North Townlands Heritage Trail

Work is ongoing to progress the development of a Heritage Trail for the Outer North / Greater Shantallow area.

The lead up to the City of Culture 2013 ignited an interest in how we might better celebrate the rich and varied heritage that we have in our area – but despite a wealth of local history, our stories are simply not being told. Over the past few years, the Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership & Greater Shantallow Area Partnership have been mapping assets, having a series of conversations with key stakeholders and developing a proposal to establish a strategic trail that celebrates the diverse heritage of Greater Shantallow by a) using digital interpretation as a means of telling our stories, b) enhancing our local educational, skills and knowledge base, c) growing community tourism through social enterprise and d) extending the city-wide offer and adding to the ‘Derry’ story.

In recent months, as part of the ‘Techies in Residence’ Programme funded by Social Innovation NI and the Building Change Trust, ONNP and GSAP has worked with OLI (Outside Looking In) from Belfast to produce a smartphone app prototype - with features such as audio / video content, image galleries, image social sharing, GPS mapping & offline functionality. A further pitch was made at the Digital DNA Conference, Belfast in early June, resulting in an additional £15k to progress the prototype to a fully functioning ‘live’ app – which will be available in the iOS and Android app stores over the next year.

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Community Planning 2017 – from consultation to delivery!

Community Planning is a process led by Council in conjunction with partners and communities to develop and implement a shared, long-term vision to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of our City and District. It will also guide how our public services will work together locally to plan and deliver better services.

Following an extensive period (since June 2015) of engagement and co-design with citizens, organisations and businesses involving over 5,000 people, Council have developed the draft Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan for Derry City & Strabane District, which is now out for consultation. The consultation process will be open until 15th September 2017 after which the final plan will be published.

At a local level, eight Local Community Planning processes are now nearing completion—including the ‘Local Growth Plan’ for the Ballyarnett DEA (District Electoral Area). A Transitional Community Planning Partnership will also continue to oversee the development and implementation of the Community Planning Process.

A Copy of the draft Strategic Growth Plan is available to view and for download at www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Community-Planning/An-Update-on-Our-Community-Plan

DC&SDC have endeavoured to take into account the views of all the people consulted in preparing the plan and are now keen to hear your views on the content of this draft plan. You can respond by:

Completing an online survey at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CP2032

Emailing your feedback to: communityplanning@derrystrabane.com

Writing to: Community Planning Team, Derry City & Strabane District Council, 98 Strand Road, Derry, BT48 7NN or Tel: 028 7125 3253

Free Research Training for Beginners

NICVA is running a free research training session in partnership with Ulster Rugby on :-

19th July 2017
10.00am – 1.00pm.

The training will be held at the Kingspan Stadium and is open to anybody who currently works or volunteers within the Community & Voluntary sector.

The training is designed for those with a limited background in research.

For more information and to book a place visit the NICVA website :- www.nicva.org

2 Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership
Ballyarnett Play Park

Work is nearing completion on a new state of the art play park within Ballyarnett Country Park - the play area will contain three different zones with large scale timber play equipment for toddlers, children & older children all enclosed within a 2.4m high mesh fence.

The project is jointly funded to the value of £600k from the SIF (Social Investment Fund) and DC&SD Council through its Play Development Programme. This is one of a number of projects earmarked for the extensive parkland at Ballyarnett (as part of a draft Masterplan) and makes it an even more attractive area for the public to visit and enjoy.

This investment will enhance the infrastructure and offering within the Park and contribute to regeneration efforts across the area. The play park will play a key role in promoting social interaction and physical activity among our children / young people & local families.

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The next steps in developing a fully functioning app will include the preparation and refinement of content relating to the Trail. It’s hoped that a new Writer’s Group based at the Forge Digital Archive Hub (Northside) will contribute significantly to this content.

ONNP / GSAP have also engaged with Council Officers to develop a pilot ‘Oak Ogham’ Interpretation Panel within Ballyarnett Country Park. It’s hoped that this will be the first of a number of Ogham style panels that will be located at destination points throughout the Heritage Trail. The engagement with Council has also teased out how the Heritage Trail could link and contribute to Council’s new Tourism Destination Plan, Greenways Development plan and overall Strategic Growth Plan 2017-2032.

For further information contact Darren Kirby Tel: 7135 8787 or Email. darren@shantallow.net
Leafair Jogging / Walking Trail Launched

A new jogging trail has opened at Leafair. The trail, which is floodlit at night and circles the existing grass football pitch at the site, aims to give the public a safe place to walk and jog at any time of the day. Leafair Community Association developed the project, jointly funded by Derry City & Strabane District Council (through its Parks Management & Development programme), the Dept. for Communities (Neighbourhood Renewal) and the Northside Development Trust. The circuit provides users with a safe track away from roads, traffic and interruptions in a bid to get more people active within the community.

The 2m wide track is the latest addition to the recreation facilities at the Leafair site that include synthetic & grass playing pitches, a play area and an outdoor gym. Planning permission and funding has been secured for a new 3 storey pavilion with construction planned for late 2017 / early 2018 - clustering facilities that it’s hoped will encourage & enable local residents / families to become more active & embrace healthier lifestyles. The trail is located on elevated ground with stunning panoramic views of the city and is the perfect location to go for a walk or jog, a safe environment to fulfil fitness goals and to encourage healthy choices by taking regular exercise.

For more info. contact Catherine at Leafair C.A. on Tel: 7135 3735
Fold and Helm Housing Associations have recently merged under the new identity of Radius Housing. Following an extensive consultation process involving employees & tenants Radius Housing Association will provide services for over 33,000 households and employ over 1,000 staff. Radius aim to deliver high quality housing, increase social investment, establish apprenticeships and employment schemes for local communities, and to invest in its ICT to improve choice / service delivery. Radius, which will be the largest social enterprise in N.I., will have a significant housing presence in all 11 council areas, serviced by a regional office network spanning Derry (Office at the Collon), Belfast, Holywood, Ballymena & Newry. For more information check out www.radiushousing.org
PHYSICAL RENEWAL PROJECTS

Physical Renewal within Outer North / Greater Shantallow continues – a range of capital projects are progressing to a more advanced state of readiness through feasibility studies, economic appraisals, planning applications, design stage, land acquisition, [statutory] permissions / approvals and funding leveraged.

Galliagh Linear Park

2 further public consultation events took place on 15th June in Rainbow Child & Family Centre and in St. Thérèse’s Primary School, building on previous consultation held in Sept. 2016 (St. Joseph’s Parish Centre) where local residents provided a wealth of views and opinions on what they would like to see to improve Galliagh Linear Park & Moss Park greenfield site for the benefit of all residents and the wider community. Volunteers from the Galliagh Steering Group were in attendance at both venues to assist.

ONNP recently commissioned landscape architects, the MWA Partnership, to bring the views of residents to life and to look at what’s possible on these sites. MWA have used resident views and feedback to produce a number of sketches. These sketches were on display at the public events and used to gain further views and opinions on how we can progress with the redevelopment of these spaces.

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We now have a comprehensive picture of the potential improvements residents would like to see in terms of the environment, recreation and play, community facilities & addressing housing needs. The next stage is to agree a set of proposals which can be presented to the Derry City & Strabane District Council (under the Community Planning process), the Department for Communities and other potential funders / stakeholders in an effort to secure the necessary investment.

Concept Plans & sketches can be viewed at GSAP’s Offices, Northside Village Centre.

The Playtrail - 1 of the 50 best playgrounds in Ireland

Swings, roundabouts, slides, ziplines, tunnels, climbing frames, forest trails and scenery – the Irish Times recently (17th May 2017) published its 50 best playgrounds in Ireland. County Derry’s only commended facility was our very own Playtrail. According to the Irish Times:

The Playtrail (15 Racecourse Road, Derry). Good for: Big ‘uns, little ‘uns, inbetweeners. Not simply one playground, The Playtrail comprises 3 main separate play areas with a host of bonuses dotted along – as the name suggests – a play trail. It’s situated within the grounds of a special needs school (the facilities are closed to public during school hours). Start out gently in the junior play area, challenge the more daring on the zip wire and tougher climbing frames in the adventure zone, or fascinate curious minds in the sensory garden.

Oh, and the charming Fairy Wood is perfect for hide-and-seek. Did I mention the 200-seat covered amphitheatre/outdoor cinema? The Playtrail also hosts summer camps, children’s birthday parties and eco days throughout the year. There is plenty of parking, staff on site (who’ll happily make you a cup of tea if you ask nicely) and access to toilet facilities. (Noel O’Reilly)

On 1st April 2015 planning powers transferred from the Department of the Environment to Derry City & Strabane District Council. Council now also have powers of Local Development Plan (LDP), Development Management and Enforcement.

The purpose of the Derry City and Strabane District LDP, is to inform the general public, statutory authorities, developers & other interested bodies of the policy framework and land use proposals that will implement the strategic objectives of the Regional Development Strategy and guide development decisions within Derry and Strabane up to 2030.

Our new LDP will be prepared within the context of Council’s Corporate Plan & will co-ordinate with the Community Planning process to enable us to plan positively for the future of our District - ensuring that lands are appropriately zoned and that our infrastructure is enhanced to develop the District for future generations. The LDP will, on adoption, replace the Strabane Area Plan 1986–2001, the Derry Area Plan 2011 and the suite of current (DoE) Planning Policy Statements (PPS’s). Prior to Council making any formal decision they want your preliminary input.

As part of IMPROVE, an EU funded project which aims to facilitate the public in helping Council produce better public services, Council would like to get your early feedback on significant planning issues that the LDP will need to consider. It’s important that citizens with an interest in the future development of Derry & Strabane become engaged.

As well as formal public consultations that will be held at various stages throughout the LDP process, you can contact the LDP Team via the Council webpage www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/LDP/Preferred-Options-Paper-(POP) or by Email: ldp@derrystrabane.com

A Preferred Options Paper (POP) was published on 31st May 2017 and is open to consultation for a 12 wk period until 5pm on Tuesday 22nd August 2017. Consultation responses will then be considered by the Local Development Plan team and a report prepared to summarise responses.

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

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