



Public Engagement on Small Settlements Regeneration

Environmental Improvement Schemes proposed in Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor & Saintfield

Introduction to Proposed Schemes

Investing in regeneration, modern infrastructure and connectivity is a key strategic priority for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council under its Economic and Regeneration Development Strategy.

Under the Small Settlements Regeneration Programme, the Council has been working alongside Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure and Department of Agriculture Environment & Rural Affairs - the main project funders - to take forward several initiatives.

The overall objectives of the Programme are:

- Physical regeneration of small settlements to improve place making and aid recovery from COVID-19
- Improvements that encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area
- Improvements that enhance walking, cycling and other facilities within the scheme area

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Under the programme, one element being proposed is the undertaking of **Environmental Improvement (EI)** schemes in **Bessbrook, Castlewellan, Rostrevor and Saintfield**.

The Environmental Improvement Projects

The key aim of the EI Schemes is to enhance the aesthetic appearance and key infrastructure within each of the four settlements, mainly through the provision of:

- Enhanced public realm
- Better footpaths
- Street furniture and lighting
- Public seating

Active Travel Measures are also being considered as part of the designs. This could include:

- Cycle tracks or lanes - creating space on pathways for cyclists
- Footway widening to allow for physical distancing
- Cycle parking and charging facilities
- Connection pathways to access town/village centres
- Tree planting

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Concept design proposals have now been developed for all four areas. This follows a previously completed 2020 community engagement process, liaison with several statutory bodies and initial discussions with the community and business sectors in each of the settlements. The designs reflect many of the typical EI scheme elements outlined above.

The schemes are planned to commence in the winter of 2022/23, subject to securing planning approvals.

Community Engagement

In advance of submitting planning applications as part of the development process, the Council is **now seeking public views and suggestions on the proposed works to help inform the final designs.**

- Concept design drawings can be viewed online via the following link:
<https://www.newrymournedown.org/environmental-improvement-schemes-for-bessbrook-castlewellan-rostrevor-saintfield>
- Once you have reviewed the proposed plans, you are invited to give your feedback via an online survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Small_Settlements_Regeneration_Programme

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Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne and Down
District Council

Drop-In sessions have also been organised in each of the settlements:

- Monday 25 July, 5.30-7.30pm at Saintfield Community Centre
- Tuesday 26 July, 7.00-9.00pm at Bessbrook Community Centre
- Tuesday 26 July, 6.00pm-8.00pm at The Lodge, Castlewellan
- Wednesday 27 July, 6.00-8.00pm at Cloughmore Centre, Kilbroney Park, Rostrevor

A member of the project team will be in attendance and a copy of the concept drawings will be on display at each of the sessions.

The public engagement process will run until **Friday 5 August 2022**.

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