



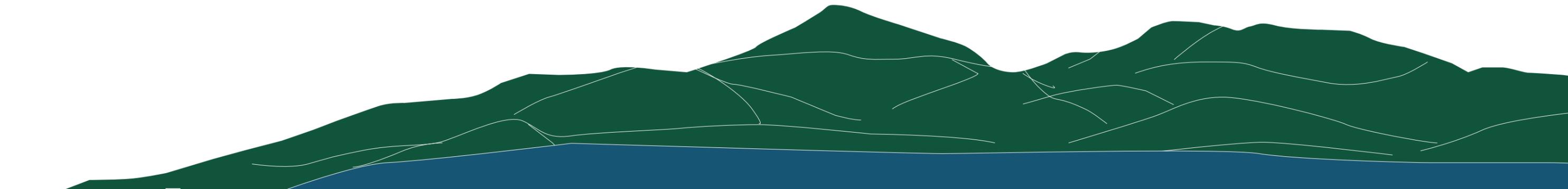
January 2018

Crossgar and Kilmore Village Renewal Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council



ARUP





Downpatrick Street, Crossgar. Credit: Rossographer



Kilmore Road, Crossgar. Credit: Albert Bridge

Contents

Introduction	1
Section A : Crossgar	
A1 Context	4
A2 Policy Analysis	7
A3 Consultation Process	11
A4 Site Analysis	13
A5 Opportunities	15
A6 Implementation	22
A7 Action Plan	23
Section B : Kilmore	
B1 Context	26
B2 Policy Analysis	29
B3 Consultation Process	33
B4 Site Analysis	35
B5 Opportunities	37
B6 Implementation	44
B7 Action Plan	47

Introduction

This document explores and illustrates the village renewal plans for Crossgar and Kilmore, Rowallane. The purpose of the village renewal plan is to revive and enhance the social, economic and environmental fabric of the settlement and the communities that underpin their activity and future development. Building on this, the communities within each settlement have helped craft and shape the contents of the renewal plan through an extensive consultation process entailing village walkabouts with local community representatives, extensive desktop research and community workshops to help create the most reflective plan possible. Having established this, the document provides Crossgar and Kilmore with their own relevant and distinctive section to illustrate and explore each of their settlements respectively.

The settlements of Crossgar and Kilmore rest within the rich Rowallane rural landscape between Ballynahinch and Killyleagh. Building on this the settlements are located within 1.5 miles of each other with Kilmore situated South West of Crossgar. The village of Crossgar is significantly more developed than Kilmore due to its strategic location along the arterial A7 carriageway connecting Downpatrick with Saintfield, Carryduff and onward to Belfast. Additionally, the location of the settlements allow for the retention of a rich rural character whilst offering effective connectivity with much larger urban areas such as Downpatrick and Ballynahinch.

Having established this, the role of the village renewal plan is to provide a community built tool kit in order to guide and navigate the future development of Crossgar and Kilmore. The preservation and expression of local character, culture and heritage is key in the development of vibrant, strong and distinctive communities.



Masonic Hall, Crossgar. Credit: Eric Jones



Former Northern Bank, Crossgar. Credit: Albert Bridge



Rich Heritage, Kilmore



Glasswater and Ballynahinch Rivers, Kilmore

The Village Renewal Plan

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 Crossgar and Kilmore. 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.





Presbyterian Church. Credit: Eric Jones

A1 | Context

Crossgar

Village Location

Crossgar rests on the main A7 Downpatrick to Belfast Road, approximately 27 km from Belfast and 8 km from Downpatrick. Building on this, its location is strategically poised allowing the settlement to steadily develop. Having established this, the village had a population of 1,892 in 2011.

The village developed as a small market village at the intersection of five main routes over the Glasswater River. Situated between Saintfield and Downpatrick, the village derives its name from the Gaelic translation for “The short cross” mirroring its natural morphology as a cross road settlement.

Village Character

Crossgar embodies a unique, traditional and distinctive setting due to the retention of historic built fabric and expression of rich heritage. Building on this, the village comprises a stunning roofscape due to the spires of the multiple religious institutions within Crossgar. Places of interest within the village include the Tobar Mhuire Monastery, St. Patrick’s Church, War Memorial Hall and Ulster Wildlife Centre.

Additionally, Crossgar is home to the first Free Presbyterian denomination of its kind worldwide with an additional Presbyterian church located along the Downpatrick Road (Lissara). Other points of interest within the village are the Crossgar Orange Hall which is home to the local Orange Lodge. Crossgar village also expresses its cultural heritage via the listed Market House and Masonic Hall.



Downpatrick Street, Crossgar (Credit: Peter Benton)

History and Development of the Village

Within the village, development was originally focused along Downpatrick Street, Killyleagh Street and the secondary routes / pathways encompassing the Market Square, which is overlooked by the visually commanding church, the listed Market House with its central clock and the historically renowned Masonic Hall. The vast majority of development within the settlement has occurred over the past thirty years particularly to the south and south-east along the arterial Downpatrick Road. The settlement comprises an extremely rich and vast history encompassing an Anglo-Norman invasion to Scottish settlers alongside a series of territorial and religious conflicts. Today, the village expresses a rich, shared and vibrant setting, embracing its diverse past and cultural heritage whilst striving for a shared, safe and prosperous future.

Village Profile

For the purposes of understanding the demographic profile of the villages, both Crossgar and Kilmore Wards are analysed below. These two areas take in both the villages themselves, as well as the surrounding rural hinterland they serve.

From 2006-2016 the population of Crossgar and Kilmore grew at an estimated rate of 8.6% and 5.8% respectively. The age profile of both areas is similar to the NI average, with 20-21% of the population aged under 16, and 14-17% aged over 65. The average age of the areas is slightly above the NI average of 37.

According to the 2011 Census, 19% (Crossgar) and 16% (Kilmore) of the population stated that they had a long term health problem or disability that limited day to day activities, which is lower than the NI average of 21%. Similarly, the proportion of population that stated they had good or very good general health in both areas is higher than the NI average (82% in Crossgar, 84% in Kilmore).

The villages and 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 (70-71%, compared with an NI average of 66%), and a low unemployment rate (2.5-3%, compared with an NI average of 5%).

According to the Multiple Deprivation Index 2010, both villages are within the top 25% least deprived wards in Northern Ireland, with Crossgar scoring 455 out of 582, and Kilmore 517 out of 582, where 1 represents most deprived and 582 represents the least deprived ward. Both areas score low, however in terms of proximity to services, and are within the top third most deprived wards in Northern Ireland. Crossgar also scores below the Northern Ireland average in terms of crime and disorder, whilst Kilmore remains within the top 25% least deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

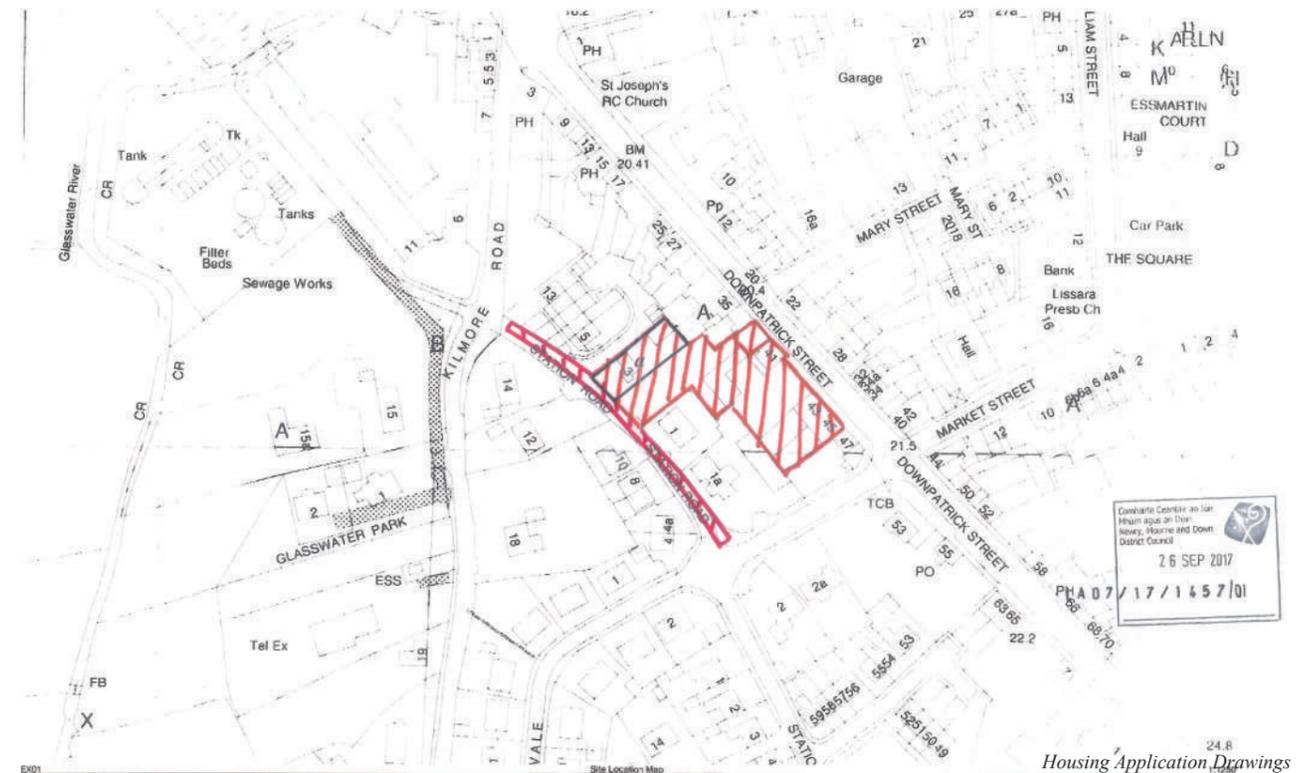


Recent and Future Development

Future Development

Housing Policy Area 3: Lands east of Kilmore Road and South of Edenvale (Ards and Down Area Plan 2015)

The following Housing Policy Areas are designated in accordance with Policy SETT 2 in Volume 1 of the Plan and as indicated on Map No. 3/010, Crossgar Settlement Map. Development of the land East of Kilmore and South of Edenvale are subject to key design considerations ranging from a minimum gross site density of 20 dwellings per hectare, provision of satisfactory sited accesses and visibility splays onto Kilmore Road also with design of access arrangements and dwelling layouts (remaining design considerations found within the Ards and Down Area pLan 2015, Crossgar)



Housing Application Drawings

Recent Development

Station Court. Planning Ref. LA07/2017/1457/F Status: Application Pending

Proposed erection of 6 dwellings and 14 apartments with access arrangements from Station Road at lands 37-45 Downpatrick Street.

Church Hall. Planning Ref. LA07/2016/0145/F Status: Granted

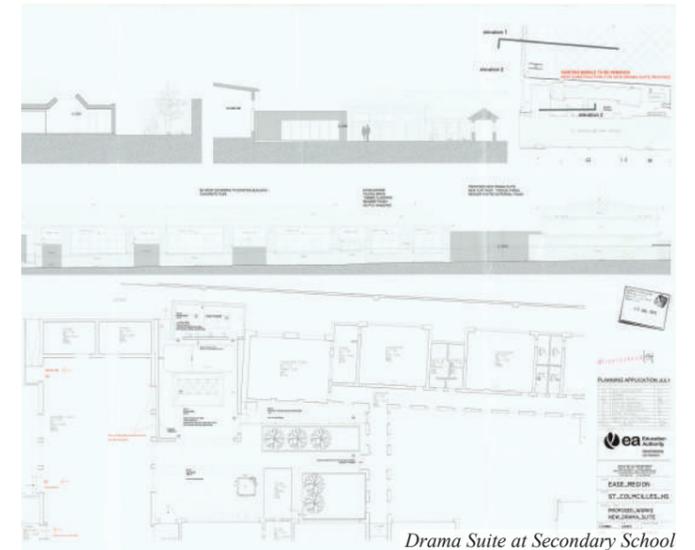
Construction of new church hall with associated storage and adjustments to car park at Crossgar Free Presbyterian Church 85 Killyleagh Street.

St. Colmcille's High School: New Drama suite. Planning Ref. LA07/2015/0643/F Status: Permission Granted

Installation and enhancement of High School facilities to development a new drama suite at 1 Killyleagh Road.v



Church Plan Drawings



Drama Suite at Secondary School

The development above highlights the growing need for services and amenities within the village to facilitate the continuous population growth of Crossgar and the wider rural area.

A2 | Policy Analysis

A2.1 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.

Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (ADAP)

The Ards and Down Area Plan (ADAP) was adopted in March 2009 and sets a number of site specific statutory policies relevant to Crossgar village that should be taken into consideration by developers, landowners, the Council and the local community in the forward planning of the villages.

In relation to Crossgar, the policy illustrates that the village is capable of harnessing increased development through 3 Housing Policy areas, additionally the natural landscape of the village is protected via 2 distinctive local landscape policy areas for both the river and Tobar Mhuire environs.

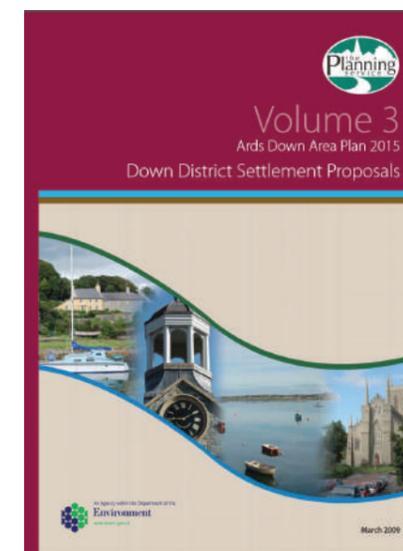
Living Well Together: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan (2016)

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.



A2.2 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 local assets of natural surrounding beauty 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 Sports Facility Strategy (October 2016)

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This is one of 11 Local Strategies to be developed in the context of the NI-wide work. A consistent approach to developing the Local Strategies has been undertaken. The same methodology for applying supply and demand standards for sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities have been used in all 11 Local Authority Strategies and agreed with Sport NI. The Strategy rationale is to develop a framework for the future prioritisation and development of sporting facilities within the district.

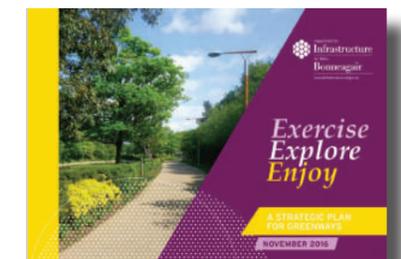
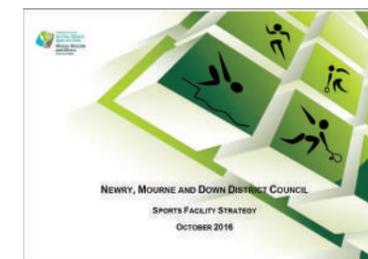
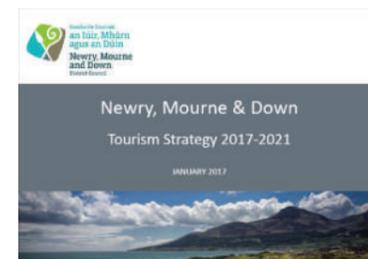
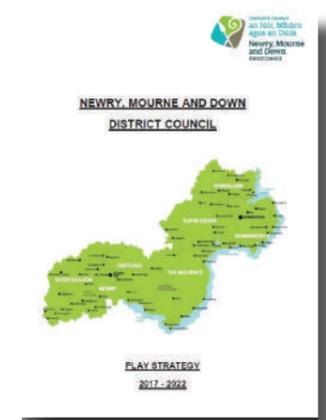
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Play Strategy 2017 - 2022

The Play Strategy for NMDDC identifies need for new or upgraded play facilities in the district. The strategy makes a recommendation for improvements to Westlands play area at an estimated cost of between £25,000 and £65,000.

In addition to this it is also recommended that consultation is carried out on the development of a new fixed play area in Kilmore.

Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways (July 2016)

In July 2016, The Department for Infrastructure published its Strategic Plan for Greenways which seeks to fulfil a commitment in the Bicycle Strategy (2015) in order to explore the possibility for the development of greenways throughout the region. It sets out a high level plan for the overall region to enable people to connect to places locally, regionally and nationally by active forms of travel. In relation to Crossgar, the area will substantially benefit via the future implementation of the Comber to Downpatrick Greenway which runs through settlement.





- 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



Tobar Mhuire Monastery. Credit: Paul McIlroy

A3 | Consultation Process

The Crossgar 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 on 6th June 2017 with representatives of the Council, the consultant team, and 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 for how the Village could be improved.

Community Event

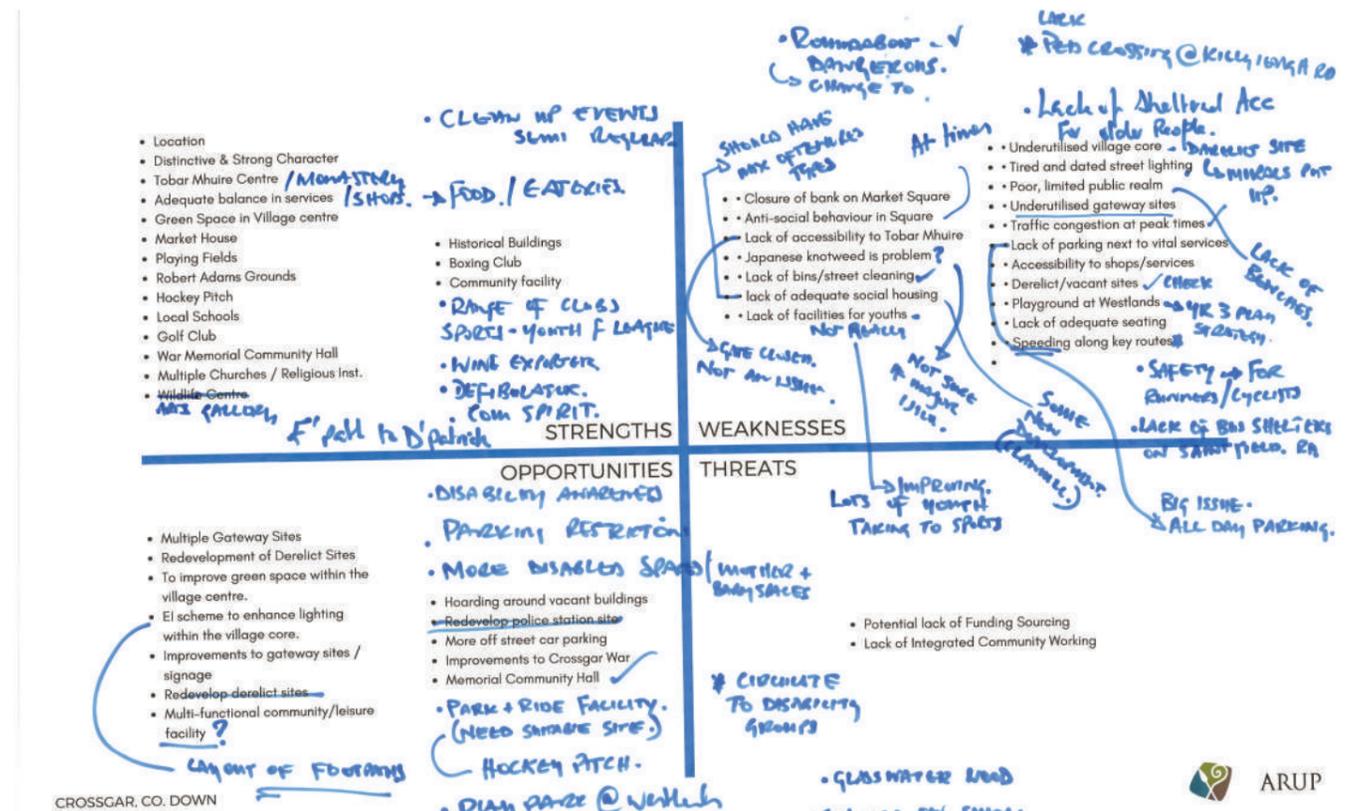
A public consultation event was held on the evening of 27th September in the War Memorial Community Hall. The purpose of the event was to present the findings of the desktop research, site walkabout, together with draft proposals for actions and priorities for tackling the issues identified by the local 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 - War Memorial Hall



Consultation Venue - War Memorial Hall



Consultation Venue

A4 | Site Analysis



Strengths

- Location – Access to Belfast and Downpatrick and surrounding rural network.
- Community Clean-up events - Community spirit supports the environmental quality of the village
- Tobar Mhuire Monastery – Strengthens character and setting
- Local services – a wide variety of essential services within Crossgar
- Footpath to Downpatrick - community benefits greatly via the safe linkage to Downpatrick.
- Community Spirit – A strong, passionate and resilient community
- Activities & Clubs – A wide variety of popular club, activities and community groups.
- Local Business – A strong local business community
- Defibrillator – Vital service within the village centre
- Religious Institutions – Multiple places of worship offer a significant expression of local heritage.



Opportunities

- EI scheme – To enhance environmental quality of the village including condition of footpaths
- Disability Awareness – Project to promote and raise awareness
- Parking Restriction – due to reduce impact of 'all day' parking
- Disabled Parking – Disabled parking along with mother & toddler spaces.
- Park & Ride – transport initiative to reduce the impact of the private car
- Play Park - Play and recreational facilities for older children (10+)
- Community Noticeboard - Promotion, awareness and community information signage



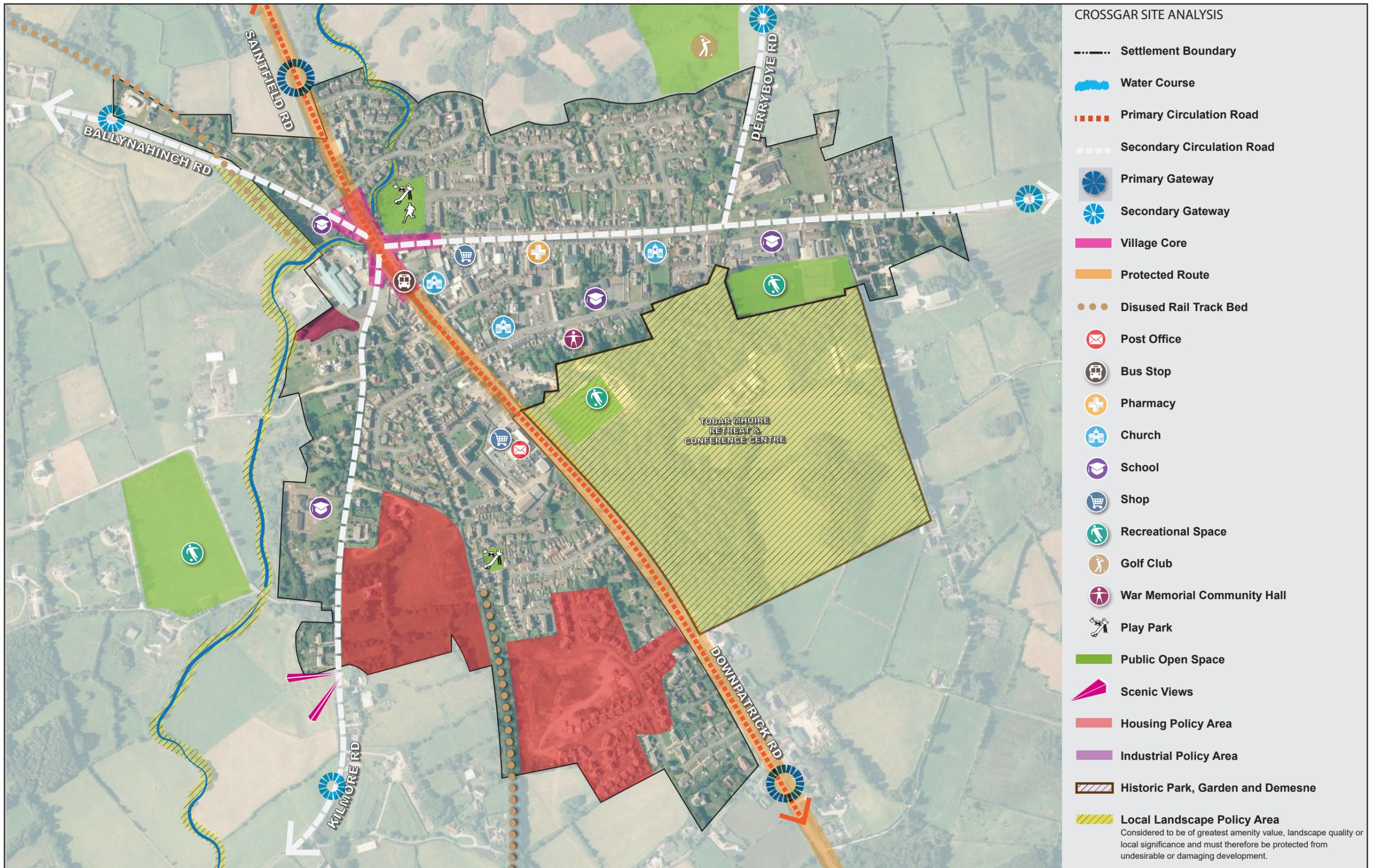
Weaknesses

- Anti-Social Behaviour – Associated with play space within the village core.
- Street Cleaning – There is a lack of public bins within Crossgar
- Housing - Lack of Sheltered Accommodation for elderly
- Dangerous Village core – Vehicular dominance at the village core
- Parking & Access - "all day" parking can reduce access to parking spaces
- Public Realm – environmental quality of the village requires urgent enhancement
- Speeding – A major concern within the entire village



Threats

- Disability – disability services must be safeguarded and comprised throughout future development of village
- Road Safety – will remain a major concern if not addressed
- Funding - potential lack in funding for particular projects
- Collaboration - potential lack in integrated community working.

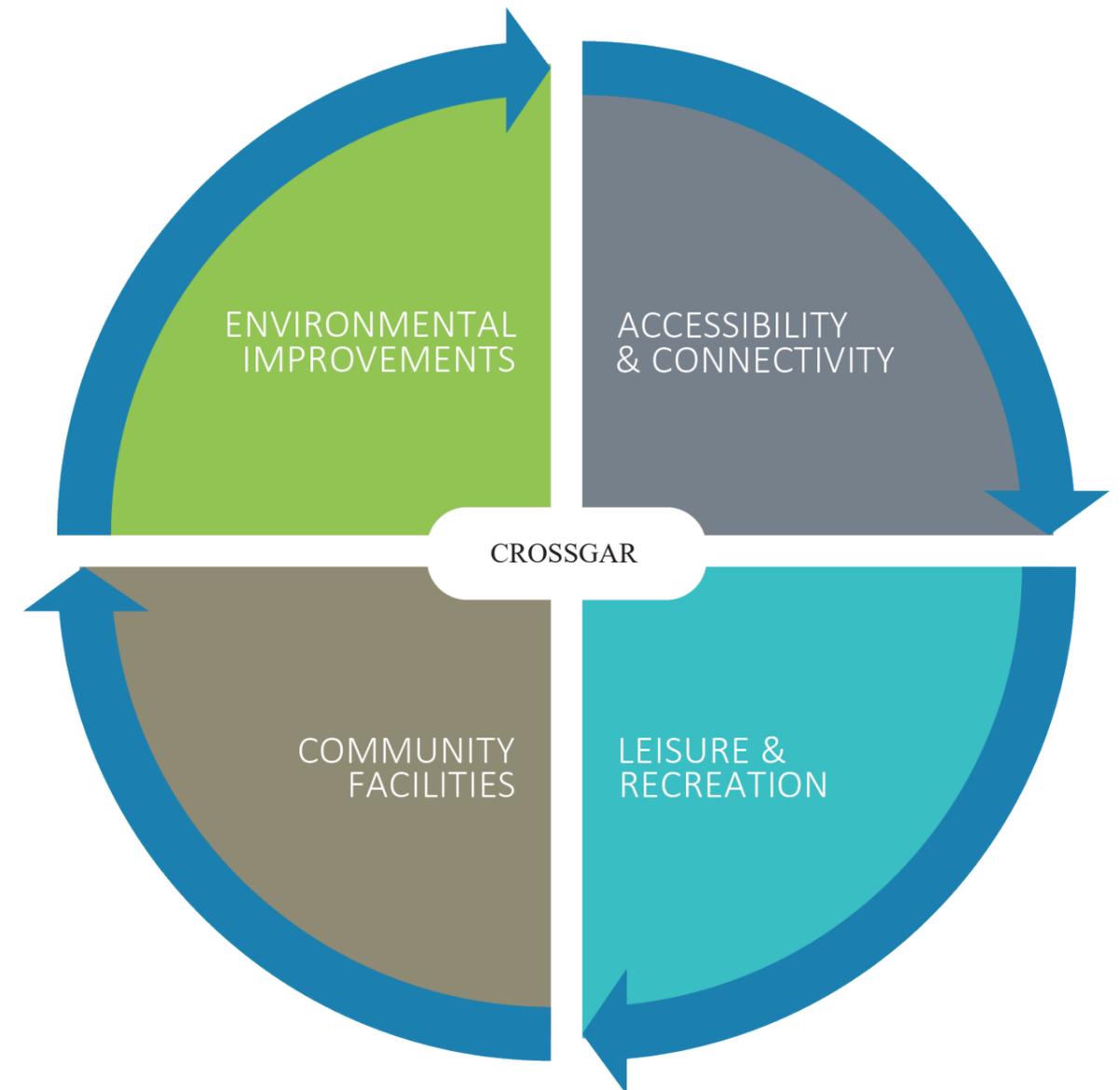


A5 | Opportunities

Following consultation with the community of Crossgar, various projects have been identified which could contribute to the social and physical renewal of the village. The projects outlined in this draft plan are aspirations which are achievable with the relevant 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 opportunities presented in this plan range from a Community HUB in the heart of the village to an enhanced village centre through a high quality environmental improvement scheme along with traffic calming initiatives at the village gateways. One of the key projects identified aims to implement a dedicated shared community space within the village. A further opportunity which would be of substantial benefit to the community is to enhance the environmental quality of Crossgar through a comprehensive public realm scheme. Additionally, a further project within the village is to implement improved traffic management initiatives at the key gateway sites within the settlement.

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





A5 | Opportunities

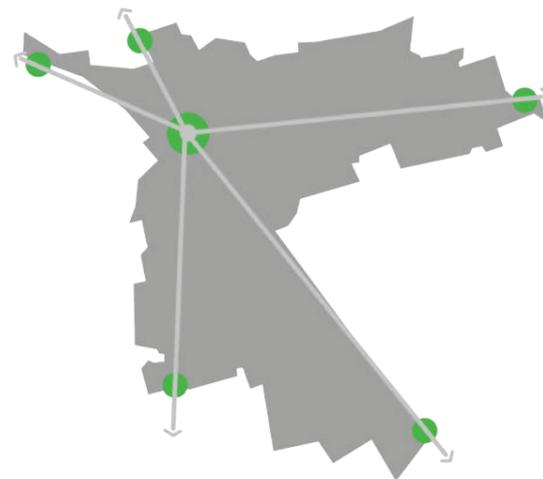
A | GATEWAYS AND TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

This project aims to enhance the physical standard and condition of the key gateway sites into the village by improving their environmental and visual quality. Due to the natural layout and functionality of Crossgar, the village comprises a series of primary and secondary gateway sites which facilitate varying levels of traffic intensity. Having established this, the primary gateways for the village are found along the Saintfield and Downpatrick Road as they facilitate a significant volume of movement through village. Furthermore, the secondary gateway sites within the village facilitate lower volumes of traffic flow and as such are located along the Kilmore, Killyleagh, Derryboye and Ballynahinch Road.

Due to the nature of primary and secondary gateways, the strategic significance of each site will vary. Building on this, the primary gateway sites within the village will benefit from enhanced welcome signage, high quality landscaping, boundary treatment and landmark features. On the other hand, the secondary gateway sites within the village will benefit via improved signage, boundary treatment and high quality landscaping. Having established the importance of physical renewal of gateway sites, they also play a key role in traffic calming and management. Building on this, gateway sites within Crossgar will substantially benefit via enhancement traffic management initiatives such as rumble strips, dragon's teeth and improved speed signage. Additionally, traffic management initiatives will have the potential to improve levels of road and pedestrian safety within the village core.

The need for such a project is evident due to the tired and dated quality of the village gateways. This project has the potential to physically uplift the key entry routes into the village strengthening the visual aspect of Crossgar and its community.

In order to deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



ENHANCING THE GATEWAY

The quality of the physical environment of a Village gateway has the ability to express the character of the village. A project which aims to enhance the Village entry points to revitalise the unique and picturesque setting of the Village.



Rumble Strips



Renewed Gateway signage

B | ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

This project will enhance the visual and physical condition of the village by improving the environmental quality of Crossgar. The village core and arterial routes play a key role in expressing the character, culture and heritage of a place. As such, a project to physically revitalise these key spaces will enhance the quality of environment within Crossgar. The project would include the delivery of improved lighting within Crossgar to improve levels of safety and surveillance, additionally, the environmental improvement scheme will enhance the physical quality of the streets throughout the area by improved floral planting, landscaping, seating, landmark features and resurfacing of paving to uplift the visual quality of the village.

A justification for such a project is evident due to the need to upgrade the environmental quality of the village. Crossgar expresses a rich, diverse and historical character however its physical environment is tiring and in need of urgent attention. The benefits of regenerating the quality of the village to accommodate for ageing, youth, disability and access needs will benefit the entire community and future development of the settlement.

In order to deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



Improved Lighting



VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS

High quality environmental improvements play an important role in creating an improved and safe environment. Both pedestrians and road users are provided with a sense of security and safety.



Street Crossing



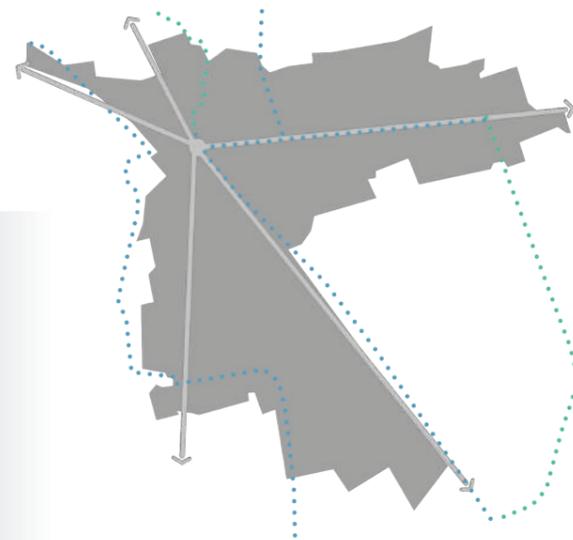
Public Art

C | IMPROVING WALKING TRAILS

A project to safeguard and enhance key walking routes within the village. The New Line along with the linkage connecting the Kilmore Road with Station Park are key for levels of access and connectivity between key areas within Crossgar. Building on this, the New Line pathway offers a key linkage between the Killyleagh and Downpatrick Road passing along the eastern boundary of Tobar Mhuire Monastery. Furthermore, this pathway acts as a key walking route within the area connecting key residential developments within Crossgar. Additionally, the linkage connecting the Kilmore Road, immediately opposite Cedar Integrated PS with Station Park offers a strategic desire line connecting a key residential area with the school. Building on this, this pathway must be protected and safeguarded in relation to future development on the land.

For the New Line Pathway, the project will aim to revive the environmental quality of the linkage by improving the quality of lighting along the route. Improvement to lighting will increase levels of safety and surveillance for those who use it whilst visually uplifting the space. In relation to the linkage connecting the Kilmore Road with Station Park, the project will explore the potential to deliver a designated and protected public right of way to safeguard the linkage between the key areas of the village. The benefit of this project will safeguard and enhance key linkages within the village to improve and protect access and connectivity within Crossgar.

In order to deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY

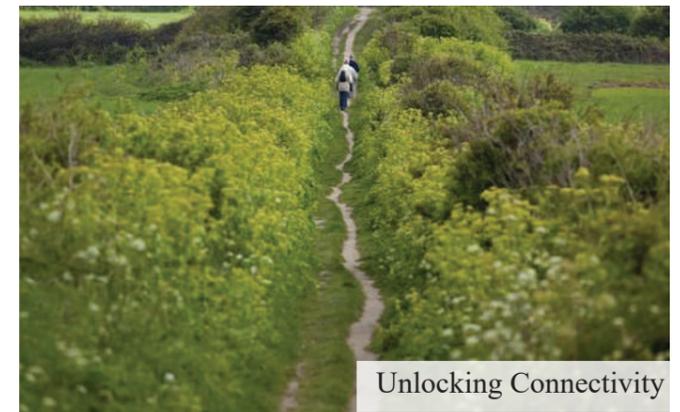
Safety and connectivity are crucially important for community mobility, therefore a project which strengthens the key linkages within the village will improve levels of community safety



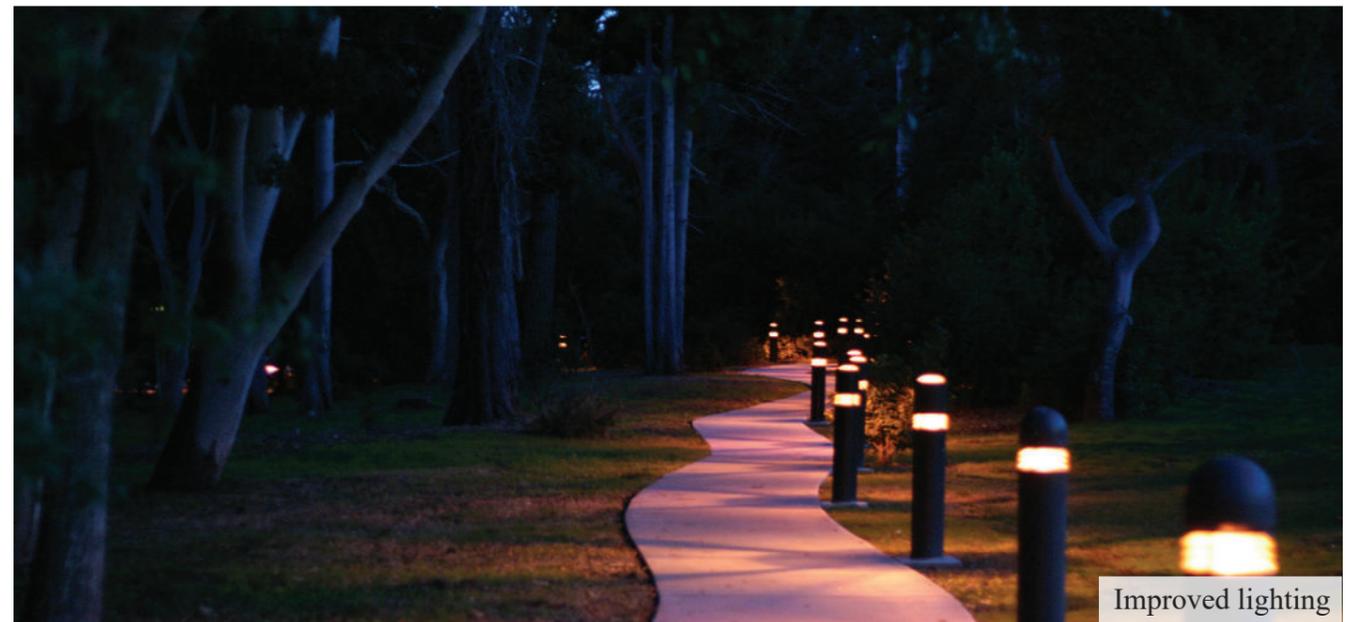
Improved walking trails



Opportunity to connect with river



Unlocking Connectivity



Improved lighting

D | SPORTING FACILITIES

A project to enhance the GAA Facilities within the village to increase the value, standard and quality for the community and wider area. Having established this, the St. Colmcille's HS within the village centre express a successful and developing Ulster Schools GAA club with their facilities located on the grounds of the high school at Killyleagh Road. This project aims to explore the potential to redevelop the sporting facilities for the sports clubs to enhance the quality and condition of both training and match day amenities. Currently, the quality of the sporting facilities requires urgent redevelopment to accommodate the successful development of the club, whilst providing improved facilities for the wider community and sporting clubs.

By improving the GAA facilities within the village the value of sport, physical activity and recreation will continue to advance to accommodate intergenerational development strengthening inter-community relations.

in order to deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



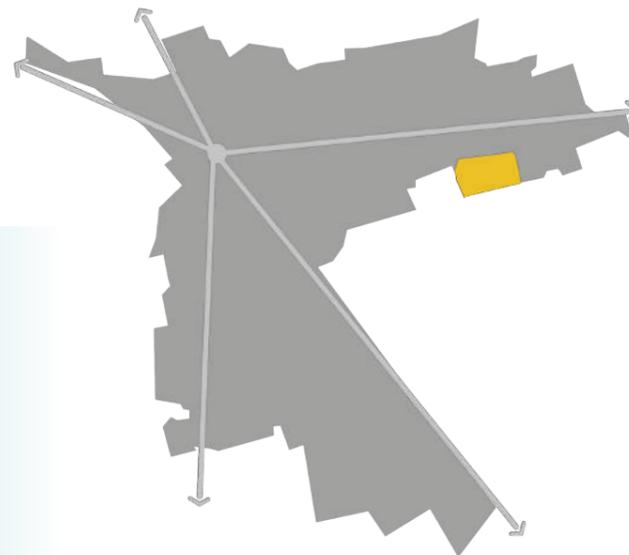
GAA Facilities



Improving Provision



Harnessing Activity



CREATING RECREATIONAL SPACES

Enhancing recreational space within the village to provide all residents and visitors with the opportunity to benefit from quality open space.

E | COMMUNITY HUB

A project to explore a potential community HUB within the village to connect with the current play park. The location for the community HUB could integrate into the existing community hall within Crossgar at Killyleagh Street immediately facing the greenspace. The land which currently facilitates informal car parking could offer a potential development opportunity to deliver a strengthened community HUB which strengthens a relationship with the green space within Crossgar.

The project includes the development of an improved community HUB to offer a shared space within the village for necessary community functions and activities. The community HUB would act as social focus within the community offering an inclusive space for all residents within Crossgar. Furthermore, the HUB would strengthen the connection with the play park located adjacent the current site offering improved levels of safety and surveillance for those using the space. The benefit of this project will provide a shared, diverse and purpose built community facility to both complement and enhance existing community services.

In order to deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



Improving Community Facilities



A Space to Connect



Potential Location



PROVIDING QUALITY SPACE

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

A6 | IMPLEMENTATION

The Village Plan is a working document and should be kept relevant and updated. It sets ambitious targets for the delivery of identified projects, however it must be acknowledged that this may change with funding availability. Aspirations may change as the Village continues to change and grow. Therefore, it is important to identify priorities in the short, medium and long term, and who needs to be involved in the delivery of the projects set out in the action plan.

In order to ensure the Plan is realised, it is recommended that a village renewal steering group is setup to drive the delivery of the Village Plan forward. The steering group should consist of representatives from key stakeholder groups, to include the local community, Council officers, elected representatives, voluntary organisations and relevant statutory bodies as appropriate. The action plan should be used to guide the steering group's work programme, and identifies priorities, timescales, funding opportunities etc.

It is important to ensure that the Plan remains relevant, and takes into account the many changes that are taking place across government, but also within the village itself. It may be appropriate for the village renewal steering group to review the plan at key intervals, for example, when the new Local Development Plan for the District emerges. It will provide a fifteen-year statutory framework to support economic and social needs in the District and will set future growth and development policies for the Village.



A7 | 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	Gateway Project	H	S	TNI, DfI, NMDDC, Com	RDP, BIG, DfC, NMDDC
B	Social Housing Project / Scheme	M-H	M-L	NIHE, NMDDC, Com, Priv.	NIHE, RDP
C	Environmental Improvement Scheme (EIS)	H	M	DfC, NMDDC, TNI, DfI, Com	DfC, NMDDC, RDP, BIG
D	Roundabout / Junction Enhancements	L	S-M	TNI, DfI, NMDDC, Com	RDP, NMDDC
E	Improved Green Space	H	S-M	Com, NMDDC	RDP, NMDDC, DfC
F	Car Parking Improvements	M	S	NMDDC, Com, TNI	NMDDC, TNI, DfI
G	Sporting Facilities (GAA)	M	M	Com, Priv. NMDDC	NMDDC, BIG, HLF
H	Sporting Facilities	M	M	Com, NMDDC, Priv	NMDDC, BIG, HLF
I	Improved Access to Sports Ground	M	S	Com, NMDDC, Priv	NMDDC, RDP, BIG
J	Community HUB	M-H	S-M	Com, NMDDC, DfC, Priv	RDP, BIG, HLF, NMDDC
K	Greenway Project	L-M	S-L	Com, Priv, NMDDC, DfI	RDP, DfI
L	Highway to Health	M-H	S	Com, Priv, NMDDC	RDP, NMDDC, BIG, HLF
M	River Walkway	L	M-L	Com, Priv, NIW, NIEA, DfI, NMDDC, DfC	RDP, BIG, HLF, NMDDC, DfI, DfC

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



Ballynahinch River, Kilmore. Credit : Albert Bridge

B1 | Context

Kilmore

Village Location

Kilmore is a small village settlement 2 km south-west of Crossgar. The settlement of itself acts as a natural extension to its larger settlement and is primarily comprised of residential housing development. The village is surrounded by a vast green landscape of rolling hills and intermittent forestry with the Annacloy River passing along its natural eastern boundary.

Village Character

As an extension of Crossgar, Kilmore acts as compact residential settlement area residing within a gently rolling landscape. As an extension of Crossgar, Kilmore acts as compact residential settlement area residing within a gently rolling landscape. The physical fabric of the village resembles similar character to settlements of a comparable size. The village encompasses a rich and unique historical narrative although recent development has done little to enhance the cultural quality of Kilmore. Building on this, the village comprises a predominantly residential fabric with a village convenience store located along the Kilmore Road. The southern area of the village expresses the historical built fabric of Kilmore with more contemporary and recent housing found within the northern quarter of the settlement. The Annacloy River creates a natural and topographical boundary to the East which sinuates in a northerly direction to connect Crossgar with Kilmore.



Village Letterbox. Credit : Albert Bridge

History and Development of the Village

The historical morphology of Kilmore has not varied dramatically to what it presents today. The village concentrated its development at the contemporary junction at Church, Teconnaught and Kilmore Roads and by 1832 established a distinctive village fabric. The village core benefitted greatly via passing transport and communication which supported the functionality of the corn and flax mill within the area. Additionally, Kilmore comprised a Roman Catholic Church within the village centre which assisted the establishment of the village further alongside the Glebe School and Church at Church Road. By 1862, Kilmore had consolidated its village from further via the establishment of a post office school in the south of the settlement. By 1900, Kilmore had remained similar by maintaining its village fabric within a similar scale however the introduction of the Orange Hall within the north of the village allowed the settlement to consolidate its northern half of the main street. Today, Kilmore expresses a similar built fabric comprising increased contemporary residential areas to accommodate the recent growth within the village.

Village Profile

For the purposes of understanding the demographic profile of the villages, both Crossgar and Kilmore Wards are analysed below. These two areas take in both the villages themselves, as well as the surrounding rural hinterland they serve.

From 2006-2016 the population of Crossgar and Kilmore grew at an estimated rate of 8.6% and 5.8% respectively. The age profile of both areas is similar to the NI average, with 20-21% of the population aged under 16, and 14-17% aged over 65. The average age of the areas is slightly above the NI average of 37.

According to the 2011 Census, 19% (Crossgar) and 16% (Kilmore) of the population stated that they had a long term health problem or disability that limited day to day activities, which is lower than the NI average of 21%. Similarly, the proportion of population that stated they had good or very good general health in both areas is higher than the NI average (82% in Crossgar, 84% in Kilmore).

The villages and 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 (70-71%, compared with an NI average of 66%), and a low unemployment rate (2.5-3%, compared with an NI average of 5%).

According to the Multiple Deprivation Index 2010, both villages are within the top 25% least deprived wards in Northern Ireland, with Crossgar scoring 455 out of 582, and Kilmore 517 out of 582, where 1 represents most deprived and 582 represents the least deprived ward. Both areas score low, however in terms of proximity to services, and are within the top third most deprived wards in Northern Ireland. Crossgar also scores below the Northern Ireland average in terms of crime and disorder, whilst Kilmore remains within the top 25% least deprived wards in Northern Ireland.



Kilmore Village Core



Kilmore Rec. FC



Christ Church Kilmore (Credit: Callum Bowsie)



Old Kilmore Bridge (Credit: Peter Benton)



New Village Bridge (Credit: Down News)

Recent and Future Development

This section highlights recent and any future planning applications within the village to provide an understand as to the development climate for the area.

Private Residential Work. Planning Ref. LA07/2015/1299/F Status: Permission Granted

2 storey rear extension and alterations to dwelling at 19 Kilmore village.

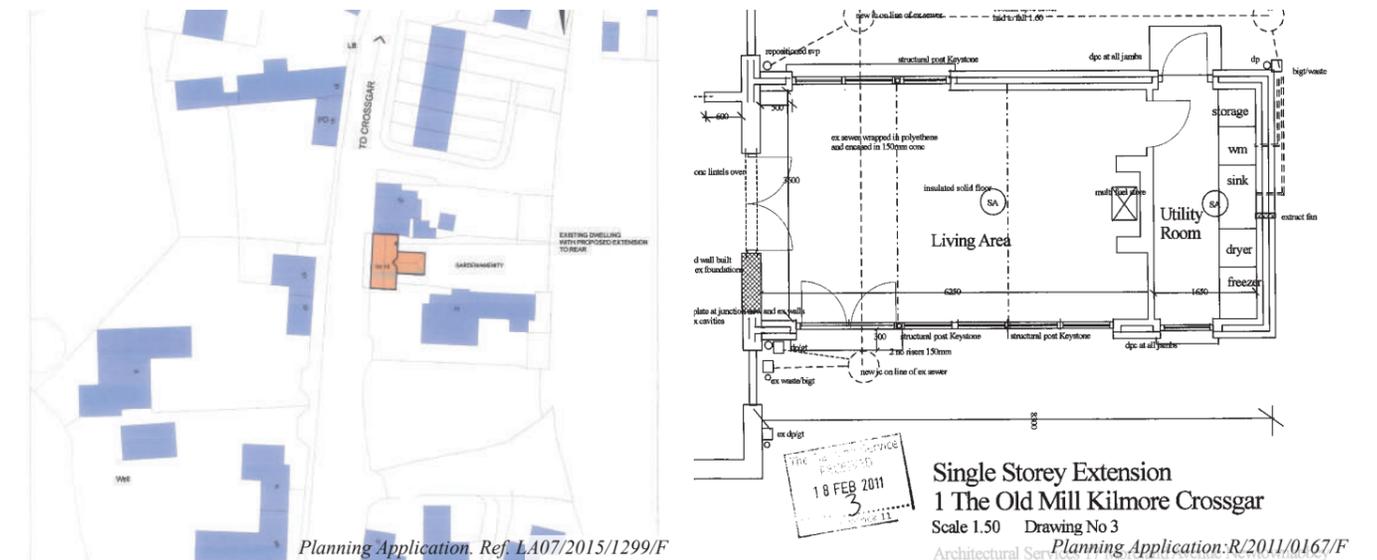
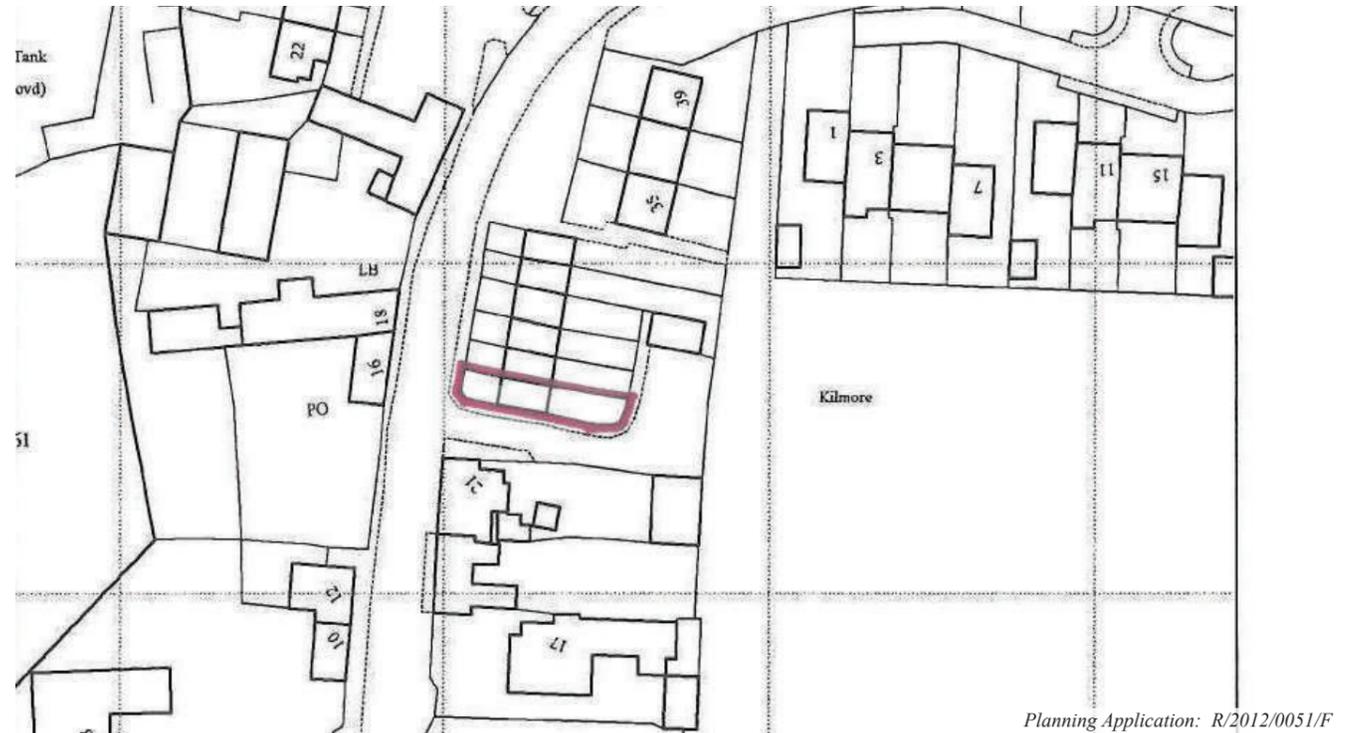
Private Residential Work. Planning Ref. R/2011/0167/F Status: Permission Granted

Single Storey extension to rear of dwelling at 1, The Old Mill.

Private Residential Work. Planning Ref. R/2012/0051/F Status: Permission Granted

Construction of new single storey extension to rear of dwelling at 23 Kilmore village.

Due to the remote rural location of the village, it is clear that development pressure is minimal and primarily consists of extensions and alteration to private residential dwellings throughout the community. The community within Kilmore express a unique and remote setting and it is clear that development patterns reflect that accordingly.



The development above highlights the type of development primarily found within the settlement. Patterns of development reflect the sensitive character, setting and sense of place.

B2 | Policy Analysis

B2.1 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.

Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 (ADAP)

The Ards and Down Area Plan (ADAP) was adopted in March 2009 and sets a number of site specific statutory policies relevant to Kilmore village that should be taken into consideration by developers, landowners, the Council and the local community in the forward planning of the villages.

ADAP identifies the Settlement Limit and is drawn to maintain the separation and protect the setting of Christ Church to the north west and allow for frontage development to reflect the existing pattern of development. Furthermore, the plan highlights the rich natural environment present within Kilmore via the Local Landscape Policy Area protecting the environs associated with the Annacloy, Ballynahinch and Glasswater Rivers.

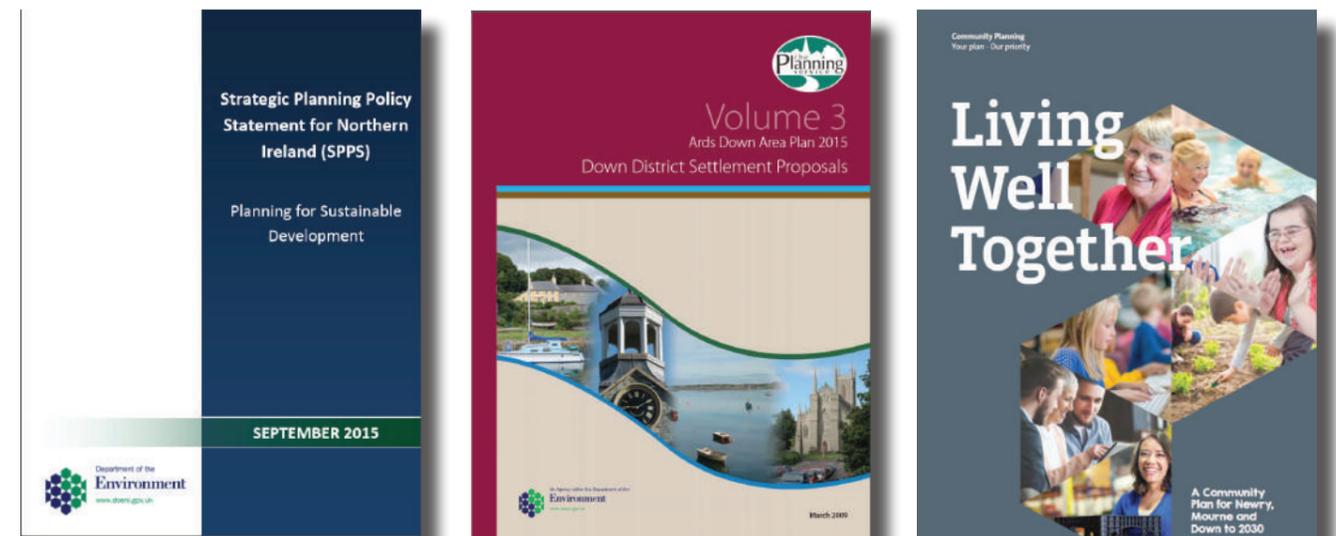
Living Well Together: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Community Plan (2016)

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.



B2.2 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 local assets of natural surrounding beauty 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 Sports Facility Strategy (October 2016)

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This is one of 11 Local Strategies to be developed in the context of the NI-wide work. A consistent approach to developing the Local Strategies has been undertaken. The same methodology for applying supply and demand standards for sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities have been used in all 11 Local Authority Strategies and agreed with Sport NI. The Strategy rationale is to develop a framework for the future prioritisation and development of sports facilities, based on identified need, increasing participation, addressing health inequalities and other local specific factors. The focus of the facilities analysis has been sports halls of 3 courts or above (except those on education sites), pools of 20 m and above, health and fitness suites of 20 stations and above and full size artificial grass pitches (AGPs), together with other facilities specific to each local area.

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

The purpose of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Play Strategy is to establish an effective strategic framework for decision making as it relates to the development, maintenance and roll-out of play opportunities (both fixed and non-fixed) across the district. At the core of the strategy is a recognition that play is a natural, fundamental part of children and young people's lives that supports growth and development, enhances health and well-being, supports social and intellectual development, and enables children and young people to develop essential life skills. Importantly for children, play is fun.

Department for Infrastructure Strategic Plan for Greenways (July 2016)

In July 2016, The Department for Infrastructure published its Strategic Plan for Greenways which seeks to fulfil a commitment in the Bicycle Strategy (2015) in order to explore the possibility for the development of greenways throughout the region. It sets out a high level plan for the overall region to enable people to connect to places locally, regionally and nationally by active forms of travel. The village of Kilmore will substantially benefit via the future implementation of the Comber to Downpatrick Greenway which runs through settlement.





- 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



Kilmore Scale and Location

B3 | Consultation Process

The Kilmore 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 on 6th June 2017 with representatives of the Council, the consultant team, and 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 for how the Village could be improved.

Community Event

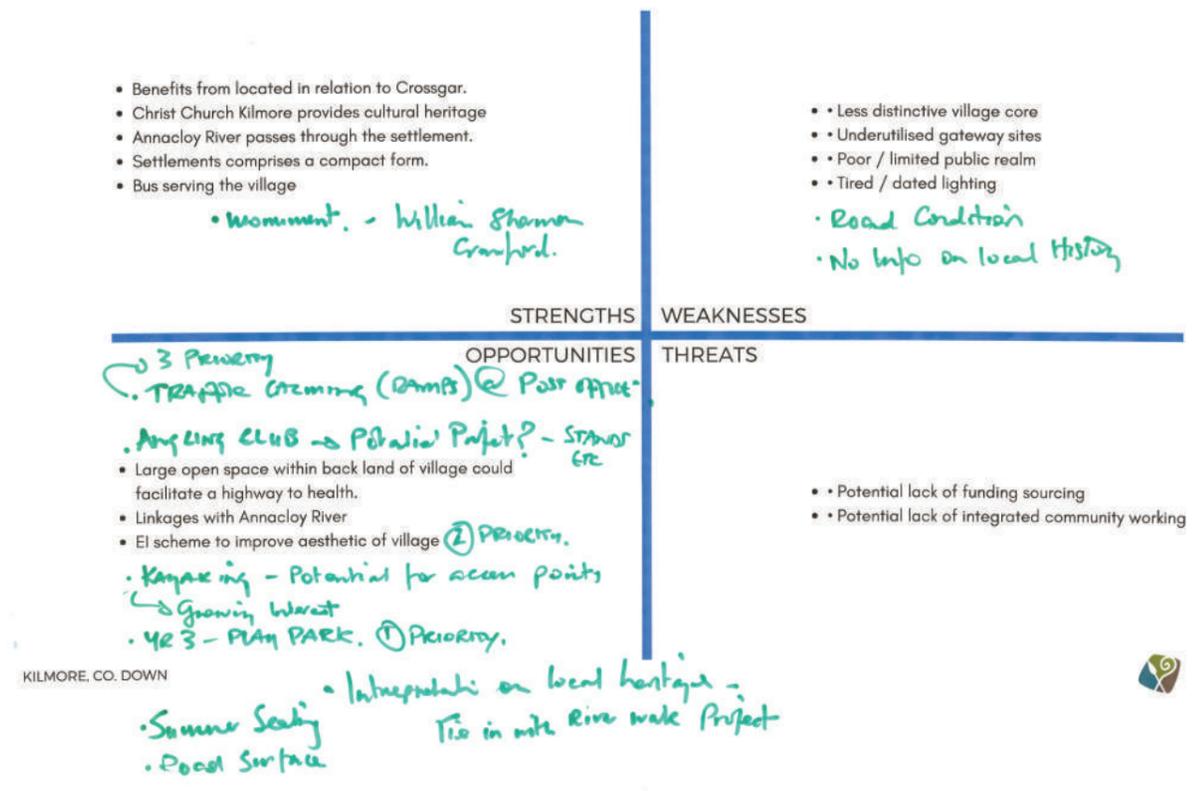
A public consultation event was held on the evening of 27th September in the War Memorial Community Hall. The purpose of the event was to present the findings of the desktop research, site walkabout, together with draft proposals for actions and priorities for tackling the issues identified by the local 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 - War Memorial Hall





Community Event Location

B4 | Site Analysis



Strengths

- Location – *Effective linkage with Crossgar*
- History – *String industrial heritage within the village*
- River – *Meanders through the settlement*
- Church – *strengthens cultural character*



Weaknesses

- Roads – *quality of road surfacing in need of improvement*
- Information Panels – *Lack of signage to express village history*
- Public Realm – *absence of quality public realm degrades the appearance of Kimora*
- Lighting - *poor quality, condition and standard of street lighting*



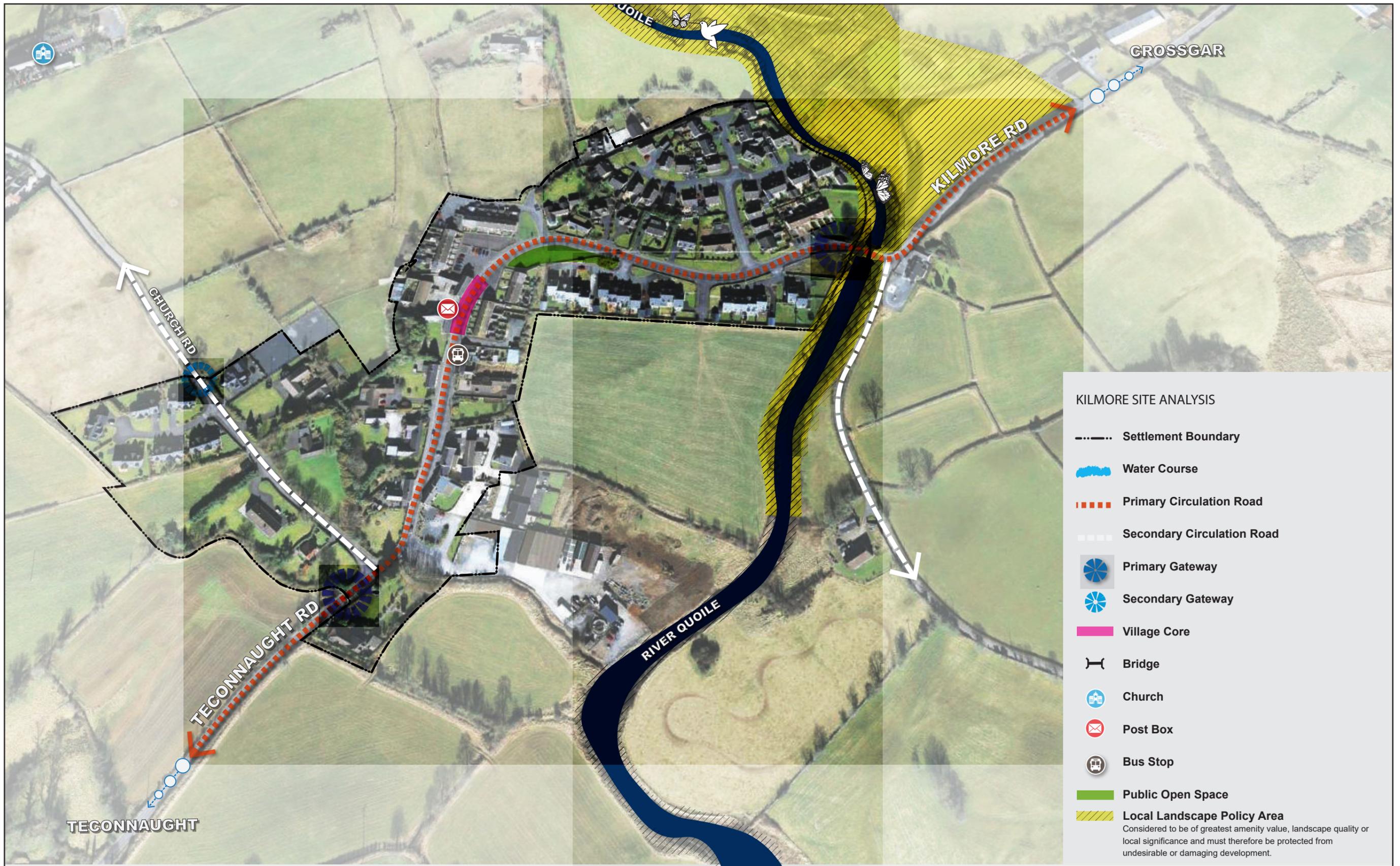
Opportunities

- Fishing Stands – *Leisure and recreation potential of Annacloy River*
- Street Lighting – *Opportunity to enhance the quality of street lighting within the village*
- Traffic Calming – *Initiatives to manage the intensity and speed of traffic*
- Play Park – *enrichment of play value for children in the community*
- Gateways – *improvement of visual, physical and environmental quality*
- EIS – *Public realm enhancements to revitalise the area*



Threats

- Funding – *Potential lack in funding for future projects*
- Collaboration – *potential lack in integrated community working*

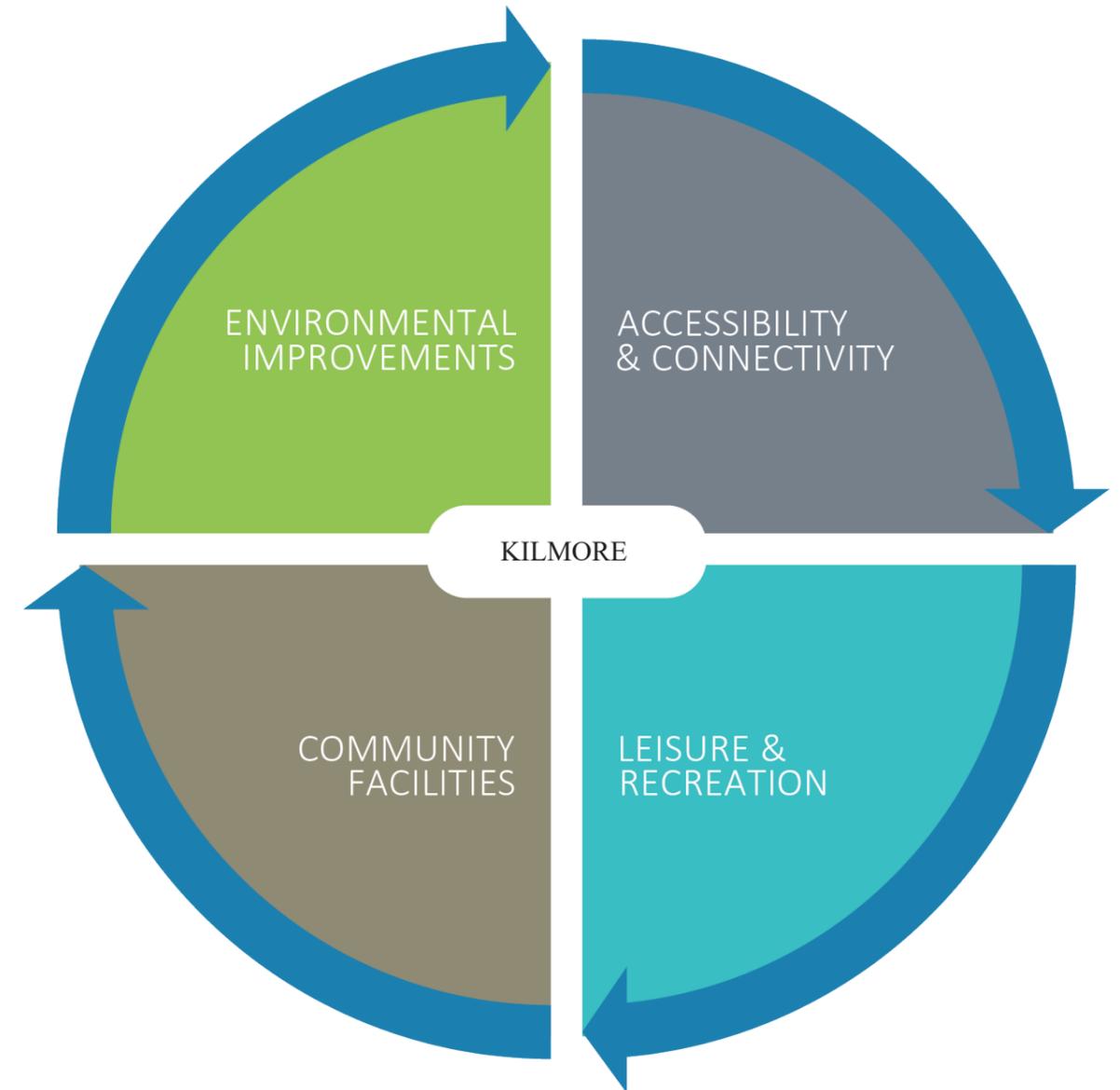


B5 | Opportunities

Following consultation with the community of Kilmore, various projects have been identified which could contribute to the social and physical renewal of the village. The projects outlined in this draft plan are aspirations which are achievable with the relevant 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 opportunities presented in this plan range from improved street lighting to fishing stands in the river and improved traffic calming measures within the core of the settlement. Having established this, one of the key projects identified aims to address the poor quality of street lighting in Kilmore by providing enhanced lighting throughout the village core and linkage with Crossgar. A further opportunity which would be of substantial benefit to the community is to explore the potential for fishing stands along the Annacloy River to enhance its leisure potential. Additionally, a project to introduce improved traffic calming initiatives within the village will dramatically safeguard levels of road and pedestrian safety within Kilmore.

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





06 Opportunities

A | ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

A project to revitalise the environmental quality of Kilmore by uplifting the visual and physical appearance of the village. Due to the layout and form of the village, its compact nature helps shape and harness the natural character and history of the settlement. The scale of the village core is extremely compact offering an opportunity to uplift the overall appearance of the area. The village gateways are located within a close distance from the core highlighting their importance in relation to physical renewal in conjunction with improvements to the wider area.

The project will aim to enhance and uplift the physical quality of the village through high quality hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatment, public realm enhancements and landmark features along with improved welcome signage, floral planting and landscaping at the village gateways. Additionally, the project will aim to deliver improved lighting within the village core whilst extending onto the Kilmore Road to help strengthen the walkable connection with Crossgar.

This project will transform the village through environmental improvements in order to help express the rich cultural character within Kilmore. Currently, the physical quality of the village requires urgent attention due to its tired and dated condition. The benefits which this project can bring is a renewed sense of place and expression of community spirit throughout Kilmore.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



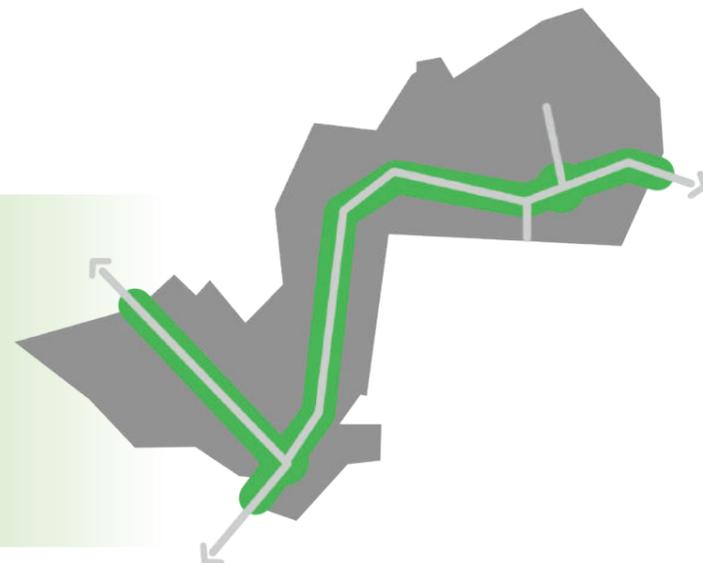
Improved Landscaping to uplift village



Distinctive Gateway Signage

ENHANCING VISUAL QUALITY

The quality of the physical environment plays a crucial role in the expression of character and place. A project which aims to enhance the standard of lighting will revitalise the unique and picturesque setting of the Village.



B | TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

This project aims to improve the standard and quality of traffic management initiatives within the village core. The project will aim to manage traffic within the village core through the introduction of speed bumps / tables along the Kilmore Road at the Post Office and village green space in order to reduce the speed of traffic passing through the area.

Improved speed restricting surfacing such as rumble strips would help slow traffic upon entry to the village. The need for such a project is evident due to the concern around road safety within the village due to the speed and intensity of traffic that passes through the area. The community had stated that the need to address / manage this issue is a key priority for the future safety of the community. This project has the potential to safeguard future and levels of road and pedestrian safety within the village by implementing much needed traffic management initiatives.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



Grass Verge at Ballycutler Rd



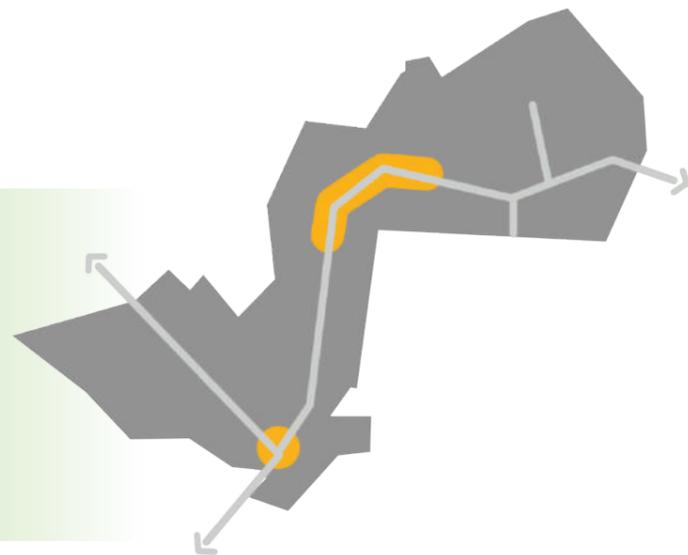
Speed Bumps



A safer village

ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

High quality environmental improvements play an important role in creating an improved and safe environment. Both pedestrians and road users are provided with a sense of security and safety.



C | RIVER WALK

A project to explore the potential to unlock the Annacloy River as a recreational asset by implementing a walkway to connect Kilmore with Crossgar. The Annacloy River meanders through Kilmore village to extend north to link Crossgar. A project to explore the potential to link the two settlements via a designated River Walk pathway would significantly increase levels of access and connectivity between Crossgar and Kilmore. The River walkway would comprise access to the River via the Kilmore Bridge and offer a seamless waterside connection northward toward Crossgar.

High quality landscaping, flood alleviation, lighting and wayfinding signage would help create a truly mystical pathway following the natural meander of the Annacloy River to connect Kilmore with Crossgar. This project has the potential to improve levels of access and connectivity between the two communities as the current walkable connection is weakened due to the absence of lighting and quality paving along the Kilmore Road.

In order to deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



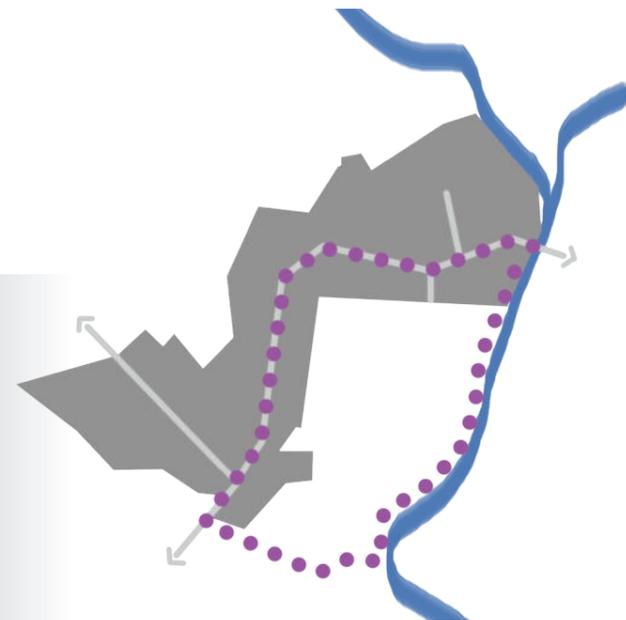
Weaving nature with health



Connection with Crossgar



Unlocking an Asset



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



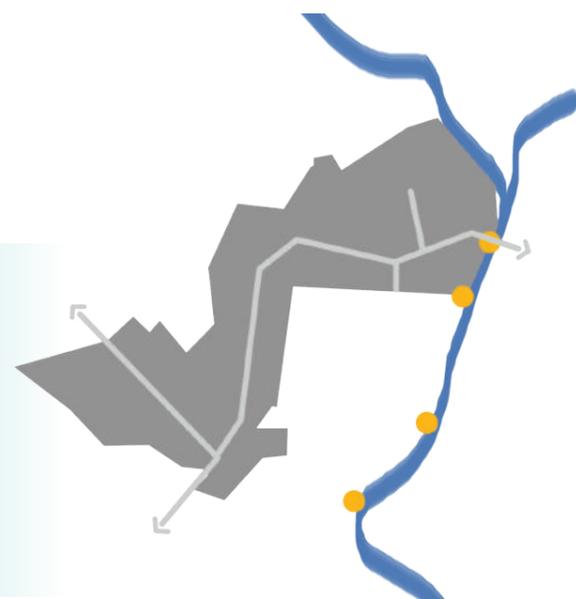
Revitalising the Water

D | RIVER REVIVAL

Closely related to project C, this project has the potential to unlock the leisure and recreational potential of the Annacloy River for activities such as Angling and Kayaking. Having established this, the project aims to improve access to the river via the Kilmore Bridge to unlock the asset for the community to use. The Annacloy River has the potential to harness activities such as Kayaking and Angling and as such would require amenities such as fishing jetties and space for equipment to support such uses.

The leisure and recreational potential for the River is restricted due to a lack of effective community access and so the project aims to address this issue. The benefit of this project will unlock the River as a useable, diverse and attractive asset for the community to use, offering a distinctive connection with the natural heritage of the village.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.



CREATING RECREATIONAL VALUE

Enhancing recreational value within the village to provide all residents and visitors with the opportunity to benefit from the River.



Light weight Structures



Fishing Pontoons

E | PLAY PARK / SPACE

A project to explore the potential for a dedicated play space within the village to increase the value of play and recreation. A possible site location for this project is at lands North of Mason's Bar and bounding 17 Kilmore Road. This project aims to deliver a dedicated play space within the village to accommodate future and current youthful generation by enhancing the standard, quality and condition of play facilities.

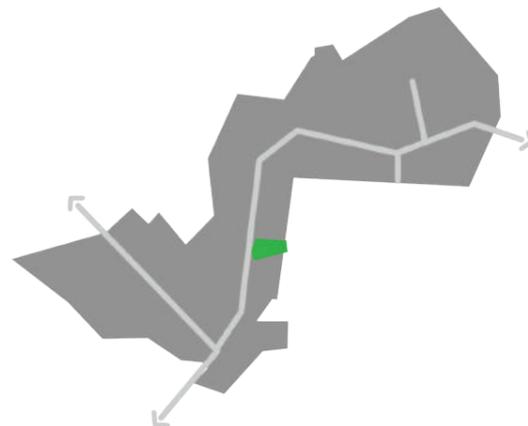
The absence of dedicated play facilities within the village threatens the vibrancy and vitality of Kilmore, furthermore as the village develops, such services must be in place in order to accommodate for the needs of younger people within the community.

The need for a play facility is evident within the NMDDC Play Strategy 2017-2022 for the delivery of a designated facility within year 4 of the plan (est. 2020) at an indicative cost of £100,000. Based on the agreed rural criteria population level and settlement pattern analysis identifies a need for the development of a fixed play area at Kilmore. Additionally, the Council should commence identification of a suitable location and initiate community consultation as outlined within the play strategy as it relates to the design of new fixed play provision.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.

SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITY SERVICES

An initiative to relocate the community post box in order to safeguard levels of access and provision for the service which is vital to the community.



B6 | 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.



B7 | 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	Gateway Project	H	S	NMDDC, TNI, DfI, Com	RDP, NMDDC, BIG, HLF
B	Environmental Improvement Scheme	H	S-M	DfC, NMDDC, Com	DfC, NMDDC, BIG, HLF
C	Traffic Calming Scheme	H	S-M	DfI, TNI, NMDDC, Com	TNI, DfI, NMDDC, BIG
D	Fishing Pontoons	M	S-M	NIW, NIEA, Com, NMDDC	RDP, BIG, HLF, Fundraising
E	Kayak Access	M	S	Com, NMDDC	RDP, NMDDC
F	Play Park / Space	H	S-M	NMDDC, Com, Priv	NMDDC, RDP, BIG

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

For further information please contact:

Ove Arup & Partners Ltd

Bedford House

3rd Floor

16-22 Bedford Street

Belfast

BT2 7FD

United Kingdom

t +44 117 988 6829

e Kieran.Carlin@arup.com

www.arup.com

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 251867-00

ARUP