

**Bushmills Village**

**Local Community Plan**

**2010 - 2013**



# Bushmills Village Local Community Plan

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## Bushmills: Location

The village of Bushmills is located on the North Coast of County Antrim. The village is situated on the world renowned Causeway Coastal Route, 12 km from Coleraine and 19 km from Ballycastle.



## Bushmills: Community Planning

The Community Planning process in Bushmills was initiated by the Village Forum, Moyle District Council and Supporting Communities NI and facilitated by Community Places. The process began with initial meetings with the Village Forum to agree the process and timescale for the Local Community Plan. A community meeting to engage the local residents in identifying the needs and issues that might be taken forward through a local community plan was organised. Over 40 residents attended and discussions on a range of broad themes including Culture and Leisure, Environment and Facilities, Image and Jobs and Wellbeing produced a range of issues and needs for the community.

A series of workshops was the next stage of the process. These workshops, which included invited representatives from the Village Form, local statutory agencies and Moyle District Council provided participants with an opportunity to examine the issues recorded at the community meeting and to negotiate and agree those issues and actions which would be taken forward through this local community plan.

The partners who participated at these workshops included:

- Bushmills Village Forum:
  - Bushmills Community Association
  - Bushmills Distillery
  - Bushmills Peace Group
  - Bushmills Presbyterian Church
  - Bushmills Residents' and Environmental Forum
  - Bushmills Royal British Legion
  - Bushmills Ulster Scots Heritage
  - Bushmills Trust
  - Church of Ireland
  - Dalriada Sure Start
  - Dunluce Presbyterian Church
  - Moyle District Council
  - Planning Service NI
  - Police Service of Northern Ireland
  - Supporting Communities NI
  
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive



Community Meeting - November 2009

The production of this Local Community Plan marks an important milestone in the Community Planning process for Bushmills. However, the real benefit of this process to local residents will be the implementation of the actions outlined in the plan to address those needs identified through the community meeting.

These actions will be delivered through partnership working between the community groups and statutory agencies who are members of the forum and, where appropriate, NIHE and other agencies.

## Bushmills: Village Forum

The Village Forum is a collective of community and voluntary groups operating in Bushmills. Groups include residents' organisations, youth groups, church groups and cultural organisations. These groups provide a range of services and activities for the local community and have successfully undertaken a number of actions as identified through the Bushmills Village Plan 2003.

The four main aims of the Forum are:

- to identify an up-to-date picture of local needs and produce a new Village Plan;
- to promote co-operation and sharing of information between local groups;
- to improve the image and appearance of Bushmills; and
- to improve communication of information to visitors to the village.

Membership of the Forum includes:

- Bushmills Community Association
- Bushmills Ulster Scots Heritage
- Dunluce Parish Church
- The Bushmills Trust
- Bushmills Presbyterian Church
- Bushmills Peace Group
- Dunluce Presbyterian Church
- Royal British Legion Bushmills
- Bushmills Residents and Environmental Forum (BREF)
- Bushmills PSNI
- Bushmills Children and Young Peoples Services
- Dalriada Rural Sure Start
- Bushmills Townscape Heritage Initiative
- Bushmills Distillery



Community Meeting - November 2009



## Bushmills: History

Bushmills, formerly known as Portcaman, developed with the water powered industries of the 1600's to become one of the main centres for corn, flax, spade and whiskey production. Prior to 1820's, Bushmills consisted of a few dwellings situated beside a shallow crossing point on the River Bush.

The village owes a lot of its development and character to the Macnaghten family. They built many of the prominent buildings in the village including the Market Square, Clock Tower, the Courthouse and the Old National School. The Macnaghten family home, 'Dundarave House' was built in 1847 and is set amongst woodlands overlooking the village.

The River Bush has long provided the main focal point to the village and a reminder of its past heritage. Today Palmer's Mill, one of the two remaining mills in the village has been renovated back to its original condition. On the opposite bank Curries' Mill has also been restored to its former glory, with the Mill Wheel earmarked for restoration in the near future.

Well known attractions in the village include the world's oldest licensed distillery – Old Bushmills Distillery, the Giant's Causeway and Bushmills Railway, salmon fishing on the River Bush and the Alphabet Angel - a bronze figure created by the sculptor Ross Wilson through a community project to celebrate the Ulster Scots language.



Clock Tower



Village Noticeboard



Alphabet Angel - Dundarave

## Bushmills: Levels of Disadvantage

According to the 2001 Census, Bushmills village has a population of 1319. The village has experienced high levels of disadvantage, with the Dundarave area ranked within the top 10% of most deprived areas in Northern Ireland ([www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk)).

Key areas of concern for Bushmills include the high percentage of lone parent households with dependent children and the high levels of unemployment in the area. A notable feature of disadvantage in Bushmills is the high number of people with either no or low levels of qualifications.



**River Bush**

Table 1 compares 2001 key statistics for Bushmills Village to those for Moyle District Council area and Northern Ireland.

	Bushmills	Moyle District Council	Northern Ireland
Population	1,319	15,933	1,685,267
Households	570	5,888	626,718
Under 16 years of age (%)	19.9	23.7	23.6
Over 60 years of age (%)	22.1	19.6	17.6
Male (%)	49.2	49.1	48.7
Female (%)	50.8	50.9	51.3
Persons with limiting long-term illness (%)	22.6	21.2	20.4
Lone parent households with dependent children (%)	10.2	7.6	8.1
Degree level education or higher (%)	5.8	13.3	15.8
No/low levels of qualifications (%)	63.2	44.8	41.6
Unemployed (%)	8.1	4.8	4.1

Table 1 (2001 Census statistics - [www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk))

In 2002 it was estimated 23% of all dwellings in Bushmills were second homes, mainly concentrated in the more recent private housing developments (Northern Area Plan 2016 - [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk))



## Bushmills: Aim and Objectives

The Aim of this Local Community Plan was agreed at the workshops and is:

**'To improve and develop Bushmills for the benefit of all the community and visitors'.**

To achieve this aim, a number of objectives were also agreed. These objectives are:

- **to increase co-ordination between the Council, agencies and the community**
- **to improve the village's environment, facilities and quality of life to make it a more attractive place to live, work in and visit;**
- **to promote wider understanding and enjoyment of the culture and heritage of the village;**
- **to develop and improve services for children, young people and older people; and**
- **to encourage greater economic investment, job creation and maximise tourism opportunities in the area.**



Community Planning Workshop - February 2010

## **Bushmills Community Plan: Key Areas of Work**

### **Objective 1: To increase co-ordination between the Council, agencies and the community**

The Community Planning process identified a need to improve the communication and co-ordination between the Council, statutory agencies and the local community. Effective communication links are crucial in ensuring that each of the actions identified in this local community plan are implemented.

The key areas of work to improve the co-ordination and communication between the Council, statutory agencies and the community include:

- Develop a handbook of existing groups, their role and main contact details;
- Encourage more groups to join the Forum;
- Improve communication between groups – opportunity for groups to update members at each Forum meeting; and
- Develop a newsletter for the village.

The Bushmills Village Forum will take the lead role in implementing these actions with assistance provided by the Moyle District Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

### **Objective 2: To improve the village's environment, facilities and quality of life to make it a more attractive place to live, work in and visit**

A need to improve the environment and facilities within the Bushmills area was a key issue throughout the Community Planning process. A number of actions were identified to improve the physical attributes of the village which will have a positive impact on the quality of life for those who live and work in the village and also those who visit the village. The key areas of work include:

- Environmental improvements (footpaths, derelict buildings, dog fouling etc);
- Work with Moyle District Council to improve the Millennium Park and further improvements to Hamill Park;
- Address traffic calming and parking issues by working with the Roads Service;
- Seek greater Police visibility in the area;
- Encourage renewable energy schemes and provide information to villagers;
- Support work on developing a walk/cycle path connecting Bushmills - Giant's Causeway – Portballintrae; and
- Promote new river walks with adequate seating and lighting.

A number of agencies will take forward work on these actions including Bushmills Village Forum, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Moyle District Council, Planning Service NI and the Police Service for Northern Ireland. Some of the ideas generated for improvements included traffic management in the village (see appendix two) and art murals to improve the image of derelict buildings (see appendix three for illustrative examples).

**Objective 3: To promote wider understanding and enjoyment of the culture and heritage of the village**

In an effort to promote and strengthen greater understanding of the heritage and culture of the Bushmills area a number of actions were agreed. These actions will not only improve the visual aspect of the village but will enable local residents and groups to promote the heritage and culture of Bushmills in a positive manner. The key areas of work include:

- Promotion of existing services, facilities and activities;
- Promote wider appreciation of local history;
- Develop a wider understanding of cultural expression; and
- Promote the concept of a museum focusing on Ulster Scots culture.

Bushmills Village Forum will be supported in delivering these actions by Moyle District Council, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

**Objective 4: To improve access to services for children, young people and older people**

The consultation meeting with local residents highlighted a need to improve access to existing services and the provision of additional services in the village. The actions agreed below include improving transport links in the village, promoting the Good Morning Scheme and the provision of facilities including a sports pavilion.

- Promote the need for improved public transport links within the village and with other areas;
- Support Moyle District Council in the provision of a new Sports Pavilion;
- Encourage young people to have their say;
- Better promotion of the Good Morning scheme in the area;
- Secure more support to community organisations and volunteering; and
- Provision of activities for all age groups.

A range of organisations will assist in delivering these actions including Bushmills Village Forum, Moyle District Council, Planning Service NI and Supporting Communities NI.

**Objective 5: To encourage greater economic investment, job creation and maximise tourism opportunities in the area.**

The wider economic decline has had a detrimental impact on the village. The actions identified below are important goals in revitalising the economy and overall quality of life for residents.

- Provision of further education classes for adults;
- Training, advice and guidance provided to school leavers and unemployed people;
- Secure support for businesses to come into/remain in the area and develop;
- Promote establishment of a Chamber of Commerce;
- Encourage local businesses to take on apprentices;
- Support the provision of a Tourist Information Centre including souvenir/craft shop;
- Promotion of Bushmills through Best Kept Village Competitions; and
- Improved marketing and promotion of the village through website, noticeboards, maps, leaflets, interpretative panels, tours and better signage;

A number of organisations will be responsible for delivering on these key areas of work. They include Bushmills Village Forum, Moyle District Council and local businesses.



**Old Bushmills Distillery**

## **Bushmills: Monitoring Progress**

To ensure that the Local Community Plan for Bushmills is delivering on the aim and objectives, the following monitoring processes will be undertaken:

- A progress report will be updated at each meeting of the Bushmills Village Forum;
- A detailed progress report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Village Forum; and
- Regular updates will be included in the village newsletter/website

## **Bushmills: Acknowledgements**

Taking a good hard look at oneself is never an easy and pain-free exercise but moving forward positively and more productively often necessitates such an examination. This, for the community of Bushmills, was the awesome task before us when we met in the Community Centre on November 10<sup>th</sup>, last year. This challenge was made possible by the help and support of many organisations and individuals and I wish to acknowledge our indebtedness for both their care and participation.

Leading us in this exercise was Community Places and I wish to extend our thanks to Colm Bradley, Annie Clarke and Claire Murray for their expertise and professionalism. Colm's passion and energy was inspirational and rekindled in many of us an enthusiasm that had become a little weary.

I wish to acknowledge our gratitude to those who so hospitably hosted our workshops: Bushmills Presbyterian Church, Bushmills Distillery, Dunluce Parish Church and Mill Rest Youth Hostel.

The Report was printed by Northern Ireland Housing Executive, sparing us a considerable expenditure and on behalf of the Village Forum may I extend sincere gratitude for this support and help.

The hard work and preparation by Community Places for the workshops was richly rewarded by the input and participation of those who attended. The presence of so many at each of workshops was a source of great encouragement and hope; sincere thanks to the statutory organisations, local council and the community organisations whose support made this possible. A list of those who participated in the workshops is included in appendix four.

This support has enabled the production of a plan that is both insightful and authoritative. Addressing the issues and actions identified in this Local Community Plan will further challenge our community's commitment to the goal of a better quality of life for residents and visitors a reality in Bushmills.

Rev Canon G.E Graham  
Chairman Village Forum

## **Bushmills: Contacts**

If you would like to find out more information on this Local Community Plan or would like to participate in any of the key areas of work please contact those listed below.

### **Bushmills Village Forum**

Reverend Canon GE Graham  
Chairperson  
Dunluce Rectory  
17 Priestland Road  
Bushmills BT57 8QP

Tel: 028 2073 0537

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### **Moyle District Council**

Community Services Officer  
Moyle District Council  
Sheskburn House  
7 Mary Street  
Ballycastle BT54 6QH

Tel: (028) 2076 2225

### **Supporting Communities NI**

Martin Quinn  
Liaison Officer  
50-54 Main Street  
Ballymoney BT53 6AL

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### **Community Places**

Annie Clarke  
Community Planning Support Worker  
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Great Victoria Street  
Belfast BT2 7JQ

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Email: [annie@communityplaces.info](mailto:annie@communityplaces.info)



**River Bush at Currie's Mill**



## Bushmills: Appendix One

The following table provides statistics relating to Census Output Areas within Bushmills Village.

	Income Support (total number of claimants 2009)	Incapacity Benefit (total number of claimants 2009)	Housing Benefit (total number of claimants 2009)
Moyle District Council	863	594	1421
Area 1	22	11	60
Area 2	12	8	30
Area 3	17	7	39
Area 4*	3	3	11
Area 5	42	7	82
Area 6*	3	7	9

Table 2 ([www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk))

The boundaries for areas 4 and 6 include a large section of the surrounding area; therefore these statistics may not give a true reflection of those living in Bushmills village.

Key:

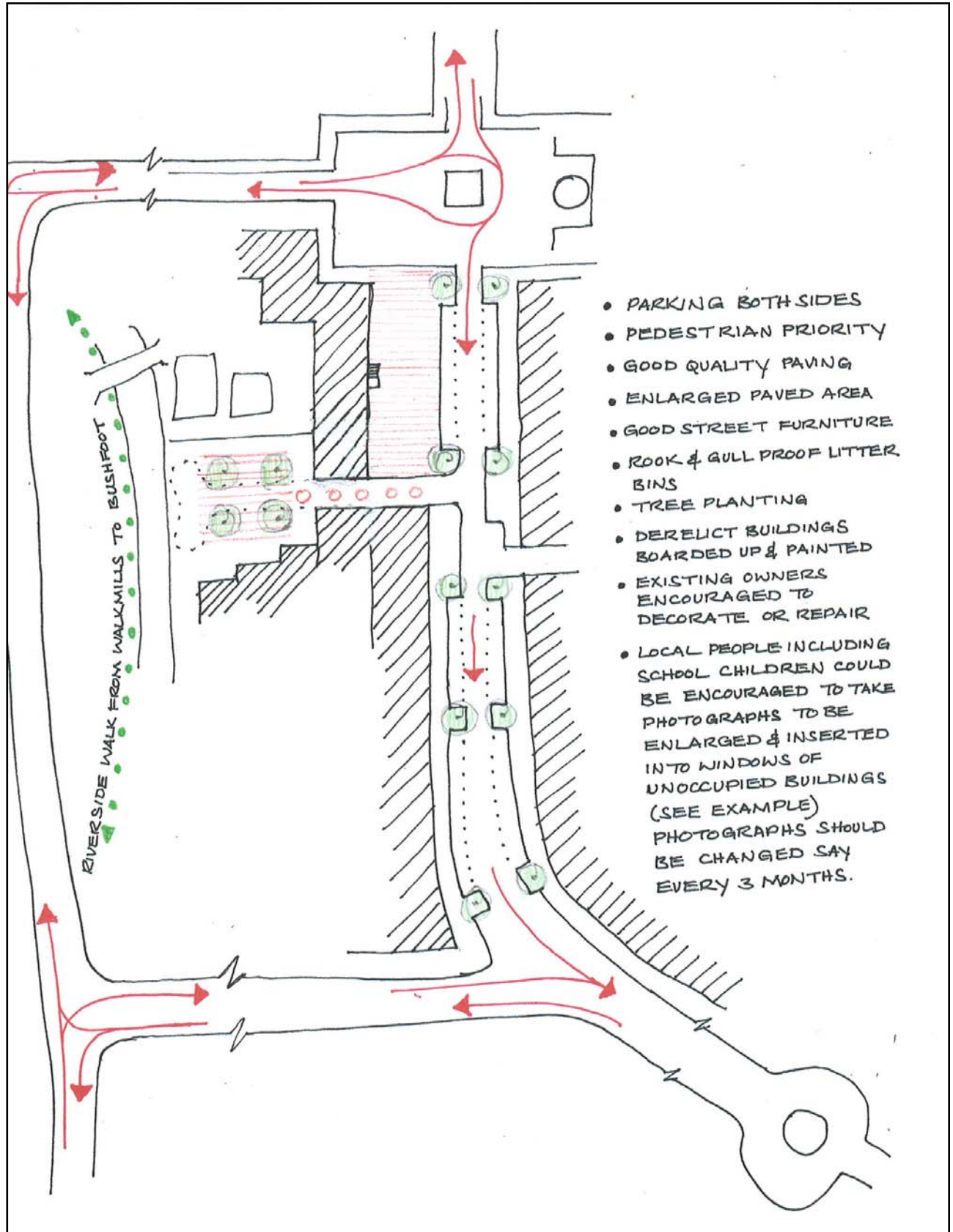
Area 1	-	Bush Crescent, Ballyness Park, Heronshaw, Primrose Hill, Hazeldene, Esdale
Area 2	-	Huey Crescent, Castlecat Road, Eagry Park, Elmwood Park, Straid Road
Area 3	-	Main Street, Hamill Terrace, Priestland Road, Church Street, Bridge Street, Montgomery Mews, Woodland Court, Dunluce Court, Distillery Road
Area 4	-	Main Street, Klondyke Terrace, Priestland Road, Mount Pleasant, Dunluce Road, Riverdale Lodge, Bushford, Tramway Drive, Ballaghmore Road
Area 5	-	Woodvale, Riverside Court, Sliverstream Court, Clogher Court, Meadow Court, Ballaghmore Court, Causeway Court
Area 6	-	Bush Gardens



Community Meeting - November 2009

## Bushmills: Appendix Two

Example of a one way system for the Main Street, Bushmills





## Bushmills: Appendix Three

Illustrative examples of how the façade of derelict buildings can be improved using art murals.



### Improvements to Façade:

- The 3D models are showing how this development could have the potential to look with effective use of the walkway adjacent to the river.
- Open it up as a walkway to improve the scenic walks through Bushmills.
- Balconies can overlook the river also and help create a pleasant atmosphere.







**Improvements to Façade:**

- Improve the signage on the front facing elevation to make it more aesthetically pleasing and help improve the local streetscape.
- Remove negative graffiti
- Repaint the facades to brighten up the streetscape.



**Improvements to Façade:**

- Improve the signage on the front facing elevation to make it more aesthetically pleasing and help improve the local streetscape.
- Local artists / community groups / schools can all help with the façade renewals.
- Can incorporate local identities.



## Bushmills: Appendix Four

Those who participated in the workshops to develop this Local Community Plan for Bushmills Village include:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ms Gloria Abernethy	Bushmills Ulster Scots Heritage
Mr Arthur Acheson	Town Heritage Initiative Partnership
Mrs Carol Anderson	Bushmills Peace Group
Mrs Mary Anderson	Bushmills Community Association
Mr Winston Boyce	Dunluce Presbyterian Church
Mr Derwyn Brewster	Bushmills Residents' and Environmental Forum
Mr Ken Bustard	Planning Service
Sgt Lorraine Connor	PSNI
Ms Margaret Craig	Moyle District Council
Ms Helen Dunlop	Bushmills Peace Group
Canon George Graham	Church of Ireland
Mr Leslie Heaney	Bushmills Royal British Legion
Mr David Irvine	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Ms Mary Jennings	Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Ms Deirdre Kinney	Moyle District Council
Ms Sharon Kirk	Dalriada Surestart
Mr Jim McAuley	Bushmills Trust
Const. David McCaughan	PSNI
Ms Lorna McConaghy	Bushmills Ulster Scots Heritage
Cllr Robert McIlroy	Bushmills Community Association
Mr David Montgomery	Royal British Legion
Ms Joanna Morrow	Bushmills Distillery
Mr Martin Quinn	Supporting Communities NI
Mr Alan Summers	Bushmills Presbyterian Church
Mr Samuel Thompson	Bushmills Trust
Mr Arthur Ward	Bushmills Residents' and Environmental Forum
Reverend Philip Wilson	Bushmills Presbyterian Church