

Lissan House: Four Centuries Behind It ... But What Lies Ahead?



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council

12 September 2019

'THIS GOLDEN PLACE'


LISSAN HOUSE
& DEMESNE
LISSAN HOUSE TRUST

The Context

- Dates from 1610
- Unique story and continuity within Mid-Ulster
- Hazel's legacy ... Lissan House Trust
- £1.6m 'safe-guarding' work in mid-2000s
- Current assets: 300 acres, House, collapsing out-buildings
... AND FOUR CENTURIES OF MID-ULSTER HISTORY
- 12,500 cars visiting pa and 4,000/6,000 people
- Fits with/delivers ALL MUDC strategic/planning ambitions



“Lissan House will be a place where people come to learn about Ireland’s past, its culture, its heritage and its people in a unique and natural setting, to do things and to take part in things ... rather than to merely see them. The House and estate will be active and alive, hosting a wide variety of educational, cultural and social activities and events in an outlook that’s open and inclusive and is community-led and driven.”



The Issues

- Break-even = £60,000/£70,000 pa
- Only income = Conacre, admissions, tea-room and events
- Totally dependent on a 'tired/worn out' volunteer group
- Minimal support forthcoming from beyond the Lissan House Trust: 'civic/heritage NI/Mid-Ulster *NOT INTERESTED*'
- Planned LHT/private partnership not now proceeding
- 'Last throw of the dice'

The Challenges

- A sustainable base for the project
- Meaningful local + civic ownership and commitment
- Council/civic society cash support

It is not necessary to
change.
Survival is not mandatory.
—W. Edwards Deming