Neighbourhood Renewal is a government strategy that seeks to bring together statutory agencies, service providers, the voluntary sector & communities in an equal partnership to tackle deprivation.

Ballyarnett COVID 19 Community Response

The tremendous sense of togetherness and collaboration in this area has come to the fore during the COVID 19 pandemic - reinforced by the partnership working among community groups, local businesses, statutory partners and volunteers. Like many neighbourhoods across the North, local community organisations within the Greater Shantallow Area mobilised quickly and set up the Ballyarnett DEA Community Support Team on Monday 16th March 2020 to provide a co-ordinated, central, community response to the COVID19 crisis, developing and implementing a Community Resilience Plan for the Shantallow, Carnhill, Galliagh, Culmore & Skeoge areas.

The Ballyarnett Community Support Team (BCST) comprised more than 20 local C&V groups committed to the well-being of our local community and working with relevant agencies to minimise as much as possible the spread and effects of the COVID 19 infection. The response evolved over time to ensure provision of front line support to local families, vulnerable individuals, young people, asylum seekers and elderly members of the community. The Team worked closely with local faith based centres, schools, sports clubs, businesses as well as key statutory agencies such as DfC, WHSCT, E A and Derry City & Strabane District Council.

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Grant awards of between £5k and £20k are available. Organisations supported must factor in the NI Executive Pathway to Recovery plan taking into account current & potential easing of restrictions on movement and meetings.

The focus areas are as follows:
- Child Food Poverty
- Child Digital Poverty
- Gender Based Domestic Violence
- Taking Care Returning Back to School
- Responding to Loss and Grief
- LGBTQ+ Community
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Racism – Community Based Responses
- Racism – Supporting Structural Change

Priority will be given to:
- Initiatives that involve / empower those with lived experience #ShiftThePower
- Initiatives that involve locally based community organisations
- Initiatives that have clear social impact

To support potential applicants CFNI has organised a series of on-line information seminars (30th July to 11th August) - groups can book a space on one of these seminars via this link: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/comic-relief-community-support-programme-workshop-tickets-114398236204

Applications are available at www.communityfoundationni.org/
Partners within the Ballyarnett Community Support Team redeployed their existing staff/volunteers, premises and resources to help address the Covid19 crisis – a fantastic group of more than 100 volunteers and staff working 7 days a week from the beginning of the pandemic. The relationships and maturity that have been built up over many years led to an immediate understanding of who was best placed to deliver specific roles – aiding the mobilisation.

The Team have collectively delivered the key elements within the Community Resilience Plan, including: the establishment of a Community Helpline and Foodbank – provision of [weekly] food parcels to more than 1,500 individual households (shielding residents and those in food distress), provision of 1,000s of hot meals to ‘self-isolating’ residents & volunteers, be-spoke family support, fuel poverty support, online youth outreach, mental health resilience packs, online employment training/mentoring and online physical activities for all age groups and abilities, the collection and delivery of prescriptions, delivery of the EA free school meal packs, setting up online platforms for our young people to continue engaging with each other, upscaling of Good Morning North West daily morning phone calls to vulnerable adults, local welfare rights service (by telephone), family activity packs, Digital Inclusion Initiative, distribution of Grow Kits, distribution of Happy Birthday packs to young people celebrating their birthday during Covid19, Fun activity events e.g. Easter Bunny tour of the area, sourcing PPE, Community Billboard campaign and much more.

An amazing number of individuals from the area have also given generously to the appeal for donations, thus making life easier for those who are shielding, self-isolating and vulnerable to the impact of the Covid19 situation. We now move to the new ‘norm’ and the next phase of the Community Recovery Plan.

Mayor, Cllr Brian Tierney donating a sanitiser dispenser to the new community hub at Clon Dara.

For more information on services and activities at the Hub contact Nicola on T: 7116 2604 or E: nicola@shantallow.net
Ready Steady Go

The Playtrail (Liberty Consortium) have recently secured £500k from Big Lottery’s Empowering Young People Fund to deliver a new 4 year project ‘Ready, Steady, Go’.

‘Ready, Steady, Go’ is an Enterprise, Training and Social Inclusion Project led and run by young people with learning disabilities and autism aged 16-25 years.

Launching in the Autumn, the project will create volunteering opportunities for young people in a new charity shop, as well as building on the existing ‘Tea in the Park’, ‘FabLab Shantallow’ projects and many more social and evening programmes.

Check out the following video :-
www.facebook.com/theplaytrail/videos/624792708145909/?epa=SEARCH_BOX

Over the next 4 years, within the proposed charity shop, mobile coffee shop and fabrication & production lab 200 young people will receive vocational training, intensive support and work experience up to 7 days per week (over 2 years), as well as access to a wraparound social inclusion and wellbeing programme over 3 evenings and weekends.

The new charity shop will be located at Northside Shopping Centre. (cont’d Pg.5)

Culmore - Four Corners Initiative

Culmore Community Partnership have recently secured £487,475 from the Big Lottery’s People and Communities Fund to run their Four Corners Initiative over the next four years.

The project will provide local people with opportunities to address priority issues, learn new skills, avail of essential services, and contribute to the creation of a dynamic and cohesive community.

The project will create a youth forum for local young people and a weekly programme for the over 50s. The project intends to celebrate Culmore’s rich and varied history and diversity through the arts and various events. CCP are also using the funding to connect local people to essential rural services, including welfare advice, health and well-being checks, training and employment assistance.

The project aims to reduce isolation in the community by bringing local people together to promote a better quality of life through social activities and opportunities. The 4 corners to benefit from the funding are youth, the elderly, essential services, and culture & heritage. The project will employ 3 staff members and operate out of the newly refurbished Victoria Hall at the Point. The funding will also act as a further catalyst to help the Culmore Community Partnership and its renewal partners to address key infrastructural and community service deficiencies in the Culmore area.

For updates check out www.facebook.com/CulmoreCommunity/
Leafair 3G Ball Catchers

Construction work is now complete on new ball catchers at Leafair 3G Sports pitch.

The project is helping to increase promotion of Gaelic Games in the Greater Shantallow area, and follows engagement with a range of stakeholders including local clubs Brian Ógs Steelstown and Na Magha CLG, which highlighted a need for investment in Gaelic Games infrastructure in the area.

10m x 45m wide ball catchers, directly behind the goal post at each end, have been incorporated into the existing 4.8m perimeter fence around the 3G pitch. Total cost of the project was approximately £40k with a 50% contribution from Northside Development Trust matching Council’s contribution.

For more information contact the Leafair Pavilion on Tel: 7135 3735

The aim of ‘Ready, Steady, Go’ is to address gaps in current provision and areas of need for young people with learning disabilities and autism, particularly as they are a disadvantaged group, furthest away from the labour market. Young people will benefit through up-skilling, increased work readiness, gaining of meaningful work experience/volunteering, as well as being front & centre at the heart of their community. The social inclusion programme will address mental, emotional and physical health well-being.

The core elements are:

- **Ready** - preparation for work readiness, training and upskilling.
- **Steady** - on the job training and support.
- **Go** - work and progression onto external work placement.

The project was developed by young people with learning disabilities and autism. They identified that the main challenges they faced was isolation, loneliness, health concerns including their mental well-being, lack of social skills, the need for structure, getting the right support, not having confidence or the know how to do things and their voice is not being heard. They fed into the project’s development that they wanted to have relationships, make friends and have a social life with their peers. They liked being out and about experiencing new things and going places. They wanted to volunteer or have a job and feel valued and respected. They wished to lead a ‘normal’ life, have a valuable contribution to their family and feel equal to their siblings and peers.

The engagement leading to the project’s development also reflected that all parents reported the benefit and need for appropriate day and evening provision engaging young people in training, volunteering, meaningful work and opportunities to gain employment, as well as the continuation of social and well-being programmes.

For more information contact Gavin on Tel: 7136 8173

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Shantallow Community Centre

Construction work continues on the redevelopment of the Shantallow Community Centre, however Shantallow Community Residents Association are delighted to announce that their Outdoor Facilities, including the playpark, 3G MUGA and mini-golf course, have all now re-opened.

Due to the ongoing Covid19 situation there will be very strict guidelines and users are asked to pay attention to all signage. Only 10 people allowed in the Park or Mini Golf at any time; Park will be staffed at all times; golf clubs, balls and park equipment sanitised regularly. Park & golf will have separate entrances and all facilities will be closed for essential cleaning every 45 minutes.

Facilities will be open 12pm - 8pm, Monday to Friday

Sport NI in partnership with the Dept. for Communities have announced the re-opening of the Sports Hardship Fund - to help sports clubs & organisations delivering sporting activities, who are experiencing financial hardship.

The Sports Hardship Fund initially opened on 14th April and has provided support totalling £1.245m to help over 600 sports clubs maintain facilities during the lockdown.

Any organisation delivering sport and physical recreation and experiencing short term financial hardship can apply. These organisations include:

- Constituted local sports clubs affiliated to a Governing Body of Sport recognised by Sport NI

- Community & Voluntary sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation. Sports and Activities must be recognised by Sport NI.

- Small charitable trusts that do not qualify for financial help elsewhere but where the Sports and Activities must be recognised by Sport NI.

The fund aims to help sport & physical recreation organisations meet their obligations, in particular fixed costs, which are no longer supported with revenue as a result of coronavirus. This might cover expenditure on - Rent / Leases, Utility costs, Essential ground maintenance, Insurances etc...

Each successful applicant will receive £2,000 for costs incurred from 1st April 2020. Programme guidance and online application forms are available at www.sportni.net/news/sports-hardship-fund-2/

The fund is only open to new applicants. Organisations should not apply if they have already received a grant through the Sports Hardship Fund

Deadline for completed applications - 12noon, Wednesday 5th August 2020.
**Libraries Re-Opening**

Libraries NI recently announced, as part of a pilot scheme for reopening, that 90 libraries, including Shantallow Library will provide customers with a Book & Collect service from 20th July. The Book & Collect service will enable library members to phone their local library to request a selection of books and arrange contactless collection - it will remain in place until their library fully reopens.

As part of the pilot, 5 libraries reopened on 23rd July, including Central Library (Foyle Street) to allow customers access to the branch for book browsing and limited access to IT. These 5 libraries are the first phase of a larger pilot to test a new approach to service delivery which will aim to keep customers and staff safe whilst also learning lessons to facilitate the smooth reopening of other local libraries as soon as possible.

Hand sanitiser will be available for all customers entering the library and returned books will also be stored for a period in each library before being returned to the shelves. Customers are asked to follow guidance, maintain social distancing while inside each library.

Revised operational hours for the new Book & Collect service are detailed on website - [www.librariesni.org.uk](http://www.librariesni.org.uk)

Shantallow Library Tel: 7135 4185

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**Small Capital Grants Programme**

The Department for Communities (DfC) has launched this year’s Small Capital Grants Programme. With a total fund of £800k, the Programme is aimed at assisting Community & Voluntary organisations purchase items of equipment to enhance and sustain the activities & services they provide to the community.

It provides grants of between £1,500 and £5,000 towards the purchase of items such as IT equipment, sporting equipment, catering equipment and material to support arts and cultural activities.

Applications are invited from constituted organisations that have an annual income of no more than £100,000. This funding is particularly important as we emerge from the period of lockdown and may help to minimise any disruption to the community services that people rely so heavily upon.

The amount of grant available to groups is dependent on the number of partners to the application:

- 2 partner groups = can apply for £1,500
- 3 - 4 partner groups = can apply for up to £3,500
- 5+ partner groups = can apply for up to maximum £5,000

To be eligible applicants must be constituted C&V sector organisations located in NI, with an annual unrestricted income of less than £100k per year. The expenditure on capital items must be incurred before 31 March 2021.

Applications are available at [www.cooperationireland.org/small-capital-grants-programme](http://www.cooperationireland.org/small-capital-grants-programme) and submitted by 5pm on Friday 14th August 2020.
A2 Buncrana Road

Key stakeholder engagement, including with ONNP and GSAP reps, has taken place with the A2 Buncrana Road project team around a proposed Nature Based Catchment Management strategy.

The traditional approach to surface water drainage (channelling it into a pipe network) is outdated and the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) has attempted to address this. However, the implementation of Nature Based Catchment Management can take it on further – compensating for direct discharges from the upgraded Buncrana Road, including dealing with storm water, increasing capacity within the Skeoge River and Pennyburn Culvert catchments, flood reduction and reducing the capital investment needed in the sewerage and waste water infrastructure.

Opportunity Sites for Nature Based Catchment

An outcome of the initial meetings is the formation of a working group with representatives from each of the key stakeholders to guide project development – although this has been curtailed due to Covid19.

The A2 Project Team, including DfI Roads and the Engineering Consultants ARUP, are continuing to make progress with other aspects of the Nature Based Catchment Management strategy and design as planned, including hydraulic modelling and design work. A further update will follow in the Autumn 2020.

New Needs Fund

The Community Foundation NI have launched this Fund aimed at:

- helping organisations & communities to respond better, addressing new needs appearing as a result of the Coronavirus and where restrictions mean finding new ways of meeting existing needs.
- helping organisations & communities to build back better, helping to ensure organisations can thrive and continue to provide longer-term support to communities.

Organisations can apply for £1,000 to £15,000 and projects must be complete by the end of February 2021.

Priority will be given to initiatives that empower and connect community based organisations; initiatives that have a clear social impact; and initiatives that involve those with lived experience.

The Fund will close for applications at 1.00pm on Friday 28th August 2020 but will be assessed on a rolling call basis.

Applications must be completed online. For more information and to apply please visit www.communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-new-need-fund/

For further information about Neighbourhood Renewal activities in the Outer North area:

Contact Darren Kirby (Manager), Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership, Northside Village Centre, Glengallagh Rd, Derry, BT48 8NN  T. (028) 7135 8787  E. darren@shantallow.net