Sandy Row, Donegall Pass & the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST URBAN VILLAGES

O1 NOVEMBER 2017

ISSUE

FOCUS MAGAZINE

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This good relations programme aims to engage young people aged 11-16 in sport, physical and creative activities that bring communities together and improve attitudes of young people in relation to other religious, political, ethnic and marginalised communities.

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SHARED LEARNING PROGRAMME

Find out more about Shared Learning events across the five Urban Village areas.

These aim to enhance connections within and across areas, helping to share learning on what works well and build partnerships that can make a difference.

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Welcome

Linsey Farrell Programme Director, Urban Villages Initiative, The Executive Office



Welcome to this first edition of the Urban Villages FOCUS Magazine. I am excited to share with you some of the great work that people in the Urban Village communities are doing, not only to make a difference in their own lives but also to impact on others who live, work and visit their areas.

The aims of the Urban Villages Initiative are, to strengthen communities by helping to build capacity and increase sustainability, to improve the area by investing in regeneration of places and spaces and to foster positive community identity so that ultimately people can live better together.

You will read about fantastic projects and programmes that are led by community groups and participants to support these aims; you will also find out about the Shared Learning events where groups will showcase their great achievements with others.

We want to give people in Urban Village communities the chance to be part of shaping the place where they live, to increase their skills and to embrace opportunities that will improve their life chances. To recognise the range of fantastic projects that are already underway in communities, you can nominate your favourite project for an Urban Villages Award and you can read more about this inside.

People are working together in and across Urban Village areas and we are keen to encourage this and build on it for the benefit of everyone across the five Urban Village areas.

I hope you find our new FOCUS Magazine informative and we would really encourage you to get involved in the projects and plans in your area.

We will be issuing it three times a year so if you would like to receive copies and be kept up to date on the work of the Urban Villages Initiative in your area, please use the contact details at the back of this issue to join our mailing list.

Best Regards,

Lines family



What is the Urban Villages Initiative?

The Urban Villages Initiative is designed to improve good relations outcomes and develop thriving places where there has been a history of deprivation and community tension.

The Urban Villages Initiative is a headline action within the NI Executive's Together: Building a United Community Strategy.

It is designed to support communities and to work collaboratively across government departments, councils, and other interested parties to achieve the 3 inter-connected aims for each Urban Village area through a series of capital investment and community-led projects.

THERE ARE 3 INTER-CONNECTED AIMS

Improve the environment community identities Build community capacity

WHAT DOES THE URBAN VILLAGES INITIATIVE DO?

Through the Urban Villages Initiative, the Northern Ireland Executive offers a real opportunity for residents of Urban Village areas to inform and shape the development of the place where they live and work; to have a voice and influence investment, to build social cohesion and improve local amenities, based on what communities see as their local priorities.

The Urban Villages Initiative has conducted extensive community engagement across all five Urban Village areas with local residents, community organisations and other stakeholders. This has informed the development of a Strategic Framework for each area. These remain the foundation of area based plans for these places.



Foster positive community identities

Build community capacity

Improve the physical environment

Projects across Urban Village Areas

Uniting Colin and EastSide Programme



Colin Glen Trust and TIDES training are currently working in partnership to deliver the 'Uniting Colin and EastSide Programme' which is funded through the Department for Communities (DfC) and based in Urban Village areas.

This good relations programme aims to engage young people aged 11-16 in sport, physical and creative activities that bring communities together and improve attitudes of young people in relation to other religious, political, ethnic and marginalised communities. The programme also includes a youth leadership element involving 16-24 year olds.

Colm Fanning, Social
Development Manager at
Colin Glen Trust said "In
September we had nearly 170
young people from the Urban
Village areas of Colin and
EastSide in Belfast engaged in

fun and participative activities in Castlewellan Forest Park as part of the Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week progamme.

This event is part of the Uniting Colin and EastSide programme and we plan to promote good relations messages and promote understanding and respect among our young people"

Fergus Devitt Director of Active Communities Division in DfC said "The central focus of this programme is to recognise the role that young people can and do play in building a united community. The Uniting Colin & EastSide programme aims to use innovative ways to build good relations between communities."

Linsey Farrell, Programme Director, Urban Village Initiative, said

"It is great to be working collaboratively with the Department for Communities on this project, we are delighted that the Uniting Colin and EastSide programme is being rolled out in Urban Village areas, where the focus is on building the capacity of young people, giving them a voice and supporting them to make positive plans about living better together."



PROFILE: Emma Donnelly Enterprise Co-ordinator The Urban Villages Initiative

Supporting enterprise will enhance the long term sustainability of many planned capital and community-led projects. This includes entrepreneurship, social enterprise, employability initiatives and ways to help people access new career paths. This focus is being supported by an Enterprise Coordinator working with local groups and wider stakeholders.

Emma will work across the 5 Urban Village areas to:

- Support and connect existing and emerging social enterprises.
- Facilitate connected community tourism approaches
- Engage with employers to increase access to jobs, matching skills to industry needs.
- Encourage social impact outcomes through core and city business engagement.

M:+44 (0)73 4205 9034 T:+44 (0)28 9052 0070

E: emma.donnelly@urbanvillagesni.org



GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) delivers a series of local, national and global events, activities and workshops to inspire people everywhere to explore their potential as innovators, entrepreneurs and drivers of economic growth.

Each year the GEW movement inspires individuals and groups everywhere to make their business ideas a reality. This year GEW 2017 has a local theme for Belfast 'the place to make your first million'.

GEW provides support and guidance to millions of budding entrepreneurs and existing enterprises connecting individuals and businesses into the enterprise eco system to encourage, facilitate and support growth and expansion. During GEW 2017 (13th - 19th November) The Urban Villages Initiative is collaborating with Belfast City Council, Ulster University Business School, East Belfast Enterprise Agency, BSCR - Growing South Social Economy Project and other partners to deliver inspiring and practical workshops for Urban Village community & voluntary groups, residents and businesses as part of a programme of free, open to all events Belfast City Council is coordinating across the city.

Registration for GEW events is via Belfast City Council www.belfastcity.gov.uk/gew

Attendance at all events is open to Urban Village community groups, residents, businesses and other interested parties from across Belfast and as places are limited we would encourage early booking.

Events supported by the Urban Villages Initiative at GEW are outlined below:

Event Title: Facilities Management through Social Enterprise **Date:** Tuesday, 14th November, 2-4pm

Description: This workshop is hosted in South Belfast and delivered by the Growing South Belfast Social Enterprise Project.

Venue: BSCR Digital Hub, 127-145 Sandy Row, BT12 5ET

Event Title: Belfast: A New Entrepreneurial Era **Date:** Friday, 17th November, 9.30am-3.30pm

Description: Hosted by East Belfast Enterprise, Ulster University Business School, The Urban Villages Initiative and

Belfast City Council.

Venue: City East Business Centre, 68-72 Newtownards Road,

Belfast BT4 1GW

Youth Advocacy – What do you Think?

Sandy Row, Donegall Pass & the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST

Are you a young person with a passion for saying what you think... or are you ready for change in the place where you live?

We would love to meet you!



Join us at the Youth Action Partnership (YAP), for our youth advocacy and participation programme that we deliver across the South Belfast Urban Village area -Donegall Pass, the Markets and Sandy Row.

Get in touch!

Call Gareth Hughes at South Belfast Alternatives on 028 9031 5763 or email gareth@alternativesrj.co.uk

> The Youth Action Partnership has three key elements: to provide bespoke and accredited training and capacity building, the delivery of specific issue

based programmes in each area and the development of 'Community Champions' to be actively involved in each area.

The Project aims to engage with young people across the South Belfast Urban Village area, to improve relationships, enhance community relations and create more cohesive communities.

The project will work with young people to celebrate cultural identity through interactive mediums including language, art and music. It will challenge negative behaviours and prejudices in order to create welcoming and safe shared spaces for all.

The Markets Summer Festival

The Markets Development Association (MDA) Summer Festival took place in August with a range of events to suit everyone.

The festival included a number of family outings including trips to theme parks which are an important part of the Summer Intervention programme, providing an opportunity for families and young people from across the Urban Village area to escape the city and to enjoy an exciting day trip to a fun park, spending quality time with family and friends and building positive relationships.

The annual senior's Dinner at St George's Market Bar & Grill was also a huge success and was attended by senior citizens from the local community. The dinner was dedicated to the memory of the MDA Chairperson, Phil McDonnell, who sadly passed away this year.

The MDA hosted their first ever Pride Night in the Market Community Centre 'A journey from tolerance, to acceptance to celebration' that included a discussion on LGBT rights and activism and a dramatic performance of the 1988 play Ecce Homo.

The festival succeeded in bringing the community together and has helped to foster new friendships through events like the Pride Night and the senior's dinner, demonstrating that all sections of the community are embraced and celebrated.



The festival was well received from everyone in the local community and we look forward to building on that next year.



A welcome escape in the heart of the city



Donegall Pass Community Garden has once again hosted a successful event for people from the local area. Even the rain couldn't dampen the spirits of those attending The Garden of Eatin Summer Festival.

The event had its usual range of fun and interactive activities, including creative crafts, bouncy castles, reptiles, cookery demonstration and of course a delicious BBQ. The cookery demonstration provided an opportunity to showcase the benefits of healthy eating by using fresh produce grown in the community garden including potatoes, onions, leeks and tomatoes.

This family event was a great success with the local community coming out in large numbers to enjoy the festivities.

The Community Garden on Donegall Pass provides a welcoming escape in the heart of the city, where local volunteers grow their own produce and nurture a safe, healthy and shared environment. Local residents and visitors are all most welcome to visit, and even better, get involved!

If you are interested in finding out more in the Donegall Pass Community Garden contact Anne on 028 9032 6256 or email on anne. mcallister@donegallpass.org



Donegall Pass Community Forum Christmas Celebrations



Join us this year to see the Christmas lights switched on by a very special guest on Friday 1st Dec at 6pm in the grounds of South Belfast Elim Church, 77 Donegall Pass.

Santa will arrive on a special mode of transport and there will be lots of fun and exciting activities to kick off the Christmas celebrations.

The Big Switch on event will have Christmas craft workshops, carol singing by children from the South Belfast Urban Village area, hot chocolate and much more.

Donegall Pass Community
Garden will come alive on
Thursday 7th Dec 5pm -9pm
with the annual Winter
Wonderland. Come along and
see Santa's Grotto, a petting
farm, carousel, fairground
rides, Christmas craft
workshops and delicious hot
waffles plus a few surprises.
The events are open for all
and free to attend.

Cross Community
Christmas in Donegall Pass
The ever popular Donegall

The ever popular Donegall Pass Cross Community Christmas event returns to the Donegall Pass Community Centre, 25 Apsley St, on Friday 8th December 2017. Following the success of the event last year, the invites will be going out to local groups across the area very soon. This cross community Christmas event brings seniors from many different groups together, creating space to make new friends and meet up with old ones.

You are very welcome to all of these events to find out more contact the Donegall Pass Community Centre on 028 9032 7661.

Youth Connections in South Belfast

St Malachy's Youth Centre and Charter Youth Club continue to work in partnership to strengthen communities by bringing young people together, building relationships and sharing spaces during times of heightened tension within the area.

Throughout July, young people from across the South Belfast Urban Village area engaged with one another in a series of activities and team building exercises including, ice skating, snow tubing and attending a residential. The young people fully engaged in the activities and enjoyed the opportunity of getting to know people from other cultures and backgrounds to their own.

As a result of the programme of events, the young people participating in the activities learned to recognise and respect each other's differences through building relationships and getting to know one another, as they practiced living better together.





Community Time Out

In August this year, the Sandy Row Residents Association went on a trip to a theme park with families from the Urban Village area. Demand was high for this trip with buses filled to the brim with excited families from the area looking forward to the day ahead.

The young people really enjoyed the fun of the rides and the animal farm, with the giant roller coaster proving to be the most popular attraction for the visitors from Sandy Row. It was a great day out for all involved

and with the bonus of good weather everyone enjoyed themselves making the excursion a huge success.

For families in the area this was a rare occasion to get away on a trip like this, an opportunity to leave the worries of the world behind and invest in quality time with their families and neighbours. The outing provided a fun and safe event for families and young people from the local community with time to foster positive community identities.



South Belfast

Local Community led projects supported by the Urban Villages Initiative - 2017/18



Supporting Children with Additional Needs and their Families

Sólás will run a number of Specialist Parent Programmes that will specifically target those parents with children on the Autism spectrum (ASD) or in the process of getting a diagnosis for autism. They will also deliver One on One Learning Support After School Programme targeting 40 children aged 4 to 11.

SÓLÁS 028 9024 7600

Growing South Belfast Social Enterprise

Growing South Belfast Social Enterprise will be a first point of contact and "sense-check" to grow social enterprise to assist the building of current and future social, financial, environmental and cultural capital across Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and Markets.

Belfast South Community Resources 028 9024 4449

After School Support Programme

Belfast South Community Resources will deliver a coordinated after schools support programme for primary & post primary children in the South Belfast Urban Village area, and will deliver an Easter Revision Week in Maths for 50 students sitting GCSE.

Belfast South Community Resources 028 9024 4449

Growing South Digital

Belfast South Community Resources will deliver a motivation programme for children and young people 7-14 that will enable them to acquire and use digital skills that assist their learning, their self-confidence and self-esteem and their capabilities as connected digital citizens. This will be delivered through a number of Minecraft courses and Fablab workshops.

Belfast South Community Resources 028 9024 4449

Joint Parent Worker

This project is a collaboration between Arellian Nursery School and Blythefield Primary School. A part time, joint parent worker will be based across the two schools to deliver:

- Empower and enable parents, carers and extended family to maximise the education experience for their children.
- Support for parents to develop their own learning and self-confidence.
- Improve the emotional, physical, communication, language and play skills of the pupils through a home learning programme.

Arellian Nursery School
028 9032 5280

The Urban Villages Initiative is continuing to invest in the local community in South Belfast by supporting organisations in the development of a number of projects aimed at improving the lives of local people by strengthening communities and improving the environment to live better together.

How Does Our Garden Grow

The How Does Our Garden Grow project includes a range of elements, including: conservation training schemes, volunteer gardening sessions, health and wellbeing projects, environmental play schemes, environmental education in local schools, seasonal community cohesion events and country comes to town Artisan Market for arts and crafts and local produce to be on display and to be sold.

Donegall Pass Community Forum 028 9032 6256

Alternative Therapies

The Alternative Therapies project will provide a number of complementary treatments. These sessions can be accessed through referrals from local community groups, organisations, sport groups and pharmacies.

Donegall Pass Community Forum 028 9032 6256

South Belfast Youth Action

South Belfast Youth Action Partnership (YAP) will deliver a range of activities with a focus on good relations, training programmes for young people, identification of the community safety issues affecting young people and the development of youth 'Community Champions'.

South Belfast Alternatives 028 9031 5763

Community Connectivity

South Belfast Partnership
Board will ensure that a
programme of cultural and
diversity celebrations are
delivered across the South
Belfast Urban Village area by
co-ordinating and overseeing
the co-design process and
collaboration of a large
diverse number of groups.

South Belfast Partnership Board 028 9024 4070

Early Years Project

An Early Years Worker will provide additional capacity for further morning programme sessions including additional places for children per week. The worker will support children's play Parent & Toddler's group and deliver play programmes in homes. They will have a key role in helping to plan and co-ordinate interneighbourhood events and activities such as joint trips and celebration events

South Belfast Sure Start 028 9094 2525





Arlene McCreight
Local Co-ordinator
South Belfast

As the Local
Co-ordinator for the
South Urban Village area,
my responsibility consists
of the day-to-day coordination, management
and delivery of Urban
Villages community-led
and capital projects and
community engagement
in the South Belfast Urban
Village area.



Peter McDowell Local Support Officer South Belfast

My role as Local Support Officer involves supporting the revenue programme delivery including attending and supporting the delivery of local events and projects, supporting community capacity building and stewardship through a local presence in the South Belfast Urban Village area and liaising with local delivery partners to monitor project delivery.

DEVELOPING CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Foster positive community identities
- Build community capacity
- Improve the physical environment

The Urban Villages Team recently invited proposals for capital projects to inform the development of a pipeline of potential projects in the South Belfast Urban Village area. These proposals were assessed for strategic fit with Urban Villages aims and outcomes. Projects which met the minimum standard are now being taken forward with community partners to develop design options and associated business cases.

Ultimately, all successful capital projects will address the core aims of the initiative by fostering positive community identities, building community capacity and improving the physical environment in the Urban Village area.

Shared Learning Programme

FIND OUT
ABOUT SHARED
LEARNING
EVENTS ACROSS
URBAN VILLAGE
AREAS



Local groups and organisations working across the five Urban Village areas have a wealth of experience in developing innovative approaches to community challenges and opportunities.

A strength of the Urban Villages Initiative is the platform it provides to build connections within and across areas – helping to share learning on what works well and build partnerships which can make a difference.

Local groups said they would value networking events and activities which bring insight and experience together from across the Urban Village areas.





TACKLING VACANCY AND DERELICTION

A shared learning event to address the issues of tackling Vacancy and Dereliction took place in June 2017 to support the work to improve the physical environment in Urban Village areas.



Strabane District Council, and the NI Housing Executive.

The speakers highlighted approaches making a difference locally and on a city wide and regional basis. The workshop generated a range of ideas and suggestions to inform coordinated and innovative approaches.

This is helping to shape capital investment and associated programmes to tackle vacancy and dereliction as part of the Urban Villages Initiative.



HARNESSING THE FULL BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS Colin Allotments, West Belfast, 29 November 2017

The Colin Allotments
Healthy Living Centre is a
social enterprise which has
turned a derelict site into
one of the region's biggest
community allotment
projects.

It includes innovative buildings constructed from repurposed industrial shipping containers. It provides horticultural courses and cookery classes. The centre is also used by schools, Men's Shed groups and public bodies to support innovative approaches to health and well-being and community engagement.







HEALTH AND WELL-BEING Derry~Londonderry, 26 January 2018

Health and well-being is increasingly a key focus of a diverse range of local groups and public bodies working with communities across the region. This includes tackling mental health challenges and particularly those facing young people.

Often there is an emphasis on building resilience - including the range of financial advice and other support services available to families. Innovative collaborations and sharing learning can maximise the impact and reach of this work.



DIGITAL YOUTH South Belfast, 27 February 2018

Digital skills now underpin many career and entrepreneurial opportunities.

But how do we make these opportunities more accessible to young people from Urban Village areas and other similar places?

The Digital Youth event will highlight school based and innovative community led approaches to inspiring and supporting young people.

It will help community groups and educators to build on what works and develop partnerships promoting multiple career paths for young people and ways they can flourish.



COMMUNITY LED
APPROACHES TO TOURISM
East Belfast, 8 March 2018

Local groups across Urban Village areas are exploring ways to maximise the potential of tourism initiatives in their communities. This includes helping local people to tell their stories and shape authentic perspectives on tourism narratives and activities covering the areas where they live.

A diverse range of public bodies and organisations can support local groups in devising inclusive approaches to remembering the past, content generation and audience development.

This shared learning event will highlight collaborative and strategic opportunities to build local capacity; maximise community benefit and the longer term impact and sustainability of local tourism initiatives.

If you are interested in finding out more about Shared Learning programmes across Urban Village areas, contact us on info@urbanvillagesni.org

Urban Villages Community Awards



The Urban Villages Community Awards celebrate the people, organisations and places making a difference in Urban Village areas. It's not just about projects or activities which are supported by the Urban Villages Initiative – it's about celebrating 'what works' and showcasing innovation wherever or however it happens in your area.

What's happening to make a difference where you live and work? Who's making it happen and how? Nominations can be for individuals or people living or working within Urban Village areas; or organisations, places or projects based in each place. There's a number of categories to help highlight the great work being done where you live.



Youth Achievement Award

Recognising achievement by an individual (under 25 years old) or project involving young people which has made a positive difference in the community.



Education and Learning Award

Positive impact of school based approaches or organisations and projects

helping learners of any age and all types to achieve their full potential.



Sport and Physical Activity Award The role of sport and physical activities in building confidence, bringing people together or improving health and well-being.



Celebrating Diversity Award

Activities which improve relationships between and within communities; connect people from diverse backgrounds or build understanding of different cultures and beliefs.



Creativity and Innovation Award

Using arts, creativity and other innovative approaches to help communities to work together to tackle social challenges and community issues.



Thriving Places Award

Buildings, meeting places or projects involving innovative design or use of public spaces which bring residents and visitors together in shared and safe places and provide focal points for improving community confidence and pride.

REMEMBER - the person, group or project you nominate can be supported or funded from a variety of sources, or none at all!

The Awards aim to celebrate people and approaches which make a positive difference where you live, no matter how or who helps it happen.

Nominations must be submitted by 5pm Friday 8th December 2017. You can fill in a simple online form www.executiveoffice-ni.gov. uk/community-awards or cut out and post the form on the reverse.

There will be a finalist from each Urban Village area in every category - so six finalists will be representing your area!

They will be announced in January 2018 and profiled in a local publicity campaign in the lead up to the Awards ceremony at Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Wednesday 21st March 2018.

Urban Villages Community Awards **Nomination Form**





What category are nominating to? (Tick only one category)
Youth Achievement Award Recognising achievement by an individual (under 25 years old) or project involving young people which has made a positive difference in the community.
Education and Learning Award Positive impact of school based approaches or organisations and projects helping learners of any age and all types to achieve their full potential.
Sport and Physical Activity Award The role of sport and physical activities in building confidence, bringing people together or improving health and well-being.
Celebrating Diversity Award Activities which improve relationships between and within communities; connect people from diverse backgrounds or build understanding of different cultures and beliefs.
Creativity and Innovation Award Using arts, creativity and other innovative approaches to help communities to work together to tackle social challenges and community issues.
Thriving Places Award Buildings, meeting places or projects involving innovative design or use of public spaces which bring residents and visitors together in shared and safe places and provide focal points for improving community confidence and pride.
Which Urban Village Area? (Tick only one)
Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan (North Belfast)
Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets (South Belfast)
EastSide (incorporating the lower part of the Newtownards Road in East Belfast)
Colin (Poleglass, Twinbrook, Lagmore and Kilwee in West Belfast)
The Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street (Derry~Londonderry)
Who/what are you nominating?
Nominee Name/Organisation: Email: T:
Project Title:
Provide the name of the individual, people, project, organisation or place. Ensure they are eligible for nomination, based on: Individuals or people living or working within the area; or organisation, place or project based in and/or serving the community in the Urban Village area. Provide appropriate contact details for the nominee, if known.
Why should this nominee be recognised with a Community Award in this category? Please use a separate A4 sheet - max 500 words. Tell us what they did. Tell us how well they did it. Tell us about the difference it made.
Are there any other partner organisations involved?

Any collaborating organisations within the UV area or from other places? Links to other programmes or funders? This doesn't have to be the case but if so, please provide some details.

In case we need to contact you
Tell us your name, organisation (if appropria

te) and contact details

Name: Organisation:

Email: T:

Return form to: **The Urban** Villages Initiative, Room E4.15, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, **BT4 3SR**

www.executiveoffice -ni.gov.uk/community-awards

Summary of what's happened to date:



BUILDING PROJECTS 2016/17

£1.7m 😉 **Funded Projects**

Construction Projects Completed



Proiects Under



Designs Completed

BUILDING PROJECTS 2017/18

£2.5m Investment

Up to



URBAN VILLAGES Thriving Places

Foster positive community identities

> **Build** community capacity

Improve the physical environment COMMUNITY **PROJECTS 2016/17**

£1.5m **Funded Projects**

Community-led projects

Cross cutting projects

A range of design and planning projects supported

COMMUNITY **PROJECTS 2017/18**

£2m 😉

Condensed programmes - more collaborative and strategic projects

Cross cutting projects



design and planning projects supported

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU...

URBAN VILLAGES FOCUS MAGAZINE will tell you what's happening and what the Northern Ireland Executive is supporting across the Urban Village Areas in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry.

The stories you have read have come from community groups and individuals in Urban Village areas. We want this magazine to reflect the great things that are happening where you live and welcome your comments and ideas!

If you would like to receive future editions of FOCUS Magazine, sign up at info@urbanvillagesni.org or contact us at The Urban Villages Initiative, Room E4.15, Castle Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SR







Contact us: info@urbanvillagesni.org