

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS HERITAGE TRUST

Village Plans Assessment

Common themes in the Glens Village Action Plans

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To assess the village plans within the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme and identify potential projects based on common actions across the plans

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Introduction

I have been asked to prepare a report that details common themes and relationships between the village plans within the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (HoGLPS) boundary. The village plans that are being considered for this report are:

1. Carnlough Village Plan
2. Cushendall Village Plan
3. Cushendun and Knocknacarry Village Plan
4. Glenariff and Waterfoot Village Plan
5. Glenarm Regeneration Strategy

Each of these plans contains an action plan which sets out a range of objectives and actions for that associated village. I have been asked to highlight first the actions that link to the vision, aims and objectives of the Landscape Partnership Scheme as well as looking at common themes of actions across the village plans that would be closely linked to the 4 programme themes under the HoGLPS. These 4 programmes are:

1. Conservation and enhancement of the natural and built historic features
2. Increasing community participation
3. Access and learning
4. Heritage skills and training

Cushendun and Knocknacarry Village Plan

The vision statement for this plan is:

‘A vibrant and sustainable community where people support one another and are committed to working together to improve and protect the environmental, social, cultural and economic quality of village life for residents and visitors.’

This Village Plan for Cushendun and Knocknacarry was developed over a number of months. Local residents in Cushendun and Knocknacarry put forward their views about how they would like to see their village develop in the next five years. This process was assisted by Cushendun and District Development Association working with Moyle District Council, and was facilitated by Community Places.

Funding for the village plan project came from the North East Rural Development Programme Village Renewal Measure, which was part funded under Axis 3 and 4 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 by the European Union and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Moyle District Council contributed 25% of the cost of the project.

Actions associated with HoGLPS

A set of ideas and issues are identified in this plan through a consultation process with the local community. Below lists the range of actions/issues/ideas that link with the HoGLPS. I have highlighted which programme theme each of these would relate to:

1. Safe cycle trails and pedestrian paths linking the park and other sites (C)
2. Development of a village story for promotion to visitors (B)
3. Support Cushendun Building Preservation Trust plans for Old Church restoration (A)
4. Angling improvements including the development of a salmon fishery (A)
5. Planting and improvement scheme in the village (B)
6. Sculptures and Arts Projects (B/C)
7. Community Gardens and Allotments (B/D)
8. Community Forest (B)
9. Planting along the 'ring walk' (B/D)
10. Project to promote local myths and legends (B/C)
11. Promotion of walks e.g. leaflets, signage, accessibility rating (C)
12. Extend, maintain and improve the river walk (C)

Cushendall Village Plan – Identification of Community Issues

The development of this plan was managed by a number of both local and regional organisations including the Rural Community Network, Cushendall Development Group, Northern Antrim Community Network and Moyle District Council. This plan was developed in September 2010.

Actions associated with HoGLPS

A series of short, medium and long term actions have been listed in this plan, with common issues for each short, medium and long term action. The common issues are:

1. More activities for kids/teenagers
2. Better car parking/improved traffic flow
3. Better transport
4. Local hospital/improved health services
5. Cleaner Streets
6. Petrol Station
7. Indoor leisure facility
8. Flood risk to village
9. Blocked drains
10. Bank/ATM that works
11. Gym exercise classes

Below highlights the actions that link to the HoGLPS, with their link to the programme themes:

Short term actions:

1. More activities for kids/teenagers including summer camps for kids to learn gaelic, soccer and natural heritage (D)
2. River clean ups and removal of vegetation such as sapling trees, which can cause river problems (B/D)

Medium term actions:

1. Meetings held between young people and older generation to discuss problems and identify opportunities for young people (B)

2. Familiarisation trip to Westport to learn about flood risk techniques (A)

Long term actions:

1. Develop a river design based upon Westport example and seek funding (A/B)

This plan is heavily focused on improving the accessibility and facilities on offer in Cushendall, and less about how to enhance the natural and built heritage product that exists.

Carnlough Village Plan July 2011

This vision for this plan is to:

‘Create a vibrant community for residents, businesses and tourists.’

This plan was developed in partnership with the Carnlough Community Association, the North East Region Village Renewal Facilitator, Supporting Communities Northern Ireland and a range of other local people and businesses in the village. VMS Consults Ltd, in association with Alpha NI Ltd and Bernard Black Associates led the village plan development process through a number of phases including desk research, site visits, public consultation and plan development.

Actions associated with HoGLPS

A detailed action plan is highlighted in this village plan which details the potential costs, funders, outcomes and impacts. Below highlights the range of actions that link to the HoGLPS:

1. Promote and support volunteering and capacity of volunteers (B/D)
2. Enhance the appearance of the village through planting, environmental clean ups and village design improvements (B/D)
3. Research, develop and promote heritage as a key feature of the village including detailed history and heritage report, heritage panels and heritage space to share information (C)
4. Develop and maintain key natural and built heritage features of the village including enhancement to the bridge, coastline, beaches, walkways, Cranny Falls and signage (A)
5. Development of Carnlough Centre including Library and Heritage and Tourism Centre opportunity (A/C)
6. Develop tourism related opportunities including a summer programme of events including Carnlough Festival (B/D)
7. Improve signage and information to tourists (C)

Glenariff and Waterfoot Village Plan

Moyle District Council secured funding under Sharing a Vision for our Coastline – Coastal Village Improvement Programme to undertake a series of environmental improvement works in Waterfoot, Co. Antrim. The project was part funded by the European Union through the INTERREG IIIA Programme. The purpose of the village plan was twofold – to set out the vision for the future of the area and to facilitate improvements to the village and surrounding area.

Actions associated with HoGLPS

A range of improvement objectives were identified based on the public meetings and consultations that were held as part of the process. The two main objectives seemed to be repairing and restoring derelict properties and traffic management. This is similar to the Cushendall Village Plan in that more actions focus on the need to improve accessibility and infrastructure and less about natural and built heritage.

Below highlights the actions which link to the HoGLPS with the associated themes:

1. Signage improvements for tourists (C)
2. Address coastal erosion including aiming for blue flag status (achieved) (A)
3. Promote work of Glenariff Improvement Group (B)
4. River clean ups and flood risk mitigation (B/D)
5. Prepare a cultural audit of performing arts, festivals, community arts, heritage, crafts and publications (B/C)

Glenarm Regeneration Strategy – 10 year regeneration and growth strategy for Glenarm

In February 2009 HRH the Prince of Wales visited the village and met with local stakeholders to discuss the future of the village. As a result, the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment were invited by Larne Borough Council and the Department of Environment to conduct an Enquiry by design workshop in Glenarm. This consultation would lead to the Glenarm Strategy for the sustainable regeneration of the village.

Actions associated with HoGLPS

The action plan for Glenarm has been separated into 5 phases of work. These 5 phases are:

1. Eglinton Yard/Retail, Marina Services and Waterside Housing
2. Tourism, Harbour Park and Public Realm
3. Toberwine Street and Altmore Street
4. Boat Yard
5. Hotel/Glenarm Industrial and Manufacturing Heritage Museum or salmon production at the old mill

Within these 5 phases, certain actions are highlighted which link to the HoGLPS:

1. Sustainable food production coupled with tourist activity, including supporting local businesses and crafts people to promote their produce (B)
2. Capture net for tourism, including the development of Seaview Hall as a tourist, heritage centre (A)
3. Link the marina to the historic village and forest including encouraging and supporting streetscape and building maintenance improvements (C)
4. Support harbour activities (C)
5. Bring working element of the harbour back including the salmon production and industrial traditions (A/C)

Analysis of findings

The following table illustrates each of the actions identified above, together with the programme theme they would most likely correspond too. Refer to the key below for understanding of common actions in the table.

Table 1: Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme Village Plan Projects

A	B	C	D
❖ Cushendun Old Church as a heritage centre	Village story for visitors	○ Safe cycle trails and paths	✚ Summer skills camps for young people
✓ River/angling improvements	▪ Planting improvements for village	Promoting myths and legends	✚ Summer programme of events incl. Carnlough Festival
✓ Flood risk learning trips	Sculptures and public art	▪ Promotion of walks in village	✚ Cultural audit of festivals, arts, heritage, crafts on offer
✓ River design guide for village	▪ Community gardens and allotments	○ Improve river walk	
✓ Maintain key natural and built heritage features in Carnlough incl. bridge, waterfalls	○ Community forest improvements	▪ Access to heritage learning, sharing of heritage information	
❖ Carnlough Library heritage centre	✓ River clean ups and improvements	➤ Improved signage and interpretation	
✓ Coastal erosion improvements	Promote and support volunteering and community involvement	➤ Signage improvements for tourists	
❖ Seaview Hall heritage centre	▪ Planting, environmental clean ups and improvements	▪ Better connection between coast and forest	
▪ Industrial heritage improvements, restoration and promotion	Promote GIG (community group)		
	✓ River clean ups and flood risk		
	Local produce initiative (sustainable)		

Key for village actions

-  - Cushendun and Knocknacarry
-  - Cushendall
-  - Carnlough
-  - Glenariff and Waterfoot
-  - Glenarm

Key for cross over actions

Below highlights actions that can be recognised across 2 or more action plans under the village plans

- ❖ Heritage Centres
 - Promotion of the villages via walks and talks
 - ✓ Conservation work to rivers, beaches and coastline
 - Village renewal through planting, allotments and gardens
 -  Festivals, events, cultural traditions
 - Signage and interpretative improvements
- Where there is a circle around the action, this shows that although it does not extend across more than one village plan, it still merits project consideration. These are:
 1. Local produce initiative
 2. Storytelling about myths and legends
 3. Promoting the importance of community involvement

Conclusion

From the analysis of the village plans, it is clear to see that the following would be of strong support from the villages within the Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme boundary. These are:

1. Heritage Centres
2. Promotion of the villages via walks and talks
3. Conservation work to rivers, beaches and coastline
4. Village renewal through planting, allotments and gardens
5. Festivals, events, cultural traditions
6. Signage and interpretative improvements
7. Local produce initiative
8. Storytelling and myths and legends

These action areas could form the basis of very strong community inspired projects under the HoGLPS, provided that funding is secured from external sources.