

Ligoneil

Neighbourhood Renewal Area

Annual Report

2019/20



Northern Ireland
Statistics and Research Agency



Department for
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Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Area Annual Report 2019/20



About Neighbourhood Renewal

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities that characterise the most deprived areas. It does so by making a long-term commitment to communities to work in partnership with them to identify and prioritise needs and co-ordinate interventions designed to address the underlying causes of poverty. Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships were established with representatives of local community interests together with appropriate Government Departments, public sector agencies, private sector interest and local elected representatives. The socio economic statistics demonstrate some of the principal challenges facing the Ligoniel area; reflecting high levels of unemployment, low educational attainment, community health issues and the challenges facing young people in the area and lack of facilities available.

About Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership

Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership area is located in the hills of North Belfast and holds a unique position above the city with breath taking views across the city. It has a very specific 'village' feel with the Belfast hills bordering the village. Based upon 2010 census figures, the area takes into account approximately 1900 people, which is a significant increase from 2001 census figures of 1400 people. This change and expansion in the intervening years was seen to be due to major development in housing. LIA staff, has continued to stay connected with private and social housing providers and have ascertained that the statistics are incorrect due to the rapid increase in housing developments within the area and sees the population size as closer to 5600 people. EA figures also inform us that currently there are 1954 young people of school going age living in the area with 57% of those young people who attend the local youth club getting free school meals, an indicator of deprivation measured by EA.

There are over 1700 homes built in Ligoniel, as evidenced through the delivery of Ligoniel's Community News Sheet, delivered to every home in the area. A further one hundred and six homes are due to be built in the Thornberry area of the village; a further 103 planned for the Mill Valley development, six apartments have being built on the front of the Ligoniel road, thirty units of social housing is planned for the Wolfhill Centre site and we have been advised that five other sites have been identified in the area on which houses can and will be built.

Despite this increase in housing units, the area still lacks any full time recreational/youth/sport facilities, the main facilities area are based on one side of an ever expanding and widely dispersed series of housing developments resulting in a lack of engagement with those residents living further from such facilities. Many attempts have been made to look at creating greater social cohesion throughout the village with limited success. Many of the new residents consider themselves to be from a certain development rather than from a Ligoniel collective. This is something that LIA continues to focus on.

To tackle isolation through inadequate public transport, LIA has been around the table with locally elected representatives to convince Translink that the need is greater than what is currently being allocated. There is only one bus route in and out of the area, which at certain times is particularly unreliable and does not take passengers to any of the “nearest” facilities that are located in other parts of north Belfast. Residents living in the new housing developments can only access public transport by walking to the main Ligoniel Road, which for those with young children or mobility issues means walking up steep inclines.

Community Infrastructure has not increased despite the creation of a large number of new housing. There has been little in the way of investment into the area by either private companies or statutory organisations, with local people having to leave the area in search of services and facilities including shopping, dental practices, legal advice, childcare, support services and educational facilities etc. Employment in the area is still confined to small businesses in addition to the LIA and the local primary schools.

Over the last year, there has been no let-up in people seeking advice with the waiting time for an appointment with an advisor being four weeks minimum. Drop in, outreach centres and referrals into the service have all increased. Unfortunately, there is a growing reliance on the community food bank. This is expected to grow in future years.



About Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership Continued

It is also a matter of concern that, although we were assured three years ago by the then Belfast Education Library Board that Ligoniel's case for a new youth club was recognised as a replacement for the existing unfit premises, they are now considering sites outside Ligoniel. In the meantime staffing and hence opening hours at the existing club have been cut. This is surely a dereliction of statutory duty in circumstances where Ligoniel has 1,987 under 18's, the highest percentage in north Belfast. There is surely a link between this terrible under provision and increased problems with anti-social behaviour.

The Citywide Tribunal service continues to struggle for sustained financial support. This vital service continues to overturn decisions that can destroy lives. The output of the tribunal staff brings into question the professionalism of those that make initial award to the clients.

We have long campaigned for an upgrading of Ligoniel Park and that the work to remove Boodles dam reflect the needs of the community. The process has been stalled by Belfast City Council, however we will continue to contest for a positive outcome that will provide a USP for Ligoniel Park. We hope to undertake community consultation on future proposals by summer 2019.

LIA will carry on responding to the needs of the community and will ensure that we bring the community with us on this journey. Nothing could be achieved without the dedication of staff and volunteers to whom a heartfelt debt of gratitude is due.

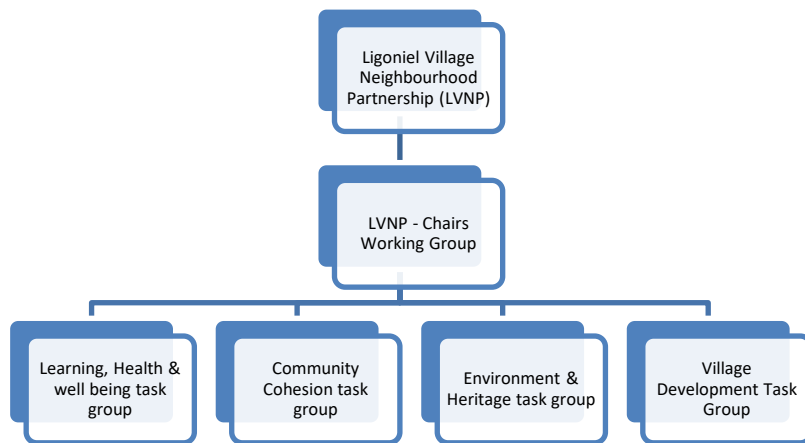
LIA is alarmed that the development of community infrastructure has not kept pace with increasing need. LIA will ensure, wherever possible, that there is accountability for decisions that affect Ligoniel, this will include the role of statutory providers, developers and funding bodies.

LIA continue to take forward the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme, and facilitate the Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership, which was set up in 2006 to oversee the development and delivery of the local Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan. The Partnership currently comprises eight members, which include representatives from local communities, voluntary organisations, elected representatives, private sector and local statutory organisations. It currently meets on a bi-monthly basis and its administration services are provided through Ligoniel Improvement Association.

With the development of the first neighbourhood action plan in 2007 all, those groups involved in delivering neighbourhood renewal had a seat at the main Partnership Committee. After the review of the implementation plan in 2009 it was agreed that we move towards a smaller more focused Partnership committee. This coincided with the re-launch of four task groups that would draw their membership from all those groups working on neighbourhood renewal.

Each task group would then nominate at least one member to sit on the main Partnership management committee. Each task group was to appoint a chairperson and a secretary and engage with the appropriate statutory representatives to ensure representation on the task group.

Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Structure



The task group members are made up from a range of organisations and are broken down as follows:

Health & Wellbeing Task Group

Name	Organisation
Ciaran McNeill	Youth Worker LHLC , Chairperson
Caroline Miligan	Sure Start
Catherine Rock	Ligoniel Family Centre
Bronagh McVeigh	St. Vincent De Paul Primary School
Gabi Mornhinweg	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Kathleen Kelly	North Belfast Advice Partnership
Kieran O'Reilly	LIA
Claire McKane	Department for Communities
Maria Morgan	LIA
Ulrike Letzner	Belfast City Council
Maria Burke	Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre
Gerry Rooney	Ligoniel Pharmac

Community Cohesion subgroup

Name	Organisation
Maria Morgan	LIA, Chairperson
Eammon Canavan	PSNI
Ryan Murphy	Belfast City Councillor
Kieran O'Reilly	LIA
Maria Burke	Healthy Living Centre
Ciaran McNeill	Youth Worker LHLC
Thomas Templeton	Radius Housing
Natasha Todd	Mountainhill Youth Club

Name	Organisation
Gerard Rosato	Clanmil Housing Association
James Keyes	Resident
Ulrike Letzner	Belfast City Council
Carole Duffy	NIHE
Claire McKane	Department for Communities
Kathleen Kelly	LIA
Pauline O'Neill	LIA
Anthony Conway	Belfast City Council

Environment & Heritage Task Group

Name	Organisation
John Gray	LIA, Chairperson
Kieran O'Reilly	LIA
Jim Bradley	Belfast Hills
Maria Morgan	LIA
Judy Meharg	Groundwork NI
Joe Carmichael	LIA
Robert Heaslip	Belfast City Council
Claire McKane	Department for Communities
Anthony Conway	Belfast City Council

LVNP Membership

The main Partnership Committee of Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership provides the overall direction to the work of the partnership. Its membership is listed below:

Name	Organisation
Arthur Acheson	LCE, Chairperson
Maria Morgan	Ligoniel Improvement Association
Ulrike Letzner	Belfast City Council Representative
Ryan Murphy	Belfast City Councillor
Kieran O'Reilly	Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood
Claire McKane	Department for Communities
Gabi Mornhingweg	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Maria Burkeg	Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre
Stephen Graham	Administrative support, LIA

The Partnership has established four task groups to assist them in the identification, development and where appropriate the delivery of projects which aim to address the Programmes four strategic objectives of community renewal, social renewal, economic renewal and physical renewal. They also assist local community organisations to co-ordinate actions that are beneficial for all communities living in the Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA).

They include:

- Ligoniel Family Centre
- Ligoniel Fishing Club
- Ligoniel Boxing Club
- Mountainhill Youth Club
- Ligoniel Working Men's Darts Club
- Ligoniel Working Men's Football Club
- St Vincent De Paul Primary School
- Ligoniel Primary School

- Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre
- Ligoniel Residents Association
- Ligoniel Community Events Committee



Challenges



With continued new housing development in the area Ligoniel's population has now increased to c. 6,500. According to Education Authority figures there are 1,909 young people of school going age in the area, 54% of whom are in receipt of free school meals – an indication of deprivation.

LIA is concerned that the development of community infrastructure has not kept pace with rising need. There continues to be little in the way of investment into the area either by statutory organisations or the private sector, with local people having to leave the area in search of services and facilities including shopping, dental practices, legal advice, childcare, support services and educational facilities. Employment in the area is still confined to small businesses and the LIA or the local primary schools.

We note that those facilities that are available are located in the 'old' village, and that the new developments lack even basic provision such as play facilities, and are particularly disadvantaged by the non-availability of public transport.

LIA remains concerned that the area still lacks any full time recreational/youth/sport facilities. The local youth club is in a 100 year-old mill building and does not conform to the Disability Discrimination Act. A number of rooms cannot be used because of health and safety issues. Despite the successful work undertaken by the Leader in Charge of the Youth Club and LIA staff, The Education Authority has removed extended school funding from the area, cut staffing, and restricted the type of work undertaken by youth leaders. The Club has been reduced to a part time facility open for a mere three hours per night on the five weekdays, while weekend activities have been lost.

LIA is convinced that there is a relationship between under provision indeed a reduction in youth facilities, and a significant increase in anti-social and criminal behaviour during the year. The Community Cohesion Task Group has sought, as best it could, to respond to reports from residents of the intimidation and harassment of elderly residents, destruction of the parish's Columbarium, drug dealing, destruction of property and robberies. There has been a significant increase in numbers seeking advice, with the waiting time for an appointment with an advisor rising to two weeks minimum. Drop in, outreach centres and referrals into the service and use of the food bank have all seen increased demand.

So-called Welfare Reform is making unprecedented changes to the benefit system and with a negative impact for many north Belfast residents who come to LIA for advice. The roll out of Universal Credit late this year is presenting further challenges. As has the ongoing difficulties with Personal Independence Payments, placing advice services under serious pressure. LIA's role in leading the citywide Tribunal Service which provides expert representation at tribunal hearings is accordingly of critical importance as the number of appeals against benefit decisions rises dramatically. This service came close to termination in December as funding ran out, however thanks to all party support from Belfast City Council temporary continuation was achieved.

Securing more long term funding for the Tribunal Service has been hindered by the collapse of the Northern Ireland Executive. This more generally led to uncertainty about the funding of LIA as a whole from April onwards. While stop gap provision has been secured the uncertainty and insecurity involved inevitably had an adverse impact on forward planning.

Cuts in services have greatly impacted on Ligoniel residents. Recent meetings between residents, young people and a range of political parties have highlighted poor housing maintenance by social housing providers, an increase in homes being built with no community infrastructure, poor transport provision resulting in isolation for vulnerable members of the community, lack of continuous/joined up community safety initiatives/actions by statutory services that have contributed to anti-social/criminal behaviour within the area.

Despite the adverse factors affecting LIA and the community, there are many positives. Highlights for the future included the securing of planning permission, in conjunction with Ligoniel Community Enterprises, for the development of the site around the Wolfhill centre, and for the construction of an environmental centre at the old corn mill adjacent to our site at Ligoniel dams.

LIA remains committed to a partnership approach to the resolution of local issues, addressing the needs of our local community, as identified by them, by adopting a holistic approach to their problems by developing health, social, physical and capacity building initiatives to raise standards of living. In doing so we will continue to work with other local organisations, statutory and voluntary bodies and the private sector. We are also committed to co-operation with neighbouring communities.

In the last year LIA has received financial assistance predominantly from the Public Health Agency (PHA), Department for Communities (DFC) and Belfast City Council (BCC). This core funding has enabled LIA staff to implement a range of effective capacity building and community development initiatives.

Our thanks are due to all funders.

Projects and Services

LIA Generalist Advice



During the year, our Advice Services dealt with 4814 enquiries, with 1273 households across North Belfast benefitting from advice.

At the core of this is our generalist advice service, offered at the Centre and 3 outreach locations across North Belfast and the Shankill. Generalist advisors cover issues such as benefit entitlement, consumer rights, housing and employment issues. This year, Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independent Payment has continued to dominate the service, with clients seeking assistance with the process and form completion. Welfare Reform changes has greatly impacted on the service, clients have experienced a number of changes to their benefits including the two child limit policy, benefit cap, ESA 365 and welfare supplementary payments.

During the year, in those cases where we know the outcome, we helped clients secure £3,552,241.00 in additional benefit entitlement.

Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service

LIA continued to act as lead partner for Belfast Advice Group and oversee the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service. The service continued to receive support from Belfast City Council, who secured the funding for the entire year. Over the past year the team dealt with 5935 appeal enquiries from 1879 clients. The service provided representation at 1451 appeals and helped clients claim back £5245246.47 at appeal, money they were originally told by DFC that they were not entitled too.

NBAP/LIA Foodbank

This year we have seen a huge increase in the number of people accessing the food bank, with 321 referrals throughout the year, clients need help present with a range of issues as to how they are in food poverty from benefit delays, benefit disallowed, loss of income, this alongside a four year benefit freeze and the rising costs of living have put people and families under huge financial pressures.

Our Christmas Appeal in December 2017 resulted with us delivering 200 hampers to local North Belfast families, and once again we want to say a massive thank you to all those who support the food bank throughout the year. As without this support we would be able to offer this much needed service as it receives no funding or government support.

NBAP Debt Advice

In addition to our generalist advice staff, NBAP employ a debt worker based in LIA, who provides a shared service to clients of the five partner organizations. This year the debt advisor dealt with 3200 debt enquiries on behalf of 241 clients and we helped clients negotiate debts totalling £1,077,151.

Staff Training and Development

Staff have also been able to access a shared programme of training and staff development during the year, which has built the capacity of staff to more effectively meet the needs of our clients, at a time when changes to the benefit system have been almost continuous.

North Belfast Strategic Good Relations Programme.

North Belfast Advice Partnership successfully secured funding TEO once again to deliver a two programmes that promote all NBAP centres as shared safe spaces for everyone in North Belfast.

LHLC works with statutory agencies and other community partnerships providing information, programmes and support to enable people to make informed choices and decisions about healthy lifestyles through building capacity and increasing confidence and self-esteem.

Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre delivers a range of programmes including;

- Young people – workshops and projects based on prevalent health topics, programmes (some leading to accreditation), peer education, citizenship and community safety
- Horticulture and Environment – schools based horticultural programmes, community gardens, growing vegetables at the Polytunnel site and maintenance of the Environment and Heritage site
- Recreation – Hurling for Health programmes in Primary Schools, Cycling, walking group and summer soccer
- Family Support – one to one confidential advice on any issue affecting the health and wellbeing of residents
- Signposting – advice and support from additional agencies
- Social Economy – development of social economy opportunity for residents

Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre remain an intrinsic core component of LIA. LHLC has developed a strategic plan in conjunction with LIA, HLC Alliance Partners, key stakeholders and service delivery agents include re-establishment of health and education sub group looking at priority of need findings. LHLC projects, programmes and services replicate Making Life Better strategic framework priorities and objectives

The strategic direction of Ligoniel Healthy Living Centre parallels and compliments the strategic direction of Ligoniel Improvement Association in addressing key priorities of action at both local and regional levels. The overarching ethos of work undertaken by LHLC is to address the causes of poor health and effectively reduce health inequalities including;

- Development of community capacity
- Development of the Ligoniel Environment and heritage site
- Creating and improving linkages across the Belfast Hills
- Representation at local and regional levels to strategically develop and support the work undertaken by LHLC
- Chronic Disease Prevention support and the development of local chronic disease prevention pathways.
- Collaborative Partnership Working to provide strategic guidance to the named groups/organisations

- Delivery of a range of health programmes to meet the needs of the local and wider areas.

Some of LHLC's successes this year have included;

- Schools Based Activities – the Recreation and activity C-ordinator has been delivering dodgeball and other physical activity sessions with local primary schools in the community centre, the youth club pitch and within the schools themselves
- Wolfhill Winter Wonderland hosted by the Mountainhill Youth Club saw LHLC, MHYC and the young people of the community come together to promote positive spirit for the festive period along with bringing the community together
- Weight management programme for healthy eating for sedentary workers and a programme designed for children and young people around what to grow, when to harvest and how to cook healthy meals to maintain healthy lifestyles
- Development of activity based timetable to promote to health professionals using the green prescription and social model of prescribing
- Sexual health project looking at contraception good relationships, promoting confidence and self-esteem, challenging bullying behaviour and risk taking
- A programme designed and facilitated to increase self-worth and maximise young people's talents and abilities, personal development and emotional resilience
- One to one support provided on an individual basis
- Physical activity based programme, encouraging young people to become more active via trying out new sports, understanding how their body works along with nutritional information

Regeneration

During the year covered by this report, LIA staff supported the implementation of the Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Action Plan, in addition to participating on the task groups.

The, economic, physical, health and social regeneration of Ligoniel has been addressed through the various task groups.

A number of funding applications have been submitted, either by the Regeneration Coordinator or in collaboration with other staff members. These include the Men's History Group, NIHE Community Grant, and BCC St Patrick's Day Grant.

The Regeneration Coordinator has been facilitating a Men's History group with residents from Ligoniel and participants from other parts of north Belfast. The programme consists of facilitated sessions that explore the history of Ireland from before partition until the Easter rebellion.

In an attempt to broaden the viewpoint of group participants, they went on a number of outings including a visit to the Somme museum, Conway Mill and Cultúrlann. The visits were extremely informative and thought provoking. In addition, participants availed from Anti-sectarian Tool Kit training.

In March, the group went on a residential to London. Although the visit was quite challenging with a lot of travelling and inhibited mobility affecting a number of the participants, they visited the houses of Commons and the Lords, took a bus and river tour of London, and visited the Imperial War Museum. A funding application has been submitted to CRC for a continuation of the programme next year

To ensure that LIA is meeting the needs of the community, the Coordinator continues to arrange regular walkabouts with a number of statutory agencies and political parties e.g. NIHE, PSNI, Sinn Féin, SDLP, BCC, and Transport NI. Issues addressed include, street cleansing, traffic calming, antisocial behaviour, graffiti removal, management of 'green' communal areas, stray dogs, parks maintenance, street lighting, fly tipping, dumping, etc. in addition to working with and on behalf of residents on housing matters.

One of the main areas of focus was the External Cyclical Maintenance scheme (ECM) being devised by NIHE. The Coordinator worked with NIHE staff to look at what houses were included in the scheme, what works was proposed for each dwelling and when the work would commence. In addition, the Coordinator requested a copy of the work schedules thus ensuring that any discrepancies with the proposed works could be addressed.

A number of Ligoniel Newsletters and community fliers have been compiled by the Regeneration Coordinator. These have been distributed throughout the entire community and contain information on programmes, events and services offered by LIA, BCC etc. Capacity Building#.

The Community Capacity Building Project, funded by Belfast City Council has also had a successful year. The project has delivered a number of collaboratively based projects including;

Women in Leadership

Twenty –two women participated in a 26 week facilitated programme including study visits to, Leinster House, Stormont, City Hall, Scots Parliament Edinburgh, House of Lords and Westminster. Participants had the opportunity to attend debating sessions in all parliaments and meet up with the parliamentary outreach teams.

Women through the Justice System

Twenty women participated in a 26 week facilitated programme The groups study visits included Kilmainham Gaol, Crumlin Road Gaol, Old Bailey, Royal Courts of Justice, Mountjoy prison and Laganside Court . The group met with Governor of Mountjoy Prison, inmates, probation services and victims representatives

Women in Irish History

Twenty women participated in a 10 week facilitated programme which included genealogy sessions, which enabled them to trace not only their family history but that of famous Irish Women and their roles in the suffragette movement.



Women in Brexit

This programme is part of an all island project and plays an informative role on the current living conditions and how this would change under Brexit. A series of workshops have been delivered on the impact of Brexit and the GFA

Ligoniel History Group

The co-ordinator continues to work with the history group to source speakers and organise trips, which have included City Hall, Orange Hall, Somme Museum, Lisburn Linen Mill, Moravian Village, Belfast Synagogue and Trip to Ayr. We have teamed up with the linen hall Library who have facilitated some sessions on the Linen Industry in Belfast and Ulster Scots Agency

Ligoniel Residents Group

The coordinator continues to work with a group of local residents to discuss and raise awareness of issues that affect them within the area. The group has met with local councillors, MLAs, PSNI and community safety officers. The residents also visited other communities i.e. Markets and Forthriver to gain knowledge of challenges faced by other communities.

Ligoniel Oral History Project

The co-ordinator secured funding through Co-ownership Housing to deliver a programme in the area. This involved bringing seniors together to record their memories of growing up in Ligoniel. The topics covered were Mill Life, Housing, War Years and Social life

Men's History Project

The co-ordinator has assisted in the programme design, financial direction and coordinating and overseeing study visits. The participants have enjoyed facilitated sessions and visits to the Somme Society, London War Museum, Westminster, Conway Mill etc.

Physical Development Projects

Wolfhill Site Development

This year our partner company, Ligoniel Community Enterprises, has been working with Newington Housing Association on the development of social housing at the Wolfhill site. The Ligoniel Village Development Task group has been re-established and is not only focusing on LCE's proposal for a childcare centre, youth club etc, but they are developing a strategic plan for the village in terms of services and facilities and community infrastructure. The task group members will be working together to further develop and implement these plans, and will consult with the wider community on them in 2019.

Environment Centre

We have also secured planning permission for the development of an Environment Centre incorporating the ruins of the historic corn mill at Ligoniel dams. A feasibility study has been completed and potential partners/stakeholders have been identified as we seek to work towards the development's completion.

Ligoniel Dams

Work continued during the year to improve access and to make the site more attractive to visitors.

An impressive art installation reflecting various aspects of the site such as wildlife, the linen industry, flax, and water was completed.

Marketing and Promotion

We have continued to use the Community TV, Facebook and Twitter to advertise local news, events and training in the North Belfast area. With stories circulated on our Social Media platforms (Facebook & Twitter) including;

- Community festivals

- NBAP Services
- Support services
- Youth programmes
- Foodbank initiatives
- Community Consultation events
- Training opportunities
- Community safety initiatives
- Employment and training opportunities

The use of social media has been particularly successful when dealing with anti-social behaviour or community safety issues and has led to an increase in reporting to PSNI and Belfast City Council.

The Future



LIA intends to continue to develop the programmes, projects, facilities, services and support provided over the past year. The organisation has identified a number of potential opportunities for development over the next five years, building on the expertise and capacity of LIA and meeting needs identified by the community. We look forward to working in partnership with residents, the community and voluntary sector, statutory agencies and businesses to continue to improve our community.

We want to ensure that moving forward the organisation continues to;

- Have a leadership role in the community with residents using LIA for advice, support, guidance, and signposting
- Act as a resource organisation for community and voluntary groups in Ligoniel
- Have specific organisational roles in particular spheres, namely: environment, health, advice, regeneration, horticulture, education and training, good relations, community safety, and capacity building
- Be an inclusive organisation, supporting programme development and delivering programmes and initiatives to meet the needs of Ligoniel residents of all ages, religious beliefs, and ethnicity.
- Provide support for vulnerable people in the community (of all ages)



In doing so LIA is conscious of the need to ensure that it operates on a financially viable basis and to build up sufficient free reserves to ensure that it can deal with any unexpected adverse developments.

Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership Projects

Due to its unique location, the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment Fund is currently supporting projects in the Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Area. However the support of the task groups provides leverage to access funding from many other sources to provide programmes to meet the needs of the community.

The current LVNP action plan details proposals in four areas i.e. Community Renewal, Social Renewal, Economic Renewal and Physical Renewal. Broadly speaking the action plan falls into three categories:

- Advice and Educational support for a range of vulnerable groups in the community e.g. families and children, the unemployed, the elderly, the sick and disabled etc.
- Capital projects to provide the necessary facilities and resources for a growing population e.g., extension to the Wolfhill Centre, Environmental and Heritage Project, a new Family Centre, shared space projects etc.
- Community events i.e. events to bring people together, to strengthen community bonds and encourage more people to volunteer and participate in local services and activities.

The role of the LCE and LIA figured prominently in all four areas of Renewal, particularly in terms of the potential offered by the development of the Wolfhill Centre site to meet the needs of the targeted, deprived, community in Ligoniel and the growing population.

The task groups are established to meet the needs of this ever expanding Ligoniel Village and LIA, through actions agreed within the task group has set several key priorities and associated activities including;

Priority 1

To address community based issues and to work with key stakeholders in the development of initiatives that will positively contribute to a cohesive community including;

- The development and implementation of a range of community safety initiatives
- The establishment and maintenance of Shared Spaces
- To improve Local Communication systems and practices
- Development of Community Capacity

Priority 2

To establish Ligoniel as one of the key environment and heritage sites within the Belfast Hills including;

- The development of the Ligoniel Environment and heritage site

- The development of opportunities to work in partnership on the enhancement and Improvement of Ligoniel Park
- The creation and improvement of linkages across the Belfast Hills

Priority 3

To create the opportunities for the delivery of services, effectively addressing community needs including

- Enabling the community to make healthier choices
- Promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Addressing health inequalities and access to services in an appropriate timeframe
- To promote and Develop the Skills and Attitudes of Young People in the Locality.

Priority 4

To work in partnership with a range of stakeholders to develop and implement actions that will improve the economic environment within the village, contribute to the education and employment opportunities for residents attract inward investment and will assist in the regeneration of Ligoniel Village

- Development of Social Enterprise in partnership with Ligoniel Community Enterprises
- Village Improvements implemented
- Develop a social economy enterprise business plan
- Development of training and employment initiatives
- Facilities for young people improved or developed
- Development of initiatives that will positively contribute to increased Educational Achievement
- Programmes and facilities developed to increase community capacity
- Increased opportunities created for engaging in Volunteering and obtaining Qualifications
- Development of the capacity of volunteers, peer mentors and groups
- Corn mill site development completed

Priority 5

To provide a range of services that will reduce poverty, tackle debt and advocate and highlight social policy including:

- Providing free accessible, confidential high quality advice
- Contributing to the reduction of poverty
- Financial Capability programme delivery
- Increasing volunteer resources for the delivery of our advice service
- Working with stakeholders to address the impact of Welfare Reform

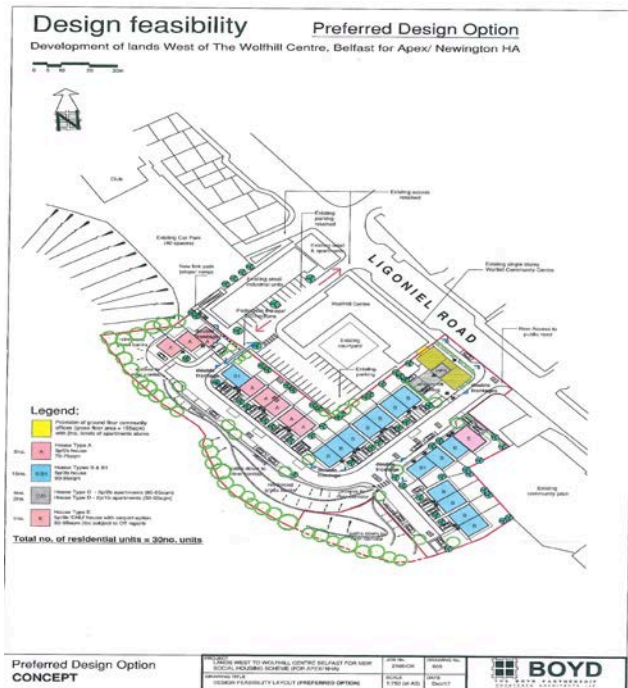
Local primary school pupils planting spring bulbs

Women in History on the Famine ship at Dunbrody at Co. Wexford



Seniors enjoying a spooktacular Halloween

Men's History Group in Wexford



Newington Housing Association and Ligoniel Community Enterprises – the proposal to build 30 units of social housing in the heart of the village will give Ligoniel a much needed boost which will in turn create a sense of community and encourage investment in the area.

Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership 2019/20 Expenditure (by Strategic Objective)

The following table details current projects funded via the Neighbourhood Renewal Investment fund. It also details the 2019/20 individual spend for each project, the total amount of expenditure by strategic objective and the overall 2019/20 total expenditure in the Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Community/Social Renewal Expenditure

Programme/Project	Funding Period	Funding Allocation	Project Spend
Ligoniel Improvement Association – Community Development and Relations	01/04/19-31/03/20	£128,045.47	£122,164.98
Community/Social Renewal Total Expenditure		£115,240.92	£109,948.48

Economic Renewal Expenditure

Programme/Project	Funding Period	Funding Allocation	Project Spend
North Belfast Advice Partnership (Lead Partner Vine Centre) LIA Portion only	01/04/19-31/03/20	£56,997.65	£56,922.66
Economic Renewal Total Expenditure		£56,997.65	£56,922.66

Physical Renewal Expenditure

Programme/Project	Funding Period	Funding Allocation	Project Spend
Ligoniel Improvement Association – The Ligoniel Development Project	01/04/19-31/03/20	£12,804.50	£12,216.50
Total Physical Renewal Expenditure		£12,804.50	£12,216.50
Total Expenditure 2019/20		£185,043.07	£179,087.64

Achievements of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding In 2019/20 Year

Community Renewal Output Measures

Project	CR1 - Number of people participating in community relations projects	CR3 - Number of people engaged/involved in unpaid voluntary work	CR10 - Number of people using new or improved community facilities	CR8 – Number of community relation projects supported	CR12 – Number of enquiries and clients by category	CR16 – Number of direct referrals to other support services	CR17 – Value of benefits claimed as a result of advice given £
LIA Community Development & Relations	268	71	1305	6	4,814	321	£3,552,241.00
North Belfast Advice Partnership LIA Welfare & Benefit Support					5,816	409	£4,400,000.00
Totals	268	70	1,305	6	10,630	730	£7,952,241.00

Social Renewal (Health) Output Measures

Project	SR(H)2 Number of people attending Health education / awareness initiatives	SR(H)4 Number of health education/ awareness initiatives provided/delivered	SR(H) 10 Number of people using new sports facilities
LIA– Community Development & Relations Totals	389	10	187

Social Renewal (Crime) Output Measures

Project	SR(C)2 – Number of community safety initiatives implemented	SR(C)5 – Number of people participating/ attending community safety initiatives	SR(C) 6 – Number of young people benefiting from youth inclusion/ diversionary projects	SR(C) 7 – Number of victims of crime supported
Ligoniel Improvement Association – Community Development & Relations Totals	5	540	80	30

Physical Renewal Output Measures

Project	PR1 - Area of land improved or reclaimed for open space	PR5 – Number of buildings improved	PR11 – Number of volunteers/people involved in physical development and /or environment
Ligoniel Improvement Association – Community Development & Relations Totals	1	1	17

Economic Renewal Output Measures

Project	ER4 - Number of people receiving job specific training	ER6 - - Number of new business start ups	ER11 – Number of social economy projects created/supported	ER15 – Number of FTE jobs safeguarded
Ligoniel Improvement Association – Community Development & Relations	5	120	47	4
North Belfast Advice Partnership – Ligoniel Improvement Association – Welfare and Benefit Support				2
Totals	5	120	47	6

Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership Conclusion

In the 2019/20 financial year, Ligoniel Village Neighbourhood Partnership total overall spend was **£179,087.64** broken down as follows:

Community / Social Renewal	£109,948.48
Economic Renewal	£56,922.66
Physical Renewal	£12,216.50



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