



Cookstown
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHEANTAR NA COIRRE CRÍOCHAÍ
DISTRICT COUNCIL O COOKESTOUN



Cookstown District Council

A lasting legacy 1973 - 2015

1970s

Cookstown District Council was established in 1973 as a result of local government reorganisation. Elections took place for the new district on 30 May 1973 and the new district council came into power on 1 October 1973.

1990s

In the early 1990s Cookstown District Council embraced economic development and took responsibility for improving the District's towns and villages. District-wide regeneration was a catalyst for advancement, creating jobs and a sense of civic pride in villages.

In 1999, the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre opened on the site of the former Town Hall on the Burn Road, Cookstown and began to attract large scale cultural and artistic events. The venue was one of the first regional arts venues to be built.

2000s

In 2003 Cookstown District Council in conjunction with Cookstown Town Centre Forum launched Cookstown's ten-year Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan setting out a range of short, medium and long range regeneration actions.

The Mid Ulster Sports Arena opened in 2004 at a cost of £2.5 million. The state of the art sports

facility became the centre of excellence for sports provision throughout Mid Ulster.

In late 2009 the civic heart of Cookstown, the Burn Road, benefited from an Environmental Improvement Scheme and the area continues to host outdoor events.

2010-2015

Northern Ireland hosted the 2013 World Police and Fire Games. Mid Ulster Sports Arena was the only venue to host events outside of greater Belfast.

In 2013 Davagh Forest Trails was opened to the public. The purpose built mountain biking trails were complimented by a play park and riverside and woodland walking trail. The facility has attracted thousands of visitors.

In 2014 Cookstown also beat off stiff competition from across the UK and Ireland to be shortlisted as one of the top four finalists in the Town Team of the Year award.

During it's more than 40 years of existence Cookstown District Council facilitated significant levels of investment and regeneration in the area, creating an innovative, vibrant and entrepreneurial District Council area.

Cookstown District Council Chairs 1973 - 2015

1973 - 1977	Alexander McConnell	Ulster Unionist Party
1977 - 1985	Victor McGahie	Ulster Unionist Party
1985 - 1991	Alan Kane	Democratic Unionist Party
1991 - 1997	Samuel Glasgow	Ulster Unionist Party
1997 - 1998	Sean Begley	Sinn Féin
1998 - 1999	Pearse McAleer	Sinn Féin
1999 - 2000	Walter Greer	Ulster Unionist Party
2000 - 2001	James McGarvey	Social Democratic & Labour Party
2001 - 2002	Pearse McAleer	Sinn Féin
2002 - 2003	Patsy McGlone	Social Democratic & Labour Party
2003 - 2004	John McNamee	Sinn Féin
2004 - 2005	Trevor Wilson	Ulster Unionist Party
2005 - 2006	Patsy McGlone	Social Democratic & Labour Party
2006 - 2007	Pearse McAleer	Sinn Féin
2007 - 2008	Ian McCrea	Democratic Unionist Party
2008 - 2009	Walter Greer	Democratic Unionist Party
2009 - 2010	Tony Quinn	Social Democratic & Labour Party
2010 - 2011	John McNamee	Sinn Féin
2011 - 2012	Sean Clarke	Sinn Féin
2012 - 2013	Tony Quinn	Social Democratic & Labour Party
2013 - 2014	Pearse McAleer	Sinn Féin
2014 - 2015	Wilbert Buchanan	Democratic Unionist Party



Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council

A lasting legacy 1973 - 2015

1970s

Dungannon District Council was established in 1973 as a result of local government reorganisation. The Council was made up of the former rural and urban Dungannon Councils, Clogher rural council and a small portion of Armagh rural council.

1980s

In 1988 Dungannon District Council became the first Council to introduce power sharing. In 1989 Dungannon Park was opened, providing both local people and tourists with a venue to rest, relax, play sport, fish, play and attend concerts. Over the years Council developed the facility to become a popular visitor location incorporating a fully serviced caravan park, rainbow trout fly fishery, tennis courts, barbeque area and orienteering trail and play park.

1990s

In 1999 Dungannon District Council was awarded Borough status. The honorary status was granted by royal charter. Borough status allowed council's chairperson to be called "Mayor" and allowed Council to award Freedom of the Borough. The Council thus became known as Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council.

2000s

In 2001 the d'Hondt system was adopted by Council. The process allowed the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor to be allocated according to party size.

2010-2015

In 2011 Darren Clarke became the first and only person to receive the Freedom of the Borough. The golfing legend and Dungannon native received the accolade after he won at the 140th Open Championship.

The newly refurbished Hill of O'Neill and Ranfurly House and Visitors Centre was opened in October 2012. The Council led project, housing an events facility and visitor information centre, was dedicated to the O'Neill chieftains who ruled Ulster from their seat on the hill above Dungannon.

During its 42 years in existence the Council paved the way with important social and economic milestones. The Council also sustained a high level of service delivery while maintaining a rates freeze for five consecutive years.



Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council Chairs/Mayors 1973 - 2015

1973-1978	Lieutenant Colonel John H Hamilton Stubber	Ulster Unionist Party
1978-1986	William Ralph Brown	Ulster Unionist Party
1986-1987	Robert Mulligan	Ulster Unionist Party
1987-1988	Derek Irwin	Ulster Unionist Party
1988-1989	Jim Canning	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1989-1990	Anthony McGonnell	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1990-1991	Michael McLoughlin	Independent
1991-1992	Jim Cavanagh	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1992-1993	Vincent Currie	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1993-1994	Patsy Daly	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1994-1995	Jim Canning	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1995-1996	Jim Cavanagh	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1996-1997	Vincent Currie	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1997-1998	Jim Cavanagh	Social Democratic& Labour Party
1998-1999	Jim Canning	Independent
1999-2000	Jim Cavanagh	Social Democratic& Labour Party
2000-2001	Patsy Daly	Social Democratic& Labour Party
2001-2002	Francie Molloy	Sinn Féin
2002-2003	Jim Cavanagh	Social Democratic& Labour Party
2003-2004	Sean McGuigan	Sinn Féin
2004-2005	Robert Mulligan	Ulster Unionist Party
2005-2006	Francie Molloy	Sinn Féin
2006-2007	Jim Hamilton	Ulster Unionist Party
2007-2008	Barry Monteith	Sinn Féin
2008-2009	Maurice Morrow	Democratic Unionist Party
2009-2010	Robert Mulligan	Ulster Unionist Party
2010-2011	Michelle O'Neill	Sinn Féin
2011-2012	Kenneth Reid	Ulster Unionist Party
2012-2013	Phelim Gildernew	Sinn Féin
2013-2014	Sean McGuigan	Sinn Féin
2014-2015	Roger Burton	Democratic Unionist Party



Magherafelt District Council

A lasting legacy 1973 - 2015

1970s

Magherafelt District Council was established back in 1973 as a result of local government reorganisation. The new council took power on 1 October 1973 with a mission, 'to improve the quality of life of its 45,000 inhabitants.'

The Council area covered 214 square miles and stretched from the shores of Lough Neagh and the River Bann in the east to the Sperrin Mountains in the west. The Council was comprised of 16 elected representatives. The first location of the Council offices was at the former Mid Ulster Hospital site in the town. In 1978 the chain of office was presented to the Council Chairman by the Northern Bank. In the same year Councillor Mary McSorley became the first female Member of Council.

1980s

The Armorial Bearings for the Magherafelt District Council were designed by Lancaster Herald of Arms, and the grant to the Council was made by Letters Patent, dated 8 April 1982.

1982 saw the opening of the Greenvale Leisure Centre. The Centre went on to house the first 50m swimming pool in Northern Ireland in 2012.

In 1984 Magherafelt District Council first recognised Seamus Heaney, the poet laureate, with a Civic

Reception. Another civic event followed in 1995 to recognise Heaney's Nobel Prize for Literature. In June 2012 8,000 people welcomed the Olympic torch to Magherafelt. Magherafelt District Council organised a series of events to mark the occasion. The events included a carnival, a collaborative arts project and 3,206 school children came together to form the famous Olympic rings. They set a Guinness World Record.

1990s

In 1993 Magherafelt District Council moved from the Queen's Avenue site to a location on the Ballyronan Road in the town. These facilities were further extended and were officially opened in 2005.

2000's

Meadowbank Sports Arena which opened in October had the largest indoor sports arena of its type in Europe with a playing surface of approximately 10,000 M2.

By the late 2000s Magherafelt District Council had developed the idea of a Seamus Heaney interpretative Centre. It was envisaged that the Centre would be a permanent exhibition of the works of Seamus Heaney and become a popular visitor attraction. The plans came to fruition with the opening of the Seamus Heaney Homeplace facility in September 2016 by Mid Ulster District Council.



Magherafelt District Council Chairs 1973 - 2015

1973-1977	Patrick Heron M.P.S.N.I.	Social Democratic & Labour Party
1977-1981	Rev. William McCrea	Democratic Unionist Party
1981-1986	P.J. Sweeney	Social Democratic & Labour Party
1986-1990	Mary K McSorley	Social Democratic & Labour Party
1990-1991	P A Kilpatrick	Social Democratic & Labour Party
1991-1992	Robert Montgomery	Ulster Unionist Party
1992-1993	Mary K McSorley	Independent
1993-1994	P A Kilpatrick	Social Democratic & Labour Party
1994-1995	Robert Montgomery	Ulster Unionist Party
1995-1996	John Hurl	Sinn Féin
1996-1997	P H McErlean	Social Democratic & Labour Party
1997-1998	Patsy Groogan	Sinn Féin
1998-1999	Robert Montgomery	Ulster Unionist Party
1999-2000	F J McKendry	Social Democratic & Labour Party
2000-2001	Robert Montgomery	Ulster Unionist Party
2001-2002	Oliver Hughes	Sinn Féin
2002-2003	Rev William McCrea	Democratic Unionist Party
2003-2004	Kate Lagan	Social Democratic & Labour Party
2004-2005	Patsy Groogan	Sinn Féin
2005-2006	Sean Kerr	Sinn Féin
2006-2007	Ian Milne	Sinn Féin
2007-2008	Paul McLean	Democratic Unionist Party
2008-2009	Kate McEldowney	Sinn Féin
2009-2010	Sean McPeake	Sinn Féin
2010-2011	Anne Forde	Democratic Unionist Party
2011-2012	Ian Milne	Sinn Féin
2012-2013	Paul McLean	Democratic Unionist Party
2013-2014	Catherine Elattar	Sinn Féin
2014-2015	Kate McEldowney	Sinn Féin