



# Lislea

Village Renewal and Development Plan

Final Report

February 2015







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### Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Pak Aerial Media ([www.pakaerialmedia.co.uk](http://www.pakaerialmedia.co.uk)) for the use of their aerial photographs.



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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

This Village Development Plan has been devised by the Community for the Community. The methodology was strongly consultation based and allowed a range of stakeholders including the local community, user groups, Newry and Mourne District Council, TADA Rural Support Network and local Councillors to get involved.

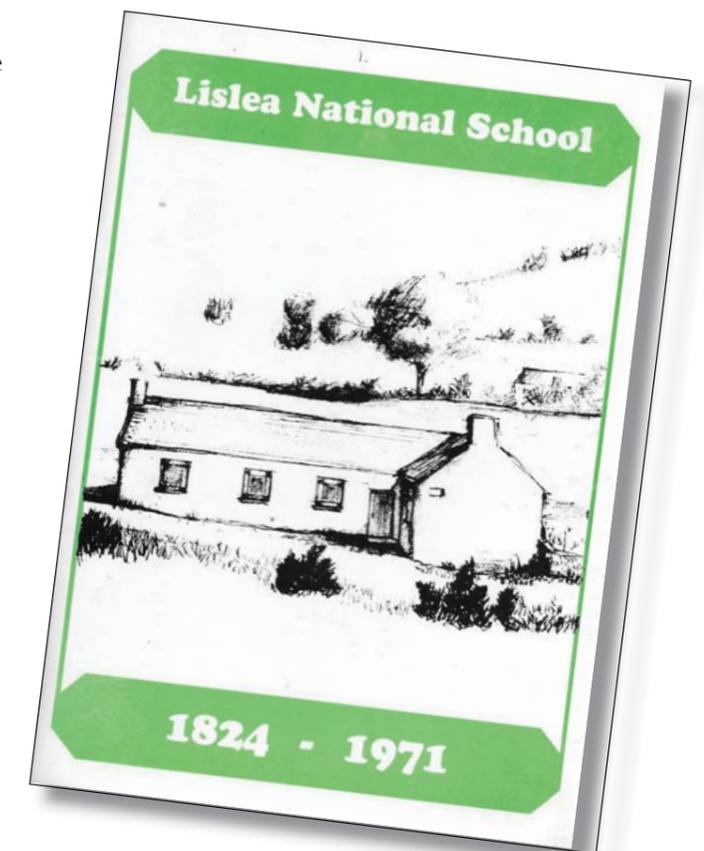
This plan is the blue print which sets out the strategic direction for the development of Community Needs and Infra-structure for the next ten years. Lislea Community Association will take the lead in delivering this Village Renewal and Development Plan in co-operation with the relevant Statutory and Voluntary partners and most importantly the community.

#### 1.1.1 History of Lislea Community Association and Community Centre

In June 1970 Lislea National School was closed as part of the Department of Education's amalgamation programme for primary schools. At the time local people felt that the building should be turned into a recreational centre to cater for the Lislea Community. With the previous closure of the AOH (Ancient Order of Hibernians) hall in 1965, due to disrepair, there was no meeting place for the people of the area. During the spring of 1971 the Lislea Community Association was formed with the prime objective of developing the former 'two roomed' school into a community centre and to this day continues to be responsible for the lease, maintenance and operation of the centre.

In the early 1970s activities at the centre included drama, Irish dancing, sewing classes, cards, skittles, ceilidh dancing and youth activities. However, the history of the centre over the past forty three years has been one of ever increasing usage and the need for improved facilities. This can be chronicled as follows:

- Centre modernised in 1973 to cater for severe overcrowding at social functions and generally increased demand. The fund raising and work was carried out by the local community.
- Following approval of youth club activities by SELB in 1976, the Community Association secured a grant of £9k to provide changing rooms/shower facilities and an external all-weather surface suitable for football, basketball and tennis.
- During the 1980s, demand for the centre spiralled, as did the maintenance costs due to the age of the structure and condition of parts of the building (unsound roof/electrical wiring/inadequate heating). In 1984 the Community Association transformed the old structure into a new multi-purpose centre which at the time was unique as it was the only self-sufficient modern community facility in the Newry & Mourne District.
- In 1999 the Community Association carried out a review of the centre in light of growth of the Drama festival and continued demand for its facilities. A timber framed Council owned building (located to the rear of the main building) which was 18 years old had reached the end of its life expectancy. Newry & Mourne Council agreed to the removal of the structure and its replacement with a permanent structure incorporated into the main building. The Association secured grants from a cocktail of funders (Newry & Mourne Peace II Partnership, RCN Millennium Halls, Rural Community Network and National Lottery).



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The refurbished community centre continues to be used on a regular basis with an ever increasing demand for its facilities. The current programme includes Youth clubs, yoga classes, youth drama, Irish dancing, Carer and Toddler Group, Outreach training programmes, Drama festivals and community and social events. One of the highlights of last year was being chosen as one of the major viewing points and hosting of a community event to celebrate the inaugural event of the passing of the Giro d'Italia. This reflected our rich history in hosting cycle events as we are the recognised official main stopping point for the Dublin-Belfast Annual Maracycle.





## 2. Overview of Lislea

### 2.1 Location

Lislea is a small rural settlement in South Armagh approximately six miles from Newry city. It is situated on the northern side of Slieve Gullion and is bounded by the villages of Camlough to the north east and Mullaghbawn to the south west. Lislea is the English translation from the Irish words Lios Liath meaning the Grey Fort. It is a rural area consisting of nine townlands:

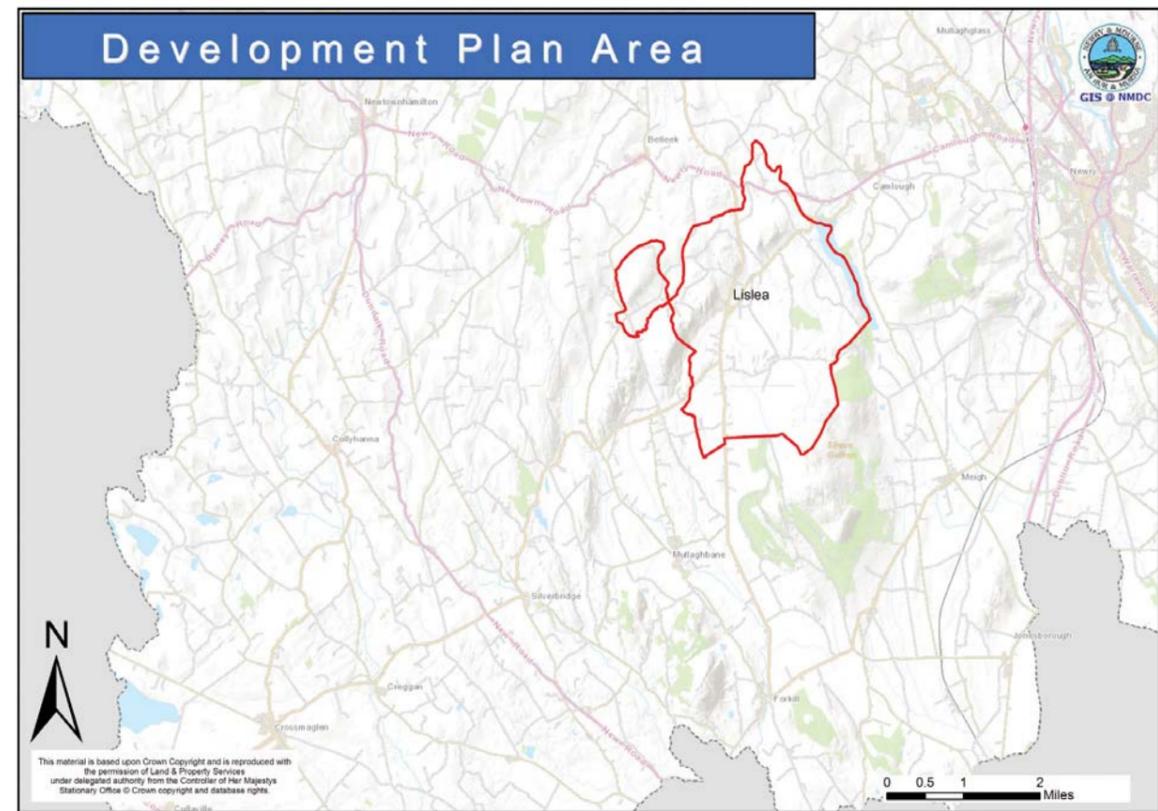
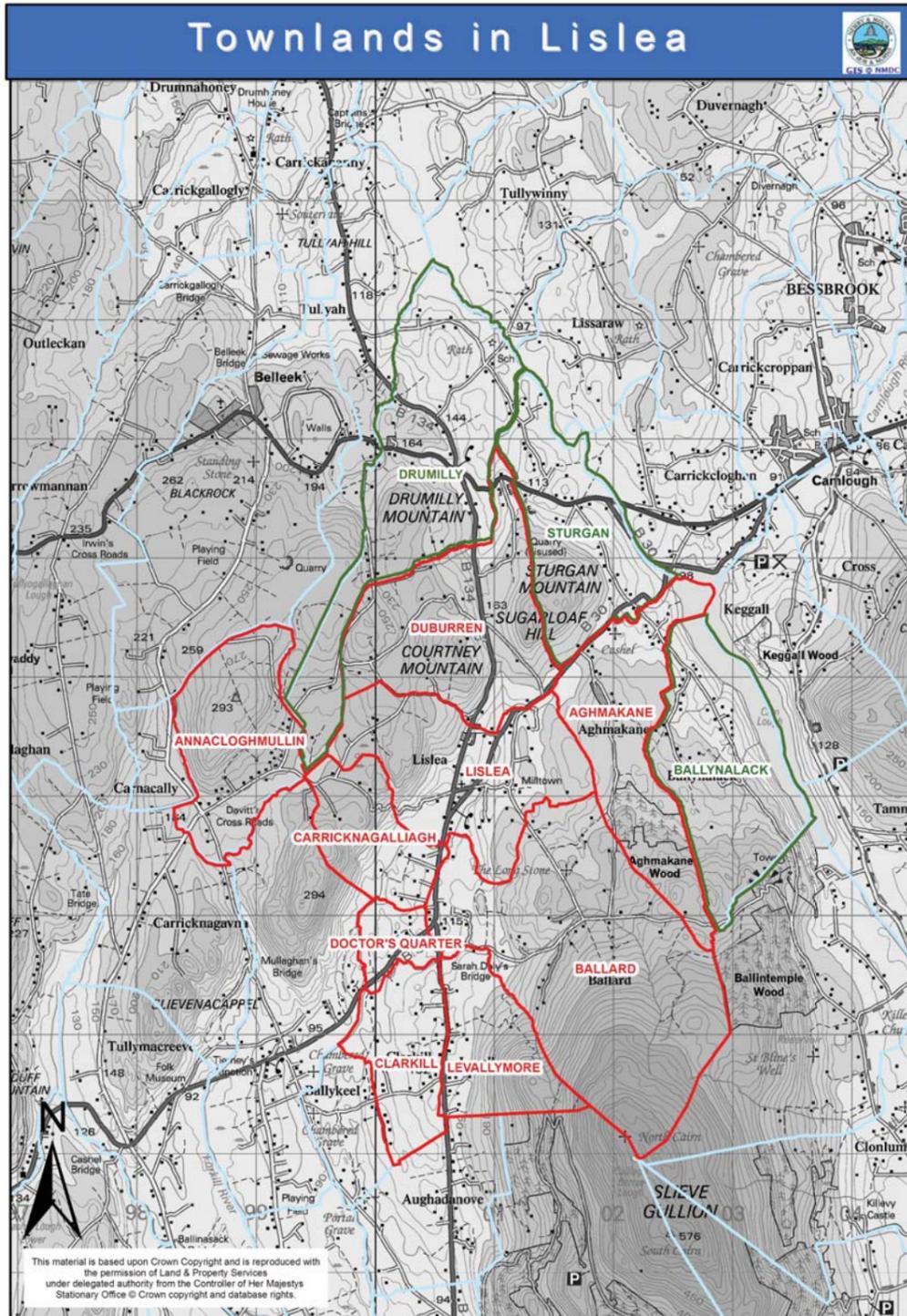
1. *Lislea*
2. *Deburren*
3. *Aghmakane*
4. *Ballard*
5. *Levelamore*
6. *Clarkhill*
7. *Doctor's Quarters*
8. *Carricknagalliagh*
9. *Annacloghmullion*

The lowland valley of Lislea is surrounded on all sides by mountainous terrain, the largest being Slieve Gullion which rises to over 1800 feet. Lislea townland itself (as shown on the maps on page 7) is central to all the other townlands and that is where the church, community centre and the greatest concentration of dwellings are located. To ensure we obtained views from the community we reached into the neighbouring townlands of Ballynaleck, Sturgan and Drumilly to encompass all of the views of the local community.



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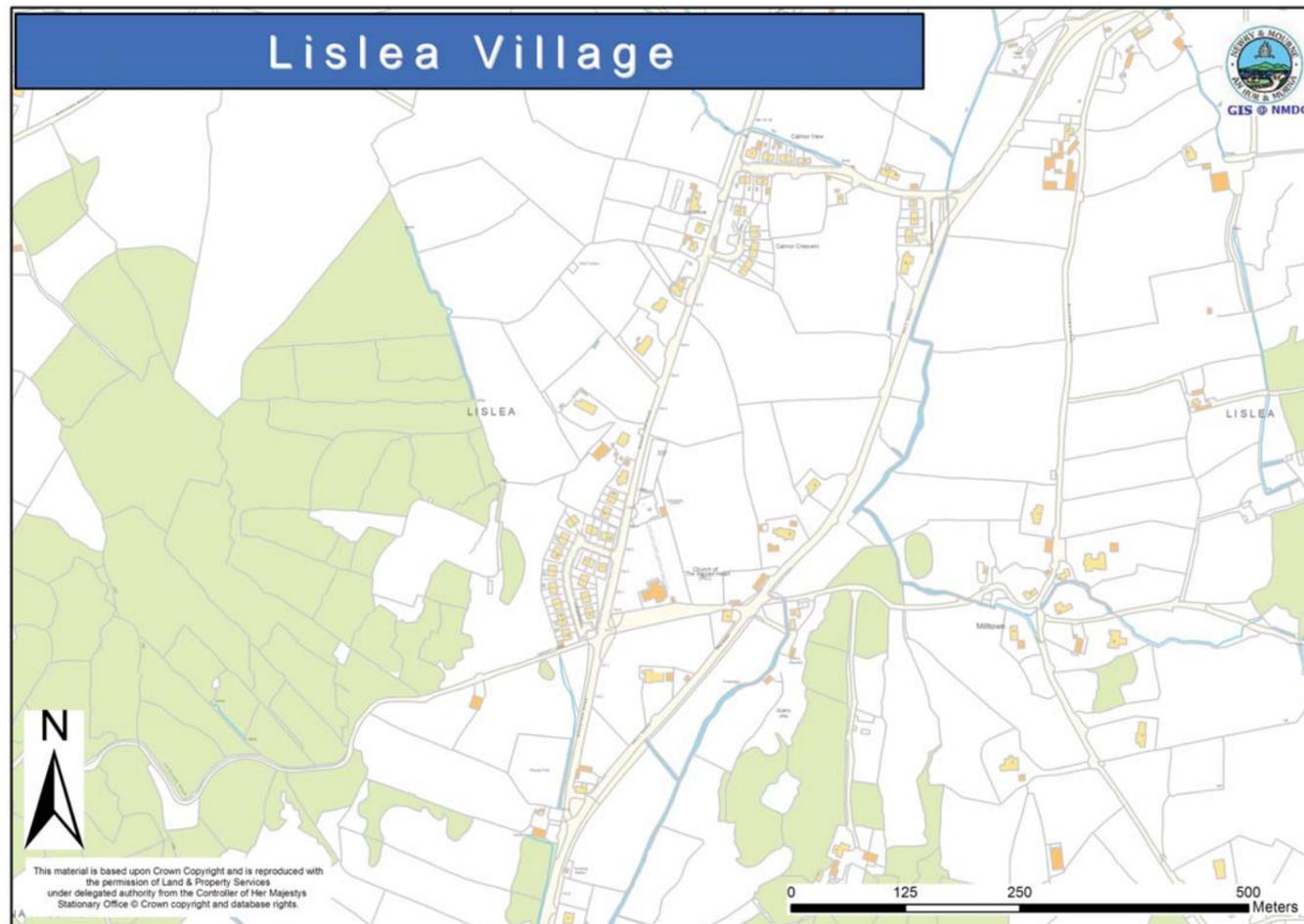




## 2.2 Village Profile

### 2.2.1 Background

Lislea is a small village located 3 miles South West from Camlough in County Armagh. The village has a church, a vibrant community centre, a youthful population and a thriving community spirit.



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## National Statistical Research Agency

Information about the settlement obtained from the Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency (NISRA). NISRA classified Lislea as a “Small village, Hamlet and Open Countryside”. The NISRA statistics revealed that the population of Lislea was recorded as under 84 No. according to the 2001 census. Due to the small population no additional information is available on the demography from NISRA. However, following a recent survey by the local community group approximately 220 households were identified across the nine townlands of the Lislea settlement and some parts of Ballinaleck, Sturgan and Drumilly.

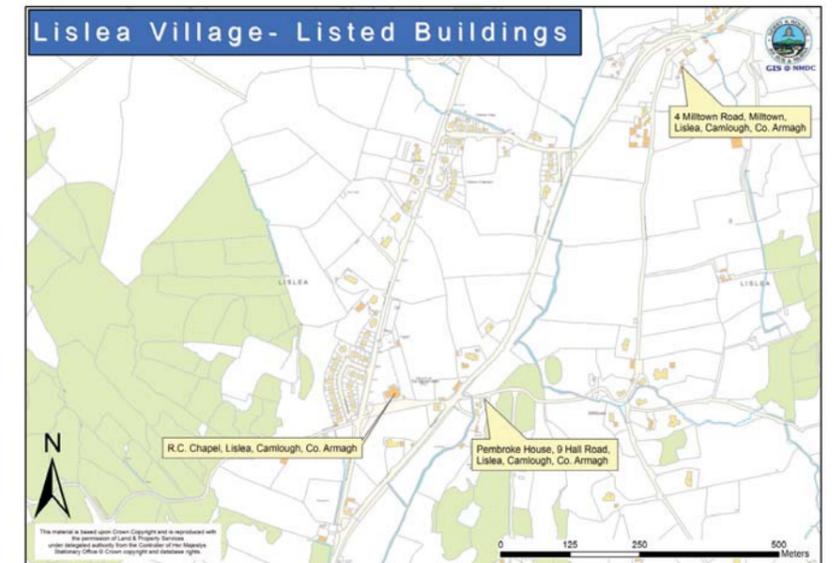
### 2.2.2 Planning Policy Context

The settlement limits outlined in the Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 only designated two nodes for Lislea in order to protect the character and compact nature of the settlements while taking into consideration its location within the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### Listed Buildings

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) database revealed that here are 3 listed buildings designated within the study area.

ID	HB Number	Type	Address
9330	HB16/19/013	Church	R.C. Chapel, Lislea, Camlough, Co. Armagh
9331	HB16/19/014	House	Pembroke House, 9 Hall Road, Lislea, Camlough, Co. Armagh
11490	HB16/19/020	House	4 Milltown Road, Milltown, Lislea, Camlough, Co. Armagh





### Planning History

The planning history search revealed that there are 6 recent planning applications within the village. These applications are listed below and are indicated on the accompanying map. The applications indicate that the village is expanding with increased housing and enhanced infrastructure. Six houses are currently being erected by a Housing Association to meet current social housing need.

	<i>Application Ref.</i>	<i>Date Received</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Status</i>
1.	P/2014/1074/F	23/12/2014	Calmor View at the entrance to Redmonds Close BT35 9TL	Erection of a street cabinet to facilitate the provision of the new fibre optic infrastructure across the BT network	NEIGHBOURS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED
2.	P/2014/1075/F	23/12/2014	Sturgan Brae at junction with Sturgan Road Camlough BT35 7HT	Erection of a street cabinet to facilitate the provision of the new fibre optic infrastructure across the BT network	NEIGHBOURS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED
3.	P/2014/0782/F	15/09/2014	Beside 20 Aghmakane Road Camlough Newry Co. Armagh BT35 7HY	Change of use of existing building to dwelling with new rear extension and extension to existing office/outhouse	CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED
4.	P/2014/0433/F	15/05/2014	Opposite No. 15 Aghmakane Road Camlough BT35 8HY	Erection of Dwelling and Detached Garage	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED
5.	P/2014/0333/F	10/04/2014	5 Drumilly Road Lislea Newry Co. Down BT35 9HP	Erection of Replacement Dwelling	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED
6.	P/2014/0165/F	14/02/2014	10a Sturgan Road Camlough Newry BT35 7HS	Retention of 2 No. Air Source Heat Pumps to rear of existing garage (amended description)	PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED



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## 2.2.3 Deprivation

### Demographic /Socio Economic Profile of Lislea Area

Between 2001 and 2015 the area has experienced its greatest increase in population (16%) for some time. In terms of the elderly the 65 plus age group has increased by 30%. There has also been an increase in the level of people working full time in the Slieve Gullion ward which includes Lislea. A few other statistics are as follows:

- Housing stock has increased by at least 16%
- Higher level of under 16's compared to NI average
- Higher level of under 16's (27%) compared to NI average (21%)
- Increase in 0-14 year olds by 5.3%
- 33 years was the average (median) age of the population
- Low level of provision of facilities for under 16 age group in the area
- 86.79% of households were owner occupied and 11.58% were rented
- Unemployment of 6% compared to NI average of 5%
- Generally higher education standard compared to NI 37% with no qualifications compared to 40% for NI
- No industrial activity apart from small scale farming
- Mountainous terrain and poor quality land





## 3. Community Consultation

### 3.1 Consultation Process

Lislea Community Association made the decision to devise a community development and renewal plan in September 2014 and agreed a three pronged consultation process, beginning with surveying the community to identify needs with a baseline questionnaire, secondly gathering feedback from user groups of the community centre and thirdly holding a public meeting to capture further views. This process was completed in consultation with Newry & Mourne District Council and TADA Rural Support Network.

<i>Consultation Method</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Attendance/ Responses</i>
Baseline questionnaire	October/ November 2014	N/A	169
User Groups Survey	December 2014	N/A	9
Public Meeting	14 January 2015	Lislea Community Centre	45



### 3.2 Information Gathering

#### Baseline Questionnaire

The questionnaire (see Appendix 1) was developed focussing on three key areas:

- Location and age profile of household
- Activities and events attended – comments and suggestions
- Views on development of a play area and comments on the general facilities in the area.

Approximately 220 households were identified in the Lislea area taking in the nine townlands along with Ballinaleck, Sturgan and Drumilly. Volunteers from Lislea Community Association's Committee and members of the 'Play area subgroup' were assigned areas and went door to door with the questionnaires. A huge response was received with 169 completed questionnaires being returned. This represents 75% of the community which demonstrates the wide interest in the consultation exercise.





### User Groups Surveys

As Lislea Community Centre is the hub of the community. Without the facility Lislea Community Association would not be in a position to support and provide the current programme of activities. It is also important to note that the facility is self funding through fund raising events, hall hire and bar income. To maintain these income sources into the future and therefore sustain the use of the community centre, the user groups were also surveyed to obtain their views on current facilities and improvements for the future.

### Public Meeting

A Public Meeting was organised by Lislea Community Association to be held at Lislea Community Centre on Wednesday 14 January 2015. The meeting was supported by Newry & Mourne District Council and TADA Rural Support Network. The meeting was advertised in the local papers and on the Lislea Community Association's Facebook page. A leaflet was designed and distributed by volunteers to each household in the area, see Appendix 2.

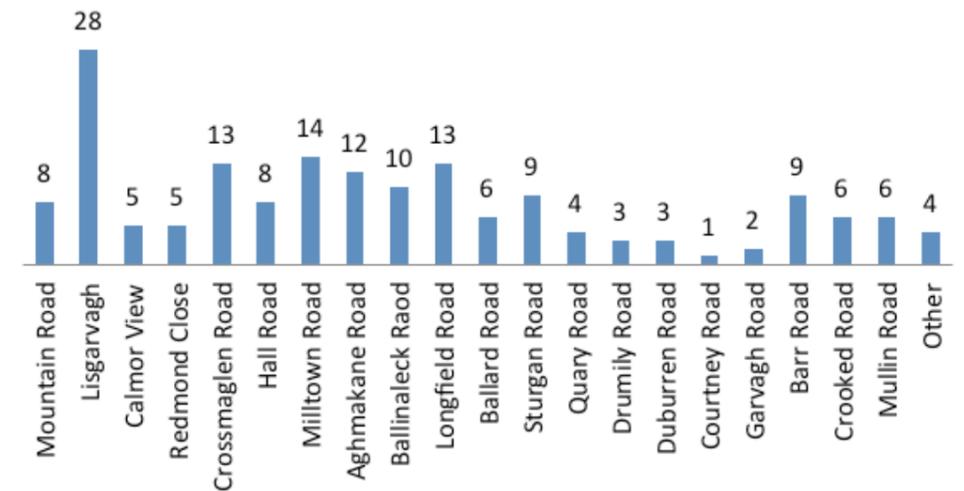
The purpose of the meeting was to share the findings from the baseline questionnaire with the community and to seek views on the priority issues for the community. The event was well attended by members of the local community and elected representatives. Attendees were broken into subgroups and facilitators from the Community Association assisted with gathering feedback to the meeting.

## 3.3 Consultation Findings

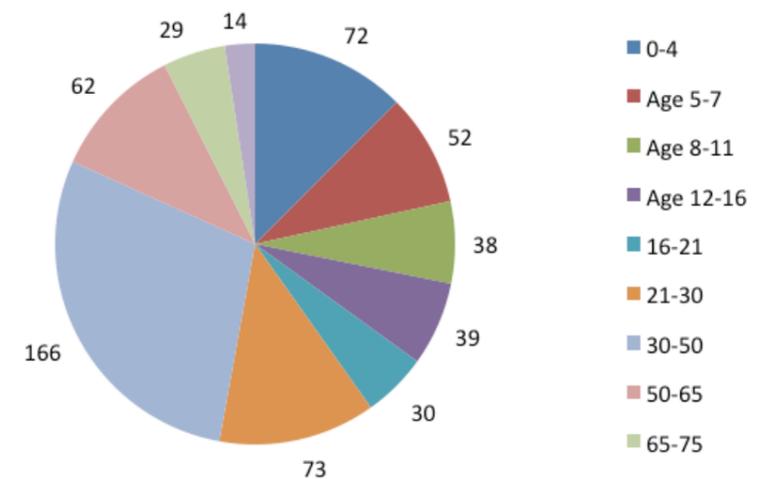
### Baseline Questionnaire

169 responses to our questionnaire were received, collated and are presented below. The first graph shows the breadth of the consultation and how views from every area in the community are represented. The age profile of respondents clearly outlines the young population within the area with 35% of the community under the age of 16, much higher than the average figure of 27% in the local area and 21% in Northern Ireland

### Respondents by Area

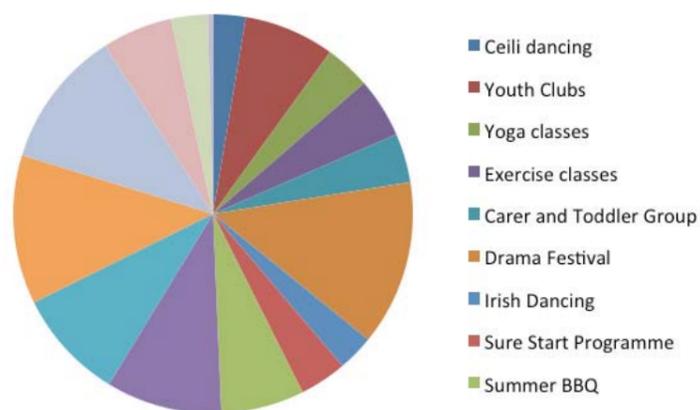


### Age Profile of Respondents





## Activities in Lislea Community Centre regularly attended by respondent



Other activities noted by respondents - Kute Kids Drama Club, Dances, plays, fund raisers, Table quiz, Christmas fair, Craft fayres

## Comments and Suggestions regarding activities:

- All excellent
- More cross community
- Drama for children of ages and teenagers
- Would love more musical events in the community centre and stand up comedy nights
- Working full time and hard to get to activities
- Normally attend activities in Crossmaglen. Don't know what's going on.
- Lack of information (Comment made by 6 individuals)
- Caters well for people of the area
- More exercise classes
- Bootcamp- finish by 7am
- Think that the youth club should be ran more often or more frequent activities introduced for children and adults
- All very good
- Lislea has a very busy program and is a pivotal focus for the community
- We need more for our teens
- All very good
- Excellent drama festival

- Excellent concerts
- No, Lislea is a vibrant community which always seeks to involve all within it.
- Activities of senior youth club to be reviewed
- None
- I feel that a varied programme of events are available at the club
- Not always well advertised
- Make more activities available for the community and advertise more. Maybe open bar to public at weekends
- Not being made aware of these activities – perhaps a monthly newsletter
- These activities help to reinforce Lislea's community spirit.
- Not widely advertised
- Excellent services, great community but need outdoor facilities
- Update of information on facebook
- Also would be useful to advertise more in all parish bulletins if possible.
- Adult helpers at youth clubs – should be AccessNI checked first? Continue to support healthy snacks at youth clubs.

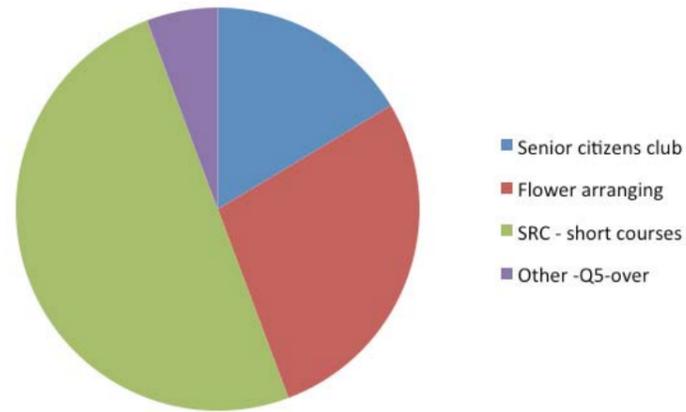




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## Suggested Future Activities



### Other suggestions

#### Exercise:

- Boxercise, Tai chi
- Zumba classes
- More sports activities for children and adults
- Teenage Boot camp/football
- More exercise classes
- Fitness programs
- Morning exercise classes
- Exercise classes
- Pilates
- Yoga for over 60s

#### Classes:

- Guitar lessons
- Computer classes
- First aid (comment made by 4 individuals)
- ICT
- Irish Music
- Arts & Crafts
- Knitting
- IT classes

- Language courses
- Cookery classes
- Tin whistle classes
- Language courses
- First aid training
- Cookery classes – Chinese
- ‘Cook It’ for men – at night for men who work

#### General suggestions:

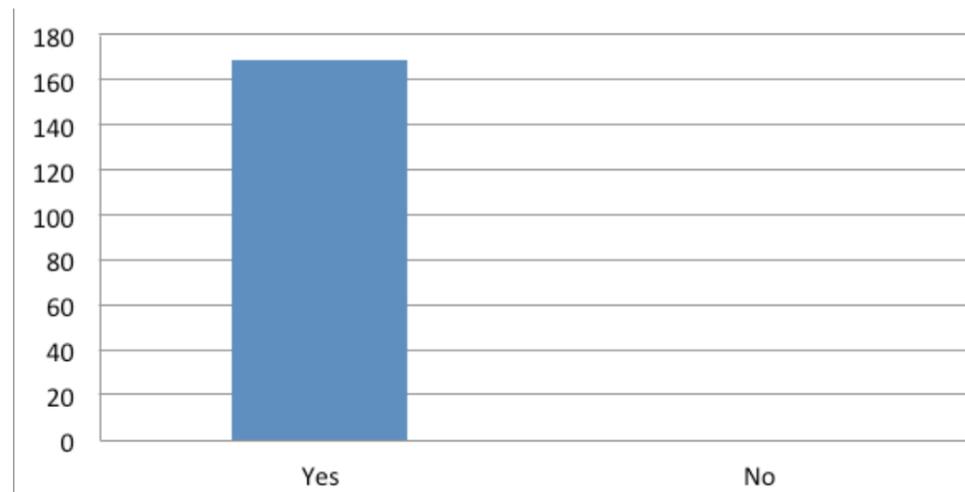
- Any childrens activity
- I think there is sufficient activities throughout the year
- Very happy with activities
- Really enjoyed GIRO day – would like it to be a yearly event
- Community garden
- Women’s group
- Bingo
- Drama society
- Bar open more often
- Update of information on facebook
- Also would be useful to advertise more in all parish bulletins of possible.

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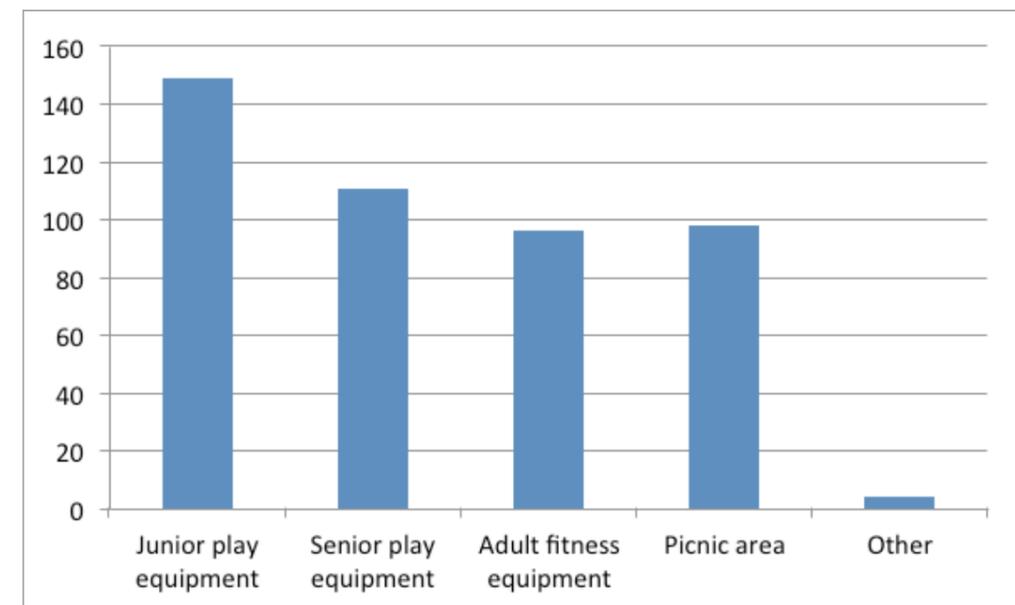
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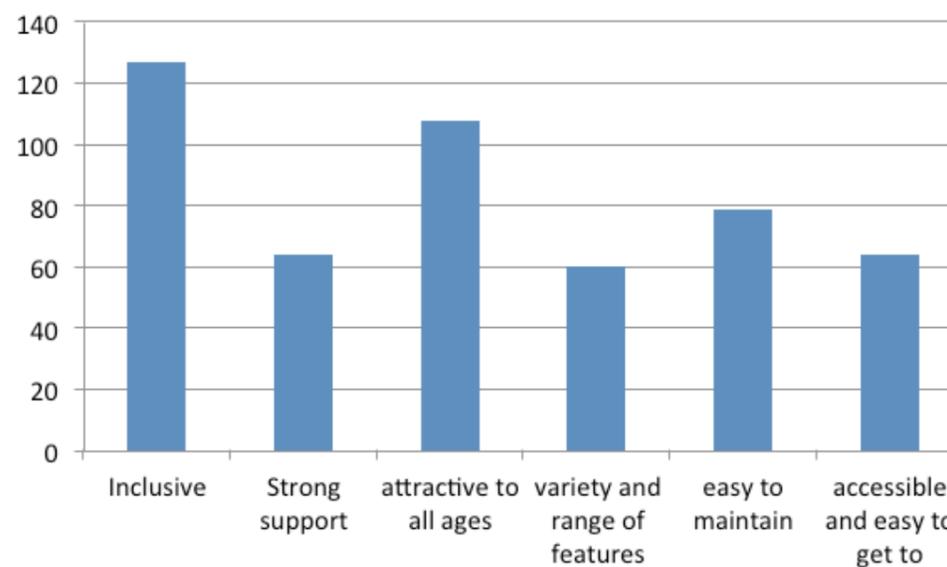
*Number in favour of Playground*



*Suggested Equipment for Playground*



*Priorities For The Development Of A Play Area In Lislea*



**Other suggestions included**

- Off road, good parking
- Safe
- Football nets
- Toddler play equipment
- Biodiversity classroom
- Play equipment for all childrens ages and also for children with disabilities as most don't have this
- Wheelchair friendly





### *Comments On The General Facilities In Lislea*

#### **Outdoor play facilities:**

- Very limited facilities at present
- Football field developed and more for kids
- Upgrade local football pitch (comment made by 2 individuals)
- Upgrade local football pitch –light, footpath
- Playground would be welcome
- There is a large teenage demograph in this area which really needs social provision
- Playing field – very marshy – upgrade (comment made by 4 individuals)
- Looking for a play area
- Upgrade Community centre space for football tennis, basketball, etc (comment made by 2 individuals)
- More activities for kids in summer
- Basketball hoops at club
- A play area for young children would be excellent
- Great community, outdoor facilities for children would be a fantastic asset to the area
- The facilities are limited in respect of a safe area for children to play in. A play area would offer a safe and enjoyable environment for our children while further promoting the community spirit
- Upgrade and maintain current football fields
- In general I feel that the facilities and programme of events are excellent. The main downside is the lack of playground in the area, especially with the growing number of young people in the immediate area.
- A play park would be great
- Apart from the youth club there is really nothing for the children in Lislea and I find myself driving to Bessbrook Community Centre or Newry Sports Centre for hobbies such as Football/Taw-Kwon-Do, etc. A playground or more activities are well overdue as the area continues to expand.
- A lot of grandchildren visit our home every week. We need more organised sports and equipment.
- Safe outside space tailored to meet the needs of the community.
- A local playground would be a valued addition to the area. Short courses would be of interest. For such a small area, Lislea always provides a varied timetable of events for all ages which is great.
- I have always enjoyed attending evenings in the hall and the children have loved attending clubs, discos and festive activities. I would be delighted if a play area for all ages opened as Slieve Gullion can be packed in holiday times. Out of Belleek or Lislea, my preference would be Lislea.
- Lislea has great community support for all events and also many followers from outside the area. With recent developments the number of families has increased hugely and the development of a play park would be a great addition to the area.

- Although we live outside the Lislea area, our children attend many of the events and activities in the club. It seems such a shame that due to the number of children's events and children/families in the area that there's no playground for their use.
- For a rural community there are a lot of children living here. They would greatly benefit from having a safe place to play. Road safety – speed on Mountain Road. A footpath to link Calmor to community centre would make the road safer for the children
- There is no play area for local children, none within 7 miles of the locality, much needed by a close knit and greatly supported community.



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## Road Safety Issues

- Footpath on Mountain Road (comment made by 3 individuals)
- Bus shelter at Crossmaglen Road & Chapel Brae (comment made by 2 individuals)
- Speed restrictions on mountain road and entrance to Lisgarvagh
- Footpath
- More speed restrictions on the Mountain Road (comment made by 6 individuals)
- Road salted in winter
- Road bumps on roads
- Gritting the roads. Every house should throw out salt on roads to keep them clear of ice in winter.
- Speed of cars on Mountain road –terrible.
- Speed ramps on Mountain Road
- The road needs speed ramps and more signage ‘Children at play’, etc

## General:

- Facebook page should be updated regularly
- We have a growing community and need facilities for the very young and teen group in such a rural community with severely limited public transportation
- Explore the feasibility of expanding the range of activities in the community centre in conjunction with a centre manager position (paid position)
- I believe Lislea could do with more facilities and including Broadband for everybody in the area.
- For a small growing community a little help from Newry & Mourne Council would be appreciated
- Very happy
- I fully support Lislea Community Centre
- Great facilities for all in Lislea
- Dog fouling in park
- All very good
- Very good for a small community and very welcoming
- Cultural facilities excellent, sports facilities zero
- Open bar more often
- More family fun days like the GIRO day where everyone got involved and enjoyed it.
- Would be nice to have a sign pointing out you are entering Lislea to highlight the area.
- My children went to Lislea Youth Club when they were the age and they loved it.





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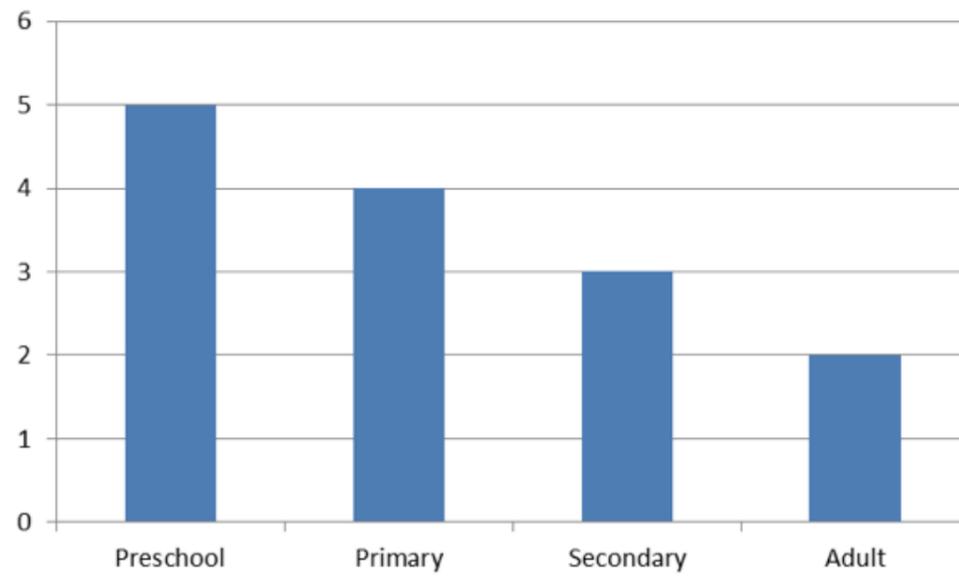
## User Groups Surveys

### Outdoor play facilities:

The following analysis has been gleaned from the various Groups who use Lislea Hall facilities over the past year and beyond. We have 9 contributors outlined below:

1. Surestart South Armagh
2. Mother & Toddler Group
3. Kute Kids Drama Academy
4. Lislea Dramatic Players
5. McEntaggert School of Dancing Junior
6. McEntaggert School of Dancing Senior
7. DARD : Agricultural Class
8. LCA Girls and boys Youth Clubs
9. LCA Youth Co-ordinator

**Table 1. Activity Age Spread**



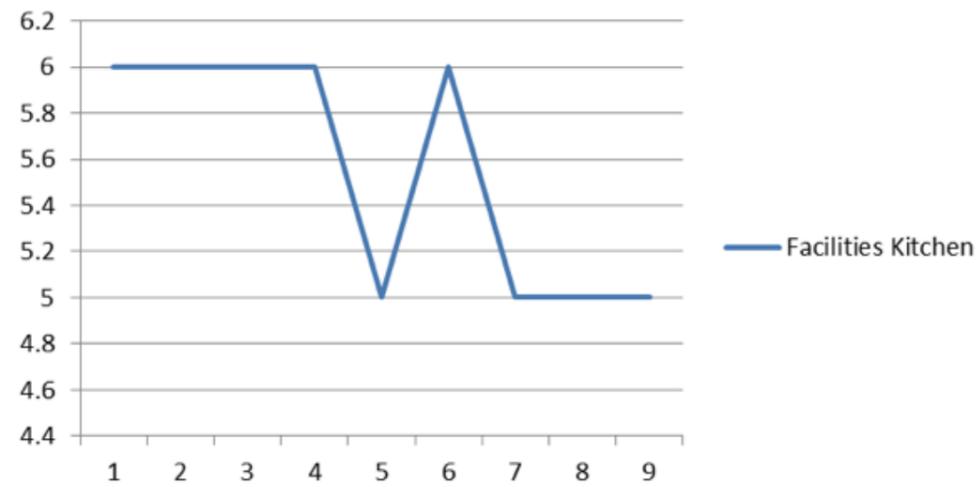
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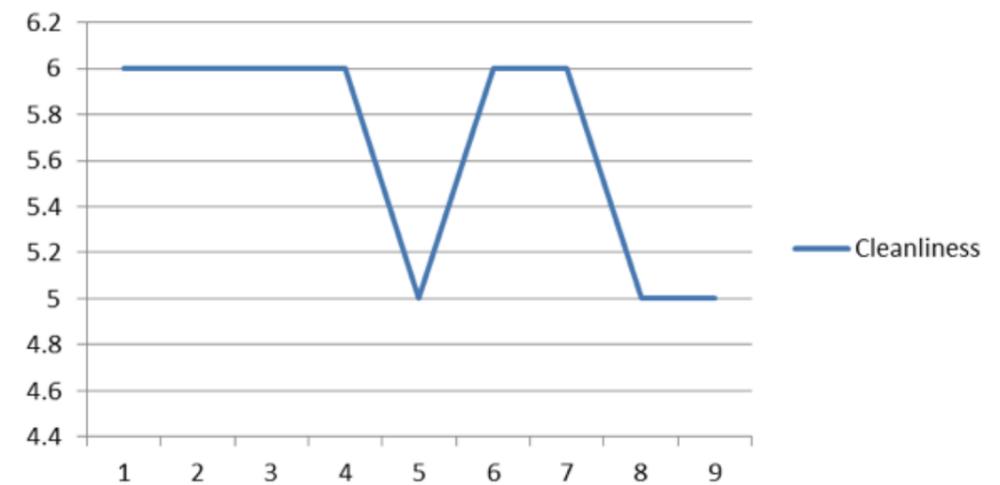


The following charts illustrate the findings (on a max scoring of 6 = excellent to 1 = poor) across questions in relation to facilities (3 categories), cleanliness, heating/lighting, equipment followed by an Overall scoring.

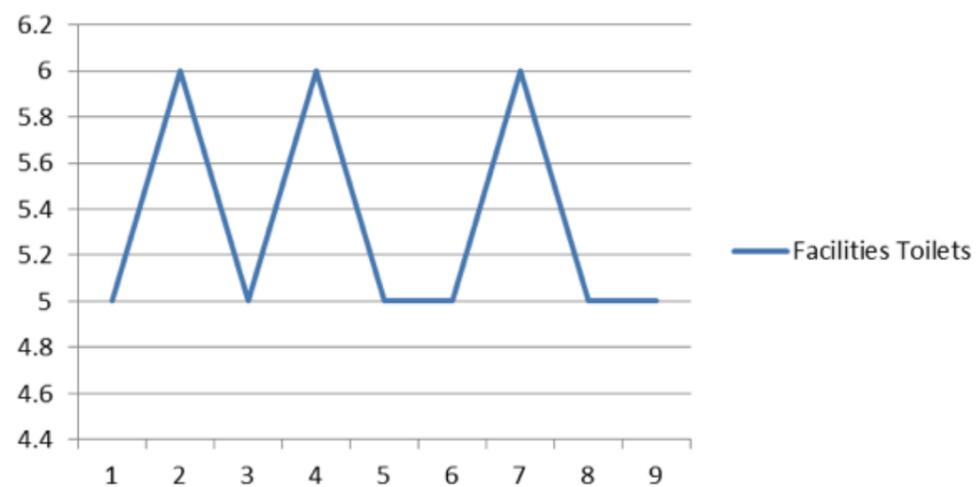
### Facilities Kitchen



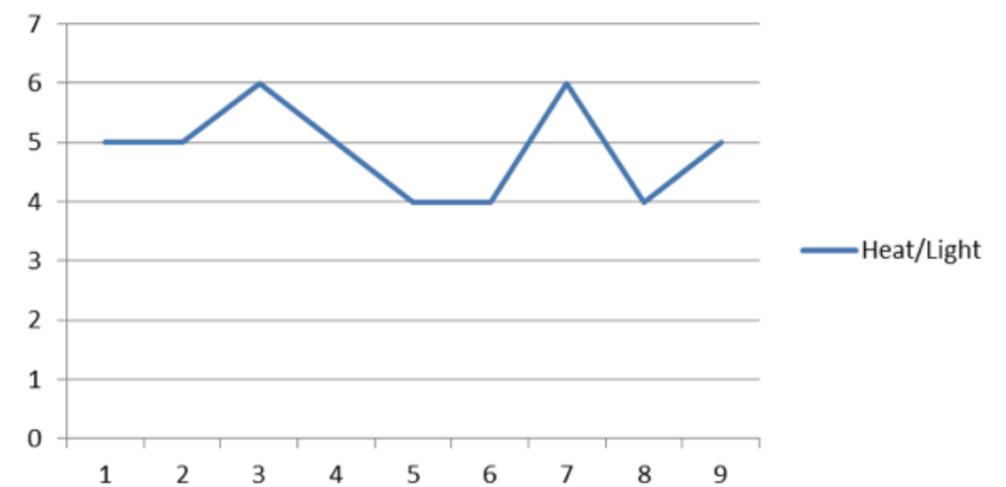
### Cleanliness



### Facilities Toilets



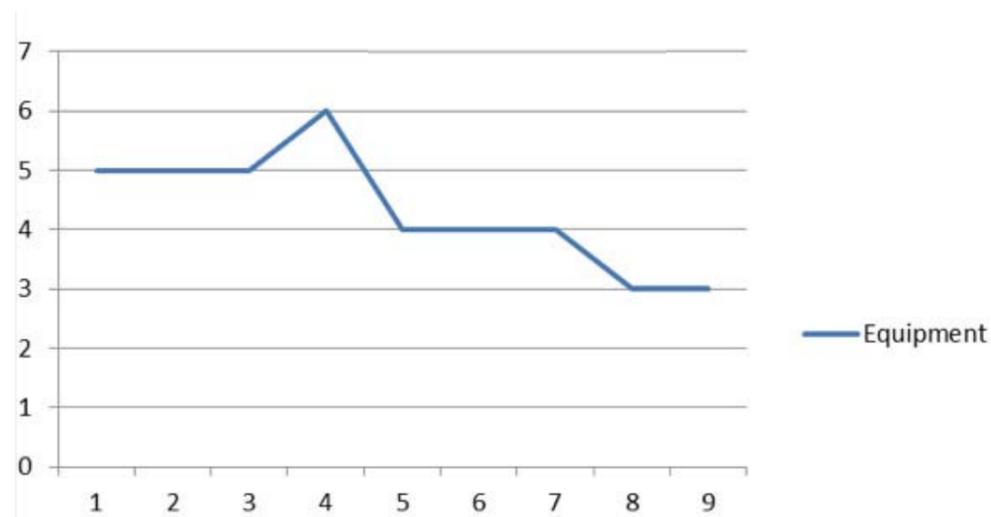
### Heat/Light



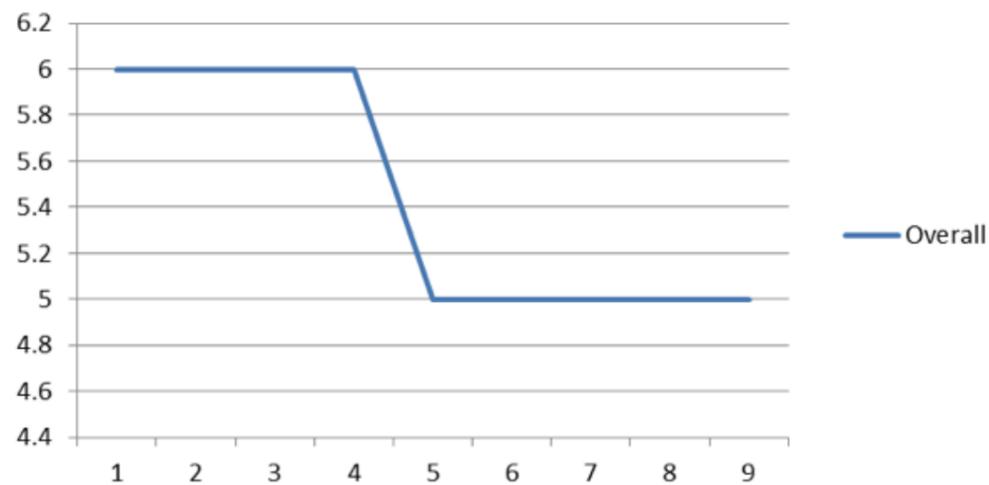


The following charts illustrate the findings (on a max scoring of 6 = excellent to 1 = poor) across questions in relation to facilities (3 categories), cleanliness, heating/lighting, equipment followed by an Overall scoring.

### Equipment



### Overall



Facilities in general have scored highly across Kitchen, Toilets and in General categories. However, there have been some concerns for the access and use/size for pre-school kids who have difficulty using toilet facilities independently. Cleanliness has also scored highly but heating and sporting/technical equipment would appear to be lacking on a wide range of fronts. Comments below highlight those across all nine participants.

### Comments

- Excellent facility for indoor activities however would benefit greatly from outdoor provision for the children
- As a group we are delighted with the facility. The only request would be for the use of a microwave.
- Youngest children cannot reach the toilets or hand basins independently. A small toilet unit would be beneficial.
- In general this is an excellent facility in hand in a rural community. Drama is strong in this area and while technical facilities are good the actual stage, wings and changing room areas need improving
- Maybe taking a look at flooring on the stage. Heating in the Main Hall.
- Could benefit from better insulation and heating. Overall location excellent, more facilities for pre-school children required.
- With regard to equipment, screen potentially on the small side for viewing data at the back of room.
- Flipchart/ Whiteboard may be an advantage for training/ discussion.
- Max class size only 25 people so McCann room a little small.
- More resources needed for Youth Club eg sports equipment, footballs, nets, cones, basket ball hoop.
- Markings needed in the car park
- Lack of variety of sports equipment ie balls, football nets etc basketball/netball hoops
- Marking out of carpark for outdoor games would be of great benefit.
- Lack of playground facilities for number of local youths – due to poor local facilities, this would be a huge asset.
- Many needs to be invested in better facilities for the growing number of children in Lislea.

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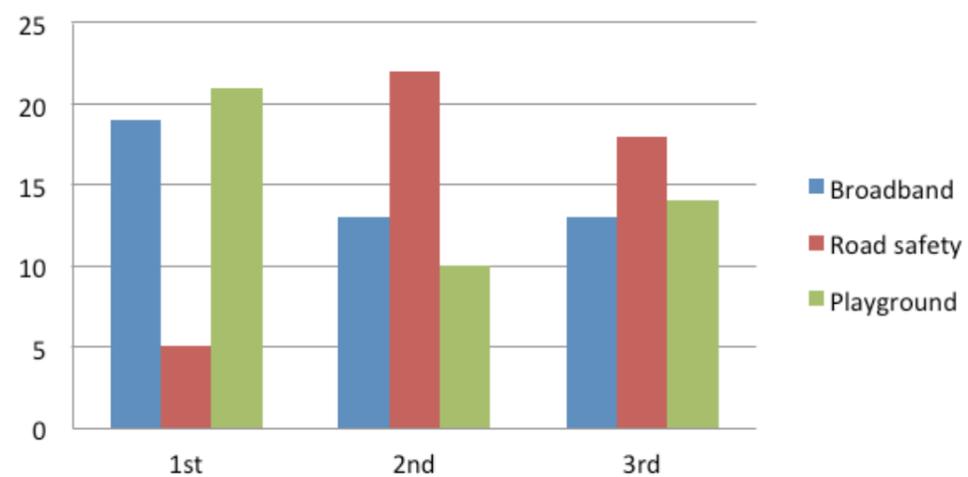


## Public Meeting

Attendees at the public meeting were given the three issues which received greatest priority in the baseline questionnaire and asked to place these in order of importance. The playground received the highest number of 1st preferences followed by broadband and the road safety issues received the highest number of 2nd preference nominations. The full response from attendees is outlined in the chart below.

Opinions on strengths of the village, areas for improvement and a 'wish list' were sought from attendees and feedback is presented in the following table. Again the need for outdoor play facilities, improved broadband for the area and road safety issues, amongst others, came out strong.

## Preferences for Priorities





**Strengths**

**Areas for Improvement**

**'Wish List'**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking initiative</li> <li>• Strong community spirit</li> <li>• Location &amp; potential for tourism – scenic area</li> <li>• Community centre</li> <li>• Volunteer support</li> <li>• Hall available</li> <li>• Active</li> <li>• People</li> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Landscape</li> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Good working committee</li> <li>• Good community spirit</li> <li>• Voluntary help</li> <li>• Good range of activities</li> <li>• Community association</li> <li>• Community spirit</li> <li>• Community organisational skills</li> <li>• Location – central to other communities and on main road</li> <li>• Good access to public transport</li> <li>• Youth club</li> <li>• Drama festival</li> <li>• Community own premises</li> <li>• Church – major recent development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faster broadband</li> <li>• Mobile phone signal</li> <li>• Wifi in Community Centre</li> <li>• More activities for young people</li> <li>• Publicity of activities – email/website/facebook</li> <li>• Join in with Slieve Gullion – tourist interest</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Watch</li> <li>• Improving walks/paths</li> <li>• Welcome/gateway sign entering Lislea with flowerbeds, shrubs, etc</li> <li>• Hedges cut more often</li> <li>• More parties at term break</li> <li>• Broadband strength</li> <li>• Insulation</li> <li>• Bus shelter</li> <li>• Heat of hall</li> <li>• Insulation</li> <li>• Broadband</li> <li>• Sign for Lislea</li> <li>• Stop signs – Mountain Rd/Crossmaglen Rd and Longfield Rd</li> <li>• Salt roads</li> <li>• Footpaths</li> <li>• Mark carpark out for games</li> <li>• Corner of Calmor View/Redmonds Close – blind spot</li> <li>• Mobile phone coverage</li> <li>• Footpaths and drainage</li> <li>• Call for review of naming of area (council)</li> <li>• Welcome sign in the area</li> <li>• Road signs/names</li> <li>• Luncheon club – monthly/themed</li> <li>• Community garden, volunteer led</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payphone</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• Solar panels</li> <li>• 'Welcome to Lislea' sign</li> <li>• Flowers in baskets</li> <li>• Better IT (Teens input)</li> <li>• 'Gym'/other sports</li> <li>• Multi-purpose area</li> <li>• Night classes – craft/cookery</li> <li>• Marking of boundaries</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• 'Tidy towns' type initiative: June</li> <li>• Signs</li> <li>• Townland signs</li> <li>• Flower beds</li> <li>• Road safety</li> <li>• Footpath</li> <li>• Playground</li> <li>• School bus route for primary &amp; secondary on mountain rd</li> <li>• More adult courses (IT, etc)</li> <li>• Broadband infinity</li> <li>• Mobile phone – remove roaming</li> <li>• Playground with café</li> <li>• Road safety – speed bumps</li> <li>• Footpaths</li> <li>• Oil clubs (buying groups) for senior citizens</li> <li>• Football/sports grounds – making out carpark</li> <li>• 'Lislea notes' in local papers</li> </ul>
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### 3.4 SWOT Analysis

The SWOT Analysis below is a summary of the information gained during the information gathering stage. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats were identified during the consultation process with the community and user groups.

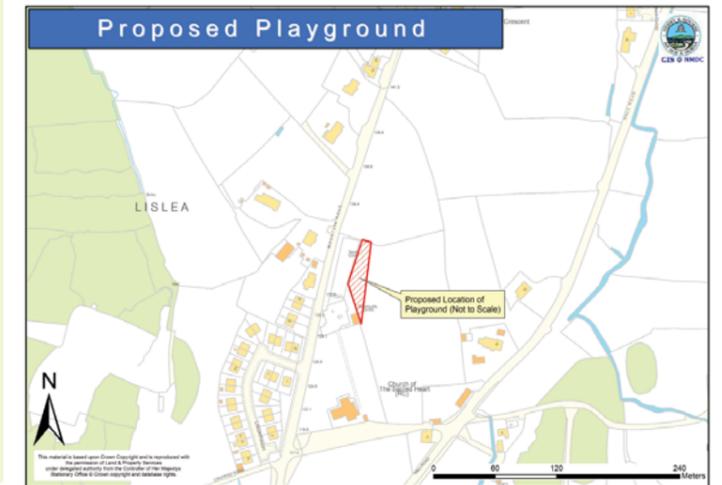
<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Weaknesses</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good community spirit</li> <li>• Community owned premises</li> <li>• Good range of activities in centre</li> <li>• Location – area of outstanding natural beauty and central to other communities, e.g. Forkhill, Mullaghbawn, Camlough, Belleeks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor outdoor play facilities</li> <li>• Poor Broadband service</li> <li>• Lack of signage into village</li> <li>• Lack of activities for Senior Citizens</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities</i>	<i>Threats</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Playground</li> <li>• Traffic Management Scheme</li> <li>• Pavement from Calmor Crescent to Community Centre</li> <li>• Improved broadband services</li> <li>• Gateway Signage &amp; Artwork</li> <li>• Planting beds adjacent</li> <li>• Improved insulation and energy efficiency of community centre</li> <li>• Regular activities for Senior Citizens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The increase in traffic and the speed in which it passes through the village (Mountain Road) -Lack of traffic calming measures and no footpath between Calmor and community centre.</li> <li>• No bus shelter at existing bus stop opposite Church</li> </ul>



### 3.5 Key Issues/Opportunities

The list below is a summary of the main issues and opportunities that have come to light as part of this process and particularly during the Public Meeting.

- Development of an outdoor play area
- Traffic management on Mountain Road
- Pavement from Calmor to the community centre
- Broadband
- Programme of events for Older People
- Upgrade of council playing field
- Gateway and townland signage
- Planting beds in the village
- Improved insulation and energy efficiency of community centre



### 3.6 Initiatives

#### 3.6.1 Development of an outdoor play area

The development of a safe outdoor play area for the children and young people living in the community was identified as a significant need for the area. The increasing young population and the children's groups who frequently use the community centre would greatly benefit from a playground and consequently improved health and well being of generations to come. The present playing field is under used due to issues with drainage and the children tend to congregate in the carpark of the community centre where they play games in small groups.

The ideal location for an outdoor play area has been identified beside the community centre. It is central to all housing developments, can be safely entered from the existing carpark and can be accessed by all user groups. A local land owner of the adjacent field has agreed in principle to sell some land to the community for the development of a play area subject to planning permission and funding. A feasibility study would need to be undertaken and further consultation with the community, including children and young people, to decide on the type and design of equipment for the play area.

A number of suggestions were also made to include football and basket ball nets in the carpark and the marking out of the carpark for sports and games. The feasibility of these suggestions can be explored and if viable may be completed on a shorter term than a play area.





### 3.6.2 Traffic Management on Mountain Road

The speed of the traffic along the Mountain Road was identified as a major concern during the initial consultation. In order to address this significant issue it is proposed that traffic calming measures are introduced. This would involve consultation with DRD Roads Service and traffic calming measures may include speed cameras, speed bumps, a revised road layout and / or revising the speed limit. It was also highlighted that there are safety concerns regarding school children crossing these roads. Therefore the traffic management scheme would also need to address the location and design of bus stops and crossing points to link up with parking areas (used for collecting children from public transport) and existing pedestrian routes.

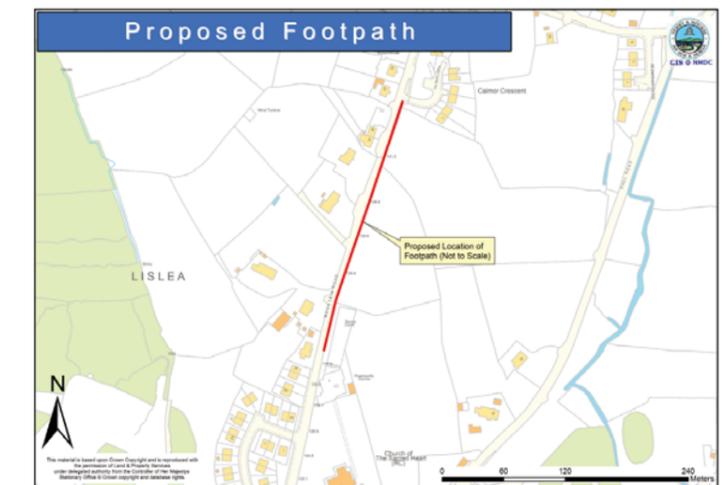
A large number of local residents travel outside the village to work, particularly on the main roads to Newry, Armagh and Dundalk. These roads are particularly dangerous during icy weather due to the local hilly terrain and the absence of gritting of the roads.

Also of some concern is a narrowing point of the Mountain Road (see photograph) where it has been identified as a potential Accident Black Spot. It is felt that this area in particular could also benefit from traffic calming measures as it presents a high risk collision area owing to the narrowing in width, lack of verge on left side and an encroaching wall to the right hand side. Consultation would also be of benefit with DRD Road Service in this instance.



### 3.6.3 Pavement from Calmor to the community centre

In conjunction with the traffic concerns in relation to the Mountain Road, it was raised at an early stage that a lack of a pedestrian footpath/walkway between the Calmor Housing Development to the Community Centre caused concern (see map). As the Community Centre has become increasingly the pivotal building within this area for both old and young, the community have identified the need for safe access along the Mountain Road for pedestrians. Consultation with both the DRD Road Service and Newry & Mourne District Council would be highly beneficial going forward.



### 3.6.4 Broadband

With the ever increasing need to keep abreast of the Digital Age, Lislea has found itself at a severe disadvantage in Broadband speed connectivity. In comparison to nearby Newry (which has an average speed of 37.7 Mbs) Lislea is lagging way behind with a paltry maximum of 1.21 Mbs (a speed rarely achieved after 5pm). This has caused major difficulties for our population in terms of Business potential, home working challenges as well as the social, gaming and multi-media drawbacks to our everyday lives.

There appears also a discrepancy in nearby Rural connectivity, given that Connection Hardware appears to have bypassed Lislea on its way to larger Urban buildup. There is a very vocal displeasure with the current Broadband situation within Lislea and has been high on the Agenda of many focus groups and Public Meetings, not least within our current discussions and development meetings. Consultation with the local Council and BT and/or other Service Providers would be most beneficial to move this on.



## 4. Action Plan

Initiative	Key Stakeholders	Priority	Timescale	Potential Funding Opportunities	Actions	Indicative Costs
Development of an outdoor play area*	LCA, NMDC	H	M	NMDC, RDP, SNI, Lot, DCAL	Land acquisition, feasibility study, design work, statutory approvals and construction	£100,000
Traffic management on Mountain Road*	RS, NMDC, LCA	H	S	RS	Review feasibility of traffic calming measures. Consultation with RS, road improvement works	£10,000 - £20,000
Pavement from Calmor to the community centre*	RS, NMDC, LCA	H	L	RS	Review feasibility of footpath. Consultation with RS, design and installation of new footpath	£25,000 - £35,000
Broadband*	BT, LCA, Priv	H	S	BT, RDP	Review feasibility of enhancing infrastructure, consultation with BT and installation of new fibre optic infrastructure across the Bt network	costs to be determined
Programme of events for Older People	LCA	M	S	LCA, NMDC, SHSCT	Consultation with older people, development of programme of activities and implementation of programme of activities	£2,000
Upgrade of council playing field	LCA, NMDC, Priv.	L	M	LCA, NMDC, Priv	Review feasibility of upgrading surface and drainage of council playing field, upgrade surface and drainage of council playing field	£5,000
Gateway and townland signage	LCA, NMDC, RS, Priv., PS, DCAL, AC	L	M	NMDC, RDP, AC	Feasibility study, design work, statutory approvals, installation of gateway signage and artwork	£20,000
Planting beds in the village	NMDC, LCA, Priv., RS	L	M	NMDC, Lot., RDP	Installation, management and maintenance	£10,000
Improved insulation and energy efficiency of community centre	LCA, User,	M	M	NMDC, NIE, Lot., RDP	Energy Efficiency Assessment of community centre, installation compliant with energy standard and statutory approvals.	£50,000

# Lislea

Village Renewal and Development Plan



**Priority:**

**H = High**

M = Medium

L = Low

**Timeframe:**

S = Short (1-3yrs)

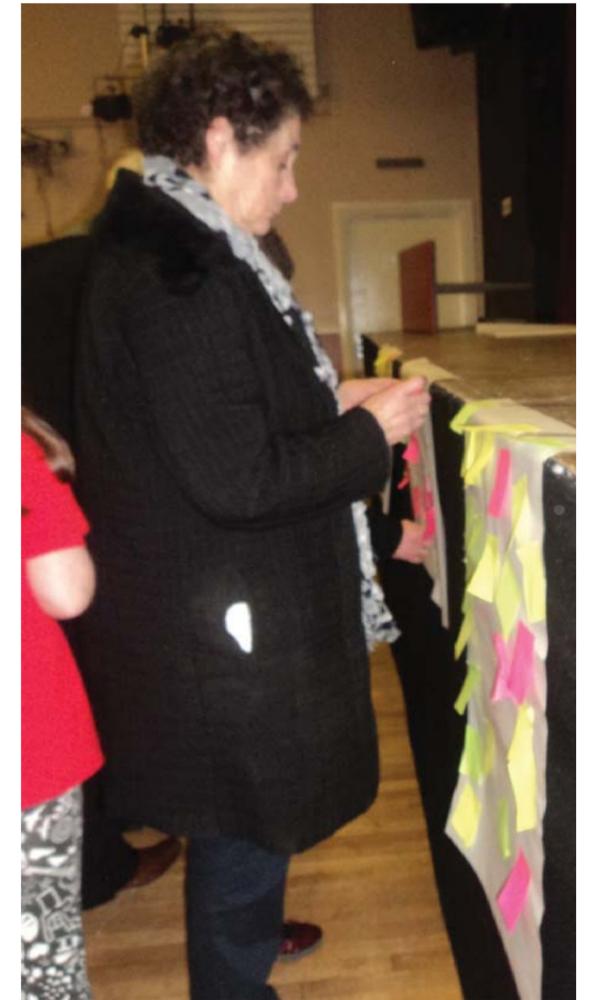
M = Medium (3-7yrs)

L = Long (7-15yrs)

**Delivery Agents, Funders and Stakeholders:**

- AC Arts Council
- NMDC Newry & Mourne District Council
- DCAL Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure
- Lot Lottery Funding
- RS Roads Service
- NIEA Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- NIHE Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Priv Private Sector
- PS Planning Service
- PSNI Police Service of Northern Ireland
- SHSCT Southern Health & Social Care Trust
- SELB Southern Education & Library Board
- SNI Sport Northern Ireland
- DOE Department of Environment
- LCA Lislea Community Association

\*Projects which have been identified by the community as a High Priority are outlined in more detail in the Initiatives section of this report.  
 \*\*Capital cost estimates have been produced in the absence of any design information and are purely indicative of costs for works of this nature. All figures are inclusive of VAT, Inflation, Professional Fees, Statutory Authority Charges and Land Purchases





## 5. Implementation

### 5.1 Potential Funding Opportunities

#### 5.1.1 Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

Like its predecessor this programme, will be funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is aimed at improving competitiveness in the agriculture and forestry sector and enhancing the rural environment and fostering competitive and sustainable rural businesses and thriving rural communities. The programme is being finalised through public consultation and by the setting up of 'Local Action Groups'.

#### 5.1.2 Peace IV Programme

Peace IV Programme is a distinctive programme part funded by the European Union through its Structural Funds programme. Following on from the Peace III Programme, the PEACE IV Programme's goal is to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border regions, by supporting projects that bring communities together.

In relation to PEACE IV, the main objectives are as follows:

- Social Inclusion Combating Poverty and any Discrimination.
- Together: Building a United Community
- Shared Education, Children and Young People linking with the United Youth Programme (€20 million of the €50 million budget managed by local authorities)
- Shared Spaces and Services (€20 million of €90 million budget managed by local authorities)
- Building positive relationships at local level (€30 million led by local authorities).

This Programme is in the process of becoming established. As for the Peace III programme, community and voluntary groups which are considering developing projects relating to acknowledging and dealing with the past should consider applications to this scheme.

#### 5.1.3 Big Lottery 'Awards for All'

'Awards for All' is a small grants programme delivered and funded by the Big Lottery Fund in Northern Ireland. The main aim of the programme is to bring real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need by funding projects which involve people in their communities, bringing them together to enjoy a wide range of charitable, community, educational, environmental and health-related activities.

Funding is provided for projects that set out to achieve the following:

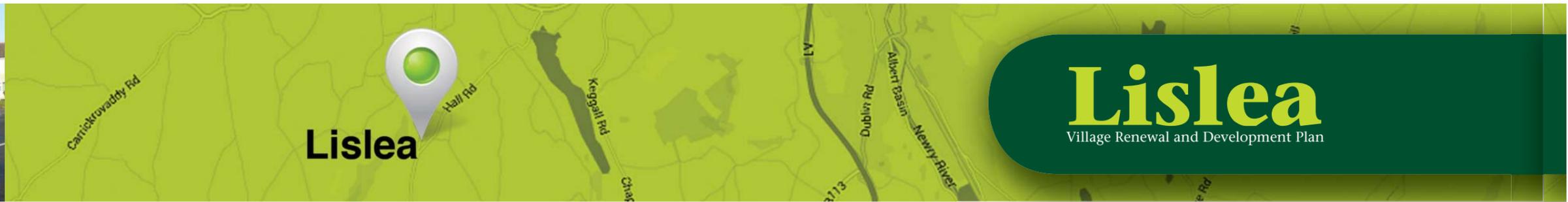
- people to participate in their communities to bring about positive change
- people to develop their skills and widen their experiences
- people to work toward better and safer communities
- improve people's physical and mental health and well being.

Funding through this scheme is open to all rural villages, therefore Lislea is eligible.

# Lislea

Village Renewal and Development Plan





## Conclusion

*The Lislea Village Renewal and Development Plan presents a very highly involved, consultation led and Community driven set of objectives and proposals. These include a number of immediate, short term and long term plans. Though ambitious, they are most certainly achievable.*

The current facilities and activities within Lislea Community Centre stand as a testament to the vision and commitment of the group of local people who saw the closure of the old Lislea School in 1971 as providing a base for the creation of a small range of activities which would benefit the local community.

The premises and the activities have expanded greatly since 1971. Many of the early pioneers are no longer with us but their focus on community development has been passed on through succeeding committee members down the years. The current committee has undertaken an extensive review of community needs with an eye particularly on the increased number of young people within the area. The response from the local people to the survey, and other contacts, is indicative of the community spirit within Lislea. A 75% return of questionnaires (169 interviewees in total) is an incredible testament to the interest and support the people of Lislea and the hinterlands express in their local community.

The findings indicated a number of areas for development and improvement, particularly the need for an outdoor play area for young children, improved road safety measures and better broadband services. These issues are being actively pursued at present and it is hoped that the support of various funders who assisted with past projects will again be forthcoming for the various initiatives outlined in this document.

The present committee would be proud to build on the dreams of those who have gone before and to put in place the new facilities which would meet the needs of current and future generations in Lislea.



# Lislea

Village Renewal and Development Plan



## Appendix 1- Community Questionnaire



**LISLEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please let us know what you think...

Please would you help Lislea Community Association & Newry and Mourne Council by completing this questionnaire.

**PLEASE COMPLETE ONLY ONE QUESTIONNAIRE PER HOUSEHOLD**

**PART A**

Q1. Can you please tick (✓) which area you reside in and how many are in your household?:

<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Road	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Ballard Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lisgarvagh	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sturgan Brae	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Calmor View	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sturgan Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Calmor Park	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Quarry Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Redmond Close	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Drumilly Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Crossmaglen Road	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Duburren Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hall Road	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Courtney Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Milltown Road	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Garvagh Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Aghamakane Road	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Barr Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ballinaleck Road	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Crooked Road	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ballinaleck Lane	_____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Longfield Road	_____		

Q2. How many of the following age range are there in your household.

<input type="checkbox"/> 0-4	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-30	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 5-7	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-50	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 8-11	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-65	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 12-16	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-75	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 16-21	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> 75+	_____

**PART B**

Q3. Which, if any, of the following activities do you or your family attend in Lislea Community Centre? (Please tick)

<input type="checkbox"/> Ceili dancing	<input type="checkbox"/> Summer barbeque
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth clubs (boys, girls or under 8)	<input type="checkbox"/> Christmas 'Santa Sunday'
<input type="checkbox"/> Yoga classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Children's party
<input type="checkbox"/> Exercise classes	<input type="checkbox"/> Plays
<input type="checkbox"/> Carer and toddler Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Concerts
<input type="checkbox"/> Drama festival	<input type="checkbox"/> Public meetings
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish dancing	<input type="checkbox"/> Wine Course
<input type="checkbox"/> Sure start programmes	<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Q4. Have you any comment or suggestion to make regarding the frequency or content of these activities?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Q5. Are there any activities that you or your family would be interested in attending at Lislea Community Centre if available?

<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen Club
<input type="checkbox"/> Flower arranging
<input type="checkbox"/> Southern Regional College – short courses
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PART C**

Q6. Would you like to see the development of a play area in Lislea?

Yes

No

If Yes, what would you like to see in it?

\_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Play Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Play Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Fitness Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area
<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Q7. Which of the following should be priorities for the development of a play area in Lislea? (Please choose up to three)

<input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive for all children regardless of ability
<input type="checkbox"/> Have strong support from the local community
<input type="checkbox"/> Attractive to children of all ages
<input type="checkbox"/> Variety and range of features
<input type="checkbox"/> Easy to maintain and sustainable
<input type="checkbox"/> Accessible and easy to get to
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

Q8. Do you have any further comments on the general facilities in Lislea?

**PART D: Monitoring**

The above questions will help us ensure that we have sought feedback from as large a cross-section of the residents from Lislea as possible. All answers will be treated in confidence and only used for the purposes of the developing a Community Plan for the Lislea area. None of the details will be passed on to third parties.

Your feedback is very much appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in becoming a member of our active committee please contact Sean Cunningham on 02830830895 or if you wish to join our Playground sub-group please contact Sinead Murphy on 02830830069.

To keep up to date with activities and events at Lislea Community Centre please join us on Facebook or provide your name and email to be added to our mailing list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_





## Appendix 2- Invite





