

Colin
**WEST
BELFAST**

ISSUE

01

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2017

URBAN VILLAGES

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

**Benefits of
Colin Allotments**

**Uniting Colin
and EastSide
Programme**

**Find out what's
happening across
Urban Village areas**



IMPROVING YOUR AREA | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES | LIVING BETTER TOGETHER



Philip Magee
Local Co-ordinator Colin

As the Local Co-ordinator for the Colin Urban Village area, my responsibilities consists of the day-to-day co-ordination, management and delivery of Urban Villages revenue and capital projects. I work closely with community groups and organisations to support and maximise the delivery of local events, community led projects and capital investment within the Colin area.



Siobhan Watson
Local Support Officer Colin

As the Local Support Officer for the Colin Urban Village area, I work with programme delivery partners to support and maximise the delivery of local events, community led projects and capital investment within the Colin area.

The Urban Villages Initiative is funding a range of community and capital (building) projects across the Colin Urban Village area. If you would like further information on the range of Urban Villages projects being supported in the Colin area please contact the Local Co-ordinator, Philip Magee at philip.magee@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk. Philip is also based at the Colin Community Hub in the grounds of the Dairy Farm on Tuesday and Wednesday every week.

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 Colin 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.

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,



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



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

URBAN VILLAGE AREAS - Derry~Londonderry Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street. **South Belfast** Sandy Row, Donegall Pass & The Markets. **North Belfast** Ardoyne & Greater Ballysillan. **East Belfast** Lower Newtownards Road. **West Belfast** Colin Area.

Projects across Urban Village Areas

Uniting Colin and EastSide Programme



UNITING COMMUNITIES 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 programme.

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.

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**GLOBAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
WEEK**

**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

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.



WHAT'S HAPPENED

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.

Presentations were delivered by community representatives from East Belfast and Derry-Londonderry and speakers from the Department for Communities, Belfast City Council, Derry City and



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.

WHAT'S COMING UP

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.



WHAT'S COMING UP

**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.

WHAT'S COMING UP

**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.

WHAT'S COMING UP

**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

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 appropriate) and contact details

Name: Organisation:

Email: T:

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

Or complete form online FOR FREE at www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/community-awards


Summary of what's happened to date:



BUILDING PROJECTS 2016/17

£1.7m 
Funded Projects

11
Construction Projects Completed 

2
Projects Under Construction 

6
Designs Completed 

BUILDING PROJECTS 2017/18

£2.5m 
Investment

Up to
10
Projects in the pipeline for delivery 

COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2016/17

£1.5m 
Funded Projects

84
Community-led projects

6
Cross cutting projects 

19
A range of design and planning projects supported

COMMUNITY PROJECTS 2017/18

£2m 

49
Condensed programmes - more collaborative and strategic projects

6
Cross cutting projects 

7
design and planning projects supported



Foster positive community identities

Build community capacity

Improve the physical environment

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



Northern Ireland
Executive
www.northernireland.gov.uk

T:buc
Changing for the better, together



Contact us:
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