



Date: 11th May 2015

## Welcome to the 67th Edition of Supporting Communities NI E-Biz



### Launch of Community Participation in Planning Project

A new Community Participation in Planning Project aimed at exploring how communities can be more meaningfully involved in shaping public services and local places has been launched.

The project will explore how communities of interest, place, practice and learning can get involved in local area planning and the new power of Community Planning.

The project is a partnership between Ulster University, Community Places, University of Aveiro (Portugal) and Politecnico di Milano (Italy).

The project will help communities, service providers and local authorities across Northern Ireland, Portugal and Italy build stronger relationships and gain a better understanding of the relationship between people and place.

Launching the Project Belfast Lord Mayor, Cllr Arder Carson, said:

*"Today's event is a great opportunity to exchange experience and learning between each of the partner countries taking part. There is much to learn from how things are done elsewhere and I am sure all participants will find this a very valuable opportunity".*

Please contact Community Places (9023 9444) if you would like more information on the project.



*Pictured above are Project Partners with Belfast's Lord Mayor, Arder Carson, at the Launch in the City Hall.*

*Photograph by John Murphy  
(Aurora Photographic Agency)*

## UCIT reaches £50M milestone with loan to Landmark East

*Pictured right - Harry McDaid, CEO, Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) with Richard Heasley, Development Manager of East Belfast Partnership*

The Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) has reached a historic milestone by lending over £50 million into the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise sectors in Northern Ireland since its inception 13 years ago.

UCIT provides affordable loans across these sectors throughout Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland. As a registered charity, all profits generated by UCIT are retained and recycled for the benefit of its clients.

Harry McDaid, chief executive of UCIT commented

*“Last year UCIT made loans totalling £3.7 million across 38 different community projects with the all-Ireland aggregate rising to £5 million. These included community associations, health and social care projects, charities, youth initiatives, sporting organisations and a wide range of other worthy recipients. Realistically, without the support of UCIT, these organisations would not have had access to funding and their investment plans would have been frustrated.”*



One of the most recent companies to benefit from funding is Landmark East, a not-for-profit business developing unused and derelict properties. The company's property portfolio stretches across 12 different sites including George Best's former house, Enler Complex, Bloomfield House, and Avalon House. Landmark East is a subsidiary of the East Belfast Partnership.

UCIT has recently supported Landmark East by providing a £200k bridging loan which has enabled the company to accept funding from Belfast City Council and Tourism NI and proceed with an exciting £774k capital build project at Holywood Arches - the new EastSide Visitor Centre.

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## FREE Volunteer Management Review

**SUMMER OFFER! FREE Volunteer Management Review**

- Would you like a FREE health check to see how you are managing your volunteers?
- Are you an organisation with an annual income of under £100,000?
- Are you based in Belfast, Fermanagh, Newry & Mourne, Armagh, Dungannon, Downpatrick, North Down, Ards, Lisburn, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey, Antrim, Carrickfergus, Ballymena or Larne?
- Would you like to get one step closer to achieving the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard?



Volunteer Now are currently offering a limited number of free health checks to organisations in relation to their volunteer management practice. By using the Investing in Volunteers framework, a member of staff from Volunteer Now will benchmark your organisation against the standard and provide you with a development plan clearly outlining any areas for improvement/gaps in practice and signposting to where you could get help to address them.

You can use your health check to plan your development and improve your volunteer management practice. It also means that, if you wish, you are one step closer to achieving the Investing in Volunteers award. If you choose to address your development plan within six months of a health check, we will offer to assess you for the Award at a reduced rate!

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Sandra Faulkner on 028 9023 2020. If you would like a health check but don't fit the criteria for a free check, please contact David Fitzsimons on 028 9081 8330. For more information on Investing in Volunteers, go to; <http://iiv.investinginvolunteers.org.uk/inyourcountry/iiv-northernireland>

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## Top 30 Technologies for Northern Ireland Charities

*Is your organisation interested in low cost technology tools for your organisation to help with your digital strategy? NICVA's Ian Kelly considers 30 of the top digital tools which could help your organisation move forward and ones which are well within any financial reach.*



Read more on the NICVA website at; [http://www.nicva.org/article/top-30-technologies-northern-ireland-charities?utm\\_source=eNews+subscribers&utm\\_campaign=e51a805284-eNews\\_4\\_May\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3f6979e667-e51a805284-313465361](http://www.nicva.org/article/top-30-technologies-northern-ireland-charities?utm_source=eNews+subscribers&utm_campaign=e51a805284-eNews_4_May_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3f6979e667-e51a805284-313465361)

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## Rural Residents Forum Appeal for Fermanagh Representatives

The Rural Residents Forum meets to identify and articulate issues that affect rural dwellers of all tenures that live in housing estates where there are NIHE properties, and it provides a consultation mechanism for NIHE on all policy, strategy and financial decisions affecting them.



**Rural Community Network**  
SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Rural Residents Forum (RRF) is an integral part of the Housing Executive's Community Involvement Strategy. Two representatives from each of the six counties sit on the RRF and Rural Community Network provides support for the Forum. They currently have a gap for two representatives from Fermanagh on the Rural Residents Forum. If you are an NIHE tenant in a rural community or a resident in an estate where there are NIHE/Housing Association properties then you may be eligible to be a member. Meetings are usually very topical and participative.

The RRF meets a maximum of ten times a year for approximately 3 hours (meetings are usually held in Cookstown). Travel expenses are paid by the Housing Executive for members and lunch is normally provided for those attending.

If you are interested in becoming a member or want to discuss this please contact Teresa in Rural Community Network on 8676 6670 or Email: [teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org](mailto:teresa@ruralcommunitynetwork.org)

# Assembly News



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Social Development Committee

The committee has been considering the Regeneration Bill; minutes of the meetings and the minutes of evidence are available on the Assembly website at; <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/committees/social-development/>

A full list of the Minutes of Evidence for the Social Development Committee is available at; <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/officialreport/minutesofevidence.aspx?&cid=12>

## Assembly Business

At the full meeting of the Assembly held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015, the Minister for Social development Mervyn Storey MLA answered questions relating to Welfare Reform, housing in Enniskillen, urban regeneration budgets, cuts to the voluntary and community sector and Conservative Party manifesto proposals for housing. A full report of the session is available at; <http://data.niassembly.gov.uk/HansardXml/plenary-27-04-2015.pdf> or can be viewed online at; <http://blog.niassembly.gov.uk/>

## Weekly Answers Booklet 2013 / 2014

The Written Answers Booklet (WAB) is no longer be available in PDF format. An electronic version of the Written Answer Book is now available via AIMS at the following link: <http://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/weeklywrittens.aspx>. It provides questions and answers in a similar format to the WAB, i.e. on a weekly basis by department. However, unlike the weekly WAB, it will be updated daily as answers become available and it is also readily searchable for key words, reference numbers or phrases.



Department for Social Development  
Proposals for a New Regulatory Framework for Social Housing Providers in Northern Ireland  
<http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/shrp-regulatory-framework-consultation-document.pdf>  
Closing Date; 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Department for the Environment  
Entertainment Licensing . Report by the Entertainment Licensing Review Group  
[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/consultation\\_cover\\_letter.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/consultation_cover_letter.pdf)  
Closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure  
Consultation on a revised Community Festivals Fund Policy and Guidance Framework  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommunityFestivalFundConsultation>  
Closing date: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Consultation on the Interim Report of the Review of the Implementation of the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011  
<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/14.15.210-interim-report-of-the-review-of-the-implementation-of-the-welfare-of-animals-act-ni-2011.pdf>  
Closing Date: 21st May 2015



## Co-Design and Co-Production

17th June 2015 - 9:30am to 12:30pm



**CollaborationNI**

working together, stronger together

***Does this new form of partnership hold the key to radically change how public services are delivered in Northern Ireland?***

Co-Design and Co-Production are concepts that are growing in profile. They will require embracing and adapting an approach that shifts beyond engagement and places citizens at the centre of the design and delivery of key services. The end result, it creates, fosters and leverages collective ownership.

***Does this new form of partnership hold the key to radically change how public services are delivered in Northern Ireland?***

The policy symposium jointly facilitated by CollaborationNI and Volunteer Now, will provide an opportunity to learn from models of good practice in England and Wales and to piece together the projects and work that has been achieved within Northern Ireland.

For more information and to book a place, go to;

<http://collaborationni.nicva.org/event/co-design-and-co-production>

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## ***‘Engaging Heritage with Community Planning’***

27<sup>th</sup> May 2015 from 9.30am to 1.00pm

Location: 174 Trust,  
Duncairn Avenue  
Belfast  
BT14 6BP



Under Local Government Reform, the 11 new District Councils have been given a wide range of powers, including a statutory duty to deliver and implement Community Planning.

This seminar will feature a panel of speakers who will discuss the opportunities for the heritage sector, as well as information on how organisations can become involved in the new community-led planning system.

### **Speakers include...**

John Kelpie, Derry and Strabane District Council  
Colm Bradley, Community Places

For more information and to book a place, go to;

<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/events/Engaging-Heritage-with-Community-Planning>

## Adult Learners' Week Event

Tuesday, 16th June 2015 - 10.00am to 1.30pm  
Venue: NICVA, 61 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast



The Forum for Adult Learning NI (FALNI) invites you to a half-day seminar on Tuesday, 16th June to celebrate Adult Learners' Week and to reflect on the current state of adult learning in Northern Ireland and ways to move forward.

The past few years have been difficult and the community/voluntary sector has been particularly badly hit by the closure of organisations and the loss of posts and projects. Resilience is needed and a chance to regroup and identify effective ways forward, particularly working in collaboration.

Find out more and book your place via the NICVA website at; [http://www.nicva.org/event/adult-learners-week-event?utm\\_source=eNews+subscribers&utm\\_campaign=e51a805284-eNews\\_4\\_May\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3f6979e667-e51a805284-313465361](http://www.nicva.org/event/adult-learners-week-event?utm_source=eNews+subscribers&utm_campaign=e51a805284-eNews_4_May_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3f6979e667-e51a805284-313465361)

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## Northern Ireland LGB&T Inclusion Week 'Come and walk in my shoes'

Thursday, 14th May 2015 - 6.00pm to 8.00pm  
Venue: RADAR Centre, Sydenham Business Park, Belfast

Across Northern Ireland thousands of LGB&T young people challenge prejudice by simply walking out their front door and by doing so they challenge society to promote their inclusion.

As part of LGB&T Awareness Week some of these young people are inviting you to walk in their shoes just for one night. The CYPSP LGBT Sub-Group are hosting this exciting and challenging interactive workshop as part of NI LGBT Inclusion Week 2015.

The event is open to anyone working with children and young people.

For more information visit the CYPSP website at [http://www.cypsp.org/northern-ireland-lgbt-inclusion-week-2015-2/?utm\\_source=eNews%20subscribers&utm\\_campaign=e51a805284-eNews\\_4\\_May\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_3f6979e667-e51a805284-313465361](http://www.cypsp.org/northern-ireland-lgbt-inclusion-week-2015-2/?utm_source=eNews%20subscribers&utm_campaign=e51a805284-eNews_4_May_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3f6979e667-e51a805284-313465361) or email: [alison.foster@hscni.net](mailto:alison.foster@hscni.net).



# TRAINING

## Could you Advise a Client About Discrimination?

Equality Commission

FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Equality Commission for NI provide free basic legal training for advisory organisations, their staff and volunteers.

They provide a basic overview of the equality law and aim to help you recognise unlawful discrimination, make a complaint and use the Commission's referral system - what their legal team can do for you, how they decide which cases to support - introduction to equality law - how Industrial Tribunals work and what to expect - find out if discrimination has occurred and what the remedies are.

If you are interested in setting up a legal training session for your organisation, please contact [mkitson@equalityni.org](mailto:mkitson@equalityni.org).

Find out more about the Equality Commissions services to advisors via their website at; <http://www.equalityni.org/Employers-Service-Providers/Training>

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## Publications

**Scope** <sup>NI</sup>

### New Issue of Scope Magazine

The April edition of NICVA's social policy magazine, Scope, is out now. Articles this month include a look at the demolition of community education, the plastic bag levy, preserving heritage, welfare reform, abortion in Northern Ireland and modern slavery.

Subscribe to Scope via the website at; <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=5838488b4625db6430a7f34bb&id=8f43a7d00f&e=fd98823503>

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## Reform Inform- Newsletter on the progress of local government reform

The department of the Environment has published a further newsletter on local government reform. The September issue details capacity building for new councillors and regulations and statutory guidance.

The latest edition can be accessed at;

[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/reform\\_newsroom](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/reform_newsroom)



## NIEL EU Matters February 2015

NI Environment Link's Monthly look at European Environmental News is available at:  
<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/NIEL-EU-Matters-February-2015.pdf>



## NIEL Assembly News

Keep up to date with all the environment related news and events taking place at Stormont. To see the main agenda items to be discussed this week at the Assembly and view NIEL's monthly review of the outcome of various Statements, Debates and Questions on environmental issues go to:  
<http://www.nienvironmentlink.org/news/assembly-news/>

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## National Energy Action NI

The latest edition of the newsletter from National Energy Action NI has just been published. This newsletter is sponsored by the Public Health Agency through the Northern Exposure project.

It will provide you with current programmes of work aimed at providing advice or support to householders as well as up to date fuel poverty policy information.



*Campaigning for Warm Homes*

All editions of our newsletter can be located on the NEA NI website using the link below:  
<http://www.nea.org.uk/nea-northern-ireland/see-us-in-action/NEA+NI+Newsletter>

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## The Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin October - December 2014 is released

A report entitled Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin October - December 2014 was published on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 by the Department for Social Development (DSD)

The Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin is produced each quarter by the Analytical Services Unit of DSD. This Bulletin contains statistics on homelessness, the Residential Property Price Index and new National House Building Council (NHBC) registered dwellings sales and prices.

### Key facts include:

- ❑ In total, 4,339 households presented as homeless to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive during October to December 2014. This is a decrease of 964 (18%) from the previous quarter. The reason for homelessness category with the highest number of presenters (860) was those citing a sharing breakdown or family dispute.
- ❑ The number of households accepted by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive as full duty applicants for the quarter October to December 2014 was 2,142, a decrease of 26% compared to the previous quarter. The reason categories with the highest proportion of full duty applicants were those citing accommodation not reasonable (33%) and those citing a sharing breakdown or family dispute (16%). Of those households accepted as full duty applicants during the quarter 230 were discharged.
- ❑ During the quarter ending September 2014, 328 (revised figures) new National House Building Council (NHBC) registered dwellings were sold, an increase of 21% on the same period in 2013.
- ❑ The average price of NHBC-registered new dwellings for the quarter ending September 2014 was £149,000 which is an increase of 1% on the previous quarter (£146,900).

Section 3 of the Quarterly Housing Bulletin includes information on the Residential Property Price Index that was released by Land and Property Services in February 2015.

- ❑ Between Quarter 3 (July - September) 2014 and Quarter 4 (October - December) 2014 residential property prices increased by 1%.
- ❑ Between Quarter 4 2013 and Quarter 4 2014 residential property prices increased by 8%.
- ❑ Residential property prices are now 1% lower than Quarter 1 2005, and just under half of the peak value of the housing market in Quarter 3 2007.
- ❑ During the fourth quarter of 2014 there were almost 5,300 verified residential property sales, bringing the total sales in 2014 to more than 20,200. This represents a 22% increase on the number sold in 2013, and is the highest annual number of sales since 2007.



# FUNDING

## Money Saving Expert (MSE) Charity Open to Applications

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for self help groups and other innovative projects that will help educate people about money/debt/consumer issues. Projects must assist people to improve their quality of life through knowledge and understanding of how to manage and take control of their own financial situation. Projects must also provide outcomes that will benefit their wider communities.



Not-for-profit constituted groups/organisations within the UK that have an annual income of less than £500,000 and whose unrestricted reserves are less than six months of their running costs are eligible to apply.

**Applications are being accepted until 31st May 2015.** Only the first 40 complete applications that meet the criteria will be considered by the Panel.

For further information visit: <https://www.msecharity.com/how-to-apply.aspx>

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## Volunteering Small Grants Programme

Limavady Community Development Initiative, as lead partner for the Association of Independent Volunteer Centres (AIVC), has been appointed by the Department for Social Development (DSD) as the Intermediary Funding Body for the Volunteering Small Grants Programme for Northern Ireland.

Grants of between £200 and £1,200 are available to not-for-profit organisations with an annual income less than £100,000 a year for costs including meeting the volunteer out-of-pocket expenses of an organisation and providing travel or equipment costs for volunteers.

Applicants must demonstrate how their proposal delivers on at least one of the following programme outcomes:

- Objective 1** -Increase volunteer activity by groups under-represented in the volunteering population, including people not in paid work
- Objective 2** -Innovation - increasing diversity and numbers
- Objective 3** -Increase in numbers of new volunteers
- Objective 4** -New approaches to involvement of volunteers



**The deadline for applications is on Friday 29th May 2015 (12 noon).**

For further information: [www.aivcni.co.uk](http://www.aivcni.co.uk)  
Email: [info@aivcni.co.uk](mailto:info@aivcni.co.uk), 028 777 64976

# Lloyds Bank Foundation for NI 30th Anniversary Charity Achievement Awards

The Lloyds Bank Foundation for Northern Ireland has launched the new Charity Achievement Awards as part of its 30th anniversary celebrations. A total prize fund of £86,000 will be awarded as unrestricted grants of between £1000 - £2000 to outstanding charities funded by the Foundations from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands, judged against six categories.

## Eligibility

Charities eligible to apply must have a turnover under £1m and be in receipt of an active grant from the Lloyds Bank Foundations for England and Wales, Northern Ireland or the Channel Islands on the dates outlined in these eligibility guidelines

[www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/about-us/charityachievementawards](http://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/about-us/charityachievementawards)

Charities will nominate themselves within their region marking achievement against the following categories:

- ◆ Outstanding Impact
- ◆ Against The Odds
- ◆ Valuing Volunteers
- ◆ Championing Change
- ◆ Unsung Hero
- ◆ Enterprising Collaboration



An overall prize will also be given for the Foundations Charity of the Year award which will be selected from all applicants.

## How to Apply

The awards are now open for entry and the online form can be accessed at the following link: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/charityachievementawards/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/charityachievementawards/)

Further information can be found on the Lloyds Bank Foundation website or by contacting: [achievementawards@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk](mailto:achievementawards@lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk)

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# Parks for People

Parks for People is for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK. You can apply for a grant from £100,000 to £5million.

## Scheme details

The difference they want to make

Parks for people projects need to contribute towards the ten outcomes listed below.

## Outcomes for heritage:

With their investment, heritage will be:

- Better managed
- In better condition
- Better interpreted and explained
- Identified/recorded

## Outcomes for people:

With their investment, people will have:

- Developed skills
- Learnt about heritage
- Volunteered time

## Outcomes for communities:

With their investment:

- Your local area/community will be a better place to live, work or visit
- Environmental impacts will be reduced
- More people and a wider range of people will have engaged with heritage

The heritage of a park or cemetery includes many different things from the past that we value and want to pass on to future generations, for example:

- The landscape design layout
- Surviving or lost historic features or buildings;
- Natural heritage including priority habitats and species
- Archaeological sites, earthworks or features from an earlier phase of design
- Collections of plants, trees, objects or documents
- Cultural traditions such as stories, festivals, fairs and crafts
- People's memories and experiences of the park or cemetery



- The history associated with individual features such as memorials or veteran trees.

## How to apply

Parks for People applications go through a two-round process. This is so that you can apply at an early stage of planning your project and get an idea of whether you have a good chance of getting a grant before you send your proposals in greater detail.

At the first and second round, they assess your application in three months, and then it goes to the next decision meeting.

Decisions are made twice a year. You can submit a first-round or second-round application for either meeting.

Application forms and all supporting documents need to have been received by HLF no later than the following dates:

We must receive your first-round application and all supporting documents by 12pm on:

**1st September for a decision in December**  
**29th February for a decision in June**

The same deadlines apply to second-round applications and supporting documents. These must be received up to 26 months after the first-round decision.

Una Duffy / Jamie Curran, Development Officer  
Heritage Lottery Fund (Northern Ireland),  
51-53 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8FE

Telephone: 028 9031 0120  
Email: [northernireland@hlf.org.uk](mailto:northernireland@hlf.org.uk),