

**Loughgiel 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 Loughgiel, was commissioned by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with funding from the Council and DAERA.

**About the Plan**

This plan has evolved by consulting with local groups and residents to ensure that everyone could have a say and that actions put forward were those considered important to the majority and have the ability to implement. The plan highlights actions that can be taken forward by people within the community; 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 Loughgiel; 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 residents and groups in Loughgiel putting forward their views about how they would like to see their area 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 referencing for action any emerging concerns or projects ideas.

**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 states that, in respect of Loughgiel, “*Loughgiel is situated 13 kilometres to the east of Ballymoney. It is the only settlement serving a large rural hinterland on the eastern side of the Borough[[2]](#footnote-2)”.*

**Local Development Plan**

Local Development Plans form the basis of land use planning and decisions on planning applications within the Borough. They set out what the Council area will look like and how land should be used and developed. At the time of producing Village Plans (2017), Council’s Development Plan Team were in the initial stages of producing the Borough’s Local Development Plan 2030. A series of topic-based Discussion Papers had been drawn up to inform the process. Of relevance to the Loughgiel Village Plan was the following:-

Environment

In accordance with Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) are designated to help protect the environmental assets within or adjoining settlements that are of the greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance, and are worthy of protection from over-development. St Patrick’s Church, Loughiel is a Local Landscape Policy Area

Education, Health, Community Facilities

* Loughgiel is served by a post office, one pre-school, one primary school and two community owned community centres (no council support)
1. **THE LOCAL PICTURE**

Location, Context and History

Loughgiel is situated 13 kilometres to the east of Ballymoney. It is the only settlement serving a large rural hinterland on the eastern side of the Borough.

Prior to construction of the public housing estate at Scally Park in the 1960s, Loughgiel was a small cluster of development centred around the church. A number of individual dwellings were built subsequently, but it was not until 2001 that any significant private housing development took place.

The Millennium Centre on Lough Road, a community regeneration project part-funded by the International Fund for Ireland and opened in 2001, provides childcare, training, industrial and sports facilities. This has greatly improved the range and quality of community facilities as well as providing valuable training and employment opportunities in this peripheral rural area.

Loughgiel is designated a Village in the Settlement Hierarchy in the Northern Area Plan.

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| **Loughgiel Assets*** Millennium Centre
* Post Office
* Loughgiel shamrock’s pitches
* Adjacent lough and forest
* Parish buildings
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Socio- Economic Analysis

This is an updated Village Plan for Loughgiel and uses statistics from the 2011 Census which became available from June 2013, along with mid-2016 NISRA Mid-term Population Estimates and the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. The NIMDM 2010 has not been updated as yet, so figures from it remain unchanged. Loughgiel is located in the Knockaholet Ward.

**Loughgiel/Knockaholet Ward**

* The resident population of Knockaholet Ward recorded at the 2011 Census was 1,677 people and 1,711 at 30 June 2016 population estimates
* The population increased by 11.24% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
* 20.16% (2011) of the resident population are under 16 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 20.8% (2016)
* 15.68% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 35.12% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 60.52% (2011) belong to or were brought up in the Protestant and other Christian Community background
* The percentage of local people with low or no qualifications was 41.67% in 2011, which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 67.56% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years are economically active. This is higher than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 17.95% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* Knockaholet ward falls within the top 50-55% of most deprived areas in NI *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Proximity to Services Deprivation ranks in the top 10-15% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

**Building on Foundations - Progress from the Previous Village Plan**

A number of significant developments and initiatives have been taken forward in and around Loughgiel village in recent years. Included in these are:-

* The Millennium Centre offers a range of services including childcare, peripatetic support service, computer training, handyman and maintenance services, conference facilities, computer rooms and meeting rooms, party rooms and sports hall, weddings, exercise classes, youth club, business units and a café/deli
* Funding has been secured through the European social Fund (ESF) and Training for Women’s Network (TWN) to allow unemployed and inactive women to train and gain qualifications at Loughgiel
* Ongoing good relations work

**4. WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

**Consultation Process**

The Village Plan for Loughgiel was informed through:

* Review of existing 2014 Plan
* Consultation with local groups including Loughgiel Community Association and Scullion Hurls
* Public drop in event (October 2017)
* Public meeting (November 2017)

**Consultation Feedback**

As the village planning process for Loughgiel developed it became clear that a number of strategic themes were emerging; these were largely in keeping with the 2014 Plan. The consultation feedback obtained via the planning process is summarised below, under the following thematic headings.

**Community Development**

Community development is strong with the Community Association providing leadership in both the provision of its facilities and services. Sporting Organisations such as Loughgiel Shamrocks are also important in the identity of the area and the provision of a range of facilities.

**Environment**

The environment is an important part of the identity of Loughgiel. It is based in a strong natural environment with access to both the lough and adjacent forest. Providing access to the immediate environment through walkways and pathways which are inclusive are core parts of the feedback.

**Community Services**

Strong strategic leadership on the provision of community services; much of it is focused around the Millennium Centre. Feedback confirms the needs to continue to support this effort, identify ways to add additional services and ways for the Association to partner with similar type of Associations (to capture and share learning) and to develop innovative and meaningful partnerships with statutory and voluntary agencies.

**Health and Wellbeing**

Health and Well-being is largely addressed through the provision of services from the Millennium Centre. There is a recognition that the profile of the community will change and needs will change. It is important that the community organisations and facilities evolve to meet this need.

**Tourism**

It is recognized that not many visitors perceive Loughgiel as a destination. However, within the overall tourism offer of the Borough it is important that its history, culture and assets are interpreted and accessible where possible.

**Good Relations**

Good Relations is perceived as working well in the area. The Community Association is cross community and largely the both main traditions work well for the benefit of Loughgiel.

**5. VISION AND PLAN FOR LOUGHGIEL**

This Section puts forward the plan proposals for Loughgiel. An over-arching vision for the area is set out followed by proposals for action under each of the themes which emerged during the planning process.

**Vision**

The vision set out for Loughgiel is:-

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| **Loughgiel is a welcoming, well presented village in a quality natural environment which provides a range of services, activities and experiences for its citizens and visitors** |

**SWOT Analysis**

Following analysis of community consultation feedback, a village SWOT analysis was developed for Loughgiel:

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Strong community leadership
* Quality facilities at the Millennium Centre
* Improving facilities provided by Loughgiel Shamrocks
* Quality environment
* Good community relations
* Strong linkage with external statutory agencies
* Willingness of the community to work in partnership with Council and others
 | * Some of the existing community assets are becoming dated and require investment
* The age profile of volunteers requires to be addressed
* Signage and interpretation of the area’s assets could be higher quality
* There is evidence of some anti-social behavior of young people; largely linked to drug and alcohol abuse
 |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Develop walking and fishing at the dam
* Enhance health, well-being and community support for vulnerable and older people as services
* Improve the quality of assets and equipment
* Improve the security (cameras) at the Millennium Centre
* Examine opportunities for more efficient energy supply to community assets and buildings
* Develop partnerships regionally and cross border with similar communities and communities with similar range of infrastructure and activities.
 | * Lack of social housing
 |

Findings from the consultation were drawn together under priority themes in order to take Loughgiel forward. They are reflective of the previous Village Plan themes in order to provide consistency; in some cases themes have been amalgamated to provide greater cohesion and efficiency in implementation.

As much as possible, the identified actions sought to build on the previous plan in addition to needs identified through consultation in addition to considering the wider policy and strategic environment, including the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens. The following Action Plan was subsequently drawn up:-

**Theme: Community Development**

Rationale: Loughgiel benefits from strong community leadership and has a strong sense of community pride. This is a strong base to build from in order to develop enhanced facilities, services and 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**  |
| Expand scope of Supporting People Scheme | Improvement in the quality of life of more elderly peopleReduce social isolation and exclusion  | Lobby NHSCT and the Antrim/ Ballymena Integrated Care PartnershipA joint partnership lobbying approach with other wider geographical organisations like COAST and NACN | High – Year 1 | £100,000 annually | NHSCTNACNCouncil | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcomes 1; 3; Health and Wellbeing; Live independently and access support services |
| Expand luncheon club to provide a meals-on-wheels service | Improvement in quality of life of elderly people and those who are houseboundReduce social isolation and exclusion Ensure elderly and housebound people are getting at least one hot meal a day | Lobby NHSCT and the Antrim/ Ballymena Integrated Care PartnershipA joint partnership lobbying approach with other wider geographical organisations like COAST and NACN | High – Year 1 and ongoing | £30,000 annually | NHSCTNACNCouncil  | Luncheon ClubLoughgiel Community Association NHSCT | Outcomes 1; 3; 4; 5;Health and Wellbeing; Live independently and access support services |
| Handyman service to be expanded (Similar to ACE scheme) | Cheaper and safe service for elderly who live on a limited budgetAssist elderly people to live independently for longer as far as possible | Lobby through local MLA’s on Health Committee in the ExecutiveOf interest as part time employment to local farmers who are all handymenExplore scope to include the Men’s Sched when it is established | High – Year 1 and ongoing | £30,000 annually | CouncilBig LotteryAwards for AllNHSCT | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcomes 1; 3;Health and Wellbeing; Live independently and access support services |
| Encourage additional adult education classes and make classes available for those who have under achieved  | More opportunities for adults to re-educateEssential skills should be promoted and facilities needed to accommodate classes as well as better WiFi and broadbandHelping employability of those who find it difficult to find employmentMore opportunities are needed for adults to re-educate, and get involved in hobbies | Secure buy-in from the local communityLiaise with Northern Regional CollegeFacilities are available at the Millennium Centre | High – Year 1 and ongoing | Time investment | - | All groups | Outcomes 1; 3; 5; 9; 12Health and wellbeing;Access to services; Positive relationships; Contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy; Knowledge and skills |
| Lobby for grant programme to refurbish and paint community buildings over 12 years old | Community buildings will be brought up to the standards that customers expect | Promote to current Big Lottery consultation and the new RDP ProgrammeEncourage RSN’s networking support across N Ireland for this programme which is essential across N Ireland | Medium – Year 2 | £50,000 | CouncilRDPNACN | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcome 8;Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Transport for childcare needed (Currently pay North Coast Community Transport to bring children from school to centre) | More children will attend the centreSocial enterprise will become more profitable | Lobby politicians for a joint multi-agency solution through PHA/DfI/DAERASenior staff/Office Bearers to meet MLA’s | High – Year 1 | £20,000 annually  | Council | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcome 2;Children and young people have the best start in life |
| Support/promotion to encourage more volunteers | Encourage existing volunteersAttract new volunteersTo ensure groups and projects have access to a pool of skilled volunteers to sustain their workStronger sense of community People will develop new or existing skills and increase employability | Through open days and best practice visits to show importance and benefits of community workOrganise with centre team and NACN and Volunteer NowEnsure adequate training for volunteersParticipation in annual volunteering awards/acknowledge events | Ongoing  | Time investment  | - | All groups | Outcomes 5; 12;Positive relationships; Knowledgeable and skilled |
| Lobby for increased road salting/ gritting during winter for school and for employees travelling to work | Safer routes to schools and workplace | Meet with DfIUse local Councillors for support | Medium – Year 2 | Time investment | - | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcome 4;Safety |
| Establish a community social enterprise think-tank, learn from others around the world (More networking locally) | Test new ideas for community enterprisesEncourage new enterprise and business start-upPotential to create employmentPromote enterprises and businesses in the village | Liaise with Building Change Trust who work with Joseph Rowntree Trust to encourage development of the Social Economy | Medium – Year 2 | Time investment initially  | - | All groups | Outcomes 9; 10; 11; 12;Opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy; Attracts and grows more profitable businesses; Drives entrepreneurship and fosters innovation; Knowledgeable and skilled |
| Encourage prescription delivery service | Improved service for elderly and houseboundAssist people to live independently for longer as far as possible | Liaise with existing major pharmacies who are operating this schemeIf viable the pharmacy will provide all resources | High – Year 1 | Time investment to lobby | - | Loughgiel Community Association Luncheon ClubLocal pharmaciesNHSCT | Outcomes 1; 3; Health and Wellbeing; Live independently and access support services |

**Theme: Environment**

Rationale: To create an attractive, welcoming and accessible village environment, building on work already undertaken.

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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**  |
| Improved signage to and in Loughgiel | To assist visitors navigating the villageWill direct visitors and tourists to village facilities | Liaise with the Council officers involved in directional signage | High – Year 1 | £15,000 | CouncilRDP | CouncilLoughgielCommunity Association | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| New public seating in village | Of benefit to all residents in the villageThis will improve the appearance of the village and make it more pleasant for retired people and visitors | Apply for fundingLiaise with other villages who have purchased different seats through current RDP programme Speak to NACN for guidance and adviceSeats could be sponsored as memorial seatsAdvertise the sponsored idea locally | High – Year 1 | £6,000 | CouncilRDP | All groupsCouncilKeep Northern Ireland Beautiful | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Extended age friendly walking path and benches | Encourage Loughgiel’s older residents to keep active and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing | Engage a landscape architect and civil engineer to design and develop the walking path in keeping with the Council’s ‘Healthy and Safe Community’Seats could be sponsored as memorial seats | High – Year 1 | £30,000 | CouncilRDP | Loughgiel Community Association | Outcomes 1; 4; 6; 8;Health and Wellbeing; Safe; Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Additional playgroup equipment | The current playgroup equipment is outdated and struggles to meet the needs of the needs of the children | Source, apply for and secure funding for appropriate playgroup equipment | High – Year 1 | Align with emerging findings from the Council’s Play Audit | Trust Funds | Loughgiel Community Association | Outcomes 1; 2; 4;Health and Wellbeing; Children and young people have the best start in life; Safe |
| Improved heritage/ project interpretative signage/ panels for visitors | Will encourage visitors to stay longer and increase visitor spendCapture and improve awareness of the heritage of Loughgiel | Apply for funding from Heritage Lottery/new RDP programmeLiaise with other villages and Council officers involved in interpretative signage  | High – Year 1 | £15,000 | CouncilRDPTourism NIHeritage Lottery | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Allotments and a second poly tunnel | Cheaper healthier food for those on low incomes and improved mental and physical health of growersContribute to the improved aesthetics of LoughgielContribute to improved health and wellbeing of the local community as they will be encouraged to get closer to nature Loughgiel will be more attractive to locals and visitors | Identify a suitable area of land owned by Council or NIHE Learn from other community allotment growers in our networkRaise awareness amongst the community that green spaces are important assets in terms of conservation, environment, recreation and health and wellbeing | High – Year 1 | £30,000 | CouncilRDPKeep Northern Ireland BeautifulNIHE | All groups | Outcomes 1; 2; 4; 5; 8;Health and Wellbeing; Children and young people have the best start in life; Safe; Positive relationships; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Improve entrances to the village and appearance of village graveyard | Will improve aesthetics of the villageDefine the village boundaries Heighten the sense of arrivalStrengthen the village identity Visitors feel welcomed  | Engage with local artists to come up with ideas and involve local schoolchildrenSource and apply for fundingOrganize a team of volunteers to help tidy the graveyard | Medium – Year 2 | £7,000 | CouncilRDPKeep Northern Ireland BeautifulTourism NIArts Council of NI | CouncilLoughgiel Community AssociationTourism NIArts Council of NI | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Security cameras to be installed at the Millennium Centre | Increase the security of the centreIncrease the sense of safety for centre staff and users | Obtain quotes for the cameras and their installationSource and apply for fundingProcure the company as per the funder’s requirements | High – Year 1 | £10,000 | CouncilRDP | Loughgiel Community Association | Outcomes 4; 8;Safety; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Solar panels to further reduce costs at the Millennium Centre, also wind turbines | Contribution to the sustainability of the centrePromote renewable energy and responsibility for the environment | Apply for funding but seek advice through Action RenewablesChairman to negotiate a better deal with owners | High – Year 1 | £10,000 | CouncilRDP | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcome 8;Sustainably managed natural and built environment |

**Theme: Community Services**

Rationale: To ensure access to services and support is available for Loughgiel residents, contributing to opportunities for personal development, business growth and tourism

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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**  |
| Lobby with other communities to reinstate the social car scheme | Better transport service for elderly and people with mobility issuesImproving quality of life/opportunities for our older people | Lobby local MLA’s Link with COAST steering group who are already doing this | High – Year 1 | Time investment | - | Loughgiel Community Association Luncheon Club | Outcomes 1; 3; Health and Wellbeing; Live independently and access support services |
| Secure the future of the Post Office in the village | Retain a quality and important service for the whole community | Establish the current situation with the business ownerEvidence community support through this Action Plan for the Post OfficeEncourage footfallLiaise with the Post Officer owner to help raise its profile and promote it more effectively | Ongoing  | Time investment to lobby  | - | Loughgiel Community Association All groups | Outcome 3; Access to services |

**Theme: Health and Wellbeing**

Rationale: To ensure access to services and support is available for Loughgiel residents and visitors, contributing to community health and wellbeing

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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**  |
| Develop more recreational areas e.g. dual walking/cycling trail | Improved countryside access for use by Loughgiel residents and visitorsIncrease outdoor recreation Encourage more participation in physical exercise in order to gain both mental and physical health benefitsPromote community health | Liaise with landowners about access agreements and public liabilityLiaise with Countryside Access Officer and SUSTRANS | High – Year 1 | £10,000 | Sport NICouncil | CouncilLoughgielCommunity Association  | Outcomes 1; 5; Health and wellbeing; Positive relationships |
| Outdoor gym equipment | Gym equipment will be accessible to all including families at no costEncourage more participation in physical exercise in order to gain both mental and physical health benefitsPromote community health | Liaise with the Council to make sure Loughgiel is included in its development strategy for villages | Long term – Years 3 – 4  | £6,000 | Sport NICouncilRDP | CouncilLoughgielCommunity Association  | Outcomes 1; 5; Health and wellbeing; Positive relationships |
| Provide alternative therapies from the Millennium Centre | Alternative therapies are accessible and available locallyMore services are available to the local communityImproved health and wellbeing | Approach existing therapists in Ballymoney area to see if they would come to the Millennium Centre, perhaps 2 days a weekAdvertise and promote the services through social media such as Facebook, leaflet drops, parish news etc | High – Year 1 | £10,000 per annum | Trust Funds | LoughgielCommunity Association  | Outcome 1; Health and Wellbeing |
| Organise nutrition courses and “living on a budget” for young families and elderly | Improving health and wellbeing of local peopleEducating people and raising awareness on the importance of healthy lifestyles and that they are doable | Work with NACN health improvement officerApply for on-going NACN/PHA small grantsAdvertise and promote the courses through social media such as Facebook, leaflet drops, parish news etc | High – Year 1 | Time investment | PHANHSCT | LoughgielCommunity Association  | Outcome 1; Health and Wellbeing |
| Update existing gym area with modern facilities | Improved health and good relations with local people and people from wider area | Make sure Loughgiel needs incorporated in relevant strategy with the CouncilCheck possibilities for funding through Grant Tracker, NACN | Medium – Years 2 - 3 | £20,000 | Sport NICouncil or council’s Grants Programme  | CouncilLoughgielCommunity Association  | Outcomes 1; 5; Health and wellbeing; Positive relationships |
| Drop-in service providing chiropodist and blood pressure checks  | Improved health and wellbeing for all residentsMore accessible service for the elderly | Meet with the Antrim/ Ballymena Integrated Care Partnership and NACNGet support from other groups in wider area e.g. Armoy and CloughmillsLocate the drop-in service in the Millennium CentrePromote the drop-in service through social media such as Facebook, leaflet drops, parish news etc | High – Year 1 | Time investment | - | LoughgielCommunity Association  | Outcome 1; Health and Wellbeing |
| Set up interagency group to tackle anti-social behaviour | Improved health and wellbeing for those affectedWill reduce fear of crime and build confidence in young people | Involve other agencies to progress multi-agency approach with NIHE, PSNI, PCSP and the Youth ServiceWork with the agencies to educate people about the dangers of ASBMentor young people to increase their confidence and resilience through volunteering, education and new hobbies  | High – Year 1 | Time investment | - | LoughgielCommunity Association Youth ClubPCSPNIHE | Outcome 1; 4; 5 Health and Wellbeing; Safe; Positive relationships |

**Theme: Tourism**

Rationale: The village has a rich heritage and natural resources. It is important that these are sustained, cared for and improved for the benefit of its citizens and visitors to the area.

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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**  |
| Establish village website/ possibly Facebook page | Better communication within the village Potential for increased use of the centreEncourage more groups to organise eventsIncrease community participation and engagement in community life | Visit other communities in the NACN area with well-established and maintained websitesLiaise with NACN for advice and guidance Advertise for a local person with website knowledge to set up a website keep it updated | High - Year 1 | £3,000 | Council | Loughgiel Community Association  | Outcome 5;Positive relationships |
| Develop walking/fishing at the dam | Attract more visitors to the areaAdditional facility for localsIncrease outdoor recreation Encourage more participation in physical exercise in order to gain both mental and physical health benefitsPromote community healthHealthier lifestyle for allEncourage the promotion of walking and angling tourism  | Check access possibilities with the Rivers Agency Liaise with countryside access officer, the Environment and Heritage Service and Outdoor Recreation NI | Medium – Year 2 | TBC | Sport NICouncil Rivers Agency | Walking/Rambling ClubRunning ClubLoughgiel Community Association | Outcomes 1; 5; 6; 7; 8;Health and Wellbeing; Positive relationships; Unique natural and built landscapes; Physical structures and facilities that further growth, access and connections; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Promote the manufacture of hurl sticks to visitors  | Attract additional visitors and community visits as this can be included as part of a tour | Encourage owner of the business to do a joint marketing leafletMember of staff/volunteer to develop this idea | High – Year 1 and ongoing | £1,000 | - | Scullion Hurls | Outcomes 5; 10; 12;Positive relationships; Attracts and grows more profitable businesses; Knowledgeable and skilled |

**Theme: Good Relations**

Rationale: To continue Loughgiel’s ongoing commitment to embracing diversity and good relations.

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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**  |
| Continue to encourage more integration of new residents into community life | Better relations in the community Attract new volunteersIncrease community participation and engagement  | Promote inclusive classes and facilities to all usersEncourage all staff and volunteers to promote the different community organisations in Loughgiel e.g. the older people’s group/ childcare | High – Year 1 | Time investment | - | Loughgiel Community AssociationAll groups |  Outcomes 1; 5;Health and Wellbeing; Positive relationships |
| Continue to develop good relations both North/ South and East/ West and local relationships through forum | Build greater confidence and develop greater contacts in the community | Continue to be involved in Village Links programmes and good relations programmesContinue to attend and network across wider geographical areas and keep updated on new programmes through Rural Support Network | High – Year 1 | Time investment | - | Loughgiel Community AssociationAll groups | Outcomes 1; 5;Health and Wellbeing; Positive relationships |
| Develop stronger partnership working with the Council | Gain assistance and support through the benefits of partnership working  | NACN/ Collaboration NI can help with partnership buildingKeep communication and dialogue open with Council’s Community Development Officers | High – Year 1 | Time investment | - | Loughgiel Community AssociationAll groups |  Outcomes 1; 5;Health and Wellbeing; Positive relationships |

**Prioritisation:**

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

1. Second poly tunnel and allotments
2. Village signage scheme
3. Interpretative panels
4. Extended age friendly walking path and benches

**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.

With respect to Loughgiel, the following issues have been raised:-

* There is a need for more social housing. The current demand needs to be established and encourage a latent demand test if needed; Liaise with NIHE District manager and Area Planner; Centre manager to contact NIHE and use NACN for independent support if needed
* There is a lack of sheltered Category 1 houses for the elderly (fold) – check the current waiting list for the council area and liaise with NIHE

**6.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

It is recommended that Loughgiel Community Association establish a sub-committee to provide a co-ordination role to ensure the actions within this Plan are progressed. The sub-committee should be representative of the village community and should involve public, private and community interests.

Individual project actions will be taken forward by relevant organisations, individuals or collectives as identified in the Action Plan. Only the people in the area, familiar with its history and offerings, 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 Association will liaise with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on an ongoing basis to monitor progress and implementation of identified actions.

Appendix Socio Economic Analysis Loughgiel

Loughgiel is located in the Knockaholet Ward

**Population estimates**

The estimated population of Knockaholet Ward at 30 June 2016 was **1,711**, of which **879 (51.4%)** were male and **832 (48.6%)** were female.

This was made up of:

* **342** children aged 0-15 years
* **524** people aged 16-39 years
* **560** people aged 40-64 years
* **285** people aged 65 years and older

Between 2006 and 2016 the population of Knockaholet Ward increased by **151** people or **9.7%.**

**Usually resident population**

On Census Day 27 March 2011, the usually resident population of Knockaholet Ward was **1,677** accounting for **0.09%** of the NI total.

**Households**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, there were **1,677** people **(100.00%)** of the usually resident population) living in **551** households, giving an average household size of **3.04.**

**Demography**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Knockaholet Ward:

* **20.16%** were aged under 16 years and **15.68%** were aged 65 years and over
* **51.40%** of the usually resident population were male and **48.60%** were female
* **39** years was the average (median) age of the population

**Ethnicity, identity, language and religion**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Knockaholet Ward, considering the resident population:

* **99.76%** were from the white (including Irish traveller) ethnic group
* **35.12%** belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and **60.52%** belong to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)’ religion
* **57.78%** indicated that they had a British national identity, **15.98%** had an Irish national identity and **36.31%** had a Northern Irish national identity

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

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

* **9.72%** had some knowledge of Irish
* **37.21%** had some knowledge of Ulster Scots
* **0.31%** did not have English as their first language

**Health**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Knockaholet Ward:

* **17.95%** of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities
* **82.17%** of people stated their general health was either good or very good
* **11.15%** of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others

**Housing and accommodation**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Knockaholet Ward:

* **83.67%** of households were owner occupied and **14.88%** were rented
* **50.82%** of households were owned outright
* **8.35%** of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years
* **2.90%** were lone parent households with dependent children
* **6.90%** 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:

* **21.51%** had a degree or higher qualification
* **41.67%** 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:

* **66.56%** were economically active, **33.44%** were economically inactive
* **60.96%** were in paid employment
* **3.41%** 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 Knockaholet Ward are given in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Rank**Knockaholet** |
| Multiple Deprivation Measure | 295 |
| Income Deprivation | 385 |
| Employment Deprivation | 250 |
| Health Deprivation and Disability Deprivation  | 482 |
| Education Skills and Training Disability | 305 |
| Proximity to Services Deprivation | 61 |
| Crime and Disorder | 535 |
| Living Environment | 80 |

1. A Better Future Together – A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 - 2030 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Northern Area Plan 2016 page 41 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)