

**Cloughmills Village Plan**

June 2018



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**1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

**Why Have a Village Action Plan?**

Village Action Plans are being developed as part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme Village Renewal measure operated by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. This measure aims to ensure an integrated approach to assist villages and their surrounding areas to realise the potential of their economic, social, cultural and environmental resources.

This plan, for Cloughmills, was commissioned by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with funding from the Council and DAERA.

**About the Plan**

The plan has been developed by consulting with local groups to ensure that actions identified are representative of local views, responsive to community needs and and have the ability to be implemented with meaningful outcomes. The plan identifies a series of actions which can be taken forward by local groups; in addition it can be used to influence statutory bodies and service providers and can be used as evidence of the need for various projects when applying for funding. The plan is designed to act as a framework for action in Cloughmills; it provides groups with a vision and direction for moving forward and shows collective will in developing the village for the benefits of locals and visitors alike.

**The Process**

The plan was developed over a number of months and involved local groups in Cloughmills sharing their views and ideas about how they would like to see the village develop over the next five years. Key to this process was revisiting the existing Village Plan to establish progress to date and identify those issues and actions which remain relevant, in addition to identifying any emerging concerns or project actions.

**Village Planning Framework**

***Phase 1- Review and Analysis***

* To carry out a detailed socio-economic analysis of the area to include population, age structure, health, education and economic activity.
* To consider the wider context, plans and policies that impact on the village, including Community Planning.
* To review any existing village plan and identify progress updates.

***Phase 2- Research and key ideas***

* To consult with key members of the community to make connections and understand how the village works.
* To carry out consultation meetings with local groups and organisations to enhance the new Village Plan and to ensure ideas are gathered.
* To analysis these ideas and separate them into groups and priorities.

***Phase 3- Village Design and Development***

* To highlight key ideas and look at ways to implement these putting in place a robust and realistic integrated village action plan identifying what needs to be done, why it is an issue, how it will be tackled, who will be involved and when it should happen
* Validate Plan with those involved.

**2. THE BIG PICTURE**



*Credit: Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan*

**Community Plan**

“*The purpose of community planning is to develop a long term vision and plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all its citizens based on thorough analysis of needs, priorities and opportunities in order to address them*[[1]](#footnote-1)”. The Community Planning model establishes a clear focus on partnership and collaboration, working with local communities being a primary goal.

Acting as an integrated framework for development and delivery the Community Plan is a key strategic document for communities and villages across the Borough; as such each Village Plan will seek to contribute to the long term strategic outcomes set out in the Community Plan, namely:-

* A thriving economy
* A healthy safe community
* A sustainable accessible environment

**A Thriving Economy**

The Community Plan acknowledges the need for improved local employment opportunities, accessible skills training and learning, regeneration, modern infrastructure and the potential for innovation, including the use of the Borough’s unique natural assets. The village plan seeks to contribute to economic development in rural areas by identifying opportunities for growth and sustainability, including the social economy.

**A Healthy Safe Community**

This outcome area recognises that the Borough is predominantly rural and that this, along with projected ageing population growth, presents particular challenges in relation to both access to services and the threat of rural isolation, particularly amongst for older rural dwellers. In addition to being concerned with the physical fabric and infrastructure of each village, the plans will also seek to address these challenges, recognising that overcoming them is integral to building cohesive and sustainable rural communities.

**A Sustainable Accessible Environment**

The Community Plan recognises the need to strive for balance in protecting and sustaining the Borough’s unique environment whilst also meeting community, tourism and commercial needs. This includes the need to provide fit for purpose infrastructure and access to services, including ease of access to outdoor spaces and the coastline for the benefit resident communities and visitors. Village plans reflect this at the local level, identifying actions which protect and respect the character of our rural communities while also supporting their growth and sustainability.

**Northern Area Plan 2016**

The Northern Area Plan 2016 is the development plan for the four legacy Council Areas of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle and operates as the local development plan for the Council area until the Council adopts its own Local Development Plan.

The Plan recognises that while Cloughmills is a growing residential location and a valuable local service centre for the surrounding rural area, “recreational facilities are limited relative to the size of the village”. It notes that while the village has good road links to both Ballymoney and Ballymena, public transport connections are limited. The Plan further notes that an Area of Archaeological Potential has been identified (Settlement Map No. 2/04) which may contain archaeological remains[[2]](#footnote-2).

**3. THE LOCAL PICTURE**

**Cloughmills: The Place and Its People**

Located eight miles from Ballymoney and ten miles from Ballymena, Cloughmills lies next to the A26 key transport corridor. The village has witnessed a population growth in recent years, largely as a result of private housing developments. The Northern Area Plan designates Cloughmills as a Village and notes that the village has seen significant growth in private sector dwellings since the 1990s.

There is an active community presence with local groups working together on common interest areas, as well as pursuing their individual interests and specialisms.

Cloughmills Community Association manages the Community Centre and operates a range of social activities, including a luncheon club. Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society operates from the Orange Hall in the village and delivers a range of services, including cross community activity with a recent knitting project receiving much acclaim while the Golden Oldies senior citizens groups meets weekly in the village and has a varied programme of events. The village is also host to a local soccer club and GAA club; however, lack of adequate recreational and sporting facilities are an ongoing concern, having been consistently cited as a priority need.

The Cloughmills Community Action Team (CCAT) has been at the forefront of developing programmes and initiatives at the Old Mill site, promoting environmental programmes and sustainability as well as supporting social and therapeutic horticulture, encouraging community participation. The Old Mill is host to a Men’s Shed project and the Incredible Edibles project which focuses on healthy eating and includes community allotments and a community fridge project to tackle the issue of food waste and encourage sharing. Plans are currently underway to build on this work through a proposal to bring currently disused space back into community use by developing a community kitchen and meeting space.

In addition to a village Heritage trail, a Riverwalk has been developed on the Old Mill site, funded through the Rural Development Programme, to encourage physical activity and provide an opportunity to enjoy the local environment in a safe manner.

The village is host to primary school provision; however post primary provision is highly fragmented with local young people attending school in a wide variety of locations. This combined with a lack of youth provision in the village has led to young people feeling dislocated from community life, with lack of facilities and activities being an ongoing issue.

**Socio Economic Analysis**

The previous Cloughmills Action Plan (2014), used statistics from the 2011 Census and the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. Figures from the 2011 Census became available from June 2013, and this report uses them along with mid-2016 NISRA Mid-term Population Estimates. The NIMDM 2010 has not been updated as yet, so figures from it remain unchanged.

* The resident population of Cloughmills Settlement recorded at the 2011 Census was 1,318 people
* The population increased by 4.28% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
* 19.42% (2011) of the resident population are under 16 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 20.8% (2016)
* 14.57% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 32.70% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 62.97% (2011) belong to or were brought up in the Protestant and other Christian Community background
* 49.25% (2011) of local people had low or no qualifications which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 67.42% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years are economically active. This is higher than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 19.04% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* Cloughmills Ward is one of the least deprived areas in NI, ranking within the top 67% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Access to Services ranks at within the top 25% most deprived areas in NI *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

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| **Cloughmills Assets**   * Good community relations in the village; reported as being a friendly environment and close knit community * Incredible Edible; social and therapeutic horticulture * Active community groups with a history of partnership working for the collective good while retaining their individual areas of interest * Community buildings – Community Centre, Old Mill, LoL Hall – used for a broad range of activities * Innovations in sustainability and environmental education through the Cloughmills Community Action team * Cloughmills Heritage Trail * River Walk at the Old Mill * Road links – close to A26 key transport corridor |

**Building on Foundations**

A number of significant developments and initiatives have been taken forward in and around Cloughmills in recent years, some of which were identified as action points in the 2014 Village Plan. Included in these achievements are:-

* Village heritage trail, jointly delivered by Cloughmills Community Action Team and Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society
* Incredible Edible healthy eating programmes and environmental work, including a community fridge and *Grow Your Own* community therapy garden
* Developments at the Old Mill, including a Men’s Shed project and Riverwalk
* An active programme of social activities for the Golden Oldies group, in addition to programmes for older people delivered by Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society and Cloughmills Community Association
* Cloughmills knitting project which saw local women come together to recreate the village in knitted form
* Ongoing community consultation and engagement to ensure projects and programmes remain relevant
* Home safety programmes, including home support for older people
* Community Pharmacy programme
* Joint working between local primary schools – Cloughmills Primary Schools and St Brigid’s Primary School
* Broadband provision in community facilities

**4. WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

**Consultation Findings**

**The Process**

The updated Village Plan was informed through consultation with local groups, namely:-

* Cloughmills Community Action Team (CCAT)
* Cloughmills Community Association
* Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society
* Golden Oldies Senior Citizens group
* Cloughmills Football Club
* St Brigid’s Gaelic Football Club

Feedback was also received from users of services at the Old Mill, including the Men’s Shed and Parents and Toddler groups in addition to local young people who were given the opportunity to have their say in village life. Further feedback was provided by a Community Engagement Day (July 2017) hosted by CCAT and a community survey undertaken by Cloughmills Community Association (Oct 2017) and analysed by the Village Planning team. This approach ensured feedback from all local groups and interests, in order to update the plan and identify a relevant and focussed series of actions for village renewal.

From discussion with local groups, it was evident that while groups have their own individual interests and areas of focus, there is also a willingness and proven ability to work together and share ideas and vision for Cloughmills. This demonstration of co-operation proves a sound base for implementation of the Village Plan and ensures widespread community participation.

On completion of consultations, a draft action plan was drawn up and discussed with groups in order to ensure that all views and issues had been identified, and to confirm timescales and priorities. Following this, final versions of the Village Plan and accompanying Action Plan were completed.

**Findings**

In terms of consultation feedback, this can be summarised as follows:

**Young People**

Lack of facilities and activities for young people, especially detached young people was a recurring theme. This threat was also highlighted in community survey findings (Cloughmills Community Association; October 2017) which found that lack of activities for young people was considered a key challenge for the community, in addition to concerns around drugs and alcohol.

In terms of issues faced by young people, survey reponses were prioritised as follows:-

1. Lack of activities
2. Lack of (sports) facilities
3. Drugs and alcohol; Anti-social behaviour
4. Transport problems
5. Lack of employment opportunities

A need for personal development programmes/support and age appropriate interventions were also reported, reflecting the breadth of issues to be addressed and highlighting the need for specialised youth based activities and programmes in Cloughmills; potentially these could be delivered on an outreach basis in partnership with other areas/villages. It is also important to note that many young people are not interested/do not participate in sport; as a result activities delivered in conventional community/sports centres may not engage those most at risk, again highlighting the importance of detached outreach work. Such work should be taken forward in partnership with other agencies, including experienced youth workers. These findings were reinforced by Community Engagement day feedback which found that there was significant interest in family based activities as well as work with schools, initiatives which will promote youth engagement in community activity.

CCAT undertook consultation with young people as part of the Village Planning process; this exercise confirmed a lack of activities is a key concern, with demand expressed for more clubs/activities for young people. The Old Mill was highlighted as a positive aspect of village life. In terms of the type of activities and facilities young people would like to see provided in Cloughmills, young people highlighted sports and recreational activities and facilities, a youth hub, skills club (i.e. woodwork / cookery / music) and interest was also expressed in (wildlife) activities at the Old Mill including the River walk.

Many of these ideas centre on physical activity and outdoor recreation, actions which can have very positive impacts on mental health and emotional wellbeing. Consequently, provision of such activities will help to combat the concerns raised around youth mental health, in addition to threats presented by drugs and anti-social behaviours. These findings also highlights the need for recreational and sporting facilities in the village, highlighting a need identified in the previous plan and one which has yet to be progressed.

When asked about the best way of getting young people involved in local plans for the village, interest was expressed in young people being involved in project planning and having a voice on community committees, in addition to work with schools and use of social media to promote awareness. This provides direction in moving forward with community plans and projects, in addition to bringing in new ideas and energy through the active participation of young people.

The need for detached youth work was highlighted during the Village Planning process. this was reinforced by community survey findings in relation to young people, anti-social behaviour, drugs and mental health concerns. This is specialised work, requiring specialised skills and experience which community groups cannot be reasonably expected to provide. In these cases, professional help in the form of Youth Service and specialist agencies is required in order to deliver meaningful and appropriate supports.

**Family Needs**

Community consultation identified the issues faced by families in the area; responses to the Community Association survey were reported as follows, in priority listing:-

1. Lack of activities
2. Unemployment/low income/poverty
3. Transport; stress; childcare
4. Drugs concerns

Survey responses also highlighted a range of activities which could be delivered at the Community Centre, in addition to recording interest in volunteering. In addition, the CCAT Community Engagement day found demand for a range of family oriented activities, including cookery, healthy eating and recycling. Lack of village activities was also identified at the Community Engagement day, with suggestions to address this including a community cinema, barbeques and events/programmes for bringing people together. These included healthy eating, wellbeing, arts and crafts.

It is clear that there is a need to provide activities and programmes to promote community integration, alleviate the threat of isolation, build inter-generational relations and promote community health and well-being. Provision of facilities such as those proposed at the Old Mill in the form of dedicated facilities (e.g. community kitchen) which can facilitate community engagement will add significant value to the Village plan and aid its implementation and achievement of outcomes.

**Older People**

A consultation was held with the Golden Oldies senior citizens group to gather their views on life in Cloughmills and the issues facing older people. Cloughmills was reported to be a friendly and close knit community, with good community spirit and relations. Amongst the most frequently cited responses were concerns around traffic management, speeding and car parking in the village, with particular emphasis on the difficulty crossing the main street from the shop. Access to a free ATM was also highlighted; currently the only such machine is in the village shop so is inaccessible outside opening hours.

Feedback also highlighted the need to provide activities during the day as people are not always comfortable going out at night. The knitting project hosted by Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society was cited as an example of bringing people together and providing company. This is supported by Community Association survey findings which found that the overwhelming concern here was loneliness, followed by transport problems and the fear of anti-social behaviour. There is scope for groups to work together to develop a programme of activities for older people, building on existing programmes including the Community Centre’s luncheon club, and including inter-generational work which may go some way to addressing anti-social behaviour concerns.

Feedback from the CCAT hosted Community Engagement day found much demand for family and inter-generational work and activities, to build family relationships and cohesion, including with older family members. Many of the suggested activities from the Community Engagement day offer opportunity for programmes engaging older people including cookery, arts and crafts and traditional skills.

The community knitting project led by Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society is one example of the way on which older people can be actively involved in community life and supporting social integration. Provision of locally based activities such as this can be delivered by local groups and highlights the positive outcomes which can be achieved. Investment in facilities such as the proposed community kitchen, building on existing resources such as the Incredible Edible community allotment and fridge project and the Men’s Shed, offer an inclusive environment for this work to take place.

**Village Life**

A range of general concerns were voiced during consultation. Traffic issues, including speeding through the village and difficulty crossing the road were noted; many suggestions were made in relation to a zebra crossing being installed in the village to address this issue. Public transport was highlighted a challenge, particularly in relation to accessing Borough events; most links tend to Mid and East Antrim Borough, primarily Ballymena and Ballymoney as opposed to routes to Causeway Coast and Glens.

Groups in the village are very active with the Community Centre and LOL Hall providing valuable community venues and plans being taken forward to develop space at the Old Mill to complement the existing outdoor offer, community fridge and Men’s Shed facility. Scope exists to use these existing facilities as bases for outreach clinics such as health and wellbeing, advice and information and social interaction. The value in this approach is that by establishing these bases for delivery of varied outreach programmes and activities, the facilities can host a variety of outreach services/clinics in addition to their traditional programmes of events – this reduces any threat of stigma as people may be using a community facility for any number of reasons and not necessarily to access one specific service.

Central to this will also be building on the work at the Old Mill in terms of providing purpose built meeting space and community kitchen, building on the work already underway at the Old Mill through Incredible Edible and meeting community demand for healthy eating, family cookery classes and recycling.

It has been recognised that groups work well together in the village; consultation with groups has evidenced the value of this co-operation, working on their own interest areas but collaborating where appropriate for wider benefit. In order to ensure continuation of such partnership, it is recommended that groups continue to work together through a mechanism such as a Village Forum to ensure ongoing co-operation and avoid duplication of effort and resources. Such a model will lend itself to monitoring implementation of the Village Plan and also illustrate to potential funders that groups are working in tandem with no risk of either duplication or displacement.

**Old Mill Service Users**

The Old Mill provides a number of services and activities for the local community. Service users were asked about the type of services and facilities they would like to see provided. Consultation with users of the Men’s Shed found support for efforts to draw more service users to the project, thus increasing opening hours, and also the option for women to participate in the project.

In line with feedback from the Community Engagement day, much support was recorded for a community kitchen facility, building on and expanding work already underway at the Old Mill through the community garden and Incredible Edible programme. A submission has been made to the RDP Local Action Group under the Basic Services measure to progress this idea, providing a base for educational programmes and practical learning, in addition to a small community cinema. This bid forms part of an overall refurbishment plan for the site, to provide facilities for programmes and activities which the whole Cloughmills community can avail of.

Access issues in relation to the Old Mill were raised, noting that the lane is in a state of disrepair and requires both resurfacing and lighting. Investment in the community allotments was also identified, including works to improve accessibility.

Consultation with families using facilities at the Old Mill found much support for the community garden and associated activitieswhile lack of childcare facilities in the village was identified as an issue. The sense of community spirit in Cloughmills was highlighted with interest being expressed for more family based activities.

**Summary**

In updating the Village Plan, it was clear that much progress has been achieved from the previous Plan (2014), providing a sound foundation from which to move forward. This will include building on achievements through the Men’s Shed, community planting schemes and joint group working on a range of initiatives, including schools collaboration.

Current work programmes undertaken by groups include the knitting project replicating the village led by Cloughmills Cultural and Historical Society, ongoing social activities at the Community Centre and proposals for development of a community kitchen and meeting space at the Old Mill by CCAT. The action plan set out in the following section seeks to build on this work and provide a framework for groups to continue to develop and deliver services, in response to needs identified through the community consultation. The plan recognises that provision of fit for purpose facilities is essential to deliver programmes and promote inclusion.

**5. VISION AND PLAN FOR CLOUGHMILLS**

This Section puts forward the action plan proposals for Cloughmills. An over-arching vision for the area is set out followed by proposals for action under each of the themes informed by the consultation process.

**Vision and Mission**

The vision and mission set out for Cloughmills in the 2014 Village Plan and reinforced here are:-

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| **Vision** | **Mission** |
| Cloughmills – Safe, Clean, Prosperous, Healthy, Friendly, Sustainable – a place where people want to live, work, invest and play | Improving Cloughmills as a place to live, work, rest and play through influencing others and securing new resources and facilities for the area |

**SWOT Analysis**

Following analysis of community consultation feedback, a Cloughmills village SWOT analysis was constructed as follows:

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Community facilities including Old Mill complex, Community Centre, Orange Hall * Active groups providing a sense of community * Groups have individual areas of interests but also work together on common issues * Community planting scheme in the village * Riverside walk * The village has witnessed population growth | * Lack of facilities and activities for young people * Disused buildings/derelict sites * Road safety - speeding in village * Lack of off street parking * Lack of childcare * Lack of adequate sporting/pitch facilities |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Village is located adjacent to a main arterial link - A26 key transport corridor * Plans for further regeneration of Old Mill complex * Expansion of Men’s Shed project * Expansion of community allotments | * Young people are disconnected from village life due to fragmentation of post primary school provision * Drugs and alcohol concerns for young people * Mental health concerns, especially among young people |

As the planning process developed, the consultation feedback was configured into strategic themes or priority areas for sustaining and developing Cloughmils. As much as possible, the selected themes sought to build on the work identified and actioned under the previous Village Plan while also being responsive to the new policy and strategic environment, including the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens. The following themes were proposed:-

* Community Engagement
* Environment and Infrastructure
* Communication and Participation
* Community Health and Wellbeing
* Local Services

A series of actions have been developed, informed by both feedback gathered through the village planning process and analysis of community consultation conducted by Cloughmills Community Action Team (July 2017) and Cloughmills Community Association (October 2017) in addition to building on the previous Village Plan (2014).

Action Plans for each theme are presented overleaf:-

**Theme: Community Engagement**

**Rationale:** This theme combines the themes of *Young People* and *Mature People* in the previous 2014 Village Plan. In doing so, the theme lends itself to actions which can build a cohesive and inclusive village community, including promoting inter-generational relations and tackling issues such as anti-social behavior in a strategic manner. The building of inter-generational relations is also important in addressing the current deficit in youth leaders/volunteers in the village.

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| **Sub Theme: Young People** | | | | | | | |
| Provision of youth leadership and education programmes | Concerns have been expressed about substance abuse and mental health issues among young people | 1. Work with specialist youth providers to deliver leadership and peer education programmes 2. Awareness and education programmes for parents | 1. High; Year 1 and ongoing 2. Medium; Year 2 | £20,000  £10,000 | Youth Service | NACN  Youth Service; All groups |  |
| To support families and provide opportunities for children to come together | 1. Organise a summer scheme encouraging young people to come forward as leaders 2. Encourage parental engagement in delivery to avoid volunteer burnout | 1. Medium; Year 2 2. Medium; Year 2 | £3,000  £n/a | Council | Community Association; all groups |  |
| To build cohesion among children in the village | 1. Continue joint working between local primary schools | 1. Low; ongoing | £2,000 | Education Authority | Schools |  |
| Engaging the hard to reach | There remains an issue with hard to reach young people who are disconnected from community life; | 1. **Provision of drop in space at Old Mill (Lads’ Pad)** as part of overall Old Mill development scheme complemented by delivery of social enterprise and personal development programmes in community venues 2. Build relationships with young people prior to carrying out a youth survey 3. Explore potential for a detached youth worker, in partnership with other villages | 1. **High; Year 1** 2. Medium; Year 2 3. High; Year 1 | **£100,000**  £n/a  £n/a | RDP | CCAT; All groups |  |
| Volunteer development | There is currently a lack of volunteers to undertake youth work in the village | 1. Liaise with Volunteer Now and Youth Service 2. Host volunteer recruitment events to encourage potential volunteers across all groups | 1. High; Year 1 2. Medium; ongoing | £n/a  £n/a | - | All groups |  |
| **Sub Theme: Older People** | | | | | | | |
| To ensure that all older people are kept informed of activities and opportunities | The threat of loneliness has been identified as a major concern among older people | 1. Hosting of information events and information sharing by all groups 2. Day time activities – Reminiscence events, arts/crafts and cultural activities 3. Befriending and signposting | 1. High; ongoing 2. High; ongoing 3. Medium; ongoing | £n/a  £5,000  £n/a | -  Awards for All  - | All local groups; COAST; NACN |  |
| Building in-generational relations | Fear of anti-social behaviour among older people | 1. Inter-generational projects, including Lad’s Pad/Men’s Shed activities eg woodwork 2. Local history projects | 1. Medium; Year 2 2. Medium; Year 3 | £15,000  £5,000 | Peace IV  Heritage Lottery |  |  |
| Home safety measures | Safety and security concerns have been identified as a concern for older village residents | 1. Build on work already carried out by Historical Society 2. Liaise with PCSP and COAST on their home safety and security measures | 1. Medium; ongoing 2. High; Year1 | £n/a  £n/a | - | Historical Society; Community Association; COAST |  |
| **Sub Theme: Cloughmills Community** | | | | | | | |
| Networking | To ensure co-ordination of activity and delivery of Village Plan actions and develop linkages with other groups/areas | 1. Establishment of a Village Forum representative of all local groups 2. Sharing of plans and information 3. Liaise with other villages and learn from their experiences | 1. Medium; ongoing quarterly 2. Medium; ongoing 3. Low; ongoing | £n/a  £n/a  £n/a | - | Network Council  All local groups |  |

**Theme: Environment and Infrastructure**

**Rationale:** There is great opportunity to promote environmental awareness and education through the Old Mill complex, including the community allotment garden and bio-park, providing opportunities for all residents to benefit from its activities.

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Enhanced village profile and appearance | To maximise the visual impact of the village for residents and visitors, building a sense of pride in village life | 1. Recruitment of more volunteers for village tidy up 2. Provision of more litter bins, including for dog fouling 3. Ongoing flower planting at Old Mill and public areas in the village 4. Improved village and Old Mill signage | 1. Medium; ongoing 2. High; Year 1 3. Medium; ongoing 4. Medium; Year 2/3 | £n/a  £1,000  £3,000  £10,000 | Council  RDP | All groups | Outcomes 1 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Positive relationships |
| Environmental education | To showcase the work being undertaken at the Old Mill | 1. Ongoing development of the community garden and fridge project through engagement programme and events 2. Further development of community allotments to facilitate disability access 3. Nature walks and environmental programmes at Old Mill, including work with schools | 1. Medium; ongoing 2. Medium; Year 2 3. High; Year 1 ongoing | £5,000  £20,000  £2,000 | Lottery  Peace IV  Charitable trusts | CCAT | Outcomes 1, 5, 7, 8  Health & wellbeing; Positive relationships; Accessibility; Environmental sustainability |

**Theme: Communication and Participation**

**Rationale:** By working together, groupscan learn from each other and ensure that all sections of the Cloughmills community are catered for and have an opportunity to participate in village life.

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Community support and signposting | Lack of access to services and support agencies in rural areas, including lack of public transport increasing difficulty in accessing services | 1. Old Mill website to promote opportunities, including volunteering 2. Event flyers and community Newsletter 3. Community Directory compiled which lists village services 4. Ongoing networking with other groups, local and regionally 5. Info clinics and outreach – advice on benefits etc. | 1. Medium; ongoing 2. Medium; ongoing 3. Low; Year 2 4. Low; Year 3 5. High; ongoing | £n/a  £1,000  £1,000  £n/a  £5,000 | Council  Awards For All | CCAT; All groups; Elected representatives | Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people; Access to services; Positive relationships |
| Programme of community based activities | To build community cohesion and tackle the risk of rural isolation | 1. Calendar of events drawn up Programme of community based activities and social/entertainment activities developed and delivered 2. Explore feasibility of a Community Cinema at the Old Mill complex | 1. Medium; ongoing 2. Medium; Year 3 | £5,000  £5,000 | Council | All groups | Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people; Access to services; Positive relationships |

**Theme: Community Health and Well-Being**

**Rationale:** This theme combines the themes of *Health and Fitness* and *Community Safety* which were included in the previous 2014 Village Plan. This approach enables the action plan to link a number of action areas and provides some co-ordination in the field of community health and well-being where many organisations have a role and remit. It seeks to maximise the potential of existing Cloughmills assets such as the Old Mill community garden and bio park, recognising that fit for purpose facilities are required to deliver programmes and promote inclusion.

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Signposting and interpretative panels | To encourage more participation in physical exercise in order to gain both mental and physical health benefits | 1. **Installation of signage and panels** on cycling/walking paths at Old Mill trails | 1. **High; Year 1** | **£10,000** | **RDP Village Renewal** | CCAT | Outcomes 1, 2 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people; Positive relationships |
| To provide recreational facilities for the local community, especially young people, to promote community health | There is a lack of activities/facilities for sports groups and young people; the existing play area caters for younger ages | 1. Feasibility study to explore the potential of pitch/recreational provision in the village – behind the Old Shirt factory is a potential site | 1. High; Year 1 | £5,000 | Council | CCAT; all groups | Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people; Access to services; Positive relationships |
| St Brigids GAC have identified a need for improvements at their grounds | 1. Provision of new changing facilities at existing grounds | 1. Medium: Year 2 | £50,000 | Sport NI  Council | St Brigids GAC |
| The Old Mill is host to a range of community programmes and events | 1. **Investing in facilities at the Old Mill** - **installation of heating in Men’s Shed and office;** installation of defibrillator 2. Develop links with Health Centre and Pharmacy – Community Pharmacy partnership 3. **Improvements to access routes (pathway and lighting)** | 1. High; Year 1 2. Medium; ongoing 3. **High; Year 1** | £10,000  £n/a  **£70,000** | Peace IV  RDP | CCAT |
| Community kitchen and meeting/event space | To promote healthy eating and awareness and community participation through initiatives such as the Community Garden | 1. Basic Services bid submitted to LAG by CCAT as first stage in development of the Old Mill site – provision of meeting/event space 2. Implementation of findings identified through CCAT Community Engagement day eg community café, Grow It and food events | 1. High; Year 1 2. High; Year 1/2 | £250,000  £10,000 | RDP Basic Services | CCAT | Outcomes 1, 2, 3 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people; Access to services; Positive relationships |

**Theme: Local Services**

**Rationale:** Provision of local services is essential for rural communities to minimise the risk of isolation and support access to local services and opportunities, in addition to drawing visitors to the village

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| **Project**  **Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority and**  **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost £** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes** |
| Accessible advice and information | Rural areas are often risk of isolation from services and information | 1. Use existing community facilities as outreach bases for advice and information such as benefits and health fairs | 1. Medium; Year 2 | £5,000 | Council | All groups | Outcomes 1, 3 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Access to services; Positive relationships |
| Traders’ Forum | To help promote and sustain local businesses and encourage traders to support village and community activity | 1. Bring together local business owners to establish a forum and promote businesses in the village 2. Develop local business directory | 1. Medium; Year 2 2. Low; Year 3 | £n/a  £1,000 | -  Sponsorship | Traders | Outcomes 10 & 11  Business growth; Innovation and entrepreneurship |
| Community education | To provide opportunities to develop local skills and community links | 1. Programmes at all centres e.g. Grow Your Own, arts and culture, environmental programmes, life skills 2. Hosting of school visits (from across the Borough and beyond) through local history and environmental programmes | 1. Medium; Year 2/3 | £10,000  £5,000 | Awards for All | All groups | Outcomes 1, 2 & 5  Health & wellbeing; Children & young people; Positive relationships |
| Volunteer car drivers | There are challenges in accessing services including prescription delivery due to rural isolation | 1. Explore scope to recruit volunteer drivers to assist with transport to appointments and prescription delivery | 1. Medium; Year 2 | £n/a | - | COAST  Local groups | Outcome 1  Health & wellbeing |

**Prioritisation:**

In order to proceed with implementation, potential Village Renewal actions have been prioritised as follows:-

1. Heating in Old Mill facilities - Men’s Shed
2. Access improvements to Old Mill (pathways and lighting)
3. Development of youth drop in space
4. Signage and interpretation panels

**Community Planning Outcomes**

In order ensure fit with the local policy environment and integrated development and delivery, Village Renewal actions have been aligned with the Community Planning outcomes for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area as much as possible. The full list of Community Planning outcomes is as follows:-

**Outcome 1:**

All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing

**Outcome 2:**

Our children and young people will have the very best start in life

**Outcome 3:**

All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services when they need it

**Outcome 4:**

The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe

**Outcome 5**:

The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships

**Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes

**Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access and connections

**Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast and Glens has a sustainably managed natural and built Environment

**Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy

**Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses

**Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area drives entrepreneurship and fosters innovation

**Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will be knowledgeable and skilled

**Other Considerations**

Every effort has been made to ensure that the action plans developed for each village are comprised of realistic and achievable project actions. In some cases, issues have been raised which are of real concern to local people but may be beyond the remit of the Village Plan – aspirational as opposed to achievable. In these instances, such issues are identified in the Village Plan as a concern but have not been included as a practical action point. In the case of Cloughmills a number of issues have been identified which are of concern to the village community and in need of action:-

* Provision of a pedestrian crossing at Cloughmills Primary School to enable the Main Street to be crossed safely is an ongoing priority
* Public transport linkages to and from the village, including accessing Borough events – often access to Mid and East Antrim Borough is easier
* Free ATM provision was cited as an ongoing issue, having also been identified in the previous plan
* Dog fouling; a need for more bins in general in the village and especially for dog fouling
* Exploring the potential for provision such as Fold Housing was identified in the previous plan and remains an issue
* Improved car parking facilities in the village, especially at Main Street/Drumadoon Road junction; explore scope for additional car parking at Old Mill

**6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

It is recommended that a Village Forum be established to provide a co-ordination role to ensure the actions within this Plan are progressed. Individual project actions will be taken forward by relevant led organisations, individuals or collectives as identified in the Action Plan.

The Village Forum may establish sub-committees to take forward the actions arising from this Plan. The promoting groups should be represented by people across a broad spectrum of the Cloughmills community and should involve public, private and community interests. Only the people in the area can make the Action Plan become reality.

As groups research and investigate the best way forward in each project area, the full financial implications will become known and applications for funding and fund-raising activities will take place. It is recognised that Council and RDP will not have sufficient funds to carry out all the activities in this plan and other sources of funding will be required. The full Village Plan provides details of potential opportunities to grasp.

The Village Forum will monitor progress and report to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on a quarterly basis.

Appendix 1 - Detailed Socio-Economic Profile

**Usually resident population**

On Census Day 27 March 2011, the usually resident population of Clogh Mills (Cloughmills) Settlement was **1,318** accounting for **0.07%** of the NI total.

**Households**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, there were **1,318** people **(100.00%)** of the usually resident population) in Cloughmills Settlement living in **516** households, giving an average household size of **2.55**.

**Demography**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Cloughmills Settlement:

* **19.42%** were aged under 16 years and **14.57%** were aged 65 years and over
* **48.41%** of the usually resident population were male and **51.59%** were female
* **37** years was the average (median) age of the population

**Ethnicity, identity, language and religion**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Cloughmills Settlement, considering the resident population:

* **99.09%** were from the white (including Irish traveller) ethnic group
* **32.70%** belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and **62.97%** belong to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)’ religion
* **62.29%** indicated that they had a British national identity, **15.86%** had an Irish national identity and **33.08%** had a Northern Irish national identity

\**Respondents could indicate more than one national identity*

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Cloughmills Settlement, considering the population aged 3 years old and over:

* **6.10%** had some knowledge of Irish
* **27.87%** had some knowledge of Ulster Scots
* **0.71%** did not have English as their first language

**Health**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Cloughmills Settlement:

* **19.04%** of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities
* **79.74%** of people stated their general health was either good or very good
* **9.94%** of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others

**Housing and accommodation**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Cloughmills Settlement:

* **69.96%** of households were owner occupied and **26.74%** were rented
* **25.97%** of households were owned outright
* **11.82%** of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years
* **7.75%** were lone parent households with dependent children
* **14.92%** of households did not have access to a car or van

**Qualifications**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, considering the population aged 16 years old and over:

* **14.97%** had a degree or higher qualification
* **49.25%** had no or low (Level 1\*) qualifications

*\*level 1 is 1-4 O Levels/GCE/GCSE (any grades) or equivalent*

**Labour market**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, considering the population aged 16 to 74 years old:

* **67.42%** were economically active, **32.58%** were economically inactive
* **59.79%** were in paid employment
* **5.36%** were unemployed,

**Deprivation**

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 provides information on seven types of deprivation and overall measure of multiple deprivation for small areas. NISRA has recently been commissioned to initiate work to update this Measure with a view to publish results mid-2017. See the NISRA website for further information on Deprivation.

Wards are ordered from most deprived to least deprived on each type of deprivation and then assigned a rank. The most deprived is ranked 1, and as there are 582 wards, the least deprived ward has a rank of 582. The deprivation rankings for Cloughmills Ward are given in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Rank  **Clogh Mills** |
| Multiple Deprivation Measure | 390 |
| Income Deprivation | 347 |
| Employment Deprivation | 422 |
| Health Deprivation and Disability Deprivation | 429 |
| Education Skills and Training Disability | 259 |
| Proximity to Services Deprivation | 143 |
| Crime and Disorder | 440 |
| Living Environment | 376 |

1. A Better Future Together – A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 - 2030 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Northern Area Plan 2016, page 27 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)