

Whitecross and Ballymoyer

Village Renewal and Development Plan

Addendum and Updated Action Plan: December 2017

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



1. Introduction

The Village Renewal and Development Plan (Village Plan) was produced for Whitecross and Ballymoyer 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. Whitecross - Review of 2012 Action Plan

		2012 Action Plan					2017 Update			
	Action substantially complete									
	Ongoing									
	Major constraint to implementation									
	New Project									
Regeneration Initiative		Key Stakeholders	Priority	Time frame	Potential Funders	Actions	Progress @ Dec 2017	Priority H, M, L	Time frame	Actions
1. Community Facilities										
1.1	Drop in Centre	WCA, NMDC, Priv	L	L	Priv, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study to establish the need 	No progress to date, however it is an important project and should remain in plan.	L	L	See 2012 actions.
1.2	Replacement of Bus Shelter and Creation of Community Garden.	WCA, NMDDC, TNI	L	M	NMDDC, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study Design work Statutory approvals Installation of bus shelter and works associated with Community Garden. Translink have advised that at present there are no plans to change bus stops in the near future. They will work with the community if changes are needed to fit into the proposed schemes. 	<p>Bus shelter had been repaired.</p> <p>Issues with funding for future upkeep and maintenance of community garden.</p>	L	M	See 2012 actions.
2. Environmental Improvements										
2.1	Gateway Signage & Artwork	WCA, NMDDC, Priv, PS, TNI, DCAL, AC	L	S	NMDDC, RDP, AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study Design work Statutory approvals Installation of gateway signage and artwork. 	Still an issue within the village and has been ongoing for previous 6-10 years. Project remains priority for community as village lacks provision of gateway signage.	H	S	See 2012 actions.

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2.2	Introduction of Planting Beds	NMDDC, WCA, Priv, TNI	L	M	NMDDC, Lot, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation Management and Maintenance. 	<p>Project carried out, however community were disappointed with the quality of the work. The future maintenance of the planted areas was very poor.</p> <p>Future scheme should be implemented in close partnership with the community.</p>	L	M	Engage with NMDDC regarding a new scheme to improve the green areas in Whitecross in close partnership with the community and surrounding residents.
2.3	Traffic Management Scheme including traffic calming measures along Tullyah Road and Kingsmill Roads. Also replacement of road signs.	TNI, NMDDC, WCA	H	S	TNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of feasibility of traffic calming measures. Consultation with TNI Road improvement works 	<p>No progress to date.</p> <p>Community highlighted that these roads remain a high priority and are becoming increasingly dangerous for pedestrians.</p> <p>Project to remain in plan as high priority.</p>	H	S	See 2012 actions.
2.4	Improvements to pedestrian access routes and pavements.	NMDDC, TNI, WCA	M	S	NMDDC, RDP, TNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of feasibility of pedestrian crossing point. Consultation with TNI, road improvement works. Design and installation of new footpath surfacing. 	<p>Speeding remains an important issue in Whitecross.</p> <p>Small scheme carried out, however footpath width and maintenance is deemed a considerable issue throughout the entire village. Additionally, the Brae View Project has not been carried out which aimed to provide a footpath for children using the bus. Project to remain in the village plan.</p>	H	S	<p>See 2012 actions.</p> <p>A future scheme should also include the review of streetlighting and street furniture (bins, seating etc).</p>

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3. Tourism, Leisure and Recreation										
3.1	All weather pitch Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).	WCA, NMDDC, SNI, DCAL, PS	H	S	NMDDC, Lot, RDP, SNI, DCAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study Design work Statutory approvals and construction of MUGA. 	<p>No progress to date.</p> <p>Limited land at the GAA grounds has been a constraint. A study of other suitable sites should be undertaken.</p> <p>Project to remain a high priority within the plan.</p>	H	S	See 2012 actions. This should commence with a scoping study to identify suitable sites.
3.2	Play Park Upgrade	NMDDC, WCA	M	M	NMDDC	Community have highlighted the need to upgrade the play park. The recent NMDDC Play Strategy suggests that no immediate action is required. The community should continue to engage with NMDDC on the play park facility and potential opportunities for upgrades in the future.				
3.3	Highway to Health & Outdoor gym equipment.	GAA, NMDDC, WCA, Priv. Landowners.	M	S	RDP, NMDDC, Fund Raising	<p>Potential to provide a walking path with outdoor adult fitness equipment around the perimeter of the GAA grounds.</p> <p>Explore funding options and design the project.</p>				
3.4	Ballymoyer Forest	WCA, NMDDC, Tourism NI, Forest Service	M	M/L	RDP, NMDDC, Tourism NI	<p>The community highlighted the potential of Ballymoyer Forest as a community recreational asset. Currently underutilised. This may include the installation of picnic areas, open space and interpretive panels.</p> <p>To consider the potential of a scoping study which would present options and costs for this project. This will influence the future business case should the project proceed.</p>				
4. Infrastructure and services										
4.1	Extension of footpath along the side of the playground to join St Killian's Park and St Killian's GAC entrance.	NMDDC, TNI, WCA	M	M	TNI	Design and installation of new footpath surfacing	No progress to date, however remains and important project.	H	S	See 2012 actions.

4. Ballymoyer - Review of 2012 Action Plan

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	New Project										
Regeneration Initiative		Key Stakeholders	Priority	Time frame	Potential Funders	Actions	Progress @ Dec 2017	Priority H, M, L	Time frame	Actions	
1. Environmental Improvements											
1.1	Gateway Signage & Artwork	WCA, NMDDC, Priv, PS, TNI, DCAL, AC	M	S	NMDDC, RDP, AC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study Design work Statutory approvals Installation of gateway signage and artwork. 	No signage installed. Community stated that the visual appearance of the village is undermined as a result. Ballymoyer requires adequate gateway signage to enhance the identity and character.	H	S	See 2012 actions.	
1.2	Introduction of Planting Beds adjacent to grass area.	NMDDC, WCA, Priv, TNI	M	S	NMDDC, Lot, RDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation Management and Maintenance. 	No progress to date.	M	S	See 2012 actions.	
1.3	Refurbished Street Furniture.	WCA, NMDDC	H	S	RDP, NMDDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake refurbishment works. 	Community highlighted that there is a lack of seating for older people within the village.	H	S	Engage with NMDDC in relation to the provision / upgrading of street furniture. Community to consider suitable locations for new seating.	
2. Infrastructure and Services											
2.1	Traffic Calming Measures along Ballymoyer Road.	TNI, NMDDC, WCA	H	S	TNI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of feasibility of traffic calming measures. Consultation with TNI Road improvement works. 	No progress to date. Speeding continues to be a very important issue and is also linked to the provision of gateway signage.	H	S	Consult with TNI regarding implementation of signage / traffic calming measures.	

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2.2	Extension of Footpath along Ballymoyer Road to join existing footpaths on the Lower Aghincurk Road and Ballymoyer Road.	NMDDC, TNI, WCA	H	S	TNI	Design and installation of new footpath surfacing	No progress, footpath urgently needed to create safe access for local residents.	H	S	Engage with TNI and local representatives to raise awareness and encourage action in the short term.	
2.3	Lighting Provision along proposed footpath extension.	DRD, WCA, NMDDC, TNI	H	S	NMDDC, TNI	Design and installation of new street lighting	No progress to date. Very important issue.	H	S	Engage with TNI in conjunction with Action 2.1 & 2.2	

Priority:	H = High M = Medium L = Low		Delivery Agents, Funders and Stakeholders:			
Timeframe:	S	1-3 years	AC	Arts Council	PSNI	Police Service of Northern Ireland
			NMDDC	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	SHSCT	Southern Health and Social Care Trust
			DCAL	Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure	SELB	Southern Education and Library Board
			Lot	Lottery Funding	SNI	Sport Northern Ireland
	M	3-7 years	TNI	Transport NI	WCA	Whitecross Community Association
			RDP	Rural Development Programme		
			NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency		
			NIHE	Northern Ireland Housing Executive		
	L	7-15 years	DfI	Department for Infrastructure		
			DARD	Department for Agriculture and Rural Development		
			TNI Priv	Tourism NI Private Sector		