

Agenda

9.30am – 10.00am	Arrival, Registration, Tea, Coffee and Scones
10.00am – 10.15am	Welcome by Alderman Maura Hickey, Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Opening Remarks by Senior Council Officer, Leisure and Development Directorate
10.15am – 10.40am	Deborah Clarke, Action with Communities in Rural England “The role of village halls and community buildings in maintaining vibrant rural communities”
10.40am – 11.00am	Caroline Lynch, Learmount Community Development Association, Park Village, Co Derry/Londonderry ‘The highs and lows of operating a Community Centre over 25 years’
11.00am – 11.15am	Comfort Break
11.15am – 11.40am	Ana Porroche –Escudero, University of Lancaster ‘The complexities and challenges of sustaining community centres as participative spaces’
11.40am – 12.05pm	Eilish Rooney, Ulster University, Transitional Justice Institute ‘Community Centres – Their role in grassroots transitional justice’
12.05pm-12.25pm	Joanne McDowell, Director, Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland ‘Outcomes delivered in Community Centres as a result of Lottery Funding’
12.25pm – 1.00pm	Question & Answer – Roving Mike
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm -2.15pm	Jonathan McCarron, Peace IV Co-ordinator ‘Overview of Peace IV Shared Space Programme’
2.15pm – 3.15pm	Facilitated Round Table Discussion
3.15pm – 3.30pm	Feedback, Closing Remarks and Thank You

Round Table Discussion Topics

- Programmes of Activity in your Community Centre... What works well? ‘Generating new ideas and promoting your activities.’
- Measuring the impact of your Community Centre in your local community.
- The role of your Community Centre in addressing legacy issues and peacebuilding in your community and how this can be developed.
- The practical challenges of running your Community Centre and the support that is required to meet these challenges

Registration for this event is essential, and limited to 2 representatives per organisation.

To confirm your place, please email: community.development@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk or by telephone on 02870 347032 by Thursday, 16th March 2017.

Spaces are limited for the Conference and priority will be given to those Management Committees of facilities that are open to the whole community.



Community Centres Conference

The importance of Community Centres, and the organisations who run them, in creating resilient, healthy and engaged communities

Magherabuoy House Hotel 24th March 2017

9.30am - 3.30pm



Community Centres Conference

Across the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area, there are many community centres located in both rural and urban areas. Community Centres can be vital connecting hubs within an area for social, leisure, and learning activities contributing to creating resilient, healthy and engaged communities. When a community building is well used, well cared for, welcoming and providing a range of activities, it plays an important role in transforming local communities. Council seeks to encourage and promote use of these important community centres through its Community Development Strategy with a Community Development Support Grant and other capacity building support. Council recognises that organisations operating community centres face many challenges such as pressure on volunteers, legacy issues, accessing funding, single identity issues, health and safety, maintenance, and rural transport to name but a few. Council hopes that through this Conference and the diverse range of speakers you as a community leader will be inspired to develop greater use of the community building in your area.

Participants at the Conference will also have the opportunity to hear about opportunities for community centres through the forthcoming Peace IV Shared Space Programme.

Speakers

Deborah Clarke Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

ACRE is the national voice for the 38 rural community councils who make up England's largest rural network. They reach 52,000 grassroots organisations in 11,000 rural communities providing critical evidence-based intelligence and solutions to achieve a fair deal for rural communities and especially those most disadvantaged by rurality.

Ms Caroline Lynch Learmount Community Development Association

Caroline runs a successful rural community organisation in Park Village. Now in its 25th year Learmount Community Development Association continues to offer a wide, innovative programme of activities for all community members to take part in, and has overcome many challenges and pitfalls on their 25 year journey.

Ana Porroche-Escudero University of Lancaster

Ana Porroche-Escudero works as a Senior Research Associate for the National Institute for Health Research Collaboration for Leadership Applied Health Research and Care in the North West Coast of England (NIHR CLAHRC-NWC). She also works on the CLAHRC Public Health Thematic programme that seeks to nurture egalitarian

collaboration between residents, Local Authorities, community and organisations to understand, and influence, actions that can promote system resilience.

Eilish Rooney, University of Ulster, Transitional Justice Institute

Eilish Rooney is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies at Ulster University and a member of the Transitional Justice Institute (TJI). She teaches on the BSc Hons Community Development.

Joanne McDowell Director, Big Lottery Fund NI

As Big Lottery Fund Northern Ireland director, Joanne spends most of her time meeting and listening to stakeholders, beneficiaries, VCSE representatives, government officials and elected representatives who want to know about the Big Lottery Fund's programmes and investments. She also works with the NI chair and NI committee to deliver on programmes and strategic direction.

