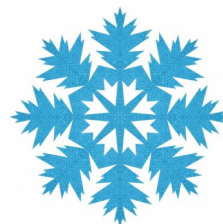
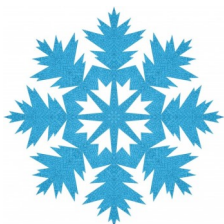


NETWORK NOTES

December Christmas Edition

Ballymote Centre, 40 Killough Road, Downpatrick,
BT30 6PY

Tel: 02844612311 Email: info@countydowntnrcn.com



THE STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS OF COUNTY DOWN
RURAL COMMUNITY NETWORK WOULD LIKE TO WISH
ALL ITS READERS A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

CDRCN will be taking a break from 16 December with full service
resuming 10 January 2022

We invite our readers to visit our facebook page (see link below) to
catch up with our activities in the New Year.



[County Down Rural Community Network | Facebook](#)

Christmas Party at Owenbeg Bowling Club, Downpatrick



Downpatrick Neighbourhood Renewal
Community Groups invite you to Their
Christmas Party

In
OwenBeg Bowling Club

On
Sunday 12th of December 2021

From
2pm – 5pm

Plenty of fun to be had by all
Visit Santa's Grotto, snow Globe, Tombola,
Disco, Raffle and spot prizes

This is a free event everyone is welcome

Ardglass beach. Saturday December 11th. 10am – 12 noon

We will meet at the north end of the seawall in Ardglass (A2).
Nearest post code BT30 7SQ. Parking on roadside on the A2 or
considerately on side roads. **Access to the beach is quite
steep** and uneven so please take this into account in your
decision to attend.

Christmas jumpers and hats are very welcome!

We will provide litter pickers, gloves and bags, but bring your own if you have them.

Please **dress up warm** and wear sensible shoes, as the approach is quite steep and there will be lots of
seaweed.

If the weather is very bad and we have to cancel, I will put up a post on [NIFHA's Facebook page](#) by 8am,
or you can text or ring my mobile - 07845 706227. The event will go ahead if there is light drizzle.

Jenny Lau , Environment Officer, Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority

nifha.net



ALL WELCOME



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Click on link to find out more:

[Supporting Communities Ezine 178](#)



County Down
Rural Community
Network

- ◆ Do you struggle with sleep apnoea, snoring, poor sleep patterns?
- ◆ Do you suffer from high blood pressure, brain fog and poor concentration
- ◆ Do you suffer from pain?
- ◆ If you have answered yes to any of these then the course we are running is one you should not miss. We have limited places so contact Patricia by email (see poster below) to avail of a spot.

ZOOM SESSIONS BREATHING FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

FREE 4-WEEK PROGRAM FOCUSING ON
THE BREATH AND BREATHING
TECHNIQUES.



Do you struggle with sleep, stress, anxiety? Do you want to improve your overall energy?
Would you like to learn about the breath and breathing techniques?

Join David Toney for his 4-week program.

Starting Wednesday 19th Jan 2022 from 7.15pm -8.30pm

Interested in registering for the sessions.

Email - Patricia.martin@countydowntnrcn.com



County Down
Rural Community
Network

General Practice
Multi-Disciplinary
Teams



SPRING
Social Prescribing



Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.dawer.ni.gov.uk



DROP IN

WELLBEING HUB DROP-IN SERVICE

Our Drop-in sessions are part of CDRCN's ongoing goal to ensure that people have somewhere to turn to discuss their Health & Wellbeing and the availability of services locally.

Monday 2pm – 4pm

And

Thursday 2pm – 4pm



**County Down
Rural Community
Network**

**Self-Referral to
Social Prescribing**

**Support and advice
on local services**

**No appointment
needed**

Zoom Training

**Join Programmes &
Activities**

CDRCN WELLBEING HUB

85 Central Promenade
Newcastle

Email:
wellbeinghub@countydowntnrcn.com

Regional Nutrition Information Sessions for the public - December

Simply click the link or type into a browser to register.
Zoom details will be sent upon registration.

All sessions are delivered by the Public Health Dietitians Group NI.
You will have the chance to ask a Registered Dietitian your questions.

Feeding Under Fives

Find out more about nutrition for toddlers and children under 5 years including

- Why good nutrition is important
- Different food groups including why our toddlers need them and portion sizes
- Suitable drinks and snacks



Mon
6th Dec
@ 11.30am

Wed
1st Dec
@ 11am

Food and Mood

This webinar looks at healthy eating and the links between food and mood.



<https://tinyurl.com/under-5s-dec>

<https://tinyurl.com/food-mood-dec>

Eating Well as you Age

This webinar is for anyone who is interested in finding out how to eat well in later life. This could be for yourself, a relative or friend.

Thur
9th Dec
@ 10am



Wed
8th Dec
@ 12.30pm



Nutrition For Your Teenager

Find out more about nutrition for teens if you are a parent/carer of a young person or someone who works with this age group.

<https://tinyurl.com/eat-age-dec>

<https://tinyurl.com/teenager-dec>

Pre-recorded sessions are available to access on demand at <https://tinyurl.com/NutritionWebinars>

 Public Health
Agency
Project supported by the PHA

 Health and
Social Care



SERC

INDEPENDENT
CAREER
ADVICE

Professional, impartial and confidential service, to help young people and adults make informed choices about their future career and next steps.

- Understanding your career options
- Making effective career decisions
- Choosing suitable courses
- Accessing up-to-date career-related information
- UCAS and Higher Education applications
- Preparation for Higher Education interviews
- Applications, CV's, interview preparation
- Work placement and volunteering opportunities

Contact: careers@serc.ac.uk

Bangor | Downpatrick | Lisburn | Newtownards | #BetterOffAtSERC | www.serc.ac.uk

South Eastern Regional College (SERC) team of Careers Advisors provide a professional, impartial and confidential service, to help young people and adults make informed choices about their future career. For more information click on link below:

[Careers Service - SERC](#)

Please note: we cannot guarantee places that are not booked at least 24 hours in advance.
If you have any difficulty, please contact our Help Line on 028 9039 5989 during office hours and
Library Staff will respond within 48 hours.

ZOOM SESSION TITLE	ZOOM SESSION DESCRIPTION	Date	TIME	BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Please ring or email
Go ON event - BorrowBox (Class delivered on Zoom)	The BorrowBox app works on a wide variety of devices and enables Libraries NI's patrons to download and stream even more digital content than before. The application includes titles for all ages that are not available on other platforms, eBook and audiobook formats, accessibility features such as dyslexic friendly font - and it's all free! Register now to learn how to use BorrowBox on your device.	Wednesday 1 December	11:00am- 12 noon	t: 07912 296814 e: MarthaAnne.Acheson@librariesni.org.uk Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 9:30am – 1:30pm Tuesdays: 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Go ON event - PressReader (Class delivered on Zoom)	Did you know that you can get free access to around 3,000 national and world newspapers through the Libraries NI Libby app? Join this Zoom session to find out how to use PressReader.	Wednesday 1 December	2:00pm- 3:00pm	t: 07912296830 e: niall.mcveigh@librariesni.org.uk During Office Hours Monday-Thursday

Please note: one-to-one sessions are available by arrangement



'TAKE 5' AMBASSADOR TRAINING

Would you like to become a Take 5 Ambassador?

As a Take 5 Ambassador you will promote the Take 5 message within your community, organisation or with service users – organising Take 5 themed activities, promoting healthy lifestyles and positive mental health

For further information please contact Brien or Eileen on:

brien.frazer@setrust.hscni.net

Eileen.young@setrust.hscni.net

The training explores the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing, examines the Take 5 toolkit and offers the opportunity for participants to share examples of best practice, learning how they can integrate the Take 5 approach into their future work

WALKING FOR HEALTH



South Eastern Health
and Social Care Trust



Health Development
Department

DOWN AREA

GROUP	WHEN	WHERE	CONTACT
A1 Walk & Talk	Friday @ 3.30pm	Varies weekly	M: 07731582332 E: lifechangechangeslives@gmail.com
Ballynahinch Community Collective Walking Group	Tuesday @ 7.30pm	Market House, Ballynahinch	M: 07393 476353 or E: ballynahinchcollective@gmail.com
Be Active Walking Group	Wednesday @ 10am	Various as agreed	M: 07966771653 E: Conor.McCarron@clanryegroup.com
Born-2-Bimble	Days & times as requested & agreed	Lough Money Car Park, Downpatrick	M: 07516 230319
Carers Walking Group	Contact Carer Support Officer for details		E: carer.support@setrust.hscni.net
Clough & Dundrum Walking Group (referral only)	Thursday @ 11am Thursday @ 12.30pm	1) Keel Point 2) Dundrum GAA	M: 07971327707 E: Antonia.adamson@setrust.hscni.net
Crossgar Ladies Walking Group	Wednesday @ 7pm	The Square, Crossgar	E: crossgarladywalkers@gmail.com
Crossgar Walking Group	Wednesday @ 10am	Crossgar Community Services	T: 028 4483 8539 E: clair.armstrong@setrust.hscni.net
Down Sure Start (registered families only)	Fun On The Beach (Seasonal) Thursday 10am & 11.30am	Newcastle Promenade	T: 028 4461 3630 E: maria.mcmurrough@setrust.hscni.net
Down Sure Start (registered families only)	Buggy Babies (Seasonal) Wednesday @ 1pm & 2.30pm	Newcastle Promenade	T: 028 4461 3630 E: maria.mcmurrough@setrust.hscni.net
Drumanquoile Walking Group	Saturday @ 9am (monthly) Wednesday @ 7pm (Summer only)	Sat - St John's GAC Wed - start of planned walk	M: 07835 960804 E: kevin.mcglynn62@gmail.com
Homestart Ramblers (registered families only)	1) Wednesday 2) Thursday	1) Delamont Park Ballynahinch Rugby Club	E: ballynahinch@homestartdd.org
Killyleagh /Crossgar Walking Group	Monday @ 10.30am (Seasonal)	Various locations	E: lise@countydownrcn.com
Lecale Walking Group	Monday @ 1pm	Various venues (Ardglass, Strangford, Downpatrick) - seasonal	Contact: Daniella @ CDCRN M: 07709712152
Making Strides (Dementia Friendly)	Monday @ 11.30am	Quoile River Walk, Quay Road (2nd car park on left past Visitor Centre)	Contact: Gemma M: 07511052851
Monday Walk & Chat Group	Monday @ 11am	Newcastle Promenade	Contact: Nuala @ CDCRN M: 07511063205

For further information on Walking for Health or if you are interested in becoming a walk leader please contact:
Health Development Department - T: 028 9250 1373 | E: health.development@setrust.hscni.net | www.setrust.hscni.net/healthyliving

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Women's Aid
BELFAST & LISBURN

Our services promote the bond between mother and child especially where it has been harmed due to abuse. Any mother accessing our support can access services for her children at any stage of life.

0-3years Toddlers & Wobblers
4-18+ years 1-2-1 support and
peer group support

Schools & community group
workshops

Training for professionals
and practitioners

For further information or to make a
referral please contact 02890666049 or
admin@belfastwomensaid.org.uk



Training

MANifest

Connecting Men With Mind Fitness



MANifest: Connecting Men with Mind Fitness

Dates:

19th and 20th January 2022

Times:

9.30am - 12.30pm

Facilitator:

Men's Health West trainers

Target Audience:

Any practitioners or service providers (male or female) who work with men in any setting.

Aim of Course:

To explore the key issues that impact men and their mental wellbeing and understand how to effectively engage with men and signpost them to a range of services.

Learning Objectives:

- Explore why we need to work with men as a specific group
- Understand the broad determinants of men's mental wellbeing
- Explore the barriers that men experience when accessing health and social care services and how to create opportunities to engage with them
- Increase the confidence of participants in relation to working with men.

Course Content:

- The need to create a 'Safe Space' for men
- Understanding men through their eyes and life experiences
- Personal strengths and qualities required to work with men
- Why focus on men and their mental health?
- Barriers to men seeking help and support
- Opportunities to create the conditions for engagement
- Signposting to sources of information, help and support
- Top tips for engaging with men.

Please note: The course explores mental health issues including suicide. Therefore it may not be suitable for anyone recently bereaved or affected by suicide.

To book a place please contact eileen.young@setrust.hscni.net



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland

The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on behalf of the Northern Ireland Executive have published a consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy and welcome the views of everyone across Northern Ireland. Your views matter.

Consultation opened on 21 October 2021. Closing date 21 December 2021 at 23:59. To express your views and for more information see link below:

[Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultation-on-the-draft-green-growth-strategy-for-northern-ireland)



inspire

wellbeing, ability, recovery

we are team inspire

At Inspire we work together with people living with mental ill health, intellectual disability, autism and addictions to ensure they live with dignity and realise their full potential. To achieve this we want to develop a culture of compassion, creating a society free from stigma that focuses on people and their abilities.

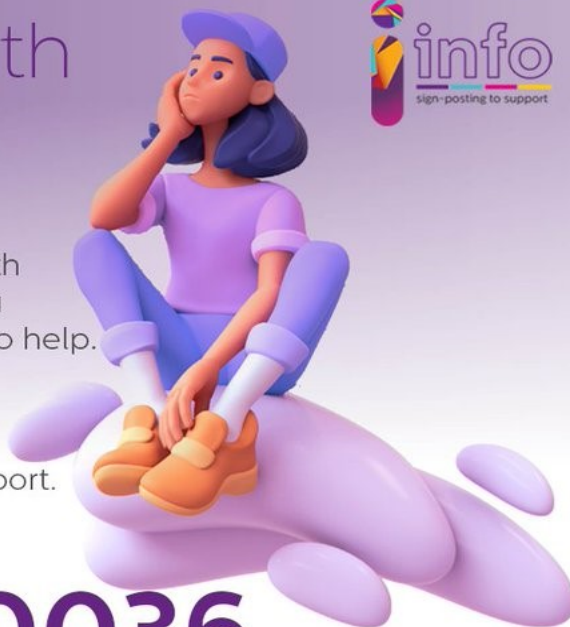
Get in touch with
our wellbeing
advisors today

Whether you're seeking mental health advice or looking information for you or someone you know... we're here to help.

Call **TODAY** to speak to one of our advisors who can signpost you to support.

Available: Monday to Friday 10am to 1pm

0808 189 0036



For more information click on the link below:

[Inspire | Home \(inspirewellbeing.org\)](https://inspirewellbeing.org)



Who We Are

Rural Support was formed as a charity in 2002. At that time, the Foot and Mouth epidemic was having a severe impact on farmers and on the rural community as a whole. There was evidence of distress within the rural community and the need for a support service was identified.

You can access a number of videos which were developed by the Farm Family Health Checks (FFHC) in partnership with Rural Support - [Physical Health - Rural Support](#). The

“Protecting the asset that is you” campaign provides a series of online health videos designed to help improve the health and wellbeing of farmers and farming families through important health messages. Topics include:

[Stop Smoking](#)

[Diabetes](#)

[Healthy Heart](#)

[Alcohol – Know Your Limits](#)

[Care in the Sun](#)

[Mental Health](#)

For more information on how to access information on wellbeing click on link below:

[Rural Support - Advice and Rural Support Northern Ireland](#)

For more information on
The Community Foundation
click link below:



[The Community Foundation
Northern Ireland - local
charitable foundation](#)

The 
Community
Foundation

Are you a charity or an individual with lived
experience who wants to address the root
causes of housing issues and homelessness in
Northern Ireland?



The Community Foundation are now recruiting
for project teams for a new Innovation & Voice
programme commencing in Jan 2022

To find out more about the priority challenges
that have been identified for this programme,
and express an interest in applying
visit:

communityfoundationni.org



Action for Warm Homes
Northern Ireland

ARE YOU WINTER READY?

NEA are concerned that the 'perfect storm' of higher energy prices, reduced incomes, and leaky, inefficient housing could put many households in Northern Ireland at increased risk of fuel poverty this coming winter. These increases come at a time when many household budgets are already stretched thin.

However, simple changes to day-to-day activities could make big differences to household bills. Here are 10 energy savings tips that everybody can implement.



You can save around £30 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode.



Save an average of £35 on electricity a year by drying clothes on a clothes line, instead of using a dryer.



Room thermostats allow you to set the temperature your home heats up to and maintains. Turning it down by only 1 degree could save you £70



Spending one minute less in the shower every day as part of your grooming routine will save up to £7 per person off your household energy bill each year.



Only boil the water you need in your kettle. This can save you £6 per year.



Washing clothes at 30°C instead of 40°C can save you around £9 a year and 1 less cycle per week can save around £5 a year on energy.



Don't leave your mobile phone on charge all night – most only need a couple of hours.



Switch off lights when not in use. This could save your household £14 a year.



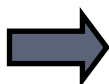
Using a bowl to wash up rather than running the tap could save you up to £25 a year.



Draughtproofing windows/doors can save £30. Chimney draught excluder can save an additional £20

**Don't bury your head
in the sand.**

**Reach out and contact
services which can
help support you**



**Extended Helpline Opening Hours from
4th October 2021.**

Tuesday and Thursday evening 4.00-7pm

Saturday morning 9am-12pm.

Due to benefits cuts, rising energy bills and further redundancies as furlough ends, we have increased our opening hours.

Evening appointments also available to help complete forms etc.

Telephone: 0300 30 30 306

WhatsApp: 07359004967 (text only)

Email: advice@adviceNMD.com

Monday – Friday 9am -2pm (plus extended hours).



[Formerly Citizens Advice] Registered with the Charity Commission: NI107355



Action for Warm Homes

Are you experiencing financial hardship?

Speak to your energy supplier if you are worried about your energy bills and to find out if you are eligible for additional services. To find out if you are claiming all of the benefits you are entitled to call:

- **Advice NI**
Freephone Advice Helpline: 0800 915 4604 | Email: advice@adviceni.net
- **Make the Call Service**
Freephone (Network charges may apply): 0800 232 1271 | Email: makethecall@dfcnl.gov.uk

Check to see if you are getting the best deal for your energy

You could save hundreds of pounds a year on your bills by switching supplier or changing tariffs with your current supplier. Use a price comparison site.

- **Consumer Council**
Tel: 028 9025 1600 | Email: info@consumercouncil.org.uk | Web: www.consumercouncil.org.uk

Additional Support

NI Energy Advice offers free independent and impartial energy advice to domestic householders in Northern Ireland - including advice about energy grants and other sources of help.

Freephone: 0800 111 4455 | Email: nienergyadvice@nie.gov.uk

Website: www.nie.gov.uk/Community/NI-Energy-Advice

Belfast Warm and Well Project is coordinated by National Energy Action (NEA) and is supported by Community Planning Partners from across Belfast. The project is available to vulnerable people who are finding it difficult to keep their home warm. Vulnerable refers to a number of different groups including:

- People aged 65 years or older
- People living with a disability or a long term physical or mental health condition
- Pregnant women
- Households with a young child/children (from new-born to school age)
- People on a low income.

National Energy Action (NEA) will work with local community and voluntary groups, to provide helpful independent and confidential advice and practical support. If you or someone you know is vulnerable and finding it difficult to keep your home warm, contact NEA on 028 9023 9909 or warmandwell@nea.org.uk to see if they can help.

Training and Advice

NEA are offering **FREE** Energy Efficiency training and advice sessions to organisations and households throughout Northern Ireland. These sessions can be delivered face to face or via zoom.

Please contact Nichola MacDougall for further information:

Tel: 028 9023 9909 | Email: nichola.macdougall@nea.org.uk

Keep up to date with our events on Community NI, Eventbrite and our social media:

Twitter: [@NEA_Nireland](https://twitter.com/NEA_Nireland) | Facebook: [@NEANorthernIreland](https://www.facebook.com/NEANorthernIreland)

Sources: Information sourced from Energy Saving Trust



Volunteer Now would like to support volunteer managers and volunteers to learn how to manage their mental health and overall sense of wellbeing.

We are offering **free workshops** to **organisations and volunteers** where you can learn how to use practical tools such as the Wellness Action Plan (WAP) to help you take ownership of your own mental health and support your volunteers to do the same. A complimentary self-care pack will also be available for those who attend.

These workshops will be delivered between November 2021 and January 2022 across the Belfast, Southern, Western and South Eastern Health Trust areas and are **open to all volunteer involving organisations and volunteers**.

If you manage and support volunteers and would like to learn how to support their wellbeing whilst volunteering, or you are a volunteer who has found your role challenging over the last year please get in touch! Contact us on 028 9023 2020 or at sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk to find out more and register! Or click on the following links for more information (details of **online sessions** will also be available here)

Organisations Workshop info: <https://bit.ly/3n85v1e>

Volunteer Workshop info: <https://bit.ly/3DmD6dT>



THE LATEST EZINE FROM DISABILITY ACTION

- Packed with good information
- Supporting your needs

Click below for more articles such as this one



Chat in a
safe space



Women's Group
We are better together

Monday
3.30pm

[Disability Action Ezine - 2 December 2021 \(mailchi.mp\)](https://mailchi.mp/DisabilityActionEzine)

BOOST

YOUR IMMUNITY
THIS WINTER

FLU vaccine

IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE GET THE
FREE FLU VACCINE

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/flu-vaccine

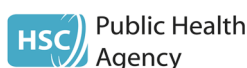


Northern Ireland COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

[Northern Ireland COVID-19 Vaccination Programme | HSC Public Health Agency \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/northern-ireland-covid-19-vaccination-programme)

See 3 links below relating to children and young people and COVID-19 vaccination. There are 18 languages (including English).

1. [COVID-19 vaccination - A guide for children and young people | HSC Public Health Agency \(hscni.net\)](#)
2. [COVID-19 vaccination for children and young people - Guidance for parents | HSC Public Health Agency \(hscni.net\)](#)
3. [What to expect after your COVID-19 vaccination - advice for children and young people | HSC Public Health Agency \(hscni.net\)](#)



CATCH IT.



BIN IT.



KILL IT.

County Down Rural Community Network has had a presence in Ards for many years. Prior to Covid restrictions, Frances McCormick and Sandra Henderson could be found in the Ards Network offices. Frances and Sandra continue to support communities in these areas. During the lockdown both workers aided community organisations to support the vulnerable with food hampers, warm packs and accessing vital funding for many projects which helped to connect the socially isolated. In the meantime, the business of organisations such as AGM's must still continue to enable groups to meet statutory regulations.

County Down Rural Community Network was delighted to be asked to act as Independent Facilitator by a couple of groups in Ards and North Down at their recent AGMs. We would like to express appreciation to the groups in both Ballygowan and Greyabbey for their continued support of their community through Covid 19 and wish them the best for the future, also great to see new people joining the groups.



Ballygowan & District Community Association at their recent AGM, along with Michelle McIlveen, MLA and Councillor Trevor Cummings and Councillor Robert Gibson in the newly refurbished Ballygowan Village Hall



Greyabbey & District Community Association at their recent AGM, along with local Councillor Eddie Thompson at the beautiful Orange Tree House.



DAERA Minister Edwin Poots, MLA, on a visit to several NI Rural Development Programme projects on the Ards Peninsula on 25 November 2021

Included in the picture: Ards and North Down Borough Council Mayor, Cllr Mark Brooks and members of the Local Action Group (including Frances McCormick CDRCN)



Comhairle an Iúir agus Mhúrn
Newry & Mourne District Council

Call 1 for Financial Assistance 2022-2023

Councillor Cathy Mason Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council launches the opening of Call 1 financial Assistance and will host a funding workshop for Community, Voluntary and sporting groups on **Thursday 9th December at 7pm.**

Newry Mourne and Down District Council Call 1 2022-2023 Financial Assistance will be:

Opening: 6th December 2021

Closing: As advised on grant management system and theme guidance

Arts and Culture Projects
Community Capital
Community Engagement
Community Events & Festivals
Community Facilities Minor Capital Items
Community Growing 'Let's Grow NMD'
Community Summer Schemes
Good Relations
Irish Language
Local Biodiversity Enhancement
Minority Communities Fund
PCSP Community Safety & Support
Sports Capital
Sports Development Minor Capital Items
Sports Programmes
Suicide Prevention and Emotional Wellbeing
Tourism and Arts Events

Application and guidance notes can be reviewed online using the link:

<http://newrymournedown.eformz.info>.

The link can be accessed through the Council website:
www.newrymournedown.org under Grants and Funding.

Groups wishing to be notified of future funding opportunities should request their details be added to the Council's database by contacting:

**The Programmes Unit on 0330 137 4040 / 0330 137 4782 or
e-mail programmesunit@nmandd.org.**

Additional information— workshops will take place as follows:

- **16th December 2021 Revenue Grants, 7:00 pm**
- **11th January 2022 Revenue Grants, 7:00 pm**
- **13th January 2022, Capital Grants, 7:00pm**

Community Foundation NI is a Website worth exploring as it contains News and Events for Community Organisations. For funding opportunities see link below

<https://communityfoundationni.org/>



The Architectural Heritage Fund

Seed funding for village revival projects, Northern Ireland

The Architectural Heritage Fund is keen to hear from charities or social enterprises based in villages in Northern Ireland who are interested in finding long-term uses for empty historic buildings which target rural poverty and social isolation.

AHF's Heritage Transformed advice, grants and loans programme in NI is funded by the Department for Communities, the Pilgrim Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation. It is designed to help community groups test out their ideas for listed buildings, or historic buildings in conservation areas which best serve their core needs.

The early-stage **Project Viability Grants**, which are **currently up to £10,000**, are very flexible and tailored to the individual group's needs. Funding can, for example: help groups carry out condition surveys and architectural feasibility studies by suitably qualified heritage professionals; establish broad costs; engage with the community to identify its core needs; test meanwhile uses; and develop business plans.

AHF's Project Viability Report template helps groups pull information together in an easily digestible format and, if a business case can be made, this can be used to approach other funders.

For those groups who have already established broad viability, AHF can also provide a small number of **Project Development Grants of up to £20,000** to move projects on to their next stage of investment readiness, including securing planning permission and listed building consent, or employing a Project Manager.

While AHF's usual requirement for match funding is not currently essential, it is desirable as a means of securing buy-in from other stakeholders.

Applications for Project Development Grants need to be made by 10th January 2022 while Project Viability Grant applications can be submitted any time before end February 2022. All awards must be made by end March 2022.

See link below

<https://ahfund.org.uk/grants/northern-ireland/>