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Introduction

The Village Renewal Plan has been developed by the community in conjunction with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to meet the requirements of the Rural Development Programme for Northern Ireland 2014-2020.

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

The Village Renewal 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 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 in the Council’s new Local Development Plan for the District, which is currently under preparation.

*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.*
02 Context

Village Location
Situated 1-mile north west of Killyleagh, Shrigley is a rural settlement located along the inner bay of Strangford Lough, Co. Down. In 2011, it had a population of 437. The village is positioned in a drumlin landscape, which serves as a natural envelope for future development. The wooded hill slope and topography to the north west of the existing housing development is an important local landscape feature. The village of Shrigley now acts as a small dormitory settlement encompassing a public housing estate, a number of private homes and a few industrial units within the lands of the former mill. With the exception of a small commercial unit within the village centre, it is highly dependent on Killyleagh for its services and has a local employment role.

Village Character
The village of Shrigley comprises a strong, close-knit and passionate community who help to resonate and express the character and heritage of the village. The heritage and culture of the settlement is embedded in the Martin Memorial Clock and historical mill chimney which offer distinctive visual markers within the settlement. The functionality and layout of the village is highly influenced by the Clea Lough and Shrigley Road which passes through the core of the settlement facilitates high volumes of fast flowing traffic. The settlement itself rests beyond the northern periphery of Killyleagh within a drumlin landscape. Shrigley offers a distinctive setting due to its location, however Killyleagh acts as a key servicing centre for the community. Building on this, the settlement comprises a predominantly residential character with light industrial land uses to the south of Clay Road. Additionally, an absence of convenience land uses such as a village shop highly impacts community independence in relation to access and provision to basic services.
History and Development of the Village

The village initially developed as a mill village on the banks of the River Dibney. The construction of the mill in the early 19th century delivered a century of prosperity and associated small scale development of the hamlet. The closure of the mill in 1931 resulted in a period of substantial change. A modern housing estate replaced the traditional / original dwellings built to facilitate the mill workers on the opposite side of the main road. Furthermore, the roadway was also manipulated, separating the housing from the mill buildings.

Village Profile

The village of Shrigley has a balanced age demographic in relation to the proportion of those aged 16 (18.33%) and below alongside those ages over 65+ (20.14%). In terms of health and wellbeing, the population enjoy above average health with 79.71% stating that their health was either good or very good, although there is a dependence on people in the area to provide unpaid care, at 12.75% this is higher than the NI average.

Additionally, key points in relation to the village profile highlight that there is a permanent resident population, as indicated by high proportion of owner occupied homes, however nearly quarter of homes are rented. Building on this, 15% of the population have no access to a car or van and the area scores high in terms of access to services deprivation measure – in the top 15% most deprived in this deprivation domain. Public transport particularly important in mitigating this issue. Furthermore, employment statistics are similar to the NI average, with nearly 70% population economically active.
Future Development

The Ards and Down Area Plan (ADAP) 2015 highlights that land south of Crossgar Road is designated as a Housing Policy Area in accordance with SETT 2 in Volume 1 of the Down District Settlement Proposals Plan and is indicated on Map No. 3/016a, Shrigley Settlement Map. Building on this, development of the land will be subject to key design considerations such as a minimum of 20 dwelling per hectare must be delivered along with access arrangements for housing to front Crossgar Road. Additionally, lands East of Shrigley Road are designated as a Housing Policy Area in accordance with SETT 2 in Volume 1 of the Down District Settlement Proposals Plan and is indicated on Map No. 3/016a, Shrigley Settlement Map. Building on this, development of the land will be subject to key design considerations such as future development, design and layout must be of high quality, access to Shrigley Road must be provide for and Buildings must exhibit a variety in their elevational treatment and heights.

Recent Development

Proposal for change of use of former Atlantic Tanning Co. Factory to waste storage/processing facility. Planning Ref. R/2013/0026/F. Status: Permission Granted

An application for the former Atlantic tanning factory for the change of use of existing buildings to provide additional waste storage/processing, external storage of empty skips and loaded skips awaiting transportation also an increase in waste storage and processing, plus additional new waste types

Single storey side extension and ramped access to front/side/rear of dwelling. Planning Ref. LA07/2015/0950/F. Status: Granted

An application at 41 Osbourne Drive to extend a private residential dwelling with improved access.

Proposed single storey dwelling and garage. Planning Ref. LA07/2016/1009/O Status: Granted

An application at 53 Crossgar Road to develop a single storey dwelling with an associated garage
03 Policy Analysis

3.1 Planning Policy

Regional Development Strategy 2035 ‘Building a Better Future’

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) is a statutory plan, and sets the spatial vision for the region up to the year 2035. One of the central aims of the RDS is to support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential.

Our rural areas including our towns and villages have a key role in supporting economic growth. They offer opportunities in terms of their potential for growth in new sectors, the provision of rural recreation and tourism, their attractiveness as places to invest, live and work, and their role as a reservoir of natural resources and highly valued landscapes (RDS, p19)

The RDS sets out Strategic Guidance for the economic, society and the environment. RG7 highlights the need to support rural renaissance which is about revitalising the centres of small towns and villages so that they meet the immediate needs of the communities they serve.

The RDS emphasises the need to sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside and to improve accessibility for rural communities.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) ‘Shaping a Better Future’

The SPPS covers the whole of Northern Ireland and sets out the strategic policies for the sustainable development of the region, which it defines as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

The policy objectives for development in the countryside are to:

- manage growth to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development which supports a vibrant rural community;
- conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution;
- facilitate development which contributes to a sustainable rural economy; and
- promote high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development.

Ards and Down Area Plan (ADAP) 2015

The Ards and Down Area Plan (ADAP) was adopted in March 2009 and sets a number of site specific statutory policies relevant to Shrigley village that should be taken into consideration by developers, landowners, the Council and the local community in the forward planning of the Village.

Due to its strategic location, there is a natural pressure to accommodate residential expansion of the village. In relation to residential expansion, ADAP identifies one housing policy zoning at lands south of Crossgar Road. Furthermore, lands east of Shrigley Road have been zoned for industrial use.

Living Well Together: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council’s Community Plan (2016)

Community planning is a new function of Councils here in Northern Ireland since the reorganisation of local government in 2014. Councils have a requirement to create a Community Planning Partnership for their District whose role is to work in collaboration with all partners to achieve the aspirations of the Community Plan.

The overarching principles of the Plan are ensuring effective community engagement in the planning and delivery of services, utilising the strengths and resilience within communities, promoting equality and tackling inequality, adopting a preventative approach, driving efficiency and performance improvement, supporting a sustainable approach to development, holding each other as partners to account for delivering the community plan outcomes in collaboration and creating a Partnership Board responsible for monitoring and directing impact.

Emerging Local Development Plan

The Local Development Plan (LDP) will deliver a 15-year plan framework to support economic and social needs in the District, in line with regional strategies and policies, while providing the delivery of sustainable development. The new Local Development Plan will be the key consideration in the determination of planning applications for the development or use of land in the Council area. The next stage of the LDP process is the publication of the preferred options paper which will contain a series of options for dealing with key issues in the District, as well as the Council’s justification for its proposed approach. The POP will indicate the Council’s preferred options for growth and development in the District. The POP will be subject to public consultation. It is at this stage in the plan preparation process, that the public and stakeholders will have their first opportunity to put forward views and influence the LDP.
3.2 Other Strategies, Plans and Initiatives

This plan seeks to align with wider strategies and plans for the District, taking into account the importance of the Mourne Mountains in encouraging tourism and economic development into the area, and finding areas of complementarity where different stakeholders could work together to deliver such shared ideas and projects. Below is a snapshot of the strategies and plans that have been taken into consideration in the development of the Shrigley Village Plan.

NMDDC Corporate Plan 2015-2019

The Newry Mourne and Down District Council Corporate Plan for 2015-2019 aims to envisage a new era for the District. The plan strives to strike a balance between the ambitions of the district whilst taking account of key issues which can influence the future of the district area and its population. Additionally, the corporate plan aims to create opportunities for local people and local communities to thrive by supporting sustainable economic growth over time and helping them to lead fulfilling lifestyles. The visionary stance of the strategy aims to create a district that is that is attractive to visit and do business, where people and communities can unlock their enterprising spirit as well as play their part in contributing to its social and economic development along with a district that facilitates and encourages healthy lifestyles. By 2019, the corporate plan will aspire to create a premier tourism destination for the island of Ireland, attract investment and support the creation of new jobs and support the improved health and well-being of its people.

Economic Regeneration & Investment Strategy 2015-2020

The Strategy aims to develop the Newry, Mourne and Down region to be recognised as a vibrant, dynamic and connected region of enterprise and economic growth; a place of sustainable natural beauty and a premier tourist destination encompassing excellence in culture and arts and enabling and creating opportunities for all. The Strategy is developed around five themes: 1.) Economic Development, 2.) Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events, 3.) Urban Development and Regeneration, 4.) Rural Development and Regeneration, 5.) Arts, Culture and Heritage. The strategy aims to develop a synergy between the five themes that need to be developed in the period to 2020. Within each theme we have a number of strategic priorities which will be delivered against.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Play Strategy 2017-2022

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down and to allocate significant resources towards meeting such needs. The Strategy sets out the rationale for Strategic Priority Development across five themes: 1.) Economic Development, 2.) Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events, 3.) Urban Development and Regeneration, 4.) Rural Development and Regeneration, 5.) Arts, Culture and Heritage. The Strategy aims to develop a synergy between the five themes that need to be developed in the period to 2020. Within each theme we have a number of strategic priorities which will be delivered against.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Sports Facility Strategy (October 2016)

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down and to allocate significant resources towards meeting such needs. The Strategy sets out the rationale for Strategic Priority Development across five themes: 1.) Economic Development, 2.) Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events, 3.) Urban Development and Regeneration, 4.) Rural Development and Regeneration, 5.) Arts, Culture and Heritage. The strategy aims to develop a synergy between the five themes that need to be developed in the period to 2020. Within each theme we have a number of strategic priorities which will be delivered against.

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Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Tourism Strategy 2017-2022

The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the strategic need for Sports facilities in Newry, Mourne and Down and to allocate significant resources towards meeting such needs. The Strategy sets out the rationale for Strategic Priority Development across five themes: 1.) Economic Development, 2.) Tourism Development, Marketing, Promotion and Events, 3.) Urban Development and Regeneration, 4.) Rural Development and Regeneration, 5.) Arts, Culture and Heritage. The strategy aims to develop a synergy between the five themes that need to be developed in the period to 2020. Within each theme we have a number of strategic priorities which will be delivered against.
The Shrigley Village Plan has been developed in collaboration with the local community. Key aspects of the process are outlined below.

**Village Walkabout**

A village walkabout took place in Shrigley on 6th June 2017 with representatives of the Council, the consultant team, and members of the local community. During this time a site survey was carried out to understand the background and context of the Village, key assets, issues and potential ideas of how the Village could be improved.

**Community Event**

A public consultation event for Shrigley Village Renewal Plan was held on the evening of the 27th September 2017 in the Bridge Centre, Killyleagh. The purpose of the event was to present the findings of the desktop research, site walkabout, together with draft proposals for actions and priorities for tackling the issues identified by the local community and village analysis work.

The event was publicly advertised via the Council’s website and social media. Council officers also distributed details of the event to community and voluntary groups in the area, and a public advertisement was placed in the newspaper.

This draft Village Plan was then prepared and published for public consultation in January 2018.
05 Site Analysis

Strengths

- Community Spirit - integrated working, collaboration and engagement
- Strategic location - Location in relation to Killyleagh
- Setting - unique and picturesque landscape with distinctive rural setting
- Heritage - Extremely rich history in relation to former industry
- Points of Interest - Martin Memorial, Clea Lough and Landscape
- Surrounding Landscape - fishing and walking activities framed by surrounding scenery
- Safe - low level of anti-social behaviour
- AONB - rests within the Strangford and Lecale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Opportunities

- Traffic Calming Measure – To help manage the speed of traffic through the village
- Car Parking – Improved car parking within village
- Community HUB – A dedicated community space within the village
- MUGA – creating recreational space within village for older children
- Martin Memorial Clock – restore and revive the key land mark within the village
- Walking Routes - Safer, more distinctive and high quality walking trails
- Convenience Services - Opportunity to integrate a village shop into Shrigley
- Mixed Use Scheme - Opportunity to regenerate and restore the village

Weaknesses

- Lighting - lack of continuous lighting reduces safety level
- Road Safety - issues surrounding road safety due to speeding thoroughfare
- Basic Services - absence of basic convenience services such as a shop
- Community Space - absence of dedicated community space
- Contamination - Ground contamination on lands of former industry

Threats

- Contamination – Sub-surface contamination of previous industrial site
- Road Safety – A major threat to community safety
- Funding – potential lack in funding for particular projects
SHRIGLEY SITE ANALYSIS

- Settlement Boundary
- Water Course
- Primary Circulation Road
- Secondary Circulation Road
- Primary Gateway
- Secondary Gateway
- Village Core
- Historic | Archaeological Site
- Landmark
- Post Box
- Bus Stop
- Playpark
- Recreational Space
- Public Open Space
- Scenic Views
- Housing Policy Area
- Industrial Policy Area
- Local Nature Conservation Importance Site
- Local Landscape Policy Area

Considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and must therefore be protected from undesirable or damaging development.
Through consultation with the community, various projects have been identified that could contribute to the social and physical renewal of Shrigley. The projects outlined in this draft village plan are aspirations which are achievable with the appropriate support. Constraints will face all the projects identified such as land ownership, funding and the requirement for statutory consents.

However, such constraints can be addressed and overcome through dedicated and ongoing work by the community and other key stakeholders. The project and actions identified in the draft village plan aim to adopt four key components which are interconnected: environmental improvement, Accessibility and Connectivity, Community Facilities and Leisure and recreation. The opportunities presented in this plan range from traffic calming and management initiatives to the introduction of a dedicated community space along with projects to improve the environmental and visual quality of Shrigley.

The community had stated that a project to address the issue of road safety within Shrigley was a major concern, as the speed and intensity of traffic passing through the settlement has the potential to harm levels of pedestrian and road safety. Furthermore, an additional project identified aims to address the environmental and visual quality of the village to enhance and improve the physical fabric and appearance of the village at key areas. Additionally, the residents of Shrigley had supported an initiative to enhance the provision of community services within the village in order to gain a sense of independence from nearby Killyleagh and surrounding settlements. Building on this, a project to deliver a community facility within the village would improve and enhance provision and access to dedicated community space for the residents. Moreover, the community space will have the potential to cluster future services such as a community shop or MUGA to harness the future development of the community within Shrigley.

Please note that all illustrations within this plan are conceptual. Any improvements to Greencastle will require the development of detailed designs through consultation with local businesses and residents.
A project to enhance and improve the visual appearance of the village. Upon consultation, the community had highlighted that a project to improve the overgrown, unkempt and tired parcel of land located parallel the Shrigley Road Gateway. The project will include the tidying and removal of thick overgrowth of the site to provide highly attractive landscaping, boundary treatment and vibrant planting.

The overgrown parcel of land reduces the physical and visual quality of the village upon entry and shapes a tired and unkempt gateway site. The project will aim to create an improved space and village gateway by enhancing the visual and physical quality of the parcel of land. Improvements to the space will increase levels of safety and surveillance due to the removal of heavy overgrowth whilst unlocking and reviving a potential future development site.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.
B | GATEWAY ENHANCEMENTS

A project to enhance the physical and visual quality of the gateway sites upon entry to the village. Closely related to Project A, this project will aim to enhance the standard and quality of signage and environmental quality at key entry points of the village. The introduction of high quality landscaping, planting and boundary treatments will revitalise the gateway sites of Shrigley creating an improved and lasting first impression.

By improving the gateway sites of the village, they offer a strong visual queue for traffic approaching the village, in turn slowing speed of traffic entering the settlement. Justification for such a project is due to the current tired and unkempt condition of the village gateways as they undermine the vibrancy of the community along with its culture and heritage. By enhancing the village gateways, the initial visual and physical quality Shrigley will be expressed and enhanced via attractive landscaping, improved signage and potential landmark features.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.

GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS

High quality environmental improvements to historical assets play an important role in creating a focal point in a village. Both pedestrians and road users are provided with a sense of arrival by the effective use of lighting.
C | TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES

Concerns surrounding traffic calming and road safety had been predominating issues throughout consultation with the community. The community had raised a priority project which aims to address issues surrounding speeding traffic and general road safety within Shrigley. In particular, the village gateway sites had been seen as key areas to deploy traffic calming measures.

A project which slows and calms traffic, such as rumble strips or improved speed limit signage will aim to improve levels of road safety within the Shrigley. Within the core of the settlement, the community had stated that a priority was to allow a bus to safely reverse and turn. A supported suggestion had been to better facilitate safe drop-off facilities for the bus in relation to road and pedestrian safety.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if required.

ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY & CONNECTIVITY
Safety and connectivity are crucially important for community mobility; therefore a project which strengthens the key linkages within the village will improve levels of community safety.
A project to deliver improved recreational facilities within the village by introducing a high
quality multi-use games area (MUGA). The community had felt that there is little provision in
sight of recreational facilities aimed at older children within Shrigley. An indicative
location for the MUGA may be the parcel of land containing the goal-posts adjoined the
park.

The MUGA will include a bespoke sport surface to include a wide range of sporting
activities such as basketball and football with associated boundary enclosure to contain
the play space. Justification for the project is due to the lack of provision in relation to
play facilities for older children within the community, alongside the tired condition of the
grassed area for ball games adjoining the park.

Within the NMDDC Play Strategy, the current play facilities within the settlement are
deemed to require no immediate action with maintenance and monitoring suggested. The
bespoke surface would remove the continuous need to maintain the grassed surface due
to excessive degradation and weathering through ball-based play.

In order to deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key
stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative.
Furthermore, statutory approvals must be sought in conjunction with necessary funding if
required.
E | COMMUNITY HUB / SPACE

A project to deliver a dedicated community facility within the village at lands adjacent the Martin Memorial Clock. Building on this, the project has the potential to link with the initiative to deliver a MUGA within Shrigley.

Provision and access to community facilities within Shrigley is prohibited due to the absence of a dedicated community facility / space. This project aims to deliver a dedicated space within Shrigley to act as a community HUB by providing a place to meet, carry out events and harness the vibrancy, activity and pride within the community.

Shrigley expresses an extremely close-knit and passionate community, although due to the absence of a dedicated community space, residents have to travel beyond their settlement to hold community meetings and similar events. Shrigley embodies an established community enriched in local culture and heritage and a dedicated community space would have the potential to accommodate this asset. A dedicated space within the village would provide a much needed nucleus for community activity harnessing the future development of the area.

To deliver this project, further consultation with the community and key stakeholders is needed to assess the feasibility and support for such an initiative. Furthermore, a detailed business case, design and feasibility study is required alongside statutory approvals and necessary funding if required.
This plan is designed to improve the social and economic fabric of the area. The Village Renewal Plan provides an indication of the key tasks which need to be undertaken to progress specific projects. This often includes detailed scheme design, preparation of the business case and funding application, and in some cases further feasibility and analysis.

The source of funding will often dictate the order in which tasks need to be undertaken, for example the Rural Development Programme expects all statutory consents to be in place before the funding application is submitted. There are potential sources of funding available for the projects and initiatives set out within this Village Renewal Plan. It is important to note that reference to potential funding is a 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 draft Acton Plan (Section 08) 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.
### 08 | ACTION PLAN

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<th>Timeframe for Delivery</th>
<th>Stakeholders</th>
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Com = Community Groups  
DfI = Department for Infrastructure  
DAERA = Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs  
NMDDC = Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
NIHE = Northern Ireland Housing Executive  
RDP = Rural Development Programme  
BIG = Big Lottery Funding  
HLF = Heritage Lottery Funding  
DfC = Dept. for Communities  
PLO = Private Landowners  
TNI = Transport NI  
CDRCN = Co. Down Rural Community Network  
PSNI = Police Service Northern Ireland  
SNI = Sport NI  
NIW = Northern Ireland Water  
NIEA = Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
HLF = Heritage Lottery Funding  
Priv = Private Sector
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