

NMD Connect

Incorporating Annual Report 2021/2022



In this edition

RECOVERY AND REGENERATION
SUPPORTING YOU, LOCAL BUSINESSES
AND THE ENVIRONMENT
NMD YOUTH TOP THE AGENDA
GO GREEN – LET'S TALK CLIMATE

#thankyou
#staysafe
#makesaferchoices



Councillor Sean Doran

It was with deep regret that the Council was informed of the passing of Councillor Sean Doran in November 2021.

Councillor Sean Doran served local government for over 10 years, first as a councillor for the former Newry and Mourne District Council before it became Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in 2015. He was a dedicated public servant who was a passionate advocate for the people within the Mournes District Electoral Area for which he represented, and across the district council.

During his time as councillor, he worked tirelessly to ensure the delivery of many important campaigns and projects for his constituents, including numerous community centres, sports facilities and playing fields. A previous member of Mourne Heritage Trust, he was passionate about conservation matters. He was also dedicated to the economic and wellbeing of his community and had been a non-executive member of the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority from 2015–2020 and sat on the Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP board for six years. He was a respected man with huge civic pride, these will remain as a fitting legacy to him and his hard work.

His passing is mourned throughout the area where he will long be remembered.

In this issue...

- 3 Chairperson's Welcome
- 4 Chief Executive's Message
- 5 Recovery & Regeneration
- 11 Health & Wellbeing
- 16 Sustainable Communities & Our Environment
- 22 Great Outdoors
- 25 NMD Youth
- 29 Improvements Across the District
- 32 Supporting Our Communities

Annual Report 2021/22

- 45 Facts and Figures
- 48 How We Performed: Performance Improvement Plan
- 49 How We Spend Your Money
- 50 Your Councillors
- 52 Useful Numbers


Get in touch!

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

T: 0330 137 4000

E: info@nmandd.org

www.newrymournedown.org

 /nmdcouncil

 @nmdcouncil



Councillor Cathy Mason
Chairperson

It has been a privilege to serve as the Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council since June last year. Over the past ten months, I have had the pleasure of meeting with charitable, community and voluntary organisations across the district, some of whom we work with in partnership to realise a shared vision of making our district a pleasant and prosperous place to live and work, and at the same time generally improving the quality of life for everyone. There are some truly inspirational individuals who give their time freely to help others.

Whether it's supporting our young people, reducing isolation in our communities, or providing vital new facilities, there is a warm, generous and compassionate spirit evident in many of the people I meet across the district.

I wish to thank everyone who supported my foodbank appeal and other charity appeals across the district this year. I am aware there is a continuing need to support the many families and individuals facing hardship, not just at Christmas but, all year round.

I have also had the honour of visiting many of our local businesses this year and recognise the true entrepreneurial spirit evident within the business community across our district. Throughout 2021, I have continued to promote the 'Make it Local' message to highlight the unique business offering our district boasts.

The past year has been another challenge for us all and Council's COVID-19 Recovery Revitalisation Plan continues to deliver financial support to a range of businesses. I would encourage you all to continue to visit, to eat and to shop safely in our district.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our social and personal wellbeing, and I will continue to work collaboratively with our partners to ensure our residents know there is help and support available to them if they need to talk to someone.

We are excited about the new opportunities ahead this year, with the recent signing of the Belfast Region City Deal, a momentous milestone, which will allow us to deliver transformational projects within the district, fostering economic growth, providing job security, improved road and digital infrastructure, and creating world class visitor experiences.

The geographic location of our region and presence on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor partnership, presents key opportunities also in 2022 enabling us to secure cross border investment, boosting trade opportunities for local businesses, increased production in key sectors and higher employment.

I would like to thank all of those who have helped me during my time as Chairperson and who have shared their programme successes with me. In the months ahead, I will continue to do all that I can as Chairperson to work on your behalf.



Marie Ward
Chief Executive

It has been another challenging year for us all in the district with COVID-19 still very much dominating everyone's life, both at home and at work.

As you will see from this year's edition of our NMD Connect / Annual Report the Council has risen to the many challenges and worked tirelessly to ensure our services were delivered seamlessly for residents across the district.

When we look back on the way the Council responded to the enormous challenges, we have faced this year, I believe we will do so with a mixture of pride, and, of course, empathy for anyone who has endured illness or loss as a consequence of COVID-19. Meanwhile, we must continue our work to keep services running and to support local people, particularly those who are vulnerable and need our help the most.

We have delivered on a number of key priorities and continue to make good progress on others, in particular the Belfast Region City Deal, which will bring important benefits for our district, allowing us to progress with the Newcastle Gateway to the Mournes project, the regeneration of Newry City and the development of the Southern Relief Road. Our Digital Programme of Investment will play a critical role in contributing to economic inclusion and sustainable growth, creating skills and employment for a digital future.

The £16.2 million funding announced by the Department of Finance for the Albert Basin Park will also help us realise our vision for a world-class city park, central to our Newry City Centre Regeneration plans.

Throughout the year, a lot has been achieved by all departments and we have reached new milestones in the delivery of our Corporate Plan 2021–2023. In addition to the major capital project successes highlighted above, we have also made progress on other projects and continue to provide quality services for the benefit of all our citizens. I have outlined below some of the great work achieved during this year and would encourage you to read this publication which provides further detail regarding the Council's activities.

July and August 2021 saw the delivery of the 'Get Active for Summer' sports activity programme which saw more than 750 children and young people take part in sports across the district. Building on this success, the NMD 'Be Active for Life' programme was developed to give additional support to people who want to bring regular exercise back into their lives. The 'Be Active for Life' programme now offers a variety of exercise classes throughout the district for all age groups and fitness abilities.

I am delighted that the CANN Project (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network) which Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is lead partner, is a finalist in the Ecology section of the prestigious Innovations in Politics Awards. Our Forest Parks Team won the 2021 Green Flag 'Team of the Year' award for the development and environmental initiatives completed in three of our forest and country parks.

We also completed public realm investment across seven rural villages in the district, representing a combined

investment of approximately £4 million.

The Council was awarded £4.7 million to deliver the PEACE IV Local Action Plan – Beyond Tolerance, the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) which seeks to support the delivery of local community initiatives for children and young people involving sports, arts, culture and language. It will help make public space in cities, towns and villages more inclusive and facilitate programmes for shared space and will be used to assist conflict resolution activities at a local level to encourage positive interaction between residents and groups from divided neighbourhoods.

We are ambitious about the way in which we can support and shape the future success of our Council and our communities.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my personal gratitude to all our employees and our elected members for their hard work and commitment in continuing to deliver our services to the citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council during 2021/2022 – another difficult year.

The next year will continue to bring more opportunities as our ambition remains for Newry, Mourne and Down to be one of the best places to live, work, invest in and visit.

Welcoming the signing of the Belfast Region City Deal with Minister of Finance, Conor Murphy is (front left-right) Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson Councillor Cathy Mason and Chief Executive Marie Ward. Also included in the photograph are NMDDC’s BRCD Panel Members Cllrs Charlie Casey, Robert Burgess and Pete Byrne.



BRCD Deal Signing Secures Plans for Newry, Mourne and Down

The signing of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) document on 15 December 2021 is the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and confirms partners’ joint commitment to fully implement and deliver on all aspects of the City Deal proposals. The £1 billion of co-investment secured from central government and the BRCD partners, will deliver a bespoke package of funding across the BRCD Region.

BRCD funding has enabled Council to progress on the following groundbreaking projects that will be transformational for our district:

EMPOWERING NMD

A DECADE OF
OPPORTUNITY

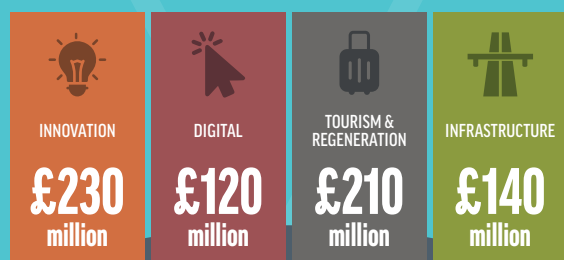
Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) is made up of:



Where did the money come from?



Projects fall under 4 key pillars



UNDERPINNED THROUGH INVESTMENT IN EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS

Impact of BRCD projects will create



#BRCityDeal

The Mourne Mountains Gateway will redefine visitors' experience of the Mourne Mountains whilst supporting the sustainable growth of tourism and protecting the natural heritage and habitat of the region. The project will deliver a world class visitor attraction, and will create improved, and more sustainable access to the Mournes.

Newry Southern Relief Road will link the A1 bypass with the A2 Warrenpoint dual carriageway providing an alternative strategic route for traffic that reduces pressure on Newry city centre, facilitates onward travel to Dublin and improves access to other regional gateways.

Newry City Centre Regeneration will deliver a civic hub, theatre and conferencing facilities which, together with new public realm and grade A office provision, will revitalise the city. The regeneration will also create and sustain jobs, increase visitor numbers, appeal to residents and stimulate the evening economy.

Digital and Innovation Projects: Technological Innovation is one of the most powerful drivers of increased wealth and productivity as well as improved wellbeing. Our Digital Programme of Investment will play a critical role in contributing to economic inclusion and sustainable growth. In recognition of the pace of technological and societal change, a challenge-led, long-term, flexible Digital Programme has been developed which will maximise the parallel investments in the universities' centres of excellence and together focus on those areas where the region can be distinctive and competitive.

The key interventions of the Digital Programme include:

- The Belfast Region Innovation Challenge Fund
- Enabling Infrastructure
- Regional Innovation Hubs

Skills and Employment: Creating skills for growth, inclusion and for a digital future are key priorities for BRCD partners.

The BRCD partners have worked with the UK Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to secure the Deal, with each government partner committing to invest £350m over the lifetime of the deal.



For further information visit

www.newrymournedown.org/belfast-region-city-deal



COVID–19 Shop Front Enhancement Scheme

As part of the Department for Communities Recovery Fund, the Council delivered a major grants programme to assist retailers across the district recover from the negative impact of COVID–19.

Grants of up to £2,000 were awarded for a variety of projects including new shop fronts, painting and signage. Over 500 local businesses benefitted from the scheme with over £800,000 being awarded across the district.

Council continues to Make it Local

We recognise the benefits that come from local traders contributing to our district. By shopping locally for products and services, either in store or online, we are supporting jobs and supply chains which contribute to our district recovering and thriving following turbulent trading conditions.

Continuing to support businesses throughout the district, a 'Make it Local' promotional campaign was implemented throughout the summer. A spotlight was placed on a range of businesses and industries with a social media, radio, billboard and print media campaign delivered to encourage visitors into the district and share the good news that Newry, Mourne and Down is open for business.



Popular artisan markets reopened

As COVID–19 restrictions eased last summer, the Council recommenced the popular artisan markets. Markets in Downpatrick, Newcastle and Warrenpoint were all held monthly.

With COVID–19 revitalisation funding from the Department for Communities, the Council procured additional market equipment including gazebos and branding materials to enhance the visitor experience. Watch out for new markets being developed in Newry and South Armagh for 2022.



Connecting visitors to our people, landscapes and culture

We have been actively working alongside our industry partners in the recovery from COVID-19 by developing 'experiential tourism'. This is a form of tourism in which people focus on experiencing a place by actively engaging with its history, people, culture, food and environment.

Captivating visitors with immersive experiences is a growing trend across the world, and in Newry, Mourne and Down experiences have been developed that are reflective of the Northern Ireland 'Embrace a Giant Spirit' brand.

Experiences developed to date:

- Head to the Killowen Distillery, Rostrevor for a taste of traditional spirits. Tour the distillery, where small batch whiskey, gin and poitin are made using ancient techniques. Learn more about the connection between

local spirits and the landscape, mythology and history of the region.

- Take a stroll back in time at the Montalto Estate, Ballynahinch. The estate's gardens host the finest exotic plants in Ireland. Tour the site of the Battle of Ballynahinch, one of the key events on the 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion.
- Reconnect with nature alongside Ann Ward, from Xhale, who offers forest bathing, meditation and mindfulness experiences in some of the region's most tranquil landscapes. Escape the stresses of everyday life with meditative techniques.

Visit Mourne online

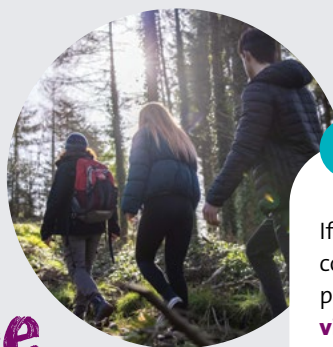
April 2021 saw the launch of the new Visit Mourne website. The website provides visitor information for Newry, Mourne and Down district under the Visit Mourne brand.

Information available includes:

- how to get here/plan your trip
- ideas of things to do
- where to stay
- what's on in Visit Mourne
- a blog section with ideas of Giant Adventures waiting to be explored
- special offer details of Council led Tourism events.

In partnership with Tourism Northern Ireland and other local authorities, Visit Mourne is a responsive website that aims to inspire and engage its users. Regularly check in at www.visitmournemountains.co.uk especially if you are looking for something to do in the area. Check out the What's On section as there are plenty of interesting events occurring that you might never have even heard of, you could even make it into a short-break or a Giant Adventure. Be sure to tell any visitors about the website.

Funding provided by



If you would like to supply content and/or images to help promote the area email visitorservices@nmandd.org

If you are organising a tourism event in Newry, Mourne and Down, upload the details to www.visitmournemountains.co.uk/whats-on/submit-event for promotion on the website and across the Visit Mourne area.

Follow us on social media at:

- @VisitMourneMountains
- @VisitMourne
- @VisitMourne
- #VisitMourne

Giant Adventures Ahead in Visit Mourne

The Visit Mourne Summer Marketing Campaign 2021 focused on creating awareness of Visit Mourne and the Giant Experiences on offer. Reminding people of the Giant Adventures to be experienced, at their pace, was central to this campaign due to the pandemic. Promotion focussed on Trails and Tours, Giant Food and Drink, Wellness and Retreats and Water-Based Experiences. The Visit Mourne Autumn/Winter Campaign 2021 promoted the outdoors, including walking, pedalling and shopping. Both campaigns were part funded by Tourism NI through the Co-operative Partnership Marketing Fund.



For more information and a full list of experiences available within the region visit www.visitmournemountains.co.uk

Businesses supported in Rural Business Development Grant Scheme

The Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2021 aimed to assist with tackling poverty and social isolation within deprived rural areas.

Funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI), the scheme was designed to support rural micro businesses to develop, sustain and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also designed to contribute towards TRPSI's objectives of alleviating financial poverty by enhancing entrepreneurship and growth, and by supporting micro businesses in rural areas.

Capital grants up to £4,999 provided a maximum of 50% grant rate and were available to existing micro enterprises based in rural areas of the Council district. The grants assisted businesses in their recovery efforts by providing capital assistance funding for new equipment, machinery, computer equipment and software, e-commerce websites, and COVID-19 business recovery equipment.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council received 140 applications and issued 79 letters of offer to successful projects, with a total grant funding of approximately £252,000. This resulted in a total investment value in the Council area of over £500,000 to include grant funding and match funding.

£630,000 refurbishment breathes new life into Derrymore Estate

Residents of Bessbrook and beyond will be able to enjoy the benefits of new play and recreation facilities at the Derrymore Estate in Bessbrook, County Armagh. This follows an investment of £632,658 from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Sport Northern Ireland.

The project was funded under DAERA's Rural Development Programme's Co-Operation Scheme in partnership with Moorehall Estate in County Mayo. The partnership project was initiated by Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership and the two sites are linked by historical contexts and topography, which are similar in both estates.



Revitalisation schemes enhance Newry and Downpatrick

Funding of £450,000 has been secured from the Department for Communities to deliver several revitalisation schemes. The schemes will improve the appearance of Lower Hill Street in Newry (Hill Street, Mill Street, O'Hagan Street, St Mary Street and St Colman's Park) and Church Street in Downpatrick. The Council has contributed a further £45,000.

The overarching aims are to enhance the visual aspect of the businesses on the streets and create a welcoming presence for visitors, shoppers and residents. Examples of the schemes to be completed include, business owners receiving financial support to improve the appearance of their shop fronts through painting, replacement windows and doors and improved signage. In addition, several derelict building facades will be upgraded.

Communicating with our residents

In the age of digital communication, social media has become one of the most widely used ways for local councils to reach residents directly with timely and relevant information. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has seized on this trend and has intensified its presence on social media in the past year as we continue to deal with the challenges that COVID-19 still presents.

The Council delivered over 49 social media campaigns for a range of key services from responsible dog ownership, anti-littering, domestic violence to the promotion of the Irish language. Other advertising campaigns focused primarily on Public Health Awareness and were delivered across Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook.

Some of the key social media campaigns delivered are outlined as follows:

- #Covid Cert
- That is Disgustin'!
- This is a Disgrace
- There Is No Excuse

Safeguarding through the COVID-19 pandemic

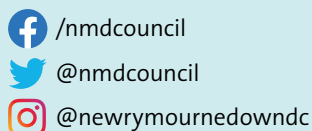
Our Safeguarding team continued to work in partnership with Southern Health and Social Care Trust and the South Eastern Health Social Care Trust to support people who may be experiencing domestic violence abuse through the digital campaign 'There Is No Excuse'.

As we all continued to absorb the impact that COVID-19 has had on our lives we appreciate that it's been particularly tough for our children and young people. Our team worked again with the Trusts to deliver 'Here For You' a digital campaign to support young people who may be feeling anxious, worried, stressed or lonely and need to reach out to someone they can trust.



For further information please visit
www.newrymournedown.org/safeguarding

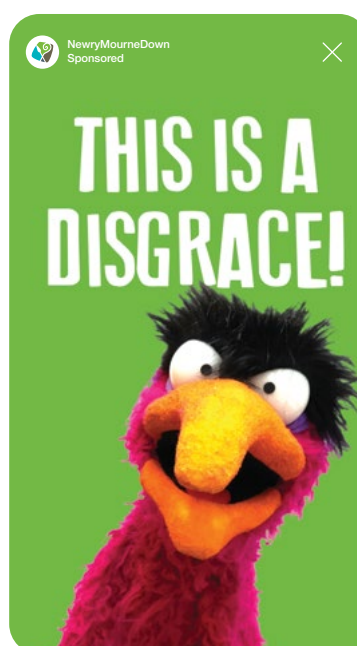
Residents can see highlights of the year on the Council's YouTube channel as well as on:



#CovidCert
102,000
reach



That is Disgustin'!
172,658
reach



This is a Disgrace
91,910
reach



There is No Excuse
122,000
reach

Adapting our leisure centres to help keep residents safe

With more residents than ever prioritising their health and wellbeing, there was a high demand for our leisure centres as Covid-19 restrictions eased and our leisure centres began to reopen.

Several changes were made throughout 2021 to allow increased capacity and operate more activity sessions, whilst still ensuring COVID-19 safety measures remained in place, including enhanced cleaning regimes, social distancing and track and trace.

Additional gym sessions were added in Newry and Down Leisure Centres, accessible car parking was improved at Newry Leisure Centre and reception areas were upgraded in Newry and Kilkeel Leisure Centres. School swimming lessons were also reintroduced in September 2021 and the Council's swimming lessons recommenced in October 2021. Following an investment of £150,000, Tropicana Outdoor Swimming Complex in Newcastle reopened in July 2021 to phenomenal demand.

We are also now taking bookings for Autism friendly swim sessions, soft play sessions in Newry Leisure Centre, sports halls and rooms may be booked on a block or casual basis. Birthday party bookings have also reopened. For further details please contact the centre you wish to hire.

The Council would like to thank all leisure centre users for their support to date. We are 'open for business' and will continue to do our utmost to ensure the safety of staff and customers with the following safety measures:

- We have reduced capacities in our gyms to allow for social distancing.
- The ventilation throughout our leisure centres has been improved where possible.
- We have allocated time between gym, swim and class sessions to allow for additional cleaning.
- There is clear COVID-19 guidance throughout all our leisure centres as well as reminders to regularly use hand sanitiser.
- All customers are asked to wear face coverings in communal areas when they are not exercising.



All customers must continue to book gym, swim, class and activity sessions in advance. Book online or on the NMD Be Active app. You can also book your sessions by calling **0330 137 4026**. For further information and guidance visit **www.newrymournedown.org/be-active-app**

Please note that swim, class and gym sessions are only released eight days in advance. The requirement for social distancing and latest COVID-19 guidance means that we cannot offer as many swimming lesson places as we would like. We therefore urge anyone interested to follow our NMD Be Active Facebook page where we normally advertise any free places as soon as they become available.

Get back to fitness with the help of Be Active health initiatives

Need some support in getting back to physical fitness?

The Be Active team run several health initiatives and referral programmes. To take part in either the Physical Activity Referral Scheme or Be Active for Health programme you should contact a health professional in advance. Macmillan Move More is a self-referral scheme for those who have had a cancer diagnosis and want to get back to being active again.

In some cases, participants can avail of discounted gym memberships to further encourage them on their path to improving their fitness levels.



Coaches Meghan Moran, Phillip Doran and Kyla Trainor provide local children who attended the summer sports activity sessions with water and ice pops during the heat wave.

Physical Activity Referral Scheme

The Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS) is a 12-week programme using prescribed physical activity to support clients with the management of chronic health conditions. The programme consists of twice weekly, group-based sessions delivered in your local leisure centre over an eight-week period followed by four weeks of independent training.

Participants must be referred online from an approved clinician and be 19 years of age or over, inactive, have a BMI of 25 or above and have one or more of the following health conditions:

- hypertension
- elevated cholesterol
- diabetes
- family history of heart disease
- asthma, bronchitis or COPD
- musculoskeletal disorders
- mild or moderate mental health problem

The fee of £20 (£10 concession) entitles participants to eight weeks of twice weekly PARS classes, 12 weeks access to the fitness suite and pool and access to public classes (terms and conditions apply).

As we slowly recover from the lockdown period there has been an increase in those presenting with chronic health conditions.



If you need support in managing your chronic health conditions, please consult with your GP and email pars@nmandd.org to find out how the PARS programme can help.

Macmillan

**MOVE
MORE**
Scheme

Are you living with cancer?

Taking part in physical activity during and after cancer treatment can play a huge part in enabling you to take back control. That's why Macmillan and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have a project called 'Move More' to help you get and stay active at a pace that suits you.

The Macmillan Move More programme offers support and encouragement for anyone diagnosed with cancer to build up or improve their fitness. The programme offers a range of cancer specific exercise classes across the district along with other incentives such as three months discounted leisure centre membership.

The fee of £20 (£10 concession) entitles participants to Move More specific classes, 12 weeks access to the fitness suite and pool and access to Be Active for Life classes (terms and conditions apply).



For more information email movemore@nmandd.org

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

NMD Be Active for Health

The Be Active for Health programme is here to provide bespoke physical activity opportunities for people who are inactive and at risk of chronic illness.

Encouraging lifelong participation to reduce the risk of developing ill health, the Be Active team in partnership with the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts is here to support you. The priority is helping inactive clients who suffer from low mood, anxiety, mental health concerns and those who are pre-diabetic to get active and maintain their new activity levels. Referred clients can benefit from 12 weeks use of the fitness suite, swimming pool and have access to the Be Active for Life classes. Referrals are received from multi-disciplinary teams from both health trusts.



For more information please email
beactiveforhealth@nmandd.org



NMD Be Active for Life

Be Active for Life is a programme aimed at getting people more active, more often, through sport and physical activity across Newry, Mourne and Down.

The programme was developed in September 2021 following the success of the Council's 'Get Active for Summer' fitness activities, which saw more than 750 children and young people take part in sports activities in July and August 2021 across the district. The programme offers seasonal exercise programmes for kids throughout the year as well as a fixed term-time class programme. The programme also offers exercise classes for all age groups and fitness abilities. Fitness sessions include walking groups, low intensity interval training (LIIT), chair-based exercise, couch to 5k, yoga, water aerobics, children's sports sessions and teen boot camps. There are a variety of classes in Newry, Downpatrick, Kilkeel and Newcastle, with each class costing just £2 per session.



To view available classes in your area and book your session simply download the NMD Be Active app at www.newrymournedown.org/be-active-app
Alternatively, book by telephoning your local leisure centre on **0330 137 4026**



Play parks for all ages and abilities

The new flagship play area at Loanda Crescent in Newry opened its gates in spring 2021.

This fun, nautical themed park features a wide range of challenging equipment including dual cableways, a rope swing, wheelchair accessible roundabout, springers, seesaw, trampoline, play mounds, sensory play panels and musical instruments. The centrepiece is a bespoke multi-play unit with tube slide.

With long-lasting physical and mental health benefits, this play area has proved a real asset to the local community and visitors alike.

The Council has also invested more than £120,000 in a new play park in Ballymartin, which will open for residents to enjoy in early 2022. This new play park will be created primarily using timber and materials that can withstand harsh coastal conditions, therefore improving the durability of the equipment. Aiming to spark the imaginations of children of all ages, equipment will include a wheelchair accessible roundabout, adventure slide, climbing frames, trampoline and a play cabin safari hut.

Sports Facility Strategy delivers on the ground



Ardglass Playing Fields



Newry Tennis Courts

The Council's Sports Facilities Strategy identified sporting facilities throughout the district that required additional maintenance and upgrade works. Among them are Kilkeel Bowling Pavilion, which received more than £268,000 of investment to allow for a new extension with kitchen, heating system improvements and general upgrades. Football pitches throughout the district also saw significant investment over the last year focusing on football pitch upgrades, new fencing, new goal posts and refurbished facilities.

At Newry Tennis Courts work was undertaken to paint the courts, repair the surfaces to prevent flooding and upgrade the lights. The Council invested £30,000 in the upgrade works including the installation of new white tennis line markings with anti-slip paints to allow for more accurate game scoring. Newry Tennis Courts are widely used by local tennis clubs throughout the district and the Council is delighted that this facility could be updated to further encourage the community to play tennis.

The Council is now developing a new overflow car park in Donard Park, Newcastle, to help alleviate car parking pressure. This is a £250,000 capital programme which aims to deliver in 2022 once planning permission is approved.



Community engagement and creative art at Warrenpoint Municipal Park

Warrenpoint Municipal Park celebrated retaining its Green Flag Heritage Award for the second consecutive year in 2021. The prestigious award recognises high horticultural standards as well as standards of cleanliness, biodiversity and safety.


Meanwhile, in 2021 the focus continued on community engagement with the park's heritage. A National Lottery Heritage Fund project in partnership with the Education Authority focused on self-esteem and wellbeing for young people through the 'Five Steps to Wellbeing'. A group of young people attending the park engaged in creative art, Tai Chi and heritage workshops.

Continuing the theme of creative art and engagement with young people, the 'World of Art and Innovation' was hosted in the park over the summer. The Bandstand was as an outdoor workshop for performing arts, including DJ and acting masterclasses. The pavilion building also acted as a hub for crafts and digital art. The digital bus known as the 'Art Cart' was the location for participants learning how to use innovative technology such as virtual reality and animation.

Several courses have also been delivered to the local community including OCN Level 1 Active Citizenship, OCN Level 2 Tour Guiding and OCN Level 2 Planning Community Projects and Events. The aim of the training is to ensure that the community has the skills to deliver a range of activities in the park following the anticipated closure of the National Lottery Heritage Fund project in June 2022.




Why not enjoy the new walking trails throughout our district?



More of us are spending time outdoors compared to last year. Getting outside and enjoying outdoor spaces can help us feel more calm, relaxed, and physically fitter.

£1 million has been spent by the Council creating and updating walking trails. Working in partnership with Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland to create a number of new community trails, this is part of an ongoing programme to increase access to green space throughout the Council area.

The trails, namely of Seaforde Plantation Wood, Corry Wood in Annsborough, Drumkeeragh Forest near Ballynahinch, and Tievenadarragh Wood near Drumaness, have been funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), through the TRPSI (Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation) fund, and the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. The Council is also currently working on a new Aughrim Hill Trail near Kilkeel.



Another partnership between the DAERA Environmental Challenge Fund and the Woodland Trust has provided funding of more than £75,000 to upgrade walking trails in Daisy Hill Woods, Newry. There is now a new more inviting entrance to Daisy Hill Woods and work has been completed on the hill gradients to improve accessibility for all residents.

Collectively, the new community trails provide kilometres of new, off-road walking routes, with some of the sites providing opportunities for family cycling and horse riding. The community trails are waymarked with trail information and signage providing route information and maps to make access to the outdoors easier and safer.

COP26 highlights Code Red for Climate Action

The COP26 conference in Glasgow may not have solved climate change but it did place the climate emergency high on everyone's agenda, from school children to chief executives, whilst also highlighting the key role councils will play in taking local action and influencing others.

Our human activities, in particular the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas are heating the climate on a global scale. If this continues, the extremes of climate and weather which we are already experiencing will only get worse, having a major impact on our way of life. This year saw further extremes of heat, storms and flooding across the globe including in our own district.

Action must be taken at all levels – central government, local government, businesses, communities and right down to our individual choices and behaviours.

The Council's Climate Action Programme is continuing to develop the Local Climate Adaptation Plan which identifies the impacts of climate change on all our operations including extreme flooding, storms, extreme heat and drought, coastal erosion and extreme cold in winter. Key Council staff received training on climate change to enable them to take adaptation and mitigation actions within their sectors.



For more information on Climate Adaptation check out Climate Northern Ireland's website at www.climate-northernireland.org.uk and for COP26 visit <https://ukcop26.org/>

UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



CANN Project reaches finals of the Innovations in Politics Awards

A jury of 1,000 European citizens is currently deciding on this year's most innovative political projects and the CANN Project, led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, is through to the finals!

The prestigious Innovations in Politics Awards, now in its fifth year, asks politicians from all over Europe to submit their most outstanding political initiatives over a range of themes.

The CANN Project (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network) is a finalist in the Ecology section of the awards. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason, nominated the project for its exceptional partnership work across borders to develop practical solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss.

CANN aims to improve the condition of protected habitats and support priority species. In the Newry, Mourne and Down area it is delivering significant biodiversity improvements to the unique Lecale fens near Downpatrick. CANN is funded by the EU's INTERREG VA Programme, through the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

The virtual Final Awards ceremony will take place in early 2022.



For more information visit thecannproject.org

SUSTAINABLE FOOD places



i

For more information email
besustainable@nmandd.org
or telephone **0330 137 4024**

Want to grow your own food?

The Council has established a Community Growing Network bringing together local growing groups coordinated by Social Farms and Gardens. The network holds regular workshops to share best practice and tips for growing fruit and vegetables, or setting up your own community growing group, which could be a vegetable patch, vegetable garden, farm garden or allotments for local people.

Through this network, funding has been made available to several local groups to distribute Home Growing Kits (seeds, compost, pots and plants) – examples include the Castlewellan Dolmens Climate Action Network and the Cabbage Patchers in Warrenpoint.

The Council is a member of the Sustainable Food Places programme, which aims to develop a more sustainable approach to food. The project addresses issues such as food poverty, obesity, healthy eating, community growing, sustainable food farming, environmental impacts including climate change, sustainable food businesses and food tourism.

A partnership has been established including the Council, Health Trusts, County Down Rural Community Network, local food banks, food businesses and community representatives. The Partnership has access to a host of best practice projects across the UK and will work together to develop an action plan to make Newry, Mourne and Down a 'Sustainable Food Place'.

Leaving the car behind with Active Travel

Newry, Mourne and Down's Active Travel Programme was born out of the pandemic as we emerged from lockdown.

It was designed to encourage all our citizens to leave the car behind and take up cycling or walking for their health and wellbeing, as well as benefitting their pockets and the planet. Three pilot projects were delivered in schools, workplaces and communities.

A 10-year Active Travel Masterplan has been produced by the Council which will help transform our district, making it cycle and pedestrian friendly, connecting our towns and villages with safe and attractive walks, cycle paths and greenways.

The Active Travel programme was funded by the Council's COVID-19 Recovery Fund provided by the Northern Ireland Executive, the Department for Infrastructure, Department for Communities and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. Leading Active Travel charity Sustrans and local business Slieve Gullion Cycles helped run the programme which included Back on Your Bike, Dr Bike, Try an E-Bike, Ditch the Stabilisers and Women into Cycling, and a pilot of the Public Health Agency's 'Leading the Way' programme for employees.



St Malachy's Primary School Camlough on the NMD Active Travel Schools Programme



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason joins Peter Tomany (left) and James McCumiskey from Ring of Gullion Cycles at a bike maintenance workshop at Down Leisure Centre.

Rewilding Newry, Mourne and Down

A new initiative began in 2020 to 're-wild' areas across the district. The project involves improving Council owned greenspaces for wildlife by either changing the grass mowing schedule or through planting native wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

By leaving areas of grass uncut, plants already present in the soil have the chance to grow and bloom, providing food and shelter for important pollinators and other wildlife. This initiative took place in some of our larger parks including Kilbroney Park in Rostrevor and Islands Park in Newcastle.

The Council also planted native wildflowers in areas, which are not only beneficial for the environment but also provide a wonderful display of colours and smells, as well as the sound of buzzing insects feeding on them. The Council was awarded funding from the Environment Fund to purchase new mowers which will additionally help to manage these wildflower meadows more effectively. Signage has been placed at these 'rewilded' areas, to help raise awareness of the purpose of the work and to ensure that members of the public understand that these areas are not simply being left unmanaged or untidy.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is committed to tackling the climate emergency that is already upon us. By allowing our greenspaces to go back to nature and by creating habitats for wildlife we are doing our bit to try to halt biodiversity loss.



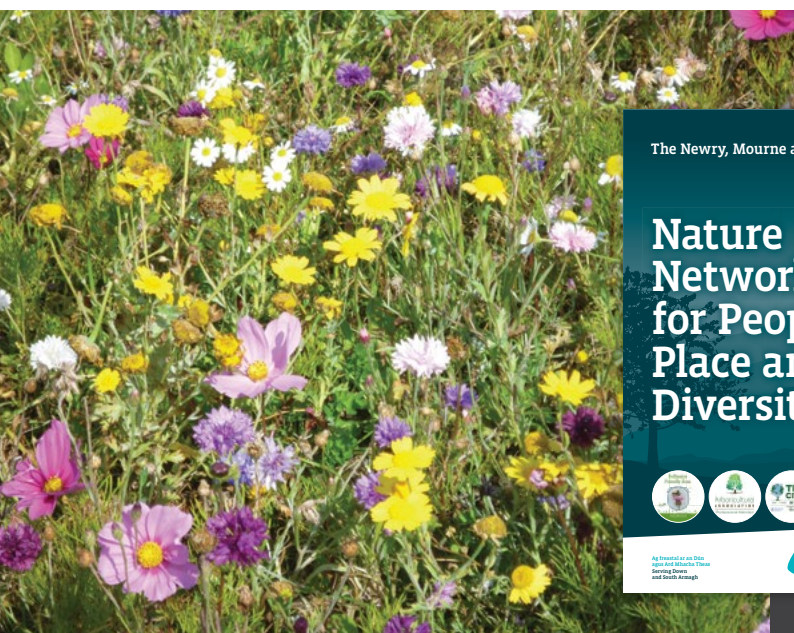
Creating space for wildlife

With over 97% of meadows in the UK destroyed since the 1930s, road verges and Council sites have become a vital refuge for pollinators and other wildlife.

Pollinator populations have been declining due to land use changes, habitat loss, diseases, pesticides and wider climate change. Over 75% of the leading crops and nearly 90% of global flowering plants are reliant on animal pollination. Threats to pollinators therefore affect all of us.

Pollinators include bees, wasps, moths and butterflies. Their pollination services drive our food and farming industries and contribute to our economy. They help to maintain healthy plant populations and support other wildlife, shaping the nature and landscapes we all enjoy and are reliant upon.

The Council's Grounds Maintenance and Geopark teams are working together, striving to improve the quality of life across our countryside and towns to create space for wildlife. During 2020 we piloted trial sites, and this will be further expanded upon in 2022 with the purchase of effective wildflower mowers.



Biodiversity going wild in the Ring of Gullion



Several biodiversity projects are being developed across the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

One involves Bessbrook Pond Field, a community park that includes amenity grassland, a man-made pond, a children's play area and a community centre. Michael Deen from Newry, a Sustainable Development Masters student at Queen's University Belfast, carried out a research project around the use of the pond field. His report highlighted that the area could incorporate wildflower areas in some of the amenity grassland area underused by the public.

Thanks to funding from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), the Council appointed EcoSeeds Ltd to consider two areas for enhancing both visually and for biodiversity by hydro seeding with an All-Ireland Pollinators Wildflower Mix and some Flax Seeds.

With funding from the NIEA's Challenge Fund, the Council is continuing to work with EcoSeeds and the local community of Forkhill to develop a Biodiversity and Access Plan for the Forkhill Greenspace, which is on the site of Forkhill's Former Barracks. The aim is to transform the unused area in the middle of the space into a valued community area, adding habitats and greening-up grey areas of the site. Currently, it is overgrown species rich grassland with shrub threatening to overcome the area.



Don't Mow Let it Grow

The Council has expanded its fleet of vehicles with the addition of an Amazone Grasshopper and an FD Grillo Mower.

Through the Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, funding was secured to acquire this machinery which will allow the Council to achieve its desire of becoming a pollinator hotspot through its 'Don't Mow Let it Grow' programme.

Keeping visitors on the right path on Slieve Gullion

Slieve Gullion is home to one of the largest heathlands in Northern Ireland with a variety of heathland type dominated by heather, lowland heaths and acid grasslands as well as a series of small wetlands known as 'basin fens', which are very diverse and of high conservation value.

Some of the lowland heath communities are especially important for Northern Ireland. All of these habitats are highly specialised to the area and are extremely sensitive to the damage caused by visitor footfall.

The key challenge for this popular area is the damage and erosion of sensitive habitats caused by increased usage and insufficient upland paths. The existing, undefined track was not sufficient to accommodate for the increase in visitor numbers, which rapidly expanded from pre-2012 counts of around 4,000 visitors per year, to over 40,000 visitors in 2021. Works completed to lower sections of the path in 2012, and then on the summit in 2019 are proving to be very popular.

Upland paths on Slieve Gullion have drastically deteriorated due to increased use and other disturbances and this is having a detrimental impact on the Natura 2000 (Special Areas of Conservation) designated habitats. The mountain has experienced rapid erosion, forming an unsightly scar along the mountain. The current path also poses risks to visitors due to the formation of deep peat hags, pits and gullies where footfall and weather erosion has occurred.

Erosion control measures have been drawn up and are working their way through the planning system this spring. It is hoped that work will begin to fix the erosion scar from the lake to Ballard Road in 2022.

Protecting our stores of **Blue Carbon** on Strangford Lough

Work is underway in Strangford Lough to assess the potential for advanced-moorings. Seagrass beds are a protected habitat of this Special Area of Conservation, however traditional moorings can scour the seabed with the dragging of the mooring chain.

Area of seagrass beds have declined significantly globally, and efforts are required to halt the decline and reverse some of the losses through restoration. Seagrass beds are a blue carbon habitat, selected as such for their ability to fix and store carbon, in a similar way to how forests store carbon on land. A Northern Ireland Priority Marine Feature, they also provide additional ecosystem services by acting as fish nursery areas, improving water quality and potentially protecting the coast against storm damage.

Advanced moorings avoid or limit the physical pressures caused by anchors and traditional swinging moorings and are therefore a potential solution to the problem. Ballyhenry Bay within Strangford Lough is a good example of seagrass beds and significant numbers of vessel moorings occurring together and is where this trial will be carried out.



Raising awareness of water quality issues

The Council has received funding for a project raising awareness of water quality issues around rivers in the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Within the AONB there is the Forkhill, Cullyhanna, Newry and Castletown sub-catchments which contain locally important lakes, rivers and streams. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is focusing on the water bodies in the Ring of Gullion AONB as 100% of these are failing to achieve good status.

This project will:

- provide soil samples from fields in the Ring of Gullion rivers catchment area and farm plans.
- carry out a mapping exercise of the rivers in the Ring of Gullion, identify barriers in the rivers and opportunities for development.
- provide the science outreach education programme 'H₂O Heroes', working with Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The project received funding under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Water Quality Improvement strand of the Environmental Challenge Fund Competition and will run until the end of March 2022.

At the end of this project, there will be classrooms full of 'H₂O Heroes' who have a better awareness of water catchments and water quality issues. There are also a limited number of rain gauges for local community groups and schools to get involved with daily monitoring of rain fall in the Ring of Gullion AONB.



For more information email
info@ringofgullion.org

ABSOLUTELY
RAGIN'!



THAT IS DISGUSTING!

Tackling dog fouling with a responsible dog ownership campaign

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launched a new public awareness campaign to tackle the issue of dog fouling and raise awareness of 'Responsible Dog Ownership' in the district.

The campaign, which ran from 18 June – 2 July, was developed in partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. Delivering strong messaging across a range of media channels, the puppet character delivered memorable messages in relation to 'dog fouling and fixed penalties' and appealed to all age ranges.

The Responsible Dog Ownership awareness

campaign highlighted the duty individuals have to clean up after their dogs in a public place, encouraging dog owners to place their dog mess in Council litter bins or their own black household wheelie bin. The campaign also emphasised that it is an offence not to clean up after your dog, highlighting the ability of the Council's Enforcement Teams to issue fixed penalty fines of up to £80, or pursue court proceedings.

Public Notices relating to dog fouling and dog control are also being displayed prominently across the district to ensure that enforcement information is clear to all dog owners.



18 June – 2 July

Total video views

47,470

Total reach

172,658



9 July – 23 July

Total video views

304,913

Total reach

91,910



For further information visit
www.newrymouredown.org/responsible-dog-ownership

THIS IS A DISGRACE!

Anti-Littering Campaign

In July, the Council also launched a public awareness campaign to tackle the issue of littering and raise awareness of 'Your Waste, Your Responsibility'.

Litter is perhaps one of the most significant low-level environmental crimes affecting our district.

The new public awareness campaign was developed in partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, which is an independent charity dedicated to creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable local environment. The Live Here Love Here 'This is a Disgrace' campaign features a strong anti-littering message and was implemented to proactively support the Council's Enforcement Improvement Plan.

Through partnership working and strong messaging across a range of media channels this campaign aimed to build strong relationships with residents, specifically around discarding their waste responsibly.

Results from a litter analysis completed in 2019 by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful estimated that there are 1.3 million items of litter on our streets at any one time in Northern Ireland, and the survey indicated from a cross section of data analysed that for every item binned, three items were littered.

This public awareness campaign was delivered successfully from 9 – 23 July online and on our social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram and SnapChat.

Forest Parks Team win 2021 Green Flag 'Team of the Year' award



Our Forest Parks team is celebrating a major award!

The Green Flag Award scheme recognises well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor facilities across the UK and around the world.

At a virtual ceremony held on Tuesday 23 November 2021, marking 25 years of the award, the Council's Forest Parks Team was announced as joint winners of the UK 'Team of the Year' award. The team is made up of the managers, park wardens, rangers, attendants and gardeners responsible for the operation and development of the Council's three main Forest Parks – Kilbroney Forest Park, Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Delamont Country Park.

During 2020/21 the Forest Parks were some of the only public facilities that remained open to the public and served to provide safe spaces to exercise, socialise and play, offering our residents a much needed 'lockdown lifeline'.

As well as managing ongoing COVID-19 safety needs, the team continued to develop services and initiatives within our parks. The 'Team of the Year' award highlighted key projects such as the development of the 'Fionn's Giant Adventure' trail at Slieve Gullion and Narnia Experience at Kilbroney, modernisation of the Visitor Information facilities at Delamont and environmental initiatives such as the planting of wildflower meadows and specimen tree preservation works.

Geopark tourism experiences get market ready

Over the past few months, market ready training and testing for 16 local Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) tourism businesses has taken place. The Geopark-based businesses have been developing visitor ready experiences through the Atlantic CultureScape project.

ICH experiences capture traditions inherited from our ancestors such as oral traditions and performing arts. The 'Experience the Experience' model in the Geopark has been tested over the autumn and winter, and all 16 tourism businesses will now begin to sell their experiences as part of the Atlantic CultureScape Route. The Route will bring together ICH Visitor Experiences from across the Atlantic Area from Ireland, Portugal, Spain and Wales.

The development of ICH Experiences is funded through the Atlantic CultureScape project, which is co-financed by the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme through the European Regional Development Fund.



For further information visit
atlanticculturescape.eu
or email
info@atlanticculturescape.eu





Our Great Outdoors

Our district is renowned for the quality and beauty of our forest parks, beaches and outdoor spaces. Throughout the pandemic these award-winning facilities served as safe and natural environments in which increasing numbers of residents and visitors could exercise, play and socialise. It is expected that visitor numbers will remain elevated throughout 2022 as many new visitors choose to incorporate regular outdoor activity and exercise into their post-pandemic lifestyles.

Ongoing investment and development at our sites will ensure that we can continue to offer these growing visitor numbers the same high standards across facilities, services and events.

With support from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Rural Tourism Fund, facilities have been improved at both Kilbroney and Slieve Gullion Forest Parks. At Kilbroney, phase one of the new Fallows Trail is nearing completion, whilst at Slieve Gullion works on a new outdoor performance space and innovative improvements to the adventure trail are entering their final stages. At Tyrella Beach plans for new visitor facilities are progressing on schedule and works to facilitate conservation dune grazing have completed. At Delamont Country Park planning works have commenced for substantial facility and trail developments.

Staying safe on the water with Personal Watercrafts

One of the water activities that has seen a notable increase in popularity in recent years is the use of Personal Watercraft (PWC), or Jet Ski as they are commonly referred to.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and 13 other coastal management stakeholders have launched a Safety Checklist and Responsible User Checklist, facilitated by Leave No Trace Ireland. The checklist is full of useful hints and tips to help PWC users make their experiences and the experiences of those around them, as well as the wildlife nearby, safer, and more enjoyable.

 For further information visit:
www.leavenotraceireland.org/personal-watercraft-checklist




Share the shore with dog walking alternatives

Each September to March, we are treated to the spectacle of thousands of over-wintering birds, such as the Brent Goose, coming to our shores from colder climes.

They arrive with their young, tired and hungry, and they need to rest and feed. The birds have a small window to do this as they can only feed on the shore as the tide goes out. Every time they are forced to take flight, they expend a great deal of energy and lose valuable feeding time.

One of the things that we can do to help protect these special visitors is to make the choice to walk our dogs in alternative locations away from the coast at this time of year. To help with this we have created an interactive map, providing those wishing to enjoy walking their dogs with details of alternative sites away from the shore. Included are some options for off-leash dog exercising.

 Clicking on the dog icon on the map reveals a pop-up of the relevant information
www.strangfordlough.org/projects/share-the-shore-protect-our-over-wintering-birds.html



Lúnasa Festival shines bright with plans for 2022

After a gap due to COVID-19, the Council's Ring of Gullion Lúnasa Festival was back for its sixth year in 2021 with a mix of in-person and online heritage events over the month of August.

The festival is becoming the fastest growing grass roots festival in the region and highlights the very best of what South Armagh and the Ring of Gullion has to offer in terms of the landscape, heritage and culture.

The Council working with the Lúnasa Festival Working Group provided over 30 events, including guided experiences into the hills, immersive storytelling, and orphic arts and craft experiences for adults and children.



To find recordings of the online series of talks organised as part of the Festival on the recent biodiversity and archaeology research carried out in the area, visit www.ringofgullion.org/news

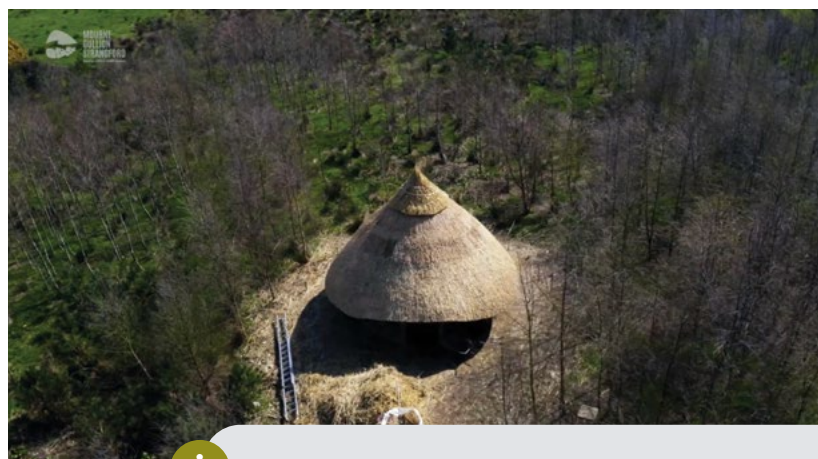
If you or your organisation would like to get involved with the 2022 Lúnasa Festival, email info@ringofgullion.org

Take a virtual tour in the Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark

The Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark takes in the scenic areas of the Mourne Mountains, the Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale — a stunning backdrop to some remarkable people and places.

An area with internationally important rocks and landscapes, which is managed responsibly for tourism, conservation and education, the Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark has a story of over 400 million years of geological history. This remarkable geological diversity within a relatively small geographical area makes it an ideal outdoor classroom for all ages. To enable this outdoor education, a suite of resources is available online for seven field sites within the Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, with accompanying virtual tours for three of them: Camlough, Cranfield and Ballyhornan.

Designed to equip post-primary school teachers to lead field visits to each of these sites, materials are also provided for students to carry out activities in the field.



To access your virtual tour and other education resources visit www.mournegullionstrangfordgeopark.com



Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark

A suite of Good Relations themed videos and animations have been developed as a learning resource for primary and post-primary schools.

COVID-19 meant the 'Shared Schools' programme normally delivered by bringing schools together did not take place. To keep schools communicating, the Council's Good Relations department in conjunction with the District Electoral Area Forums developed seven videos and animations as well as student/teacher resources to use as a long-term digital learning resource. Launched at Newry High School in October (photographed above), young people are challenged through a series of activities to explore their history, culture and heritage as well as that of others from different community backgrounds and religions. The new resources have since been distributed to all local post-primary schools.

For more information on
the Council's Good Relations
Programme telephone
0330 137 4038

Looking after young minds post lockdown in Slieve Gullion area

To help young people continue to look after their mental health post lockdown, Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum delivered an interactive play and workshop for young people aged 16 and over.

The live action play, which was performed at Culloville Community Centre in September, looked at the various issues affecting young people's school and home lives and how those issues can sometimes affect their mental health.

The play looked at positive ways in which young people can cope with stress and look after their mental health. On the night, young people were also signposted to several agencies that provide support.



Insights from young people on mental health and wellbeing

In partnership with the Threeways Community Association and the Education Authority Youth Service, the Council delivered a successful youth project exploring the issue of mental health and the impact on young people.

Funded through the Department for Communities Neighbourhood Renewal programme, the project created a space to engage with young people and encourage and support conversations about mental health. Using a youth work approach, the idea was to gather young people's understanding of the issue and their thoughts on the influences that impact on a person's mental health and wellbeing.

Participating in the project were 250 young people from local post-primary schools and community youth programmes within the Newry Neighbourhood Renewal areas. Although this was not a research project, a lot of interesting insights from the young people formed the basis for future discussion and possible support programmes.

All of the information has now been captured and collated into a small booklet which will be officially launched as soon as restrictions allow. The organisers wish to thank the young people who took part as well as the Magnet Youth Engagement programme, Bosco Extended and PIPS Hope and Support.

KEEPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE ON THE ROAD

Unfortunately 16–24 year olds continue to be overrepresented in the statistics for those killed or seriously injured on our roads.

Wanting to help some of the young people currently learning to drive to stay safe, Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum invited 30 young people from De La Salle Secondary School, Downpatrick to take part in the Young Drivers' Initiative at Bishopscourt Racing Circuit in September.

In partnership with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, PSNI, Drive Techniques and New Drive NI, the students received vital information on the dangers and impact of careless driving, as well as taking part in a car cut-out demonstration.

Useful information on applying for your driving test, car insurance, car modifications and basic car maintenance was also provided by New Drive NI. In addition, the students got the opportunity to drive around the Bishopscourt Racing Circuit under the supervision of instructors from Drive Techniques Driving School.



Kids hold court when it comes to speeding drivers

To combat road safety concerns from the public around motorists speeding on the Newcastle Road in Kilkeel, Newry, Mourne and Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) held a Kids' Court at St Columban's Primary School in Kilkeel.

Motorists apprehended by the PSNI for speeding outside St Columban's Primary School were asked to face a Kids' Court panel of P7 pupils on the 14 October 2021, to explain why they had broken the 30mph speed limit as they passed the school.

Motorists who did not want to participate in the initiative had to pay the usual speeding fine and accept penalty points on their driving licences. In total, eight speeding drivers attended the Kids' Court. These drivers faced questions from the P7 children about their road safety knowledge, before receiving a lesson from the young judges on the dangers of speeding.



For more information on the work of Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP email PCSP@nmandd.org

Young minds matter at DEA event



Newry, Slieve Gullion, and Crotlieve District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums partnered with the Education Authority to deliver a mental health event for young people in September.

The event held in the Canal Court Hotel in Newry focused on the positive ways young people could look after their mental health as well as promoting key support agencies for those struggling. The event provided participants with an opportunity to engage with support services as well as share experiences through a play, talks and activities.



Pink Present for secondary schools

The Pink Present project was launched in several local schools in October with the aim of reducing period poverty.

Supported by the Public Health Agency, the joint initiative between Newry, Slieve Gullion, Crotlieve and Mourne District Electoral Area Forums, Newry Larder, the Council's Health Improvement section and the Council's Women's Working Group wanted to ensure pupils could access free sanitary products.

The project was developed in response to studies that highlighted the impact of period poverty on girls in secondary schools in terms of their education, health and self-esteem. By working with schools and other partner organisations, it is hoped the cost barrier can be removed, making it easier for young girls to access the sanitary products they need.

NMD YOUTH COUNCIL: YOUTH VOICE

Young People aged 16–21 years living in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area are coming together to be part of the NMD Youth Council: Youth Voice initiative.

Youth Voice gives young people the opportunity to:

- engage with key decision makers
- have their say on local issues
- meet new friends
- be a representative voice for young people in their area
- be involved and pro-actively engaged with local decision-making processes.

This two-year programme will be managed by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Community Planning Partnership and the Education Authority Youth Service. The Youth Council will meet on a weekly basis to identify and take forward common issues relating to young people in the local area along with opportunities for residential and to participate in study visits to UK or Ireland.



You can still get involved by visiting www.newrymouredown.org/youth-council or for more information email lauren.hall@eani.org.uk



Sharing knowledge with future industry experts

Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School students studying the Building Control module of their BTEC/ A Level in Construction invited a past pupil of the school to share some industry insights.

Darren Mullen, the Council's Senior Building Control Surveyor, visited the school in November to give an overview presentation on the role of Building Control in the construction industry. Darren explained the various stages involved from application to completion stage in the Building Control process.



Unbelievable Young Writers



‘Dochreidte / Unbelievable’ is an exciting animations project which will bring the creative writing of local school children to our screens.

Funded by Irish Language Broadcast Fund (Northern Ireland Screen) and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, this project is a joint venture with the production company Boom Clap Play.

Jacqueline de Brún, Assistant Professor in Education in Dublin City University, delivered inspiring workshops to primary aged children in Bunscoil an Iúir in Newry, and Gaelscoil na mBeann in Killeel, before they put pen to paper. Then in November 2021, the Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason presented 10 school children from the district with certificates and gifts for their achievements in creative writing. The stories written by these young writers were selected to be the inspiration and basis for scripts as part of a new Irish language animation series entitled ‘Unbelievable’.

The exciting news is that the Irish Language Broadcast Fund will fund the production stage of the project also, giving local children first-hand experience of voice recording in a professional studio.

The series of 10 animations will be shared on the Council's social media platforms and on the Irish language online platform Meon Eile (www.meoneile.ie) in 2022.



For further information please email gailge@nmandd.org



New Community Hub facility for YMCA in Newcastle

Greenhill YMCA, nestled in the foothills of Slieve Donard, is developing its facilities with a grant of £500,000 from the Mourne, Gullion and Lecale Rural Development Partnership (MGL).

The funding will contribute to the construction of a multi-sport, leisure and community hub – offering a wide range of facilities including a multi-function hall, locker rooms with unisex shower and changing cubicles, workshop area, café and kitchen area. There will also be a shallow water teaching pool at the outdoor residential centre.

MGL Rural Development Partnership awarded the funding from the Basic Services Scheme of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs’ (DAERA) Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2014–2020. Delivery of the NIRDP is administered by MGL, on behalf of DAERA, under the LEADER approach with local people making the decisions on funding. (LEADER stands for ‘Liaison entre actions de développement de l’économie rurale’ in French. This translates as ‘Links between actions for the development of the rural economy’.)

Full Fibre Northern Ireland Connecting Newry, Mourne and Down



Since June 2019, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, as the lead Council, has been developing and managing the Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium (FFNI).

The Consortium comprises of all 10 councils outside of Belfast. The Business Services Organisation (HSCNI) is also a key partner in the Consortium and responsible for GP surgeries, hospitals and clinics, many of which are in rural areas.

The Council, on behalf of the FFNI Consortium, was successful in securing £24 million of funding from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to assist with the delivery of the next generation of full fibre broadband. The FFNI project is aiming to connect 937 public buildings, including council offices and community centres, hospitals and GP surgeries, to gigabit broadband across the whole of Northern Ireland.

Across the Council's own geographic area, the project is a positive step forward to improving availability

of full fibre and will see 95 public sector sites across the district connected to ultrafast gigabit capable fibre broadband. These public-sector buildings then act as full fibre 'hubs', from which other commercial broadband companies can build their own networks to connect the surrounding rural homes and businesses. This not only helps deliver better and more efficient public services at each site but more importantly will help to expand the full fibre footprint through commercial plans right across the Newry, Mourne and Down district area.

The project will also provide the foundation and infrastructure for future digital transformation projects that may come from other funding sources such as the Belfast Region City Deal Digital.

Current progress of FFNI to date across Northern is 89% completion. The programme completion date is March 2022.

AONBs Go Digital!

Work is well underway to design and create a multi-site for the Ring of Gullion, Mourne, and Strangford and Lecale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as well as the Mourne Gullion Strangford Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark.

The multi-site will effectively profile the important designations as AONBs and the UNESCO Global Geopark status. The new multi-site will be visitor focused with interconnectivity across all three AONB and the Geopark, but without losing the local distinctiveness that makes the areas so special.

It is anticipated the multi-site for all three AONB and Geopark will be live in March 2022.



Looking to the future at Castlewellan Forest Park

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is to lease Castlewellan Forest Park from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Forest Service until 2045, enabling a £5.5 million restoration of the site's built and natural heritage.

Castlewellan Forest Park is already used for a wide range of outdoor activities and following restoration it is anticipated that even more people will reconnect with its natural heritage through education activities, workshop events and camping in the park.

The Bothy Yard will be integral in the restoration of the gardens as the glasshouses and cold frames will enable the Council's gardening team to propagate and grow plants that would have grown in the garden dating back to 1903. The Council received funding from Priority 6, Rural Tourism Scheme of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014–2020 by DAERA and the European Union for construction and restoration at the Bothy Yard.

The Council has also received £2.69 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for 'Re-Rooting our Past in the Future: Castlewellan Historic Demesne'. These construction and restoration works will commence in the winter of 2022/2023. The Grange will be developed with the creation of a Welcome Centre, community space and café facilities. The Courtyard will also be transformed into a vibrant visitor hub and centre for community use with interpretation, activities, events, environmental education and skills development.



Public realm enhancements

With match funding support from the Department for Communities, the Council revisited previously completed public realm schemes across its urban centres and completed upgrades and improvements where required.

Works included the installation of new street furniture, the repair of existing street lighting, along with pathway surface repairs and significant new planting.

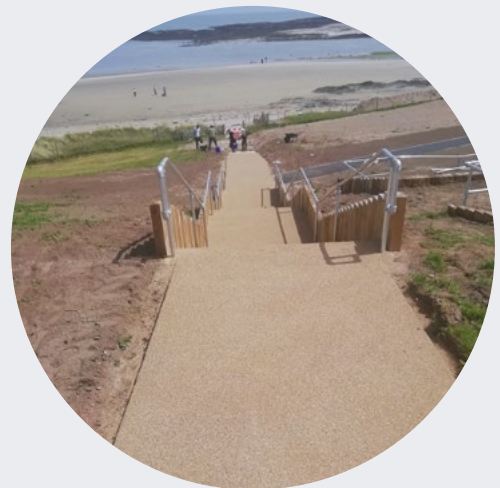
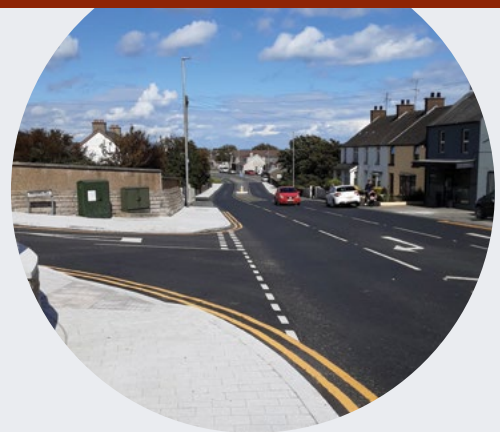


Rebranding Irish Street

Irish Street in the heart of Downpatrick benefitted from an innovative revitalisation scheme after the Council secured funding of £128,000 from the Department for Communities.

Working with a committee of local traders and elected members, projects included a shop front grant scheme for local traders which brought improvements to 13 premises in Irish Street, the production of a heritage leaflet explaining the history of the local businesses and the provision of street banners raising the profile of the area. A scheme improving the appearance of the currently vacant former PSNI Station was also undertaken.

A new branding project focusing on Irish Street was developed with a suite of promotional materials including items such as shopper bags, shop window stickers and a dedicated Irish Street website: www.irish-street.com.



Enhancing the vibrancy of rural areas

In August 2021, the Council completed public realm investment across seven rural villages, representing a combined investment of approximately £4 million.

The infrastructural improvements included upgrades to the streetscape (pathways, lighting, underground cabling), the creation of open spaces and installation of new street furniture.

The villages which received investment were:

- Annalong
- Ballyhornan
- Dundrum
- Hilltown
- Killyleagh
- Meigh
- Newtownhamilton

The Council is continuing to work with strategic partners to ensure future environmental improvements across our main towns and villages. The key focus will be streetscape, dereliction, active and healthy travel, and how public realm enhancements can support the future role of high streets in a post COVID-19 economy.

Council's PEACE IV programmes bring communities together

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has been awarded £4.7 million to deliver the PEACE IV Local Action Plan – Beyond Tolerance, the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

As the lead partner, we are responsible for delivering those elements of the PEACE IV Action Plan that will promote peace and reconciliation in three key areas:

- Children and Young People
- Shared Spaces and Services
- Building Positive Relations

Ensuring that cross-community engagement continues throughout the district in a meaningful way, the aim is to provide a welcome, enjoyable and worthwhile social and educational outlet for the community in these challenging times.



Ballykinlar Hut

The recreated Armstrong hut was constructed and fitted out during lockdown, exploring the lives of diverse occupants of the 'World's End Camp' — in particular people who lived through the difficult years of the First World War, The Irish War of Independence and the Second World War.

Council staff have been working on the hut recreation for three years, assisted by the Centre for Data Digitisation and Analysis at Queen's University Belfast, and have gathered approximately 100 stories of people who occupied the Armstrong huts. The huts were first built to house 4,000 Belfast men training with the 36th (Ulster) Division for active service on the Western Front, including at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916, and later housed 1,800 republican internees who were arrested during the Irish War of Independence. The Ballykinlar History Hut is open for visits in the central courtyard at Down County Museum.

For further information please visit
www.downcountymuseum.com

Ballykinlar Hut Virtual Experience

If you are unable to visit in person you can now take a Virtual Reality (VR) tour of the Ballykinlar History Hut. Viewers will gain a 360 degree 3D view inside the hut, enabling people from around the world to tap into this rich historical resource from their mobile, PC or laptop, with or without the use of VR headsets.

To access the Ballykinlar History Hut VR Experience please log on to the following website address
<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=J8R52DDufRY>



ArtsEkta

Over the past two years ArtsEkta, a multi-award winning cultural organisation, worked with community groups and individuals around Newry, Mourne and Down to deliver cross-community and intercultural events, and build positive relations in communities. Six groups in the Council's different District Electoral Areas had an opportunity to learn about cultures from around the world through dance, music and art.

Groups had the chance to either paint with a French artist, learn new moves with dancers from Mexico, India, China and Poland, explore Pakistan cuisine or create Indian henna art. Most of the participants also obtained OCN Level 2 certification in Learning Through Arts, that was focused on building positive relations through understanding others.

The first event took place in Hilltown, just before lockdown, and the other five took place in September 2021 in Mullaghbawn, Ballyhornan, Ballynahinch, Newry and Annalong. Where there was interruption due to COVID-19 restrictions, the groups met via Zoom.



Intercultural Forum

Newry, Mourne and Down Intercultural Forum's mission is to work together towards an inclusive community by creating opportunities that embrace diversity. The aim of the forum is to adopt a strategic approach to identify the real needs of Black and Minority Ethnic communities living in the district and opportunities to promote equality, diversity and interdependence.

The Intercultural Forum has launched a blog www.nmdif.org/blog which showcases its partnership work. If you or your organisation would like to participate on the Forum, or you would like more information, please email nmdiforum@gmail.com or get in touch through the blog site.

Connect together

The Connect Together / Ceangail le Chéile / Yoke Thegither project brought us on an exploration of the Irish Language and Ulster Scots cultures through a series of inspiring cross-community events open to all members of the public. The project incorporated a series of workshops, concerts, and talks connecting young and old. This took place through the languages and shared cultures within Ulster in various locations across Newry, Mourne and Down.

The first event of the series was a workshop delving into the histories of two very distinct musical traditional instruments, the Lambeg Drum and the Uilleann pipes. The inspirational events offered everyone an opportunity to appreciate the rich shared cultural heritage right on our doorstep.

Drive-in Cinemas

Seven Drive-in Cinema events were rolled out across the district at the end of August.

These fun events for movie lovers came about as the result of a cross-community 'Shared Spaces' engagement project. The aim was to build positive relationships and increase the use of shared space in areas where it is contested by challenging negative perceptions.

Recruitment took place in January 2021, with over 500 people from the Council area taking part. The groups met virtually on a regular basis, to discuss potential locations and movie choices. They were also treated to a virtual tour of Windsor Park and given a talk on the running of large events at the venue. The virtual visit also provided detail on the history of the ground and how it connects all sides of the community.



Adult carers reconnect through pottery workshops

For those caring for a loved one at home during the pandemic, there have been few opportunities to connect with others in similar circumstances.

Wanting to help, Slieve Croob District Electoral Area Forum worked with the South Eastern Trust Carers' Development Officer to put together a fun and relaxing four-week Pottery Programme for adult carers at the Preaching Pottery House in Killough.

The September programme provided a much-needed break for those taking part as well as the chance to re-engage with other carers and form supportive new friendships.



Dealing with the increasing threat of scams

Spotting scams and preventing you and those who you know from falling victim is more important than ever.

Aware that some vulnerable people were more isolated than usual during the pandemic and not accessing information how they normally would through the community, the PCSP organised 'Scambassador' online training sessions in March and October 2021.

The nine sessions were presented by a PSNI Crime Prevention Officer along with representatives from the banking industry. Their expert knowledge around scams provided over 130 participants with information and leaflets regarding scams to share out in their community.

PCSP 'Scambassador' training was targeted specifically to those active in the local community, such as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, community group representatives, elected representatives, carers, church groups and GPs.



For more information, contact Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP by emailing pcsp@nmandd.org

District Electoral Area Forums seek new independent members

Do you want to play a greater role in your community?

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has a District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum in each of its seven DEAs. In June 2023 they will all begin a new four-year term. In Spring 2023 the Council will open the application process to serve as Independent Members alongside our councillors and statutory partners. In preparation for this process, a training programme for current and prospective members is currently underway, facilitated by Mediation NI and financed by the European Union PEACE IV programme.

DEA Forums provide opportunities for all sections of the community to take part in the decision-making process, considering community planning and community initiatives that impact at a local level.

The Council is looking for Independent Members with knowledge of local issues, local connections, awareness of the importance of building positive relationships, skills in collaborative working and an understanding of the complexities of shared space and shared services. Independent Members should either represent a network of community organisations or be nominated by a broad range of groups from different sectors.



For further information email
aisling.rennick@nmandd.org

Sports Financial Assistance initiative supports local clubs

A total of £725,000 has been issued to support sports activities and capital projects as part of the Council's Sports Financial Assistance initiative. The funding also allowed groups to purchase items of equipment to assist in the maintenance and growth of their sporting venues.

Dundrum Cricket Club, Kilcoo GAC, Armagh Ladies, Longstone GAC, Newcastle FC and Saval GAC received more than £40,000 to support major sports projects. In addition, a selection of gaelic, soccer and hockey clubs throughout the district received over £20,000 of funding to assist with sports projects and help improve facilities. As the sporting community continues to face the challenges of COVID-19, the Council aims to offer further funding throughout the next financial year.



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason formally opens the new Ballykinlar Community Centre with Council Chief Executive Marie Ward and Niall Addis, Chairman of Ballykinlar and Tyrella Community Association.

New community centre brings opportunities for the people of Ballykinlar

Ballykinlar Community Centre officially opened in October, providing high quality facilities in the heart of the Ballykinlar and Tyrella communities.

Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason officially opened the new centre, accompanied by Councillors, Council officials and local community representatives.

Members of the Ballykinlar and Tyrella Community Association worked with Slieve Croob District Electoral Area councillors and the Council to help bring this important new facility to life. The Council purchased the land of the former Kindle Primary school for the project and installed a prefabricated building, which consists of a large recreational space, smaller meeting room, kitchen and toilet facilities. The new centre will allow a wide range of community services to be delivered locally and, most importantly, contribute to improvements in health and wellbeing.

Ballykinlar Community Centre will be managed by Ballykinlar and Tyrella Community Association through a Facility Management Agreement with the Council.



Is Leatsa Í, It Belongs to You!

On 21 May 2021, the Council's Irish Language Unit celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. With support from the Northern Ireland Executive, 10 videos were shared on social media over a fortnight.

The films showcased the richness of the cultural diversity within our ever-evolving shared communities in Northern Ireland and beyond. These vibrant films debunk some pre-existing stereotypes associated with the Irish language and create an awareness that the Irish language belongs to people from all walks of life, irrespective of colour, creed or background. Is Leatsa Í, It Belongs to You!

The inspiring films feature a diverse range of speakers — from a world-champion Irish dancer of Nigerian descent to a Protestant and Unionist Irish speaker, Dr Ian Malcolm, who explains his passion for the language. Ola Majekodunmi, a journalist and poet, explains her love for the language and desire to eradicate pre-conceived beliefs associated with it. While Cian Ó Griofa, from the online platform Gaylgeoirí, explains his quest to be a positive influential figure for the LGBTQ+ community.



For further information and other Irish Language content visit the **Newry, Mourne and Down District Council YouTube channel**.

Supporting our migrant families in Newry, Mourne and Down

Based in Newry Town Hall and the Ballymote Centre in Downpatrick, the Ethnic Minority Support Service provides free, confidential and impartial advice in the main languages spoken by migrant communities in the district: English, Romanian, Russian, Polish, Arabic, Lithuanian and Bulgarian. In the past year the work of the centre has focused on COVID-19 related issues and the EU Settlement Scheme.

In 2021, at least 300 EU migrants availed of the EU Registration Clinics held weekly in Newry and Downpatrick, another 300 were referred to other support organisations. The service also supported over 250 vulnerable migrant families and individuals impacted by the pandemic through The Executive Office Crisis Fund and the Red Cross Hardship Fund.



To get in touch email ethnicsupport@nmandd.org or telephone **0330 137 4305**.

Funding for help to improve your Irish Language skills

The Council's Irish Language bursary scheme assists people wanting to improve their Irish Language skills. This incorporates scholarships or bursaries for courses, including Gaeltacht colleges, intensive courses and locally provided courses taking place within the Council's financial year (1 April – 31 March). The bursary covers course fees only and applicants are eligible to apply for 50% of total fees for the course, up to a maximum of £300 in total.

All applicants must:

- be resident in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area
- in the case of minors (under 18 years of age) have parental/guardian permission to attend the Irish Language course
- be registered to attend an Irish Language course
- not already have a scholarship from public funds (eg Liofa bursary)
- complete the Irish Language course by attending for its duration
- provide proof of full payment of fees and attendance at the Irish Language course.



The application form and guidance notes are available to download from www.newrymournedown.org/sceim-sparanachta-na-gaeilge or by emailing gaeilge@nmandd.org



Syrian families' engagement event in Newry

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is here to support all residents of our district, and the pandemic meant that assistance for our newcomer families was ever more important.

Newcomer families include the Syrian refugees who have settled locally. Lockdown had a significant impact on many of them; isolation became more predominant, with language and communication barriers and access to IT equipment all major contributing factors. In April 2021, a Syrian Family in Newry was also sadly the target of a hate crime attack on their home.

The Council responded by organising a positive engagement event at Altnaveigh House in Newry. The families were offered an opportunity to reconnect with each other and with various organisations such as PSNI, the Council and Citizens Advice. Whilst the young children were provided with art and craft activities, parents were provided with safety equipment and advice on how to keep themselves safe. All information provided was translated for the Syrian Refugees. Engagement opportunities were also provided to increase confidence in policing and encourage the reporting of hate crime.



If you have any queries relating to Good Relations telephone **0330 137 4038**.



Strengthening communities through arts and culture

Several Downpatrick-based community groups have been exploring their artistic side following a Neighbourhood Renewal funding boost.

In response to pressures on the community sector due to COVID-19, the Department for Communities, through the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, provided funding for a number of community arts, culture and heritage projects. The main aim of getting everyone involved was to improve social inclusion and strengthen communities.

Seven groups were able to deliver projects involving the creation of murals, the installation of memorial benches; music and pottery equipment, iPads and art packs were provided for the children and adults. The groups that availed of the funding were Marian Park Community Association, Stream Street Residents Association, Downe Residential Project, Naíscoil Dhún Padraig, Bridge Street and Mount Crescent Community Association, County Down Rural Community Network and Flying Horse Ward Community Forum/Knockevin Special School.

Supporting families during COVID-19

Home Start Down District offers support to families with at least one child under five who are under stress in their own home. Following discussions with Home Start during the summer, it became apparent to Rowallane District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum that many young families and teenagers were suffering from both social and rural isolation arising from multiple lockdowns. This was having a negative impact on their physical and mental health and a need for social interaction and engaging with others was highlighted as a priority.

In response, Rowallane DEA Forum organised virtual sessions of a 'Make and Animate' art project for young parents and their children, and also provided high intensity interval training (HIIT) exercise sessions for teenagers over a four-week period. Participants had an opportunity to meet virtually, chat and connect with others as they took part in the sessions.

Rowallane DEA Forum was particularly encouraged to learn that following the projects many participants continued to meet virtually and create support networks.

Speak

Newry, Mourne & Down

Speak up through Speak NMD

Throughout 2022, the Community Planning partners wish to engage residents through an online citizens' panel called 'Speak NMD'.

This online engagement platform will be a shared mechanism to engage local communities on cross-cutting issues, in a joined-up and collaborative way. There will be a range of consultations, surveys, polls, discussion forums and the Communities Leading Change Participatory Budgeting campaign, where residents vote for projects they would like to see funded in their area. The consultations will be varied and include topics such as health, climate change and education. There will also be local issues that we need your views on.

The Speak NMD platform is funded by the Community Foundation Northern Ireland through its Civic Innovation Programme and is managed by the Newry, Mourne and Down Strategic Stakeholder Forum.



We want you to speak up and get your voice heard by registering here:
www.livingwelltogethernmd.org



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason with (from left) Grainia Long, CEO Northern Ireland Housing Executive; Mark O'Donnell, Department for Communities Deputy Secretary; Marie Ward, Chief Executive Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Compere John Campbell, BBC Northern Ireland Economics and Business Editor.

Partnership working to address housing issues in the district

In partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), the Council hosted a conference to consider the key issues affecting the delivery of affordable housing in the district. The Newry, Mourne and Down Housing Needs Conference 2021 held in The Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle on 10 November followed a successful event held in 2019, in which a Housing Needs action plan was produced.

Over 90 representatives from across the district attended the event in person or virtually, including statutory agencies, housing professionals, MPs, elected members and representatives from the community and voluntary sector. The conference, facilitated by John Campbell, BBC Economics and Business Editor, aimed to consider how these issues could be addressed through effective collaboration across the public, private and community and voluntary sectors. Presentations were delivered by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chief Executive, Marie Ward; Mark O'Donnell, Deputy Secretary, Department for Communities; NIHE Chief Executive, Grainia Long; Sinead Collins, NIHE; Ruth Montgomery, Rural Housing Association and Alice Charles, World Economic Forum. The feedback and discussion will now be considered by the housing sub-group and a review of the action plan completed.

Communities Leading Change Participatory Budgeting Grants

Residents in Newry, Mourne and Down have voted for a series of projects that will promote positive mental health through increased social connectivity. The projects will receive funding of up to £1,500 through the Communities Leading Change Participatory Budgeting campaign.

Participation in this year's Participatory Budgeting project has been unprecedented. A total of 39 projects have been funded through the new online voting platform 'Speak NMD'. Each group will now have until March 2022 to spend their funding. The Council will host events for the public to attend, to hear and to see how these projects have benefitted the area they live in.



To see a list of the successful groups and their projects visit
www.newrymournedown.org/communities-leading-change

Communities
Leading
Change

If you've got a business idea, 'Go for It' in Newry, Mourne and Down

Are you thinking of starting up a business but are unsure of where or how to 'Go for It'?

- How do I write a robust business plan?
- How do I undertake market research?
- What do I need to be aware of when employing people?
- What help and financial support is available?

The Go for It programme could help you answer those important questions. With support from the Council and our two Enterprise Agencies – Down Business Centre Limited and Newry and Mourne Co-Operative Enterprise Agency – the Go for It programme will help you clarify your business idea, spot potential problems, set out your goals, measure your progress and access finance to start and grow your business.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is one of the highest performing regions in Northern Ireland for the completion of a business plan through the Go for It programme, with over 80% of programme enquiries and initial assessment meetings leading to the production of a business plan for the individual. Since the start of 2021, we have assisted with 346 business plans.

Photographed below is Olivia O'Reilly, owner of Freedom Cosmetics, with

Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason and Liam Quinn, Principal Business Adviser, Newry and Mourne Co-Operative and Enterprise Agency.

Freedom Cosmetics was founded by Olivia and Seamus O'Reilly from Ballymartin during lockdown. Olivia was deeply concerned about the chemicals, plastics and toxic materials that are ever present in our daily lives. With a desire to create products that are safe, nourishing and free from harmful chemicals additives and plastic, the skincare range was born. The Go for It programme then helped Olivia with her business plan.

i

If you have a business idea and you'd like to develop it, or if you're thinking of starting a business visit **www.goforit.com** or telephone **0800 027 0639** to connect with your local business advisor.

Drive to establish Labour Market Partnership

We have been working proactively with partners in the employability and skills, training and education sectors to establish a local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) in the district. At present, the Council is progressing bids for funding worth £670,000 to be injected into the local labour market economy.

The interim LMP is undertaking an analysis of the current labour market, assessing economic inactivity, long term unemployment and local barriers to employment.

Through the LMP we hope to offer a range of training programmes, advice clinics and job fairs to help people gain valuable skills and help find employment opportunities. On offer through the LMP will be a range of employment academies (such as logistics, social care and construction), interventions for sectors experiencing a skills mismatch (such as digital and financial services) and opportunities to build upon emerging and growing sectors (such as the green economy).

We are currently preparing an Action Plan for all the Labour Market Partnership projects and hope to secure approval from the Department for Communities to move forward in 2022.

i

For further information, email **business@nmandd.org** or telephone **0300 137 4000**



Innovative business uses marine produce for dog treats

A new business in Kilkeel, inspired by a local fisherman's daughter, has developed natural fish-based dried dog food and treats from fish skin.

With Kilkeel being one of our fishing dependent communities, it provides the perfect location to source by-products from local seafood processing plants. Identifying the innovative opportunity, Quay Dog uses fish skins which are discarded as waste or are a low value by-product providing additional income and support for the local fishing industry. Quay Dog's products are sourced, produced and sold locally, thus having a low carbon footprint and contributing to the fishing circular economy.

The South East Area Fisheries Local Action Group (SEA FLAG) was delighted to approve this project as it focuses on processing a low valued fish produce into a higher value product, providing economic growth and adding value within the fishing industry and locality.

The project was funded through Union Priority 4 of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, which is co-funded by the European Union and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.



To find out more about this project visit www.seaflag.co.uk/projects



Cedar Foundation delivers Disability Awareness Training for Council

Over the past year, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has been working in partnership with The Cedar Foundation to facilitate the delivery of a remote Disability Awareness Training programme to Council employees. The training programme is one of the key positive actions detailed in the Council's Disability Action Plan 2020–2023.

Cedar delivers a range of services that enable people with disabilities to get the most out of life and be fully included in their communities. Services are centred around the individual needs of each person and are delivered throughout Northern Ireland.



Boat building skills support social wellbeing and cultural heritage

A community skiff boat build is taking place in Ardglass after the South East Area Fisheries Local Action Group (SEA FLAG) awarded funding to Ardglass Coastal Rowing Club (ACRC).

The skiff kit is being assembled in Ardglass village, overseen by a local skilled boat builder. The focus will be on promoting social wellbeing and maritime cultural heritage, providing all ages in the local community the chance to participate in heritage boat building skills, share and build their knowledge of the sea and enjoy social activities together.

The skiff will provide a tangible asset for use by the community as well as connecting people back to their heritage. The project building will be ongoing until October 2022.



For further information telephone **SEA FLAG** on **0330 137 4051** or contact **ACRC** via their Facebook page.



NMD Enterprise Week helps invest in you and your business

NMD Enterprise Week 2021 took place from 8–12 November, with face-to-face and online activities focused on helping residents and businesses set up and grow a business in our district.

The Council led the packed programme in partnership with Newry and Mourne Co-Operative and Enterprise Agency and Down Business Centre Ltd, as well as a host of local business support organisations including Newry Chamber of Trade and Commerce, InterTradelreland, Southern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College, the Labour Relations Agency, the Go for It Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme and the Council's Business Support Programmes team. Many local businesses, including Social Enterprises, also got involved to showcase their businesses and avail of the support and advice on offer.

NMD Enterprise Week is a superb platform for the Council to showcase the entrepreneurial networks and support available for residents. And the message across the week was clear: there has never been a better time to invest in yourself and your business, and to set up in Newry, Mourne and Down.



For more information and to access support from any of the business support organisations, visit www.nmdbusiness.org

Support for your business with a range of expert advice

Businesses from across the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area can avail of **FREE** specialist business support programmes delivered by expert mentors offering bespoke advice on a one-to-one basis. Topics vary but include the main challenges cited in a recent Business Needs Survey such as financial planning, sales and marketing, and staffing and skills.

NMD Business conducted the survey to better understand the needs of local businesses, with findings acquired from pre-start, start-up and existing businesses. The current suite of programmes which focus on sustainability, growth and employment include:

- **NMD Business Growth** which offers specific specialist business support to enhance competitiveness in local and export markets. It delivers practical advice to overcome barriers and help identify and exploit new business opportunities.
- **Tender for Growth** helps businesses to target and bid for new tendering opportunities by providing the necessary skills and confidence to identify tenders, assess readiness and provide the chance to collaborate in joint bids.
- **Digital Growth** gives businesses valuable advice and support to enhance digital capabilities and develop knowledge in new and existing platforms including social media management and advertising, SEO, PPC and web optimisation.
- **Sales Accelerator** provides trade focused mentoring, group mentoring and exposure to support the growth of small businesses in generating new sales in Northern Ireland, GB and ROI markets.
- **Digital Transformation** drives digital inclination, whilst demystifying various advanced digital technologies and tools through high quality ideation support. It also provides a digital acceleration plan for core participants.



For more information email business@nmandd.org. For more timely information on programmes, events or funding opportunities sign up for our monthly e-zine at www.nmdbusiness.org or follow us on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn @NMDBusiness.

Protecting residents from harm and abuse

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continues to be at the forefront of safeguarding and protecting people in our district from harm and abuse.

We understand the impact the last two years have had on all our lives and that the ever-changing social landscape has been particularly difficult for those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Over the past year we have teamed up with both the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust areas and led on the delivery of a number of public awareness campaigns. These provided information for anyone experiencing domestic abuse and for children and young people whose mental health may have been impacted through the pandemic.



Visit www.newrymouredown.org/safeguarding where help and support continues to be available. Contact the Safeguarding Coordinator by email at gary.scott@nmandd.org or telephone **07776 165 792**.



Council establishes Women's Working Group

In June 2021, the Women's Working Group was established to discuss and promote a range of issues, building the skills and confidence of female representatives to promote, support and encourage the role of women in public and community life.

There is growing recognition of the untapped capacity and talents of women and women's leadership. The creation of the group is a positive step forward for the Council to assist women in taking their place as decision makers and policy shapers, making a positive difference to society.

The group is made up of elected members and Council representatives including: Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason, Councillors Aoife Finnegan, Alan Lewis, Kathryn Owens, Laura Devlin, Karen McKeivitt and Mark Gibbons. Director of Corporate Services, Dorinnia Carville along with directorate officers Sarah Taggart, Sheila Kieran and Patricia Murtagh also contribute to the work of the group.

Working in partnership with local organisations across the district, the Women's Working Group will continue to host a series of events programmed throughout 2022. To date the group have organised 'Dragons' Den' style events for Local Democracy Week, participated in radio interviews as part of COP26, supported Christmas charity collections and will celebrate International Women's Day in March 2022.

Christmas Foodbank Appeal

Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason launched a Christmas Food Appeal to provide food and essential non-food items to residents who are most in need at Christmas. Seven drop off points across the district enabled members of the public to donate to the appeal.

For many of us Christmas is a magical time, however for other more vulnerable families across the district it is an incredibly challenging time, it can often cause added financial pressure and stress. Some families are faced with impossible choices – the choice of heating their home or putting presents under the tree, or the choice of buying Christmas dinner or new clothes for their children.

The foodbanks located in our district work tirelessly all year round, always going the extra mile to help struggling families and individuals by providing food parcels and practical support to those most in need.

The generosity of residents' donations assisted in enabling our Chairperson to personally deliver food boxes as well as a financial donation to six food banks within the community: Fountain Foodbank, Downpatrick; The Larder, Newry; The Cornerstone, Kilkeel; The Pantry, Newcastle; Kilmore and Crossgar Foodbank; and Ballynahinch Community Collective.

Newry, Mourne and Down Council Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason with Stanley Speers and Alan Tomkins, The Cornerstone Foodbank Kilkeel.



Irish Speakers Abroad for Culture Night 2021

For centuries, there has been a history of emigration of Irish people. This is still a common custom, with young people seeking work abroad, attracted by employment opportunities in international destinations.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commissioned a series of 10 subtitled Irish language films entitled 'Na Gaeil i gCéin, Irish Speakers Abroad' as part of Culture Night 2021. These vibrant, informative videos give us an insight into the life of the diaspora in a modern-day context, taking us from New York to Las Vegas, and as far as Japan.

The series of short films streamed on the Council's social media platforms during September and October 2021. Over the course of two weeks, audiences across the district enjoyed small snapshots of the interesting and sometimes exotic lifestyles of some of our Irish Speakers Abroad.

It is important for us to reflect on the Irish language as a cultural treasure on a global scale as there are many Irish speakers working in a variety of professions all over the world.

Funded by the Northern Ireland Executive, these enlightening films introduced us to a diverse range of Irish speakers who live abroad.



School Pupils Face The ‘Dragons’ Den’

The Council’s Women’s Working Group celebrated Local Democracy Week, 11–17 October 2021 by hosting ‘Dragons’ Den’ style events with six schools from across the district: Down High School, Downpatrick; St Colman’s High School, Ballynahinch; St Joseph’s High School, Crossmaglen; St Louis High School, Kilkeel; St Mark’s High School, Warrenpoint; and St Mary’s High School, Newry. Four students from each school debated a notice of motion on the theme for Local Democracy Week 2021; ‘Protecting the environment, local communities take action.’

Members of the ‘Dragons’ Panel’ consisted of our Chairperson, Councillor Cathy Mason, along with six Councillors who sit on the Council’s Women’s Work Group and Dorinnia Carville, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Director of Corporate Services.

With only three minutes to convince the Dragons, each of the debates were lively

and engaging and the views presented by all the students were thoughtful and insightful. The overall winners, Down High School, Downpatrick, were then invited to present their winning notice of motion to the full Council at its December meeting. The notice of motion is to organise an Eco-Fun Day and tree planting event for the local community to promote and demonstrate the Council’s commitment to Climate Change.

By hosting the ‘Dragons’ Den’ style events within our local district, we hoped to raise young people’s awareness of how the Council operates. The events highlighted opportunities to take part in local decision-making and encouraged our young people to become more involved in issues that directly affect them, whilst also providing an understanding of the pathway to put forward their views to local politicians.

Annual Report

Licensing Service supports businesses and residents in difficult times

COVID-19 has impacted the Licensing section, requiring a new approach to aiding business recovery, community events and raising public awareness around the purchasing of dogs and puppy farming.

One of the key areas brought into focus was the issue of Pavement Cafés. At a time when indoor gatherings were restricted, premises sought to conduct their business through Pavement Cafés which require a Licence Permit from the Council. We believe that developing a café culture can have a positive effect on our urban environment, helping to promote our towns and city centre, making a difference in terms of attracting visitors and tourists and contributing to the general wellbeing of communities.

Another concerning issue that has come to the fore in recent times is puppy farming, with the illegal breeding and selling of pups on the increase. The impact of COVID-19 on the workplace and the new 'working from home' directive has resulted in many people becoming dog owners. The Dog Licensing section collaborated in the development of new multi-agency cooperation and working practices with the Animal Welfare section and PSNI to crack down on illegal puppy farming in our district.

From April 2020 – March 2021 the Licensing Section issued the following licenses:

- 336 Postal Numbers and Development Names
- 101 Amusement, Lotteries, Marriage, Pavement Café, Petroleum and Street Trading
- 42 Dual Language nameplates
- 35 Entertainment

Delivering on the needs of our rural residents

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 helps ensure consideration of the needs of people in rural areas is more firmly embedded within public authorities. The scope of this legislation applies to developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and designing and delivering public services.

While COVID-19 meant the Council had to make unprecedented amendments to the services delivered throughout the district in 2020–2021, rural needs considerations continued to be applied. The Council completed 28 rural needs impact assessments during the reporting period. Our Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report for April 2020 – March 2021 is available for download from our website www.newrymournedown.org/equality

Building Control Service

During the financial year April 2020 – March 2021 the Building Control Department dealt with:

- 10,798 Site Inspections
- 2,627 Building Regulations Applications
- 2,408 Property Certificate enquiries
- 40 Unauthorised Works
- 17 Dangerous Structures Reports

Having launched the online service for Domestic Building Notices and Regularisation Applications, Building Control dealt with 891 applications through this service during the year. This represents 54% of the total number of Building Notice and Regularisation Applications received in that period.

Building Control is also responsible for the enforcement of the Energy Performance of Buildings Legislation and dealt with:

- 216 Display Energy Certificates Inspected
- 45 Energy Performance Certificates
- 10 Air Conditioning Inspections
- 1 Fixed Penalty Notices issued

There are major amendments to Building Regulations Guidance currently being considered which are likely to be brought into operation in 2022. Of special interest will be proposals to improve the thermal efficiency of new domestic dwellings by a potential 40%, new flats by 25% and new non-domestic buildings by 15% which would bring Northern Ireland into line with uplifts proposed across the rest of the UK and in the Republic of Ireland.

This uplift for Northern Ireland is the first of four phases looking to improve the thermal efficiency of building stock over the next few years.



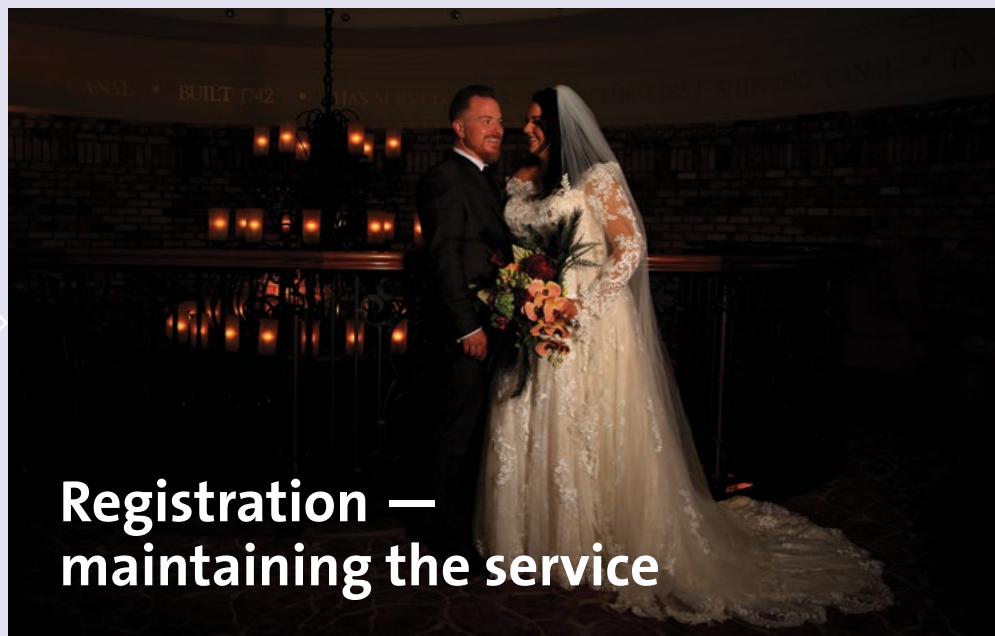
To access the online service visit <https://council.direct/>

Get online in our Council buildings

A number of Council facilities are now public WiFi enabled for your convenience.

This currently applies to the following Council sites:

- Bagenal's Castle, Newry
- Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre, Downpatrick
- Ballynahinch Community Centre
- Ballynahinch Market House
- Bessbrook Community Centre
- Cloughmore Community Centre
- Cloughreagh Community Centre
- Crossmaglen Community Centre
- Dan Rice Hall, Drumaness
- Down County Museum, Downpatrick
- Down Leisure Centre, Downpatrick
- Council Offices, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick
- Council Offices, Greenbank, Newry
- Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor
- Kilkeel Leisure Centre
- Killyleagh Community Centre
- Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry
- Newcastle Leisure Centre
- Newry Leisure Centre
- Newry Town Hall (Boardroom)
- Slieve Gullion Forest Park
- Warrenpoint Town Hall



Registration — maintaining the service

During the last year, the Registration service has adapted to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic, General Register Office guidance and the changing needs of users. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these included an appointment only service, telephone registration of deaths and restrictions on the number permitted to attend marriage ceremonies.

Life events continue to be registered through the two Registration Offices – Town Hall, Newry and Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick. There have been high numbers of births, marriages and sadly an increase in deaths. In the year up to the end of October 2021, there were over 5,300 registrations across the district. A little under half of these, or 2,509 were for births. 1,780 deaths were registered during the period, representing one-third of all registrations. Marriages registered during the year were just over 1,000.

Whilst the Registration service is strongly regulated, we are conscious that at the heart of what we do are people, some of whom use the service do for happy reasons and others at times of great sadness. This past year has seen both sadness and disappointment for many, not least amongst couples who have had to cancel or postpone weddings, sometimes multiple times. In

delivering our service we aim to be sensitive, supportive and focused on achieving the best outcomes for our customers. This has been reflected in feedback regularly received from those who have used our services. One recent example comes from a bride and groom, Stephanie McCartan and Brendan McNamee, whose wedding was held in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, photographed above.

“Our wedding was originally planned for the 28 November 2020 but unfortunately due to the COVID-19 pandemic it had to be cancelled. As that date came and went, it was sad carrying on as normal on what should have been our special day. When we finally were able to rearrange our wedding for 13 November 2021, we felt a lot more relaxed about it compared to before as I think COVID-19 has really changed everybody’s perspective on what is important. All we wanted was to celebrate our special day with those who are important to us. It truly was a brilliant day and we were finally able to get married by the wonderful Anne!”



For further information visit
www.newrymournedown.org/births-deaths-marriages-and-civil-partnerships

Council is Compliant

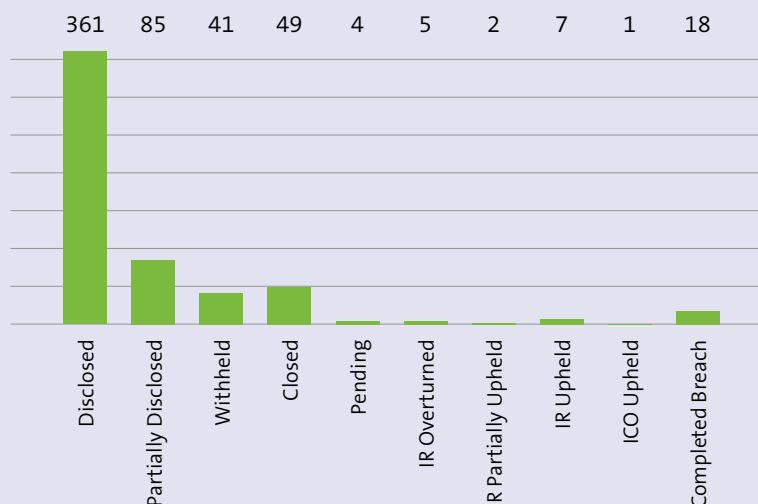
From 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021, the Council received 573 Requests for Information (RFI) which were processed under either the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004 or the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

19 Breach reviews were also conducted. Breach reviews ascertain if there has been a breach in Data Protection, capture learning to enhance compliance of the legislation and whether the Council needs to inform the Information Commissioner's Office, the Regulator responsible for compliance with the aforementioned pieces of legislation.

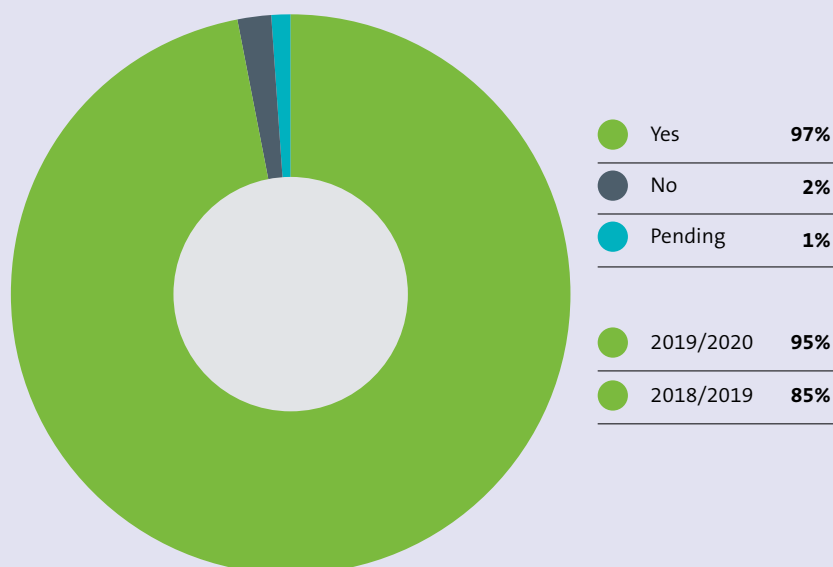
The following charts illustrate a summary of our work in these areas:

Our ongoing 'data cleanse' project reviews records held by the Council and identifies those which are to be retained for historical purposes and those which can be destroyed. Between November 2020 and November 2021, just over 7.5 tonnes of physical records which had completed their retention period were destroyed by the Council's disposal process, with 129 trees saved through recycling.

To aid this work we have a Retention and Disposal Schedule. This document defines how long different types of records need to be kept (paper or electronic), and when they should be disposed. It also provides guidance for all Council's teams when managing their records. We reviewed and updated the Schedule during 2021 in collaboration with the Public Records Office NI who oversee the statutory requirements for records management.



Decisions on the number of requests for information from 1 April – 31 March 2021.



Percentage of requests for information from 1 April – 31 March 2021 responded within the deadline.



For further information please visit
www.newrymournedown.org/about-freedom-of-information

Performance Improvement Plan 2021/22

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is committed to continuously improving the way services are delivered to everyone across the district. In June 2021, the Council published five performance improvement objectives to assist the organisation in responding to and recovering from the impact of the pandemic.

A snapshot of our progress in delivering the performance improvement objectives 2021–22, between April and September, is outlined below. The full report can be accessed on the Council's webpage www.newrymouredown.org/performance

Performance Improvement Objective	Progress	Status Trend
We will encourage local people to lead healthy and active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces 	1.6m visits recorded at Kilbroney Park, Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Warrenpoint Municipal Park*	😊
	102,177 visits recorded at 8 community trails	😊
	Green flag accreditation for 5 parks, including Slieve Gullion Forest Park and Delamont Country Park	😊
	Blue flag accreditation for Cranfield, Murlough and Tyrella beaches	😊
	Two new play parks completed and opened	😊
We will grow the economy by supporting local businesses and creating new jobs 	114 new jobs promoted through business start activity	😊△
	6 new social enterprises supported and 8 new social enterprise jobs created	😊
	213 businesses supported and 1,718 mentoring hours delivered through 'NMD Growth', 'Digital Growth', 'Tender for Growth' and 'Sales and Trade'	😊
	9 new jobs and 2 new businesses created through SEAFLAG 2	😊
We will improve the cleanliness of our district by addressing littering, fly tipping and dog fouling incidents 	74 fixed penalty notices issued and 56 fines paid	😊
	Assistance provided towards 66 community clean ups	😊
	£13k awarded to 17 environmental projects through the NI 'Live Here Love Here' scheme	😊
	Decrease in the rate of recycling, to 50.4%	▼
	One of the lowest levels of waste sent to landfill across all NI councils	😊
We will build the capacity of local communities through the Financial Assistance Scheme 	£1.4m awarded to 365 successful applications through the Financial Assistance Scheme	😊
	£844k awarded to Sport and Community Facilities capital projects	😊
	£44k awarded to 24 COVID–19 transition projects	😊
	6 online capacity building sessions delivered to external and internal stakeholders	😊
	2,604 participants have taken part in completed projects funded through the Financial Assistance Scheme	😊

We will improve the processing times of planning applications and enforcement cases by implementing the Planning Service Improvement Programme



The average processing time for local planning applications improved to 16.8 weeks



The average processing time for major planning applications improved to 43 weeks



54.4% of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks



Reduction in the number of planning applications in the system for 12 months or more

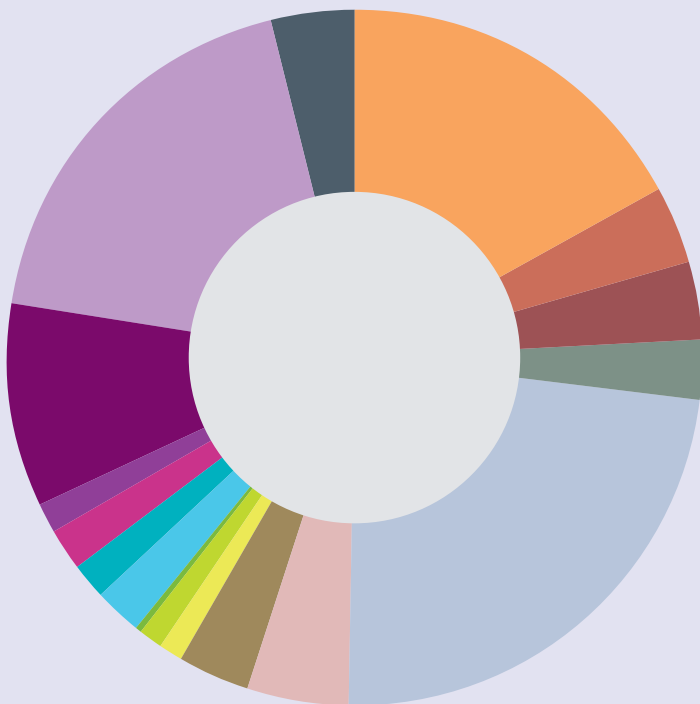


Increase in the number of enforcement cases in the system for 12 months or more



**New counter systems have been installed across selected Council parks and work is underway to verify the quality of the data for accuracy. It should be noted that the baseline data records the number of vehicles entering the parks which is multiplied by 4 to calculate the number of individual visits.*

How we spend your money in 2021/22



Services	% of total	Cost per £'000
Recreation & sport	17%	£10,229
Community services	3.6%	£2,199
Tourism	3.8%	£2,298
Culture & heritage	2.8%	£1,714
Waste collection & disposal	23.3%	£14,084
Other cleaning & public conveniences	4.6%	£2,751
Environmental health	3.5%	£2,142
Cemeteries, minor works & licensing	1%	£632
Building control	1%	£632
Trading services	0.1%	£73
Community planning	0.4%	£266
Economic development & urban regeneration	2.1%	£1,267
Planning policy	1.7%	£1,006
Democratic representation & management	2%	£1,189
Corporate management	1.2%	£709
Asset management revenue account	9.6%	£5,831
Other services	18.6%	£11,255
Interest payable & government loans	3.7%	£2,220

**Total budget
£60,496,537**

Your Councillors



CROTIEVE

Mark Gibbons
Independent
mark.gibbons@
nmandd.org



CROTIEVE

Declan McAteer
SDLP
declan.mcateer@
nmandd.org



CROTIEVE

Karen McKevitt
SDLP
karen.mckevitt@
nmandd.org



CROTIEVE

Gerry O'Hare
Sinn Féin
gerry.o'hare@
nmandd.org



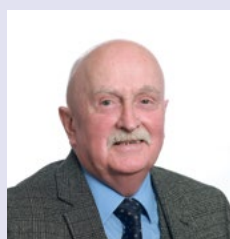
CROTIEVE

Mickey Ruane
Sinn Féin
michael.ruane@
nmandd.org



CROTIEVE

Jarlath Tinnelly
Independent
jarlath.tinnelly@
nmandd.org



NEWRY

Charlie Casey
Sinn Féin
charlie.casey@
nmandd.org



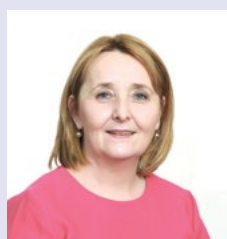
NEWRY

Valerie Harte
Sinn Féin
valerie.harte@
nmandd.org



NEWRY

Gavin Malone
Independent
gavin.malone@
nmandd.org



NEWRY

Roisin Mulgrew
Sinn Féin
roisin.mulgrew@
nmandd.org



NEWRY

Michael Savage
SDLP
michael.savage@
nmandd.org



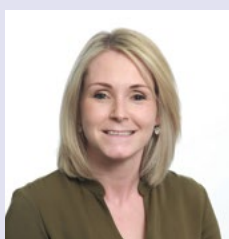
NEWRY

Gary Stokes
SDLP
gary.stokes@
nmandd.org



THE MOURNES

Willie Clarke
Sinn Féin
willie.clarke@
nmandd.org



THE MOURNES

Laura Devlin
SDLP
laura.devlin@
nmandd.org



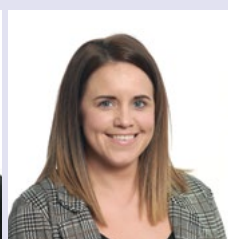
THE MOURNES

Michael Rice
Sinn Féin
michael.rice@
nmandd.org



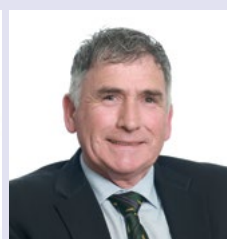
THE MOURNES

Glyn Hanna
DUP
glyn.hanna@
nmandd.org



THE MOURNES

Leeanne McEvoy
Sinn Féin
leeanne.mcevoy@
nmandd.org



THE MOURNES

Harold McKee
TUV
harold.mckee@
nmandd.org



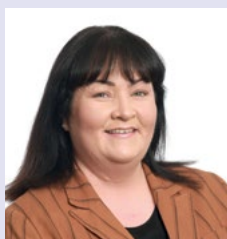
THE MOURNES

Henry Reilly
Independent
henry.reilly@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE CROOB

Hugh Gallagher
SDLP
hugh.gallagher@
nmandd.org



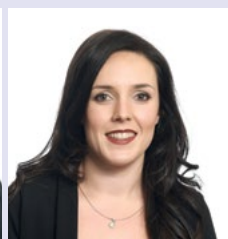
SLIEVE CROOB

Róisín Howell
Sinn Féin
roisin.howell@
nmandd.org



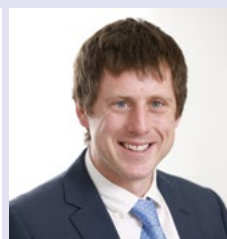
SLIEVE CROOB

Alan Lewis
UUP
alan.lewis@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE CROOB

Cathy Mason
Sinn Féin
cathy.mason@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE CROOB

Andrew McMurray
Alliance
andrew.mcmurray@
nmandd.org



DOWNPATRICK

Dermot Curran
SDLP

dermot.curran@
nmandd.org



DOWNPATRICK

Cadogan Enright
Independent

cadogan.enright@
nmandd.org



DOWNPATRICK

Oonagh Hanlon
Sinn Féin

oonagh.hanlon@
nmandd.org



DOWNPATRICK

Gareth Sharvin
SDLP

gareth.sharvin@
nmandd.org



DOWNPATRICK

John Trainor
SDLP

john.trainor@
nmandd.org



ROWALLANE

Terry Andrews
SDLP

terry.andrews@
nmandd.org



ROWALLANE

Patrick Brown
Alliance

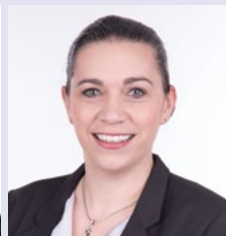
patrick.brown@
nmandd.org



ROWALLANE

Robert Burgess
UUP

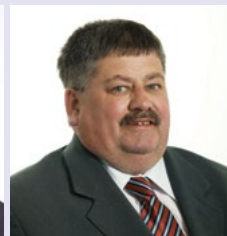
robert.burgess@
nmandd.org



ROWALLANE

Kathryn Owen
DUP

kathryn.owen@
nmandd.org



ROWALLANE

William Walker
DUP

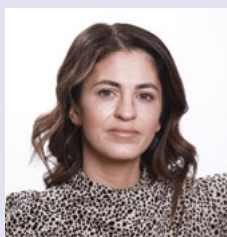
william.walker@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE GULLION

Pete Byrne
SDLP

pete.byrne@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE GULLION

Aoife Finnegan
Sinn Féin

aoife.finnegan@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE GULLION

Mickey Larkin
Sinn Féin

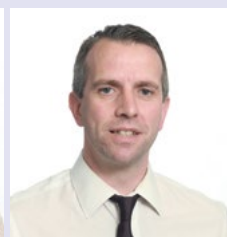
mickey.larkin@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE GULLION

Oonagh Magennis
Sinn Féin

oonagh.magennis@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE GULLION

Barra Ó Muirí
Sinn Féin

barra.omuirí@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE GULLION

David Taylor
UUP

david.taylor@
nmandd.org



SLIEVE GULLION

Declan Murphy
Sinn Féin

declan.murphy@
nmandd.org

This document can be made available on request in other formats, including braille, large print, audio-tape and other languages. Should you require access to these services, please contact the Communications and Marketing Office on **0330 137 4006** or email **marketing@nmandd.org**

0330 137 4000

www.newrymournedown.org

Getting in Touch

Useful Numbers

Community Services

0330 137 4008

Indoor Leisure

0330 137 4026

Visitor Services & Attraction Information

0330 137 4046

Household Recycling Centres

0330 137 4047

Ballykine, Ballynahinch,
Bann Road, Castlewellan
Camlough
Cloonagh Road, Downpatrick
Crossmaglen
Drumanakelly
Hilltown
Kilkeel
Newry
Newtownhamilton
Warrenpoint

Planning Office

0330 137 4036

Waste and Enforcement

0300 137 4047

Bulky Waste Collection
Domestic & Trade Waste
Pollution Control
Public Conveniences
Recycling
Refuse Collection
Street Cleansing
Waste Disposal

Other Useful Numbers

Building Control
0330 137 4003

Cemeteries and Burials
0330 137 4005

Complaints
0330 137 4000

Dog Control
0330 137 4013

Health and Wellbeing
Pollution Control
0330 137 4024

Licensing
0330 137 4030

Policing & Community Safety
Partnership & Good Relations
0330 137 4038

Registration Office (Births,
Deaths and Marriages)
0330 137 4041

Useful Emergency Contact Numbers

Emergency Services
999 or 112

Daisy Hill Hospital, Newry
028 3083 5000

Downe Hospital, Downpatrick
028 4461 3311

Flooding Incident Line
0300 200 0100

Housing Executive
0344 892 0901

NI Electricity Networks
0345 764 3643

NI Gas Emergency Service
0800 002 001

NI Water
0345 744 0088

Out of Hours GP Service
028 9260 2204 (Downpatrick)
028 3839 9201 (Newry)

Police Non-Emergencies
101

Report a blocked road/
fallen tree
0300 200 7899

Southern Health
and Social Care Trust
0800 783 7745 (9am–5pm
Monday to Friday)

South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust
0300 100 0300 (9am–5pm
Monday to Friday)

24 Hour Domestic and
Sexual Violence Helpline
0808 802 1414 (24 hours)