**PRESS RELEASE**

**Garvagh and Rasharkin reap benefits of Small Settlements Regeneration Programme**

**DATE OF ISSUE**

**February 2024**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has successfully delivered two further projects in Rasharkin and Garvagh as part of the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme.

The scheme in Garvagh involved the creation of a new all ability cycle/walking path at Clyde Park in the town. This will provide residents with the ability to get outdoors for regular exercise on a user-friendly surface.

The Rasharkin project saw the removal of steep and inaccessible steps to the rear of the Community Centre, replacing them with a contoured path allowing residents and visitors to easily access the venue, as well as improving access to the village from the community centre. The path is accessible by all and will particularly help those with disabilities or parents with children in prams or buggies.

Several other villages across Causeway Coast and Glens are set to benefit from investment secured through the Small Settlements Regeneration Programme, which is run in partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC), Department of Agriculture Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI).

The programme aims to address long-standing issues such as rural poverty, isolation, and access to services in small settlements with a population of less than 5,000 people.

Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens, Councillor Steven Callaghan said: “The Covid Recovery Small Settlements Programme is a very welcome and timely intervention in these rural areas. These new paths will encourage residents to get outside for daily exercise while the improved access in Rasharkin will encourage visitors to the Community Centre to walk into the village and avail of the retail offering, providing a welcome boost to the village economy.

“I am very grateful to the Department for Infrastructure for providing this funding and to Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for its financial assistance also.”

1. The Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme is part funded by Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs and Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.
2. The Programme aims are:
* Physical regeneration of small settlements to improve place making and aid recovery from COVID-19
* Investment in improvements that encourage people to live, work, visit and invest in the area.
* Investment in improvements that enhance walking, cycling and other facilities within the area.
1. The total Departmental investment package is £2.4m with additional match funding from Council.
2. The Garvagh Path project was offered up to £60,000 and the Rasharkin Path project was offered up to £88,000 from DfI.
3. All projects must be completed by 31/3/25.

Garvagh Rasharkin



