

**fermanagh**

**people**

**places**

**philanthropy**



### The Fermanagh Trust...

was established in 1995 as a charity supporting community & social development in County Fermanagh and its natural hinterlands. The Trust was established through a major endowment given by the Barrow Cadbury Trust.

### The Fermanagh Trust...

has a mission statement “to build the first county-wide Community Foundation in Ireland, North or South, that will support charitable endeavour, citizenship and peace-building at local level. At its core will be the key principles of sustainability, social responsibility and partnership. It will be an exemplar for others to follow in support of positive local social change”.

### The Fermanagh Trust...

provides grant aid, mentoring, research, advice, support and information to voluntary and community organisations in Co Fermanagh. It also informs policy development at local and regional level. Underpinning this is the building of its community foundation endowment, essentially a savings fund for the county, to provide long-term grant aid to the local community.

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# the fermanagh trust

### The Fermanagh Trust...

is led by five experienced trustees. Trustees have extensive knowledge of the county and its community activities, and are highly committed to the social development of Fermanagh and all its people. The trustees are: Joanna McVey (Chair), Jim Ledwith (Convenor), Kathleen Richey (Secretary), Paddy Mullarkey and Frank McManus.

### The Fermanagh Trust...

currently employs three members of staff: a Director, a Finance Officer and an Administrator (both part-time).



The Fermanagh Trust is committed to delivering positive social change to all people living in Co Fermanagh.

Fermanagh is unique in many ways. It is a scenic county with many natural assets, and is dominated by Lough Erne, one of Ireland's major waterways. The majority of Fermanagh's residents live in rural areas, and the network of villages and townland communities has produced a flourishing community rich in heritage and culture.

The county's peripheral location, along with its relatively small size and population, has led to the development of a strong sense of identity and place for its people. Fermanagh has the only county-wide local authority in Northern Ireland, and this has also contributed to the distinctiveness of character and place. Fermanagh's agricultural and manufacturing sectors are in decline, but tourism and new technologies are playing increasingly important roles in the economic development of the area.

### **Celebrating Fermanagh's historical families**

The McManus Clan organised its first gathering with support from the Trust, to promote aspects of the cultural history of the county and its people. Funding has also enabled the Clan to set up a bursary fund to support original research work on any aspect of Fermanagh or the wider Clogher Diocese area. A Clan memorial was erected at Belle Isle and two books on McManus history have been published.

# celebrating fermanagh

### **Helping communities find ways of sustaining themselves**

In 2003, the Inish Rath island community on Upper Lough Erne was struggling to survive. Through the mentoring programme, the community – Hare Krishna devotees - undertook a review of all of its activities. Inish Rath now has a 5-year plan, encompassing social, economic and spiritual development for the islanders, environmental management and a programme of holistic and eco-tourism events.

### **Enabling communities to build knowledge together**

The Belcoo and District Historical Society promotes the importance of local history to create a shared sense of place for all members of the community. 'The Border Paper' is a cross-border project examining the impact that heritage has had on regenerating the Belcoo and Blacklion areas. Activities as part of the project, which have been

supported by the Fermanagh Trust, include education workshops for schools and visiting guest speakers. The Society is keen to promote the benefits of heritage on health through encouraging people to get out and about in their locality to explore historical and cultural sites. 'The Border Paper' also includes visits to major political institutions in a bid to develop understanding of the decisions taken there and their impact at the local level.

### **Maintaining rural Fermanagh traditions**

In 1995, a co-operative of 13 farmers on Upper Lough Erne needed to purchase a new cot (boat) for the transportation of livestock. Their livelihoods depended upon access to a cot to farm over 1,000 acres of land on the lough's islands. Part of the funding had been raised from a number of sources but the Trust was able to make up the crucial balance, and so contributed towards sustaining an important part of agricultural life in Fermanagh.



## FERMANAGH FACTS AND FIGURES

- Fermanagh borders Tyrone in Northern Ireland and four of the five border counties in the Republic - Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal
- Fermanagh is virtually equidistant between Belfast and Dublin, with each being 85-90 miles away
- The population of Fermanagh was over 57,500 in 2004
- Enniskillen is the county town and has a population of just over 13,500 (2001)
- In the 2001 Census 55.6% of Fermanagh's population stated that they are Catholic, 36.1% Protestant and other Christians, 0.2% were of other religious beliefs with 8.1% having no religion/not stating

# making a difference

The ethos of the Fermanagh Trust has been to be a 'force for good' for the county. It has tried to achieve this by supporting activities at a grass-roots level. The Trust's priorities have and continue to be those projects which would not otherwise be funded, as are seen by other funders to perhaps be too small-scale, too impractical, too low profile or even too sensitive.

The Trust believes it best adds value to the county by providing many small-scale 'seedling' grants, rather than fewer large-scale awards. In many cases, Fermanagh Trust has been only one of a number of funders of a major project. However, it is often one of the first to commit support and therefore has been pivotal in generating further grant aid for larger-scale projects in the county.

Small-scale grant aid has also allowed the Trust to support a greater number of local communities, and thus positively affect the lives of more of Fermanagh's people.

## **Improving the quality of life in isolated areas**

Until 1995, Tullyvoge townland on the Fermanagh / Donegal border was without mains water. Fermanagh Trust provided grant aid which proved to be the catalyst for attracting major funding for this critical infrastructure project. In 2000, the Trust worked with local authorities on both sides of the border to get a small stretch of road resurfaced, and so re-opened.

Tullyvoge has become a model in Northern Ireland for isolated rural communities struggling to access basic services.

## **Raising the standard of community facilities**

Little Treasures Community Playgroup in Kinawley was struggling to provide services to pre-school children with poor access and toilet facilities, and no kitchen. Working with a mentor in 2003/04 led to accessing funding to completely renovate the building. As a result of the renovation, capacity at the playgroup has increased and in 2004 Irish President Mary McAleese officially opened the new facilities.

## **Helping to kick start major projects**

In 2000, Fermanagh Trust supported the purchase four derelict houses in Sallyswood, Irvinestown. These houses were transformed into a dynamic new building - the ARC Healthy Living Centre. ARC provides

a holistic approach to health care addressing physical, psychological, social, educational, environmental and economic issues. The centre ensures accessibility of services through links to rural transport initiatives and childcare provision. A range of health and education activities and services now operate from the ARC Centre including drug, alcohol, sexual health, women's and children's support services. A range of arts and adult education classes also take place at the centre.

## **Helping others to reach those most in need**

The St Vincent de Paul Centre in Enniskillen provides a range of emergency response services to Fermanagh families facing economic hardship. In 1999, a Trust mentor helped secure funding to renovate new premises, resulting in a dedicated retail shop with storage, meeting, training and office spaces. The new base enabled St Vincent de Paul to work with more people throughout the county, at a time when demand for their services was at an all-time high.



## Providing a voice for county-wide issues

In 2002, the Department of Education wanted to introduce more free pre-school places in primary schools. There was widespread concern that this would undermine the extensive cross-community playgroup provision in Fermanagh, by re-segregating children in mostly single-identity schools. A successful campaign was made to the Department by many of the county's cross-community playgroups, facilitated by The Fermanagh Trust.

## FERMANAGH TRUST'S GRANT AID

- Over £500,000 has been awarded in support by the Fermanagh Trust since 1995
- Grants have varied in size from £100 to £7,500
- More than 200 community projects in Fermanagh have been financially supported through the grants programme
- Short-term loans have been provided to local community organisations, often to help with their cash flow in between receipt of major grant awards from government agencies. Without this financial assistance, a number of these organisations would not have been able to subsequently deliver the vast range of projects to Fermanagh communities.

The Fermanagh Trust undertakes a number of projects directly, to deliver resources and services on a county-wide basis but also to contribute towards its own sustainability and growth. Income generation is critical in order to maintain the endowment fund – Fermanagh’s ‘piggybank’ for long-term community funding.

### **Providing leadership and encouraging sharing resources**

The Centre is the Fermanagh Trust’s most ambitious project to date. By Autumn 2006, a purpose-built community resource centre will be established in Enniskillen’s Broadmeadow area. As well as housing the Trust offices, the centre will offer affordable office and meeting room space for local community and voluntary organisations, in a safe and neutral venue. It will also provide a focus for reconciliation, facilitate community innovation, stimulate local development and provide shared resources and support for Fermanagh’s not-for-profit sector.

### **Encouraging technology and virtual communities**

fermanagh.info is a website project run by Fermanagh Trust Initiatives. It provides a single source of information, events and happenings for the county’s voluntary and community sectors. The website encourages collective working, provides a valuable source of relevant information and enables

small community organisations to reduce costs and increase efficiency through shared IT resources. The project has facilitated the installation of PC’s throughout the county and enabled a number of organisations to establish a web presence.

### **Building local capacity through training**

The Trust has long recognised that the geographical remoteness of the county from major urban centres means that access to training and education for local community and voluntary organisations and individuals interested in community development is severely limited. Over the last 10 years, Fermanagh Trust has provided training in negotiation, facilitation, conflict management, funding, creativity, leadership and technology. It has also run workshops on subjects as diverse as sustainability, anti-sectarianism, disability, community mentoring and criminal justice.

### **Delivering quality community consultancy**

The Fermanagh Trust undertakes a variety of consultancy work. This consultancy is often with or for

organisations who share its vision of community development, and since 2002 the Trust has been an Associate Consultant to Diversity Challenges, a community relations project. Consultancy work is also undertaken with those whom the Trust might not otherwise come into contact with, such as large businesses. The Fermanagh Trust is currently exploring several models for community-based training.

### **Working with businesses to invest in local communities**

The Trust is working with wind farm companies, to try to establish community funds linked to business presence. Such funds can provide a positive legacy for local areas where farms are established, ensuring that the businesses considers the impact of and benefits for the immediate community by demonstrating responsible corporate behaviour.

# social enterprise



## FERMANAGH TRUST'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

- More than 1,000 people have benefited from training and workshops provided by the Trust
- Personal Computers have been installed on behalf of 40 local community groups
- Training and computer upgrades have been provided to a further 12 organisations
- The Centre in Ennsikillen is being built at a cost of around £800,000

One of Fermanagh Trust's greatest resources is the extensive and collective knowledge that it can draw on of the county's community activities. This knowledge has enabled the Trust to bring organisations from different cultural backgrounds together. Brokering localised deals has made a major contribution to community relations in the county, and has enabled community groups - many single identity - to create new alliances, work together towards common goals, share resources and jointly bid for funding by demonstrating partnership and reconciliation.

that they can share with the community group, and provide support in a way that funding alone cannot do. They can build confidence, inspire and enthuse, generate commitment, share expertise, encourage measured risk-taking and build capacity.

### **Reducing isolation in rural communities**

Until 2001, the remote border village of Magheraveely was without any community facilities. The Fermanagh Trust supported the purchase of a portacabin for community use.

### **Providing the spark for new activities**

Churchill Community Development Association was formed in 1999, and began the task of undertaking community development activities in an area where little had happened. Working with a mentor, the group obtained funding, put together an annual plan and kick started a transformation in community activity in the area. From small beginnings, the Association created a snowball effect of momentum and now has a thriving network of social and development groups for young people and women, as well as walking, local history, agricultural, tourism and heritage activities.

# growing communities

The support of the Trust in local communities has often been a catalyst for growth. A number of projects have resulted in major community development in a particular geographic area, leading to a plethora of local social, community, and sometimes economic and environmental activity.

The community mentoring programme matches community and voluntary groups with individuals from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Mentors bring with them a range of relevant skills

This provided a meeting place, brought people together and has reduced isolation, particularly amongst the elderly. The Sunshine Club, an organisation supporting the village's older residents, now has a thriving programme of activities. Magheraveely Community Association is networking with other isolated communities, has developed rural transport links and taken part in an online project.

### **A catalyst for change in urban estates**

Drumgallon, a group of housing estates on the outskirts of Enniskillen, has undergone a transformation. It was plagued by anti-social behaviour and had a reputation as being one of the worst areas in the county to live. In 1998, a Trust mentor began working with Drumgallon's Community Association to try to find ways of tackling the problems. A youth project was developed, and was so successful that a range of other activities followed. There is now a

waiting list for housing, a well-attended youth club, support services for elderly residents and a flourishing art group.

### Supporting local innovation

Tamlaght Women's Institute built a new centre for the village and its community in 2000. This was a ground-breaking project, as it became the only WI resource centre in Northern Ireland outside of Belfast. As well as providing a base for the local WI, the resource centre provides an extensive programme of adult education classes for women from across the county. The centre also hosts small conferences. The Trust provided a mentor to work with the WI on the technical aspects of the building project. More recently, the Trust has supported the development of a social economy catering project at the centre.

### A springboard for communities

Ardess Development Association and Ardess Historical Society were brought together by the Fermanagh Trust. Supported by a small grant, the groups together renovated the Famine Graveyard at Ardess in 1998, in a practical project which genuinely united the whole community. This acted as a springboard for further developments. A range of environmental improvements were made several years later, and 2003 the Association began to work with a Trust mentor on the Kiltierney Deer Park project. This year, renovation will begin on the West Walls of this unique archaeological site, and public access has been secured for the future. The Trust has also supported a Mother and Toddler group in Ardess.



### FERMANAGH TRUST'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

- Over 60 community organisations in Fermanagh have received support through the Trust's mentoring programme
- More than 30 local people from the private, public and voluntary sectors have acted as Community mentors
- Mentoring activities have included fundraising, technical advice, setting up management procedures and systems, IT support and providing encouragement and generating enthusiasm
- Over 2,000 mentoring hours have been provided to community organisations by the Fermanagh Trust - the equivalent of a full-time employee for more than a year





# a community legacy

## Barrow Cadbury Trust

In 1995, after a decade of funding community organisations in Fermanagh, the Barrow Cadbury Trust decided that it was time to establish a local independent organisation that could offer grant aid. After considerable research, Barrow Cadbury appointed four local trustees, all with an in-depth knowledge of and passion for the county. There was also a deliberately chosen mix of gender and community background.

In an unprecedented move, Barrow Cadbury gave £500,000 as an endowment for Fermanagh, to be administered by the newly appointed Trustees. They also gave £50,000 per year for 5 years in grant aid, in order to give the endowment time to grow. This was all given with 'no strings attached' and created the first county-wide community foundation in Ireland, either North or South.

## Greg Turley Bursary Awards

The death of local teacher, sports coach and community leader Greg Turley in 1999 created a deep sense of loss amongst many in Fermanagh's community, to whom he'd been inspirational. The Greg Turley Bursary Awards were created as a result of donations from individuals and organisations throughout the county and beyond. The awards scheme supports young people by offering financial assistance, and focuses on areas that Greg was passionate about - sport, music, drama and community service. To date eleven young people have received awards. The Fermanagh Trust is responsible for overseeing the bursary scheme.

## Fisher Foundation

The Fisher Foundation was established by Fisher Engineering as a permanent memorial to the lives of Bertie, Mark and Emma Fisher who were killed in an air accident in 2001. The Foundation commemorates the lives of Bertie and Mark through their interest in rallying, and Emma's through her commitment to Christian work overseas. The Foundation provides financial assistance for improving safety standards at rally events, and to young rally drivers to develop safe driving skills. It also supports local individuals to undertake voluntary work overseas through The Leprosy Mission, Trócaire and the Church Missionary Society Ireland. The Fermanagh Trust administers the Foundation on behalf of Fisher Engineering.

## Joan Trimble Awards

The Joan Trimble Awards were created to celebrate the life of the late Fermanagh-born pianist and composer. Although she spent much of her life in London, Joan regularly visited Enniskillen and was the Chairman of the



family company, William Trimble Ltd, until her death in 2000, aged 85. She performed and composed throughout her life, and a CD of some of her best-known compositions was launched in 1999. The awards scheme reflects Joan's deep sense of commitment to the county and her love of the arts, by supporting youth and school based arts projects in Fermanagh. The Trust is responsible for overseeing the awards scheme.

## Killesher and Cleenish Community Care Association

Killesher and Cleenish Community Care Association (KCCCA) was formed in 1989. It was established to bring together the two parishes and the two main community traditions, to work together for the benefit of the area. Since its inception, KCCCA has made a significant contribution towards life in the south west of the county by making donations to local health care and community needs, providing a range of education classes, courses and information, and by working as a pressure group to raise issues of interest on behalf of the people in the area. The Association's most ambitious project was to send a local man with cerebral palsy to Hungary for 6 weeks of conductive education therapy. The trip played a major role in transforming his life.

In 2004, the Fermanagh Trust challenged KCCCA to establish a fund to support the people and communities in the parishes of Killesher and Cleenish for decades to come. This involves KCCCA raising £15,000 over a 3 year period, which would then be matched by the Trust, creating an initial fund of £30,000. This community fund will be grown to ensure lasting benefit. This exciting collaboration, which establishes a long-term fund for a community group, is the first of its type in Ireland, either North or South.

### FERMANAGH TRUST'S NAMED FUNDS

- The first Greg Turley Bursary was amde in 2002 and since then nearly £9,000 has been given by the fund to support young people in Fermanagh
- Since being established in 2002, the Fisher Foundation has awarded over £90,000 in grant aid towards rally safety and people undertaking voluntary service overseas
- Over £4,500 has been given since 2002 towards the support of the arts for children and young people in Fermanagh through the Joan Trimble Awards

Conflict in Northern Ireland has inevitably shaped community development in Fermanagh. The 'Troubles' increased polarisation between communities, and created divisions and tensions. Road closures in border areas had a profound effect on the local economy and increased feelings of isolation for many rural communities.

Fermanagh people, like others throughout Northern Ireland, have suffered as a result of the conflict. The Remembrance Day bomb in Enniskillen in 1987 deeply affected the local community, and thrust the county onto the international stage and into the media spotlight.

***“The work of the  
Fermanagh Trust,  
in often difficult circumstances,  
continues to have the support  
of communities and individuals  
from all backgrounds”***

*(Sam Foster, Ulster Unionist Party)*

# peace-building and citizenship

Community development has been viewed differently by Fermanagh's two main traditions. The 1998 'The Way it Is!' report (into community development and community relations in the county), found that community activity is stronger in 'Catholic' areas than in 'Protestant' areas, and this is reflected in the difference of ethos between the two communities.

Cross-community and cross-border development activities are playing a major role in building trust between communities. Partnership working between community groups and encouraging wider participation is at the cornerstone of Fermanagh Trust's work.

## **Addressing difficult community issues**

The Enniskillen Cultural Expression in Public Spaces Working Group was formed to address the issue of flags and emblems within some of Enniskillen's housing estates. Supported and facilitated by the Fermanagh Trust, the Working Group brought together residents from Coleshill, Cornagrade and Kilmacormick, local politicians, and representatives from a range of public bodies, statutory agencies, churches and local businesses. The group engaged in considerable dialogue and consultation with the local community. The result was a seminal report published in 2004, which attempts to understand the local context of flags and emblems, along with recommendations to move towards a position of positive cultural expression for the residents of Enniskillen.

## Bringing communities together

The Letterbreen and Mullaghduin Partnership (LAMP) was formed to bring together four different organisations from the area, in a bid to develop positive community relations and achieve common goals. The Methodist Church, Church of Ireland, Letterbreen Development Association and Mullaghduin Community Association formed a partnership under the guidance of a Trust mentor. LAMP began by holding a community festival in 2003. The success of this has led to a wide range of activities throughout the area including another festival, children's parties and cross-community carol services at Christmas.

## Raising the profile of women

County-wide organisation Women in Agriculture have run two major programmes supporting farm women and their families. 'Branching Out' and 'Rooting for Business' have both been funded through EU Peace and Reconciliation programmes. Projects have included intergenerational themes to build an understanding about rural and agricultural issues, a rural leadership programme, country market and farm business initiatives, personal development and health programmes. The Fermanagh Trust has supported Women in Agriculture through both its mentoring scheme and financial support.

## Creating opportunities to share celebrations

Enniskillen hosted a unique St Patrick's Day Parade in 2004. For the first time ever, bands from the Protestant community participated in the parade. The Fermanagh Trust played a major role in helping the bands to overcome difficulties associated with the parade. Many of the bands had previously taken part in St Patrick's Day parades south of the border, but had never performed in their own county. The result was Fermanagh's first cross-community St Patrick's Day parade, a major step forward in further strengthening community relations in the county between the two main traditions.

*"Through their independent grant aid, community mentoring, networking activities and innovative research, Fermanagh Trust has helped peace-building and the essential work of community relationships and recognition of difference"*

*(Gerry McHugh, Sinn Féin)*

## FERMANAGH TRUST'S RESEARCH

Since 1998, the Trust has undertaken 3 major research projects:

- 'The Way It Is!' - in collaboration with the Fermanagh Partnership - this was a comprehensive review of community development and community relations in Fermanagh.
- 'Flags and Emblems' - a study into symbols, flags and emblems in a group of housing estates in Enniskillen.
- Pre-School Education - a detailed study of the county's cross-community playgroup provision.

**This review identified 10 factors believed to have played a major role in the success of the Fermanagh Trust. These success factors are interrelated and interdependent.**

# fermanagh: a model?

## **Local Knowledge**

An in-depth knowledge of Fermanagh and its communities has allowed the Trust to remain close to grass roots organisations and projects. It has enabled it to build trust, encourage collaboration, build economies of scale and critical mass and become a 'resident expert' on local community and social issues.

## **Credibility**

Having credibility with all its stakeholders, from donors and the Fermanagh public to local politicians, from major funders to community leaders, has enabled the Trust to gain commitment for its activities from all sides of the community. The Trust ensured from the outset that all aspects of its work were even-handed, and its track record has demonstrated an inclusive approach. A clear and coherent strategy has supported the development of its work.

## **Risk-taking**

The Barrow Cadbury Trust placed great responsibility on the shoulders of Trust by establishing an endowment in such a geographically small and rural area. This considered risk-taking has remained within the spirit of the Fermanagh Trust through a determination to succeed. The Trust has supported, facilitated and been involved with a number of projects which have involved conflict, controversy or tackled difficult issues.

## **Independence**

The Fermanagh Trust is completely independent of government, local authorities, funders and statutory bodies. As a small and impartial organisation, the Trust can be flexible and responsive to change. It can manage and adapt to change more effectively by ensuring that the needs of Fermanagh's communities are paramount. If needs be, it can assist with crisis management, making grant-aid or short-term loans available quickly. The Trust has a physical presence in the county and so is very accessible to local people.

## **Local Priorities**

The 'no strings attached' endowment from Barrow Cadbury allowed the Fermanagh Trust to ensure that it sets its own priorities based on best meeting local needs. The Trust has prioritised seedling funding, that is very small amounts of grant aid that make a significant difference to the project supported, and funding to organisation's who would otherwise struggle to obtain funds from elsewhere.

## **People**

People are at the heart of the Trust's work. Community leaders, grassroots activists, Trust mentors, staff and

Trustees share a commitment to the social development of the county. Projects supported by the Trust have drawn on local expertise and enthusiasm to engage with those who want to bring about positive change in their own communities. Above all, these people are passionate about Fermanagh and its people.

## Integrated Approach

The Fermanagh Trust's approach brings together funding, mentoring, advocacy, endowment growth, social enterprise, leadership and a collective voice for the community and voluntary sectors. By integrating these aspects of development, the work of the Trust has enabled the building of skills, knowledge and confidence with local communities, to develop in tandem with increased community resources. Funding alone would not have delivered the same outcome.

## Multiplier Effect

The Trust's policy of providing seedling funding to create small beginnings has had a powerful effect in the county, by setting off a chain of development signalled through financial support and encouragement of a local community. In addition, funding has frequently been used to leverage major awards from regional, national or European funders. The multiplier effect can also be seen through people as projects have inspired others and

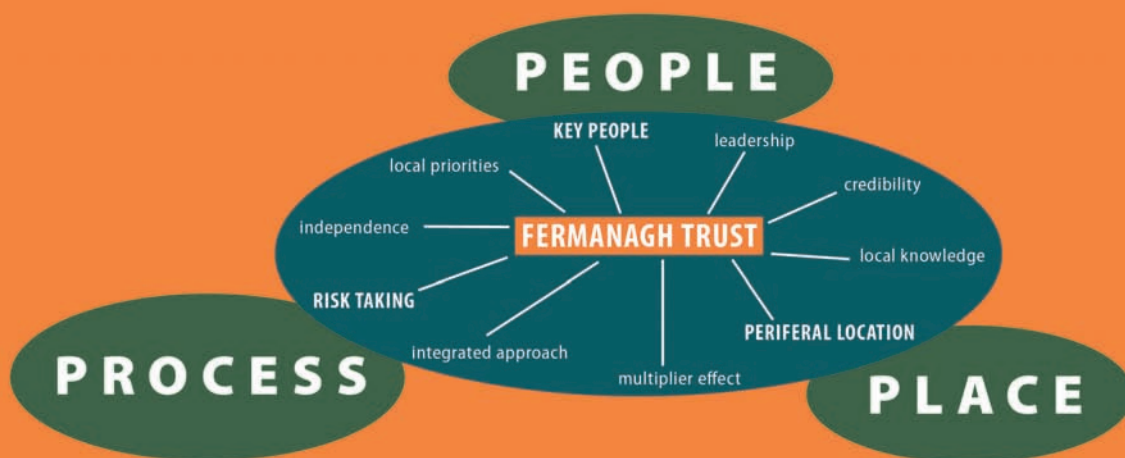
created a network of community activists throughout County Fermanagh.

## Periferal Location

The remoteness of Fermanagh from major urban areas has created a sense of independence, resourcefulness, determination and 'can do' spirit amongst its people. The coinciding of county boundary and local authority area has also added to the strong sense of place and community identity, within a geographic area. This has enabled the Trust to develop a county-wide strategy that would be extremely difficult in a larger and less distinct area.

## Leadership

From its creation, the Fermanagh Trust was tasked with demonstrating leadership for local community and voluntary organisations. It is almost unique in managing a large endowment fund in a small geographic area - most community foundations in the UK have a population base of no less than 500,000. The Trust has had to create meaningful relationships with potential donors in order to encourage philanthropy (community giving), but also maintain its grassroots credibility. This has been a fine balancing act, and one which has involved huge commitment from both staff and Trustees.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Lough Erne Cot Group

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Little Treasures Community Playgroup, Kinawley

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Project St Patrick (Photograph by Pat Lunny)

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