

# Mullaghbane Village Renewal and Development Plan

Final Report  
September 2012



Prepared for



## Revision Schedule

### Renewal and Development Plan for Mullaghbane September 2012

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
01	25/06/12	First Draft Report	<b>Kieran Carlin</b> Town Planner	<b>Richard Heasley</b> Principal Planner	<b>Richard Heasley</b> Principal Planner
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## 1 Introduction

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 was launched to build capacity within local communities and provide support for community economic development in the most disadvantaged rural areas. The NIRDP is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. A core principal of the approach to broader rural development in Northern Ireland has been and continues to be that the communities which most closely experience problems should be involved in the design and delivery of projects and programmes to tackle such problems and, thus improve their quality of life.

The NIRDP contains a number of measures under each axis. These measures are specific areas where support is to be targeted. Each measure was selected from a menu of options provided by the European Union in order to target the aspects of rural life that are most important to Northern Ireland. Measure 3.5 targets Village Renewal and Development with the aim of “creating long term visions for villages and surrounding areas and to support initiatives promoting cross-community development”.

The objective is to enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full potential of their area is achieved and also to support integrated village initiatives.

### 1.1 How is the Programme administered at a local level?

The Southern Organisation for Action in Rural areas (SOAR) is the Joint Committee and Local Action Group for the Craigavon, Armagh and Newry & Mourne Council areas. They are responsible for the administration of the NIRDP within the rural areas of Craigavon, Armagh and Newry. SOAR local action group is comprised of local Councillors and Social Partner Representatives. Craigavon Borough Council acts as the Lead Council with responsibility for all financial and administrative matters.

### 1.2 Village Renewal and Development

Newry and Mourne District Council secured funding under Measure 3.5 for the preparation of Village Renewal and Development Plans for 13 pre-selected villages and clusters across the Newry and Mourne District Council Area.

URS were commissioned by Newry and Mourne District Council to facilitate the development of these plans. The plans were prepared between February and September 2012.

### 1.3 Methodology

This Village Renewal and Development Plan has been developed by the community for the community. The methodology was strongly consultation based and encouraged a range of stakeholders including NMDC, local Councillors, community/voluntary groups and the general public to get involved.



Figure 1.1: Methodology Flow Chart

## 1.4 Policy Context

### 1.4.1 Regional Development Strategy 2035 ‘Building a Better Future’

The RDS provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide the public and private sectors. It does not redefine the other departments’ strategies but complements them with a spatial perspective.

The RDS 2035 revises the original strategy published in 2001 and amended in 2008. The RDS influences other government strategies including the Programme

for Government (PfG) and the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI). The Strategy takes account of key driving forces such as population growth and movement, demographic change, the increasing number of households, transportation needs, climate change and the spatial implications of divisions that still exist in our society. The RDS is not operational planning policy which is issued through Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) published by the Department of the Environment (DOE).

The RDS has a statutory basis under the Strategic Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, and the Order requires Departments to “have regard to the regional development strategy”.

The Strategy has four key elements:

- A Spatial Development Strategy which divides the region into 5 components based on functions and geography;
- Guidance at two levels;
  1. Regional level that is to be applied to all parts of the region, and
  2. Specific guidance for each element of the Spatial Framework
- A Regionally Significant Economic Infrastructure section which identifies the need to consider strategic infrastructure projects;
- Implementation.

The aims of the RDS:

- Support strong, sustainable growth for the benefit of all parts of Northern Ireland;
- Strengthen Belfast as the regional economic driver and Londonderry as the principal city of the North West;
- Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential;
- Promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities;
- Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places;
- Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake;
- Take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change; and
- Strengthen links between north and south, east and west, with Europe and the rest of the world.

Chapter 3 of the RDS sets out the strategic guidance for the region focusing on the key principles of the economy, society and the environment. The guidance is also split into Regional Guidance (RG) and Spatial Framework Guidance (SFG).

There is a dedicated section regarding Rural Northern Ireland and the key guidance is set out below:

**SFG13: Sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside**

- Establish the role of multi-functional town centres
- Connect rural and urban areas
- Revitalise small towns and villages
- Facilitate the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in appropriate locations
- Encourage sustainable and sensitive development

**SFG14: Improve accessibility for rural communities**

- Improve the overall connectivity of rural communities to services and other parts of the Region by exploring innovative ways of bringing these services to the communities
- Integrate local transport

**1.4.2 Rural White Paper Action Plan (Draft)**

The Rural White Paper Action Plan is an Executive initiative aimed at addressing key issues and challenges facing rural communities. The development of the Action Plan is being led by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Public consultation on the draft Action Plan commenced on 13 March 2011 and finished on 13 June 2011, with the final Rural White Paper Action Plan anticipated to be published in early 2012.

The RWP has been developed to provide a strategic framework for rural policy for the next ten years and will help guide the work of the Executive in this significant and challenging area.

The RWP identifies the Rural Vision as follows:

**Our vision** is of a fair and inclusive rural society where rural dwellers enjoy the same quality of life as all others in the region. We envisage **vibrant, strong rural communities**, resilient and receptive to global trends through **strong inter-linkages with urban areas** and market towns.

**Our vision** is for rural economies adapting to global trends and **improved infrastructure and transport systems** to ensure rural dwellers can avail of employment opportunities and **key services**.

**Our vision** is for rural areas that maintain their distinctive features as places of agricultural production, areas of outstanding beauty, places of social, historic and cultural uniqueness and places with a **strong community infrastructure** which can avail of **economic, social and cultural opportunities**.

**Our vision** is for the continuing development of **linkages between rural and urban** areas so that everyone can enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of rural places and the facilities and services of larger towns and cities.

**Draft Rural White Paper, p5**

In order to achieve the Vision the RWP identifies 5 key themes:

1. Urban / Rural Linkages
  - To support the development of an efficient transport and infrastructure system that facilitates effective rural – urban inter-linkages;
2. Access to Services
  - To promote fair and equitable access to key services for all rural dwellers;
3. Sustainable Rural Communities
  - To promote tolerance, health, well-being and inclusion for rural dwellers;
  - Seek to minimise, where it exists, disadvantage, poverty, social exclusion and inequality amongst those living in rural areas and in particularly amongst vulnerable groups;
  - To maintain a viable economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure in rural areas and seek to ensure that regional infrastructure disparities are minimised;
  - To preserve the cultural and social uniqueness of rural community life linked to its smaller population settlement;
  - To promote the development of effective and inclusive rural governance structures and sufficient community capacity to engage in these structures;
  - To enhance and refine the Rural Development Programme to ensure the maximum benefit from future Programmes for rural communities;

4. Sustainable Rural Economies

- To provide rural businesses with appropriate support to ensure the development of dynamic and innovative rural economies;
- To seek to maximise employment opportunities for rural dwellers;

5. Sustainable Countryside

- To support the development of a more sustainable agricultural sector, a more competitive agri-food sector and enhanced agri-environmental links;
- To safeguard the beauty and fabric of our rural areas and increase opportunities for all to enjoy the benefits of the countryside.

The RWP goes on to set out a detailed Action Plan which is based on the 5 key themes set out above, consisting of some 90 specific actions (source: <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/rural-development/rural-white-paper.htm>).

**1.4.3 Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-2015**

This framework sets out the goals, objectives, priority action areas and outcomes for the Programme for Government commitment to bring forward a package of measures to tackle rural poverty and social isolation.

The framework aims to:

- Build on the work of the Rural Anti-Poverty / Social Inclusion Framework 2008-2011;
- Provide the necessary tools to identify the needs of vulnerable people / groups in rural areas;
- Develop programmes / interventions to help alleviate poverty / social isolation amongst vulnerable people / groups in rural areas;
- Complement and add value to existing government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation;
- Empower rural communities to help themselves.

Programmes Implemented through the 2008-2011 Framework

1. Childcare Programme
2. Assisted Rural Transport Scheme (ARTS)
3. Maximising Access to Services, Benefits and Grants

4. Rural Challenge Programme

5. Rural Support

6. Rural Fuel Poverty

7. Community Development

**Action Plan 2011-2015**

Table 1.1: Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Action Plan	
Project	Budget (£)
Assisted Rural Travel Scheme (ARTS – DRD)	1,800,000
Maximising Access Rural Areas (MARA – DHSSPS / PHA)	2,589,800
Community Development	4,800,000
Health Checks (PHA / Health Trusts)	383,000
Rural Support	351,000
Rural Challenge (Small Grants)	1,000,000
Older Peoples Rural Project 9Health Trusts / DHSSPS)	878,000
Youth Employability Programme (Advantage / DEL)	203,000
Youth Enterprise Scheme – Northern Periphery Programme	181,000
Safe Drinking Water Scheme	33,500
Emerging Issues	2,230,700
Potential Post Office Diversification Scheme	TBA
Vulnerable Groups in Rural Society Research Programme	TBA
<b>Capital projects</b>	
Fuel Poverty	1,871,605
MARA	68,080
Health Checks (PHA / Health Trusts)	60,315
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.45 M</b>

#### 1.4.4 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

The NI Rural Development Programme was approved by the European Commission in July 2007 and has three key elements:

Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors by supporting restructuring, development and innovation. Key measures include vocational training, adding value to agricultural products and marketing, farm modernisation and improving the supply chain. The upskilling and reskilling opportunities in this axis are a means of targeting farmers income and potential to be more competitive both within farming, or outside if that is more appropriate.

Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management. Key measures include agri-environment programmes and less favoured area compensation schemes.

Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of economic activity. Key measures include business creation, farm diversification, encouragement of tourism activities, support for basic services for the rural economy, village renewal and conservation / upgrading of the rural heritage.

#### 1.4.5 INTERREG IV Programme (Cross Border Rural Development)

The INTERREG IV Programme focuses on the strategic development of the North and border counties of the South. The funds are targeted towards those disadvantaged rural communities that are most in need of cross border support.

#### 1.4.6 Current Projects and Initiatives in the South Armagh Area

##### 1.4.6.1 CASA Rural Investment Initiative

The overall aim for the initiative is to benefit the rural economy of the Castleblaney and South Armagh (CASA) region by sensitive development of its natural resources to increase tourism and also by supporting rural businesses to help maintain and secure local jobs.

Funding for the £1.3 million project has been secured through the Special European Programmes Body, EU INTERREG IVA Programme within the framework of the Cross-Border Territorial Co-operation Programme for Northern Ireland, the Border Counties of Ireland and Western Scotland 2007 – 2013. DARD and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government are also providing financial support.

Over the next three years, the project will enable the creation of a Family Adventure facility and Amphitheatre at Slieve Gullion, and pathways at Slieve Gullion Mountain will also be restored to create an Adult fitness trail. Angling facilities will be improved at Lough Muckno and some additional family fun will be developed by creating a children's play area. The project will also support rural start up businesses by developing, 7 Enterprise Units in Ballybay County Monaghan.

When launching the programme Minister Michelle O'Neill commented that *"The Interreg funding awarded to the CASA Rural Investment Initiative will provide a well-timed boost for local rural businesses and the opportunity to develop world-class facilities such as those planned for Lough Muckno. My Department's contribution to this project is evidence of our long term commitment to this area and to rural development through cross-border cooperation. The CASA Rural Investment Initiative is a tremendous opportunity for renewal and I am proud that DARD is supporting this project. I am confident that the partnership has the capability and determination to make this project a success."*

Mayor of Monaghan County Council Councillor Seamus Coyle also showed his support of the ongoing work and commented that *"Monaghan County Council's project focuses on the unique resource of Lough Muckno and the vision is to establish Lough Muckno as Ireland's leading nationally and internationally approved coarse fishing venue. In addition, through this project the council will deliver a children's play area which will make the park more family friendly and broaden its appeal to visitors. I believe that these projects and the developments at Slieve Gullion which are being undertaken by Newry & Mourne District Council will indeed have a major impact for the wider CASA area and I look forward to their completion so that the facilities can be availed of and enjoyed"*.

CASA Rural Investment Initiative is managed by Newry and Mourne District Council in partnership with Monaghan County Council and Monaghan County Enterprise Board.

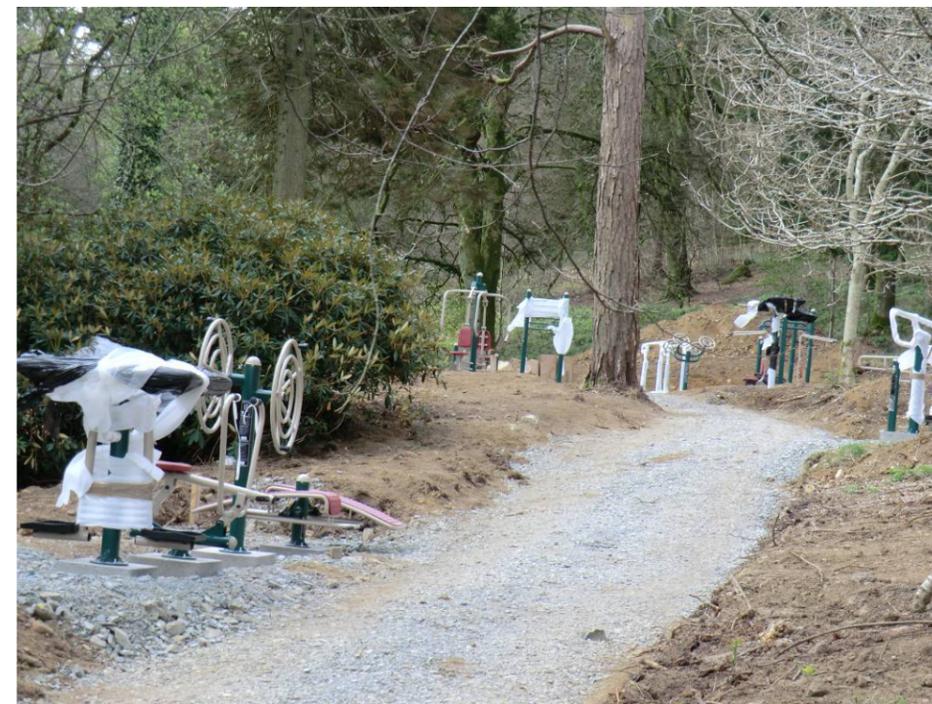


Figure 1.2: Construction of the Adult Fitness Trail at Slieve Gullion

## 2 Overview of the Area

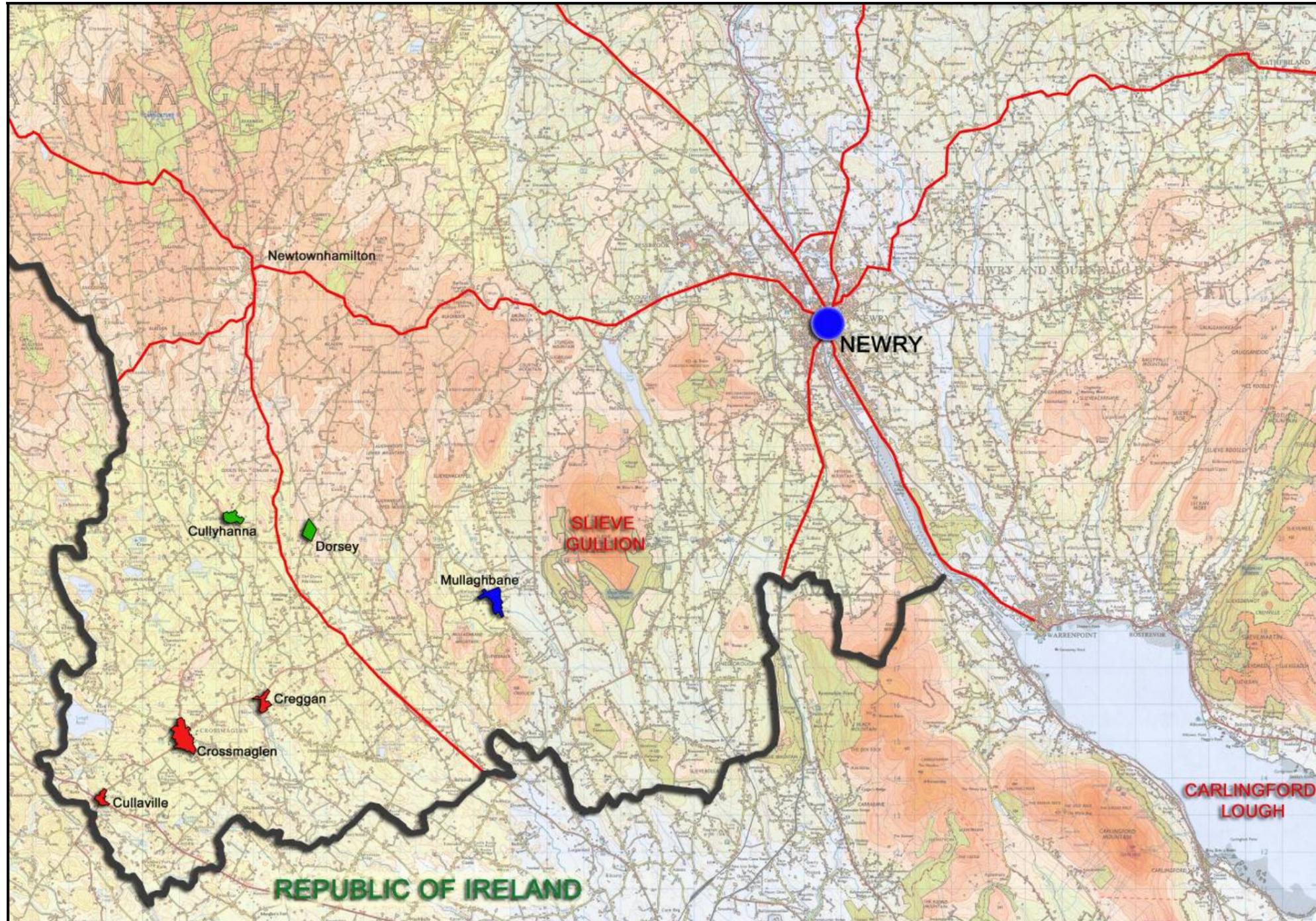


Figure 2.1: Geographic location of Mullaghbane

## 2.1 Projects and Initiatives for the wider area

### 2.1.1 Infrastructure Improvements

#### 2.1.1.1 Upgrade of the B30 Newry Road and provision of footpaths between Creggan, Crossmaglen and Cullaville

The standard of the B30 Newry Road was identified very strongly throughout the preparation of the Village Renewal and Development with many participants suggesting that it is a serious threat for the future development of South Armagh. The need for improved rural infrastructure is a prominent theme in the Regional Development Strategy 2035 and the draft Rural White Paper Action Plan. The regional transportation document 'Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future: A new Approach to Regional Transportation' includes a specific Strategic Objective which addresses Rural NI:

***Improved Access in Rural Areas: As public transport provision is limited in rural areas, the car is the main mode of travel from rural areas to services and facilities located in and around our towns and cities, and to the countryside itself. The roads linking all rural areas to these services and facilities must be reliable; and our public and community transport must be timely and reliable.***

At a local level the study commissioned by Crossmaglen Chamber of Commerce titled 'Economic Regeneration – A pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh' identifies the need for improved transport infrastructure.

The upgrade to the B30 in particular was a dominant theme throughout the preparation of this Village Renewal and Development Plan. It was identified as the number one priority by respondents to the draft Crossmaglen Village Plan, and the need for footpath linkages between the three settlements was highlighted by a majority of respondents in all three settlements.

**Consultation with DRD Roads Service highlighted several key infrastructure works which have been carried out or are in the programme for the short term:**

#### **B30 - Cullaville to Crossmaglen**

Road has been resurfaced in the past 5 years – DRD do not consider further works to this road as being a priority in the short – medium term.

#### **Planned Works:**

#### B30 – Crossmaglen – Newry

DRD hope to begin maintenance works to this part of the B30 in the short term. This work has been in the Programme, however was delayed due to major infrastructure upgrades by NI Water.

#### **Action:**

Ensure that improvements to Transport Infrastructure in South Armagh are prioritised. The area suffers from high deprivation levels and high quality transport infrastructure is a key component to improving business, enterprise and employment opportunities in the area.

### 2.1.2 Lough Ross Redevelopment

The Rural Development Programme seeks to conserve and build upon the natural and built heritage as well as encouraging tourism and recreation. The potential of Lough Ross was highlighted during initial consultation with the public and community groups. In order to build upon the tourism and recreational potential we have proposed circular walking routes around the lough with footbridges over the Fane and Clarebane Rivers. There is also potential to link Lough Ross to the Monaghan Way which has the potential to provide a long distance community greenway (Monaghan Way). There should also be a walking trail north along the Clarebane River linking to Lough Muckno, thus complementing the CASA Project.

There is an existing car park and toilet facility located off Loughross Road which provides the ideal focal point to build upon the services and facilities. We feel that this area would benefit from a high quality children's play area, to accommodate all ages. A Recreational Centre would encourage and build upon water-based recreation such as canoeing, sailing and fishing. Fishing stands should also be provided at specified sites around the lough. The site could also provide an area for camping and touring caravans. A feasibility study should be carried out to determine the scale and viability of specific activities.

The improvement of tourism and recreational facilities at Lough Ross and Lough Muckno could have knock on benefits for Mullaghbane as it would hopefully attract more visitors to the area and provide community facilities.



Figure 2.3: Indicative image of the redevelopment of Lough Ross

**2.1.3 Improving the tourism potential of Slieve Gullion AONB**

As highlighted earlier the CASA Rural Initiative is an exciting new project which aims to benefit the rural economy of Castleblaney and South Armagh. Over the next three years, the project will enable the creation of a Family Adventure facility and Amphitheatre at Slieve Gullion, and Pathways at Slieve Gullion Mountain will be restored to create an Adult fitness trail. This project will have many benefits for the tourism product of the area whilst providing recreational facilities for the local communities. Mullaghbane is well situated to provide the hub for tourism activity in the Slieve Gullion area.

Slieve Gullion has a wide range of assets to attract the visitor to the area including the natural and built heritage. The promotional leaflet below illustrates the range of attractions available. The area is ideal for recreational based tourism such as walking and cycling.

**Aim:**

The aim is to promote and encourage the tourism potential of Slieve Gullion.

**Actions:**

- Prepare modern up to date promotional and marketing material, website and advertising campaign for the area.
- Assess the current infrastructure to support activity based tourism such as walking and cycling.
- Assess case studies of similar successful areas and consider ideas for Slieve Gullion.
- Consider the role Mullaghbane - Provision of services and facilities for the tourist – Shop, Accommodation, Entertainment



Figure 2.4: Existing attractions in the area

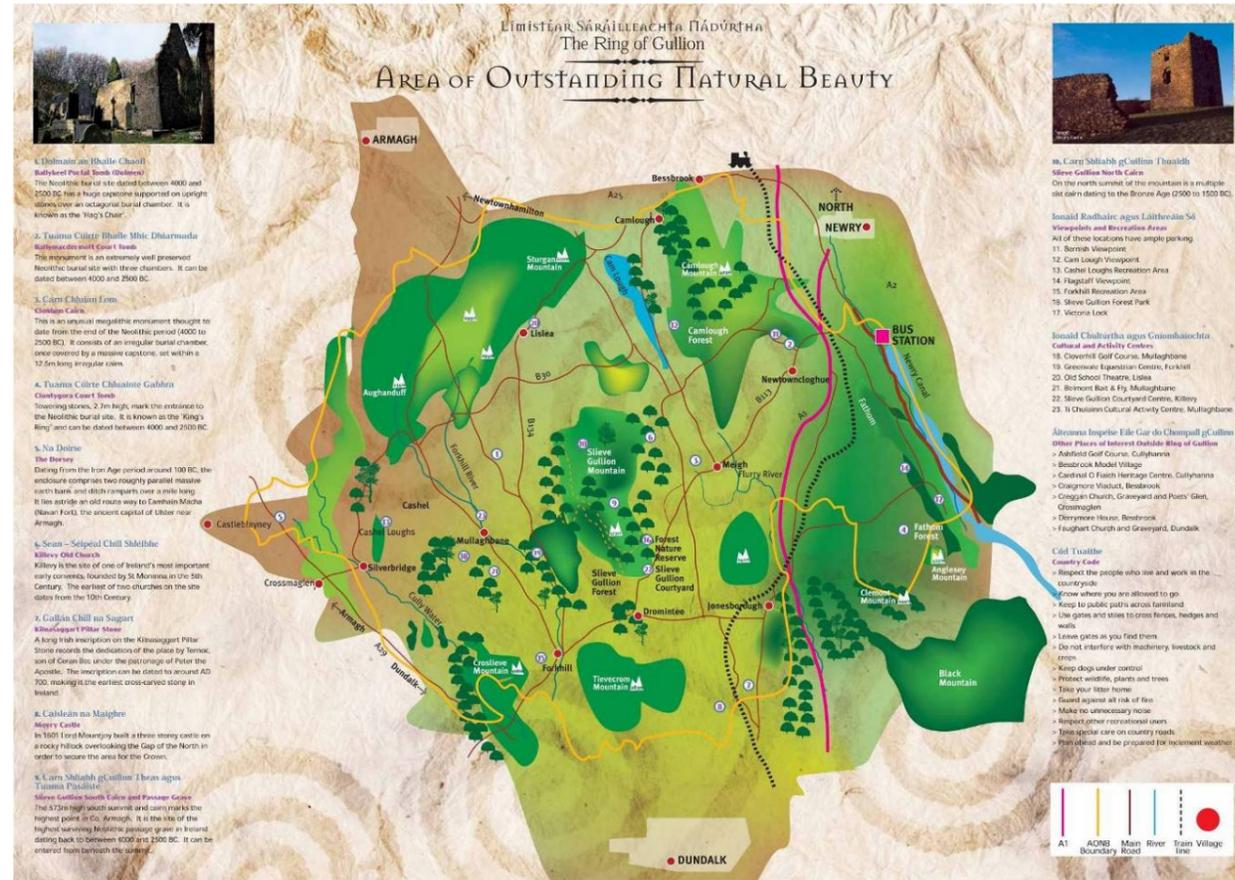


Figure 2.5: Current promotion material



Figure 2.6: View from Slieve Gullion

**2.1.4 Gateways Project**

The study commissioned by Crossmaglen Chamber of Commerce ‘A pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh’ highlighted the potential of a South Armagh Gateway’ intersection on the M1 where it crosses the Dundalk – Armagh Road, we agree that this would benefit South Armagh, however we would like to build upon this by proposing a ‘Gateway Strategy’ for all the key settlements and attractions in the South Armagh area which will distinguish the area to the visitor and generally provide an attractive and ‘first impression’ for the key settlements.

The gateways to towns and villages (main approach roads) are extremely important when providing first impressions of the area. By providing strong gateway features such as those below, the settlement can build upon its identity, while improving the environmental quality of the approach roads. Gateways can be strengthened by providing signage, public art which represents the area and landscape improvements such as tree planting and flower beds. It is also crucial to ensure that key buildings along the approach roads are kept in good condition and provide a positive impression to potential investors.

**Examples**

**Mourne Coastal Route**



**St Patricks Gateway, Downpatrick**



2.2 Action Plan

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<b>Rural Infrastructure</b>							
Upgrade of the B30	DRD	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDC	H	S-L	DRD	<p><b>What's been done to date:</b> B30 - Cullaville to Crossmaglen Road has been resurfaced in the past 5 years – DRD do not consider works further works to this road as being a priority in the short – medium term. This route connects Mullaghbane with the rest of South Armagh</p> <p><b>Future Works:</b> B30 – Crossmaglen – Newry DRD hope to begin maintenance works to this part of the B30 in the short term. This work has been in the Programme, however was delayed due to major infrastructure upgrades by NI Water.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure improvements / upgrades to transport Infrastructure in South Armagh is prioritised. The area suffers from high deprivation levels and good quality transport infrastructure is essential to improving business, enterprise and employment opportunities in the area.</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<b>Tourism, Leisure and Recreation</b>							
Lough Ross Redevelopment	SADT* NMDC	Community and Business Sector NITB CAAN	H	S	NIRDP NMDC NITB	<p><b>Issue:</b> Lough Ross is an underutilised asset for the area in terms of tourism and recreation. Healthy living is a core aspect of government policy and encouraging active recreation is essential. The growth of tourism will have benefits for South Armagh, therefore the infrastructure needs to be put in place.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Preparation of Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Strategy which would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility / Economic Appraisal of the provision of recreational facilities for land and water based activities</li> <li>• Consider funding opportunities to implement such projects</li> <li>• Encourage youth clubs and schools to get involved and support the need for these facilities</li> <li>• Consider events to increase awareness of Lough Ross and its potential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sporting: Angling/Triathlon</li> <li>- Family Fun</li> <li>- Watersports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>TBC</b>

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Improving the tourism potential of Slieve Gullion AONB	SADT* NMDC	Community and Business Sector NITB CAAN	H	S-L	NIRDP NMDC NITB	<p><b>Issue:</b> Slieve Gullion AONB is key asset for the area. It is already well used by locals and visitors. Slieve Gullion will benefit greatly from the projects being implemented through the CASA Initiative. However the full potential of Slieve Gullion is not yet realised. Its strength is its natural beauty and built heritage, therefore the protection and enhancement of these features is the priority, although well through out projects can build on these strengths.</p> <p><b>Aim:</b> The aim is to promote and encourage the tourism potential of Slieve Gullion, while ensuring the natural and built heritage of the area is well protected.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Preparation of Tourism, Leisure and Recreation Strategy which would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare modern up to date promotional and marketing material, website and advertising campaign for the area.</li> <li>• Assess the current infrastructure to support activity based tourism such as walking and cycling.</li> <li>• Research case studies of similar successful areas and consider projects for the area.</li> <li>• Consider the role Mullaghbane and other settlements within the AONB - Provision of services and facilities for the tourist – Shop, Accommodation, Entertainment.</li> </ul>	TBC

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
<b>First Impressions</b>							
Gateway Project	SADT* NMDC	Community and Business Sector NITB	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> The need for strong gateways and improved signage came across very strongly throughout the consultation for all towns and villages in Slieve Gullion which Renewal and Development Plans were carried out. Rather than each village progress gateways projects on an individual basis, we feel an overall gateway project for South Armagh would be much more beneficial, where a strong brand can be established for the area.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Lobby for the development of the 'South Armagh Gateway'</p> <p>Prepare a Gateway Strategy and brand for the South Armagh Area focusing on entrance features to settlements and tourist attractions, consisting of public art or unique signage for the area. This overall project should be taken forward by NMDC in conjunction with a range of local stakeholders. The Strategy should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique image / brand for South Armagh depicting the heritage of the area and its Vision for the future</li> <li>• Design and location of gateway features / signage</li> <li>• Commission public art through a design competition, encouraging unique and innovative designs from local artists</li> <li>• Tourist Trails – Walking / Cycling and Driving</li> <li>• Accompanying marketing and promotional material</li> </ul>	TBC

### 3 Mullaghbane

#### 3.1 Existing Conditions

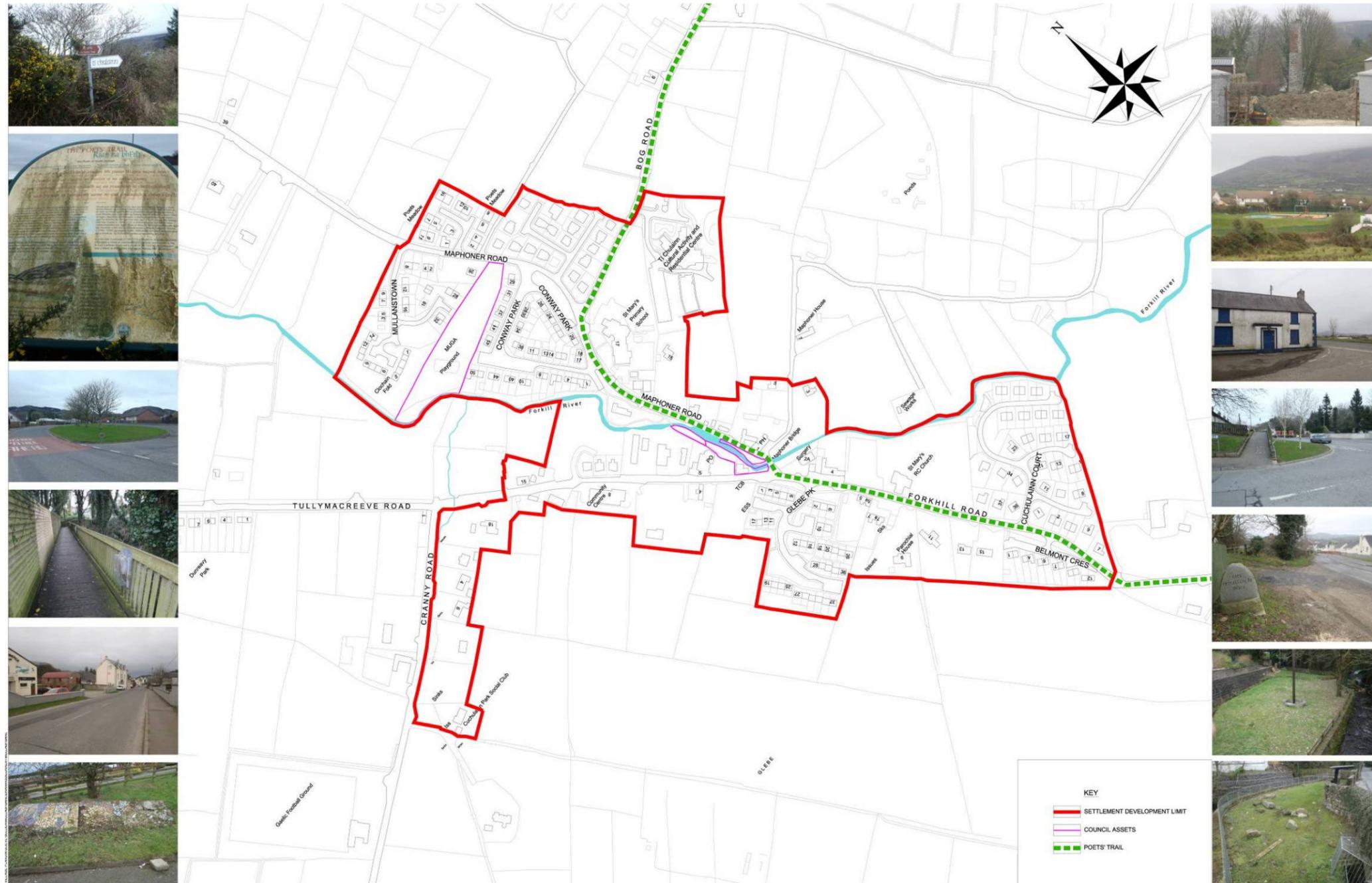


Figure 3.1 : Existing Conditions

## 3.2 Town Profile

### 3.2.1 Background



Figure 3.2: View of Mullaghbane from Slieve Gullion

Mullaghbane is a small linear village located approximately 13 kilometres southwest of Newry and 3 kilometres north of Forkhill, with a population of 420 at the 2001 census.

It is situated within the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and lies within a circle of hills with Slieve Gullion to the northeast and Mullaghbane Mountain, Slievebrack and Crosslieve to the south. Mullaghbane is bisected by the Forkhill River, which runs in a northeast to southeast direction. The slopes generally rise to the west of the river and fall to the east. Slieve Gullion forms a distinctive landmark to the east of the village.

In addition to its role as a local service centre, Mullaghbane's role as a tourist centre has received a boost with the development of the Ti Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre. This centre includes guest accommodation, exhibition and conference facilities and is host to activities such as the annual Tommy Mackim festival. The settlement also has a primary school, church, community centre, post office, doctor's surgery, public house, hair salon, shop and petrol station.

The settlement development limit is designated to take account of land with extant planning permission for housing and sites that have not yet been approved but which are at a stage in the planning application process where there is a reasonable expectation that planning approval will be granted. The settlement development limit also takes account of the role of the settlement whilst protecting its natural setting and important landscapes to its periphery.

### 3.2.2 Demographics

As Mullaghbane has a population of less than 500, no statistics are available from the NI Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA).

### 3.2.3 Planning Policy Context

The relevant planning policy for Mullaghbane is set out within the Draft Banbridge Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 (August 2006), and is described as a small village and a local service centre. The village has grown from a small nucleus centred on the Forkhill/Tullymacreeve Road junction with Maphoner Road. Recent development has resulted in the village spreading northwards along Maphoner Road.

### 3.2.4 Housing

The Housing Needs Assessment has identified a social housing need of 8 dwellings in Mullaghbane. A site at Tullymacreeve Road/Glebe Park (MB 04) has been identified in whole or in part to meet this social housing need. Two other sites, one at Tullymacreeve Road (MB 02) and another at Forkhill Road (MB 03) have been identified for housing, and development has commenced at Forkhill Road.

### 3.2.5 Environment and Conservation

#### 3.2.5.1 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Mullaghbane is located within the Ring of Gullion AONB as identified on Map No. 3/18 - Mullaghbane. The AONB was designated in 1991 under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (Northern Ireland) 1985 in recognition of its exceptional scenic quality.

#### 3.2.5.2 Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA)

A LLPA is designated as identified on Map No. 3/18 - Mullaghbane.

Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this LLPA are listed below:

- River corridor and associated vegetation;
- The views and setting of St. Mary's Church and graveyard;
- The locally significant public house and its setting.

3.2.6 Built Heritage

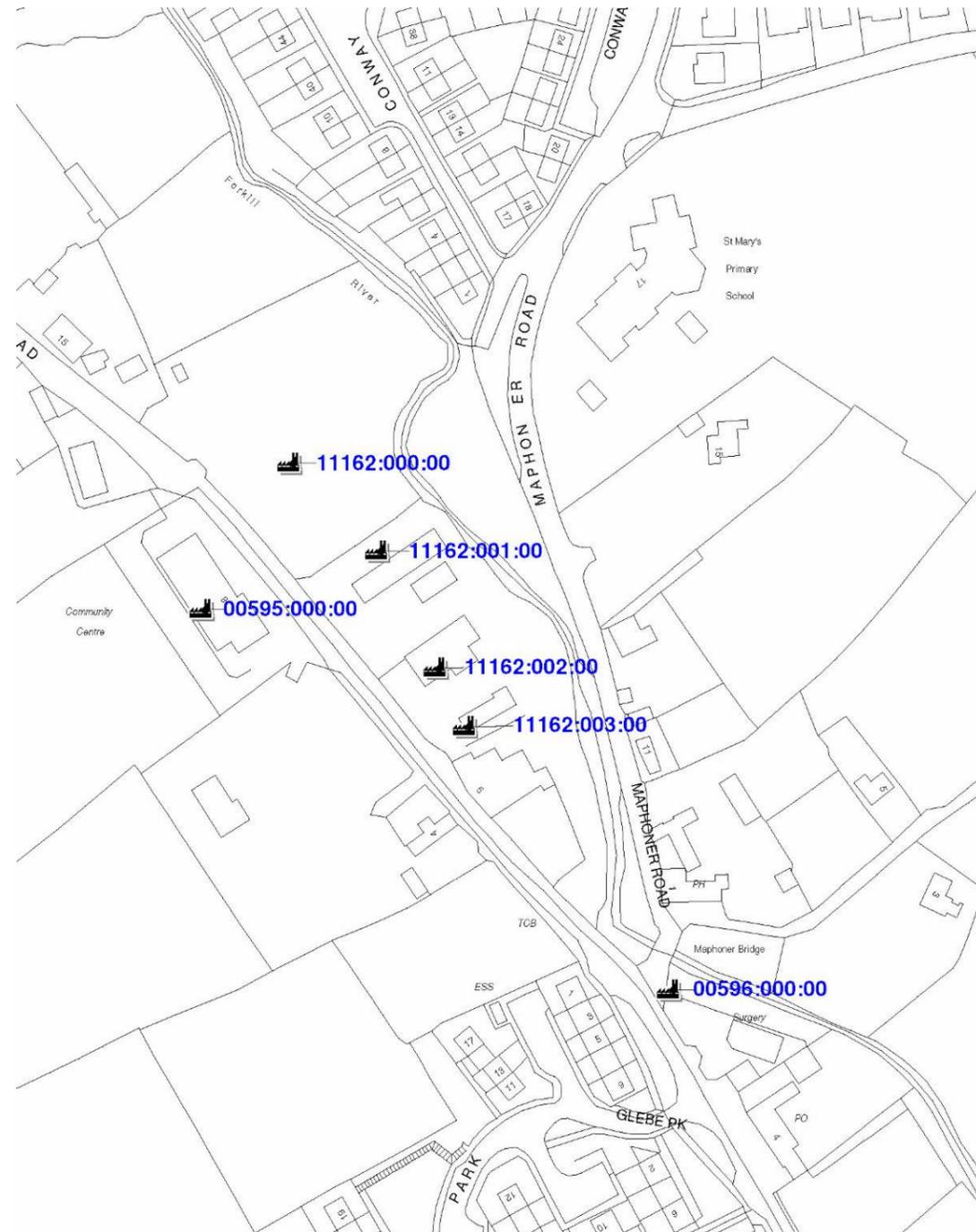


Figure 3.3: Location of the built heritage

Table 3.1: Built Heritage (Sourced from NIEA)	
Industrial	
11162:000:000	No longer recorded
00595:000:00	Shirt Factory
00696:000:00	Maphoner Bridge
11162:001:00	Flax Scutching Mill
11162:002:00	'Belgian' Flax Scutching Mill
11162:002:00	Flax Store



3.2.7 Planning History

A desktop review was carried out to identify any relevant planning applications which have been approved or currently pending within the study area. This review was carried out in July 2012 and the status of these applications may since have changed.

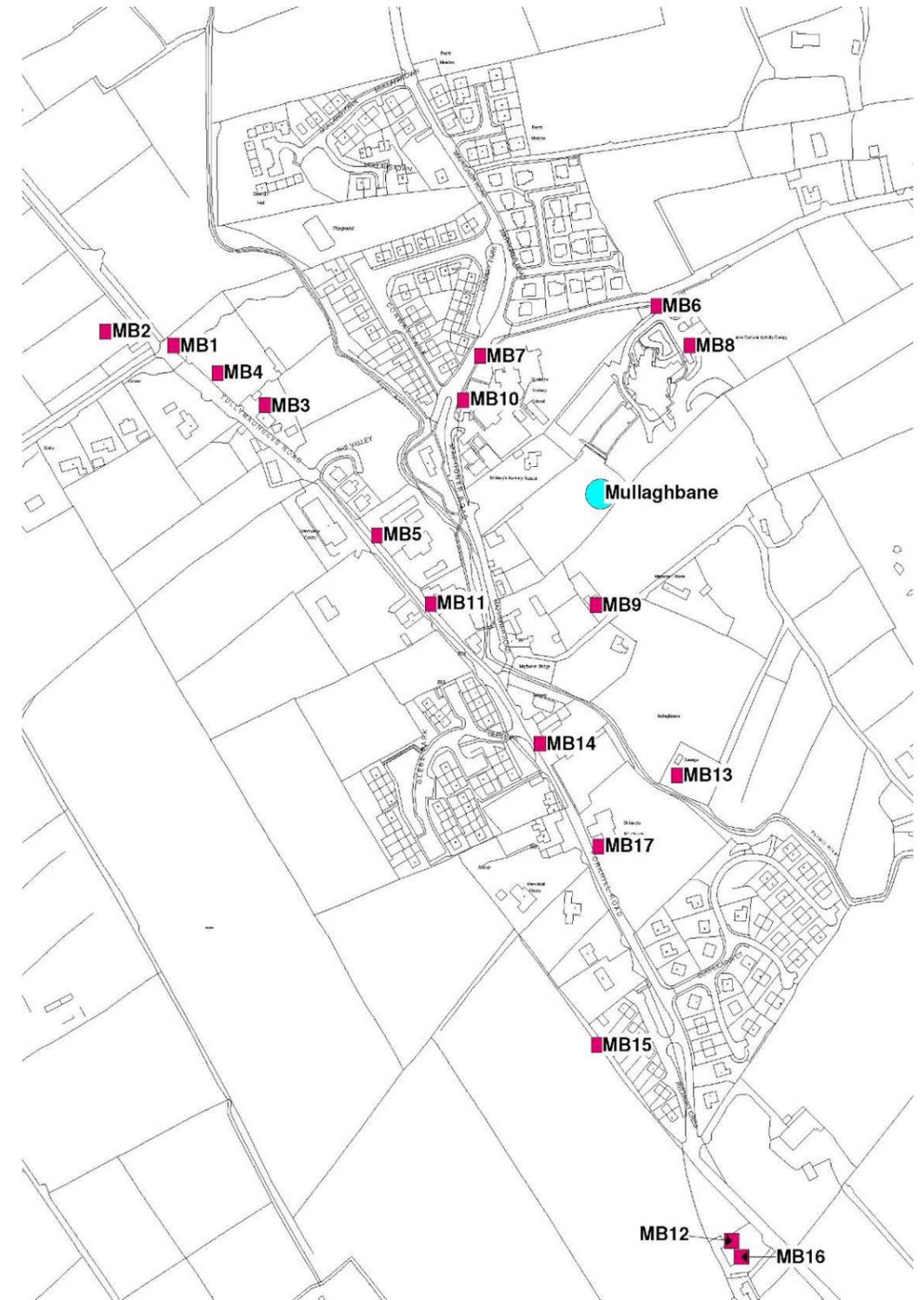


Figure 3.4: Location of relevant planning applications in and around Mullaghbane

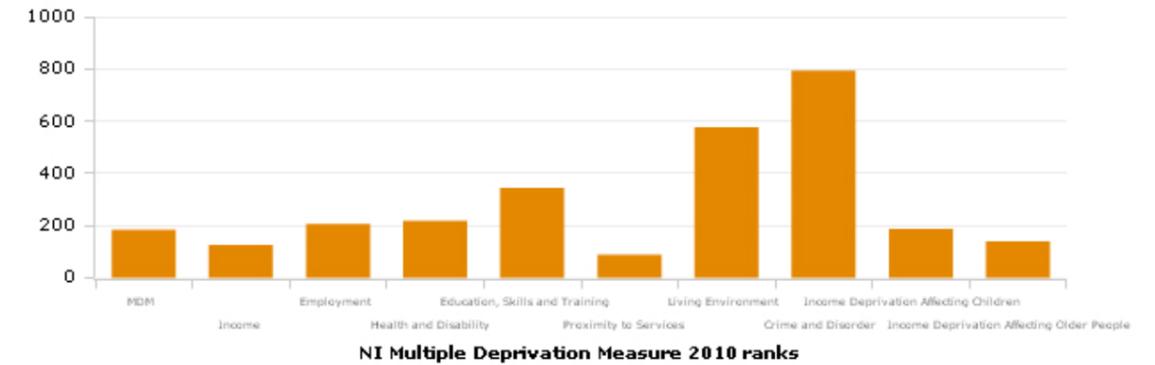
TABLE 3.2: PLANNING HISTORY - MULLAGHBANE					
No.	Planning Application Code	Site Location	Proposed Development	Decision	Expiry Date
MB1	P/2009/1059/F	North east side of Tullymacreeve Road, opposite no 1 Cranny Road to no 15 Tullymacreeve Road, Mullaghbane, Newry	Erection of a new footway	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	16/12/2014
MB2	P/2008/0968/O	Number 1 Cranny Road and land adjacent to the north and west, Mullaghbane.	Site for a Housing Development.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	22/12/2012
MB3	P/2006/1528/F	15 Tullymacreeve Road, Mullaghbawn	Erection of housing development comprising 30No. dwellings and associated site works	PLANNING APPEAL - WRITTEN REPRESENTATION PROCEDURE	Pending Appeal
MB4	P/2006/1340/F	90 metres west and adjacent to 15 Tullymacreeve Road, Mullaghbawn, Newry	Amendment to approved housing development erection of 12no. dwellings on sites : 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 &14	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	26/01/2015
MB5	P/2006/0274/F	20 metres east of No.8 Tullymacreeve Road, Mullaghbawn, Newry.	Erection of 2 No. Commercial/Retail units and 6 No. apartments.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	12/10/2012
MB6	P/2011/0834/F	Ti Chulainn Centre Mullaghbawn Co. Armagh BT35 9TT	Proposed entrance gates and front boundary treatment	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	16/01/2017
MB7	P/2011/0491/F	Outside St Mary's Primary School Maphoner Road Forkhill	Erection of new street cabinet to facilitate provision of new fibre optic infrastructure across the BT network. Cabinet dimensions 1300 High *800mm Wide*450 Deep	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	17/08/2016
MB8	P/2011/0495/F	Ti Chulainn Cultural Activity Centre Bog Road Mullaghbawn Newry Co Down	Retention of Reflection Garden	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	Pending
MB9	P/2009/0594/F	5 Maphoner Road, Mullaghbawn	Erection of replacement dwelling and detached garage with access and road improvements	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	11/08/2014
MB10	P/2008/0985/F	St Mary's Primary School, Maphoner Road, Mullaghbawn, Newry.	Traffic calming and drop off lay by, new entrance for bus and staff parking and construction of new playground.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	09/12/2013
MB11	P/2007/1034/F	5 Tullymacreeve Road, Mullaghbawn, Newry	Removal of roof and construction of a new roof structure providing a second floor to existing dwelling.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	05/10/2012
MB12	P/2011/0089/F	Immediately northwest of No.19 Forkhill Road Mullaghbawn Newry BT35 9XJ	Amended access to Photographic Craft Studio approved under application P/2009/0579/F	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	26/05/2016
MB13	P/2011/0003/LDP	Mullaghbane WwTW 7A Maphoner Road Mullaghbane Newry BT35 9TP	proposals for this site include the construction of a transfer pumping station with storage, valve chamber, local control panel, septicity dosing facility and associated pipework within the site. When complete and the new Forkhill WwTW is ready to accept flows, the existing wastewater treatment works will be decommissioned.	Permitted Development	
MB14	P/2010/0732/F	Opposite Post Office, Mullaghbawn, Forkhill.	Erection of new street cabinet to facilitate provision of new fibre optic infrastructure across the BT network. Cabinet dimensions approx. 1600mm high, 1200mm wide and 450mm deep.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	20/09/2015
MB15	P/2007/1503/F	From Belmont Crescent to site for 6no. Holiday Chalets at Upper Back Road, Mullaghbawn, Newry, BT35.	Provision of footway to link site for 6no. holiday chalets (approved under P/05/0703/RM)	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	14/02/2013
MB16	P/2009/0579/F	Immediately North West of No 19 Forkhill Road, Mullaghbawn, Newry	Erection of Photographic Craft Studio, (single storey) with associated car parking and ground works	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	12/10/2014
MB17	P/2008/1555/F	St Mary's R.C Church, Forkhill Road, Mullaghbawn, Newry.	Extension to Graveyard with associated groundworks, fencing and new access bridge over the Forkhill River.	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED	29/09/2016

### 3.3 Deprivation

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 report was published on 26 May 2010. The NIMDM 2010 updates and replaces the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2005 as the official measure of spatial deprivation in Northern Ireland.

Crossmaglen is the second most deprived Rural Super Output Area, behind Castlederg in 2010, and is ranked 112 in whole of Northern Ireland.

Mullaghbane is located within Silverbridge 1 SOA which is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived rural area in Northern Ireland.



The bar chart above illustrates the Multiple Deprivation Measure Rankings for Silverbridge 1 SOA, in which Mullaghbane is situated. It is important to note that this table indicates the rankings in relation to Northern Ireland as a whole including urban and rural area. Several key statistics can be taken from this:

- Silverbridge 1 is ranked quite highly with regard to several of the key indicators include proximity to services, employment and Income deprivation.
- Crime and disorder and the living environment do not appear to be major problems in comparison to other areas of Northern Ireland.

	Extent Score % (Rank)	Income Deprived Scale (Rank)	Percentage of total Population Income Deprived (Rank)	Employment Deprived Scale (Rank)	Percentage of working age population employment deprived (Rank)
<b>Assembly Area</b>					
Newry and Armagh	17 (8)	30,654 (4)	28 (5)	8,783 (6)	14 (5)
<b>Local Government District</b>					
Newry and Mourne	19 (5)	28,156 (3)	29 (4)	7,864 (3)	14 (7)
<b>Super Output Areas</b>	<b>Rank in Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Rank in Rural Northern Ireland</b>			
Crossmaglen	112	2			
Silver Bridge 1	182	12			

### 3.4 Previous Studies

#### 3.4.1 Economic Regeneration: A Pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh (Crossmaglen and South Armagh Chamber of Commerce – July 2011)

Tangible Ireland was commissioned by Crossmaglen and South Armagh Chamber of Commerce in December 2010 to prepare a well researched and written Feasibility Study / Business Plan for the development of the Chamber for the years ahead.

There was a wide variety of stakeholders consulted during the preparation of the feasibility study / business plan, which included regular meetings as well as one-on-one consultations.

In terms of the local economy the report states that due to the scale of the existing enterprise the town has limited employment opportunities. ICLRD's research in 2007-2008 suggested that 50% of the town's workforce were employed in the Republic of Ireland, notably in construction. With this sector now in decline the future remains bleak unless strides are made in the development of tourism and high-tech SME's.

The report highlights several other key issues:

- Road Infrastructure is well below acceptable standards and needs upgraded
- Lack of a motorway exit on the Dundalk-Armagh Road means the area lacks a natural gateway.
- Need for a commuter bus service between Dundalk Railway Station and Crossmaglen and maybe to Castleblaney or a loop through South Armagh. Currently tourists cannot get to South Armagh by public transport except through Newry.
- In the short term, better and more frequent directional signage would be of great assistance to locals and visitors alike.

#### Strategic Vision 2012-2016

To make Crossmaglen and South Armagh a vibrant hub of sustainable economic activity maximising the strengths and assets of its people, its geographic location and its natural beauty:

- The Chamber to take a leading role being the premier business organisation in the area in delivering this Vision.
- The Chamber to encourage and foster collaboration among all key stakeholders to deliver this Vision

#### South Armagh Development Trust

The report suggests that an all inclusive 'South Armagh Development Trust' is set up, which would consist of representatives of all stakeholders with a commitment to delivering this positive future for Crossmaglen and South Armagh.

**The report identifies 7 key aims which will help achieve its Vision:**

#### 1. Construct a 'South Armagh gateway' intersection on the M1 where it crosses the Dundalk-Armagh Road.

- Improve the Castleblaney Road – N53 from the M1 particularly the dangerous bends near the exit from the M1
- Improve subsurface and the surface of the Dundalk Road between Crossmaglen and the N53
- Improve the road between Cullaville and Crossmaglen
- Upgrade of the Crossmaglen Newry Road
- Work with Ulster Bus and Bus Eireann to provide a commuter bus between Dundalk Railway Station and Crossmaglen with the possible continuation to Castleblaney and other locations in South Armagh

#### 2. Initiate a village renewal scheme for Crossmaglen and other towns and villages in the area.

- Safeguarding of key heritage assets and encouraging sympathetic and appropriate infill development on the various vacant blocks
- Enter one of the various Pride of Place competitions to help benchmark the towns and villages against their peers around the island
- Instigate the feasibility of an overall colour scheme for Crossmaglen and roll out to other villages if deemed successful
- Develop regular farmers market to promote unique local produce and help to develop and agri-food business sector

#### 3. Creation of high capacity broadband and an internet wireless zone in Cardinal O'Faich Square.

- High capacity broadband to be provided in Crossmaglen and its hinterland
- Education programmes could be more intensely promoted and encouraged to raise the digital capability in the area.
- Enhance the potential for the creation of high-tech SME's
- Create a more diversified economic base, attract higher paying jobs and deliver new employment opportunities in Crossmaglen and South Armagh
- Training in Business and Entrepreneurship should be accentuated and initiatives to recognise achievements should be arranged such as local business Awards.

4. Development of South Armagh sports academy and brand.
5. Make Slieve Gullion ‘Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty’ a major tourist attraction.
6. Creation of flagship interpretative centre in Crossmaglen.
7. Create a positive image for the area.

This report raises many of the key issues affecting Crossmaglen and South Armagh and put forward several key projects and initiatives to address these. Similar issues and opportunities were highlighted through our consultation events. We would endorse the projects highlighted in this report and have strived to build upon these. The concept of the ‘South Armagh Development Trust’ is interesting and we feel this would benefit the area greatly. It was noted during our consultation that there was a very strong voluntary and community sector within South Armagh, however possibly lacking communication between groups.

### 3.5 Consultation Process

Table 3.4: Consultation Process			
Stage	Consultation Method	Date	Venue
Information Gathering	Community Workshop	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2012.	Mullaghbane Community Centre (10.30am-12.30pm)
	Public Workshop	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Mullaghbane Community Centre
	Questionnaires	March 2012	N/A
Draft Proposals	Open display for NMDC	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	NMDC Offices
	Public Exhibition / Open evening	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	Mullaghbane Community Centre
Draft Village Renewal and Development Plan	Draft Plan presented to NMDC and Community Groups	July – August 2012	Various

### 3.6 Consultation Findings

#### 3.6.1 Information Gathering Stage

The SWOT Analysis below is a summary of the information gathered during the early stages of the plan preparation. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified during the initial consultation workshops and the initial questionnaire which was circulated throughout the community. The questionnaire addressed a range criteria including; Planning and Infrastructure, Essential Services and Economic and Community Development. Please note that the comments are an expression of views of those responding to the questionnaire and not necessarily the views of any other party.

Table 3.5: SWOT Analysis	
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good community facilities: Tí Chulainn, Community Centre and GAA.</li> <li>• Ring of Gullion and Poets’ Trail.</li> <li>• Active community groups.</li> <li>• River walk.</li> <li>• Post Office.</li> <li>• Tí Chulainn Cultural Activity and Residential Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parking facilities beside School and Surgery.</li> <li>• High speed of vehicular traffic along the main road which passes through the heart of the village.</li> <li>• Poor pedestrian accessibility (not enough footpaths).</li> <li>• Road network neglected.</li> <li>• Lack of pedestrian crossing points.</li> <li>• Lack of footpath to the GAA – Cranny Rd.</li> <li>• The communication between public and community groups can be better.</li> <li>• Kids that are not involved in sport or music do not have facilities.</li> <li>• Lack of social housing.</li> <li>• Only one shop.</li> <li>• The village has not an identifiable centre / focal point.</li> <li>• Not very attractive approach to the village.</li> </ul>
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better communication between the public and the community groups: Information sign board and social media. Signage for community centre.</li> <li>• Gateway signage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Derelict Buildings.</li> <li>• Speeding.</li> <li>• Slippery river walk.</li> <li>• Poor roads and crossing points.</li> <li>• Parking and traffic around primary school and surgery.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath, lighting and fencing to GAA at Cranny Road.</li> <li>• Fence around Play Area.</li> <li>• Seating area beside Glebe Park – Forkhill Road.</li> <li>• Planter Boxes with floral displays.</li> <li>• Cultural festivals for all groups.</li> <li>• Internet café in vacant units for young people.</li> <li>• Disabled parking beside surgery, rest of patients can use the church car park.</li> <li>• Drop off and pick up area beside primary school.</li> <li>• GAA could attract children with other sports interest, e.g. athletics.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited public transport: No bus service to Dundalk, Route 42 to Newry very expensive.</li> </ul>
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No responses were received to the public consultation, however discussion with the community group established that they were generally happy with all the proposals.

**Table 3.6: Opportunities prioritised over the short to long term.**

SHORT TERM PRIORITIES (NEXT 3 YEARS)	MEDIUM / LONG TERM PRIORITIES (NEXT 3-7 YEARS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Management &amp; Signage Scheme – Aim to reduce speed top priority for local community.</li> <li>• Roads surfacing and potholes.</li> <li>• Information sign board and gateway signage.</li> <li>• Footpath to GAA – Cranny Road and Tullamacreave Road.</li> <li>• Fence around Play Area.</li> <li>• Seating area beside Glebe Park – Forkhill Road.</li> <li>• Internet cafe in vacant units for young people.</li> <li>• Cultural festivals for all groups.</li> <li>• Better signage around Poets Trail.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refurbishment of derelict buildings.</li> <li>• Improvement of river walk (Council ownership).</li> <li>• Refurbishment of mill chimney (private ownership).</li> <li>• Second Play Area.</li> <li>• Toilets and picnic facilities at Children’s Play Area.</li> <li>• More retail outlets that specialise in different goods.</li> <li>• e-open Museum.</li> </ul>

**3.6.2 Draft Proposals**

The draft Plan was put on public display in Mullaghbane Community Centre for a two week period from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012. In order to gain feedback from the public a questionnaire was available and an open evening was held to allow people to raise any concerns with a member of the consultancy team.

3.7 Mullaghbane Renewal and Development Plan

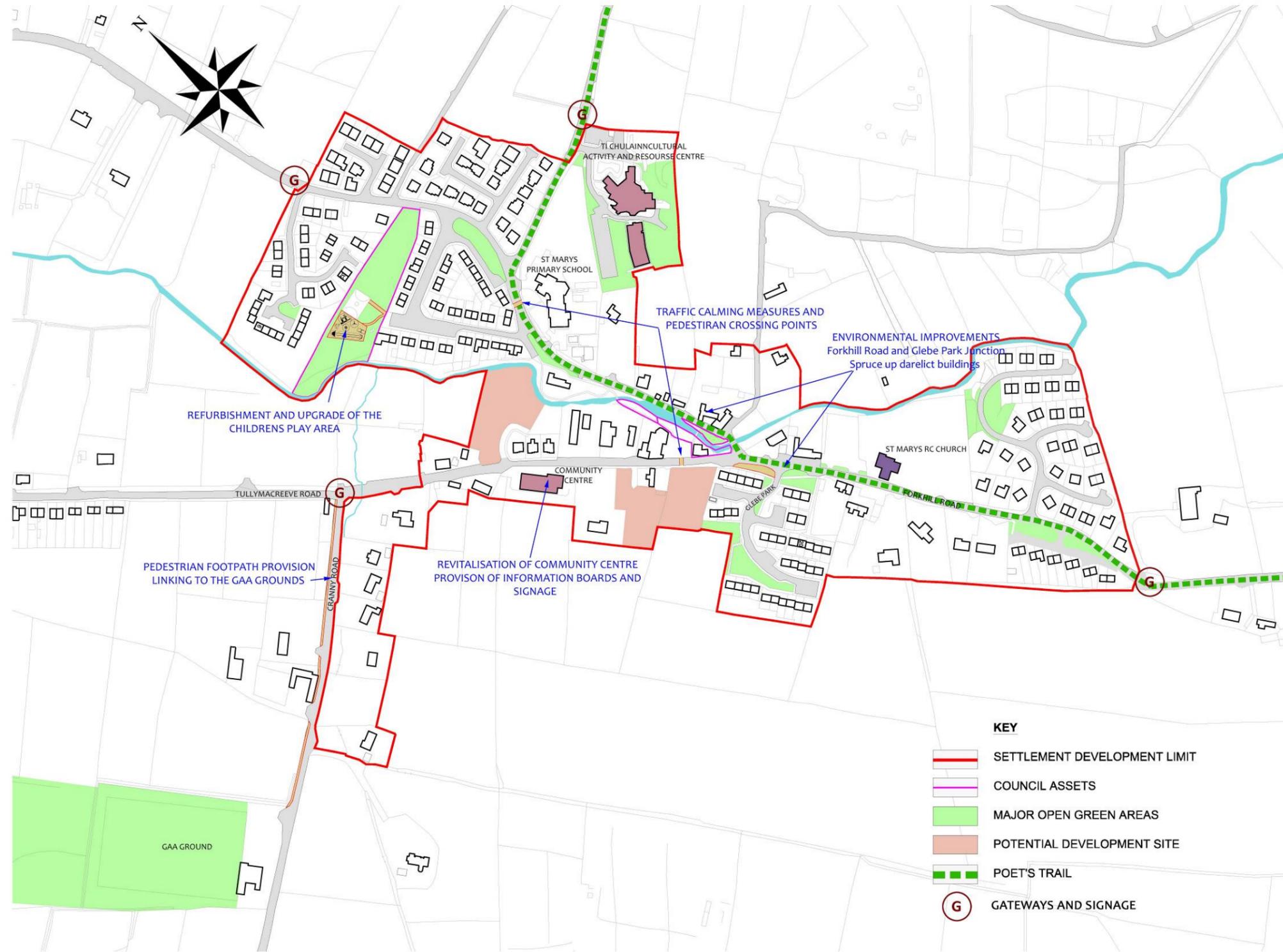


Figure 3.5: Proposals Map

3.7.1 Community and Youth Facilities

3.7.1.1 Revitalisation of existing Community Centre facilities

Although very well used, it has been noted through community consultation that residents do not feel the community centre is reaching its full potential. The Community Centre could be utilised to provide facilities and services for tourists visiting the area. The area is popular with 'outdoors enthusiasts' thus the centre could be exploited as a hub for those visiting the area. The centre could provide tourist information and possibly guided tours/walks should there be demand. It could also focus on providing cultural activities such as providing seminars and workshops based on the history, built heritage and natural landscape for example.

3.7.1.2 Refurbishment of Play Area

The play area in Mullaghbane is the only facility in the village for children. There are no communal playing facilities within the housing developments, and facilities are limited in the park. The area is not fenced, and this has been identified as an issue, as animals can access the park, which can lead to health and safety problems. Refurbishment would increase its use and provide a good quality facility for the local children.



Figure 3.6: Existing Playpark

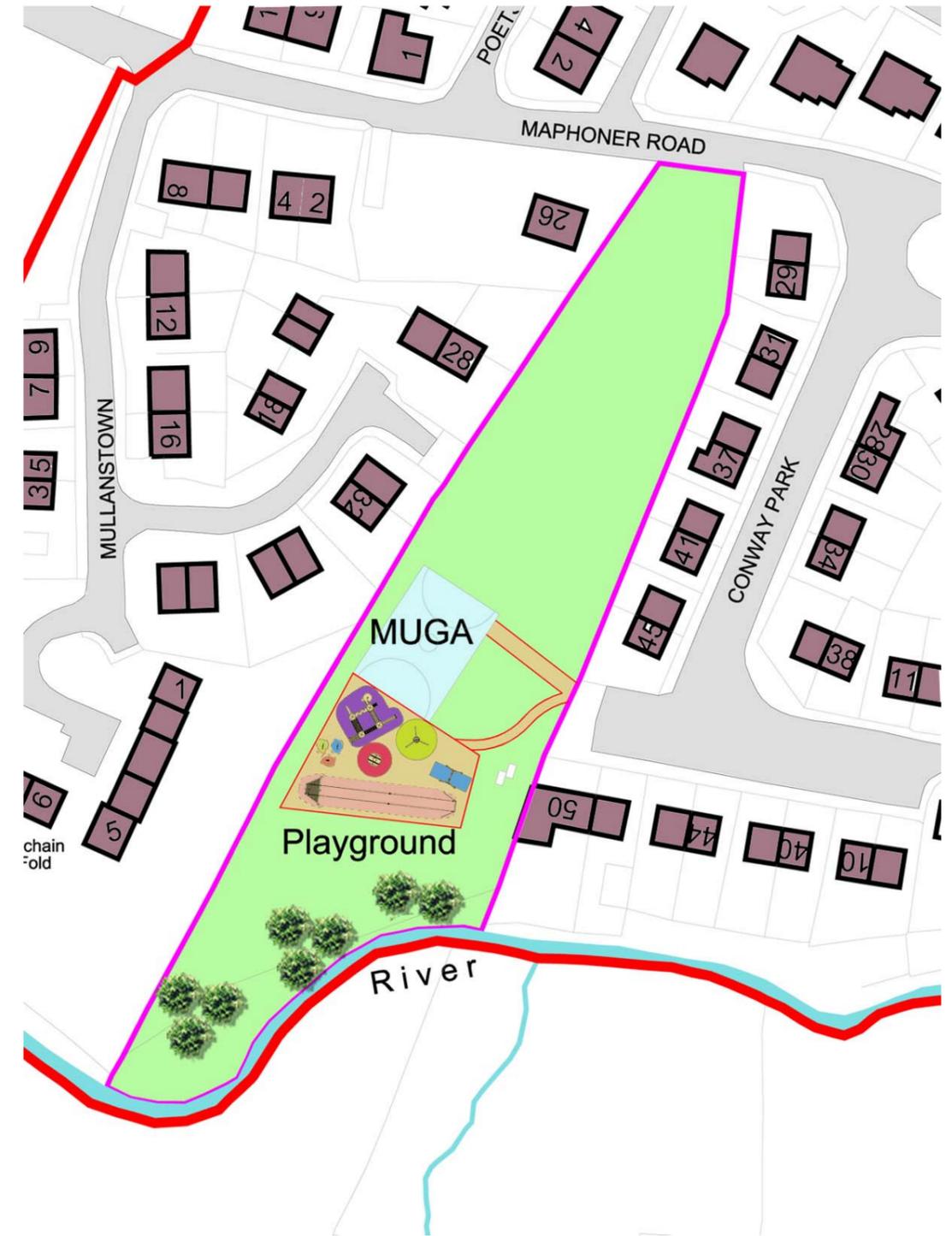


Figure 3.7: Indicative image showing new play equipment and tree planting to soften up the play park

3.7.2 Environmental and Townscape Improvements

Generally environmental improvements would be beneficial throughout Mullaghbane. The area at Forkhill Road/Glebe Park Junction was highlighted as a particular opportunity to improve the public realm, with paving and street furniture. The railings along the retaining wall should also be replaced.



Figure 3.8: Lands at Glebe Park – Forkhill Road junction

3.7.2.1 Village face lift:

Generally the village is attractive with a distinctive character; however there is room for improvement. There are a number of derelict units and sites scattered throughout the village which should be redeveloped in the future. In the short term derelict and run-down buildings should be painted and given a face lift, and additional planting should be installed around the village.



Figure 3.9: Indicative image of how aesthetic improvements to specific buildings can greatly improve the first impressions of a Village

### 3.7.3 Infrastructure Improvements

#### 3.7.3.1 Footpath and lighting provision along Cranny Road linking the village to the GAA Club

The major community facility of the GAA club on Cranny Road is currently unsafe for pedestrians to access, especially at night and in winter as there is no public footpath or street lighting to it. Land must be acquired to accommodate these access and safety improvements. A footpath on Cranny Road would also benefit the local community as a whole, opening up a route to walkers, on a route which would have previously been dangerous.



Figure 3.10: Existing situation at Cranny Road, pedestrian footpath is required, as many children use this as the access to the GAA facility.

3.8 Action Plan

Initiative	Delivery Agent	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Cost
<b>Community and Youth Facilities</b>							
Revitalisation of existing Community Centre facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Tourism/Recreation/Cultural Activities</li> <li>Guided Walks</li> <li>Programme of activities and events for all the community</li> <li>Educational and further learning programmes</li> <li>Ensure the provision of key services for the local community</li> </ul>	Community and Voluntary Sector	NMDC SELB DCAL	H	S	NMDC NIRDP	<p><b>Issue:</b> The Community Centre, although well used by various community groups. The centre currently provides essential services including the Women’s and Family Health Initiative. The Community Centre has the potential to support various tourism activities, such as walking and cultural groups. Build on the tourism, recreational and cultural potential of this centre. It is a strong asset for the community and is situated in a very prominent location within the Village.</p> <p><b>Work carried out or underway:</b> The community association have delivered many services in the Community Centre, however these need to be updated and refreshed to address the needs of the wider community.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Source funding and liaise with partner organisations</li> <li>Consult with the local community regarding needed services, activities and events and the type of educational courses which would be beneficial.</li> <li>Potential to promote this as the hub of tourism activity, being the base for guided walks to encourage enjoyment of the built and natural heritage in the area.</li> <li>Secure funding to ensure the future retention and growth of the Women and Family Health Initiative.</li> <li>Develop as an information centre for the surrounding area.</li> </ul>	TBC

<p>Re-use of derelict and underused buildings whilst encouraging business set up and community use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of an internet café / social facility for the youth of the village – this could be developed as a social enterprise by the community</li> </ul>	<p>Community and Voluntary Sector  Private</p>	<p>DOE NIEA DRD NMDC</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>S-L</p>	<p>NMDC NIEA HLF NIRDP BLF</p>	<p><b>Issue:</b> There are several derelict and underused buildings throughout Mullaghbane, especially along Maphoner Road. The redevelopment and re-use of these buildings would have environmental benefits in terms of the visual amenity of the village, and should also be encouraged to address social and economic issues by providing premises for start up business / social enterprise and community / youth facilities.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with landowners to determine the possibility for purchase or lease of buildings.</li> <li>• Consider the provision of an internet café / social facility for the youth of the village</li> <li>• Encourage local entrepreneurs to re-use vacant and underused buildings before considering new build</li> <li>• Liaise with funding bodies regarding the re-use of buildings.</li> <li>• Ensure the protection and conservation of important built heritage including those industrial heritage assets such as the Mill buildings.</li> </ul>	<p>TBC</p>
<p>Refurbishment of Play Area (adjacent to Conway Park):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of Play Area, Fencing, Teen Zone</li> </ul>	<p>NMDC Community and Voluntary Sector</p>	<p>DOE</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>NMDC NIRDP</p>	<p><b>Issue:</b> The existing play area is devoid of seating, picnic tables and toilet facilities and is of some concern to the community. Animals can get into the play area as there is no fencing around the park. As the only communal play area for children in the village, it is important that the facility is maintained and offers enough space and a range of activities for the needs of all. There is a good sized area of land around the play park which should be utilised to provide modern high quality play facilities for the community. It has also been suggested that the population of Mullaghbane is expanding due to new housing development which has consequently led to a rise in the number of children and young families.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commission design and implementation of refurbishment and extension scheme through consultation with the local community.</li> <li>• Secure funding and liaise with the wider community regarding proposals for the park.</li> <li>• Secure relevant statutory approvals: Planning etc</li> </ul>	<p>£100,000 - £200,000</p>

Provision of children's play facilities at the southern end of the village	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDC	DOE	M	S	NMDC NIRDP	<p><b>Issue:</b> There is currently one play park within the village adjacent to Conway Park. This is an excellent facility however it is not easily accessible for young children living in the southern end of Mullaghbane. They would have to walk along the Maphoner Road which can be dangerous due to traffic.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a children's play park in the southern end of the village. There is potential to locate this within Glebe Park on the open grassed area.</li> </ul>	£40,000 - £60,000
<b>Gateways to the Town</b>							
Traffic calming measures and pedestrian crossing points	DRD Community and Voluntary Sector	DOE	H		DRD	<p><b>Issue:</b> Traffic speeding through the village, particularly on the straight at Dunreavy Park is a safety issue. Pedestrian crossings are limited in the area, with particular concern being in the vicinity of the Primary School, where a number of roads are used by pupils.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and encourage gateway strategy.</li> <li>• Implement pedestrian crossing</li> <li>• Liaise with NMDC and DRD regarding the need for traffic calming measures on the approach to Mullaghbane/DRD to consider various methods of traffic calming.</li> </ul>	TBC
Improved Signage, attractive landscaping feature at the gateways to the village	SADT* NMDC	Community and Business Sector NITB	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	See section 2.4 for the wider Gateway Project for the South Armagh Area.	£25,000 - £40,000

<b>Environmental and Townscape Improvements</b>							
Environmental Improvements throughout the Village	NMDC	Community and Voluntary Sector  DOE DRD	H	S	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> Mullaghbane benefits from an excellent setting within Slieve Gullion AONB. There is very little street furniture in Mullaghbane, and setting at Glebe Park and</p> <p><b>What's been done to date:</b> Mullaghbane Community Association delivered the walkway along the river in order to utilise the pleasant setting of the river. This project has been very successful and has benefitted the aesthetic character of the village.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Improvements at Forkhill Road/Glebe Park Junction. By providing landscaping and seating.</li> <li>• Fully utilise and maintain the river setting and timber walkway</li> <li>• Commission the design of a comprehensive Environmental Improvement Scheme through consultation with the local community.</li> </ul>	£50,000 – £250,000
Village face lift	NMDC Private Community and Voluntary Sector	DOE NIEA	M	S-L	NIRDP NMDC	<p><b>Issue:</b> A number of buildings within the village are dilapidated, and detract from the overall character of the town, making it look untidy.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate a shop frontage improvement scheme for derelict and underused buildings throughout the town centre</li> <li>• Implementation of a paint scheme to brighten up buildings within the town centre and key approach roads. Derelict and underused buildings should be given a face lift to improve their visual impact on the Village in the short term, however the redevelopment of these sites or re-use and conversion of the buildings should be encouraged.</li> </ul>	TBC

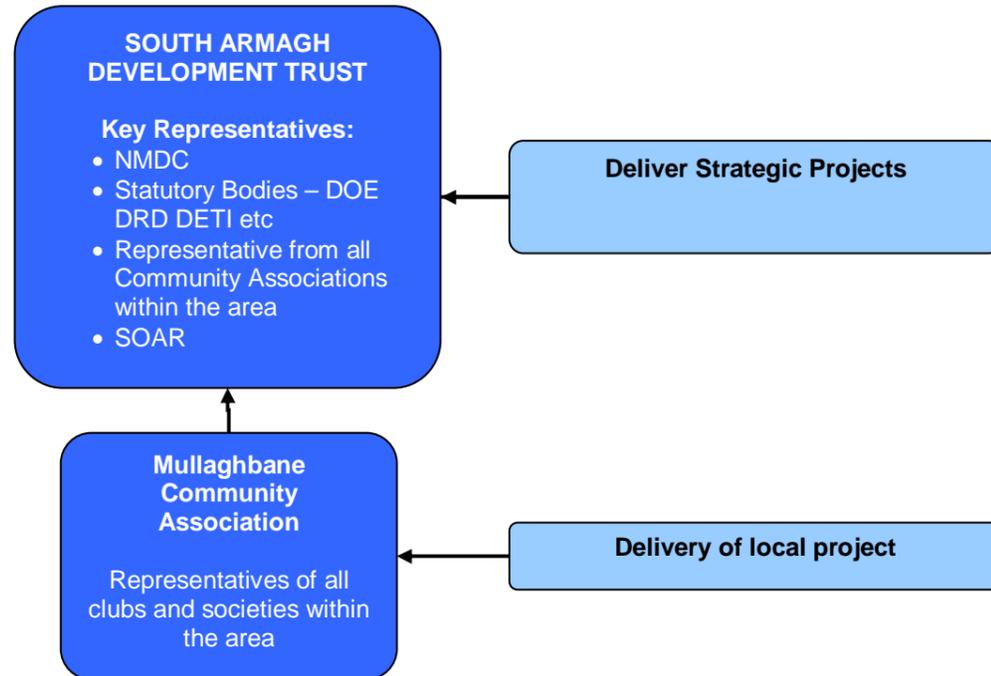
<p>Footpath to GAA- Cranny Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquisition of land, Footpath and Lighting Scheme.</li> </ul>	<p>DRD Community and Voluntary Sector</p>	<p>DOE NMDC</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>DRD NIRDP NMDC</p>	<p><b>Issue</b> Street lighting around Mullaghbane is insufficient, particularly the route to one of the main community facilities-the GAA Club. There is no footpath provision to this facility, making it a dangerous road for pedestrians.</p> <p><b>Work carried out or underway:</b> An extension to the footway was carried out in 2009 from the North east side of Tullymacreeve Road, opposite no 1 Cranny Road to no 15 Tullymacreeve Road – this now needs to be extended along Cranny Road to the GAA Ground.</p> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with landowners regarding the potential purchase of the required lands</li> <li>• Liaise with DRD regarding the potential for this project to be implemented in the short term programme, otherwise consider the possibility of the Community leading the project with the assistance of NMDC.</li> <li>• Commission design of scheme.</li> </ul>	<p>£75,000 - £150,000</p>
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Protect and conserve important aspects of the natural and built heritage	Community and Voluntary Sector NIEA	NMDC DOE	H	S- L	HLF NIRDP	<p><b>Issue:</b> Mullaghbane has several important assets in terms of built heritage including the Bridge, flax scotching mill and store. The village is also within the Slieve Gullion AONB and benefits from incredible views of the surrounding mountains. It is crucial to preserve and enhance these assets as they provide the unique character of the area.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the retention and preservation of the industrial heritage within the village. Seek grant aid to restore these feature where required.</li> <li>• Ensure the retention or key views of the surrounding AONB.</li> <li>• Provide information and signage regarding the natural and built heritage, for both locals and visitors. Encourage the concept of 'leave no trace' for people walking and cycling in the area.</li> <li>• Consider the provision of guided tours of the area.</li> </ul>	TBC
<b>Tourism, Leisure and Recreation</b>							
<p>Information boards and signage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's on in the area</li> <li>• Poet's Trail</li> <li>• Slieve Gullion (Walks, Play Area, Outdoor Gym)</li> </ul>	Community and Voluntary Sector NMDC	NITB DOE DRD	H	S	NIRDP NITB HLF NIRDP	<p><b>Issue</b> Lack of information available about the area to both tourists and local community. Potential to promote the village as the hub of tourism activity, being the base for guided walks to encourage enjoyment of the built and natural heritage in the area.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Consider the employment of a guide to take tours of the area – based in the Community Centre</p> <p>Prepare a programme of activities and events to encourage the wider community and visitors to take part in cultural events.</p>	£25,000 - £40,000

Development of Events/Festivals: Sporting, Cultural, Family Fun	MCA	NMDC NITB	H	S	NMDC NITB	<p><b>Issue</b> Popular festivals within the community have been discontinued due to lack of funding. It has been indicated during consultation that the Slieve Gullion traditional signing weekend and The Scoile Sliabh Gullion should be a priority to revive. In addition Christmas festivals are also popular, especially with families with young children.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Work towards the implementation of initiatives set out in the Chamber of Commerce document 'A Pragmatic Vision for Crossmaglen and South Armagh' including building on the Slieve Gullion AONB.</p> <p>Establish events committee to develop events calendar for both local events for the village and work with the SADT* regarding events for the wider area.</p>	TBC
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## 4 Implementation

### 4.1 Management and Delivery of the Village Renewal and Development Plan



### 4.2 Potential Funding Streams

#### 4.2.1 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

The European Union has set three main themes within which all Member States are to focus their Rural Development Programmes. These themes (known as axes) are:

Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry by supporting restructuring, development and innovation

Axis 2 – Improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management

Axis 3 – Improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity

They also require at least part of all Rural Development Programmes to be delivered through a “LEADER-type approach” – under the NI Rural Development Programme 2000-06, numerous partnerships delivered parts of the Programme within their own geographical area.

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-13 (the “NIRDP”) contains a number of measures under each axis. These measures are specific areas where support is to be targeted. Each measure was selected from a menu of options provided by the European Union in order to target the aspects of rural life that are most important to Northern Ireland.

SOAR will deliver the following Axis 3 measures under the NIRDP using a ‘LEADER’; approach, that is, local people making local decisions.

Measure	Objective	Eligible Applicants	Type of Projects
3.2 Business Creation and Development	To create employment opportunities through promoting entrepreneurship and developing the economic infrastructure in rural areas.	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area and have less than 10 employees (FTE – Full Time Equivalents) and an annual turnover of less than €2 million. These limits apply to individual or linked companies.</p> <p>They may be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>private individuals, aged over 18 years;</li> <li>private companies or partnerships</li> <li>social economy enterprises*.</li> </ul> <p>This measure will not provide support for applicants eligible under measures 3.1 and 3.3</p>	<p>Activities could be similar to those funded via the Northern Ireland LEADER+ Programme. Types of projects that might be supported under this Measure could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day-care facilities</li> <li>Waste management facilities</li> <li>Crafts</li> <li>Traditional skills</li> <li>Innovative manufacturing businesses</li> <li>Light engineering</li> <li>Innovative services</li> <li>Renewable energy initiatives (as part of a larger project)</li> </ul>
3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities	To use the natural resources in Northern Ireland's rural areas to attract visitors, and create new employment opportunities through the sustainable development of the rural economy.	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area.</p> <p>They may be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>private individuals, aged over 18 years;</li> <li>private companies or partnerships</li> <li>social economy enterprises*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New and existing tourism products can be supported under this measure e.g. Activity tourism</li> <li>Niche/specialist tourism markets/local crafts or produce Eco-tourism</li> <li>Self-catering accommodation</li> <li>Rural Signature Projects – enhancement or development of significant tourism infrastructure projects or programmes that impact significantly on rural tourism. Applicants will have to demonstrate</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>non departmental public bodies</li> <li>councils</li> </ul> <p>This measure will not provide support for applicants eligible under measure 3.1.</p>	fit with local strategies.
3.4 Basic Services for the Rural Economy and Rural Population	To improve or maintain the living conditions and welfare of those living in rural areas, and to increase the attractiveness of such areas through the provision of more and better basic services, for the economy and the rural population.	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area. They may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>private individuals, aged over 18 years</li> <li>social economy enterprises</li> <li>social economy enterprises*</li> <li>councils</li> </ul>	<p>Examples of project could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outreach work providing access to a wide range of services (health &amp; well being; education; benefits; jobs; financial and debt counselling)</li> <li>'Door-step' delivery of a range of services</li> <li>ICT Services which provide access to information on housing; healthcare; benefits; jobs; financial and debt counselling; education or other services to rural communities</li> <li>Sharing of equipment and premises in order to deliver value for money services</li> <li>Better or multiple usage of existing or new community buildings or other public facilities in providing access to a wide range of services e.g. housing a number of key services such as healthcare; training; IT; childcare; library; community shop; pharmacy or other service provisions in the one building.</li> </ul>
Village Renewal and Development	To enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area. They may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>private individuals, aged over 18 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examples of projects could include: Village Action Plans</li> <li>Streetscape improvements</li> <li>Aesthetic improvements</li> <li>Promoting greater community inclusiveness/participation</li> <li>Greater use of existing buildings</li> </ul>

	potential of such areas is achieved; To support integrated village initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• councils</li> </ul>	
Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage	To create opportunities to preserve and upgrade Northern Ireland's rural heritage and to use the natural and built environment as the basis for sustainable economic growth in rural areas.	<p>Applicant businesses must be located in a rural area. They may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• private individuals, aged over 18 years</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• social economy enterprises*</li> <li>• councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples of projects could include: Monument/heritage site conservation and protection</li> <li>• Access/signage/information re heritage sites</li> <li>• Culture, history and heritage</li> </ul>



**NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

SOAR (Southern Organisation for Action in Rural Areas) is the delivery Agent for Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 – Rural Life. The partnership delivers funding for projects in eligible rural areas within the Armagh, Craigavon and Newry and Mourne council areas.

**APPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC PROJECTS**

We are currently open for applications for strategic projects which are commensurate with the objectives of SOAR's rural development Strategy. You should note that this is a competitive process with limited funding available. The measures under which applications are being sought are:

- 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities
- 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population
- 3.5 Village Renewal and Development
- 3.6 Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage

Applications must be submitted on-line via the EU grants database ([www.eugrants.org](http://www.eugrants.org)) and any supporting documentation in hard copy to the SOAR offices on or before Noon on Friday 27th July 2012.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**  
In addition to the general eligibility rules of the scheme only those applications meeting the following evidence based criteria at the close of the call will be admitted as eligible for consideration:

1. Eligibility is limited to Local Authorities, NGO's and the Community Sector including Social Economy Enterprises;
2. Full Planning Permission (and other Statutory Requirements) must already have been applied for or already in place;
3. The proposed start date is no later than 1st April 2013;
4. The planned end date is no later than 31st December 2014;
5. The project grant requirement is above €250k and no more than €1million;
6. The Project must be either Capital or Infrastructure;
7. The Project Promoter/s matched funding must be at least 15%;
8. Robust project delivery costings must be in place at application stage;
9. A full business case or a recent (within last 12 months) independent Economic Appraisal to "Green Book" standard must be in place"; and
10. All applications must provide evidence of consultation with the appropriate Local Council as a key informant.

\*Where a project is deemed eligible and only a business case has been submitted, the applicant must submit a full independent Economic Appraisal to "Green Book" standard before the application can move to assessment stage and in any event no later than 28th August 2012.

Please note projects will only be funded if there is adequate funding available.

To find out more about the call or to discuss your strategic proposal in more detail, contact the SOAR office T: 028 38 312573 or email: [Craigavon@soarni.org](mailto:Craigavon@soarni.org)

*The NIRDP 2007-2013 is part funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.*






#### 4.2.2 Big Lottery Fund Village 'SOS' Scheme

Village SOS began in 2010 when six enterprising UK rural villages won Big Lottery Fund investment of around £400,000 to revive their communities through new business ventures.

Each village could draw on the expertise of their own Village Champion, a business expert who lived in the local area for one year, and use their knowledge and skills to get the local enterprise up-and-running.

Today, Village SOS aims to build on the experience of these ten projects and inspire the whole nation to join in and take the bold step towards starting a new business that will regenerate their own community.

Ongoing support, including expert advice and events, is on offer to help community led business ventures get off the ground, breathe new life into their areas, create new jobs and improve the quality of life of local people.

Funding through this scheme is open to all rural villages or small towns with a population under 3,000, therefore Mullaghbane is eligible.

A community enterprise is a business that is owned and operated by the community. With time, a community enterprise should be able to sustain itself without having to rely on grants or other public funding and any surplus is reinvested back in to the community.

There is a wide range of community enterprise ideas which can be funded, such as village shops, community transport, training schemes, cafes and tea rooms, woodland projects, broadband initiatives, energy schemes and much more besides.

We are interested in original ideas that really take advantage of your local assets, whether human or physical. You should think carefully about the skills and experience local people have; one residents' hobbies or skills could become a successful and sustainable enterprise. And why stop there when you could have a whole range of products or services, all produced or delivered by local people with unique skills. You could also take advantage of local natural resources, technology or buildings.

Voluntary and community groups or organisations, social enterprises and some parish, town and community councils are eligible for funding:

- a registered or unregistered charity
- a community group such as a village committee, association or trust

- a village or community-based co-operatives
- a social enterprise or a company that reinvests any profit back into the community.

More information can be found [www.villagesos.org.uk](http://www.villagesos.org.uk).

#### 4.2.3 PEACE III Programme

PEACE III Programme is a distinctive programme part-funded by the European Union (€225 million from the EU with further national contributions of €108 million) through its Structural Funds programme. The full title of the PEACE III Programme is the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. The programme covers the period 2007-2013.

The main aims of the PEACE III Programme are to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation by assisting operations and projects which help to reconcile communities and contribute towards a shared society for everyone.

The programme is divided into two main priorities. These are:

- Reconciling Communities
- Contributing to a Shared Society

It delivers these priorities through "themes" - these themes are:

- To build positive relations at the local level
- To acknowledge the past
- To create shared public spaces
- To develop key institutional capacity for a shared society

PEACE III follows on from the PEACE I and PEACE II Programmes and will carry forward some of the key aspects of the previous programmes. PEACE III has a renewed emphasis on reconciliation. Like the earlier programmes, it also has a focus on cross-border initiatives.

Operations and projects in the PEACE III Programme are delivered by Lead Partners which are public bodies or their equivalent.

There is a new strategic approach to achieve maximum impact from the funding available from the PEACE III Programme. As a result, community and voluntary groups can access PEACE III Programme funding in a new way.

Local Councils in Northern Ireland have formed themselves into eight clusters and play a much more strategic part in the delivery of PEACE III. The six County Councils in the Border Region of Ireland have the same role. Working in partnership with communities, they have developed local Peace and Reconciliation Action Plans.

PEACE III remains committed to a strong emphasis on the “grass roots up” approach to the development of projects which address shared issues and concerns. Community and voluntary groups are encouraged to contact their local authority for information on their cluster’s or County Council’s “Peace and Reconciliation Action Plan”, which may contain a small grants programme and opportunities to tender for the delivery of projects in the future.

Community and voluntary groups which are considering developing projects relating to acknowledging and dealing with the past should contact the Consortium of Pobal and the Community Relations Council (CRC), which has been appointed to deliver this theme.

#### 4.2.4 Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Funding

The Historic Buildings Unit (HBU), as part of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Built Heritage Directorate, is responsible for the protection of the built heritage. In carrying out this function, HBU operates the relevant provisions of the Planning (NI) Order 1991. The statutory authority to provide grant-aid is detailed in Article 106 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991.

##### Historic Buildings Grant Aid Scheme

To assist with the protection and retention of the ‘special’ interest of these historic listed buildings NIEA: HBU provide grant-aid for the repair or maintenance of listed buildings through the Historic Buildings Grant-aid Scheme. Advice on grant eligibility of buildings should be directed to the NIEA Historic Buildings Grants Team.

##### Built Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland (BHARNI)

Built Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland (BHARNI) is a programme run by NIEA in partnership with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) to identify listed buildings at risk. The aim of the programme is to support community organisations etc in their efforts to acquire, repair and re-use such buildings. NIEA has advised

that it can offer financial assistance to Building Preservation Trusts to assist with the acquisition of listed buildings ‘at risk’

## 5 Conclusion

The Village Renewal and Development Plan for Mullaghbane presents an ambitious yet achievable list of projects and initiatives which will help this village reach its full potential.

The Plan addresses the village in the context of the wider South Armagh region and identifies several strategic projects which will add to the attraction of the area. On the local scale there are a comprehensive set of projects and proposals which will address the needs of the local community. The Plans were strongly consultation led and therefore represent the hopes and aspirations of the community.

In order to achieve deliver and manage the Plan, we have built upon the concept of the 'South Armagh Development Trust', which will be an overarching body to oversee the delivery of Strategic Projects. These groups will be formed with representatives of all the Community Associations within the area and statutory bodies such as NMDC, DOE and DRD.

The community structure at the local level is crucial to the success of the South Armagh Development Trust. Community Associations are encouraged to include representatives of all sections of the community and other clubs and societies. This will give the advantage of 'pooling' resources and working towards shared gains.

## 6 Appendices

### 6.1 Appendix 1: Consultation Findings – Mullaghbane

#### 6.1.1.1 Information Gathering Questionnaire

1.	What is your interest?	Business	1	Community Group	5	Individual	5
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#### Planning and Infrastructure

2. Please indicate which of the following issues are of concern or interest to your group:

ISSUE	Major Concern	Some Concern	No Concern
Traffic congestion/ Speeding through traffic	10	2	
Parking availability	2	7	2
Pedestrian accessibility	7	4	2
Vehicular accessibility		4	3
Accessibility for disabled persons	2	7	1
Availability of housing for local people	3	7	1
Impact of new housing on your village	2	8	2
Quality of existing road network in the village	7	5	
Sewage and Mains Water supply	2	7	2

If you indicated that you have concerns about any of the above issues please expand on your answers below or on a separate sheet:

Pedestrian access is reasonably good on the Ti Chullann side of the village, but there is a great need for footpaths on the other side of the village especially to the Ti Chullann GAA Club.

Potholes are a common concern on many small roads, especially Mill Road.

Speeding through the Village ✓✓

Traffic Congestion Points:

- at the school, dropping off and collecting children 111
- speeding through the village and on the straight past Dunreavy Park. ✓✓✓

Parking availability:

- at the school
- at the doctors surgery

Pedestrian accessibility:

1. no footpath from the bridge to the school  
2. no footpath from Glebe Park on either side of the road.  
3. no zebra crossings a the school to Conway Park, Bun Slieve or for the network of converging roads for children. The lollypop woman cannot control all directions.

Vehicular accessibility:  
1. redo the white lines outside the Community Centre.

Impact of houses:  
1. the impact of new housing in the village has led to increased population of children, which in turn as led to double classes in the school, traffic congestion and the need for more footpaths.

Quality of existing road network:  
1. the quality of the road surface is really bad. The verges are neglected . the volume of traffic is too heavy for the surface of the roads, causing pot holes.

Sewerage:  
1. Constantly under reconstruction

Parking at the doctors surgery and shop is an issue.

Traffic calming measures needed.  
More social housing needed particularly due to the current economic climate. On the other hand, private housing estates, lacking play facilities etc, spoiled the village, and buying to rent has added other dimensions.  
Lack of social housing  
Purchased houses lying empty  
Some housing estates do not have adequate parking and many community areas are not disabled friendly  
Lack of social housing for locals at affordable prices – incoming population now taking up social housing and school places – roads, water and sewage all need upgraded.  
Quality of the road surfaces is appalling.

Mullaghbane Football Club – concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the young people who walk to the premises. No footpath and lighting  
Parking space at the shop  
Maphoner Road needs widened  
Strengthen the footbridge

3. Are there any development opportunity sites (ie. sites or buildings which are derelict, or underused/vacant land, or something that may be described as an 'eyesore') within the village that you are aware of? If yes, where and what would you like to see developed?

Some derelict buildings need to be attended to. ✓✓✓  
Not that I can think of.  
No  
Yes – land which was to be built on opposite the hall is an eyesore. Could attract vermin  
The bottom of the park where we live could be brightened up using floral displays. Land better used to provide parking at church, surgery, shops, pub etc  
Buildings from the pub to the school are in need of facelift ✓✓  
Lots on Maphoner Road – Owned by the publican

**Essential Services** (Please expand on answers if possible)

4. Please indicate which of the following issues are of concern or interest to your group:

ISSUE	Major Concern	Some Concern	No Concern
Provision and access to local healthcare facilities	2	6	4
Provision and access to educational facilities	5	3	5
Quality of public open space	1	6	2
Availability of play areas for children	1	7	2
Public transport service in the area	3	6	2
Provision of public leisure facilities	3	6	1
Quality and provision of retailing/local shops	2	6	2

Quality of local shops:  
1. only one so there is no competition

More facilities for 13-17 year olds

Community hall available for all events  
Youth drop in recourse  
Youth Club / meeting area – facilities for eating, playing games, chatting etc  
Urgent need to have a footpath and lighting from the Tullamacreave Road to Football Club  
Area at the bottom of Glebe Park would benefit from seating for elderly people

5. What services are you aware of and are you happy in general with the range of services currently provided?

Healthcare services / educational / leisure / retailing  
Youth club for the kids  
Drop in facility for the older people and walkers  
GP very limited appointments in the evenings and weekends. No dentist in the village.  
More adult education and provision for youth required (recreation / social, education)  
Only 1 play area, limited public bus service  
No leisure facilities except from GAA and bowls  
Outdoor leisure or physical exercise facilities would be advantageous  
Public transport to be more tenable, would require a change of timetable (estates should provide a play area)  
More retail would be helpful  
Doctors / community centre / shop park / post office / hairdressers / takeaway / local entrepreneurs  
No bus service to Dundalk  
Roads don't get salted in winter  
The community hall is well used by a range of community groups and the women and family health initiative provides essential services  
Public transport – more routes and a lower fare system needed, especially for the 42 route to Newry, price is a disincentive.  
More retail outlets that specialise in different goods  
Diesel / Petrol Pumps

**Economic and Community Development – (Please expand on answers if possible)**

7. Are there any attractions which you feel could be developed for tourists or for use by local people?

More signage for historical sites around the village and access to a few of them.  
Re-open Museum.  
Community centre  
Get Brennan Brothers onto the heritage site or O'Hanlons pub for tourist interest and for locals.  
Litter is a big problem – some form of policing and warning regarding litter is necessary.  
Walking routes  
More information on historical sites / provision of material relating to the area  
Mill chimney restored  
The river walk and cultural centre could be better utilised by tourists and locals if activities, places to eat etc were available  
The famine house in the forest by Glendasha could be developed as a tourist attraction  
I don't believe Ti Chulainn is being used as a cultural centre. The only reason I go there is to drink two times a year.  
The Poets Trial / Walking routes were once very well signposted but they have not been maintained. – signage posts have been knocked down and information boards need cleaning / resurfacing .  
The riverwalk could be brightened up in some way  
Walkway – Tourist Trails

6. What other facilities or services do you feel should be provided for the village?

Quality of public open space:  
1. In the children's open space there are no toilets, picnic tables or seating.  
Availability of Play Areas  
1. No public open space for Glebe Park. Parents would have to have the time to take them to the play park near Conroy Park.  
2. None at Churchclan Court or Dunreavy Park.  
Provision of public leisure facilities:  
1. very little or none for women.

8. Are there any features or assets within your village which you feel should be actively conserved?

The hump backed bridge which is an outstanding feature, should be preserved. Also the mill building.  
No  
More facilities for young people  
O'Hanlons Pub  
Community hall is a great asset / flowers / shrub planting  
Mill Chimney and Bridge  
River is a lovely feature but needs to be cleaned up very badly  
The community hall and the Women and Family Health Initiative. The Doctor / nurse surgeries. The chemist. Flower displays in the summer

9. Are there good small business opportunities?

Yes  
Not many places for small business to set up.  
Some mostly already established  
Units currently available for lease  
Very limited  
There are buildings to let for businesses but it is questionable whether there is sufficient passing trade to be viable.

10. Are there sufficient facilities available to local community groups and are they well used?

There is a vibrant community and the facilities are quite well used.  
Yes – community hall  
Community centre is well used but could be doing with being done up.  
There is not adequate ground floor space in the Community Centre. The road to the GAA Club needs a footpath.  
Community hall provides many facilities and is very well used.  
Facilities currently well used in the three buildings  
The existing community centre is fair but probably needs more workers to involve all ages genders

11. Are there regular or well known community events or festivals? If not, what would you like to see?

There were two festivals which were a part of the village but which have discontinued because of lack of funding. The Slieve Gullion traditional signing weekend and The Scoile Sliabh Gullion should be a priority.  
More kids fun days / sports days.  
More community plays.  
Summer festival  
There are numerous and varied festivals.  
There are regular events  
Lots of initiatives locally for events – well organised and attended. A vibrant community  
Some very good events by the family health group but would def need expanding to encompass the whole community  
The South Armagh half marathon was a very well run event but is no longer organised.  
There are always events being run in the community centre by the Women and Family Health Initiative.  
The Christmas show was very good and involved local children.  
Carol singing at Christmas with the local church used to be a good thing for the community and people living in the area.  
Christmas festival would be good – tree lighting ceremony, play, fun day for families.  
Something where the focus is not on alcohol.

**General**

Please tick the following statements to indicate your opinion:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree
The village is a generally attractive environment	5	7	
The village centre has good places to eat and drink	1	2	9
The village is easy to find	2	5	4
Directions to public facilities are clearly signed		5	5
The village has an identifiable centre	1	9	1
The approach to the village is attractive and welcoming	2	6	2
The streets are kept clean of litter	2	6	3
Graffiti and vandalism in the village are a problem		5	4
There is a clear vision for the village centre	1	5	3
Street furniture is well maintained		5	4
Pavements are uncluttered and in good repair		4	6
There is value for money in local shops		5	5
There is a good choice and range in shopping		3	7
There are suitable traffic calming measures			10
The police are involved in initiatives to cut crime		4	5
There are distinct and well used car parks		7	4
Building fronts and facades are well looked after	1	7	2
The village has a vibrant atmosphere	3	4	3
There is sufficient streetlighting	2	3	5
The village is safe to walk around at all times		6	3

If you wish to expand on your answers to any of these statements please do so below or on a separate sheet:

Street lighting and footpaths to the GAA Club are an urgent requirement. The Village, because of poor planning is blighted by random housing estates and this has meant that that there is a need for a more identifiable centre. Signposts to the village are needed on the Main Roads.  
The village always looks tidy due to Una and Mickey looking after the trees and shrubs.  
Litter is an issue  
Only one small café with short opening hours which is mainly used as a takeaway.  
The area is very scenic but enhancing the appearance and general cleaning up / painting needed in many areas.  
No clear signage from main roads  
Public facility signs need to be clearer and more plentiful  
More attractive welcome centre needed  
Lack of street furniture / bins needed throughout.  
Pavements in need of repair  
Main car park beside the chapel needs lighting due to anti social behaviour  
People with no means of private transport could feel very isolated.  
Streetlighting is very insufficient – as a runner / cyclist I often have to go to a running track with lighting instead of running on the roads within my own community.

6.2 Appendix 2: Press Advertisement



**COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN  
NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Newry & Mourne Village Renewal Action Plans  
(South Armagh Plans)**

**\* COMMUNITY CONSULTATION / VIEWING \***

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Newry & Mourne District Council and its appointed consultants (URS) are currently working in partnership with a number of pre-selected local rural communities across the region to have a total of 13 Village Renewal Action Plans completed.

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Draft proposals for the South Armagh Village Plans are now to be put on display from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012 until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 in the following venues;

Crossmaglen / Creggan / Culloville Plan – Crossmaglen Community Centre, Creggan Church Hall & Culloville Youth Club

Cullyhanna / Dorsey Plan – WALD Centre Cullyhanna & Dorsey Community Centre

Mullaghbane Plan – Mullaghbane Community Centre

Whitecross / Ballymoyer – St Killan’s GAC

Bessbrook/Camlough – Bessbrook Community Centre

Jerresspass / Lurganare - Jerresspass Village Hall

Newtownhamilton Plan – Newtownhamilton Community Centre

Altnamackin / Cortamlet – Cortamlet Primary School

Comments sheets will be available for you to have your say. Proposals can also be viewed and commented upon through the Councils Website of [www.newryandmourne.gov.uk](http://www.newryandmourne.gov.uk)

Council and Community Stakeholder groups would encourage local communities to come along to view the draft proposals and feed your views into the process.

Signed: Mr T McCall  
Clerk & Chief Executive of Council

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