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.

Leafair Well-Being Village Launched

The much anticipated and state of the art Leafair Well-Being Village is now complete and was officially launched on 26th November 2019.

The new facility offers high quality office space, recreational space for local community and sporting organisations and 4 new changing rooms for the existing 3G and grass pitches.

The Leafair Well-Being Village is a tremendous example of collaborative working between local residents, the Community & Voluntary Sector, statutory agencies and Council to deliver a fantastic community asset. It is an outstanding addition to the existing play, pitch and community facilities clustered at the Leafair site, reflecting the continued commitment to regeneration within the area, to building the capacity of our sporting & recreational clubs to become more sustainable and encouraging higher levels of participation and proficiency in sport and recreational activities.

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The Outer North Youth Forum are delivering a series of ‘Christmas Themed’ projects in the run-up to Christmas which will culminate in a Xmas Xtravaganza Night for young people in the Shantallow Youth Centre - Tuesday 10th December (7.00pm to 10.00pm)

The event will include a craft fair, food fayre and talent showcase.

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The Department of Finance has appointed National Lottery Community Fund to deliver Dormant Accounts funding in Northern Ireland.

The National Lottery is now engaging with the C&V sector to determine how this funding should be delivered. From this it will develop a strategic action plan and lay it in the Assembly. The Dormant Accounts Fund will be used to increase capacity, resilience and sustainability within the N.I. Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise sector. The Dormant Accounts funding is not derived from National Lottery activity.

To ensure this funding has maximum impact in communities across N.I., the Lottery is now consulting with the sector, with a view to opening the fund in early 2020. Based on the DoF policy directions a consultation framework has been developed; you are being asked to review this framework and tell the National Lottery what you think.

There are several ways you can get involved - a) review the framework and share your views / thoughts by sending your comments to dormantaccountsni@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk or b) attending the consultation event in the Guildhall on 12th December – 9.30am to 1.30pm. (Book a place by emailing at least 1 week beforehand with any specific access / dietary requirements).

Leafair Well-Being Village

(continued from page 1)

Now operational, the building is a key facility within the area’s range of strategic plans – the Outer North Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan, Ballyarnett DEA Local Growth Plan and the Derry S.I.F. Plan.

Total cost was approximately £1.4m with the Social Investment Fund (The Executive Office) providing £1.2m and Derry City and Strabane District Council contributing £200,000.

The facility is Council owned but community managed - with Leafair Community Association managing on a day to day basis.

The building incorporates high spec offices & multi purpose space to let or hire. If you’re interested have a quick look at the video at www.facebook.com/leafaircommunity/videos/2301672746809637/ - for viewings contact L.C.A. on 028 7135 3735
Play Strategy

Derry City & Strabane District Council in partnership with PlayBoard NI is working on the development of a Play Strategy for the area. The play strategy is very important as it will help to guide Council and its partners (including the local C&V sector) as it works to meet play need over the coming years.

As Council develop the strategy they are keen to hear the views of Children / Young People, Parents / Carers and Community Providers regarding current play opportunities - helping to get a clearer understanding of the issues that need to be addressed within the Strategy.

A Ballyarnett DEA consultation session has already taken place on 12th November but in line with Council policy the consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks, closing on Monday 20th January 2020.

Comments can be put forward through a survey questionnaire. In completing the survey it is important that you provide as much of the information requested as possible as this will allow Council to get an in-depth overview of current play provision and areas of play need.

Online survey available at :-
www.derrystrabane.com/playconsultation

N.I. Policing Plan 2020 - 2025

The Policing Board and PSNI have launched a joint public consultation on the N.I. Policing Plan.

The consultation will run for an 11 week period until 6th January 2020 and all the information is available online at www.nipolicingboard.org.uk/policing-plan.

Your views are welcome and you can do this simply online, by email or by hard copy. If you require any further information or wish to engage with the Board directly, you can contact Lyne Black at the Policing Board on Tel: 028 9040 8500 and Email: lyne.black@nipolicingboard.org.uk

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Prison to Peace and Beyond

Over 140 young people from our city attended the recent ‘Prison to Peace and Beyond Youth Event’ in the Waterfoot Hotel - as part of Leafair Community Association’s ‘Peace Impact Programme’ which is funded by The International Fund For Ireland (IFI).

The event was designed to deliver real and positive community engagement through sensitive interventions in communities. These interventions are critical to building a truly integrated, shared and peaceful society.

Guest speakers and those who shared their experiences on the night included a range of ex-combatants and people who are working at the community coalface to bring about positive change.

For more information on the ‘Peace Impact Programme’ contact Peter McDonald on Email: peter@leafaircommunity.org

PEACE PLUS

The PEACE PLUS is a new EU cross-border programme that aims to contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The programme will achieve this by funding activities that promote peace and reconciliation, and contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development of the region. It will build upon previous PEACE & INTERREG Programmes.

A series of information events are taking place between December 2019 and February 2020, running from 6pm-8pm, with registration from 5.30pm.

The local stakeholder event for Derry will take place on Mon. 20th January 2020 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm in the Guildhall.

Full documentation on PEACE PLUS, including a response form and information on how to register for one of the stakeholder events will be made available from 10th December 2019 on https://seupb.eu/peaceplus

If you would like additional information on the programme please email PEACEPLUS@seupb.eu

Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership
Culmore History Group

A new Local History Group has been established in Culmore to promote and preserve the rich and varied heritage of the Culmore Village area.

The group has begun to research, collate & develop material relating to the history, heritage and culture of Culmore, with a particular focus on personal histories.

The group intend to run a series of educational and social activities in the coming months for members and the wider Culmore community.

If you have an interest in the history of Culmore and its environs, perhaps have some material (old photos, video, audio recordings, documents, stories etc…) which you’d be willing to contribute or have digitised, or indeed would simply like some more information on this new group please contact Darren Kirby – Email: darren@shantallow.net

BALLYARNETT XMAS XTRAVAGANZA

The Outer North Youth Forum, who represent youth providers in the Ballyarnett DEA are delivering a 4 week developmental programme with 10 to 12 participants in each of 9 local youth organisations (Shantallow Youth Centre, Shantallow Youth Intervention Group (SCRA), On Street Community Youth, Rainbow Child & Family Centre, Leafair Community Assoc., Lenamore Y.C. Greater Shantallow Community Arts, Playtrail Bud Club & Pennyburn Y.C.) – approx. 100 young people aged 12 – 16yrs.

As part of the programme young people / participants will deliver a series of ‘Christmas Themed’ projects aimed at helping vulnerable members of our community. The project will also include a Xmas Xtravaganza in the Shantallow Y.C. - the culmination of all the participants’ work, with other local young people invited to attend.

The event will run from 7 to 10pm on Tuesday 10th December and will include a craft fair and a food fair, where young people will get the opportunity to explore different cultures / identities and how they celebrate the Christmas Period.

The final element of the Xtravaganza will be a talent showcase, where members / teams from each of the 9 youth organisations will put on a performance piece on stage for those in attendance – anticipate approx. 200 young people attending the final event / showcase - helping to build local cohesion, sense of belonging, civic pride, volunteerism, community spirit and social capital.

For more information contact 1 of the 9 youth providers named above or Aileen on E: aileen@onstreetcommunityyouth.net
The Greater Shantallow Area Partnership (GSAP) and its partners Apex Housing, the Outer North Neighbourhood Partnership and the new Ballyarnett DEA Local Growth Partnership have recently secured funding from the Nationwide Foundation and our local Council to underpin the establishment of a new community hub building and a range of programmes / activities within the Skeoge area.

From the new facility it is anticipated that an integrated housing and community services team will be formed to work with and for residents of the Skeoge area.

The 18 month pilot project will see the partners work with residents to not only design, furnish and programme a new estate based community drop in centre (at Clon Dara) but also give partners the opportunity to combine and pool resources differently, learning from each other in order to more effectively tackle social and health inequalities experienced by residents in the Skeoge estates.

The finishing touches are being applied to the new building and it is hoped that all services will be up and running by mid February 2020.

For more information contact Ciara Ferguson (GSAP) on Email: ciara@shantallow.net

On 1st June 2020, the Government-funded scheme for free over 75 licences comes to an end and only those in receipt of Pension Credit will continue to receive a free licence.

Customers not on pension credit will need to be correctly licensed, however they do not need to take any immediate action.

TV Licensing is developing a dedicated payment plan for over 75s, offering the option to pay in smaller, regular instalments to help spread the cost (currently £154.50 for a colour licence).

TV Licensing will write to all affected customers ahead of the change next summer to explain the payment scheme in more detail, together with the clear steps to take to get correctly licensed. There will also be face-to-face assistance and telephone support staff available for older people and their carers or families to help them apply for their licence, including a free or concessionary licence, and raise awareness of Pension Credit.

Information is available on Freephone 0800 232 1328 (recorded information) or at www.tvl.co.uk/age.
SMART CITY

Derry has established a Smart City Team driven primarily by Seagate, Council, UU and Business in the Community - the vision is to have a network of SMART Volunteers who are driven to make this region a healthier, happier and more prosperous place to live, work and visit.

All over the world, innovative cities are aspiring to become the next Smart City - taking a collaborative approach from within a city, including Government, industry, education and the community. Using data, these stakeholders can create, design and implement Smart City initiatives to benefit the city’s residents & visitors.

If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer or taking part in design thinking sessions, data training or Smart City education schemes why not sign up for more details - Email: smartcity@seagate.com.

The main aim is to show how data can help solve real life problems and demonstrate how technology solutions can bring value and benefit to our local communities.

What Would a New Ireland Look Like?

Panellists at a recent event organised by Think32 in the Shantallow Community Centre: l-r Cllr Brian Tierney (SDLP), Sean Nash (Think32), Cllr Sandra Duffy (Sinn Fein), Kieran Cunningham (IRSP), Prof. Colin Harvey (Q.U.B.) with Ciara Ferguson (GSAP) Chairing.) as part of an increasing variety of conversations being had in communities across Ireland as to what a shared and agreed Ireland for all the people of this island might look like.

Interested? Why not check out Think32’s facebook or twitter page.
Community Relations / Cultural Diversity

The Community Relations Council has established a fund of £400k to spend each year on community relations projects. This funding is intended to help C&V groups develop capacity to engage in community relations work & to enhance the community relations potential of projects they undertake.

Grants up to £10k, for project costs only and projects must be complete within this financial year. Closing date 17th January 2020. There are a few changes to the 2019-20 Scheme including a new online application process - Check out www.community-relations.org.uk/community-relations-cultural-diversity

Applicants are required to outline the outcome in the T:BUC Strategy to which the proposed project will contribute - check out www.community-relations.org.uk/together-building-united-community-information