

<b>Dervock Ward Vision</b>	<b>19 April 2016</b>
<b>Corporate Policy and Resources Committee</b>	<b>For Information</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)</b>	
<b>Strategic Theme</b>	Leader and Champion
<b>Outcome</b>	Establish key relationships with strategic partners to deliver our vision for this Council area
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Elizabeth Beattie
<b>Cost: (If applicable)</b>	

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment (MAG), was originally appointed by the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure. They are administered by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and their primary role is to advise the Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure on the implementation and development of the Architecture and Built Environment policy.
- 1.2 The Group undertakes its role in a number of ways including design briefings, design reviews, consultation responses, site visits, symposia, position papers, research, and advising and working with government departments and district councils.
- 1.3 They specifically look at the following subject areas:
- Design and Briefing Review
  - Procurement
  - Planning
  - Landscape
  - Heritage
  - Sustainability
  - Creativity and Innovation
  - Community and Social
  - External Communications
- 1.4 The Group was also pleased to accept the suggestion of the Assembly's Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee that it expand its work with Councils

and they have been working with the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).

- 1.5 They have also worked with specific Council areas and have undertaken visioning work within the Crumlin Ward of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. As a result of this work they developed a Ward Vision for this local area.
- 1.6 The idea of a 'Ward Vision' was seen as a successor to the Village Plan concept. Instead of just selecting a village or neighbourhood, it was considered that Wards would cover a wider local area and have the potential to involve local people very quickly. The exercise was described as a "Vision" to avoid confusion with Community Plans and Local Development Plans.

## **2.0 Dervock Ward Vision**

- 2.1 Following approaches by local representatives, the Ministerial Advisory Group made a resource available to assist local people in Dervock carry out their own Ward Vision exercise.
- 2.2 Mr Arthur Acheson, Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group, and Mr Alwyn Riddell, the Ministerial Advisory Group member, facilitated this exercise in Dervock. They are both architects/planners with many years of experience and both had previously participated in the Crumlin Ward Vision.
- 2.3 A Ward Vision exercise would normally take six weeks to develop its conclusions with a presentation held during Week 6. The requirement for allocating resources by the Ministerial Advisory Group to the Dervock exercise was that this work had to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
- 2.4 In Dervock it was agreed a number of sessions would take place over a six week period up to the end of March 2016 and the following schedule was developed, subject to change depending on circumstances:

**Week 1** - Methodology, maps, photographs, conversations, essential characteristics of the people and place together with main topics of the Vision. Agreeing times, agenda and personal arrangements for visits to significant people / places in Week 2 and identifying any local resources / talents / interests not represented in Week 1. Advertising locally through churches, clubs, etc. and contacting others who may be interested. Finding one or more early actions that can be taken to improve Dervock Ward as we speak. Setting up any external links needed for the presentation and a date for this well in advance. MAG produces a summary of the activity and distributes by e-mail to all participants who have given e-mail addresses and invites wider circulation.

**Week 2** - Walking to visit main topics locally and driving / walking to places in the Ward (or in adjoining Wards) that are a little further away but important to the locality plus agreeing agenda of visits for Week 3 and any additional local

resources etc. that have not been involved to date. Setting or rearranging meeting dates and times to suit individuals or groups who have not yet introduced themselves to the Vision. Developing local opportunities for action now. MAG produces a summary of the activity and distributes by e-mail to all participants who have given e-mail addresses and invites wider circulation.

**Week 3** - Further visits to examine opportunities, locally and a little farther away as necessary plus looking at special interests/ groups and resources that have not been introduced yet. MAG produces a summary of the activity and distributes by e-mail to all participants who have given e-mail addresses and invites wider circulation.

**Week 4** - Learning from ourselves about local issues and opportunities, discussing with friends and relatives the wider connections of Dervock and its surroundings. Finding and connecting ideas, people and places to create a wide range of opportunities, all listed on flipchart paper and ready for editing in Week 5.

**Week 5** - Editing the Vision - this is done with the flipchart words, phrases, photographs, maps, etc. that the working team has produced during the first four weeks. These are laid out on long sheets of paper and then prioritised by the working team so that early opportunities can be identified alongside the more aspirational, longer term aspects of the vision which will need longer to pursue.

**Week 6** - Presenting the Vision.

- 2.5 The Dervock Ward Visioning exercise began with a meeting in Dervock Community Centre on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and progressed through the schedule outlined above.
- 2.6 The presentation, however, took place earlier than planned on the afternoon of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 due to the Easter holidays.
- 2.7 The presentation took the form of a Showcase Fair Day in Dervock Community Centre. The presentation was designed to celebrate the tradition of Fairs in the Dervock area. Red carnations (the good luck charm of President William McKinley) were part of the show along with McKinley archive materials, visits to places of local interest and displays of local talent during the afternoon.
- 2.8 Further work was then undertaken by the group on the evening of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 to finalise the Ward Vision report and a copy of this final report is attached for your information.



# Dervock Ward Vision 2016

Dervock and District Community Association works closely with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. The Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment for Northern Ireland (MAG) has been encouraging district councils across Northern Ireland to promote civic stewardship which has been embedded as supplementary planning guidance in Northern Ireland's reformed planning system. Urban stewardship is included in the adopted document, *Living Places: Urban Stewardship and Design*, and urban and civic stewardship are part of the *Strategic Planning Policy Statement*, both published by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. Stewardship is sustainable because it can run continuously to form the "software of a place". It can involve everybody who wishes to participate, whatever their age or background, promoting equality and social inclusion. Civic stewardship does more with what we've got, so it helps to relieve poverty by not wasting public money on "grands projets" which have proven to be wasteful of resources in the past. Stewardship leads to better design briefs when *projects* are anticipated. Recording marginal gains in print and social media builds up a resource of successes.

Three techniques form the framework: *Action Learning*, *Connecting* and *Aligning*, as defined by Dr Bill Snyder in Boston, USA. All of these techniques have been used in formulating this six week Ward Vision, recognising a "way of working" now and in future. *Action Learning* was used to showcase the tradition of the Dervock Fairs, in a modern way, helping to bring the social media pages to life – we tried it out. *Connecting* people together was a huge part of Dervock's annual Five Fairs from January to June, some of which included markets. *Aligning* can

transform some seemingly complex aspects of multi-agency working, including ownership of land for example, to create mutual benefit.

*Appreciative Inquiry* was also used. This finds talents and matches them to people and places, always seeking “offers” as well as “needs” and noting that abilities, when appreciated, themselves appreciate, creating a virtuous spiral of benefits. Pro-Social Place, as advocated by the University of Liverpool, emphasises the benefits of positive pro-activity, rather than reacting to “anti-social” behaviour.

Dervock is one of 40 Wards in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. Dervock has talents that are clearly expressed through shared passions for the history of people and places, music, stories, sports and a well defined community infrastructure that has achieved much already over the past two decades.

The recent creation of a Dervock social media site with almost 1000 followers has proved immensely valuable in reaching people very effectively and efficiently with great results. Proposals made during this six week visioning process include a regular print newsletter in the Ward. This is most encouraging and will help to include those who prefer papers to screens.

There is clear evidence that Dervock provides opportunities for investment. With champion sports people in the Ward over generations, including an Olympic Gold marathon runner in 1912, the sporting prowess of the young people is being recognised and could become an important generator of commercial success. A former co-operative potato store could, for example, be reconfigured to provide indoor training facilities for soccer which could be of interest to teams in the Ward and well beyond it, offering opportunities for a sustainable business.

Dervock uses its streets, indoor and outdoor spaces very well already – from an annual March parade commemorating submariners to pride in the famous Trafalgar Windows and the well tended gardens of Benvardeen – there is a vital local energy that helps to keep Dervock and District lively throughout the year. There is great scope to develop this talent into places that could accommodate additional activities – for example, overgrowth having been cleared away, Gallows Island in the centre of the village is ready to have its story well told and acted out.

Dervock has great natural assets with its location around a picturesque bridge crossing the river. Many of these assets have been recognised in the current Northern Area Plan which shows the setting of the village, the river corridor and the village centre protected by Local Landscape Policy Areas. The centre is also recognised as an Area of Archaeological Potential.

Knowing the statutory agencies is essential, particularly with the reform of local government giving responsibility to the Council to produce a new Local Development Plan. The Dervock Ward Vision offers an opportunity for Dervock people to contribute with the Council to the future environment of the village and the measures required to protect and enhance its unique village character and setting. Statutory providers can quickly get to know people; their work will benefit enormously because of everyone’s helpful nature and civic pride.

Very public attention is rightly being given to the Dark Hedges of Bregagh Road in the adjoining Loughguile and Stranocum Ward. Active travel along the bed of the former narrow gauge railway between Ballymoney and Ballycastle directly between the Hedges and Dervock has been recommended by NI Greenways as a “Greenway of Thrones”. It’s on the map, it’s in the memory and since April 2015, it’s all within the area of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. The Department for Regional Development has just announced a competition for councils to express interest in a small grants scheme to encourage development of Greenways. Local people could begin direct discussions with landowners - on-the-ground training and practical involvement could begin to reopen the route for walking and later on for cycling. Initially working from both ends and meeting in the middle (like the Channel Tunnel) could be a dramatic demonstration that we appreciate the Victorian engineers as well as the illustrious ancestors of Dervock and the talents and enthusiasm of people today.

The talents of young people in Dervock relate not only to their jobs and training but to their demonstrably competitive spirit and love of culture, including music and poetry. Building the best bonfire experience (and not just the biggest bonfire) is an opportunity for further discussion – with a few last minute surprises included – to outflank “the competition”. The showcase fair on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 allowed everyone to meet people who have already solved problems like noisy activities and this local knowledge can be applied to motor cross and other active sports through a recognised local club.

Dervock Ward is unique in the Council area in being the location of the ancestral home of a president of the United States of America. President William McKinley's great great grandfather, James McKinley, was a Scottish soldier and a scout, whose work in the ward and surrounding area was to find routes across the boggy lands between the higher ground – a landscape still very visible today. The Conagher homestead having been demolished and principal stones stored at the Ulster American Folk Park at Omagh, Co. Tyrone, encourages thoughts about using local talent to rebuild the house – where would that be?

George Macartney, the first Earl Macartney, was a hugely distinguished international ambassador and Britain's first envoy to China in 1793. He was a major benefactor of Dervock, providing many substantial new buildings in his time. He deserves to be commemorated regularly, both at the fountain built in his memory and in forging stronger links with China and her people.

This “*international Dervock*” is invisible to all but the best educated visitor. Dervock's historical richness and quality, including its important international connections, can begin to be recognised in many small ways. The social media connections that are themselves international are a great start and during their short life they have already gathered almost 1000 followers. The links with the media are already very well developed and the stories are well told. Authenticity is important to visitors and is predicted to become vital in developing sustainable tourism. Educating ourselves about our place in history goes far beyond the school curriculum and directly into the passions that people have for their place.

Experiential learning is recognised as the most effective kind. To begin to imagine the importance of President McKinley and the history he made in the United States, one would need to visit Niles, Ohio, his birthplace and the location of his library. Canton, Ohio, where he worked and worshipped and which is the site of his burial tomb following his assassination, is another “must visit – must connect to” place. Social media is helping to re-establish these North American connections and a scholar investigating President McKinley's origins stayed at Conagher for two months. If exchange visits become regular events, particularly involving young people, future relationships could be huge.

USA, the biggest economy in the world is waiting for further connections with Dervock Ward. The most populous nation on earth, with the fastest growing

economy, China, must be ready for another series of “Macartney Missions” to cement the bonds made centuries ago when the Macartney rose (*Rosa bracteata*) was exported as a result of the Mission.

Historic links with a US President and with Britain's first envoy to China have to be developed into a modern linkage that celebrates and brings together these remarkable associations.

Kennedy Kane McArthur is already celebrated around Dervock with annual long distance running events, thanks to visionary and committed local endeavour. The international links with Stockholm, which hosted the Olympic Games in 1912 and with South Africa, McArthur's adopted nation, provide Dervock's “north-south” dimension to match the “east – west” links of China and the United States. Running has become a very popular sport during recent decades and marathons are now major events across the world, attracting thousands of runners and followers, with associated media attention.

The opportunities are significant for regular international connections in relation to all three big personalities of Dervock Ward history. Preliminary work having been developed through social media, it is time to invite people and invest time in these four countries to highlight Dervock's international connections – all of which are authentic and unique.

At times, Dervock perceives that it has been underappreciated – its talents have not been sufficiently heralded. Its links with local print media are excellent – finding front page headlines for its creative initiatives. These initiatives have not been expensive in money terms but they represent a considerable investment of people's time, which they are willing to give because they are passionate about the place and its stories. Appreciative inquiry unlocks these talents, by encouraging them they appreciate – they develop and they bring results.

Every visitor to Dervock in future may ask “What is this? Why are you doing this?” Whether the enquiry is about how the village is presented, how its people are dressed, why there is a horse and carriage in the street, why shopkeepers, publicans and waiting staff are wearing flowers or hats or whatever distinguishes them from anywhere else. Once people ask, the conversations begin, in that wonderfully popular local language that visitors love to listen to and puzzle over. Once the conversations begin, people have to come back. They recognise

authenticity, history, dedication to generations of people and the place. Signs of investment, purchases of property at auction with plenty of room for improvement and scope to do very well from those investments will not be long in coming. Property prices will rise as a result of the energy, enthusiasm and confidence that a new vision releases – so “Get in quickly.....”

### **A vision has to be realisable**

Dervock has demonstrated over the past years that it can carry a vision through to realisation. The complete reconstruction of Macartney’s gift to the village, the Market House, together with its present full, mixed use occupancy, is an example. So too is the beautiful restoration that has taken place in Derrykeighan parish church and the work planned for the Allen Adair Hall and old rectory. The owners of guest houses and hotels nearby have invested time and money over many years and are achieving returns on their investments. Heritage buildings can presently be bought at the right price and restored to recreate the atmosphere that is beguiling and attractive to visitors. People are impressed by many small things. The Project for Public Spaces in New York describes a good place as having “ten reasons to visit”. The illustrated printed programme for the Submariners’ parade, for example, was already available, free of charge, in the cafe on the morning of the event. Visitors were browsing it as they had a coffee or lunch. The links are easy – the material is there. From easy to read brochures to important works of cultural history, Dervock is exceptionally well served with historic records – just what visitors love.

The major tourist attractions in the world are amazing at keeping people there, once they arrive. Just as the children are starting to get tired, something interesting or attractive happens – the band begins to play or a special character appears on the street. Parents are relieved. They decide to stay and have a meal. The place is choreographed. Signage into major destinations is vital, as are good directions on how to stay and park as well as how to leave for the next town. Seeing something interesting, on arrival, helps to slow and stop the traffic sufficiently to help people to decide to stay for a while, to connect with the opportunities for walking, or fishing or just to take in the flowers. Making it easier and more pleasant to stay than to drive on through is a key opportunity that can happen this year. Signage directing people from the A26 through Dervock to Bushmills and the Distillery as well as to the Dark Hedges would offer the village the opportunity to use its existing assets to encourage people to stop

here and stay a while. It could become a central visiting point for the relatively undiscovered but historic stories and lands beyond the coast that were part of the great Ulster Scots kingdom of Dalriada, which spanned the Irish Sea. A concerted emphasis on getting people to the Ward - and looking after them so well when they are here - would be a further opportunity to cement wider relationships. These can be built on the four successful economies of USA, China, Sweden and South Africa so that Dalriada becomes an authentic brand known by word of mouth because people get to know the connections and like it here – they like it very much.

The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School has historically generated community activities and helped to establish the community organisation. It runs an annual programme with clear links to the village and surrounding area through pupils, teachers, parents, past pupils and friends. The regular programme includes the Macmillan Tea Party, a Hallowe'en Games Night, a Harvest Assembly, Christmas events, a Daffodil Tea and an Easter Egg Hunt. Whilst activities are undoubtedly primarily directed towards the children, the school’s location in the village and its strong local links mean that its activities are popular with all ages. Its recent inspection report was very encouraging and the school network is a great way to connect with many local people through its regular communications with parents.

The churches in the ward work well together, in spite of some ancient rivalries resulting in Derrykeighan Church no longer being in Derrykeighan but in Dervock instead! Churches, like the primary school, are part of an already excellent communications system in the area.

The future of this Ward is the future of the people here. It will not be dictated by anyone else, but it can be assisted and promoted by many people within and beyond the Ward.

Getting things into the Vision, and logically ordered within it, gets the place ready for more investment. Whether that is from the private, public or voluntary and community sectors is not important – a key aspect is that opportunities have been identified, with people and places ready to change. For example, investment is encouraged by local people knowing who owns what or who is in charge of this or that, understanding the responsibilities and opportunities of land and property

ownership, recognising the need for flexibility and good communications, having planning permissions in place, knowing facts and figures – knowing how many people visit and how many stay. Businesses and communities, working together and sharing, promote themselves and each other as well as the wider public good.

Knowing the statutory agencies and their work is essential. Many people know the neighbourhood police officers and the Police and Community Safety Partnership. The community hall is cared for and managed locally. The church ministers, school teachers and businesses in Dervock and District are well known to the local people who willingly share their knowledge. It is important that the officials in the Council are not remote but are equally well known. Similarly the various statutory agencies who are involved with community planning and who are consultees on planning applications have to become known and relate to Dervock and District as they find it.

A recent article in the Ballymoney Times sums this up very well. Referring to Mervyn Storey MLA, the Minister of Finance, it says,

*‘Mr Storey has also praised the young people of Dervock, he said: “It is a credit to all involved, particularly the young people of the village that this issue has been successfully resolved. The 11th night bonfires are to many an important element of celebrating our heritage and history. I have no doubt that the lead given by Dervock can be followed by others.”’*

The Ward Vision includes the following action points, many of which are direct offers from participants in which they would wish to invest time and resources.

### **Action Points – agreed order of activity with most urgent first**

#### **1. Noisy and dangerous sports**

Noisy and dangerous sports are part of life but need to be encouraged to find the right place to suit both the sporting people and the neighbours. The Showcase Fair proved that this is possible and this needs further work to investigate fully and make necessary arrangements.



Photo: Bushmills and District MCC website

#### **2. Dervock’s Five Fairs**

Analysing the Showcase Fair which was put together in just three weeks, there was a huge atmosphere of success upon which to build. The participants showed Dervock and District to perfection – there was plenty to do and see for an afternoon and there should be scope to reconstitute Dervock’s Five Fairs this season. Each one will be different – with some familiar faces and activities but also new and different ones. As summer approaches, the Fairs can spread beyond the Community Hall into the fine pitches being used for family fun and sports combined.



The aptly named Fairhill can once again be the venue for the summer Fair, which of course may focus around the finest day out of all – not the biggest bonfire but the best bonfire celebration – using only clean materials and creating a lighter, more efficient event that brings people together for a July Fair.

Preparations have already begun and there is scope to include young people’s “fun day” activities with an 11<sup>th</sup> July “Best bonfire experience” which of course is different from the “biggest bonfire”. There are proposals to reinstate Civic Week; this had become just a two day event last year but there would be support for a full week’s events, 17 - 23 July 2016, ending with the annual Kennedy Kane McArthur running event.

#### **3. Training opportunities**

Dervock’s heritage is well known locally but has not yet been coordinated as part of an offer or brand. This is an opportunity. People of all ages who are seeking work and can avail of training could present Dervock’s many international connections that are part of its culture. “Blue Badge” and other accredited schemes offer training in this transferable skill of tour guiding, encouraging appreciation of local places and understanding how to present them in interesting ways to paying customers.

Developing project management skills could assist local people to work through the scope and opportunities presented by unique heritage places, encouraging local involvement and not simply handing projects over to external consultants.

“On the job” training would allow experiential learning that stays with people and provides early benefits locally. This is particularly true in

relation to projects such as the potential Narrow Gauge Greenway along the line of the former Ballymoney to Ballycastle railway and to begin to appreciate the heritage in the villages, small settlements and countryside. This is currently valued comparatively low in financial terms, giving an incentive for community projects. This could be based on a “revolving fund” of the type run by building and development trusts as part of community asset ownership. Local investors could expect a return on the sale of a property, or a continuing income from a lease on completion. Profits could be applied to future purchases. The skills that exist in Dervock, through the community ownership of the cafe building, could provide training for people who are willing to take this forward.

#### **4. Linking Community Hall, pitches and school**

The Community Hall and pitches form a great new resource for Dervock and District. They are already well connected with gates to Knock Road, Millar Avenue and Castlecat Road, making them accessible to those who know their way around. They need to be more accessible (primarily through signage) to visitors. The car parking and access could assist the school at drop off and pick up times and early conversations between central government, the Education Authority and the Council could facilitate this. Additionally, with the prospect of the refurbishment of the old rectory as a guest house, there should be scope to connect directly to the north side with a gate that would normally be kept open, linking the guest house directly with leisure facilities and the leisure / community facility with the guest house’s offering (breakfasts, coffees, etc.)

#### **5. Regular opportunities for volunteering**

Clean-ups have already been held in the village from time to time. Putting this on a regular, social footing by offering breakfast, morning coffee and lunch to groups (every Saturday morning for example) could be hugely beneficial in giving people creative exercise and sociability with scope for various talents to come together. Those who pick up litter or reinstate ground or cut back hedges may not be the same people who make tea and toast or a fry. However all the skills combined can make a village better. All ages would be welcome.

Internationally the hugely successful “Park Run” scheme operates every Saturday morning and with Dervock’s running pedigree, there is every reason to include running as part of the mix.

This would be a great start for the work that is needed to open up the Narrow Gauge Greenway – Stranocum could be encouraged to consider a similar model.

Eventually the Park Run could become a “Greenway Run” every Saturday once the Greenway work has been completed.....

#### **6. Encouraging existing businesses by “business to business”**

Connections made by the experimental Dervock Showcase Fair as well as good business practice indicate that there are opportunities in the Ward for a “business to business” linkage system. This already happens informally – a guest house does not have sufficient bedrooms to meet demand and recommends a colleague nearby – a 4 X 4 customer may ask about fishing or hunting – but is it happening enough? Are there visitor links and how best would we assist these. Certainly there could be the Five Fairs, certainly bringing people is important as is guiding them, recommending them by word of mouth and showing them places that they will find attractive and people they will find interesting - but they need to be made visible and accessible to visitors. This would be a new kind of network that initially brings businesses together – perhaps for a meal in one of the establishments at a not busy time – so that further connections are made possible by e-mail, phone, text messaging, etc. The variety and dedication of the business owners makes this so important as even modest developments of their businesses create local employment opportunities, whether seasonal or all year round.

If every local business in the Ward (whether it is based on agricultural, hospitality, sales or other expertise) were enabled to have just one additional employee – full time or part time – the scope for involvement of people, particularly young people, who are in need of work would be dramatically improved. Adding value to existing businesses and finding new customer bases through a huge welcome for tourists and visitors, everyone could be considered a potential customer and a future “word of mouth” ambassador for Dervock and District because of how well they were treated.

## 7. McKinley Guides

Arriving in Dervock to see (always – at least during the tourist season) a McKinley Guide, wearing a red carnation, waiting at the bridge or the fountain, ready to take people to any part of the village and the District for a reasonable price, well trained and knowledgeable about the area, using the beautiful language to tell visitors ten things they didn't know about Dervock Ward. Of course, it does not have to stop at ten things..... This could happen now with at least two tour guides available at present and training available for young people.



Photo of plaque on outbuilding at Conagher

This summer, 2016, McKinley Guides (with red carnations for the visitors as well as the hosts) could become a reality. Continuing training could take place on the job and we may need to organise the Band Bus and a driver to take people around. All possible. All realistic. It's all been done before.

## 8. Links with Chinese Embassy and NI cultural societies

Find the Macartney connections and make them real. Will this involve some learning of words in a Chinese language? Will it enrich the experience of the primary school pupils? What will it develop into? It is certainly worth exploring China.



Lord Macartney saluting the [Qianlong Emperor](#), 1793.

William Alexander. - "A study of History", Arnold Toynbee (Original in the British Library's collection of Western Drawings [WD 961, f.57])

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Macartney,\\_1st\\_Earl\\_Macartney#/media/File:LordMacartneyEmbassyToChina1793.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Macartney,_1st_Earl_Macartney#/media/File:LordMacartneyEmbassyToChina1793.jpg)

## 9. Checking with horticulturalists

Can we meet the people who grow vegetables locally and exhibited at the Showcase so that they could advise on growing red carnations? Could we include the Benvardeen Garden as a growing place for red carnations?



## 10. Will we wear them?

Would people who meet and serve the public in Dervock wear a red carnation every day to differentiate Dervock from other places and make it visibly special, starting conversations with local people and visitors about the origin of the red carnation with President McKinley? Can the red carnation, with the evocative story of its relationship with the former President, become the symbol of commitment to hospitality of everyone who serves customers in Dervock and District?

## 11. Exchange visits with Ohio

Initially through social media connections, can we arrange people to host and then find fares for two people to visit Niles and Canton, Ohio in 2016 – maybe in the “fall”? Hospitality in Ohio could be matched with hospitality in Dervock Ward for the exchange visitors from Ohio in 2017.



The National McKinley Birthplace Memorial, Niles, Ohio

[http://l.bp.blogspot.com/\\_DQ6RHYB8g9w/TCDv6FNK0II/AAAAAAAAAbM/vybtqHSK3p4/s1600/submittal+mvhs\\_Page\\_5.jpg](http://l.bp.blogspot.com/_DQ6RHYB8g9w/TCDv6FNK0II/AAAAAAAAAbM/vybtqHSK3p4/s1600/submittal+mvhs_Page_5.jpg)

## 12. “All the latest from Dervock and District”

News sheet could be available in quantities (100+ attended the Showcase Fair) at Fair Days. This can include church and school events / notices as well as information from the social media pages and would be simple and cost effective to produce. With the specialist printing and design services available in Dervock Ward, there is scope to develop this as a business venture and not just a free handout.



## 13. Council approach to Greenway

Confirm Council's approach to Greenway small grants scheme – will an expression of interest be submitted to DRD and will this include the Narrow Gauge Greenway / “Greenway of Thrones”? Direct links between Dervock and District and “TRAIN Ballycastle” would assist with this proposal.



#### 14. Getting started on the Greenway

Discussing with people in Loughguile and Stranocum the possibility of working both ways between the Dark Hedges and Dervock to list the landowners and agree a method to clear parts of the route and to build stiles over fences as the first stage of access – working from the ends to meet at the centre.



Narrow Gauge Greenway passing under Bregagh Road

#### 15. Research mobile phone signal boosting with experts

Initially, of course, this would be carried out through the network providers, in collaboration with Ofcom. If this is not successful, electronic experts beyond the suppliers may have to be contacted to see what commercial opportunities there are for boosting the signal in the village.

#### 16. Fishing and Gallows Island

Not everyone loves to fish. The scope to recreate the story of Gallows Island "too short like Jimmy Stewart's coffin" and link it to the two local pubs – adding food to the equation perhaps – could make a day out for the fishing people and their families / friends.



Map from Story Finders website

Talks with the landowner of Gallows Island could include public liability and other important matters concerning access – if it can be agreed.

River and adventure based days out could include river sports as well as fishing – finding out about access and ownership rights etc., with good food and maybe even a drink or two to round off the day could make another unique opportunity in Dervock with real historical roots.

Talks must be instituted about water quality and fish management, with the Bushmills Salmon Station and Inland Fisheries (currently DCAL but scheduled to move in May to DAERA, the new Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs). It is resource efficient to include local fishing clubs in water quality management, encouraging **and rewarding** better agricultural and fish management practices **as well as policing and punishing bad practice**. This would assist NI Water in its routine checking

of water quality samples assisting its environmental stewardship, corporate social responsibility, engagement and work with the local community. In this regard it would be good practice to share results of water quality sampling with the community development association.

#### 17. Signage to Dervock

Whilst it is acknowledged that "brown signs" relating to tourism can be contentious with transport planners and engineers, who are required to avoid visual intrusion and confusion, there is value in assessing the most direct route to Bushmills Distillery, travelling north on the A26. At present the Giant's Causeway and Benvardeen Gardens are signposted via Ballybogey and it is not suggested that this should change. Is the route through Dervock, however, more suitable for approaching Bushmills Distillery? It is understood that the current owner's plans for the Distillery place more emphasis on the tourist visitor than was the case with the previous owners. It is certainly worth a discussion with the Council on this matter, to determine, with Transport NI through community planning, the viability of new signage to direct Distillery visitors through Dervock.

#### 18. Official use of social media

Contact Neighbourhood Police Officers to meet and confirm PSNI protocol for official use of social media – comparing with published English protocol.

#### 19. Benvardeen House and Gardens

Benvardeen House, a private residence, is opened on European Heritage Open Days in September. The Gardens are open for visitors from June until August. These are signposted from Ballybogey and are a great example of local initiative. They offer refreshments to visitors and deserve to be encouraged and linked to other facilities and activities within and close to the Ward. The linkage could include combined ticketing, for example, and two way recommendations with tours, tourist facilities and accommodation. Sharing expertise in growing plants, managing tourism and participating actively in any future "Dervock Five Fairs" events could assist the Gardens and others in the Ward, helping to

collaboratively develop the activities in Dervock so that people come to anticipate the Five Fairs and look forward to regular attendance.

## 20. Trafalgar Day

With events and visitors already organised for 15 October 2016, Trafalgar Day could be incorporated in a revitalised tradition of Dervock Fairs. Working regular events of this nature into a “Dervock Fairs” brand could ensure that each event can help the others, with a collective advantage for Dervock, based on genuine local heritage.

## 21. Calendar of Events

“Dervock Fairs” can publish a calendar for the season or the year. This gives people reasons for coming and work on regular celebratory events indicates that with quality products, word of mouth recommendations encourage people to make Dervock’s calendar part of their calendar too. The existing regular celebrations and the heritage of the Dervock Fairs are much stronger together than separate. Regular events also allow sharing of resources, single purchases of equipment being possible to serve a number of different purposes during a season or a year, making for cost effectiveness too.

## 22. Potato Fair

With Dervock’s traditional and continuing pre-eminence in the potato, there must be scope for one of the Dervock Fairs to become a Potato Fair. Interest in different varieties for different purposes as well as the many ways to cook and serve potatoes could provide an annual event. In addition, taking the example of the “Comber Early”, a protection of name and locality may be something to consider in future if the Potato Fair is a success. Of course alongside the potatoes there would be opportunities to display related products and services.

## 23. Technical aspects of the pitches

It is understood that there may be additional land acquired to increase the size of the pitches to suit specific sports and participation in the Milk Cup. During this process, the existing drainage will be considered for improvement to increase the potential to use the pitches all year round.

Floodlighting will also be considered. Dervock’s football successes are encouraged by good training and match hosting facilities.

## 24. Developing the celebration of the 1912 marathon

Linking to Stockholm – visiting the stadium which is a fine brick building that has been in continuous sporting use for over 100 years. The Stockholm Marathon website says, “Today, Stockholm Marathon and DN Galan are the major events which take place in the world’s finest athletics arena. The Stadium is the home ground of Djurgårdens ’allsvenska’ (first division) football team. The Olympic Stadium was renovated in 1990 and the concrete north stand which was built for the 1958 European Championships demolished. In its place a new grandstand was built in the same style as the original.”

Can we go there? Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has developed a strong link with Sweden’s town of Falkenberg through a EUPLETT European programme and there would be a warm welcome for people from Dervock to the next marathon..... or to a football match.... It is part of our heritage too. Are there South African links in Dervock still?



By Johannes Scherman - Own work, CC BY 2.5,

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1768088>

## 25. Enquiring at the Ulster American Folk Park

Preliminary enquiries tell us that the principal stones from the McKinley Conagher homestead are in storage. The Ulster American Folk Park website indicates that exhibitions in St Louis, Missouri and London saw parts of the homestead dismantled and never returned.



Photo from Ulster American Folk Park website

Further enquiries can be made about the proposed future of the principal stones of the building through National Museums Northern Ireland at 028 9042 8428.

## 26. The Macartney Rose

Whilst the Macartney rose is said to not thrive in Britain, and has become an invasive species in the south eastern United States, perhaps it is time to have another look at “Rosa bracteata”. Just what did Macartney’s Mission bring back from China?



[www.galvbayinvasives.org/700x300Searchbyimage](http://www.galvbayinvasives.org/700x300Searchbyimage)

The Macartney rose in full sun. Photo courtesy <http://biotech.tipo>

Horticultural specialists could advise – perhaps a lecture series could be aimed particularly at gardeners.

There must be a place for Rosa somewhere in the District.....maybe under lock and key to stop further invasions.....

## 27. Funding community asset purchase and community asset transfer

Recent auction prices indicate that property prices in the area are comparatively low. There is scope to purchase with well organised schemes, such as community shares and crowd-funding through social media, which have been used successfully in other places.

In addition, there are banks and financial institutions in Northern Ireland established particularly for this purpose and their interest rates are designed to be affordable.



There are business skills across the District – in various aspects including agriculture – that could help by advising on business plans. It should not be left for too long – the community should be in at the start of the regeneration and should benefit from it.

Community owned and led projects set their own rules for procurement, developing and employing local skills that represent good governance, good business and real practical solutions.

In addition, a careful analysis of land and property in public ownership could result in some being declared surplus to requirements and sold, leased or licensed for community development purposes with the necessary legal agreements being put in place for its continuing community contribution.

## 28. Community owned assets

For community owned assets, such as the Liscolman Community Hall which has a responsible board of trustees, grant assistance may be available from a number of sources. Opportunities to keep such buildings and grounds in exemplary condition, well maintained and properly heated and ventilated, offer many people the means to carry out hobbies or small business operations which would otherwise just not be possible. Such buildings can have a multitude of uses that generate income as well as helping to provide the community with an important focal point. Existing assets in community ownership should be in great condition and fully functional to demonstrate that further opportunities including those beyond the Ward boundary but historically linked to Dervock (such as Liscolman Mill which is currently for sale at an affordable price) could be developed to create business, employment and community facilities.

## 29. Speed limit

20mph speed limits have been introduced in Northern Ireland in some town centres and neighbourhoods. This should be considered for the village centres and housing areas in Dervock Ward. Lower speeds civilise places, help walkers, cyclists and people with prams to be more respected. Ballymoney shows how civilised drivers in the town centre can help to create a good impression of the place to visitors.



Photo PSNI North Coast Facebook

Should we buy our own speed camera?

*“Southend News Network has learned that a trial is now underway for homeowners and private tenants to purchase a Police-approved speed camera to go in their front garden. For an investment of £999, including installation, owners will be entitled to a 50% share of any fines that are generated from their camera.”*

<http://southendnewsnetwork.com/news/essex-trial-underway-to-buy-your-own-speed-camera-for-a-50-share-of-fines/>

## 30. Collaboration

All the action points need collaboration. Excellent structures are in place to facilitate this and with greater appreciation of the amount of work that local people already contribute and therefore more use of the community networks, they will themselves develop and be more productive,

involving greater numbers of people to better effect. Dervock and District have huge energy and great talent. By working together, collaborating locally and internationally, all actions will be made easier. It will happen more quickly and it will be sustainable.

### 31. Recording marginal gains - “Dervock Ward Book”

The concept of a Ward Book has already been put in place locally. The continually updated Facebook page, for example, already contains comments about history, ambition, good advice and naturally occasional frustration. Adding old photographs and text, from newspapers and other primary sources, helps to relate today’s world with that of a previous era and Ballymoney Museum could be a useful source of assistance. The Ward Book and its Facebook companion could be encouraged with very modest resources to bring together the appropriate stationery and binding. The “Dervock Ward Book” would be an historical record, the equivalent of the “Captain’s Log” on a ship, marking progress in implementing the Vision.

### 32. Spatial / physical considerations

Rightly or wrongly, people judge places with their senses. If a place feels safe, smells good, presents itself well visually and provides the right welcome, it becomes worth visiting and worth telling others about. Working steadily and positively to improve the appearance of the village and surrounding area will give the right impression to investors. Removing dereliction is a long process but finding ways for the community to become the developer of land and buildings can promote regeneration that is sustainable, making annual economic, social and environmental returns into the area.

### 33. Urban and rural development

The heritage of the place and its relationship to its social history are important to the people we have met in Dervock. To facilitate new development in Dervock Ward beyond the villages and small settlements without elegantly repairing and creatively reusing the local heritage, both urban and rural, would be to the disadvantage of the future of the Ward as envisaged by local people who worked together on the Vision.

The Ward Vision was written and edited collaboratively (on the floor in Dervock Community Hall) with a range of participants who gave generously of their time and expertise on several occasions during the six weeks of the work. We have not acknowledged all the participants by name but we appreciate the diverse range of talents and skills that exists in Dervock Ward.

We have not met everyone in Dervock Ward and this vision is not therefore fully representative. We will have missed local talents. We need to talk to the schoolchildren. If it is to be effective in encouraging and developing the Ward, it will need to have a period of full public consultation, with discussions and experiences shared more widely among local people to confirm their vision. The document can readily be edited and developed.



Editing with sticky tape and scissors on the floor in Dervock Community Hall

Arthur Acheson, Chair of MAG

Alwyn Riddell, MAG member

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## Acknowledgements

**Ward Vision participants** include many citizens, some of whom attended the activities, some of whom we came across when out exploring, some who had read the excellent press coverage thanks to the Dervock and District Community Association and the Dervock & District History Public Group on Facebook. Some people asked to join in and were most welcome. Others were connected with us by friends and acquaintances - we met them separately by arrangement. This complex human process of many kinds of involvement will continue naturally as the vision is shared, implemented, adapted and sustained as a natural part of the life of Dervock Ward. Thank you to all who joined in and will join in for the next stages. These will involve as much “doing” as talking.

**Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council** kindly supported this Ward Vision and dedicated a senior officer to assist the process. The Council offered and we hope it received encouragement to work very locally and we trust that there is now a special connection with Dervock Ward as there will be with each of the wards in the Council’s wide and diverse area.

**Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure** kindly funded its Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment in the innovative work in civic stewardship over the past three years and the Chair and Member’s involvement in the Ward Vision, during the preparations and in the six week process itself.

**Department of the Environment** has embraced civic and urban stewardship in new supplementary planning guidance and draft strategic planning policy statement and has kindly agreed to be kept informed as the work progresses.

# MAG

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