**ISSUE** Bogside, Fountain & **NOVEMBER** Bishop Street URBAN VILLAGES **DERRY~ LONDONDERRY** MAGAZINE Féile 2017 Fringe Festival Community Awards Find out what's happening in yolocal community URBAN

IMPROVING YOUR AREA | STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES | LIVING BETTER TOGETHER

**Thriving Places** 

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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.

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### 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

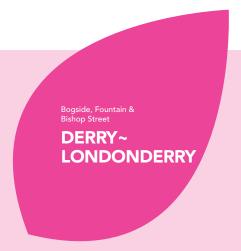
Belfast City Council.

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

Belfast BT4 1GW

# Streets Alive Programme

At Féile 2017



Streets Alive Programme Celebrates Successful Summer - Féile 2017

The Urban Villages Initiative is supporting the Streets Alive programme, a unique collaboration of community organisations from across the Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area.

The plan is to develop a creative approach on a cross community basis celebrating and respecting cultural diversity, community aspirations and a sense of pride for traditional expression in festivals throughout the year.

The collaboration sets out to enable organisations to foster positive community identities by working together across the different communities and cultures through all aspects of project delivery.





The Streets Alive Project got off to a great start with the successful delivery of the summer programme during July and August 2017. Featured events included Ryan Mc Bride Sporting Day, a Fringe Festival in the Fountain area and the Festival of Fire as part of the Féile 2017.

# Event report: Summer Féile 2017

The first ever Fringe Festival took place in the Fountain neighbourhood during the annual Apprentice Boys' 'Derry Day' celebrations 2017.







This new celebration introduced a series of challenging talks, cultural discussions and celebrations in the local community and the local arts community. The festival also offered a tour of the city walls followed by an evening of music and dance to enthral and create a welcoming space where people could feel safe and connected regardless of their background. The Fringe Festival set out critical groundwork to improve relationships between and within communities. Organised by the North

West Cultural Partnership, the festival was created to complement the rich festival scene in the city during August, coinciding with the Maiden City Festival and the Gas Yard Féile, it added variety and more choice to the activities already offered by these established events.

The festival received funding from the Urban Villages Initiative, NIHE and the International Fund for Ireland via the Londonderry Bands Forum, to challenge and celebrate diversity in a positive safe setting.

# Ryan McBride Sporting Day



A new Sporting event came to the Streets of The Bogside this summer, when the community decided to celebrate the life and achievements of local man and successful sports personality Ryan McBride, who died suddenly earlier this year. As the Captain of Derry City Football Club he was a huge role model for many young people in the area putting time and effort into supporting the community and enhancing local morale through sport.

The day long schedule of sporting activities brought residents young and old, onto the streets to take part in a multitude of activities, bringing fun and interaction to all who participated. Derry

City FC joined in the fun by taking part in football activities with the children and young people from the area. A fantastic turnout saw more than 1,000 people from the Urban Village area on the streets that day, sharing spaces and providing places that were safe for all, and increasing a sense of pride and belonging in the community.



Urban Villages Initiative Local Co-ordinator, Maureen Fox, thanked all who came out to support the event saying, "It was fantastic to see the streets packed with people taking part in activity celebrating community in such a unique way. I have no doubt Ryan McBride played a huge part in instilling a sense of pride in this community, offering sport is a fantastic opportunity to get entire families involved in physical activity."



# Féile 2017 pushes the boundaries in Cultural Diversity with Fire!

Féile 2017 celebrated their 25th Anniversary as Derry~Londonderry's biggest Community Arts and Cultural Festival. This year saw a programme that celebrated cultural diversity, attracting more than 20,000 people of all ages, with lots of different communities coming together from across the city to enjoy the events. The Festival Programme had over 60 events and activities, including music, literature, sport, visual arts, fun days, health, discussions, lectures, community consultation, tours and much more.

The festival took place at multiple venues across the Urban Village area of the Bogside, Bishop Street and the Fountain. It came to a spectacular close at the Gasyard Park, where the Festival of Fire celebration event brought together over 3500 people of all ages. The outdoor event celebrated different

cultures with dance, music and pyrotechnics. It was a unique production with displays and performance as never seen before as part of the Féile.

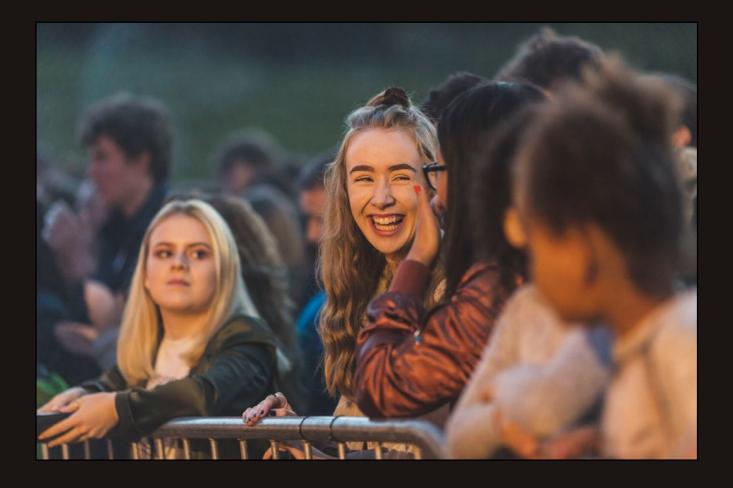
This was the first time ever that a bonfire with a difference formed part of a spectacular fire show during the Féile. The Return of The Phoenix event brought families together in a celebration of the ancient tradition of fire, free from the sectarianism and anti-social behaviour associated with recent bonfires in the area.

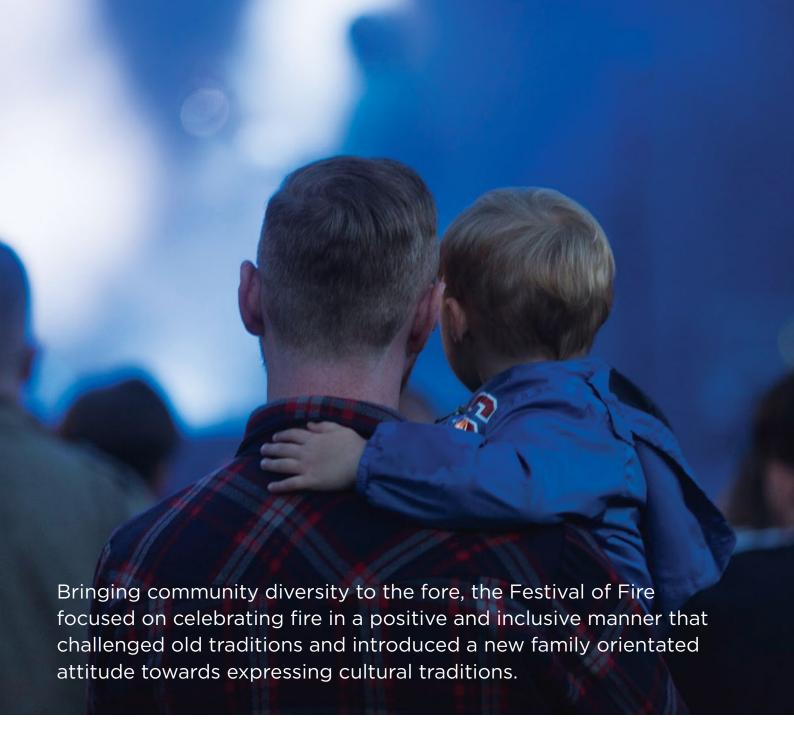


Bringing community diversity to the fore, the Festival of Fire focused on celebrating fire in a positive and inclusive manner that challenged old traditions and introduced a new family orientated attitude towards expressing cultural traditions. The night was a huge success, as it welcomed the entire community regardless of age, gender religion or background. A fantastic family night out that had something for all from start to finish.

Activities in the Féile continue to act as an effective intervention around contentious marches, bonfires and anti-social behaviour. Over the past 25 years the festival has successfully reduced inter and intra community tensions through sensitive negotiations on an annual basis.

The Urban Villages Initiative supported this multi-agency approach which has brought together Dove House Community Trust, Bluebell Arts, Gasyard Development Trust, Triax Neighbourhood Management Team, Community Restorative Justice and the Bogside & Brandywell Initiative. Local members of the Men's Shed and young people from Long Tower Youth Club, Pilots Row Youth Club and Youth First from across the area were also involved in the construction and design of the fire sculptures and bonfire.





### 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 Derry~Londonderry 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.

# Derry~Londonderry

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

### **Streets Alive**

A programme of collaborative and coordinated events across the Urban Village area includes:

- A Year Round Cultural/ Festival Programme
- Cultural Activity/Festivals on both sides of the Bishop Street/Fountain interface
- Sporting Inspiration & Events Programme
- Festival of Fire Alternatives to Bonfires
- Youth Futures: Training programme for young people in arts/culture tourism.

Gasyard Wall Féile 028 7126 2812



### **The Bog Couple**

The Playhouse have commissioned and produced a new piece of community theatre, The Bog Couple, which is inspired by Neil Simon's classic script, 'The Odd Couple'. The Playhouse will recruit a cast and crew of 15 residents from Bogside,

Fountain & Bishop Street and provide training and mentoring in theatre performance, stage management, set design, costume, light and sound. The play will be showcased at The Playhouse and in the core Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area of the Bogside, Fountain and Bishop Street.

The Playhouse 028 7126 8027

### **Know it, Change it, Live it**

Dove House Community Trust will recruit an Engagement Officer to deliver a financial capacity building programme to 40 households within the Bogside, Fountain & Bishop Street Urban Village area.

The programme will be delivered through 1 to 1 information sessions in the participating households, include a number of peer group support sessions, activity sessions through Cook & Save and Taste Test Challenges and will distribute 80 children's savings boxes.

Dove House Community Trust 028 7126 9327





### ICT for Community Empowerment

The North West Regional College (NWRC) will recruit a cross section of 70 community participants from Urban Village areas to access the following courses, Level 2 Certificate in Creative & Digital Technologies and Level 2 Certificate in ICT/ Information and Creative Technologies courses, creating an 'ICT Learning Hub' and promoting a sustainable learning environment which will be delivered in core Urban Village community venues.

The programme will culminate in a celebrating achievement event with certification from awarding bodies for participants.

North West Regional College 028 7127 6410

### **Transport Programme**

Provision of transport for the Fountain Primary School to enable children who live in the Waterside area of the city to attend school.

Fountain Primary School 028 7137 4909



### Maureen Fox Local Co-ordinator Derry~Londonderry

As Local Co-ordinator in the Derry~Londonderry Urban Village area I am based in the local community to ensure the voice of the community is heard.

In my role I support and assist groups, organisations and government representatives to identify, plan and achieve positive change in the local area. My primary focus is to support community collaboration that will enrich and enhance local potential on issues such as service provision, employability and physical change.



### Barry Langan Local Support Officer Derry~Londonderry

As Local Support Officer in the Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area, I am a key contact for local communities in monitoring and supporting delivery of local events and projects in both revenue and capital.

I provide a visible and accessible connection for all Stakeholder networks and Delivery Partners.

# 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