



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

Mid Ulster in Bloom 2022

Mid Ulster In Bloom

Judges Information Pack



Chairs Foreword

Ulster In Bloom Judges Pack Chair's Foreword 2022

The Council continues to invest in and deliver excellent customer focused services, facilities and infrastructure that contributes to the development of the towns and villages throughout the district.

Working in partnership with the local community and other key stakeholders has resulted in significant benefits for residents and visitors, and Ulster in Bloom has always showcased what local councils and community groups can do together to improve and encourage civic pride in our towns and villages.

10 towns have been put forward this year for both the Ulster and Britain in Bloom competitions, and we hope that they can at least equal if not better last year's outstanding wins by Donaghmore (1st place village), Stewartstown (2nd place large village) and Magherafelt (3rd place town). Special community and floral display awards were deservedly given to Caledon Allotments and Friel's Bar and Restaurant in Swatragh respectively. Mid Ulster is no stranger to bloomin' success!

As human beings, we love to see flower displays, whether at home, in our gardens, in our village flowerbeds or in our town centre hanging basket; they help to lift our spirits and contribute to a better quality of life for all ages. Everyone's hard work and dedication (often given in their own time and with civic pride) in enhancing and preserving their areas is to be celebrated.

Plant and floral displays keep our towns and villages looking beautiful for our current residents and visitors alike, as well as encouraging new ones in the future as our district grows.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our Grounds Team for their continued commitment and contribution to a high performing service, especially given the operational challenges which presented themselves to Council in 2021 – 2022.

I'll conclude by wishing all entries every success for 2022. We look forward to congratulating the winners in due course.

Councillor Paul McLean,
Chair, Mid Ulster District Council

Background

The District of Mid Ulster is one of the largest and covers about 14% of NI, spanning some 60 miles from Swatragh in the north to Fivemiletown in the south.

An important characteristic of Mid Ulster is its location, within an hour's drive of Northern Ireland's significant tourism regions – Including Causeway Coast, Derry/Londonderry, Fermanagh Lakes, Belfast, and also the cross-border link with Co. Monaghan.

Mid Ulster offers both locals and visitors a wide range of exciting activities and attractions for all ages and interest. The district contains some of the richest archaeological, historic and heritage sites and facilities in Northern Ireland, stretching from Mesolithic, Neolithic, pre-Christian, early Christian and medieval times to plantation era and up to the 2nd World War.

On a visit to the district, you can discover our notable ancestors, follow in the footsteps of artists, writers, and US presidents and marvel at some of the wondrous work left behind from people who walked our countryside thousands of years ago. If you enjoy beautiful scented, colourful gardens, Mid Ulster is blooming with glorious gardens. With restored Victorian walled gardens, historic houses and demesnes and delightful mature gardens, what better way to spend a day than wandering round secret paradises.

Mid Ulster in Bloom

Mid Ulster Council towns, villages and businesses have a great tradition in Ulster in Bloom throughout the area. Donaghmore topped their category last year whilst notable recognition were also awarded to Magherafelt, Caledon and Friels Bar in Swatragh.

The council have worked closely with groups and volunteers from all 10 towns & villages to enhance the local areas and instil a sense of pride into their communities.

Areas included in the submission:

- Caledon
- Coalisland
- Cookstown
- Donaghmore
- Dungannon
- Stewartstown
- Magherafelt
- Maghera
- Swatragh
- Tobermore

Caledon

Caledon is a small village and townland (of 232 acres) in the Clogher Valley on the banks of the River Blackwater, 7 miles from Armagh. It lies in the southeast of Tyrone and near the borders of County Armagh and County Monaghan. It is situated in the historic barony of Dungannon Lower and the civil parish of Aghaloo.

It is a designated conservation area. It was historically known as Kinnaird (Irish: Cionn Aird, meaning “head/ top of the height or hill”). Caledon was home to a railway station (on the narrow gauge Clogher Valley Railway) opened on 2 May 1887, but finally closed on 1 January 1942. Tynan and Caledon railway station on the mainline opened by the Ulster Railway on 25 May 1858. In 1876 the Ulster Railway merged with other railways companies to become the Great Northern Railway (Ireland). The station was finally closed on 1 October 1957.

Just outside the village is the private estate of Lord Caledon, which boasts herds of deer and many old fine estate houses. Close to the back gates of the estate on the Caledon to Armagh road (A28) stands the Dredge Suspension Footbridge which is unique in Ireland.



Flower displays in Caledon

- **Caledon in Bloom**

With all this history, heritage and culture, plus the attractive nature of the Georgian village of Caledon, it really lends itself to be a contestant in the 'Ulster in Bloom' Competition. It has so many features both of the built and natural environment, the amenities, (river walk, park and foot bridge) of the adjacent Blackwater River, plus its historic and architectural significance, that it can compete very keenly for a strong position among the villages and towns of Ulster.

Another important feature and attraction of the village is the new and improved Allotments, which are used extensively to grow fruit, herbs, flowers and vegetables. The allotments have become the hub of 'Caledon in Bloom' group who avail of these resources for growing and cultivating plants and flowers for window boxes, railing boxes and flower displays. The abundance of colour undoubtedly enhances the environment whilst attracting more bees, insects and butterflies, which are generally in decline due to insecticides and agricultural practices. The hub is where adults and children alike learn more about horticulture and nature itself, this the heartbeat of Caledon in Bloom.

- **Community Support**

The group liaise with other local groups Caledon Regeneration Partnership, Scouts/Guides/BB, Women's groups, the local football club, seniors, drama/music groups, and the two primary schools aiming to get the whole community involved for the benefit of all particularly as the weather improves and Covid regulations eased. Since its formation, the group have worked closely with the local schools to deliver education events.



Allotments in Caledon

The allotments were the main success story of the year. The individual plot holders maintained their crops of mostly fruit and vegetables. The greenhouse erected in 2019 was used for preserving some of the annual flowers and germinating seedlings. A shed was successfully erected for the storage of materials and the use of the group. Six barrel planters were purchased and placed to expand the area of interest to new locations in Mill Street, Castle Drive and Derrycourtney Road.

Caledon in Bloom has been received very well since its inception and has provided a fantastic platform for greater interaction between residents and neighbours that had never been in contact with one another before.

Part of the proceeds were used to re-model Pam's Garden.



Pam's Garden in Caledon



Pam's Garden at Christmas

[illegible]

Woodview Terrace – Neglected ground used for dumping.



Woodview Terrace – neglected ground used for dumping.



Woodview Terrace – now cleaned up and ready for pollinator planting.

Part Lottery Funded Woodview Terrace



Woodview Terrace – briars, undergrowth and rubbish removed awaiting new planting of pollinator plants



**For further information and a map detailing the key sites of the village please refer to Caledon in Bloom's individual pack.*

Coalisland

Coalisland was one of the earliest industrial communities and was once the terminus of a busy canal that conveyed coal and other traffic to and from Belfast. Coal deposits were discovered in the late 17th century. While it was possible to exploit these resources, the difficulty was getting the coal to market.

In 1744 work began on the Coalisland Canal thus linking the coalfields to Lough Neagh. The town grew up around the canal workings. The canal was opened in 1789 to bring coal from Coalisland to Dublin via the River Blackwater, Lough Neagh and Newry canal. Coalisland acted as an inland port with lighters carrying grain for the mills and provisions for the surrounding towns. Coalisland railway station was opened in July 1897 and closed for passengers in January 1956 and goods traffic in October 1959. There are no remains of the railway other than the bridge on the Derry Road and an old goods shed and grown over platforms.

The Craic Theatre and Arts Centre is built on the site of an old weaving factory. It provides opportunities and entertainment for people of the area through its in-house company Craic Players.

Dennis Taylor 1985 World Snooker Champion lived in the town.



Flower displays and new Civic Space in Coalisland

- **Coalisland in Bloom**

The planters and hanging baskets on the main street along with beds at the entrance to the town have been improved with additional colour added to bring more vibrancy along with the new landscaped civic space.

- **Community Support**

Council continues to engage with various partners to help enhance the area, these include the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Churches Forum and other voluntary and community groups. Council have delivered workshops to community groups on Recycling and Protecting the Environment. Coalisland's Men Shed continue to be proactive and work with individuals and group in horticultural activities and sustainable planting.

- **Additional Information**

£3.7m has been invested in Coalisland by Mid Ulster Council and the Department of Communities for a Public Realm Scheme and is due for completion end of May 2021. The condition of the town's paving and street furniture was dated and unappealing. Traffic flow and parking is causing congestion. All which created an unwelcoming and unattractive town centre.

The scheme has created a safe, high-quality pedestrian-friendly environment, it has enhanced the aesthetics and has revitalised and reinvigorated the town to help encourage more visitors and shoppers into the town centre. The creation of a landscaped area between Main Street and Cornmill car park, by removing an existing derelict building, has significantly improved the aesthetic of Main Street, therefore improving public perception of the town.

Works at the Canal in November 2021 to remove litter, vegetation has enhanced the site and improved the flow of the water.



Coalisland Canal – before and after.

In addition, a wildflower area has recently been established at the beginning of the canal near Newells Stores.

Cookstown

Cookstown was founded around 1620 when the townlands in the area were leased by an English ecclesiastical lawyer, Dr. Alan Cooke, from the Archbishop of Armagh, who had been granted the lands after the Flight of the Earls during the Plantation of Ulster. It was one of the main centres of the linen industry West of the River Bann, and until 1956, the processes of flax spinning, weaving, bleaching and beetling were carried out in the town.

Cookstown's famous main street (laid out from c.1735–c.1800), is 1.25 miles (2.01 km) long and 135 feet (41.15 m) wide, one of the longest, and widest in Ireland.

The town is famous for its Saturday Market, a tradition which has been going from 1628 when King Charles I granted a charter to form a market town. This gave permission to establish a market every Saturday and hold two fairs annually selling items such as grain, flax, linen and thread.

During the 1740's the basic layout of Cookstown was formed.



Cookstown Town Centre.

- **Cookstown in Bloom**

As one of the 5 main towns in the district, Cookstown continues to put its best foot forward in both the Ulster in Bloom & Best Kept Town competitions. Even more colour has been put into the main street with additional hanging baskets this year and the A29 has undergone development works. The £55K upgrade included new Cookstown branding being installed as well as updated signage, enhanced lighting, the installation of a new footpath and cleaning of the existing public art. The upgrade

enforces the strategic importance of the A29 roundabout as a key entry and exit point to Cookstown.

The central tree avenue continues to develop and provides an eye-catching spectacle with its Christmas lights for visitors during the festive period.

The amenity site and recycling centre continues to be heavily used by the public and are kept to a high standard by council staff.

The Bug Garden & Mud Pond at the Fairhill are becoming popular with the community and particular the local primary schools, who use it as an educational visit to help broaden the children's understanding of nature and decline in bee populations.

- **Community Support**

Whilst work in this particular area is ongoing there has been steady improvements over the past 12 months, the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Churches Forum and other voluntary and community groups are taking a more active role to enhance the area. Local schools are also involved and have assisted in clean ups and have attended the Bug Garden and Recycling Centre for educational purposes. Cookstown Gardening Club have undertaken sustainable planting activities at sites across the town.

Longstanding relationships with local businesses continue with sponsorship of beds.



A29 Roundabout in Cookstown.

Donaghmore

St Patrick is said to have founded a religious establishment here in the 5th century. The name for Donaghmore in Irish is Domhnach Mor meaning greatchurch.

In the 1731 Report on the State of Popery in Donaghmore, two mass houses were recorded. There was already a chapel here in 1806 but after Catholic Emancipation in 1829 things began to move again in the parish. Fr Neil McGuckian became parish priest in 1837 and he began to build schools and churches in the parish. The existing church was demolished in 1845 and St Patricks R C Church a larger church was built on the site.

A six metre tall cross dating from the 9th century stands at the end of the village. It is one of Ulster's finest Early Christian monuments and is a relic of the monastic settlement in Donaghmore which lasted from the 6th – 12th Century. The cross is a composite of two sandstone crosses that were found along the banks of the River Torrent in the 18th Century. It was erected in its present position by the Rev Richard Vincent in 1776. Carvings on the east face depict scenes from the New Testament and on the west face are scenes from the Old Testament.



Flower displays in Donaghmore.

- **Donaghmore in Bloom**

Donaghmore Horticultural Community (DHC) was formed in 2010 and is made up entirely of volunteers with the main aim to inspire the community to 'Do More for your village'.

The group has taken great strides over the past 11 years with their efforts being widely recognised in 2019 by winning the Best Village Award and one of their young volunteer receiving the Youth Award. The Village is also going on to represent NI in the prestigious Britain in Bloom

DHC are sensitive to the local heritage and culture. In their work they do their best to enhance the historic landmarks and preserve the natural environment of the village. It integrates with all key stakeholders and other community groups in the village and work together to preserve our local heritage.

During the pandemic the group kept the village tidy by implementing a "Walk & Weed" initiative and the group also created a video on how to plant up a container for St Joseph's Grammar School.



Flower displays in Donaghmore.

- **Community Support**

Donaghmore Horticultural Community received the QAVS (Queens Award for Voluntary Service) for the way they have transformed the village, and the range of projects they run for young and old. Our inclusive approach really brings the village together. DHC are a cross community organization.

In August of 2021 Lottery funding of £10,000 was secured to purchase Christmas lights for the village. Local residents were very appreciative of this project



Donaghmore Horticultural Community.

Donaghmore are always looking to the future and continuing our partnerships with for example, Mid Ulster Council, the Bardic Theatre, The Women's Institute, No Limits Group, Donaghmore GAA, St Joseph's Convent, Donaghmore PS, St Patrick's PS, Castlecaulfield and Carland Primary Schools. This community involvement is what makes our group special and the sense of community cohesion that it promotes.

The group have been building on these connections for several years and they have proved to be a practical and inclusive way to gain community involvement. As the visual appearance of any place is an important part of encouraging respect in the community and creating 'Pride of Place' in the village.

They have managed projects funded by Peace Two, three and four to create our allotments, we have delivered the Bardic Blossoms project which received £20000 funding from Peace IV. This is possible due to the dedication of our committee and to their sense of duty to the community.

An indication of the respect that DHC is held by Donaghmore residents is reflected in the amount of sponsorship that is received each year. This sponsorship is what allows them to enter Ulster in Bloom, Britain in Bloom and Tidy towns. DHC are committed to supporting a more sustainable and prosperous society that respects the local environment.

Sustainability for the future is essential. They have ongoing recruitment of volunteers and encourage the youth of the village to partake in horticultural activities. This commitment to future planning and the seeking of funding to support initiatives, to aid in the regeneration of the village, is what gives life blood to their activities. A wide range of sponsors continue to support them.

Future plans include:

- To include more 'Art in the Landscape' with the addition of a sculpture incorporated into a green-space or display area. Theme appropriate to represent the Donaghmore area.
- Continue to execute our Bio-diversity plan
- Work with DDA and Torrent Complex with regard to completing the Donaghmore 10-year plan,
- Constantly review the local environment and liaise with other stakeholders to come up with new opportunities to improve the village environment through gardening and horticulture.
- Donaghmore believe they are well placed to continue to build on our successes to date.



**For further information and a map detailing the key sites of the village please refer to Donaghmore Horticultural Community individual pack.*

Dungannon

The name Dungannon comes from the Irish Dún Geanainn meaning “Geanann’s stronghold. For centuries it was the ‘capital’ of the O’Neill dynasty who dominated most of Ulster and built a castle on the hill. After the O’Neill defeat in the Nine Years’ War the English founded a plantation town on the site which grew into what is now Dungannon. The castle was burned in 1602 by Hugh O’Neill, 2nd Earl of Tyrone as Crown forces under Lord Mountjoy closed in on the Gaelic lords towards the end of the Nine Years’ War. In 1607 ninety-nine Irish chieftains and their followers, including Hugh O’Neill, set sail from Rathmullan, bound for the continent.

An interesting feature in the town is the former police station which is quite unlike any other barracks of a similar vintage in Ireland. The story goes that the rather curious design is due to a mix-up with the plans in Dublin which meant that Dungannon got a station designed for Nepal and they got a standard Irish barracks complete with a traditional Irish fireplace.



Flower displays in Dungannon Town Centre.

- **Dungannon in Bloom**

Dungannon has benefitted aesthetically from having additional planters in the town centre and at the Hill of the O'Neill. New for this year is the hanging baskets around the main shopping hub. The Green Flag site of the Hill of the O'Neill has seen its entrance banks undergo a major landscaping design that has enhanced the welcoming appearance. The Wild Flower Garden is now established and has been well received by groups and schools that use it for bio diversity and educational visits.

The new and improved amenity site and recycling centre continues to be heavily used by the public and are kept to a high standard by council staff.

- **Community Support**

Council continue to engage with various partners to help enhance the area, these include the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Churches Forum and other voluntary and community groups. Local schools are also involved and have assisted through Eco Schools in the Big Spring Clean ups within the schools and community.

Working in partnership with Northern Ireland Forest School Association (NIFSA), Schools & Youth Groups, the council delivers an educational programme at the Hill of the O'Neill Heritage Park & Dungannon Park which provides innovative activities to children to help them understand the importance of the natural environment and local heritage. In addition the Walk Ways at Windmill Wood have under gone a major tidy up which has proved very popular. Longstanding relationships with local businesses continue with a number of beds currently sponsored.

- **Additional Information**

New for this year has seen the transformation of the Hospital roundabout with new perennial beds replacing the seasonal planting and trees planted. The Butterflies have been relocated to the Wild Flower area of Dungannon Park.



New perennial beds and trees in Dungannon Town Centre.

Stewartstown

Stewartstown is an historic market town and owes its development to the local landlords Staples and Caulfield in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. It became a centre for the linen trade and boasted a busy market in agricultural produce.

The settlement was formerly known as 'Castlestewart' and it was established by the Scots planter Andrew Stewart at the time of the Plantation of Ulster in the early seventeenth century. In Gaelic times the area was the chief centre of the O'Doibhlin (Devlin) clan, trusted sub-chiefs of the O'Neill's.

The surrounding countryside is full of history and legend with a number of historical features in the vicinity including Crieve Lough, where Hugh O'Neill spent his last night before leaving the shores of Ireland.

Since the Early Christian period it has claimed links with St Patrick, Ireland's national apostle; place names such as Donaghenny and Donaghrisk indicate ecclesiastical sites of great antiquity. Ballyclog – the place of the bell – can lay claim to strong links with the Bell of St Patrick and its richly-decorated shrine, both now in the National Museum, Dublin.



Flower displays in Stewartstown.

- **Stewartstown in Bloom**

Following their success in in Ulster in Bloom 2019 and 2021 the group continue be very active by providing much needed support to the community during and post Covid providing vibrancy in the village throughout the year.

- **Community Support**

Throughout the pandemic the group delivered gift & food parcels and letters of support to families within the community. At Christmas senior residents received Christmas cards and mince pies.

Despite being in its infancy and operating in a pandemic the group undertook seasonal planting in the village and developed a Community Garden with allotments. It also delivered a Big Clean Up of the village and made bird boxes and planters in conjunction with the special needs class in St Joseph's College.



Pupils from St. Joseph's College.

The group have formed partnerships with many local groups including, St Vincent de Paul Society, local schools, sports clubs, Mid Ulster District Council and the local businesses.



Flower displays in Stewartstown.

Additional Information

The Square in Stewartstown continues to be the main focal point as it is the central meeting point for everyone along with the new Community Garden which has become the working hub of the group on West Street, Stewartstown.

**For further information and a map detailing the key sites of the Village please refer to Stewartstown in Bloom Community individual pack.*

Magherafelt

Documented as a town since 1425 following the Plantation of Ulster a central diamond has formed the heart of the town. The name Magherafelt, according to some authorities, means the “Plain of Fegads Fort” while others have it “The Plain of Felta”. It was anciently “Tafelta” the house of Felta.

There is a tradition that St Patrick considered it of such importance that he worshipped in the old church and planted a stone at the bottom of the well opposite the church gate. It was believed that if the stone was lifted out the well would go dry until the stone was replaced. At this time the well was the main water supply for the town. A familiar landmark at the bottom of Broad Street, the site of the present Bridewell building used to be occupied by both the courthouse and the jail. The old cells and Bridewell walls have now been incorporated into the new building. It was here that local citizens were locked up for their misdemeanours unable to communicate with the outside world.



Flower displays in Magherafelt.

- **Magherafelt in Bloom**

One of the main towns in the district that continues to develop and enhance its image. The amenity site and recycling centre is one of the busiest in the district and are maintained to a high standard by council staff.

The reintroduction of hanging baskets has brought additional vibrancy and colour into the main shopping hub of the town and the development of the “Alleys Project”.

The project involved upgrading the surfaces on the alleyways, removing graffiti on the walls and installing a piece of public art to reflect the connection with Seamus Heaney.

The project is also part of the Seamus Heaney Open Ground Project which aims to develop the visitor experience for people visiting Seamus Heaney Home Place. Throughout Seamus Heaney's poetry many parts of Mid Ulster are mentioned and directly connect his inspiration to the landscape.

Magherafelt was chosen as one of the sites to be developed as part of the Seamus Heaney Open Ground project. Heaney's connection to Magherafelt is largely to do with memories of the bus station. In the poem "Two Lorries" he remembers his mother, her encounter with the city coalman, and the bombing of the bus station. He refers to a vision created by an overlapping of these memories.

The set aside areas and Wild Flower areas in Polepatrick continue to be popular with locals and visitors to the town. With the pond and the great array of trees and plants, Polepatrick is becoming popular with the community and particularly the local primary schools that use it as an educational visit to help broaden the children's understanding of nature as well as being the venue for the highly successful weekly Junior Parkrun.



Flower displays in Magherafelt.

- **Community Support**

Council continue to engage with various partners to help enhance the area, these include the Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Churches Forum and other voluntary and community groups. Local schools are also involved and have assisted through Eco Schools in the Big Spring Clean ups within the schools and community.

Local schools have also supported information events on sowing wild flower and planting daffodil bulbs delivered by the council gardening team and the Bio Diversity Officer held at Polepatrick. Longstanding relationships with local businesses continues with sponsorship of beds.



Flower displays in Magherafelt.

Mid Ulster District Council continues to be the main driver behind Magherafelt in Bloom and the Council will strive to establish a 'Magherafelt in Bloom' volunteers group.

Maghera

The name Maghera means “plain of the ringfort.” The town of Maghera grew up around St Lurach’s Church which was founded in 500AD, originally as a monastery. The importance of the monastery was such that Maghera was a bishop’s seat in the 12th and 13th centuries. However the Church was raided by the Vikings and fell into disrepair and is now maintained by the Environmental Heritage Service. Within the ruins, in the west wall is a sculpture of the crucifixion, which is thought to date from the 10th century – making it one of the earliest surviving representations of the crucifixion in Ireland.

St Lurach is also the saint of the town. Seat of the Cenél nEoghain, Kindred of Owen, who claim descent from Eógan mac Néill, son of Niall of the Nine Hostages was said to be at Ráth Luraig.

In the town is the oldest linen mill in Ireland, the William Clark and Sons Company founded in 1736.



Flower displays in Maghera.

- **Maghera in Bloom**

Although one of the smallest of the main towns in the district, Maghera is no stranger to UIB with local business Walsh’s Hotel picking up an award for its floral display in 2019 and it continues to display beautiful floral tributes. Maghera Walled Garden is one of Mid Ulster’s crown Green Flag sites with an array of beautiful flowers, plants, vegetation and community beds. The garden hosts a number of family fun day events at Halloween, Christmas and Summer. Council regularly accommodates educational visits from local schools and community groups. Last year it held an Environmentally Friendly Gardening Day in conjunction with Conservation

Volunteers and the community have come on board and are managing 10 raised beds.



Event in Maghera Walled Garden.

The recently completed Largantogher Walkway is a 600m landscaped pathway connecting Maghera Walled Garden and the adjacent historic St Lurach's church with Maghera's Tobermore Road, creating more opportunities to enjoy open green space, with peaceful areas to rest along the way.

The local community have got involved and installed a piece of art at the beginning of the walkway depicting the wildlife that lives in the area (picture below). The additional entry point into the Garden from the Walkway will encourage higher footfall onto both sites.



Maghera Walled Garden.

The amenity site and recycling centre are busy and are maintained to a high standard by Council staff.

- **Community Support**

Council continue to engage with various partners to help enhance the area, these include the Maghera & District Horticultural Group, Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, Churches Forum and other voluntary and community groups. Local schools are also involved and have assisted through Eco Schools in the Big Spring Clean ups. Local schools and groups have also been involved in education and nature projects at the Walled Garden. In addition, an informal Friends Group of Maghera Walled Garden has been formed that participate in horticultural activities.

- **Additional Information**

Mid Ulster District Council continues to be the main driver behind Maghera in Bloom, council will strive to establish a 'Maghera in Bloom' volunteers group.



Flower displays in Maghera.

Swatragh

Swatragh in Irish is 'an Suaitreach' derived from a shortened form of 'Baile an tSuaitrigh' meaning 'townland of the billeted soldier'.

Friel's bar and restaurant, a listed building, is now run by the 5th generation of the Friel family. It was established in 1837 and was formerly a coach house, post office and doctor's surgery in its early years. It was used as a soup kitchen during the famine of the 1840's. An original famine pot is on display beside the window where the soup was served and the wooden bar counter and ceiling are original. The beautifully carved walking stick of local poet Mick McAtamney is on display in the bar.

The village has three churches; Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland and Presbyterian. The Catholic Church and Church of Ireland are listed buildings. Granaghan Old Chapel was in existence in 1770 with a long low thatched roof and a clay floor. Granaghan Private, Classical and English school was established in 1835 in the chapel.



Friel's Bar, Swatragh.

- **Swatragh in Bloom**

Swatragh is a very proactive community that works together to develop and enhance the Village. Comprising of local businesses, Churches, Sports Clubs, Schools, Playgroup, Granaghan and District Women's Group and local development enterprises. Last year Friel's Bar picked up an award for its floral display.

Community Support

- This array of groups have already contributed to the following;
- The children of the school along the Women's Group, have taken part in planting bulbs in the park and along verges on the Kilrea Rd and Moneysharvin Road as part of the Live Here Love Here project in conjunction with Michael Davitt's GAC.
- Blooming Baths have been planted by the children of St. John's as way to brighten the environment and to recycle unwanted goods.
- A set-a-side area has been developed in the Playpark
- The children of the school have achieved their Green Flag as part of the Eco Schools Award. They have bat and bird boxes too. They are developing an African Keyhole Garden.
- The community makes great use of the recycling facilities at the rear of Friel's Bar.
- The local Maghera Historical Society as part of their Famine Project is planted potatoes near Friel's Bar where the original 'famine pot' attracts visitors.
- Spring and Summer Clean Ups.
- Wildflower areas strips have been planted along the new cycle path on the Garvagh road.



Work in Swatragh.

- **Additional Information**

The groups involved in Swatragh in Bloom work closely with other statutory organisations including Mid Ulster District Council and have further plans to improve the area in future years. New for this year has been the "Sow and Grow in the Swa" initiative and a new potting shed which has become the working hub for the group.

Tobermore

The name Tobermore means “The Great Well” although it has only been known as Tobermore for less than 100 years. In the early 20th century the village name was spelt Tubbermore which explains why the local residents pronounce the name of the village as they do.

Kilcronaghan Old Parish Church dates from 1816 and has a fine Norman Niche dating from an earlier church. St Columba got his early schooling here under the skilful teaching of St Cronaghan. There was a hanging stone at the church where the local villains met their demise but many years ago it was built into the wall, being looked upon as distasteful.

A walk through the village along Calmore Lane leads to the site of Calmore Castle and the Great Well. The castle was burnt in 1689 by the Army of King James on their retreat from the Siege of Derry. There was also a Royal Oak where Druids would have gathered for ancient ceremonies and a Great Hazel Tree that was used in pagan festivals. The name Calmore means townland of the Great Hazel Tree.

Legend states, the O’Hagans who built the castle dropped all their gold down the Great Well and filled it in so that King James could not get hold of it.



Flower displays in Tobermore.

- **Tobermore in Bloom**

Tobermore Ulster in Bloom is co-ordinated by Tobermore Community Projects which is supported by local businesses, schools and groups. The group continue to fund and

put plants in the new new wooden barrel planters and put additional plants and flowers around the village to compliment the beds developed by Council.

- **Community Support**

The community group continue to cut the grass along the roads into estates and have held a community clean up. Other developments include a Village Project supported by the local school and a beautiful wild flower strip sown out on the Maghera road.



- **Additional Information**

The group have managed to keep the town clean and have dealt with fly tipping and dog fouling by distributing leaflets to householders to encourage them to take pride in their village. Many residents have been inspired by UIB to put beautiful displays in their gardens.

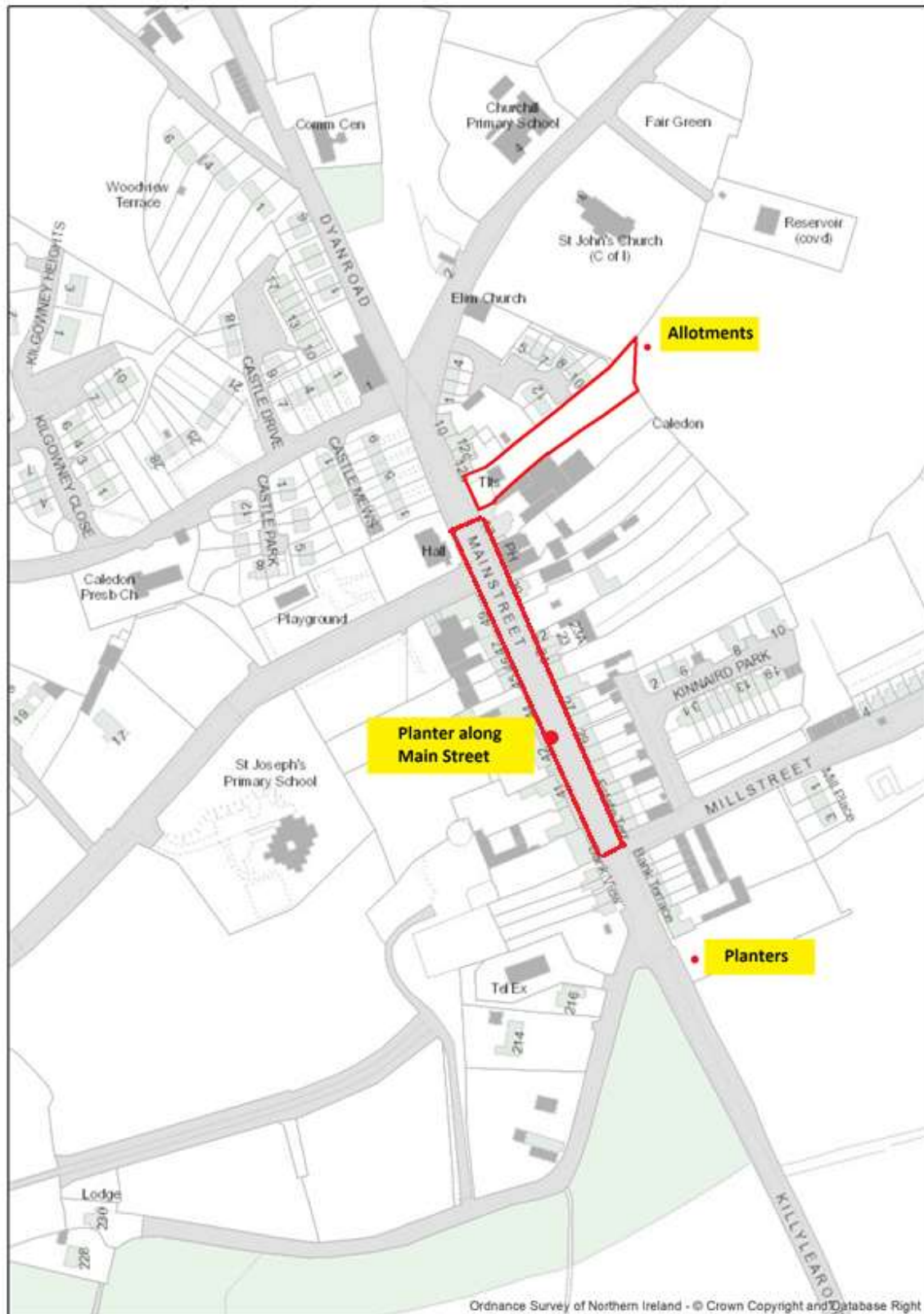


Maps

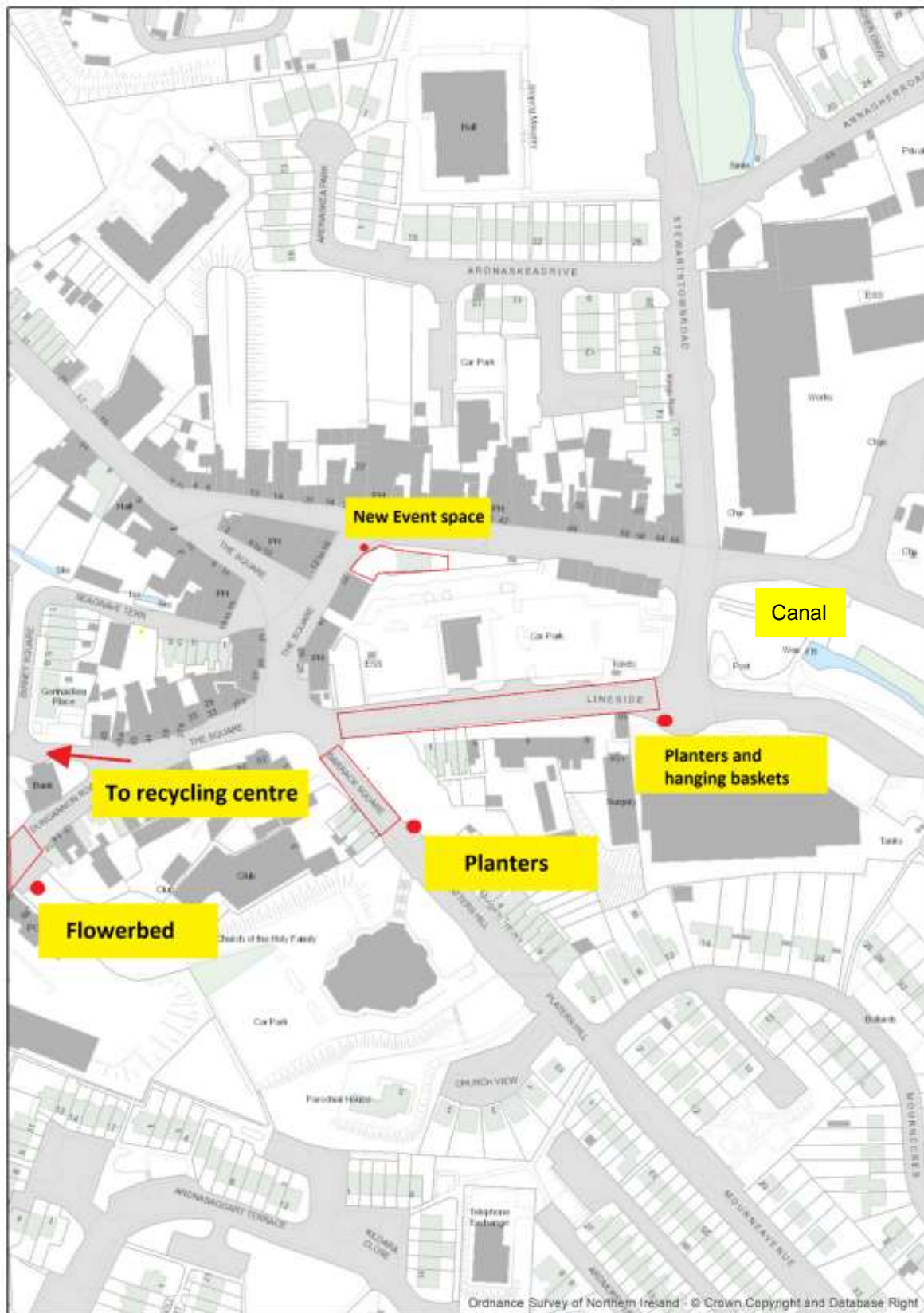
The Mid Ulster District



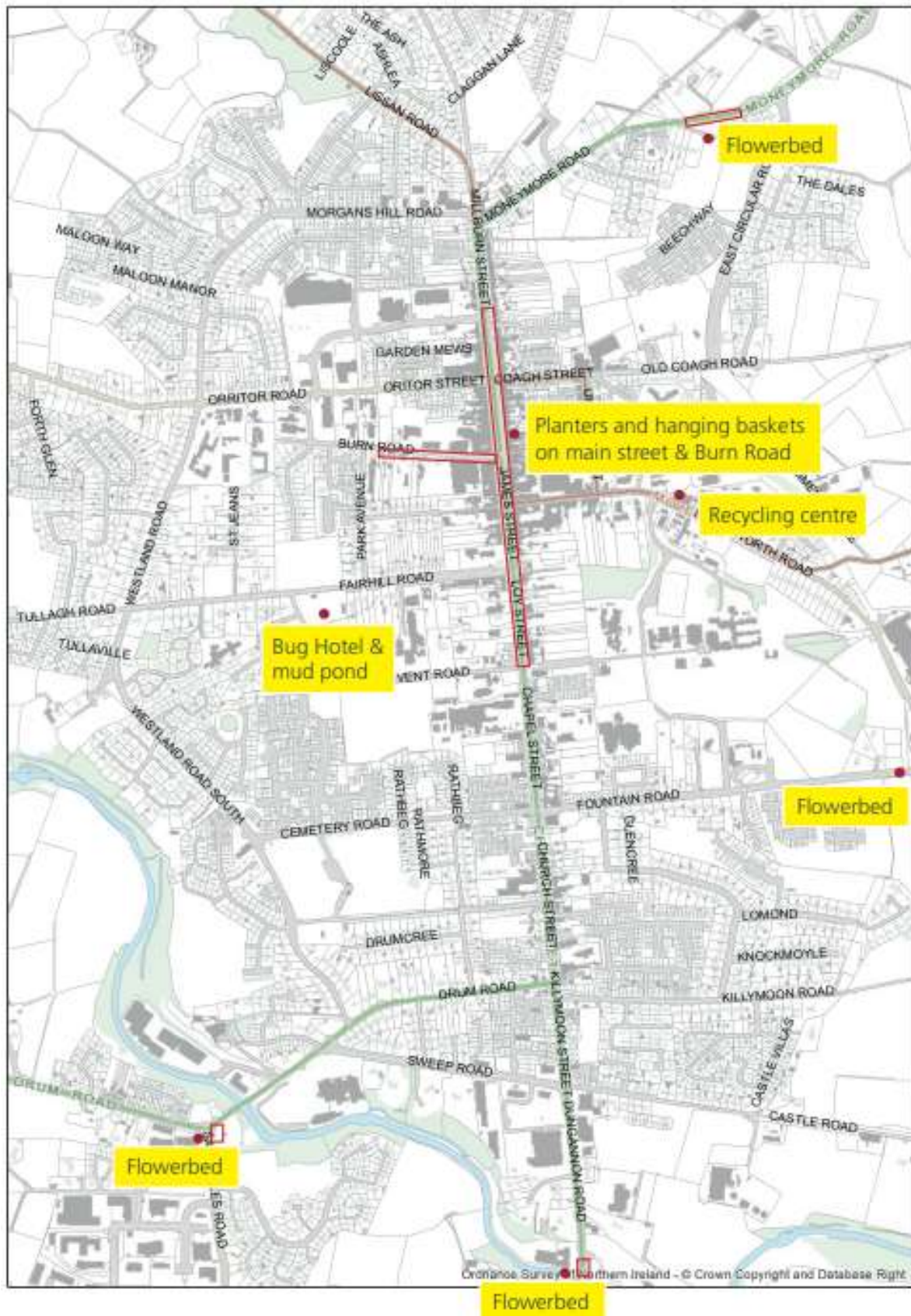
Caledon



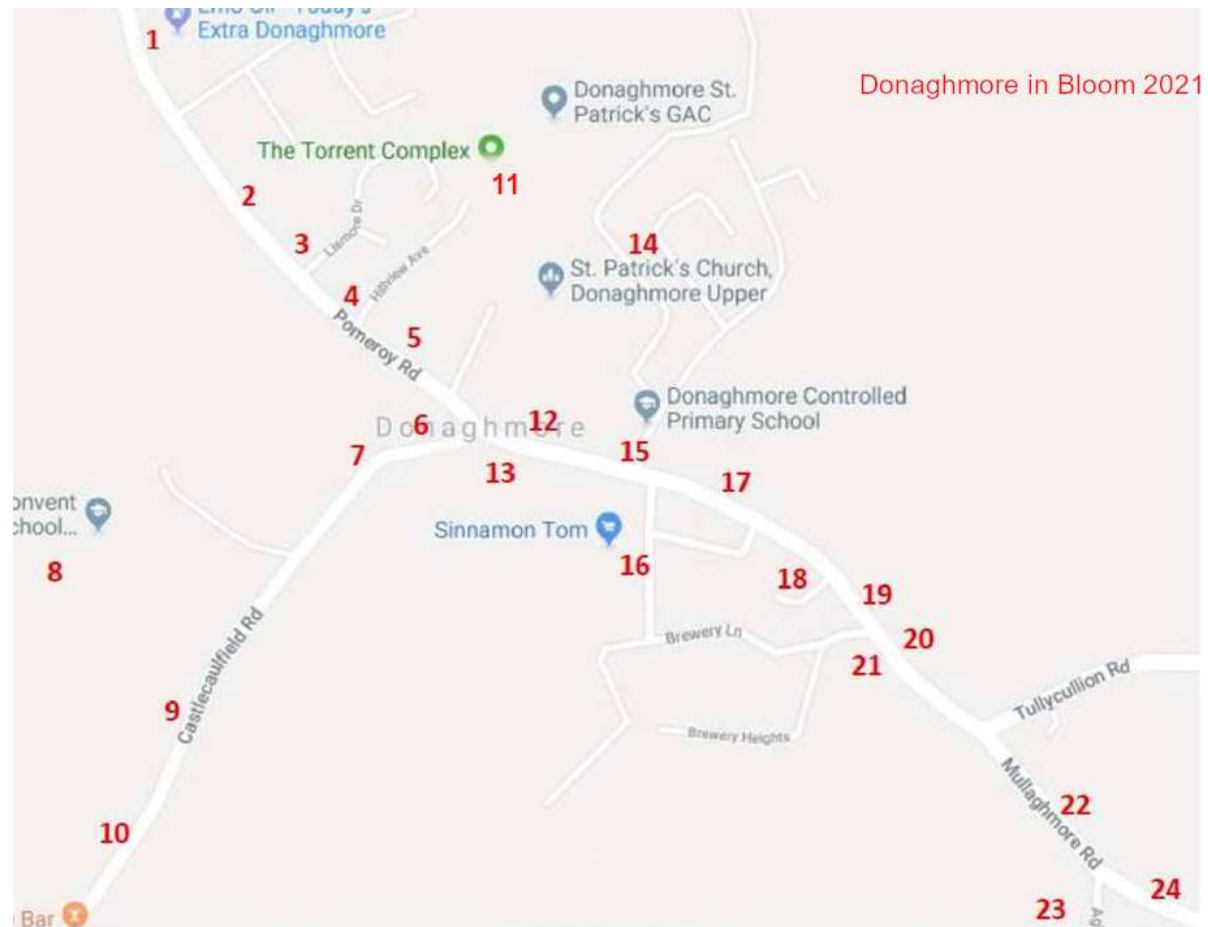
Coalisland



Cookstown



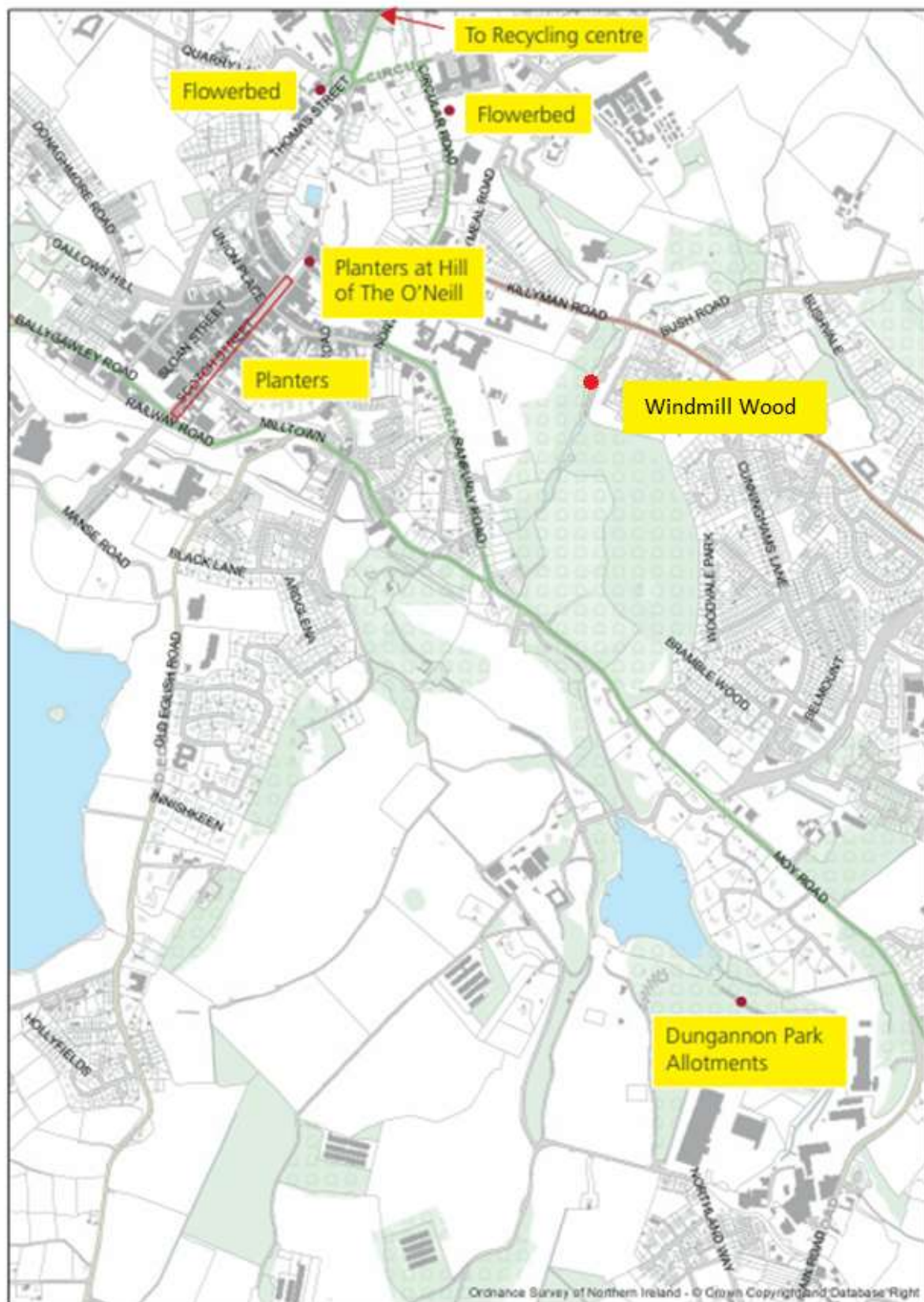
Donaghmore



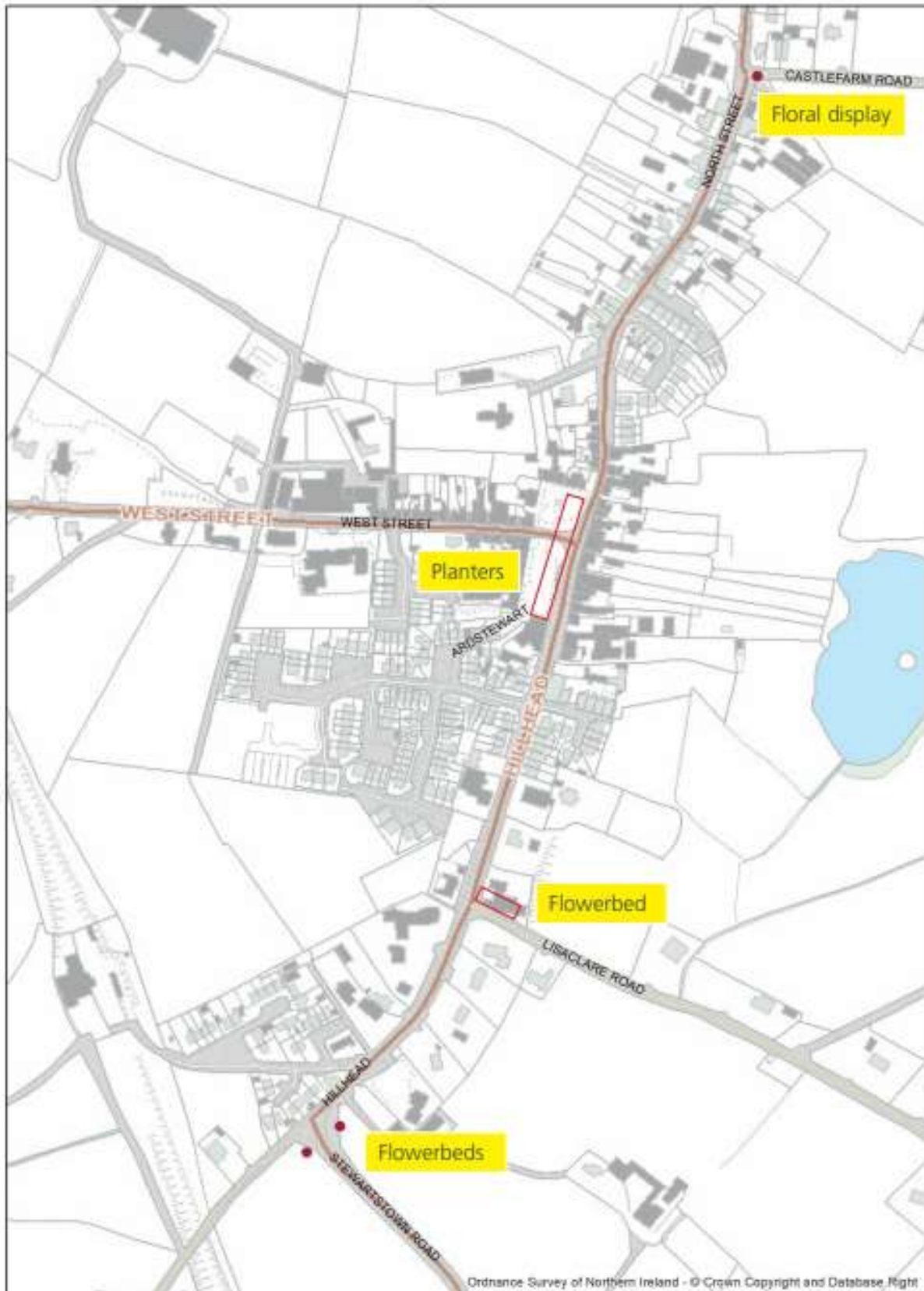
1. Wildflower bed and displays at Today's
2. Heritage Centre and St Patrick's PS Eco School
3. Peacock Display
4. Lismore Community Garden, Bunny Display and herb garden
5. St Patrick's Graveyard wildflowers and planting
6. Displays at Old Cross and stone walls
7. Chapel carpark beds
8. Community allotments, Conservation area and woodland
9. Dermot Faloon's garden
10. Train Display
11. Torrent Complex
12. Main Street business and residential displays
13. St Patrick's Church

14. Ivy Bank beds, community garden and herb garden
15. Displays at Sinnamons Shop
16. Butterfly garden and playpark
17. Watson's garden
18. Carberry's garden
19. Cart at Hammy's yard
20. Boat display
21. Soap vats and planting at Brewery Bridge
22. Wildflower, planting and wall boxes
23. Community garden at Aghareany
24. Community garden on main Dungannon Rd

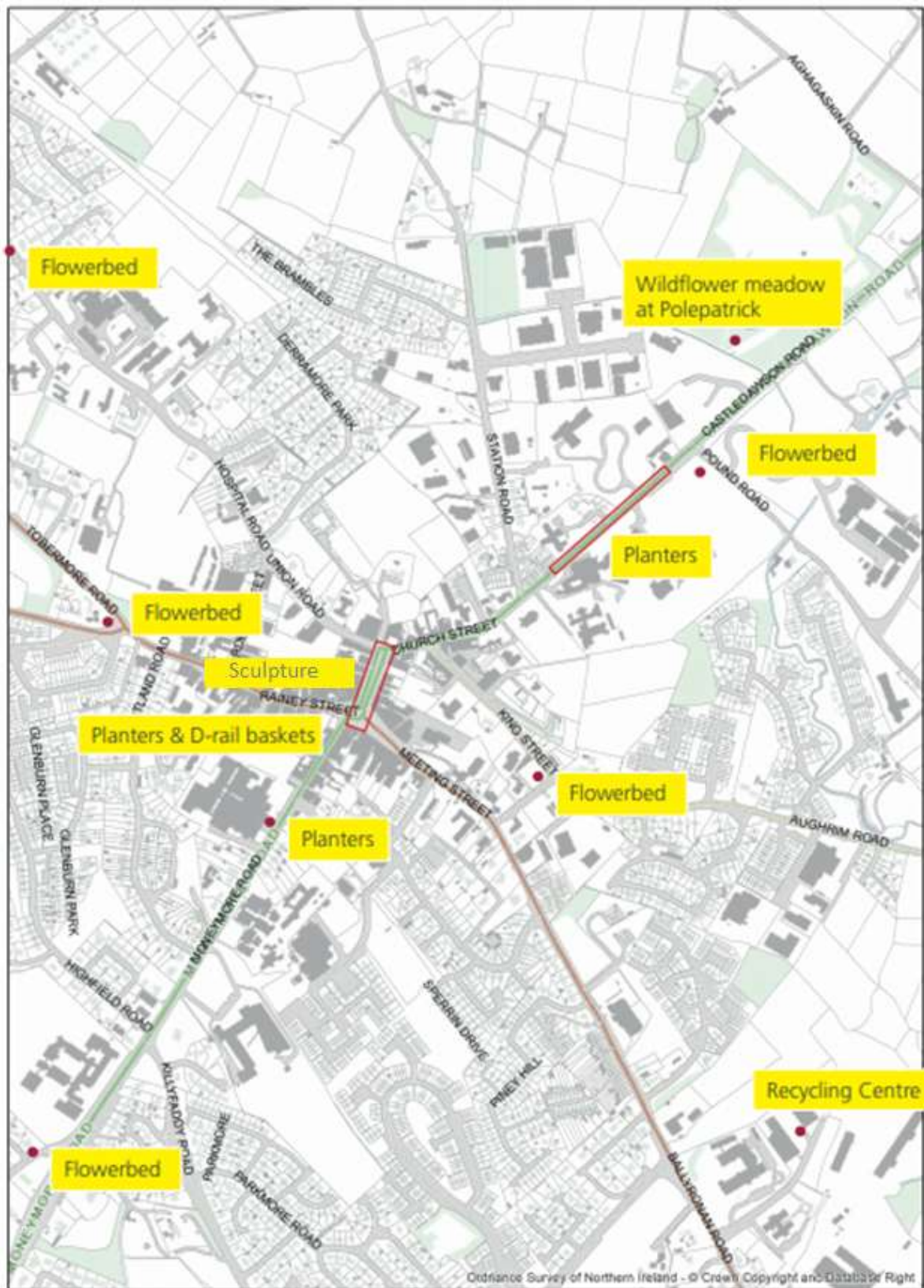
Dungannon



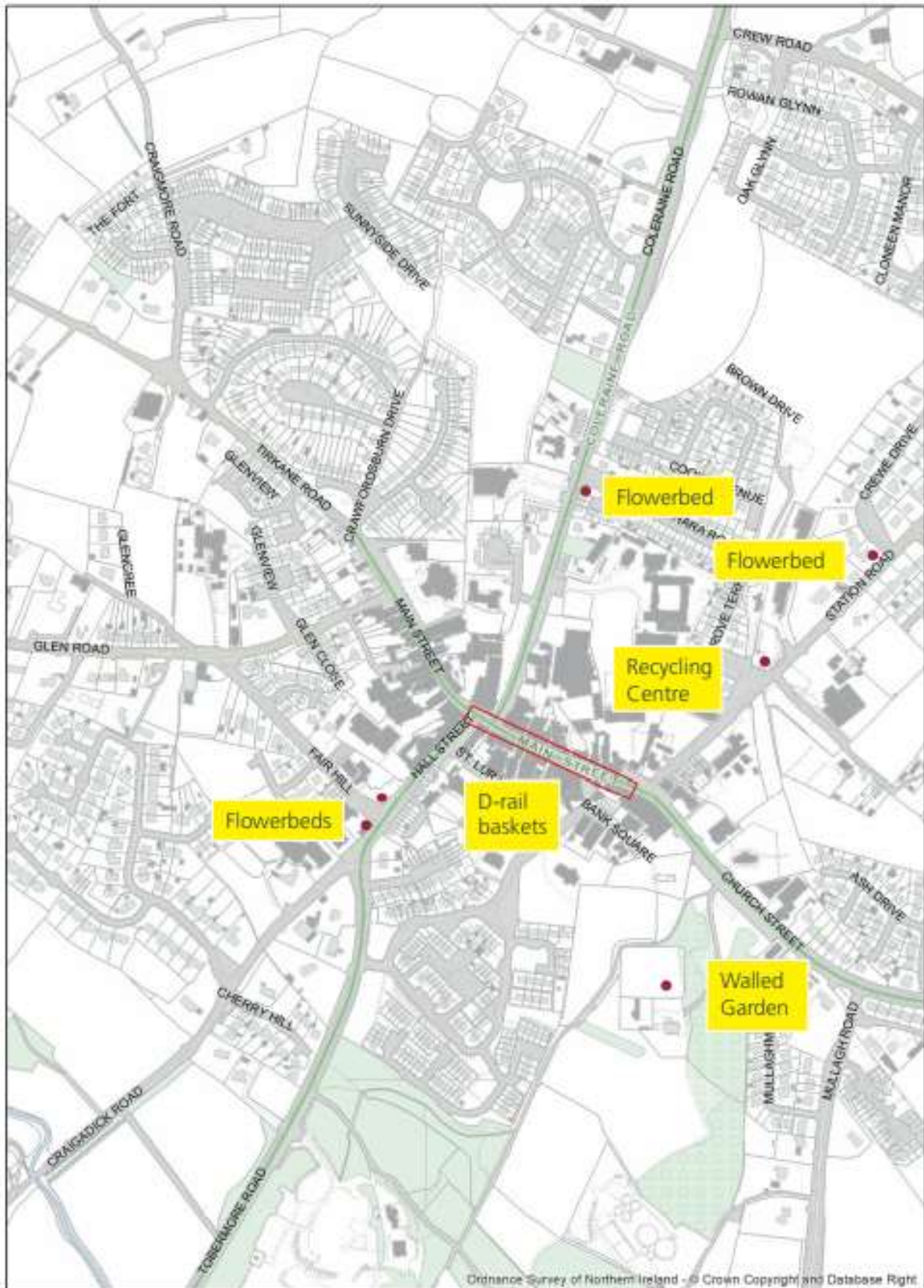
Stewartstown



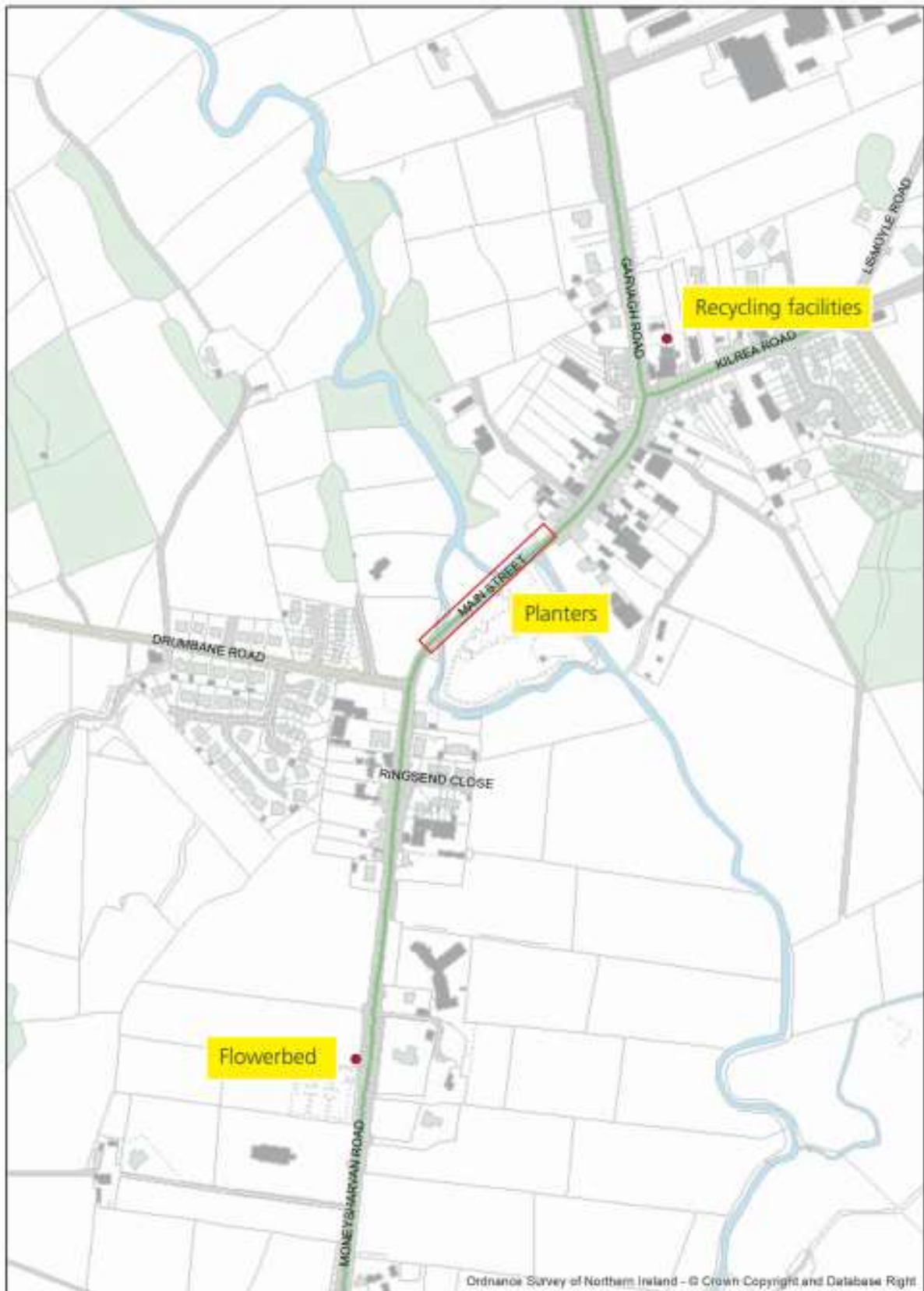
Magherafelt



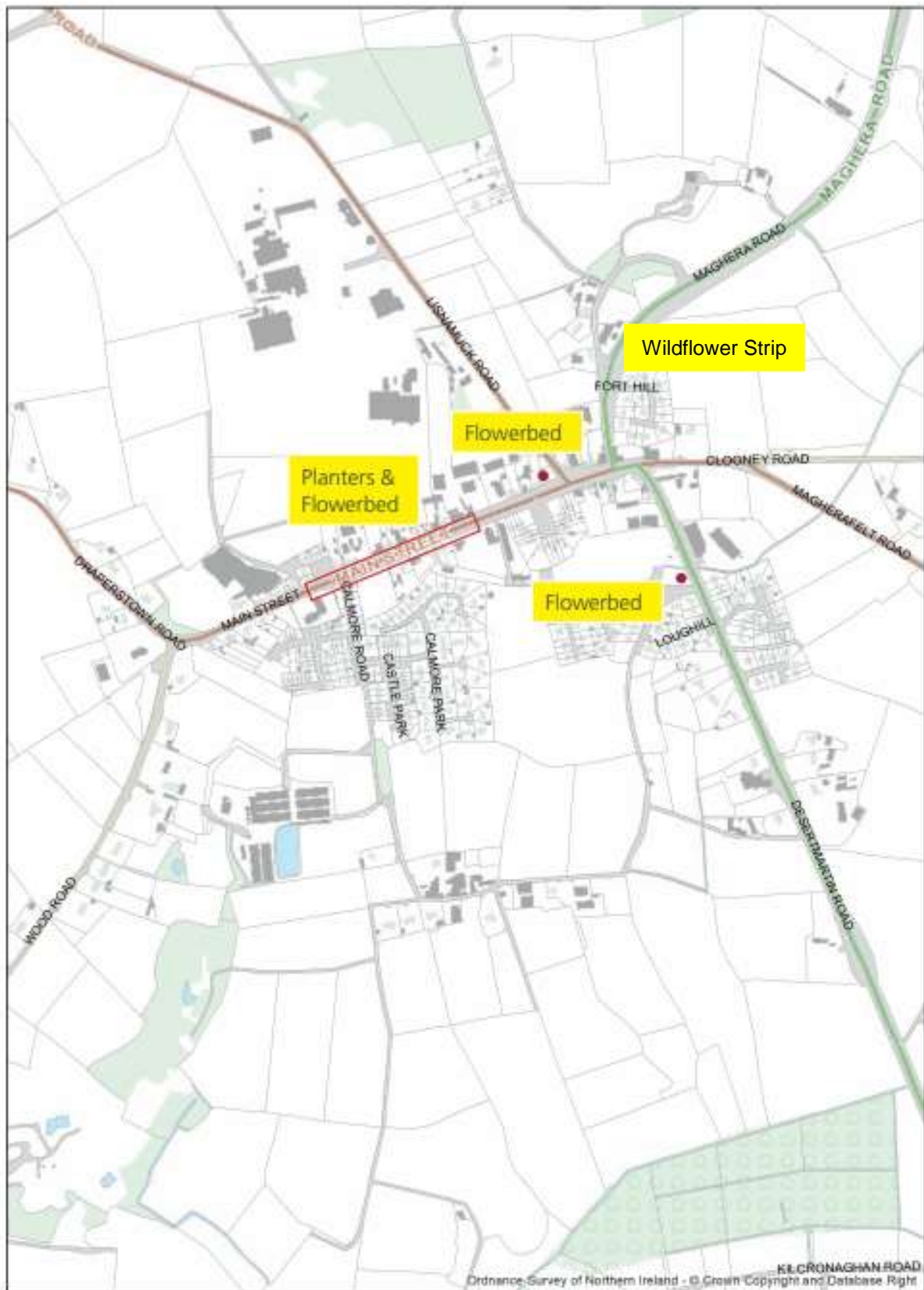
Maghera



Swatragh



Tobermore



For further information:

Eunan Murray
Grounds & Cemeteries Manager
Mid Ulster District Council
Tel: 03000 132 132
Ext: 22552
Email: eunan.murray@midulstercouncil.org



2022 TRANSLINK ULSTER IN BLOOM



LIST OF ENTRIES (BY COUNCIL AREAS)

	Large Town/City Pop. over 35,001	Large Town/Small City Pop. 12,001-35,000	Town Pop. 6,001-12,000	Small Town Pop. 2,501-6,000	Large Village Pop. 1,001-2,500	Village Pop. 501-1,000	Small Village Pop. under 500
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (16) Contact Angela.Ross@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk Mark.Wilson@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk			Antrim Town 10880 Glengormley 11675	Ballyclare 3422 Crumlin 3385 Randalstown 2603		Burnside 502 Doagh 507 Templepatrick 600 Whiteabbey 600	Ballyeaston 100 Merville Garden Village 247 Ballynure 371 Toome 240 Parkgate 320 Straid 310 Killead 160
Ards and North Down Borough Council (15) Contact dylan.freeburn@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk	Bangor 61011	Newtownards 27846	Hollywood 10682 Comber 8980 Donaghadee 6768	Portaferry 2511 Ballygowan 2957	Conlig 1965 Helens Bay 1385 Ballywalter 1562 Millisle 1793 Portavogie 1604	Crawfordsburn 581 Cloughey 806 Greyabbey 758	

	Large Town/City Pop. over 35,001	Large Town/ Small City Pop. 12,001-35,000	Town Pop. 6,001-12,000	Small Town Pop. 2,501-6,000	Large Village Pop. 1,001-2,500	Village Pop. 501-1,000	Small Village Pop. under 500
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (10) Contact Joanne.Grattan@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk		Armagh 15000 Banbridge 15989 Lurgan 18693 Portadown 18497	Dromore 6003	Richhill 2821 Bleary 2748 Waringstown 4778	Magheralin 1144		Charlestown Village 30
Belfast City Council (2) Contact MurrayL@BelfastCity.gov.uk	Belfast 638717						Edenderry Village 287
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (6) Contact Stephen.Proctor@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk		Coleraine 24089 Limavady 12047	Ballymoney 10402 Portrush 7355	Dungiven 3286	Castlerock 1287		
Derry City and Strabane District Council (4) Contact john.quinn@derrystrabane.com	Derry City 95552	Strabane 28000					Clady 489 Ballymagorry 469
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (11) Contact conor.mcgarvey@fermanaghomagh.com		Omagh 21297 Enniskillen 13757			Irvinestown 1750 Dromore 1258 Fintona 1648 Ballinamallard 1899	Carrickmore 550 Belleek 920	Gortin 475 Lack 126 Bellanaleck 213
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (4) Contact stephen.mackle@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk	City of Lisburn 45410			Moir 4584 Dundonald 5596 Hillsborough 3953			

	Large Town/City Pop. over 35,001	Large Town/Small City Pop. 12,001-35,000	Town Pop. 6,001-12,000	Small Town Pop. 2,501-6,000	Large Village Pop. 1,001-2,500	Village Pop. 501-1,000	Small Village Pop. under 500
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council (9) Contact alison.diver@midandeantrim.gov.uk claire.duddy@midandeantrim.gov.uk		Ballymena 29467 Carrickfergus 27903 Larne 18705		Whitehead 3786 Ahoghill 3403 Greenisland 5484	Cullybackey 2035	Ballystrudder 990 Glenarm 564	
Mid Ulster District Council (10) Contact Eunan.Murray@midulstercouncil.org		Dungannon 14332	Cookstown 11620 Magherafelt 8819	Maghera 4217 Coalisland 5700	Stewartstown 1500	Donaghmore 977 Swatragh 945 Caledon 850 Tobermore 823	
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (20) Contact Jonathan.Ellis@nmandd.org		Newry 30000	Kilkeel 6521 Warrenpoint 7500 Downpatrick 7693	Newcastle 5410 Ballynahinch 3897 Rostrevor 2788	Saintfield 1626 Crossmaglen 2300 Bessbrook 2450 Castlewellan 1672 Killyleagh 1666 Crossgar 1054	Dundrum 848 Killough 602	Strangford 411 Clough 177 Bryansford 195 Annsborough 300 Burran 460
TOTALS ALL 11 COUNCIL AREAS ENTERED NUMBER OF ENTRIES: 107	4	15	13	20	19	17	19

2022 TRANSLINK ULSTER IN BLOOM - STATION ENTRIES

1	ADELAIDE RAIL STATION, BELFAST	BCC
2	ARMAGH BUS STATION	ABC
3	BALLYMEMA BUS STATION	MEA
4	<i>BANGOR BUS & RAIL CENTRE</i>	A&ND
5	BANBRIDGE BUS STATION	ABC
6	CARNALEA RAIL STATION	A&ND
7	CARRICK RAIL STATION	MEA
8	<i>COLERAINE BUS & RAIL STATION</i>	CC&G
9	DOWNPATRICK BUSCENTRE	NM&D
10	DUNGANNON BUS STATION	MU
11	ENNISKILLEN BUS STATION	F&O
11	GREAT VICTORIA STREET RAILWAY STATION	BCC
12	LISBURN BUS STATION	LCCC
13	LISBURN RAIL STATION	LCCC
14	LONDONDERRY (FOYLE STREET) BUS STATION	DC&S
15	MOIRA RAIL STATION	LCCC
16	NORTHWEST TRANSPORT HUB (DERRY)	DC&S
17	NEWCASTLE BUS STATION	NM&D
18	NEWRY BUS STATION	NM&D
19	NEWRY TRAIN STATION	NM&D
20	NEWTOWNARDS BUS STATION	A&ND
21	PORTADOWN RAIL STATION	ABC
22	STRABANE BUS STATION	DC&S
23	WHITEHEAD RAILWAY STATION	MEA
24	YORKGATE RAILWAY STATION	BCC

Both Bangor and Coleraine Bus and Rail Centre each to be treated as one overall station.