



# CUSHENDUN AND KNOCKNACARRY

## VILLAGE PLAN

AUGUST 2011



## Vision Statement

**“A vibrant and sustainable community where people support one another and are committed to working together to improve and protect the environmental, social, cultural and economic quality of village life for residents and visitors”**

## Contents

Background and Introduction	4
Consultation Process	6
Baseline Audit and Map	8
Existing Plans and Strategies	12
Planning History	22
Consultation Findings	26
Project Proposals	38
Appendix 1 - SWOT Analysis	50





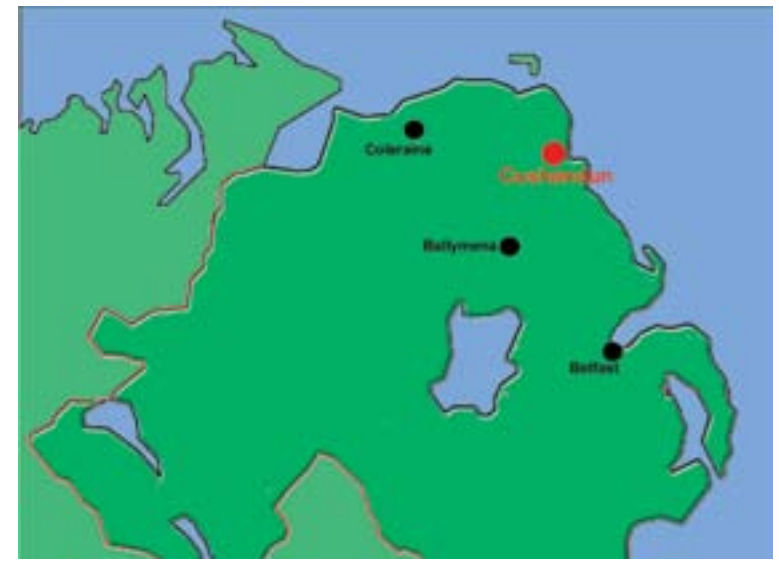


# Background and Introduction

This Village Plan for Cushendun and Knocknacarry was developed over a number of months. Local residents in Cushendun and Knocknacarry put forward their views about how they would like to see their village develop in the next five years.

This process was assisted by Cushendun and District Development Association working with Moyle District Council, and was facilitated by Community Places.

Funding for the village plan project comes from the NE Rural Development Programme Village Renewal Measure, which is being part funded under Axis 3 and 4 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 by the European Union and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Moyle District Council contributed 25% of the cost of the project.



The Villages of Cushendun and Knocknacarry are located in the Moyle District Council Area, just off the A2 Coastal Route. They are located within the electoral ward of Glendun, which had an estimated population of 1088 (Small Area Population Estimates 2008). The ward covers a wider area than the village but is the closest defined area for which statistics are available. The villages are relatively isolated, with the nearest towns being Ballycastle

and Ballymena, 12 miles and 20 miles away respectively. Both Cushendun and Knocknacarry are located in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Cushendun is a Conservation Area and The National Trust has owned and maintained most of the village since 1954. The Village was designed by Clough William Ellis in 1912 at the request of Ronald John McNeill, Baron of Cushendun.

Not all the schemes prepared by Clough William Ellis were carried out, including plans for a village hall next to the existing shop.

The Cushendun and District Development Association (CDDA) was founded in 1994 and covers the areas of Cushendun, Torr, Knocknacarry and Glendun.

The Association currently runs a number of projects:

- Annual fun days which are held in a marquee in the centre of the village. In 2010 the fun day was linked with the Make a Difference Milawi cycle race from Larne to Cushendun (around 300 riders);
- Yoga classes;
- Computer classes;
- Art classes;
- Quarterly Newsletter;
- Christmas over 55s lunch;
- Christmas carol service and Santa's visit;

- Cushendun in Bloom planting scheme; and
- CDDA website and accommodation website.

The Development Association and its member groups have also secured a number of projects in the area. These have included a new playground at the Glenmona car park at the entrance to Cushendun, the erection of three artworks including a bronze goat sculpture, donated by the artist Deborah Brown at the harbour and the Cushendun Townlands Project.

The Cushendun Townlands Project was completed by the Environment Group of the Cushendun and District Development Association and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project researched information on local townlands and disseminated this among the local and wider community through the erection of signs, the production of a booklet and educational activities.

Cushendun Building Preservation Trust's Cushendun Old Church Project was the regional winner of BBC2's Restoration Village Programme in 2006. This project aims to convert the old church in Cushendun to a multi-purpose arts venue. A detailed Audience Development and Access Plan has been drawn up for this project.

In 2010, the village of Cushendun was a runner up in Calor Village Competition and winners in the older people category.





## Consultation Process

Working with the Cushendun and District Community Development Association and Moyle District Council, Community Places designed the Cushendun Village Plan process. The key steps included:

- **Briefing Meetings**
- **Village Walk Around**
- **Contact Key Groups and Organisations**
- **Desktop Analysis**
- **Publicity and Promotion**
- **Community Consultation**
- **Develop the Plan**
- **Finalise the Plan**

It was agreed that a range of consultation methods would be used to gather views from groups, individuals and businesses in the area. A summary of the consultation carried out is provided opposite.

The following groups were consulted:

- Boat Club
- Cushendun Building Preservation Trust
- Cushendun and District Development Association (CDDA)
- Cushendun Environment Group
- Folk Group Choir
- Glens Angling Club
- Glens of Antrim Historical Society
- Robert Emmet's GAC
- Shane's Park Residents' Association
- St Patrick's Church Choir
- University of the Third Age (U3A)
- Youth Club

A consultation open day was held in Knocknacarry Parochial Hall on 19 May 2011, attended by 29 individuals.

St Ciaran's School Council presented its ideas for the future of the villages. Views were gathered from all 56 children in the school and debated by the School Council.

A workshop took place at the youth club, attended by eight children and young people aged between 8 and 20.

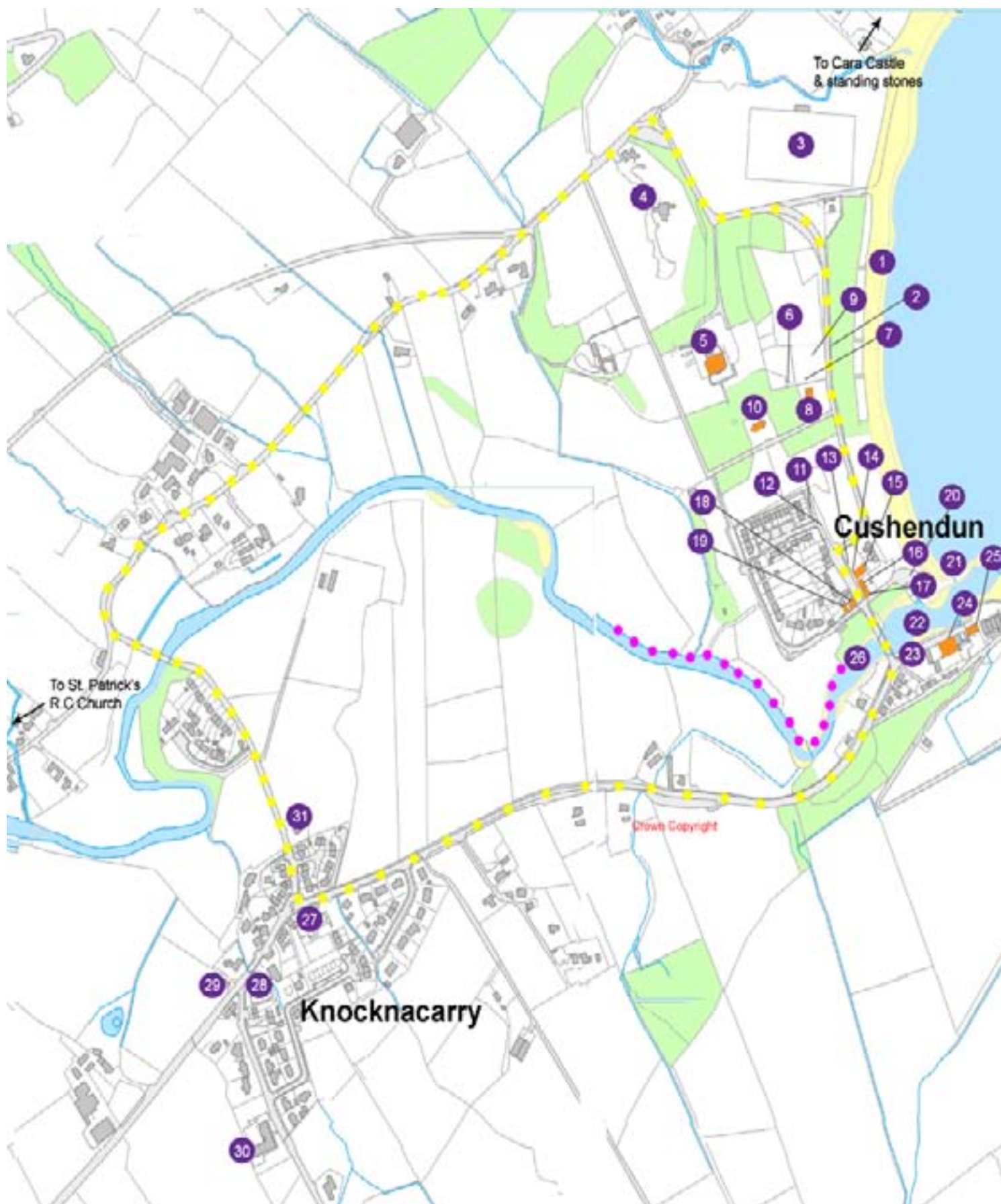
Six parents/carers were consulted outside the school and 12 local businesses were consulted.

We also consulted with five local councillors, local council officers and representatives from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, National Trust and Northern Ireland Tourist Board.



# Baseline Audit and Map

The following map and table set out a baseline audit of the social, community, environmental and council assets in the villages.



Asset	Name	Baseline Map No
<b>Halls/Meeting Places</b>	CDDA Offices	16
	Knocknacarry Parochial Hall	28
	Knocknacarry Small Hall	29
<b>Basic Services/Facilities</b>	Path between Cushendun Village and Hurling Pitch	2
	Robert Emmet's GAC, Hurling Pitch, Changing Facilities	3
	Children's Play Park	6
	Recycling Facilities	7
	Public Toilets	8
	Glenmona Car park	9
	Old Church	10
	Shane's Park	11
	Old Water Pump and Seating Area	12
	Phone Box	14
	Shop and Post Office	15
	Theresa's Tea Room	17
	McBride's Bar	18
	Public Toilets (closed)	19
	Harbour Car Park	20
	Townland Stone	21
	Harbour, Slipway and Moorings	22
	Goat Sculpture	23
	Randal McDonnell's Bar	24
	Glendun River	26
	Glendun Nursing Home	27
	St Ciaran's Primary School	30
	Parochial House and Oratory	31
	Ulsterbus Service	
	North Antrim Community Network	
Broadband		
<b>Tourism</b>	River Walk	● ● ●
	The Ring Walk	● ● ●
	Beach	● ● ●
	Caves	1
	Cara Castle	
	Standing Stones	
	Local sports and festival	
	Local architecture	
	B&B and self catering accommodation	
	Council owned caravan park	4
<b>Derelict/Opportunity Sites</b>	Glenmona House	5
	Old Glendun Hotel	25
	Land next to shop and post office on Main Street	



Asset	Name
<b>Local Groups, Clubs and Associations</b>	Boat Club Cushendun Building Preservation Trust Cushendun and District Development Association (CDDA) Cushendun Environment Group Folk Group Choir Glens Angling Club Glens of Antrim Historical Society Robert Emmet's GAC Shane's Park Residents' Association St Patrick's Church Choir University of the Third Age (U3A) Youth Club
<b>Communications and Promotion</b>	Local Press: Ballymoney and Moyle Times and Coleraine Chronicle Church Bulletin CDDA Quarterly Newsletter CDDA Websites

# Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service (NINIS) Statistics

Cushendun and Knocknacarry are located in the Glendun ward which had a population of 1084 in 2001. This ward area is considered rural. The population breakdown for the Glendun ward is shown below:

## Population and Households

	Glendun Ward	Moyle LGD
Population	1084	15933
Number of Households	302	5888
Under 16 years old	24.4%	23.7%
Over 60 years old	21.6%	19.6%
Males	49.2%	49.1%
Females	50.8%	50.9%
Average household size	2.87	2.71
Owner Occupied	78.1%	67.9%
Rented	21.9%	32.1%
Owned outright	54%	37%

Reference: 2001 Census Data

## Education

	Glendun Ward	Moyle LGD
Number of adults qualified to degree level	16.9%	13.3%
Number of adults with no qualifications	56.2%	62%
School leavers with at least 5 or more GCSEs at Grade C	82.4%	68.8%
Number of people enrolled in Higher Education courses	50	590
Number of people enrolled in Further Education courses	56	992

Reference: 2001 Census Data

## Employment

	Glendun Ward	Moyle LGD
Employee jobs in Glendun ward (2007)	152	3445
16 -74 Year olds Economically Active	61.2%	58.7%
16 -74 Year olds Economically Inactive	38.8%	41.3%
Adults unemployed	4%	4.8%
Adults unemployed long term	51.7%	44.4%
Registered farms (2008)	95	579
People involved in agriculture	176	124849
Multiple Deprivation Measure	272 out of 582 (within top 40-50% most deprived wards)	

Reference: 2001 Census Data

## Health

	Glendun Ward	Moyle LGD
Male Life Expectancy	less than 80 years old (greater than NI average 76.2)	77.6
Female Life Expectancy	less than 75 years old (greater than NI average 81.2)	82.1
Persons in good general health	68.9%	69.4%
Persons limiting long term illness, health problem, disability	22.1%	21.2%

Reference: 2001 Census Data

Glendun Ward Map







## Existing Plans and Strategies

### Tourism

Tourism is a key industry for the Moyle District Council area and an important consideration in the development of the Village Plan. The following information highlights the key aims and objectives of the various tourism documents which influence the village.

### A Draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland 2020

The draft Tourism Strategy sets out a vision to "Create the new Northern Ireland experience and get it on everyone's destination wish list." Priorities for action have been identified under four themes to deliver this vision: People; Product and Places; Promotion; and Partnership.

Under the theme of Product and Places Priority A has been set to "Complete the development of the 5 signature

projects and develop them into Signature Destinations." The associated Action Point (A2) states "Giant's Causeway and Antrim Causeway Coast Area: Encourage the development of the Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre to world class standards. Strategically influence infrastructural development of at least 22 key sites on the Causeway Coastal Route."

### Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Masterplan, 2004/2013

The Masterplan was a ten year plan commencing in 2004 and now in year seven. It sets out a framework for sustainable tourism development in the Causeway Coast and Glens area with the aim of positioning the area as a "must see world class destination." The Masterplan identifies the four following key objectives:

- To increase the number of tourists visiting the area;
- To achieve a coordinated approach to tourism in the area;
- To spread the benefits of visits attracted by the Giant's Causeway to a wider geographical area; and
- To develop strong attractions elsewhere in the area.

The third objective above is of particular relevance to the village plan process.

The Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Masterplan Progress Report 2004- 2007 notes that by March 2007 a financial investment of £10,000,000 had been directed to the project to take forward recommendations outlined in the Masterplan.

Cushendun is located in the Causeway Coast and Glens Masterplan Area.

### Antrim Coast and Glens AONB Management Plan 2008-2018

The Management Plan highlights the special features of the Antrim Coast and Glens area and reflects the views of a range of AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) stakeholders. The plan identifies four key themes: Land; Coast and Sea; Historic Environment; and Sustainable Communities. A number of recommendations to both conserve and enhance that area and protect its culture and traditions are advanced. An Antrim Coast and Glens AONB five Year Action Plan has been developed to take forward the management plan.

### Moyle District Council Tourism Action Plan 2011-2015 "Developing a National Tourism Asset"

The Action Plan sets out five Strategic Themes: Place; Product Services (including attractions); People; Positioning; and Partnership.

The Action Plan includes an annex of suggested projects for the principal tourism villages. In Cushendun, these are:

- Support the Cushendun Building Preservation Trust in its work to restore Cushendun Old Church as a multi-purpose arts venue;
- Consider the completion of the Clough William-Ellis Village Masterplan with the development of the proposed Community Hall adjacent to the village post office;
- Refurbish and re-open public toilets;
- National Trust to be visible during high season with visitor information services and guides;
- Celebrate the life and work of poet Moira O'Neill (Agnes Shakespeare Higginson);
- Consider signing an alternative Causeway Coastal Route at Mollarts Bridge (Tromra Road) on the road from Cushendun.

### Causeway Coastal Route Interpretation and Infrastructure Programme

This scheme involved infrastructure development at key sites and attractions along the Causeway Coastal Route (CCR) aiming to enhance the visitor experience in the destination. Project costs of £5 million were directed towards visitor infrastructure enhancements and new visitor interpretation. The investment will create further opportunities for visitors to increase dwell time and visitor spend in the region. The new bespoke interpretation will add value to the existing visitor offering, creating synergy between the visitor sites and a sense of identity within the region. Interpretive signage is now in place at Cushendun as part of this project.





### National Trust - Going Local, Fresh Tracks Down Old Roads, Our Strategy for the Next Decade

The National Trust describes this strategy, which was published in February 2010 as, “nothing less than a cultural revolution for the Trust.”

In this strategy the National Trust recognises that, “over time, vital links have become frayed, for instance between our largely urban nation and its countryside – and, worryingly in some cases, between our properties and the local communities which surround them.”

The strategy goes on to say that, “We must renew these relationships to foster a greater sense of shared pride and ownership.”

In order to ensure that people enjoy memorable experiences at National Trust properties, the strategy says that it will develop:

- “new ways to bring places to life;
- a wider range of activities

at properties, from nature walks and bike riding to surfing;

- open dialogues with local communities about new uses for our properties;
- new opportunities for public access to our land for food production;
- a more welcoming atmosphere for visitors, reducing signage and rules;
- collaboration with tenants and neighbours to reduce our energy use and to use resources more sparingly and efficiently;
- relationships with academic bodies to further enhance our commitment to scholarship, knowledge and conservation expertise;
- the instinct to say ‘yes’ more often than ‘no.’

For example, the National Trust has pledged 1,000 new allotment ‘growing spaces’ by 2012 as part of its Food Glorious Food campaign. The strategy states that, “Over 300 new allotments have been created at 26 National Trust sites so far, with another 500 due in 2010.”

In addition, the National Trust’s “downloadable walks” have been extremely popular ([www.nationaltrust.org.uk/walks](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/walks)) and it aims to have 1,000 free trails on offer by spring 2012.

Under the heading “Bringing places to life” the National Trust promises to develop a number of new ways for National Trust properties to be presented, including:

- “new reasons for return visits by hosting events like concerts, theatre or art shows;”and
- “the capacity of our houses to become hubs for exploring the countryside on foot, bicycle, canoe or horseback;”

Under the heading, “Life is local” the strategy states that the National Trust wants: “to put all our properties – built or natural – back at the centre of life in today’s communities, to help grow a sense of belonging, and encourage local pride and identity.”

This includes a determination to:

- “ensure our properties are

more widely available for local community groups for activities and meetings;

- hold regular social events for neighbours and friends in the locality;
- encourage dialogue and local participation in decision-making;
- advocate local procurement and recruitment policies to bind our places more closely to their surroundings;
- review locally the use of our coast and countryside properties in partnership with our neighbours and other user groups.”

For example, in Gibside, 30 community allotment plots are used by community groups and local people. Any excess food grown at the site is sold at the local farmers’ market.

### Glendun River

In September 2007, J.A.G. Cooper and D.W.T. Jackson of the University of Ulster produced a report, “Coastal processes affecting the deposition and movement of sand and gravel in the mouth of the Glendun River.” This report looks at the practice of dredging

the mouth of the Glendun River since the installation of a rubble breakwater in 1987/1988. The report presents three options for the future management of the river mouth:

- “Maintain breakwater and continue current dredging practice;
- Maintain breakwater and discontinue dredging;
- Remove or discontinue maintenance of breakwater and discontinue dredging.”

The report looks at each of these options in detail and concludes that,

“it is recommended that the breakwater be removed and dredging discontinued. This will enable the river mouth system to fluctuate freely in response to changing environmental conditions as it did before the installation of the breakwater.”

### Household Migration

A recent household migration study which looked at three areas, including the Glens of Antrim showed that migration

to the Glens of Antrim is usually associated with those aged 50 or over, whilst one in every four households surveyed recorded the out-migration of at least one adult child. In relation to population changes caused by these trends in migrations, the report states that,

“The changing population of rural areas will place demands upon a range of services and facilities provided by national and local public, voluntary and private sector providers.”

and

“an increasing number of older people will place demands upon, for example, health and social care services, services that are already challenging to deliver to remote, rural communities.”





## Draft Northern Area Plan 2016 (dNAP)

The following is a summary of the main policies that apply specifically to the villages of Cushendun and Knocknacarry. In addition to Area Plan policies, regional planning policies and guidance will be taken into consideration in assessing planning applications.

### Cushendun

The settlement limit for Cushendun is shown on the map on Page 18. The draft Northern Area Plan states that,

“The development limit will consolidate the existing form of the hamlet. Housing proposals will be restricted to small-scale infill sites. Any new development will be required to be in character with the existing built form in terms of density, height and design.”

### Cushendun Conservation Area

A Conservation Area was designated in Cushendun in 1980, and includes the whole

of the hamlet. Any proposed development must comply with supplementary planning guidance contained in the Cushendun Conservation Area Booklet.

### Open Space

Major areas of existing open space are shown on the map below. Policies relating to open space are contained within Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation. All existing open space is protected under Policy OS1 of PPS 8.

### Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)

Local Landscape Policy Areas are shown on the map below. Proposals for development within these areas will be considered within the terms of Policy ENV2 which states that,

“Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals that would be liable to affect adversely those features, or combination of features, that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a designated LLPA. Where development is

permitted, it will be required to comply with any requirements set out for individual LLPAs in the District Proposals. Where riverbanks are included within LLPAs, planning permission will only be granted where access is provided to the river corridor as part of the development proposals. Where proposals are within and/or adjoining a designated LLPA, a landscape buffer may be required to protect the environmental quality of the LLPA.”

Where additional control is considered necessary this is specified below.

### Designation CNL 01 Cushendun Coastal LLPA

Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this area are:

1. The land adjacent to the banks of the Glendun River in the vicinity of the small harbour and the coastal areas to the north and south are important to the setting of Cushendun.
2. This LLPA also contains Site of Local Nature Conservation

Importance (SLNCI) designations at Cushendun Caves, Cave House and Cushendun Bay. The Area Plan also states that:

“This area is located within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, and no further development will be acceptable other than that demonstrated to be essential for agricultural purposes.”

### Designation CNL 02 Milltown Burn LLPA

Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this area are:

1. This LLPA incorporates the wooded grounds of two listed buildings, Glendun Lodge and Glenmona Resource Centre. Due to the visual quality and sensitivity of this area within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, no further development will be acceptable other than that demonstrated to be essential for agricultural purposes.

The Area Plan also states that: “Due to the visual quality and

sensitivity of this area within the Antrim Coast and Glens AONB, no further development will be acceptable other than that demonstrated to be essential for agricultural purposes.”

### Designation CNL 03 Glendun River LLPA

Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this area are:

1. The lands adjacent to the Glendun River west of Cushendun, and extending up the Glen, are also important to the setting of the hamlet.
2. This area is within Antrim Coast and Glens AONB and contains the Glendun and Knocknacarry designated Site’s of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI).

The Area Plan also states that: “No further development will be acceptable other than that demonstrated to be essential for agricultural purposes.”

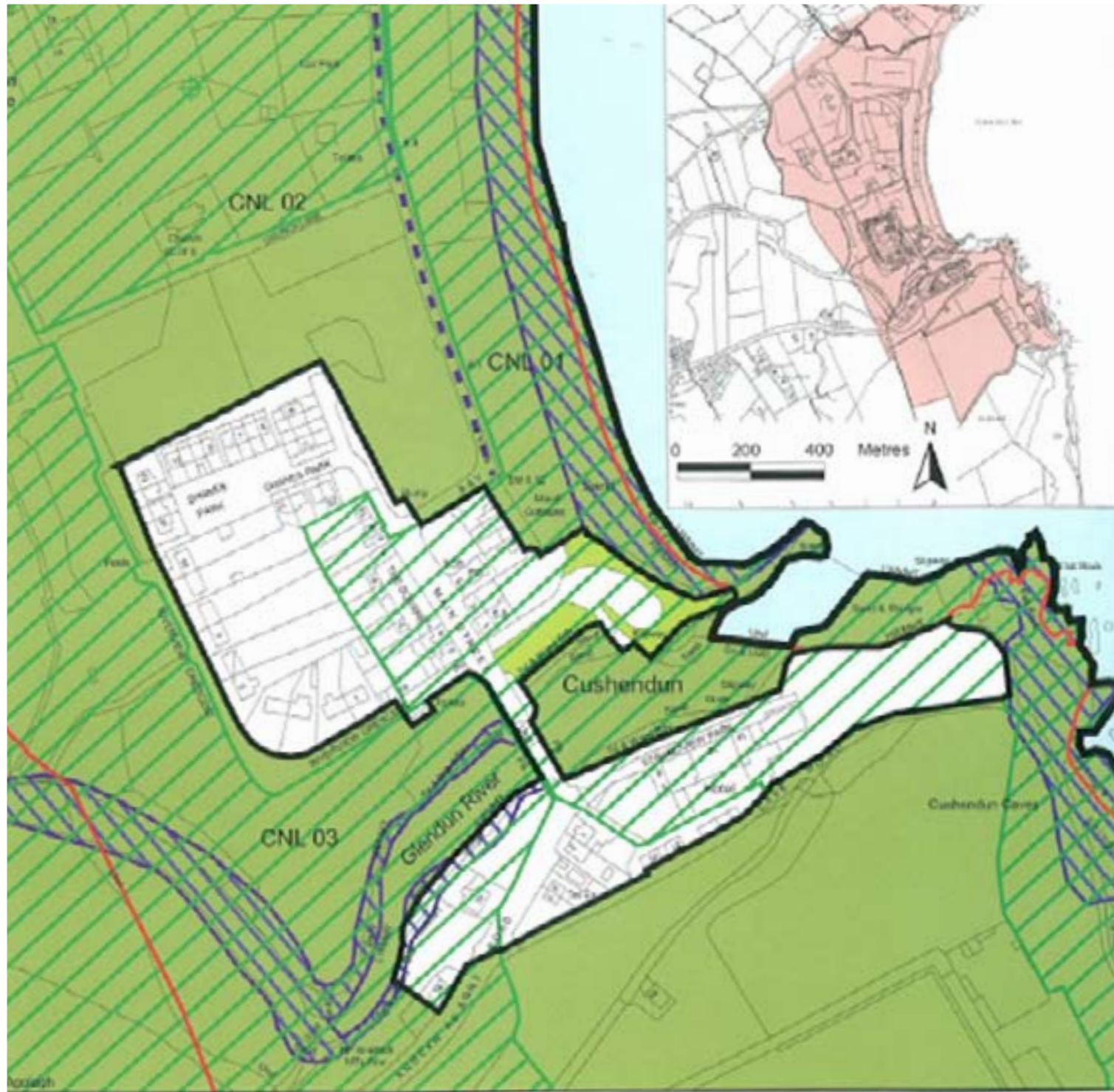
## Cushendun Conservation Area Design Guide

The Cushendun Conservation Area Design Guide provides information on the planning context and historical development of Cushendun as well as a character appraisal of the area and guidelines for development proposals. The design guide refers to the fact that not all the schemes prepared by Clough William Ellis for Cushendun were carried out, stating that,

“Proposals to implement these unfinished works, albeit with contemporary internal arrangements and standards of insulation would not conflict with the architectural ethos that has given Cushendun its present character and would clearly provide one possible option for sympathetic new development in the Village.”

The dNAP map for Cushendun, which also shows the Conservation Area Boundary is shown overleaf.





Northern Area Plan 2016 - Draft Plan

Map No. 5/11 - Cushendun

- Plan Area Boundary
- Settlement Development Limit
- Countryside Policy Area
- Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance and Area of Constraint on Mineral Developments (See Map Nos. 5/30 and 5/38)
- Local Landscape Policy Area (See Map No. 5)
- Cycle Network (Proposed)
- For Information Only**
- Major Area of Existing Open Space
- Conservation Area (See Inset Map)
- Archaeological Site & Monument (Unscheduled)

The entire land based area of this map lies within the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Area of Constraint on Mineral Developments (See Map No. 5)



OSNI Permit No. 30010  
© Crown Copyright 2005







## Knocknacarry

The settlement limit is shown on the map opposite. The dNAP states that,

“The development limit will consolidate the existing hamlet. Any development will be required to be in character with the existing built form in terms of density, height and design.”

## Open Space

Major areas of existing open space are shown on the map opposite. Policies relating to open space are contained within Planning Policy Statement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation. All existing open space is protected under Policy OS1 of PPS 8.

## Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAS)

Local Landscape Policy Areas are shown on the map opposite. Proposals for development within these areas will be considered within the terms of Policy ENV2 which states that,

“Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals that would be liable to affect adversely those features, or combination of features, that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of a designated LLPA. Where development is permitted, it will be required to comply with any requirements set out for individual LLPAs in the District Proposals. Where riverbanks are included within LLPAs, planning permission will only be granted where access is provided to the river corridor as part of the development proposals. Where proposals are within and/or adjoining a designated LLPA, a landscape buffer may be required to protect the environmental quality of the LLPA.”

Where additional control is considered necessary this is specified below.

## Designation KYL 01 Glendun River

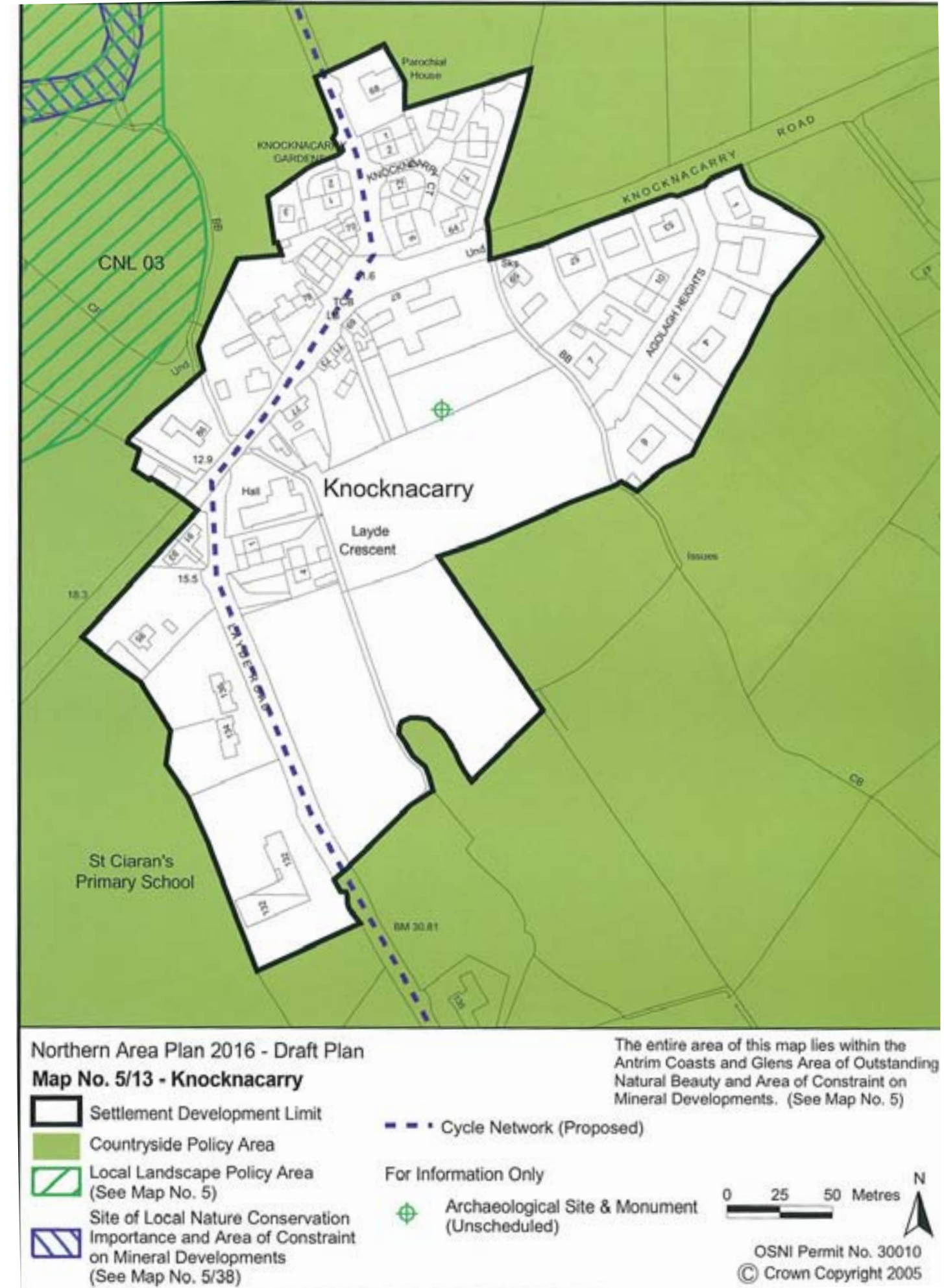
Those features or combination of features that contribute to the environmental quality, integrity or character of this area are:

1. This LLPA includes the Glendun River designated Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI).

The Area Plan also states that:

“Only modest scale development essential to the efficient operation of agriculture will be acceptable. The open character of this LLPA shall be retained.”

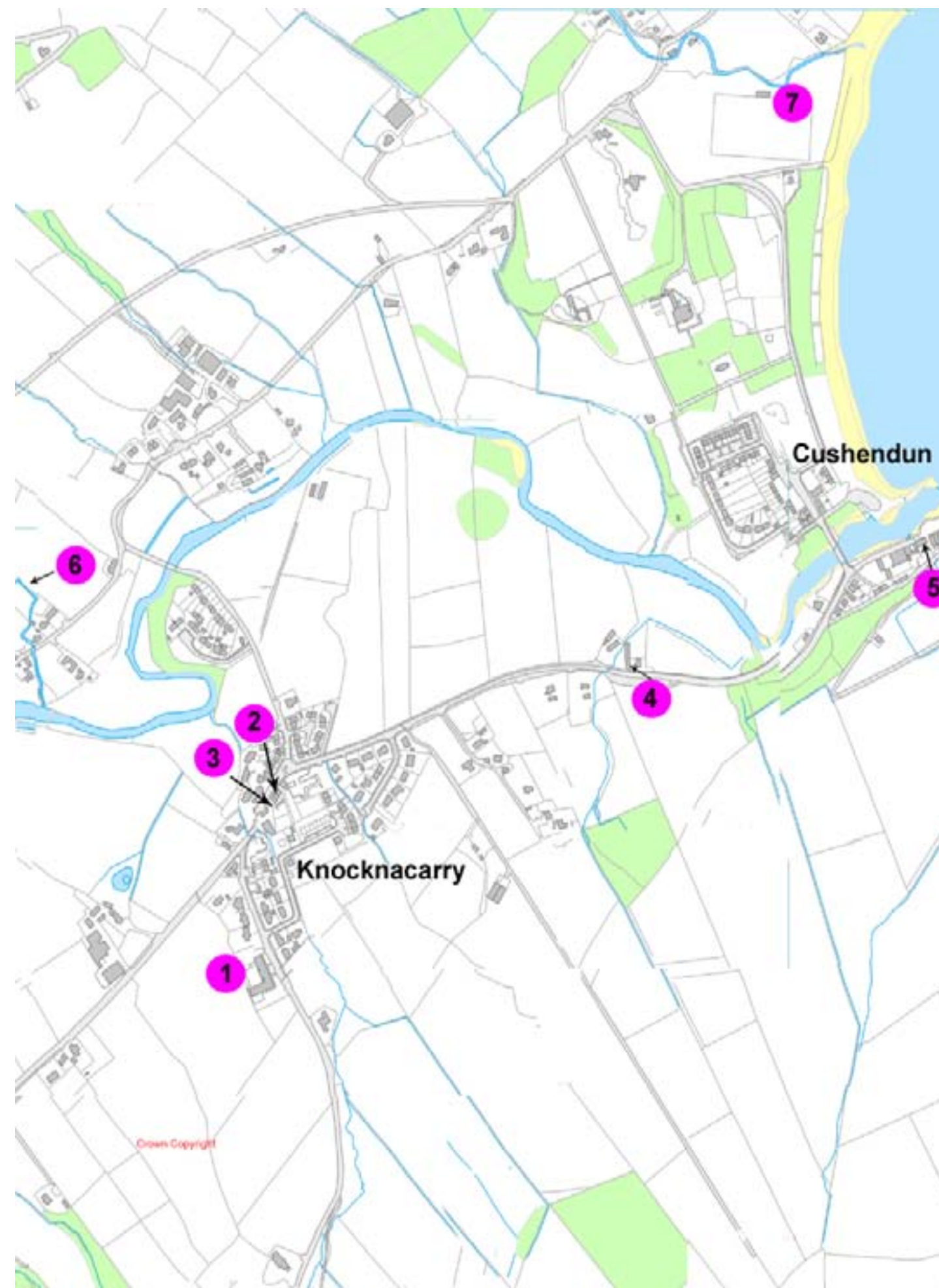
The dNAP map for Knocknacarry, is shown opposite.





# Planning History

Planning Reference Number	Site Address	Proposal	Decision	Status	Map No.
E/2008/0300/F	132 Layde Road Cushendun	Proposed extension to rear of St Ciaran's Primary School	Permission Granted, 25/11/2008	Permission expires, 25/11/2013	1
E/2005/0204/F	71-73 Knocknacarry Road, Cushendun	Demolition of existing dwellings and construction of 3 No townhouses	Permission Granted, 05/04/2007	Permission expires, 05/04/2012	2
E/2008/0154	Rear of 71 - 73 Knocknacarry Road, Knocknacarry	2 No dwellings.	Permission Granted, 10/08/2009	Permission expires, 07/08/2014	3
E/2011/0011/F	Rear of 71 - 73 Knocknacarry Road, Knocknacarry	Change of house type to 2 No previously approved dwellings	No decision yet	Consultations issued	3
E/2010/0282/F	Beside 30 Knocknacarry Road, Cushendun	Proposed conversion of 3 No existing outbuildings to 3 No self catering cottages.	Permission Granted, 27/01/2011	Permission expires, 27/01/2016	4
E/2008/0124/LB	Former Glendun Nursing Home, 16 Strandview Park, Cushendun	Alteration and extension to existing listed property to provide 4 No waterside apartments	Listed Building Consent Granted, 27/01/2009	Permission expires, 27/01/2014	5
E/2008/0105/F	Former Nursing Home, 16 Strandview Park, Cushendun	Alterations and extension to existing vacant nursing home (listed building) to provide 4 No waterfront apartments and 4 No duplex apartments to rear	Permission Granted, 27/01/2009	Permission expires, 27/01/2014	5
E/2009/0192/F	Approximately 278m south east of 153 Glendun Road, Cushendun	New fish hatchery unit along with access bridge over Glendun River	Permission Granted 2/12/2010	Permission expires 02/12/2015	6
E/2010/0098/F	Cushendun GAC Sports Pavillion, Bay Road, Cushendun	Proposed single storey extensions to the gables of the existing sports pavilion.	Permission Granted, 02/06/2010	Permission expires 02/06/2015	7





# Consultation Findings

The following ideas and issues have been identified through consultation with local groups, organisations, individuals and businesses in Cushendun and Knocknacarry and could be taken forward to shape the future of the villages.

## Toilets in Cushendun Village



The issue of the toilets in Cushendun was raised by the majority of groups who were consulted and for most of them, this was one of the most important issues in the village. At the consultation open day, participants were asked to give their views about the idea of converting this toilet block into a tourist information point which would incorporate an accessible toilet. This was the most popular idea with participants at the consultation open day.

Most groups and individuals stated that they would like to see these toilets re-opened and that this would have benefits for both locals and for tourists. They could be used by people using facilities in the village, accessing the beach from the village and by coaches that stop here.

Many of the businesses consulted also said that they would like to see the toilets re-opened. In addition, the majority of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that re-opening the toilets in the village would improve tourism. It was acknowledged that work would be required to the toilet block to make it accessible and to bring it up to modern standards, and that the site itself is limited in size. There would also be costs associated with the ongoing running and maintenance of the toilet block. It was suggested that the toilet block could be redesigned to accommodate one or two accessible toilets.

## Development of Harbour Area



This was one of the most popular ideas at the Consultation Open Day, although opinions were also expressed in opposition to this idea. One participant made the following comment in relation to this idea:

“No! Harbour area already developed fully.”

Some of the groups consulted also suggested that they would like to see development of the harbour area. Cushendun Boat Club members provided details of plans that they have previously

developed for the harbour area, including detailed drawings, which they would still like to see realised in the future. They believe that these proposals would help encourage tourism in the area as well as having benefits for local people. Many of the businesses who provided their views said the river and harbour areas were most in need of improvement.

Some concerns were also expressed about the management of the Glendun River, as highlighted in the University of Ulster’s report to the National Trust of September 2007.

## Street lighting between Cushendun and Knocknacarry (designed to reduce light pollution)



This was one of the most popular ideas with participants at the consultation open day. The following comments were made in relation to street lighting at the consultation open day:

- “Have lights round Glendun Road to village;
- Encourage people to walk between the two villages;
- Improved lighting in winter time to help wheelchair users; and
- Walking round “the ring” is a long tradition but the road is narrow with no protection for pedestrians along most of its length. Paint a white line on road surface to emphasise pedestrian protection.”

Many of the groups who were consulted said that they would like to see street lighting stating that this is a popular walking route and street lighting would help to improve safety, especially in darker months. Some concern was also expressed about the idea, in particular whether additional street lighting in this rural location is appropriate and whether it would add to light pollution. It was also suggested that the surface of the footpath could be improved on this route. St Ciaran’s School Council told us that they would like to see street lights between Cushendun and Knocknacarry as, “This road is used by the children to get to the youth club etc.”

In addition many of those who were interviewed at the school gates, as well as the majority of businesses who provided their views about the area said that they would like to see street lighting between Cushendun and Knocknacarry. One local resident commented that this should be carried out sooner rather than later, as safety issues mean that his wife, who is in a wheelchair is unable to use this stretch of road in winter and therefore can be confined to the house.

## Better play facilities for school



St Ciaran’s School Council told us that they would like to see better play facilities for the school and this was one of the most popular ideas at the consultation open day.

## Outdoor gym or “trim trail”



Many of the groups who were consulted said that they would like to see an outdoor gym. There was support for this idea at the consultation open day. In addition some of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that they would like to see an outdoor gym in the village.



### Improved toilet facilities at Glenmona car park



Most of the groups who were consulted said that they would like to see improvements to the toilets at the Glenmona car park. They were concerned that these toilets are outdated and create a poor first impression for visitors to Cushendun which does not encourage them to stay. Participants at the consultation open day were asked if they would like to see improvements to these facilities. This was one of the most popular ideas at the consultation open day and the following comments were made:

- “Toilets are better managed and maintained when they are part of an establishment. When they stand alone they become disused, poorly maintained etc;
- Toilets are very important for a tourist area such as Cushendun;
- These are a disgrace and a public health hazard; and
- These toilets are outdated and in bad repair. A new block with tourist information, showers etc. would help create a full time job for one or two local people.”

St Ciaran’s School Council also commented that, “There are not enough public toilets in Cushendun. These are very important for tourists. We would like to see shower and toilet facilities at the beach.”

In addition most of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that they would like to see improved toilet facilities at the car park. Most of businesses who provided their views about the area said that they would like to see improved toilet facilities at the car park and that these facilities could be made better use of.

### Safe cycle trails and pedestrian paths linking the village to the park and other key sites



This was a popular choice at the consultation open day and the following comment was made:

“I take it the cycle paths and pedestrian paths will be separate.”

Many of businesses who provided their views about the area said that better promotion of walks and trails would help to improve tourism in the village. One of the businesses consulted made the following comments when asked how tourism could be improved in the area:

- “Upgrade walks and trails that are existing. Promotional leaflets regarding the local history of Cushendun.”

In addition some of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that they would like to see cycle paths in the village and improved paths and trails.

### Improved Community Venue/Meeting Space



This was a popular idea at the consultation open day and the following comments were made:

- “This is needed in the area. We lost the Bay Hotel and need the village hall improved so it can be used by more of the community”; and
- “Improving village hall CRUCIAL - currently unfit for purpose for many activities.”

Many of the groups consulted said that they would like to see an improved community venue and meeting space in the area. There was concern that there are few venues where the community can meet up and socialise, especially since the closure of the hotel. They suggested that if the existing parochial hall was improved it could be used for a wider range of activities e.g. catering following funerals and community events. Most of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that existing community facilities could be made better use of. One of the businesses consulted made the following comments when asked which facilities could be made better use of:

“The Hall at Knocknacarry for dances, ceilis and concerts. The large room in the Cushendun Hotel for social evenings, talks and small dances.”

### Salt boxes on minor roads e.g. Glendun Road and Clady Road



This was a popular choice at the consultation open day. One participant commented that they would also like to see salt boxes at the Ballyback Road.

### Library van



Members of the youth club also said that they would like a better library service in the area and St Ciaran’s School Council told us,

“Perhaps a mobile library service to visit our homes.”

There was support for this idea at the consultation open day.



### Activities for young people e.g. dancing or rugby



There was support for this idea at the consultation open day and the following comments were made:

- “Hurling field a good location”;
- “Need for more trained leaders to use up the young people’s energies in more constructive ways”;
- “Redevelopment of village hall vital to this.”

Many of the groups consulted suggested that there should be more for young people in the area. At the youth club workshop,

older members of the youth club said that they would like to see more for people of their age group to do in Cushendun, for example, a gym or snooker/pool room. They also highlighted the fact that at the festival, while there are activities for both older people and younger people, there is nothing for young adults. In addition most of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that they would like to see more activities for young people.

### Sign directing traffic from Causeway Coastal Route through Cushendun



The idea of signing an alternative Causeway Coastal Route at Mollarts Bridge (Tromra Road) on the road from Cushendun to direct traffic through Cushendun was suggested in the Moyle District Council Tourism Action Plan 2011-2015 “Developing a National Tourism Asset”. There was support for this idea at the consultation open day and strong support from some of the groups consulted, who believe that this should be a priority project. At the consultation open day, the following comments were also made in relation to signage:

- “Better sited signs”;
- “Better village signs on way into village”;
- “Renaming this the Atlantic Coastal Route rather than the Causeway Coastal Route would help reinforce its status as a world class route.”

### Extend use of caravan park facilities for locals



It was suggested during consultation with local groups that the existing building in the caravan park could be used by the community for classes and other activities. There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day and some of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that the facilities at the caravan park could be made better use of.

### Improve surface of car park in front of Glenmona House



Some of the groups consulted said that improvements are needed to this car park stating that as this car park is at the entrance to the village, it creates a poor impression for visitors. A new playground has been provided in the car park but the poor surface can discourage children from using it. In addition, a safer route for children walking from the playground to the village could be provided. The village’s recycling facilities are also located in this area. Participants at the consultation open day were asked if they would like to see improvements to the car park at Glenmona House. The following comments were made:

- “The car park is very un-even and quite unsightly to look at. To get it re-surfaced would improve the look of the village immensely. The only toilets are at the car park”;
- “Long over due, trip factor, unsafe”;
- “Wholly agree - looks scruffy and provides little encouragement to stop.”

Some of the businesses and individuals interviewed at the school also said that this area is in need of improvement. One of the businesses consulted made the following comments when asked for their suggestions for bringing more tourists into the area:

- “Allow campers and caravanettes to park at harbour car park and beach car park.”

### Re-surface recycling area at Glenmona Car Park



Participants at the consultation open day were asked if they would like to see the recycling area at the Glenmona car park resurfaced. This was a popular choice on the day. Some of the groups that were consulted also said that they would like to see improvements to the recycling area at the Glenmona car park. This area is poorly surfaced and can become muddy which can discourage people from using it. In addition, there are problems with the misuse of the green waste skip. It was suggested that the skip could be relocated, so that only local people would know where it is.

### Development of a village story for promotion to visitors



There was support for this idea at the consultation open day. One of the businesses consulted made the following comments when asked for their suggestions:

“Exploit cultural tourism more - history, culture - music and Irish language of the area. Also geography/geology tours would be valuable.”



### Improvements to Old Glendun Building - painting or murals



This is the only derelict building in Cushendun. Although ideally they would like to see this building re-opened or redeveloped some groups who were consulted said that they would like to see the building painted to improve its appearance in the short term. It was also suggested that murals could be placed in the windows and that this could potentially be done through an arts project run with young people in the area. There was support for this idea at the consultation open day, although it was commented that the site should be properly re-developed, rather than a short-term fix and that murals are not appropriate in this location. Others

supported the opinion that the hotel should be re-opened. The following comments were made at the consultation open day:

- “Needs redeveloped rather than just sitting there. Don’t think painting or murals are the answer!”
- “Remove the Old Glendun Hotel - unsightly”;
- “Absolutely not! Should be properly re-developed”;
- “Lagan Developments promised when they talked to the locals about building the apartments. This was to create jobs for locals. They went back on their promise. I think they should finish what they started - re-open the Glendun!”

### Improvements to bus stop on Torr Road



On the village walkabout, participants said that the bus stop on the Torr Road is in need of improvement. There was support for this idea at the consultation open day.

### More bins and dog bins



St Ciaran’s School Council told us,

- “We need more litter bins in the Cushendun area. Also we would like to see more dog bins around Cushendun, especially on the grass on the way to the park/hurling pitch. There is a bin in the park but no dogs are allowed in the park.”

This issue was also raised by some groups and there was support for this idea at the consultation open day. The following comments were made at the consultation open day in relation to bins and dog bins:

- “Dog fouling bins visible (red) plus bags”;
- “Provide “crow-proof” lids to litter bins as the crows dive into the bins to retrieve the rubbish!” and
- “Too lovely to litter - love Cushendun, hate litter signage.”

Some of those who were interviewed at the school gates also said that they would like to see more picnic tables and bins in the village.

### Lobbying for facilities that can be shared across the Glens of Antrim e.g. swimming pool, indoor sports facility



Some of the groups consulted raised the issue of the need for facilities that could be shared across the Glens of Antrim area. They said that in particular, a sports facility like the one recently built at Dunloy is needed, which could be shared across the Glens. Some groups said that they would like to see money being spent on this type of development rather than on several smaller projects, e.g. environmental improvements. They recognised that it may not be feasible to build such a facility in Cushendun, but that sites may be available in Cushendall. Members of the youth club also said that they would like to have access to a swimming pool. There was

support for this idea at the consultation open day and the following comments were made :

- “There are a lot of visitors and most years the holiday weather does not be kind. Sports facilities would be good for villagers and locals”;
- “There are very few sports facilities in the Glens. It would be good if the local villages got together and ran a large sports hall.”

One of those interviewed at the school gates also said,

- “Concentrate on people who live here. A sports facility for the Glens area is needed. Ballycastle is too far to drive for a sports facility.”

### Encouraging shops and businesses in the area



There was support for this idea at the consultation open day and the following comments were made:

- “Sell locally caught fish and other local produce in shop”;
- “Support local shop! We are lucky to have it - use it or lose it”;
- “Subsidised farmers’ market area inside shop selling local produce”;
- “Better customer service in existing shops and businesses”;
- and
- “Extend opening hours in the shop (especially summer).”

Members of the youth club also told us they would like to see a wider variety of shops and places to eat in Cushendun. St Ciaran’s School Council also told us, “We would like to see better retail facilities in the area - shop, bakery, butchers etc.”

Some of the local business surveyed also mentioned that longer opening hours for the shop and for food outlets would be welcome.

### Support Cushendun Building Preservation Trust plans for the Old Church



Plans to convert the Old Church in Cushendun to a Community Arts Centre are being brought forward by the Cushendun Building Preservation Trust. There was support for this project from many of the groups consulted and at the consultation open day and the following comment was made:

- “Need better communication - what are these plans?”



## Angling



The local angling club has plans to build a new salmon fishery and have planning permission in place. One local business raised the issue of fishing in the area stating,

- “The rod angling could be improved a lot in the area. When you see fishing towns and villages in the Republic of Ireland how they can bring in tourists.”

## Showers at Beach



St Ciaran’s School Council told us that they would like showers at the beach. There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day. The following comments were made:

- “The showers would be a good addition to new toilet facilities. Tourists could shower before going home, leaving more sand on the beach.”

## Planting and improvement scheme in village



Some of the groups consulted said that they would like to see improved landscaping and planting in the village. Entering village competitions such as the Tidy Towns Competition would be a goal to work towards and create a focus for the community. There was also some support for this idea at the consultation open day and the following comments were made:

- “Flower project with local involvement to develop ownership;
- Development of space beside shop in Cushendun; and
- Both villages are very bare, especially in winter. The National Trust notwithstanding, some permanent planting should be done.”

It was also noted that the land opposite the area on the riverbank opposite the pub in Cushendun occupies a prominent position in the village and could benefit from better maintenance.

## Sculptures and Arts Projects



Some of the groups consulted suggested that additional sculptures could be secured. Local artist, Deborah Brown who created the goat sculpture in Cushendun also has other pieces of work which would be suitable for placement in the village. For example, her sculptures of badgers and otters would enhance the river walk. There was also some support for this idea at the consultation open day.

## Community Gardens and Allotments



Some groups that were consulted suggested a community garden or allotments. Members of the youth club said that they would like to see “flower gardens”. There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day.

## Additional landscaping/planting at Shane’s Park



During consultation with local groups it was suggested that the area to the front of Shane’s Park would benefit from additional landscaping and planting. There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day and the following comment was made:

- “Regular funds to maintain the garden sleepers and barrels, enabling us to buy plants, compost and feed to create a display all year round.”

## Maintenance of features in village - phone box and water pump



Some of the groups consulted said that they would like to see better maintenance of the old water pump and phone box in the village. There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day. The following comments were made:

- “Restore the telephone box and pump to their former glory.”
- “They could be attractions instead of eyesores.”
- “Paint the telephone box or remove it.”
- “This is surely a quick and easy win! Could we make the phone box into a “tardis museum” by putting posters inside about village history? Only one visitor at a time, but would be a novelty for tourists!”

## Community Forest



It was suggested that a piece of land owned by the Housing Executive, located next to Glenview could be made better use of, perhaps by planting a community forest.



### Additional planting along “ring walk”



Some of the groups who were consulted suggested additional planting along the ring walk. It was also suggested that a planting day could take place to get the local community involved. This could be followed by tea or a picnic. There was support for this idea at the consultation open day. The following comment was made:

- “Plant the island at Castle Green.”

### Local team to meet and greet visitors and tell them about the village



The following comments were made at the consultation open day about this idea:

- “Language training to welcome guests/visitors;”
- “Notices in different languages”; and
- “Totally agree with language sentiments.”

Some of those who were interviewed at the school gates also said that local ambassadors to greet tourists and for guided tours would improve tourism in the village.

### Outdoor multi-purpose sports area to include football, basketball, netball and tennis



St Ciaran’s School Council told us that they would like a play area for older children aged 11+ and for teenagers. They would also like an area that could be used for soccer, basketball and netball. At the consultation open day, the following comment was made:

- “Kick about area in the village (camogie/football/hurling) - hurling pitch is too far or not used.”

In addition, some of the groups who were consulted identified the area next to the shop in the centre of Cushendun as a good location for a kick-about area and many of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that they would like to see a multi-use sports area in the village.

### Extend, maintain and improve the river walk



Some of the groups consulted with said that they would like to see the river walk better maintained and extended. There was also some support for this idea at the consultation open day.

### Project promoting local myths and legends



Some of the groups consulted suggested that local myths and legends should be explored and promoted to encourage tourism and also as a way for local people to find out more about their area and its history. There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day and the following comments were made:

- “We live in an area that is steeped in myths and legends. They make beautiful stories for young children and give them a sense of pride in where they live.”

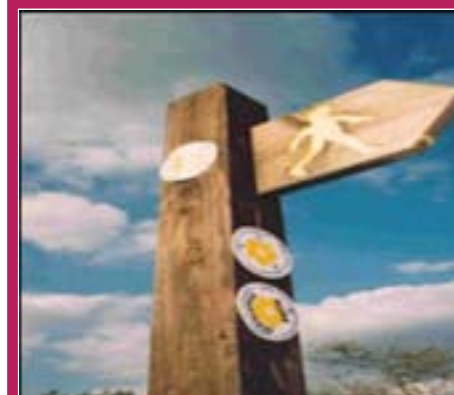
In addition some of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that promotion of local myths and legends would improve tourism in the village.

### Promotion of local sports



There was some support for the idea of promoting local sports such as tossing the sheaf, GAA sports etc. at the consultation open day and most of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that promotion of GAA sports to visitors would improve tourism in the village.

### Promotion of walks, e.g. leaflets, signage, accessibility rating



There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day. In addition some of those who were interviewed at the school gates, as well as some local businesses said that more promotion of walks and trails in the village would improve tourism.

### Village stopping point - for coaches, bikers, walkers etc.



Some of the groups consulted suggested that a coach stopping point in the village would help attract tourists to the village. There was some support for this idea at the consultation open day.



## Graffiti



St Ciaran's School Council also told us,

- "We would like to see the graffiti removed. It makes Cushendun very unattractive, especially to tourists."

## Traditional music in local pubs



Some of the businesses surveyed said that they would like to see traditional music in local pubs, to help attract tourists to the area. One of them commented:

- "Arrange with the publicans to have traditional music on a few evenings each week in the local pubs and advertise this in the tourist offices and printed guides. There are local musicians who could be engaged and there would also be the possibility of inviting bigger name musicians and singers to perform on special occasions. There could be a mini fleadh in the Village once a year with music and dancing in the open air (we've done it before)."

There was also some support for this idea at the consultation open day, with one participant commenting:

- "Encourage pub to become music venue - ease restrictions on noise, allow them an extension - whatever it takes."

## Access to health services



There were concerns about access to health in the village. It was pointed out that the nearest hospital is at least an hour away. There is a medical centre in Cushendall which is open from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. An out of hours service is available from the doctor on call, but he will only visit the housebound. In addition some of those who were interviewed at the school gates said that they would like to see a part time health clinic in the village.

## Accommodation providers



Most of the businesses who provided their views about the area said that they did not think that opportunities exist to form partnerships with other businesses in the area. One commented that:

- "Partnership wouldn't benefit as numbers are low but maybe if numbers were higher it would work."
- The following comment was made at the consultation open day:
- "To promote more help for people who provide accommodation for tourists."

## National Trust



A number of comments were made throughout the consultation about the National Trust's involvement in the village. At the consultation open day, the following comment was made:

- "National Trust needs to build bridges with village - repainting Cushendun exterior walls would be a start."

The following comments were made by some of the businesses consulted in relation to what is needed to improve tourism:

- "National trust tidying up the harbour area, very keen on own agenda, tend to neglect the village";
- "National Trust should give a bit more leeway. They could do a nice thing in front of the pub, nice picnic or sitting area to make it a bit more attractive."
- "The National Trust for many years have proved difficult get along with their arrogance to the local community needs has proved virtually impossible to make any progress in the community to an extent you eventually give up. They keep changing staff you never seem to have the same person to progress a project/idea through their organisation."

## Improvements to Knocknacarry



At the consultation open day, the following suggestions were made:

- "Brighten up Knocknacarry by painting front doors or house exteriors."
- "Improve layout/landscaping of Diamond in Knocknacarry."

## Glenmona House



Some of the groups consulted were concerned about the future of Glenmona House. Some people expressed the view that they would like to see this building used as a hotel or for tourist accommodation. Some of the groups that were consulted also said that they think this building as well as the many outbuildings could be made better use of. Many of the groups consulted were concerned about the future of Glenmona House and would like to see it used in a way which would benefit the local community. At the consultation open day, the following comment was made:

- "Glenmona House - redevelopment - what's happening?"



## Housing



At the consultation open day, a number of comments were made in relation to the need for affordable housing and the quality of development in Cushendun. These comments are recorded below.

- “Need for starter homes so that young families can stay, otherwise community will die!”
- “Fully agree - affordable housing is essential to the future of our village.”
- “Unfortunately we have the National Trust to consider.”
- “More Housing Executive houses as most of the Housing

Executive stock in this area has been sold. People do not put Cushendun down as their first choice as there are no people moving.”

- “Demolish apartments”
- “Insist all new houses are on public sewerage system/scheme.”
- “More affordable housing within the village - building permitted within the development limit rather than development outside.”
- “Use vacant plots for development.”

## Communication



At the consultation open day, the following suggestion was made:

- “Communication - let people know about outcome of consultation and progress.”

## Other

The following comment was made at the consultation open day:

- “Fence between Cushendun and Knocknacarry is an eyesore and needs replaced.”

A number of other comments were also made by the businesses consulted. They said that the children’s play park, the green beside the shop and the notice board beside the shop could all be made better use of. One business also said that generally promoting the area in tourist information offices etc. would help to improve tourism in the area stating, “ Not many people know or are aware of the North Coast and Glens of Antrim”. Businesses also commented that they would like people to:

- “Try to keep it bit tidier, and try to get more things for the youth in the area, and just improve the facilities that we already have.”

Another commented that they would like to see better controls on salmon and white trout netting. In response, a local resident commented that salmon fishing has been tightly controlled for 300 years. One resident also commented that if the river was allowed to return to its natural state, this would result in the loss of the car park in the village.





# Project Proposals

A large number of projects were identified through the consultation process, with the potential to be brought forward. Details of all the projects suggested are contained in the consultation findings section. Priority projects are identified in the table below. These have been developed taking into account the ideas and issues that emerged as priorities from consultation carried out as well as the desk research carried out into existing strategies and plans for the area. Current and future potential sources of funding have also been taken into account in the development of these projects.

Projects	Project Details	Potential Actions
Encouraging tourists to visit and stay in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic tourist information point (with accessible toilet)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider applying for funding for costed technical feasibility study</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage directing traffic from CCR through Cushendun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work together to lobby NITB and Roads Service on this issue</li> </ul>
Improve walking and cycling routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Street lighting, designed to reduce light pollution between Knocknacarry and Cushendun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby Roads Service on this issue</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycle trails along beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider applying for funding for a costed technical plan for these works</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New path and cycle trail linking Glenmona car park, Old Church and Cushendun Village</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better maintenance of existing river walk and extension of walk to Knocknacarry</li> </ul>	
Improvements to Glenmona car park and toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redesign and landscape car park area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore funding options for these projects</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refurbish toilets</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create better links to village through paths, trails and improved signage</li> </ul>	
Improved community venue and meeting place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvements to Knocknacarry Village Hall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss possibility of making an application for funding for an energy audit and some small works to the hall.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of current facilities at caravan park for community use</li> </ul>	

The projects and the actions required to bring them forward are described in more detail from page 42-53. These costs are approximate and will require market testing. It is important to note that the plan will cover the next 5 year period, 2011- 2016, new opportunities and needs may emerge and consequently a degree of flexibility may be required.

Partners	Time frame	Indication of costs	Potential Funding
Moyle District Council National Trust	Medium term	£4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Development Programme</li> <li>BLF Space and Place Programme</li> <li>Costal Communities Fund</li> </ul>
Moyle District Council CDDA	Medium term		
Moyle District Council CDDA	Short term		
CDDA Moyle District Council National Trust	Short-Medium term	£5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Development Programme</li> <li>BLF Awards for All Programme</li> <li>BLF Space and Place Programme</li> <li>Costal Communities Fund</li> </ul>
National Trust Moyle District Council	Medium term		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Development Programme</li> </ul>
Church CDDA Youth Club	Short term	£10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BLF Energy Efficient Venues Programme</li> </ul>
CDDA Moyle District Council	Short term		



<b>Projects</b>	<b>Project Details</b>	<b>Potential Actions</b>
Better play facilities	Look at potential for shared facilities that could be used by school, youth club and local community	Consider producing a Sports Development Plan and investigation of funding opportunities
Landscaping and planting scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscaping and planting scheme for Shane's Park and Cushendun Main Street</li> </ul>	Consider drawing up landscaping plan and apply for funding to implement projects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ring Walk planting day</li> </ul>	
Promoting healthier lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor gym</li> </ul>	Consider visiting outdoor gym at Larne to hear how this project was funded and developed
Activities and facilities for young people		Involve young people in development of programme for festival
		Initiate discussions with ELB Youth Service and Northern Area Children and Young People's Committee about how more could be provided
Promotion to visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Village Story</li> </ul>	Consider applying for funding to implement projects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better promotion of walks and trails</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language training and signage</li> </ul>	
Old Church Project		Continue to progress this project
Plans to develop harbour		Interested parties to meet to clarify discuss potential for this project and clarify issues
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for project implementation and management</li> </ul>	

<b>Partners</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Indication of costs</b>	<b>Potential Funding</b>
School Youth Club CDDA	Short-medium term	£5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BLF Awards for All Programme</li> </ul>
Housing Executive CDDA Moyle District Council National Trust Shane's Park Resident's Association	Short - medium term	£5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BLF Awards for All Programme</li> </ul>
CDDA Moyle District Council National Trust	Short term	£15-25,000 for gym equipment and installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Development Programme</li> </ul>
CDDA Youth Club Hurling Club Education and Library Board Youth Service	Short- medium term		02 Think Big Small Grants Project (open to young people aged 13-25)
Glens of Antrim Historical Society CDDA Youth Club/School Moyle District Council National Trust	Medium term	£3,000 for production of leaflets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Development Programme</li> <li>Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Routes and Your Heritage Programmes</li> <li>BLF Awards for All Programme</li> </ul>
Cushendun Building Preservation Trust	Medium term		
Boat Club National Trust Crown Properties	Short term		
Moyle District Council North Anrim Community Network	Short term		



# Description of Priority Projects

The following section sets out further details about the priority projects identified above, including potential actions to bring these projects forward and an indication of possible costs where appropriate. These costs are approximate and will require market testing. Sources of funding other than those listed may become available over the lifetime of the plan. It is important to note that the plan will cover the next five year period, 2011- 2016, new opportunities and needs may emerge and consequently a degree of flexibility may be required.

## Electronic Tourist Information Point (with accessible toilet)



In order to encourage tourists to explore the area, it is proposed that an electronic tourist information point is provided which would provide information about accommodation, activities and amenities in Cushendun and encourage tourists to stay longer in the area. The majority of groups, individuals and businesses consulted all said that they would like to see the toilets in the village re-opened. The existing toilet block is in good condition and would provide a good, central location for a tourist information point. This would also provide an opportunity to provide an accessible toilet in the centre of the village. National Trust

representatives told us that there are plans to open a National Trust shop in Cushendun. There is potential for staff in the National Trust Shop to take over the maintenance of these toilets. The timescale for the National Trust's plans are longer term, and it is likely that plans for the shop will not be realised until 2012 or later. It is possible that this project could be realised in the medium term. As a short term action, a technical feasibility study would help to progress this

### Next steps/actions:

- Consider applying to Rural Development Programme for funding for a costed technical feasibility study.
- Explore the potential for the National Trust to maintain this facility.

### Partners:

- Moyle District Council
- National Trust

### Potential sources of funding:

- Rural Development Programme

### Indication of cost:

- A technical feasibility study is likely to cost in the region of €4,000.

## Signage directing traffic from Causeway Costal Route through Cushendun



The idea of signing an alternative Causeway Coastal Route at Mollarts Bridge (Tromra Road) on the road from Cushendall to direct traffic through Cushendun was suggested in the Moyle District Council Tourism Action Plan 2011-2015 "Developing a National Tourism Asset". There was support for this idea at the consultation open day and strong support from some of the groups consulted. Traffic following the Causeway Coastal Route road signs currently bypasses Cushendun. It is possible that this project could be realised in the medium term. As a short term action, lobbying of the NITB and Roads Service is suggested as a way to progress this project.

### Next steps/actions:

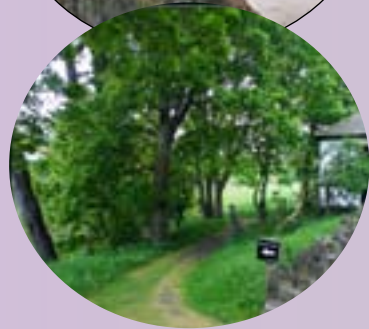
- Lobby NITB and Roads Service on this issue

### Partners:

- Moyle District Council
- CDDA



## Improve walking and cycling routes



A number of suggestions were made in relation to the improvement of existing paths and routes in and between Cushendun and Knocknacarry, as well as ideas for additional paths and trails that would better link up different facilities in the village. The idea of street lighting between Cushendun and Knocknacarry was popular with a number of groups as well as individuals and businesses consulted and with young people. In many people's view, street lighting would increase safety on this popular walking route, in particular for children and young people walking between Cushendun and Knocknacarry to the youth club, which takes place in the evening time and for children walking to and from school. The need to prevent light pollution was also highlighted through the consultation process. It is therefore suggested that any street lighting should be installed in accordance with International Dark Sky Federation guidance. The idea of safe cycle trails and pedestrian paths linking Cushendun village to the park and other key sites was also popular with a variety of groups, individuals, children and young people. For example, it

was suggested that a safer route between Cushendun Village, the Old Church and the children's park at Glenmona Car park would be welcome. It was also suggested that cycle paths could be developed along the beach. These proposed routes would better link the car park and beach to the village and encourage tourists from this area into the village. They are also likely to fit with the National Trust's strategy, "Going Local" which aims to provide a wider range of activities at National Trust properties and encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. Some of the groups consulted also suggested better maintenance of the existing river walk, as well as extending this walk to Knocknacarry. Improvement of the existing network of paths and trails in Cushendun, as well as the addition of new paths and cycle trails could potentially benefit local people, making it easier to maintain an active lifestyle, as well as improving visitors' experiences. It is possible that these projects could be realised in the medium term. As a short term action, a detailed costed technical plan would help to progress these projects.

### Next steps/actions:

- Consider applying for funding for a costed technical plan for these works.
- Lobby Roads Service on the issue of street lighting.

### Partners:

- Moyle District Council
- National Trust
- CDDA
- Roads Service

### Potential sources of funding:

- Rural Development Programme
- Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All Programme
- Big Lottery Fund's Space and Place Programme
- Coastal Communities Fund

### Estimated cost:

- It is likely that a budget in the region of £150,000 would be needed for these projects.
- A detailed costed technical plan is likely to cost in the region of £5,000.

## Good Practice Example - Street Lighting

The Somerset village of Hinton St George which raised £24,000 to install environmentally-friendly street lighting has won a US award. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) praised residents for their traditional lampposts. The lights point downwards, reducing the orange glare often seen over towns and cities. The IDA campaigns against light pollution from street illuminations, which obscure the night sky and affect "star-gazing". Awards were also given to the company which installed the lampposts, Sugg Lighting, and to Joy Griffiths, a member of the British Astronomical Association's Campaign for Dark Skies, who nominated the village. Mrs Griffiths, said: "My nomination recognises the extremely commendable decision on the part of the nominees to raise the money themselves for the lights they wanted. They are in keeping with the ancient buildings and restore the view of the night sky. The new lighting replaces hideous county council standard lamps which spread light in all directions." (Reference: [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org))





## Improvements to Glenmona car park area including refurbishment of toilet facilities, better maintenance and environmental improvements



Most of the groups consulted as well as those who attended the consultation open day, businesses, young people and others said that they would like to see improvements to the toilets at Glenmona car park. They highlighted the importance of creating a good first impression for visitors to Cushendun and the fact that improved facilities are also required for local people. During the consultation process, issues were also raised about the car park area, which is the only place suitable for coaches to park. Issues included concern over the poor surface of the car park, the poor impression this area creates for visitors and the misuse of recycling facilities which are located in the car park. Many people said that they would like to see these recycling facilities improved

or better located. This area could also be better connected to the village e.g. through the provision of safe walks and trails. (See walks and trails project)

National Trust representatives told us that in the longer term, they plan to redesign this area and to create a “green car park” which would be more in keeping with the character of the area. They would also like to see the relocation of the recycling facilities as part of this scheme. This would also provide the ideal opportunity for Moyle District Council to co-ordinate with the National Trust and to refurbish the public toilets when improvements take place at the car park. Moyle District Council should consider taking the lead in bringing forward improvements to the toilets at the Glenmona car park and the National Trust should take the lead on the redevelopment of the car park area. Both aspects of this project could potentially be funded under the Rural Development Programme.

### Partners:

- Moyle District Council
- National Trust
- CDDA

### Potential sources of funding:

- Rural Development Programme
- Coastal Communities Fund
- Big Lottery Fund’s Space and Place Programme
- Coastal Communities Fund

### Good Practice Example Jordanstown Loughshore Park

Work on the €1.34 million upgrading of facilities at Jordanstown Loughshore Park and the surrounding were completed in Spring 2011. The Council provided €670,000 towards the scheme and was awarded €670,000 by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board’s Tourism Development Scheme towards developing the Park and surrounding area. NITB is funding a range of projects along the Causeway Coastal Route, aiming to inspire visitors and make the route a ‘must see’ destination. The Jordanstown Loughshore Park scheme includes the replacement of the existing amenity block and toilets with modern facilities for caravanners and the general public, including, for the first time, a café. Work has started on the expansion of the caravan site, a new bandstand, the construction of a stepped terrace to provide access to the shore and improvements to the car park layout and public art.

## Improved Community Venue/Meeting Space



Many of those who were consulted expressed the opinion that Cushendun and Knocknacarry are in need of a better community venue to allow local people to meet and to socialise. The provision of better community facilities would also allow a wider range of activities to take place. It was suggested that facilities at the Knocknacarry Parochial Hall could be improved. Another suggestion was that the existing facilities at the caravan park could be used by the community for some activities, and that they could be made available for use year round. The Big Lottery Fund’s Energy Efficient Venues Programme or Awards for All Programme could potentially be a source of funding for works to improve the hall.

### Next steps/actions:

- Discuss the possibility of a local community group making an application to the Big Lottery Fund’s Energy Efficient Venues Programme for an energy audit of the hall and some initial works.

### Partners:

- Church
- CDDA
- Youth Club

### Potential sources of funding:

- Big Lottery Fund’s Energy Efficient Venues Programme
- Big Lottery Fund’s Awards for All Programme

### Estimated cost:

- £10,000 for stage 1 application and £50,000 for stage 2 application

### Good Practice Example

#### Quilly Rural Development Group

Quilly Rural Development Group is one of many groups across Northern Ireland that have been awarded a grant from the Big Lottery Fund’s Energy Efficient Venues programme. The programme offers Lottery cash to local groups to carry out improvements to their community venues so they make savings on their heating and lighting costs and cut down on their spending. The group, near Dromore, has been awarded £49,350 to carry out a range of improvements including insulating a wall, insulating their roof, installing double glazing and upgrading their boiler and heating system.

“The hall we’re based in is over 100-years-old,” said member Paul Roulston. We host info evenings for older people, music tuition and cultural evenings, and we’d also like to run more training and education courses. “We raised money to install central heating, but with an old building like this the power has to be on for hours before the event starts, just so the room is warm enough. These energy saving measures will hopefully mean we no longer have to use our electric heaters to turn up the temperature as these are very expensive to run. The improvements will help us save money on our heating costs and cut down on our fuel bills. We can then plough the savings we make back into the events we run, so we can carry on providing as many as possible free of charge.”



## Better Sports and Play Facilities



Children at St Ciaran's Primary School told us that they would like better sports and play facilities at their school and this idea had a lot of support at the consultation open day. The idea of a multi-use sports area or "kick-about" area was also popular with children and with a number of groups consulted. This would provide more for older children to do and could potentially also be used by the youth club as well. It is therefore suggested that new sports/play facilities are provided in Knocknacarry, where they could more easily be accessed by both the school and the youth club. This could potentially be a joint project with the school, youth club and

the local community. In recent years the Sports Council has welcomed applications where local communities and schools plan to work in partnership together. A Sports Development Plan would explore the potential for this idea to work, the benefits that it might have for the local school and the community.

### Next steps:

- Consider applying for funding for a Sports Development Plan and needs analysis

### Partners:

- School, Youth Club, CDDA

### Potential sources of funding:

- Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All Programme

### Indication of cost:

### Good Practice Example Play Facilities in Armagh

- Armagh City and District Council identified a number of wards without play facilities. Discussions were initiated between the council and Derrynoose Primary School with a proposal to make use of a piece of unused land upon their property and an agreement was reached to build a play area on the site which would be used by the school during term time 9.00am to 4.00pm Mon-Fri, while the local community have access to the site in the evenings, weekends and school holiday periods.



A successful funding application was made to the OFMDFM exemplar project scheme to promote innovative play. The completion of the park has many advantages for the school:

- Allowed the school to develop 'A Play Programme' which enabled achievement of many of the aims of the new revised curriculum;
- Allowed the school to develop their 'Active Lifestyles' programme; and
- It promotes opportunities for 'Physical Activity'.

The wider community has also benefited from having its first ever play area by:

- Becoming a focal point for families in this rural setting;
- Families do not have to travel to other play sites outside of Derrynoose;
- It provides a service for those who have no access to travel;
- The partnership agreement between the school and Council ensures that the site is well supervised and maintained at all times; and
- Good partnership working between both groups has resulted in a successful project being delivered.

(Reference : OFMDFM's Play and Leisure report on council projects)

## Landscaping and Planting scheme for Shane's Park and Cushendun Main Street



During the consultation process it was suggested that a landscaping and planting plan should be drawn up for the area to the front of Shane's Park and for Cushendun Main Street and that this should be implemented, with the objective of winning the Tidy Towns competition. Potentially local property owners and tenants could take responsibility for the care of flowers and plants. It was also suggested that the "ring walk" could be enhanced with planting and that this could take place on a planting day, getting the whole community involved.

### Next steps/ actions:

- Shane's Park Residents Association to talk to the Housing Executive about the potential for landscaping scheme at Shane's Park.

### Partners:

- Housing Executive
- CDDA
- Moyle District Council
- National Trust
- Shane's Park Residents' Association

### Potential sources of funding:

- Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All Programme

### Estimated cost:

These projects could cost approximately £5,000.

### Good Practice Example Broughshane

The Broughshane Improvement Association was formed in 1987 to carry forward environmental improvements in the village, like tidying up derelict areas of land and buildings and brightening up the appearance of the village with flowers and to involve as many people from the community as possible in this project, assisted by Ballymena Borough Council, the Housing Executive, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Agriculture. Through significant volunteer effort, and with the support of Ballymena Borough Council, this group undertakes regular village clean ups, plant and water flower beds and baskets, which has resulted in the Village receiving numerous awards over the years including the most recent as Ireland's Best Kept Small Town 2010. Creating a sense of pride in individual properties through "best kept garden" competitions, etc has helped encourage owners to maintain their own properties. Since its formation the Committee has won many awards for the floral displays and general appearance of the village. These include: N.L Amenity Council Best Kept Small Town, Colonel Sanders (UK) Environmental Award, Ulster in Bloom, Britain In Bloom, Europe in Bloom - "Entente Florale", Nations In Bloom and The Queen Mother's Birthday Award for Environmental Improvements. Broughshane was named the 2010 Calor Village of the Year, beating off stiff competition from eight other villages across Northern Ireland to win the coveted title and £5,000 cash.

(Reference: [www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk/download/files/pub\\_vr.pdf](http://www.ruralnetworkni.org.uk/download/files/pub_vr.pdf))



## Activities and facilities for young people



The need for more activities and facilities for young people was highlighted by many of those who took part in the consultation process. Some of the facilities suggested, such as a pool or snooker room could potentially be incorporated into plans for improved community facilities. It was also suggested that there could be more activities for young people as part of the festival week. It is therefore proposed that local groups, with the support of local councillors should initiate discussions with the Education and Library Board Youth Service about how more could be provided for young people of teenage years in the area. These discussions could include making further use of the Parochial Hall, its facilities and equipment. Other organisations providing youth services could be invited to run classes, workshops or schemes in the area.

### Next steps:

Local groups, with the support of local councillors could initiate discussions with the Education and Library Board Youth Service and the Northern Area Childrens' and Young People's Committee about how more could be provided for young people of teenage years in the area

### Partners:

CDDA, Hurling Club, Youth Club, Education and Library Board Youth Service

### Potential sources of funding:

02 Think Big Small Grants Project (open to young people aged 13-25 for community projects)

### Good Practice Example Wheel Works



Community Programmes are delivered by WheelWorks in response to community groups who contact them to design and deliver a specific project, workshop or service for their group of young people. Funding is normally secured by the community group, with advice on costs, structure and timescale of the project provided by WheelWorks. They welcome enquiries from youth leaders, teachers, social workers, funding agencies, festival organisers and all those working with young people throughout Northern Ireland. Recent community programmes have included:

- A youth consultation project in Antrim supported by the Community Relations Council;

- A cross-cultural board game project initiated by the Chinese Welfare Association and supported through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Re-Imaging Communities Programme; and
- Digital Music training for young people leaving the care system from the TASK Project in Dungannon.

Reference: [www.wheelworks.org.uk](http://www.wheelworks.org.uk)

## Promotion of local heritage to visitors



Many of those consulted recognised the importance of tourism to Cushendun and a number of suggestions were made as to how to promote the village and encourage tourists to stay for longer. These included the development of a village story, that could be used to promote the village to tourists and also to develop local people's sense of place. This could potentially be an inter generational project, allowing people of different age groups to share their stories about Knocknacarry and Cushendun. Another suggestion was to better promote walks and trails in Cushendun. The leaflet, "Walks through Cushendun" could be reformatted and better promoted. In addition, many of those who attended the consultation open day said that they would like local people to undertake language

training, so that visitors could be welcomed in their native language. They also said that signage in other languages would be welcomed. This could potentially be taken forward as a cross community project. This project which could potentially be funded under the Rural Development Programme, with input from local groups such as the Glens of Antrim Historical Society.

### Next steps:

Consider applying for funding for above projects

### Partners:

- CDDA
- Hurling Club
- Youth Club
- School
- Moyle District Council
- Glens of Antrim Historical Society
- National Trust

### Potential sources of funding:

- Rural Development Programme
- Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Routes Programme
- Heritage Lottery Fund's Your Heritage Programme
- Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All Programme

### Estimated cost:

£3,000 for production of leaflets



## Outdoor Gym



There was support for the idea of an outdoor gym from many of the groups consulted. This equipment can be located along a “trim trail” or can be grouped together. It is suggested that local people and representatives visit the outdoor gym in Larne and meet with those involved to find out how the project was funded and developed.

- Next steps:** Organise outdoor trip to Larne outdoor gym and develop more detailed specification for the equipment.
- Partners:** CDDA, National Trust, Moyle District Council
- Potential sources of funding:** Rural Development Programme
- Estimated cost:** £15,000 - £25,000 (depending on equipment type, number of pieces etc.)

### Good practice example

#### Outdoor Gym, Larne

- Larne Borough Council successfully obtained funding through ‘The Exemplar Play Project Pilot Scheme’ promoted by OFMDFM. The project is located around the town park/leisure centre/promenade areas of the town – areas which are adjacent to a new play park, Leisure Centre and multi surface games area. The aim of the project was to provide better facilities and sense of inclusion and engagement for the 12-16 year old age group.



The project consists of three parts –

- An outdoor gym (Town Park Outdoor Gym) of eight pieces of outdoor fitness equipment and signs;
- A fitness trail (Larne Promenade Fitness Trail) consisting of seven pieces of equipment and signs which links Larne Leisure Centre to the Outdoor Gym in the park; and
- Improvements to an existing shelter in the park to provide seating, lighting and a blue tooth music shelter.

The equipment is designed for use by anyone from 6-90 years old, making it intergenerational, and it can be used by less able people and fit people alike. Since installation, feedback has been extremely positive and the area has been well used by a variety of people of different age groups, genders and fitness levels. The next step in the project is to upload simple spreadsheets on to the Council website which people can tailor to make individual fitness plans and monitor their progress in the outdoor gym and fitness trail. The team for this project consisted of officers from community, leisure and parks disciplines with support from procurement and finance. The team travelled to other locations with similar projects to discuss the pitfalls and practical implications of the equipment and lessons learned and consultation with different groups was carried out.

Reference : OFMDFM’s Play and Lesuire report on council projects]

## Old Church Project



There was support from local groups and individuals for this project which aims to convert the old church just outside Cushendun village to a multi-purpose arts venue. Good progress has been made to progress plans for the Old Church Project which has already secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project is being led by the Cushendun Building Preservation Trust.

- Partners:** Cushendun Building Preservation Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund

## Development of the Harbour



This was a popular idea at the consultation open day. However, there are conflicting views as to whether the further development of the harbour is feasible. It is proposed that the interested parties should meet up in order to discuss and clarify these issues.

- Partners:** Boat Club, National Trust, Crown Properties

## Capacity Building

In order to progress these projects, local groups will require support for project development, implementation, fund-raising and management. This support could take a number of forms including:

- workshops and training;
- good practice visits;
- advice and support from community development organisations (e.g. North Antrim Community Network, Supporting Communities NI);
- support from the Village Renewal Facilitator;
- technical support for feasibility studies, business plans, etc; and
- bespoke, hands on mentoring and training.



### Strengths

- Archaeology and early Christian history in the surrounding areas - Fair Head, Standing Stones, Rath, Souterrains
- Heritage - Castle Carra, hurling, links to Scotland etc.
- Art and Literature - McAuley, Craig, Moira O'Neill, Masefield
- Important Architecture - Clough William Ellis and Charles Lanyon
- Natural Environment
- Angling - sea and trout
- Tourism accommodation
- Location between larger towns
- Local School
- Number of community and other groups in area
- Community Festival

### Weaknesses

- No petrol station
- Geographical isolation
- Poor access to services
- Lack of affordable housing
- Limited opportunities for development in Cushendun

### Opportunities

- Tourism potential
- Improving local environment
- Better public toilet facilities
- Developing social activities
- Developing better community facilities
- Development of harbour
- Development of angling facilities
- Development of hurling facilities

### Threats

- Changing demographics
- Lack of employment
- Anti-social behaviour
- Lack of community facilities
- Lack of affordable housing
- Poor access to services







