

# Newtownhamilton

## Village Renewal and Development Plan (September 2012)

### Addendum and Updated Action Plan: December 2017

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



## 1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. Implementation

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

The Updated Action Plan provides an indication of the key tasks which need to be undertaken to progress specific projects. This often includes detailed scheme design, preparation of the business case and funding application, and in some cases further feasibility and analysis. The source of funding will often dictate the order in which tasks need to be undertaken, for example the Rural Development Programme expects all statutory consents to be in place before the funding application is submitted. There are potential sources of funding available for the projects and initiatives set out within this Village Renewal Plan. It is important to note that reference to potential funding is for guidance only. Other funding opportunities may become available during the lifetime of this plan, and all projects will be subject to appropriate eligibility checks, application and assessment procedures as set by each funding body.

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

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



### 3. Newtownhamilton- Review of 2012 Action Plan

		2012 Action Plan					2017 Update			
	Action substantially complete									
	Ongoing									
	Major constraint to implementation									
	New project									
Regeneration Initiative		Key Stakeholders	Priority	Time frame	Potential Funders	Actions	Progress @ Dec 2017	Priority H, M, L	Time frame	Actions
<b>1. Community Facilities</b>										
1.1	Regeneration of Community Centre	NMDDC, NTC,	M	M	NMDDC, Lot, RDP	Feasibility study, design works, statutory approvals and construction.	The community centre is well used by the multiple community groups in the area.  Newtownhamilton GFC also has a centre which attract a range of groups / users	M	M	Continue to diversify the usage of existing centres.  Continue to maintain and improve the community centre, including both the interior and building exterior.  Explore potential for community centre to provide a wider range of community activities ranging from bread making, cider making, healthy eating, music nights and straw crafts.
1.2	Project to Strengthen community participation	NTC, NMDDC	M	M	NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to reinject community spirit via improving community involvement in the town.</li> <li>Leadership required for this to be successful.</li> </ul>				
1.3	Art and Cultural Village Project	NMDDC, NTC, AC, ROGHA	H-M	S-M	RDP, AC, NMDDC, Fund Raising	<p>Explore the potential for a 3 year, high quality community arts and culture project to explore relationships between culture, art and community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year 1 – NEW Town: Celebrate (Who, What Where – HOME)</li> <li>Year 2 – New Town: Community (Here, Now, Future – HOPE)</li> <li>Year 3 – New Town: Fair Future (Nurture, Believe, Trust – INSPIRE)</li> </ul> <p>Through artistic intervention, community artists will encourage the community to recognise, understand and cherish the rich heritage they have in their locality both old and new.</p> <p>Explore potential to develop a further community / arts project expressing the rich, diverse and international communities living in Newtownhamilton today.</p>				

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1.4	Men's Sheds	NMDDC, NTC	M	S	RDP, HLF, NMDDC	Engage with wider community and key stakeholders regarding the feasibility and support for such a project. Carry out a design and feasibility study to assess potential sit for project. Seek statutory approvals. Explore and secure funding avenues.					
1.5	Newtownhamilton Road Bowls Club.	NMDDC, NTC	M	S-L	RDP, BIG, NMDDC	Continue to support and promote the development of the Newtownhamilton Road Bowls Club. Engage with club members to assess development of club / group. Explore priorities of club and identify key projects to support the club throughout its future development.					
<b>2. Environmental Improvements</b>											
2.1	Gateway Signage and Artwork / Landscaping approaches	NTC, NMDDC, Priv, PS, TRNI, DCAL, AC	L	S	NMDDC, RDP, AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study, design work, statutory approvals, installation of gateway signage and artwork.</li> </ul>	<p>Community have highlighted that signage has been vandalised and removed in places.</p> <p>Consideration for bi-lingual approach.</p> <p>Explore the potential for a landscaped approach to the town.</p>	H	S	<p>Explore feasibility and design options for gateway signage and entrance features on the main approach roads to the Village.</p> <p>Investigate the support for bi-lingual signage and engage with NMDDC.</p>	
2.2	Introduction of Planter Boxes with floral displays.	NMDDC, NTC, Priv, TRNI	L	S	NMDDC, Lot, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installation, Management and Maintenance.</li> </ul>	Planters installed and in the right place, however a few were removed the following day. The community are happy to tend to the planters.	M	S	Continue to maintain the planters and consider the potential of extending this scheme to other floral displays. Explore funding for additional floral displays for example through 'Live Here Love Here'.	
2.3	Environmental Improvement for the Town Centre.	NMDDC, NTC, Priv, TRNI, PS DFC / DFI	H	S	NMDDC, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study, design works, statutory approvals and construction.</li> <li>Translink have advised that at present there are no plans to change bus stops in the near future. They will work with the community if changes are needed to fit into the proposed schemes.</li> </ul>	2013 a small EI scheme completed: Improvements to bus stop and bus stop area along Armagh street, landscaping works included tree planting towards Dundalk road along with landscaping towards Newry Road encompassing tree and daffodil planting.	H	S	<p>The town could benefit from a major EI / Pathway revitalisation scheme.</p> <p>Tidy village scheme seen as having potential (tidy a mile / two-minute clean-up). Kilcurry as great example.</p>	

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BT have advised that they do not have a budget for undergrounding aerial apparatus so such work would be at the cost of the project sponsors.</li> </ul>	<p>A significant EI Scheme is required:</p> <p>Requirement to open for 2 way traffic the road between the square and Newry Street</p> <p>The surface of the square to be improved, particularly to address safety issues. If a comprehensive scheme is not feasible, the existing uneven / dangerous condition of the pathways in town-centre must be addressed.</p> <p>Parking bays should be provided in the square for customers</p> <p>Armagh – Dundalk Street: focus to be on road improvement, pathway improvements, building frontages, undergrounding cables.</p>			<p>Liaise with TNI in relation to potential for a road safety / safer street scheme and to address the condition of pathways in the short term in the absence of a full environmental improvement scheme.</p> <p>Explore funding options for a comprehensive environmental improvement scheme.</p>	
2.4	Potential Development Site for Private / Civic Use.	NMDDC, NTC, Priv, PSNI	M	L	Priv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are several potential development sites that if developed appropriately could greatly enhance the appearance and assist in defining the public space within the town. This is particularly evident in the town square. In addition, there are other development sites that could assist in connecting pedestrian routes through the town.</li> </ul>	This remains an important issue. The Old Mart site has been demolished with plans for the development of a supermarket	M	L	Engage with NMDDC and DfC to explore opportunities to encourage the redevelopment of vacant sites, for example through the implementation of a grant scheme.	

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2.5	Christmas Illuminations	NMDDC, NTC	M	M	NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve the Christmas illuminations</li> <li>Engage with NMDDC regarding potential funding to enhance the Christmas display.</li> </ul>					
2.6	Explore potential for Landscape Partnership Scheme	Ring of Gullion LPS NMDDC, EI, NITB, NTC, DAERA	M	L	HLF DAERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore potential to create a landscape partnership scheme with border regions.</li> <li>Strong historical context as old trading town</li> <li>Explore possibility of submitting a HLF Our Heritage project</li> </ul>					
<b>3. Tourism, Leisure and recreation</b>											
3.1	Play Area	NMDDC, NTC, DCAL, PS	H	S	NMDDC, Lot, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study, design works, statutory approvals and construction.</li> </ul>	Council's Play Development Strategy recommends an upgrade to play area in Dungormley. Community has requested Council to consider relocation of the play area to an alternative site to be determined following community consultation. This will remain at a high priority within the plan.	H	S	Council to undertake community consultation in relation to delivery of a future play area scheme	
3.2	All weather sports facility / MUGA	NMDDC, NTC, DCAL, PS, SNI, Priv	M	M	DCAL, SNI, RDP, Priv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study, design works, statutory approvals and construction.</li> </ul>	Project complete	n/a	n/a	No further action required.	
3.3	Walking Trail for community	NHC GAA NMDDC	H	M	SNI RDP	Provision of a walking trail around the football pitch to provide a safe walking route for the community					
3.4	Newtown OUR Heritage Project	NTC, NMDDC, AONB, NITB, NIEA	M	M	NMDDC	Explore a Newtownhamilton Our Heritage Project similar to the Bessbrook Model village archive project. Potential to explore how Newtownhamilton can link to the tourism strategy.					
3.5	Carrickatuke View Point	NIEA NMDDC NTC	M	M	NIEA HLF RDP	Improve access to Carrickatuke view point					
3.6	Cross Border Funding	NMDDC, NTC	H	S-L	RDP	Explore potential to develop cross border funding for projects. Engage with key stakeholders and statutory bodies regarding the feasibility of such a project.					

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<b>4. Infrastructure and services</b>										
4.1	Traffic Management Strategy including traffic calming measures. A study would also be undertaken to explore the viability of a bypass.	TRNI, NMDDC, NTC	H	S	TRNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of a Traffic Management Strategy, including a review of traffic calming measures.</li> <li>Consultation with RS, road improvement works.</li> </ul>	<p>This is perceived as the main issue within the village. Speeding through the Dundalk side of town, outside of St. Michael's. The need for a bypass is still relevant, however a successful traffic management system may have the potential to alleviate current traffic issues. Parking in the town square isn't working, unofficial garden being used.</p> <p>Consideration of best use of the Common's to serve car parking within the town and upgrade the linkages from the Commons to Armagh Street / Dundalk St</p>	H	S	Review current traffic management. Conduct feasibility study for traffic calming measures such as ramps and associated traffic calming measures.
4.2	Townsend National School, Castleblaney Street, Newtownhamilton.	NMDDC, NTC, NIEA, Priv	M	M	NIEA, HLF, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NIEA have advised that Townsend National School is identified as a building at risk on the Built Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland (BHARNI) Register. They also advised that they are very keen to work with the Council and Community to get this building repaired and reused.</li> </ul>	The situation remains the same. Opportunity to insert into AONB Industrial Heritage Plan. It is important to avoid competition and displacement from other two community centres if developed as a community asset.	M	M	Continue to engage with key stakeholders regarding the protection and reuse of the building.
4.3	Little people Pre-school (Ed. Authority & others)	NIEA, PS, NTC, SELB, NMDDC	M	M	NIEA, SELB,	Pre-school on the nine-mile road operates out of a temporary premise and requires a permanent building for their own use (sure-start also work out of the same existing units). Explore potential to extend beyond pre-school. This is a successful cross-community project and should receive further recognition and support.				
4.4	Youth Diversity Project	NTC	M	M	RDP	Youth diversity project to be promoted and extended				

