

Appendix 1

ICBAN Progress on Mid Ulster SLA Projects

(01 April – 30 September 2022)

ACTION

Implementation of the 'Framework of Regional Priorities' strategy for the Irish Central Border Region

- Promote and advocate on same, targeting key stakeholders in government, political, community and business sectors etc.
- Engage in relevant public consultations in both jurisdictions, using the FRP strategy as the basis for submissions.
- Develop a pipeline of new projects, aligned across the 5 key Pillars / Themes, and targeting opportunities for cross-border and regional development funding including but not limited to Peace Plus, Shared Island Initiative, and Levelling-up / Shared Prosperity:
 - Initiate and review new project opportunities and initiatives, including those linked to the already identified Emergent Catalyst Projects.
 - Progress the development of these new project opportunities and initiatives (under the direction of the ICBAN Management Board).

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

ICBAN continues to promote the FRP. Meetings have been held with a range of key stakeholders, including all member Councils' Senior Management and local political representatives, Shared Island Unit, SEUPB, Oireachtas Joint Committee for the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, Institute of Technology Sligo, FE Colleges, Waterways Ireland, and InterTrade Ireland etc.

Delivery of the strategy is a key focus for the organisation. A Sub-Committee for the Implementation of the FRP has been established with the aim of supporting the overall work programme of the ICBAN Management Board, in overseeing the implementation of the Framework of Regional Priorities (FRP) strategy. It is intended that this Sub-Committee, along with the Council Senior Officers Forum, will help bring an energy and impetus to the delivery of the regional priorities.

These structures will assume an oversight role that will 1) support and direct the operational efforts of staff, and 2) advise the Management Board on decisions relating to delivery of the FRP.

The remit of the new FRP Sub-Committee for Implementation includes:

- helping identify and apply for financial supports for the implementation plans,
- directing promotional plans,
- reviewing research and reports,
- enhancing engagement and buy-in from member Councils,
- monitoring the operational programme,
- and putting in place structures for engaging other regional and national stakeholders.

It is anticipated that the Sub-committee would engage with stakeholders on key project developments, advocacy initiatives, and related issues for attention.

2 Joint Meetings of the FRP Sub-Committee and Council Senior Officers Forum have been held on (total number of participants serving on these groupings is 22):

6th January 2022 - presentation and discussion with Mr. Donal Sheehan of the BRIDE EIP

21st June 2022 - presentation of key findings of QUB Intern Research on the 'The Ulster Canal Regeneration Project :Re-imagining the Central Border Region's Tourism Infrastructure'

2 separate meetings of the CSO Forum :

- 24th November 2021

- 15th September 2022.

ICBAN is working to develop projects and identify potential funding sources, under the five pillars of the FRP:

- **Human Capital Pillar – Education, Skills & Training**

Priority Projects between educational institutions

This group was established in December 2021 to bring together senior staff of the Region's educational institutions, including the South West College, Southern Regional College, the Atlantic Technological University and the three local Education & Training Boards (ETBs).

Steering Group meetings have been held on 29th June 2022 and 30th September 2022. Reports were provided to ICBAN on the progress in developing projects within the four priority areas of: Sustainable Construction, Advanced Manufacturing Initiative, Apprenticeships - Professional & Technical Pathways, and Digital Inclusion.

- **Natural Capital – Greening the Region**

Climate Friendly Farming / Biodiversity

18 people attended the meeting held on 27th June in Palace Demesne, Armagh, including Mid Ulster District Council's Biodiversity Officer. A working group has been set up: the first meeting of this group was held on 26th July 2022 in Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Enniskillen. The working group is now developing two Expressions of Interest around hedgerows, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration for consideration under Investment Area 5.1 of PEACE Plus.

- **Liveable Communities**

Ringforts Projects Development

An outcome is awaited on this submitted application for Shared Island Development Funding. Leitrim County Council are keen to examine opportunities to redevelop the ancient ringwork at Killahurk near Carrigallen, through learning from the example of works to Tullahogue Fort, near Cookstown that were completed by Mid Ulster District Council and the Department for Communities (NI). Partners include Department for Communities (NI) and National Monuments Service (RoI).

- **Infrastructure & Connectivity**

Ulster Canal Feasibility Study

ICBAN also assisted MUDC and other Partner Councils in the development of a project proposal to the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding call for a Feasibility Study for the development of the Ulster Canal northwards.

Greenways Networks

A response was submitted to the AECOM consultation on new plans for an all-island National Cycle Network. ICBAN contacted all member Councils to share the response submitted to encourage that similar points be made by Councils in the Central Border Region's wider

interests. ICBAN also engaged with Sustrans NI on same relating to the Greenways study being completed for Department for Infrastructure (NI).

- **Economic Development**

Mountain biking

Potential ideas for a regional cross-border project have been discussed with Coillte when visiting the Coolanney Mountain Bike Trail on 19th June. ICBAN had responded to correspondence from Coillte on this and await the next initiative from Coillte.

▪ **Consultation responses/engaging with stakeholders:**

During this period ICBAN has been active in engaging with SEUPB and agencies on plans for the delivery of PEACE Plus programme elements. These have included with, Urban Foresights on Smart Towns & Villages', RSM Consultancy on tourism theme, and Grant Thornton on Clusters. There has been regular contact with SEUPB on programme development updates and these have been shared with member Councils and other stakeholders to help prepare opportunities for the Region.

A response is currently being prepared for submission to Ireland's Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) by the closing date of 9th November 2022.

ACTION

Regional Literary Tourism – Objectives:

- Close the BLITZ / Spot-Lit project and share learning through a 'Transformative Guide' with member Councils including Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC).
- Drawing on learning from both the BLITZ and Digi-2-Market projects, examine opportunities for the development of literary tourism using immersive technologies, through the 'N-Lite' preparatory project.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

The BLITZ / Spot-Lit project has helped to address the untapped potential of literary tourism across four regions of the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) territory – the West of Ireland, Northern Ireland and counties Cavan & Monaghan, Dumfries & Galloway in Scotland and Kainuu, Finland.

The project is now closed, and final reports have been submitted.

'N-LITE' Bridging Project

Work on the new INTERREG NPA funded Bridging Project 'N-Lite' has completed and the final report was submitted on 30th September 2022. ICBAN worked with the Western Development Commission, the Regional Council of Kainuu (Finland) and Trondheim (Norway) on this project.

The N-LITE proposal comprises an assessment of Immersive Technologies' potential to promote LT products and services and an evaluation of an EU Northern Literary Tourism Platform, developed in collaboration with national tourism agencies.

ICBAN's status as a UK registered company means that we cannot participate in any delivery project in this EU INTERREG funding call. We do though have access to the final application which could form the basis for a similar project to be developed to another fund.

ACTION

Broadband Infrastructure – Objectives:

- To utilise the previously completed reports for continued advocacy on broadband issues and inadvertent roaming charges.
- Close the Digi-2-Market project and share learning with member Councils including Mid Ulster District Council (MUDC).

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

The Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) report into 'Broadband Investment in Northern Ireland,' which was initiated by ICBAN, has been published. ICBAN has asked the Minister for Finance, the NIAO and the Stormont Public Accounts Committee to oversee the implementation of the report findings, including the clawback of c.£14 million of funding that was granted to BT.

ACTION

EU Exit – Objectives:

- Assist the Council in further exploring the opportunities and challenges of the EU Exit.
- Continue to deliver submissions and make representations drawing on the previously completed reports as evidence.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRESS

ICBAN keeps abreast of Brexit developments, through monitoring of current affairs and governmental updates. The organisation has been submitting evidence to a number of committees and consultations and uses such opportunities to make representations on behalf of the Central Border Region.

Having identified an absence of community consultation on both sides of the border, ICBAN together with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) have to date published four reports on the impact of Brexit on local communities. There have been over 2,100 responses to these research initiatives to date. ICBAN has ensured those voices were heard by disseminating the reports to those involved in high-level negotiations, including the EU's negotiating team and the UK and Irish governments.

ICBAN and QUB have developed a proposal to partner on a fifth such research project that was submitted to the Department of Foreign Affairs's Reconciliation Fund by the closing date of 20th September 2022. The project entitled '*Borders Beyond Brexit - Experiences of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Irish Central Border Region*' is a research study that proposes to collect evidence on how changes as a result of Brexit are experienced and perceived by those directly involved in cross-border cooperation, where problems and opportunities lie, and what the prospects of development or regression in such cooperation are. It will be addressed chiefly through eight organisational case studies, along with an online survey giving a voice to at least 250 citizens. The findings will be shared with key influencers and those with direct roles in implementing and monitoring Brexit.

Mid Ulster Enterprise Week

14-18 Nov 2022

Adapt, Evolve, Overcome



Simone Magill

Mark Simpson

Lady Mary Peters

Paul Creighton

MON 14th November

The 'Kick-off! Resilience Means Business

10:00am - 11:00am (refreshments from 9.30am)

Venue: The Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

The world of sports develops athletes' ability to recover from setbacks and withstand pressures that are rivalled by no other industry. Who better to hear from to inspire and inform your own resilience than four of Northern Ireland's brilliant sportspeople? Join Lady Mary Peters, Simone Magill, Darren Cave and Kieran McGeary for a panel discussion like no other, as they touch on the resilience they have had to learn from their experiences and how these skills can be applied to the business industry.

The Power of Video

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Hosted on: Zoom

Speaker: Aislinn Higgins, Dream Media Ireland

There is no business like showbusiness! Whether you are in front of or behind the camera, it's time to embrace the power of video for your business. Video can help you reach a new target market and acquire new customers, as well as engage and inform your current audience. Join Aislinn Higgins, Founder of Dream Media Ireland, to learn how to create engaging and informative short form video content for TikTok and Instagram.

Friday 18th November

If you attend any of our events, your name will automatically go forward into a prize draw with the opportunity to win some great prizes. The more events you attend, the more opportunity you have of winning a prize! Winners will be announced on Friday 18th November

Prizes from the Support Local - Mid Ulster Gift Card event will also be drawn on Friday.



All events are free to attend.
Register at:

midulstercouncil.org/enterpriseweek

*All information is correct at time of publication. Please confirm details online when registering.

TUE 15th November

Instagram & Facebook Reels – Social Media Workshop for Tourism Businesses

10am - 1pm (refreshments served)

Venue: The Tower Room, Hill of the O'Neill Dungannon

If you are unable to attend this event, it will also take place in Magherafelt on Thursday 17th.

This workshop explores the process in creating video content to upload to Instagram Reels and Facebook. We will show attendees how to plan, storyboard and record content using their mobile phones, and how to edit content, to publish online, using editing app InShot. We will also show examples of the benefits of Facebook/Instagram Ads to promote content online.

All attendees must bring their mobile phones for this workshop.

Economic Landscape: Preparing for Economic Volatility

12.30pm - 1.30pm (refreshments from 12.00pm)

Venue: The Gables, Dungannon

With the world heading into uncertain territory, the cost of living crisis is set to affect individuals and businesses alike. Join Mark Simpson as he discusses how businesses can best prepare for Economic Volatility with Feargal McCormack, PKF-FPM, Gavin Kennedy, G&J Kennedy Project Management and Mark Cunningham, Bank of Ireland, who will provide top tips on accessing finance to maintain your business.

Leading Ladies - Their Journey To Success

7:00pm - 8:00pm (refreshments from 6.30pm)

Venue: The Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt

Join our host, Denise Murtagh, in conversation with 3 local female entrepreneurs; Rachel Molloy, Café No. 47, Leona Morrow, LM Transport Consultant and Mona Houston, The Fashion House. Hear how it all started for this inspirational group of women. Learn what motivates and inspires them and how they have used this to overcome the many challenges that have presented themselves along their entrepreneurial journey.

WED 16th November

Net Zero: Challenge Accepted

10.00am - 11.00am

Hosted on: Zoom

We've all heard the term Net Zero. We all know we need to get there. Yet not enough of us know how to do so! Are you interested in hearing about how you can accelerate your business towards achieving Net Zero, or as close as possible? Jamie Delargy will host our panel of experts: Steven Agnew, RenewableNI, Bernadette Convery, Invest NI and Mareanne Bradley, Specialist Joinery Group, who will talk about the benefits of achieving Net Zero, how to get there, the practical supports, as well as how to overcome challenges along the way.

Develop an Entrepreneurial Mindset

12.00pm - 1.30pm

Venue: The Ecos Innovation Centre, Ballymena (Also Live Streamed)

In this hybrid workshop, Cate Conway will host an interview with Phil Graham, a hugely successful entrepreneur and business mentor, to give an insight into how Phil developed an entrepreneurial mindset critical to building his business as one of the UK and Ireland's leading fitness experts and business mentors.

Support Local - Mid Ulster Gift Card

1.00pm - 1.45pm

Hosted on: Zoom

Leah Brown will present to you the benefits of the Mid Ulster Gift Card! Join us to hear all about it, have your questions answered directly and hear from those who have already benefited from having the Gift Card as part of their business. By attending this webinar on the day you will be entered into a prize draw for one of four £50 Mid Ulster Gift Cards!

Keeping Hospitality At Home

2.30pm - 3.30pm

Hosted on: Zoom

Join James McGinn, MD of Hastings Hotels, as he brings us his practical advice how to excel in the current hospitality industry! He will discuss how to keep up with new trends, hit targets and bring people to your business in a time when travel is opening up again and people are keen to visit new places. James will be joined by Claire Murray, Deli on the Green and Dermot Friel, Friel's Bar & Restaurant.

THURS 17th November

Instagram & Facebook Reels – Social Media Workshop for Tourism Businesses

10.00am - 1.00pm (refreshments served)

Venue: The Terrace Hotel, Magherafelt

If you are unable to attend this event, it will also take place in Dungannon on Tuesday 15th.

Growth Through Innovation

10.00am - 11.00am

Hosted on: Zoom

Innovation has become so important to businesses as many adapt to a fast-changing world to ensure they remain sustainable and have a competitive edge. Join our host Clodagh Rice, BBC Journalist, and three business leaders from different sectors across the MSW Region of Northern Ireland, in conversation, discussing how innovating helped them grow and remain competitive in the current challenging economic conditions.

Panel - Colin Edgar, CET Cryospas, Stephen Smyth, TCTS Group Ltd and Terry Mullin, Global Automation

Mid Ulster Jobs & Careers Fair

11.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Cookstown Leisure Centre

Are you looking for work? Fancy a change in career? Interested in upskilling? Then the Mid Ulster Jobs & Careers Fair is the place to be. With over 50 local employers and support organisations on site, this is a brilliant opportunity to make connections, get advice, apply, and interview on the day!

Build your Business Battleplan

2.00pm - 3.00pm

Hosted on: Zoom

Paul Creighton, CEO of AES Global and business mentor, is bringing you his five point battle plan for businesses heading into the impending recession. Join this webinar to hear how to prepare step by step, covering: finding your strategy, bringing your team into your strategic thinking, motivating your team, improving company culture and measuring simple KPIs to bring your business out on top. This is a webinar not to be missed!



Comhairle Ceantair
Lár Uladh
Mid Ulster
District Council



APPENDIX 3

Sperrins Hillwalking Festival

Mid Ulster Event Photos – 24 / 25 September 2022

