

**A**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Thursday 10 November 2016 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,  
Magherafelt**

<b>Members Present</b>	Councillor Molloy, Chair  Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, McAleer, McEldowney, T Quinn, J Shiels, G Shiels and Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities Mr Browne, Head of Tourism Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Mr Hill, Head of Parks Ms Linney, Head of Community Development Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts Ms Grogan, Committee Services Officer
<b>Others in Attendance:</b>	<b>Agenda Item 4: Bellaghy Village Regeneration</b> Damian McConomy and Jean Bonner Councillor Ashton

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

**D237/16      Apologies**

Councillors McNamee and C O'Neill.

**D238/16      Declaration of Interests**

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

*Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Community Development Report*

*Councillor Elattar declared an interest in Castledawson Play Park Proposal - NI Housing Executive*

*The Director of Business and Communities recommended that all members declare an interest in Dungannon Enterprise Centre which was being raised under Economic Development.*

**D239/16      Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that he had received an email from the Island Wheelers regarding the Round 5 of the Ulster Cyclocross League which was held at Windmill Wood, Dungannon. The club congratulated the Council on the excellent condition of the park and passed on their thanks and appreciation.

## **D240/16      Bellaghy Village Regeneration**

The Chair, Councillor Molloy welcomed representation from Bellaghy Village Regeneration to the Committee. Mr Damian McConomy and Ms Jean Bonner delivered a presentation on the work carried out by Bellaghy Village Regeneration and their vision for the future. Mr McConomy advised that NEST would be an all-ability learning environment, focusing on participation and inclusion for all. NEST would be a not for profit “community interest company” Their Mission is “to provide a safe, supportive place for people for all abilities and their families to learn and develop through a state-of-the-art learning environment”.

*Councillor J Shiels left the committee at 7.18 pm and returned at 7.26 pm.*

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation and advised it clearly shows there is a gap for support for parents for disabled children and the barriers and prejudices that it shows.

Councillor McAleer strongly agreed that this was an excellent idea and was fully aware of the lack of support families receive when they have disabled children.

Councillor McEldowney also agreed that the NEST initiative was an excellent idea and advised that she was aware of the struggles a family with a disabled child can have. She said that this was the case within her own family as her relatives have never had a family holiday altogether.

Councillor Elattar said that this initiative was really needed in the area and a lot of invaluable work being carried out to date by the organisation. She enquired what the organisation would like the Council to do and how they intended to use the premises during the day.

Ms Bonner advised that they were looking at organising toddler and baby groups as early intervention was critical to progress and also at classes to provide courses and essential skills. This would be an opportunity to support families and take away social exclusion.

Mr McConomy stated that when public meetings were held it demonstrated a real eye-opener for the support that it generated. He advised that parents of disabled children indicated that there was nothing for children over the age of 18.

Mr McConomy said that the group would like to have their base within the annex of the Seamus Heaney HomePlace.

Councillor Elattar enquired if the annex would provide enough space for the group.

Mr McConomy advised that currently in his opinion there would be adequate space.

Ms Bonner said that she would envisage training being provided to help young adults prepare for employment through work skills programmes.

Councillor Forde advised that this was badly needed within the area as there were no facilities for disabled children and young adults. She enquired if it would be the group's intention to work with the schools to give a little bit of extra education in that field.

Ms Bonner said that it was the group's intention to work with schools in supporting them from primary to secondary education. She advised that the group would encourage school visits as this may offer support to the children concerned and hoped to cater up for up to 20 people at one time.

Councillor Wilson advised that it was a very impressive presentation and showed the excellent work that was carried out and needed. He enquired if the Seamus Heaney Centre wasn't available what would happen, but would like to help in other ways.

Mr McConomy said that they were here tonight to ask the Council for the use of the Seamus Heaney HomePlace; provision within the annex and if not would like to seek out other alternatives within the Bellaghy area. He said that if possible the preferred site would still be the HomePlace.

Ms Bonner advised that Mid Ulster Enterprises are also investigating other ideas for the group and that they would be open to suggestions as long as the base was accessible with up to date facilities.

The Chair asked would it be possible for officers to seek out alternative areas if required as it was up to the Council to try and help the best way they can.

The Chair thanked representatives for their presentation at which they left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that the Director of Culture and Leisure had a conflict of interest with the proposal and that he would take the lead with the group. The group were providing a magnificent service to the area and would like to help progress this. He said that he would investigate what options were open to helping Bellaghy Village Regeneration group and would bring back suggestions to a future meeting.

Councillor Elattar said that it would be her fear that the group would outgrow the annex space, but that this was a much needed facility in Bellaghy. She said that as Seamus Heaney HomePlace was a flagship centre, it should be considered as Seamus Heaney was about poetry and bringing everyone together like children and all the community. She felt that the group should avail of the annex and if not a good alternative sourced and provided as this was much needed.

Councillor Wilson said that his only concern would be if other groups were also interested in taking over the annex.

Councillor Elattar advised that it was her understanding that the group were promised a space within the Seamus Heaney HomePlace and have worked towards this.

The Director of Business and Communities said that from a Mid Ulster prospective that a scope to investigate options would be sought.

Councillor Cuddy said that if there wasn't an alternative to this site there was a need for consistency as there are so many other villages in a similar position.

The Director of Business and Communities said that Council would investigate what options, including alternative locations were open to helping Bellaghy Village Regeneration group and would bring back suggestions to a future meeting.

**D241/16      Confirmation of Development Minutes held on Thursday 13 October 2016**

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 13 October 2016 (D214/16 to D230/16 and D236/16), were considered and signed as correct and accurate.

**Matters for Decision**

**D242/16      Castledawson Play Park Proposal**

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek Council approval for the acquisition of a parcel of land adjacent to 29-31 Parkview, Castledawson from Northern Ireland Housing Executive to facilitate the transfer of the existing community play facilities from Housing Executive to Council ownership.

Councillor Forde advised that this was very beneficial to the community as the children in the area are availing of this play area.

Proposed by Councillor Forde  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to seek the transfer of land and play equipment from Northern Ireland Housing Executive to Council ownership subject to agreement and available resources.

**D243/16      Support to Schools/Sports Clubs for the Provision of Sports Facilities for Community Use**

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report asking for consideration towards the approach to aiding schools/sports clubs which provide Floodlit Synthetic Pitch Sports facilities to the community where there is a defined need.

It was noted that the report at Eligibility bullet point six should read within the current financial year.

*G Shiels left the meeting at 7.50 pm.*

Councillor Burton raised concern about Option 1 as there seems to be a lot of bureaucracy for groups and schools to manage. She said that when funding is allocated it seems to be the top tier sporting groups that get their share and the lower sporting groups don't get the same support. She felt that this was an opportunity to increase funding from £5,000 to £7,500.

The Head of Leisure advised that in order for a club to be considered for funding they would first have to apply to receive it.

The Director of Culture and Leisure said that the budget within the leisure grants programmes had only £50k underspend in the Capital Sports grants up to March 2017 and within the grants programmes all sporting groups are eligible to apply. She advised that she had taken advice from Williamson Consulting and they advised that the programme has to be open to all sports so consistency by the Council is demonstrated and not susceptible to legal or equality issues.

Councillor J Shiels advised that the three top sporting groups like GAA, rugby and soccer were well financially supported and wondered if there was an opportunity for all other sports to give them a boost.

The Director of Culture and Leisure referred to appendix 1 and said it showed these other clubs have a lot of facilities and the relative amount of funding given to individual participants and clubs was quite low. She said that all grants were open to all clubs as that's the way they are designed.

Councillor J Shiels said that the more support going into a club the more they will receive. He said that smaller groups like badminton clubs may only get a minimal funding grant for i.e. racquets or something small and there was a need to encourage more of an uptake.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Elattar and

To proceed with the recommendation.

*Councillor Wilson declared an interest in this item as his son was a member of Cookstown Hockey Club.*

Councillor Wilson said that the GAA provides their own pitches and this was not a fair and equitable situation. He stated that when Stormont pick a particular sport they stick with it and there was a need to be fair.

Councillor Wilson raised concern about the lack of consistency between the areas as he said that Hockey was a major sport in Cookstown, but that Dungannon get a higher proportion of funding due to their Service Level Agreement from their legacy Council era. He also raised concern about soccer clubs in Cookstown getting more than the

hockey club even though there's more of an uptake. He felt that it wasn't fair and equitable and discriminates against certain clubs.

Councillor Burton referred to minutes where it indicated Dungannon Hockey Club did not provide its own grounds and stated that was why they were provided with a Service Level Agreement. She said that it would be very worthwhile if funding was made available within the budget to provide a three year programme to ensure sustainability when the hockey season takes off again next year. She also stated that certain hockey clubs are league winners and needed the support of the Council.

Councillor Cuddy advised that the original site of Dungannon Hockey Club was on an old gravel facility at Drumcoo and in recent years moved to the Royal School with a certain amount of funding being allocated at the beginning. He said that he fully understood the top three sports getting top tier funding but felt that other teams like hockey should also be acknowledged. He added that the GAA have the best facilities and are still being funded by SportNI and other government bodies. He felt that it was unfortunate that Dungannon Ladies Hockey team haven't got a facility in Dungannon and if nothing was sorted it will result in the team becoming obsolete.

The Chair enquired if the Royal School and Dungannon Hockey Club could both make a separate funding application or was there only an opportunity to make a joint application.

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that a joint application for funding would need to be made as the Royal School would need to make the application on behalf of Dungannon Hockey club.

Councillor J Shiels referred to option 2.5 and raised concern that the grant eligibility does not mention about outside school hours and felt that this should be included.

Councillor Wilson proposed to proceed with option 2 but increase funding to £10,000

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that there was no additional budget available above the £5,000.

Councillor Elattar advised that there was a lot of schools providing their premises free to sporting clubs and asked that the Council consider this option next year as it would be putting additional funding back in. She felt that everyone should have the opportunity to apply for funding and that it should be equal across the board, but felt that increasing funding wasn't equal.

Councillor Clarke advised that he would still agree to the proposal but felt that another discussion should be held to find a way forward. He suggested that another forum be arranged to see how to develop clubs and their progress. He said that he believes that all sports help the community through physical and mental health and that this was the key.

Councillor Wilson raised concern about the £7,000 being allocated to Dungannon Hockey Club through the Service Level Agreement which resulted in other areas being overlooked. He agreed with Councillor Clarke's suggestion that another discussion

needed to take place so there was an equal share of funding for all sports and not just for the top three.

Wilson withdrawn his proposal.

Councillor Cuddy advised that Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club has had their funding cut by 80%, but that was the fault of the old legacy Dungannon Council which is now going to disadvantage the club.

The Head of Leisure advised that it was the Royal School which was funded and not the Dungannon Ladies Hockey Club.

Councillor Burton said that she still stood by the idea of looking at the budget to try and find funding somewhere and that going forward she would propose looking at a three year plan for minority sports in the Mid Ulster area to show sustainability.

Councillor J Shiels said that he would be happy to second Councillor Burton's recommendation and to discuss next month the provision for a three year plan.

Councillor McEldowney said that the GAA raises their own funding through raffles and going door to door with ticket sales etc. She said that she would agree with the sentiments of Councillor Clarke.

Proposed by Councillor Burton  
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

To proceed with Option 2 on the basis of that consideration be given to implementing a three year support programme for the development and sustainability of sports clubs from the next financial year.

Members voted on Councillor Burton's proposal:

For – 10  
Against – 2

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to Option 2 - introducing a new Revenue Grant Programme with a budget of £50,000 and a maximum award of £5,000 per annum entitled Schools' Sports Facilities Access Grants. Both schools and sporting clubs could apply for the use of facilities at schools. This would ensure equality of support across all sports and areas. Consideration be given to implementing a three year support programme for the development and sustainability of sports clubs from the next financial year.

## **D244/16      Good Relations Working Group Report – 11 October 2016**

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention the previously circulated report to seek approval for meeting reports of the Good Relations Working Group held on Tuesday 11 October 2016.



Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted for the Good Relations Working Group Report.

**D245/16      Ulster Scots Funding – US Grants Presidential Homestead**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform the Committee of the Ulster-Scots funding opportunity to further develop and enhance the existing U.S. Grant Presidential Homestead.

*Councillors Burton and McAleer both declared an interest in COSTA.*

Councillor Burton stated that she agreed that a facelift to President Grant's would be very welcome but would be concerned about the sitting tenant as they feel that they have very little option but to move out of the dwelling as they haven't an agreement.

The Head of Tourism said that this was only upscaling the animation and would only be integrating other things in the programme and incorporating the upgrading of the facility. He said it wasn't the Council's intention to upset the sitting tenant and would not impose the position and would be more than happy for them to remain at the site.

Councillor Cuddy said that there weren't as many visitors going to the President Grant's Homestead due to the new A4 bypass and was concerned that there wasn't adequate signage to encourage visitors to go to the site. He enquired if there was any chance to tap into the American funding link as it was a valuable part of the community and heritage.

Councillor McAleer felt that if adequate funding and signage was allocated towards President Grant's it could become popular again.

The Head of Tourism said that investigations have been ongoing with US links and within Mid Ulster approximately 20 sites have been identified which was a very good start.

Councillor J Shiels referred to the townland of Gorteade, in Maghera which was the birthplace of Charles Thomson who was the Northern-Irish-born Patriot leader during the American Revolution and Secretary of the Continental Congress and enquired if there was any way to capitalise on this through the US links.

The Head of Tourism acknowledged the importance of the site at Maghera and advised that recently it has come to light and would need to work on this to see what can be achieved as there was a need to attract funding from somewhere.

Councillor Doris enquired if there were any discussions held with COSTA on how they feel about the situation.

The Head of Tourism advised that discussions are ongoing, but would be happy to go along with Councillor Burton and have a discussion with the group.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to commence with the collaboration with the Ulster-Scots Agency and proceed to establish a partnership agreement to govern the implementation of the project.

#### **D246/16      Davagh Forest Dark Skies**

The Head of Tourism drew attention to the previously circulated report to seek approval to extend the Teague & Sally, Cookstown Architectural Services in preparation for a green book appraisal for the Dark Skies, Davagh Forest project. The Head of Tourism advised the Committee that the Council has been allocated £2m by Heritage Lottery to develop a secured action plan for and around Davagh.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to £6,200 extending to Teague & Sally, Cookstown Architectural Services contract to include the glamping pods in preparation for a green book appraisal for the Dark Skies project at Davagh project.

#### **D247/16      Economic Development Report**

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- 1) Strategic Issues**
  - Roads Infrastructure and Broadband Provision
  - Cookstown Social Security Offices
- 2) Mid Ulster Skills Forum**
- 3) Granville Industrial Estate (GIE)/Industrial Land Survey**
- 4) Department for Communities (DfC) Funding**
- 5) Maghera Development Framework**
- 6) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum**
- 7) Shop Improvement Scheme**
- 8) Town Centre Positioning Study**

Councillor Burton advised that outlying rural villages should be part of this consultation exercise regarding Dungannon and would suggest that this be taken on board. She referred to the meeting tonight and felt that more time needs to be given to discuss issues regarding Dungannon.

The Director of Business and Communities agreed that particular attention is needed for Dungannon town. As directed by Members he would ensure a

consultation exercise with Members specific to Dungannon town and seek the views of other stakeholders.

#### **9) Evaluation of Town Centre Events**

- **Maghera Walled Garden 2016**
- **Cookstown Continental Market 2016**
- Councillor J Shiels referred to the great success the “Blooming Good Fun” day was. He said that the community felt that the venue needs to be used a whole lot more as it had proved how good a success the events can be. He also stated that it would be beneficial to focus on putting the site forward for certain tourism awards.

The Head of Tourism agreed that the Walled Garden was an incredible site for events and subject to weather, would investigate the possibility of having Halloween events there.

The Head of Tourism referred to the Halloween event which took place at the Hill of the O'Neill and advised that the fireworks display was set off behind the Hill at the old army garages as had to change location from previous year due to the new Event Space.

He advised that between 3,000–4,000 people were in attendance to see the display and due to a freak weather cloud it had to be called off. He said that all the major fireworks have been stored so that they can be used for the Christmas event instead.

Councillor Wilson said that he attended the event and couldn't praise the efforts of the staff enough on how well they handled the situation when the fireworks didn't go off. He said that his only concern would be that there were gangs of youths loitering inside Ranfurly House and removing items from the walls and felt that this situation needed addressed.

Councillor Wilson said that he wanted to give full credit to all staff who made all the Halloween events a success.

#### **10) Rural Development Programme Business Plans – Select List**

#### **11) NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

##### **1) Strategic Issues**

- i) **Roads Infrastructure and Broadband** – Members to note progress
- ii) **Retention of Cookstown Social Security Offices** – Members to note progress

##### **2) Mid Ulster Skills Forum**

Members to note progress

**3) Granville Industrial Estate/Industrial Land Study**

Members to note progress

**4) Department for Communities (DfC) Funding – Cookstown**

Approving the investigation and consideration of funding application.

**5) Maghera Development Framework**

Members to note progress

**6) Magherafelt Town Centre Forum**

Members to note progress

**7) Shop Improvement Scheme**

Members to note progress

**8) Town Centre Positioning Study**

Members to note progress. Outlying rural villages to be made aware of consultation exercises on Dungannon.

**9) Town Centre Events Evaluation:-**

**i) Maghera Walled Garden Evaluation** – Members to note Evaluation Report on Maghera Walled Garden 2016

**ii) Cookstown Continental Market** – Members to note Evaluation Report on Cookstown Continental Market 2016

**10) Rural Development Programme Business Plans – Select List**

The appointment of both BD Consultancy and Mid Ulster Enterprise Partnership at a cost of £500 (including expenses and excluding VAT) to the Select List to deliver high quality Business Plans for up to 50 applicants to the Rural Development Programme until 31 March 2017.

**11) NI Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Members to approve Corporate Membership costing £2,500 and review benefits after 12 months.

**D248/16      Community Development Report on Community Grants, Peace IV, Community Planning and PCSP**

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to:

- 1) Seek approval for community grant award recommendations
- 2) Update on progress of the development of Peace IV
- 3) Update on progress of Community Planning Mid Ulster
- 4) Note the minutes of the PCSP

Councillor Burton asked that COSTA be included into the circulation list for community planning updates.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted to:

**1) Community Grant Award Recommendation**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council to grant approval to the Community Grant Award recommendation.

**2) Peace IV**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that members note the progress on Peace IV and approve the removal of the 3 main towns from the shared space element of the plan; with the funding transferring to shared space community grants.

**3) Community Planning Progress**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that members note the progress on Community Planning. COSTA to be included on the circulation list.

**4) PCSP Minutes**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that members note the content of PCSP Minutes.

**Matters for Information**

**D249/16 Community Development Update Report**

The Head of Community Development drew attention to the previously circulated report to update on progress relating to the Community Development Section as of the end of September 2016 on the following areas:

**1) Community Support – Grants, Community Support, Advice, Village Planning, Community Centres**

- 2) **DSD Neighbourhood Renewal**
- 3) **PCSP**
- 4) **Good Relations**
- 5) **Community Planning**

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the contents of the report on Community Development.

#### **D250/16 Parks Service Progress Report**

The Head of Parks drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members of the progress being made regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future.

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the contents of the report on Parks Service Progress.

#### **D251/16 Leisure Services Progress Report**

The Head of Leisure drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members of the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlight events that will be occurring in the future.

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the contents of the report on Leisure Services Progress.

#### **D252/16 Culture and Arts Progress Report**

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to update Members on the progress being made in Culture and Arts Services and highlight events that have occurred during the months of October. Also to identify events and activities within Culture & Arts Services that will be occurring in the future.

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the contents of the report on Culture and Arts Progress.

#### **D253/16 Seamus Heaney HomePlace Opening Period of Events**

The Head of Culture and Arts drew attention to the previously circulated report to provide Members with an update on the opening period of events and activities of Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy and to highlight events and activities that will be occurring within the facility in the future.

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to the Council that Members note the contents of the report on Seamus Heaney HomePlace Opening Period of Events.

#### **D254/16 NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020**

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report to update members on progress with the interim rural development strategy for Mid Ulster.

The schemes within the local rural strategy are:

- Rural Business Investment Scheme
- Rural Services Scheme
- Village Renewal
- Rural Broadband; and
- LAG Co-operation

Proposed by Councillor  
Seconded by Councillor

**Resolved:** That it be recommended to Council that Members note the contents of the report on NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

### **Confidential Business**

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved:** That items (D255/16 to D260/16) be taken as confidential business.

### **D261/16 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.25 pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**B**



<b>Subject</b>	<p>1) Study on derelict and vacant properties in Dungannon</p> <p>2) Avonline Broadband – Superfast Pilot Scheme</p> <p>3) Shop Improvement Scheme</p> <p>4) Maghera Town Centre Wi-Fi</p>
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an update on key activities as detailed above.
<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p><b>Study on derelict and vacant properties in Dungannon</b></p> <p>In order to tackle the issues of derelict and vacant units and lack of suitable retail accommodation, it was agreed that a paper be prepared on dilapidated properties and ways to address same.</p>
2.2	<p><b>Avonline Broadband - Superfast Pilot Scheme</b></p> <p>Council officers met with representatives from Avonline Broadband a UK provider of satellite broadband services. The purpose of this exploratory meeting was to brief officers on Avonline's Superfast Pilot Scheme currently been run out across NI.</p>
2.3	<p><b>Shop Improvement Scheme</b></p> <p>In February 2016 Council approved 116 projects under the Shop Improvement Scheme. Letters of Offer were issued to 72 projects with the remaining 44 projects being placed on a reserve list subject to further funding becoming available.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Maghera Town Centre Wi-Fi</b></p> <p>Maghera is the last of the 5 towns requiring Wi-Fi. The current situation whereby there is no accessible Wi-Fi service is a detriment to the people who use the town Centre.</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p><b>Study on derelict and vacant properties in Dungannon</b></p> <p>Following a procurement exercise, Place Solutions have been appointed to take forward a paper to consider long term vacant and derelict properties in Dungannon town centre and potential measures/interventions for the units to be transformed to provide modern retail accommodation.</p>

3.2	<p><b>Avonline Broadband – Superfast Pilot Scheme</b></p> <p>Councils across NI have been presented with the details of the scheme with some already taking it up and promoting it across their regions. The scheme is offering up to 30Mb down and 6 Mb upload Next Generation 2 Broadband services. It will not replace superfast fibre broadband however can act as an infill solution in the short term to broadband problems in rural areas. It is ideal for businesses (however open to consumers as well) and appears to offer competitive rates to its customers. As part of its promotion Avonline has offered to run a pilot scheme in Mid Ulster at no cost to Council. Council must now identify an area to participate in the pilot.</p> <p>Avonline has agreed to help participants to complete an application to apply to the Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) Voucher Scheme (aimed at rural areas that do not receive a fibre connection) and if eligible will receive a voucher to the value of £350 to cover hardware and installation of the service.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Shop Improvement Scheme</b></p> <p>Funding has been secured from Department for Communities to fund 24 projects in Cookstown and Dungannon. The remaining 20 projects in Magherafelt, Coalisland and Maghera will be funded from within existing Council budgets. A procurement exercise was undertaken to appoint Architects to manage the projects on the reserve list. McCarter Hamill Architects have been appointed to manage the projects on the reserve list.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Maghera Town Centre Wi-Fi</b></p> <p>Wi-Fi Spark have been appointed to deliver a public Wi-Fi System in Maghera town centre including the design, delivery, implementation and on-going management for a period of 3 years from suitable qualified suppliers.</p> <p>Wi-Fi Spark have carried out initial survey work and Wi-Fi should be in place by end of December 2016.</p>
4	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b> N/A</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human</u></b> Officer time.</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b> N/A</p>
4.4	<p><b><u>Other</u></b> N/A</p>
5	
5.1	N/A
6	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	<p><b>Study on derelict and vacant properties in Dungannon</b> Members to note progress</p>
6.2	<p><b>Avonline Broadband –Superfast Pilot Scheme</b> To consider participating in the Avonline Superfast Broadband Pilot Scheme.</p>

6.3	<b>Shop Improvement Scheme</b> Members to note progress.
6.4	<b>Maghera Town Centre Wi-Fi</b> Members to note progress.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	None

C

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Community Development Report</b>
	<b>Community Grant Approvals</b>
	<b>Peace IV</b>
	<b>Community Planning</b>
	<b>PCSP</b>
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Claire Linney, Head of Community Development</b>

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To seek approval for community grant award recommendations
1.2	To update on progress of the development of Peace IV local plan and agree the Peace IV Regional Shared Space concept
1.3	To update on Community Development
1.4	To update on the progress of Community Planning Mid Ulster

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<b>Community Grants</b> The Grant Aid Programme for the 2016/17 financial year facilitates applications being made on a rolling basis for Community Festivals and Good Relations.
2.2	<b>Peace IV</b> Council has submitted a Peace IV local action plan submission for Mid Ulster District. Council is working on the potential submission of a Peace IV Regional Shared Spaces project for Pomeroy.
2.3	<b>Community Development Update</b> An update is provided on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Support – Grants, Community Support, Advice, Village Planning, Community Centres</li> <li>• PCSP</li> <li>• DSD Neighbourhood Renewal</li> <li>• Good Relations</li> <li>• Community Planning (facilitation)</li> </ul>
2.4	<b>Community Planning</b> Council as part of its legislative remit is facilitating the development of a Community Plan and process for Mid Ulster.

<b>3</b>	<b>Update</b>
3.1	<p><b>Community Grants - Rolling Grant Aid Programmes</b></p> <p>Good Relations - a total of 4 Good Relations grant applications, with 2 award recommendations; one failed to meet the minimum threshold and one is funded activity under strategic community development grant.</p> <p>Community Festivals – a total of 2 Community Festivals grant award recommendations.</p> <p><b>See attached paper Appendix 1.</b></p> <p>To seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals grant award recommendations.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Peace IV</b></p> <p>A decision on the Local Peace IV Action Plan is due mid December 2016.</p> <p>Council has been liaising with the local community in Pomeroy with regard to the submission of a Regional Peace IV Shared Space project focusing on Pomeroy Forest. The following concept has been agreed through local consultation:</p> <p>Pomeroy Forest Concept</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a new building in the forest (location of old school) approximately size 8000-10,000 sq ft to house a multi-use hall (used for arts, sports, community), changing &amp; shower facilities for internal and forest use, toilets for internal and forest use and a couple rooms for flexible meeting, activity use, link existing car park and do a tidy, shrub clearance and overall tidy of existing buildings (management of the building will be Rowantree Centre Management)</li> <li>• Development of interactive and fun child friendly trail (using one of the existing trails and including interactive items based on the theme of a magical forest similar to CS Lewis space and Newry)</li> <li>• Development of the public realm to the forest from the village – upgrade of paving along street, safety barriers along street and some safety painting, continuation of lights from village to Rowantree forest entrance, parking provision signage/access, development of the link from St Elizabeth II primary school to main public footpath accessing via the Church Grounds surfacing (tarmac) and safety barrier wall to road.</li> <li>• Development of a 3G MUGA approx. 20 x 30 at the back of the School/Church and edge of Rowantree entrance to the forest for both school use (during school time day) and wider evening community use.</li> <li>• Animation &amp; Capacity Building Programme to support events and activities led by Community within the forest and to develop the capacity of the management committee in relation to representation and delivery of the project.</li> <li>• Community benefit/gain projects include a new build at the Church of Ireland on existing site (approx.. £450,000) and GAA changing facility (approx.. £400,000)</li> <li>• Design fees and Administration (Council technical support) for capital delivery elements</li> </ul> <p>Overall cost is £3.7million</p> <p>Issues for Council: to work alongside the Rowantree Management Group in the delivery of the programme including overseeing all capital development. The project elements will all be managed by the Community.</p> <p>The lease on the forest site will be with Council with a service level agreement with the Rowantree Centre for management. It is envisaged that a clause may be inserted for</p>

	<p>Council that will provide assurance that the building in the forest will remain for community use.</p> <p>It is proposed to submit an application to SEUPB for a Pomeroy Shared Space project under Peace IV with Council as lead delivery and partner with Rowantree Centre for management with community groups responsible for the management of their own facilities. The outcome of the submission in light of any potential of letter of offer and conditions will be brought to Committee and Council.</p> <p>Support for the proposed application is being provided by Venturei; however upon opening of the application process SEUPB has now requested design concepts and outline planning. It is proposed that this is facilitated at a cost of £5000 within budget.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Community Development Update</b></p> <p>An update is provided on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Support – Grants, Community Support, Advice, Village Planning, Community Centres</li> <li>• PCSP</li> <li>• DSD Neighbourhood Renewal</li> <li>• Good Relations</li> <li>• Community Planning (facilitation)</li> </ul>
3.4	<p><b>Community Planning</b></p> <p>The public consultation on the draft community plan opens on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December and will close on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>Public consultation sessions on the draft Community Plan are scheduled as follows:</p> <p><b>Public Consultation Sessions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 7th December 2016, 2pm - 4pm, Council Offices, Cookstown</li> <li>• Wednesday 14th December 2016, 7pm - 9pm, Council Offices, Dungannon</li> <li>• Wednesday 18th January 2017, 7pm - 9pm, Council Offices, Cookstown</li> <li>• Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017, 7pm – 9pm, Council Offices, Magherafelt</li> </ul> <p><b>Individual Appointment Sessions (20 minute slots)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 7th December 2016, 10am – 1pm Council Offices, Cookstown</li> </ul>

<b>4</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p>Community Local Festivals grants £1100 &amp; Good Relations grants £820</p> <p>Peace IV support for design concepts and outline planning for the proposed shared space project at a cost of £5000 within the existing budget.</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b></p> <p>To support with the development of design concepts for Peace IV Shared Space Project.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	None

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	To approve the Good Relations and Community Festivals grant award recommendations.
6.2	To note the Peace IV progress update and approve the Peace IV Regional Shared Space concept for submission to SEUPB and design support cost of £5000.
6.3	To note the Community Planning progress update.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	List of grant funding recommendations.



## **Appendix 1**

### **Community Local Festival – December 2016**

<b>No</b>	<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Bands</b>	<b>Amt Award</b>
1	Kildress Health Matters	Health & Wellbeing Fair	<b>£1,000.00</b>	6	£500.00
2	Dungannon Branch Comhaltas	Christmas Music Sessions	<b>£1,000.00</b>	5	£600.00
<b>Total</b>					<b><u>£1,100.00</u></b>

### **Good Relations - December 2016**

<b>No</b>	<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Bands</b>	<b>Amt Award</b>
1	NI Ex Firefighters Mid Ulster Association	Deceased Firefighters Service - Dublin	<b>£400.00</b>	1	£400.00
2	Northern Ireland Hospice Support Group	Bringing Churches & People Together	<b>£700.00</b>	5	£420.00
					<b><u>£820.00</u></b>

#### **Ineligible**

1. First Steps Women's Centre – Conversation Classes - core funded under Strategic Development
2. Dungannon Rangers Supporters Club - Christmas Dinner - did not meet threshold/TBUC Criteria

<b>Bands</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>%</b>
7	30-39	40%
6	40-49	50%
5	50-59	60%
4	60-69	70%
3	70-79	80%
2	80-89	90%
1	90-100	100%

**D**

**Subject:** Tender for Tourism Digital Strategy & Solutions

**Reporting Officer:** Michael Browne

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To appoint i3 Digital, Belfast to provide services in preparation and producing a Digital Strategy for the Mid Ulster Council Tourism Industry and providing digital solutions.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council in association with key stakeholders recently carried out an extensive study with BTS which resulted in the Mid Ulster Tourism Strategy 2016-21, and from this scope of work a Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, 2016-21 report was devised.
2.2	This report highlights key opportunities and the need to embrace and exploit digital technologies, communications and markets to promote, support and market the regions assets e.g. Heaney Country/Experiences, History and Heritage, Outdoor Activities and Events.
2.3	The Council now wishes to digitally promote existing and future tourism products and initiatives while stimulating economic growth, development and business opportunities via driving footfall and spend throughout the region/destination and to key visitor/customer touch points.
2.4	The Council also wishes to embrace digital technologies to deliver unique experiences and marketing communications whilst decreasing the level of printed material required and by doing so develop a quality digital engagement experience for the local resident and visitor to the district.
2.5	It is also the Council's desire to be innovative and deliver an exemplary market leading solution or solutions both to internal and external customers, i.e. our local residents, visitors national and international and the tourism trade.
2.6	It is imperative that the tourism digital strategy is aware of developments and strategies at a national and international level to ensure that the technologies meets the needs of all visitors.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	After carrying out procurement in accordance to the Council's policy, Mid Ulster Council wish to appoint a company with strong credentials and experience within the Digital & Tourism Industry, both locally and globally to work with the Council and key stakeholders to complete the project in 2 Phases.
3.2	<b>Phase 1.</b> Development and Delivery of Digital Strategy
3.3	To develop and deliver a digital strategy for the Mid Ulster Tourism Industry that will give a very clear roadmap with regards to the industry needs and will recommend how the Council will progress utilizing digital solutions for the specific areas listed in Phase 2.
3.4	The strategy will review and take its lead for the work that is being carried out by Tourism Northern Ireland regarding development and delivery of digital solutions at a national level, to ensure Mid Ulster District Council are aligning its digital approach. This will involve the development and delivery of a cohesive digital engagement strategy for the region.
3.5	<b>Phase 2.</b> Development and Delivery of Digital solutions and programs.
3.6	To develop a solution or solutions that will increase the visibility of Mid Ulster District Council tourism offerings to the local Northern Ireland and Eire population in an innovative and engaging manner.
3.7	To develop a solution or solutions that will present the visibility of the Mid Ulster District tourism offerings to an out of state audience which is mindful of different visitor needs such as language etc.
3.8	To develop an information solution or solutions for the Council's Visitor Information Centre's. The Bridewell, Burnavon, Ranfurly, HomePlace, but can also be used by the Councils strategic private sector partners
3.9	It is anticipated that the project will be delivered over two financial years with all of Phase 1 and part of Phase 2. being delivered before the end of March 2017 and Phase 2. being delivered April 2017 – March 2018.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources NA</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p>Finance for this project has been approved by council.</p>

4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b>  Officer time.
4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b>  <u>NA</u>
4.4	<b><u>Other</u></b>  NA

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	28 organisations submitted requests for the Specification and one Tender submission was returned by the deadline of 12noon on 4 November 2016. This was then opened by Vice Chair, Councillor Sharon McAleer and Linda Ferguson, Principal Procurement Officer, on 4 November 2016.
5.2	It was assessed on 7 November 2016 by a Panel consisting of Linda Ferguson, Principal Procurement Officer, Michael Browne, Head of Tourism and Barry O Hagan, Head of ICT.
5.3	As stipulated in the Specification, the Tender was assessed against pre-qualification/selection criteria and deemed compliant and then evaluated on a 80% quality and 20% cost basis with relevant weightings applied to each category.
5.4	The Council only received one submission for this project which was from i3 Digital, Belfast who scored 83% and the Panel recommended the appointment of i3 Digital Belfast at a cost of £69,000 excluding VAT.

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	<p>That Members approve the appointment of i3 Digital Belfast to prepare and produce a Digital Strategy for the Mid Ulster Council Tourism Industry and provide digital solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) At a total cost of up to £69,000 excluding VAT, with Phase 1 and part of Phase 2. being delivered before the end of March 2017 and the remainder Phase 2. being delivered April 2017 – March 2018.</li> <li>ii) Payment for the project be phased over two financial years with up to £25,000 of the work being delivered this financial year and the remainder of the work being delivered next financial year.</li> </ul>

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.0	N/A

**E**

**Subject** Holiday World Shows Belfast & Dublin 2017

**Reporting Officer** Michael Browne

**Contact Officer** Allison O'Keefe

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	Celtic Connections, Glasgow – 18 January 2017
1.2	Holiday World Show, Belfast – 20 – 22 January 2017
1.3	Holiday World Show, Dublin – 27 – 29 January 2017

2	Background
2.1	<p><u>Celtic Connections, Glasgow</u></p> <p>Tourism Ireland have been running the Celtic Connections trade event for a number of years and have recommended this event to attract the Scottish market. The B2B workshop and networking is attended by key travel professionals from all over Ireland and will provide the opportunity to meet with Scottish tour operators, travel agents, as well as local travel and lifestyle journalists.</p> <p>The event is also timed to coincide with Celtic Connections, Scotland's premiere winter music festival which also highlights our culture, which is a key component to in particular to our 'culturally curious' and Seamus Heaney audience.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Holiday World Shows, Belfast &amp; Dublin</u></p> <p>MUDC tourism section plan to showcase the region and its tourism product at the largest tourism consumer tourism shows in Ireland in January 2017. The Holiday World Shows are long established shows that were attended by MUDC staff and tourism trade.</p> <p>Last year the Belfast Show attracted just under 22,000 visitors, whilst Holiday World, Dublin saw over 42,000 visitors over 3 days. A mixture of new and existing potential customers from our largest growing markets, UK and ROI.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p><u>Celtic Connections, Glasgow</u></p> <p>Celtic Connections Workshop and Networking event in Glasgow is growing from strength to strength and is set to attract greater numbers of Island of Ireland Industry and GB travel trade in 2017. Taking place on 18th January the workshop will provide the opportunity to meet and connect with key GB trade over a series of 10-minute appointments. A dinner will follow the afternoon workshop giving further opportunities for networking. The Scottish market is showing good growth into Ireland (particularly into Northern Ireland +10% in 2016), so this is a vital event to attend for anyone looking to grow their business from this market.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Holiday World Shows, Belfast &amp; Dublin</u></p> <p>The shows provide a platform for tourism businesses to sell and promote their businesses. It is planned to invite trade from across the Mid Ulster Council area to attend and promote their businesses. Up to 8 businesses will possibly be facilitated on the stand. The tourism section in Council also plan to launch the new Mid Ulster Visitor Guide for 2017 on Friday 20 January 2017.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p><u>Celtic Connections</u> Flights, subsistence and mileage - £800</p> <p><u>Holiday World, Belfast</u> Stand hire, furniture, subsistence and mileage - £1,800</p> <p><u>Holiday World, Dublin</u> Stand hire, electrics, furniture, subsistence and mileage - £2,500</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human</u></b></p> <p>Celtic Connections – 2 staff for 1 day</p> <p>Holiday World, Belfast – 1 staff per day over 3 days</p> <p>Holiday World, Dublin – 2 staff per day over 3 days</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b></p> <p>n/a</p>
4.4	<p><b><u>Other</u></b></p> <p>n/a</p>



<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	N/A

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Tourism staff continue to attend the largest tourism platforms and target their largest growing markets as advised by Tourism Ireland and Tourism NI.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	N/a

**F**

**Subject** Process for the Provision of Artists and arts and craft Facilitators as part of Culture & Arts workshops and class delivery

**Reporting Officer** Tony McCance

1	Purpose of Report
1.1	To present to members and to seek approval for use of the proposed list of artists and arts and craft facilitators that have been identified, to form a select list of Artists/facilitators to be used for delivery of workshops and classes within Culture and Arts Service provision, delivered by Council, across the Mid Ulster region.

2	Background
2.1	In May 2016, Mid Ulster District Council sought formal requests from suitably qualified and experienced artists/facilitators, to provide tuition at arts workshops, and to be registered on a database of artists/facilitators to be held by Mid Ulster District Council.
2.2	Over the last number of months the Arts & Cultural Development Officer team working in conjunction with Mid Ulster District Council's Procurement Service Team have developed an agreed process for the appointment of Artists and facilitators to deliver key elements of the Culture and Arts Programme across the Mid Ulster region.
2.3	It is intended that artists/facilitators registered on the database will be called upon as necessary to fulfil requests to deliver workshops or facilitate projects delivered by Mid Ulster District Council.
2.4	In line with Mid Ulster District Councils procurement processes, a public advert was issued in May requesting submissions for the provision of tuition at Art workshops across the Mid Ulster District.
2.5	Tenders closed on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 and an assessment by Procurement Services and Arts & Cultural Service shortly followed
2.6	All tenders submitted were assessed in adherence to Councils Procurement processes.
2.7	Following the assessment process a list of successful artists/facilitators were identified under five general art form areas
2.8	The proposed artists/facilitators' register includes artists/facilitators from a wide range of disciplines across visual and performing arts, an overview of which is detailed in the table below.

	<b>Lot 1 - Visual Arts</b>		<b>Lot 2 - Craftwork</b>	
	Drawing/Painting		Basket Weaving	
	Printmaking		Ceramics/pottery	
	Textile Art		Floral Art	
			Furniture Upcycling	
			Fused Glass making	
			Home furnishings	
			Jewellery making	
			Knitting/crochet/macramé	
			Sewing/needlecraft	
			Wood craft – turning and carving	
	<b>Lot 3 – Performance Arts</b>		<b>Lot 4 - Digital</b>	
	Dance		Animation	
	Drama		Film Making	
	Living History		Photography	
	Music			
	<b>Lot 5 - Other please describe</b>			
	Arts & Crafts - e.g. card making, candle making, paper crafts, clay modelling.			
	Creative Writing			

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	Inclusion in the register is neither a commitment to nor a guarantee of work. Artists/facilitators however <i>must</i> be included in the register to be considered for use by MUDC.
3.2	This process has been initiated as a requirement of the <i>procurement of services</i> policy of Mid Ulster District Council.
3.3	It is proposed that Artists/facilitators registered on the database will be utilised to deliver workshops and classes up to March 2017 initially with the option of extending up to 2 years (until March 2019).
3.4	Future use of any Artists/facilitators (currently not registered) providing a service not currently covered or delivered under the art forms detailed in appendix 1, will be required to adhere to the normal procurements processes in order to become registered as an artist/facilitator with Mid Ulster District Council.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p>No additional cost implications to Council identified</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human</u></b></p> <p>Staff time and commitment only</p>
4.3	<p><b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.4	<p><b><u>Other</u></b></p> <p>None</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	Under the legacy Council arrangements Councils have historically been successful in encouraging, promoting and raising the profile of the arts by offering a wide range of arts and heritage classes/workshops to suit all age groups, targeting both able bodied and disabled people. As well as providing increased employment opportunities for local artists/facilitators, involvement in the arts for participants can: develop creative skills, progress new talents, and present opportunities to meet and work with other people. It can also improve interpersonal skills and self-confidence as well as overall health and well-being.
5.2	Mid Ulster District Council's Corporate Plan 2015 -2019, Mid Ulster District Council's vision and values are very much customer-focused – 'Designing and delivering our services in response to and around the needs of our customers and within our resources'.

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	It is recommended that the list of artists and facilitators identified (see appendix 1 for full list) and which will form a select list of approved artists/facilitators that will be utilised by Mid Ulster District Council, be approved.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 - List of proposed artists facilitators Culture And Arts programme

## Appendix 1 - List of proposed artists facilitators Culture And Arts programme

LOT 1 – Visual Arts	LOT 2 – Craft Work
ANDREA HARKNESS BARDIC/BEAM CAROLINE DILLON & ALYSON DOLLIN SALVAGE NI DASALEE - STEPHANIE HAZELTON & SHEILA OLDCROF DEBORAH MALCOMSON VISUAL ARTIST EOIN MCGINN GEORGE GOURLEY GRACE SCOTT GWEN STEVENSON HAZEL BUSBY KATHRYN NELSON LOUISA KELLY ARTIST LOUISE CAMPBELL LOUISE MCLEAN ATLANTIC CRAFT NICOLA BIRNIE	ALISON FITZGERALD ANNABELLES ATTIC BARDIC / BEAM CAROLINE DILLON & ALYSON DOLLIN - SALVAGE NI CIARA CAMPBELL CLARICE SMITH GEOFF TULIP - TULIP WOODCRAFTS GWEN STEVENSON LOUISA KELLY ARTIST LOUISE MCLEAN ATLANTIC CRAFT LYNDA B JEWELLERY AND CERAMICS SHAUNA MCCANN SINEAD GOODWIN - FLOWERS BY ARRANGEMENTS SIOBAHNA DUNPHY - BATH FIZZ & MELT
LOT 3 – Performance Arts	LOT 4 - Digital
BARDIC / BEAM BRIAN MCMAHON - B DRAMATIC CRAIC DONALD CANAVAN GWEN STEVENSON JUMP, JIGGLE & JIVE LARAGH CULLEN - TRI-ACT MARTINA MCGURRAN - MODERN COUNTY MOVES RYAN MCGARRITY SHEENA KELLY STEPHANIE LAVERY - TIME STEPS	BARDIC / BEAM CRAIC GWEN STEVENSON
LOT 5 – Other (Misc)	Unsuccessful/ineligible Submissions
BARDIC / BEAM BERNI MCGILL CAROLINE DILLON & ALYSON DOLLIN - SALVAGE NI CRAIC DEBORAH MALCOMSON VISUAL ARTIST GWEN STEVENSON HAZEL BOLAND - ARTIKLES HAZEL BUSBY JAMES MULLIGAN - YOUR GUITAR SUCCESS KATHRYN NELSON LIZ WEIR STORYTELLER LOUISE CAMPBELL LOUISE LOUGHRAN - DOLL FACE MAURA JOHNSTON NICOLA BIRNIE RODDY HEGARTY SHAUNA MCCANN TANYA TRIMBLE - JUMPING CLAY	LOT 5 - Matthew Thommason – Moonshine candles <i>Did not meet score threshold required</i>

**G**

**Subject: Update on application made to Heritage Lottery Fund**

**Reporting Officer: Michael Browne**

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update and inform Council on the application made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Sperrins.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	In 2014 Northern Ireland Environment Agency carried out a Landscape Character Assessment of the main landscapes in Northern Ireland. The assessment was based on the Natural England Document, "An approach to Landscape Character Assessment" and identified different landscapes based on their people and place and a combination of nature, culture and perception.
2.2	The process identified 26 discrete landscapes and this application is based on the Landscape Character Area No 12 known in the process as "The Carrickmore Plateau and Pomeroy Hills". It identifies this upland landscape as having an area of approximately 144km <sup>2</sup>
2.3	In Feb 2016 Mid Ulster Council together with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council used this landscape definition as a starting point for a full review and consultation process to examine a possible application to the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Landscape Partnership Scheme.
2.4	After an extensive research and community consultation process, this revised landscape assessment identified the following main heritage features that an application and proposal would focus on.
2.5	The area has been described as a preserved Neolithic landscape that has been forgotten and left encased in the natural upland blanket bog in the heart of Ulster.
2.6	With this in mind a working group was formed and the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership Scheme was worked up to application stage 1.
2.7	This project will protect one of the most significant areas of archaeological interest in the United Kingdom. The application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was submitted on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2016



2.8	The area has been described as a preserved Neolithic Landscape that has been abandoned and left encased in the natural upland blanket bog in the heart of Ulster.
2.9	This upland bog area has in turn become a significant and extensive landscape feature, providing an opportunity to capture significant levels of carbon and protect priority habitats. The landscape also is unique within the United Kingdom in having very low levels of light pollution and provides a great opportunity to create the first Dark Skies Reserve in Northern Ireland.
2.10	For too long, the landscape and the people who live there have become somewhat detached, isolated and disregarded. This application is an opportunity to reconnect people and increase the protection and awareness of this very unique and special place.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>The development of the Heart of Ancient Ulster project will address a number of important strategic and specific needs for landscape area. The needs and opportunities are detailed as follows:</p> <p><b>Community</b></p>
3.2	<p>There is a strong community spirit in the area and people have a very self-reliant approach to addressing the economic needs of the area. This strong interest could be tapped into to develop a volunteer based research and management team and to investigate the possible development of a long term community based heritage trust for the area.</p> <p><b>Strategic</b></p>
3.3	<p>The area is a wild isolated upland area in the centre of Northern Ireland with a dispersed isolated population. It is a very rural area with no major towns but rather three main villages. There is a major need to improve the overall awareness of the unique heritage of the mid ulster area, both to locals and visitors. The Councils and local communities have been strong in promoting the area but there has been little interest from mainstream statutory bodies responsible for promoting heritage tourism such as NI Tourism.</p>
3.4	<p>Many of the main natural built and cultural heritage sites and features have limited directional or information signage associated with them. Access to many of the sites is limited due to them being on private ownership. Car parking and Public facilities at these sites are also limited. There is therefore a need to provide a directional and information signage at most of these site.</p>

3.5	Addressing the access and research issues associated with the landscape will need a permanent team of staff based in the local community to develop strong working relationships with local landowners and farmers.
3.6	There is also the opportunity to develop smaller experimental archaeology practices such as bronze and gold smelting, weapon making, ancient calligraphy, flint knapping, rope making, animal husbandry, and plant lore.
	<b>Built Heritage</b>
3.7	The Landscape has high dark sky value due to the lack of settlement, in the landscape and the establishment of a recognised dark sky area has been explored by Mid Ulster Council and Fermanagh and Omagh Council and Armagh Planetarium. This could be developed more and particularly linked to the cosmological aspects of many of the bronze age stone circles and Neolithic tombs.
3.8	Many of the sites in the landscape have been covered over by the development of blanket and raised bog. It is estimated that over 60% of the archaeological sites in the area have still to be found and it is believed that there may be a whole patchwork of Neolithic wall systems in place. There is therefore a need to carry out an extensive surveying and research project involving local people.
3.9	There is limited replicas of the archaeological sites in the landscape. There is an opportunity to build some replicas of bronze age round houses or Neolithic long houses to learn about the ancient building process.
	<b>Natural</b>
3.10	A proportion of the blanket and raised bogs in the area have been planted on by the Northern Ireland Forest Service with Sitka Spruce, Lodge Pole and Norway Spruce. This has caused a particular problem when planted on the main SAC bogs, the Black Bog. The integrity of the sites has been lost.
3.11	There is an opportunity to work with NI Forestry to develop joint conservation plans. Whilst there are large areas of blanket bog which have been planted with conifers by Forest NI. there is very little deciduous woodland in the landscape area and virtually no ancient woodland.
3.12	An audit of the remaining remnants of ancient woodland or even individual trees could be carried out and seed collected and propagated (perhaps by TCV tree nursery or newly established nursery) to create a local gene bank. Trees produced could be used to plant up areas of woodland or hedges.
3.13	Large quantities of carbon are captured in the blanket and raised bogs in the landscape area and there is a need to make sure both these habitats are preserved and not damaged by peat extraction but that the carbon is

	<p>kept in situ and not released into the atmosphere and to ensure that they continue to sequester carbon through active formation.</p> <p><b>Cultural</b></p>
3.14	The Neolithic period is defined by the coming of farming and agricultural technology to Ireland. The Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape has been described as a preserved ancient Neolithic landscape and therefore there is an opportunity to develop strong links with the present farming community to tell the story of the history of farming in their area and get by in from this sector.
3.15	Most of the Neolithic and Bronze age sites have strong associations with the afterlife and some sort of ritual or the relationship with the other spiritual world, although the nature of these beliefs will never be known.
3.16	Many of the sites also have strong cosmological features with orientations to the sun, moon and stars. There is therefore an opportunity to develop this aspect of the landscape through sky watching, and a series of events celebrating the cosmological and spiritual aspects of the landscape.
3.17	There has been limited artistic interpretation of the heritage of the Landscape. There is therefore an opportunity to get local communities involved in interpreting its built and natural heritage through art, sculpture, music, literature and poetry.
3.18	There is much folklore and traditions associated with the area and there is an opportunity to not only preserve them but celebrate and promote their value also and increase peoples understanding.
3.19	The strong associations with the Irish Language and vernacular Mid Ulster English could also be an opportunity to develop and expand.
3.20	The medieval and plantation period associated with the landscape also will provide large opportunities to research, interpret and educate.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.2	<p><b><u>Human</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b>

	<b><u>Other</u></b>
4.4	N/A

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	On Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2016 the Heritage Lottery Fund announced that the application made to the Heritage Lottery Fund had been successful and a £2,002,300 grant for The Heart Of Ancient Ulster Landscape Scheme has been given initial approval by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its Landscape Partnership (LP) programme, it was announced today.
5.2	The lead partner will be Mid Ulster District Council in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and a strong group of local stakeholders. The project aims to help protect one of the most significant areas of archaeological interest in the middle of Northern Ireland, stretching from Broughderg to Carrickmore down to Pomeroy.
5.3	There will be strong community involvement focus, together with large educational and conservation skills development. The landscape is also is unique within the United Kingdom in having very low levels of light pollution and provides a great opportunity to create the first Dark Skies Reserve in Northern Ireland.
5.4	A development grant of £115,200 will be offered by HLF to enable Mid Ulster Council and its partner bodies to develop its plans and seek final approval for the full grant amount of £2,002,300 at a later date.
5.5	On receipt of the letter of offer the Council will be meeting with its partners to formally announce the project in the local press collectively.

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	N/A.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Belfast Telegraph Article – Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2016





## Bees find sanctuary at foot of the Sperrins

BY ANNAMAY McNALLY

AN ancient hill fort in Co Tyrone with links to Irish fairy folklore has been transformed into a sanctuary for the native queen bee.

It is thought the apiary, at the foot of the Sperrin Mountains in Lisnane, will host Ireland's first tree and log hives, a practice which dates back thousands of years and is seen as the most natural form of beekeeping.

Members of the public can also now visit the unique attraction, which boasts a newly constructed car park, walkways through the hill fort and surrounding woodlands, and a new observation cabin and classroom.

Arborist Jeremy Turkington, from the Mid Ulster Beekeeping Association, said: "This project started off as a research study in Greenmount Agricultural College almost 10 years ago to test whether biodiversity could be improved

without the use of government subsidies.

"Our new hill fort apiary is a small part of a wider natural heritage project in the area to preserve the local genetic character of trees in the Ballinderry River catchment.

"Thanks to the co-operation of local landowners it has evolved into a more comprehensive landscape improvement initiative and a serious effort to improve the status of our native pollinators, especially our native honeybee colonies."



Heidi Herrmann, founder of the Natural Beekeeping Trust, Matt Somerville, trustee of the Natural Beekeeping Trust, and arborist Jeremy Turkington

## Harbinson is to face trial over firearm and silencer

BY PAUL HIGGINS

LOYALIST and convicted sex offender Mark Harbinson has been ordered to stand trial accused of having a firearm.

As well as referring the case against the 48-year-old to the Crown Court, District Judge Mark Hamill refused to release Harbinson on bail, the fifth time he has unsuccessfully asked to be freed from jail.

Remanding Harbinson back into custody and ordering him to be produced before Craigavon Crown Court on December 8 for arraignment, Judge Hamill said there had been absolutely no change in his circumstances that would merit the granting of bail.

Harbinson, from Sheepwalk Road in Stoneyford, Lisburn, is accused of having a Makarov 9mm semi-automatic pistol, 28 rounds of ammunition and a silencer with intent to endanger life and having the gun, bullets and silencer under suspicious circumstances on December 21, 2015.

He is further accused of having the gun and ammunition without a certificate on the same date.

At Lisburn Magistrates Court yesterday, a prosecuting lawyer submitted there was a prima facie case against Harbinson, a submission which defence barrister Craig Patton took no issue with.

Harbinson was told that although not obliged to, he had the right to comment on the charges, give evidence to the preliminary enquiry himself or call evidence on his behalf, but he opted to remain silent.

Returning the case to the Crown Court, Judge Hamill granted legal aid.

BY ANNAMAY McNALLY

NORTHERN Ireland's first ever dark sky reserve, at one of the country's most archaeologically significant sites, has been given a major boost after receiving funding of £2m.

The award from the Heritage Lottery Fund will also be used to restore and maintain over 25,000 hectares of blanket and raised bog, reduce carbon emissions from peatland, recruit volunteers to help plant 100,000 native trees and increase access to the landscape by installing over 10km of new trails and walks.

A dark sky reserve is an area, usually surrounding a park or observatory, that is kept free of artificial light pollution.

The proposals have been made by Mid-Ulster District Council, in partnership with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and a local stakeholder group.

They include plans to deliver a number of integrated projects under the the Heart of Ancient Ulster Landscape Partnership over a five-year period.

Paul Mullan, head of HLF Northern Ireland, said: "This extraordinary rural and isolated landscape has been preserved in time and allows us to step back 10,000 years to explore and experience it in the same way as our ancient ancestors.

"It is hugely important in local and national terms and we are delighted that money raised by National Lottery players is helping to protect and conserve it."

Councillor Trevor Wilson, chair of Mid-Ulster District Council, noted the great opportunities provided through the fund's support.

"This area is rich in archaeology which shows that communi-

# £2m lottery grant to help conserve rich heritage of NI's first dark sky reserve



Beaghmore Stone Circle, one of the archaeological gems within the Heart of Ancient Ulster landscape

ties have been living among its hills and valleys for at least 7,000 years," he said.

"We wish to protect a unique environment while also ensuring that an important part of our ancient heritage can be enjoyed.

"The initial funding of £85,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund is substantial in itself and will allow us to consider our plans in more detail. I'm de-

lighted with the award." One of the area's best known attractions is the Beaghmore Stone Circles. Discovered in the 1940s the site outside Cookstown consists of seven stone circles. All the rings are associated with cairns and a stone row runs towards these cairns.

Over the last decade, HLF's Landscape Partnership programme has provided £221m across the UK. The programme helps to forge new partnerships between public and community bodies, ensuring people are better equipped to understand and tackle the needs of their local landscapes. Grants range from £100,000 to £3m.

The HLF has so far invested almost £40m in Northern Ireland's natural heritage.

This funding is helping to conserve key species and habitats, restore historic built heritage and protect our precious green spaces right across Northern Ireland, from Lough Neagh to the Glens of Antrim, and the Sperrins to Faughan Valley.

NEW 5K 10K

Receive: Race Medal, Chip Timing & Post Race Refreshments

**5K & 10K Winter Races**

**WHEN:** Saturday 9th November 2016, 11am

**WHERE:** Drum Manor, Co. Tyrone

**ENTRY:** £20

Enter online at [www.born2runevents.com](http://www.born2runevents.com)

In partnership with

**Telegraph**



**H**



**Subject** World Travel Market, Excel Arena, London

**Reporting Officer** Michael Browne

**Contact Officer** Allison O'Keefe

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To report on recent staff visit to World Travel Market, London.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Tourism Ireland are the body responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas and offer Industry Opportunities to many large tourism platforms.</p> <p>One such platform is the <b>World Travel Market (WTM)</b>, London. In 2016, World WTM attracted an impressive 51,500 visitors through its doors at Excel, London remaining the largest and most important travel trade show in the world.</p> <p>In 2016, the event will took place once again at Excel, London from the <b>7th – 9th November</b>. The event allowed tourism staff to meet with key industry professionals over a more concentrated period of time on the Tourism Ireland stand. This stand continues to be one of the busiest stands at the event with a lot of business being contracted at the show. Staff who attended found that networking opportunities on the stand excellent this year, with contacts made with over 50 tourism and travel trade professionals, education groups and travel writers. Staff from Tourism Ireland were also readily available over the three days to advise on sales and marketing opportunities for Mid Ulster Council product.</p> <p>The Junior Minister with responsibility for Tourism, Patrick O'Donovan and CEO of Tourism Ireland, Niall Gibbons also worked on the stand over the duration of the show, this provided us with invaluable contacts. The Minister has promised to visit Seamus Heaney HomePlace early in the new year with Mr Gibbons and we since have been invited to profile Seamus Heaney HomePlace at the launch of the Tourism Ireland Marketing Plans in Belfast in 1<sup>st</sup> December.</p> <p>Follow up calls are ongoing with contacts made at World Travel Market, and at least 6 companies on the stand including, Irish welcome Tours, Abbey Tours, CIE Tours (specialist tours), The Irish Tourism Group, Hotels and More and Culture &amp; Heritage tours all indicating that they will feature Seamus Heaney HomePlace next year in their itineraries.</p> <p>One staff member was also invited as part of a small group to have dinner in the Irish Embassy with the ambassador and again this was an excellent networking opportunity, contacts made again are being followed up. Seamus Heaney HomePlace was singled out by the Minister for a special mention in his speech, with again an indication given that he will visit early in the new year. Staff are following up on this request.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	Continue to complete sales calls from World Travel Market including a one day sales call event in Dublin with key operators in association with Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland.

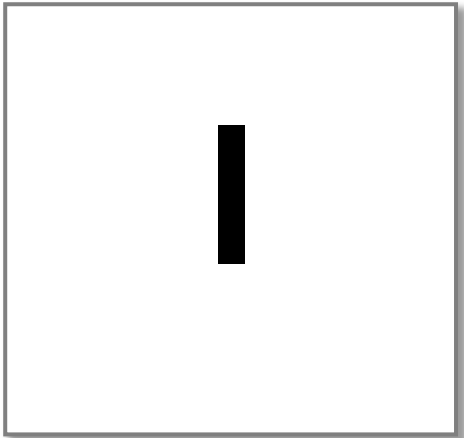
<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b>  NA
4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b>
4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b>  NA
4.4	<b><u>Other</u></b>  NA

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Attend World Travel Market again in 2017 as it proved an excellent sales opportunity for Mid Ulster Tourism product.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	
7.2	





<b>Subject</b>	Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Adrian McCreesh
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Fiona McKeown / Eamon Gallogly

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members on progress with the interim rural development strategy for Mid Ulster.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>Mid Ulster Rural Development Partnership has been allocated £10.16m for the roll out of a local rural development strategy for Mid Ulster funded under the 2014-2020 NI Rural Development Programme.</p> <p>The Schemes within the local rural strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Business Investment Scheme</li> <li>• Rural Services Scheme</li> <li>• Village Renewal</li> <li>• Rural Broadband; and</li> <li>• LAG Co-operation</li> </ul> <p>Further detail on these Schemes is available on the LAG website <a href="http://www.midulsterrdp.org">www.midulsterrdp.org</a></p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>Members are asked to note progress on the roll out of the strategy schemes as follows:</p> <p><b>Rural Business Investment Scheme</b> 23 projects have been approved for grant aid totalling £497,000 from the first call for applications under the Rural Business Investment Scheme. This call was specific to manufacturing/engineering sector businesses.</p> <p>The next call for applications under the Rural Business Investment Scheme has now opened for businesses who attended a funding workshop and will close 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017. This call will focus on businesses involved in IT, creative industries, rural tourism and rural service enterprises. This call will also focus on young business owners aged 18-30.</p>

There will be a number of future calls for applications under the Rural Business Investment Scheme for rurally based businesses involved in engineering, manufacturing, IT, creative industries, rural tourism and rural service enterprise. Members are asked to signpost any potentially interested business to the LAG admin unit within Council – 02886764714.

#### **Rural Basic Services Scheme**

The LAG has been holding further information sessions with all groups who have submitted an expression of interest for capital support under this Scheme to recap on the aims and objectives and pre-requisites to making an application. The LAG envisages that it will open for capital applications in December and close in March 17 however exact dates are to be confirmed.

#### **Village Renewal**

The PQQ stage is now underway to select a shortlist from which a design led project management team will be appointed. PQQ and ITT documents were released on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October and will close on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Full ITT documents will then be released to those shortlisted. It is expected that a Design Team will be appointed by early April 2017 following approval by Council.

This design team will be responsible for finalising design concepts for all village renewal projects within the Scheme and will be managed by Council officers. Community stakeholders will be consulted on design concepts for their respective areas as this process rolls out.

Members were presented with a list of the current village renewal projects on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, which was also presented to the LAG on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

#### **Rural Broadband**

Delivery options for the roll out of the rural broadband scheme are still in discussion at this stage.

#### **Co-operation**

Representatives from the LAG sub group attended a LEADER Co-operation conference on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Canal Court Newry. This conference was attended by most of the other LAGs operating North and South and was an opportunity to discuss potential co-operation projects with partners LAGs. Further networking with potential project partners will be ongoing.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial</u></b> NA</p> <p><b><u>Human</u></b> NA</p> <p><b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b> NA</p> <p><b><u>Other</u></b> <u>NA -</u></p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	None

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Members are asked to note the progress outlined above.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
	NA

**J**

**Subject**                      **Implications of the Decision not to Progress the Regeneration Bill to Mid Ulster District Council**

**Reporting Officer**    Adrian McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Provide Members with an update on the decision taken by Minister for Communities on Tuesday 22 November 2016 not to progress the Regeneration Bill. The existing powers to regenerate towns and cities across Northern Ireland are to remain within the Department for Communities for the remaining life of this current Executive.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The current system was set up in 2003 to tackle deprivation. In the last 10 years it has spent £280 million, however it is felt that a new approach is not urgently needed. The Minister believes that there should be no “sudden change” to the current arrangements and going forward wants to align Regeneration to the Programme for Government. This approach will take 18 months – 2 years and the focus will be on outcomes. The decision taken by the Minister happened because he believes that the current system is working.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>The implications of devolving Regeneration power to local Government would have enabled Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC) to be more adaptable to local needs and make a bigger difference towards shaping local areas and communities. MUDC is eager to take local responsibility and lead any reshaping and rebuilding of local communities.</p> <p>This decision now impacts on MUDC’s ability to further develop and re-invigorate local neighbourhoods and communities. MUDC and all the other Councils want to be empowered to make local decisions that would directly support investment in local towns which would grow the economy, create jobs and prosperity and improve the quality of life. Empowering local Councils would ensure a bottom up approach to dealing with development matters.</p> <p>If Regeneration was devolved locally it could speed up how development schemes are planned and carried out. Difficult development issues could be resolved through a single point of contact. MUDC rather than central Government is ideally positioned and close to the needs of the communities. MUDC wants to directly create a more vibrant place, more employment opportunities, better housing, address poverty and improve the quality of lives for everyone across all of Mid Ulster.</p>

4.1	<b>Resource Implications</b> <b><u>Financial</u></b> As detailed
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4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b> Officer Time
4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b> N/A
4.4	<b><u>Other</u></b> N/A

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	<p>This is a disappointment for local Government and the decision undermines the re-organisation of Council structures which was intended to devolve more power to Councils.</p> <p>MUDC believes that the best delivery mechanism for regeneration programmes is to decentralise the process. Like Manchester for example, where there is a Council led regeneration for the city. They have seen this approach deliver significant economic and social benefits. In Holland 88% of development is driven by local Government. Prosperity has risen and so have the ambitions and expectations of their Councils, citizens and businesses.</p> <p>MUDC feel that the Minister should now set up a process where Councils are at minimum, a partner and can influence and inform policy and practice in relation to delivery and have a proactive role within the way forward under DFC.</p>

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	That Members note the contents of the report.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	N/A

**K**



**Subject:** Leisure Services Progress Report

**Reporting Officer:** Liam Glavin, Head of Leisure

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members of the progress being made regarding activities in Leisure Services and highlight events that will be occurring in the future.
<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that leisure plays in today's society and that the equitable availability of accessible, high quality sport and leisure provision can enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation in sport and leisure activities from all sections of the community and provide pathways that enable every resident within the Mid Ulster area to maximise their health, sporting abilities, aspirations and potential.
<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p>Full details of key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last month is included in Appendix 1. A summary of key highlights is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary School Cross Country – Mid Ulster Sports Arena</li> <li>• Halloween Scheme – Cookstown Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Halloween Hooley – Meadowbank Sports Arena</li> <li>• Eamon O’Kane Soccer School – Meadowbank Sports Arena</li> <li>• Volunteer Day – Davagh MBT / Blessingbourne MBT</li> <li>• Halloween Spooktacular and Fireworks – Mid Ulster Sports Arena</li> </ul> <p>A range of events and activities was provided in Leisure Services across Mid Ulster. A summary is included in Appendix 1.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b>
	N/A
4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b>
	N/A

4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b>
	N/A
4.4	<b><u>Other</u></b>
	N/A

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	N/A

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Members are asked to note activities being undertaken in Leisure Services and the events that will be occurring in the future.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 - Key elements of Leisure Service provision in the last month.
7.2	Appendix 2 - Key Events

## Key Elements of Leisure Provision during Last Month

### Sports Development

#### Every Body Active 2020

- Multi sports programme - Tobin Youth Centre in Moortown. The programme ran from 29<sup>th</sup> September to the 1<sup>st</sup> November on a Tuesday evening from 5.00-6.00pm in Tobin Youth hall. Tobin Community Centre provides children and young people the opportunity to participate in physical activity. EBA coach Ruth Bell took a 6 week multi skills programme to children aged 8-12 year old.
- The objectives of the programme were to keep kid's active, offer new activities at a low cost of £2.00 per week and ensuring the children had fun. Each session involved a warm up, multi skills games and finished with sports specific matches. Tobin Community Centre have a great facility with a big hall that can accommodate a number of sports and activities. The programme was mainly supported by young people within the Moortown/Tobin Area.



#### EveryBody Active 2020 Disability Multi-Skills Coach

- Everybody Active Disability Multi-Skills Coach Kathleen Brogan delivered 6 week blocks of multi-skills and sports to Kilronan Special School Magherafelt and Sperrinview Special School Dungannon.
- The main aims of this programme were to give young people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in structured sport as well as increasing their confidence and improving their self-esteem. This programme has given the pupils the chance to see that they can partake in sport and physical activity in a safe and controlled environment. To dates there has be over 60+ participants attended this programme.

Please see overleaf pictures of the two schools in action.



## Dungannon Leisure Centre

### Swimming Lessons

- Masters swimming classes are offered Monday and Friday 6-7pm and Thursday 7-8am and normally attract over 40 participants.



### Masters Swim Class

- Swimmer Development class, held on Saturday mornings 6.30-8.30am. This class is aimed at club swimmers who want to refine their swimming technique to enable them to improve on their performances. Swimmers travel from Strabane, Portadown South Armagh and further afield to attend this very popular class

- Our regular water activities continue including Monday Ladies Night at 8.45-9.45pm, and Aqua-Fit on Thursday night 7.30-8.30pm.

### School of Aquatics

- The autumn programme continues throughout November. A full range of Intensive swimming classes and one to one lessons are taking place.
- Squad training is one of the most popular children's swimming classes on offer. Available Tuesday and Saturday afternoons are often filled to capacity.
- Beginner, Improver and Advanced adult lessons are also available providing adults with the chance to learn new or improve their swimming ability.
- Rookie lifesaving participants continue to learn new skills and enjoy a range of activities which enable them to earn certificates and wards ranging from bronze to gold.

### Cookstown Leisure Centre

- Cookstown Leisure Centre Drop in Classes are offered to the public and as part of the total "Evolve Membership". These are performing well, regular scheduled posts advertising the drop-in classes on Facebook have coincided with the improved attendance for the recent months.
- To continue the momentum of the drop-in classes there is a planned promotion programmed for the period between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 22<sup>nd</sup> December where attendees who attend a high number of set classes will receive a reward of a complimentary month on their Evolve membership and if they are not already a member they will receive a complimentary induction to encourage them on-board.

Cookstown Leisure Centre  
Call 028 8676 3853

**CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN**

**Christmas Class Promotion**

**Tuesday 1st Nov - Thursday 22nd Dec**

Monday or Tuesday night Spin  
Monday Circuits  
Thursday or Saturday Bootcamp

Just to say thank you, complete 5 of the last 7/8 classes of the year and receive a complimentary month Total Evolve Gym membership.

**WAIT! We're not done yet, the male and female who complete the most classes over this period will receive a £10 Sports Direct voucher!!**

\* Terms and conditions apply. The 8 classes attended must be done in an individual class, they cannot be shared from different classes. For full terms and conditions speak to instructor Simon Robinson.



www.midulstercouncil.org

**Mid Ulster District Council**

Cookstown Leisure Centre  
Call 028 8676 3853

**New Year Promotion**

**Try our complementary classes and get your New Year off to a bang!**

**ROCK** Tuesday 27th Dec 7.00-8.00pm Spin  
Wednesday 28th Dec 7.00-8.00pm Circuits  
Thursday 29th Dec 7.00-8.00pm Bootcamp

Anyone trying the classes for the first time will do so for free.

Everyone attending these classes will be entered into a draw for a complimentary month Total Evolve Gym membership.

Anyone who is not a Total Evolve member will receive a complimentary induction

\* Terms and conditions apply. Space subject to be booked in advance. For full terms and conditions speak to instructor Simon Robinson.

*What's your New Year's Resolution?*



www.midulstercouncil.org

**Mid Ulster District Council**

- The Recreational Gymnastics and Hatha Yoga courses have restarted their second run for this term with the Gymnastics fully booked and the Yoga starting to show improvement in numbers attending.

## Evolve Fitness

- The Members 2016 Ultimate Challenge ongoing and well supported by gym users at present with 6 having completed the required 2016 minutes of exercise already. A further 25 are due to complete very shortly having come close to the total.

## Dungannon Leisure Centre

### Classes and Courses

- November brought an increase in the number of customers joining the fitness programme. Circuit Training continues to be a popular activity as is ½ AND ½ Spin Classes on Mondays. Numbers are also increasing on Tuesday and Friday's with Spin Classes nearing capacity.
- The H.I.I.T., S.W.E.A.T. (Strength, Work, Endurance, and Agility Training. are well attended.
- Yoga, Step Aerobics and Jive classes are also increasing in popularity.



H.I.I.T. Class

### Clubs

- Dungannon Leisure Centre hire out many of its facilities to local clubs including- Ren Bu Ken Judo Club, Cobra Kai Karate Club, Ju Jitsu Club, Tae Kwon Do Club, Dungannon Gymnastics Club, Dungannon Sub Aqua Club, Island Triathlon Club, Fit 4 You Club and others. The centre also hosts Dungannon Rifle Club in the Projectile hall three to four times a week. Dungannon Amateur Swimming Club continues to train four times a week in our pool. The 50+ club attracts large numbers on Tuesdays and Thursdays in our sports hall, fitness suite and pools.

### Health and Wellbeing Day

- Mid Ulster District Council held a Health and Wellbeing day in Dungannon Leisure Centre on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November. Taster classes were provided by Leisure Centre coaches for H.I.I.T. (High Intensity Interval Training), S.W.E.A.T. (Strength Work Endurance Agility Training), Spin Bikes and Kettle bells classes.



### **Gortgonis Gym**

- Gortgonis Gym opens Monday to Saturday. Opening times are as follows- Mondays: 9am-1pm and 4-9pm, Tuesdays: 4-9pm, Wednesdays: 9am-1pm and 4-9pm, Thursdays : 4-9pm, Fridays 9am-7pm.

### **Outdoor Leisure Facilities**

- The football season is well under way with an average of 15 league matches being played each Saturday.

### **Robin Mark Concert**

- On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November Dungannon Leisure Centre hosted the very popular Christian singer Robin Mark in the Main Hall. A large crowd of over 400 were treated to a great night of music.

- 

### **Meadowbank Sports Arena**

- November has been a busy month so far at Meadowbank. The peak time 7-9pm slots during the week both indoor and outdoor have been booked solid. There have been numerous tournaments and coaching activities taking place as well as a high demand for Birthday Party bookings
- Upcoming events in November:
  - Ulster IRFU Stage 2 Coaching course – Sun 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> November
  - NI School Boys Soccer Coaching (every Sunday morning)
  - Ulster Camogie Blitz – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November

### **Meadowbank Sports Arena Autumn Programme**

- The “Couch 2 5K” is currently running on Monday and Friday nights. The programme attracts upwards of 20 runners each evening.
- Ulster Rugby are continuing with training for their Regional Youth Squads at the Arena and use the facilities every Monday through to April 2017 with an average of 60/80 participants at each session.
- Slimming World continues on a Thursday and the regular sessions average 85/120 participants.
- The Arena continued to be a popular venue for Children’s Birthday Parties with 13 parties facilitated to date.
- Rainey Mini Hockey hold their weekly training on Friday afternoons with 40/50 children attending each week.
- Rainey Mini Rugby also continues on Friday evenings with between 80 and 110 attending each session.
- St Colmcilles Girl Guides meet on a Thursday evening in the Café area with 35 girls attending.
- Mary Hill Ballet School continues on Saturday afternoons with 40/50 dancers attending each week.
- IFA Small Sided Games commenced on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, for 7 weeks, aimed at underage teams, 6-10years old.
- The Meadowbank Fit for Life programme has attracted 9 Primary Schools from the local area this term.

- Northern Region Recovery College are currently running courses in our Meeting Room, 2-5pm twice a week.
- Rainey School hockey matches have recommenced with 3 matches being played each Saturday morning, drawing numbers in excess of 300 over the 2 hours.
- “Magherafelt Soccer Sixes” continues to thrive on the 3G pitches and is attracting a lot of teams from the local area. Over 100 players attend per night.
- A new block of Couch 2 5K sessions began on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016. Mondays 6.45-7.45pm and Fridays 6.30-7.30pm.
- Step to the Beat dance class continues in the Old Pavilion Hall on Mondays, 5-6pm.
- The 3G outdoor pitches are block booked every night by local clubs for training. Soccer and Rugby being the main bookings.

### **Maghera Leisure Centre**

Halloween Boot Camp Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 6.30am – 7.15am. A full weeks HIIT boot camp aimed at all ages and abilities.

- Party Packages 53
- Fit Kids Session Mon & Thurs
- Gymnastic sessions Tues, Wed and Fri – fully booked.
- 4<sup>th</sup> October – Mid Ulster Floral Art 6.30pm – 10.30pm
- Senior citizen’s club wed 2pm – 4pm.
- Old Mill Youth FC wed 7.00pm – 8.00pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Oct, Schools cross country event.
- Leo Maguire Taekwondo Club, Main Hall Thursdays 5pm – 6pm
- Kirsty Kinetic Kidz Dance Fri 5.15pm – 7.15pm
- Jujitsu Club Saturdays 10am – 12.30pm & Monday 6.30am – 9pm.
- GP Referral Program ongoing.
- Adult centre Tuesday & Thursday.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Oct – Maghera & District Gardening Group.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Oct – Womens Institute.
- Daily Morning session classes 10am – 11am. (Core Stability, Spin, Circuit Training, BLT Blitz, Circuit Training).
- Sunday boot camps & Spinning class.
- Circuits Monday & Thursday Circuit Training.
- Spinning Classes Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat.
- Tobermore Utd. Mini Soccer, Fri Main Hall 8pm – 9pm.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Boyne Row, Castledawson PS Halloween Fireworks Display.
- Grass pitch Bookings, 20
- 31<sup>st</sup> Oct & 1<sup>st</sup> November, Halloween Scheme 1pm – 4pm.

### **Tobermore Golf Centre**

#### **Junior Coaching**

The Saturday junior coaching commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016, this is an 8 week programme delivered by our resident PGA professional Tony Mulholland. There are 3 sessions 1.30pm – 3pm, 3pm – 4.30pm and 4.30pm – 6.00pm.



Saturday Junior Coaching is available for both boys & girls, the sessions are kept to a maximum of 8 – 12 children, enabling a high level and delivery of coaching; concentrating at a high level, aiming the children towards playing competitive golf in their local clubs.

- Resident PGA Professional Tuition
- 23 \* Trackman lessons
- 10 \* Standard Studio lessons.
- Improvers Course Tuesday & Wednesday
- Beginners Course commenced wed 12<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Fri Club – Junior Academy Finished Friday 14<sup>th</sup>
- Killymoon Juniors Friday 14<sup>th</sup>
- Curragh Young Farmers Wed 19<sup>th</sup>
- Junior Coaching Commenced Sat 29<sup>th</sup> October, 8 week course.
- Moneydig Pres Church – Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Oct
- Special Olympics Club Monday 10<sup>th</sup>,

### **Mid Ulster Sports Arena**

- Pitches continue to be in demand for bookings by soccer, rugby and GAA Clubs as well as schools and numerous enquiries have been received by Gaelic Clubs for their youth teams to use the indoor facility during January and February and at present demand is outstripping supply for the 3g indoor court with the local soccer clubs Cookstown Youth and Mid Ulster Ladies also seeking use of it for the winter months. The IFA Elite Performance Centre continues weekly on the 3G Gaelic Pitch and the indoor sports hall and Gaelic Clubs from at least 4 counties have been in touch enquiring about using the facilities for pre-season training.
- Parkrun continues every Saturday morning at 9.30am (60 participants weekly)
- Mid Ulster Youth League 9 aside and 11 aside matches each Saturday
- National League matches on Pitch 1
- Camán Tír Eoghain - fun filled Hurling and Camogie programme for children in classes Primary 4 to Primary 7 – finishes 16 November 2016 (30 children per night)
- Couch to 5K Programme on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 60 participants each night.
- Soccer Sixes programme - 50 participants per night
- IFA GRDO Small Sided games centre
- CYFC Development Centre – 200+ children
- Usage of the Trim Trail by walkers and runners remains steady especially during the day. Estimated numbers using this facility in the region of 100 per day.
- Schools Matches
- Ulster Colleges Camogie Tournament
- Several Birthday Parties have taken place in the indoor hall with people from the local area and further afield all availing of the facilities.
- Ulster Camogie Weekly Blitzes
- Irish FA Nutty Krust Halloween Football Camps 31 October and 1 November
- GAA Camp at Halloween 31 October and 1 November

- Coaching with Performance Analysis by Performa Sports 24 October 2016
- Tyrone Hurling Centre of Excellence

### Halloween Scheme

- The Centre ran a scheme over two days, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October. The numbers for both days were disappointing. Leaflets were distributed to local school as they attended the centre. The main problem being local schools taking different holidays over the period.

### Moneymore Recreation Centre

- **Jill's Cake Designing.** Cake making/designing cake classes have continued using our Committee Room into 2016. 15 people attend these classes designing cakes and learning all aspects to do with cake design..
- **Halloween Scheme.** Moneymore Recreation Centre Held a Halloween Scheme on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October & Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 (times 10am-12.30pm)..
- **Stronghold Preservation.** Stronghold Preservation held a meeting at Moneymore Recreation Centre on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 9am-11am.
- **Gymnastic "6 Weeks Course."** A six week Schools Gymnastics Programme continued into October at Moneymore Recreation Centre. This programme started on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The 4 schools which are attending are Churchtown P/S, Lissan P/S, Moneymore P/S & St Patricks P/S Moneymore.
- **Headway Brain Injury Association.** Kelly Shepherd from Headway has booked the Committee Room 3 Wednesdays every month from 11am-1pm to hold classes with people who have suffered Brain Injuries.
- **Climbing Wall Bookings.** The climbing Wall is continuing to be advertised through Social media and leaflet drops.
- **Mid Ulster Vintage Club.** The Mid Ulster Vintage Club has recently Block Booked the Committee Room for their monthly meetings. They will be using our facility on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month 8.30pm-10pm until December 2016.
- **Outdoor MUGA.** The outdoor Tennis nets have now been removed for the winter as the dark night's approach. Kids still use the area for Basketball, Soccer and other games.
- **Cedar Foundation.** The Cedar Foundation Group from Ballymena has recently started hiring our Committee Room for meetings.
- **Kettle Bell Classes.** A new 5 week Kettlebells Programme will restart on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
- **Pilates Classes.** A new 5 week Pilates programme started at Moneymore Recreation Centre on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (6.15pm-7.15pm).
- **Tuesday Yoga Classes.** 2 new 5-week yoga programmes have started at Moneymore Recreation Centre. These classes started on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (6pm-7pm & 7pm-8pm).
- **Birthday Parties.** During October 2016 7 Birthday Parties were held at Moneymore Recreation Centre..

## Davagh M B T / Blessingbourne M B T

### Runner Events

- Davagh was closed for a Runner race on the 10<sup>th</sup> September (O'Brien Challenge) with no reports of any incidents. Another race is scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (Sperrin Harriers winter league series) with trail restrictions in place from 12 noon to 1.00pm

### Motor Rally

- An evening rally is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016 with full closure from 9.00am to 5.00pm

### Usage Figures

Usage figures for April to September 2016

<b>Davagh Forest Trails</b>	<b>Car park</b>	<b>Total Trails</b>	<b>Pump Track</b>	<b>New Counter on top red trails</b>	<b>Running Trails Total</b>
April to June 2016	5711	3469	1690	2822	3469
July to Sept 2016	5713	4285	1951	2366	7754

### Bike Hire Provider

- Outdoor Concepts reported a very slow period in Davagh for October and this has been continuing into November.

### Up and coming Volunteer Days

- The first volunteer day in Blessingbourne took place on Saturday 1st October 2016, it was advertised by Mountain Bike NI unfortunately only two individuals and John Howard attended. As a result, only minor works to part of a red section "Born to Be Free" took place. Repairs to surface and overgrowth was removed. The three volunteers conducted a litter pick to sections of the trails.

## Primary School Cross Country – Mid Ulster Sports Arena

The first ever Mid Ulster District Council Primary Schools Cross Country event took place during the month of October with qualifying heats held at Maghera Leisure Centre Playing Pitches, Mid Ulster Sports Arena and Dungannon Park.

Over 22 Primary Schools took part in the heats with the top schools & runners qualifying for the Mid Ulster Finals. The event was a huge success with excellent feedback from the schools and parents. The heats began with a Fun Run at each location which gave children of all abilities the opportunity to participate.

The Final was a tough 1 mile course at MUSA with some excellent running with the first boy in under 6 minutes 15 seconds and the first girl in at 6 minutes 45 seconds

Winning Teams and Individuals.

Girls Team – St Mary's Glenview

Boys Team – St Brigid's Mayogall

First placed female was from St Patricks Roan

First placed male St Brigid's Mayogall



Sports Development were greatly supported by students from the South West College, Holy Trinity College and St Patricks Maghera who provided excellent assistance in stewarding the races. We look forward to seeing even more schools competing next year and will once again be hosting heats in Cookstown, Dungannon and Maghera during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of October 2017 and the finals event during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October 2017.

It is planned to build on the success of this event with a Secondary Schools Cross Country Event later in the year.

### Halloween Scheme – Cookstown Leisure Centre

The Centre ran a scheme over two days, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October. Staff provided a full programme. The team offered themed arts and crafts sessions, climbing wall, main hall activities, as well as a finale fancy dress competition.



### Halloween Hooley – Meadowbank Sports Arena







### Eamon O'Kane Soccer School – Meadowbank Sports Arena





### **Volunteer Day – Davagh / Blessingbourne MBT**

- 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 was Blessingbourne first volunteer day. The volunteer numbers were low, but a lot of good work was done from trail repairs, demarcation and removal of litter.



- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 was Davagh turn to host the volunteers. Again, a lot of good work was completed on the Stream Trail during the day from repairing breaking points, demarcation and general trail maintenance.



- Ongoing checks and minor repairs will continue over the winter and carryout by Peter Newell. These will be carried out on a weekly basis which include, spraying around the trailhead and picnic areas, strimming on the trails and minors repairs on all the trails.



## Halloween Spooktacular and Fireworks –Mid Ulster Sports Arena

Arguably the largest event at MUSA and indeed in the Cookstown area over the last month was the annual Halloween Spooktacular held at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena on Saturday 29 October 2016. This was the first year the event was held on a Saturday night and this combined with the experience of previous years no doubt ensured that once again over 3,500 people converged on MUSA for an evening of fun, food and fireworks.



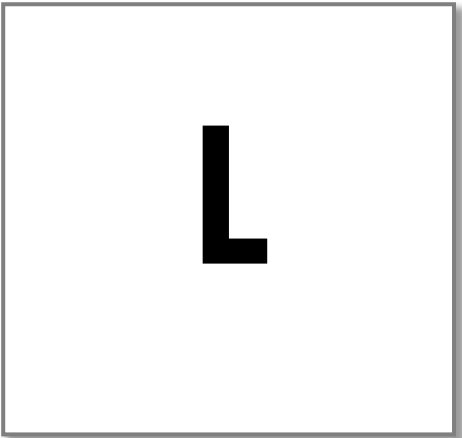
Children's entertainers engaged the children in themed arts and crafts activities, Winifred the witch was a highly entertaining storyteller and the fire performers wowed the crowd with their skills. As in previous years the caterpillar train proved highly popular as did Krazy Karts and the Climbing Wall both of which were new for this year.



The addition of a live band this year added to the atmosphere and as always the face painters were kept busy with spooky faces the order of the day for the young (and not so young). Operationally the event was a huge success on the night, staff had been on site from early on the Saturday to carry out set up and ensure all was in place ready to go for 6pm and the effort by staff plus excellent teamwork was no doubt a contributing factor to the evenings success.







**Subject**                      **Small Grants for Greenways**

**Reporting Officer**   **Nigel Hill Head of Parks**

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform members of progress to stage two the Small Grants Scheme for initial funding for Council's and other bodies to develop their own schemes as part of the greenway network for the entire region.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	<p>The Minister for Infrastructure announced on the 9th November his plans for a network of greenways, connecting towns and cities to the villages and countryside from east to west and north to south across all eleven councils. It aims to bring back into use much of the disused railway network and give people ready access to a safe traffic-free environment for health, active travel and leisure. The aim of this Strategic Plan is to encourage a substantial increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway Network which significantly increases the length of traffic-free routes.</p> <p>The purpose of the Strategic Plan for Greenways is to develop a network that allows people to travel to places locally, regionally and nationally by walking and cycling. This will provide opportunities for people to cycle and walk to work, school and other places. It will also provide opportunities to cycle and walk for leisure and recreation, helping develop the local visitor economy, improving social cohesion within and between communities and ultimately improving the health and wellbeing of the population.</p> <p>In support of this, the Department for Infrastructure has developed a Small Grants Programme for the development of greenway schemes. This competitive scheme is aimed at providing support for councils to work up projects that will contribute to a step change in greenway provision. Mid Ulster District Council submitted expressions of interest in June to the Department for Regional Development for Ulster Canal and the Clogher Valley Greenway. Both proposals were selected amongst a total of twenty-seven primary and secondary routes that will advance to the second stage of competitive evaluation.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	The Department for Infrastructure now seek local councils to take up the challenge with the preparation of stage two feasibility studies for the relevant projects, in our case the Ulster canal and Clogher Valley proposals.
3.2	Stage Two will require the production of a feasibility study and business case with community engagement and support for the project. Projects shortlisted for stage two can drawdown funding to the value of £8,000 for each project in order to work up and develop their proposals. The top four projects will advance to stage three. Proposals should be aimed at increasing the volume of people walking and cycling by off-road, traffic free routes connecting local communities and also demonstrate community engagement, design and softer measures including promotion and capture the opportunity to encourage people to incorporate activity into their everyday lives.
3.3	Dependant on shortlisting success, stage three will require a detailed design and cost options appraisal from shortlisted applicants. More information will be required about land issues and costs with evidence that the design is technically robust. Successful shortlisted applicants to stage three will be offered up to £25,000 to finalise their detailed proposals.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	Staff time and the support of suitable qualified consultancy to development feasibility plans to the maximum value of £16,000 as per available funding.

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	Procurement of specialist consultancy for specific components of the scheme proposals such as design, costing and consultation.

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Engage suitably qualified consultancy and submit stage two feasibility studies for both Ulster Canal and Clogher Valley Green Way projects.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Exercise, Explore, Enjoy - A Strategic Plan for Greenways Appendix 2







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## Nothing compares with the simple pleasure of a bike ride.

John F. Kennedy

## I have two doctors, my left leg and my right.

GM Davidson

## FOREWORD



As a student in Belfast I was a regular user of the Lagan Towpath – a wonderful asset for walking and cycling – and it is my ambition to see this kind of active travel infrastructure extended throughout Ireland. I am particularly delighted to launch this Strategic Plan for Greenways with a vision to enable greater numbers of our people to adopt healthier, more active lifestyles; getting us out of our cars and onto greenways that link our cities, towns and villages.

As the first Minister for Infrastructure my focus is on sustainable transport to embrace new ways of everyday travelling that creates less congestion and wear and tear on our roads, results in fewer sick days, whilst creating more vibrant local economies and increasing the expectancy – all outcomes that are at the heart of our Programme for Government. A network of green corridors will contribute to delivering these benefits whilst building attractive environments and vibrant communities around the centres where we live and work. Greenways can make a huge difference to the daily lives of people by providing the opportunity to enjoy safe and easy access to fresh air

and exercise, encouraging more people to commute to work by foot or bicycle, more children to walk or cycle to school, and provide a vital leisure resource for local people and visitors alike.

This plan sets out my vision and framework for a more strategic and ambitious programme to develop greenway routes right across the whole of the north. I believe that greenways and similar community paths will ultimately create public spaces that will enhance our quality of life and leave an enduring legacy to be enjoyed by future generations.

Chris Massman MLA  
Minister for Infrastructure

## BROLLACH

Mar mhuir, éim i mBeá Feirste, be gnóich  
com sáil ar Chasán Lannaithe Bhéal  
Fáirsí go hálta – áis iontach le siúlóid agus  
rochtait a dhéanamh – agus is tuallán  
sáimsear é chéile seo de shonraigh  
táitil chailíní agus a n-ádh ar fud na  
n-Éireann. Tá an ádhas ómáich go hálta,  
an Plean Stráitéiseach seo do Ghlasbhealaí  
sáimsear, agus an t-ádh ann níos mó  
doine a spreagadh chun saol níos ádhlaí  
agus níos gnóilí a dhéanamh, le dul amach  
es ar n-ádhlaí agus ar na glasbhealaí  
sáimsear níos ádhlaí ar gach ádhlaí, ar  
máilte agus ar sáimsear.

Mar an chéad Aire Bonnaicéir, is é ionpar  
máilte an t-ádhlaí sáimsear; bealaí  
nua-ádhlaí, ádhlaí a chur san áireamh a  
chruaigh níos ádhlaí agus creimhe  
ar ár máilte, a t-ádhlaí an máilte  
ádhlaí níos ádhlaí agus a máilte.

Ionchás sáil – tá na fóirte seo go léir ag  
cúil ar a dhá am Brollach. Cuidicidh an  
Plean Glasbhealaí seo leis na bealaí seo a  
sho dháir chomh maith le timpeallachtaí  
timpeallachtaí agus pobail ádhlaí  
a fhoráil. Táir ar na háltaí na h-  
ádhlaí agus na h-ádhlaí sáil. Is féidir  
le glasbhealaí difear mór a dhéanamh do  
shao ta beithula ádhlaí mar tugann siad  
deis d'ádhlaí na h-ádhlaí a dhéanamh  
ar aer ádhlaí agus ar ádhlaí a dhéanamh.  
Spreagaidh siad níos mó doine le siúl go  
dháir ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí  
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tud tad an t-ádhlaí. Creimhe go cruthaídh  
glasbhealaí agus a máilte na h-ádhlaí  
pobail ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí  
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ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí ádhlaí

Chris Massman CTR  
An Aire Bonnaicéir

Leagan an Plean seo an t-ádhlaí ádhlaí  
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## INTRODUCTION

The Bicycle Strategy published in August 2015<sup>1</sup> envisaged 'a community where people have the freedom and confidence to travel by bicycle for everyday journeys' and it set out the ambition to increase the number of people regularly walking and cycling.

This Strategic Plan fulfils a commitment, in the Bicycle Strategy to explore the potential for the development of 'greenways'. It sets out a high level plan for the region to enable people to link to places locally, regionally and nationally by active modes of travel. It will encourage more people to commute to work by foot or bicycle, more children to walk or cycle to school, and it will provide a major leisure and recreation resource for local people and visitors alike.

The Strategic Plan flows from a number of other Departmental strategies and policies such as the Regional Development Strategy

2025" and "Ensuring a Sustainable Transport Future – A New Approach to Regional Transportation" with its focus on sustainability in travel choices. It is also relevant to the Public Health Agency's "Making Life Better 2012 – 2023" strategy (published in 2014) which supports increasing opportunities for walking and cycling<sup>1</sup>, the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan<sup>2</sup> and the strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation<sup>3</sup>.

[illegible]

In addition, local Councils are currently drawing up Community and Development Plans which will provide an opportunity to further explore, plan and zone the development of a Greenway Network.

'Greenways are traffic-free routes connecting communities to all kinds of destinations for commuting, everyday journeys or leisure and recreation'

## INTRODUCTION

Partnership and collaboration will be a key theme in the delivery of the framework set out in this Strategic Plan. In that regard, we recognise that greenways offer opportunities and benefits that go well beyond transport, noise health and wellbeing, economic, environmental and social benefits are well documented<sup>8</sup> and the development of greenways for active travel and recreation forms part of many European strategic transport, environment, health and economic policies.

Local Government has a key role in the delivery of the Greenway Network in light of their responsibilities for recreation and green spaces. Central government Departments will also have an interest in various aspects of greenway development. There is also an important role and many opportunities for cross-border working.

These realities are reflected in the significant contribution which greenways could make

to the Executive's draft Programme for Government Framework 2016 - 21\* including the following:

**Outcome 2:** We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment

Outcome 4: We enjoy long, healthy, active lives.

**Outcome 12:** We have created a place where people want to live and work, in visit and travel.

**Outcome 13: We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure**

**Outcome 14:** *We give our children and young people the best start in life*

Relevant Indicators within the Framework include:

- Increase the use of public transport and active travel
- Increase environmental sustainability
- Improve our attractiveness as a destination
- Increase shared space
- Improve air quality
- Increase quality of life for people with disabilities

The development of this Strategic Plan for Greenways, therefore, has a significant potential to deliver outcomes across a range of Government objectives which will have far reaching benefits for individuals and communities across the entire region.

<sup>2</sup> *Edinburgh University Journal of Law and Economics* 1997, 19, 1.



"Greenways are long, skinny community centres."

Tom Farrell, Director of Recreation,  
Town of Brunswick, ME

"By incorporating physical activity into the daily routine, such as walking or cycling short journeys or integrating these activities with public transport, we will improve our health and reduce dependence on our cars."

Colin Rooney, Chief Executive of the Public Health Agency in



## VISION, AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The Minister for Infrastructure is committed to active travel and strongly supports improving health and wellbeing for everyone across the region. In setting out this Strategic Plan for Greenways, the Minister's vision is:

**A region where people have ready access to a safe traffic-free environment for health, active travel and leisure.**

### 2.1 Aim

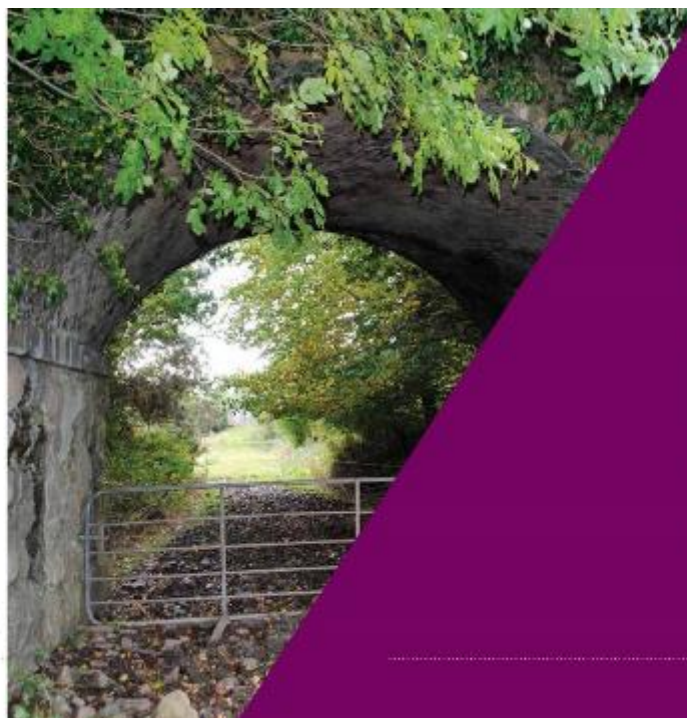
The aim of this Strategic Plan is to encourage a substantial increase in the number of people walking and cycling as a regular part of everyday life through the building of a connected and accessible regional Greenway Network which significantly increases the length of traffic-free routes.

### 2.2 Objectives

Realising the Minister's vision will create a region where active lifestyles and active travel can become part of everyday life for everyone – improving health and wellbeing, economic activity, social interaction and providing a resource for recreation and leisure. Key to this will be to develop a Greenway Network that helps connect centres of population with places of interest, green spaces, workplaces, shops, schools and residential areas.

*Exercise, Explore, Enjoy*

10



2

To achieve the aim of this Strategic Plan, we have drawn up the following overarching objectives:

1. To improve health and wellbeing by creating opportunities for exercise in developing greenways;
2. To increase the areas and populations that have access to and the use of greenways;
3. To increase safety for people walking and cycling;
4. To improve opportunities for social inclusion and interaction;
5. To provide opportunities for the development of local economies.

The development of greenways has, at its heart, the encouragement and promotion of active travel and healthy lifestyles. This highlights the need to involve communities from the outset and to encourage 'ownership', engagement and the 'One Faith' ethos of sharing, respecting and enjoying the path by everyone. It is important that greenways are not just seen as active travel routes but as public amenity spaces where people can meet, relax, play or enjoy nature. This will require appropriate maintenance and management regimes and adequate integration of greenways with other modes of sustainable transport.

11

## DEVELOPING A GREENWAY NETWORK

There has been some investment in greenways in recent years although this has been focussed in specific areas. Much of this has been driven at local level and on a cross-border basis through the sustainable transport theme in the INTERREG V programme. The aim of this Strategic Plan is to build significantly on that work and to create an asset which creates local and regional value and benefits.

In line with the commitment set out in the Bicycle Strategy, the former Department for Regional Development (DRD) engaged AECOM, in association with Sustrans, to develop a strategic approach to a shared Greenway Network. The AECOM report, upon which this Strategic Plan is based, provides full details of the development of the network and it can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/publications/aecom-greenways-report>

AECOM undertook a series of written consultations with the eleven local Councils and other organisations. This consultation with stakeholders demonstrated the cross-cutting nature of the outcomes and broad support for the development of a Greenway Network. It also suggested that active travel was the key benefit as it had the greatest potential to deliver volumes of users all year round, build activity into everyday life, improve accessibility, reduce congestion and improve air quality. However, the responses recognised that greenways also have important leisure and recreational aspects which also deliver strong health and wellbeing benefits for local people<sup>10</sup>. The potential for tourism was also highlighted. An important theme emerging from the consultation with other organisations was that the development of greenways should aim to deliver in the following areas:

- Safe, traffic-free routes
- Promotion of physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Access and connectivity for communities and visitors to enjoy and appreciate the natural and historic environment
- Realising the full value of our natural and historic environment to deliver long-term prosperity
- Synergies with long-term water / flood defences
- The climate change adaptation plan
- Supporting infrastructure to encourage use by both locals and visitors

<sup>10</sup> Active greenways provide a wide range of benefits to communities, including improved health and wellbeing, economic activity, social interaction and providing a resource for recreation and leisure.

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### 3.1 Greenway proposals

In the consultation exercise Councils provided their ideas on potential greenways in their areas and they identified 20 specific schemes, details of which are set out in the AECOM report. These schemes were generally located on disused railways, riverside paths, abandoned canal towpaths or flood embankments – all of which were relatively flat. However, the information provided by Councils was only one element in identifying an initial network. In themselves, they did not link together to create a regional network – even with the addition of existing greenways and other shared paths (e.g. the Foyle Valley Greenway, the Comer Greenway and the Newry Canal towpath).

Consideration was also given to other existing walking and cycling routes including EuroVelo Route 1, the National Cycling Network, the Ulster Way, the International

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Appalachian Trail Initiative and other cross-border links. Details of these routes are provided in Appendix A.

In addition to the ideas from Councils and existing routes, AECOM and Sustren's brought together a number of suggestions from other stakeholders (e.g. a north coast route from Derry to the Giant's Causeway), significant dismantled railway routes (e.g. the former Great Northern Railway from Portadown to Derry and the former East Derry line from Coleraine to Dungannon) and other former railway branch lines – such as those set out in the NIGreenways 'greenways map'. Proposed cross-border links (including the cross-border routes identified in the North West Greenway Plan<sup>3</sup>) were also added. Bringing all this information together provided the basis for a continuous linked up network.

1. The Greenway Network is a proposed network of routes for walking, cycling and horse riding. It is a network of routes that are not currently used for transport. It is a network of routes that are not currently used for transport.

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### 3.2 Other considerations

The development of greenways is not a precise science but there are a number of important issues to be addressed. These issues are set out in detail in chapter four of the AECOM report and include:

- Identification of Route Corridor
- Information Gathering
- Community Consultation
- Policy in Relation to Land Acquisition
- Planning the Route
- Costs and Funding
- Design Standards
- Behavioural Change

### 3.3 Assessment Methodology

A route assessment methodology was developed for the emerging network to

## DEVELOPING A GREENWAY NETWORK

provide a basis to assess the 'relative benefit' of each of the routes considered. It sought to reflect the vision and objectives identified above together with the greenway features highlighted in the consultation with stakeholders. Estimated costs were also assessed. The assessment criteria are set out below. No weightings were applied to them.

**3.3.1 Contribution to Network** – the importance of the route in an overall network (including cross-border connections and EuroVelod as well as the improvement of existing routes (e.g. NCN).

**3.3.2 Linkages** – how well the route will link to schools, work, retail, leisure, places of interest (i.e. key signature projects) and thus generate journeys.

**3.3.3 Technical** – taking account of readily available information and the relative difficulty of the ground conditions, topography and terrain.

**3.3.4 Business** – the potential for the creation or expansion of business near the greenway. Tourism may be a good indicator of how business could be developed.

**3.3.5 Culture / Tourism** – the potential to attract visitors to an area by, for example, opening up an area to tourists. The scoring also reflects the route location with respect to the key signature tourist locations.

**3.3.6 Health and Communities** – an assessment of the contribution to active travel social interaction using the IRACC accessibility analysis to examine population data. Greenways linked to higher populated areas will score higher.

**3.3.7 Environment** – an assessment of the potential to deliver a reduction in vehicle emissions, noise and congestion (linked to modal shift). Routes close to urban areas are more likely to have commuter trips that could transfer.

**3.3.8 Cost** – it is difficult at an early stage to be prescriptive given the different factors that can influence cost but this was estimated in broad terms based on previous scheme costs and for comparative purposes (lower cost scores more highly) according to the following bands:

Low cost	Less than £50K/km
Medium cost	£50 – 150K/km
High cost	£150 – 200K/km
Very High	More than £200K/km

## THE GREENWAY NETWORK

The scheme proposals identified by Councils were one source of information for the development of a Greenway Network. To this was added the details of existing greenways, the former railway network popularised by NIGreenways<sup>4</sup> and other potentially suitable routes such as canal towpaths and flood embankments. In order to ensure that the network would form part of a coherent all-

Island network, proposed cross-border links were included together with the cross-border routes identified in the North West Greenway Plan.

The Assessment Methodology was applied to 27 potential sections of greenway and the results from the assessment are summarised in Appendix B. The scoring

of these sections enabled the identification of a Primary Network and a Secondary Network (see Figure 1). It can be seen that Eurovelo Route 1 would be part of the Primary Network. Table 1 summarises the approximate length and cost of the Primary and Secondary Network routes by assessment score.

Table 1 – Proposed Network and Indicative Costs

PRIMARY NETWORK	SCORE	LENGTH (km)	COST (£million)
Belfast to Craigavon	29	39	5.8
Belfast to Larne	26	36	8
Belfast to Newtownards	26	19	1.8
Craigavon to Enniskillen	25	97	11.6
Craigavon to Newry	25	37	5.6
Craigavon to Derry-Londonderry	24	115	7.2
Dungannon to Coleraine	24	97	14.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>440</b>	<b>61.4</b>

1. AECOM 2016a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z

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SECONDARY NETWORK	SCORE	LENGTH (km)	COST (£million)
Ballymena to Cushendall	22	30	4.4
Belfast to Bangor	22	19	1.9
Coleraine to Giant's Causeway via Portlough and Bushmills	22	24	3.5
Derry-Londonderry to Coleraine	22	54	8.1
Meelin to Ballycastle via Bellmonee	22	30	4.4
Belfast to Carrickfergus	21	12	1.8
Belfast to Carrickduff	21	9	0.9
Comber to Newcastle and Antrim via Downpatrick	21	55	8.2
Mossley to Carrickfergus via Greenisland	20	12	1.2
Omagh to Enniskillen	20	40	5.9
Trillick / Ballinamallard (Buncrana Junction) to Belleek	20	24	3.6
Bangor to Newtownards Loop	19	32	4.8
Ballyclare (Doagh) to Draperstown via Antrim and Maghera's	18	53	8.0
Ballyclare to Ballymena	18	25	3.7
Finavady Junction to Dungiven	18	14	2.1
Caledon to Maghera's Bridge via Clogher Valley	17	51	6.7
Armagh to Newry via Market Hill	16	28	4.2
Ballymena to Kesh	14	25	3.8
Banbridge to Newcastle (including connection to Scarva)	14	36	5.4
Lisburn to Banbridge	13	21	4.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>596</b>	<b>88.1</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>1036</b>	<b>149.5</b>



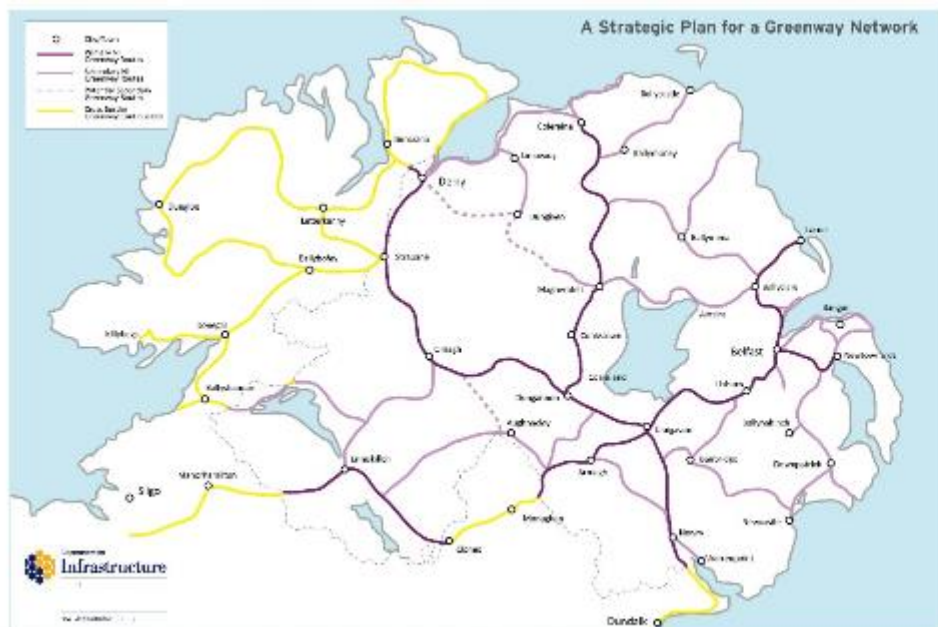


Figure 1. Map of Primary and Secondary Greenway Routes

## THE GREENWAY NETWORK

### Guidance on Engineering Standards

There are many available guidance documents with guidance on standards for the construction of greenways and these are identified in the ACCOM report. Consideration of standards is guided by best practice with the aim of creating space and infrastructure that people will want to use and will feel comfortable when doing so.

In terms of construction, the features of most importance are: a gentle gradient; adequate width; and sufficient clearance on underpasses and bridges.

The number of users should influence the width of the greenway: in rural areas a 3.0m wide path may be adequate; in an urban environment with more users 4.0m is appropriate. This helps reduce conflict between different users. The Sustrans Handbook for Cycle-friendly Design<sup>18</sup> provides good guidance and Figure 2 summarises the different design considerations. Detailed information on standards is contained in the ACCOM document. Guidance on three types of typical surface is provided in Appendix C.

18. The Sustrans Handbook for Cycle-friendly Design is available at: [www.sustrans.org.uk/publications/Handbook-for-Cycle-friendly-Design](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/publications/Handbook-for-Cycle-friendly-Design)



Figure 2. Design Considerations

## THE WAY FORWARD

This Strategic Plan for Greenways identifies routes that should be explored to develop a Primary Greenway Network from which a Secondary Greenway Network could progressively extend across the region. The Primary Network would provide long distance connectivity and the Secondary Network would provide wider access to greenways. Future plans may provide for a third level network of community paths that would provide doorstep opportunities to connect local communities to their local green space and neighbouring communities.

### 5.1 The Primary Network

The Primary Network of around 400km includes many of the main areas of population and reaches some major tourist attractions. It provides the basis for a connected regional network. The East - West (Larne to Belcoot) route includes the east section of EuroVelo Route 1 (between Larne

and Crocreever). The North - South (Derry to Newry) route includes the west section. The Causeway Coast is reached via a Central route. The facilitation of a traffic-free EuroVelo Route 1 is an important priority.

This identification of the Primary Network is supported by the fact that several councils have already undertaken feasibility studies into greenways on some of these routes.

### 5.2 The Secondary Network

The Secondary Network of around 600km would extend the reach of the Greenway Network more widely. It includes some excellent routes and Councils may decide to develop these sections for more local reasons. It would not be the intention that all of the Primary Network must be completed before work begins on the Secondary Network. Some of these routes may be more easily designed.

### 5.3 Actions

The purpose of the Strategic Plan for Greenways is to develop a network that allows people to travel to places locally, regionally and nationally by walking and cycling. This will provide opportunities for people to cycle and walk to work, school and other places. It will also provide opportunities to cycle and walk for leisure and recreation, helping develop the local visitor economy, improving social cohesion within and between communities and ultimately improving the health and wellbeing of the population.

In support of this, the Department for Infrastructure has developed a Small Grants Programme for the development of greenway schemes. This competitive scheme is aimed at providing support for councils to work up projects that will contribute to a step change in greenway provision.

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The programme is a three stage competition which will provide funding for successful Councils to develop feasibility studies and detailed designs for assessment.

Further work on a capital grant scheme is being considered by the Department to assist in the delivery of greenway schemes.

Councils have a key role in the delivery of the Greenway Network. The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to provide a framework to assist Councils and other bodies to develop their own local schemes as part of a Greenway Network for the entire region. The purpose of the grants programme is to provide some assistance from central Government.

However, funding has been made available under the INTERREG V Programme for 2014 - 20 with sustainable transport and cross border greenways as a key operational theme - to encourage mode shift away from the private car to walking and cycling.





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## THE WAY FORWARD

### 5.4 Targets

In the delivery of this Strategic Plan we have set out specific targets as follows:

1. To have 75% of the Primary Network delivered by 2026.
2. To have 25% of the Secondary Network delivered by 2026.
3. To increase the number of journeys made on the Greenways Network and the National Cycle Network to 50 million by 2026.

### 5.5 Conclusion

The development of an extensive Greenway Network can bring many benefits not just in response to transportation needs but also in respect of environmental, social and physical wellbeing and economic needs. These benefits are integrated with the development of the current draft Programme for Government 2016 – 21. It is clear that a strategic Greenway Network can help deliver against many of the Programme for Government outcomes and underlying strategy and policy documents such as the Regional Development Strategy, A New Approach to Regional Transportation, Making Life Better and the Bicycle Strategy.

The Strategic Plan provides a framework for the development of a Greenway Network that reaches into all areas throughout the region, creating a safe and secure environment for all of our citizens to become more active, to improve their health and wellbeing, to access both town and countryside and to improve local areas and the local economy. Investment in a Greenway Network has the potential to deliver outcomes that will benefit us all and provide a positive return for future generations.



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## APPENDIX A

### EXISTING CYCLING AND WALKING NETWORKS

#### EuroVelo

EuroVelo comprises fifteen routes totalling 60,000km which connect the whole of the European continent. It will be substantially complete by 2020. EuroVelo Route 1, the Atlantic Route, stretches from Scandinavia to Portugal. It passes from Larne to Co Donegal via Belfast, Craquevagh and Derry-Londonderry. Developing a traffic-free EuroVelo Route 1 would encourage more people to cycle here.

#### The National Cycle Network

The National Cycle Network (NCN) is around 1,600km but around 85% of it is on-road. The rest is on quiet roads. The NCN includes regional routes which are often themed for the area they traverse (e.g. the Iris, Eglar Cycleway and the Kingfisher Trail). Transferring most of the NCN to traffic-free

routes has the potential to greatly increase its use.

#### The Ulster Way

This 1,000km circular walking route is predominately off road and some is also well known greenway sections of the NCN (e.g. the Lagan and Newry Townships and the North Down Coastal Path).

#### The International Appalachian Trail Initiative (IATI)

The IATI (<http://iati.ie.org/>) has chapters across the world and has established a route from Killybegs, Co Donegal to Larne, Co Antrim (<http://www.walking.com/ie/>) – similar to the EuroVelo concept.

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EuroVelo



The National Cycle Network



The Ulster Way

The International Appalachian Trail

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## APPENDIX B ASSESSMENT OF GREENWAY ROUTES

Table 1 - Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Contribution to Network	Linkages	Technical	Business	Culture / Tourism	Health and Communities	Environment	Cost	Total Score
How it is scored	1-5 - positive impact on increasing scale		substantial, moderate, minor (1, 2 or 3)	1-5 - positive impact on increasing scale				1 - 4 (see text)	
Route Section Scoring Range	1-5	1-5	1-3	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-4	1 - 37
1 Belfast to Craigavon	5	4	1	4	4	5	4	2	29
2 Belfast to Lame	5	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	26
3 Belfast to Newtownards	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	26
4 Craigavon to Enniskillen	5	4	1	4	4	3	2	2	25
5 Craigavon to Newry	4	4	1	4	4	4	2	2	25
6 Craigavon to Derry-Londonderry	4	3	1	3	4	4	3	2	24
7 Dungannon to Coleraine	4	4	1	3	4	4	2	2	24
8 Ballymena to Cushendall	3	2	1	4	5	3	2	2	22
9 Belfast to Bangor	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	22
10 Coleraine to Giants Causeway via Portrush and Rathmills	4	3	2	3	4	2	2	2	22
11 Derry-Londonderry to Coleraine	3	3	2	3	4	3	2	2	22

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## APPENDIX B

Table 1 - Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Contribution to Network	Linkages	Technical	Business	Culture / Tourism	Health and Communities	Environment	Cost	Total Score
How it is scored	1-5 - positive impact on increasing scale		substantial, moderate, minor (1, 2 or 3)	1-5 - positive impact on increasing scale				1 - 4 (see text)	
Route Section Scoring Range	1-5	1-5	1-3	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-4	1 - 37
20 Ballyclare (Craig) to Dapswallow via Aycliffe & Magherafelt	3	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	16
21 Ballyclare to Ballymena	2	1	1	3	4	3	2	2	16
22 Limavady Junction to Dunlavin	3	2	1	3	3	2	2	2	16
23 Caledon to Maguinnessbridge via Clogher Valley	1	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	17
24 Armagh to Newry via Markethill	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	15
25 Ballymena to Killybegs	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	14
26 Banbridge to Newcastle (including connection to Scarva)	1	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	14
27 Lisburn to Banbridge	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	13

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Table 1 - Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Contribution to Network	Linkages	Technical	Business	Culture / Tourism	Health and Communities	Environment	Cost	Total Score
How it is scored	1-5 - positive impact on increasing scale		substantial, moderate, minor (1, 2 or 3)	1-5 - positive impact on increasing scale				1 - 4 (see text)	
Route Section Scoring Range	1-5	1-5	1-3	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-4	1 - 37
12 Martin to Ballycastle via Ballymena	3	2	1	4	5	3	2	2	22
13 Belfast to Carrickfergus	2	3	3	2	3	4	2	2	21
14 Belfast to Carrickfergus	2	3	1	2	3	3	4	3	21
15 Coleraine to Newcastle and Ardara via Downpatrick	3	3	1	3	4	3	2	2	21
16 Mossley to Carrickfergus via Greenisland	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	20
17 Omagh to Enniskillen (including connection to Carrickfergus)	4	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	20
18 Carrickfergus to Carrickfergus (including connection to Carrickfergus)	4	2	1	3	4	2	2	2	20
19 Bangor to Newtownards Loop	2	3	1	2	3	3	3	2	19

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## APPENDIX C GUIDANCE ON THREE TYPES OF TYPICAL SURFACE

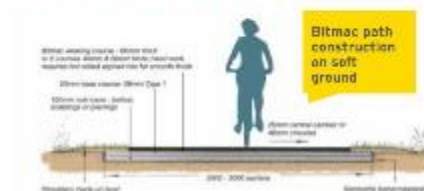


Fig. 1 Bitmac path construction on soft ground



Fig. 2 Detail of path construction on firm ground

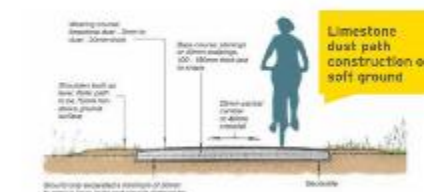


Fig. 3 Limestone dust path construction on soft ground

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## APPENDIX D

### LIST OF CONSULTEEES

**Antrim and Newtownabbey**  
Borough Council

**Ards and North Down**  
Borough Council

**Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon**  
Borough Council

**Belfast**  
City Council

**Causeway Coast and Glens**  
Borough Council

**Derry City and Strabane**  
District Council

**Department of Culture,  
Arts and Leisure**

**Department of the Environment**  
(NI Environment Agency)

**Fermanagh and Omagh**  
District Council

**Lisburn and Castlereagh**  
City Council

**Mid and East Antrim**  
Borough Council

**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

**Newry, Mourne and Down**  
District Council

**NI Environment Link**

**Outdoor Recreation NI**

**Public Health Agency**

**Tourism NI**

**Waterways Ireland**



# *Exercise Explore Enjoy*

A STRATEGIC PLAN  
FOR GREENWAYS

NOVEMBER 2016

**If you require this document in an  
accessible format please contact us.**

**Department for Infrastructure**

Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast, BT2 8CB

Email: [cycling.unit@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:cycling.unit@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

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**M**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Parks Service Progress report</b>
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Nigel Hill, Head of Parks</b>

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members of the progress being made regarding activities and associated to Parks Services and highlight events or consultations that will be occurring in the future

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Parks, Countryside recreation and play has in today's society and the ease of accessible, open space can have on basis quality of life issues and the health and wellbeing of the local community. The facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation from all sections of the community and provide opportunities to maximise quality outdoor experiences for our residents across Mid Ulster District Council.

<b>3</b>	
3.1	<p><b>Mid Ulster District Council Promote Forest Safety</b></p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council have responded to address the growing numbers of quad bikes and motorbikes reported using forest areas such as Iniscarn, Derrynoid and Moydamlaght Forests, Mid Ulster District Council are working with the PSNI's Magherafelt Neighbourhood Policing Team to make it safer for users of the forests and to prevent disturbance to neighbouring properties and land.</p> <p>Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Trevor Wilson urged all quad and motorbike riders to respect others use of the forest areas by avoiding riding on the trails saying,</p> <p>"The safety of users is paramount and the forest trails are not designed for vehicles such as these, so not only are walkers and other users of the trails put in danger, the riders themselves may be injured."</p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council have erected signage to inform quad and motorbike riders that access to the forest sites at Iniscarn, Derrynoid and Moydamlaght is not permitted, and are working closely with the local community and the Police Service of Northern Ireland to encourage greater awareness to the risks involved.</p>





Chair of Mid Ulster District Council, Councillor Trevor Wilson and Constable Mark McGarry, of the PSNI's Magherafelt Neighbourhood Policing Team launch the awareness initiative at Iniscarn Forest.

### 3.2

#### **Christmas Wreath Workshops**

A number of workshop events are scheduled in the coming weeks to offer the opportunity for allotment holders and community gardeners to try their hand at festive wreath making across three venues in Mid Ulster.

- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.00 – 4.00 pm at Ballygawley Community Hall
- Wed 7 Dec 6.30 - 8.30pm in the Annex Community Building at Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy
- Fri 9 Dec 11.00 am – 13.00 pm at The Loup Women's Group

The workshops are free of charge, but booking is essential. Places are limited to 20 participants per session. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To book a place please contact Jenny McGetrick (077 646 55 646) [j.mcgetrick@tcv.org.uk](mailto:j.mcgetrick@tcv.org.uk) (Appendix 1)

### 3.3

#### **Park Lake New Year's Day Angling Competition**

The Park Lake will again host the popular festive angling competition on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January commencing at 9.00am. Anglers will compete from either boat, bank or stand for a first prize of £150 and the perpetual trophy. Booking is essential and refreshments are available to all participants. (Appendix 2)

### 3.4

#### **Dungannon Park Winter Opening Times**

Commencing Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December Dungannon Park will close at 6.00pm on week nights (Monday – Friday). Weekends will continue with extended opening hours to 8.00pm. This winter revision of opening hours



	will be piloted on the basis that seasonal footfall is negligible after the 6.00pm threshold and that our staff resource can be best utilised for the delivery of services in our parks during daylight hours. Customer feedback will be monitored. This pilot will continue until Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2017.
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<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b>  N/A
4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b>  N/A
4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b>  N/A
4.4	<b><u>Other</u></b>  N/A

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
	N/A

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	Members asked to note above report.

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Christmas Wreath Workshops  Appendix 2 – Park Lake / New Year Angling Competition

# Christmas Wreath Workshops

**COME & MAKE YOUR OWN  
CHRISTMAS WREATH!**

**Open to Allotment Holders & Community Gardeners**

- **Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.00 – 4.00 pm at Ballygawley Community Hall**
- **Wed 7 Dec 6.30 - 8.30pm in the Annex Community Building at Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy**
- **Fri 9 Dec 11.00 am – 13.00 pm at The Loup Women's Group**

**The workshops are free of charge, but booking is essential.**

**Places are limited to 20 participants per session.**

**Children must be accompanied by an adult.**



**To book a place please  
contact  
Jenny McGetrick  
[j.mcgetrick@tcv.org.uk](mailto:j.mcgetrick@tcv.org.uk)  
Tel 077 646 55 646**

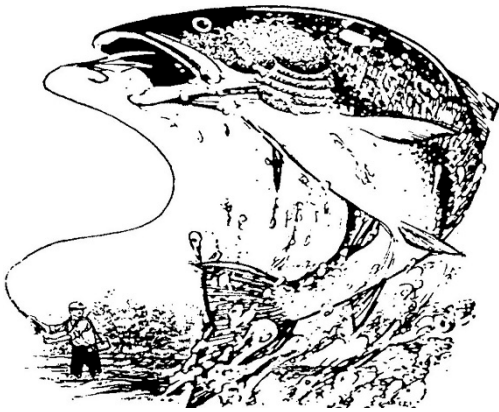
# NEW YEAR'S



**'SINGLES' ANGLING BOAT & BANK**



# SINGLES COMPETITION



## 2017

9.00am - 3.00pm

**1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE £150**

Plus Perpetual Cup

CASH PRIZES FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup>

Bank & Stands Pegged

**Draw will be made for boats & pegs on Friday 30 December.**

Entry into boat draw requires deposit to be paid before this date.

Entry Fee

Bank Angler £15.00

Boat Angler £20.00 (1/2 day boat)

**Heaviest bag catch rules apply (4 fish limit)**

**£5 deposit secures entry**

***Prize fund may vary depending on numbers***

Limited entry Booking Essential

*Refreshments Provided*

**TO BOOK OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
DUNGANNON PARK LAKE FISHERY**

**Tel 028 8772 8690; Email: [parks@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:parks@midulstercouncil.org)**

**N**

**Subject** Culture and Arts Progress Report

**Reporting Officer** Tony McCance

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update Members on the progress being made in Culture and Arts Services and highlight events that have occurred during the months of October and November. Also to identify events and activities within Culture & Arts Services that will be occurring in the future.

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council recognises the important role that Culture and Arts plays in today's society and that the availability of accessible, high quality culture and arts provision can enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of the local community. The Culture and Arts facilities and programmes provided in Mid Ulster are designed to maximise participation from all sections of the community and provide pathways that enable every resident within the Mid Ulster area to maximise their enjoyment, aspirations and quality of life.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	Full details of key elements Culture and Arts Service provision during October and November is included in Appendix 1.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b>  N/A
4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b> N/A  <b><u>Basis for Professional/Consultancy Support</u></b>
4.3	N/A  <b><u>Other</u></b>
4.4	None

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	None

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	Members are asked to note upcoming activities being undertaken within Culture and Arts Services.

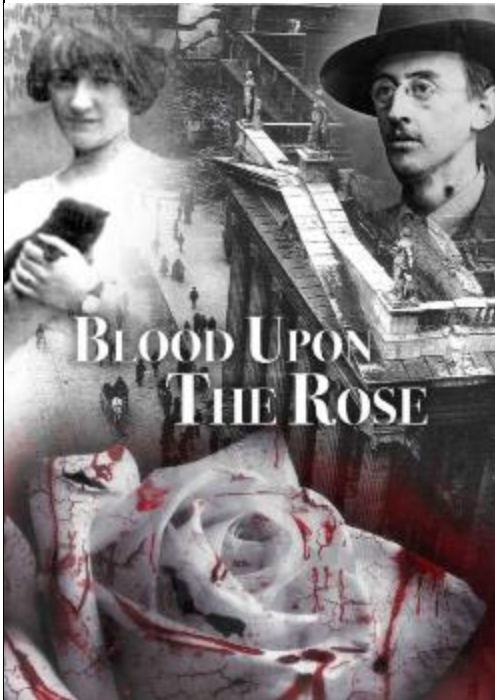
<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 – Key elements of Culture and Arts Service provision delivered throughout the previous month.

## Culture & Arts Service Progress Report

### Progress Report    Appendix 1

#### Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre

##### Shows and Events



A number of successful performances were held during early November including “Blood Upon the Rose” written and directed by Gerry Cunningham and performed by River All Community Theatre Group.



Ballet Ireland returned with “The Nutcracker” and performed to a full house on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The facility continues to be busy with meetings, conferences, performances and workshops.

The remainder of November and December is extremely busy with performances.

The Burnavon Spring Programme of Events will be distributed in early December promoting shows from February – May 2017.



## Events

Work is ongoing toward the Winter Craft Fair to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November. Plans are being finalised for the Christmas Celebration Concert on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### Winter Craft & Food Fair

The Winter Craft & Food Fair, which is scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November, will see 54 stall holders present a range of quality hand produced ceramics, wood, craft, textiles, jewellery, artwork, accessories and food on the day.



### Christmas Concert

Work is underway organising the Christmas Celebrations Concert due to take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. A programme of festive entertainment from projects supported by Council and guest artists will serve to celebrate local musical talent in our district.



## Visual Arts & Exhibitions

### Cookstown High School A-Level Art and Design Showcase – November (Gallery)

Presented in association with Cookstown High School this exhibition showcases the skills of students and features a variety of paintings and ceramic pieces. The exhibition is open to view until the end of November.



***“The Four Seasons at Drum Manor” by Grace Carson Cookstown High School featured on the front cover of the Burnavon Autumn Programme of Events***



## Workshops

The following workshops were successfully delivered in October and November:

- Jiving
- Textile Art
- Ceramics
- Basket Weaving
- Furniture upcycling
- Floral Art
- Bath Bomb and Soap Making
- Beeswax Candle Making
- Make-up Masterclass
- After School Art
- Halloween Crafts
- Cardmaking for Kids

The following workshops are due to be held in the coming weeks:

- Party Heads – Hair and Make up
- Christmas Willow Weaving
- Christmas Floral Art
- Christmas Crafts



## Support Services (weekly)

The following weekly sessions continue to be delivered as part of the Burnavon programme and its associated outreach programme.

- Cookstown Folk Club
- Burnavon Writers Group
- Cookstown Youth Choir
- Superstars Club Musical Theatre Group
- Circus Skills
- Traditional Music in Schools Project (delivered in local schools)



## Outreach

In our latest project Mid Ulster District Council, in partnership with youth arts organisation WheelWorks, successfully completed an 8 week programme of drama and visual art with Team Aspie.

This unique collaboration has allowed young participants with Aspergers Syndrome to access a programme of high artistic activity enabling them to express themselves, develop their self – esteem, confidence, and learn new skills.

Nearly 35 young people concluded the 8 week programme by presenting their visual art to family and friends, and showcasing a performance entitled “Until All the Pieces Fit”. This performance was informed by issues that affect the teenagers, ultimately challenging perceptions and showing inclusion in everyday life.





# Hill of the O'Neill & Ranfurly Arts & Visitor Centre

## Arts & Culture Events in Ranfurly House

Barking Dog Touring Theatre Company presented two morning shows in the Square Box on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October: Teddy's Zoo Adventure and Pinocchio. 30 Primary 2 pupils from Derrylatinee Primary School followed by 28 Primary 3 pupils from the same school enjoyed the live theatre performances. Pupils interacted with the artists throughout the shows and some pupils were invited on stage to act out some scenes. Feedback from both staff and pupils was very positive.



## Halloween Activities

In partnership with Dungannon Library local children were offered Ghostly tales, read by Library staff followed by Halloween themed arts and crafts activities in Ranfurly House on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Prior to the fireworks festivities a 'drop in' Halloween mask making workshop was offered to families. This festive workshop proved very popular with around 60 children creating their own Halloween masks.

Activities continued on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October with the Children's Movie, Hotel Transylvania on offer with face painting to complement children's fancy dress costumes.



### **Classes**

The Drawing Master class for Adults with Angela Hackett (15<sup>th</sup> October) and the Step by step drawing class for 4 to 6 year olds with Nicola Bernie (5<sup>th</sup> November) were both well attended. The Floral art class is due to commence with full numbers on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Guitar classes; acrylic painting; advanced sewing and Children's Drama continue to prove very popular with full attendance each week.

### **Arts & Disability Programme**

Classes continue in the outreach centers in the Dungannon area. The Visually Impaired Persons group (VIPs) is due to start their project in Ranfurly House at the end of November. Community transport has been contacted in regard to the individual's needs.

### **Arts Forum supported events**

In celebration of this very significant year for Dungannon born Margaret Noble, 150<sup>th</sup> birth/anniversary, the Noble Thespians performed their play depicting the life story of Margaret Noble (St Nivedita) on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October. An exhibition of her work and achievements was displayed in the Tower Room. There was also a visit to her Blue plaque organised for visitors on the day.



Margaret Noble (St Nivedita) sculpture on display in Ranfurly House

### Dungannon History Forum

At their October monthly meeting the Dungannon History Forum welcomed representatives from history groups throughout the Mid Ulster Council area. Apologies were recorded from other groups who could not attend the 4.30pm meeting due to work commitments.

It was agreed at this meeting to host a talk on the workhouses throughout Mid Ulster on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March followed by a tour of the workhouses in: Clogher; Dungannon; Cookstown and Magherafelt on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March. This event would have significance for Mid Ulster residents and beyond.



## Temporary Exhibition

The November exhibition in Ranfurly House showcases the beautiful craft work, water colour and acrylic paintings from the Annaginney Art Group.



## **EDUCATION**

“History on the Hill”, a heritage education programme which combines research on the Flight of the Earls and Plantation of Ulster with drama activities, took place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016. It was fully booked and was attended by 135 pupils from local primary schools. Teachers commented:

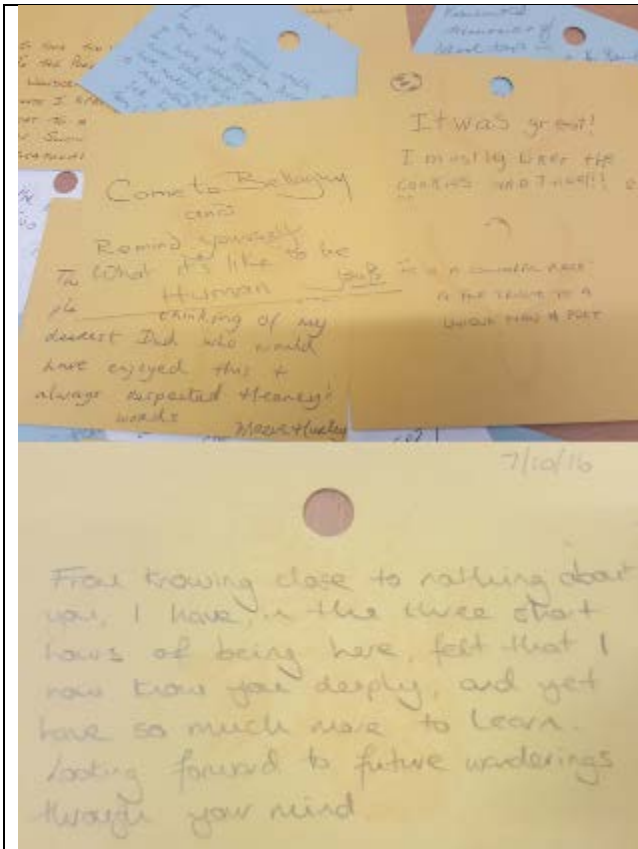
- I would like to thank the team – the whole visit was interesting, varied and just perfect for the age and varying linguistic skills for the pupils in the class. Dungannon Primary School
- Very interesting and informative: compact and well set out. Derrylatinee Primary School
- Thank you very much for another very informative morning. Pupils were highly engaged. Howard Primary School.

The Education Officer is currently working with Key Stage 2 classes and teachers from Dungannon Primary School and St Patrick’s Primary School, Dungannon, on a built heritage of Dungannon pilot education programme. There have already been meetings between the Education Officer and school staff in both schools. St Patrick’s Primary School P5 classes are visiting Hill of The O’Neill & Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre during the week beginning 7<sup>th</sup> November in order to start work on this programme.

### **Seamus Heaney HomePlace**

The first weeks of opening have been an overwhelming success, with thousands of visitors attending the exhibition, The Helicon and the café in the period. Below see just two of the hundreds of comment cards we have been left by visitors on a daily basis.





Visitors have been visiting from throughout Ireland, UK, Europe and USA and we were delighted to welcome a delegation of Chinese bloggers who were highly impressed by the venue, and thoroughly enjoyed their time.

Since opening HomePlace has had visitors from a wide range of tour operators wishing to include the facility on their itinerary for next year.

Also, HomePlace has reached out to local business and accommodation providers by hosting a fam trip, and starting to develop packages which will strengthen these relationships.



HomePlace had a visit from Minister for Communities, Mr Paul Givan on Tues 8<sup>th</sup> November. Pictured here welcomed by Mid Ulster Council, Vice Chair Mrs Sharon McAleer.



## EDUCATION PROGRAMME:

Tuesday 8 November, 2016 marked the launch of the KS5 Education Programme at HomePlace, with a special event for teachers, which focused on the new Heaney and Frost module on the CCEA AS Specification.

Over 45 teachers from schools in – Newry, Omagh, Kilkeel, Belfast, Portadown, Derry, Ballymena, Antrim, Maghera, Magherafelt, Randalstown, Armagh, Dungannon, and Lurgan attended the event.

Teachers enjoyed complimentary access to the exhibition, (followed by light refreshments) and then made their way into The Helicon theatre where Dr. Tim Hancock, Subject Director of English at the University of Ulster, delivered a specially devised lecture, which, focused on key Heaney poems from the AS Specification. The title of his talk was: ***'Known and strange things': Heaney, Frost, and the momentary stay of poetry.***



- The KS5 Pupil programme was also launched on the night. QUB and UU are collaborating with HomePlace to deliver a series of bespoke lectures/seminars over a six week period for A level students, which, will also focus on the AS specification requirements for the Heaney and Frost module.
- There has been great interest in this event with key dates oversubscribed – as such, I am currently in discussions with QUB and UU about running the event again in February/March 2017 to accommodate demand from schools.
- St Columba's Primary School, Kilrea are bring 51 Year 6 and Year 7 students to HomePlace for a Christmas treat on Tuesday 13 December. The children will enjoy the exhibition and will participate in specially devised festive activities in the Creative Learning Zone and the Glanmore Room. The activities will focus on Seamus Heaney poem 'A Sofa in the Forties'.

### **Close to Home- Arts Programme**

HomePlace held a number of highly successful events over the period. These included 'The Home Key: Phil Coulter' and 'Heaney, Sir': St. Columb's remembered both which saw 'The Helicon' at capacity.





'A Naturalist's Lunch' provided visitors with a unique experience where chef Emmett McCourt prepared a selection of canapes taking inspiration from Heaney's debut collection, and music was provided by The Henry Girls.

Readings and talks were delivered by Michel Faber, John Bowman, Louis de Bernieres, Rosie Lavan, Horatio Clare & Mark Cocker, and a Dramatic Reading preformed of 'Death of a Naturalist'.

#### 'On Location'

Building upon the successful of the 'Mycenne Lookout' reading at Church Island, the programme was taken 'on location' yet again with two local Bellaghy churches hosting the Meccore String Quartet playing Beethoven's Opus 132 and readings of TS Eliot's 'Four Quartets'.

A very special reading of 'The Great Hunger' by Patrick Kavanagh was held at 'The Wood', the Heaney family farm. The reading was delivered by well-known actor Frankie McCafferty.



### **BBC Screening**

HomePlace played host to a preview screening of ' My Mother and Other Strangers' a new network drama written by Barry Devlin, brother of Marie Heaney:

"We've had lots of positive of feedback about the venue (it was a first visit for many) and about the ambience and feel of the screening. Unusually for us, someone even got in touch with BBC Audience Services to say lots of nice things about the HomePlace and Barry's series." Mark Adair, BBC.

# Irish Language Development Programme

## Theme 1: Promoting Opportunities to Learn

- **Irish in the Primary Project** is now running in 46 schools across Mid Ulster for 8 weeks this term. A small number of schools will take part in the project for 8 weeks in the New Year. This is due to lack of tutors available to cover all schools in the first term.
- **Irish Language Diploma** returned to The Burnavon on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September with a registration morning and intensive class. A further intensive day was held on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday evening classes continue for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students in both The Burnavon and SWC.



## Theme 2: Irish Language in the Community

- **Providing support, advice, information and guidance to Irish language groups** continues on a regular basis through regular meetings, phone calls and sharing information on behalf of local Irish language groups on the council facebook page.





- **Weekly intermediate classes** continue in the Burnavon on Tuesday mornings.
- **Tús/Nasc** classes took place in The Burnavon on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Approximately 20 people attended on both days.
- **Irish Language Activity Funding** the 16/17 funding scheme to provide developmental support to external organisations within the MUDC region received 14 applications from various group in line with the Irish Language Action Plan for 16/17. These were subsequently approved by Mid Ulster District Council.
- **Halloween Events** two storytelling sessions were held in Dungannon Library in the run up to Halloween. Armagh storyteller and Irish speaker, Frances Quinn held a session for adults on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October and another session for children, to include Halloween crafts on 29<sup>th</sup> October.



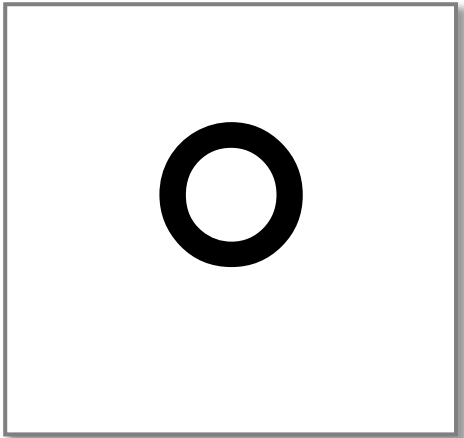
- [www.nalscoll.org](http://www.nalscoll.org)
-   
- Cócaireacht don óige**
- Bilingual cookbook for the young  
(& not so young!)**
- 
- 



### Theme 3: Promotion of Irish within and by Mid Ulster District Council

- **Spoken Irish for Beginners and Improvers** classes began on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November and are being offered to Mid Ulster Council staff across all 3 areas. Classes are offered on Mondays in Cookstown, Wednesdays in Dungannon and Thursdays in Magherafelt.
- **The Irish language Policy Implementation Group** continues to meet on a regular basis. Recent discussions have surrounded the areas of vehicle livery and signage both internally within council buildings and externally across the district.
- **“Nigh do Lámha/Wash your Hands” Health Promotion Scheme:** a session was held in Naíscoil na Speiríní Ballinascreen recently. This bilingual scheme has been developed in conjunction with Environmental Health staff in Magherafelt. Its purpose is to highlight the importance of hand washing in order to prevent the spread of germs in high risk groups such as pre-school children.





**Subject** Irish Language Implementation Working Group minutes of meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Reporting Officer** Tony McCance

<b>1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To receive and consider for approval the minutes of the Irish language Implementation Working Group held on 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

<b>2</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council previously resolved to establish an Irish Language Working Group to assist with policy development and to support the implementation of Mid Ulster District Council's Irish Language policy and associated work.
2.2	The Working Group Terms of Reference confirms that the business of the Irish language Working Group be reported through Mid Ulster District Council's Development Committee.

<b>3</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	The report of the meeting of September 2016 is attached for consideration and approval.

<b>4</b>	<b>Resources</b>
4.1	<b><u>Financial</u></b> N/A
4.2	<b><u>Human</u></b> N/A
4.3	<b><u>Basis for Professional/ Consultancy Support</u></b> N/A
4.4	<b><u>Other</u></b> N/A

<b>5</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
5.1	Not Applicable

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	The Committee considers approval of the Irish language implementation Working group minutes of 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

<b>7</b>	<b>List of Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 – Minutes of Irish Language Working Group of 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2016





## Report of Irish Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster District Council

Report of Irish Language Implementation Working Group of Mid Ulster Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in the Council Offices, Magherafelt

**Attendees Members:** Cllrs J McNamee (Chair), P Bateson, S McPeake, T Wilson, T Quinn, R McGinley, M Kearney (Observer)

**Officers:** AM Campbell, T McCance, M Thomasson, D O'Doibhlin, U Mezza, M Kelso

AGENDA	MATTERS AGREED	ACTIONS & RESPONSIBILITY
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Cllrs K Ashton, D McKinney	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	No declarations of interest submitted	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Report of Previous meeting</b>	
	<p>A report of the previous meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> May was presented to the Working Group. Matters arising- Most matters arising are referring to the last meeting, vehicle livery and signage.</p> <p><b>Signage</b> M Kelso updated the meeting on developments in relation to street signage. A signage working group has been set up with cross-party representation and a final working document of the group's recommendations is nearing completion. With regard to current signage in use, there had been questions about the suitability of the typeface used in Magherafelt under legacy Council for the Irish language. There had been feedback received</p>	

	<p>stating that some people felt that when they were driving it was difficult to read the Irish. The group was currently working up a dual-language policy and recommendations regarding typeface were welcome.</p> <p>D Ó Doibhlin stated that the typeface in use in Magherafelt dates from circa 2006 and that he didn't think any research had been carried out about its legibility or suitability. Since then a report has been commissioned by Conradh na Gaeilge which contains design recommendations from international best practice. Chair stated members of Irish community had said they would prefer a different type set.</p> <p>M Kelso stated that samples would be drawn up by the Signage working group taking best practice and the need for legibility into account. He expected this process would be a matter of weeks rather than months.</p> <p>Chair stated that £40,000 had been allocated in the 2016/17 budget for signage and that councillors would like it spent before the next financial year.</p> <p>M Kelso informed the group that final development of branded bilingual signage still required a lengthy process. There was some discussion as to timeframes and it was felt that the allocated budget should be analysed and transferred as necessary to other areas of the work plan.</p> <p>T McCance agreed to look at this issue and to present proposals with regard to signage, especially internal and on council buildings, for the next meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Vehicle Livery</u></b></p> <p>U Mezza presented draft ideas and proposals and a discussion ensued. U Mezza agreed to present amended versions of the proposals for vehicle livery at the next meeting.</p>	<p>T McCance</p> <p>U Mezza</p>
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<b>4.0</b>	<b>Ulster Scots Activity Proposals</b>	
	<p>T McCance presented a proposal for the development of Ulster Scots Activities and asked councillors to review. AM Campbell stated that these proposals were for promotion of both language and Ulster Scots culture but that solely cultural activities were to be developed through cultural and not linguistic programmes in council.</p> <p>T McCance agreed to update the proposal for the next meeting to show the differentiation between Ulster Scots language and cultural activities.</p>	T McCance
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Irish language activity update</b>	
	<p>T McCance presented a copy of the Irish language 16/17 Action Plan detailing activities and projects for the rest of the year in order to give members a flavour and feel for what the public was attending and for what was being delivered.</p> <p>Officers highlighted that the uptake in applications for the Irish language activity funding greatly exceeded the budget allocations and T McCance agreed to look at this issue and to present proposals with regard to how to meet this shortfall, within the current budget, for the next meeting.</p> <p>Chair requested information about of Irish language tuition for council staff, as per policy. T McCance confirmed that the Irish language officers were in contact with Sinead McAleer, Corporate Learning and Development Officer, and a range of classes will begin in October 2016.</p> <p>Cllr McPeake commended T McCance, AM Campbell, D Ó Doibhlin and M Thomasson for the diverse range of activities currently being delivered, especially the roll out of the Regional and Minority Languages Bursary Scheme which awarded Gaeltacht bursaries to 231 applicants. Cllr McPeake noted that officers were in need of administrative support due to the exponential growth of the Irish language programme and requested that this be recorded for the purpose of the minutes and also be made a priority as this would allow officers to engage fully with community.</p>	<p>T McCance</p> <p>D Ó Doibhlin &amp; M Thomasson</p>

## Appendix 1

6.0	A.O.B.	
	None	
<b><i>Meeting concluded at 6.30pm</i></b>		

**Reports of Working Groups:** Finalised Reports of Working Groups should be forwarded to Democratic Services on [committees@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:committees@midulstercouncil.org) with a cover report to be scheduled on the agenda of the next available relevant committee meeting.