

Report on	Facility Update – US Grant and The Bridewell
Date of Meeting	13 May 2021
Reporting Officer	Michael Browne
Contact Officer	Genevieve Bell and Sharon Arbuthnot

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide an update on the enhancements to both US Grant and The Bridewell.
2.0	Background
2.1	Staff within the Tourism and Events team have used the Covid-19 restrictions to their advantage. Seeking and securing funding from various funders to enhance sites with the Mid Ulster District during the closures.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>USG Exhibition - Ulster Scots Agency</u></p> <p>The Ulster-Scots Agency identified a further opportunity to promote the Ulster-Scots (Scotch-Irish) story and its connection with the United States through the story of Ulysses S. Grant. Grant was one of the most iconic American military and political leaders and was well aware of his Scotch-Irish heritage.</p> <p>The ongoing work will significantly enhance the interpretive treatment of the site including the introduction of welcome signage at the entrances and exits to the site; directional signage to help visitors navigate around the site and suitable interpretive displays within and around the buildings.</p> <p>Work on all exhibition material is planned to be completed by May 2021.</p>
3.2	<p><u>New Play Park DOC - Access and Inclusion Programme</u></p> <p>Mid Ulster District Council were granted £30k for the introduction of new DDA compliant play equipment at U.S. Grant Ancestral Homestead. The new equipment includes an accessible inclusive pod swing, a wheelchair accessible inclusive ground level roundabout, a wheelchair accessible in ground trampoline and 4 sensory panels. The work was completed at the end of March 2021.</p>

Early indications have shown that visitor numbers (in particular local people) have increased significantly since the new play park was finished.



3.3

The Bridewell Enhancements

Over the last twelve months the Bridewell has received funding from the Access and Inclusion Programme.

The Bridewell is located in Magherafelt Town Centre; housing the Visitor Information Centre; the library and a community hall on the lower ground floor.

In April 2020 funding was received to refurb the toilets on the ground floor. The renovation included female and male toilets in addition to an accessible toilet.

Additional funding was then secured to install a Changing Places facility on the ground floor of the building along with the refurbishment of two unisex toilets. The project will be completed by mid- May 2021. This will be the first Council owned Changing Places Facility located within one of Mid Ulster Councils Town Centres. A corner accessible toilet is already in situ on the lower ground.

The changing places facility is a fantastic asset for the Bridewell and Magherafelt Town Centre. It will be the third CP completed by Council and only the second to be open to the public. The strategic aim for the Bridewell is to develop an Accessible Town Centre based Hub a safe place that caters attracts people with disabilities and their carers.

The next phase of the enhancement to the Bridewell will be within the Visitor Information Centre. Funding was secured from TourismNI for a digital touch screen which will enable visitors to build an itinerary around individual interests and hobbies.

The enhancement of the Bridewell and Visitor Information Centre will continue as additional funding sources become available.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial:
	Human: n/a
	Risk Management:
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	N/A
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A