Killyleagh Village Renewal Plan

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
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Introduction

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

Ove Arup and Partners (Arup) was appointed as the consultancy team to facilitate the delivery of the Village Renewal Plan for Killyleagh. 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.
Village Location

Killyleagh is unique, rural and coastal settlement located along the inner western bank of the Strangford Lough Co. Down. Resting approximately 6.2 miles north east of Downpatrick the village offers effective linkages with its nearest urban centre whilst providing strong linkages throughout the immediate rural network. As mentioned the village rests along the inner banks of Strangford Lough which ultimately provides a strong maritime yet rural character.

Village Character

The village resides on the western shores of Strangford Lough within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The village contains multiple points of interest, in particular Killyleagh Castle. Building on this, a section of the castle dates from as early as the 15th century, and the present village form is estimated to have been laid out by 1625. The castle dominated and overlooks the town towards the harbour and the parish church and, with its demesne grounds and landscaped planting, creates a truly unique and distinctive setting to the western area of the village. A Conservation Area was designated in 1993 to include the original 17th century settlement, harbour area and Dibney River valley. Similarly, lands west of Shrigley Road at Coily Hill to the north west offer high quality settings. Additionally, area between Comber Road and Holm Bay provide similar settings as designated within the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment.
History and Development of the Village

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, the village of Killyleagh flourished with the development of the port and textile manufacture and as a result saw the growth of the Killyleagh and Shrigley mills. Building on this, an economic downturn resulted in the closure of the Shrigley mill in 1931 and furthermore the Killyleagh Yarns in 1997.

Presently, the settlement functions as a local service centre, commuter village and has also become an important yachting location for the surrounding areas. Building on this, Killyleagh provides an adequate range of shops and commercial units serving the surrounding rural area and peripheral communities.

Recently, private sector development has influenced and shaped the landscape to the south and south west of Killyleagh. Additionally, new private development has been completed along Bridge Street in the east of the village. Building on from this, the village has been consolidated further via the development of public sector housing off of the Downpatrick Road and to north of the town on the Comber Road.

Village Profile

Within Killyleagh, around one fifth of the population in Killyleagh are under 16 years, which is equivalent to the NI average. Additionally, the village comprises a slightly higher older population than the NI average, with 17.23% of the population aged 65+ years of age.

Building on this, it is key that any future development to the village considers the needs and requirements of each demographic sector within the wider community. Having established this, the population is growing higher than the NI average, and by 10% in the last ten years.

In relation to the housing, the environment and transport, there is a high proportion of people renting (39.02%) and low percentage of housing owner occupied (58.37%) with over quarter of households in the village have no access to a car or van. Furthermore, the area falls within top 50% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and scores particularly low (within the top third most deprived SOAs) in terms of education, skills and training, as well as proximity to services.
Future Development

It is important that this plan takes into account any new or proposed developments so that the future needs of new residents can also be taken into consideration in the plan development.

HPA 2 - Lands to south of 8 Downpatrick Road and to rear of Strangford View
HPA 3 - Lands off Inishmore and adjoining The Anchorage
HPA 4 - Lands south of The Anchorage

Each Housing Policy Area is subject to key design criteria which is set out within the area plan.

Recent Development

Proposed housing development of 44 dwellings (14 detached and 30 semi-detached) at Lands between Nos 8-18 Comber Road Killyleagh BT30 9QZ. Planning Reference LA07/2015/0532/F. Status: Granted.

Demolition of former PSNI station to be replaced with 5 no dwellings in two blocks. Planning Reference LA07/2017/1314/F. Status: Application Submitted.

Demolition of former nursing home premises at former Killyleagh Lodge Nursing Home located at 4 Downpatrick Road. Planning Ref. R/2013/0100/DCA Status: Permission Granted.
03 Policy Analysis

3.1 Planning Policy

Regional Development Strategy 2035 ‘Building a Better Future’

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

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

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

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

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) ‘Shaping a Better Future’

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

The policy objectives for development in the countryside are to:

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

Ards and Down Area Plan (ADAP) 2015

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

Due to its strategic location, there is a natural pressure to accommodate residential expansion of the village. In relation to residential growth within the village, ADAP identifies four housing zonings at Comber Road, Downpatrick Road, Inishmore and the Anchorage.

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

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

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

Emerging Local Development Plan

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

This plan seeks to align with wider strategies and plans for the District, taking into account the importance of the Mourne Mountains in encouraging tourism and economic development into the area, and finding areas of complementarity where different stakeholders could work together to deliver such shared ideas and projects. Below is a snapshot of the strategies and plans that have been taken into consideration in the development of the Killyleagh 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 enterprise 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 Play Strategy 2017-2022

Within the Plan, analysis of household pointer data suggests that the settlement spread and the radial catchments associated with existing fixed play areas indicates that if current provision were enhanced, the size and scope would increase radial coverage, taking in an increased number of households and meeting demand. No new fixed play development is required at present, however this should be reviewed post upgrade of the existing play area.

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

The purpose of the Strategy is to provide a framework for the future prioritisation, development and provision of sports facilities at a local level, to meet identified community need. The Strategy identifies a need to undertake upgrading works at Teconnaught GFC within year three of the plan to include a purpose built pavilion and changing rooms. Additionally, Killyleagh Y.C.F.C have plans to develop enhanced sporting facilities as the club’s vision is to deliver a full sized 3G floodlit pitch with a perimeter running track.
The Killyleagh Village Plan has been developed in collaboration with the local community. Key aspects of the process are outlined below.

Village Walkabout

A village walkabout took place in Killyleagh on 6th June 2017 with representatives of the Council, the consultant team, and members of the local community. During this time a site survey was carried out to understand the background and context of the Village, key assets, issues and potential ideas of how the Village could be improved.

Community Event

A public consultation event for Killyleagh Village Renewal Plan was held on the evening of the 27th September 2017 in the Bridge Centre, Killyleagh. 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.
05 Site Analysis

**Strengths**
- Festivals – Hans Sloane and Skiffy Rowing event is extremely popular within the village
- Delamont Park – Offers a high quality park for the community
- History and Heritage – The village expresses a rich maritime history
- Play Park – The Play Space at the Bridge Centre
- Sailing Club – A popular activity and group within the village
- Tourism – Heritage and culture facilitates local tourism economy
- Strangford Lough – Killyleagh provides a HUB for the Lough

**Opportunities**
- Signage – Improved wayfinding and informational signage
- Marina – Redevelopment potential for Marina
- Delamont Park – Pontoon Project and Campsite
- Civic Amenity Centre – potential community facility to include Recycling Unit
- Access to Lough – Improved public access to Lough
- High Street – Possible Streetscape Project

**Weaknesses**
- Costal Access – Lack of disabled access along coastal pathway
- Sheltered Accommodation – Lack of service for Elderly
- Gateways Sites – Quality, standard and visual condition requires upgrade
- Signage – Improved wayfinding and information signage on surrounding points of interest
- Strangford Lough – Opportunity for increased leisure and recreation
- Flooding – Flooding at Killyleagh Football Pitch is an issue
- Rowing Club – urgently requires enhanced facilities
- Harbour – Potential to enhance and revitalise

**Threats**
- Funding – Potential lack in funding for certain projects
- Community Working – Potential lack in integrated community working
- Strangford Lough – Future development of Lough must be managed sensitively
Following consultation with the community of Killyleagh, 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 Civic Amenity Centre to an enhanced village core and along with a project to improve connectivity with Delamont Park. One of the key projects identified aims to address the lack of recycling provision within Killyleagh by providing a Civic Amenity Centre which enables the community to dispose and recycle waste efficiently. A further opportunity which would be of substantial benefit to the community is to enhance the appearance and aesthetic value of the village core. Killyleagh is a settlement enriched in deep culture and maritime heritage, however the environmental and physical quality of the village has degraded overtime at key areas such as High Street and Marina. A project which looks to enhance and manage the Streetscape of the village core will have the potential to uplift and revive the historical narrative distilled within the settlement.

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

Opportunities Plan

A  Gateway Project
B  Lighting at New Pitch (KFC)
C  New Primary School
D  Enhanced Bridge Centre & Play Park
E  Building Restoration
F  Outdoor Gym
G  Marina Jetty
H  Marina Landscaping Project
I  Self-Catering Accommodation
J  Enhancement of Sailing Club
K  Outdoor Education HUB Renovation / Protection
L  Tourist Information / Wayfinding
M  Picnic Area
N  Explore Potential for improved Recreation
A project to enhance the physical and visual quality of the gateway sites upon entry to the village. This project will aim to enhance the standard and quality of signage and environmental quality at key entry points of the village whilst slowing and managing speed of traffic.

The introduction of high quality landscaping, planting and boundary treatments will uplift the gateway sites of Killyleagh creating an improved and lasting first impression. By improving the gateway sites of the village, they offer a strong visual queue for traffic approaching the village, in turn slowing speed of traffic entering the settlement. Justification for such a project is due to the tired and unkempt condition of the village gateways as they undermine the vibrancy and heritage of the community along with its culture and historical narrative. By enhancing the village gateways, the initial visual and physical quality of Killyleagh will be expressed and enhanced via attractive landscaping, improved signage and potential landmark features.

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, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.

A GATEWAY PROJECT

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

Opportunities

Key Gateway Sites

Improved Village Entrance

Indicative illustration
A project to enhance and strengthen the environmental and physical quality of the village core by introducing a designated Streetscape Management Toolkit. The Streetscape management project will concentrate on the revitalisation of High Street alongside the Killyleagh Marina. The project will also strengthen the historic spine of the village by creating community-led guidance as to the future preservation and enhancement of High Street and the Marina.

High Street and the Marina are in need of urgent environmental management in order to uplift and revitalise their physical and visual quality to unlock and enhance their historical character. The Marina and High Street play a significant role in expressing the character and narrative of Killyleagh and as such should be protected in order to safeguard and enhance their importance within the settlement.

An initial output of the Streetscape Toolkit will be to deliver distinctive environmental improvement schemes in order to uplift the visual and physical quality of the village core. The benefits of such improvements will enhance the overall appearance of the village having the opportunity to further express the rich cultural heritage within Killyleagh.

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, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.
A project to strengthen the level of connectivity between the village of Killyleagh and Delamont Country Park to the South West. The project will aim to strengthen an existing linkage between the village and the country park via the Downpatrick Road, by improving the quality, standard and condition of wayfinding and informational signage.

The project will include the enhancement of lighting and paving along the route to improve levels of visibility and safety for use during the evening. Having established this, the walkable distance between the village centre and the country park is 1.7 miles, equating to a 35-minute walk. By enhancing the physical quality of the route, the connection is strengthened reducing the impact of the walkable distance between the village and the country park.

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, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.
D | KILLYLEAGH HARBOUR PROJECT

A project to enhance the Killyleagh Harbour to invigorate its tourism, leisure and recreational value. The village of Killyleagh expresses a rich, unique and picturesque maritime character to which the pontoon play a key and pivotal role.

The harbour offers an invaluable asset in relation to the culture and heritage of the village, however its environmental and physical quality has degraded throughout recent years and is need of urgent attention in order to enhance its vitality. The Killyleagh Harbour Project has the potential to accommodate increased leisure and recreational value in relation to waterborne activities whilst incorporating the rich historical narrative of the village.

Having established the leisure potential of the harbour, coupled with the historic village settlement and the rich maritime culture, Killyleagh has the opportunity to revive and enhance a truly unique and breath-taking inner harbour.

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, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.

ENHANCING RECREATIONAL VALUE
Enhancing recreational value within the village to provide all residents and visitors with the opportunity to benefit from quality a maritime asset.
E | CIVIC AMENITY SPACE

A project to explore the potential for a Civic Amenity Centre within the village to provide improved waste management facilities within Killyleagh. A possible location for the facility could be on lands at the Old Tannery, Shrigley. The Civic Amenity Centre would improve levels of access and provision for disposal and recycling of waste for both Killyleagh and Shrigley.

The need for such facilities are evident due to the lack of recycling centres within the immediate rural area. Building on this, the village will substantially benefit via improved access to efficient recycling and waste disposal services within Killyleagh.

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, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.

PROVIDING QUALITY WASTE MANAGEMENT

An initiative which aims to enhance, improve and benefit the community by providing a project to harnesses the vibrancy and activity of the village.
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 Action 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.
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<th>Regeneration Initiative</th>
<th>Priority Level</th>
<th>Timeframe for Delivery</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
<th>Potential Funding Source</th>
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<td><strong>A</strong> Gateway Project</td>
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<td>S</td>
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**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  
**RDP** Rural Development Programme  
**BIG** BIG Lottery Funding  

**HLF** Heritage Lottery Funding  
**DiC** Dept. for Communities  
**PLO** Private Landowners  
**CDRCN** Co. Down Rural Community Network  
**PSNI** Police Service Northern Ireland  
**SNI** Sport NI  

**NIW** Northern Ireland Water  
**NIEA** Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
**HLF** Heritage Lottery Funding  
**Priv** Private Sector  
**KFC** Killyleagh Football Club  
**DoE** Dept. of Education
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