

CCGHT Newsletter

Issue 1

February 2010



Binevenagh AONB's Future in Safe Hands

CCGHT Activity Report

Welcome to the first activity report and newsletter for the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust. Unlike the three AONB newsletters this bulletin covers the entire area of the Trust and will be circulated through our Board members, officers and observers. We feel that it is important that you have a record of our current projects and activities so that you can promote the importance of partnerships like the Heritage Trust within your organization. We have a number of significant projects happening over the next few weeks and months which will hopefully improve the economy of the area and raise awareness of the importance of protecting the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust area.

Helen Noble
Trust Director



meetings were conducted to gather feedback, culminating in three workshops, held in January to develop the Action Plan. The three workshops, spread over 2 days,

some good feedback on the Action Plan, and some final amendments for the Management Plan. Currently both documents are being circulated for a final round of comments with a view of meeting our completion deadline of mid March. Thank you to all of you who have taken the time to send your comments, with your help, through this process and future help to implement these plans, Binevenagh AONB will truly be in safe hands.

Over the past month the spotlight has been on the Binevenagh AONB, developing both the Management Plan and Action Plan. Following a very productive meeting of the Binevenagh Management Forum in December, which looked at the objectives of the Management Plan and how to translate them into actions, we were able to pull together the first draft of the 5 year Action Plan and further refine the Management Plan. Both documents were circulated for comment in early January and a series of

themes; Land and Sea, Historic Environment, and Sustainable Communities. These workshops were held in Castlerock Golf Club, which was an excellent venue and provided the inspiration as to why we were all there, with spectacular views over the dunes and out to sea! The workshops were very well attended by a wide range of organisations and interested parties with a few dedicated individuals coming to all three. The workshops generated



A Title for the Plan!

CCGHT has contacted primary schools in the area with a competition to find a suitable and inspiring title for the Binevenagh AONB Management Plan.

Proposed titles include:

My Binevenagh; Our Binevenagh; Binevenagh- Summit up!; Beautiful Binevenagh; Our Heritage Our Future...

Any Suggestions??



ABOUT BINEVENAGH
The Binevenagh AONB is a dramatic landscape of coastal diversity which provides a home of different habitats within the coast. It is a place of natural beauty and interest, with a rich and varied wildlife population.

BIRDS OF BINEVENAGH
The Binevenagh AONB is a dramatic landscape of coastal diversity which provides a home of different habitats within the coast. It is a place of natural beauty and interest, with a rich and varied wildlife population.

HAPPY BIRD SPOTTING!
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2010
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About Binevenagh

Issue 4 of the AONB newsletter has been published and distributed in the area.

An Outstanding Train Trip

The railway journey between Coleraine and L'derry was featured in Michael Palin's TV series 'Great Railway Journeys of the World'. CCGHT is currently working on an educational activity leaflet that will raise awareness of the cultural, natural and built heritage of this spectacular trip through the Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



LOOKING AFTER
THE RESOURCE



Picture This! Antrim Coast & Glens 2008
Tom Kerr, Glenann Primary School, Cushendall

Projects

Heart of the Glens

An application was developed and submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) fund at the end of November 2009. The Heart of the Glens LPS is a £2 million project which if successful will focus on various themes within the Heart of the Glens including biodiversity action, heritage and cultural awareness and traditional skills training amongst other things. Currently HLF are considering the first

phase application which would provide funding to appoint an officer to develop the individual projects and submit the second round application, which would, if successful, fund the projects for 3 years. In early February a team came out from HLF to assess the project and meet some of the partners, the Glens and their people rose to the occasion with beautiful sunshine and great crack! There are four applications from Northern Ireland, including the Heart of the Glens project, competing

with other applications from the rest of the UK, over the next few weeks HLF will come back to CCGHT with any further queries before HLF Northern Ireland present the four Northern Ireland projects to the HLF Board. Hopefully The Glens spoke for themselves and won the HLF hearts!



Lewis Dobbin, Portrush PS

CCGHT staff are currently working with the Bushmills Inn and Bushmills Distillery to produce a Bushmills Activity and Local Produce Guide.

A Date in the Glens

The 2010 Antrim Coast & Glens AONB calendar has been distributed to schools, libraries, stakeholders and other partnerships in the area. The highly successful calendar was produced using images taken by children in the Picture This! 2008 project.



Causeway Coastal Route Interpretation Project

The TDS PFG Causeway Coastal Route Interpretation is nearing the final stages of pre-development works. Final details relating to branding, planning issues, procurement process, design etc were discussed at a meeting with CCGHT and

NITB at NITB HQ earlier this month. Final details including terms of reference document will be circulated to the members at the forthcoming TDS Steering Group Meeting in early March. Letters of offer have been sent to a number of projects. It is

hoped that consultants appointed by NITB will provide a turnkey solution for relevant stakeholders to progress the project to development works.



For a copy of the poster illustrating images taken by primary school children in the Binevenagh AONB Picture This project contact the CCGHT office.

Friends of Binevenagh

An application has been submitted to Limavady Borough Council Economic Development Section for funding under the Grant Aid Application - Small Grants Request for a 'Friends of the Binevenagh AONB' Familiarisation project. The project aims to raise awareness of the Binevenagh AONB to local businesses. It is envisaged that a familiarisation trip be organised to en-

gage local businesses informing them of the benefits of being part of the AONB and thus utilising the environment in a sustainable manner to support their business. The objective is to create a sense of ownership of the Binevenagh AONB for local businesses highlighting the idea of 'selling the product' of this scenic area in an environmentally sustainable manner. Through a sense of ownership comes an enhancement of the

underlying principles of sustainable development and thus local businesses will be encouraged to acknowledge the socio-economic viability of the area using the AONB as an economic driver supporting local products, services and produce. It is also intended that the Business Forum which results out of this can subsequently link into the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust's bid for membership of the Europarc Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas thus continuing the principles of the project in the area.

Binevenagh Events Guide

CCGHT staff are currently working with Coleraine Borough Council, Limavady Borough Council, National Trust and Walk NI to produce an integrated events guide for the 2010 spring summer season for the Binevenagh AONB. If funding is available this will be produced in leaflet format otherwise it will be produced as an e-bulletin and will feature on our website and facebook profile.

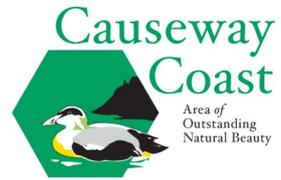
Updates

Causeway Coast AONB

Following a recommendation from the baseline review of the Causeway Coast AONB Management Plan at the end of 2008 to formally review the AONB Management Plan, a funding application for the appointment of a Management Plan Review Officer (2 year fixed term contract) was submitted to NIEA in September 2009. Although the applica-

tion was short-listed by the NIEA's Grants team, CCGHT learnt in January that the application was unsuccessful. The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust then revised the project to review in parallel both, the Causeway Coast AONB and the World Heritage Site, management plans over a 3 year-period. NIEA issued a letter of intent to commit £52, 694 over the next 3 years. Match

funding was sought from the Crown Estate Marine Communities Fund. Unfortunately, on the 12th February, CCGHT received notification that this application was also unsuccessful as the Crown Estate was only able to fund 6 of the 40 project applications received. The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust is now actively seeking alternative funding opportunities to match fund NIEA's offer.



Resignation from CCGHT Board
Cllr Oliver McMullan resigned from the Trust on 8th February 2010. The Board and staff of the Trust would like to thank Oliver for all his support over the last 8 years and would like to wish him well in the future. Cllr Cathal Newcombe has been appointed by Moyle District Council to replace Cllr McMullan. The Board would like to extend a warm welcome to Cllr Newcombe.

Sustainable Tourism Charter

In line with the Trust's aim of promoting sustainable tourism in the area, application procedures have commenced towards gaining membership of the Europarc Federation European Charter for Sustainable Development in Protected Areas. The European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas is a practical management tool for ensuring that tourism contributes to a balanced economic, social and environmental development of protected areas in Europe. The Charter is a voluntary agreement and aims to encourage good practice by recognising protected areas, which are meeting agreed requirements for the sustainable management of tourism. The aims of the charter include increasing awareness of sustainable practices in the

area covering the Antrim Coast and Glens, Causeway Coast and Binevenagh Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Through research into best practice examples of sustainability in the local economy in areas such as nature and landscape, food and accommodation, activities and culture, marketing etc the Trust aims to facilitate the creation of a permanent forum involving all relevant stakeholders in tourism in protected areas. The first step of the process involves commitment from management authorities within the protected areas and acknowledgment of the obligations that these authorities must address and adhere to for the promotion of sustainable tourism. The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is currently commencing

a 5-year Strategy and subsequent Action Plan for Sustainable Tourism in the area. Subsequent to the verification process ongoing monitoring exercises will be implemented by the Europarc Federation. Therefore it is imperative that protected areas illustrate their ongoing commitment to the practices associated with sustainable tourism. The Trust aims to launch the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and the Charter at a seminar later this year. The success of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism is reliant on the responses of AONB Management Members, local communities and businesses. Therefore for this project to truly be a success for all involved and most importantly for our environment it is imperative that everyone gets involved and adopts the principles of sustainability.

Rural Development Programme

CCGHT was been approached by the North East Rural Development Programme in October 2009 regarding the Measure 3.6 - conservation of heritage and offered to put an a project together under this measure. The project developed by the Trust if successful

would look at the rich and diverse industrial heritage of the Causeway Coast and Glens through a series of 7-10 themed industrial heritage trails and would look at how human activities have shaped the unique and special landscape of the Causeway Coast and Glens

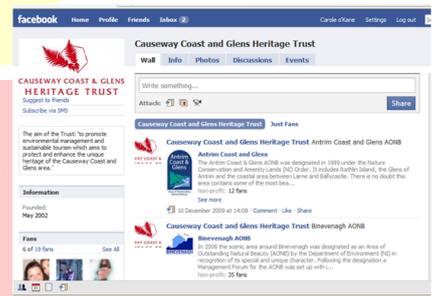
through time. If successful the project should start in early 2010 and would bring £249,500 of RDP money over the next 3 years. No decision has been taken yet. CCGHT is due to meet the North East Rural Development Programme on the 24th February to discuss the project.



Blooming Marvellous!
Due to popular demand CCGHT is set to reprint the 'Colours of the Causeway' Flora Guide.

Facebook

The Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust has joined the social networking site facebook in the hope that people from all over the world will log into our profile, post messages on our wall and add us to their group of friends. We have also added profiles for the 3 AONBs. We would encourage you, your family and friends to follow our progress. If you are not familiar with the machinations of the network, its really very simple and its NOT age discriminate.



Any Other Business



CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS
HERITAGE TRUST

CCGHT 2010/2011 Funding Update

Confirmed 2010/11 Core Funding:

Ballymena Borough Council	£11,000
Larne Borough Council	£11,000
NI Environment Agency	£120,000

Unconfirmed 2010/11 Core Funding

On the date of publishing Moyle DC, Limavady BC and Coleraine BC had not confirmed 2010/11 core funding.

Other Confirmed Funding

2010/11 is the final year of the 3-year NITB/CCGHT Service Level Agreement



Junior Ranger Update

CCGHT has engaged a University of Ulster student, Heather Bell, to investigate the Junior Ranger programme with the intention of progressing the idea in this area.



The Junior Ranger Programme is primarily designed to engage youth in the environment and protected areas of Northern Ireland. The programme will be directed at the 14-16 age range within the Causeway Coast and Glens area, when youth may start to become disengaged from their environment. It will create a network of young people who are 'tuned-in' to their environment and will act as campaigners for their protected area.

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Photographic Credits:
Picture This! Projects
Coleraine Chronicle
CCGHT, Coleraine BC,
Glasshouse Design

We're on the web! www.ccght.org
Or search on Facebook for:
Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

Picture This!

CCGHT has to date completed 3 Picture This! projects and involved 19 Primary Schools in 6 of the local Council Areas. Over 300 pupils have taken part and that's a lot of photographs! We visited the schools where we held workshops to raise awareness of the AONBs. We have produced special edition newsletters, postcards and posters and we have exhibited the images in schools, libraries, council offices and museums. We published and launched The Glens through the Lens which featured images from the Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Picture This project and we are currently working on a similar book of images to promote the Causeway Coast AONB. HLF provided a substantial pot of funding to help with the Picture This project to raise awareness of the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Causeway Coast AONB. Minister Edwin Poots, Minister for Environment and Paul Mullan from HLF have provided commentary for the book which will be launched in early summer 2010. We hope to source funding to produce a similar book for Binevenagh AONB. Towards the end of 2009 we worked with Awakin Productions, a provider of Tourism, Heritage & Educational mobile digital content to provide photography workshops and community discussion events with Bushmills Primary School and the Portballintrae Residents Association. The Trust fully intends to continue working with and developing relations with local schools on educational projects and raising awareness of the importance of protecting the AONBs in our area.

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust is grateful for support from:

