
2.8	Lobby for improvements to derelict buildings and owners of pub/restaurant to re-open.	CA, NMDDC	M/L	NMDDC, RDP, DFI	This issue is ongoing and continues to detract from the visual appearance of the village. CA has identified over 60% buildings derelict on the Main Street. Some visual improvement was completed in 2015 to derelict buildings however a need exists for further enhancement.	H	S	Engage with landowners. Apply for planning permission (if applicable) Identify funding sources for regeneration of vacant buildings.	
2.10	Provide "covers" for selected derelict buildings as in Perry Street, Dungannon	CA, NMDDC	M/L	RDP NMDDC	Some buildings have been spruced up by the local community. Other buildings need significant refurbishment (see Action 2.9). Some visual improvement was completed in 2015 to derelict buildings however a need exists for further enhancement	H	S	Continue to improve physical appearance, whilst exploring potential long term sustainable reuses of the buildings. Engage with landowners.	
2.11	Support efforts to bring old school back into use	CA	S	RDP	Completed.	N/A	N/A	N/A – action complete.	

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2.12	Lobby NMDDC/TNI to improve footpaths and lighting at specified locations	CA, DFI	S/M	DFI	Around the Old School has been a problem and there have been several falls. Opportunity to improve public realm around the Old School now that the building is back in use.	H	M	Environmental improvement works around the Old School to include paths and lighting.
3	Infrastructure and Services							
3.1	Lobby for provision of bus shelters	CA, Translink, DFI	S/M	DFI	Two new bus shelters installed. Conflict with buses and new bus shelter – buses keep knocking it as it is too close to the road.	L	M	Engage with DFI on repositioning of bus stop.
3.2	Lobby for pedestrian crossing/traffic lights/ramps on Main Street and/or roundabout at Castlewellan Road junction	CA, NMDDC, DFI	M/L	DFI	This is an important problem at peak times with queues of traffic through the village causing congestion, pollution and noise. Businesses are also losing trade as people avoid leaving the queue of traffic to stop and use shops in the village. Transport NI have agreed to implement improvements. Important to continue lobbying to ensure the works are prioritised.	H	M	Continue to explore options to alleviate traffic congestion coming into the village at peak times. Continue to lobby TNI
3.3	Discuss additional facilities for re-cycling with NMDDC	CA, NMDDC	S	NMDDC	Completed. Glass and clothes recycling available in village.	N/A	N/A	N/A – action complete
3.4	Promote opportunities for new businesses in village e.g. nursery provision, hairdresser, car wash, chemist, dentist	CA, DBC	S/M		This is ongoing. Chemist is now in the village but still significant need for nursery provision (see Action 1.3).	H	M	Continue to identify service needs and engage with potential operators.

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3.5	Ask police to continue to monitor speeding through and around village	CA, NMDDC	S/M	PSNI	Ongoing	M	S	Lobby Transport NI and PSNI to address speeding.
3.6	Lobby for ATM availability out of normal shop opening hours	CA	S/M	n/a	Completed	N/A	N/A	N/A – Action completed
<p> AONB Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty CA Community Association DBC Down Business Centre DFI Department for Infrastructure HSCNI Health and Social Care Northern Ireland </p> <p> HLF Heritage Lottery Fund NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency NIHE Northern Ireland Housing Executive NMDDC Newry, Mourne and Down District Council PCSP Policing and Community Safety Partnership PERS Pedestrian Environment Review Survey PSNI Police Service Northern Ireland RDP Rural Development Programme SEELB South Eastern Education and Library Board </p> <p> PS - Private sector PLO - Private land owner RA - Rivers Agency RS - Roads Service TL - Translink </p>								