Ballyarnett Playpark Opens

November 27th saw the ‘soft’ opening of the new play park within Ballyarnett Country Park. The much anticipated play area incorporates 3 separate zones of large scale timber play equipment for toddlers, children and older children all enclosed within a 2.4m high mesh fence.

The project was jointly funded from the Social Investment Fund (SIF) under the NI Executive’s Delivering Social Change Framework, and the Council, through its Invest in Play Programme, to the value of £600k.

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Following an extensive process of engagement and consultation with citizens, organisations and businesses the Community Plan for Derry and Strabane – the Inclusive Strategic Growth Plan - is now complete. The final strategy incorporating the views of all those who contributed has been launched. A copy is available at:-

http://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Community-Planning/An-Update-on-Our-Community-Plan

Work will continue in the new year on the Local Growth Plans (including for Ballyarnett DEA) in conjunction with partners / residents to develop and implement a shared, long-term vision to improve social, economic & environmental well-being within our local communities.

A couple of great (4 minute) videos on the Plan are worth checking out :-

Live Here Love Here are calling for you to nominate local community heroes for their Live Here Love Here Community Awards 2018.

These awards (hosted by Lesser Spotted Journeys presenter, Joe Mahon on 20th Feb) celebrate the tremendous efforts of groups and individuals making NI a cleaner, greener and safer place to live. If you know a group or an individual who deserves an award for their volunteer work carried out on for example - a positive environmental improvement, an innovative way of reducing litter or encouraging others to have pride within their community through practical actions - now is your chance to say thank you.

With 14 categories there’s something for everyone. Entry is free and easy, simply download a nomination form at www.liveherelovehere.org and return before 12 noon on 8th January 2018.
NIMDM 2017

The N.I. Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 was launched by NISRA on 23rd November. NIMDM describes the spatial distribution of deprivation or disadvantage - developed and used by Government & others in N.I. since the 1970s. They have played a pivotal role in both informing the targeting of resources to the most deprived areas & monitoring the spatial impact of policy interventions - People & Place Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy included.

NIMDM 2017 replaces the 2010 NIMDM as the official measure of deprivation in N.I. Informed through public consultation they provide a mechanism for ranking the 890 Super Output areas (SOAs) in N.I. from the most deprived (rank 1) to the least deprived (890). They include area ranks for each of 7 distinct types (domains) of deprivation, which have been combined to produce an overall multiple deprivation measure rank of the areas - consider all in order to gain a comprehensive picture of deprivation. Check out :- www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/deprivation/northern-ireland-multiple-deprivation-measure-2017-nimdm2017

Ballyarnett Playpark

(continued from Page 1)

The play park is a further commitment to accessible play provision across Outer North and one of a number of major projects earmarked as part of a Masterplan for the Ballyarnett Country Park - making it an even more attractive proposition for families to visit and enjoy the outdoors. This is a significant investment that not only enhances the infrastructure and offering within Ballyarnett Country Park but also continues the extensive regeneration efforts that are taking place across the area.

The park will help to promote the importance of ‘play’ for children and young people and act as focal point for the country park - a place for children to play and forge new friendships, while ensuring they remain healthy and active. This Invest in Play project shows what can be achieved when regional and local government and most importantly, the local community work together to create real and tangible benefits for all the community. It is anticipated that a larger scale opening will take place in Spring 2018, incorporating a community fun day event.
Off the Streets Mobile Hub Launched

Off the Streets Initiative recently launched their new ‘Mobile Youth HUB’ service. The HUB is a unique and novel way to meet the needs of young people across the Outer North area. Employing a mobile youth service, Off the Streets can deliver an even more effective & flexible response to the needs of young people regardless of where they live.

Funded by a range of sources, including Big Lottery, APEX, Radius, NIHE and Northside Development Trust this innovative project is equipped with meeting space, computers & interactive IT systems to allow OTS’s highly skilled youth leaders to provide a safe space for informal and formal youth support programmes.

More info. contact Tommy, Aileen or Louise at OTS Tel: 7135 8048

Forge Writer’s Group

The Forge Writers’ Group, based at ‘The Forge’ Digital Archiving Hub (Unit 20 at Northside Village Centre) are working to produce a book celebrating stories from Shantallow’s History in the 20\textsuperscript{th} Century, with a view to publishing the book within the next year.

Until now, the group’s early work has been available at the Shantallow People’s History Project website but in recent weeks a number of 2 page articles have been showcased in the Derry News to raise awareness of the some of the key stories likely to be in the book and to promote the upcoming project, for an example check out :-


If you are interested in the work on the group or would like to contribute to the book project please contact the group’s secretary, Mary McBrearty Tel. 7135 8787 or E. mary@shantallow.net
ICT Training

In partnership with the NWRC, Skills 2020 are delivering the following courses in the new year:

OCN NI Award / Certificate ‘Information Technology Applications’ - IT skills are now required by almost everyone for work, home and personal use. This qualification will enable you to make better use of ICT at home and will also be of benefit to those seeking employment as ICT applications are used widely in the workplace.

OCN NI Award in 'Creative Arts & Digital Technologies' - Gain new creative ICT skills for work, home and personal use. The creative Arts and Digital Technologies qualifications have been designed to meet the new skills of the sector as well as provide basic IT skills that will benefit you personally or in the world of work.

If interested please contact Minty at GSAP on 7135 8787

Skills 2020 (based within GSAP, Northside) is currently recruiting participants for the following training and employment programmes - which will be taking place over the next few months.

If you are interested in attending any of these training sessions please contact Minty or Amanda on Tel: 7135 8787
Recently formed Culmore Community Partnership, having secured funding from the (Derry & Strabane) Rural Development Programme (2014 - 2020) – Rural Basic Services Scheme has embarked on a feasibility study to explore the potential redevelopment of the Victoria Hall (Culmore Point Road) as a Heritage, Culture, Tourism & Craft Centre.

Council had previously published the Preferred Options Paper (POP) on 31st May 2017 and held a 12 week consultation period over the summer 2017. The POP provided the basis for consulting with the public and stakeholders on a series of options for dealing with key planning issues within the Derry & Strabane area.

The POP consultation and engagement took many forms in an effort to reach and encourage all citizens to engage in this significant stage of the Local Development Plan preparation. Methods of consultation included public engagement events, advertisements and web-based consultation. For a copy of the Interim Representations Report :


This Interim POP Representation Report has been prepared to provide the public and those who provided representations with a summary of the key issues raised in response to the Council's LDP Preferred Options Paper. A final Public Representations Report will be presented and published in due course (at the time of the Plan Strategy and then at the Local Policies Plan) to advise how the Council has taken the representations into account in the preparation of the Derry City and Strabane District Local Development Plan.

The Rural Basic Services Scheme will deliver capital funding to support the creation of new rural hubs that will deliver multiple services to the local community – with a particular focus on Health & Well-Being within the community.

Culmore Community Partnership has also engaged with the owners, The Honourable The Irish Society, and are considering an offer to lease the Victoria Hall on a long-term basis.

This is a very exciting development for the Culmore area as it provides an opportunity to redevelop this asset (continued on page 7)
Victoria Hall - Heritage Centre?

and to create a community space where all members and groups within the community can meet for social and leisure activities.

As part of the feasibility study CCP are keen to ascertain firstly what activities the community would like to see taking place within a refurbished Victoria Hall. In tandem with this process CCP have also engaged MWA Partnership (Chartered Landscape Architects) to survey and determine the resources required to make the building safe and ready for use.

CCP has also just completed a questionnaire survey of 20+ local organisations within the area so that a complete and comprehensive picture for potential future use can emerge – these results will also help inform an economic appraisal for the proposed Heritage, Culture, Tourism & Craft Centre.

Steeldown Brian Ógs Scoop
GAA Community Award

A big congratulations to Steelstown Brian Ógs on scooping the Special Achievement Award for Community Enhancement at the recent Ulster GAA Awards / Gala Dinner - in recognition of the Club’s ongoing work to promote Gaelic Games & Cultural Activity within the Greater Shantallow area, in particular the successful Outer North Summer Scheme 2017.

This summer’s ‘Street Gaelic Initiative’ delivered Gaelic games and multisport sessions within the estates / neighbourhoods making up the Greater Shantallow, targeting local children, young people and their families.

Coaches from the Derry Senior County Team and Steelstown Brian Ógs ran the project over a full week in early August, in partnership with County Derry GAA and a range of local youth providers (Off the Streets Initiative, Shantallow Youth Club, Lenamore Youth Club etc…) and local C&V groups (Leafair Community Association, Cornshell Community Network, Shantallow Community Residents Assoc., Glenabbey Community Association, GSAP and ONNP), culminating in a finals day / community event at Steelstown Brian Ógs GAC grounds in Ballyarnett.

James McGurk, Michael Heffernan, Ann Lindsay and Ger Roarty receiving award from Ulster GAA President Michael Hasson
Main Grants Application
Deadlines Announced

BBC CiN Main Grants Programme will consider applications requesting grants of over £10,000 to support projects for up to 3 years.

Registered charities and not for profit organisations in the UK can apply if they are supporting children & young people of 18 yrs and under who are experiencing disadvantage through :-

- An illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Living in poverty or deprivation

Organisations must be working to combat this disadvantage and make a real difference to children and young people’s lives.

There are 3 deadlines for initial applications in 2018 :-

- 16th January 2018
- 17th May 2018
- 13 September 2018

For questions relating to the grant programmes contact pudseygrants@bbc.co.uk or check out the BBC website.

Christmas at Northside

For the 2nd year running Council, through its Event Funding Programme, have supported Christmas Events in each of the district’s five Neighbourhood Renewal areas - linked to Council’s overall Christmas marketing campaign - this year themed ‘Sound of Light’.

Once again the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership in tandem with the management team and traders at Northside Shopping Centre plus a range of local community organisations delivered a 1 day festive event in the heart of the Greater Shantallow / Outer North area.

The event, held on 14th December at Northside Village Centre included a Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On and visit from Santa plus Christmas Market Stalls (local crafts, businesses, C&V groups), performances from local School Choirs throughout the day, a range of kids characters and balloon modelling.

In the run up to the event local households were also encouraged to participate in a ‘Light Up Your Christmas’ competition focused on window & garden displays at their own homes - 5 local winners were selected by an independent judging panel and presented with their prizes at the event - the winners were located in Fernabbeay Drive, Brookdale Park, Liscloon Drive, Amelia Court & Carnhill estate.

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

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