



Enhanced & Revitalised Place Thematic Action Planning Team

Workshop 3 Meeting Notes

DATE: Thursday 28 February 2019 TIME: 9.30 am VENUE: Old Town Hall, Banbridge

Attendees: NIHE – Ailbhe Hickey, Stephen Reynolds, **Brownlow Ltd** – Brendan Curran, **Department for Communities** – Deirdre McCann, John Downey, Andrew Petrie, **ABC Council** – Elaine Cullen, Elaine Gillespie, Helen Stoops, Jennie Dunlop, Julie Brown, Kathryn Barry, Louis O’Neill, Lynn Esler, Mechelle Brown, Michelle Markey, Noelle Garvey, Richard Griffin, Shane Kelland, Therese Rafferty, Samantha English, **SHSCT** – Claire Drummy, **Waringstown Together** – Lenny Deans, , **Department of Infrastructure** – Sid Stevenson, **Invest NI** – Stephen Fullerton, **Libraries NI** – Sean Beattie, **Heritage Lottery Fund** – Úna Duffy, **National Trust** – Chloe Dobson, **Gilford Community Forum** – Lynsey Mead, **Pontzpass Community Regeneration Company Limited** - John Waddell, **Southern Regional College** – Chris Hobson, **HSCB** – Alison Patterson, **Sport NI** – Willie Devlin

Apologies: **ABC Council** – Brian Johnston, Eric Morton, Gerard Houlahan, Jonathan Hayes, Sara McGearry, Sharon O’Gorman, **CIDO** – Cara Dallat, **Translink NI** – Jenny Falconbridge, **HSCB** – Louise McMahon, **NIHE** – Mona Conway, **West Armagh Consortium** – Stephen Fields, **Townscape Heritage** – Peter McNeill, **SHSCT** – Lynne Smart, **Department for Communities** - Caroline Maguire, **Armagh Planetarium & Observatory** – Michael Burton, **Lislea Community Association** – Sheila McCreesh

1. Welcome

Ailbhe Hickey, Northern Ireland Housing Executive welcomed everyone as Chair to the second workshop for the Enhanced Revitalised Thematic Action Planning (TAP) Team. Ailbhe thanked everyone for their input to the previous session. Ailbhe welcomed Eleanor Gill to the session Eleanor praised the team on the amount of work done inside and outside of the action planning workshops.

2. Setting the Scene

Eleanor provided a recap on the 4 step build to develop the action plan over the last two workshops and the tasks in between. She highlighted what stage the team was at in the process and its future direction.

Eleanor outlined the objectives for the session:

- Hear back from stakeholder engagements and sign off on evidence base (ongoing)
- Begin to Build ERTAP’s Action Plan:
 - Themes
 - Priorities

- Partners to be involved
- Practical actions to move priorities forward

Agree on Agenda for 4th Workshop (sign-off on ERTAP Action Plan, ERTAP next steps, role of local community and business in shaping and delivering on enhanced and revitalized place)

3. Reconnecting with each other

Eleanor led an exercise to allow the team to reconnect with each other following the first workshop. Eleanor stressed the importance of building the partnership and an opportunity to get to know each other has been built in to the workshops.

Members were asked to share with their table:

- favourite saying – or book – or film!

4. Building our Evidence Base: What stakeholders told us

Eleanor recapped on the three step approach taken to building the evidence base to inform the action plan.

Building Evidence Base:

1. Borough-Wide Baseline Statistics
2. ERTAP Assessment of Needs, Issues and Priorities
3. Stakeholder Needs, Issues, Experiences, Expectations

Steps one and two completed as part of workshop 2. Step three was undertaken through: inputs from ERTAP members, one to one and group meetings, stakeholder engagement exercise with returns from (residents, business, community and public organisations).

Appendix one: Enhanced and revitalised thematic action plan team “Building the evidence base for ertap’s action plan”

Eleanor invited Brendan Curran to share feedback from Community and Voluntary Sector Panel Reps meeting with Community Planning Team:

- Overall support for integration of place based plans. Important role for community and voluntary sector in terms of sharing local knowledge and supporting community engagement. Sector requires resources to fulfil this role, including community development support.
- The stories of places are as important as the built heritage and are equally if not more at risk of being lost. Sharing and preserving stories, contributes to pride of place, identity, intergenerational work and helps to determine which physical heritage assets are prioritised.
- Transport links. Public transport links between town hubs and villages should be prioritised. Link required between M1 and A1 to improve links across the Borough
- Include blueways in any work on greenways and green spaces.
- Role of community asset transfer
- Heritage and housing in town centre needs to be linked to the integrated planning action. Housing in town centres has consequences, e.g. no night life, parking. Need

to determine the vision for each town centre first before deciding if housing should be encouraged there.

- More social outdoor spaces in town centres for people to come together
- More research into social housing needs. People don't put their name on waiting lists due to their length. Private rent and purchase are becoming less and less affordable.
- Need for Enhanced and Revitalised Place action planning team to undertake broad community engagement e.g. through survey through the life of this first 2-year action plan.

Eleanor shared the summary of the engagement feedback and thanked those for completing this important task.

And what did people say?

Strengths to Build On	Room for Improvement
✓ Green spaces, parks, play	✓ Joined up working/art of possible
✓ History, heritage, identity	✓ Vacant and dilapidated buildings
✓ Natural environment	✓ Links/connections: business, pleasure, tourism, gathering
✓ Young population: the future	✓ Reimagining towns and villages
✓ Community groups, cohesion	✓ Better use of parks, green spaces and natural environment
✓ Range of business: industrial, agri-food, commercial	✓ Support for local business
✓ Motorway/road connections	✓ More events: food, music, buzz
✓ Increasing urban and rural investment in facilities, services	✓ Leadership and working together
✓ Events, festivals, cruises, walks	✓ High standards/preservation of our built and natural heritage
✓ Tourism potential	✓ Engaging and working with local people and business
✓ Innovation/creativity: "can do"	

Appendix one: Enhanced and revitalised thematic action plan team "Building the evidence base for ERTAP's action plan"

5. Developing the ERTAP Action Plan

Eleanor outlined the four emerging themes and priorities for action emerging from previous workshops and informed by the evidence base.

Theme 1: Integrating the Place Vision, Plans and Investments

Theme 2: Connecting Places

Theme 3: Being Good Custodians of our Assets, Heritage and Environment

Theme 4: Supporting Social Needs

Integration: lots of things going on and need to make sure that it is coordinated and pulling in one direction;

Partnership: everyone working together business, stats, communities and government;

Engagement: can plan and deliver in isolation and important role for the local community and business shaping, influencing, delivering, owning

Evidence – open, transparent process of decision making

Partners worked through a series of exercises to refine the themes and priorities for action.

All agreed that these were in the essence the right themes and priorities but that there could be slight tweaks to the wording of them.

Agreed Themes:

Theme 1 Integrating place, visioning planning and investment

Theme 2 Connecting People and Places

Theme 3 Demonstrating and Supporting Good Custodianship

Theme 4 Supporting Social Aspirations”

Discussion ensued in how the themes were presented, Eleanor to review and make suggestion for workshop 4.

Partners were assigned a theme and asked to discuss which organisations and groups should be involved highlighting who should lead out on this priority and how they could contribute to take this priority forward and what were the practical first steps/actions that could be taken. (Appendix one draft ERTAP action plan)

6. Preparations for Workshop 4

Eleanor outlined the preparations for workshop 4:

Prior to Workshop 4:

- Partners to review ERTAP action plan: continue to share plan with others and feed in views
- Consider any actions they would like to be involved in at the next stage.

At next workshop:

- Agree the key messages coming from the
- Review and finalise ERTAP Action Plan
- Approve final plan to go to Community Planning Strategic Partnership
- From action planning to implementation - agree on next steps for ERTAP team and how going to do its work in collaboration with local community and business

7. Next steps and close – Chair

Ailbhe closed the workshop by thanking everyone for their ongoing participation in the action planning session and looked forward to the final session.

The remaining workshops are scheduled as follows:

- **Workshop four**, Thursday 7th March 2019, 9.30am – 1.00pm, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon