

Friends of Sliabh Fuait Development Plan 2019-2024



Our Vision

Sliabh Fuait is a vibrant, attractive and welcoming area with high civic pride where culture, history and heritage is celebrated and preserved.

Our Mission

We realise the potential of Sliabh Fuait in a way which benefits the local community, by raising awareness of the history, beauty and natural resources of the area

Our Values

We will work in the following ways:

- Improve infrastructure and services in the area
- Raise awareness of the history and folklore associated with Sliabh Fuait locally and further afield.
- Protect the environment in Friends of Sliabh Fuait and ensuring the safeguarding of nature and wildlife in the area.
- Improve the quality of life of those living in and around Sliabh Fuait
- Develop and promote Carrickatuke and Sliabh Fuait as a tourist attraction
- Develop strategic contacts, networks and relationships locally and further afield
- Grow and strengthen Friends of Sliabh Fuait as a not-for-profit community organisation

Action Plan-Outcomes

	Outcome (What do we want to achieve?)	Indicators (How will we know we've been successful?)	Evidence (How will we show that we've been successful?)
1	Improve infrastructure and services in the area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reduction in % of people who feel that roads and signage are a problem ● Increase in % of residents who feel they have an influence when it comes to decisions made locally ● A sense of belonging and civic pride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community satisfaction survey ● Photographic and video evidence
2	Raise awareness of the history and folklore associated with Sliabh Fuait locally and further afield.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of cultural or historic events ● Increase in attendance at events ● Engagement with social media posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community satisfaction survey ● Participant feedback ● Attendance lists ● Social Media analytics
3	Protect the environment in Friends of Sliabh Fuait and ensuring the safeguarding of nature and wildlife in the area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number of high quality green spaces/natural assets ● Eradication of litter and illegal dumping ● Increase in number of environmental events and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community satisfaction survey ● Photographic and video evidence ● Attendance lists
4	Improve the quality of life of those living in and around Sliabh Fuait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase in number of people participating in events ● Decrease in number of people reporting that anti-social behaviour is a problem in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community satisfaction survey ● Attendance lists ● Participant feedback ● Volunteering rates
5	Develop and promote Carrickatuke and Sliabh Fuait as a tourist attraction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase in number of people visiting the area ● Increase in number of tourism projects and initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community satisfaction survey ● Attendance lists ● Participant feedback

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteering rates
6	Develop strategic contacts, networks and relationships locally and further afield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase in number of individuals, businesses, agencies and community groups who are willing to engage with us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minutes of meetings ● Photographic evidence
7	Grow and strengthen Friends of Sliabh Fuait as a not-for-profit community organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organisational sustainability ● Community trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual report and accounts ● AGM ● Effective delivery of action plan ● Community satisfaction survey

Action Plan-Actions

Goal 1: Improve infrastructure and services in the area			
No.	Outcome	Actions	Short, medium or long-term goal
1.1	Improve access to Carrickatuke Viewpoint by repairing the road surface and erecting a bilingual sign directing visitors to the viewpoint.	<p>Liaise with Forestry and/or ABC Council</p> <p>Lobby forestry/council to take responsibility for maintenance of road</p> <p>Design an erect a sign guiding visitors to Carrickatuke viewpoint</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p>

1.2	Increase awareness of the historical and cultural significance of the area by producing an information leaflet, through social media campaigns and/or website and by drawing up a map to define where Sliabh Fuait is.	<p>Research information to be included on information leaflet to include geographical area and information on cultural and historical significance of the area</p> <p>Draw up a communications plan</p> <p>Design, print and distribute an information leaflet</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>LT</p> <p>MT</p>
1.3	Revive the use of local townland names in the vernacular by publishing a townland map and erecting townland markers	<p>Research the townland boundaries across the area in conjunction with the Ulster Placenames Society</p> <p>Publish, print and distribute a bilingual map detailing local townland names and their origins and meanings</p> <p>Organise public lectures on the history and origin of our local placenames.</p> <p>Erect bilingual townland markers across the area.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>LT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LT</p>

Goal 2: Raise awareness of the history, language and folklore associated with Sliabh Fuait locally and further afield			
No.	Outcome	Actions	Short, medium or long-term goal
2.1	Raise awareness of the history, language and folklore of the area through an educational outreach programme and youth events	<p>Design a scheme of work to be delivered in local primary schools based on local history, geography and folklore</p> <p>Work in partnership with Cairde Teo to facilitate Irish Language learning in local primary schools</p> <p>Work in partnership with Naíscoil an Chéide to continue to provide an Irish Language summer Camp in Granemore and to begin to provide it in other areas</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>LT</p> <p>ST</p>

2.2	<p>Raise awareness of the history, language and folklore of the area through the revival of traditions and practices</p>	<p>Organise an annual calendar of events to revive Pagan and Celtic festivals such as Samhain, Imbolc, Bealtaine, Lúnasa, Lá an Dreoilín, Summer and Winter Solstice and Blaeberry Sunday</p>	MT
2.3	<p>Raise awareness of the history, language and folklore of the area through an educational programme for adults and inter-generational events</p> <p>http://www.bygonessandbyways.com/folders/customs_and_superstitions/country_cracks.htm</p>	<p>Research and record local history and folklore and publish a series of leaflets and/or book</p> <p>Design an intergenerational history and folklore project where schoolchildren collect stories and historical information from their parents, grandparents and neighbours</p> <p>Organise photographic and artefact exhibitions on topics of local interest e.g. landscape photography, farming methods etc.</p> <p>Organise a calendar of educational workshops for adults on topics such as local folklore, pagan rituals and how they were celebrated, local history e.g. the</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>LT</p> <p>Lt</p> <p>MT</p>

		history of the linen industry in the area, the historical significance of the Fews Forest, farming practices	
2.4	Raise the visibility, status and opportunities to learn and speak the Irish Language in the area	<p>Erect bilingual townland markers across the area.</p> <p>Organise public lectures on the history and origin of our local placenames and surnames</p> <p>Ensure that any of our published material is bilingual</p> <p>Organise Irish language classes for adults</p>	<p>LT</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p>

Goal 3: Protect the Environment of Sliabh Fuait and ensure the safeguarding of nature and wildlife in the area			
No.	Outcome	Actions	Short, medium or long-term goal
3.1.	Eradicate the illegal dumping problem	<p>Highlight the extent of the dumping problem through social media, local press etc.</p> <p>Raise awareness of the environmental impact of plastic waste</p> <p>Lobby council to tackle the problem and to penalise culprits</p> <p>Erect cameras and signage to warn culprits that the area is monitored</p> <p>Organise regular litter picks in conjunction with other local community and sports groups to encourage a sense of civic pride in the area</p> <p>Encourage local residents to Adopt a Spot to keep free from litter</p> <p>Encourage visitors to 'Leave no Trace' and to take all their rubbish home for disposal</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>MT</p>

3.2	Improve knowledge of the native flora and fauna and encourage cultivation of native species	Erect wildlife cameras on Carrickatuke viewpoint and raise awareness of local wildlife and plants through social media Encourage and facilitate the planting of wildflowers to attract bees on private land and on roadside verges etc	MT MT
3.3	Encourage residents and visitors to interact with nature	Organise a calendar of events to encourage both young people and adults to enjoy being out in nature. These will include bushcraft/survival skills, foraging, workshops on wild herbs and their medicinal uses, bird watching, landscape photography, a walking club, a nature scavenger hunt, a gardening club for adults and children e.g. An Tobar CIC.	LT

3.4	Encourage people to be more environmentally friendly	<p>Encourage local residents to buy and use local produce as much as possible by informing them of suppliers through Social Media e.g. Rónán Quinn's honey etc.</p> <p>Reduce the amount of waste going to landfill through the Freecycle page and by becoming part of the Terracycle network.</p> <p>Organise a series of workshops on topics such as repurposing, upcycling, mending clothes and customising</p> <p>Organise swap shops for things like clothes, school uniforms, sporting equipment and toys</p> <p>Sell environmentally friendly products such as shampoo bars, beeswax wrap, bamboo toothbrushes etc</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LT</p>
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Goal 4: Improve the Quality of life of those living in and around Sliabh Fuait			
No.	Outcome	Actions	Short, medium or long-term goal
4.1	Improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of residents and reduce social isolation and loneliness	<p>Plan and organise an annual calendar of events which caters to all ages and interests in line with our ethos. These can include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a vintage tractor show traditional crafts e.g. strawcraft, Carrickmacross lace traditional baking etc e.g jam making Darkness into Light walk Mindfulness and meditation sessions Yoga Céilí Dancing and Set Dancing Traditional music lessons Singing group History classes International event Revival of traditional farming methods (meitheal) Photography course 	LT

Goal 5: Develop and promote Carrickatuke and Sliabh Fuait as a tourist attraction			
No.	Outcome	Actions	Short, medium or long-term goal
5.1	Encourage local residents to spend their leisure time in the area and attract visitors to the area.	<p>Lobby local council to ensure the Sliabh Fuait area is on the tourism development plan</p> <p>Build on existing links in other tourism and educational centres e.g. Navan Fort</p> <p>Erect infographics and install a telescope on Carrickatuke viewpoint</p> <p>Develop a tourism plan for the area e.g. bus tours, educational visits, walking tours, self-guided tours, folklore trail, historic, pagan and religious points of interest, festivals and summer schools</p> <p>Develop and define designated walking and cycling routes</p> <p>Develop a play area for children in keeping with the local environment and heritage e.g. Sliabh Gullion</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>MT</p> <p>LT</p> <p>ST</p> <p>LT</p>

		<p>Develop an area for recreational and social gatherings for individuals and groups</p> <p>Explore the possibility of attaining a dark skies accreditation https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/become-a-dark-sky-place/</p>	<p>ST</p> <p>LT</p>
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Goal 6: Develop strategic contacts, networks and relationships locally and further afield

Friends of Sliabh Fuait has identified the following groups as strategic contacts

No.	Type of Organisation	Name of Organisation
6.1	Sporting Organisations	GAA clubs in Granemore, Ballymacnab, Clady, Newtownhamilton, Keady, Derrynoose, Road Bowls Association, Cycling Groups, Boxing clubs
6.2	Cultural Organisations	Cill Chluana History Group Aonach Mhacha Cairde Teo Ring of Gullion Partnership
6.3	Educational Sector	Primary schools in Granemore, Clady, Foley, Darkley, Keady, Derrynoose, Clea, Lisnadill Secondary Schools in Keady, Armagh and Newtownhamilton
6.4	Community Organisations	Darkley Rural Community Group Corran Community Association Ciaróga an Chéide New Town Together
6.5	Environmental Organisations	Friends of the Callan Callan River Wildlife Group

6.6	Other	Newry Mourne and Down District Council ABC Council Local Businesses Monaghan County Council Land Registration Service Forestry Service Tourism NI Individuals e.g Joe McGleenon Bord Fáilte Live Here Love Here Ordnance Survey Ulster Placenames Society Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme Rural Health Partnership Local farmers and land owners DAERA Ulster Farmers Union
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Goal 7: Grow and strengthen Friends of Sliabh Fuait as a not-for-profit community organisation			
No.	Outcome	Actions	Short, medium or long-term goal
7.1	Friends of Sliabh Fuait has effective governance and organisational systems in place to be sustainable and manage its affairs	<p>Strengthen the role and capacity of committee members</p> <p>Develop a website to enhance communication with community and other stakeholders</p> <p>Implement robust and accountable policies and procedures for managing finances and resources</p> <p>Secure income to deliver on projects and activities through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Devising an annual subscription to Friends of Sliabh Fuait ● Seeking corporate sponsorship ● Charging entrance fees for events ● Fundraising ● Fund Finding ● Developing a social enterprise aspect to the group in selling environmentally friendly products 	ST

