

**Gortnaghey Village Plan**

June 2018

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**1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

**Why Have a Village Action Plan?**

Village Action Plans are being developed as part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme Village Renewal measure operated by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. This measure aims to ensure an integrated approach to assist villages and their surrounding areas to realise the potential of their economic, social, cultural and environmental resources.

This plan, for Gortnaghey, was commissioned by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with funding from the Council and DAERA.

**About the Plan**

This plan has evolved by consulting with local groups and residents to ensure that everyone could have a say and that actions put forward were those considered important to the majority and have the ability to implement. The plan highlights actions that can be taken forward by people within the community; it can be used to influence statutory bodies and service providers and can be used as evidence of the need for various projects when applying for funding. The plan is designed to act as a framework for action in Gortnaghey; it provides groups with a vision and direction for moving forward and shows collective will in developing the village for the benefits of locals and visitors alike.

**The Process**

The plan was developed over a number of months and involved local residents and groups in Gortnaghey putting forward their views about how they would like to see their area develop over the next five years. Key to this process was revisiting the existing Village Plan to establish progress to date and identify those issues and actions which remain relevant, in addition to referencing for action any emerging concerns or projects ideas.

**Village Planning Framework**

***Phase 1- Review and Analysis***

* To carry out a detailed socio-economic analysis of the area to include population, age structure, health, education and economic activity.
* To consider the wider context, plans and policies that impact on the village, including Community Planning.
* To review any existing village plan and identify progress updates.

***Phase 2- Research and key ideas***

* To consult with key members of the community to make connections and understand how the village works.
* To carry out consultation meetings with local groups and organisations to enhance the new Village Plan and to ensure ideas are gathered.
* To analysis these ideas and separate them into groups and priorities.

***Phase 3- Village Design and Development***

* To highlight key ideas and look at ways to implement these putting in place a robust and realistic integrated village action plan identifying what needs to be done, why it is an issue, how it will be tackled, who will be involved and when it should happen
* Validate Plan with those involved.

**2. THE BIG PICTURE**



*Credit: Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan*

**Community Plan**

“*The purpose of community planning is to develop a long term vision and plan for the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all its citizens based on thorough analysis of needs, priorities and opportunities in order to address them*[[1]](#footnote-1)”. The Community Planning model establishes a clear focus on partnership and collaboration, working with local communities being a primary goal.

Acting as an integrated framework for development and delivery the Community Plan is a key strategic document for communities and villages across the Borough; as such each Village Plan will seek to contribute to the long term strategic outcomes set out in the Community Plan, namely:-

* A thriving economy
* A healthy safe community
* A sustainable accessible environment

**A Thriving Economy**

The Community Plan acknowledges the need for improved local employment opportunities, accessible skills training and learning, regeneration, modern infrastructure and the potential for innovation, including the use of the Borough’s unique natural assets. The village plan seeks to contribute to economic development in rural areas by identifying opportunities for growth and sustainability, including the social economy.

**A Healthy Safe Community**

This outcome area recognises that the Borough is predominantly rural and that this, along with projected ageing population growth, presents particular challenges in relation to both access to services and the threat of rural isolation, particularly amongst for older rural dwellers. In addition to being concerned with the physical fabric and infrastructure of each village, the plans will also seek to address these challenges, recognising that overcoming them is integral to building cohesive and sustainable rural communities.

**A Sustainable Accessible Environment**

The Community Plan recognises the need to strive for balance in protecting and sustaining the Borough’s unique environment whilst also meeting community, tourism and commercial needs. This includes the need to provide fit for purpose infrastructure and access to services, including ease of access to outdoor spaces and the coastline for the benefit resident communities and visitors. Village plans reflect this at the local level, identifying actions which protect and respect the character of our rural communities while also supporting their growth and sustainability.

**Northern Area Plan 2016**

The Northern Area Plan 2016 is the development plan for the four legacy Council Areas of Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady and Moyle and operates as the local development plan for the Council area until the Council adopts its own Local Development Plan.

The Plan states that, in respect of Gortnaghey, *“Altahullion Hill lies to the west of the hamlet, and there are extensive views to the east over the River Roe to Benbraddagh[[2]](#footnote-2)”.*

**Local Development Plan**

Local Development Plans form the basis of land use planning and decisions on planning applications within the Borough. They set out what the Council area will look like and how land should be used and developed. At the time of producing Village Plans (2017), Council’s Development Plan Team were in the initial stages of producing the Borough’s Local Development Plan 2030. A series of topic-based Discussion Papers had been drawn up to inform the process. Of relevance to the Village Plan for Gortnaghey was the following:-

Education Health Community Facilities

* Gortnaghey is served by a pre-school, a primary school and a community owned community centre and multi activity hub

**3. THE LOCAL PICTURE**

**Location, Context and History**

Gortnaghey comprises two townlands namely Gortnaghey Beg meaning ‘little Gortnaghey’ and Gortnaghey Mor ‘big Gortnaghey’, the latter ironically being smaller than the former. Deriving from the Irish Gort na hAithe meaning ‘the enclosed field of the kiln’, the village of Gortnaghey has evolved as two distinct clusters of development with an area of primary public housing at Gortnaghey Road and private housing at Beech Road.

Gortnaghey is located 5 kilometres north west of Dungiven and 13 kilometres south of Limavady. Altahullion Hill lies to the west of the hamlet, and there are extensive views to the east over the River Roe to Benbraddagh. There is a primary school and the Church of the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, community hall and two retail units within the hamlet. Gortnaghey has experienced an increase in population since 1991 reaching 285 in 2001, and is designated a Hamlet in the Northern Area Plan 2016.

There are a number of local groups operating in the village, including Gortnaghey Community Association, St Colm’s GAC Drum, Roundabout Playgroup, St Mary's Primary School Parents and Friends. The Community Association was founded in June 1996 and provides a range of services to local residents and opportunities for social interaction including Senior Citizen Social Club, Youth Club and Mother & Toddler Group. The Association also acts as a valuable conduit between residents and Council, feeding back on a number of issues.

Additional community facilities are the Community Centre and multi activity hub, operated by Gortnaghey Community Association, which hosts to a range of community based activities and services including Irish Dancing Classes, Buggy Workout, Combat & Tone and Zumba, 3G hiring facilities, birthday party packages, social functions, card school, Summer Scheme and Annual Festival, seasonal events at Christmas and Halloween for all the family, Monthly Independent Advice Clinic, signposting for other services such as Blood Transfusion, Warm Homes, Hearing Clinics, other community venues events, and the playing fields at St Colm’s GAC Drum.

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| **Gortnaghey Assets**Gortnaghey Community CentreGarden of Love at the junction of Glenview Park and Gortnaghey RoadSt Colm’s GAC DrumHistoric places of interest:* Derrylane Flax Mill
* The Fort at Gortnaghey Road
* Ruins of St Mary’s Old Church
* The Fort at Gortnaghey Road
* Newly restored St Mary’s Old Church to residential property

Dolphin – Guest House and Bar |

Socio- Economic Analysis

The previous Gortnaghey Village Plan (2011), used statistics from the 2001 Census and the NI Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010. Figures from the 2011 Census became available from June 2013, and this report uses them along with mid-2016 NISRA Mid-term Population Estimates. The NIMDM 2010 has not been updated as yet, so figures from it remain unchanged. Gortnaghey is located within the Highlands Ward.

* The resident population of the Highlands Ward recorded at the 2011 Census was 1,969 people and 2,061 at 30 June 2016 population estimates
* The population increased by 22.37% between the 2001 and 2011 Census
* 23.31% (2011) of the resident population are under 16 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 20.8% (2016)
* 11.68% (2011) of the resident population are over 65 years of age in comparison to the NI average of 16% (2016)
* 49.11% of the usual resident population belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion with 49.01% (2011) belong to or were brought up in the Protestant and other Christian Community background
* 50.33% of local people had low or no qualifications in 2011, which is higher than the NI average of 23.65%
* 62.37% (2011) of adults between 16 – 74 years are economically active. This is lower than the NI average of 66.22% (2011)
* 17.62% (2011) of the population have a limiting long-term illness, health problems or disability
* The Highlands Ward falls within the top 25-30% of most deprived areas in NI *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*
* Employment ranks within the top 20-25% whilst Access to Services ranks at 10% *(No change – NIMDM 2010 Index)*

**Building on Foundations – Progress from the Previous Village Plan**

The previous (2011) Action Plan identified a series of actions for village renewal in Gortnaghey. Progress made in moving on these actions has included the completion of the first phase of the development of the community centre and the services available from it, in addition to installation of defibrillators at Gortnaghey Chapel and St Colm’s GAC Drum.

The plan identified need for improved signage, environmental improvements, consolidation of community services, parking solutions, and strengthening community based initiatives; these actions remain relevant and highlight the importance of community engagement in village renewal.

A number of significant developments and initiatives have been taken forward in and around Gortnaghey village in recent years. Included in these are:-

* Increased range of services available from the community centre and the formation of a sporting and recreation hub – the popularity of the Community Centre placed increased pressure on the availability of particular resources, specifically the indoor hall. There are now three weekly keep fit classes, children's play park facilities, walking path, 3G MUGA pitch, increased school use for extended school programmes, after schools and shared education programmes, weekly birthday party packages at centre, annual princess ball, a circular jogging route and additional parking spaces
* Raised beds at Park entrance, daffodil planting around centre, annual litter picks
* St Colm’s GAC Drum has developed its facilities:
* A training pitch for all year round use (sand based top)
* Floodlights have been installed so that facilities could be used in winter months
* Safety fence
* Ball wall
* Ball catchers
* The overall untidy appearance of the partially completed vacant housing development sites has been addressed. The road and paths have been tidied up and street lights have been put in place. Invitations to purchase are with the estate agent and its now a matter of building the houses
* Some improvements have been made to the overall streetscape within the 30 mph zone to upgrade it such as raised manholes and missing kerb edgings have been repaired. Planting is still to be done, however

These developments provide a sound base for taking forward plans at both individual group and the wider village level. Gortnaghey Community Association provides a valuable community presence, working at local level. A range of activity programmes and events are delivered from the Gortnaghey Community Centre, a valuable community asset, owned and managed by Gortnaghey Community Association.

Future initiatives and projects under consideration include:

* The Community Association has applied to the Rural Basic Services Scheme to put in place pathway lighting, disabled play park equipment and a high quality public realm for outdoor events, such as themed parties in the park. This work is to begin in June 2018
* Put in place boundary fencing around the Park to create a compound within the park for the storage of park maintenance equipment
* Turn the existing disabled toilet in the gym into a changing room with a hoist for disabled users
* Create an outdoor calendar of themed events

**4. WHAT PEOPLE SAID**

**Consultation Process**

The Village Plan for Gortnaghey was informed through:

* Review of existing 2011 Village Plan
* Consultation with local groups including:
	+ Gortnaghey Community Association
	+ St Colm’s GAC Drum
	+ Roundabout Playgroup
	+ St Mary's Primary School
* Public drop in event (October 2017)

**Summary Findings**

As the village planning process for Gortnaghey developed it became clear that a number of strategic themes were emerging; these were largely in keeping with the 2014 Plan. The consultation feedback obtained via the planning process is summarised below, under those strategic theme headings.

**Defining the entrances to Gortnaghey**

Signage was identified as key to enhancing the sense of arrival to Gortnaghey and welcoming people to the village and improved signage could include more inviting entrance and exit points to the village creating a sense of arrival and village identity.

An issue that came up during the course of the consultation was the incorrect spelling of Gortnaghey in official publications, in which the second “g” is omitted.

**Environmental improvements within the village centre**

In terms of the physical fabric of the village some upgrade has taken place, but there is still scope for improvements to be made that will increase safety and enhance the overall aesthetics of the village. Proposed safety measures include increased traffic calming interventions (signage was erected identifying the school zone) but it is suggested that surface and rumble strips should also be put in place outside St Mary’s Primary School and at the junction of the Gortnaghey Road and Beech Road.

The community is keen to see the overall aesthetics of the village improved, by using high quality public realm at the Village Green and enhancing it with new lamp posts, seating and trees, which would complement a street tree planting scheme and hedging and edging treatment. The general streetscape upgrade would also see the addition of flower beds. The environmental improvements within the village centre will create a safe, welcoming and attractive environment for residents and visitors alike.

**Consolidation of community services at the Gortnaghey Community Centre**

A wide range of community services are delivered from or based at Gortnaghey Community Centre, and the previous plan set out the two phased process that would see the development of the community centre allowing for the enhanced provision of and consolidation of community services. Phase I has now been completed, which is a sports and recreation hub incorporating a MUGA, playpark, circular jogging route and additional car parking spaces. Phase II will see the addition of street lighting to the pathway, disabled play park equipment and upgrade of a public realm for outdoor events.

Discussions informing this theme included the value of future retail opportunity in the village. A local convenience shop was opened in 2014, but it has since been placed on the market. Development of the community centre may open further opportunities for retail development, and it is acknowledged that consultation with local landowners is necessary for any development proposals.

**Localised parking solutions**

While parking during day time hours is not required to the same extent, parking in the evenings and at weekends is in high demand. There is a serious lack of off-street car parking spaces within the residential areas of Glenview Park and Beech Road, and cars are often mounted on the existing footpaths and grass verges, impeding pedestrian movement. A suggestion put forward to address the parking issue is that the Village Green could be re-designed to create more car parking spaces. Parking issues are a major priority for Gortnaghey.

**Comprehensive network of formalised footpaths and interpretative walking trails**

Desire was expressed to see the development of formalised footpaths that would increase both accessibility and the safety of residents and visitors to the village, for example extending the street lighting and footpaths along Beech Road to the end of the road, and a dedicated footpath along the southern edge of Gortnaghey Road northwards from the McCartney’s Gateway. This would also provide a formalised walking route to the GAA grounds.

Walking trails offer significant potential for Gortnaghey, offering recreational activity for both local residents and visitors to the area. The Gortnaghey Heritage Trail could be developed, and it is recognized that the relevant permissions from landowners should be sought where the trail may affect private property.

**Strengthening Gortnaghey’s community based initiatives**

It was felt there was scope for greater community participation and engagement in general through a varied range of events for everyone. In particular, the need for a Regeneration Steering Group was stressed which would oversee the community working together on various regeneration initiatives and programmes and promote Gortnaghey in a variety of ways.

**5. VISION AND PLAN FOR GORTNAGHEY**

This Section puts forward the plan proposals for Gortnaghey. An over-arching vision for the area is set out followed by proposals for action under each of the themes which emerged during the planning process.

**Vision**

The vision set out for Gortnaghey in the Village Plan is:-

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| **To create a sustainable and welcoming village environment which uses our physical assets, heritage and culture to benefit residents and visitors alike** |

**SWOT Analysis**

Following analysis of community consultation feedback, a village SWOT analysis was developed for Gortnaghey:

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| **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
| * Community spirit and gatherings
* Functions that include everyone, playgroup, school, church, sports club and community
* Willingness from all to come together for the greater good of all in the area
* Young population
* The village is growing and has housing development underway
* Nestled within a rural landscape
 | * Lack of adequate car parking is a major issue. Cars are often mounted on existing footpaths and grass verges impeding pedestrian movement
* Lack of footpath between the village centre and St Colm’s GAC Drum
* Lack of lighting on the footpath to the club compromises the safety of children at the pitch
* Traffic calming measures are required. Previous concerns raised by parents resulted in school zone signage, but more could be done
 |
| **Opportunities** | **Threats** |
| * Area behind the community centre could be utilised. Plans have been drawn up for an extension to the community for re-locating the playgroup
* The demand for afterschools activities provides the opportunity for further community initiatives, integration and cohesion as well as providing a basic service and meeting the needs of families in Gortnaghey
 | * The area alongside the community centre is being used for fly tipping
* The local shop has been put on the market
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Findings from the consultation were drawn together under priority themes in order to take Gortnaghey forward. They are reflective of the previous Village Plan themes in order to provide consistency; in some cases themes have been amalgamated to provide greater cohesion and efficiency in implementation.

As much as possible, the identified actions sought to build on the previous plan in addition to needs identified through consultation in addition to considering the wider policy and strategic environment, including the Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens. The following Action Plan was subsequently drawn up:-

**Theme: Defining the entrances to Gortnaghey**

Rationale: To create an attractive, welcoming and accessible village environment

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| **Project****Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority &** **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes**  |
| Re-enforce gateways to enhance sense of arrival and enhance entrance signage Improved welcome and directional signage  | With the exception of the standardised Road Service signs, gateway sites do not exist within GortnagheyDefine the village boundaries There is scope to improve directional signage both to the village and to various destination points in and around the villageHeighten the sense of arrivalStrengthen the village identity Visitors feel welcomed and are aware of the many historic and scenic sites on offer | Gateway features at key locations in the villageDevelop through consultation with local residents to identify the style and design which reflects the character and historical references of Gortnaghey | Medium – Years 2 – 3 | £20,000 | RDPCouncilRoads Service | CouncilArts Council of NIGortnaghey Community AssociationTourism NI | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Upgrade of existing bus shelters | Although brightened up through community painting schemes, the bus shelters are dated and fail to reflect the character of the village | Lobby Translink for replacement combination bus and cycle shelters | Medium – Years 2 – 3 | £20,000 | CouncilTranslink | CouncilTranslinkGortnaghey Community Association | Outcome 8;Sustainably managed natural and built environment |

**Theme: Environmental improvements within the village centre**

Rationale: To create an attractive, welcoming and accessible village environment, building on work already undertaken and maximising the village’s location

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| **Project****Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority &** **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes**  |
| Add flower beds | To create an attractive environment for residents and visitors alike | Maintain and build on village planting scheme to celebrate village heritage and character | High – Year 1  | £2,000 | RDP | Gortnaghey Community Association | Outcomes 1; 6; 8;Health and Wellbeing; Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Enhance village centre point – “Village Green” – with new lamp posts, seating, trees | To create an attractive environment for residents and visitors alike | Maintain and build on village planting scheme to celebrate village heritage and characterStreet furniture, inc. benches, planters and binsBest kept garden competitionPurchase and installation of lighting | High – Year 1  | £2,000£18,000£20,000 | RDPVillage RenewalCouncil  | CouncilGortnaghey Community Association | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Pathway lighting around the park for walkers/ runners; disability access at play park – specially adapted equipment such as swings, roundabout, play panels, picnic benches  | To create a safe and accessible recreational environment for residents and visitors alike | Purchase and installation of lightingPurchase and specially adapted play equipment | High – Year 1 (starting June 2018) | £30,000 | Rural Development Programme/ Local council/GCA | Gortnaghey Community Association | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; Health and wellbeing;Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |
| General streetscape upgrade | Detracts from the overall aesthetics of the villageEnsures Gortnaghey is seen as a positive place in which to live, work and investThe quality of the linkages between the village arrival points and the village centre will be enhancedPromote and sustain community interest and involvement in the long-term management of the village | Research funding sources and apply for grantsConsult with a landscape architect to design the upgradeEncourage residents to get involved in the designing and planning process to keep them engaged and take “ownership” of and responsibility for the village | High – Year 1 | £70,000 | CouncilRoads Service | CouncilGortnaghey Community AssociationNIEA | Outcomes 4; 8; Safe; Sustainably managed natural and built environment;  |
| Environmental improvements at the Village Green | This is proposed to the central section of Gortnaghey Road to the area known locally as the “Village Green”Provide the opportunity to reintroduce an element of ‘green’ usable spaceThe space could be used for holding small events | Consult with a landscape architect to design the public realmEncourage residents to get involved in the designing and planning process to keep them engaged and take “ownership” of and responsibility for the village | High – Year 1 | £200,000 | CouncilNIHE | CouncilGortnaghey Community AssociationNIHE | Outcomes 4; 8; Safe; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Street tree planting | Contributes to the landscape and local identity whilst providing an element of screening, shelter and shade | This would form part of the landscaping scheme within the public realmUse tall growing tree varieties with a proven upright habit | High – Years 1 – 2  | £10,000 | Council Roads ServiceVillage Renewal | CouncilGortnaghey Community Association | Outcome 8; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Hedging and edging treatment | Screening and enclosure is needed at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, as currently this is only provided by a low metal fence and trees | Form part of the wider street scape project | High – Year 1 | £7,500 | Council Roads Service | CouncilGortnaghey Community Association | Outcome 8; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Traffic calming interventions | Increased traffic volumes are placing pressure on the main thoroughfare in Gortnaghey, and excessive speed is also usedIncreased safety | Speed tables which incorporate a surface texture and rumble strips ensuring that motorists are aware that special measures are in place at the following locations:* The junction of the Gortnaghey Road and Beech Road
* Immediately outside St Mary’s Primary School
 | High – Year 1 | £50,000 | Council Transport NI | CouncilGortnaghey Community AssociationEducation Authority | Outcome 4; Safe |

**Theme: Consolidation of community services at the Gortnaghey Community Centre**

Rationale: To ensure access to services and support is available for Gortnaghey residents, contributing to opportunities for personal development, business growth from a vital community asset

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| **Project****Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority &** **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes**  |
| Extension to community centre and scope for further extension (Phase II of the Community Hub) | Ease the pressures on future services within the centre by providing additional facilities to relocate the playgroup, provide an outdoor store and outdoor toilet facilities for playpark users | Undertake a feasibility study to assess the sustainability of future plansPlans have been drawn up for the proposed facilities  | High – Medium Year 1 - 4 | £200,000 | Cocktail of funders | Gortnaghey Community AssociationPlaygroup | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; Health and wellbeing;Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |

**Theme: Localised parking solutions**

Rationale: To alleviate the parking issues residents face in the evenings and weekends

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| **Project****Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority &** **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes**  |
| Village Green | Redesign of the Village Green presents opportunities to formalize on-street parking spaces to cater for those properties that front onto this central space | Consult with a landscape architect to develop concept drawings and designSource, apply for and secure funding | High – Year 1 | £150,000 | NIHECouncil Village Renewal | NIHECouncilGortnaghey Community Association | Outcome 8;Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Address the parking issues atGlenview Park and Beech Road | While demand for car parking is greatly reduced during the day when residents are at work, the shortage of spaces is apparent in the evenings and weekendsCars are often mounted on existing footpaths impeding pedestrian movementThe localized parking issue will be alleviated Overall quality of life will be improved for the residents of Glenview Park | A section of the existing open space to the rear of Glenview Park could be utilised for additional car parking spaces The Village Green could be re-designed to create more car parking spacesThe lack of adequate car parking results in people parking on the kerb and grass verges at Beech Road | High – Year 1 | £10,000 | NIHECouncil Village Renewal | NIHECouncilGortnaghey Community Association | Outcome 8;Sustainably managed natural and built environment |

**Theme: Comprehensive network of formalised footpaths and interpretative walking trails**

Rationale: Gortnaghey is set within a rural landscape, which presents the opportunity for residents and visitors alike to engage with the countryside and grow their appreciation of the village and area

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| **Project****Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority &** **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes**  |
| Formalised walking routes to the GAA grounds | The location of St Colm’s GAC Drum at the upper section of Gortnaghey Road along one of the approach routes to the village poses major accessibility and safety problemsSt Colm’s GAC Drum contributes enormously to village life within Gortnaghey and its clubhouse and facilities are well utilized. This will improve accessibility and safety for those using the facilities  | There could be two formalised walking routes to St Colm’s GAC Drum grounds:1. A dedicated footpath along the southern edge of Gortnaghey Road northwards from the McCartnery’s Gateway2. A dedicated walking and cycle trail from the lower end of Beech Road. This would be achieved by way of a re-opened lane adjacent to No. 21 Beech Road to connect with the laneway adjacent to the GAA groundsExtend the street lighting and footpaths along Beech Road to the end of the roadConsult with various landowners along the proposed routesConsult with the Roads Service | High – Year 1 | £50,000 | Council  | CouncilGortnaghey Community AssociationST Colm’s GAA, Drum | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; Health and wellbeing;Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Gortnaghey Heritage Trail | A walking or cycle trail taking both visitors and residents through the heritage of GortnagheyEncompass key heritage destinationsProvide wider links to the surrounding environment and neighbouring settlementsRaise both visitors’ and residents’ awareness of the village’s rich culture and historyThe interpretative literature would complement the trail and assist in connecting all the highlighted elements to help articulate relevance to the village and the wider community | Finalise the route of the heritage trailSeek relevant permissions from landowners where the trail may affect private propertyErect interpretative signage along the heritage trailPedestrian access to Fairy Fort could be formalised via an existing gateDevelop literature on the interpretive walking routes | Long term – Years 4 – 5  | £100,000 | Council Heritage Lottery Fund | Gortnaghey Community Association  | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |

**Theme: Strengthening Gortnaghey’s community based initiatives**

**Rationale:** Gortnaghey benefits from strong community leadership and has a strong sense of community pride. This is a strong base to build from in order to develop enhanced facilities, services and activities.

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| **Project****Action** | **Why is it an Issue?** | **How Will it be Tackled?** | **Priority &** **Timeframe** | **Indicative Cost** | **Potential Funding Sources** | **Potential partners (inc. lead)** | **Linkages to Community Planning Outcomes**  |
| Form a Regeneration Steering Group | Encourage collaborative workingIncrease and promote integration amongst the community groups, clubs and associationsImproved communication between groups working in Gortnaghey and build greater respect for each other’s effortsGreater collaboration on funding and increased capacity to deliver projectsIncreased sustainability | Creation of activities, programmes, services and events built on collaboration between existing groups and agencies Promote the advantages of developing a Regeneration Steering Group with a view to one being set upDevelop capacity building programme to include improvement of communications and PRDevelop community information in collaboration with all groups to showcase and regenerate Gortnaghey | High – Year 1  | Time investment | - | CouncilAll groups | Outcomes 5; 12;Positive relationships; Knowledgeable and skilled |
| Expanding membership of the Gortnaghey Community Association  | One of the key challenges for Gortnaghey in ensuring the sustainable growth of the village is the need to ensure that an appropriate community group is in place with the primary responsibility of championing the initiatives Wider community representation can be achieved Residents will be given a voice with which to engage with the CouncilThere will be a central focus from which funding applications can be made | While the existing Gortnaghey Community Association will form the basis of the group, consideration should be given to the recruitment of additional members  | High – Year 1  | Time investment | - | Gortnaghey Community Association  | Outcomes 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; Health and wellbeing;Children and young people; Access to information; Safety; Positive relationships |
| Promote Gortnaghey in village award schemes | When the opportunity arises, the village could be submitted to a range of Village Award Schemes throughout the UK and Ireland e.g. Tidy Towns | Provide information on services and attractions at the edge of the settlement on key approaches to improve awareness of existing assets and activities  | Medium – Years 2 – 3  | Time investment  | - | All groupsCouncil  | Outcomes 5; 6; 8;Positive relationships; Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Establish a Gortnaghey newsletter and website | Promote an improved image of the villageEffective way of communicating to all residents those decisions or proposals put forward by the Community AssociationNews can be easily distributed and at the same time raise the profile of the village | Newsletters could be displayed on notice boards at strategic points throughout the villageMeetings between the Community Association and local newspaper representatives would ensure that positive news stories are also regularly promoted | High – Year 1 | £3,000 | RDPAwards for All | Gortnaghey Community Association Council  | Outcome 5; Positive relationships |
| Production of a Gortnaghey promotional brochure | Effective way of reaching a target audience to highlight the elements Gortnaghey has to offer | Using attractive imagery and colours in its design along with a refined and clear content will increase the brochure’s ability to elevate the status of the village as a place to visit, live or invest | Medium – Years 2 – 3  | £3,000 | RDPAwards for All | Gortnaghey Community Association Council Tourism NI | Outcome 5; Positive relationships |
| Organise environmental clean ups | To clean up and improve the image of the villageFoster community relations Creating a greater sense of shared ownership and civic pride | Liaise with Council to encourage more frequent cleaning of the footpaths around the village Encourage people to use the binsCo-ordinate local groups and volunteers for village clean ups | High – Year 1 | Time investment | Council Keeping Northern Ireland Beautiful | Gortnaghey Community Association Council  | Outcomes 6; 8;Unique natural and built landscapes; Sustainably managed natural and built environment |
| Develop a Gortnaghey events calendar  | Keep the community informed of upcoming events Provides the opportunity to forge and promote new events which could involve a teaming up with neighbouring towns and villages Avoid clashing of and increase the promotion of events held by various organisations and businesses in the village  | Develop an events calendar that can be used by all the community organisations to help plan and design eventsThe calendar could be made available and promoted through community organisations’ social media platforms, at the community centre and in the parish bulletinEncourage Gortnaghey’s private businesses such as the Dolphin, the Flax Mill and the cottage industries (e.g. bobhran maker, home bakery, crafts, people who run their businesses from home) to be involved and raise their profile | High – Year 1 | Time investment | - | Gortnaghey Community Association Council Private business sector in Gortnaghey | Outcome 5; 9;Positive relationships; Opportunities to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy |

**Prioritisation:**

In order to proceed with implementation, potential Village Renewal actions have been prioritised as follows:-

1. Address the parking problems at Glenview Park
2. Enhance village centre point - “Village Green” - with new lamp posts, seating, trees
3. Pathway construction with lighting to Drum GAC grounds

**Community Planning Outcomes**

**Outcome 1:**

All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens benefit from improved physical health and mental wellbeing

**Outcome 2:**

Our children and young people will have the very best start in life

**Outcome 3:**

All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens can live independently as far as possible and access support services when they need it

**Outcome 4:**

The Causeway Coast and Glens area feels safe

**Outcome 5**:

The Causeway Coast and Glens area promotes and supports positive relationships

**Outcome 6:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area is widely recognised and celebrated for its unique natural built landscapes

**Outcome 7:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area has physical structures and facilities that further growth, access and connections

**Outcome 8:** The Causeway Coast and Glens has a sustainably managed natural and built

Environment

**Outcome 9:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area provides opportunities for all to contribute to and engage in a more prosperous and fair economy

**Outcome 10:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area attracts and grows more profitable businesses

**Outcome 11:** The Causeway Coast and Glens area drives entrepreneurship and fosters innovation

**Outcome 12:** All people of the Causeway Coast and Glens will be knowledgeable and skilled

**Other Considerations**

Every effort has been made to ensure that the action plans developed for each village are comprised of realistic and achievable project actions. In some cases, issues have been raised which are of real concern to local people but may be beyond the remit of the Village Plan – aspirational as opposed to achievable. In these instances, such issues are identified in the Village Plan as a concern but have not been included as a practical action point.

With respect to Gortnaghey, the following issues have been raised:-

* Extension to Community Centre to accommodate existing Playgroup, as they currently operate from a converted barn and so all services in the village are utilised from one area (plans currently being drawn up for planning approval)
* Resurface the entire Gortnaghey Road as it is a patchwork of repairs
* Extend the street lighting and footpaths along Gortnaghey Road and Beech Road to the end of the road

**6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

It is recommended that Gortnaghey Community Association establish a sub-committee to provide a co-ordination role to ensure the actions within this Plan are progressed. The sub-committee should be representative of the village community and should involve public, private and community interests.

Individual project actions will be taken forward by relevant organisations, individuals or collectives as identified in the Action Plan. Only the people in the area, familiar with its history and offerings, can make the Action Plan become reality.

As groups research and investigate the best way forward in each project area, the full financial implications will become known and applications for funding and fund-raising activities will take place. It is recognised that Council and RDP will not have sufficient funds to carry out all the activities in this plan and other sources of funding will be required. The full Village Plan provides details of potential opportunities to grasp.

The Association will liaise with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council on an ongoing basis to monitor progress and implementation of identified actions.

Appendix Socio Economic Analysis

Gortnaghey is located in the Highlands Ward

**Population estimates**

The estimated population of The Highlands Ward at 30 June 2016 was **2,061**, of which **1,057 (51.3%)** were male and **1,004 (48.7%)** were female.

This was made up of:

* **506** children aged 0-15 years
* **624** people aged 16-39 years
* **657** people aged 40-64 years
* **274** people aged 65 years and older

Between 2006 and 2016 the population of The Highlands Ward increased by **308** people or **17.6%.**

**Usually resident population**

On Census Day 27 March 2011, the usually resident population of The Highlands Ward was **1,969** accounting for **0.11%** of the NI total.

**Households**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, there were **1,969** people **(100.00%)** of the usually resident population) living in **654** households, giving an average household size of **3.01**.

**Demography**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in The Highlands Ward:

* **23.31%** were aged under 16 years and **11.68%** were aged 65 years and over
* **51.04%** of the usually resident population were male and **48.96%** were female
* **35** years was the average (median) age of the population

**Ethnicity, identity, language and religion**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in The Highlands Ward, considering the resident population:

* **99.75%** were from the white (including Irish traveller) ethnic group
* **49.11%** belong to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and **49.01%** belong to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)’ religion
* **48.60%** indicated that they had a British national identity, **31.59%** had an Irish national identity and **23.21%** had a Northern Irish national identity

\**Respondents could indicate more than one national identity*

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in The Highlands Ward, considering the population aged 3 years old and over:

* **10.03%** had some knowledge of Irish
* **9.82%** had some knowledge of Ulster Scots
* **0.37%** did not have English as their first language

**Health**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in The Highlands Ward:

* **17.62%** of people had a long-term health problem or disability that limited their day-to-day activities
* **80.80%** of people stated their general health was either good or very good
* **9.09%** of people stated that they provided unpaid care to family, friends, neighbours or others

**Housing and accommodation**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in The Highlands Ward:

* **79.66%** of households were owner occupied and **17.43%** were rented
* **41.44%** of households were owned outright
* **8.10%** of households were comprised of a single person aged 65+ years
* **6.88%** were lone parent households with dependent children
* **11.16%** of households did not have access to a car or van

**Qualifications**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, considering the population aged 16 years old and over:

* **17.42%** had a degree or higher qualification
* **50.33%** had no or low (Level 1\*) qualifications

*\*level 1 is 1-4 O Levels/GCE/GCSE (any grades) or equivalent*

**Labour market**

On Census Day 27th March 2011, considering the population aged 16 to 74 years old:

* **62.37%** were economically active, **37.63%** were economically inactive
* **53.75%** were in paid employment
* **5.96%** were unemployed

**Deprivation**

The Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM) 2010 provides information on seven types of deprivation and overall measure of multiple deprivation for small areas. NISRA has recently been commissioned to initiate work to update this Measure with a view to publish results mid-2017. See the NISRA website for further information on Deprivation.

Wards are ordered from most deprived to least deprived on each type of deprivation and then assigned a rank. The most deprived is ranked 1, and as there are 582 wards, the least deprived ward has a rank of 582. The deprivation rankings for The Highlands Ward are given in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Rank**The Highlands** |
| Multiple Deprivation Measure | 161 |
| Income Deprivation | 166 |
| Employment Deprivation | 119 |
| Health Deprivation and Disability Deprivation  | 294 |
| Education Skills and Training Disability | 191 |
| Proximity to Services Deprivation | 58 |
| Crime and Disorder | 427 |
| Living Environment | 529 |

1. A Better Future Together – A Community Plan for Causeway Coast and Glens 2017 - 2030 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Northern Area Plan 2016 page 165 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)