

A Picture of Rural Peace

Working together, building
for a better rural future



Framing the Picture

We are absolutely delighted to share with you "A Picture of Rural Peace."

It is hoped that this publication will provide a valuable insight into the work of rural communities across Northern Ireland engaged in projects and programmes funded under the EU Peace II Programme.

The overwhelming response for funding from rural communities for a wide variety of projects continues to encourage us. We believe that in many ways, this endorses the effectiveness and approach of the Rural Development Council (RDC) and the Rural Community Network (RCN) in delivering Peace II funds to rural communities.

The process of building peace is and remains a challenge for us all. Rural communities have grasped opportunities and stepped beyond the normal boundaries to which they have become accustomed, to develop projects that are new and innovative in their communities.

Together, rural communities are increasing their knowledge and understanding of other traditions and cultures and there is a growth in the level of genuine cross-community work taking place.

Through the implementation of this Programme, we recognise that community development and its processes are vital ingredients to the development of peace and

reconciliation. Contributing to its success is the active involvement of local people which helps to foster a sense of ownership and empowerment.

We do hope you enjoy reading about the work of groups across rural Northern Ireland, we certainly have enjoyed hearing of their successes to date. These examples of community actions involve women, young people, long-term unemployed, farmers and their families as well as entrepreneurs and other professionals all working towards the creation of a more peaceful, prosperous and stable rural environment. They are true examples of the contribution local people make in addressing the challenges of peace.



Caroline Breakey
Chair
Rural Development Council



Roy Hanna
Chair
Rural Community Network



Contents

Our Approach	2	Celebrating Culture	8	Enabling Inclusion	20
Ministerial Acknowledgement	4	Connecting Communities	10	Promoting Safe Communities	22
<i>Minister Ian Pearson Comments</i>		Promoting Employment	13	Advising Community Halls	24
Programme Endorsement	4	Sustaining Retail	14	Embedding Peace	26
<i>Shaun Henry SEUPB Comments</i>		Mediating Change	17	List of Grants	27
Sharing Environment	6	Broadening the Framework	18	Who We Are	32



Our Approach to...

...Informing

Being able to access the Programme is important to us. So too is transparency. In order to ensure that communities were made aware that funds were available for rural projects and to facilitate easy access to the Programme, the RDC and RCN undertook the following actions:

RDC



- Equality Impact Assessment of Project Assessment Criteria
- Development of a comprehensive application pack and detailed guidance notes
- Mailshot to 800 groups using the extensive RDC database
- Participated in 56 information roadshows
- Advertisements in 32 regional newspapers; 3 national newspapers and a number of professional journals
- Targeted press releases to low uptake areas
- Information available as both hardcopy or web based
- Project examples and best practice case-studies available on web site
- 2500 application packs posted out
- 302 applications received, requesting a total of £8 million
- All applications acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt
- Formal process of appeal in operation

RCN



- Introduced a new shorter user-friendly application form
- Mailshot to 500 groups using RCN membership database
- Participated in 56 information roadshows
- Advertisements in 32 regional newspapers; 3 national newspapers
- Targeted press releases to low uptake areas
- Information available as both hardcopy or web based
- Approximately 1800 application packs posted out
- 14 information seminars regarding the application process
- 158 groups attending seminars
- 247 applications received requesting £1.5 million
- All applications acknowledged within 5 working days of receipt
- Formal process of appeal in operation

...Assessing

Understanding the project, how it fits with the Peace II Programme and the contribution it can make towards the creation of a more peaceful, prosperous and stable rural society form the main components of the assessment process.

RDC



- Applications are desk assessed for eligibility
- Non-eligible applications are refused with reasons stated
- Assessment visits carried out on each eligible application
- Over 172 assessment visits completed
- Key local advice sought from 130 organisations
- Applications are judged against specific Peace II Programme and Measure criteria
- Decisions taken by Panel representative of rural sectors and regions across Northern Ireland
- Average duration of assessment process 10 weeks
- 68 Contracts issued to the value of £2.67 million
- All applicants informed of decision within 5 working days of assessment panel meeting

RCN



- Applications are desk assessed for eligibility
- Non-eligible applications are refused with reasons stated
- Assessment visits carried out on each eligible application
- Over 110 assessment visits completed
- Applications are judged against specific Peace II Programme and Measure criteria
- Decisions taken by Panel representative of rural sectors and regions across Northern Ireland
- Average duration of assessment process 12 weeks
- 80 Contracts issued to the value of £986,305
- All applications informed of decision within 5 working days of assessment panel meeting

...Supporting

The journey from project idea, through planning, to securing a project grant can be challenging. Making the project become a reality from receipt of the Contract to completion can be equally as demanding. Receiving a Contract is not the end of the process but the beginning of a programme of support facilitating the implementation process.



- A suite of workbooks and online web based training materials available free of charge to all funded groups
- 57 groups attending Contract for Funding induction sessions including information on monitoring, evaluation and publicity
- 57 groups attending drawdown guidance and basic financial management training
- 30 groups attending "Promoting Good Relations" training
- 62 retailers engaged on a retail support programme
- 9 groups offered non-financial development support to assist with project development
- Development of best practice & training materials on organising and running festivals; management of ICT projects and promoting good relations
- Development of a community intranet networking facility
- Project Officers implementation portfolio of projects



- 77 groups offered post application development support
- 15 groups take up offer of development support
- 43 groups attending finance and monitoring training
- Ongoing support from project officers
- Support and guidance from grants panel to funded projects in Contract for Funding
- Full services of Community Halls Advisory Service available to groups owning or managing a community hall
- Development of Rural Disabilities Advisory Group
- Support for Rural Women's Network
- Development of Rural Community Safety Advisory Group

...Monitoring

Being able to capture the results and outputs of projects is necessary if we are to learn what impact or difference the funding is having on people, places and communities.



- Mapping & analysis of projects identifying gaps for future targeting
- Internal commissioned client survey to feedback on application process
- 57 groups attending Contract for Funding induction sessions including information on monitoring, evaluation and publicity
- All Contracts contain relevant outputs, results and impacts which the project will be monitored against
- Monitoring guidance and useful checklists developed to facilitate group monitoring of projects
- 54 six monthly monitoring visits completed
- Qualitative data collected and recorded for project beneficiaries
- A set of impact descriptor scales devised for each project to record the impact of the project



- Analysis of applications identifying gaps for future targeting
- Internal commissioned research to feedback on application process
- 43 groups attending finance and monitoring training
- 32 six monthly monitoring visits completed
- All Contracts contain relevant outputs, results and impacts which the project will be monitored against
- Mapping document of rural community halls developed
- Ongoing internal monitoring and evaluation
- Qualitative data collected and recorded for project beneficiaries

Ministerial Acknowledgement

I have no doubt that the Peace II Programme is having a positive social and economic impact on Northern Ireland. It is assisting people in rural areas who are making a very valuable contribution to addressing issues of peace and reconciliation within their communities.



Whilst community relations issues may be less visible, they do still exist in these areas. They can often be heightened by geographical isolation, lack of transport or by lack of opportunities which in turn can lead to further polarisation and segregation.

It therefore gives me much pleasure to endorse the work of the Rural Development Council and the Rural Community Network in the delivery of the EU Peace II Programme.

It is especially encouraging to note the good work being done by so many rural groups as part of this process. I firmly believe that local community involvement is essential in addressing the legacy of the conflict and in helping Northern Ireland move towards a more stable and inclusive society.

I am pleased to see the breadth and variety of work being undertaken across the rural community by a wide range of groups, including women, young people, the

long term unemployed, farmers and their families as well as many others. This bears testament to the desire of communities right across the board to address issues of peace and reconciliation and to work for the social and economic benefits that peace can bring.

I am delighted that my Department, through the provision of financial resources from the Rural Development Programme, is associated with the work of the Rural Development Council and Rural Community Network in the very many good projects highlighted in this report.

With Best Wishes



Ian Pearson MP
Minister for Agriculture and Rural
Development

Endorsement

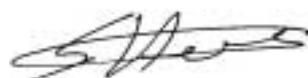
Just as the rural community is key to the shape of life in Northern Ireland, so to is its contribution when it comes to peace building and reconciliation. The tranquil rural landscape often masks the reality of a divided society that is just as acute as in our cities. Rural communities have met the challenge of contributing to a more peaceful and prosperous society and there are now hundreds of projects across Northern Ireland and the border region, involving thousands of people - all working towards peace and reconciliation.



The Special EU Programmes Body works closely with the Rural Development Council and Rural Community Network to ensure that rural communities benefit from the opportunities arising from peace. In partnership as the rural implementing body these organisations have demonstrated best practice in many areas of their work, from the design of application forms, to project assessment, to the support they offer local groups.

On behalf of the Special EU Programmes Body and the PEACE II Programme I would like to offer congratulations and many thanks for

the sterling work of all projects and acknowledge the partnership with the Rural Development Council and Rural Community Network for its invaluable support to the implementation of the Programme.



Shaun Henry
Director, PEACE II Programme

A close-up photograph of a man with grey hair, wearing a dark sweater over a light-colored collared shirt, focused on weaving a basket. He is holding several long, thin, reddish-brown reeds. The background is dark and out of focus, with some blurred light spots. The lighting is warm and directional, highlighting the man's face and the texture of the reeds.

Local communities...
Local Solutions...

Projects



Sharing Environment



It is often said that the environment in which we live contributes to who we are as a person, where we work and socialise and the friends and relationships we develop.

By taking time to study our environment and the opportunities it presents, communities can find ways of contributing to their own quality of life, improving local community spirit and making an agreed and positive contribution towards a peaceful and sustainable society.

Together, rural communities are demonstrating how working collectively on environmental projects can help

to shape new relationships and new ways of working, not only in addressing the negative images of the conflict but also looking forward to the future and the opportunities the environment has to offer.



Moyola Angling Association

Moyola Anglers recall the time when the old, water-filled gravel pits were stocked with trout from the adjoining Moyola River, outside Tobermore, Co L'Derry. The ponds were then used to teach young anglers the skills of fly-fishing. Sadly, dumping of waste in the ponds polluted the water, killing off aquatic life, creating stagnation and loss of local interest.

In an area of polarised communities, the Moyola Anglers want to use angling and the environment to

break down barriers amongst young people and promote angling as a cross community sport to be enjoyed by all.

Now, after years of neglect, the Moyola Anglers environmental project is well underway with the natural regeneration of plant and pond life quickly establishing.

The ponds will become an educational resource for school children from both sides of the community and plans are being developed to establish a cross community angling school where once again young people can learn the skills of fly-fishing.

The Cullaville & District Community Association

Cullaville, in South Armagh, sits right on the border astride a main east-west arterial route. The village and the local community carry many scars of 'the Troubles', leaving with them a legacy of the conflict. Relationships have been affected not only within the local community, but also with people from other neighbouring areas.

The project, "Pathway through time", seeks to address some of the issues of the legacy of the conflict by seeking to create a sense of community pride in the area and a desire to enhance and maintain the village. It focuses on creating visual images of the rich industrial and cultural history of the area.

The long since defunct Kinghams scutch mill, the popular blacksmith and his forge, the importance of agriculture by horse-power and the lifeline of the once Great Northern Railway and Cullaville Halt were identified as important elements of the local history of the area. These can now be seen depicted in symbolic images as you pass through the village.

Locals, visitors, young and old can now pause for a moment to reflect or learn from a rich past and feel proud that Cullaville has a culture and history that goes way beyond current affairs and one that the local community can be proud of.

Ballylaw Farmers' Group

Ballylaw Farmers' Group represents a group of farmers mainly from the Protestant community with a geographic catchment from Strabane to the outskirts of Derry City – an area interspersed with built up rural commuter communities.

Sectarian conflict in this border area resulted in loss of life and fears about crossing the border.

The Ballylaw Farmers' "Twinning Project" seeks to encourage and identify new opportunities, helping the group to move from their protestant single-identity image to working with their catholic neighbours and making cross-border contact.

Focusing on their main concern of pollution, the group was able to make contact with European and Republic of Ireland counterparts in an attempt to learn from others. Visits to Wales, the Republic of Ireland and other European countries were a first for most group members, resulting in wider contact, increased confidence and improved relationships. Such visits would not have occurred during the conflict.

The group has been successful in encouraging new membership on a cross-community, cross-border basis. The group continues to address shared issues that affect the farming community and in doing so are taking steps towards a more integrated and inclusive society.

Celebrating Culture



RDC Measure 2.10
Local Identity,
Culture & Heritage

The rich mosaic of cultures in rural Northern Ireland has often been a source of tension and conflict, with culture often seen as a constraint to local development rather than a positive asset, which can be used and developed.

Supporting communities to celebrate and share in their local identity can lead to better awareness of local culture in a way that not only assists in building

relationships, trust and understanding but also as a catalyst for local development and new economic opportunities.

By promoting local culture and encouraging respect for diversity communities can make a positive contribution towards reconciliation.



Flavour of Tyrone

Flavour of Tyrone was established in 1997 to promote tourism in the South Tyrone area with a particular emphasis on showcasing the region's food, entertainment, culture and 'craic'.

Political tensions and community divisions prevented people from engaging in joint promotional activities. Participation particularly in shared cultural activities was difficult, if not impossible for some.

The project 'A Cultural Crossroads' seeks to increase appreciation and enjoyment of musical, literary and cultural heritage within and between communities in a social and economic way. Like a crossroads itself, the

events are a place where people and customs meet.

Working at village level the project in its first year of operation attracted over 3000 participants and 1200 dancers in its attempt to record the largest street ceili. Both Irish and Scottish ceili dancers joined together in a bid to set this new record.

Contributing to the success of this project is the active involvement of local people in the organisation of events that celebrate an aspect of local culture important to them. It is through this focus on celebrating culture that enables communities to share and understand in each other's identity.

YouthAction NI

YouthAction NI is a voluntary organisation providing opportunities for young people to take part in programmes, which explore issues relating to their own lives, and communicate these to adults and organisations with whom they interact.

Isolation and marginalisation are part of the legacy of 'the Troubles'. Over the years young people have been particularly affected by this, many growing up, attending school and socialising, only within their own communities. These effects very often become heightened within rural areas, where geographical isolation, lack of transport and lack of opportunities, contribute to young people becoming even more excluded from actively participating and contributing to community life.

The project 'Kaleidoscope' is designed to empower young people, to give them a voice within their community. The



programme involves processes and artistic techniques to enable young people to explore issues which impact on their lives, such as cultural identity, community tensions, peace building, relationships and victimisation. The aim is to involve young people in a planned programme of cross-community activity resulting in drama and festival performances.

To date this project operating in Dromore, Loughbrickland, Rathfriland and Gilford has led to increased contact across traditional divides with more positive and supportive relationships developing into meaningful and genuine friendships.

County Down Fishing Villages Network

The Co. Down Fishing Villages Network is made up of four active community based organisations - Kilkeel Development Association, Annalong Community Development Association, Portavogie and District Development Association and Phennick Cove Developments Ltd.

The Network was established in 1998 to promote community led economic and social regeneration and co-operation among Northern Ireland's main fishing

dependent villages of Portavogie, Ardglass, Annalong and Kilkeel. Towns and villages within the network have had a history of political conflict and division.

The Nautical Festival of Fish used the common theme of the local fishing heritage as a basis for developing and promoting improved community interaction and relations. By working together this project recognises the added value which a partnership can bring to the regeneration and reconciliation process.



Connecting Communities

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) presents new and exciting opportunities for rural areas. ICT can help eliminate the isolation imposed by geography and can contribute to building bridges between communities divided by history, culture and political aspiration.

“Electronic networking” involves using ICT to improve communications and increase access to information; to stimulate co-operation; to share knowledge and ideas; to develop partnerships; to

build consensus and to broaden perspectives. Such networks can become an important platform in supporting rural communities to engage in sensitive issues for the first time.

The use of ICT in training is also important providing local communities with new opportunities for learning and developing new skills. The availability and access of ICT locally offers communities the opportunity to learn in familiar surroundings contributing to increased confidence and a sense of belonging.



East Down Institute of Further and Higher Education

By combining peoples interest in local history with ICT, East Down Institute in partnership with the Upper Ards Historical Society aims to train people in basic IT skills to enable them to create a website dedicated to local history.

In recent years the area has experienced a migration of families bringing with them the experiences of living with conflict, which has caused some tensions between new residents and the local community. The project aims to raise the level of understanding between the

two main traditions not only in promoting similarities but also acknowledging and accepting differences.

Through the mutual interest in history and IT the project has promoted an awareness of how information technology can be used to explore local traditions and cultures. In creating a website it gives local people an opportunity to share in their own history, while also becoming aware of other perspectives helping to encourage better community integration and understanding.

Armagh Confederation of Voluntary Groups

Working with a large number of smaller groups the Armagh Confederation of Voluntary Groups has been successful in promoting and supporting the work of the community and voluntary sector in Armagh since 1997.

The issue of sectarian division and conflict has long been apparent in Armagh. There are a number of sectarian interfaces and conflict between the two major traditions has been a feature of the area, particularly around Drumcree, for many years.

In partnership with Armagh Business Centre and Armagh College of Further and Higher Education, the Confederation is delivering a rural ICT project to over

twenty rural groups in the area. This partnership approach aims to maximise the social and economic outputs of the project through the mix of local knowledge and professional expertise.

'Ruralinks' combines the use of technology and communications in helping to promote and foster new community linkages, which may otherwise not have been possible due to the remoteness of many of their locations.

The project has the capacity to reach and support over 200 individual rural participants. In operation for less than a year the project has already benefited many rural groups and individuals promoting the concept of learning to use computers and using computers to learn.

Belleek and District Community Partnership

Belleek & District Community Partnership was formally constituted in October 2000. It is a registered charity based in The Craft Village of Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. As an area, Belleek has experienced many difficulties during the troubles. Located on the border, the village has had to deal with road closures leading to the a feeling of community isolation and polarisation.

Belleek Partnership IT Project is a community partnership providing IT training, locally, targeting the unemployed, those on low incomes and those within the village who would not normally access IT training.

The project builds on existing provision making use of the local high school as an outreach learning facility together with Belleek Connections, a local training provider. This partnership approach encourages increased access and availability of IT locally.

Operating for just over a year the project has been successful in attracting a high level of participation, helping to re-build community confidence, skills and re-kindle friendships. Many of the classes are over-subscribed with waiting lists in operation demonstrating the demand and interest from within the local community for this local project.



Working in partnership
to deliver rural results...

Programmes...



The decline in the number of jobs in agriculture, fall in farm income levels and closure of textile factories in small towns and villages create new economic challenges for rural communities.

The ability to react and respond positively to these challenges is important to ensuring the sustainability and vibrancy of Northern Ireland's rural population.

By promoting enterprise, developing skills, identifying jobs and increasing the flexibility of the labour market rural areas may begin to experience and take advantage of new opportunities culminating in economic growth and renewal of rural communities.

Rural Area Partnership in Derry (RAPID) - Rural Employment Opportunities Programme

RAPID, COLLAGE and Roe Valley Rural Development are combining their knowledge and expertise in the delivery of a rural employment programme focusing specifically on the North West region of the Province.

As a sub-region many people in the area have little access to alternative employment other than agriculture or traditional textile/garment production. Skills base and academic achievement are low throughout the area leading to limited job employment opportunities and social conditions. In the North West, the low qualification and skill levels need attention to ensure social inclusion of individuals and the overall sustainable economic development of the region.

Recent closures of local garment factories has particularly hit the North West and further reforms in agriculture continue to impact on individuals involved in the sector.

The Rural Employment Opportunities Programme represents a structured intervention seeking to turn decline into opportunity through stimulating awareness of alternative and part-time job opportunities ultimately creating an informed population who are aware of new options to education, employment and enterprise.



Sustaining Retail



The conflict over the past 30 years has been a major factor in preventing the development of a vibrant and diverse economy in rural areas. The commercial life of small towns and villages across Northern Ireland has been disrupted by bombings, sectarian violence and vandalism, disputed parades and the periodic boycott of shops.

The conflict has exacerbated the deep community divisions that exist and affected the patterns of commercial and economic activity in rural areas. Rural shops in Northern Ireland have struggled to continue providing basic essential services to their local communities throughout this period of conflict.

The local rural shop is however recognised as having a central role to play in the commercial and social viability of local communities. They each provide a social point for the local population and assist in providing and engendering a sense of community.

By encouraging and supporting the development of the rural retail sector communities will benefit from improved access to services and a strengthening rural economy.



Rural Retail Support Programme

The Rural Retail Support Programme is funded jointly by the EU Peace II Programme and the International Fund for Ireland. The programme aims to support the retention and development of retail services and products in rural areas. Brilliant Red Consulting and the Wholesale Retail Training Council are working in collaboration with RDC, with the support of the Post Office and Northern Ireland Independent Retail Trade Association, to deliver the programme. The programme

will assist rural retailers towards improving viability by encouraging and contributing to an agreed level of development support and training. Following a period of development support, project grant assistance may be available for approved projects, which will assist in the consolidation of the participant businesses.

Gortnaghey Community Shops Initiative

Gortnaghey is a small but energetic community located some 4 miles from Dungiven, Co. L'Derry. The community created an association to address the social and economic needs of the area. Among the objectives of the community association was the reopening of the local shop. The shop has been closed for almost a year and its closing has left the community feeling more isolated and deprived, due to the lack of essential services. The reopening of the local shop would replace one essential service and provide a focal point for the community.

Rather than suffering the consequences of the loss of a vital service the group has taken advantage of the opportunity to regenerate essential retail services to the community and also to create the potential for local employment opportunities.

The Rural Retail Support Programme has allowed the group to access the necessary expertise to assist in the development and potential implementation of a business plan.

Their place on the programme has also enabled the group to learn with other established participants and provides further opportunities for networking and development of new relationships.

Leonards Co. Fermanagh

Leonards Shop is located in Scribbagh, Co. Fermanagh and is presently owned by Pauline Breen. It caters for a wide rural community offering essential everyday groceries.

The shop has traded through the worst of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Being a family owned business in existence for over 70 years and stretching several generations the shop has provided the local community with essential goods and services despite the difficult social and economic challenges it faced.

The shop acts as a central focus point in the community and provides a place where people can meet and chat. It offers a delivery service for elderly customers and promotes local community activity through window displays, encouragement and financial support. The shop sells both local newspapers and encourages an environment of shared culture.

Taking the opportunity arising out of Peace through the Rural Retail Support Programme, Pauline hopes to create a more sustainable business helping to retain this vital community service.

Local communities...

Small Actions





This project focuses on developing conflict resolution skills with a number of volunteers who had already participated on an original pilot programme which was funded under Peace I.

The rationale for the project was the findings of a report 'Responses to Conflict Within Communities', which was commissioned by Rural Community Network and highlighted the gaps in training provision and the lack of capacity within a rural setting to facilitate alternatives to problem and conflict solving.

The training consisted of three modules which were identified by the participants of the original mediation training programme.

- Intermediate mediation
- Negotiation skills
- Restorative Practices

The training was based on an experiential learning model and focuses on problems and issues within rural communities in Northern Ireland.

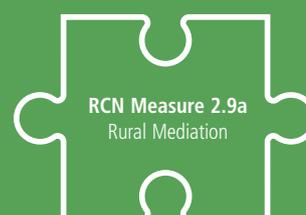
The modules were delivered as separate components but had common threads and themes running throughout, focussing on positive ways of addressing and transforming conflict within our communities. Participants were provided with a framework for transforming conflicts, underpinned by both theory and practice.

The aims of the programme were to

- Explore what conflict means for people and enable participants to understand different responses to conflict
- Provide participants with a greater knowledge and awareness of three conflict resolution techniques - mediation, negotiation and restorative practices
- Provide opportunities for participants to understand and learn the skills needed to practice these different conflict resolution techniques

- Promote discussion and learning from the experiences of individual participants
- Provide participants with an enhanced capacity to initiate and/or assist with conflict resolution processes within a rural context
- Encourage participants to internalise learning as part of the process of building on 'life skills.'
- Build understanding of how people in conflict think, feel and behave, and how this contributes to the conflict
- Encourage reflective learning as participants use examples of present or existing conflicts they have been involved in
- Enhance participants' self awareness and self confidence.

The training ran from February 2003 until June 2003 with 14 participants from a wide range of community development backgrounds. The training ended with a residential at An Creggan centre, focusing on the restorative practices in Northern Ireland. This included a panel discussion involving the Police Service of Northern Ireland; Community Restorative Justice Ireland; Greater Shankill Alternatives; Family Group Conferencing and Barnardos who are involved with school group conferencing.



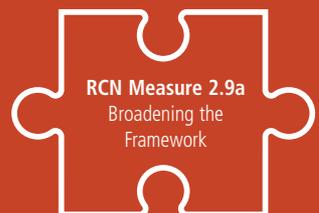
Broadening the Framework



Rural areas in Northern Ireland are in the most part single identity. For many living within these areas there is little or no opportunity for interaction with people from the other main tradition in Northern Ireland and therefore no prospect of increasing knowledge and understanding of the different cultural backgrounds present in the region.

It has been recognised that a necessary part of the process of capacity and confidence building in divided regions is to fund community activity among single identity groups. However for a

growing number of community groups the challenge lies in taking the next step towards a more inclusive society as many of these groups are unable to move forward without help, encouragement and reassurance.



Glenanne Loughguilly and Mountnorris Women Together

Bringing local women together to create a common bond between all traditions in an isolated rural area is the main objective for the Glenanne, Loughguilly and Mountnorris (GLM) – Women Together group in County Armagh. The group formed in the wake of the ceasefires in an area that has been described by many as one of the most badly affected areas throughout ‘the Troubles’ outside of Belfast and it was only whilst planning this project that they realised that there are many people still suffering from ‘open wounds’.

The group decided they wanted to address issues of the legacy of the conflict specific to the area but they recognised they needed to be supportive and non-threatening in their approach. They decided to make a patchwork quilt, depicting local historical and cultural

landmarks that meant something to both main traditions participating in the project.

Taking a huge risk, the group decided to depict the lives of local people who had been killed as a result of the ‘Troubles’ in this quilt. They came up with the idea of creating a border of flowers around the edges of the quilt, each flower representing someone local who lost their life as a result of ‘the Troubles’ and called this border – ‘The Garden of Remembrance’. This project is a testament to the work of the GLM – Women Together group. It has helped a community talk about some of the most traumatic times of their lives but also allowed a community to release some of the pain and is contributing to building a stronger community in Glenanne, Loughguilly and Mountnorris.

Clonoe Development Association

Attempting a community project for the first time is a big challenge for any new group, so when Clonoe Development Association in County Tyrone decided to address the issue of ex-prisoners returning to live in the area, the project had certainly some challenges ahead for the group.

This project focused on making ex-prisoners feel part of the community again while dissipating the worries of local residents who found it difficult to interact with ex-prisoners. The group also felt there was a need to educate youth in the area about life inside prison for inmates.

The group set about organising a weekend of events incorporating an exhibition of prison life and a debate

looking at the situation from both republican and loyalist perspectives.

Bringing loyalist ex-prisoners into the area for the debate met with some opposition from the local community, but the group found an alternative by bringing along a worker from a loyalist ex-prisoners support group.

The event took place in June 2003 and the group found that it was interesting for the audience to hear an alternative view to challenge long-standing opinions. As one representative from the group stated after the event, ‘our project was primarily one of education, remembering the past, offering the alternative view and building for the future’.

Killyfole and District Development Association

The project ‘Killyfole Remembers’ seeks to capture the history of the Killyfole area, an isolated small Protestant community in County Fermanagh, which has suffered from border closures and a declining population since ‘the Troubles’ began. The project focuses on memories of life in the community before the conflict.

The group are aware that as a result of ‘the Troubles’ there are people who have had to move away from the area. The group are now working to involve some of

these people as they feel they have a stake in the project and in the Killyfole area.

In a community that feels so much has been taken away, this is a project that gives everyone the opportunity to put something back. With a community so desperately affected by the conflict, with several killings and maimings, this project has the potential to support the group and the community in its movement towards a more cohesive and inclusive society.



The level of social exclusion of people with disabilities within some of our rural communities has remained seriously high and for many the concepts of social inclusion, representation and civic democracy remain unrealised within rural communities.

Offering people with disabilities greater opportunities within society contributes towards making rural Northern Ireland a more inclusive society. It can be said that people with disabilities are often invisible. Their skills and potential can go unidentified and the opportunity to participate in everyday community activities is in many cases very limited.

By supporting people with disabilities living in rural communities, a greater participation and community ownership will be recognised. People with disabilities will be given the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and contribute to society in self-help actions. Their involvement in society will be valuably acknowledged and rewarded.



Hands That Talk

Hands That Talk is a project that came into being in February 2000 as a direct response to the enormous deficit in provision for people who are Deaf or suffer from some sort of hearing impairment in the North West of Northern Ireland.

The group, based in Dungiven, County L/Derry, offers a wide range of opportunities including training, support and networking for the Deaf community and is attempting to redress the imbalance of unemployment, marginalisation, poor self-esteem and exclusion, which the Deaf community experience.

The group has received a small grant from the Peace II Programme to enable them to continue to offer support and guidance to the Deaf community.

This funding was awarded at a pivotal time, as the group faced closure due to lack of resources. The funding allowed the group to cover some of their running costs for a 6 month period giving the group the opportunity to lobby and fundraise for more support. Now almost one year after receiving funding, the group is in a much stronger position.

The group has worked tremendously hard to provide a basic service for Deaf people and in providing this facility has established strong friendships between Deaf and hearing from all backgrounds and traditions. This project has allowed the group to develop and become sustainable for the future and has demonstrated by promoting inclusion and participation, there is a place for everyone in our communities.

Friendly Care Group

Established in 1985, the Friendly Care Group is a voluntary self-help group based in the Carrickmore area of County Tyrone. The primary purpose of the group is to enhance the lives of people with physical and/or learning disabilities and their carers. Much of the work the group develops is concerned with training and promoting participation of people with disabilities in active community life.

The group was funded to undertake two projects under RCN's Peace II programme, the 'Friendly Swim Club' and the 'Friendly Fit Club'. Both projects focused on promoting participation through physical activity, the swim club targets younger people whilst the fit club targets an older age range of people who have severe physical disabilities.

Both projects are small-scale initiatives but have a huge impact on the beneficiaries. One of the participants of the swim club completed 64 lengths in a recent Swimathon and is now the Chair of the local Mencap group. Another member of the group has stated that 'the projects are changing individual's way of thinking, both within the group and the wider community about what members are able to achieve and do'. With such enthusiasm and motivation surrounding these two projects, it is worth recognising how these projects have pushed the boundaries and promoted greater inclusion for people with disabilities.

Out & About Project

The Out and About project is based in Armagh and was set-up in 1998 with the objectives of tackling the exclusion of people with disabilities.

The main aim of this project funded under the Peace II programme is to carry out consultation work to establish innovative approaches to care for people with mental health disabilities in rural areas. Isolation and poor public transport associated with rural areas are believed to adversely affect people with disabilities from receiving optimum service provision and this project aims to identify some improvement in care, in partnership with the main stakeholders.

To date, the group has consulted with the service users, carers and service professionals. It has been successful in highlighting the needs for people with mental health issues. The group has brought this important issue to the fore with local Health Trusts and worked with a wide range of organisations including Queen's University to provide some recommendations. Most importantly however, the group has taken on board the views of mental health sufferers and one of the key outputs of the project is that it has helped these people feel more included.

Promoting Safe Communities



Over the past 30 years, community tension and unrest has overshadowed development among many rural communities. With the onset of the Peace Process however, the issues of crime and vandalism have become more prevalent than ever before, bringing with them problems that many communities and local organisations find difficult to cope with. Dealing with these new dilemmas is a challenge - feeling safe within your own community is one of the key measures with regard to improvement of quality of life.

Community safety can therefore bring new innovative approaches to fairly serious issues in rural areas, promote participation and involvement from the local community and reassure the most vulnerable living in the area.



Upperlands Community Development Ltd

For some communities the fear of crime can be as detrimental to development of an area than actual incidents of crime. Crime in rural areas can have a disproportionate impact on local residents. The often more isolated nature of rural living means that crimes such as burglary or theft can dramatically increase the fear generated by such activities.

When Upperlands Community Development Limited situated in County L'Derry, carried out a community safety audit to establish what the concerns were for the local community, 74% of respondents were over the age of 61. The audit identified that speeding vehicles through the village was the single most serious concern for the

respondents. This was followed by underage drinking, vandalism, property theft and illegal dumping. The group have followed up some recommendations from the audit by focusing on people living on their own, setting up a visit with the local crime prevention officer and fitting burglar deterrents to homes. A community safety awareness day is also being organised to educate local residents on local community safety issues.

The project, now near completion, is a small proactive step by a rural community group to try and reduce fear and reassure the most vulnerable. The feeling in the area is that it is better to do something now to address crime issues, as they are likely to get worse in the future.

Dundrod & District Rural Community Association

Located approximately 9 miles from Lisburn and 10 miles from Belfast, the Dundrod community has witnessed significant levels of crime since the onset of peace.

The group realised fairly early after they had established in 2001 that the issues of crime, vandalism and isolation were huge problems for local residents. With an increase in burglaries in the area, car theft dramatically increasing, stolen cars being dumped and the elderly population feeling increasingly isolated and vulnerable, the group believed they had to address community safety issues as a priority.

Working in partnership with Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, the group established a community safety audit, to ensure they were identifying the 'real' issues for local residents.

Over the next few months the group are intending to establish a rural watch initiative, along with various other actions to promote local community safety. The group has already noticed a marked increase of co-operation from the local community and are keen to recognise that this community safety programme has opened many doors for further work in the local community.

Moree Community Association

Moree Community Association is a single identity Protestant group situated outside Pomeroy in County Tyrone. This community has been affected badly by 'the Troubles' over the past 30 years as one member of the committee stated 'local people have been murdered, Protestant businesses have been boycotted around the issue of the Drumcree stand-off and the local meeting place, the Orange Hall was burnt down in 1997'. The hall was rebuilt but damaged again in an attack in early 2003. The community association are keen to promote confidence, increase participation and reduce fear of local people who have been slow to become involved in community activity over the past 30 years.

It was felt that a community safety project in the area would present an opportunity to reduce the feeling of fear and isolation among local people, which might lead to a greater sense of security and increased participation in community activities

So far the project has allowed the group to find out exactly what the issues are, through a community safety audit and by establishing greater community involvement they hope to reduce sectarianism, address the most important needs of the community and develop community relations for the benefit of the whole local population.

Advising Community Halls



Throughout rural Northern Ireland a wide range of community halls exist. A range of activities take place within these venues such as childcare, youth clubs, creative work, sports, health, learning. There is scarcely an aspect of life that isn't catered for somewhere. In a rural community that is seeing many changes and challenges, halls can be a place where people can meet together, learn with and from each other thus increasing community spirit.

Supporting local people to successfully manage and/or upgrade these venues will make an important contribution towards building and maintaining a peaceful and sustainable community. Promoting the concept of inclusive venues and offering support to communities extends the use of the hall to the wider community.



Milford Community Development Association

Milford is a small village located two miles from Armagh, just off the main Armagh – Monaghan road. The area, which has a mixed community, has been working actively to promote community interaction and development since 1997. The local Community Development Association was established with the overall objective of regenerating Milford village, focusing on maintaining services and developing more facilities for the local population.

From receiving Peace II funding, this association was able to undertake significant work to the community building

to improve its overall health and safety and enabled them to maintain the Victorian character of the hall. The work included rewiring, providing radiator protectors and repainting of the hall, which is used mainly as a youth club for the local population.

The Peace II funding has greatly improved the overall appearance of Milford Community Hall, allowing many activities to resume in a comfortable surrounding environment and is ensuring that the group have a better facility to allow activity to develop and flourish.

Moneygore Rural Development Association

Moneygore Rural Development Association, situated in County Down, was established in 2001. The main aim of the group is to develop the culture and relationships within the local community and to provide a user-friendly facility for the local community. Moneygore is a townland situated approximately one mile from Rathfriland and is a prime example of a busy hall operating from an isolated rural area. Activities taking place in the hall include music and dance classes along with social events and cultural evenings. The hall also functions as an Orange Hall and a small grant from Peace II funding is improving the health and safety of the hall and allowing the group to develop its range of activities.

Moneygore's proposal focused on replacing some of the windows and doors, and upgrading of floor surface area of the building. From addressing these issues, the hall will hopefully be more user-friendly, energy efficient and much more comfortable, thereby encouraging community activity.



Loup Women's Group

Loup is situated on the western shores of Lough Neagh about 8 miles from Cookstown in Co. Tyrone. Loup Women's group was established in March 1999 to bring local women living in the area together, break down barriers and to provide classes and activities. The village experienced fairly high levels of community tension and polarisation during the 30 years of 'the Troubles'. When the group began, it rotated its meetings between Protestant and Catholic halls in the area to try and be as inclusive as possible. This arrangement proved to be impractical as most classes required equipment and materials, so the group took on a lease of an old disused school in the village in 2001.

This project is completing renovations to the old school building, making it safer, healthier and a more comfortable place for people to come to for classes and functions. The Peace II funding proposal addressed the issues of heating, damp and ventilation and in doing so, increased the number of activity options that women will be presented with in the future. The work will ensure the group can continue to provide a service for local women and as one member of the women's group stated 'Peace II funding had made a terrific difference to the building.'

Embedding Peace

“While it is important to recognise the need to promote ‘good relations’ between the two main traditions within Northern Ireland, RDC are to be commended on ensuring that other marginalised groups and minority ethnic groups are being treated with equal consideration”

“Joe Blake, Will Glendinning and Maura Maginn on implementing the RDC ‘Good Relations’ Programme”

Together the Rural Development Council (RDC) and the Rural Community Network (RCN) have embraced the many challenges and opportunities presented by the special nature of the Peace II Programme. The two objectives ‘Addressing the legacy of the conflict’ and ‘Taking the opportunities arising out of Peace’ rest at the very heart of programme delivery.

The dual approach offered by the RDC and the RCN in promoting small-scale capacity building projects together with social and economic regeneration opportunities enables many communities to access funding for the first time and others to take the next step towards building a more sustainable and economic rural environment. Jointly these actions contribute towards the creation of a more peaceful, inclusive and stable rural society.

Building on and learning from the work of Peace I, the RDC and the RCN have developed and strengthened approaches to peace building and reconciliation in rural areas.

By reinforcing social inclusion and reconciliation as specific conditions of funding offers, the RDC through its Development Support Programme is able to offer groups ‘Promoting Good Relations’ training. This training is designed to encourage groups to formulate appropriate policies

and action plans for promoting good relations not only within their projects but also in their ongoing work within the community. This process of good relations is very much embedded within the RDC itself with Council and staff embracing the notion of a ‘Shared Vision’.

The small grants administered by the RCN have encouraged many groups to apply for peace funding for the first time.

Working in areas of low/weak community infrastructure the process has been highly successful particularly in building links with the Protestant community who may not have benefited from previous funding initiatives. As demonstrated by the wide variety of groups taking part in the programme small amounts of money can make a real difference in peace building. Networking this experience takes the process one further step along the way.

Undoubtedly the Programme is making a major contribution to tackling the legacy of the conflict and providing opportunities for regeneration, renewal and inclusion. The RDC and the RCN are confident that the outputs of community effort will take us all one step further along the road to sustained peace and prosperity. It is also recognised that the process of embedding peace takes time and that there is more to be done but a very good start has been made.

List of Grants

Co. Antrim

Mosside & District Community Association	£36,000	RDC
North Antrim Community Network	£14,710	RDC
Glen Rural Community Group (Armoy)	£5,000	RCN
Archie Kinney	Retail Support Programme	RDC
John Vincent McNally	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Patricia & Clifford Kerr	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Pearl Linnegan	Retail Support Programme	RDC
David Coleman	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Michael Smith	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Patrick Kennedy	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Rita Graham	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Eammon Gillan	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Maureen Woods	Retail Support Programme	RDC

Co. Armagh

Armagh Confederation of Voluntary Groups	£31,907	RDC
Culloville & District Community Association	£31,614	RDC
FAIR	£27,589	RDC
Markethill District Enterprises Ltd	£5,000	RDC
Mossfield Community Association	£50,000	RDC
Mullaghbawn Community Association	£22,890	RDC
ROSA/Armagh City & District Council	£37,763	RDC
Out & About Project	£3,000	RCN
Knockagh Area W.I. Group	£1,000	RCN
GLM Women Together	£3,200	RCN
Dundrod & District RCA	£3,000	RCN
Milford Community Development Association	£5,000	RCN
Loughgiel Community Association	£3,000	RCN
Mid Armagh Community Network	£5,000	RCN
Richhill W.I.	£9,600	RCN
Derrynoose Community Action Group	£10,000	RCN
Mid-Armagh Community Network	£10,000	RCN
The Making a Difference Club	£4,529	RCN
S.A.V.E.R./N.A.V.E.R	£5,000	RCN
Tullysaran Area Heritage Group	£5,000	RCN
Rosa/Monaghan Community Network	£5,000	RCN
Trevor Magill	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Thomas Mc Gleenon	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Ciaran Murphy	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Patrick Mackin	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Louise Mc Kearney	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Patrick Tiernan	Retail Support Programme	RDC

Co. Down

Altnaveigh Trust	£30,000	RDC
Banbridge Connect	£49,875	RDC
Confederation of Community Groups	£21,359	RDC
Co. Down Fishing Villages Network	£19,000	RDC
Co. Down Fishing Villages Network	£23,750	RDC
East Down Institute of Further & Higher Education	£34,700	RDC

Youth Action NI	£45,977	RDC
Ballynahinch Farm & Rural Development	£5,000	RCN
Drumaroad & Clanvaraghan Community Association	£3,000	RCN
Drumlough Cultural Society	£5,000	RCN
Kirkistown Ulster-Scots Cultural Society	£1,200	RCN
Altnaveigh Trust	£5,000	RCN
Mazetown Cultural Society	£5,000	RCN
Dunsford Arts & Crafts Group	£4,487	RCN
The Pathfinders	£3,000	RCN
Lisbarnett & Lisbane Community Association Ltd	£5,000	RCN
Ballykilbeg Rural Development Association	£5,000	RCN
Kirkistown Ulster Scots Cultural Society	£5,000	RCN
Moneygore Rural Development Association	£3,643	RCN
Burren Community Forum	£3,000	RCN
Tanvalley Rural Association	£10,000	RCN
Tullyvallen Community Association	£10,000	RCN
Drumlough Cultural Society	£5,000	RCN
John Anthony O'Malley	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Patrick Grant	Retail Support Programme	RDC

Co. L'Derry

Carntogher Community Association	£48,450	RDC
Claudy Rural Development Ltd	£39,000	RDC
Discovering Kids Playgroup	£28,460	RDC
Moyola & District Angling Club	£39,420	RDC
Network Personnel	£50,000	RDC
Newbuildings Community and Environmental Association	£7,500	RDC
The Rural College	£5,100	RDC
Waterside Development Trust	£30,645	RDC
Eglinton and District Community Forum	£3,000	RCN
Loup Women's Group	£5,000	RCN
Granaghan & District Women's Group	£3,000	RCN
Upperlands Community Development Ltd	£3,000	RCN
Ballymaguigan Community Development Association	£5,000	RCN
Hands That Talk	£3,000	RCN
Glenullin & Agivey Conservation Development Group	£3,760	RCN
Loup Women's Group	£9,508	RCN
Dyslexia & Dyspraxia Support	£3,000	RCN
Burnfoot Community Development Association	£10,000	RCN
Glenullin & Agivey Conservation & Development Trust	£10,000	RCN
Drumahoe Village Community Association	£3,000	RCN
Brendan Shivers	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Roy McAllister	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Desmond Howard	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Seamus Devlin	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Claire Johnston	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Joe Mc Vey	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Adele Mullan	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Patricia Mc Erlane	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Colm Cassidy	Retail Support Programme	RDC

Co. Fermanagh

Aughakillymaude Community Association	£44,750	RDC
Belleek Developmental Community Arts Network	£19,527	RDC
Belleek & District Community Partnership	£48,769	RDC
Cashel Community Association	£17,431	RDC
Derrygannon Craft & Heritage Society	£44,888	RDC
Dooneen Community Association	£15,587	RDC
Fermanagh Rural Community Network	£50,000	RDC
Fermanagh Trust	£45,792	RDC
Killyfole & District Development Association	£13,000	RDC
Killyfole & District Development Association	£50,000	RDC
Kinawley Community Partnership	£12,692	RDC
Share Arts	£33,403	RDC
Hillside Women's Group (Donagh)	£5,000	RCN
Belleek & District Community Partnership	£3,000	RCN
Wark Hall Committee	£5,000	RCN
Letterbreen Community Development Association	£5,000	RCN
Killyfole & District Development Association	£5,000	RCN
Kesh Young Farmers Club	£5,000	RCN
Garrison Women's Group	£5,000	RCN
Tempo Historical Society	£5,000	RCN
Donagh Development Association	£10,000	RCN
Barrie Clingen	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Leslie McConkey	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Paul Holder	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Charles & Frances Barr	Retail Support Programme	RDC
David Armstrong	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Marie McGrath	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Joseph Mc Aleer	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Peter Mc Clave	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Pauline Breen	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Raymond Elliott	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Michael Mc Daid	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Peter Pheur	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Thomas Curry	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Siobhan O'Reilly	Retail Support Programme	RDC
John Leonard	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Margaret Mc Garron	Retail Support Programme	RDC

Co. Tyrone

Ballylaw Farmers Group	£10,000	RDC
Brocagh & District Regeneration Group	£8,495	RDC
Camowen Partnership Ltd	£30,205	RDC
Drumquin Development Association	£18,805	RDC
Drumquin Wolfe Tones GFC	£28,644	RDC
Flavour of Tyrone	£30,000	RDC
Granville Development Association	£23,998	RDC
Milestone Training Initiative	£42,480	RDC
Omagh Forum for Rural Associations	£50,000	RDC
Owenkillew Community Development Association	£47,600	RDC
Owenkillew Community Development Association	£22,576	RDC
SEARCH	£29,866	RDC
South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association	£31,981	RDC
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme	£22,350	RDC
Stewartstown Community Festival	£30,000	RDC

Tyrone Orange Vision 2000	£47,022	RDC
Villages Together	£50,000	RDC
Magheraglass Community Association	£5,000	RCN
Friendly Care Group	£2,990	RCN
Fivemiletown Community Development Association	£5,000	RCN
Colleague Support Group Branch No 1	£2,500	RCN
Kildress Community Projects	£5,000	RCN
Clonoe Community Development Association	£5,000	RCN
Moree Community Association	£3,000	RCN
Border Arts	£5,000	RCN
Pomeroy Resource Group	£4,700	RCN
Friends of the Somme Mid Ulster Branch	£5,000	RCN
Postive Steps Learning Centre/Cookstown & District Womens Group	£3,044	RCN
Milbrook Community Forum	£5,000	RCN
Loughmacrory Community Development Association	£10,000	RCN
Tamnamore Community Development Association	£10,000	RCN
Mourneberg Partnership	£10,000	RCN
Country Roads Women's Group	£5,000	RCN
Cookstown Churches' Forum	£2,500	RCN
Bawn Development Association	£10,000	RCN
Friendly Care Group	£3,000	RCN
St Colemans Parish Church (Ardboe)	£10,000	RCN
Dennett Interchange	£10,000	RCN
Eugene Carson	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Louise Kelly	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Brian Fox	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Paul Gormley	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Brendan McAnallen	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Kyle Whiteside	Retail Support Programme	RDC
John Speer	Retail Support Programme	RDC
William John Kelly	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Shauna Bradley	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Gareth Gault	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Maurice Diamond	Retail Support Programme	RDC
James O'Neill	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Anne Mc Dermott	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Fiona Harte	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Phillip & Shirley Walker	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Raymond Hewitt	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Shane O' Neill	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Eammon Grimes	Retail Support Programme	RDC
Sean Duffy	Retail Support Programme	RDC

Regional

Groundwork NI	£8,787	RDC
Groundwork NI	£49,967	RDC
Making Music Workshop	£47,009	RDC
Making Music Workshop	£38,570	RDC
Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (NI)	£37,025	RDC
TADA Rural Network	£47,098	RDC
The Nerve Centre	£25,700	RDC
The Nerve Centre/Linenhall Library	£30,150	RDC
Traditions Meet	£47,500	RDC
Rural Area Partnership In Derry	£105,319	RDC
RDC Pilot Retail Support Programme in association with Brilliant Red and WRTC	£119,703	RDC
RCN Mediation Programme	£50,000	RCN
Community Technical Aid	£4,800	RCN
Community Technical Aid	£4,800	RCN
Community Technical Aid	£7,200	RCN

Who we are...



The Rural Development Council (RDC) is an independent rural organisation, which plays a vital role in influencing rural development policy, developing and delivering practical programmes, sharing information and building effective partnerships.

The RDC was set up in 1991 and is managed by a 21 member council. The council is made up of rural community representatives drawn from the private sector, local government, environmental interests, LEADER Groups and the agriculture industry.

RDC believes that rural communities play a vital and significant role in the economic, social and environmental life of the whole region of Northern Ireland and regard them as a valuable regional resource. Our activities are based on the principle that local people are best placed to identify their needs and propose solutions and aim to provide support and encouragement for their further development.

The Rural Community Network (RCN) is a voluntary organisation established by community groups from rural areas to articulate the voice of rural communities on issues relating to poverty, disadvantage and equality.

The RCN vision is of vibrant, articulate, inclusive and sustainable rural communities across Northern Ireland contributing to a prosperous, equitable, peaceful and stable society.

The RCN mission is to provide an effective voice for and support to rural communities, particularly those who are most disadvantaged.

- To articulate the voice of rural communities.
- To promote community development and networking in rural communities.
- To work towards social inclusion and peace building in rural communities.
- To support the building of sustainable rural communities.

RCN is recognised by the Inland Revenue as Charitable, No. XR17297



Implementing Body under the
**EU Programme
for Peace and Reconciliation**



The RDC in partnership with RCN act as the Rural Implementing Body under the EU Peace II Programme.

The RDC is responsible for the implementation of five Measures: -

- Part-time Employment (Measure 1.7b)
- Rural Retail (Measure 1.10a)
- Rural ICT (Measure 1.10b)
- Peaceful Environment (2.9b)
- Local Identity, Culture & Heritage (Measure 2.10)

The team of staff responsible for contributing to the delivery of the EU Peace II Programme for the RDC is Olga Gallagher, Albert Hunter, Joyce McMullan, Oliver Donnelly, Helen Ryan, Martin Delaney, Robert Shaw and Teresa Canavan.

The RCN is responsible for the implementation of Measure 2.9a, which has five identified priorities:

- Broadening the Framework
- Developing Civic Society – Tackling Social Exclusion
- Rural Mediation Service
- Community Safety
- Community Halls Advisory Service

The team of staff responsible for contributing to the delivery of the EU Peace II Programme for RCN is Michael Hughes, Caroline Larkin, Tom Kiernan, Jan Keenan, Mary O’Neill and Anita Kelly.

“The ‘hidden history’ of local families and communities are drawn out and used as an invaluable research tool via the Internet”

East Down Institute & Upper Ards Historical Society on Rural ICT Measure 1.10b

“My SON was with the Moyravety group and I cannot begin to tell you how much he enjoyed the workshop and the concert. He has learned a lot from all the tutors and last night’s performance boosted his confidence enormously. Thank you for the great work you have done for my son and the great work you are doing for other young people throughout the province”

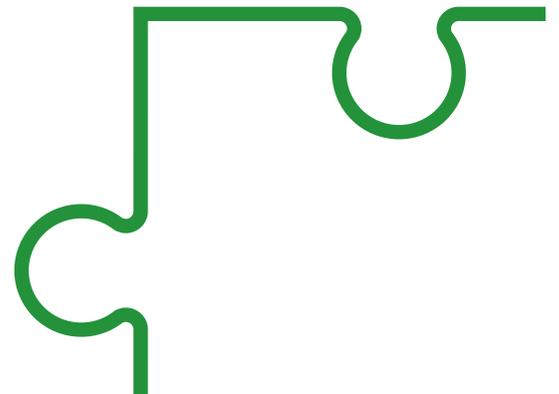
Parent of a participant in Making Music Workshop on Local Identity, Culture & Heritage Measure 2.10

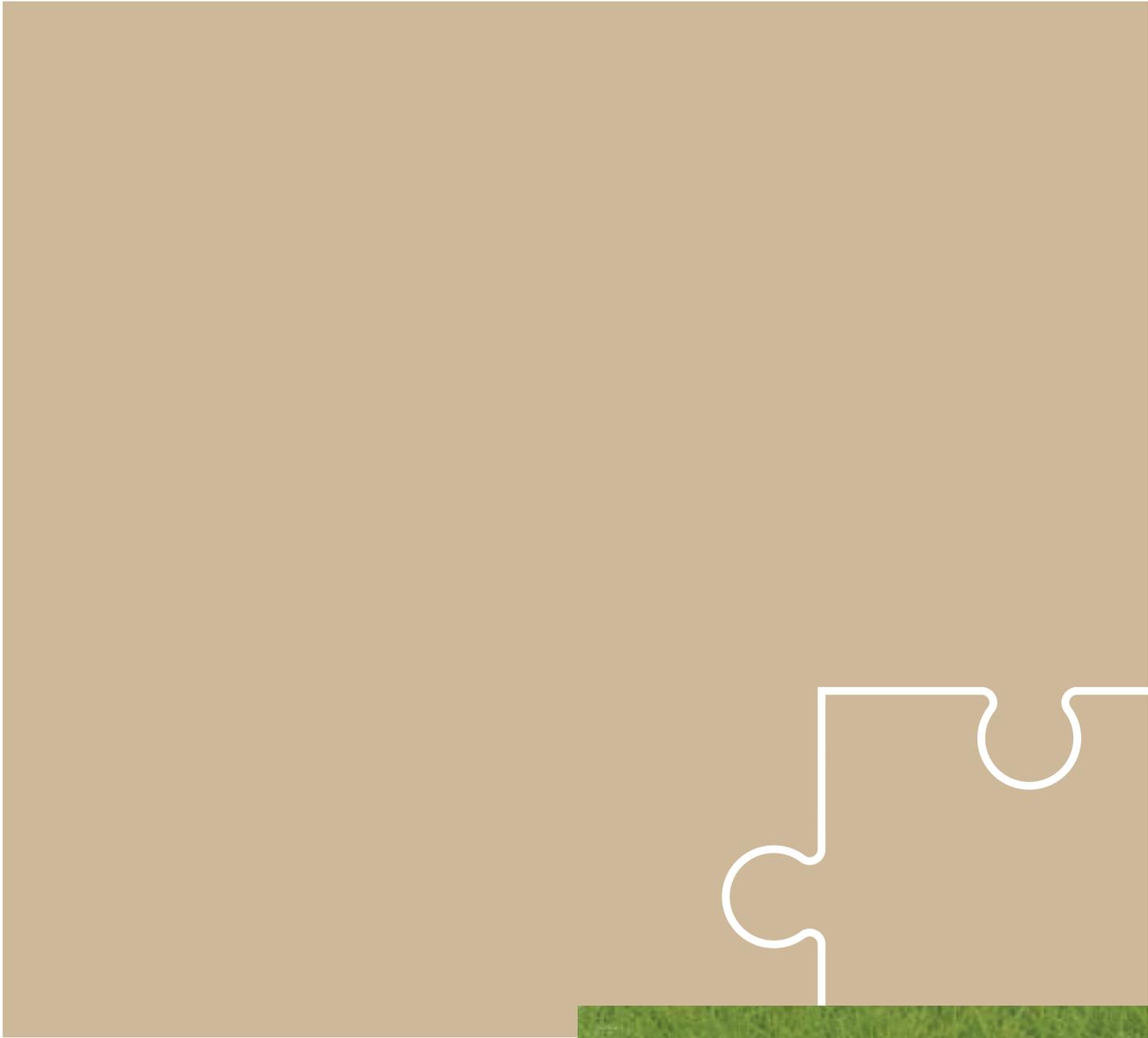
“We could not have done this without the assistance of the Peace II Programme. Many Thanks!”

Dyslexia and Dyspraxia Support on Developing Civic Society – Tackling Social Exclusion Measure 2.9a

Acknowledgements:

The RDC and the RCN wish to acknowledge the support of groups in assisting with the development of this publication including all those who submitted case-study information and those participating in photographs. All photographs contained within this report depict actual examples of projects funded under the EU Peace II Programme by RDC and RCN.





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