

URBAN VILLAGES

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

ISSUE

06

FEBRUARY
2019

COLIN

**Online
Cooking
Tutorials**
Skills and fun!

**Urban
Gallery**

Transformation
EASTSIDE

SOUTH
BELFAST

**New
Digital Hub**
Capacity Building

**Pic
ops!**

Upload your
favourite!

NORTH
BELFAST

**YOUTH
ACTION**
Get your
voice heard

DERRY~
LONDONDERRY

**KNOW IT,
CHANGE
IT, LIVE IT**
Impacting lives



Thriving Places

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About Us



The Urban Villages Initiative is a headline action of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy. It is designed to improve good relations outcomes and develop thriving places.

The Urban Villages Initiative is shaped and delivered in partnership with local communities and has three core aims:

- To foster positive community identities
- To build community capacity
- To improve the physical environment

The Urban Villages Initiative is continuing to invest in the five Urban Village areas by supporting organisations in the development of projects aimed at improving the lives of people in these areas.

For more information contact: info@urbanvillagesni.org

Welcome

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



Welcome to our first edition of FOCUS magazine for 2019! I am really excited about all of the building projects that are rolling out across the Urban Village areas over the next few months, and the successful collaborations across departments and councils as our delivery partners.

There are 21 projects on the ground or shortly to be underway across all of the Urban Village areas (read more p21). 14 of those are being delivered by our partners in Belfast City Council, where, at this stage in the programme, there will be up to £10 million invested in improving the physical environment.

Meantime, in Derry~Londonderry building work has begun on the refurbishment for the new accessible working space for Destined Ltd, and other projects are in the pipeline.

As the community led projects mature we are seeing the depth of great work that is impacting people's lives.

It is notable that mental health is an issue raised as a concern for young people and others across

areas. I am proud that our programme is supporting communities to implement innovative approaches to addressing this issue and other associated concerns that can negatively impact people's lives. You can read more about great projects throughout the magazine.

Work across schools is really addressing inclusion and the need for tolerance of other cultures. You will find a link to the excellent 'Time to Stand', a challenging anti-bullying video (p5), watch it if you can, this film now has teaching plans for use in schools.

The capacity building programme is going from strength to strength, building connections across Urban Village's communities and with great opportunities for training for anyone interested.

Thanks, as always, for all your input to these fantastic stories. We are delighted to support the people on the ground in creating #thrivingplaces.

Enjoy,

Best regards,

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

Local Innovation at International Peace Conference



Over 250 international delegates at a the Build Peace Conference in Belfast explored a number of local innovative projects supported as part the Urban Village Initiative.

The peace conference brought together academics, policy makers, community activists and creative organisations from across the globe to share ideas on innovative approaches to peacebuilding and conflict transformation.

Delegates heard about the Executive's Together: Building a United Community, good relations strategy. Local representatives in the

EastSide Urban Village area spoke about community led tourism and heritage projects being developed, specifically the EastSide Voices Tours and A/R projects.



Conference organiser, Kate Mytty from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), said **“A number of projects from Urban Villages that work to build greater connection were highlighted as they embody the conference’s theme of building peace by re-imagining prosperity.”**



Tourism Connecting Thriving Communities

Local people sharing their stories and developing vibrant community-led approaches to tourism continues to inspire joined-up approaches spanning Urban Village areas.

A partnership with National Museums NI provided training and professional advice to local groups across East and West Belfast to help them research and develop tourism products.

The project was showcased at a major conference in Belfast bringing over 1,500

museum sector delegates from across Europe. Many delegates participated in local tours of East and West Belfast.

Ulster University has also been working alongside the EastSide Voices Tours project and with groups in other Urban Village areas to support community-led approaches to tourism, heritage and peace building.

Ulster University is now also working in a collaboration with the Peace IV tourism project led by Derry City

& Strabane District Council. They are working on the development of ‘Peace Tourism’ experiences suited to local, national and international visitor demand and this will inform similar support planned for groups across other Belfast Urban Village areas.

See page 27 for training opportunities.



Time to Stand Against Bullying and Racism



Consul General visits a School of Sanctuary

The US Consul General Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau visited Malone Integrated College to see how the Schools of Sanctuary model is supporting schools serving Urban Village areas.

The programme helps schools to further develop as places where every child feels safe and accepted regardless of what they believe, where they are from or what they look like. The approach develops cultural awareness across the curriculum and strengthens connections with the wider community.

A partnership between the Urban Villages Initiative, the Education Authority and the City of Sanctuary Group is helping schools serving Urban Village areas to achieve School of Sanctuary status.

Fourteen schools are already Schools of Sanctuary and a further fifteen are currently working towards the award during 2019. **Find out more at www.eani.org.uk/school-management/intercultural-education-service-ies/schools-of-sanctuary**



A short film helping young people to tackle bullying and racism has been launched at a special screening to schools from Urban Village areas during Anti-Bullying Week.

The script for 'Time to Stand' has been informed by members of the Racial Equality Subgroup – which includes a range of local organisations who inform Government's work on issues affecting minority ethnic people, migrants and race relations.

The film was produced by the charity Cinemagic and is supported by teaching plans developed by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum.

It is a resource for schools and youth organisations in Urban Village areas and across the region. It helps to facilitate discussions around respect and ways to support positive community identities.

Watch the film at

Sharing Good Practice

Building community capacity is a key aim of the Urban Villages Initiative. This can be supported by sharing knowledge, insight and experiences from across the community and voluntary sector.

Resurgam Trust and Fermanagh Trust have been working with the Department for Communities on a pilot model to support community development.

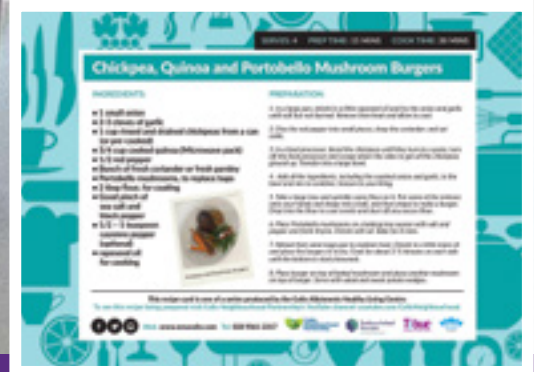
Groups and individuals from across Urban Village areas are invited to visit Fermanagh Trust in Enniskillen on 25th March and Resurgam Trust in Lisburn on 27th March to find out more about the work of these organisations.

Sessions run from 11.00am – 1.00pm – lunch included. To confirm a place contact Angela Wright on 028 9267 0755 or angela.wright@resurgamtrust.co.uk

For more on the work of these organisations see: www.resurgamtrust.co.uk and www.fermanaghtrust.org

Online cooking tutorials

Colin
WEST BELFAST



For some healthy recipes, take a look at these great ideas...

The Healthy Living Centre at Colin Allotments have commissioned their own range of online cooking tutorials. A qualified chef has designed five recipe cards with delicious meals packed full of flavour, nutrition and goodness!

Each recipe takes no more than 45 minutes to prepare and this helps even the busiest mums and dads to be able to make tasty nutritious meals from scratch.

You can access these nutritional recipes online. Along with cookery cards they will give viewers the opportunity to follow recipes step by step. The videos are short and very user friendly.

Recipes included:

- Chicken and Leek Potato Cakes, Poached egg with dip
- Chickpea, Quinoa and Portobello Mushroom Burgers
- Healthy Peanut and Caramel Bar
- Prawn and Chorizo Gumbo
- Thai Curry Macaroni (Vegan)

“Cooking with kids is also a great family activity that teaches children of all ages many different skills, from maths to nutrition. These easy recipes are healthy, quick and fun and will help with building simple cookery skills.”

Matthew McKinley, Business Manager, Colin Allotments

The project is run in partnership with the Growing Spaces Programme and funded by the Urban Villages Initiative.



Chairperson of the Colin Youth Strategy Group, Michael Devine said,

“This informal learning experience empowers and equips young people to follow the 5 key messages of the programme. In so doing, young people learn how to embrace simple, practical self-help strategies that can be practiced independently”.

Mental Health Awareness Course Impacting Young People's Lives

Gimme 5 is a mental health awareness raising programme specially designed for children and young people, it promotes 5 key messages that encourage young people to: Take Notice; Keep Learning; Be Active; Give and Connect with others.

The Colin Youth Strategy Group brought together 10 local organisations and youth providers. They trained 20 youth workers and resourced them to deliver the Gimme 5 programme within their own youth centres or organisational settings.

Young people engage in group work-based learning that is interactive and enjoyable. This way they are equipped with the skills, knowledge and ability to become more conscious and aware of their own mental well-being.

To observe and mark World Mental Health Day, groups of young people attending Colin Youth Development Centre and the Lagmore Area Project celebrated the day by engaging in the 'Gimme 5' programme.

Leo Mulholland, a participant from Lagmore described the programme as 'amazing' and was quick to identify the benefits in helping not just himself but his friends as well.

Leo said,

“The programme has taught me how to look after not just my own mental health but how to look out for and help my friends as well”.

The Colin Youth Strategy Group plans to use the Urban Villages Initiative funding to support the delivery of more than 20 'Gimme 5' Programmes to over 250 young people in the Colin Area.

Crescendo the Colin Community Choir are raising their voices for the second year!



Crescendo the Colin Community Choir is back for its second year under the baton of choir director, Keith Acheson.

With over 30 members, the choir welcomes people of all ages and experience. Sessions are informal and members rehearse and perform a wide variety of music ranging from classical to pop, folk, jazz, musicals and soul.

Funded by the Urban Villages Initiative, the choir has enabled members of the community to come together in a fun and lively environment. There is no pressure on being able to read music or to be a trained singer to enjoy being in Crescendo. The aim is to sing, perform and have fun!

The benefits of performing are many, including positive physical outcomes and

mental health benefits, improving participants' sense of belonging and creating a positive sense of community.

The choir meets in Lagmore Community Centre every Tuesday night and has had the opportunity to perform at various community events including, Colin Creativity Day and the Annual Colin volunteers BBQ. Recently, with the help of the Glider, the EastSide Choir were able to join them from across the city for a performance at the Colin Christmas event.

Orla Ní Cába, choir member, commented **“Crescendo provides a great opportunity for the community to get together and sing, whatever their ability or age. All that is required is that you enjoy singing!”**

For further information contact John Paul Russell at Colin Neighbourhood Partnership on 028 9062 3813 or email johnpaul@newcolin.com

The Building Your Future Project

The Building Your Future employability and training project based at the Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens, is funded by the European Social Fund, Department for the Economy, the Urban Villages Initiative and supported by Belfast City Council.

The aim of the project is to improve employment and engagement opportunities for unemployed and economically inactive people

living in the Colin Urban Village area.

Each person who signs up on the programme is assigned mentor support, to help them to complete a career action plan. This helps them in the search for jobs and other opportunities, such as, further education courses and apprenticeships. They also get help to prepare a CV, complete application forms, and receive interview practice.

The mentors work to help participants overcome barriers to employment that they may face. They help individuals to grow in confidence and motivation, by supporting them to develop soft skills, such as, communication and team skills, personal effectiveness, problem solving, and time management skills.

For more information contact Roisin McGarry on **028 9062 7250** or **roisin@sallygardens.org**

Bogside, Fountain
& Bishop Street

**DERRY~
LONDONDERRY**

Know it, Change it, Live it Project



Debbie said “I am so happy that I contacted Majella when I did, I was heading for a nervous breakdown due to the pressures put on me by debtors, I couldn’t think straight. I have been introduced to a debt management plan which has changed my finances for the better. I would advise anyone who is struggling with debt issues to contact a debt advisor.”



The Know it, Change it, Live it (KCL) Project supports low income families from the Urban Villages area through financial inclusion. The project helps people to maximise their income by looking at spending habits, food waste and financial confidence.

The project has recently identified that a lot of families are struggling as a result of crippling debt and some families are using their weekly income to pay debts rather than buy essentials, like food!

The KCL Project has been working with a number of low-income families from the Urban Villages area over the past year. They have worked with clients to build financial confidence using good budgeting skills, money maximisation through conscious food waste and financial capability, as well as

learning to deal effectively with debt and how to avoid further stressful situations.

The Know it Change it Live it Project ran a Debt Awareness Roadshow as part of Mental Health Awareness week at The Cathedral Youth club in the Fountain Estate recently.

The event empowered the staff and participants to take the knowledge and skills they learned at the workshop and apply them with clients who would use their services. The more people that are aware of the solutions to solving debt problems, the less problematic it becomes.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about what the KCL Project does or wishes to book a debt workshop: please contact: majellastewarddovehouse@gmail.com or ring **028 7126 9327**

Streets Alive

The Streets Alive project is a yearlong programme of collaborative and coordinated events supported by the Urban Villages Initiative in Derry~Londonderry.



The project aims to build connectivity and develop relationships between communities in the Bogside, Bishop Street and Fountain areas. A key element is to animate the space and promote positive activity in the core Urban Village area.

Streets Alive is a community led programme headed up by the Gasyard Wall Féile. It is supported through a partnership of groups and community organisations, youth clubs, schools and residents from across the Derry~Londonderry Urban Village area.

The programme of events supports some of the best known cultural and community events in the city including, Féile, Halloween, Festival of Fire and the New Gate Fringe Festival. Streets Alive also provides capacity building programmes and activities for young people, families and seniors.

The Streets Alive project is focused on animating the Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area through the creative use of venues and shared spaces. Events and activities have taken place on the Bishop Street interface, the surrounding streets and green spaces throughout the core area and in a range of community spaces.

“The Streets Alive Project has enabled us to develop a series of festivals and events, which help foster positive community identities, build capacity and contribute to the development of attractive, thriving places for residents and visitors. The development of a haunted trail, in partnership with a number of other groups, in the lead up to the famous Halloween celebrations in Londonderry, was a particular highlight for me, with over 30,000 people visiting the Fountain, many for the first time.”

Kyle Thompson
New Gate Arts &
Culture Centre



This creative use of shared space was evident during the world-famous Halloween celebrations when tours took people from the Bogside and Bishop St and through the Fountain area. Local residents were delighted to welcome visitors into the area, opening up positive space for all to enjoy the atmosphere created by the Streets Alive Project.

A local resident commented, **“We are so proud and privileged to be a part of this project!! This really sums up how great our people are, and we are so proud of them!! An amazing way to bring some community spirit in the local area!!”**

Streets Alive continues to challenge social norms through the innovative way in which it approaches discussions and activities that support and respect traditional celebrations and different cultures.

A full schedule of events will again roll out this year. Streets Alive will continue building community capacity and develop relationships between communities across the Derry-Londonderry Urban Village area.

“Streets Alive is a major project that works with residents and groups across the Urban Village area. Cross community working has enabled the Halloween Festival, Feile, and other events, to grow into the wider Urban Villages area, encouraging visitors and local residents to visit the Fountain, Bogside and Bishop Street area as part of this experience - breathing new life into contested spaces. Although collaborative working has its challenges, Streets Alive provides community groups with a means of focusing on these challenges and finding a means of working through them.”

Seamus Ward
Chair, Gasyard Wall Féile

For more information, contact Patrick Danagher on 028 7126 2812 or feilederry@gmail.com

Urban Villages Initiative in EastSide

EAST BELFAST

Tots Explore the Great Outdoors

The EastSide Early Learning Project has been training Early Years Leaders to encourage our youngest children to get outside to explore, learn and get muddy if necessary!

Eleven Early Years staff from eight organisations across the EastSide Urban Village area completed OCN Level 1 Forest School training from the Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association. Three of these have now completed enough sessions with their children, to qualify for a Level 3 award.

The training has provided staff with the confidence and knowledge to plan and deliver forest school sessions with the children they work with; better engaging



them with the outdoors and natural environment in a safe and creative way.

Lots of our smallest children can now be seen enjoying our fantastic parks and open spaces. They do fun, simple, educational activities along the fantastic Connswater Community Greenway and anywhere else they can find!

Organisations involved in training to date are Carew II, EBM: Brightsparks, Bloomfield, Sure Start, Oasis, Greenway: Cregagh, Short Strand and Dee Street.

“It was fantastic the kids really enjoyed it, they even held a worm. I have learnt lots of new things and I now feel very confident to take them out by myself.”

Megan,
Bloomfield Playgroup.



Street Art Transforms EastSide into an Urban Gallery



The Urban Gallery project aims to transform places and spaces using art and creativity to contribute to Belfast's growing street and public art offering for residents and visitors to enjoy.

EastSide Partnership with help from Seedhead Arts commissioned international street artists Nomad Clan and Belfast based artist Friz to develop two pieces of street art in the EastSide Urban Village area.

"The street art installations in the EastSide Urban Village area makes a positive contribution to the Urban Gallery in the local community and has a wider impact right across Belfast. Street art like this can really transform an area and enhances the growing tourism initiative in EastSide."

Linsey Farrell, Director of the Urban Villages Initiative

Nomad Clan installed 'Linenopolis' at the pocket park on Tower Street/ Newtownards Road. Nomad Clan drew inspiration from East Belfast's rich linen heritage and 'year of the woman' to create a dream-like design featuring a modern woman resembling a female flax gatherer.

Belfast based artist Friz installed 'Winter's End' at Townsley Street, overlooking C.S. Lewis Square. The Narnian inspired mural depicts the end of the White Witch's reign and the return of Aslan who will breathe new life into Narnia.

"The funding from the Urban Villages Initiative for the EastSide Urban Gallery has helped to transform places and spaces across EastSide. The art will enhance civic pride, identity and improve the environment for residents and visitors to Belfast."

EastSide Urban Gallery project coordinator, Heather Chesney

Linsey Farrell visits Walkway Young Mums



Linsey Farrell, Programme Director of the Urban Villages Initiative, visited Walkway Community Association to attend a session of the Walkway Young Mums Programme.

This community led project delivers activity for 20 young

mums and provides a crèche facility for their children.

The project aims to create engaging and interactive experiences for the young mothers that will address key objectives of capacity building, building self-esteem, reducing isolation

and enhancing employability, learning and training.

The visit provided an informal opportunity for Linsey to see the programme in action, to interact with the young mums and to hear how the project is impacting positively in their everyday lives.



Belfast in Bloom Awards

The 'To the Hallion that Stole My Giant Marrow' project, an East Belfast Mission exhibition celebrating 100 Years of Gardening, and funded through the Urban Villages Initiative, celebrated a double success at the Belfast in Bloom Awards. It won a Special Achievement Award for the Best Improvement to the City of Belfast and it was runner up for the Best Community Garden.

Iris Shannon who has volunteered at East Belfast Mission for five years, recently won the Belfast City Council 2018 Older Volunteer of the Year Award.

The award recognises an individual volunteer who has made a real impact on or difference to their groups work. Iris volunteers her time with the Going Green team and worked on the 'To the Hallion that Stole My Giant Marrow' project.

Congratulations to Iris.



CareZone in Schools

Ardoyne &
Greater Ballysillan

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The CareZone in Schools programme is focussed on developing a youth led support service within a school setting to help young people overcome challenges affecting their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

The project aims to create 'a culture of care' within secondary schools and to further build their capacity to better support young people on issues affecting their health, wellbeing and education.

A youth work approach is used to engage with pupils in a range of activities that enhance their educational experiences and support young people's wellbeing.

This project, delivered by the YEHA Project (Youth Education Health Advice) in partnership with the Streetbeat Youth Project, has been extremely successful within Mercy College and Girls Model schools, where it is being rolled out. It has become the

preferred option of support for most pupils.

The Urban Villages Initiative has funded this programme and also covered the fit out of a support space in each school. This is developed to provide a safe space where the young people can be relaxed and comfortable in the school environment.



Get Your Voice Heard

North Belfast youths meet Lord Mayor



Young people from North Belfast recently met Lord Mayor Deirdre Hargey at an Ardoyne Youth Enterprise (AYE) event supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.

The aim of the event was to inspire young people in North Belfast to participate in decision-making in their community and in wider society, and to give them an opportunity to share their issues and concerns with decision-makers.

Young speakers John-Jo McGrady and Megan McConnell of Belfast Youth Forum and Tamera Farrell of Ardoyne Youth Club explained how they participate in community life and decision-making.

AYE Director Shane Whelehan said: **“Young people are change-makers, they must be included in decision-making.”**



In a Q&A session and ‘post-it’ consultation at the event, young people said that youth mental health needed to be prioritised. They want decision-makers to address homelessness and minority rights and allow 16 year olds to vote. A report on their responses is available on www.ardoyne.org/publications.

The Urban Villages Initiative continues its commitment to listening to the community voice about how best to develop thriving places, Programme Director, Linsey Farrell said **“This was a great opportunity to hear directly from young people on what we can do to support their needs.”** The Lord Mayor presented AYE with a Mayor’s Certificate for its outreach and empowerment initiatives.

Connected Futures

A New Squad of Advisers for Ardoyne and Ballysillan



Connected Futures is a partnership between Ballysillan Community Forum, Ardoyne Association and North Belfast Advice Partnership, supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.

The Connected Futures programme brings local volunteers together and trains them to become welfare reform advisers, able to advise on benefits, housing, debt and employability.

The course covers poverty-related issues, available support services and a Welfare Rights OCN Level 4 certificate delivered by Advice NI.

The project also aims to enable residents, including ethnic minorities, to feel comfortable entering advice centres in Ballysillan and Ardoyne.

John, a Connected Futures trainee, told us: **“I’m using my days off to do this because I want to get the qualification and understand how I can help in an advice role. I want to give something back to the community, and I think I would get more job satisfaction as an adviser.”**

For further information about the programme contact **Thomas Croy by email: tcconnectedfutures@gmail.com**

Caribbean Cultural Event



WOMEN’S TEC held a fantastic cultural awareness event, which brought together women from across Ballysillan and Ardoyne to participate in a workshop on Caribbean culture, facilitated by Rainbow Storytelling.

The session focused on promoting inclusion, celebrating diversity and respecting difference across cultures and communities.

The **WOMEN’S TEC #notjustforboys** programme is well underway and offers fun, practical activities that help raise awareness of fantastic career options for young women - that sometimes aren’t widely promoted!

Electrical, woodworking and DIY sessions proved

extremely popular, and the girls also enjoyed meeting women who currently work in electrical engineering, furniture making and carpentry. The majority of participants said that they would now consider exploring careers in non-traditional job areas.

The **#notjustforboys** programme is currently open to young women aged 14+ living in Ardoyne and Ballysillan areas.

For more information see page 27.



New Digital Hub gets into Action

Sandy Row,
Donegall Pass
& the Markets

SOUTH BELFAST



Women from a joint parent's group at Blythefield Primary School & Arellian Nursery School took part in an OCN level 2 in digital fabrication supported by the Urban Villages Initiative.

They completed 14 sessions in the new Digital Hub at Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR), learning

about design and how to produce their own products using a laser cutter and a vinyl cutter.

This course was a great success and led to an increase in the demand for similar courses to be provided for both individuals and groups who had seen the results displayed on social media.

BSCR got a request from the Principal at Arellian Nursery, to help the nursery in producing T-shirts for their school concert. The skills learnt by the ladies from Blythefield Parents Group were invaluable, as they worked with BSCR's digital wiz, Jonny, to get the job done.

The kids looked fantastic and the Nursery sent a lovely thank you:

'I just wanted to say a massive thank you for your assistance with our concert T-shirts. It was really kind of you allowing our parents to use BSCR resources and equipment.

The T-shirts were fantastic and added a festive sparkle to the concert and the children were thrilled to wear them. There was lots of really good feedback from the parents - and comments such as 'I was so proud to see my child dressed as a star because she is my star.'



Connecting Communities in South Belfast

The Connecting Communities project in the South Belfast Urban Village area aims to enhance co-operation between a diverse range of groups across Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets.

The project is managed by Forward South Partnership through their Connecting Communities Officer, Kevin McGarry. Kevin's role is to ensure that a programme of cultural and diversity events and activities are delivered in the South Belfast Urban Village area, and helping to develop connections across these local communities.

Working with local groups including youth clubs, schools, nurseries and churches, the project has identified and engaged with key stakeholders from across the Urban Village area.

This engagement has resulted in a series of events and activities where participants have had the opportunity to meet and interact with people from outside their immediate community.

Activities such as fun days, Christmas events, youth events and seniors events have all helped in improving

good relations and creating better connections across the community.

For more information, or to get involved with the Connecting Communities project, contact:
Kevin McGarry
by email:
kevin@forwardsouth.org



Young People Shaping Programmes



The Youth Action Partnership (YAP) has engaged with a new group of young people from across the South Belfast Urban Village area. When the new group met participants were invited to shape the programme to suit the needs of young people.

As a group, they decided that mental health is a topic that is affecting many young people across the Donegall Pass, Markets and Sandy Row Urban Village neighbourhoods and much further afield.

The group meets every Thursday on an 8-week programme to look at mental health and emotions. To help to understand how this affects young people, look at ways to manage their mental health and how to access organisations that offer support.

The project has been a great success so far, and the group have designed a mural that will be shared across the Urban Village neighbourhoods in south. This will be completed in the upcoming weeks.

This project has been designed for young people to recognise and identify people that may be suffering from mental health. This means anyone they come in contact with will benefit, including, family, peers and school.

During the programme, the young people have developed new relationships and friendships with young people from different areas. This would not have been possible without the YAP programme.

It is also helping build the personal development of

young people and giving them the confidence to speak out about mental health while also experiencing group work for the first time.

The project is engaged with sixteen young people aged 10-14, from across The Markets, Donegall Pass and Sandy Row.

Participants commented,

“I have really enjoyed being on this project, it has been great to know there are so many organisations and people out there to help support me if I am ever feeling down”

“This project has really made me understand that I can help my friends and look for their emotions changing. More young people should be involved in projects like this.”

21 Projects Changing the Physical Environment in Urban Village areas



A core aim of the Urban Villages Initiative is to improve the physical environment across all five Urban Village areas in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry.

21 projects will be on site and under construction over the next four months. This represents an investment in Urban Village areas of up to £13m over the duration of the programme.

The Urban Villages Initiative works with partners to deliver these projects on the ground. Current projects include collaboration with councils, government departments and local community organisations working together for the benefit of people living, working and visiting Urban Village areas, and helping to create thriving places.

Construction projects that will be delivered or started by Spring 2019:

21 Projects Include:

- **Abercorn Road Revitalisation Scheme** - Regeneration Street Scape Project
- **Arellian Nursery School** - Outdoor Community Classroom
- **Belfast Bikes** - Supporting Healthy Lifestyle Choices
- **Benview Community Centre** - Refurbishment and new Muga
- **Blythefield Primary School** - Parents Information Point
- **Colin Allotments** - Building Improvement Project
- **Colin Connect Transport Hub & Colin Town Square**
- **Destined Ltd** - Accessible Working Space
- **Footprints Womens' Centre** - Renovation and Refurbishment
- **Glenbryn** - New Play Park
- **Grace Family Centre** - Supporting BCC New Build
- **Holy Cross Nursery School** - Enhanced Play Area
- **John Paul II Youth Club** - Sports & Arts facility
- **Ligoniel Primary School** - Community Learning Space
- **New Park in Colin** - Extensive New Development. (Planning approved - Business Case pending approval)
- **Orchard @ The Foundry Training Café**
- **Reverend Robert Bradford Play Park** - Refurbishment
- **Sacred Heart Parochial Hall** - Mixed Use Community Space
- **Sandy Row Play Park** - Upgrade
- **Short Strand Community** - Outdoor Play Area
- **The Diamond** - Adaptable Community Space

Launch of the Colin Connect Transport Hub and Colin Town Square



The launch to celebrate the opening of the Colin Connect Transport Hub and Colin Town Square will happen on Thursday 21st March, 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

The construction of this iconic building and public space demonstrated a joined up approach to delivery. The Urban Villages Initiative working in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure, Translink and community representatives made this project a great success.

On the launch day, there will be performances from local schools and as part of Colin Neighbourhood Partnership's Creativity Month there will be activities for all the family on Colin Town Square, including an opportunity to "Get yer Skates on" at the Colin Roller Skate rink on the Square, no booking required. For more information see page 26.



North Belfast - Public Realm Improvement Scheme



Work on the Crumlin Road/Ligoniel Road Public Realm Improvement Scheme will begin this summer.

The Urban Villages Initiative along with the Department for Communities, as co-funders and delivery partners, will begin a significant streetscape project at this key junction of Crumlin Road and Ligoniel Road, an area which has been run down for a number of years.

While work is underway creating an enhanced environment for all those using the Crumlin Road/Ligoniel Road Junction, we will keep you informed about the works programme and the potential impact on day to day activity along the street.

Improvements include:

- **New footpaths and street furniture including granite kerbstones**
- **Screening of vacant and derelict sites**
- **Improvements to existing derelict and dilapidated shop fronts**



Further Developments at Colin Allotments Healthy Living Centre



Building work has started at the Healthy Living Centre at Colin Allotments.

Improvements will include a canopy over the main entrance, allowing an area for people to wash their hands and clean boots outside the building. Additional toilets will also be installed as part of the new developments.

One of the windows will be replaced by a new patio door and will provide much needed access to the patio, to facilitate visitors with limited mobility or wheelchair users. The building work will also include bespoke storage for kitchen equipment and supplies. This will allow more space to be freed up within the building to accommodate bigger tuition classes.

The Healthy Living Centre has become a vibrant and busy centre of activity. It has

delivered many horticultural courses, cookery classes and educational workshops to community groups, businesses and schools from the Colin area and beyond.

Schools in North Belfast recently attended a Health & Wellbeing Shared Learning Event and consequently booked cooking lessons at the centre. In addition to learning new skills, cooking techniques and gaining a better understanding of healthy eating, participants have benefitted from increased confidence and self-esteem, and development of their social and team working skills.

This building work will significantly increase the capacity of the building to deliver even more classes. The building work funded by the Urban Villages Initiative is scheduled for completion by April 2019.

Redevelopment of Rev. Robert Bradford Memorial Park

The Urban Villages Initiative is working with the Belfast City Council to deliver regeneration projects in local neighbourhoods across Urban Village areas.

One such project is the redevelopment of Rev. Robert Bradford Memorial Park on Donegall Pass.

The existing park will be revamped, creating a safe, shared space for everyone in the community. It is anticipated that this will be completed during 2019. The wide range of facilities on offer will cater for all ages and abilities, including:



- sensory and musical play equipment designed to support independent and inclusive play
- a multi-use games area
- landscaped open space
- traditional and larger play equipment, including parkour-style frames
- new surfacing, seating, fencing and lighting

What's On



EASTSIDE

Annual EastSide Learning Reading Fair

The Fair is a colourful and friendly event for parents to access information and advice to support their child's reading and will include storytelling sessions, book swaps, phonics taster sessions and meet the teachers.

DATE: 8th March
1.30pm - 4.30pm

VENUE: Skainos Centre,
239 Newtownards Road,
Belfast, BT4 1AF

For more information contact EastSide Partnership by Telephone: 028 9045 1900

Wildflower Alley Concept

Hosford's Going Green Group will collaborate with Mural Artist Dee Craig in a series of workshops to develop a Wildflower Ally concept between Chandolly Street and Newcastle Street. Sessions run every Wednesday, 2.00pm-4.00pm

NEXT DATE: 6th March

VENUE: Above Reach Project, 240 Newtownards Road BT4 1HB (side door entrance/Chandolly St)

For more information or to get involved contact Going Green 079 1214 4906

St Patrick's Day Celebrations 2019

St Patrick's Day celebrations will include the Annual Fun Day, Party in the Park,



Senior citizens Tea Dance in which groups from all local community centres across East Belfast will be invited.

In the run up to St Patrick's Day, the Doyle Youth club will be hosting its annual football tournament for young people from the local areas.

DATE: 17th March

VENUE: Short Strand Community Centre

For further information please contact Bernie McConnell, Short Strand Community Forum on 028 9045 0720.

NORTH BELFAST

Glenbrook Surestart Health Event

The event will include information stands, complementary therapies for young parents and a staffed play area.

DATE: 7th March
10.00am - 12.00pm

VENUE: The Houben Centre,
432 Crumlin Road, Belfast

For more information contact Clare at Glenbrook Surestart by phone 028 9071 2266

Silence of the Ceasefire Generation

A panel discussion exploring the exclusion of young people's voices and assess how children are involved in discussions about the past and building a positive future in a peaceful and equal Northern Ireland.

DATE: 27th March
7.00pm - 8.30pm

VENUE: E3 Springvale Campus, Springfield Road, Belfast BT12 7DU

For more information contact Ardoyne Youth Enterprises 028 9074 1479 or register online <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-silence-of-the-ceasefire-generation-tickets-53991644462>

Meet The Neighbours Event

Join us to participate in gardening workshops, arts & crafts, health checks, free beauty & holistic therapy treatments and benefits advice.

DATE: 23rd March
1.30pm - 2.00pm

VENUE: The Everton Complex, Crumlin Rd, Belfast BT14 7GB

For more information contact NBWISP by telephone 028 9039 1028



DERRY~LONDONDERRY

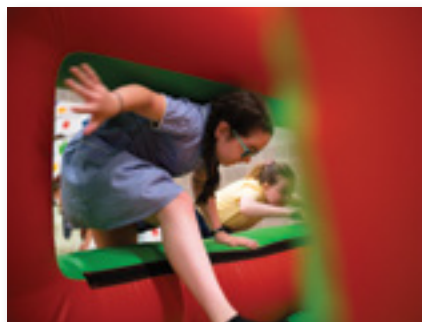
5K Dash

The 5K Dash is a Streets Alive sporting event aimed at 10 - 11 year olds. Pupils will encounter an obstacle course that will test their fitness, mathematical knowledge and resistance. A fun day out with a healthy lunch at Longtower Youth Club.

**DATE: 21st March
11.00am**

VENUE: The Gasyard Centre, 128 Lecky Rd, Derry~Londonderry BT48 6NP

For more information, contact Bogside & Brandywell Health Forum 028 7136 5330



New Gate Arts

Come and experience one of our many cultural classes taking place every week until the end of March 2019.

Monday

Bagpipes 6.00pm
Drumming 6.00pm

Tuesday

Concert Flute 6.00pm
Highland Dance 6.30pm
B Flat Flute 7.00pm

Saturday

Hip Hop Tots 10.45am

VENUE: Classes will be held in New Gate Arts & Culture Centre, 20-22 Hawkin St, Londonderry BT48 6RE

For more information or to register, contact New Gate Arts by telephone: 028 7126 5869

Selfie on the Walls

This event will challenge people to develop their digital media skills.

**DATE: 9th March
2.00pm - 4.00pm**

VENUE: City Walls

To register for this event drop in to Our Space, Guildhall Square, Derry~Londonderry or contact us on:

@OurStreets4

@YcTower

/long.t.yc

Spring Festival

A festival across the Derry~Londonderry Urban Villages area offering a wide range of activities, workshops and events to celebrate the local area, together.

**DATE: 25 February-
29 March 2019**

VENUE: Various

For more information, contact Patrick Danagher on 028 7126 2812 or feilederry@gmail.com

COLIN

Crescendo Community Choir

Led by professional Choir Master, Keith Acheson, Crescendo will have you enjoying a lively and fun evening of song. No experience required. Open to adults and young people.

**DATE: Every Tuesday
7.30pm**

VENUE: Lagmore Community Centre

For more information contact John Paul at CNP on 028 9062 3813 or email johnpaul@newcolin.com

What's On



Creativity Day @ the Dairy Farm

A fun filled afternoon of creative fun including the chance to participate in Cultural dance from around the world, arts & crafts, soda bread baking and food tasting.

DATE: 15th March
3.00pm - 6.00pm

VENUE: Dairy Farm Shopping Centre, Stewartstown Road, Belfast

For more information contact John Paul at CNP on 028 9062 3813 or email johnpaul@newcolin.com



Inoad na Fuisseoige - Dianchúrsa 'Gaeilge'

These one-day Irish courses provide classes for learners of all levels, from complete beginner to fluent speakers who want to put a bit of 'snas' on their Gaeilge. Lunch is provided.

DATE: 23rd March
10.00am - 4.00pm

VENUE: Inoad na Fuisseoige

For further information call Róisín at Inoad na Fuisseoige or call 028 9062 0373

Community boxing event

Hosted by Saints Boxing Club, local clubs have been invited to participate in exhibition matches. There will also be an opportunity for members of the public to try some boxing training from 12pm - 1pm.

DATE: 31st March
12.00pm - 4.00pm

VENUE: Dairy Farm Shopping Centre, Stewartstown Road, Belfast

For more information contact Saints Boxing Club on 078 8915 4209 or Facebook @ Liam Cunningham

Get yer Skates on @ Colin Roller Skate rink

DATES: Thursday 21st March
2-4pm & 6-9pm

Friday 22nd March 2-4pm
& 6.30 - 10pm

Saturday 23rd March 12 - 4pm

VENUE: Colin Town Square, Stewartstown Road, Belfast

£3 per person or £6 for a family of four, no booking required.

For further information contact CNP on 028 9062 3813 or ciara@newcolin.com

Launch of the Colin Connect Transport Hub and Colin Town Square

DATE: 21st March
2.00pm - 3.00pm

VENUE: Colin Connect Transport Hub and Colin Town Square, Stewartstown Road, Belfast

For more information or to register for this event, email info@urbanvillagesni.org

SOUTH

YAP Celebration event

YAP Celebration event showcasing YAP projects and recognising successes across The Markets, Donegall Pass and Sandy Row.

Date: 14th March 2019
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Venue: St Malachys Youth Centre, 20 Lower Stanfield Street

For more information contact South Belfast Alternatives by Telephone 028 9031 5763

Seniors St Patrick's Lunch and Dance

DATE: 15th March
2.00pm

VENUE: Markets Community Centre, Market St, Belfast

For more information contact Nichola McFall on 028 9031 2272 or nichola@marketbelfast.org

St Patrick's Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day with Bouncy Castles, Go Karts, Mini Golf and much, much more.

DATE: 16th March
1.00pm

VENUE: St Malachy's Youth Centre, 20 lower Stanfield St, Belfast

For more information contact Nichola McFall on 028 9031 2272 or nichola@marketbelfast.org

Training Opportunities



WHAT'S
COMING
UP



WOMEN'STEC

The #notjustforboys programme is currently open to young women aged 14+ living in Ardoyne and Ballysillan areas.

To find out more, or to attend an event or course, contact WOMEN'STEC by emailing info@womenstec.org or call **028 9074 9810**. For more information see page 17.

Community-led Tourism in Societies Shaped by Conflict - Information Sessions

An innovative new course delivered by Ulster University in conjunction with the Urban Villages Initiative. The course is suitable for those working in, or with an interest in community-led tourism in societies affected by conflict. Course accredited by Ulster University. Find out more at two information sessions:

DATE: 7th March

12.30pm & 6.00pm

VENUE: Ulster University, Belfast Campus (BA00-008)

For further information contact Máire Braniff on 028 9036 6667 or m.braniff@ulster.ac.uk

NICVA Training Sessions

Sessions start with refreshments from 5.30pm and delivery from 6.00pm-8.30pm. There is no charge for participation.

Understanding Governance

will be of interest to trustees, committee members and others who want to understand more about their role on local groups and what is expected of them.

- 6 March - Ballysillan Community Forum, 925 Crumlin Road, Belfast
- 12 March - New Gate Arts and Culture Centre, 20-22 Hawkin Street, Derry-Londonderry
- 19 March - Cromac Regeneration Initiative Building, 165-169 Donegall Pass, Belfast
- 28 March - Ionad Na Fuiseoige. 6 Summerhill Road, Dunmurry, Belfast

Understanding Finance

A practical workshop is for treasurers, or those who keep the financial records of small groups, to help them establish appropriate financial systems.

- 6 March - Sally Gardens Community Centre, Bell Steele Road, Poleglass, Belfast
- 14 March - Marrowbone Community Association, 253 Oldpark Road, Belfast, Belfast
- 19 March - Gasyard Centre, 128 Lecky Road, Derry-Londonderry
- 28 March - Cromac Regeneration Initiative Building, 165-169 Donegall Pass, Belfast

Contact for NICVA Training Sessions

For more information and to confirm a place visit www.nicva.org/urbanvillages

News



Stephen McGowan, Urban Villages Initiative, presenting the award to the Groundwork NI team

Celebrating at the EastSide Awards

The Eastside Awards, now in its third year, is an exciting initiative aimed at highlighting and celebrating all that is good about East Belfast, whilst showcasing the contributions being made to the economic, social and community development of the area.

There were a number of categories celebrating the best of East Belfast including; Best Community project, Individual Contribution to Sport, Innovation, Business Start-Up, Young Person of the Year and Favourite Eatery, to name but a few.

The Urban Villages Initiative sponsored the Eastside Award for Best Community Project. Finalists in the category included Charter NI - Diamond Project; East Belfast Mission - Turas and Groundwork Northern Ireland. Groundwork NI received the coveted Award.

Pupils Celebrate Pioneering Arts Programme & Creativity in the Classroom

Pupils from secondary schools in Belfast and Derry-Londonderry Urban Village areas have been participating in a pioneering arts programme.

The Creative Schools Partnership is designed to drive educational outcomes for young people by bringing more creativity into the classroom.

Funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's National Lottery funds, the Education Authority and Urban Villages Initiative, the scheme was launched as a pilot programme this year.

The project engaged ten schools from Urban Village areas with pupils from each school working with professional artists to



Pupils at Ashfield boys have been putting pen to paper to develop their writing skills

develop their own individual projects including film-making, script writing, music production, ceramics, digital fabrication and animation.

A special event at the Ulster Museum gave all those involved the opportunity to come together to share experiences and sample some of the skills other groups have been learning.



DJ Kwame Daniels from Bounce Culture with Katie Jones and Jodie McCune from Ashfields Girls School

Arts Council Chief Executive Roisin McDonough said; **“We believe creativity is essential to optimising success in the classroom. Through an independent review of the programme, principals, teachers, and pupils have told us how this programme has helped students grow in confidence, learn new skills and energise the wider school body.”**

News



Making Young People Part of the Solution in North Belfast

An Urban Villages Shared Learning event in North Belfast brought three local youth projects together to share their knowledge with youth providers from across other Urban Villages areas.

Community groups and organisations from the area have a wealth of experience in working with young people and this event was an opportunity to share that knowledge.

The projects included:

Mental Health Peer Mentoring - Carezone in Schools, YEHA and Streetbeat work across schools to train pupils as peer mentors and create safe spaces in schools.

Restorative Justice and Youth Leadership North Belfast Alternatives involves young people in environmental projects that help them build capacity and integrate in their school and community.

Surveys and Social Media - Ardoyne Youth Enterprise advocate for young people and adapt its services, and works with social media and film to boost self-esteem and community belonging.

Urban Villages Wider Stakeholder Engagement Event

The Urban Villages Initiative works with key stakeholders and actively seeks out partnership opportunities to encourage a joined up approach, across government, councils and community.

The Urban Villages Initiative is committed to staying in touch with local communities across all five Urban Village areas and we want to hear

local views on Urban Village projects rolling out across these areas.

This engagement applies to people living, working and learning in Urban Village areas. We want to hear the views of the people that make up these vibrant communities.

We are holding wider stakeholder engagement

events in each of the Urban Village Areas during February/ March 2019. We would encourage you to come along to the next one in your area, a light lunch will be provided.

To register your attendance, email info@urbanvillagesni.org with your name, organisation and the event you would like to attend (see chart below). **Residents are also very welcome.**

Date	Time	Area	Venue
Tue 26th February	10.30am - 12.30pm	Derry-Londonderry	Bishop Street Community Centre, Bishop Street Derry/Londonderry BT48 6XQ
Wed 6th March	10.30am - 12.30pm	Colin	Ionad na Fuisioige 6 Summerhill Road, Dunmurry Belfast BT17 ORL
Thur 7th March	10.00am - 12.00pm	South Belfast	Sandy Row Community Forum 63-75 Sandy Row, Belfast BT12 5ER
Mon 11th March	10.30am - 12.30pm	EastSide	East Belfast Network Centre 55 Templemore Avenue, Belfast BT5 4FP
Wed 13th March	10.00am - 12.00pm	North Belfast	The Houben Centre 432 Crumlin Rd, Belfast BT14 7TF



News



Public Parks North Belfast Consultations

During the period of outreach there were a range of eight public consultation events held at various community hubs and centres in the Ardoyne and Ballysillan area. This was to make it as easily accessible as possible for residents to share their views.

Valuable feedback was gathered at these events and via the Belfast City Council online tool, and this information will help to inform future planning for the Parks. Specific youth workshops were held with the support of YEHA and the Blue Houses to gather the valuable viewpoints of young people about the concept designs.

The information, advice and data gathered so far, will help to inform proposed designs of these important public spaces prior to submission for planning approval.

The Urban Villages Initiative together with Belfast City Council and with support from Design Consultancy Aecom, conducted an open Public Consultation towards the end of last year. The consultation was on plans to regenerate the Marrowbone Millennium Park and the Ballysillan Playing Fields.

Keep in touch

Stay updated with what's happening in your Urban Village area. To join our mailing list send your contact details to info@urbanvillagesni.org

Focus Magazine - Next issue - June 2019. If you have any local community stories or events that you would like included, just let us know.

Ezines - Ezines will keep you updated throughout the year on what's happening in your Urban Village area and beyond.

Twitter - Keep the conversation going @urbanvillagesni

Youtube Channel - View videos of the great community projects we support

Connect with us online to keep up to date with what's happening across all five Urban Village areas.

New Community Connections

Each Urban Village area now has a local communications contact that will liaise between the community and the Urban Villages communications team.

North - Catherine Couvert, AYE

West, Colin - Katherine Redpath, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership

South - Kevin McGarry, SBPB

Derry~Londonderry - Patrick Danagher, Gasyard Wall Féile

EastSide - Jonny Currie, EBCDA



Pic ops!
Upload your favourite!

Send us your best pic!



Nuala McKeever, Carly Donnelly, Belfast Model School for Girls and artist Anu Sandralingam celebrating the Creative Schools Partnership.



Michael George and Martin Donnelly from Poleglass Community Association with Órlaithí Flynn, MLA and Linsey Farrell, The Executive Office at the 'Building Your Future' project launch.



The 'Bogside Nativity' took place at Free Derry Corner, hundreds of residents and visitors came to the performance by local young people.



Participants of 'To the Hallion that Stole My Giant Marrow' exhibition by the Hatford Homeless Project at the Skinais Centre.



Pupils from Mercy College at the 'Get Your Voice Heard' event, young people getting involved in local decision making.



Captain Colin with guests at the Santa Comes to Colin event, the first event to take place at Colin Connect and the new Colin Town Square.



More than 400 pupils from primary schools in Belfast and Derry~Londonderry met to see their work showcased on the big screen with Urban Digital Futures.



Pupils from Longtower Primary School performing at Belfast City Hall, 13 schools from across Belfast and Derry~Londonderry recognised for achieving 'School of Sanctuary' status.



The Donegall Pass Community Forum hosted its annual Winter Wonderland and community market, it was well attended by people from the local community.

Send your best pics to:
info@urbanvillagesni.org

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM
YOU...

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

The local 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, Knockview Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SJ



Contact us:
info@urbanvillagesni.org