

Crocknamack Rd / Bushmills Rd Junction Improvement Works	12th February 2019
Leisure & Development Committee For Decision	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our Environments & Assets
Outcome	All Environments in the area will benefit from pro-active decision making which protects the features, characteristics and integrity of the Borough.
Lead Officer	Head of Estates
Cost: (If applicable)	£20,000 Grant Funded DfC

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the improvement works to be carried out at the junction of Crocknamack Road and Bushmills Road, Portrush in preparation for the 148th Open and to seek approval for the same.

Background

The R&A have appointed a bridge engineer to design, construct and manage a number of pedestrian bridges to support the safe movement of visitors to and from the event. The R&A has identified the need for a double pedestrian bridge to promote quick and safe access / egress to Portrush Golf Club along with a single pedestrian bridge across Crocknamack Road to promote quick and safe access / egress for spectators towards the transport hub on Sandhill Drive. The position of the proposed bridges is depicted at **Annex A**, plan A.

Currently this location is untidy in appearance due to the heavily overgrown vegetation (see attached plan B). This area will be part of the main thoroughfare to the event with in excess of 190,000 spectators attending the event. Consequently, some preparatory works are required to turn it into an attractive feature. As part of normal grounds maintenance this shrubbery will be removed whilst retaining a number of mature trees. The area will be enhanced with the introduction of flowerbeds.

To further enhance the area, 'Welcome to Portrush' signage is planned on the northern side of Crocknamack Road which will complement the landscaping improvements to the southern side of the road, the main entrance point into the town from the coast road. Portrush Re-vitalise scheme, a Department for Communities initiative, will cover the cost of constructing a 'Welcome to Portrush' feature wall as shown in the attached artist's impression (plan C). The funding will also further enhance the proposed landscaping to frame the feature wall. The proposed feature wall will be a permanent feature (see attached plan D).

Consultation

The community in close vicinity to the area (three properties on Crocknamack Road) will be advised of the work taking place in February, subject to Council approval.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the proposed improvement works including use of Portrush Re-vitalise funding to provide the proposed 'Welcome to Portrush' feature wall.

Annex A

A. Proposed footbridges



B. Overgrown shrubbery



C. Proposed 'Welcome to Portrush' feature wall



D. Proposed layout

