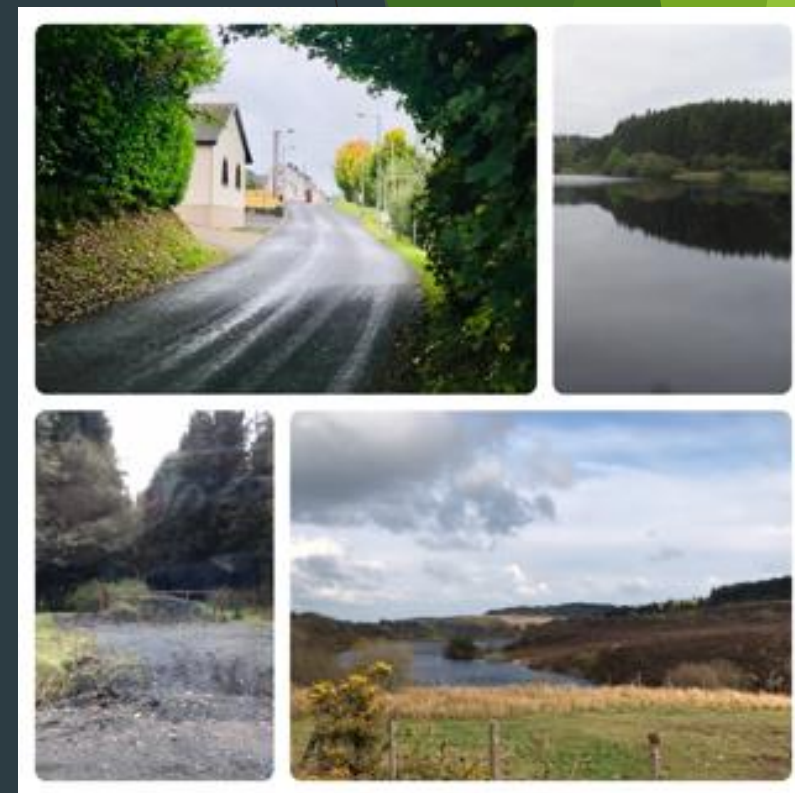


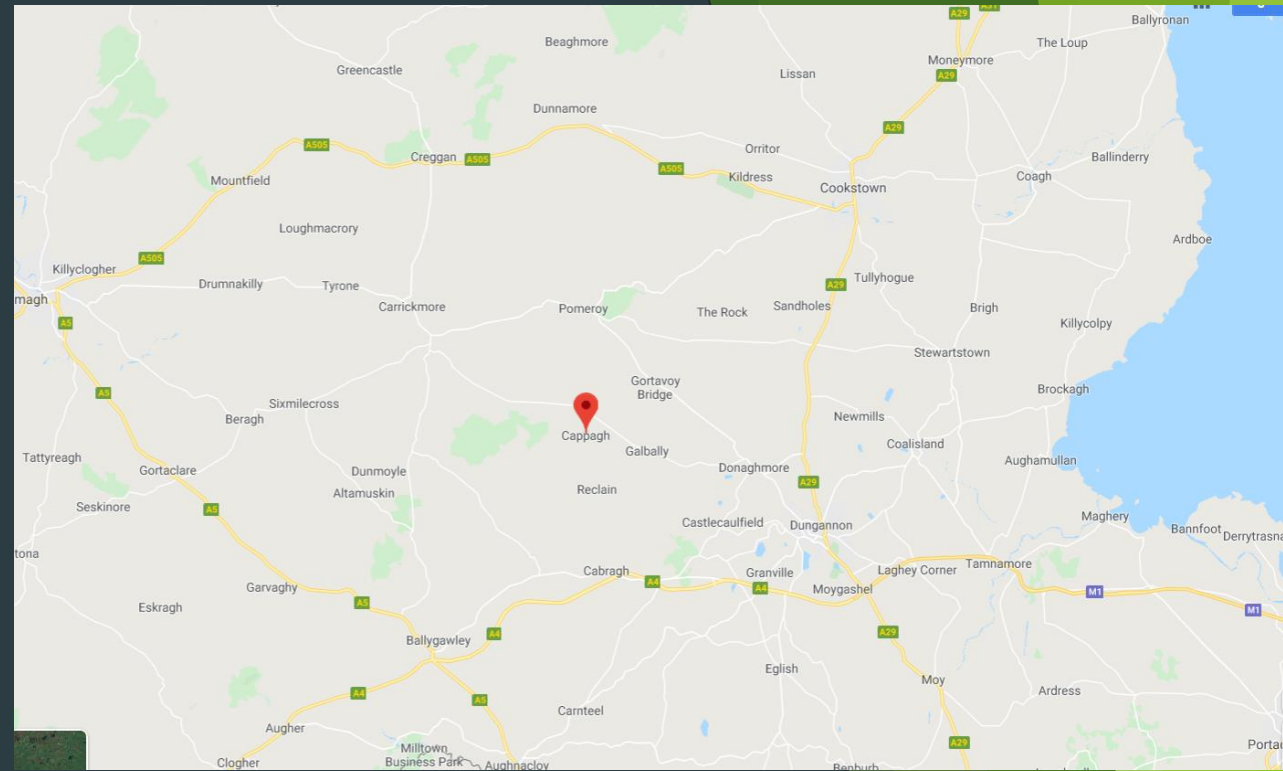
CAPPAGH VILLAGE REGENERATION GROUP (CVRG)





Who are we?

- Established in 2009
- Local citizens
- Voluntary committee
- Do not receive any core funding
- Aim- To support community development & regeneration in village & surrounding area
- Small rural village, within Altmore Ward of Torrent DEA



What have we done..

- Completed a Community Audit to establish need
- Established Welcome signage to the Village
- Secured funding and enabled Altmore Lay by to be regenerated and physically enhanced
- Acquired hanging baskets in Village following initial securing of funding for this, which Council has maintained annually
- Annual Festive programme with village Christmas Tree
- Delivered a heritage based project (Book launched, events etc)
- Secured community engagement programmes and activities e.g. craft classes, sewing workshops, upcycling
- Health and well-being initiatives
- Installation of Defibrillator
- Contributed to the Village Plans for Cappagh area





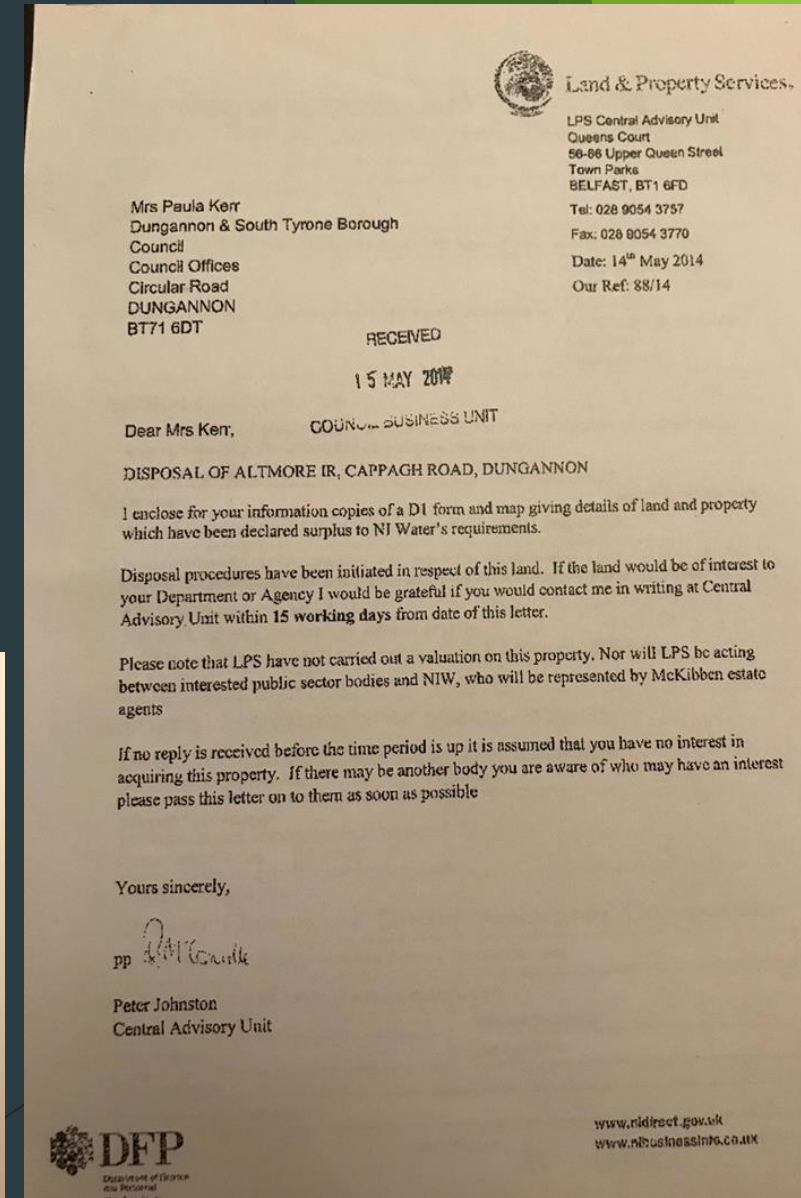
Reality of our village....

- ▶ Deprivation
- ▶ Ownership
- ▶ Unable to access funding
- ▶ Continuous lack of investment
- ▶ Neglected and Forgotten
- ▶ Challenges faced to date



Key opportunities for Cappagh village....

- NI Water identified both reservoirs were surplus to requirements
- Series of meetings held by Senior Officials and Elected Representatives of DSTBC, DARD, Water NI, Forest Service
- Council tasked to explore disposal and work with CVRG to develop project
- Commitment from DSTBC and Outdoor Recreation (appointed by Council) that masterplans would be developed to incorporate Forest Service areas and ownership issues would be addressed



Excitement

Altmore hydroelectric plant brings power to the people!

By MATTHEW DAWSON

HYDROELECTRIC power could be coming to Dungannon - and saving taxpayers money!

A plant could potentially be sited at two disused reservoirs at Altmore, near Cappagh. Ireland if it were to come to fruition.

And Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council is expected to formally express an interest in buying the reservoirs at next week's full Council meeting.

Presently the reservoirs are publicly owned but they are to be sold off and local Councils are being given the first opportunity to express an interest in purchasing the property.

a hydroelectric plant which would then link in with the main grid.

Hydroelectricity is produced through the use of the gravitational force of falling or flowing water and is the most commonly used form of renewable energy in the world, and this would be the first of its kind in Northern Ireland if it were to come to fruition.

The electricity generated would be sold to the electricity supplier and the money would then go into the Council coffers, and hopefully help keep rates down for the people of Mid-Ulster.

With the success of the facility at Tullyvar in bringing money into the Council, it is hoped this scheme could be of similar benefit.

The idea had first been forwarded to the Council two years ago

Altmore Reservoir, Cappagh. dd2360

by residents in Cappagh, but now an opportunity appears to have presented itself for the Council to act.

And Ulster Unionist Councillor Walter Cuddy, who has also

been elected to the new Mid-Ulster District Council, has stated his hopes the plans will become a reality.

Speaking to the Courier, Cllr Cuddy said: "It would be a real

cash cow if we could grasp this opportunity and it would take the pressure off the ratepayers.

"I see it as a really good opportunity and with the price of elec-

tricity going up and up if we had something going into the grid the return out of it would keep price with inflation and it will be for the benefit of everyone in Mid-Ulster."



Tyrone Times

£1.10

email: news@tyronetimes.co.uk

web: www.tyronetimes.co.uk

Thomas Street
Dungannon
Tel: 028 8775 2801
Fax: 028 8775 2819

IN
TODAY'S
PAPER

WIN
up to
£500

FREE
BINGO

with
BINGO
today.co.uk

See page 29 for details

TYRONE'S FIRST EVER ECO-VILLAGE

By ANTHONY QUINN

AMBITIOUS plans to make a Tyrone village self-sufficient in terms of electricity are underway after a community group unveiled the proposal at a meeting of Dungannon District Council.

Cappagh Village Regeneration Group said they are seeking guidance with their plans to create an hydroelectric power plant at the site of two disused reservoirs in Altmore.

If the scheme gets the go-ahead the group hopes to build at least two

turbines at the reservoirs, which were previously owned by NI Water.

The proposal was raised at last month's meeting of Dungannon Council's Strategic Committee, and was welcomed by local councillors who have agreed to help the group progress with the plans.

Sinn Féin Councillor Mickey Gillespie said the plans are at an early stage, but that the power plant would be a great boon to the area, and supply free electricity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Review of Public Administration arrived



- Within DSTBC 2010 Area Plan Cappagh had Village Status and MUDC proposed removal of village status in its Preferred Options Plan of the Local Development Plan
- CVRG and local residents campaigned to secure Village Status for Cappagh
- Impact of MUDC's consideration of removing Village Status was immediately evident in the council only considering towns and villages (in the POP) for "Town and Village Spruce Up" scheme using and therefore Cappagh excluded from applying.
- Further impacted on regeneration opportunities within the Village area
- CVRG contributed to renewed Village Planning process - continuing to prioritise the Reservoir/Forest potential
- Engaged with The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership given Heritage value
- Highlighted potential funding opportunities to Officers and Elected representatives (e.g. DEARA's Environment Fund, Village Renewal, Lottery Opportunities etc)



Renewed Interest

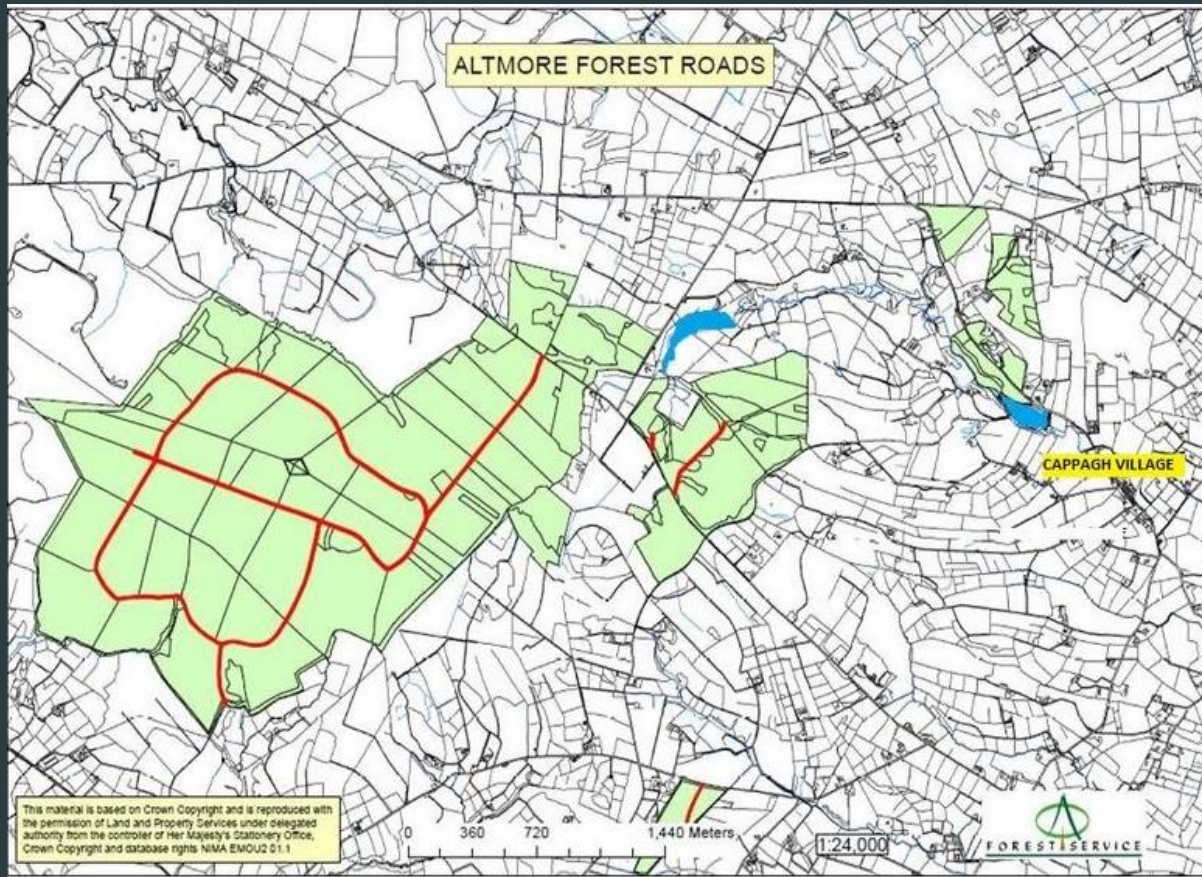
- Elected Representatives and Council Officials
- Inclusion in key strategies
 - MUDC Parks and Play Five Year Strategic Plan
 - MUDC Outdoor Recreation Five Year Strategic Plan
 - Seen what MUDC have delivered in other areas
 - Invitation to visit and gain an appreciation







Ownership



“Public Sector Family” manage a significant land area within the Cappagh Village vicinity
Altmore Forest (579 Ha)

Potential Development

LAND BASED ACTIVITIES	WATER BASED ACTIVITIES
Walking	Angling
Cycling	Sailing
Running	Canoeing
Orienteering	Water ski
Archery	Diving
Gardening	Triathlon training
Sensory based activities	Rafting
Trim trails	Jet Ski
Equestrian	
Play provision	

Associated programme of events

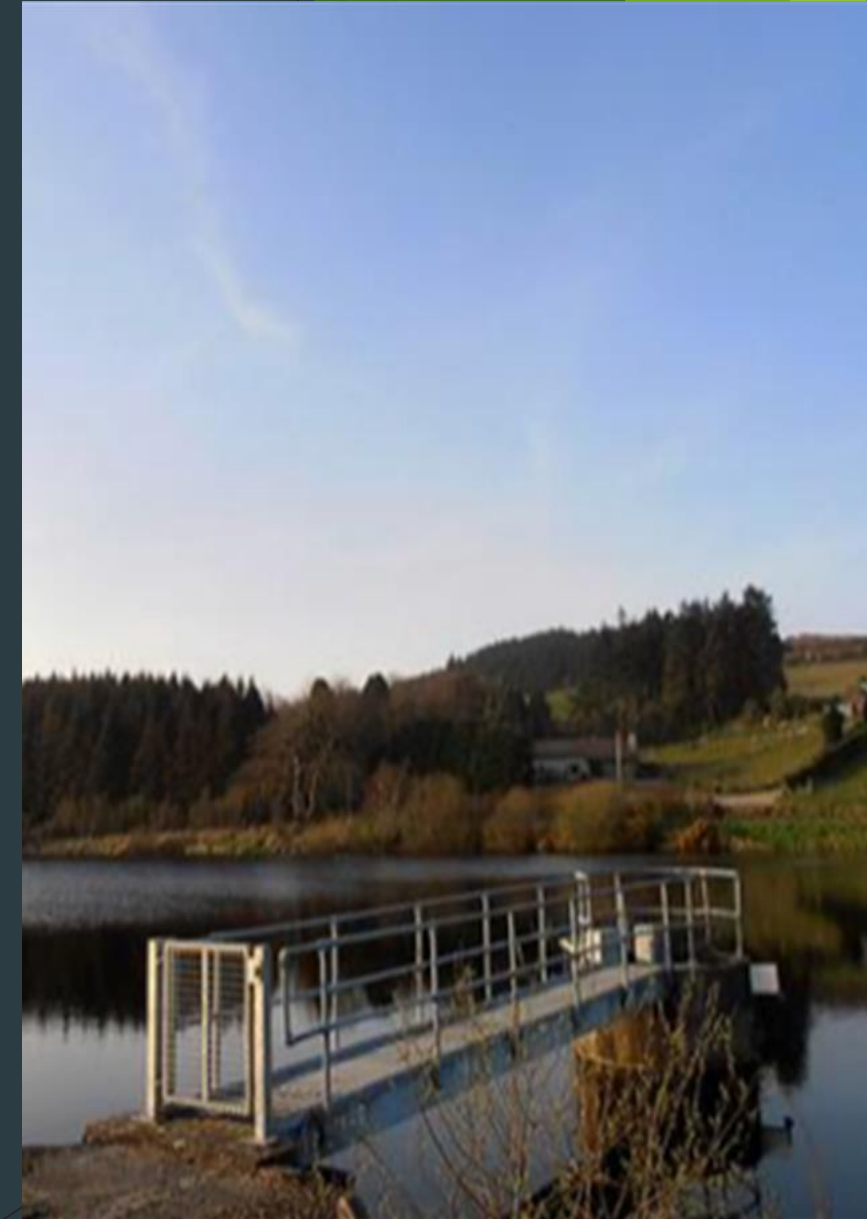
Potential Development explored

- ▶ Altmore Forest could reach its potential enabling the enjoyment of this asset by visitors and local citizens as it could create opportunities for walking, cycling, running, events, creative industries, forest schools
- ▶ Tourism and visitor potential given the significant cultural and heritage links within the area to King James, General James Shields, Barracktown House, the O'Neill Family, Earl of Tyrone and the ancient highway. Showcasing heritage of the area through interpretation to increasing tourism potential, including the creation of standout and unique selling points.
- ▶ Visitor servicing, provision of amenities, parking, potential overnight accommodation provision (Caravanning, pods and camping/glamping etc.)
- ▶ Sustainability and Renewable energy opportunities, particularly around hydro
- ▶ Biodiversity trails enhancing education and awareness of flora and fauna and the ecosystems
- ▶ Play provision for both local need and visitor appeal (all ages)
- ▶ Sensory gardens, trails and links to O'Neill family Herb and Medicinal Gardens
- ▶ Multipurpose health, education, recreation facility with community use
- ▶ Delivery of service provision in rural area (e.g. Healthy Living Centre)
- ▶ Arts, Culture and Heritage



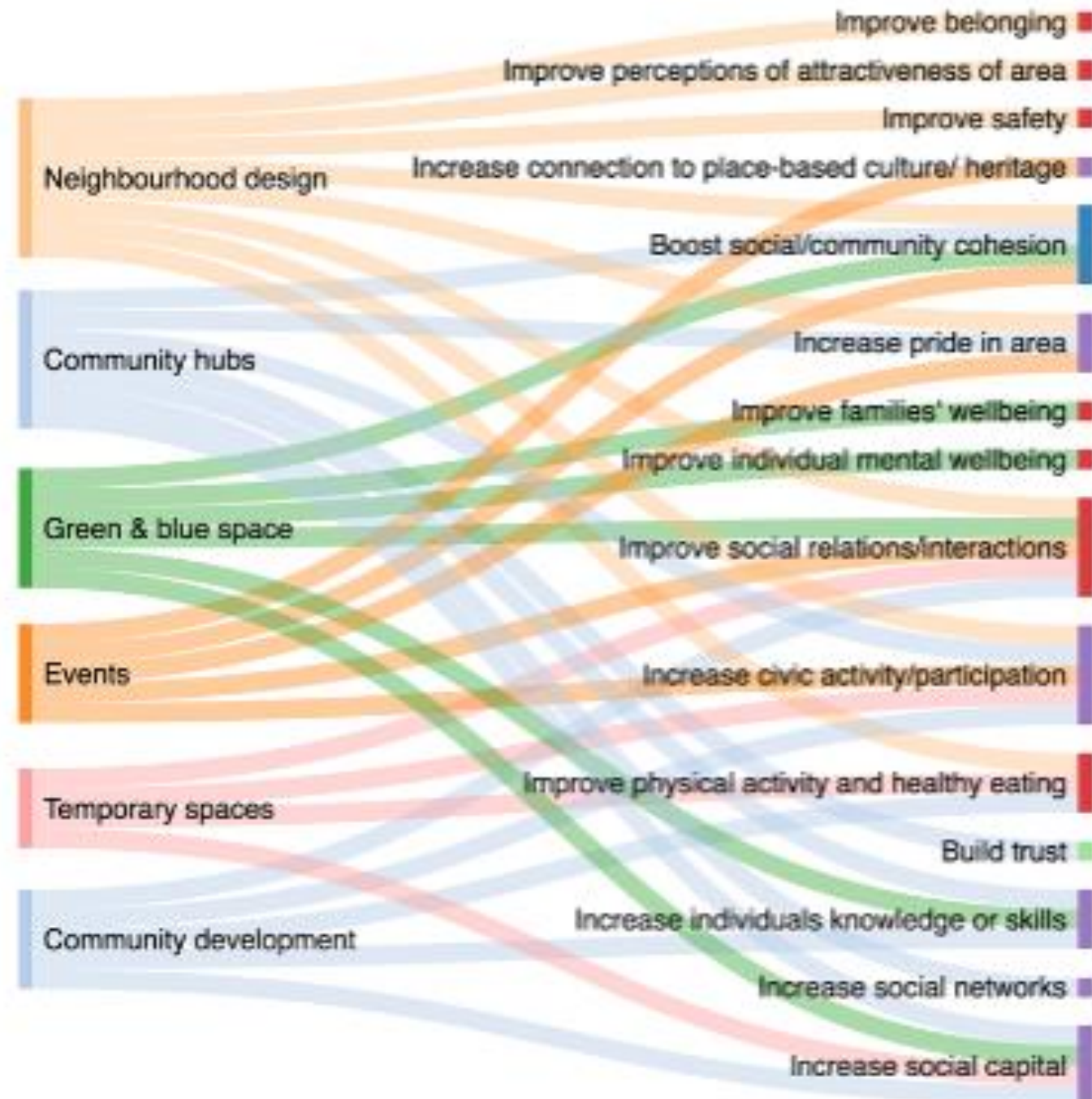
Value and Advantage

- ▶ Gamechanger for Cappagh and Altmore
- ▶ Unique opportunity for Mid Ulster District Council to demonstrate civic leadership
- ▶ Create a leading, award winning flagship facility for play and outdoor recreation
- ▶ Unlock the tourist potential by creating a “Must See visitor destination and visitor experience”
- ▶ Exceed local needs and become a social, physical, and economic driver
- ▶ Drive investment to ensure this project reaches its potential
- ▶ Regenerate Cappagh and stimulate further economic and investment opportunities
- ▶ Sustain the local assets for benefit of citizens and visitors
- ▶ Community development approach with co-design and co-production
- ▶ Sustainable approaches
- ▶ Enhance health and well-being, education,
- ▶ Community engagement, participation and address social isolation
- ▶ Improve quality of life
- ▶ Civic pride





Impact and Outcomes



Next steps

- ▶ Address Ownership Issues
- ▶ Holistic perspective of the area and its potential
- ▶ Council must demonstrate leadership and commitment to invest in building civic pride and regenerating Cappagh
- ▶ Catalyst for other opportunities and investment
- ▶ Capacity
- ▶ Support



What is MUDC commitment to the Cappagh area?