

Rostrevor and Killowen

Village Renewal and Development Plan (September 2012)

Addendum and Updated Action Plan: November 2017

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



1. Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. Implementation

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

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

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

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



3. Rostrevor- Review of 2012 Action Plan

		2012 Action Plan					2017 Update			
	Action substantially complete									
	Ongoing									
	Major constraint to implementation									
	New Project									
Regeneration Initiative		Key Stakeholders	Priority	Time frame	Potential Funders	Actions	Progress @ November 2017	Priority H, M, L	Time frame	Actions
1. Community Facilities										
1.1	Refurbishment of former girl's school	-	M/L	M/L	Lot/ RPD	Appraisal undertaken on cost of works and future building uses required prior to sourcing potential funding.	Completed – now a school.	N/A	N/A	No further action required.
1.2	Provision of community allotments	NMDDC / KCA	M	M	NMDDC / RDP / Lot / Live Here Love Here	Site acquisition and management structure put in place prior to sourcing funding	Possible locations are yet to be identified, however the old boy's school site was seen as a possibility although the site however site not vacated yet.	H	S	Continue to generate support within the community and engage with NMDDC around potential funding. Prepare maintenance and management plan for the allotments which will help with the business case. Seek appropriate statutory approvals so that the project is ready for funding should it become available.
1.3	Refurbishment of Ranfurly House	KCA, St Bronagh's GAA	H	S	RDP, Lot	Economic appraisal undertaken on sustainability of self-catering accommodation proposal.	No progress to date. This building has been derelict for over 15 years. It sits in a prime location in the village. Refurbishment is constrained due to the landowners not having sufficient support for the project. Concern over costs.	H	M	Work in partnership with GAA club to explore future sustainable and beneficial uses for Ranfurly House. Options to include social housing Community Hub and bunk house accommodation.

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1.4	Provision of Community hub	NMDDC, KCA Co Down RCN, RMS	H	S	NMDDC, RDP, Lot	N/A	<p>The existing KCA Community Association Room is inadequate.</p> <p>The proposed Community Hub would provide accommodation for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice centre; • drop-in centre; • outreach centre for Further & Higher Education; • training area; • exhibit area; • tourist information centre; • small theatre space; and • music workshops. 	H	S	<p>Commission scoping study to explore potential locations for the community hub, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former boys school • Ranfurley House • Fr Matthew Hall (a.k.a. Harmony Hall) • Stella Maris building <p>The study should also explore funding sources and operating arrangement for the facility.</p> <p>Engage with NMDDC to generate support for the project.</p>	
1.5	Social Enterprise Hub	NMDDC, KCA, RMS	H	S	NMDDC, RDP, Lot	N/A	<p>A social enterprise hub could be combined with or separate from the community hub and provide services such as business support facilities for incubation units, craft workshops and other facilities which provide local employment.</p>	H	S	<p>Commission scoping study to explore potential locations for the social enterprise hub, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former boys school • Ranfurley House • Fr Matthew Hall (a.k.a. Harmony Hall) • Stella Maris building <p>The study should also explore funding sources and operating</p>	

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										arrangement for the facility	
1.6	Commence monthly community meetings which has representation from all groups with Rostrevor. Collaborative working will provide much more resources to drive project forward.	KCA	H	S	N/A	N/A	KCA have noted their support for this action and are keen to meet with other groups on a monthly basis.	H	S	KCA to take the lead in setting up monthly meeting and encouraging representation from all groups. The Village Action Plan can be used as a tool to track progress on key projects / actions. Identify projects which are supported by all groups and agree to drive these forward collaboratively.	
2. Environmental and Townscape Improvements											
2.1	Refurbishment of buildings or façade improvements to derelict buildings. This could range from shop front improvements to existing building to an annual village paint scheme.	Priv, KCA, NMDDC, RMS	H	S	Lot, RDP, DAERA, NIHE, DfC	Identification of buildings targeted for funding. Consultation with owners undertaken.	Four derelict buildings have been demolished and due to be replaced.	H	S	Identify buildings which require façade restoration / improvements and those which would benefit from low cost decorative improvements (painting). E.g. No. 16 The Square, a suitable site for refurbishment to restore historical heritage within the town. Liaise with NMDDC to explore long-term lease for building with potential for long term tenant. Explore annual paint scheme which can be	

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										relatively cost effective and make a real difference to the look of the village. Explore funding with NMDDC. This could include a coastal colour scheme., which would enhance the unique character of Rostrevor.	
2.2	Upgrade / repainting of wall at St. Jude's Gardens / Mary St.	KCA	M/L	M	RDP	Potential for a community artwork project	Project completed – carried out by community.	n/a	n/a	Encourage the ongoing upkeep on a regular basis.	
2.3	Public Square upgrade	NMDDC, TNI, KCA	M	M	RDP, TNI, P4P	Detailed drawings prepared and planning application lodged for an updated environmental Improvement scheme	Peace IV funding application submitted for shared walkways and shared space project. Outcome expected early 2018.	M	M	Lobby for funding to carry out a substantial public realm improvement scheme in and around the square. This should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage and interpretation • Creation of a meeting area / focal point. 	
2.4	Returning derelict buildings to viable and sustainable uses.	Private Owners, KCA, NIHE	H	M	NIHE DFC / DFI	N/A	There are several buildings that have been derelict for a long time. These should be considered for conversion to social and affordable housing, which will encourage people back to the village. Buildings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fr Matthew Hall, 	H	M	Engage with landowners and NIHE.	

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							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stella Maris, Ranfurley House 				
3. Tourism, Leisure and Recreation											
3.1	Tourist information centre	TOURNI, NMDDC, KCA	M	M	TOURNI, RDP	Assess requirement for facility and potential location	Some tourist information available in local shop.	H	S	To remain in action plan. Explore potential to include tourist information boards (3) within the village to include a map indicating local assets of importance.	
3.2	Proposed additional GAA pitch	GAA	H/M	S/M	Lot, RDP, SNI, NMDDC	Further consultation with council and local community on the use of Kilbroney Park. Assessment of alternative locations may be worthwhile.	<p>Planning permission received (approximately 2002.), however project did not proceed at that time.</p> <p>St Bronagh's GAA have been seeking planning permission for a new sports complex west of Drumsesk Road.</p> <p>Existing pitch at Kilbrony Park believed to be getting re-laid.</p>	H	S	A new site at Kilbrony Park no longer being considered for the new sports pitch. Continued efforts should aim to upgrade the existing pitches.	
3.3	Introduce new market to the village.	KCA, NMDDC	M	S/M	RDP/ NMDDC	Feasibility into location and sustainability of market	Feasibility study not yet undertaken.	M	M	Continue to explore interest and potential traders. Engage with other community groups who have successfully set up village markets (e.g. Comber) for further advice.	

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3.4	Improved directional signage, / gateway signage.	NMDDC, KCA, TOURNI	M	S	NMDDC, RDP, TOURNI	N/A	Potential to provide large sign for the heritage trail. Remove temporary signage. Signage to local places of interest such as, Cloughmor, St Bronaghs Graveyard, Giant Murphy, Fairy Glen and Oak Wood	M	S	Review of all current directional signage to include engagement with relevant stakeholders regarding the position and design of signage. Explore funding options. Directional signage and retail signs should be sympathetic to the village setting.	
3.5	Interpretative signage in The Square to present the heritage of the village and surrounding area. This could include a timeline of key events in Rostrevor's history and development. This would also highlight key points of interest in the wider area.	NMDDC, KCA, TOURNI	H	S	RDP, NMDDC TOURNI	N/A	An opportunity to introduce interpretative signage in the square to explore and represent the rich heritage within the town.	H	S	Commission consultant to help with the design of the interpretation boards / signage, working in close collaboration with the community to ensure the signage reflects the diverse heritage of Rostrevor. Work with NMDDC to identify appropriate position in The Square to locate the signage.	
3.4	Provision of walkway along the waterfront.	TOURNI, NMDDC, KCA	H	M	RDP, NMDDC	N/A	NMDDC recently commissioned a feasibility study to explore the potential of a coastal walk long the Newry, Mourne and Down coast. However, it is	H	M	Monitor the progress of wider Coastal Path project and encourage the exploration of further links to Rostrevor.	

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							understood that this study did not extend past Greencastle.			Explore the feasibility of a specific walking route / greenway between The Dock to Monument Corner as a community led project. Local access points could be facilitated along the route.	
3.5	Provision of lift infrastructure to access Slieve Martin	NMDDC, KCA, TOURNI, NIEA	M	L	RDP, TOURNI	N/A	An opportunity to improve access to a key natural feature for the town and wider area.	M	L	To carry out appropriate studies to determine the feasibility and access options for the development of lift-serviced infrastructure to access Slieve Martin.	
3.6	Kilbroney Park / Fairy Glen improvements	NMDDC, KCA, All users of the park	H	S	Lot, RDP, NMDDC	N/A	Council have in place a Master Plan for the future development of Kilbroney and Rostrevor Forest park.	H	M	Individual priorities within the Masterplan that are to be progressed will require full design and consultation with the community. Community aspirations for short term development were highlighted as: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provision of all-inclusive play equipment 2. Lighting survey to ascertain feasibility and community opinion on lighting along the Fairy Glen. 3. Story boards. 	

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3.7	Men's shed-building should be refurbished to provide community based facilities.	KCA, NMDDC, Co Down RCN, RMS	M	M	Big Lottery Awards for All	N/A	No 16 The Square offers refurbishment potential to enhance community based facilities. see initiative 1.4 & 1.5.	M	M	Consult with community in relation to potential refurbishment of No 16 The Square. Explore the potential to also use as tourist hub. Explore the potential to upgrade the current public WC provision.	
4. Infrastructure and Services											
4.1	Traffic calming measures, signage and gateways	KCA, TNI / DFI	M/H	S/M	RS/NMDD C/RDP	Feasibility study, design work, statutory approvals, installation of gateway signage and artwork.	Refer to actions 3.4 and 3.5 regarding directional and gateway signage Newton Road was highlighted as an area of particular concern in relation to need for traffic calming	H	S	Engage with community and liaise with TNI in relation to location, installation and feasibility of traffic calming measures.	
4.2	Refurbishment of public toilets	NMDDC, KCA	M	M	NMDDC	Condition report to ascertain costs	Public toilets in very poor condition, but clean. Some refurbishment carried out but more is needed.	M	S	Engage with community and NMDDC to raise awareness and generate support for replacement of the toilets.	
4.3	Additional car park	KCA, GAA NMDDC DFI	H / M	S / M	TNI / DFI	Discussions with TNI on potential for a publicly adopted car park	No significant progress as yet. Current parking situation is an issue as parking on Cloughmore Road causing problems for disabled residents and footpaths are blocked by parked cars. Additionally, there is a shortage of dropped kerbs to enabled disabled access. KCA highlight that there are issues with parking and servicing space surrounding access to KCA building. It had been	M	M	Engage with appropriate authorities to review and improve car parking provision. Consider options to deter kerb side parking with obstructs pathways for pedestrians and access to buildings Need for disabled parking as part of the mobility project.	

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							highlighted that there is a poor provision for pedestrian footpaths throughout the surrounding area.			Possible sites to be explored for additional car park provision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roxborough House site • GAA Car Park (with agreement form St Bronagh's GAA) • Boys School car park (with agreement form the church)
4.4	Increased health care services	RCDA, SHSCT	M	M	SHSCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with trust on potential for increasing existing services 	Local GP / surgery have ceased plans to expand facility into Health Hub.	M	M	Liaise with SHSCT in relation to service reduction and explore options for GP service provision in the area going forward.
4.5	More affordable housing is needed – need to locate possible sites.	KCA, NMDDC, Priv, NIHE	H	M/L	NIHE	N/A	N/A	H	M/L	Engage in the Local Development Plan process to encourage the allocation of sites for housing in Rostrevor.
4.6	Traffic Calming on Kilbrony Road.	DFI / TNI, KCA	H	S	TNI	N/A	N/A			Establish potential location for traffic instalment and carry out feasibility study for future implementation.

4. Killowen - Review of 2012 Action Plan

	Action Status		2012 Action Plan					2017 Update																																																
	Green	Yellow	Regeneration Initiative	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Time frame	Potential Funders	Actions	Progress @ November 2017	Priority H,M,L	Timeframe	Actions																																												
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1 Infrastructure and Services																																																								
1.1	Traffic calming measures, signage and gateway planting scheme	TNI, NMDDC	M	M	TNI, RDP	Prepare detailed drawing of new signage, gateway artwork/ displays for planning application	No progress to date.	M	M	See 2012 actions.																																														
1.2	Street lighting	TNI, NMDDC	H	M	TNI	Discussions with TNI on potential for Road to become adopted to facilitate street lighting	No progress to date.	M	M	Continue to engage with TNI.																																														
Stakeholders and Potential Funders																																																								
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