



# CLANVARAGHAN

## VILLAGE PLAN

JUNE 2012

Funding for this Village Plan was received through the village renewal measure (3.5) of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme. Grant aid was provided through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development along with match funding from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The project was supported by Down Rural Area Partnership and advice to the Community Association was provided by East Down Rural Community Network.



# Contents

## Page

	1. Foreword	4
	2. Introduction and Community Vision	5
	3. Village Profile	6-7
	4. Public Policy Context	8-15
	5. Involvement in the Village Plan	16
	6. Key Projects and Action Plan	17-23
	7. Action Plan	24-25
	8. Implementing the Plan	26
	Appendix : Needs Analysis	28-29

# Foreword

Drumaroad & Clanvaraghan Community Association is delighted to present to the people living here a Plan for the development of Clanvaraghan. When you look over the Plan, what you will see is what people living here said they wanted to see happen, what significant numbers of local people said was important for them. We hope you will feel that it is 'your' Plan. Over the coming months, we in the Association will use this Plan to guide our work. Sometimes it will be about getting more local people to lend their support to what you and we can do together. Other projects will require us both to lobby for better services and facilities for local people, services that are the responsibility of statutory organisations. We know they want to fulfil their role in making the Plan a reality.

We intend that work on this village Plan encourages community engagement, with local residents taking ownership, pride and responsibility for their locality. We aim to foster a strong village identity and encourage interaction between residents, whether long-established or more recently arrived, across all generations, but particularly among the growing number of young people. Our vision is to enhance the quality of people's lives in the village, to make it a welcoming, safe and enjoyable place to live. You told us you would like to see local people work together to make the village a better place to live through:

- Creating a stronger identity for the village by, for example, putting a 'welcome sign' at either end of the village;
- Fostering neighbourly relations between us, helping us to look out for each other, by, for example, facilitating Neighbourhood Watch work, especially useful for older people who may be fearful of crime;
- Enabling each other to meet up with our neighbours, just having a bit more fun, by, for example, organising activities like our Book Group project or even just the occasional social for a 'get together';
- Improving road safety and tackling transport issues by, for example, securing a bus shelter, especially important for children going to school on cold and rainy winter mornings; and
- Encouraging our children to play together by, for example, our Summer Scheme project and the Play Area in Slievehanny Park.

This plan presents us all with the opportunity to make a difference and to shape Clanvaraghan as the sort of village we would like to see in the future – a village that is a good place to live, a place where people want to live and raise their families. The projects identified in the Plan will provide people with an opportunity to work together and in doing so sustain our sense of community. Making a reality of government policies to 'reduce rural isolation' or 'enhance social inclusion' is not straightforward but we think this Plan shows us one road map to how our village can help do just that. We can all get involved, along with our partners in statutory organisations, to make a modest but worthwhile contribution to making sure the village remains one that everyone feels a pride in, so that Clanvaraghan continues to be a place that young and old are proud to call home.

Rosie McCreanor, Chair, Drumaroad & Clanvaraghan Community Association

Gordon Walker, Chair, Clanvaraghan Community & Statutory Inter-Agency Group

# Introduction and Community Vision

## Introduction

This Village Plan for Clanvaraghan was initiated and developed by Drumaroad and Clanvaraghan Community Association (the Community Association). It presents a community vision for the village and an action plan for achieving this vision.

The Plan was developed through:

- Consultation with local residents using a community survey and an open day;
- Contact with a range of public service agencies;
- Consideration of the public policy context for village renewal;
- Analysis of official statistics on needs and disadvantages; and
- Meetings of the Community Association to discuss the consultation findings and identify projects and actions for inclusion in the Plan.

## Community Vision

The issues and needs of most concern to the residents of the village are presented in a separate report of the community survey findings. These findings and discussions with residents at the open consultation day and within the Community Association have enabled the emergence of a vision statement for the village. The core of this vision is about local people connecting with each other, engaging and working together to make the village a better place to live. This inclusive vision will be advanced through the priority projects set out later in the Plan.

**“Our vision of Clanvaraghan is of an attractive and well connected place where people know their neighbours and look out for them, where people work together to make the village a better place to live and where visitors appreciate our village and use it as a stopping-off point as they explore the stunning countryside around us, and where local people create a safe environment that fosters a feeling of inclusion for all of us who live and visit the village.”**

The Community Association was instrumental in the establishment of an Inter-Agency Group with a remit for identifying how best to address local issues and needs and improve the area. The work of this Group and of the Community Association will be central to the delivery of the Community Vision.

# VillageProfile

The village is in the Down District Council area. The nearest other towns and villages are Drumaroad, Annesborough and Castlewellan. It is situated in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which includes the Mourne Mountain range.

A significant issue for the village is access to services and facilities. This is recognised by official statistics which place the village within the 10% of all areas with the worst proximity to services in the whole of the Northern Ireland region (see Appendix). Statistics for poverty and low incomes in the area (particularly reliance on social benefits) together with the barriers to accessing services and facilities are particular features of disadvantage in the village (see Appendix for details). These are reinforced by community survey findings that 22% of respondents identified a need

for training courses and employability support.

The Clanvaraghan village has grown in recent years with the arrival of new residents following the completion of a development of 39 new houses in 2007. These residents include families with young children as illustrated by the community survey findings which show that there are 27 children under five years of age in the village and 101 children in total. This reflects the population change in the village and surrounding townland which increased by 20.2% between 2001 and 2008 (see Appendix). In the community survey 46% of respondents said they have lived in the village for less than five years which underlines the recent change in population.

Aerial map showing Clanvaraghan prior to development of Slievehanny Park





Map of Clanvaraghan showing new development

- 1** St. Francis Terrace
- 2** Shop/garage
- 3** Church
- 4** Public house
- 5** Public house car park
- Bus stop
- ✉ Post box
- ❄ Grit box
- Existing buildings

# Public Policy Context

This summary of Government policies focuses on those aspects of key policies which aim to address issues of rural disadvantage and support rural development. It also seeks to illustrate the linkages between policies which are regional and those which are primarily focused on rural areas. It is not an exhaustive summary of all Government policies.

## Programme for Government 2011-2015

The recently approved Programme for Government sets out the Executive's 82 commitments for the next four years. Many of the commitments are at a regional level and designed to benefit people in all areas and support all communities. They range from supporting the promotion of over 25,000 new jobs to achieving £1 billion of investment in the Northern Ireland economy. Two specific rural commitments are bringing forward a £13 million package to tackle rural poverty and social and economic isolation in the next three years and advancing the relocation

of the Headquarters of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to a rural area by 2015. The Programme also refers to the proposed Social Investment Fund and commits the Government to providing £40 million to address dereliction and promote investment in the physical regeneration of deprived areas and investing £40 million to improve pathways to employment, tackle systemic issues linked to deprivation and increase community services in these areas. The details of this Social Investment Fund are currently being developed by OFMDFM.

## Everyone's Involved - Sustainable Development Strategy (OFMDFM)

This strategy seeks to achieve a better balance between social, environmental and economic progress. It represents the first steps towards tackling the challenges of unsustainable development that result in social problems which are exacerbated by inequalities in health, wealth, education and employment. It presents 20 high level regional 'commitment statements'. The Strategy's theme of "Sustainable Communities" aims to promote the development of community engagement,

civic leadership and responsible citizenship. DARD aims to contribute to this theme by strengthening communities and community infrastructure through: engaging with rural communities to identify and address local problems and opportunities, build community capacity and leadership, adopting a village renewal approach and conserving and upgrading the rural heritage.

## Regional Development Strategy 2035 (Department for Regional Development)

The recently published Regional Development Strategy 2035 is the spatial strategy of the NI Executive. Its purpose is to deliver the spatial aspects of the Programme for Government. It complements the Sustainable Development Strategy and informs the spatial aspects of the strategies of all Government

Departments. The Strategy contains eight broad aims including:

- Support our towns, villages and rural communities to maximise their potential.
- Promote development which improves the health and well-being of



communities.

- Improve connectivity to enhance the movement of people, goods, energy and information between places.
- Protect and enhance the environment for its own sake.

The need to sustain rural communities living in smaller towns, villages and the open countryside is recognised with the Strategy stating that this requires

new development and employment opportunities which respect local, social and environmental circumstances. A key consideration for the Strategy is how these rural communities access services. The Strategy thus commits Government to taking actions which sustain rural communities living in smaller settlements and the open countryside and improve accessibility for rural communities.

### Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-2015

This DARD Framework is the most recent overarching statement of its commitments to helping the most vulnerable rural dwellers facing poverty and social isolation. It is envisaged that this Framework will support a package of measures worth up to £16 million to support vulnerable people in rural communities and help target the root causes of social isolation. The Framework is linked to the Rural White Paper Action Plan (RWPAP - see below) which provides a strategic direction for rural policy in the region. One of the actions detailed in the RWPAP relates directly to targeting poverty and disadvantage in rural areas.

The objectives of the Framework include:

- Develop programmes/interventions to help alleviate poverty/social isolation amongst vulnerable people/groups in rural areas;
- Complement and add value to existing government strategies aimed at tackling poverty and social isolation;
- Empower rural communities to help themselves. It is expected that outcomes of the Framework will:
  - Contribute to the reduction of poverty among targeted vulnerable people/groups in rural areas;
  - Contribute to the reduction of social isolation among targeted vulnerable

- people/groups in rural areas;
- Provide an evidence base for identifying rural poverty/social isolation that can influence other mainstream government interventions;
- Complement the work of other Departments in tackling poverty and social isolation;
- Enhance multidisciplinary approaches to tackling poverty and social isolation in rural areas.

#### Priority Groups

The Framework states that measures will be developed to support the following groups: elderly people; disabled people; lone parents; ethnic minority people and groups; unemployed people; people of different sexual orientation (LGBT); carers; children; older children and young people.

#### Priority Themes

The Framework was developed taking account of the views of stakeholders and builds on rural anti-poverty and social exclusion work from 2008 – 2011. It aims to provide projects and programmes under three priority themes:

Access Poverty - Measures supported under this priority will focus on access to statutory services such as advice on welfare benefits, health and social care, public transport,

advice and support and education and training.

**Financial Poverty** - This priority will focus on measures that ensure vulnerable rural dwellers can maximise their income. Measures supported may focus on addressing fuel poverty, maximising benefit uptakes in rural areas, or focus on addressing the additional costs people face by living in rural areas.

**Social Isolation** - This priority will focus

on measures that identify and address different types of isolation experienced by different vulnerable groups. This may be through approaches which use community development to address local needs, or supporting organisations that work in rural areas supporting those suffering from different types of stress or mental health issues. This priority will also focus on researching the needs and challenges of “hard to reach” vulnerable groups in rural areas.

## Rural White Paper Action Plan (RWPAP)

The draft Rural White Paper Action Plan (RWPAP – March 2011) which is being led by DARD presents the Executive’s overarching strategy for rural areas and its commitment to them and provides for joined up interdepartmental working in identifying measures to improve the quality of life for rural dwellers. The RWPAP theme priorities provide a direct link to DARD’s work on poverty and exclusion. There are five priority themes:

### 1) Urban/Rural Linkages

- To support the development of an efficient transport and infrastructure system that facilitates effective rural – urban inter-linkages.

### 2) Access to Services

- To promote fair and equitable access to key services for all rural dwellers.

### 3) Sustainable Rural Communities

- To promote tolerance, health, well-being and inclusion for rural dwellers;
- Seek to minimise, where it exists, disadvantage, poverty, social exclusion and inequality amongst those living in rural areas and in particular amongst vulnerable groups;
- To maintain a viable economic, social, cultural and physical infrastructure in rural areas and seek to ensure that

regional infrastructure disparities are minimised;

- To preserve the cultural and social uniqueness of rural community life linked to its smaller population settlements;
  - To promote the development of effective and inclusive rural governance structures and sufficient community capacity to engage in these structures;
  - To enhance and refine the Rural Development Programme to ensure the maximum benefit from future Programmes for rural communities;
- ### 4) Sustainable Rural Economies
- To provide rural businesses with appropriate support to ensure the development of dynamic and innovative rural economies;
  - To seek to maximise employment opportunities for rural dwellers.
- ### 5) Sustainable Countryside
- To support the development of a more sustainable agricultural sector, a more competitive agri-food sector and enhanced agri-environmental links;
  - To safeguard the beauty and fabric of rural areas and increase opportunities for all to enjoy the benefits of the countryside.

## DARD Rural Strategy 2007-2013

This strategy has been overtaken to some extent by the development of the RWPAP but nevertheless remains relevant to tackling poverty and social isolation. It seeks to build on the 2000–2006 Rural Development Programme through measures designed to diversify the economic base of rural areas and enhance community capacity. The objectives of these measures incorporate:

- enhancing economic opportunities in rural areas through supporting business creation and development (including farm diversification);
- developing the potential of tourism and

- encouraging the uptake of ICT;
- strengthening communities and community infrastructure through engaging with rural communities to identify and address local problems and opportunities; building community capacity and leadership; supporting village renewal initiatives; and conserving and upgrading the rural heritage.

These measures form part of the NI Rural Development Programme referred to below.

## Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

The NI Rural Development Programme was approved by the European Commission in July 2007 and has three key elements:

Axis 1 – improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sectors by supporting restructuring, development and innovation. Key measures include: vocational training, adding value to agricultural products and marketing, farm modernisation and improving the supply chain. The upskilling and reskilling opportunities in this axis are a means of targeting farmers' income and potential to be more competitive both within farming, or outside if that is more appropriate.

Axis 2 – improving the environment and countryside by supporting land management. Key measures include agri-environment programmes and less favoured area compensation scheme.

Axis 3 – improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of economic activity. Key measures include business creation, farm diversification, encouragement of tourism activities, support for basic services for the rural economy, village renewal and conservation/upgrading of the rural heritage.

All Axis 3 Measures are delivered using

a local delivery approach, that is, seven Local Action Groups (LAGs) who have developed and are implementing local area based strategies. The Down Rural Area Partnership (DRAP) is one of these LAGS. It administers Axis 3 funds under six measures:

1. Diversification into Non-Agricultural Activities
2. Support for Business Creation & Development
3. Encouragement of Tourism Activities
4. Basic Services for Economy and Rural Population
5. Village Renewal and Development
6. Conservation and Upgrading of Rural Heritage

Details of the Basic Services measure were released in May 2012. It will fund the following activities:

- research to identify the needs of isolated rural communities;
- measure technical assistance for building capacity to enable improved provision of basic services;
- measure technical assistance for developing integrated action plans;
- undertaking infrastructural improvements;
- developing innovations in access to basic

- services for rural communities;
- demonstration or pilot projects;
- recreational activities.

Project proposals must have the approval of the Department or Agency responsible for the service area/issue.

## Future European Policy

The 'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011 – 2015' aligns with the European Commission initial proposals on future support for rural development. In line with the Europe 2020 strategy, one of the broad objectives of rural development policy in 2014 – 2020

The DARD 'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework' (above) aims to complement these Axis 3 measures to address poverty and social isolation in rural areas and address rural poverty issues on a more regional basis.

will be promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. Support provided under the Framework will continue to be complementary to EU Rural Development Programmes.

## Social Investment Fund (OFMDFM)

The NI Executive agreed a new Social Investment Fund (SIF) on 17 May 2012. The Fund will operate across nine zones including a South Eastern Zone. Clanvaraghan lies within this zone. The Fund budget is £80 million and will operate over four years. It will be managed by OFMDFM with a Steering Group in each region. Each Group will be composed of four people from each of the community and voluntary sector, political parties and the statutory sector and two people from the business sector. Eligible areas within each zone will be:

- areas within the top 10% most deprived Super Output Areas on the Multiple Deprivation Measure 2010;
- areas within the top 20% most deprived Super Output Areas on the key domains of income, employment, education and health;
- areas which can provide independently verified and robust evidence of objective need linked to the four strategic objectives of SIF.

The Fund objectives are to: build pathways to employment; tackle the systematic issues linked to deprivation; increase community services; and address dereliction. The Fund will seek to:

- reduce unemployment by tackling the barriers to employment, including through training and education;
- increase the number of people in quality jobs in the areas;
- reduce poverty in the areas;
- build capable community networks;
- build sustainable communities;
- attract private and other agency investment to contribute to increased overall investment in the areas;
- increase the amount of productive space in areas;
- reduce anti-social behaviour.

## Anti Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategy (Lifetime Opportunities - OFMDFM)

OFMDFM's Lifetime Opportunities strategy focuses on social isolation and poverty and in particular individuals and families who suffer from multiple social problems. It recognises that people living in rural areas may have difficulties in accessing the types of services that other people take for granted and is also concerned with supporting people who are low skilled,

unemployed, have a low income or are living with difficult home circumstances. It also recognises that people can be cut off from society for a number of reasons including discrimination, disability, mental illness, or being excluded as a member of a particular minority.

## Children and Young People Strategy 2006-2016 (OFMDFM)

The aim of this strategy is to ensure that by 2016 all children and young people are fulfilling their potential. DARD has committed to this strategy by targeting at least 5% of Axis 3 of the new EU Rural Development Programme towards projects supporting children and young people. The

current 'Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework 2011-2015' provides the basis to develop programmes that will contribute to achieving the Children and Young Peoples Action Plan.

## Improving Children's Life Chances – the Child Poverty Strategy (March 2011)

This Strategy sets out the actions proposed by the Northern Ireland Executive to address the issue of Child Poverty in fulfilment of its obligations under the Child Poverty Act 2010. The overarching aim is to provide the opportunity for all children and young people to thrive and to address the causes and consequences of disadvantage. There are four strategic objectives:

1. Ensure, as far as possible, that poverty and disadvantage in childhood does not translate into poorer outcomes for children as they move into adulthood;
2. Support more parents to be in work that pays, or pays better;
3. Ensure the child's environment supports them to thrive;
4. Target financial support to be responsive to family situations.

The Strategy contains 30 (high level) actions. Among these are:

- Maximise access to and uptake of grants, benefits and services, including social security benefits.
- Make public transport more accessible and affordable to all children including those with a disability in both urban and rural areas.
- Promote affordable, accessible play and leisure provision for all children and young people.
- Support disadvantaged families to promote the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of their children so that they flourish at home and when they get to school.
- Address socio-economic disadvantage in children and maximise access to key services for children and young people.

## Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015 (Department for Regional Development)

The Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015 is focused on:

- Other Urban Areas – the towns and cities; and
- Rural Areas – the smaller settlements and the dispersed population living in the open countryside.

It acknowledges that the private car plays an important and dominant role in rural areas and that for people with cars that will remain so. However, it also recognises that public transport is important, not only to offer a more sustainable choice, but especially to provide access to key services for people without cars. It notes that a mix of different types of public transport service is necessary to

improve access from the rural areas in a manner affordable to Government and that the mix is likely to vary from location to location. For villages with a population of less than 500 (such as Clanvaraghan) the Plan aims to provide a service frequency of two return services per week.

The Plan identifies the need for expenditure on a range of measures including structural maintenance (upkeep of the surfaces and foundations of the road and footway network etc) and routine maintenance (gritting and snow removal, bridge maintenance, replacing street lighting bulbs, the maintenance of signs and road markings, cutting grass verges and clearing drainage gullies).

## Racial Equality Strategy (OFMDFM)

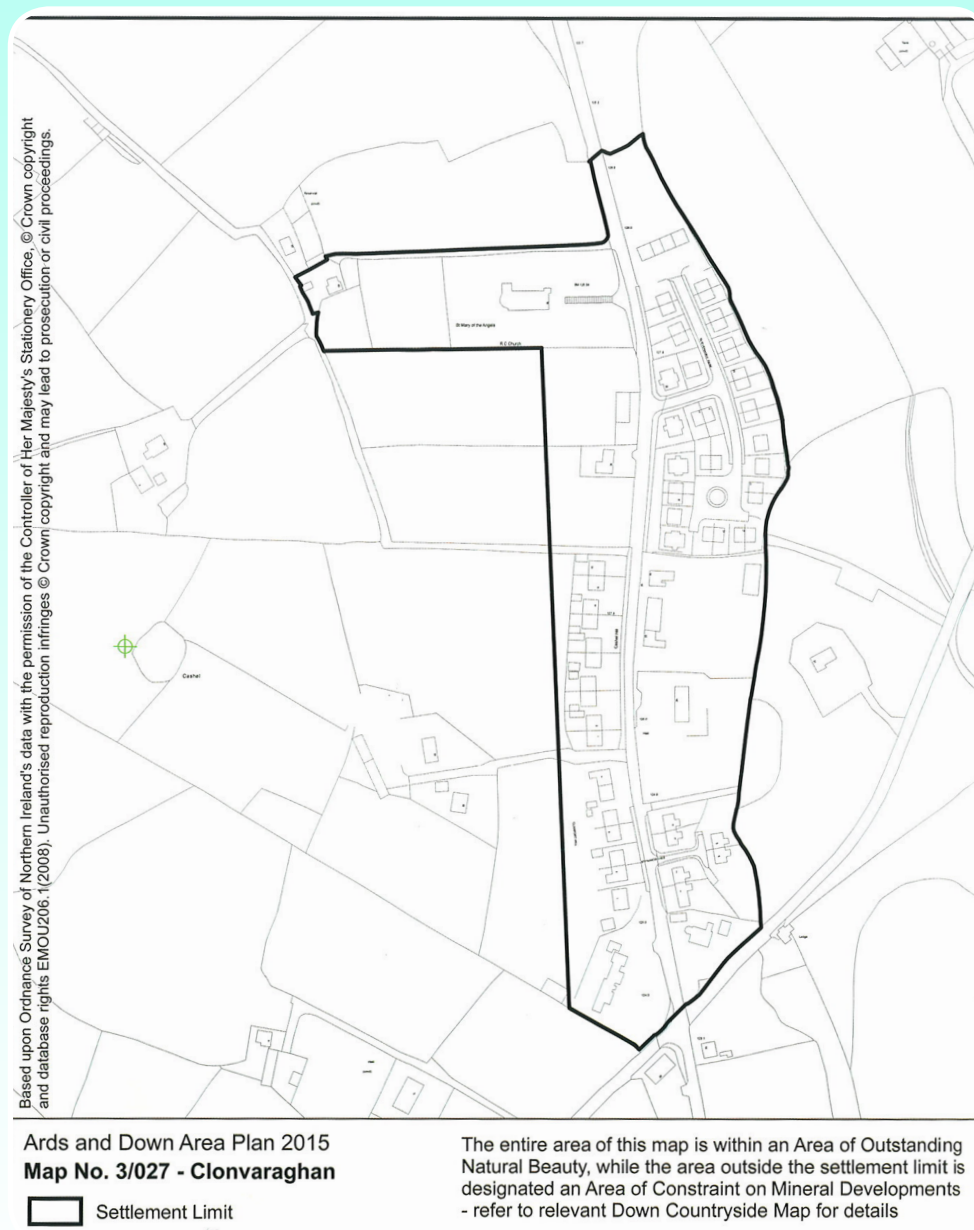
This strategy aims to tackle inequalities and to open up opportunities for all; to eradicate racism and hate crime; and to promote good race relations. Building on support provided through earlier programmes DARD (through its Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation

Framework 2011 – 2015) will seek to provide opportunities for ethnic groups and communities in rural areas to build capacity and improve their quality of life with the aim of alleviating ethnic minorities' social isolation in rural areas.

## Planning Policy

Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 - The following is a summary of the main policies that apply specifically to Clonvaraghan. In addition to Area Plan policies, regional planning policies and guidance will be taken into consideration in assessing planning applications. The settlement limit is outlined in black on the map to the below. The Ards and Down Area Plan 2015 states that, "The designated settlement limit has been drawn to protect the setting of Ballywillwill House, a listed building to the east and to allow for limited opportunities for frontage development along Clonvaraghan Road between Wood Road junction at the southern end of the settlement and the church at the northern end."

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - The area outside the settlement limit forms part of the Mourne Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Area Plan notes that, "National Park status for the Mournes has been under consideration but the outcome is yet to be determined." In March 2011, the Department of the Environment published a White Paper on the creation of national parks in Northern Ireland. A consultation document was issued which looked in more detail at the governance options for national parks and other issues with a view to developing legislation to be brought before the Assembly. Consultation on this document closed on 31 October 2011.



# Involvement in the Village Plan

The consultation process agreed by the Community Association was designed and tailored to suit the needs of the village and to provide a range of consultation opportunities for villagers to be involved and for public service agencies and other organisations to input their views.

The key steps included:

- **Briefing meetings and a tour of the village to identify initial issues;**
- **Desktop analysis of official statistics on needs;**
- **Publicity and promotion for the consultation process;**
- **Design of Community Survey**
- **Consultation Open Day to share and discuss findings with villagers;**
- **Input of views from public service agencies;**
- **Community Association discussions on consultation findings and priority issues;**
- **Development of draft plan;**
- **Finalisation of the plan.**

Community Survey Questionnaires were distributed door to door to all households in the village. Villagers were able to return hard copies of their completed questionnaire in person or by post or complete it online. The response rate was 78%. A consultation open day for all villagers was held at St John's GAC Hall, Drumnaquoile to share and discuss the survey results. This was also an opportunity for villagers to share and discuss their ideas and suggestions for the village. In total 17 local residents and 8 children attended the event. Consultation was also carried out with representatives from relevant statutory and public service agencies and other organisations. Full details of the consultation findings including details of the agencies and organisation consulted are set out in a separate report.



# Key Projects and Action Plan

The following key projects and activities were identified from the findings of the consultation process, the analysis of needs and disadvantage and discussions within the Community Association. These projects and activities will be the priority focus of the work of the Community Association in the coming years as it seeks to implement the Village Plan in continued collaboration with the Inter-Agency Group and other relevant organisations identified in the Action Plan.

The table illustrates the links between the priority Projects/Activity Areas and Government policies.

<b>Key Project/Activity Area</b>	<b>Relevant Government Policy</b>
<b>New children's play area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DARD Rural Poverty Framework</li> <li>• NI Rural Development Programme</li> <li>• DARD Rural Strategy</li> <li>• Child Poverty Strategy</li> <li>• Social Investment Fund</li> </ul>
<b>Improve road safety and transport services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Development – Sustainable Communities</li> <li>• Child Poverty Strategy</li> <li>• Regional Development Strategy 2035</li> <li>• Sub-Regional Transport Plan 2015</li> <li>• Rural Poverty Framework (DARD)</li> <li>• Rural Development Programme (DRAP)</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Improvements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DARD Rural Strategy</li> <li>• Rural Development Programme (DRAP)</li> <li>• Social Investment Fund</li> </ul>
<b>Community Cohesion Activities and Facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Poverty Strategy</li> <li>• Rural Development Programme (DRAP)</li> <li>• DARD Rural Strategy</li> <li>• Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion</li> <li>• Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Framework</li> <li>• Social Investment Fund</li> <li>• Child Poverty Strategy</li> </ul>

The following section sets out further details on each of the priority project/activity areas identified including actions to bring these forward.

## 1. Play Area

There are no outdoor play facilities for children in the village. The number of young children has increased significantly in recent years as the new housing development has become available. 48% of the total 101 children in the village are under the age of five and a further 39% are between six and 12 years of age. There was overwhelming support in the community survey for the provision of a play area with 76% of respondents identifying it as the number one need for the village.

The Community Association has, with advice from council staff, identified a site for a play area. The site is the green space in Slievehanny Park and was identified following extensive work by the Association to find a site which is appropriate, feasible and available. This included consideration of all the possible locations identified in the survey. A council official has visited the site and the developer who owns it has agreed to provide it for a play area. The ideas for a play area within the green space at the top of Slievehanny Park received enthusiastic support from children and parents at the open day and some residents have offered to monitor the play area to ensure it is beneficial to everyone.

### Actions

- Identify suitable site for play area.
- Develop costed plans for play area at green space in Slievehanny Park.
- Incorporate safety and traffic calming in plans.
- Secure funding and obtain planning permission.
- Put in place arrangements for monitoring of play area by residents.

## 2. Road Safety and Transport

Concerns about speeding in the village were raised through the consultation process, with 65% responding that traffic calming is one of the most important issues. Many people noted that this is particularly important due to the high number of children in the village. The Community Association has already started to address these issues through the Inter-Agency Group but it is clear that further action is required.

In response to community concerns PSNI say they have become more active in the area and that they will continue their work to deter speeding in the village through use of hand held lasers and speed detection vans.

The Roads Service's view is that the village is currently a low priority for traffic calming measures and is not eligible to have the speed limit lowered from 40 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour. One of the factors taken into consideration by the Roads Service is the number of vehicles using the road. However, this may increase with the introduction of the Slieve Croob scenic drive, which will direct additional cars through the village. In addition, if a National Park is established in the future, this may well also bring additional visitors and traffic and impact road safety. Therefore, it is suggested that this issue should continue to be monitored through the Inter-Agency Group and that a revised traffic assessment should be carried out if a significant increase in traffic is noted.

A temporary speed indicator display has recently been used in the village to deter speeding. The Community Association should explore whether the PSNI could provide this on a permanent basis. A Community Speed Watch campaign could also be considered by the Community Association (see [www.traffictechnology.co.uk](http://www.traffictechnology.co.uk) for more details). These campaigns have had success elsewhere by enabling communities to gather evidence of persistent speeding and safety problems. In addition, a road safety message could be incorporated into the proposed welcome sign for the village (see Environmental Improvements).

### Actions

- Inter-Agency Group to review roads safety issues.
- Monitor changes to traffic levels and other issues affecting road safety.
- Explore potential to obtain a permanent speed indicator sign.
- Incorporate road safety message into proposed welcome sign (see Environmental Improvements).
- Seek funding to pilot a Community Speed Watch Campaign

## 3. Environmental Improvements

### Welcome Sign

Over half of the people surveyed suggested that a welcome sign and other environmental improvements, like flower displays, would help improve the image of the village and create a stronger village identity. A village welcome sign could also make motorists more aware that they are entering a village and encourage them to slow down. 54% of those surveyed identified the need to extend the footpath through the village to improve community and road safety.

The welcome sign could be created through a project involving young people from the village and a local craft person. This would help create a sense of ownership for the sign and would contribute to a village identity. A flower display, in combination with the welcome sign could form an entrance feature for the village. The sign could also contain a road safety message to deter speeding.

### Planting Scheme

54% of those surveyed identified the need for planting and landscaping. Additional planting should be incorporated as part of an environmental improvement scheme (along with the welcome sign) to help improve the appearance of the village and make more motorists aware that they are driving through a village. This should include planters and hanging baskets.

### Extension of Footpath

The need to extend the footpath through the village so that it runs for the entire length of the 40 mile per hour zone through the village was highlighted through the consultation process. This should be pursued through the Inter-Agency group with DRD Roads Service taking the lead.

### Bus Shelter

In the community survey 44% of respondents highlighted the need for a bus shelter in Clanvaraghan. The Community Association should begin discussions with Translink on this issue. Any roads issues in relation to this could be dealt with through the Inter-Agency Group.

#### Actions

- Identify best locations for welcome signs, planting scheme and secure funding for these.
- Inter-Agency Group to continue to take forward work on extension of footpath.
- Community Association to begin discussions with Translink in relation to a bus shelter.

## 4. Community Cohesion Activities and Facilities

Through the consultation process many villagers expressed the need for more opportunities for local people to meet, to get to know each other and to strengthen community spirit. 46% expressed an interest in getting involved in community projects and 56% said they would like to be regularly updated about what is happening in the area. As noted above new people have recently moved into the area. They may not be familiar with the different facilities and activities available in the wider area around Clanvaraghan. More opportunities for both new and more established members of the community to meet and get to know each other would also help strengthen community cohesion.

Through the consultation process, 53% of those surveyed identified the need for activities for young people and children in the area, as well as interest in a number of activities such as walking and gardening. Participation in these activities would provide an opportunity for local people to meet and would help contribute to strengthening community spirit and cohesion in the area.

### Communication and Community Involvement

Through the community survey, an e-mail list of 22 people who are interested in finding out more about what is happening in the area was compiled. The Association will use this list to keep people up to date about the progress of the Village Plan and activities and events organised by the Community Association, as well as groups in the wider area such as St John's GAC, East Down Rural Community Network, the local youth club etc. The Summer Scheme (see below) will provide an ideal opportunity to inform villagers about local activities, support services etc and get them involved.

It is also suggested that the Community Association set up a Facebook page to share information with local people and continue to use the local press to highlight initiatives in the area as well as events and activities.

Through the community survey a list of people interested in helping out with community projects was compiled. It is suggested that the Community Association use this list to get people involved in community projects of interest to them. The Community Association should also try to increase its membership from the village to better enable them to take forward the actions in the Community Plan.

East Down Rural Community Network is the rural support network for the area and has assisted the Community Association through the DRAP funding application process. The Network will continue to assist the Association to implement the priority project identified in the Plan and offer technical and motivational support into the future. In particular, the Network will encourage the group to engage with neighbouring villages that are embarked on a similar process and keen to share experiences.

### Community Facility

The consultation process identified the need for a small community facility which would benefit the local community by providing a base for local community activities such as a local youth project, cultural activities, arts and crafts, health information days and a meeting place and information point for different interest groups.

This facility could be a modular building on a site in Slievehanny which is in the ownership of the

developer of the new housing scheme. The Community Association should consider this site and identify its potential availability for a community facility.

### **Christmas Tree**

It was suggested through the consultation process that a Christmas tree should be provided in the winter. This could help improve the appearance of the village in the winter and could be linked to Christmas community activities.

### **Summer Scheme**

66% of people supported the idea of a summer scheme. This should be held to provide an opportunity for local people to meet, get to know each other and to find out more about what is happening in the area, as well as providing an activity for children in the village. This would ideally be held in or close to the village so that it would be accessible to people without a car and to people who might not be familiar with other facilities nearby.

This would also be a good opportunity to launch the Village Plan and to get local people involved in taking forward some of the projects. Other groups and organisations could be invited along to provide information about the facilities and services available to people in the area. This could include, for example, representatives from St John's GAC, East Down Rural Community Network, local youth clubs, and the Rural Health Project which provides community health checks and other services at community events.

### **Walking Club**

A number of people expressed an interest in joining a walking club, through the consultation process. Consultation with the Mourne Heritage Trust also highlighted the fact that there are good walking routes close to the village and that further information is available about these through the Mourne Heritage Trust or the Rights of Way Officer of the local council.

### **Gardening Club**

A number of people expressed an interest in setting up a gardening club. This could include talks and advice from local garden centres and discounts could be negotiated if plants are bought in large numbers. It was also suggested that allotments could have benefits for local people, however, there is currently no site available within the village. This idea could potentially be developed in the future if sites become available.

### **Youth Project**

Over 50% of people who completed the community survey identified the need for activities for young people and children. Activities for young people and children take place at St John's GAC and there is also a youth club in Aughlisnafin. It is suggested that information about the activities at these facilities be provided to local people as part of the Community Association's overall communications.

There is currently no venue to run a youth club in the village itself, but this could potentially be developed if a community facility is provided in future (see above). In the meantime the possibility of setting up a youth project should be explored. This might be in collaboration

with other villages and/or facilities and involve activities in the village as well as taking young people from the village to other areas/facilities until a community facility is secured.

## Actions

- Use survey mailing list and local press to keep people up to date with events and activities and services available to them and consider setting up a Facebook page.
- Invite local people to become more involved in Community Association projects and activities and increase membership of the Association. In the first instance this should include all those who expressed an interest through the survey.
- Investigate availability of identified potential site for a community facility.
- Take forward community facility proposal and include youth club.
- Identify activities for children and young people taking place in the wider area and share this information with local residents.
- Explore potential for a youth project.
- Organise summer scheme with support from East Down Rural Community Network.
- Set up walking club and gardening group.
- Identify with Mourne Heritage Trust and Rights of Way Officer how best to promote information locally about walking routes in the area.
- Identify best location for Christmas tree and secure funding for this.

# Action Plan

Key Project/ Activity	Actions	Stakeholders	Time- scale
<b>New Children's play area</b>	Identify site for playground	Community Association Down DC DRAP	Short
	Develop costed plans for play area		
	Incorporate safety and traffic calming in plans		
	Secure funding		
	Obtain planning permission		
	Install play area		
	Put in place arrangements for monitoring of play area by residents.		
<b>Improve road safety and transport services</b>	Review road safety issues	Inter-Agency Group Community Association PSNI	Short - Medium
	Monitor changes to traffic levels and other issues affecting road safety		
	Explore potential to obtain a permanent speed indicator sign		
	Incorporate road safety message into proposed welcome sign		
	Seek funding to pilot a Community Speed Watch Campaign		
<b>Environmental improvements</b>	Identify best locations for welcome signs, planting scheme and secure funding for these.	Inter-Agency Group Community Association Roads Service Translink	Short - Medium
	Take forward extension of footpath.		
	Begin discussions with Translink in relation to a bus shelter.		



Key Project/ Activity	Actions	Stakeholders	Time- scale
<b>Community Cohesion Activities and Facilities</b>	Use survey mailing list and local press to keep people up to date with events and activities and services available to them and consider setting up a Community Association Facebook page.	Community Association	Short
	Invite local people to become more involved in Community Association projects and activities and increase membership of the Association. In the first instance this should include all those who expressed an interest through the survey.		Short
	Investigate availability of identified potential site for a community facility.	Community Association Down DC	Medium
	Take forward community facility proposal and include youth club.		
	Organise summer scheme with support from EDRCN and Community Active Coaches and input from villagers.	Community Association	Short
	Set up walking club and gardening group.		Medium
	Identify with Mourne Heritage Trust and Rights of Way Officer how best to promote information locally about walking routes in the area.		Short
	Identify activities for children and young people taking place in the wider area and share this information with local residents.		Medium
	Explore potential for a youth project.		Medium
	Identify best location for Christmas tree and secure funding for this.		

# Implementing the Plan

The Action Plan presents details of the actions needed to take forward the four Key Project / Activity Areas:

- New children's play area;
- Improve road safety and transport services;
- Environmental improvements; and
- Community cohesion activities and facilities.

The Action Plan also identifies the stakeholders who will be involved in implementing the Plan. Central to successful implementation will be the Community Association and Inter-Agency Group. The Community Association will:

- Provide local elected representatives with copies of the Plan and seek their support;
- Present and discuss the Plan with the Inter-Agency Group at its next meeting;
- Seek the Group's support for the Key Projects/Activity Areas;
- Identify individuals across all stakeholders who will be the Associations key contact for each action point;
- Agree lead people in the Association for action points;
- Discuss progress on the Action Plan at each Inter-Agency Group;
- Monitor progress of the Action Plan;
- Review progress in taking forward the Action Plan at its monthly meetings; and
- Organise an annual review of the Action Plan with Inter-Agency Group and other stakeholders.

The Action Plan includes actions to involve villagers in delivering projects and activities and to increase their representation on the Community Association. These will be important steps in maintaining and building the momentum and support needed for achieving the Plan's vision.



# Appendix 1 - Needs Analysis

Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Statistics Service (NINIS) provides statistical information relating to small areas across Northern Ireland. Information is available across a range of themes including Population, Social and Welfare benefits, Employment and Education.

Statistics are available at different geographical levels but not all statistics are available at each and every level nor for the same years. There are 5,022 Census Output Areas (OAs) which are the smallest geographic units for which statistics are available. On average they contain 340 people/125 households. These fall within 582 wards, which in turn make up the 26 Local Government Districts. Super Output Areas (SOAs) are used for the Multiple Deprivation Measure and have on average a population of 1,900 people. There are 890 SOAs. Statistics are also available for the 180 settlements with a population of 500 or more people.

As Clanvaraghan has a population of less than 500, statistics are not available for the village itself. Statistics relating to the village must be looked at as part of larger geographical areas (Census Output Area, Super Output Area, Ward and Local Government District) Clanvaraghan is located in the Down Local Government District, the Castlewellan Electoral Ward and the Castlewellan 2 Super Output Area. Clanvaraghan village sits within the Output Area 95NN130001 (see map) and thus where available these statistics were used in the analysis.

## Population and Households

According to the NINIS statistics the population in the output area within which Clanvaraghan sits was 415 in 2001 and 505 in 2008. It is likely that this 20.2% increase is mainly due to the new housing development at Slievehanny Park in Clanvaraghan which consists of 39 dwellings (with two more approved but not yet completed). Planning permission for these was granted in 2006 with the first houses completed in 2007. In 2009 280 households in the Output Area had access to a car, this suggests that the majority of people who live in the area require a car in order to access services and employment in nearby towns.

## Disadvantage and Social Isolation

Dependency on benefits is a reliable indicator of poverty and disadvantage as evidenced by the Department for Social Development (DSD) statistics. From 2008 to 2011 the DSD statistics show an increase in claimants of benefits within the Output Area. Housing Benefit claimants increased from 9 in 2008 to 15 in 2009 and to 23 in 2011. Job seekers claimants increased from 3 in 2008 to 7 in 2009 and to 14 in 2011. The number of Income Support claimants aged 16 -59 years also increased from 10 in 2008 to 14 in 2011.

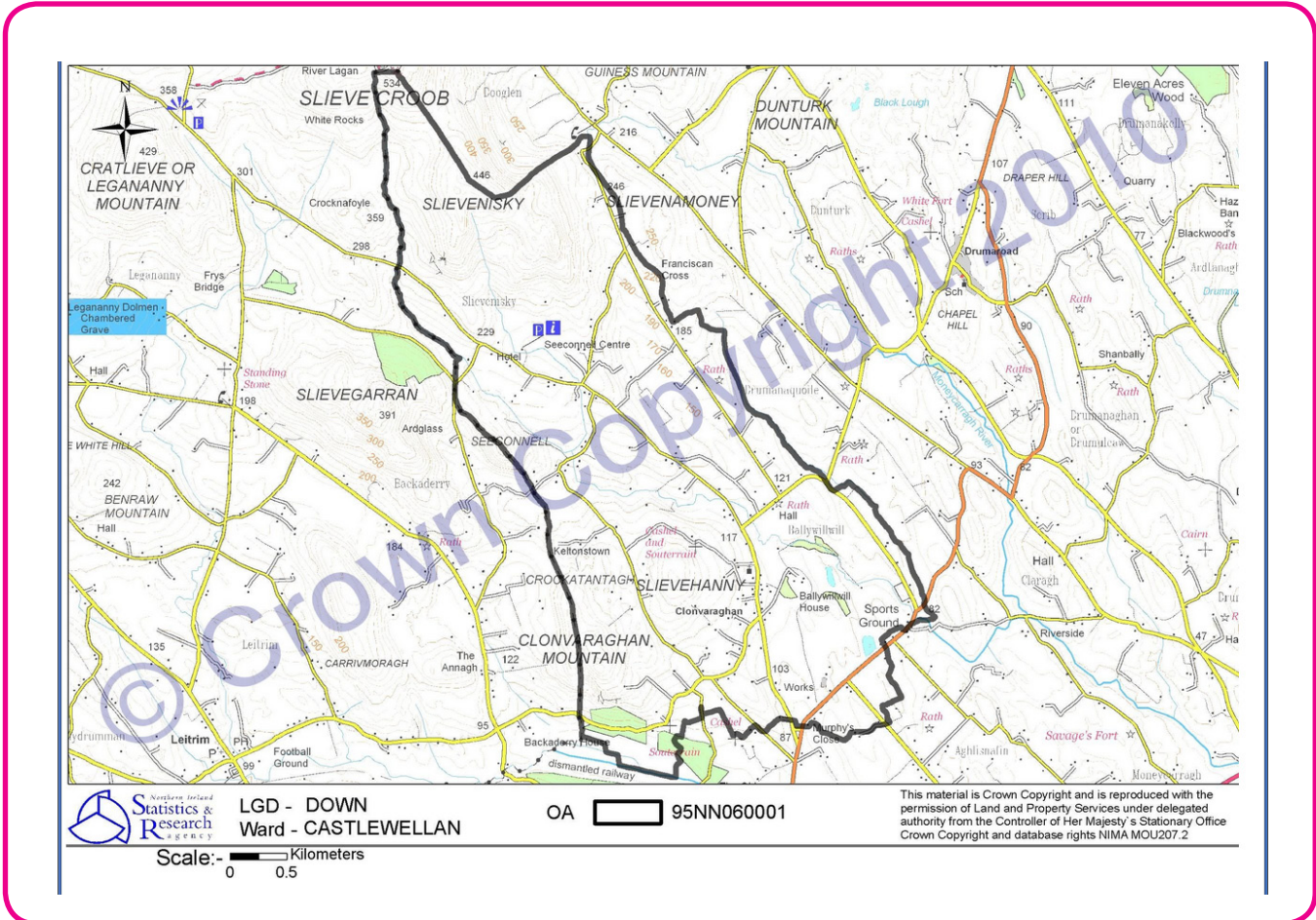
22.2% of the respondents who completed the community survey in Clanvaraghan in 2012 stated they would like to see short training courses and back to work/interview skills.

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation 2010 statistics rank the proximity to services for the Output Area at 292, which is within the top 10% most deprived output areas in Northern Ireland.

## Education and Employment

According to the 2001 Census data 13.4% of adults aged 16 – 74 years in the Output area have qualifications to degree level or higher, and 58.5% of adults aged 16 – 74 years have no/low

qualifications. 68.2% of adults living in the Output area were employed and 38.8% were not employed. The unemployment rate for the Output Area in 2001 was 3.5% and of this percentage 54.5% were long term unemployed. As these statistics are now eleven years old it is likely there have been some recent changes especially in terms of the employment statistics as the economic downturn is likely to have worsened employment rates.









# Clanvaraghan Village Plan

June 2012