

Kilcoo

Village Renewal and Development Plan

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 Renewal and Development Plan (Village Plan) was produced for Kilcoo 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 in place before the funding application is submitted. There are potential sources of funding available for the projects and initiatives set out within this Village Renewal Plan. It is important to note that reference to potential funding is for guidance only. Other funding opportunities may become available during the lifetime of this plan, and all projects will be subject to appropriate eligibility checks, application and assessment procedures as set by each funding body.

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

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



3. Kilcoo- Review 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 Facilities								
1.1	Explore potential for Community Centre and securing funding for renovation.	KCA	S/M	RDP Lot NMDDC	<p>Primary Site for community centre / facility within village due to its historical and cultural significance. The Parochial Hall is a key asset within the community and offers the potential to supply greater community services for the entire Kilcoo and wider settlement population. However, in no way should this impede the development of improved facilities at Kilcoo GAC.</p> <p>New site situated at GAA club. Full community support with the project going out to tender. Expected completion date – March 2018.</p> <p>Planning permission granted for a new community hall and ancillary accommodation at the GAC grounds on 22/12/16 (LA07/2016/1288/F)</p>	H	S	Secure funding and progress scheme to completion.	
1.2	Provision of youth club and summer scheme	KCA, SEELB, Youth Service KGAC, CDRCN	S/M	SEELB Youth Service Lot Churches PSNI	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>CDRCN received Fit Futures funding to run programmes in Kilcoo. These programmes consisted of outdoor activities to encourage healthier and active lifestyles.</p> <p>Delivery of Community Centre is a pre-requisite for the development of a youth club.</p>	M	S/M	<p>Explore the opportunity to facilitate a youth club and / or summer scheme.</p> <p>Consider a temporary location for the youth club to get it up and running.</p>	

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1.3	Establish boxing / martial arts club with adjoining ladies' fitness.	KCA	S/M	SNI	Interest in this scheme is growing however required a venue. Reliant on the community centre (Action 1.1) being implemented.	M	S/M	See action 1.1. Consider a temporary location for the martial arts / boxing club to get it up and running.	
1.4	Organise delivery of evening classes (Culture committee, drama, arts, music tuition, Irish language, IT training)	KCA CDRCN	S/M	Big Lottery Awards for All	Evening classes would be an important service to be provided in the future Community Centre. Ongoing discussions regarding the range of classes to be provided, funding and management.	H	S/M	See action 1.1. Consider a temporary location for the evening classes. Explore further the range of classes to be provided and how these will be resourced and managed.	
1.5	Improve communications locally by creating community notice boards, sustaining existing newsletter and creating village Facebook site	KCA CDRCN	S/M	Big Lottery Awards for All	Partially completed. Establishment of a social media account – Facebook Magpie newsletter sent out fortnightly, parish bulletin, school announcements and social media utilised. Community regard this as a very effective means of communication.	M	Ongoing	Continue to ensure that events and notifications are adequately communicated to all members of the community.	

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1.6	Deliver capacity building programme for local community and voluntary groups	KCA CDRCN	S/M	CDRCN	Ongoing. Major constraint has been the lack of available funding and resources to deliver the programme. Currently investigating the provision of defibrillator training.	M	Ongoing	Work with key stakeholders to identify the type of capacity building which is required and options for delivery. -
1.7	Support St Malachy's Band to achieve their development plans	CDRCN, NMDDC	S/M	ACNI	Project progressed sufficiently and remains ongoing. Seeking to access community centre when completed.	M	S/M	Discuss with the community association how membership can be promoted throughout the village. Source funding for the provision of new uniforms, tuition and new instruments.
1.8	Establish Neighbourhood Watch scheme	-	S/M	-	Pilot carried out in 2012, however dependent on volunteers and CPSP funding.	N/A	N/A	Discuss at Interagency Meeting the need and feasibility of restating this scheme.
1.9	Ask NIHE to establish demand and need for additional social housing in village	KCA	S/M	NIHE	Project progressing sufficiently and remains ongoing. Latent demand test carried out and demand was not proven and not a high priority.	N/A	N/A	Discuss at interagency meeting and housing community network. Not an immediate priority - potential to revisit in the future.
1.10	Provision of MUGA pitch – All weather facility with enclosed	KCA NMDDC KGAC SNI	-	SNI RDP NMDDC PRIV	A rising issue within Kilcoo is the lack of suitable and safe facilities for recreation in various weather conditions. A MUGA pitch would enable children to play football in a safe environment regardless of the weather.	H	M	Identify suitable site and explore funding options.

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	fencing nets and floodlights.				Furthermore, it would increase the level of recreational space available.			
1.11	Provision of natural grass pitch with associated infrastructure- Drainage, fencing, floodlighting, ball stops and dugouts	KCA NMDDC KGAC SNI	-	SNI SLF RDP NMDDC PRIV	With the growth in memberships in the GAC and associated increase in team numbers, the provision of an additional natural grass pitch is desired. Additionally, the implementation of associated infrastructure is necessary to ensure that the pitch is fit for purpose.	M	M/L	Identify suitable location, progress design and seek funding.
1.12	Install 2 new dugouts at existing pitch	KCA NMDDC KGAC SNI	-	SNI SLF RDP NMDDC PRIV	The existing dugouts at the GAC are unsatisfactory for hosting competitive matches, therefore new dugouts would be beneficial.	H	S/M	Secure appropriate funding.
1.13	Provision of changing facilities at GAC (female and disabled facilities)	KCA KGAC SNI	-	SNI RDP NMDDC PRIV	The growth of the club has surged in previous years, evident in an increase in youth memberships. The expansion has been hindered by the lack of suitable facilities for appropriate changing / toilet facilities for youth, female and disabled members / spectators. A planning application was granted on 24th March 2016 for alterations and improvements to existing changing rooms and training facilities at Kilcoo GAC. Ref: LA07/2016/0116/F	H	S/M	Secure appropriate funding.
2	Environmental Improvements							
2.1	Provide flower beds, tree planting, additional street furniture,	KCA, KGAC, NMDDC, NIHE, school,	S/M	RDP NMDDC Sponsorship	Ongoing – Continues to be an important Expression of interest to the Rural Development Programme (RDP) regarding environmental and	H	S/M	Develop design in collaboration with the wider community.

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	entrance features and street lighting <i>(Inc. a sustainable Christmas tree)</i>	Conserv Vol, Groundwork NI, Woodland Trust			townscape improvement scheme - signage and flora & fauna scheme at playpark. Street lights to be extended / maintained to ensure that pathways are suitably lit and decrease pedestrian vulnerability. Landscaping of green spaces throughout the core; Improved floral installations, hanging baskets, visual signs and wayfinding to create a more welcoming atmosphere.			Explore funding opportunities for a comprehensive environment improvement scheme. Explore options to continue street lighting and paving to connect the Thierafurth Inn to 'The Square'.
2.2	Annual Community Clean Up to be undertaken	KCA, NMDDC, Tidy Northern Ireland, school	Annually	RDP NMDDC Sponsorship	Ongoing – continues annually. Community clean-up initiative has been carried out but support of volunteers is essential for it to be delivered annually.	L	S/M	Discuss and raise awareness at the interagency meeting.
2.3	Mount campaign locally to encourage owners to use poop scoops and lobby NMDDC to take action against offenders	KCA, NMDDC	S/M	RDP, NMDDC Sponsorship	Considered by the community to be a low priority.	L	Ongoing	Refer to interagency meeting and revisit in future.
2.4	Lobby for improvements to derelict buildings	KCA	M/L	DFC RDP	No progress to date. This remains and issue however is considered not to be a 'high' priority action.	L	Ongoing	Continue to monitor the issue and reassess should dereliction increase.
2.5	Protection of Church and Parochial Hall Buildings	KCA, NMDDC	S-L	RDP, HLF, NMDDC	A project to explore options to protect and preserve the listed and built heritage within Kilcoo and wider area.	M-H	S-L	Continue efforts to develop a fundraising strategy to aid the process of the project. Assess prioritise for each building and devise a dedicated strategy to target

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								funding. Explore potential funding avenues to benefit the protection of built heritage within the settlement.	
3	Leisure and Recreation								
3.1	Improve the area's tourism potential by developing the lough as angling resource with boats for hire etc. and perhaps developing walkway round lough	KCA, NMDDC, KGAC	S/M	RDP, NMDDC	Lough Island Reavy, controlled by Belfast Anglers Club has potential to be a tourism asset. It is currently an underutilised and requires the infrastructure to make it a destination for both residents and visitors. Disabled fly fishing association has agreed to work closely with the community to enhance this unique resource.	H	S/M	Commission study to explore options and feasibility of further tourism development at the lough.	
3.2	Provision of play ground on site adjoining parochial hall	KCA, NMDDC	S/M	RDP, NIHE, NMDDC	Completed. Venue for playground altered but overall a successful project. Located adjacent to the main Kilcoo GAC pitch.	N/A	N/A	Completed.	
3.3	Provision of walk and outdoor gym trail between GAA club and Ballymoney Road	KCA, NMDDC, KGAC	S/M	RDP, NIHE, NMDDC, Health and Well Being Team	Partially completed. Outdoor walking trail is considered a positive step towards healthy initiatives. Further work needs carried out to join to Ballymoney Road.	L	M	Continue to progress the project through engagement with key stakeholders and securing the funding required.	

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3.4	Explore potential for pitch and putt course and other alternative activities / business opportunities for the community.	KCA, NMDDC		Sports for All	No progress to date.	L	M	Further engagement with key stakeholders and the wider community to identify the types of activities that would be viable and supported. Focus resources towards those activities that can be delivered.
3.5	Provide sports centre and handball wall at GAA complex	KGAC, KCA	S/M	Sports for All, SNI, NMDDC	Ongoing. A gable wall of the community centre is currently utilised as a handball wall.	H	M	Need additional handball wall. Explore funding sources.
4	Infrastructure and Services							
4.1	Encourage local shop to expand by providing off-licence	KCA	S/M	-	Project ongoing	M	S	Explore options to expand the services provided by the village shop to include uses such as; Butchery, off-license or hot food bar etc.
4.2	Lobby for provision of bus shelter at Cloncool Crescent	KCA	S/M	School DIF	Bus shelter has been provided.	L	Ongoing	Continue to engage with Translink regarding the long term maintenance of shelter.
4.3	Lobby TNI to improve footpaths and lighting between village centre, The Square and the Thierafurth Inn	KCA	S/M	DFI	Ongoing process. New and improved footpath provision is still required to ensure safety throughout the village.	H	S/M	Raise awareness at interagency group. Continue to lobby TNI. Encourage TNI to prepare feasibility in terms of land ownership and costs.

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4.4	Lobby for improvements to sight lines at junction of Ballymoney Road with Dublin Road and for top of Bog Road, bottom of Mill Road, entrance to Mill Road at bridge	KCA, NMDDC TNI	M/L	TNI	No progress. Derelict house still impedes sign lines creating a hazard for vehicles.	H	M	Land is currently up for sale and community are investigating options to purchase.
4.5	Lobby for traffic calming measures at specific locations	KCA, NMDDC TNI	M/L	TNI	Completed. Monitoring has been carried out. Speed zones have been kept at 40 mph with signage. While this issue was initially completed, there has been repeated patterns of speeding at specific locations throughout the village including the school periphery.	N/A	N/A	Refer to the interagency meeting and continue to monitor situation.
4.6	Ask police to monitor speeding around village	KCA, NMDDC	S/M	N/A	Completed, but still ongoing issue.	N/A	N/A	Raise at the interagency meeting and discuss the continuation of speed monitoring.
4.7	Provide community-based defibrillator	KCA KGAC	M/L	Health and Well Being Team, sponsorship	Completed. Sports NI provided a defibrillator. DAERA micro capital grant programme provided a storage unit.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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4.8	Work with health and wellbeing team in Trust to raise awareness of healthy living options	KCA KGAC, DEA Forum	S/M	Health and Well Being Team	Ongoing.	M	Ongoing	Explore the current health stats for the area to inform actions to progress the initiative.
4.9	Devise and deliver programme of activities including meals on wheels, lunch club, day trips and indoor activities for older people	KCA	S/M	SHSCT	Pilot scheme with CDRCN carried out. Kilcoo Evergreen Club supported by the C.A. actively engages with advancing education, expanding activities, and promoting health amongst people aged 50+.	H	S	Consult with relevant stakeholders on potential for respite / day care services to be held in the Parochial Hall. Explore a feasibility study of the hall to facilitate services.
4.10	Lobby for improvements to library service	KCA	S/M	NI Libraries	Ongoing.	L	S/M	Consult on library usage and discuss the potential to increase this service.
4.11	Lobby for improved broadband access	KCA, DEA Forum	S/M	DIF	Ongoing.	H	S	Educate people – public consultation and educate community to increase the knowledge capacity.
4.12	Explore demand for public transport to facilitate workers travelling to work and school travel.	KCA DEA Forum	S/M	-	Ongoing. Public transport services remain low with no direct route to Downpatrick. School travel is impacted by the lack of public transport provision resulting in increased private vehicle usage and congestion.	H	S/M	Lobby through DEA forum and discuss with community to assess the demand and feasibility.

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4.13	Provide additional car parking facilities with adequate lighting	KCA NMDDC TNI	M	TNI RDP PRIV	<p>Parking within the village and at the club is seen as a persistent issue, increased by the lack of adequate lighting.</p> <p>A concern for unsuitable parking and pedestrian safety exists. Additional car parking provision with suitable associated infrastructure is seen as alleviating the problem.</p>	M	M	<p>Initiate a community discussion to highlight areas which require off-street car parking and identify potential sites.</p> <p>Explore options with stakeholders to investigate the feasibility of increasing car parking capacity</p> <p>Conduct a feasibility study and detailed design.</p>	
4.14	Micro Business units	KCA, CDRCN, NMDDC	S-M	RDP, BIG, NMDDC	A project to explore the potential for micro business units within the village to cater for local talent, business and entrepreneurship.	M	S-M	Engage with wider community and key stakeholders in relation to the support and feasibility of such a project. Carry out feasibility and design scoping o assess potential. Seek statutory approvals and explore avenues for funding. Promote and encourage project to heighten community and local business support.	
Stakeholders and Potential Funders									

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	ACNI Arts Council of Northern Ireland BPT Buildings Preservation Trust CA Community Association DAERA Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs DFC Department for Communities DFI Department for Infrastructure RDP Rural Development Programme HRN Heritage Trust Network HLF – Heritage Lottery Fund HSCNI Health and Social Care Northern Ireland NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency NIHE Northern Ireland Housing Executive NMDDC Newry, Mourne and Down District Council RCN – Rural Community Network	ORNI Outdoor Recreation NI RA - Rivers Agency PLO - Private land owner Priv Private Sector PS – Planning Service PSNI Police Service Northern Ireland PTA Parent Teachers Association SNI Sport Northern Ireland SEELB South Eastern Education and Library Board SEHSCT South East Health and Social Care Trust TL – Translink TNI Transport NI Tourism NI – Formerly NI Tourism Board UAHS Ulster Architectural Heritage Society UHF – Ulster Historical Foundation	KCA – Kilcoo Community Association KGAC- Kilcoo Gaelic Athletics Association CDRCN – County Down Rural Community Network PIV – Peace IV Programme TBUC – Together Building a United Community EA – Education Authority PCSP – Policing and Community Safety Partnership MHT – Mourne Heritage Trust DFE – Department for the Economy					