

Our People

Board Members

- Raymond Jackson (Chairperson) - Confederation of Community Groups Newry and District
- Murray Watt (Treasurer) - Supporting Communities
- Michael Graham - Forward South Partnership
- Austin Herron - Carrickfergus Community Cultivators
- Stevie Johnston - Individual Member
- Ann McNickle - Causeway Rural and Urban Network
- Cathy Polley - Ards Development Bureau and Community Network

Staff Members

- Colm Bradley - Director
- Fiona Conroy - Planner and Engagement Officer
- Celine McCart - Administrator
- Louise O’Kane - Planner and Engagement Officer
- Doreen O’Neill - Projects Secretary
- Claire Rea - Planner and Engagement Officer



Annual Report

2019

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Our Finance

*Extracted from Audited Accounts Yearend March 2019
prepared by Finegan Gibson, Chartered Accountants and Auditors*

Income 2018-2019

	£
- Department for Infrastructure	116,000
- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	20,000
- Building Change Trust	36,079
- Project and Other Income	<u>64,639</u>
	<u>236,718</u>

Expenditure 2018-2019

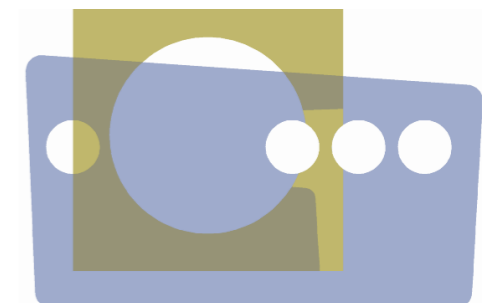
	£
- Employing Staff	187,610
- Delivering Projects and Services	31,428
- Organisation Costs	<u>34,560</u>
	<u>253,598</u>

Community Places

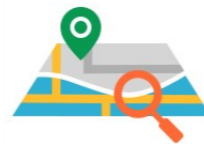
2 Downshire Place
Belfast BT2 7JQ
T: 9023 9444 F: 9023 1411
E: info@communityplaces.info

www.communityplaces.info
www.participatorybudgetingworks.org
www.communityplanningishere.org
www.communityplanningtoolkit.org

Community Places



Helping People Understand Planning



Our free, impartial, confidential and independent planning advice service provides help to people and community groups throughout the region. The service is part-funded by the Department for Infrastructure. People can get advice by email; by telephone; at our offices in Belfast and at outreach events held in community venues across the region. Over this past year we:

- provided planning advice, information and support to 149 people - helping them with planning issues ranging from objecting to proposals for septic tanks; pig farms; wind turbines; anaerobic digester plants; overdevelopment in residential areas and retail and commercial developments to guiding them through the complex and onerous planning appeals and enforcement procedures.
- helped 37 community groups object to regionally significant and high impact proposals (including a 93 acre solar farm in a rural residential area; a large scale gold mining extraction plant in the Sperrins; and large scale apartment developments in cities and towns throughout the region).
- helped community group representatives in Fermanagh concerned about how the integrity of their traditional dispersed rural communities would be preserved in the emerging council Local Development Plan; and helped community groups in inner south Belfast understand and input to the Draft Local Development Plan for the city.

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Development, Facilitation and Capacity Building



Like most voluntary organisations we need to supplement our grant aid with income from fee paying tenders. This year we worked on:

- delivering survey training to residents in inner North Belfast and reporting on survey findings on the local community impact of the planned York Street Interchange and other large scale development proposals in the city's areas of high social housing need;
- preparing Village Renewal and Action Plans for the villages of Mosside, Armoy and Dernaflaw in conjunction with Causeway Coast and Glens Council;
- helping a community and family programme in Cookstown develop a strategy to strengthen and continue its outcomes-focused work in delivering family support services to the local community;
- working with three Community Development Support Networks (covering north Antrim, Coleraine and Ballymoney) to develop an action plan to facilitate collaborative working;
- undertaking a feasibility study for Newry, Mourne and Down Council for a multi-use community hub to serve residents and community groups in Warrenpoint; and
- facilitation of engagement and community planning assignments with local councils.

Getting People Involved in Community Planning



Our Representation, Engagement and Participation project (supported by grant aid from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation) spanned two years and involved promoting, encouraging and facilitating community and voluntary sector representation in council Community Planning structures.

We worked with local councils in developing and facilitating engagement opportunities and by the end of 2018 nine out of our 11 local councils had some form of representation from the community and voluntary sector in the different community planning structures. Local community sector representatives now have better opportunities to input, engage with and have a say in how services will be delivered in their communities.

This community and voluntary sector (CVS) representation takes different forms including District Electoral Area forums; Thematic Action Planning Teams and Wellbeing Groups; Place Shaping Forums; Strategic Community Planning Boards; and CVS elected panels.

In some council areas work is evolving on their Community Planning structures and others are initiating innovative ways to strengthen opportunities for CVS participation including using Participatory Budgeting.

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Participatory Budgeting - We Made it Work

Our funded work to promote and raise awareness of Participatory Budgeting throughout the region is now complete. PB can be described as 'local people deciding how to allocate part of a public budget' but it is much more than just deciding how resources might be allocated. It provides opportunities for people who don't often have a voice to engage in non-traditional ways and have a say in how funds can be used to address specific local and community needs.

Over the course of the project (which was funded by the Building Change Trust) almost 400 people attended awareness raising events and participated in training and thematic workshops. Project partners provided tailored support to four projects (on Rathlin Island, in Newry, Mourne and Down, in Lisnaskea and in Downpatrick) to help them plan and implement their pilot PB processes. We ran a PB process as part of Belfast's annual Imagine Festival- **Imagine Democracy - You Decide** - where 14 projects pitched ideas for part of a £3,000 pot. Participants voted and the winning ideas included a mental health arts and crafts drop in; a community video to help save a park in Maghera and a participatory journalism project. Thematic workshops also looked at audit and accountability, housing-led approaches to PB and the potential of PB to align with Community Planning. We also prepared learning resources including a PB mapping function which are available at www.participatorybudgetingworks.org.

Our work on PB has been well received by voluntary, statutory and public sectors - we hope resources will soon be made available to make PB a mainstreamed reality across the region.

