

'The Way It Is' Area Profiles

A Comprehensive Review of Community
Development and Community
Relationships in County Fermanagh

December 98

AREA PROFILE OF BALLINAMALLARD

(Including The Townland Communities Of Whitehill, Trory, Ballycassidy, Killadeas And Kilskeery).

Description of the Area

Ballinamallard is a small village, approximately five miles North of Enniskillen; it is located off the main A32, Enniskillen to Irvinestown road on the B46, Enniskillen to Dromore road. Due to its close proximity to Enniskillen, many of the residents work there and Ballinamallard is now almost a 'dormitory' village - house prices are relatively cheaper than Enniskillen, but it is still convenient to this major settlement. With Irvinestown, located four miles to its North, the village has been 'squeezed' by two economically stronger settlements.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: BALLINAMALLARD AREA (SUB-AREAS: WHITEHILL, TRORY, BALLYCASSIDY, KILLADEAS)		
POPULATION:		
Total	2439	
Male	1260	(51.7%)
Female	1179	(48.3%)
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
1971	1991	GROWTH
2396	2439	1.8%
HOUSEHOLDS:	794	
OCCUPANCY DENSITY: 3.07 Persons per House.		
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:	Not Deprived (367 th in Northern Ireland) <i>Fourth Most Prosperous in Fermanagh</i>	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	NINE IN TOTAL <i>Four Are Deprived</i> <i>One In The Worst 20% in Northern Ireland</i>	
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	35	
FEMALES	18	
OVERALL	53	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:	15.7%	
PROTESTANT:	68.2%	
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	16.1%	

Socio-Economic Background:

The following paragraphs provide a review of the demographic, social and economic statistics relating to Ballinamallard village and the surrounding townland communities of Whitehill, Trory, Ballycassidy and Killadeas.

According to the 1991 Census, 2439 persons resided in the Ballinamallard ward, comprising 1260 males and 1179 females; the population represents 4.5% of Fermanagh's population and 0.15% of that of Northern Ireland. In 1971, the village of Ballinamallard had a population of 580 persons; by 1991, this figure had almost doubled to 1068, a rise of 84%.

The majority of the residents are Protestant, with Church of Ireland members constituting just over 50% of the population. Ballinamallard village is predominantly Protestant while Catholics tend to live in the surrounding townland-areas. The following Table summarises the area's religious break-down:

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	382	15.7%
Presbyterian	128	5.2%
Church of Ireland	1227	50.3%
Methodist	308	12.7%
Others	395	16.1%
TOTAL	2440*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

As quantified in the Policy, Planning and Research Unit's Report, *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al* 1994, Ballinamallard ward ranks 20th of the County's 23 wards in terms of degree of deprivation. It is, therefore, less deprived than the average for the County and would, in fact, be regarded as relatively prosperous:

Deprivation Level Of Ballinamallard Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	367	65
Extent	-	-
Intensity	227	40

Although the area is generally regarded as being 'well-off', there are nine Enumeration Districts (ED's) within the Ballinamallard ward, four of which are categorised as being deprived; one ED in particular, shows signs of severe deprivation and it falls within the worst 20% in Northern Ireland.

Agriculture was formerly the primary source of economic activity; the numbers involved in farming have declined and the area now hosts a smaller number of bigger farms. Fisher Engineering is now the area's biggest employer, but the major category of employment is the security sector which employs a large number of residents who work elsewhere (mostly outside Fermanagh), but choose to live in Ballinamallard because it is perceived as 'safe'.

Ballinamallard Village

The economic heart of the village has experienced decline; increasing car usage has resulted in residents purchasing goods and services in the larger settlements, which has had a detrimental effect on local businesses, many of which are owned by older people; there is a relatively small number of younger people setting up new businesses in the area and this lack of new business-starts may cause problems for the village's economic prosperity in the future. For years, the village's centre deteriorated, with vacant property creating eyesores; although much still needs to be done, the situation has improved as a result of funding being secured from IFI funds to renovate the village's hotel and convert derelict property into shop units and flats.

There are no banking nor financial services in the village; one bank had a part-time office, but this closed down and there are no plans to establish even an Automatic Teller Machine (ATM). Lack of a bank is not a pressing need within the village, but it does indicate, to residents, that local services have declined.

The most pressing issue for the village is the problem of congestion, particularly around the Barragh Road/Main Street junction. Given the increase in traffic flows, this junction would need to be widened; a vacant property is available which would allow it to be widened but, as the DoE is already carrying out a road widening project on the Irvinestown road, this scheme has been postponed.

The number of young people 'hanging round the streets' has prompted the local Methodist and Church of Ireland Ministers to try to address this problem; they have plans to establish a drop-in centre for teenagers with a youth worker to assist them. Although this is a church initiative, the centre (as yet no premises have been secured) will be a 'neutral' venue for all young people, and religion will not be an issue there. As with other areas, there is some evidence of anti-social behaviour, particularly under-age drinking; residents believe that it is important to address this issue 'head on'.

While there is a Development Association which has achieved much, most local community activity is centred around participation in church activities, of which there are a large number, e.g. Scouts, Boys Brigade (BB), Girls Friendly Society (GFS), Girls Brigade (GB), badminton, bowls, lunch club, Youth Fellowship, women's groups and different bands. All of these have their own, well-defined boundaries, networking systems and training courses, making each different group 'self-sufficient', which means that there is little cross-contact with other groups in the area. These groups obtain money through fund-raising activities, the District Council and the Western Education and Library Board; generally, they do not receive any support from the intermediary funding agencies.

Ballinamallard has a total of six halls in the village, two dedicated play-schools (one is in permanent accommodation, while the other is in a port-a-cabin) although they are to be amalgamated into one within the new enterprise centre, a primary and secondary school, purpose-built football club, hotel, restaurant and a variety of different businesses and services, including a computer company, fuel distributor and an engineering company (a significant local employer).

Ballinamallard Community Development Association

The Community Association was first established in 1972, but lapsed somewhat until it was revived in 1992. The primary aim of the Association is to act as a lobbying/pressure group for the postal district of Ballinamallard; particular areas of interest are improving the environment and the development of leisure and tourism amenities in the area. While the group serves the whole Ballinamallard area, its major focus is on the village where most of the 'visible' needs of the area are found; however, the group will lobby on behalf of any resident in the surrounding area who, they feel, has a good case.

To date, the group has been successful in completing a number of different projects - development of the car park, a skip compound, a road widening scheme, and improved signage; it has also secured money for the Station Park Centre (the conversion of a derelict building into economic units) under the CPDS. It currently has plans for an environmental improvement scheme involving the whole village, but funders have placed the project 'on hold' pending additional funds.

In order to ensure that the group is accessible to everyone, it meets in Fisher Engineering's premises, rather than any of the local halls. The village is predominantly Protestant, but the committee has been successful in attracting some Catholic members; they recognise that much work still has to be done to develop a greater cross-community spirit in the area. In order to facilitate this, the Association holds Fun Days to raise awareness of the work which the group does and, this year for the first time, it invited residents of Coa (a predominantly Catholic townland two-and-a-half miles from the village) to participate in this event.

Ballinamallard has developed networks with Kesh and Tempo: they are collaborating with Kesh on the development of music festivals which will be held during the summer. It is recognised that networking is a useful activity but group members find it difficult to spare time for additional activities.

Ballinamallard Youth Club

Located in the local secondary school, the youth club provides activities for young people from ten years onwards, including dance, drama and a wide variety of sporting facilities (including residential breaks). The club is run during the school year by a mixture of paid and voluntary assistants; it has become increasingly difficult to attract the latter type of help and it is hard to maintain volunteer enthusiasm. It can be hard to get parents to become involved in the club's activities, as many regard it as an extension of a “.. child-minding ..” service. During the summer there is nothing organised for the young people; as a result, there had been a vandalism problem, but this has been reduced through police assistance and the club's awareness campaign.

The youth club has participated in a variety of cross-community activities; however, there is a feeling that some of these events are not as well attended as they could be, and there is a perception locally that the two sides do not really want to mix.

The youth club networks only with other youth clubs; it has its own training courses etc. Any fund-raising is carried out by the children and, it is felt, there is limited local community or business support. The club finds it hard to attract local support due to what has been described as the “.. snobbery ..” element with some local people preferring to support groups in Enniskillen. With the recent reduction in its grant, there is a heavier burden on the club to raise money, and this has resulted in a decrease in the number of trips.

Other Activities In The Area

- Two Playgroups;
- Ballinamallard Sliver Band;
- A wide and diverse variety of church-based activity; and
- A Fishing Association.

Killadeas

The townland of Killadeas is an affluent area, located approximately four miles north-west of the village of Ballinamallard on the main Enniskillen to Kesh road. The majority of groups which meet in this area are church-based; other groups include the yacht club and the competition pipe band. Killadeas is a residential townland community, the physical centre of which appears to be based around the junction where the Church of Ireland Church/Orange hall, nursing home and a number of houses are located; the townland also has an hotel, marina, chalet complex, caravan park and restaurants.

There is no development association in this area as residents appear to be happy with things “..the way they are..”; many would like to see the area remain unspoilt and non-commercialised - this is a quiet retreat for its inhabitants. There appears to be no ‘problem’ which could activate the local community into action.

One group in the area, the competition pipe band (established in the 1950's), has found it very difficult to attract new members because of the negative stereotype of “.. boys in skirts ..”, lack of support from local schools, greater mobility and its image as a “.. working class ..” activity. Within the local area ‘noise pollution’ has caused some problems for residents who appear not to ‘own’, or take pride in, the achievements of the band - they are held in higher esteem outside the county. This has also created problems in fund-raising; there was a view that, if they were based in a border area, they would get more community support, but as it stands, they are regarded as being “..not quite part of the community..” which is now dominated by ‘upper class’ people.

Finance remains a constant worry for the band; if it was simply a 'Lodge Band' it would have enough money to “.. get by ..” but as it is a competition band, a significant amount of additional money is required to cover the expenses incurred travelling to competitions. Many of the competitions occur in Scotland and throughout Ireland, but prize money is minimal and would not cover the expenses incurred and must be covered by the personal finances of members.

Pipe bands belong to both communities and are not seen as 'threatening'; consequently, they have the potential to unite the communities - more so than is currently the case; there is a view that the local media could greatly assist in this endeavour by raising the profile of pipe bands by reporting on the performance of Fermanagh bands in the major competitions. The band feels very under-valued within the county and believe that their contribution is not fully recognised and many are not aware that members of Killadeas Pipe band play an active role in piping and drumming classes for the county which attract cross-community involvement.

Whitehill

This townland community is approximately three miles west of Ballinamallard; in comparison with other townlands in the area, it has a significant number of Catholic residents. The central focus of Whitehill is the chapel (there is no hall) and a group of houses around the road junction; however, there are a number of local, home-based businesses which are prospering within the townland community.

The community seems to 'keep to itself'; Protestants identify with Ballinamallard while Catholics look to Irvinestown, but many simply “..mix with each other..” irrespective of religion; it is a middle-class area where people keep to their class rather than their religion - a Catholic living in this area has little in common with a Catholic living in an urban estate in Irvinestown.

There is no community organisation, nor any other type of group in this area, as people appear to be satisfied with the status quo. Again, there is no tangible target to work towards and the people with most ability are too busy running their own businesses to devote time to building a community body. Irvinestown parish has tried to include Whitehill parishioners in its activities, but there continues to be limited involvement as Enniskillen appears to be the focus of Whitehill residents, particularly those with post-primary school children.

It has been suggested that this area has suffered from rural depopulation and that this is the reason that there are no activities in the area but, as it remains extremely difficult to obtain planning permission, it is hard to see how this can be redressed.

Trory and Ballycassidy

The adjoining townland communities of Trory and Ballycassidy lie approximately three miles north of Enniskillen and two miles south-west of Ballinamallard, on the main Enniskillen road. Both are 'economically comfortable' areas. Trory has a petrol station and a power equipment superstore. Activities are based around the Church of Ireland (the parish includes Killadeas) and include the accordion band, Boys Club, Girls Friendly Society, Young Members and bowling, many of which were started by the local Minister. The church hall (the only Canadian Barn timber structure within the county) is actually located in the townland of Ballycassidy, but there is an Orange hall adjoining the church at Trory. Ballycassidy is home to Balcas Sawmills, the airport and a variety of other businesses, including a garden centre and engineering company; services include a post office and primary school.

The area has a commuter population with residents who want to be “..in the country but still close enough to Enniskillen..” Due to its close proximity, residents are naturally drawn

towards Enniskillen. There is a belief that there is not a community group because “..no-one has ever thought about it..” and that if it was done “..just to get money, there would be no point in it..”. A view was also expressed that people were slow to suggest something because “..if you suggested something then you would get landed with it..” and that residents’ main focus is centred on maintaining what is already there, rather than developing new things. According to local residents, more could be made of the area by turning the old airport control tower into an air museum, celebrating Fermanagh’s aviation history.

Young people continue to move out of the area and, although there is a feeling that “..something should be done..” about this, no ideas have been advanced about how to rectify this situation - it is accepted as ‘inevitable’.

Jollytots Community Playgroup

This is in a predominantly Protestant settlement but the Ballycassidy playgroup, established in 1992, has been successful in attracting cross-community membership. At present, the group meets in the church hall, but money has been approved for a stand-alone, building which will be for the sole use of the playgroup; it is likely to be located in the vicinity of the airport grounds.

In the beginning, Catholics were reluctant to come into the church hall, but their fears have now been overcome and the playgroup has enabled the local residents to get to know each other - something which would not have occurred otherwise. The playgroup has provided a meeting place for local residents, both young and old, who support the playgroup’s various fund-raising activities. Once the new premises have been secured, the playgroup has plans to provide additional services, e.g. an after-school club, parents-and-toddlers activities and evening classes which, it is hoped, will result in greater community activity and the formation of other groups.

The playgroup is the only one in Fermanagh to be fully registered with the Northern Ireland Pre-school Playgroup Association (NIPPA). It is linked to a playgroup in Sligo with which it is in regular contact, and they have visited each other; other playgroups have offered them advice in relation to their proposed new premises.

Through fund-raising, the group has installed oil-fired central heating in the church hall and donated money to the Cardiac Unit. Changes in the ACE scheme have meant that the playgroup relies more on parents, who often are not able to help out during the day; one alternative would be to raise the fees, but as there are single-parent families using the playschool, this move is being resisted.

Kilskeery

Although the townland community of Kilskeery is not located in Fermanagh, it has been included to give a holistic overview of the County because many Kilskeery residents identify more with Fermanagh and Enniskillen than with Omagh.

Kilskeery is situated approximately halfway between Ballinamallard and Trillick (two-and-a-half miles from each settlement). It has two churches, two primary schools, two halls (one of which is a youth centre) and a post office; Protestant division has created the ‘dualism’ which is apparent in this hamlet, and which is mirrored throughout Northern Ireland, as the two primary schools are both Protestant, but one is state controlled and the other has been established by the Free Presbyterian church.

Within Kilskeery, the church plays a prominent role in group activities and, were it not for the church, there would be a dearth of community activity. There is no community development association in this area, as people tend to gravitate towards Ballinamallard or Trillick. A

variety of funding agencies provided money to refurbish and convert a building into a modern youth centre, which has been of immense benefit to boosting local morale, and this youth centre has been successful in organising events for young people in the immediate and surrounding areas.

Kilskeery has no industry apart from George Deane Autoplant. A number of small businesses have closed down, and the reduced viability of farms has resulted in many people leaving the area to find employment, or continue education, but very few return again. There is limited demand for housing.

Comments from the Consultation Process

- ***Lack of medical facilities represents a major disadvantage:*** there was a general consensus that, even with its growing population, there are no medical facilities nor pharmacists available in Ballinamallard, causing residents to have to travel to either Irvinestown or Enniskillen. This is particularly frustrating for residents, as Irvinestown has a number of pharmacists.
- ***Groups have relied on informal networks and personal contacts to identify sources of funding:*** due to limitations on the volunteers' time, groups rely on 'what they hear' rather than being proactive. They are not organised to be proactive although the groups recognise that, if they are to be successful, this is what is needed, as it is how other areas have been successful in attracting funding.
- ***It is extremely difficult to find out about the different advice and funding bodies:*** this has resulted in many groups feeling very confused and unsure of what help is available, or where to go for assistance. It would greatly assist the voluntary groups if there was one central document listing all advice sources, what type of help they provide and a contact name.
- ***'Newcomers' have not integrated well with the established families:*** due to Ballinamallard's close proximity to Enniskillen and its reputation as a 'safe' place for security force personnel, there has been a large influx of people, the majority of whom simply use it as a 'place to sleep'. In the main, these people do not have any 'ties' with the village and consequently, do not really interact with the families who have lived there for many years. This is causing problems as the older residents recognise that the area is losing its 'community spirit'. The situation has been exacerbated by an increase in the number of Social Security tenants, many of whom are young people, not from the area.
- ***Increasing numbers of young people 'hanging around the streets' have caused concern:*** in particular, older residents are worried about the growing number of teenagers who appear to "... have nothing to do ...".
- ***There is a perception that this area has 'lost out' due to its deprivation index:*** within this ward there are pockets of deprivation which are not recognised as being districts in need of support, as the area is taken as a whole. The general feeling is that, although deprivation is a worthwhile indicator, it should be supplemented by assessing other criteria.
- ***In general, groups have good working relationships with the agencies with which they are in contact:*** agencies, including Social Services, the District Council, Western Education and Library Board and the National Lottery, were found to be helpful and easy to work with.
- ***Reliance on the security force employment may have a very negative effect on the village:*** Ballinamallard has been designated as a 'safe' place for people in the security

forces to live and it is alleged, that approximately one third of the working population rely on the security forces for employment. This over-reliance on one sector is likely to have severe repercussions when there is a reduction in the number of service personnel.

- ***Enniskillen is the primary focus:*** due to the proximity of Enniskillen, the majority of residents prefer to do their shopping, attend classes etc. in the county town, even though those services may be available in the local area. Many of the residents work and socialise in Enniskillen and their children go to school there - consequently, they appear to have more allegiance to that area.
- ***The merits of community development*** are seen as the development of “.. a sense of community ..”, particularly amongst the newcomers, allowing them to have a sense of belonging and instilling social responsibility which will, hopefully, prevent problems occurring within the area (e.g. anti-social behaviour).
- ***Those who do volunteer are highly motivated:*** it is unrealistic to expect the same level of activity from volunteers as from paid personnel; productivity should be higher amongst the ‘paid’ professionals who work in the community development sector.
- ***There needs to be greater recognition*** for those working in a voluntary capacity and those who are working for groups through a scheme.
- ***The two traditions largely keep to themselves:*** in general, Protestants and Catholics are on good speaking terms and have a working relationship in the outlying farming areas, but many of these relationships are superficial. There is a perception that they do not really want to mix and children have inherited the beliefs of their parents. Due to the religious make-up of the area, it is difficult to see how relations can be developed in a meaningful way, although there are a number of mixed marriages in the area.
- ***As it stands, a reduction in funding will not have a significant impact on the local area nor on local groups:*** in relation to other areas, Ballinamallard has not received a significant amount of grant funding; the groups are based around the churches and do not need a lot of cash to sustain them; they “.. were there before the funding and (they) will be there afterwards ..”.
- ***The area is both advantaged and disadvantaged due to its location:*** it is advantaged due to its accessibility to services in Enniskillen but it is also disadvantaged because of its proximity to Enniskillen, as the area as a whole, and each separate townland community, appear to have ‘lost’ their own sense of identity.
- ***The political situation has made people nervous:*** many Protestants do not want to mix with Catholics until there is more clarity about the political situation; Protestants feel that they are “..being overtaken..” by Catholics and this view is being passed on to the younger generation.
- ***Community development depends on leaders within the local community and their motivation:*** it must be seen as a positive, productive activity with the full support of local leaders; this is a closely-knit community and without the participation of ‘influencers’, development will be stilted; however, many still do not see a ‘need’ for and/or are apathetic to, community development, fearing that they will be left running it.
- ***Culture is an integral part of a community:*** all cultures should be respected and allowed to develop and flourish, so that they can be passed onto the next generation.
- ***Transportation is a worry for groups:*** many of the townland community groups are involved in networking activities which necessitate a good deal of travel; the public

transportation service in this area is very limited which means that groups have to organise their own transportation.

- ***Protestant individualism and a self-help ethos are manifest in the number of different religions and splits within the broad 'Protestant' classification:*** this has been put forward as the main reason why Protestants have been somewhat slow in engaging in community development activities outside their own church networks.
- ***Groups which rely on grants (from the Western Education and Library Board and, Social Services) have been badly affected by the cutbacks.***
- ***Integration brings together people who are already 'together':*** throughout the Troubles there have been a number of 'no-go areas' established, causing divisions which will be hard to heal.

Summary

Ballinamallard village is virtually a single-identity settlement which experienced a population increase of 84% between 1971 and 1991 - principally because of an influx of security force personnel; this has changed the nature of life in the village, but residents have expressed serious disquiet because there has been no corresponding increase in the number of businesses in the area as work patterns and mobility make Enniskillen a more convenient place to shop. Many people select Ballinamallard as a place to live due to its proximity to Enniskillen and its relatively low house prices. Effectively, this settlement is being turned into a dormitory village for Enniskillen; the effects of this are, simultaneously, both beneficial and disadvantageous, as the comments above testify.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE KILLADEAS AND BALLINAMALLARD AREA						
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Ballinamallard Area	Number in Trory Area	Number in Ballycassidy Area	Number in Whitehill Area	Number in Killadeas Area
Guesthouses	11	3	-	2	1	5
Self-catering	5	1	-	2	-	2
Hotels	2	1	-	-	-	1
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS						
Enniskillen Airport	1	-	-	1	-	-
Inishcruiser	1	-	-	-	-	1
Manor House	1	-	-	-	-	1
Yacht Club	1	-	-	-	-	1
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS						
	1	1	-	-	-	-
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES						
Protestant Church Halls	3	2	-	1	-	-
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues						
Community Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	6	4	1	-	-	1
SPORTS FACILITIES						
G.A.A. Pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	1	1	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	2	2	-	-	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES						
Pharmacists/Dispensary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	-	-	-	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF BELCOO

(Including The Townland Communities Of Letterbreen and Mullaghduin)

Description of the Area

Belcoo is situated on the Fermanagh/Leitrim/Cavan Border on the A4 (Enniskillen to Manorhamilton) route. It overlooks Lough Macnean, in an area which is perceived as having great tourism potential. The population of the village increased by over 70% during the 1971-1981 inter-censal period; however, in the following decade practically no growth was recorded. Because of its location on the border, local businesses have suffered badly recently as most rely heavily on cross-border trade. The following provides an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics of Belcoo and the surrounding area. (Most of the Belcoo area is contained in the ward of Belcoo and Garrison, but the figures for population below include one enumeration District (Mullaghduin) from the Boho, Cleenish and Letterbreen ward.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: BELCOO AREA (SUB-AREAS: LETTERBREEN, MULLAGHDUN, BLACKLION)		
POPULATION:		
Total	888	
POPULATION CHANGE IN VILLAGE 1971-1991:		
1971	1991	GROWTH
188	327	74%
HOUSEHOLDS: 114		
OCCUPANCY DENSITY: 2.86 Persons per Household.		
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD: (Belcoo and Garrison)	23 rd Most Deprived in Northern Ireland	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Four in Total	
	2 In the Most Deprived 20% in Northern Ireland	
	1 Other in the Worst 50%	
UNEMPLOYMENT* (September 1998):		
MALES	88	
FEMALES	25	
OVERALL	113	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION *:		
CATHOLIC:	84%	
PROTESTANT:	9.7%	
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	6.3%	

* Based on overall Belcoo and Garrison wards' figures.

Socio-Economic Background:

As indicated in the table, according to the 1991 Census, the population of Belcoo village was 327 persons, comprised of 161 males and 166 females. This represents a growth rate of 74%, between 1971 and 1991.

Unfortunately, because of changes in ward boundaries it is impossible to assess with accuracy the changes in population for the entire ward. However, evidence would suggest that the ward (the rural areas in particular), is experiencing a decrease in population, which is estimated at about 10% for the 1981/91 decade.

The following table indicates the religious affiliation of the population of the Belcoo and Garrison ward.

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1974	84%
Presbyterian	4	0.2%
Church of Ireland	210	8.9%
Methodist	13	0.6%
Others	149	6.3%
TOTAL	2350	100%

The Policy Planning and Research Unit's report, *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al*, 1994, identified the entire ward of Belcoo and Garrison as being the 23rd most deprived in Northern Ireland, out of a total of 566 wards, in terms of degree of deprivation. It ranks as the second most deprived ward in Fermanagh.

In the Belcoo area alone, three of the four Enumeration Districts are deprived, with two Enumeration Districts in the worst 20% in Northern Ireland. The main contributory factors to the level of deprivation are as follows:

- Properties Without Public Sewerage
- Unemployed Persons;
- Households Without Bath, Shower Or WC; and
- Households With More Than One Person Per Room.

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs indicate the current community development situation in Belcoo and its surrounding areas:

Belcoo and District Development Group

The group was formed in 1987 to promote economic development in the area. Until recently, the group was single identity; now there is token representation from the Unionist tradition. There are however members of various nationalities on the committee. No religious or political leaders belong to the group.

The group has four main objectives:

- To maximise the area's tourism potential;
- To promote enterprise development;
- To diversify from agriculture; and
- To regenerate the economy.

The group operates from units and training rooms rented from Belcoo Enterprises Limited, the rent for which is paid when funds are available.

The regeneration of the economy began through the ACE scheme. In 1988, twelve workers and one core worker were employed; this built up to thirty-two workers and two core workers for five years. Two years ago this was reduced to eleven workers and two part-time core workers. Their roles were identified by the ACE team and were client sponsored; they were:

- environmental;
- community care;
- clerical/administration;

- tourist information; and
- pre-school playgroup.

All of these workers were trained to NVQ Level 3 in business administration. This has now been phased out, as ACE only wants 20% training time for workers - which is not viable for the group. ACE sets targets for employment for those leaving an ACE scheme. Over 30% should be entering full time employment. Belcoo has always surpassed this target and last year had a rate of 75%. For a time, the Development Group was the second largest employer in the area after Carson's quarry.

From April of this year, ACE has imposing new rules which will make the scheme less viable for rural areas - applicants have to be over 25 and under 64 and have never been on the scheme before. If it happens that ACE is no longer suitable for Belcoo, an alternative will have to be found. ACE has been very good for the Belcoo area and the group recognises this.

The "55 Alive" Club, which meets every fortnight to provide a social outlet for local residents, is run in conjunction with the Health and Social Services Board. Through the Club, the need for some sort of sheltered housing was identified and the Project Development Officer, with the agreement of the committee, undertook the task of providing this. In the forty square miles of the parish, there are more than one hundred people over eighty years old. After various negotiations and discussions with all concerned, the Fold Housing Association agreed to build eight two-bedroomed bungalows on a site in the village that is owned by Fermanagh District Council. The Fold would provide eight hours supervision with the rest coming from the community. All parties were in agreement and it appeared that the development would go ahead. Unfortunately, there have been some local objections, from within the Development Committee and beyond, and it remains uncertain if the project will proceed. This is the only project undertaken by the group that does not require it to provide any funding. As the Council owns the land, it may have to decide on the purpose to which it will be put. This issue is currently on-going and is being reported in the local press, as there is a lot of controversy surrounding the issue, especially the location of the proposed site.

Enniskillen Railway Group is interested in bringing one of the last steam engines in Ireland to Belcoo, where it would be stationed in the original railway sheds. The engine would have to be purchased using money from the CRISP fund. It is hoped that this will provide a focal point for tourists' interest.

Under the CRISP project, a number of houses in the village, twenty-five in total, have been given a grant for a paint 'spruce up'. Householders may employ any worker they choose, and can do more work than the scheme provides for, but must pay the balance themselves.

The Development Group is hampered by the fact that there are a number of groups active in the area - all working to different agendas - and there is an element of jealousy between them. It would also appear that, within these groups, there is dissension, as individual members have their own individual agendas to pursue. Often, there is conflict between what an individual wants and what is best for the local community at large, i.e. conflict between community and private business interests. As a result, there is a lot of tension in the area and little is achieved despite all the work that has gone into a particular project. This will have major implications in the future, when any group from the area seeks funding.

The group feels that the area needs all the facilities and initiatives identified above. On top of that they would like to see a coffee shop in the village. There was one in the Enterprise centre but it closed and the premises were taken over by Lakeland Community Care.

The group networks with the following groups in the locality:

- Football Club;
- Community Group;
- Mullycovet Mill group; and
- The Catholic Church Committee.

The committee also networks with other development groups in the County, and across the border.

The DHSS and Training and Employment Agency finance their own training input. To date, the Training and Employment Agency has paid out £4,800 in training and £111,000 in wages. Currently the Project Officer has £121 per week to run the ACE scheme. This is to cover all bills such as electric, telephone, rent, insurance, stationery, and photocopier maintenance. Fund raising is continuously ongoing for the 55 Alive Club. The rent for the premises is paid at the end of the year.

Mullycovet Mill Project

This group was formed in 1992 to try to secure funding to restore Mullycovet Mill, which is situated about eight miles from Enniskillen on a laneway connecting the A4 and the Old Coach Road. The mill had fallen into a state of disrepair after many years of neglect.

Three years ago the group was successful in obtaining funding from INTERREG, through DANI, to restore the mill, the drying house and out-buildings, to carry out landscaping and to develop an open farm which would specialise in endangered species. The total grant for this project was £730,000. After consultation, DANI decided that the group was too weak to undertake such an ambitious project and questioned its ability to raise the 10% shortfall; the offer of funding was finally withdrawn. The group understood the reasons for this and appreciated the logic behind the decision.

For a while, the project was put on the 'back burner' until Margaret Gallagher was invited to speak at a conference: *'Our Countryside - Voices of Change'*. Here Margaret talked about buildings at risk, with particular reference to Mullycovet Mill. Afterwards, six delegates expressed an interest in the mill and, led by John Clare, agreed to help the group apply to the Lottery Board for funding. The Committee agreed that this was the best course of action and commissioned Dr. Fred Hammond, an industrial archaeologist, to prepare the application. Rather than attempt to secure funding for the entire programme of work, a phased approach was adopted as it was felt that this would reduce the level of risk, and make the project more appealing for funders. They were successful in securing £112,050, the exact sum required.

- NIVT funded a development support worker, Dr. Donnelly (£15,000), to liaise with various bodies to speed up the process and to access other pools of funding;
- Fermanagh District Partnership Board gave a grant of £20,000 to build a road into the mill suitable for those with physical disabilities;
- FLAG gave £10,500 for interpretation facilities in the mill;
- RDC - Community Based Action gave £15,000 for specially designed toilet facilities for the disabled and infrastructural signage;
- Through INTERREG, DANI gave 75% of £21,000 to finance Dr. Donnelly's post for another twelve months;
- LEDU is operating community business programme which commenced in September 1998.

Phase 1 of the development includes restoring the mill and drying house, landscaping, and building a new road. The premises are leased for 99 years and the group wants to do everything possible to address the neglect of many years. The group realises that visitor numbers are going to be down on previous years, due to political and economic reasons. The

members are confident that the mill will pay for itself by attracting school groups, but are keen to target the adult day trippers. Due to its location close to the border, the group is concerned about the effect of the Punt in attracting visitors from the Republic of Ireland to the mill. As the mill is not far from Marble Arch caves it is hoped to tap into that visitor market.

Phase 2 will only go ahead, if Phase 1 is successful. Before embarking upon Phase 2, the group would like to commission a feasibility study. The committee believes that agencies that carry out such studies should be held accountable for the first three years of a project. Phase 2 will create employment but this, in turn, will create overheads.

The group networks with Life Force in Cavan, an independent company that operates mills throughout Ireland, and will advertise in conjunction with them.

Lakeland Community Care

This community based operation, formed in 1994, is unique in Northern Ireland and provides the following services:

- Day-care which offers - a broad range of support in a caring environment - respite to carers.
- Domiciliary care, which includes personal care and household tasks.
- Associated carer supports - laundry service, information, community meals service, health promotion initiatives.
- Clinical treatment facilities- chiropody, district nursing, dental screening.

Lakeland Community Care is made up of a board of eight directors (two from each of the four communities in which it operates) with representation from DANI and the Sperrin Lakeland Unit of Management within WHSSB. The chief aim of the company is to provide health and social care services in rural, isolated areas in the county. These areas have suffered considerable emigration of young people, which has resulted in limited social and economic development. This has resulted in an ageing population and a dramatic increase in the over-80 age group.

LCC employs six full-time and one hundred and ten part-time employees, the majority of whom are female, and its day centres accommodate, on average, 106 clients. Clients can attend from one to three days per week depending on their level of need. Care assistants are on hand to see to customer needs.

LCC sells its service to Sperrin Lakeland Trust; it is self-sufficient, and uses its profits for further development. As yet, there are no plans to expand day-centres or to provide services to other client groups.

Whilst LCC is community driven it is not run by a community development association. The manager of LCC feels that individual community groups are too small to undertake a project such as this, and do not have the resources to pay a full-time manager - a requirement for running an organisation of this size. LCC has utilised the facilities of community associations but retains a separate identity. Community associations are in touch with what is needed on the ground but do not have the expertise to promote the services required.

Belcoo And District Historical Society

This group was formed in 1988; its aims are to:

- research, record and publish the history of Belcoo and district;
- foster interest in preserving heritage; and
- establish links with people who are proud of their culture tradition and folklore.

Margaret Gallagher was mainly responsible for the group's establishment; she was encouraged by the late Fr. Gallagher, an eminent historian in the diocese. They both saw the need for a group for interested people, who had a rural focus. The members are drawn from all over the county, and there are more from outlying areas than from the local population. Margaret Gallagher is honorary president and, in effect, runs the society; she funded the society for the first three years. Membership is approximately 30%:70% Catholic:Protestant.

The group meets on the third Wednesday of every month in a unit in the Enterprise Centre. At these meetings, a guest lecturer attends to give a talk and answer questions on his/her specialty. In addition to these meetings, various other activities are arranged. An archaeological summer school has been run successfully in the past, with field trips during the day and lectures at night. These have not been residential but may well be in the future. Field trips have been run in conjunction with Enniskillen Naturalist Club to County Offaly and, this year they are going to Castle Leslie in County Monaghan.

Co-operation Ireland has funded the Society to pay a worker for twelve months to look at buildings at risk in parts of Cavan, Leitrim and Fermanagh. The worker visits each identified building, photographs it, and takes the grid reference. The photographic image is then scanned onto a computer.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Society, a number of projects are in the pipeline - all of which will raise public awareness of the Society and its work. Each year, the Society submits a project to the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and, this year, it is for money to make a video entitled 'Haggard Hearthstone Happenings'; this will be sold to raise funds for the society.

A one day conference titled 'European Culture Conference' will take place at Enniskillen Agricultural College later this year. At this conference, delegates from the Republic and the rest of the UK, along with representatives from Eastern European countries, will look at the built perspective from the pre-planning stage through to the built block.

The Environment and Heritage Service of DoE has commissioned the society to produce a scoping document for Fermanagh. In turn, the Society has commissioned Dr. Colm Donnelly to look at all relevant areas in conjunction with FDC, DANI, DoE and Enniskillen Museum.

The Society is affiliated to the Institute of Irish Studies and Rural Community Network, and networks with other historical societies throughout Ireland.

To date the Society has had no trouble in obtaining funding; the main problem is to find the time to complete the necessary procedures to do so. The British Council, ECOVAST, and FLAG (in Fermanagh) have given money to the Society to hold the Continental Culture Conference. Co-Operation Ireland has funded a worker for twelve months. This particular agency requires a partner from the Republic, an arrangement which is not always successful. In addition the Society has found that Co-Operation Ireland is not prompt in scheduling payments. FDC is also providing funds for producing the scoping document.

An application has gone to the Charities Lottery Board for £80,000 for a project titled 'Learning Unlimited', to provide an indigenous resource school of transferable skills such as turf craft, creel making and hay stacking, all of which still go on in the area. If they are unsuccessful with this source they will go elsewhere.

The Society feels that funders are at fault for allocating money to unrealistic projects that have no relevance to the local community. They feel that a project must fit into the wider community, as a project cannot be imposed upon a community.

There are a number of other groups operating within the Belcoo area which include:

- Belcoo Community Association which manages the community centre owned by FDC. The remit of this association is to ensure that the public is informed about development or tourism projects within the village;
- Credit Union which has secured money from the Urban Development Fund for premises;
- GAA which is very active in the area;
- Scouts;
- Youth Club;
- Playgroup;
- Christmas Lights Committee (local traders);
- Mummers;
- Macnean Environmental Group;
- Macnean Women's Group; and
- A new group set up to promote plans for a Railway Museum.

From the list above, it is obvious that there is a wide variety of different groups operating within Belcoo however, there is very little evidence of overall co-ordination or communication and many groups simply 'work in isolation'. There is no working relationship with Community Connections, an umbrella group located in Blacklion which covers West Cavan, North Leitrim and West Fermanagh.

Letterbreen

Letterbreen is a townland community situated approximately five mile South-west of Enniskillen on the B52 (leading to Belcoo). Facilities include:

- 1 Supermarket with Post Office and Petrol Station
- 1 Methodist Church and Hall
- 1 Pub

The religious breakdown is approximately 5% Catholic and 95% Protestant.

Letterbreen Church Youth Club and Christian Endeavour

The group was formed in 1994 under the aegis of the Methodist minister. Prior to this, the groups met separately, but were combined in an effort to increase membership. Members now meet on a Saturday night in the church hall, with one hour of youth club activity and one hour of Christian Endeavour activity. The group aims to provide an interest for youth in the area and to look after their spiritual welfare.

The group is open to youth of any denomination. It is supported by the Church of Ireland as well, but, to date, no Catholic has joined. The numbers attending fluctuate between 15 and 19. The leaders try to provide a varied programme and go on trips periodically. These are paid for out of funds and by charging a small fee to those participating.

This year, the group has been unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from the Western Education and Library Board (WELB). The church will subsidise it in the short term, but this is not a real solution. The members feel that not enough recognition is being given to those who work in the community but are not under the community development association umbrella. The leaders enjoy their work and regard it as part of their Christian duty. They may undertake some fund-raising activity for themselves. Each year they participate in a fund raising campaign for Christian Endeavour; this year, £350 was raised for Albania.

Letterbreen is not a mixed area, so cross community activity is not viable, as people from

outside the area would have to be drawn in. There are not enough interested people in the area to develop a community group. The group does not feel that Letterbreen is in any way disadvantaged due to its location, as it is in the countryside but also close to Enniskillen. It is considered that as the area is so small, it could not support any more businesses, but that there is a need for a community playground for all the children to enjoy.

Fermanagh District Council's Community Relations Officer, in conjunction with a number of local individuals, has been involved in trying to set up a community association in the Letterbreen area but, as yet, this has proved to be unsuccessful due to lack of interest. The Church of Ireland community is actively involved in building a new church hall in Letterbreen to replace the current timber framed structure.

There is a planned new development of houses for Letterbreen; it is anticipated that the completion of these homes will create a new situation within the area, the effects of which remain unknown.

Mullaghduin

Mullaghduin is a small townland community approximately two miles from Belcoo on the B52 (Enniskillen - Belcoo) road. Facilities include a Chapel and a community hall. The area is over 90% Catholic, and many of the Protestants who live in the vicinity are more involved in church activities in Letterbreen.

Mullaghduin Community Association

Mullaghduin Community Association was established to provide young people with a youth club in their local area, rather than forcing them to travel to Belcoo, to provide the bowling club with a meeting place, and to provide a venue where courses and classes could be held. In this respect the group has achieved its objectives. While the group tries to attract new members, most of its current membership have been involved with the committee since its inception; this has provided the group with continuity. As it is somewhat difficult to motivate members under these circumstances, the group has deliberately decided to keep the scale of its activity small so that its management does not become too onerous on committee members and its focus is now on maintaining what is there, rather than adding to it.

At present, the community hall is used as a youth club which meets twice weekly and is attended by over sixty children. The bowling club also makes use of the facilities, and a number of educational courses are held in the hall. In order to cover its ongoing costs, the Community Association engages in a number of fund-raising activities, e.g. fashion shows, coffee mornings, bazaars and guest speakers. Depending on the type of activity, these events are well attended by both sides of the community, although, due to lack of interest, dances are no longer held.

The biggest problem facing the group is the fact that the floor of the small meeting room is in a particularly bad state and must be replaced, and that they do not have enough room to store equipment. The group is currently working on repairing and extending the floor and members have been donating voluntary time in order to carry out the necessary work. The fact that there are a number of 'handy' people on the committee has proved to be very beneficial!

Comments from the Consultation Process

- ***The most important issue in the setting up of the groups was generating interest from potential leaders;*** this was seen as critical to the subsequent success of the groups.
- ***Group leaders have a tendency to stay too long;*** after a certain length of time they tend to grow stale and have very few new ideas to contribute.

- ***The ACE scheme has been very important to the economy of this area;*** numbers employed reached thirty-four at one stage and the reduction in the scheme has had a very negative effect on income to the area.
- ***This area has a huge number of needs;*** projects suggested for the area range from restaurant/coffee shop, to sheltered accommodation, to a tourism project based on the old railway system.
- ***In a settlement like Belcoo the role of different groups is often impossible to define;*** Belcoo has several groups claiming to represent the community, but many of them have competing agendas and this has placed constraints on the area's development.
- ***The ACE scheme has not benefited rural areas to the same extent as it has benefited the bigger settlements;*** nevertheless its reduction is a source of concern in Belcoo.
- ***The Punt: Sterling exchange rate is a major issue in Belcoo;*** because of its proximity to the border, Belcoo has been particularly badly hit by the strengthening of Sterling.
- ***There is a serious shortage of channels of information in relation to funding training etc.;*** one of the most useful channels in this respect has been the Churches.
- ***The funders have no idea of the real needs of the majority of the community;*** they “.. dish out money ..” to unrealistic projects but fail to address the real issues.
- ***The absence of rural transport contributes to the feeling of isolation in rural areas;*** Belcoo is a widely dispersed community with many old people who would be totally isolated but for Lakeland Community Care; other areas do not have a similar organisation.
- ***Within the Belcoo area, different groups have failed to co-operate;*** there is evidence of considerable jealousy between different groups. The community was described by one interviewee as a “.. conflict ..” community where private interests competed with community interests.

Perception of Agencies

Belcoo and District Development Group has enjoyed excellent relationships with several agencies; however, the members feel that funders have a responsibility to groups such as theirs, to inform them of the complexities of funding. Some groups do not realise, for example, that certain funders allocate money only on presentation of a receipt, which begs the question as to how to pay creditors in the first place. Some funders require matching funding, or that 10% of the total required has to be raised. Even 10% of, for example £720,000, may prove very difficult for a small group to raise. There is a consensus that funders, in the past, have been guilty of allocating money to projects that will not be viable when funding runs out.

Summary

The available statistics demonstrate that the Belcoo area is severely deprived in social, physical/infrastructural and economic terms. Its border location has created numerous problems in relation to political and economic matters. There is a consensus that too much reliance is placed upon cross-border trade, which is subject to fluctuation due to changes in the relative value of the two currencies. Tension in the area, caused by various groups “pursuing their own agendas”, has meant that the area has under-achieved in the spheres of economic and tourism development.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE BELCOO AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Belcoo Area	Number in Letterbreen Area	Number in Mullaghduin Area
Guesthouses	7	6	1	-
Self-catering	1	1	-	-
Hotels	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Lough Macnean	1	1	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS				
	6	5	-	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	2	-	2	-
Catholic Church Halls	1	1	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1	1	-	-
Community Halls	2	1	-	1
Masonic and Other Halls	1	-	1	-
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	-	1	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	2	1	1	-
Doctors Clinic	2	1	1	-

AREA PROFILE OF BELNALECK

(Including the Communities of Arney and Granshagh)

Description of the Area

Belnaleck is a village situated on the A509 Protected Route, approximately five miles from Enniskillen. The Enniskillen Green Belt and the Lough Shore Countryside Policy Area adjoin the limit of development of the hamlet. Belnaleck has been designated a Sensitive Zone; in these zones, the character of the landscape, the conservation interest, and the existing level of development are such, that, whilst there may be scope for further development, proposals must be sensitive to the particular characteristics of the Zone. The Fermanagh Area Plan – 2007 states:

“This zone has potential for appropriate development which respects the sensitivity of the landscape and conservation interest. Belnaleck is the main centre of tourism development within this Zone, with its two marinas, restaurant and service facilities. There is scope to consolidate and expand the tourism role of the village. Belnaleck is a local service centre, and with its key location, has potential for future development”.

<u>STATISTICAL SUMMARY: BELNALECK, BOHO, CLEENISH & LETTERBREEN</u> (SUB-AREAS: GRANSHAGH, ARNEY)		
<u>POPULATION:</u>		
Total	2370	
Male	1207 (50.9%)	
Female	1163 (49.1%)	
<u>POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:</u>		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>GROWTH</u>
*	2370	*
<u>HOUSEHOLDS:</u> 691		
<u>OCCUPANCY DENSITY:</u> 3.43 persons per household.		
<u>DEPRIVATION:</u>		
<u>OVERALL WARD:</u>	148 th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 30%)	
<u>ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:</u>	Twelve in total. <i>1 in the Most Deprived 5% in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>1 other In the Worst 20%</i> <i>10 in the Most Deprived 50%</i>	
<u>UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):</u>		
MALES	55	
FEMALES	17	
<u>OVERALL</u>	72	
<u>RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:</u>		
CATHOLIC:	53.1%	
PROTESTANT:	36.4%	
OTHERS/NO RESPONSE:	10.5%	

* Wards have been re-drawn since 1971.

Socio-Economic Background

The following paragraphs provide an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics in Belnaleck and the surrounding area.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2370 residents in the overall area (The Boho, Cleenish and Letterbreen ward) at the time of enumeration. This figure comprises 1207 males and 1163 females. The total constitutes 4.4% of the Fermanagh population and 0.15% of the Northern Ireland population.

The two main religious denominations are Roman Catholic (53.1%) and Church of Ireland 26.7%. The two main settlements of Arney (a townland community) and the village of Belnaleck, however, are predominantly Roman Catholic and Protestant respectively.

Breakdown Of Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentile
Roman Catholic	1257	53.1
Presbyterian	29	1.2
Church of Ireland	632	26.7
Methodist	202	8.5
Others	249	10.5
TOTAL	2369*	100

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

A recent study of disadvantage (*Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al* 1994) undertaken on behalf of the Policy Planning and Research Unit of the Department of Finance and Personnel, indicates that the review area is the 148th most deprived ward in Northern Ireland and the 13th most deprived in Fermanagh. In terms of degree, extent and intensity, it is within the most deprived 30% of wards in Northern Ireland. An analysis of deprivation at Enumeration District (ED) level, shows that ten of the twelve ED's are deprived.

Deprivation Level Of The Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	148	26%
Extent	164	29%
Intensity	103	18%

The principal factors contributing to deprivation in the area are:

- Pensioners Living In Accommodation Without Central Heating;
- Households Without Bath, Shower Or WC;
- Properties Without Access To A Public Sewerage System;
- A High Household Population Density, (3.43 persons per household compared to the Northern Ireland average of 2.97).

Community Development Situation

The following section indicates the current community development situation in Belnaleck and the surrounding areas:

Belnaleck Community Association

Belnaleck Community Association was established in 1992. Although the two areas are in close proximity, Belnaleck is not in competition with Arney, which has its own community association (see below). The two districts are divided by religion, although Belnaleck is perceived to be neutral, while Arney, with premises close to the Catholic chapel is seen as single identity. Recently a lot of private housing development has occurred within Belnaleck which has given the village a greater cross-community dimension to it.

The Belnaleck group has been attempting to establish a 60-bed hostel in the Old Coach Yard which adjoins the rectory. It was hoped to provide an outdoor pursuits centre both for the young people of the area and also for others from outside the district. The policy of those proposing the initiative is that the hostel would be open to all and would thus contribute to peace and reconciliation by bringing together young people of different religious affiliations. The scheme would also have an educational element in that it would instil a more appreciative attitude to, and awareness of, the natural world.

Numerous difficulties were encountered by the group: the site in question is owned by the Church of Ireland which is represented on the Association Committee and there have been problems with the Church in drawing up a fifty-year lease which is suitable for funding bodies. A feasibility study was carried out and plans prepared and approved. However, funding bodies objected to church representation (it had to be 50:50 representation by religious affiliation) and grants could not be obtained unless these representatives were removed from the Committee. A number of funders were approached, including the International Fund for Ireland, the Rural Development Council, the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action and the Department of the Environment. Eventually, the scheme was proposed to the Department of Education; an Economic Appraisal was requested and produced by a consultant. Although the appraisal proved to be very positive, funding has not yet been secured for the project.

Consequently, the general perception of the local residents is that there is one rule for Catholics and another for Protestants. The Fermanagh District Partnership has also come in for some criticism; FDP indicated that the church-driven aspect presented the main problem. It was also stated that the area is not deprived, an opinion which has been strongly disputed locally and is now considered to have been shown to be incorrect.

The plight of the farming community in the area is viewed in pessimistic terms. It is felt that farmers are not appreciated, that there is a bias towards bigger units and even that farmers are not needed – produce can be brought in more cheaply from other sources.

Problems facing farmers were identified as being:

- The high value of the pound;
- Falling milk prices;
- The high cost of borrowing;
- The necessity of buying or renting quota to remain in business;
- The poor image of farming.

It is not considered that local farmers are treated fairly; they are ‘lumped together’ with Britain (especially England), where the situation is much different as the farms are bigger. Farming is crucial to the economy here, as 31% of the population depend on farming and other industries are also dependent upon the sector. In Fermanagh, the only option seems to be to “...turn the county into a national park and exploit the tourism potential of the area...”

The development of an outdoor pursuits centre is regarded as being very important for the local economy: it would bring over sixty young people to the area who would in turn promote the facilities by word-of-mouth recommendations and encourage others to come, giving local tourism a badly needed boost. The Association has also identified an abandoned quarry site which it is hoping to convert into a caravan site.

The picture which emerges of the Belnaleck area is one of a divided community. The Catholic areas are perceived to be favoured in the allocation of grants and a greater number of community groups are established by them with a resulting bias towards that community. Protestants feel very insecure and isolated, in danger of losing their cultural identity and can no longer count on support from the Government. When they do stand up for their rights they are liable to be labelled as bigots. The division is illustrated by the fact that the local Credit Union was started by the Orange Order and is single identity.

Cleenish Community Project

Cleenish Community Project (CCP) was formed in 1988 as Arney and District Community Association, which was renamed in 1993. The group was established by local residents who were concerned about the level of deprivation in the area and the lack of facilities and social

amenities. Initially, the main difficulty of the group was to get a 50:50, or, at least 60:40 cross-community mix, an issue which was not resolved until Cleenish Community Project was formed. A community relations audit was conducted, and the newly-named group acted upon the findings and recommendations. The group is now approximately 60% Catholic : 40% Protestant, which reflects the religious affiliation of the district. CCP members believe that all sections of the community should, and do, benefit from community activity.

Since its formation, the group has acquired a site for a new community hall and playgroup (the need for a neutral venue within the district was identified by the Community Relations Audit which was conducted in the Belnaleck, Granshagh and Arney area). During the past two years £40,000 has been raised locally towards its cost. The present premises consist of an old World War II Nissan hut. The group consists of twenty-two committee members representing a cross-section of the local population – business persons, farmers, housewives and retired people, (but no church leaders are included); it is also representative by age and gender.

Facilities in the area include a Church of Ireland hall at Belnaleck village, which was formerly an Orange Hall, Granshagh Orange Hall, two public houses and two restaurants. CCP is totally opposed to using any licensed premises, especially where young people will be involved. The new site is mid-way between Arney and Belnaleck. It is felt that there is an overwhelming need for a neutral venue / community hall. It could also be used for outreach classes by Fermanagh College of Further Education.

The group has good working relationships with Cleenish / Killesher Community Health Care Association. There has been some networking with Manorhamilton Arts and Literature groups and also with a Cross-Community group in County Sligo, but these are informal, *ad hoc* contacts. The group does not consider it part of its remit to pursue co-operation actively with other groups. It is felt that the local residents have a positive attitude towards CCP.

The group has received financial support from the following :

- The Lottery Charities Board - £34,000;
- Fermanagh District Partnership Board - £6450;
- Fermanagh District Council / Community Relations Council - £1500;
- Millennium Rural Halls Fund - £100,000.

One thousand pounds was also received from Fermanagh District Partnership Board to carry out an Economic Appraisal of the new hall project. The group is in a fairly good financial position, and no borrowing has been undertaken.

CCP's attitude towards the agencies is generally positive, although the Childhood Fund's attitude was described as "deplorable" apparently neither being interested in the group's playgroup project nor bothering to carry out an interview procedure. The Rural Development Council and Millennium Rural Halls Fund, on the other hand, were considered very helpful. It is generally considered that it would be better to have capital funding directed where it is really needed, rather than "... slicing the cake .." to such an extent that group projects have difficulty in getting off the ground.

Community relations in the area are described as being "... reasonably good ..", although there is obviously some mistrust under the surface. It is felt that the provision of a community hall, under the direction of three Catholic and three Protestant trustees, which would be open to all and would offer a range of activities suitable for all age groups, would go a long way towards building upon the goodwill which already exists.

There are, in the opinion of the group, a number of factors which impact on community development; these include:

- Cutbacks in the ACE Scheme;
- Too Many Main and Intermediary Funders;
- The Application of VAT to Community Groups;
- The Problem of a Definition of What is 'Urban' and What is 'Rural';
- The Main Funders and Intermediary Bodies Have No Presence on the Ground;
- The RDC Had a Presence But 'Moved Back'.

Granshagh Hall Committee

The Granshagh Hall Committee was formed around thirty years ago. The hall is for the use of the local community, but being an Orange Hall, is single identity. Many groups use the hall, each with its own purpose: the Committee was set up to co-ordinate its use and to have a group responsible for any maintenance. The hall has been extended several times over the past twenty years and a new kitchen has been installed. It is an old galvanised-frame building. Although the group is single identity, it is not anti-cross-community as such, but it does not see its building as being a venue for cross-community activities. The surrounding area is predominantly Protestant.

The committee is chiefly concerned with the activities of the Magheraboy Flute Band which performs all over Northern Ireland. The group is comprised of local people, the majority of whom are farmers. The only facility owned is Granshagh Hall. The review area is a dispersed one, surrounded by other areas with adequate facilities; this means that the deprivation level is under-estimated because of the comparative prosperity of these neighbouring districts which adjoin Granshagh. No financing has been obtained to provide amenities except for a grant to the band. The Committee perceives surrounding areas to have "...much more going for them." There has been no networking with other groups, either inside or outside the district.

The members of the Committee do not see any tourism potential in the area; no initiatives have been attempted in the fishing sector, but they think that opportunities may exist for individuals in that sector. Tourism-related farm diversification is also seen as an option for some land-owners.

The Committee and band are perceived to have a good image in the community and to receive widespread support. There has been no borrowing by the committee and financing is provided through fund-raising activities, apart from a one-off grant for band instruments.

The Community attitude towards community development is positive; it offers an opportunity for people of both traditions to become involved in projects of mutual benefit. Funding should be directed towards sustainable projects which result in job-creation and will be self-financing in the long-term. Each tradition should acknowledge the merits of the other's culture while maintaining its own identity. Overall, community relations are reasonably good, and neighbours are helpful to each other. The murder of a postman in the Arney area created much mistrust and bitterness, and presented an obstacle to co-operation. Regardless of the political situation, it is felt that working with a community group is much harder than dealing with the private sector where just one person makes the decisions; groups must arrive at a consensus to function properly. The committee has defined good community relations as follows:

“Mutual respect for various attitudes, knowledge of your own culture and respect for, and interest in, other cultures”.

Killesher / Cleenish Health Care Association

Killesher/Cleenish Health Care Association was formed approximately ten years ago, at the instigation of Councillor Wilson Elliot. The objectives of the group are to cater for social and community needs, and to provide assistance for the poor of the two parishes. There was lack of such help, and nobody was available to render immediate assistance.

Some small grants were received by the group to tide it over during the initial stages, but financial problems were overcome mainly through fund-raising. The Association is, and always has been, cross-community, reflecting the mix of the surrounding area. Apart from medical assistance, the group has also helped people who have suffered as a result of political unrest (e.g. those who lost their homes as a result of fire). The Association's membership includes church leaders, councillors and representatives of the local people.

The group has no premises of its own and meets in Wilson Elliot's house. There are few facilities in the area – a few Church Halls, one shop and four other businesses. More resources are urgently required to aid people in need. The Association perceives the area to be worse off than neighbouring districts, due to the lack of facilities. It is a considerable distance from services – people are required to travel to Enniskillen, which is ten miles away and this is expensive and time consuming.

The Association co-operates with all other groups in the area, since, basically, they all have the same objectives; however, the members consider that it is not within their remit to network outside their own area due to their limited resources. The Association has a good image within the catchment area and receives considerable support from the local community. It relies chiefly on fund-raising activities and has received little other financial support (some was promised, but not received!). The group has around £5000 in reserve and aims to “..stay slightly in the black..”

No money has been received from the agencies. The Association would like to see them helping the needy. Most of the old people in the area need help and are not receiving any; a particularly serious development is the cutback in home help provision. It is felt that people in country areas receive less attention than their urban counterparts. The former are particularly vulnerable, often isolated, lacking a telephone and with no home security systems.

Community relations are perceived to be very good in the area. It is felt, however, that more could be achieved in relation to consolidating community links if the Association had premises of its own. There is a need also to have a full-time person on the ground to promote the group's objectives. It is also felt that the chances of survival for groups such as Killesher/Cleenish Health Care, are slim, since there are no grants available to subsidise their operations as they are solely a fund-raising body for good causes.

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (CCE) Group, Cleenish

CCE, Cleenish was formed around 1988. The objective of the group is to maintain the Irish cultural tradition, in particular music and dance. The group organises functions in the area thus providing an incentive for the young people to preserve their culture. The committee is single identity. However, the Irish dancing class which has been organised attracts cross-community support. The group consists of a cross-section of the local community. The only facility belonging to CCE is an old army hut. The group has reached the finals of Ulster and all-Ireland Irish music competitions. No financial assistance has been received from outside sources; fund-raising is conducted through ceilidhthe and music and dance sessions in public houses. No borrowing has been undertaken.

Comments from the Consultation Process

- ***There is a general view that Belnaleck is much worse off than the rest of the County;*** the interviewees believed that the area is socially deprived and that there is a lack of facilities there. The people of the area have been unable to obtain funding and consequently the range of facilities continues to be low.
- ***Community relations in the area are good;*** each group commented that there is an overall good relationship and that there is good neighbourly and community spirit. However, there were some comments indicating that, under the surface, there is a distrust because of too many false perceptions of other traditions in the area. The murder of a postman in the Arney area has done considerable harm to community relations in the district.
- ***There is a need for financial support in order to redevelop the area;*** the needs of the area are perceived to be primarily economic. However the area is having substantial problems in securing the finances necessary for improvements. There are few facilities, and local employment is entirely based on small farms as there are no local manufacturing nor commercial businesses. This adds to the deprivation of the area.
- ***There is a demand for a neutral venue in the area;*** this is seen as having the potential to improve community relations and might also attract outreach activity by Fermanagh College into the area. It could also attract other facilities into the area and improve services.

Summary

Whilst Belnaleck is currently deprived, the people of the area are keen to see it progress economically and socially, and are prepared to co-operate to that end. Cross-community links are aided by the fact that, on the surface at least, both communities 'get along' reasonably well, though some past incidents damaged relationships seriously. Funding is a major issue for this community, and, if its dependence on Enniskillen is to be reduced, this community will need considerably more support from the statutory agencies.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE BELNALECK AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Belnaleck Area	Number in Granshagh Area	Number in Arney Area
Guesthouses	5	4	-	1
Self-catering	3	3	-	-
Hotels	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Erne Marine	1	1	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS				
	1	-	-	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	1	1	-	-
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1			1
Community Halls		-	-	
Masonic and Other Halls	1	-	1	-
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	1	-	-	1
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	-	-	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	-	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF BELLEEK

(Including the Townland Communities of Roscor, Letter, Mulleek and Tullyvoгы)

Description of the Area

Belleek is situated on the Fermanagh-Donegal border, at a junction of the A46 Ballyshannon-Enniskillen road and the A47 from Kesh to South Donegal - routes which run West and East of Lough Erne, respectively. The population of the town grew from 386 in 1971 to 550 in 1991, an increase of 42.5%. Its main statistics are summarised below:

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: BELLEEK AREA (Based on the Belleek and Boa Ward) (SUB-AREAS: ROSCOR, MULLEEK, LETTER AND TULLYVOGY)	
POPULATION:	
Total	2101
Male	1055 (50.2%)
Female	1046 (49.8%)
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:	
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>
2487	2101
GROWTH (-15.5%)	
HOUSEHOLDS:	652
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:	3.22 persons per household.
DEPRIVATION:	
OVERALL WARD:	84 th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Eleven in total. <i>1 in the Most Deprived 5% in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>4 others in the Worst 25%</i> <i>4 others in the Worst 50%</i>
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):	
Males	88
Females	26
OVERALL	114
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:	
CATHOLIC:	68.6%
PROTESTANT:	23.9%
OTHERS/NO RESPONSE:	7.6%

Socio-Economic Background

The following section provides an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics of Belleek and the surrounding area.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2101 residents in the overall area (the Belleek and Boho electoral wards), comprising 1055 males and 1046 females. This total represents 3.9% of the Fermanagh population, and 0.13% of the Northern Ireland population. The area is heavily reliant on Belleek Pottery as an employment provider and as a tourist attraction. (The pottery is visited by approximately 200,000 persons per year).

The population is predominantly Catholic (68.6%) with the second largest denomination being Church of Ireland (17.5%). The area has one Protestant Church and hall, one Catholic Chapel and hall, a FDC cross-community centre, and a large GAA sports hall. The Rural Housing Association has invested twice in the town.

Breakdown By Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentile
Roman Catholic	1442	68.6%
Presbyterian	61	2.9%
Church of Ireland	367	17.5%
Methodist	73	3.5%
Others	159	7.6%
TOTAL	2102*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

According to a recent study of disadvantage, (*Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al.*, 1994), which was commissioned by the Policy Planning and Research Unit of the Department of Finance and Personnel, the Belleek ward is the 8th most deprived of the twenty-three in Fermanagh, and 84th most deprived of the entire 566 wards in Northern Ireland. The following table summarises the position:

Deprivation Level Of The Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	84	15%
Extent	166	29%
Intensity	71	13%

An analysis of the eleven Enumeration Districts (ED's) shows that nine are in the most disadvantaged 50% in the region. The principal factors contributing to deprivation in Belleek are:

- Pensioners Living In Accommodation Without Central Heating;
- Households Without Bath, Shower Or WC;
- Properties Without Access To A Public Sewerage System;
- High Household Density;
- High Levels Of Unemployment.

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs indicate the current community development situation in Belleek and the surrounding areas.

Belleek and District Development Trust

Belleek and District Development Trust was formed in 1989, after a public meeting on IFI funding programmes generated local interest. The aim of the Association is to promote economic and social development which would lead to direct and indirect job creation. The group's mixed identity reflects the community profile. Since most of the members are business people, it has not been considered necessary to undertake any capacity building.

The two biggest initial problems faced by the Association were to achieve external credibility and to obtain funding. To date the group has achieved the following:

- Acquired £1.9 million worth of assets
- Claimed to have created 60 part-time summer jobs
- Developed the Erne Gateway Centre - a heritage and interpretative centre, and the base for a cruiser company (TIC and various courses are held there).
- Improved main-street footpaths and street lighting.
- Community businesses in pottery and boat repair

No new projects are planned for the short to medium term. The group networks with the Enterprise Centre in Ballyshannon and there is an informal relationship with a development association in Sweden. Belleek has few resources and does not actively network with other groups in the county.

Funds have been granted from the following agencies: IFI, DoE, NITB, DANI, NIVT, RDC and LEDU; £50,000 has been raised locally. The group's Economic Development Officer was funded by Cadbury's for a three year period as the village was the first to develop a CRISP scheme.

The group has been unable to secure additional funding for an Economic Development Officer and this position is now unfilled. It is considered that this will have severe implications for the group's future and for the town.

Relations have always been good in the area and the group has helped to further community relations, even if it is only by getting both traditions to provide background support. A lot of people in the area do not understand the Association or the purpose of the Gateway Centre. The group has tried to overcome this but some (from both sides of the community) are not interested and do not wish to be involved. The group needs to attract more local involvement if it is to survive.

Belleek Social Development Group

A recently established group, its focus is firmly on social development which, it believed, was not being adequately addressed by the Development Trust. The structure and remit of the group is modelled upon the social work undertaken by Irvinestown; it now employs a worker.

Belleek Chamber Of Commerce

Belleek Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1979, prompted by a perceived need to have an organisation to represent the area. It operated more on a community basis than an economic one. It ran successfully for 6-7 years, but, as community development came to the fore, there was some duplication of input and the local Chamber of Commerce relinquished its role.

Four years ago, it was decided to get the Chamber active again. This time, it was decided to concentrate on commercial and marketing aspects. The committee members applied to the Peace and Reconciliation fund for a grant that would enable them to employ somebody to market the town at home and abroad. They specifically wanted to produce a brochure for the town and surrounding area. To date, no funding has been received. They feel that this has been blocked by the development associations which are mainly concerned with looking after themselves. This has left the group very disillusioned, but determined to carry on. A specific problem for the group is that currently Belleek Pottery has no direct involvement with the Chamber. Co-operation with the Pottery will be crucial if the Chamber is to be successful.

The Chamber members feel that if the town is to be marketed successfully, it will be necessary to provide the following amenities:

- A small sports facility
- Tennis courts and club (currently in the pipeline through private development)
- A Heritage Centre to attract the American tourists visiting the Pottery
- More private housing (the population increase would support local business all year round).

The group networks only with Ballyshannon but not to a great extent at present. It is self-sustaining through subscriptions. Members consider that local residents are not interested in their work and that there is a feeling that the Chamber is only concerned with its own affairs

and not with the good of the town. The two major problems facing the organisation are:

- obtaining funding for marketing, and
- competition from community development associations.

In Belleek however, there has been no direct competition between the businesses of Chamber members and any community development initiative. Nevertheless, members feel very resentful that groups are able to obtain large grants to the detriment of private business.

Mulleek Community Association

Mulleek is a small townland community approximately two miles from Belleek on the A47 road to Kesh. The community is approximately 95% Catholic and 5% Protestant.

Mulleek Community Association was formed in 1987. The group's objective was to provide a focal point for the two communities to interact and to encourage participation through further education and social events. They were given advice from FDC on the procedures involved in setting up the Association. The committee members are all Catholic which almost reflects the community profile; Protestants support events but are not actively involved. No capacity building has been undertaken.

As with most other groups, the biggest initial problem they had was to access funding for the provision of premises; the group worked to restore the old school for use for various activities. They had to cope with the disillusionment of members when various sources proved unsuccessful.

Funding from the Cadbury Trust enabled them to restore the school and now it is available for use. The lease on it has been secured for twenty-five years, with an option to renew for another ten years. A local history group has been established and social events are held periodically. It has also conducted fly-fishing and set-dancing classes.

The Association members have a positive perception of the area and do not wish it to change through any economic development initiatives. It is a small area and has a unique identity that should be maintained. It is acknowledged that there is nothing for young people in the area. The Association would like to provide something for them, but it is unclear what would interest them enough to get involved.

There is no formal networking but the group does receive a lot of support from across the border at social events. As there are a number of community associations in the area, it was decided to set up an umbrella organisation. A meeting was held six months ago, but since then no progress has been made. The group feels that it could benefit greatly from such an organisation.

The Cadbury Trust provided the funding to restore the school. Since then, oil heating has been installed (July 1997), for which a grant of £1,000 was obtained from the Fermanagh Trust, £1,000 from NIVT and £500 was raised locally. Currently the group has £250 in funds and is resigned to the fact that funds will always be inadequate. Cross-border financial support usually is in Punt, which is of lower value than Sterling. It is realised that funding cannot last forever, and members hope that this reality will provide the impetus for groups to be self-sustaining and that they will be successful on their own merits and not due to the funds they might have received.

Existing community relations in the area were always strong and the group sees its role being to enhance that situation. Even though Protestants are not actively involved, they do not view the group as "...a Catholic thing.." and can see the benefits it provides; there is no organisation for Protestant teenagers in the area and it is unlikely there will be in the future, since there are

not enough members to sustain the viability of such a group. The group faces problems of external credibility and feels that community organisations do not always receive a good press.

Now that border roads are open, the feeling of isolation has diminished and life has been made easier for everyone. However, people in Mulleek do not regard their location as a hindrance in any way, but feel that they qualify for greater financial assistance because of it.

Belleek 1st Scout Troop

This group ran for a number of years until 1991, when it disbanded as there were not enough locals willing to become leaders. The group met on a Wednesday, after school, in Belleek, so as to reduce the travel factor for parents. The number of children joining declined after several years and some leaders lost heart and resigned. The Girl Guides and Brownies suffered a similar fate. There is no organisation for Protestant teenagers in the area and it is unlikely that there will be in the near future. Teenagers travel to Kesh to the Young Farmers Club.

Economic View

Businesses in Belleek are 'feeling the pinch' as the Punt's value declines. This has the greatest effect on petrol stations where bigger savings are to be made across the border. Belleek Pottery is the main employer in the area but a lot of employment is seasonal or part-time. This is acceptable for students and housewives to supplement income, but not on a permanent basis. The area needs a manufacturing base to counteract the above, but it also needs to provide crèche facilities (likely to be addressed through the Cross-Border Childcare Initiative). The Chamber of Commerce needs "...to get its act together and market the town.."; this is something that the Development Association has failed to do - they were concerned only with the cruiser hire. Belleek has great tourist potential but it needs "... to spend money to make money..".

Views Of A Local Resident

Belleek Beacon House Club ran until six years ago, when its leader fell ill and there was no one to replace her. However, its former members expressed opinions which are worthy of note. They feel that had they still been operational, they would have been alienated by the community development groups that are evident in the area. It seems that money has been 'thrown' at these groups regardless of their work in the community. There are very few districts in the county that do not have a community group, but most of these were set up only when there were substantial sums of money available, while other groups such as themselves (i.e. the Beacon House Club), Women's Institutes etc. managed to operate without such financial aid.

They cannot help but feel that some people have jumped on the bandwagon without having the necessary commitment, or an understanding of what it entails to work in the community. A view was expressed that groups should not need to employ a development officer, on a substantial wage, if they have a committee of interested locals involved, as this is regarded as being "...a waste of money..". It is believed that when the money runs out, there will be a real test of commitment.

Belleek has successfully obtained a commitment from the Rural Housing Association (RHA) to build a total of twenty houses (ten have already been built) in the area. There are also plans in the pipeline for more private housing in Belleek.

Roscor

This area identifies entirely with Belleek and sees no need for a separate community development organisation; effectively it is Belleek's 'commuter base'.

Letter and Tullyvogy

These two townland settlements lie to the East of Belleek very close to the border; both are very small communities, entirely rural in character. There is little prospect of any independent community activity in either area, though Letter, in particular, has tourism potential, given its proximity to considerable lake frontage.

Letter has a significant Protestant community which was much more active in the past than it is at present. Currently, most of its activities for children and teenagers is centred in Kesh rather than in Belleek.

Tullyvogy is very close to the border and is somewhat isolated. In reality, its population is too small to undertake independent, viable, community activity.

Therefore to the extent that they participate in community activity at all (and Letter, especially, would have an interest in community activity) they tend to link up with Belleek or Kesh, depending on the nature of the activity.

Comments From The Consultation Process

The main issues produced from the consultation process are detailed in the following section:

- ***It Is Considered That Belleek Is Disadvantaged Due To Its Location:*** too much reliance has been placed on cross-border business, which is subject to fluctuation as the Sterling:Punt exchange rate changes.
- ***The Town Is Much Too Reliant On Belleek Pottery As An Employer, And On The Tourism It Generates:*** this is Belleek's main claim to fame, and it completely overshadows everything else in the area.
- ***There Is A Consensus That The Area Needs To Develop A Wider Manufacturing Base:*** an associated need is for child-care facilities and better transport facilities.
- ***Continued Funding, It Is Felt, Is Essential For the Survival Of Community Groups:*** the capacity to raise funds locally is low.
- ***Community Groups Can Undertake Projects Which The Private Sector Can Not, Or Will Not, Take On:*** however, it is the opinion of their members that groups often lack credibility with financial institutions while private organisations do not.
- ***The Recent Growing Currency Differential Has Caused Concern In The Business Community:*** the greatest adverse effect has been on petrol stations, as their usual customers can make substantial savings by patronising suppliers across the border.
- ***There Is A Consensus That Belleek Should Be Marketed Better:*** this could be undertaken by the Chamber of Commerce (since the Development Association has failed to do so).

Perceptions Of Agencies

It is considered that, generally, the agencies are helpful. However, an inordinate amount of time is involved in dealing with them. Their insistence that numerous appraisals be carried out can be very frustrating. In addition, they do not always recognise the difficulties associated with providing matching funding. There have been no insurmountable problems in

working with them, but “.. you need to talk their language..”. The Belleek Association has been least successful with the administrators of the SSPPR (Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation).

Summary

There is obviously a degree of ‘tension’ on several dimensions in the area. The area’s main employer is not perceived as contributing anything beyond its economic contribution, and this creates resentment as the local associations would like to develop their relationship with the pottery and pursue a partnership approach to local development. In addition, there is some scepticism (especially in the ‘outlying’ areas) about the value of the current community activity in the district.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE BELLEEK AREA						
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Belleek Area	Number in Roscor Area	Number in Mulleek Area	Number in Letter Area	Number in Tullyvogy Area
Guesthouses	5	4	-	-	1	-
Self-catering	8	8	-	-	-	-
Hotels	1	1	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS						
Lough Navar	1	-	1	-	-	-
Castle Caldwell	1	-	-	1	-	-
ExplorErne Exhibition/Museum	1	1	-	-	-	-
Fermanagh Crystal	1	1	-	-	-	-
Equestrian/Lakeview Riding Centre	1	1	-	-	-	-
Belleek Cruisers	1	1	-	-	-	-
Belleek Pottery	1	1	-	-	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	3	2	-	1	-	-
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES						
Protestant Church Halls	2	1	-	-	1	-
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	2	2	-	-	-	-
Community Halls	1	-	-	1	-	-
GAA Halls	1	1	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-
SPORTS FACILITIES						
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	1	-	-	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES						
Pharmacists/Dispensary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	1	1	-	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF BROOKEBOROUGH

(Including the Townland Communities of Clabby, Coonian and Dooneen)

Description of the Area

Brookeborough is situated at the South-western end of the Clogher Valley, at the junction of the A4 (Enniskillen to Fivemiletown route), and B140 (Brookeborough to Lisbellaw). The village's population increased from 379 to 541 between 1971 and 1991, a growth rate of 42.7%. It is the main population centre in the Brookeborough ward, which is sparsely populated; the population density is 0.18 persons per hectare, compared to the Fermanagh figure of 0.29. The area has been shown to be highly deprived. The ward lies within the former Lisnaskea Rural District, and is characterised by poor land and small farms. The principal farming activity is cattle and sheep rearing. Around 99% of the farms are in areas designated LFA (Less Favoured Area).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: BROOKEBOROUGH AREA (SUB-AREAS: CLABBY, DOONEEN, COONIAN)		
POPULATION:		
Total	2229	
Male	1139 (51.1%)	
Female	1090 (48.9%)	
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
1971	1991	GROWTH
2534	2229	-12%
HOUSEHOLDS: 666		
OCCUPANCY DENSITY: 3.35 persons per household		
DEPRIVATION:		47 th Most deprived in Northern Ireland. Eleven in total. <i>Two in the most deprived 5% in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>One Other in the Worst 10%</i> <i>Two Others in the worst 20%.</i> <i>All deprived (i.e. in worst 50%)</i>
OVERALL WARD:		
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:		
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998)		
MALES	78	
FEMALES	18	
OVERALL	96	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:	48%	
PROTESTANT:	40.1%	
OTHERS/NO RESPONSE:	12%	

Socio-Economic Background

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2229 residents in the area (the Brookeborough electoral ward), comprising 1139 males and 1090 females. This represents 4.1% of the Fermanagh population, and 0.14% of the Northern Ireland population.

The largest religious denomination is Roman Catholic (48%) with the next largest being Church of Ireland (almost 30%). Facilities in Brookeborough include two Orange halls, one Church of Ireland hall, with Methodists and Roman Catholics also having one hall each. Coonian has a Chapel and one Church of Ireland Church and hall, while Clabby has the use of just one venue, the old Protestant school, which also serves as a meeting place for Sunday School attendees.

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1070	48.0
Presbyterian	67	3.0
Church of Ireland	642	28.8
Methodist	184	8.3
Others	267	12.0
TOTAL	2230*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

The Brookeborough area is very severely deprived, relative to the rest of Fermanagh and to Northern Ireland as a whole. It is the fourth most disadvantaged ward in the county and the 47th most deprived in Northern Ireland, according to a study of disadvantage in the region conducted by Robson *et al* (*Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland, 1994*) which was commissioned by the Policy Planning and Research Unit of the Department of Finance and Personnel. The main contributory factors to the ward's high deprivation rating are:

- Pensioners Living In Accommodation Without Central Heating;
- Households Without Both Shower Or WC;
- Properties Without Access To A Public Sewerage System;
- High Household Population Density;
- 18-24 Year Olds With No Qualifications; and
- An Unacceptably High Level Of Unemployment.

(Several of these factors concern housing conditions; in a survey carried out in 1996 by the NIHE, it was established that 17.2% of dwellings in Fermanagh were "unfit" compared to the regional average of 7.3%).

DEPRIVATION LEVEL OF THE WARD		
	RANK	PERCENTILE
Degree	47	8
Extent	98	17
Intensity	11	2

This is a predominantly rural area, where farming is mainly grass-based and much of the 'up-lands' area has been converted to forestry. The vast majority of the land is poor and agriculture is no longer capable of supporting the area's communities.

Community Development Situation

The following sections indicate the current community development situation in Brookeborough and the surrounding areas.

Brookeborough and District Community Development Association

Brookeborough village and its immediate hinterland are around 60% Protestant and 40% Catholic. The Community Development Association was formed in 1993, with the assistance of the Community Relations Officer and RDC's Community Development worker, to promote the economic and social regeneration of the village and the surrounding rural area. It is cross-community and also comprises equal numbers of males and females. There are currently ten Protestants and three Catholics on the committee, but of the four officers, there is always equal representation by religion and gender. The Association is also representative of the occupations of the community, both professional and commercial, and of various age groups.

Most of the committee members of Brookeborough Association have been on the Community Leadership Programme, which they found to be very worthwhile. Some members have also been on Slieve Beagh and ABSAG courses.

The Association has purchased and tastefully refurbished the Station House (its flagship project), under the CRISP programme, which houses offices for the group, as well as providing meeting rooms and playgroup facilities. The playgroup is a good example of a project which has, in a natural way, attracted cross community support within the local area. An environmental improvement scheme is about to commence and, in general, the Association acts as a pressure group to “..get things done..” in, and around, the village, such as the organisation of the Community Festival.

Brookeborough and District Community Development Association belongs to the Slieve Beagh cross-border group and to ABSAG. It has also networked with Riverstown, County Sligo. Being a progressive and mature group, the members are aware of the value of networking with other groups, both within their own catchment area and further afield.

The Association has been awarded, in total, £355,000 from the International Fund for Ireland, the DoE and the Community Relations Unit. These funds were for the Station House project, and for the environmental improvement scheme. NIVT, under SSPPR, provide funds for the group’s worker. However, the Association continues to face financial problems, in common with other groups in the area, and it also faces problems relating to accommodation for various activities.

Clabby Christmas Lights Committee

The Clabby area is predominantly Protestant (around 90% Protestant : 10% Catholic) and many security force personnel reside in this townland community. The community grouping is single identity and is comprised of six local business people, housewives, and one church leader. It was formed in 1990 to assist in the process of regeneration in the area. To date, it has been responsible for the erection of Christmas lights, for which it has received small amounts of funding from Fermanagh District Council. The committee does not own any premises.

Coonian History Group/Coonian Development Association

The Coonian area is approximately two thirds Catholic and one third Protestant. The History Group/Development Association was formed in 1990 to research and record local history. It is cross community and its composition is 50% Protestant and 50% Catholic. The group is comprised of a number of teachers, housewives, factory workers, a lorry driver and some retired housewives; it does not own any premises; the members have attended capacity-building courses. The History Section of the group has produced a book on local history. It is working with the Development Association to buy premises for a shared venue. The Association has purchased an old church and school at Coonian Cross and is currently in the process of leasing a ‘ghost house’ from the Forestry Division and nearby lakes (for fishing) from Lord Brookeborough. Funding has been secured from the Fermanagh District Partnership and Fermanagh Trust; the group has also been selected for further assistance from the RDC under the Planet Scheme

Coonian Development Association belongs to the Slieve Beagh cross-border group and to ABSAG. It has networked with Knockatallon Community Group in Monaghan and would be keen to co-operate with any group interested in economic development. The Association is targeting approximately £722,500, towards the renovation of the old church and school, along with other small amounts from Fermanagh District Partnership and Fermanagh Trust. The Coonian History group has received approximately £1,000 in sponsorship from FDC, NIVT,

NIE and the Cadbury Trust towards production of the local history study.

Dooneen Development Association

This is currently being established to reflect the wide number of user groups that use Dooneen Community Education Centre as their community base; prior to this there was no community development organisation in Dooneen because of the area's small population and its perceived inability to support a 'stand-alone' group. Any locals interested in community activity tended to become involved with the Tempo Development Association, but it is hoped that those with previous experience of community work will now return to assist the reconstituted local group.

Other Activities In The Area

Brookeborough Camogie Club: Although based in Brookeborough it draws a very high percentage of members from the Coonian area. The club is single identity (Catholic), and was formed for sporting and cultural purposes in 1986. The membership is composed of housewives, factory workers and one business person. The Club has reached the County Camogie Finals. The group works within its own network, both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic of Ireland. Financial support is available within that network and is supplemented by fund-raising activities.

Coonian Boxing Club: The club is cross-community and its membership is approximately 60% Catholic and 40% Protestant; there are around 55 members. The committee includes seven members of each religion (total number on the committee - 14) and has representatives from a wide range of occupations including civil servants, teachers, engineers, hoteliers, plumbers and retired farmers.

The Club has had representation in the Ulster and all Ireland Championships, and competes with clubs across the country. This sporting group also operates primarily within its own network. It has obtained funding from Cadburys, Community Relations Council and several other Trusts which has enabled the club to purchase and partially extend a redundant evangelical hall for its own use; it is awaiting funding from the Sports Lottery to complete the necessary renovations.

This club is regarded by FDC Community Services as an example of how sport can cross the traditional divide and how this sport has gained cross-community support over a wide area.

Cavanaleck Pipe Band: The committee of the Cavanaleck Pipe Band is single identity - the population of the area is 90% Protestant : 10% Catholic. It was formed in 1960 for cultural purposes; it is the only band in Fermanagh which plays the Brian Boru pipes; it plays at concerts and other community events. The Band has adopted a policy of recruiting young people. The promoters interact with other bands and various historical societies and the band has taken part in local tourism shows for Fermanagh District Council as it believes that it also has an educational role to fulfill by explaining the Irishness of its piping tradition.

Comments from the Consultation Process

The main issues arising from the consultation process are as follows:

- *There is a local consensus that this area is particularly deprived relative to the rest of Fermanagh;* each group sees its own area as faring worse than the others. Brookeborough village is seen as faring reasonably well, but Coonian is seen as isolated and remote, and as being one of the most deprived areas of Fermanagh - much worse off than the surrounding areas of Lisnaskea, Brookeborough or Fivemiletown.
- *This ward's location is seen as having a detrimental effect on its development;* its

location within Fermanagh (particularly in the case of Clabby, which is relatively accessible to Enniskillen), is perceived as a disadvantage with all economic activity gravitating towards the county town. In addition, Fermanagh's location on the periphery of Northern Ireland is also perceived as being a disadvantage when most activity is seen as being centred on Belfast.

- ***There is some antipathy towards Fermanagh District Council;*** it is perceived as being reluctant to help these disadvantaged areas by providing the resources needed to tackle their problems.
- ***Community relations are reasonably good in this area;*** there is no dominance by one group over the area as a whole, though in sub-areas one tradition or the other tends to have a majority. However, any good relations that exist, occur only in a neutral environment. People tend to 'keep themselves to themselves', without getting involved in political arguments. Single-identity groups have continued to remain that way, with little interaction with other parts of the community.
- ***There is a growing trend towards an ageing population in the area;*** young people are leaving the area partly because of a lack of residential housing; the consequent increasing elderly population tends to have the effect of reducing the focus on young people.
- ***The needs of the area are seen as being mainly economic;*** there is a high dependence on agriculture based on small farms and poor land, and there are few shops and services. There is a need to bring business-starts into the area to try and maintain the population's stability.
- ***Among other problems, all the groups have experienced, and, in some cases, continue to experience, financial difficulties;*** there is a problem with accommodation for group activities. Special interest groups continue to have problems peculiar to their activities. Other problems faced by community groups include their lack of knowledge about funding generally and how to access funds. Many would be inexperienced in financial matters, and because of all of the bureaucracy would tend to be lacking in confidence. Learning to utilise the strengths within the group as well as accepting 'ownership' of the project(s) can be somewhat daunting for such groups.
- ***Interviewees expressed strong feelings about the “.. rape ..” of the countryside by the forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture;*** they say that strangers are coming into the area and damaging the environment; the comment was made: “.. If the Forestry Division does not care about the countryside, why should we? ..”

Perceptions of the Agencies

The following points indicate the groups' views of the funding agencies:

- ***The agencies providing financial support are generally perceived as being helpful;*** however, some groups felt there was too much 'red tape'; others felt that, while the agencies were not actually obstructive, the goalposts kept moving.
- ***Groups felt uncomfortable when having to deal with agencies;*** they were continuously having to meet with funders, yet they still felt their commitment was being questioned and a lot of time and money was being wasted; in addition, groups were incurring interest charges on funds they were forced to borrow until the agencies remitted what had been agreed.
- ***There was particular concern from the groups which did not receive funds from these agencies;*** these groups wanted to know where, and why, their applications had failed, but

there was very little feedback from the agencies on the reasons for the unsuccessful applications. The following broad suggestions were put forward for the agencies to consider in their dealings with the voluntary sector.

- general simplification of funding arrangements;
- more advice at an early stage in development;
- upgrading of communications with community groups;
- more help with actual application forms;
- provision of reassurance about funding - community groups have little, or no, security;
- statutory bodies should recognise that groups are voluntary - therefore time and resources are very scarce;
- the agencies should expedite their administrative processes.

Border Area

The following comments relate to the impact of the border on this area, in social, economic, and communal terms:

- ***The border itself is seen as having no major impact on the area;*** nobody passes very much remarks on the border and it is seen as part of the neighbourhood. Some of the groups have close connections with groups on the other side of the border and it is not seen as a major problem to those which have cross-border club affiliations.
- ***The closure of roads has caused problems for some of the groups;*** there is a general view that when the roads were opened it made the area less peripheral. It was believed that, economically, the area would improve, and that cross-border trade would open up; it would re-establish the links that have been broken.
- ***The effect of the differences between the Pound Sterling and the Irish Punt is causing an unstable economical environment;*** people are benefiting from the differences in the exchange rate, but they acknowledge that the uncertainty is having a detrimental effect on their economy.

Summary

Overall, this area is deprived and is so perceived by its communities. It lacks the 'building blocks' for a strong economic base and the fact that the two communities keep to themselves does nothing to improve the social and community relations situations.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE BROOKEBOROUGH AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Brookeborough Area	Number in Dooneen Area	Number in Coonian Area
Guesthouses	1	1	-	-
Self-catering	-	-	-	-
Hotels	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Bicycle Museum	1	1	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	2	1	1	-
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	3	2	-	1
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-	-
GAA Halls	1	1	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	3	1	1	1
Community Halls	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	4	4	-	-
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	1	1	-	-
Playgrounds	2	2	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	1	1	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF DERRYGONNELLY

(Including The Townland Communities Of Blaney, Boho, Churchill, Monea And Springfield)

Description Of The Area

Derrygonnelly is a village situated in South-West Fermanagh, approximately ten miles from Enniskillen on the B81 route. During the period 1971-1991 the population of the village increased from 538 to 716, or 33.1%, over the (two-decade) inter-censal period. Derrygonnelly is at a disadvantage because of its location, off the main tourist and commercial routes of the county.

Socio-Economic Background

The following table provides a summary of the demographic, social and economic statistics of Derrygonnelly and its surrounding area:

<u>STATISTICAL SUMMARY: DERRYGONNELLY AREA</u> (SUB-AREAS: BLANEY, BOHO, CHURCHILL, MONEA AND SPRINGFIELD)		
<u>POPULATION:</u>		
Total	2304	
Male	1152 (50%)	
Female	1152 (50%)	
<u>POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:</u>		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>GROWTH</u>
2539	2304	-9.3%
<u>HOUSEHOLDS:</u> 706		
<u>OCCUPANCY DENSITY:</u> 3.26 Persons per Household.		
<u>DEPRIVATION:</u>		
<u>OVERALL WARD:</u>	108 th Most Deprived In Northern Ireland	
<u>ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:</u>	Twelve In Total <i>One In The Most Deprived 10% In Northern Ireland</i> <i>Three Others In The Most Deprived 20%</i> <i>Eleven Deprived (i.e. In The Worst 50%)</i>	
<u>UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):</u>		
MALES	59	
FEMALES	34	
OVERALL	93	
<u>RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:</u>		
CATHOLIC:	59.6%	
PROTESTANT:	30.8%	
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	9.6%	

According to the 1991 Census, the total number of residents in the overall area (the Derrygonnelly electoral ward) was 2304 comprising an equal number of males and females (1152). This total represented 4.3% of the Fermanagh population at that time and 0.15% of the Northern Ireland total.

The majority of the population are Roman Catholic (59.6%), with the next largest religious group being Church of Ireland (22.5%). Facilities include two church halls, a Methodist church and a Chapel.

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1372	59.6%
Presbyterian	15	0.7%
Church of Ireland	519	22.5%
Methodist	175	7.6%
Others	222	9.6%
TOTAL	2303*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

Data derived from an index of disadvantage supplied by Robson *et al* (*Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, 1994), indicate that Fermanagh ranks as the sixth most deprived local Government District, in terms of degree of deprivation; in terms of intensity and extent, it ranks fifth and third respectively. Within Fermanagh's overall standing, the ward of Derrygonnelly is the twelfth most deprived of the twenty-three wards.

DEPRIVATION LEVEL OF DERRYGONNELLY WARD		
	RANK	PERCENTILE
Degree	108	20%
Extent	168	30%
Intensity	77	15%

Agriculture continues to be very important to this area's economy where there is a long and strong tradition of dairy farming. In recent years, much of the area's uplands have been planted by the Forestry Service and a few private developers - mainly with evergreens and soft woods.

Community Development Situation

The following section indicates the current community development situation in Derrygonnelly and its surrounding area:

Derrygonnelly And District Development Association

Derrygonnelly Development Association was formed in February 1989. The group's aims are to promote the:

- regeneration of Derrygonnelly and District;
- provide health care facilities; and
- provide education facilities.

The group's policy is to have equal numbers of Catholics and Protestants serving on its committees and to not have any churchmen nor political representatives. The biggest initial problem confronting the group was to access funding. To date, the group has undertaken the following initiatives:

- The development of a holiday village (opened June 1994)
- The provision of a day-centre for the elderly (opened November 1995)
- The construction of Derrygonnelly Field Study Centre.

The Association networks through its involvement with Lakeland Community Care and Lakeland Country Breaks. So far, the only cross-border networking has been with Lough Arrell Enterprises in Sligo; however, the Association has recently started to network with Inishowen Tourism. This is working well and will, hopefully, lead to useful initiatives for both parties.

The Tir Navar project was funded through the IFI's CRISP Programme (50%) and a Local Government loan, 20% of which has to be paid back over a ten year period. Derrygonnelly is the only group within Northern Ireland on target to meet these repayments which stand at around £600-£700 per month. It is one of the few development associations able to do so. Because it has been able to meet its financial undertaking, which must be the main priority, it is now on course to receive funding for the field study centre from INTERREG and FDC. Derrygonnelly has achieved credibility with funders, which is vital if it is to succeed in the future.

The group always charges for the use of its facilities even if it is only a nominal fee; this is accepted by all using the facilities and means that the group does not incur any additional expenses e.g. for heating and electricity.

This Association sees community development as a means of fostering and strengthening existing community relations - people of all traditions working together. Relations have always been good in the area but the group has removed some of the suspicions of both communities. An example of this is that, initially, some Protestants were reluctant to be associated with Tir Navar; now they are gradually 'coming round' and using the centre for social events.

Boho

Boho is situated in West Fermanagh approximately six miles from Enniskillen, seven miles from Derrygonnelly and six miles from Belcoo. It is classified as a townland community and is characterised by its dispersed rural population. Its community profile is perceived to be 95%:5% Catholic/Protestant.

Boho Community Association

Boho Community Association was formed in 1992 after a successful public meeting. The group has a 50/50 mixed membership. The members have made a conscious decision not to include any religious leaders on its committees. It aims to foster existing community relations by providing a neutral venue for all to meet. There has been some capacity building under the WEA Goal Programme.

The Association has had problems in accessing funding for the community hall. A grant has recently been approved by the Millennium Rural Hall Fund and Central Community Relations Unit, and building will shortly begin. The group has been using totally inadequate facilities, such as The Linnet Inn, and the disused Killyhommon School and Agheraherrish School, to date, for social events and courses. The Women's Group has been heavily involved with running social events to raise funding. The membership has increased steadily in the past five years. As a group they have generated between £15,000-£20,000 in five years. Boho playgroup, which attracts cross-community support, has also been successful in securing initial funds and this should help the group as it currently operates out of a shop.

Members of the group perceive the positive features of the area to be as follows:

- good community relations;
- a will to succeed on the part of the residents;
- proximity to Enniskillen;

The corresponding negative factors are as follows:

- The Derrygonnelly group appears to have greater credibility with others;
- Derrygonnelly and Belcoo received major funding under the CRISP programme for

- villages; Boho did not;
- The area has mainly poor quality marginal farm land; and
- There is no public housing; the Rural Housing Association wants to build in the area, but is hampered by the lack of suitable land.

In twenty-five years, Boho never had any violence; whilst the members of the Association are extremely thankful for this, they feel resentful that other areas such as South Armagh (which some members mentioned by name) could receive financial assistance to the detriment of areas such as Boho which “.. behaved themselves ..”. Interaction with the DoE and FDC could lead to an improvement in roads, road signage and the provision of a skip. The group recognises that the youth of the area need to be involved in the Association and would like to develop a strategy for this. The community hall would have facilities for them and a youth committee would represent them on the Association.

The group networks mainly through the women’s group. Recently acquired capital funding came from two sources: £100,000 from the Central Community Relations Unit and, £100,000 from the Millennium Rural Hall Fund; the group is waiting to hear if their request for £50,000 from RDC will also be approved. The Cadbury Trust was very helpful in the early days. Other sources were FDC, RDC and NIVT. The Association would like to be self-sufficient in the near future. The community hall will provide basic accommodation for cavers and this will generate some income.

The members regard community development as involving the development of:

- people;
- personality;
- confidence;
- communication; and
- an increased dependence on each other in rural areas.

Community relations have always been good in the area and they want this to continue. They feel that locals may be frustrated with the time taken to secure funding and hope that, when the community hall is open, it will renew and generate more interest in the Association. They feel they face problems of credibility that private organisations do not face.

Boho Women’s Group

The group was formed in 1994 and evolved from the Boho Community Association as a group specifically concerned with women in a rural area. It aims to provide social and education activities for women. Membership reflects the community profile 95:5 Catholic:Protestant.

As with the Community Association, the main problem for members is the lack of a suitable venue in which to meet. They have used various venues and currently are meeting in the Little Bo Peep playgroup premises, which they have set up, beside Killyhommon school. Despite the lack of premises they have held numerous social events and courses e.g. Clait 1, Health and Fitness, Reflexology, CPR, and Cake Decoration.

They do not regard themselves as being disadvantaged in any way, as compared to others. Because the area has a lot of senior citizens and young people, they would like to see these sectors more involved in everyday life in the area and they hope to achieve this when the hall is built.

The group is twinned with Glenfarne ICA and Drumboylan ICA. They regularly visit each other, and they hope to hold a one-day seminar with Glenfarne ICA on issues relating to peace and reconciliation later in the year.

The group received an initial grant of £500 from FDC. To date, expenses have been kept to a minimum because they incur no rent payments, though they recently started to pay rent for the playgroup premises. NIVT gave some funding for the classes and the 25% extra funding came from two sources: 12.5% from FDC and 12.5% through local fund-raising. For the refurbishment of the playgroup they received funding from the Childhood Fund, NIVT, Children in Need and Fermanagh Trust. At present, the group has no borrowing and aims to stay self-sufficient.

Community relations have always been good in the area and the group would like to see them developed further through more local participation; unfortunately, some people do not want to get involved. They would like to think that, from the support they receive, people in the area view the group in a positive way. Locals are genuinely interested in their work.

Churchill

Churchill is a small village situated off the A46 road to Donegal in North-West Fermanagh. The area has been in decline since the opening of this road. The community profile is perceived to be 5:95 Catholic:Protestant.

Churchill Community Association

Churchill Community Association was formed in 1996. One local person had the idea of forming the group in order to provide Christmas tree lights for the area. The idea was discussed with a few others and they agreed that a committee should be formed. At the moment, the group is single identity.

Funding was the main concern initially. FDC was very willing to fund them and help with any other matters. Each year since the group was formed, there has been a Christmas tree in the area and switching on the lights has become a social event. This has created more interest in Churchill and has prompted more people, young and old, to think about the area in a different light. There is potential in the area that needs to be exploited. The group does not have any meeting place; instead they meet in each others houses as, and when, necessary.

Churchill is a rural area, and the nearest shopping facilities are two-and-a-half miles away in Derrygonnelly. A shop is needed, not only to serve the locals, but also tourists to the area. The nearest town for employment is twelve miles away in Enniskillen. Despite this, those living in the area view it very favourably, citing the picturesque location close to Lough Erne, with many attractive walks and places of historical interest which have tremendous tourism potential.

Churchill needs a hall with a good standard of kitchen facilities where local residents can meet. The group has not taken this on board as one of their objectives - as yet. They have not investigated co-operation with other groups to improve the area. They do not network with any other groups, but they have a close working relationship with their associates in Derrygonnelly Development Association under the CWP.

The Association received financial support from FDC. They raised funds on the night of the official turning on of the lights. Funds have been exhausted in covering all expenses incurred. One member is currently trying to organise a sponsored walk to raise funds for the 1998 venture. The group hopes to be self-sufficient before funding ceases.

FDC has been most supportive and was very enthusiastic about the project; however, the group would like to see agencies offering more ideas for further development in the area. FDC has helped the group to source information.

Community relations are good in the area; people are content to live alongside each other and be of help when need arises. The local Churchill silver band plays in Derrygonnelly at their

switching-on event, which is supported by Catholics and Protestants. Organised events usually attract the more mature inhabitants, but, as there is an up-and-coming young population, the group will have to cater for them also. There is a high percentage of older people in the area who are satisfied with the quality of life and do not desire change.

The group would welcome anyone who wishes to assist and help them to strengthen the community of Churchill.

Monea

Monea is a small townland community situated seven miles from Enniskillen, on the B81 road. Currently, there is no community group in the area. The residents feel they do not need a group as they are served by Derrygonnelly and District and there are not enough interested people. There are numerous social activities in the area for both communities and they do not have the time to devote to another organisation. Concern was raised over the prospect of private housing development and its implications for the area. The community is served by a Church of Ireland church and hall, Chapel, post office, public house and shop.

Springfield

Springfield is a small townland community six miles from Enniskillen on the B81 road to Derrygonnelly; its community profile is perceived to be 15:85 Catholic:Protestant. There is an Erne West Evangelical church, local shop/hardware store and housing development located in the area.

Currently, there is no community group in the area. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Springfield (and the surrounding area) is very much a dormitory village with the majority of its working population travelling to Enniskillen for employment. This has been counteracted to a very small extent by some local businesses being established over the past few years.
- There is a lack of leadership and co-ordination in the area to initiate any community association.
- No focal meeting point exists which could be used by both communities.

The needs of Springfield were identified as being:

- A meeting point for the two communities;
- The establishment of an economic base to provide local employment;
- Social activities; these are seen as secondary to economic development, but they would play an important part in building relationships within the two communities.

It was suggested that, since local residents do not have any experience in organising groups, a representative of Fermanagh District Council should hold discussions with “influencers” and interested individuals in the area regarding the potential benefits of setting up a community group.

Blaney

Blaney is a small townland community situated ten miles from Enniskillen and three miles from Derrygonnelly on the A46 road. The community profile is perceived as being 10:90 Catholic:Protestant.

There is currently no community group in this area. The reasons for this are as follows:

- The area is too small - there is no focal/meeting point;

- There are not enough interested people;
- The area is served by Derrygonnelly and District; and
- The people support local businesses rather than try to develop initiatives locally.

This is an affluent area, where most of the residents are retired, or working in Enniskillen. The farms are quite large and the land is generally good. The area is served by a shop, petrol station and caravan halting site.

Attitudes Towards The Agencies

Derrygonnelly and District Development Association has always found the agencies to be helpful, when they are in a position to provide the required assistance. Agency representatives are willing to take the time to come and visit the area and get a better understanding of the residents' needs. Often they would suggest potential funding sources which the group had not explored. The Community Relations Council, the Rural Development Council, Cadbury Trust, Fermanagh District Council and the administrators of the Millennium Fund are perceived as being particularly helpful.

While the various groups in the area found the agencies to be generally helpful, there were some serious criticisms of a few agencies and those criticisms tended to concentrate on specific individuals with whom the groups had contact (or, often, with whom contact and support were more limited than the group would have expected). In general, the groups feel that there is too much paperwork involved and that the agencies do not appreciate the time factor which that involves. They would also like decisions to be made within a much shorter time-span. The groups considered them supportive overall, but thought that they demanded too much reassurance, e.g. in relation to audits etc. Sometimes group members felt “..hounded by bureaucracy..”.

Comments From The Consultation Process

(A) The views of local businessmen:

- The interviewees believe that ***community groups are not financially viable*** as they receive too many grants and this creates an artificial environment. Because of the amount of funding available, the attitude of some is to take advantage of this availability by setting up a group; if the initiative is unsuccessful, there is no penalty, as they themselves have no financial stake in it. That attitude is not found in the private sector where one always has to take responsibility for one's actions.
- If a group runs on a voluntary capacity or a heavily subsidised payroll (e.g. an ACE scheme) some may be able to make a small profit but there is ***no money to pay executive salaries***; therefore some people go unrewarded.
- ***Community groups are too much centred around service industries e.g. tourism.*** They need a manufacturing base to create jobs year-round due to the seasonality which affects tourism.
- ***There is no role for community-led organisations in business***; if they have a good idea they should sell it to the private sector.
- ***The only thing that community groups can do, which the private sector cannot do, is obtain grants.*** The level of support for private sector activities is negligible and LEDU provides no useful assistance for those developing new businesses.
- ***The promotion of community-based economic development by the EU is both a good and bad idea.*** It creates opportunities for people to enter the business world but it is an

unrealistic environment with so many subsidies and grants. Units are sometimes too small; there should be one factory with twenty staff and not five factories with four staff !
“..it is all a numbers game!..”

- ***The merits of community development lie in tidying up derelict sites and enhancing rural areas.*** However people do not always appreciate the efforts of members of the association.
- ***Community relations is not a public relations exercise.*** It involves people working together from all walks of life across the political/religious/class divide; there is too much P.R. and not enough real cross-community activity in Fermanagh.
- ***“.. It will be a good idea when funding stops and people have to face reality ..”.*** The trend is for people to move away from the idea of self-help; the entrepreneurial spirit is slowly disappearing.

(B) General Comments

- There is a feeling that the village of ***Derrygonnelly needs more economic and less tourism-based development.*** Apart from tourism, there is little development in the area.
- ***There is a view that a more “.. holiday-like ..” atmosphere should be created in the village;*** residents should be more relaxed and friendly towards tourists.
- ***There is a need for road improvement in the area.*** All the area’s roads need to be upgraded, and the poor roads system creates isolation for some people.
- ***A need for more private housing has been identified.*** Young married couples are forced to leave the area because of the lack of housing.
- **The Boho Women’s Group has identified the following needs in the area:**
 - public transport facilities (regarded as being unrealistic)
 - better facilities for women in the realm of education and training; and
 - in the event of the latter facilities being made available, the provision of a crèche.

The membership of the group believe that they can provide the facilities and co-ordinate efforts to make this work.

Summary

This is a very mixed area with a combination of good and bad land, and a reasonably representative religious mix (in Fermanagh terms). There has been little investment in recent years, apart from tourism - where considerable funds have been invested. The area has a high level of community activity which has been, and continues to be, very successful.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE DERRYGONNELLY AREA							
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Boho Area	Number in Derrygonnelly Area	Number in Blaney Area	Number in Monea Area	Number in Springfield Area	Number in Churchill Area
Guesthouses	10	-	4	4	-	1	1
Self-catering	9	-	3	4	-	-	2
Hotels	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hostels	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS							
Carrickreagh	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ely Lodge	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Monea Castle	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tully Castle	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	3	1	2	-	-	-	-
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES							
Protestant Church Halls	3	1	-	-	1	1	-
Catholic Church Halls	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Community Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	2	-	1	-	-	-	1
SPORTS FACILITIES							
G.A.A. Pitches	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES							
Pharmacists/Dispensary	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF DERRYLIN

(Including the Townland Communities of Teemore and Aughakillymaude)

Description of the Area

Derrylin is a village in South Fermanagh, situated approximately sixteen miles south of Enniskillen and seven miles south-west of Lisnaskea. It is located on the periphery of Co. Fermanagh, adjacent to the border with Co. Cavan; it is the primary settlement in the electoral ward of Derrylin.

Apart from the principal settlement, the ward area is sparsely populated. Of the twenty-three electoral wards in Fermanagh, Derrylin has the eighth lowest population density – 0.21 persons per hectare compared to the Fermanagh average of 0.29. (This is primarily attributable to the area's large agricultural base).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: DERRYLIN AREA (SUB-AREAS: TEEMORE AND AUGHAKILLYMAUDE)		
<u>POPULATION:</u>		
Total	2254	
Male	1191 (52.9%)	
Female	1063 (47.1%)	
<u>POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:</u>		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>GROWTH</u>
2358	2254	-4.4%
<u>HOUSEHOLDS:</u> 672		
<u>OCCUPANCY DENSITY:</u> 3.35 Persons per Households.		
<u>DEPRIVATION:</u>		
<u>OVERALL WARD:</u>	85 th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 16%)	
<u>ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:</u>	Ten In Total	
	3 In the Most Deprived 10% in Northern Ireland	
	2 Others In Worst 20%	
	All Deprived (i.e. in Worst 50%)	
<u>UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):</u>		
MALES	63	
FEMALES	18	
OVERALL	81	
<u>RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:</u>		
CATHOLIC:	77.1%	
PROTESTANT:	17.7%	
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	5.2%	

Socio-Economic Background

The paragraphs below provide an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics for Derrylin and its sub-areas of Teemore and Aughakillymaude.

According to 1991 Census data, there were 2,254 residents in the Derrylin ward consisting of 1,191 males and 1,063 females. This represented almost 4.2% of the entire Fermanagh population and 0.14% of the aggregate population of Northern Ireland. According to 1981 Census, there were 1,204 males and 1,050 females in the ward, also giving a total population of 2,254. Furthermore, the Census Report indicated that the ward's population density was 0.212 persons per hectare, in 1991, and 0.213 persons per hectare, in 1981. These population and density figures

for the ten year period, 1981 to 1991, illustrate a static demographic profile in an area which once had a reputation for serious outward migration, of the type often associated with declining rural areas.

The Derrylin population is primarily Catholic (approximately 77%) with most of the remaining 23% affiliated to the Church of Ireland. There are four Church halls (two for each religious community), one neutral venue to accommodate cross-community activity, and seven Masonic or other halls/meeting places. The religious affiliation of the ward's population, is detailed as follows:

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percent of Total
Roman Catholic	1737	77.1%
Presbyterian	13	0.6%
Church of Ireland	376	16.7%
Methodist	10	0.4%
Others	118	5.2%
TOTAL	2254	100%

According to the Policy and Planning Unit's publication: *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland: Robson et al, 1994*, the area exhibits quite poor socio-economic and infrastructural statistics; it suffers particularly from poor public and household amenities, and many pensioners have no central heating. It is the ninth most deprived electoral ward in Fermanagh, and it ranks eighty-fifth of Northern Ireland's 566 wards in terms of degree of deprivation, placing it in the worst 16%.

Deprivation Ranking of the Ward (in Northern Ireland Terms)		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	85	16
Extent	82	15
Intensity	66	12

In the past, Agriculture was the primary industry in this area; however, that has now been replaced by the quarrying and construction-products sector which has created a very large number of jobs in the general area. Farming is still important but is heavily dependent on grass-based activity, on poor land.

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs indicate the community development situation in Derrylin and its surrounding area:

Derrylin and District Development Association

Established in 1992, Derrylin and District Development Association (DDDA) aims to promote the economic and social regeneration in the main Derrylin village area. It has jointly organised a major residential project, with Oaklee Housing Association Ltd., which involved the development of twelve houses and a large communal facility. In addition, DDDA has been involved in the construction of industrial units and, is currently in the process of promoting two projects with the securing of a CRISP package estimated at £600,000.

Although the group has a number of cross-community objectives, the members find it difficult to

achieve these in practice, because of the demographic profile of the area. They currently use a communal room which was incorporated within their housing development to facilitate general meetings.

Facilities in the Derrylin area are scarce; there are two church halls (one for each religious community) and two schools, but there are no community-owned social facilities. Hence, DDDA believes that there is a need to provide social and communal facilities and activities, for all age groups, especially for those aged eighteen and younger. The group rates the area as being 'worse off' in terms of facilities than other areas in the County.

The group has in the past, networked with Aughakillymaude Community Development Association and South West Fermanagh Development Organisation. It has received financial support from DANI, FDC, Fermanagh Trust, IFI and DoE. DDDA believes agriculture was the primary wealth-generating activity in the area prior to the BSE crisis; however, this is in the process of being displaced by tourism. Derrylin District and Development Association is keen to see the funding agencies appoint an agent to steer community associations in the right direction.

There is also a CWP in the district led by Knockninny CWP Project and provides CWP for up to ten places within Derrylin District.

The other main grouping in Derrylin village is the Kindertee play centre where the local playgroup commands cross-community involvement in the provision of childcare and summer play schemes. In addition, the centre was refurbished and extended with £60,000 of grant aid from IFI and charitable trusts. The centre is also the base for an active Women's Group which has been operational for ten years.

Teemore

Teemore is a small village located approximately three miles from Derrylin. It is served by a shop, two primary schools, chapel and hall, and enterprise centre

South-West Fermanagh Development Organisation

South West Fermanagh Development Organisation (SWFDO) was formed in 1989 by a number of local residents who aimed to 'compensate for' some of the strife created in the community by political unrest. It is a cross-community organisation, whose committee is comprised of equal numbers of Catholics and Protestants. The group's objectives are, firstly to satisfy the economic needs of the community, and secondly, to fulfil their social aspirations. SWFDO utilises the Teemore Business Complex; this neutral venue provides a meeting facility for the entire community, a Day-Care facility for senior citizens, a Child-Care facility for children, and designated factory space.

SWFDO is composed of both business people and local community activists, who have created a good cohesive framework, from which initiatives can be undertaken. The group has a successful track record in co-ordinating and implementing economic, social and communal projects; SWFDO is currently involved in at least ten projects - four economic projects with the remaining six being essentially related to social development.

Social facilities in the Teemore area are poor; there are two church halls (one from each religion) and the local Business complex. However, SWFDO anticipates that the social, communal and, in particular, the economic progress, which has been experienced in the past decade, will

eventually lead to a situation where Teemore can compete effectively with any other region in the county. Nevertheless, the members perceive that, due to their location on the periphery of Fermanagh, their area is more disadvantaged due to the relatively high transport and communication costs incurred by the local community.

The group has developed and maintained a strong network with many groups in both the immediate south Fermanagh area and further afield; these include, Derrylin Development Association, Ballyconnell Development Association, Belturbet Community Development Association, and Kingscourt Development Association. SWFDO believes that it is representative of the local community as demonstrated by the large attendance at its social events. In addition, the group believes it has credibility with the statutory agencies having received financial assistance from the International Fund for Ireland, INTERREG, LEADER, NITB, RDC, WELB, Sperrin Lakeland Trust, and, the Peace and Reconciliation Fund, whilst also pursuing a vigorous fund-raising programme.

Aughakillymaude

Aughakillymaude is a townland community based around the vicinity of Knockninny hill which dominates the shoreline of this part of South-West Fermanagh.

Aughakillymaude Community Association

This group was established in 1988 to provide a focal venue (the ‘Old School’) for the local community. Initially, the main activity was culturally based – ‘mumming’; however, it has now extended its remit to encompass economic, tourism and cross-community objectives. The group has taken part in many mumming festivals and has also been involved in the extension of the ‘Old School’ which provides the venue for a wide range of arts-based activities e.g. music sessions, Irish dancing, art and flower classes, to name but a few. Aughakillymaude Community Association (ACA) has, in the past, networked with almost all groups in the wider Derrylin, Teemore, Kinawley and Killesher areas, and has taken part in activities organised by Killeshandra Community Association. However, the group feels that its cross-border networking has been hindered by the lack of interest from other community groups - it believes that areas which are especially ‘rich’ in tourism should collaborate to improve their collective achievements, rather than each one being seen to be “..fighting for its own patch..”.

ACA accepts that tourism is its primary potential economic generator, and it believes that this will have greater potential when the Erne-Shannon Waterway develops to its maximum capacity. However, the members also perceive that their area is worse off than the rest of Fermanagh, as it does not secure “..its fair share..” of basic social, infrastructural and transport amenities (there is no public telephone in the immediate area and bus services are both insufficient and irregular), nor does it receive adequate financial support from the funding agencies. Furthermore, commercial facilities in the Aughakillymaude area are poor; there is one small shop, one Protestant church hall and one community hall, but no public house or post office. Residents accept that their remote location on the periphery of rural Fermanagh has worsened that position, as they must travel for basic social and business requirements.

The group has received financial support from Cadbury’s Trust, Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, Rural Development Council, Community Leadership Programme, Community Relations Council), ADAPT and Fermanagh District Council. However, they are concerned about the lack of financial support from agriculturally-based agencies for development projects in this predominantly rural area. Consequently, Aughakillymaude Community Association would be

eager to see the funding agencies consider the area on its merits and, in recognition of its outstanding natural beauty and its designation as an ASSI (Area of Special Scientific Interest) and a RAMSAC site, offering financial assistance for smaller tourism projects, which would eventually reap communal, economic and social benefits for the entire area which ACA represents.

Comments from the Consultation Process

The main issues generated from the consultation process are detailed as follows:

- ***There is a widespread view that Derrylin and the surrounding areas are worse off than the rest of Fermanagh;*** although this is mainly because of its location on the periphery of Northern Ireland, it is perceived that this community does not receive its ‘fair share’ of economic, social or communal investment (though this comment appears to relate primarily to Derrylin and not to Teemore).
- ***‘Real’ community development will lead to the betterment of the entire community on every dimension;*** groups believed that community development which aims to serve the entire community on a cross-community basis, will result in improved standards of living and quality of life for all residents.
- ***The development of community organisations has been impeded by both small budgets and by bureaucracy;*** it is believed that too many community organisations have been established with very small budgets; consequently, such organisations have limited potential to be self-sufficient within a reasonably short period. Even if such organisations could overcome the financial obstacles, the bureaucracy of the funding agencies reduces their probability of success.
- ***Although community relations in the area are generally good, it suffers from the effects of external events which create pressure on local people;*** on a day-to-day basis, community relations are cordial among residents, primarily because of the efforts of local community groups ‘on the ground’. However, external events, such as have occurred in Belfast and Portadown, create negative impacts on community relations in this rural part of Fermanagh.
- ***Lack of vision within “the civil service-based funding agencies” has adverse effects on community development;*** the view is that there are enough problems created by the political ‘troubles’ and the on-going strife in Northern Ireland, without community development having to suffer the effects of the ‘lack of vision’ in civil service-based funding agencies.
- ***Community organisations suffer from a lack of skilled members with sufficient time to invest in achieving community development objectives;*** this is a concern which is more evident among peripheral, rural areas of Fermanagh - as residents’ time, commitment and educational standards are often lower. Consequently, groups have difficulties completing application forms; if they receive financial assistance, there is a shortage of individuals capable of implementing the proposed project; additionally, group members have limited time to allocate to developing projects. As a result, it is believed that if community development is to succeed, it is imperative that individuals network effectively and efficiently, to improve the probability of their community objectives being realised.
- ***Community groups which have utilised their funds to their maximum potential are less likely to suffer when funds become scarce;*** such groups will generally have developed a good financial base, so that they can be sustainable in the future.

- ***There is a perception that tourism has not been exploited to its 'real' potential in this area;*** groups claimed that the Tourist Board was not promoting tourism in the area, and the local community had not exploited its natural attributes. The area should be recognised for outstanding natural beauty by the funding agencies, which should support smaller projects that would eventually lead to the improvement of the social, economic and communal infrastructures of the area.
- ***Tourism should be sold as a 'package';*** groups accepted that they should network and combine their efforts towards achieving common objectives, instead of each group 'fighting its own corner'.

Perceptions of the Agencies

The following paragraphs summarise the main comments concerning the statutory and non-statutory agencies as expressed during consultations with groups in this area.

- ***Non-statutory agencies have a much keener appreciation of community activity;*** groups believed that funding agencies which contained a civil service component demonstrated bureaucratic tendencies, and were less likely to make an effort to determine the 'true' situation 'on the ground'; the non-statutory agencies were better in that respect.
- ***Groups want the agencies to combine into a consolidated unit to deal with community development;*** it was indicated that there should be a smaller number of agencies in operation, each of which should allocate a larger amount of resources to projects which are capable of making a 'real' difference to an area; to produce a positive impact, a larger investment from the agencies is required for worthwhile projects.
- ***Community groups believe that the funding agencies place too much emphasis on cross-community contact;*** groups within this predominantly nationalist area expressed concern about the present policies and criteria of the funding agencies regarding cross-community interaction. Although all of the groups consulted emphasised that they strived to get greater involvement from the Protestant community, in reality this was difficult to achieve in such an area. Consequently, groups believed that they were being punished by the funding agencies on account of the demographic profile of their area.
- ***Groups are keen to see the funding agencies promoting human development;*** it was stated that this should be achieved by investing in 'human wealth', i.e. creating a well-trained and educated workforce.
- ***Funding agencies spend too much time and money on paper work;*** groups feel that the agencies should focus their efforts on achieving the community's 'real' needs. They see the agencies as creating too much 'red tape' instead of acknowledging the community's 'real' needs and demands. Consequently, it is believed that community development would be enhanced if the funding agencies' criteria were set out in a more acceptable format; locals believed that application forms are geared towards those who possess a degree, with the result that 'weaker' projects receive financial assistance based on their impressive application form, creating numerous 'White Elephants'. This, it was claimed, relates to both community-development and economic-development agencies.
- ***Agencies which have a prolonged decision-making process, often cause good projects to be unsuccessful;*** groups expressed concerns about funding agencies which pass their applications from one phase to the next as part of a 'sifting' process. In such circumstances

potentially good projects are often not initiated because of the level of fees of various types expended over too long a time frame.

- ***Groups expressed a desire to see continued support from the agencies after the initial capital funds have been allocated;*** groups would like the funding agencies to assist with the implementation of the project once monies have been assigned.

Border Area

The following comments, reflect groups' perceptions of the border and its consequences on social, economic and communal factors in Derrylin and its surrounding area:

- ***There is a perception that the opening of the border roads has benefited the Republic of Ireland's economy more than that of Northern Ireland;*** this is primarily due to exchange rate fluctuations which now favour the Irish economy.
- ***In the past, people living in the border areas have enjoyed economic benefits from smuggling;*** smuggling of goods from the Republic of Ireland to the North created economic benefits for traders, who increased their profit margins due the lower cost of goods in the south.
- ***The army check-points caused serious problems for the transport fleets of local businesses;*** this problem was further exacerbated by the high percentage of employees who live in the south. Such employees often had difficulties getting to work during periods of heightened political conflict. Although this problem has become less acute since the introduction of the 'Peace Process', the check-point is perceived as detrimental to social, community and economic regeneration, as it is a symbol of the former military presence.
- ***During periods of high political tension, the check-point damaged morale in the area;*** this was especially evident whenever a funeral, caused directly or indirectly, by the 'Troubles' took place.

Village/Town

Derrylin's community organisations claim to serve the needs not only of the village itself but also of the surrounding areas of Aughakillymaude and Teemore. The following comments represent the views which were expressed:

- ***It is perceived by local residents that the immediate needs of the Derrylin, Teemore and Aughakillymaude area are socially and infrastructurally based;*** it is widely accepted that there is a need to provide social facilities to cater for residents' social, communal and recreational needs, especially of those aged eighteen years and younger. In addition, the poor transport network in the area has caused residents' feelings of isolation and remoteness to increase.
- ***There is a general perception that extra housing is needed in the area;*** due to the large number of employment opportunities in the area, there is a huge need for additional housing provision.

Businesses

The following reflects comments from the business community during the consultation process:

- ***Businesses accept that community groups which are well managed and have no hidden agenda promote and enhance community development;*** businesses believe that if community groups aim to achieve private sector objectives, this will prove a recipe for failure.
- ***Businesses believe that community-based economic development can be successful;*** however, this can be achieved only if funding is spent sensibly, and if the promoting group has the support of the entire community; otherwise, it would be counter-productive. Although local businesses would support such a venture, they anticipate that the failure rate will be quite high.

Summary

Although Derrylin and its adjacent areas of Teemore and Aughakillymaude have plenty of employment opportunities, primarily in the quarrying industry, it has a wide range of problems; it suffers especially from a lack of social and communal facilities for encouraging social interaction between the two communities. There is a strong belief that funding and statutory agencies should do more for tourism in the area, and that the application process for financial assistance should be simplified, so that worthwhile projects can be realised and that 'real' community development can be achieved.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE DERRYLIN, AUGHAKILLYMAUDE AND TEEMORE AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Teemore Area	Number in Derrylin Area	Number in Aughakillymaude Area
Guesthouses	2	-	2	-
Self-catering	4	1	3	-
Hotels	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Erne/Shannon Waterway	1	1	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS				
	5	2	2	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	1	-	-	-
Catholic Church Halls	2	1	1	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	3	1	1	1
Community Halls	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	6	3	3	-
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	4	2	2	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	-	-	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	1	-	1	-
Doctors Clinic	1	-	1	-

AREA PROFILE OF DONAGH

(Including the Townland Community of Knocks)

Description Of The Area

Donagh is a small village situated along the B36 Lisnaskea-Roslea road, just off the A34 Trunk road between Lisnaskea and Newtownbutler, which are three and five miles away respectively; it is seventeen miles from Enniskillen and seven miles from Clones in Co. Monaghan. The area consists of fifty-three townlands, covering almost seventy-seven square kilometres. The main concentration of buildings is around the crossroads, which is the main focal point in the village, although a housing estate and church are nearby. The main features of the village are the local shop, pub, primary school and around sixty houses. The area is flanked by the communities of Lisnaskea to the North, Newtownbutler to the South and Roslea to the East. The natural geographical boundaries are upper Lough Erne to the West and Slieve Beagh to the North East. Between 1971 and 1981, the population of the village increased by over 27%; however, during the 1981/1991 inter-censal period, the increase was just 2.7%.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: DONAGH AREA		
(SUB-AREA: KNOCKS)		
POPULATION:		
Total	2003	
Male	1068 (53.3%)	
Female	935 (46.7%)	
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
1971	1991	GROWTH
-	2003	*
HOUSEHOLDS:	551	
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:	3.64 persons per household	
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:	74 th Most deprived in Northern Ireland (worst 15%)	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Eleven in total. <i>Two in the most deprived 10% in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>Seven Others in the Worst 20%</i> <i>Nine in worst 50%.</i>	
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	89	
FEMALES	24	
OVERALL	113	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:	70.5%	
PROTESTANT:	21.9%	
OTHERS/NO RESPONSE:	7.6%	

*Donagh Ward was not created until 1984.

Socio-Economic Background

The demographic, social and economic statistics of Donagh and the surrounding area are analysed in the following sections.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2003 residents in the overall area (the Donagh Electoral Ward) comprising 1,068 males and 935 females, a ratio of 53.3:46.7, (which would suggest a declining area from which females have emigrated). This constitutes 3.7% of the population of Fermanagh and 0.13% of the Northern Ireland population. The area is sparsely populated: 0.20 persons per hectare, compared to 0.29 per hectare for Fermanagh and 1.11 for Northern Ireland as a whole. The household density is relatively high: 3.64 persons per

household compared to 3.20 for Fermanagh and 2.97 for Northern Ireland.

The population is predominantly Catholic (70.5%), with the other principal denomination being Church of Ireland (19.6%). The following table provides an analysis of the population by religious denomination.

Breakdown By Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1,412	70.5%
Presbyterian	18	0.9%
Church of Ireland	392	19.6%
Methodist	29	1.4%
Others	152	7.6%
TOTAL	2,003	100%

Donagh is the sixth most deprived ward in Fermanagh, the main contributory factors being poor public and household amenities including the following:

- Pensioners Living In Houses Without Central Heating;
- Households Without Bath, Shower, Or WC;
- Properties Without Access To A Public Sewerage System;
- High Household Population Density.

In overall Northern Ireland terms, its deprivation ranking on different indices is as follows (out of 566 wards in total).

Deprivation Level Of Donagh Ward In Northern Ireland Terms		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	74	15
Extent	124	25
Intensity	73	15

The Rural Development Council for Northern Ireland prepared a profile of the Donagh area based on the 1991 Census Report, which suggested that the population age structure may have been in transition, since it did not follow the trends apparent in other Rural Deprived Areas, or in Northern Ireland as a whole. This was indicated by an above-average number of persons in the 18-64 age range, and below-average numbers in both the 0-9 and 65+ age ranges, as the following table shows:

Percentages of the Population in Each Age-Range				
Area	0-9	10-17	18-64	65+
Donagh Ward	15.7	16.3	57.9	10.1
Rural Deprived Areas	18.5	15.1	55.1	11.3
Northern Ireland	16.3	12.9	58.2	12.6

While farming is still strong in Donagh, where the land is reasonably good, the Knocks area has become heavily afforested in recent years and agriculture has been in consistent decline there for a number of decades.

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs indicate the current community development situation in Donagh and its surrounding areas:

Donagh Development Association

Donagh Development Association (DDA) was formed in June 1995, following a public meeting. It is a single identity group (Roman Catholic). The aim of the group is to identify specific needs of the area in order to improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental fabric of the community. DDA's membership includes representatives from all the other local groups, including the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, Youth Club, St. Vincent de Paul and Playgroup, etc. The members come from a wide cross-section of the local population and have been instrumental in the implementation of various environmental initiatives, including an environmental audit which was the first carried out in the county (QUB Environmental Services Department), and the formation of various social and community groups. The Community Centre is leased on a long-term basis from St. Michael's Diocesan Trust. Plans are being prepared to extend the Centre to meet increasing demand. Currently, an Economic Appraisal of a proposal to re-develop these premises and provide a multi-purpose community facility, is being undertaken with an estimated capital cost of £270,000, approximately £20,000 of which will come from local fund-raising and applications have been made to RDC, Millennium Halls Fund, DoE Urban Regeneration Fund and Sports Lottery. The group has been successful in obtaining new traffic calming measures, village signposts and a new proposed skip site.

DDA has networked with other groups, including Kesh Development Association and many of the sub-committees of the group are linked with outside sporting and recreational groups. The Association is involved in cross-border activities through active membership of the Sliabh Beagh Development Association and DANI's Erne East ABSAG.

The group's financial needs have been met by both voluntary and agency funding, including RDC, RCN, NIVT, Fermanagh District Council, Fermanagh Trust and Fermanagh District Partnership. No borrowing has been undertaken; the Association has sufficient funds on deposit to cover general expenses.

Knocks Community Association

The Knocks is a comparatively isolated rural area about three miles North East of Lisnaskea. The Knocks Community Association (KCA) was formed in 1990. It evolved from an informal social group which had been established in 1978. It is a single-identity (Roman Catholic) group; there are no professionals on the committee. As the area had little or no amenities, KCA initiated a project to provide a Community Centre mainly through Charitable Trust funding. The Association has also been instrumental in securing a new rural housing scheme (eight houses) in the area and has recently opened a Cultural Centre through an extension to the community centre.

All the local groups are linked with KCA; the Association is an active member of Sliabh Beagh Development Association and Erne East ABSAG. It has a particular interest in developing such links due to constraints imposed on single-identity groups in relation to funding support from the agencies. The Association has a policy of developing better community relations, but feels that more understanding of the issues involved is needed on the part of the funders.

The group has, since its inception, met all financial shortfalls, and continues to do so. £80,000 has been received from a number of Trusts towards the Community Centre and £100,000 was received from the Rural Development Council, Fermanagh District Council, the Peace and Reconciliation Fund and the Arts Lottery Fund towards the Cultural Centre. The Association has no borrowing and has no reserves.

Comments from the Consultation Process

The main issues arising from the consultation process are summarised as follows:

- ***There is a perception that the Donagh and Knock areas are “worse off” than the rest of Fermanagh;*** Donagh residents feel that they are “on the periphery” while Knock locals cite the poor quality of land. The ward is considered to be severely deprived and largely neglected as far as economic regeneration is concerned. It was pointed out that large tracts of land had been taken over by the Forestry Division of DANI in the 1950’s and 1960’s.
- ***The Groups consider that their commitment of work and time, on a voluntary basis, is not appreciated;*** the view is that governmental agencies do not understand the voluntary commitment invested by groups like these.
- ***Voluntary Groups have difficulty in obtaining funding;*** they usually have no security and therefore cannot take the risk of borrowing.
- ***The Donagh and Knock Groups feel that they are being discriminated against;*** being single-identity groups, through no fault of their own, they do not have the advantages enjoyed by cross-community organisations. For example, the housing estate was built in Donagh as the result of a political decision and became a Catholic area. This makes it highly improbable that members of the Protestant community will come into the area. It is felt that due recognition is not given to single-identity groups, whether Catholic or Protestant, although many are doing all they can to develop cross-community activities.
- ***Training is not properly scheduled;*** seminars, etc. focusing on community groups are mostly held during the working week, which is inconvenient for those targeted.
- ***There is a defeatist attitude in (some sections of) the Knock community;*** the area has been neglected for so long that some consider it pointless to even try to regenerate it.
- ***There is a perception that long-established groups are being discriminated against;*** it is felt that ‘new’ groups are helped, while the established groups are “left to get on with it!”.
- ***The ‘Troubles’ have disrupted the Community;*** prior to the ‘Troubles’ both sides of the community shopped in each other’s shops and frequented the local pubs; that interaction has now ceased.

Perceptions of the Agencies

The following paragraphs indicate the groups’ perceptions of the funding agencies:

- ***While there were some positive comments about the agencies, generally the emphasis was on the negative aspects of their systems and attitudes;*** there was a perception that the contribution of groups to the economic development was neither understood, nor appreciated, by agency representatives; in addition, it was felt that there was a lack of communication between agencies and groups, and that the former should visit local communities and listen to what people have to say.
- ***There was dissatisfaction with the operation of agencies’ systems;*** it was generally agreed that application forms were difficult to complete, that monitoring systems and draw-down procedures were ‘..horrendous..’, and that the level of bureaucracy and red tape impeded progress in undertaking projects.
- ***Smaller groups should have access to a professional adviser;*** the smaller groups cannot afford to have a development officer, but often require professional guidance and

assistance, e.g. in relation to form-filling, liaising with architects, contractors and other professionals.

- ***The cornerstone of economic development is the local community;*** it was considered that without an efficiently functioning and healthy community group, there would be no economic and social regeneration in the area.

Border Area

The following comments indicate the groups' perceptions of the border and its effects on social, economic and communal factors in Donagh and the surrounding area:

- ***In general, the existence of the border has had very little impact on the activities of the group;*** it has impacted, however on other aspects of life in the area.
- ***Closure of border roads, however, has had a major psychological impact on border communities;*** in addition to the inconvenience caused to people travelling to work, farmers attending marts and to traffic generally, the closures added extra tension to an already volatile situation.
- ***Opinions were divided on the border's effect on economic development;*** while exchange rates and currency fluctuations are aiding economic development south of the border, they are adversely affecting economic and commercial development on the Northern Ireland side, at least in the short-term.

Village

Donagh Development Association serves the needs of the immediate Donagh area, which has recently achieved village status; but it cannot, and does not, serve the needs of adjacent areas like the Knocks - hence the need for Knocks Development Association.

Summary

The overall Donagh area is socially and economically deprived. Its single-identity position is believed locally to have impeded previous attempts at any form of regeneration, and this has had a very demotivating effect on the local community - hence the need for community-based activity. Local organisations do not like dealing with the funding agencies, and given the limited number of job opportunities in the area, there is a concern that its regeneration may prove very difficult.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE DONAGH AREA			
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Donagh Area	Number in Knocks Area
Guesthouses	-	-	-
Self-catering	-	-	-
Hotels	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS			
Lisnaskea Forest	1	-	1
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS			
	2	1	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES			
Protestant Church Halls	-	-	-
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	-	-	-
Community Halls	2	1	1
GAA Halls	1	1	-
Masonic and Other Halls	-	-	-
SPORTS FACILITIES			
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	1	-
MEDICAL SERVICES			
Pharmacists/Dispensary	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	2	1	1

AREA PROFILE OF EDERNEY

(Including the Townland Communities of Lack and Ardess)

Description of the Area

Ederney is a village situated in North Fermanagh at the junction of the B4 Kesh-Omagh road and B72 Enniskillen-Castledearg road, approximately 16 miles from Enniskillen and Omagh and around 8 miles from the Border with Donegal. The population, according to the 1991 Census, was 626 in that year, up 144 from 1971 - an increase of 29.9%. The number of households increased substantially during that period: from 118 in 1971 to 194 in 1991 - an increase of 64.4%. Most of the overall area has been shown to be deprived in social and economic terms; that disadvantage ranges from being severely deprived to moderately deprived.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: EDERNEY AREA (SUB-AREAS : LACK AND ARDESS)		
POPULATION:		
Total	1949	
Male	1000 (51.3%)	
Female	949 (48.7%)	
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
1971 *	1991	GROWTH
2497	1949	* Not Applicable - Ward Boundaries Changed
HOUSEHOLDS:		
603		
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:		
3.23 Persons per Household.		
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:	89th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 20%)	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Ten In Total	
	<i>1 In the Most Deprived 5% in Northern Ireland</i>	
	<i>4 Others in the Worst 20%</i>	
	<i>Nine Deprived (i.e. in Worst 50%)</i>	
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	67	
FEMALES	19	
OVERALL	86	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:	46.6%	
PROTESTANT:	45.0%	
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	8.4%	

Socio-Economic Background

The following section provides an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics of Ederney and the surrounding area.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 1949 residents in the overall area, (the Ederney electoral ward) comprising 1000 males and 949 females. The represents 3.6% of the Fermanagh population and 0.12% of the Northern Ireland total. The area has always suffered from neglect through being situated off the major routes and because of its location on the periphery of Northern Ireland; the village is one of the "forgotten" population centres in Fermanagh.

The population is divided approximately 50:50 in terms of Catholic/Protestant affiliation, with the Church of Ireland contributing the largest Protestant grouping (36.8%). While the village is evenly divided between the two traditions, the surrounding area, including Lack and Ardess is predominantly Protestant. Facilities in the area include a parochial hall, a church hall and

football clubrooms. The hall most often used is owned by Fermanagh District Council and due to its central location, is known locally as the townhall.

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	909	46.6%
Presbyterian	69	3.5%
Church of Ireland	717	36.8%
Methodist	91	4.7%
Others	164	8.4%
TOTAL	1950*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

The Policy Planning and Research Unit's report: *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al* 1994, identified the Ederney ward as ranking 89th in Northern Ireland in terms of degree of deprivation (out of a total 566 wards - i.e. in the worst 16%). It is the 10th most disadvantaged ward in County Fermanagh. An examination of the factors contributing to the high deprivation index indicates that they were as follows:

- Pensioners Living In Homes Without Central Heating *;
- Households Without Bath, Shower Or WC;
- Properties Without Access To A Public Sewerage System;
and to a lesser degree:
- High Household Density;
- 18 - 24 year Olds With No Qualifications; and
- High Unemployment Levels.

(* A recent survey (1996) shows that Fermanagh has the highest percentage of unfit dwellings in Northern Ireland: 17.2 % compared to the region's overall figure of 7.3%).

In Northern Ireland terms, the ward ranks as follows under different criteria:

Deprivation Level of the Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	89	16
Extent	161	29
Intensity	61	11

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs indicate the current community development situation in Ederney and its surrounding area:

Ederney Community Development Trust

The Trust was formed in 1989 to undertake a programme of economic, social and community development in the area. It is almost a single-identity organisation (around 95% Catholic and 5% Protestant). The group is comprised of a number of business persons and farmers, with some representation from housewives, the employed and the unemployed. The main achievements of the Trust to date have been to have the area re-designated as a CRISP eligibility area and to initiate fund-raising activities which have generated £25,000. The group is in the process of attracting CRISP funding to provide visitor accommodation (40 beds) with a restaurant and bar, and facilities for the use of the local day centre. When this project is completed the locals will also have another neutral venue.

The Trust does not appear to have the active support of the local public as evidenced by the

limited turnout to meetings. It is felt that a “strong” and effective Development Officer who is able to give the group continuity is urgently needed as the Trust has had a number of development workers but turnover has been high, (this has been attributed to the relatively low wage). Early attempts to network with Pettigo and Kesh met with limited success, although contact has been established through the North Fermanagh and Donegal Partnership and progress has been made. Although Lack and Kesh are just three miles away, to date there has been little co-operation between them in the field of social and economic regeneration.

Ederney & District Community Association

The Community Association was formed in 1987 when FDC opened the ‘townhall’. It is a non-sectarian organisation whose composition is approximately 50/50 Protestant/Catholic, and includes farmers, housewives and business people. In contrast to the Community Development Trust, its remit is mainly socially based. The Association does not own any premises in the village as its purpose is to manage and organise the use of the ‘townhall’ by various groups in the locality. The users include the Women’s Group which conducts computer training courses, patchwork and keep-fit classes, and other groups including dance, speech and drama, youth club, the Pioneer Association, boxing club and play-group.

The Association is not involved in any networking initiatives; work is confined within the group. On the whole, the community has benefited from its activities, especially the young mothers, who can have their children cared for while they work or enjoy a period of relaxation.

Lack Community Development Association

Lack is situated in North East Fermanagh, 18 miles from Enniskillen and 14 miles from Omagh. It has a population of approximately 160. Lack Community Development Association was formed in 1989 and regards its remit as being to improve leisure and recreation facilities in the area, and to act as a catalyst for economic regeneration. The proportion of Protestants to Catholics on the Committee is around 70:30 which approximates to the religious breakdown of Lack and the surrounding area. The group is made up of housewives, business people and employed persons. There are no elected representatives, professional people or farmers in the group.

Until the formation of the Association, no mechanism existed for approaching the Council or other agencies. The members use the local Orange hall for meetings and have few resources. Minor amounts of funding have been provided by Fermanagh District Council for items such as Christmas lights and the annual festival. The only other source of finance is through an annual draw. The Association is in the process of pursuing funding for some industrial units (CRISP Programme); work is ongoing on the provision of a children’s play area by FDC. The perception of the Group by the local residents is mixed; there is not much interest shown by the general public in the Association.

To date, little thought has been given to networking, either with other community groups or with groups in the locality. The latter include the Table Tennis Club, Youth Club, a very progressive Women’s Group and Pipe Band. It is felt that there is a need for an independent adviser or a development officer to assist with economic regeneration and negotiations with funding bodies.

Ardess Community Association

Ardess is comprised of numerous small townlands and is situated near the villages of Kesh and Ederney in North-East Fermanagh. These townlands form a wedge to the East of Lower Lough Erne and the Border with Tyrone. Farming contributes around 70% of employment in

the Ardess area, with quarrying providing employment for 20%. The remainder commute, mainly to Enniskillen and Omagh.

The Ardess Community Association was formed in 1996; it evolved from the Local Church and Historical Society which was set-up the previous year. The groups are almost single identity: around 90% Protestant and 10% Catholic. The aims of the Historical Society are community and project-driven. The latter group is composed of business people, retired persons, farmers and a church leader. There is a certain amount of overlapping of activities on the part of the two groups. To date, the Community Association has successfully undertaken a project to restore a local Famine grave as a tourist attraction; this initiative is 90% complete. A second project, to renovate the old Ardess school hall has been 75% completed, mainly through a CWP work squad. To date, the Association has raised over £9,000 through organising local events (e.g. sports days). Financial assistance has been received from Fermanagh District Council, the Rural Community Network, Fermanagh Trust and the Irish Famine Commemoration Committee and Community Relations Council (£8,175 in total). The Church has donated £15,000 to pay for work done to the hall. The Association has recently been adopted by the RDC for ongoing support under the Planet scheme. There is also potential for the group to access Ireland's Iron Age complex at Kiltierney Deerpark and develop an interpretative facility with an extended community hall.

Ardess Community Association is a member of the North Fermanagh and Donegal Partnership, which includes Kesh, Ederney, Bannagh, Lettercran and Pettigo; this organisation has just secured special funding from NIVT for a Development Worker. Children from each group come to participate in a craft project in June each year. There has been no networking with other groups apart from those listed above. It has been difficult to organise meetings etc. due to the lack of a suitable venue.

Comments from the Consultation Process

The main issues from the consultation process are as follows:

- ***All three areas are perceived by the local residents to be disadvantaged in some respects compared to other areas of Northern Ireland or of Fermanagh;*** this is the case especially with regard to Lack and Ederney, which are seen as small, deprived and neglected villages on the periphery of the region and the County. (Lack residents see the village as “the poor cousin of Ederney”). Ardess, being a rural area is regarded in a somewhat different light; it is felt that such an area is not as likely to get grants as population centres like Kesh and Ederney. The lack of a public transport system, however, adds to the feeling of isolation throughout the review area, as well as being a major problem for many residents.
- ***Drug and alcohol abuse and under-age drinking are not considered to be a problem;*** however, it is considered that the organisation of “awareness events” should be undertaken to highlight the dangers associated with these activities.
- ***There is a need for some economic initiatives to be launched;*** there are few job opportunities for the young people, who are continually leaving the area. In addition, there is an almost total lack of employment for those persons in the middle-age group. A plan for economic development is urgently required. It is considered that a strong and efficient Development Officer could turn the situation around.
- ***All the groups experience several problems, especially at the formation stage;*** these problems take different forms and may be summarised as follows:
 - Lack of funds;

- A lack of vision on the part of the local community and prospective committee members; many persons are apathetic, and it is difficult to convey to the whole committee and the general public, what can be achieved when all work together towards a common goal, rather than pursuing several minor ones;
 - There is often little, or no, co-operation between various groups; as was remarked: “If community groups cannot work together when there is money available, there is little chance of it happening when the money runs out”.
- ***Accountability within groups is considered a major problem;*** community groups must face the problem of ownership. Who actually takes responsibility and becomes accountable? Who supervises the spending of funds when they are received?
 - ***There is a consensus that there should be an independent adviser made available to work with community groups;*** most groups consist of persons who contribute their energy and time on a voluntary basis. However, they do not have the time to pursue all opportunities relevant to their respective groups, nor is the money available to employ someone to advise on funding sources, changes in agency policy, and what criteria will be applied in distributing funds (for example). It is suggested that a Development Officer could be appointed to cover a number of small groups. He/she could pursue the groups’ objectives as a neutral agent. An alternative suggestion was that an “umbrella” body could be set-up which would inform and advise groups about the various forms of funding, filling out forms, meeting relevant criteria and the pitfalls to be avoided.
 - ***There was general agreement on the need for a neutral venue;*** one problem confronting all groups is the need for suitable premises, which can be difficult to obtain, especially when the group is in the process of formation. It is much more difficult to gain widespread support within the local community when the venue is associated exclusively with one of the two traditions.
 - ***Community relations are perceived to be generally quite good throughout the review area;*** this area has been less affected by sectarian strife and tensions than many other parts of Fermanagh. There is evidence that most residents have done everything in their power to avoid actions or provocation which would harm the good relations which exist. The community groups have adopted a cross-community, non-sectarian policy although there is little evidence of networking, or co-operation, between them. Lack, in particular, has a long history of co-operation between the two traditions, attributed mainly to the fact that there has been integrated education at primary school level for over 150 years. This influence may be diluted at the second-level stage when the students are segregated. The local primary school also works together with St. Joseph’s on different initiatives, such as organised trips and summer schemes.

Perceptions of the Agencies

- ***There was a mixed reaction to the agencies in the review area;*** some were very helpful in every way, while others made those negotiating with them feel “uncomfortable and stupid”. Fermanagh District Council, the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and the Community Relations Council were perceived as being very helpful, while FLAG (Irvinestown), the Rural Development Council and Fermanagh Partnership were considered to be not very supportive.
- ***RDC;*** the main problem with the RDC was a lack of explanation as to why the organisation did not support a particular project. The promoters did not know whether it was because the criteria were not met or the application forms were not filled in correctly etc.

- ***Fermanagh District Partnership***; one group found the FDP criteria rather difficult to understand in terms of its own objectives. The feedback was rather poor and there was not a lot of help forthcoming.
- ***The agencies, to some extent, seem rather removed from the realities of community groups***: there are so many agencies, so many programmes, so many different criteria and so much paperwork, that it is difficult for the non-professional to understand the various components and to deal with them.

Border Area

The border area is seen as part of the Ederney local area, but it is felt that there would have been a greater economic impact if the village had co-operated with the border towns. The fact that the Republic's economy is "booming" should have impacted on exporting, general trading etc. as the village is within eight miles of the border. Much of the local disposable income, it is considered, is "going South".

Village / Town

The Ederney Community Development Trust primarily addresses the needs of the elderly, through the CWP and ACE scheme, of the surrounding area - not the village. The Community Association serves the village and the surrounding area; economic needs are not its top priority. In Lack, the Community Development Association serves the needs of both the village and the surrounding area. The catchment area was selected on an electoral district basis; the register of local residents available in this form ensures that nobody is overlooked in the area.

Summary

The overall conclusion from this review of the Ederney/Lack/Ardess area is that it is severely deprived in Northern Ireland terms. The local group sees the component districts as "being on the periphery of Northern Ireland and Fermanagh and to have been generally "neglected". While community relations are good, it is felt that much more could be done through co-operation by local groups, and more interaction with groups from outside the area, including the Republic of Ireland. The agencies are not perceived as being very helpful or understanding, with some exceptions.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE EDERNEY AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Ederney Area	Number in Ardess Area	Number in Lack Area
Guesthouses	4	2	1	1
Self-catering	1	-	-	1
Hotels	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Ardess Craft Centre	1	-	1	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS				
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	1	-	1	-
Catholic Church Halls	1	1	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1	1	-	-
Community Halls	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	3	1	1	1
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	1	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	1	1	-	-
Doctors Clinic	1	1	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF ENNISKILLEN

(Incorporating Five Wards - Castlecoole, Devenish, Erne, Island and Rossorry)

Description of the Area

Enniskillen, the County Town and principal settlement of Fermanagh is situated between Upper and Lower Lough Erne. It was established as a fortress of the Maguires in the 15th Century. However, it was not until the island and castle were granted to William Cole at the beginning of the 17th Century (during the Plantation of Ulster), that the basic layout of the town took shape and development commenced. A major constraint in identifying new development land in recent times has been imposed by the capacity of the existing roads network, particularly to the West of the Town.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: ENNISKILLEN AREA (SUB-AREAS: CASTLECOOLE, DEVENISH, ERNE, ISLAND AND ROSSORRY)	
POPULATION:	
Total	12885
Male	6171 (47.9%)
Female	6714 (52.1%)
POPULATION OF (5) WARDS	
1971	1991 GROWTH
12885	* Not Applicable "Island" ward was created since 1971
HOUSEHOLDS: 4272	
OCCUPANCY DENSITY: 3.02 persons per household	
DEPRIVATION: OVERALL WARDS (5): ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Twenty-Eight in total. <i>One in the most deprived 5% in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>Two others in the Worst 20%</i> <i>Eight more in the worst 40%</i> <i>Three more are deprived (i.e. in worst 50%)</i> <i>Fourteen (50%) are not deprived</i>
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):	
MALES	421
FEMALES	158
OVERALL	579
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:	
CATHOLIC:	54.2%
PROTESTANT:	31.7%
OTHERS/NO RESPONSE:	14.1%

The population of the town of Enniskillen grew by 11% during the 1971–91 inter-censal period. (See the table below). The projected population for the year 2007 is 13,730 – Source: *DoE Fermanagh Area Plan 2007*.

Population and Household Increase in Enniskillen 1971 - 1991				
Year	No. of Households	Percentage Increase	Population	Percentage Increase
1971	2563	-	10305	-
1981	3053	19.1%	10429	1.2%
1991	3840	25.8%	11436	9.7%

Percentage Increase in Number of Households 1971-1991 = +49.9%

Percentage Increase in the Population 1971 - 1991 = +11.0%

The data above show that during the two inter-censal periods, the percentage increase in the number of households was more than four times the rate of the population increase; the conclusion to be drawn is that (a) family size is getting smaller and (b) the number of single parent families is increasing.

Socio-Economic Background

The following section provides an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics of the Enniskillen wards. According to the 1991 Census, there were 12,885 residents in the five Enniskillen wards at the time of the Enumeration, comprising 6171 males and 6714 females. (Note: Parts of some of the Enniskillen wards lie outside the town boundary – hence the difference between the population of the Town and that of the five wards in total.) This represents 23.8% of the Fermanagh population, and 0.82% of the Northern Ireland population.

Overall, the area has a Catholic majority, although there are significant differences in religious affiliation in the different wards as illustrated in Table 1 overleaf.

An analysis of that table shows that, in the five Enniskillen wards, the religious breakdown is as follows:

Breakdown of Religious Affiliation	
Religion	Percentage
Roman Catholic	54.2%
Presbyterian	3.5%
Church of Ireland	24.0%
Methodist	4.2%
Other	14.1%

With the exception of Devenish, the Enniskillen wards are among the most prosperous in Fermanagh. As quantified in the Policy and Planning Unit's publication, *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland* (Robson *et al*, 1994), their rankings in a Fermanagh context are as follows in terms of "degree" of deprivation:

Deprivation Level of Wards	
Ward	Rank
Castlecoole	23 rd *
Devenish	5 th
Erne	18 th
Island	21 st
Rossorry	22 nd

* Out of 23 wards

Relative to the 566 wards in Northern Ireland, the following table indicates the percentiles according to degree, extent and intensity of deprivation.

Ward	Degree (Rank)	Percentile	Extent (Rank)	Percentile	Intensity	Percentile
Castlecoole	511*	95	-	-	379	67
Devenish	68	12	117	20	107	19
Erne	515	90	-	-	325	57
Island	382	67	-	-	288	51
Rossorry	470	83	-	-	274	48

* Out of 566 wards

TABLE 1**BREAKDOWN BY RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION**

Religion	Castlecoole		Devenish		Erne		Island		Rosorry	
	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)	Number	Percentage (%)
Roman Catholic	1394	44.0	1592	83.5	1543	71.9	873	43.5	1582	43.3
Presbyterian	191	6.0	22	1.2	41	1.9	84	4.2	123	3.4
Church of Ireland	917	29.0	110	5.8	269	12.5	631	31.4	1162	31.8
Methodist	157	5.0	9	0.5	46	2.1	135	6.7	190	5.2
Other	508	16.0	174	9.1	246	11.5	286	14.2	597	16.3
TOTAL	3167	100	1907	100	2145	100	2009	100	3654	100

An analysis of the five wards, is given below indicating the main factors contributing to deprivation (highlighted sections).

TABLE 2															
WARD	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Castlecoole	-1.42	-1.52	-2.03	-0.24	-2.09	-0.78	-1.30	-1.37	-0.77	-1.5	0.00	-1.54	-0.91	-1.68	-17.14
Devenish	1.86	-1.25	-1.98	1.30	2.24	1.28	-0.32	1.50	0.45	-0.14	0.49	1.87	0.20	2.06	9.56
Erne	-1.17	-0.94	-1.54	1.49	1.39	-0.26	-0.95	0.58	-0.03	0.04	0.82	0.53	-0.76	-0.98	-1.79
Island	-1.29	0.40	-2.10	-0.34	1.23	-0.28	-0.85	0.00	-0.64	-1.04	1.05	-0.63	-0.62	-0.41	-5.51
Rossorry	-1.22	-1.19	-0.92	-0.48	-1.67	-0.50	-1.35	-1.21	-0.90	-1.13	0.33	-1.24	-0.45	-1.21	-13.14

- (1) Pensioners Without Central Heating;
- (2) Households Without Bath, Shower or WC;
- (3) Properties Without Public Sewerage;
- (4) Households With 1 Or More Persons Per Room;
- (5) Households Without A Car;
- (6) Children In Households With Unemployed Or Part-Time Employed Adults;
- (7) Children In Unsuitable Accommodation;
- (8) Standardised Limiting Long-term Illness;
- (9) 17 year olds Not in Full-time Education;
- (10) 18-24 Year Olds With No Qualifications;
- (11) Males in Part-time Employment;
- (12) Unemployed Persons;
- (13) Long-term Unemployed;
- (14) Rateable Values less than £40; and
- (15) Overall Index.

Due to the diverse range of groups which exist within the County town, it was not possible within the constraints of this assignment to interview all of them; nevertheless the views and experiences documented below are considered to be sufficiently representative to provide a reasonable reflection of problems and attitudes in Enniskillen.

In addition to special interest groups, there are a number of community groups which are, in effect, Residents' Associations which have as their primary focus, the improvement of their local area. These associations are, in the main, established around Housing Executive estates and have as members, a mixture of home-owners and tenants. The more "successful" groups appear to be those which exist in predominantly Catholic areas e.g. Kilmacormick I and II; Cornagrade and Hillview; a group in the more mixed area of Windmill Heights has experienced problems, while the Association serving the more Protestant area of Derrychara is involved in a more limited range of community development initiatives, and has a lower profile. Other areas such as Rossorry had a similar type of association but it was disbanded due to lack of interest. About two years ago, efforts were made to form a community based initiative in the Protestant dominated Coleshill estate, but all attempts ended in vain. Cavanaleck, an out-of-town estate, has had a number of initiatives but, for various reasons including having a transient population, these have not been sustainable in the longer term. Drumgallon, although mentioned in this report, has also experienced problems similar to Cavanaleck which may be attributed to sharing similar characteristics.

Areas with private housing developments such as the Tempo Road, Castlecoole and the Sligo Road do not have any form of Association as, it is believed, residents in these areas prefer to give their allegiance to special interest groups.

Other Enniskillen-based groups which serve the whole County were interviewed in order to get a broader perspective on the current situation in Fermanagh, identifying problem areas and issues which are causing concern. Consequently, the groups discussed below represent a wide diversity of views, but it is not claimed that they necessarily represent the full picture.

Enniskillen Community Development Association

Since its inception in 1984, the group has established a number of initiatives including an advice centre, computer training company, community business, job club and it is currently involved in a £¾ million enterprise centre located in a prime area of the town.

The group was originally based in a caravan beside the library, but the expansion of activities necessitated relocation to more permanent premises - the group now has a number of units rented in Queen street but once its current capital project has been completed, it will move into its own building.

It is the belief of the group that having a clear vision, a good committee, the ability to prioritise tasks and building up slowly are the reason why it has been so successful. Over the years the group has developed working relationships and friendships with a number of other organisations elsewhere in the County, in Ireland generally, and also internationally e.g. Drogheda Partnership approached them about participating in a Wider Horizons programme in Pittsburgh which was very successful.

Development of the group has brought its own issues and problems, e.g. more is 'expected' of them than the group originally envisaged and they have a greater need for money than was budgeted at the outset; however, after fifteen years, they are used to fund-raising; the group has received money from:

- FDC
- T&EA
- NIVT
- FDP
- WEA
- DoE
- Structural Funds
- National Lottery; and
- Charitable Trusts

A community business, selling office equipment was one of their initiatives, but an accidental fire forced its closure. This was a difficult time for the group as it had never received any advice on how to wind-up a business and ensure that no-one was personally liable for any business debts. Another major issue for the group (and for the community sector as a whole), is the lack of pension provision for employees - this stems from the fact that the majority of jobs are short-term.

The independent Advice Centre (which serves the whole County) is a very popular service and queries have risen from 1,400 to approximately 10,000 per annum. Workers are employed through the ACE scheme and they undergo a comprehensive training course prior to contact with the public.

Although the group operates one of the smallest computer training units in Northern Ireland, it provides a quality service and is a T&EA recognised trainer; it provides residents of the County with the opportunity to continue their education.

Over its history, its relationships with agencies have been evolving, as are the relationships with individuals within those organisations, such links are important and can vary considerably depending on circumstances.

Devenish Partnership Forum

Devenish Partnership Forum was established in 1994 as an umbrella group for four estates - Kilmacormick I, Kilmacormick II, Cornagrade and Hillview. Together, these areas have a population of approximately 3,000 or 25% of the total Enniskillen population. The following are involved in the Partnership:

- Four community groups;
- Centre Care Project;
- RUC;
- The Housing Executive;
- Sperrin Lakeland Trust;
- William Trimble Ltd.; and
- Desmonds and Sons.

The Partnership was formed to assist in the social and economic regeneration of the area and to assist existing groups.

The Partnership Forum has achieved a high profile through its Pilot Scheme - Family Support Project and by devising a large-scale environmental project. The Partnership has no premises of its own; the Kilmacormick Resource Centre is used by the group for meetings while their office is in the *William Trimble* premises.

The members see the Partnership as missing out on obtaining assistance because it “falls between a number of stools”, i.e.

- there is no separate funding initiative for county towns; and
- The Rural Development Council and the Rural Community Network do not see it as being “rural”.

Consequently, the Partnership does not have access to any significant source of funding. A number of needs have been identified however; one is to provide a community hall in the area; another is to set up one, or more, community businesses.

The Partnership perceives the group's catchment area to be different from other areas in Fermanagh. Both inside and outside the town, there is a recognition of its disadvantaged status. One redeeming feature is the standard of housing provision, although prices are rising too rapidly. The main issues are anti-social behaviour, petty crime and pollution. It is felt that the situation in the area could be turned around, so that it could act as a role model for other communities and not vice versa.

The group is aware of, and appreciates, the activities of other groups in the area and is prepared to, and does, co-operate on a project-by-project basis; the nature of the project will determine the form of co-operation possible. The Partnership has networked in the past with a group in Sligo (now discontinued) and on an informal basis in Derry. Three training programmes have been launched, under the Wider Horizons initiative.

Devenish Partnership Forum has received financial (and other) assistance from the following:

- The Physical and Social Environment Fund (European);
- National Lottery;
- William Trimble (Impartial Reporter office);
- Various Trusts;
- Private Sources; and
- The International Fund for Ireland.

Currently, the financial situation of the Partnership is on a sound basis, and no borrowing has been undertaken; however, a lot of the members' time is taken up in fund-raising activities. No problems have arisen in dealing with the agencies; however, the real issue is in relation to classification by different funding agencies (referred to earlier). In general, the view of the Partnership is that there is an over-reliance on grants on the part of community groups and that their function in Northern Ireland is driven more by social development work than by economic development. There is a perception of lack of cohesion at statutory sector level ("one does not know what the other is doing") which makes it hard for voluntary/community groups to operate.

Community relations is not a big issue in the area, though the existence of graffiti, flags and emblems conveys a "ghetto" image of the area. It is felt that the following issues are important and need to be addressed:

- alcohol abuse;
- drugs;
- petty crime;
- speeding/traffic hazards;
- long-term unemployment;
- lack of facilities for children and teenagers;
- benefit dependency.

Kilmacormick Community Association (Kilmacormick II)

The Kilmacormick Community Association was formed in 1994, following a meeting with representatives of the Northern Ireland Tenants Action project (NITAP). A strategy survey was

conducted in the area and it was decided to divide the estate into sub-areas rather than on a street basis. The objectives of the Association are mainly accommodation-related and quarterly meetings are held with the Housing Executive. A number of original members have dropped out; however, there is a “core” group of 4-7 persons. The composition of the Association is approximately 95:5 Catholic:Protestant. The group does not get involved in political issues.

The Association works on behalf of all the residents whatever their age, sex or religious affiliation. There is no specific policy of including representatives on the various sub-groups - membership is open to anyone who wants to become involved. The Association does not have premises of its own; meetings are held in the Kilmacormick I Resource Centre or in a local bar, and members are quite satisfied with that arrangement. An environmental improvement scheme (“spruce up”), is currently under way and will be completed shortly.

There is a consensus that the provision of employment opportunities should be the first priority in the area, particularly for young people. The jobs should be “proper” situations, not an ACE scheme or anything along those lines. Anti-social behaviour is seen as a problem in the area, but the estate is not considered to be worse than any other: it is an “average” estate. It is felt that the Local Council does not pay a great deal of attention to community groups in Enniskillen and urban needs are not appreciated and dealt with as sympathetically as they are in rural areas.

A limited amount of networking has been undertaken outside the area, in the form of visits to estates in Derry and Omagh. The Association will not rule out co-operation with any other groups which could lead to benefits for the community associations concerned. Liaison occurs locally with the Devenish Partnership, of which it is a member.

Financial support has been secured from the following organisations for the establishment of the Group: Fermanagh District Council, NITAP, Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, and War-on-Want. It is expected that the Association will have to engage in fund-raising activities. Uncertainty was expressed in relation to its capacity to function in the future, should grant-aid be discontinued and it was felt that provision ought to be made for that eventuality. The issue should be addressed now and plans made to achieve sustainability.

Community relations are perceived as being reasonably good in the Kilmacormick II area, although anti-social behaviour is a source of concern. This is a problem which should be dealt with by way of a co-operative effort by individuals and agencies - the former by passing on information on what has been done and who is involved.

A number of points emerged in relation to problems and issues on the estate; they are as follows:

- Some of the anti-social behaviour in the estate has been caused by individuals who have come to live in the area in recent years, particularly from Belfast. It is suggested that the Housing Executive should vet prospective tenants more carefully;
- There is a need for more private sector housing;
- House prices are too high for first-time buyers;
- More co-operation is being demonstrated in dealing with problems such as anti-social behaviour, and drugs and alcohol abuse; the police are being called in more regularly, and are responding promptly; and
- There is a need for more training programmes.

Kilmacormick Community Association (Kilmacormick I)

The Kilmacormick I Group was formed in 1980; its main concern at that time was in relation to housing and tenants' rights. Kilmacormick was the only estate where the potential existed for acquiring premises for the group. Three houses were demolished and rebuilt as one unit. The formation of the group followed a detailed consultation period relating to the needs, and what the residents required. The premises are now used by Kilmacormick I, Kilmacormick II, NITAP, Centre Care, Fermanagh Consumer Panel, local playgroup, a number of evening classes, Devenish Partnership Forum and member groups. The membership of the group includes one person from each street in the area where possible; in this way a sense of community is engendered and, along with it, a sense of ownership and responsibility. The group emphasises the benefit of community activity, and seeks to encompass every age bracket. One of its aims is to counteract bad publicity about the area and to encourage people to come and participate in community activities.

Provision of employment opportunities is seen as a priority; the recent "New Deal" instituted by the Labour Party is not seen as being adequate to address the need to provide quality training as a passport to worthwhile job opportunities. Unless there is a prospect of a real, permanent situation at the end of the employment period, the exercise will probably prove futile.

The area is not viewed as being particularly disadvantaged in relation to other areas. It is felt that years of unfavourable publicity are being overcome, but that a few anti-social incidents can produce a very bad effect. The area is not seen as "part and parcel" of the town; the major build-up has occurred only during the past twenty years. Basic amenities are lacking, such as a chemist shop. Transportation is another requirement in an area which lacks commercial and social amenities. Prices charged at the town's recreation centre are perceived to be too expensive.

Generally the group considers that the local residents perceive it as being representative of the whole community. The private sector does not realise the urgent needs which exist in various areas. Residents have a right to equality, adequate housing and social amenities. The decision-makers "have no idea what is going on". Obtaining information about what is available by way of information concerning funding and training courses etc. is not really a problem. Sources include, Fermanagh District Partnership, NITAP and Devenish Partnership. It is felt that community groups should undertake a planning process for the future when funding starts to dry up, so that they can become self-sustaining. Currently, the partnership approach adopted in the area has been seen to have paid off - each district retains its own identity while co-operating with others which share the same problems, e.g. tackling anti-social behaviour, carrying out environmental improvements and family support programmes; the partnership approach allows these matters to be discussed and a constructive approach worked out to overcome them.

There is a consensus that urban estates have been neglected in favour of rural development and that the former have greater needs (although it is conceded that needs always exist, whether in town or country). It was pointed out that the residents should have the option of transferring to newly-built projects. It is hard, however, to make a case for this. At any rate, it will be necessary to project a better image of the area, since a careful and sustained approach to achieving this has often been negated in the past by some unsavoury incidents; a professional approach to the problem is required.

With regard to drug and alcohol abuse, anti-social behaviour etc. the group is of the opinion that Enniskillen is no different from other areas in this respect. Formerly, many incidents were not

reported to the police, a factor which aggravated the problem; now, however, people are becoming more aware of what is happening, thanks to current initiatives such as a recent seminar held in Enniskillen which addressed these issues. There is a realisation that a co-operative effort must be made which will include local residents, statutory bodies, and the police.

Kilmacormick I has secured financial support from the Fermanagh District Partnership, Training and Employment Agency, the International Fund for Ireland and the Community Work Programme. Social Security has contributed a very small grant; the group is also grant-aided by Fermanagh District Council. The premises are well equipped, and revenue is generated through the hiring out of rooms.

The Drumgallon Area Community Association (DACA)

(Please note that since completion of this study, DACA ran into some difficulties and it is currently a dormant group).

The Drumgallon area is situated approximately three miles from Enniskillen town centre, adjacent to the Derrylin road and the main Sligo-Enniskillen road. It comprises seven housing estates: Cleenish Park, Drumgallon, Glenwood Gardens, Lisgoole Park, Old Drumawill, Orchard Court and Scaffog. The area is served by one service station and adjoining shop, and two public houses, both of which are located along the main Sligo road. The nearest shops, apart from those referred to, are around three miles away in Enniskillen. There is no post office in the area.

Drumgallon Area Community Association was established in April, 1997 for the purpose of launching a co-ordinated effort to tackle a number of issues of concern to the local residents, such as lack of facilities, poor maintenance, vandalism etc. in the area. The group members considered that the first priority of the Association should be to conduct a Community Audit; the aim of the survey was to assist DACA in compiling useful statistical information about Drumgallon, as well as to provide the opportunity for the community to identify and highlight inadequacies in the service provision to the estate and to identify any other problems or issues of concern to residents. The following is a summary of the main findings of the audit:

- The total number of households in the area is 250;
- 56% of residents have lived in the Drumgallon area for ten years or more;
- Approximately 44% own their own homes (compared to 68% in Fermanagh and 62% in Northern Ireland as a whole);
- Around one third of interviewees expressed an interest in becoming involved in DACA activities;
- 95% were “dissatisfied” in relation to the lack of facilities for youth;
- 95% were “dissatisfied” in relation to the lack of bus shelters;
- 93% were “dissatisfied” regarding the lack of a post office in the area;
- 91% were “dissatisfied” because of the lack of facilities for the unemployed; and
- 90% were “dissatisfied” about the lack of adequate play facilities.

DACA identified a number of issues generally felt to be problematic and respondents were asked to comment on whether they were “concerned” about them or “not concerned”; the results were as follows:

Issue	Concerned (%)	Rank
Vandalism	93	1
Speeding Vehicles	92	2
Crime	88	3
Graffiti	84	4
Loitering On Streets	84	5
Drinking In Public	71	6
Unemployment	70	7
Stray Dogs/Cats	70	8
Drugs/Solvent Abuse	69	9
Neighbour Nuisance	61	10

Other points to emerge were:

- 77% of respondents would like to see the now disused play-park used for recreational purposes;
- 89% felt there was a need for a community facility;
- 75% would like to have an “After School” club;
- 69% would like to have a youth club; and
- 57% suggested a mother and toddler group.

Overall, the three main priorities identified by the respondents were:

1. Road Safety - both within the estates and on the main access routes to the area;
2. Provision of bus shelters; and
3. Provision of community and play facilities for the general Drumgallon area.

Some additional issues were discussed with the interviewer. These were that:

- Community relations are not an issue in this “mixed” area;
- Some teenagers are perceived to be “out of control”;
- It is considered that many problems are being caused by “new” tenants in the estates and by “outsiders”;
- Fermanagh District Council was criticised for failing to maintain adequate services; and
- The police were criticised for being unable to control anti-social behaviour in the area by youths.

Other Activities In The Area

Centre Care Project - This project was established in the late 1980’s by the Sisters of Mercy due to the lack of social initiatives in the area. The group runs youth clubs, two women’s groups, various craft/computer courses, and manages a Life Start project (covering approximately 45 households) and parenting initiative. They employ two part-time workers, a Life Start visitor and project coordinator. The group is a member of the Devenish Partnership Forum.

Conagrade and Hillview Community Associations - Both are resident-based organisations which seek to improve their local area in terms of housing conditions and the environment. In addition to regular meetings the groups hold open meetings to encourage others in the area to become involved.

Chamber of Commerce - This group, together with local traders and crafts people, was responsible for establishing the Town Vision Committee, the aim of which is to improve and regenerate the town centre and to encourage greater use of facilities.

Friends of the Round O - A local resident-based association the objectives of which are to improve facilities in the local area.

During the consultation process, representatives from a number of different types of groups were interviewed, but, as many of their views mirrored the views already expressed, these have not been re-stated; however, there are some “new” issues which are outlined below:

There Is A Lack Of Volunteers To “Take The Initiative”: many people do not want the “hassle” of doing something and trying to get a project off the ground, preferring instead to “close the door” as they know that it will be hard work with little thanks;

There Is A Great Deal Of Apathy: apathy is prevalent throughout society today which makes it hard to get people motivated to become involved. There is a perception that if people are comfortable they see no need to change the *status quo*, nor do young people believe that they have a role to play in community development;

Comments from the Consultation Process

- ***In some estates there is a problem with drug abuse***; although it is not considered a huge problem, there are a number of dealers in the Enniskillen area; these people need to be dealt with by the authorities, if the problem is to be eradicated.
- ***The main substance-abuse problem in the town is with alcohol***; alcohol is causing a number of significant problems: firstly, it results in petty crime to ‘feed’ the addiction to drink; a number of licensed premises are opening longer than is legally allowed and they sell alcohol to under-age persons; parents exacerbate this problem by letting under-age persons ‘go-out’ at night to places where they know alcohol will be readily available; and there is a major problem with seventeen, eighteen and nineteen year-olds being addicted to alcohol.
- ***Politics causes few problems in the area***; the majority of housing areas have some degree of mixing between Catholics and Protestants, although flags and emblems indicate an allegiance to one or other of the traditions. Despite the public outcry, events such as Drumcree caused very little violence over the last number of years. The Enniskillen bomb united the people of Enniskillen more than it separated them. Overall, there is good community spirit, and both traditions can accommodate one another reasonably well.
- ***There is significant unemployment in the area***; some people have become dependent on benefits and there is a high level of long-term unemployment. There is a need for more education for unemployed young people and improved training programmes for adults, to encourage employment and investment in the area. “ ... young people need a proper job, not an ACE scheme...” and they “...need to build their confidence and broaden their horizons...”
- ***Overall, the town suffers only moderate deprivation***; pockets of deprivation exist in most of the five wards, but overall the area is perceived as being no worse off than other areas of Fermanagh. All the facilities and services which people need exist in the town and are readily available. The housing estates are not much different from housing estates anywhere else in Northern Ireland, with anti-social behaviour being the only real problem.
- ***Rising house prices in Fermanagh are increasing demand for public sector housing***; the

cost of housing has been rising rapidly over the last number of years in Fermanagh. This means young people and first-time buyers are facing difficulties in purchasing houses, and when they are unable to do so, they turn to the Housing Executive for help; this increases housing waiting lists artificially.

- ***Groups regularly find difficulty in accessing funding;*** it is believed that one of the main reasons that Enniskillen-based groups find difficulty in accessing funding is that some agencies perceive the needs of rural areas to be greater than those of the urban areas. Little funding is given to the urban areas which have problems with deprivation and unemployment that are as severe as those in rural areas, especially given the population density of some of the built-up areas.
- ***Some of the agencies were seen as much more helpful than others;*** the relationships between groups and agencies is “evolving” and improving, but the personnel who are in direct contact with the groups are very important; in most circumstances, the problem to be dealt with determines how helpful the agencies are perceived to be by the group involved. Fermanagh District Council, especially Jim Ledwith (Community Development Officer), was viewed as being “..more than helpful..”. Other agencies are very good at dealing with certain problems and are always there to give advice, but more advice on social and economic issues is required by groups. Some agencies are very good at maintaining contact and passing on information as necessary; by comparison, other agencies were described as “..very bureaucratic..”. The Housing Executive was generally commended on its operations in Enniskillen.
- ***The different groups sometimes have a problem getting people to listen to them;*** the organisations do not know how people perceive them because they get very little recognition, apart from the immediate area in which they are established. Even then, they have difficulty in getting everyone involved and they generally have little feedback as to what they are doing right and what they are doing wrong for the community as a whole. People often view the groups as being successful only if they can physically see the results of their efforts; however, the work of many groups, which do not undertake physical projects, is often underrated by their community.
- ***Enniskillen should be a key area for investment;*** the people of Enniskillen have a good standard of living and the big housing estates are all within walking distance of the town centre. This should make Enniskillen an ideal place in which to set up business, because the workforce has a relatively high level of educational attainment, they can live close to their place of work and the good roads in Enniskillen make communications with the rest of Fermanagh, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland very accessible. However, groups expressed disappointment with the lack of investment for job-creation in the town.

Summary

Relative to the border areas of the East, South and West of the county, Enniskillen is largely prosperous; however, it contains pockets of quite severe deprivation. Community relations in the town are reasonably good given some of the events of recent decades, but some areas contain serious social problems with alcohol abuse, especially among the young, being a particularly important issue. In many respects, Enniskillen reflects the situation throughout the county – it is a microcosm of its hinterland. Enniskillen residents feel that they have fared badly in terms of investment for job-creation, though they are generally satisfied with the level of investment in housing.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE ENNISKILLEN AREA						
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Outer Sligo Rd. Area	Number in Devenish Area	Number in Drungallon Area	Number in Enniskillen Town Area	Number in Drumbeg/Drumbawn Area
Guesthouses	10	1	1	1	-	-
Self-catering	7	-	-	1	1	-
Hotels	4	-	-	-	2	-
Caravan/Campsites	1	-	-	-	1	-
Hostels	1	-	-	-	1	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS						
Devenish Island	1	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Coole House	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ardhowen Theatre	1	-	-	-	-	-
MV Kestrel	1	-	-	-	1	-
Lakeland Canoe Centre	1	-	-	-	1	-
Lochside Cruisers Ltd.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Enniskillen Castle/Museum	1	-	-	-	1	-
MISCELLANEOUS						
Fermanagh Lakeland Forum	1	-	-	-	1	-
Castle Hume Golf Club	1	-	-	-	-	-
Enniskillen Golf Club	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ashwoods Golf Club	1	1	-	-	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	20	-	7	-	10	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES						
Protestant Church Halls	11	2	1	-	5	-
Catholic Church Halls	3	-	-	-	3	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1	-	-	--	1	-
Community Halls	1	-	1	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	4	-	1	-	2	-
SPORTS FACILITIES						
G.A.A. Pitches	1	-	1	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	5	-	2	-	2	-
Playgrounds	14	1	5	1	2	-
MEDICAL SERVICES						
Pharmacists/Dispensary	7	-	-	-	7	-
Doctors Clinic	1	-	-	-	1	-

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE ENNISKILLEN AREA (CONTINUED)						
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Rossorry Area	Number in Tempo/Dublin Rd. Area	Number in Shore/Derrygonnelly Rd. Area	Number in Windmill/Coleshill Area	Number in Cavanaleck/Chanterhill/Drumclay Area
Guesthouses	10	1	3	2	-	1
Self-catering	7	-	4	1	-	-
Hotels	4	-	2	-	-	-
Caravan/Camp Sites	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hostels	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS						
Devenish Island	1	-	-	1	-	-
Castle Coole House	1	-	1	-	-	-
Ardhowen Theatre	1	-	1	-	-	-
MV Kestrel	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lakeland Canoe Centre	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lochside Cruisers Ltd.	1	1	-	-	-	-
Enniskillen Castle/Museum	1	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS						
Fermanagh Lakeland Forum	1	-	-	-	-	-
Castle Hume Golf Club	1	-	-	1	-	-
Enniskillen Golf Club	1	-	1	-	-	-
Ashwoods Golf Club	1	-	-	-	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	20	-	-	-	1	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES						
Protestant Church Halls	11	2	1	-	-	-
Catholic Church Halls	3	-	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venue	1	-	-	-	-	-
Community Halls	1	-	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	4	-	1	-	-	-
SPORTS FACILITIES						
G.A.A. Pitches	1	-	-	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	5	-	-	-	-	1
Playgrounds	14	1	-	1	2	1
MEDICAL SERVICES						
Pharmacists/Dispensary	7	-	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	1	-	-	-	-	-

* Although there is a Rugby Pitch, known as the "Enniskillen Rugby Pitch", located approximately two miles outside the Enniskillen Town boundary, there is no designated area within the above table were it can be facilitated; hence it is not included.

AREA PROFILE OF GARRISON

(Including the Townland Community of Cashel)

Description Of The Area

Garrison is situated in South West Fermanagh, on the shores of Lough Melvin. Between 1971 and 1991 the population of the village increased from 226 to 325 (+43.8%). It is a comparatively isolated settlement on the periphery of the County, along the border with Leitrim and Donegal; it is located on the B52 which is off the main tourist route in Fermanagh. The closure of all border roads between Fermanagh and Leitrim compounded the difficulties arising from its geographical location. The area has been shown to be highly deprived in social and economic terms - the second most disadvantaged in Fermanagh. The Belcoo and Garrison ward has thirteen enumeration districts, ten of which cover the Garrison area; the figures indicated below for the entire Belcoo and Garrison ward are therefore, representative of the Garrison area.

Socio-Economic Background

The following section provides an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics of Garrison and the surrounding area:

<u>STATISTICAL SUMMARY: GARRISON AND BELCOO WARD</u> (SUB-AREAS: CASHEL)		
<u>POPULATION:</u>		
Total	1594	
<u>POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:</u>		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>GROWTH</u>
-	2351	*
<u>HOUSEHOLDS:</u> 724		
<u>OCCUPANCY DENSITY:</u> 3.25 Persons per Household.		
<u>DEPRIVATION:</u>		
OVERALL WARD: (Belcoo and Garrison)	23 rd Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 5%)	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Ten in total. <i>Four in the Most Deprived 5% in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>One Other in the Worst 10%</i> <i>One Other in the Worst 20%</i> <i>Two Others in the Worst 30%</i> <i>All Deprived (i.e. in Worst 50%)</i>	
<u>UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):</u>		
Males	88	
Females	25	
OVERALL	113	
<u>RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: **</u>		
CATHOLIC:	84%	
PROTESTANT:	9.7%	
OTHERS/NO RESPONSE:	6.3%	

*Belcoo & Belmore and Garrison were separate wards in 1971.

** Based on figures for entire Belcoo and Garrison ward.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 1594 persons in the overall Garrison area, which represented 2.95% of Fermanagh's total population. The population of the village itself increased by 43.8% over the 1971 to 1991 period. Whilst accurate information is not available on the population for the Garrison area, recent evidence suggests that the population is decreasing, particularly in rural areas, where the decline is as much as 10% per decade.

The religious affiliation for the entire Belcoo and Garrison ward indicates that the vast majority of persons in the area are Catholic (84%); the Church of Ireland forms the second largest religious group (8.9%). There is one Catholic chapel and hall, and one Protestant church and hall in Garrison, while in Cashel, there is a chapel and cross-community hall.

Breakdown By Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1974	84%
Presbyterian	4	0.2%
Church of Ireland	210	8.9%
Methodist	13	0.6%
Others	149	6.3%
TOTAL	2350	100%

According to the deprivation study, *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al*, 1994, each of the ten Enumeration Districts in the Garrison area is deprived, with four of them ranking in the 5% most deprived Enumeration Districts of Northern Ireland. This explains why the overall ward is the 23rd most deprived ward in Northern Ireland (out of 566 wards) and the second most deprived ward in Fermanagh (out of twenty-three). An examination of the factors contributing to the high deprivation index indicates that they are as follows:

- Pensioners Living In Accommodation Without Central Heating;
- Households Without Bath, Shower, Or WC;
- Properties Without Public Sewerage;
- Households With More Than One persons Per Room;
- Children In Unsuitable Accommodation; and
- Unemployed Persons.

Community Development Situation

The following section summarises the current community development situation in Garrison and its surrounding areas:

Garrison And District Development Association

The Association was formed in 1991 by a group of interested local people whose objective was to obtain funding to regenerate the village through community-based economic development, and to get the correct balance between “community” and “economic”. Initially, the group was cross-community with the then Church of Ireland Rector acting as Chairperson. This is no longer the case; the group is now entirely Catholic, as there are not enough interested Protestants. (The minister met with a lot of hostility from his congregation over his involvement). Fermanagh District Council, IFI, DANI, DoE and the District Partnership Board have all contributed to building capacity within the group.

Although initial interest was very keen, membership has since declined to leave a core of eight, and one development officer. There were problems accessing funding, and a limited company was formed to access CRISP funding. To date, the Association has been involved in providing the following facilities:

- a cultural centre to encompass all traditions;
- a Day-Care centre, ITO Shared Frontiers;
- the Bilberry restaurant (leased);
- shop units;
- a play centre;
- it has initiated a harbour development programme involving lough shore walks and a community boat hire business; and

- self catering tourist accommodation upstairs.

The group is involved in networking on a cross-border basis through its Day-Care Centre activities which has a special remit for dealing with mental health issues

Funding for the cultural centre came from CRISP. 100% funding was provided on condition that 20% of the amount would be paid back over ten years to the Department of the Environment; consequently, no matching funding was required. DANI funded the harbour drainage scheme. Other funding sources were IFI, FDC and NITB. In total, the group received £1 million in funding, and would now be in a position to pay off borrowing, but for the fact that it is unable to secure continuation funding to pay its development officer. Nevertheless, when the funding runs out the group would hope to be self-sufficient.

Association members feel that community relations in the area may have been perceived by outsiders as being placed under a severe strain, particularly with regard to UDR families being forced to leave their homes in the early 1970's; but they consider that the reality was that both sides got on very well and could live and work together. At the beginning, the Association was regarded as a 'talking shop'; however, it has now proved its worth to the area in providing the facilities described above, and is now regarded in a positive light by local residents. Although Protestants are not actively involved in the work of the Association, all events are supported by both traditions.

There is an outdoor pursuits centre and active angling association in the area.

Cashel Community Association

The group was formed in 1991 after a public meeting was convened by FDC's Community Development Officer. It aimed to build a neutral venue for all, at the old national school. The group identity reflects the community profile. No capacity building has been undertaken to date.

The initial problem was to access funding and to maintain interest when it appeared that the group was getting nowhere. The Association has now restored the national school and holds numerous classes and activities there which have attracted cross-community support.

Cashel is a very close-knit townland community, and the residents do not see themselves as being disadvantaged in any way, as this would project a negative image. The area needs more private and public housing, and the group is working closely with the Rural Housing Association on this matter, and a site for four houses has been identified. The members have also initiated an environmental scheme to improve the area's appearance and its public safety through the provision of footpaths (the first to be undertaken by a crossroads community in the county); it also seeks the introduction of speed limits. It is working with FDC and the DoE on this project.

The group has a very close relationship with Kiltyclogher Community Association and receives a lot of support from them.

The Association obtained a grant of £60,000, largely from the Community Relations Unit together with charitable trust funds from the Cadbury Trust but with some other sources, to restore the school. The Committee has recently secured the lease on an adjoining field from Garrison Catholic Parish and is now applying for funding to develop this into an outdoor play and recreation area - so far, without success.

The group finds it difficult to raise the matching 20/25% funding required. The Committee holds various fund-raising events but these are often more trouble than they are worth. They no longer have discos, and dances are not well supported. It is realised that funding cannot

last for ever and that it should be secured when it is still available. The group believes that all associations should ultimately be self-sustaining.

The group feels that the neglect of the elderly community has been addressed through a fortnightly senior citizens club, but that it has been at the expense of others, especially the youth. The members believe that community development should be for the benefit of all and should not be seen to be more biased towards one community than another. The Association in Cashel is promoting community relations in the area by providing a neutral meeting place and activities for all. Locals see the group in a positive way and support it where possible. The group gets support from Garrison, Belcoo and Kiltyclogher. It is felt that community associations are sometimes regarded as 'spongers' and this creates problems of credibility when dealing with other organisations.

Comments From The Consultation Process

The main issues arising from the consultation process may be summarised as follows:

- ***It is felt that the Garrison community should be more positive in its outlook;*** dwelling upon the fact that Garrison is the second most socially and economically deprived area in the county imparts a negative view to outsiders;
- ***There is a consensus that an effort must be made to compensate for Garrison's peripheral location;*** the area must be made more attractive to tourists by “.. providing the right facilities at the right price ..”;
- ***There is an urgent need for economic development;*** agriculture can no longer sustain Garrison's economy and some form of diversification is needed.
- ***Outward migration is a major problem;*** young people are leaving the area and the population is decreasing, it is estimated, at 1.6% per annum;
- ***The differential in the Pound and Punt is having a detrimental effect on the area's economy currently;*** however, due to road closures, the village has never relied as heavily on cross-border trade as, for example, Belleek.

Perceptions Of Agencies

In general, Garrison & District Development Association found the agencies to be quite helpful; their Development Officer is a Local Councillor, with an understanding of how agencies operate. The advice from the Officer was “.. not to be put off by bureaucracy and never give up ..”. It is felt that the agencies should make it easier for those who know very little about community development grants and form filling.

The Cashel Community Association stated that the group could not have operated without support from Fermanagh District Council which supported it in any way possible. The members cannot understand why agencies take so long to reach a decision, when they have been provided with so much information. They would like to see more emphasis being placed on practical help by these organisations and less on paperwork. The following direct comments were made:

- ***Although the economic positions of the groups are described as 'comfortable' they have to fund raise some of their money;*** they feel like they are always 'begging' through their organisation of social events.
- ***Fermanagh District council was seen as extremely helpful;*** they “.. guided them through the process ..” and were “.. always there to provide backup ..”.

- ***The agencies have a tendency to pass applications from community groups from one to another;*** when funding runs short no agency appears to be prepared to take a definite decision on a project.
- ***The agencies are too bureaucratic;*** this is the single most frustrating aspect of dealing with the public sector.
- ***Fermanagh District Council was very supportive;*** Council staff were always available to help the group through any problems which arose.

Summary

Garrison's location close to the border is believed to be a hindrance to its development. It is known and accepted throughout the area that there is severe deprivation. However, the locals know that there is great tourism potential in the area and if they could get their young, educated people to stay in the area the growth of Garrison should soon start to take place.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE GARRISON AREA			
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Garrison Area	Number in Cashel Area
Guesthouses	3	3	-
Self-catering	3	3	-
Hotels	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	1	1	-
Hostels	1	1	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS			
Lough Melvin Holiday Centre	1	1	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS			
	2	1	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES			
Protestant Church Halls	1	1	-
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	2	1	1
Community Halls	1	-	1
Masonic and Other Halls	-	-	-
SPORTS FACILITIES			
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-
Playgrounds	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF IRVINESTOWN

Description of the Area

Irvinestown nestles in a valley with land rising gently on all sides of the town. It is situated at the convergence of the A32 Dromore-Enniskillen road, the A35 to Kesh and B123 to Kilskeery on the Tyrone County boundary, 10 miles North of Enniskillen. It is the third largest town in Fermanagh; its population was recorded as 1906 at the time of the 1991 Census, an increase of 21.8% since 1971.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: IRVINESTOWN AREA		
(SUB-AREAS: None)		
POPULATION OF WARD:		
Total		2244
Male		1090 (48.6%)
Female		1154 (51.4%)
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>GROWTH</u>
2708	2244	-17.1%
HOUSEHOLDS:		
		758
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:		
		2.96 Persons per Household.
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:	207 th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 40%)	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Six In Total	
	<i>1 In the Most Deprived 10% in Northern Ireland</i>	
	<i>2 More In the Worst 30%</i>	
	<i>2 More In the Worst 40%</i>	
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	106	
FEMALES	27	
OVERALL	133	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:		67.4%
PROTESTANT:		24.4%
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:		8.1%

Socio-Economic Background

The following paragraphs provide analyses of the demographic, social and economic statistics relating to Irvinestown and the surrounding area:

According to the 1991 Census, the population of Irvinestown ward was 2244, comprising 1090 males and 1154 females; that population total represents 4.2% of Fermanagh's population and 0.14% of that of Northern Ireland. The town itself has grown significantly between 1971 and 1991, recording a population increase of 21.8% during that period. Given that the population of the ward as a whole decreased, there has evidently been a major population shift into the built-up area, at the expense of its rural hinterland.

The majority of the residents of the area are Catholic (67.5%), with Church of Ireland members constituting 17.4% of the population. The town itself is predominantly Catholic, while the surrounding townland areas have a Protestant majority. The following Table summarises the area's religious breakdown:

Breakdown By Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage Of Total
Roman Catholic	1514	67.5%
Presbyterian	75	3.3%
Church of Ireland	391	17.4%
Methodist	81	3.6%
Others	182	8.1%
TOTAL	2243*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

As quantified in the Policy, Planning and Research Unit's Report, *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al* 1994, Irvinestown ward ranks 15th of the County's twenty-three wards in terms of degree of deprivation. It is therefore less deprived than the average for the County and outside the worst 33% in Northern Ireland on one dimension, as the following Table shows:

Deprivation Level Of Irvinestown Ward		
	RANK	PERCENTILE
Degree	207	37
Extent	160	28
Intensity	137	24

There are, within Irvinestown ward six Enumeration Districts (ED's), some of which are comparatively deprived, while others are fairly prosperous; of the 3729 ED's in Northern Ireland, the six rank as follows:

ED Number	Rank	N.I. Percentile
16125	219	6
16129	771	21
16128	995	27
16130	1297	35
16126	2972	80
Total ED's in Northern Ireland : 3729		

These figures indicate that Irvinestown's overall ranking is a weighted average of one very prosperous district, with one very highly deprived area and three other quite deprived districts.

Until recently, Irvinestown was the location for a major milk-processing plant, which reflected the strength of that aspect of agriculture in the area. As dairy farming declined (partly as a result of the increase in part-time farmers), that plant was closed down and the immediate area now has no plant to process agricultural produce in any significant quantities.

Community Development Activity

The following paragraphs outline the current community development situation in Irvinestown and its surrounding areas.

Irvinestown Community Association

The Association was formed in October 1996 following the establishment of a working group in January 1995, which had been examining the social, environmental and cultural void which existed in the community. The group has approximately equal representation from both traditions and includes a good cross section of local residents including retired professionals, housewives, teachers, the commercial sector and church representatives. Its aim is to promote

the local area and help to develop a sense of community and personal pride in Irvinestown. To date, the group has undertaken the following initiatives:

- Participation in the Tidy Towns Competition;
- Preparation of an Economic and Social Audit in conjunction with Irvinestown Trustee Enterprise Company;
- Preparation of a 3-year Action Plan, based on the findings of the Economic and Social Audit.

In essence, the Group feels that the overriding needs of this area are further economic development and the provision of a variety of facilities.

The Association has representation on several of the other eighteen groups in the area and on the Irvinestown Community Partnership which is made up of representatives from fifteen cross-community groups. Currently, the Association is investigating the possibility of developing a festival in collaboration with Donegal, and a Cross-Border Energy awareness project. Thus, a policy of cross-community co-operation, initiated in 1908, when the Fairs and Markets Trustees body was set up, continues to work successfully to the present day.

Irvinestown Community Partnership

The Partnership consists of representatives from fifteen cross-community groups. It was formed in 1996, and, as is the case with Irvinestown Community Association, Catholic and Protestants are represented approximately 50/50 on the Board. Its stated aim is *“to ensure greater co-ordination and better resourcing, and to help implement and facilitate individual and larger partnership projects”*. The partnership structure is regarded as a model and has been studied by representatives of the Community Leadership Programme under BDO Stoy Hayward for possible application in other communities. The Partnership includes both employed and unemployed persons, and training is being provided by ITEC, WEA, RDC and Fermanagh District Council. The Partnership and ITEC jointly own the ITEC Centre.

Current projects of Irvinestown Community Partnership include the following:

- *After-School Computer Club;*
- *After-School Children’s Club;*
- *Lady of the Lake Festival;*
- *Dissemination of Information to Community Groups and Businesses;*
- *Irvinestown Community Newsletter;*
- *Neighbourhood Caring Partnership;*
- *Tourism Information Brochure;*
- *Sallyswood Family Life Centre;*
- *Donegal / Irvinestown Chamber Links Project;*
- *Visitors and Craft Centre.*

The Partnership representatives feel that community relations are important, not only from the religious and political perspectives, but from a practical viewpoint as well: unless groups form relationships outside their local area and observe different approaches to problems and opportunities, progress may be constrained through the selection of parochial views.

ITEC (Irvinestown Trustees Enterprise Company)

There is an overlap between the Irvinestown Community Partnership and ITEC, as the Directors of ITEC are heavily involved across the community. The Directors are chosen from the Fairs and Markets Trustees. It was formed in 1992 as a limited company, one objective being to access funding which would not be available to the Trustees. All the Directors are either business people or business orientated. Achievements credited to ITEC to date are:

- *Provision of an Enterprise Park - a CRISP Initiative;*
- *Establishment of Castle Archdale Food Park - ongoing;*
- *Organisation of Lady of the Lake Festival - ongoing;*
- *Establishment of Cross-Border Links - ongoing.*

ITEC is represented on most local community organisations and the Directors believe that there is an important role for community-led organisations in Business - ITEC itself being a prime example.

Comments From The Consultation Process

The main issues arising from the consultation process are detailed as follows:

- ***The area is seen by many as disadvantaged;*** this perception exists mainly because Irvinestown is situated on the periphery of Northern Ireland and also because it does not lie on a main trading route;
- ***It is felt that to much of the emphasis, to date, has been on economic initiatives;*** however, it is considered that more social and tourism initiatives are needed and that tourism has been under-marketed in Irvinestown and the surrounding area; in addition, it was stated that there has been little, or no, co-ordination of the provision of tourism facilities;
- ***The Community Partnership is viewed as being very successful;*** the Partnership has a high profile in the community, and is seen as providing a very satisfactory service in representing the various community organisations in the area and involving the local residents - for example, by keeping the people informed through publication of a local newsletter. A great deal of enthusiasm has been generated in relation to social and economic initiatives. It is considered that the people of Irvinestown are very supportive of those acting on their behalf.
- ***Apart from cross-community co-operation, networking outside the area was considered to be important;*** it is felt that by establishing contact with groups either in other parts of Northern Ireland, or in the Republic of Ireland, and observing similarities and differences in dealing with problems, a tendency to become parochial in outlook can be counteracted.
- ***All the community organisations experience most problems at the formation stage and the period immediately thereafter;*** the problems are caused by :
 - Poor/temporary premises (It is felt that a natural and relaxed working environment contributes to the successful development of a group. A neutral venue is important);
 - The voluntary nature of these groups requires a great deal of time and commitment on the part of committee members, whose input is not always fully appreciated;
 - It is difficult to motivate people to become interested and involved in the work of the group;
 - Reaching consensus with community groups and with associated groups can prove difficult;
 - Obtaining funding, especially at the early stages of group formation, is a problem also shared by all groups; funding agencies come in for criticism in this regard. It is essential, therefore, if these problems are to be overcome, to provide strong community leadership and impress upon the local community that it is in their interest to become involved in the process of social and economic regeneration in their area, and that burglary, vandalism, drugs and alcohol abuse etc. are everybody's problem. When this message is conveyed clearly, most problems can be dealt with.

Youth

There is an excellent youth club in Irvinestown, of which the local community is very proud. A Government survey carried out in 1989 identified the Bawnacre Centre as the most efficient and effective leisure facility in Northern Ireland. It was formed in 1975. Membership, of around 460, comes from both sections of the community (about 50/50 by religious affiliation). The part-time leaders come from all walks of life. The club is funded by Fermanagh District Council and the WELB, both of which are perceived to be very helpful.

The club members co-operate with most organisations in Irvinestown, including local sports clubs, the festival committee, senior citizens etc. and network on a cross-community basis within Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; they have produced a musical in conjunction with Sligo Youth Club. The club has no financial problems. Their main aspiration is to extend their premises to accommodate both additional members and other groups in the town which use the centre on a regular basis. Their policy is to reach out actively to the whole community in order to recruit new members.

As is currently the case in most communities, problems, such as drug and alcohol abuse, under-age drinking, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour, exist among the young people of the area. The problems are being addressed by a co-operative effort on the part of the community associations, the social services, police and other community groups and individuals.

Women

The Irvinestown Women's Institute was formed in 1957, with the objective of promoting cultural and social activities in the area. The organisation is a cross community one and has been, from its inception, inclusive of all walks of life. The membership in Irvinestown is approximately 50:50 with regard to religious affiliation. The Institute is self-supporting and, thus has no problems in relation to funding agencies, premises etc. It networks on a country-wide and indeed world-wide basis, especially with other Women's Institute Groups in the respective area, or county; in the local area, co-operation takes place with the Chamber of Commerce. It is felt by members that a policy of actively recruiting new members from the community would contribute to building stronger community relations in its catchment area.

Business

ITEC is very supportive of community groups and perceives their contribution as being important to overall community development. Its directors are of the opinion that the private sector could not have obtained funding for, and carried out, projects such as the construction of the Enterprise Park - a type of development which is crucial to the economic viability of the County. A combination of local business and local community initiatives is particularly effective, since those with a background in commerce and industry know what works and what does not, and will help the community sector to achieve sustainability.

Summary

The Irvinestown area is among the more prosperous in Fermanagh, although there are pockets of severe deprivation. There has been significant economic development in recent years, although many in the community perceive the area as quite restricted in terms of progress in that period due to its "peripheral" location. Community relations are excellent, dating from the establishment of the Fairs and Marts Trustees in 1908. The residents are enthusiastic and interested in the improvement of social and economic activities in their area, and co-operation on a cross-community basis is much in evidence. Moreover, there exists a willingness to "reach out" not only to marginalised members of the local community, but to other areas within Northern Ireland and in the Republic.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE IRVINESTOWN AREA	
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	<i>NUMBER</i>
Guesthouses	6
Self-catering	-
Hotels	1
Caravan/Campsites	-
Hostels	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS	
Necarne Castle Equestrian Park	1
Jo Tinney Studio	1
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES	
Protestant Church Halls	2
Catholic Church Halls	1
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1
Community Halls	-
Masonic and Other Halls	2
MISCELLANEOUS	
Bawnacre Centre	1
SPORTS FACILITIES	
G.A.A. Pitches	1
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	3
Playgrounds	2
MEDICAL SERVICES	
Pharmacists/Dispensary	3
Doctors Clinic	1

AREA PROFILE OF KESH

(Including Lisnarick and the Townland Communities of Bannagh, Tubrid and Tullyhommon, as Well as Pettigo)

Description of the Area

Kesh is situated near the North-East shore of Lower Lough Erne, approximately five miles from the Donegal Border, at the intersection of the A35 route leading West to Pettigo and South East to Irvinestown, and the B4 which runs East to Ederney and Lack. Between 1971 and 1981, the population of the village increased from 350 to 606 (73.1%); during the 1981-91 inter-censal period, the growth rate was much less (10.6%).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: KESH & LISNARICK AREA (SUB-AREAS: TULLYHOMMON, BANNAGH, TUBRID, PETTIGO)		
POPULATION:		
Total	2373	
Male	1190 (50.1%)	
Female	1183 (49.9%)	
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	GROWTH
2497	2373	- *
HOUSEHOLDS:	750	
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:	3.16 Persons per Household.	
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:	311 th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 55%)	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Nine In Total <i>1 In the Most Deprived 25% in Northern Ireland</i> <i>Another In the Worst 40%</i> <i>And Another In the Worst 45%</i>	
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	58	
FEMALES	28	
OVERALL	86	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:	22.7%	
PROTESTANT:	63.5%	
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	13.9%	

* In 1971, Kesh ward included Ederney and Lack which now constitutes a separate ward

Socio-Economic Background

The following paragraphs provide an analysis of the demographic, social, and economic statistics in Kesh and the surrounding area.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2373 residents in the overall area (the Kesh and Lisnarick electoral ward), comprising 1190 males and 1183 females. This constitutes 4.4% of the Fermanagh population and 0.15% of the Northern Ireland total.

The Boa Island/Kesh area has been designated a Sensitive Zone in the Fermanagh Area Plan 2007. In these zones, the character of the landscape, the conservation interest or the existing levels of development are such that, whilst there may be scope for development, proposals must be sensitive to the particular characteristics of the zone. The main objective of this designation is to ensure that any development would not be damaging to nature or conservation interests or the man-made heritage.

The population of the Kesh area is approximately 64% Protestant and 23% Catholic (see the

following matrix for a detailed breakdown of the religious affiliations of the community):

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	538	22.7%
Presbyterian	132	5.6%
Church of Ireland	1261	53.1%
Methodist	114	4.8%
Others	329	13.9%
TOTAL	2374*	100%

**Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.*

The Kesh/Lisnarick ward is one of the less deprived wards in the Fermanagh Local Government District. In terms of degree of deprivation it ranks 311th of Northern Ireland's 566 wards and 17th of Fermanagh's 23 wards. An examination of the area at Enumeration District (ED) level shows that just two of the ward's nine ED's are significantly disadvantaged. The contributory factors in these ED's are:

- Properties Without Access To A Public Sewerage System;
- Houses Without Central Heating;
- Children In Unsuitable Accommodation; and
- 18-24 Year Olds With No Qualifications.

Deprivation Level Of The Ward		
	RANK	PERCENTILE
Degree	311	55
Extent	-	-
Intensity	272	48

Community Development Situation

The following sections indicate the current community development situation in Kesh and the surrounding area.

Kesh Development Association

The Kesh Development Association (KDA), was formed in 1965 with the objective of formulating a coherent social and economic policy for the area. A broad cross section of the local community is represented in the group, which claims to have a cross-community mix of 75% Protestants to 25% Catholics. In general, facilities in the village are very poor; they include a community centre and the Young Farmers' hall which is in need of repair. There are a small number of shops and other commercial premises.

KDA is responsible for the Community Centre and for Kesh Enterprise Centre. The group has initiated a series of environmental improvement schemes and social and recreational activities. It is now focusing on economic projects and the provision of communal requirements, e.g. playgroup amenities. Each year KDA hosts a very successful week-long festival, the profits of which pay in part one of the development workers (the group employs two workers).

KDA has been networking with local groups and other groups in Fermanagh, and has formed linkages in County Down and in the Republic of Ireland. The Association operates on a completely open basis, minutes of its meetings being sent out to any individuals who are interested in the group's activities. The public are welcome to come and express their views at various meetings. Funding has been obtained from the following:

- Fermanagh District Council - £2,000
- Millennium Commission - £500,000
- INTERREG - £400,000
- KONVER II Programme - £75,000
- SSPPR Programme - £100,000
- NIVT - £40,000
- ERDF and LEDU - £750,000
- CPDS and IFI - £300,000
- Arts Council - £2,500
- Landfill Tax - £700

The group has undertaken no borrowing; it raises funds as the need arises.

Bannagh Community Project

Bannagh is a townland situated three miles North-West of Kesh and three miles from the Donegal border. The Bannagh Community Project (BCP), was established in 1987, primarily to provide educational and recreational facilities and activities in the area. The group renovated an old hall in the area, converting it into the first cross-community venue in the County (which was developed in difficult times); funding for the renovation and extension was provided by Charitable Trusts (£70,000) and local funding-raising. The area is relatively well mixed as regards religious affiliation, a fact which is reflected in the composition of the group. There are several other halls in the area: Kesh, Tubrid, and seven between Pettigo and Tullyhommon, but none are cross-community.

BCP belongs to the Fermanagh Community Network and the Rural Community Network; it co-operates with a number of local and cross-border groups. As the focus of the group is education, the members do not see it getting involved in community development.

BCP has no borrowing arrangements; it has received funding from the following:

- Fermanagh District Council - £1,000
- Cadbury Trust - £40,000
- Lottery Fund - £7,500
- CCR - £1,000

Funding has also been received from a number of other sources. BCP is affiliated to the Rural Development Council.

Lisnarick Residents Association

Lisnarick is a hamlet situated approximately four miles South of Kesh. The Lisnarick Residents Association was founded in 1993, essentially to improve the quality of life for local residents. The group, which is cross-community contains a variety of individuals ranging from retired and employed, to students and one business person. There is no church, but there is an Orange hall which is infrequently used, and an hotel. Most recreational and social needs are catered for at venues in Irvinestown and Enniskillen.

The group has recently completed a household survey, and a tree survey (for the Shell project). It has organised a number of social events and carried out some minor environmental improvements. The association is a member of the ITEC Partnership and has networked with Kesh Development Association. No cross-border links have been formed to date.

The group has received some small amounts of funding from Fermanagh District Council,

Shell Better Britain (for tree-planting) and Northern Ireland Environmental Link (also for tree-planting), and FLAG.

Association for the Development of Pettigo and Tullyhommon (ADOPT)

Pettigo and Tullyhommon are adjoining border villages, situated in Donegal and Fermanagh respectively. They are approximately five miles from Kesh. There are quite a large number of churches and church halls in the area. There are a few shops in the villages, a post office, and a number of public houses. ADOPT was set up in 1991, primarily with a broad community development focus. Pettigo is around 95% Catholic, while Tullyhommon is almost 90% Protestant. The Association has tried to create a balance in having a cross-community, cross-border group which is representative of the area in terms of age, gender, the employed and the unemployed.

Funding has been obtained under the CRISP programme. On the Pettigo side, the CRISP project, which includes the ADOPT office, a bakery and a horticulture site, have been completed and work on the Tullyhommon part of the project has recently commenced. A feature of the village area is the Lough Derg Interpretative Centre. The group has organised a number of social and educational activities in the area. It is also a major employer through its FÁS programme. It also proposes to develop a museum on the site of the old customs house.

The Association has been actively engaged in networking with local and cross-border groups, in particular, the North Fermanagh Development Partnership, the MourneDerg Partnership and the Bluestack Environmental Group. Financial support has come mainly under the CRISP plan. Currently, ADOPT is repaying a loan from the International Fund for Ireland. Smaller amounts have been received from the Cadbury Trust and the SSPPR.

Tullyhommon and Pettigo Women's Group

The Tullyhommon and Pettigo Women's Group was formed in 1996 with the objective of providing social activities and educational classes for the women of the villages. The group is cross-community, and includes members who are representative of a wide range of occupations and age groups. A number of very successful classes have been provided, and social events organised. The group is affiliated to the Fermanagh Women's Network and its Donegal counterpart, and contact has been established with groups on both sides of the Border.

Financial support has been obtained from the Rural Community Network and the War on Want. The group would like to see the agencies acknowledge and recognise that there are quite different needs in urban and rural areas.

Tubrid Community Council

Tubrid is a townland community approximately three miles North of Kesh. Facilities in the area consist of a church hall at Tubrid, and a community centre in Bannagh. Tubrid Community Council was founded in 1979 to provide a community base for the local residents. Although there is a relatively good religious mix in the wider area, the group is single identity (Protestant).

The group renovated the church hall in 1984 and has since provided a range of activities and social events for local residents. Progress has been restricted, however, due to a lack of a number of facilities in the hall, a situation which is now being rectified. Group members consider that community relations should be left to develop naturally, rather than in a contrived manner. Consequently, the council has been concentrating on developing its own activities and no networking has been attempted, either at cross-border or local levels, although the idea was considered. Co-operation with other rural-based groups may be discussed in the future.

The group is currently operating at break-even point. Fund-raising by members is undertaken for running costs and maintenance of the hall. Financial support received from other sources includes:

- DENI - £10,000 (For Renovation in 1984);
- Fermanagh District Partnership - £7,000;
- Fermanagh Trust - £5,000;
- NIPPA - £1,000;
- RDC - £26,000 (For extension of the hall and development facilities).

Kesh Young Farmers Club (KYFC)

Kesh Young Farmers Club was formed in the early 1970's. The club organises a number of "character-building" activities including drama, public speaking and livestock judging competitions etc. Membership is mainly Protestant. The members range in age from 12 to 26, but currently 80% are in the 12–18 age group. The Club has a long-term lease on a village hall. A strong emphasis is placed on gaining and maintaining members, rather than setting any targets.

By their nature, Young Farmers Clubs engage in networking throughout their own organisation; in addition, KYFC is involved in networking with its Southern counterparts, particularly in Donegal. Young Farmers Clubs are being encouraged to forge links within their own communities by taking part in community / development association activities.

The Clubs are generally self-sufficient and often engage in fund-raising for charities. However, KYFC is now considering applying to some of the agencies for funds to refurbish their hall, which is badly in need of repair.

Comments From Consultation Process

The main issues produced from the consultation process are detailed as follows:

- ***There is a consensus that Kesh and its immediate area is "well off"***; in fact, its geographical position gives it added advantages over Ederney, in the facilitation and development of tourism. On the other hand, Tullyhommon and Pettigo are perceived to be definitely "worse off" than comparable areas in both Tyrone and Donegal due, for the most part, to the peripheral location of the two villages on the Tyrone/Donegal border; the feeling of being "too far away" from anything was expressed.
- ***There is general agreement that the main beneficiaries of community development are the communities themselves***; in some instances, members of a townland community begin to benefit, maybe for the first time. In terms of the committee, there is often the opportunity for personal development.
- ***There is general agreement that, in the eyes of the statutory and funding agencies, voluntary groups are viewed as not being professional and credible organisations***; their steadfastness and commitment are often challenged to the limit. It was also seen as "being a matter of luck", if group members had the necessary skills to enable groups to progress their respective communities prospective developments. Groups often incurred extra bank charges while awaiting draw-down of funds.
- ***In the Kesh area, the major issues confronted by community organisations are the general area of funding, group membership and, to a lesser degree, cross-community activity***; groups found difficulty in sourcing information, in understanding the myriad of funding criteria and in the actual securing of funds. In relation to the groups themselves,

the retention of existing members and the ability to attract new blood – in particular those with specialist skills - proved problematic. One major issue which is ongoing and relevant to many groups is the cost of running and maintaining projects and/or premises.

- ***There is a general consensus that, in Kesh and the surrounding area, there is mutual respect for each other's traditions;*** this leads to good, “neighbourly” community relations. However, it was pointed out that, perhaps, the people who do not want to be reached could be more representative of the area. There were, however, other views expressed; while community relations are fairly good, Kesh and Ederney are seen as being polarised, with the usual undercurrents relating to selling land and “jobs for the boys”.
- ***The opinion was expressed that the people of Fermanagh are more friendly than in other parts of Ulster;*** this makes barriers easier to cross;
- ***It was suggested that churches and modern, informed organisations are two different worlds;*** organisations with long histories often cause great difficulty in adopting modern approaches and it is necessary to move away from those traditional methods of operating, if real progress is to be made.
- ***Community relations in Lisnarick happen naturally;*** as the residents of the village see themselves as coming from one community – and that is “LISNARICK”.
- ***Most groups indicated a willingness to amend their structures and/or their activities to reinforce community relations in the area;*** a minority are of the opinion, however, that their activities do not straddle any political or sensitive issues and, therefore, do not lend themselves to change; a combination of dynamism and the ability to change were seen as positive attributes that have made some groups successful and sustainable.
- ***All things considered, there is a perception that a purpose-built hall is not always the answer;*** it is a relic of the 1950's and, consequently, of a different era.
- ***It is believed that there is need for a different kind of support;*** for instance, in the area of cross-border youth activity, since there has never been a cricket (or basketball, or badminton etc.) club in Pettigo, the setting up of one could draw the youth from both sides of the border.
- ***Opinions were divided as to other issues which impeded community development and community relations;*** the lack of funding, red tape and bureaucracy were cited with the suggestion that some distinction between different groups and their needs should be made. On the question of the wider political issues (e.g. Garvaghey Road / Drumcree), it was felt that, as these were out of the control of ordinary people, there was no point in advancing this argument. The other opinion expressed is an historical one – the two traditions do not understand each other's history and they have no reasons to come together; the emphasis is on what divides the two traditions instead of what unites them.

Perceptions of the Agencies

The following paragraphs indicate the groups' perceptions of the funding agencies.

- ***There was a feeling of unease, by some groups, when dealing and negotiating with the agencies;*** this occurred because the groups felt that they were not seen in a “professional” light and, as such, had to keep on “proving themselves”;

- ***Groups were of the opinion that application forms were horrendous and off-putting***, questions were repetitive and the language could be confusing. It was suggested that the policies and systems need significant adjusting;
- ***Groups also felt that those agencies who had representatives in the local areas and which were able to work closely with community groups, worked well***; in particular the Department of Environment and the International Fund for Ireland. The Rural Community Network and War on Want made their criteria and operating systems very clear to groups, as did the Arts Council. The Fermanagh District Partnership got the “thumbs down”;
- ***The opinion was expressed that peripheral groups were more or less left to get on with it***; there seemed to be a lack of interest and support - in particular from the local government agencies.

Border Area

The following comments indicate the groups’ perceptions of the border and its effects on social, economic and communal factors in Kesh and the surrounding area:

- ***There is a difference of opinion from groups on the kind of impact the Border has had on their activities***; almost half of the groups felt that the Border has had no impact whatsoever on their activities, while the remainder of the groups felt that it had played an important role in obtaining cross-border funds for their respective projects;
- ***As a number of the groups are not involved in economic development, they did not express an opinion***; of those which did, the majority of the groups perceive that due to their location on the periphery of both Northern Ireland and the Republic (and of Europe) economic development has been made more difficult. Furthermore, investment has been made more difficult by the changes in exchange rates; currently, the advantage is going to the South of Ireland. The currency exchange rate has done much to reinforce the border here;
- ***Of the thirteen bridges in the Pettigo, Lettercran and Kesh areas, one road was all that was left***; the closure of the border roads was the overriding issues for communities in the Border areas. It impacted more on some communities and groups than others; it decimated some communities, ruined relationships and caused outward migration. In other areas, it was more of an inconvenience caused to individuals by having longer journey times. Murder and political incidents caused extra tension and anxiety and were also contributory factors to outward migration;
- ***There were mixed feelings about the impact of the Border on the morale of the area***; some groups perceive that the border has affected morale in their area while others felt that it had improved (these views were expressed from groups representing both communities). The majority of groups felt, however, that the Border had had a negative impact on morale; for instance, it caused changes in attitudes among the local people. Kesh was a target for terrorist activity and the border was used as a shield. The Protestant point of view is that their way of life is very much under threat; Protestants are more individualistic (a trait related to a number of Protestant religions) in comparison with Catholics who are more family orientated. The former are very uncertain about the future and whether a united Ireland will be forced upon them. There are many hurts on both sides that need to be healed; if the issues which are under the surface are not addressed, there will not be any change. Issues which affect Kesh, as a community group, are true of governments. They treat the Republic as a different country, but Kesh people know those people - they are their neighbours, more or less;

- ***Over the years, the Border acted as a shield for smuggling and helped create the black economy;*** the current exchange rate fluctuations are reinforcing it more than at any other time.

Village

- In the Kesh area, there were only two groups which were located in the village i.e. Kesh Development Association and ADOPT. Both groups indicated that they served the needs of the village and the surrounding area. The urban/rural issues around Tullyhommon and Pettigo left the people of surrounding areas rather dubious about the role of ADOPT.
- Both group feel that their villages' main needs, at the outset, were economic. The absence of health provision in Kesh was cause for concern, i.e. doctor and dispensing chemist. The nearest doctor in Irvinestown is seen as serving a Catholic area.

Summary

According to the comments, Kesh and the surrounding area have good community relations; both traditions live happily with each other; however, the views expressed about the border by representatives from the different traditions conflict with each other. It is believed that with road closures and smuggling, cross-border trade is very difficult and so too is overall economic development. The groups which exist in the area tend to be dominated by one religion and all groups find difficulty in dealing with, and getting money from, the funding agencies.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE KESH AND LISNARICK AREA						
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Kesh Area	Number in Bannagh Area	Number in Tullyhommon Area	Number in Tubrid Area	Number in Lisnarick Area
Guesthouses	11	3	-	2	1	5
Self-catering	5	1	-	2	-	2
Hotels	2	1	-	-	-	1
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS						
Enniskillen Airport	1	-	-	1	-	-
Inishcruiser	1	-	-	-	-	1
Manor House	1	-	-	-	-	1
Yacht Club	1	-	-	-	-	1
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS						
	1	1	-	-	-	-
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES						
Protestant Church Halls	5	2	-	2	1	-
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	2	1	1	-	-	-
Community Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	6	4	-	1	-	1
SPORTS FACILITIES						
G.A.A. Pitches	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	1	1	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	2	2	-	-	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES						
Pharmacists/Dispensary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	-	-	-	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF KINAWLEY

(Including the Townland Communities of Florencecourt, Greenan and Killesher)

Description of the Area

Kinawley is a very small village/cross-roads settlement in South Fermanagh, located approximately eleven miles south of Enniskillen and five miles North-West of Derrylin. It is adjacent to the border with County Cavan (half of Kinawley parish is actually in Cavan), and it represents one of two reasonably significant rural settlements in the Electoral Ward of Florencecourt and Kinawley. That ward's population density of 0.14 persons per hectare, represents the third lowest of the twenty-three wards in Fermanagh, which, on average, host 0.29 persons per hectare. The ward consists of one village settlement, Florencecourt, and two townland communities, Killesher and Greenan.

The area suffers from a high level of socio-economic deprivation, as illustrated by the continuous erosion of its population through emigration, resulting from the scarcity of employment opportunities in the area; not surprisingly, therefore, it exhibits a high unemployment level. Essentially, the population is dependent on low-value-added farming or employment outside the area. Hence, in light of the recent crisis in the farming sector, in tandem with the poor infrastructure of the area, Kinawley contains pockets of severe deprivation.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: KINAWLEY AREA (SUB-AREAS: FLORENCECOURT, KILLESHER AND GREENAN)		
POPULATION:		
Total		2151
Male		1146 (53.3%)
Female		1005 (46.7%)
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
1971	1991	GROWTH
2,313	2,151	- 7%
HOUSEHOLDS:		649
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:		3.31 Persons per Household.
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:		81 st Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 15%)
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:		Eleven In Total <i>8 In the Most Deprived 10% in Northern Ireland</i> <i>Nine Wards Deprived (i.e. in Worst 50%)</i>
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	63	
FEMALES	15	
OVERALL	78	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:		65.1%
PROTESTANT:		29.8%
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:		5.1%

Socio-Economic Background

The following paragraphs detail the social, economic and demographic statistics for Kinawley and its adjacent sub-areas of Florencecourt, Killesher and Greenan.

According to 1991 Census data, there were 2,151 persons residing in the Florencecourt and Kinawley ward, comprising 1,146 males and 1,005 females. This represented 4% of the total population of Fermanagh and 0.14% of the aggregate Northern Ireland population. This

area's population has suffered from outward migration over the past two decades and its male population has consistently exceeded its female population by some considerable margin - a phenomenon which is characteristic of declining rural areas.

Kinawley has an extremely young population profile by comparison with either Fermanagh generally or Northern Ireland; the percentage of the total population under-twenty (at the 1991 Census date) was 37.4% compared to 34.8% and 32.5% for Fermanagh and Northern Ireland respectively; it has, therefore, a high youth-dependency ratio.

The Ward's population is primarily Catholic (approximately 65%) with the majority of the remaining 35% belonging to the Church of Ireland; Kinawley itself has a Catholic population in excess of 70%, as the majority of Protestants reside in the Florencecourt sector of the ward. The following table indicates the religious affiliations of the population of the ward:

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1401	65.1%
Presbyterian	4	0.2%
Church of Ireland	548	25.5%
Methodist	88	4.1%
Others/Non-Response	110	5.1%
TOTAL	2151	100%

There are two church halls in the immediate area, one belonging to the Catholic Church and the other to the Church of Ireland. There are five small commercial businesses in the area. The ward is ranked in the 15% most deprived electoral wards in Northern Ireland, being placed eighty-first out of 566 in terms of degree of deprivation (Policy and Planning Unit *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland: Robson et al; 1994*), as the following table shows:

Deprivation Ranking of the Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	81	15
Intensity	127	23

According to 1991 Census data, Kinawley and Florencecourt ward had 36.4% of its total population not economically active; it had an unemployment rate of 20.8%, compared to the Fermanagh and Northern Ireland unemployed percentages of 18.2% and 15.7% respectively. The primary employment of residents of the area is agriculture, which accounts for 26.6% of the total workforce, and 40% of the male workforce; they accounted for 75.4% of the self-employed. This ward ranks among the worst-off of Northern Ireland's wards in terms of unemployment and in the worst 5% when long-term unemployment levels are considered.

Community Development Situation

The paragraphs below detail the community development position existing in Kinawley and its surrounding area.

Killesher Community Development Association

This group was formed in March 1994, with the objective of enhancing the quality of life for the local community. It is involved in the promotion of cross-community contacts, as well as in the social and economic regeneration of the area, and with a long-term aspiration of improving the physical infrastructure. The group is structured to involve an equal number of committee members from both communities; hence it is cross-community orientated, and is aware of the need to rotate its use of venues, as a result of which it spends six months meeting in a Catholic school and the remaining six months in a Protestant school; it currently has no

access to a neutral venue. The committee members include business people, local government officials, social workers, church leaders, house wives and farmers, and they have demonstrated a good track record of collaborating successfully.

Killesher Community Development Association (KCDA) members believe that tourism is the principal saleable product for the area and they acknowledge that they are in a fortunate position to have tourists entering the area already on a regular basis (due to the existence of a major tourist attraction - the Marble Arch Caves and the National Trust Property, Florencecourt House). Furthermore, KCDA accepts that such tourists can be attracted back by offering additional tourist attractions which will have an increased traffic flow in the near future, when the Erne-Shannon Waterway realises its full potential.

Although a relatively young group, KCDA has many achievements which have led to the betterment of the community - for example, the restoration of an historical graveyard, the development of a hatchery, the implementation of a social and economic audit, and the organisation of drugs awareness and training classes. It is also in partnership with the Erne-Melvin Enhancement Company, and the members are currently investigating the development of self-catering accommodation, a licensed restaurant (as Killesher is the only parish in Ireland without a public house), a neutral venue to facilitate meetings of KCDA and other groups in the vicinity, and the restoration of an "Old Mill". The group has received financial assistance from the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, Fermanagh District Council (FDC) and the Rural Development Council (RDC). They have applied for funding from DANI, IFI, 21st Century Millennium Halls (Rural Community Network) and the Environment Heritage Service as £440,000 is required to put the project in place. The group has felt comfortable in dealing with the funding agencies, although the members believe that RDC and FDC were the most helpful. In addition, KCDA has undertaken fund-raising activities and has gathered £20,000 in shareholding.

The group was also responsible for the Rural Housing Association developing a split-site housing proposal with four dwellings at Florencecourt and four at Killesher.

KCDA notes that the community as a whole has been adversely affected by the BSE crisis. A high proportion of the local residents are employed in the agricultural industry and the events of recent times have had a particularly severe impact in the area. There has also been a knock-on effect on local businesses.

The group has regularly collaborated with other groups in the area such as Cleenish Community Development Association and the Lough Macnean group, and in cross-border ventures with groups in Blacklion and the Erne-Shannon Community Development Group. They believe that they are representative of the general community as reflected by the generous financial support they have received from residents of the area.

Killesher Historical Society is another very good example of cross-community activity which alternates venues; the group has published two documents and is currently working on an oral history project.

Kinawley Community Partnership

This group which is cross-community based was formed in 1995 to offer a platform for the entire community to collaborate, as it was recognised that Kinawley was suffering economic and social deprivation. The focal point of their efforts to date is the "Old School" located adjacent to the Catholic Church in the village itself. The group comprises a combination of local people from both communities (six from the Protestant side and six from the Catholic community) who have demonstrated a good working relationship. Their objectives encompass a blend of economic, cross-community, physical and infrastructural aspirations. Furthermore,

there is a strong belief among members, that only if the entire community is willing to participate in community activity will community relations be enhanced. Kinawley Community Partnership believes that the group is representative of the community, as demonstrated by the large attendance at its social events. The group has not yet been involved in a cross-border relationship, as it has not developed a venture which would be both suited to the group's objectives and cross-border orientated; however, members would be willing to take part in cross-border activities, if a potentially viable project was available.

Kinawley Community Partnership members acknowledge that there is a good level of community activity in the village; however, they accept that their area is disadvantaged as the infrastructure and transport systems, as well as the commercial and social facilities, are poor (there are two shops, one post-office, one public-house, two church halls - one for each religion - and bus services to major settlements in the county are inadequate). They believe that their location on the periphery of the county has aggravated their disadvantaged position, as they have to travel to satisfy any of their business or social needs. In addition, the group has confronted difficulties, in the past, in obtaining a neutral venue for festival activities.

The group has been successful in obtaining a small amount of financial support from the Rural Development Council and the Community Relations Council for the implementation of a Community Audit for the area; this audit identified community economic development as the main means of creating cross-community trust. The group has been adopted by RDC under the Planet Scheme and has also received grant-aid from Fermanagh FLAG for a study visit; however, they are concerned about their failure to obtain financial assistance from other funding agencies for the implementation of desirable community-enhancing projects (this was identified as a priority as a result of an environmental improvement plan having been commissioned by the group). Kinawley Community Partnership would be keen to see the funding agencies collaborating with one another to 'fill-in' the gaps which exist in the funding provision and the criteria involved, so that good, deserving projects will be realised.

Recently, Kinawley Credit Union (which attracts cross-community support), has built new premises, the first sign for years of new development in the area; the building has meeting rooms upstairs and it is being developed as a neutral venue. The Catholic Church recently renovated the listed Chapel with assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Other community-based groups in the village include the playgroup and St. Nailes Marching Youth Band.

Greenan Community Development Association

Greenan is a townland area located approximately five miles west of Kinawley village, on the main Kinawley to Swanlinbar route. The townland community is sparsely populated, with approximately fifty families in the area; there are no church halls nor businesses in the locality. Greenan Community Development Association (GCDA), a cross-community organisation, was established in 1988, with the long-term objective of regenerating the area economically. The area's residents have good, neighbourly, cross-community relations and the group has developed cross-border links with groups south of the border. GCDA has been involved in the production of a geographical survey of the townland, which highlights the area's rich geographical landscape and important scientific resources of rock formations and particular species of plants. The group has been concerned about the lack of funding for this environmentally sensitive area; in particular, there is a need for an extension of the mains water supply to isolated dwellings.

Florencecourt

Due to the large catchment area of the Killesher Community Development Association, there is no separate community development group affiliated in the immediate Florencecourt area.

However, other social and communal-based groups are active in the area, for example, the Cleenish Health and Community Care Group.

This group, which is cross-community, was formed approximately ten years ago, with the aim of assisting the two local churches (i.e. both Protestant and Catholic) financially and communally as well as supporting the local doctor's surgeries in the Florencecourt area.

Health and Community Care (HCC) has charitable status, and comprises local Councillors, business people, farmers and the local community. The group relies almost solely on 'mumming' and other social events to generate funds, which are utilised for charitable purposes, or donations to the local community. HCC enjoys a good working relationship with the local community association (Killesher Community Development Association).

The group has encountered lack of financial support from the funding agencies (perceived to be attributed to its charitable status) and has also struggled to attract younger members.

Comments from the Consultation Process:

The following paragraphs indicate the primary issues raised during the consultation process in this area:

- ***There is a general view that Kinawley and its immediate area is “worse off” than the rest of Fermanagh;*** the principal reason for this perception is the lack of employment opportunities in the area, causing a “Brain Drain” and the emigration of young talented residents. There is a feeling that this will have long-term economic effects on the entire community and result in an above-average proportion of residents in the older age brackets. In addition, due to its location on the periphery of Fermanagh, Northern Ireland and Europe, transport costs are seen as being ridiculously high.
- ***It is considered locally that the major benefit of community development is that it gives local residents ownership of their area;*** groups accept that wide involvement of the community in such activities results in a sense of community ownership; they recognise that such schemes build community confidence, promote cross-community interaction and create an understanding of the different cultures in the area. Furthermore, groups acknowledge that community development ultimately leads to social and economic progress, but that there is a necessity to create public awareness of the “time-delay” implications of such activities, so that unrealistic expectations are not allowed to grow.
- ***There is a perception that a “Neutral Venue” would be beneficial to community relations in the area;*** groups are anxious about the lack of any neutral facility in the area. They believe that such a facility would enhance community relations by encouraging participation by all members of the community.
- ***Groups are united on the need to improve the physical infrastructure of the area;*** it is anticipated that the opening of the Aghalane Bridge and the Erne-Shannon Waterway will increase the flow of traffic through this area and, consequently, will create a demand for an improvement of the physical infrastructure.
- ***There is a perception that rural areas suffer more from deprivation than do settlements;*** this view stems from the predominantly agricultural nature of employment in the area and the effects of farming-related crises, such as BSE, on the entire community, whereas built-up areas do not suffer from such problems. Consequently, economic needs weigh more heavily than social or communal needs. There is also a lack of development officers in such areas, where, groups argue, they are most needed.

- ***There is a consensus that increased tourism would create economic benefits for the area;*** there is a feeling that the promotion of tourism in this area with its plentiful supply of potential attractions is the only sector which would create employment opportunities and encourage young people to return to the area.
- ***Groups indicated that they would be willing to change their composition in order to enhance community relations in the area;*** it was accepted that the majority of residents of the area exhibited good community spirit and that community activity offered them the chance to meet socially, so that they could share common ground without any baggage from history. Groups in the predominantly Catholic part of this area expressed an eagerness to secure greater involvement from the Protestant community, and groups in Protestant dominated districts were equally keen to see increased participation from the Catholic community - particularly if community development could reap the benefits which have been suggested would accrue from it.
- ***There is an awareness that projects must demonstrate the capacity to be financially sustainable;*** given the uncertainty in relation to the funding available in the future, groups accept that only projects which can prove themselves to be financially sustainable should receive grant-aid. However, there is also a view that groups which are only marginally sustainable should receive some sort of support funding to carry them forward to a sustainable future phase.

Perceptions of the Agencies

The following paragraphs indicate the main comments about statutory and non-statutory agencies as articulated during the consultations in this area.

- ***There is a general consensus that the process of applying for, and drawing down, funding should be simplified;*** groups believe that the funding application packages of all funding agencies are “not user friendly” and that amendments need to be made to their structures to ensure that worthwhile and acceptable projects receive the financial assistance that they deserve.
- ***There is a need for an adviser to indicate what agency/agencies should be targeted for funding;*** as each voluntary group exists in isolation, groups are unsure where finance for their particular project might be obtained. Consequently, there is a general acceptance that an adviser should be employed in each county to offer guidance to groups, which unwittingly spend too much time and money pursuing grant-aid applications to agencies whose criteria are not met by the particular project involved.
- ***Agencies need a base in Fermanagh;*** groups in Fermanagh feel isolated by the lack of a presence of some funding agencies in the county, and they perceive that communications between groups and agencies are hindered by the distance from Belfast.
- ***Groups are concerned that projects which offered a combination of economic, social, communal and physical improvements to the area did not secure any financial assistance, as they were deemed not to be congruent with the agencies’ criteria;*** under such circumstances, groups feel that some allowance must be made for projects whose outcome is the betterment of the entire community across a wide spectrum of measures. If necessary, groups would be keen to see the agencies collaborating with one another to ‘fill in’ the gaps which exist in the funding criteria, so that such projects could be implemented in full.
- ***Groups feel poorly represented at the top levels of the “Partnership” structure;*** this stems from the relative lack of Fermanagh and Tyrone delegates on the Northern Ireland Partnership Board. Consequently, whenever groups see less financial aid being granted to

projects West of the Bann, they hold members of the Partnership Board responsible.

- ***Groups believe that greater weight should be given by funding agencies to areas of long-term deprivation;*** empirical evidence suggests that the areas of Fermanagh which suffer long-term economic, communal and social deprivation have received inadequate grant-aid from the funding agencies; consequently, there is a belief that such areas will continue to remain deprived if special measures are not taken to improve their situation. Groups believe that funding agencies should attribute greater importance to such areas so that they can experience the same level of prosperity as the more prosperous areas.
- ***Overall, groups felt “uncomfortable” when dealing with the funding agencies;*** they were especially concerned about the slow delivery of grant-aid once it had been approved. Groups were most impressed by RDC and FDC, but most dissatisfied with LEDU.

Border Areas

The following remarks represent groups’ perceptions of the border and its influence on the communal, social and economic aspects of Kinawley and its surrounding area:

- ***There is a difference of opinion regarding the Border’s impact on the community’s economic and social development, and on communal relations;*** some groups believe that the physical presence of large check-points creates and strengthens ill-feeling among the community, as it reminds them of the pain and anguish they had suffered during “The Troubles”; such groups believe that economic development has been made more difficult as it is felt that the check-points created a deterrent to potential investors; in addition, the recent exchange rate fluctuations, favouring investment in the Republic of Ireland rather than north of the border, have also created a problem.
On the other hand, some groups considered that economic development would be easier in border areas, as funding is relatively easy to obtain through cross-border funding mechanisms, and there is now a greater level of traffic flow through the area due to the opening of the border roads.
- ***Groups feel that the existence of the border has contributed to the area’s being socially deprived;*** not only is there is a feeling of remoteness created by the border, but groups also believe that due to their location, they are the last to be affected by changes which improve the political situation, while they are the first to feel the pain, if circumstances worsen.

Village/Town

Kinawley’s and Florencecourt’s community groups believe that they not only satisfy the needs of their immediate area but also those of the surrounding areas of Killesher, Greenan and Blacklion. The following attitudes were indicated:

- ***Local groups perceive that the primary needs of Kinawley and its surrounding areas are the provision of physical and social facilities and the improvement of the physical infrastructure;*** groups expect that access to a neutral venue for social meetings and events would enhance cross-community contact and improve community relations, with the eventual goal of creating employment opportunities and enhancing educational attainment. But, there is widespread acceptance that the transport service available to residents of this area is poor, and that any attempt to compensate for this poor service could be very costly. Accordingly, the more rural areas are disadvantaged in terms of access to either current or future amenities.

Businesses

The following represents comments of the business sector during the consultation process:

- ***Businesses in the area admire the commitment of community groups;*** many business people appreciate the amount of time spent by community groups on projects which progress very slowly. They also recognise that the management of such groups is a difficult undertaking and that their financial status is dependent upon assistance from funding agencies which is not easily accessed.
- ***Businesses in the area believe that a role exists for community-led organisations in the business environment;*** where such groups demonstrate the ability to operate in a “business-like manner” and where the underlying issues incorporate a broader perspective, there could be a role for community-led economic projects. However, there is also an acceptance that community groups should concentrate on developing community capabilities and improving community networks rather than pursuing profit; on the other hand, care must be taken to ensure that the community dimension is not subservient to a business ethos.

Summary

Kinawley and its surrounding areas of Florencecourt, Killesher and Greenan exhibit pockets of severe physical, infrastructural, social and economic deprivation. Consequently, local groups are anxious about the lack of both facilities and real development activity in the area. Groups feel particularly isolated in this part of Fermanagh as a result of the lack of support from the funding agencies, even though the area has been highlighted as one which is in great need of support.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE KINAWLEY AND FLORENCECOURT AREA					
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Kinawley Area	Number in Florencecourt Area	Number in Killesher Area	Number in Greenan Area
Guesthouses	2	1	1	-	-
Self-catering	10	6	4	-	-
Hotels	-	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS					
Florencecourt House	1	-	1	-	-
Florencecourt Park	1	-	1	-	-
Marlbank	1	-	1	-	-
Marble Arch Caves	1	-	1	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	4	2	-	1	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES					
Protestant Church Halls	2	1	1	-	-
Catholic Church Halls	2	1	-	1	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1	1	-	-	-
Community Halls	-	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	2	1	1	-	-
SPORTS FACILITIES					
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	-	1	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES					
Pharmacists/Dispensary	2	1	1	-	-
Doctors Clinic	2	1	1	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF LISBELLAW

(Including The Townland Communities of Carrybridge and Tamlaght)

Description Of The Area

Lisbellaw is a village settlement situated at the junction of the A4 and B140 routes (which lead to Fivemiletown and Tempo/Brookeborough respectively). It is approximately five miles from Enniskillen. The population of the village decreased from 529 to 511 (-3.4%) during the 1971-1981 inter-censal period, but increased by 121 (+23.7%) between 1981 and 1991. The area has been shown to be generally relatively prosperous in social and economic terms.

Socio-Economic Background

The following paragraphs provide an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics of Lisbellaw and the surrounding area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: LISBELLAW AREA (SUB-AREAS: CARRYBRIDGE AND TAMLAGHT)		
POPULATION:		
Total	2590	
Male	1305 (50.4%)	
Female	1285 (49.6%)	
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>GROWTH</u>
2265	2590	+14.3%
HOUSEHOLDS:		
805		
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:		
3.22 Persons per Household.		
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:	Not Deprived (332 nd in Northern Ireland)	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Eleven In Total	
	<i>Two In The Most Deprived 30% In Northern Ireland</i>	
	<i>One Other In The Most Deprived 50%</i>	
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	48	
FEMALES	19	
OVERALL	67	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:	25.9%	
PROTESTANT:	60.7%	
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	13.5%	

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2590 residents in the overall area (the Lisbellaw Electoral Ward), at the time of the enumeration, comprising 1305 males and 1285 females. This represents 4.8% of the Fermanagh population, and 0.16% of that of Northern Ireland. The population is predominantly Protestant (60.7%) with Roman Catholics comprising almost 26% of the residents.

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	671	25.9%
Presbyterian	158	6.1%
Church of Ireland	1162	44.9%
Methodist	250	9.7%
Others	349	13.5%
TOTAL	2590	100%

Lisbellaw is one of the more prosperous wards, in relative terms, in Fermanagh. When measured by the criterion of degree of deprivation it is ranked 19th worst out of a total of 23 wards in the County (as quantified in the Policy Planning Unit's publication: *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al* 1994).

DEPRIVATION LEVEL OF LISBELLAW WARD		
MEASURE	RANK	PERCENTILE
Degree	332	59
Extent	-	-
Intensity	262	46

When analysed at Enumeration District (ED) level, it is found that just three of the eleven ED's fall within the worst 50% in the region.

Community Development Situation

The following section indicates the current community development situation in Lisbellaw and the surrounding areas.

Lisbellaw Community Development Association

Lisbellaw Community Development Association was formed in 1981; however, it has not been active for all of that period. This is set to change as a new committee has recently been elected. The group aims to promote the village not only to its resident population, but further afield. At present, of the fourteen committee members, twelve are Protestant and the remaining two are Catholics from Carrybridge, outside the village. There are no religious or political figures on the committee.

The group meets in a committee member's business premises at present. This is not entirely suitable, but it is the only venue available. Lisbellaw currently has a village recreation hall but closed in April 1998. The trustees of the hall objected to broadening out its use for a variety of community purposes and it was decided that it would be best to close it, sell the tin and timber, and donate the proceeds to a number of church bodies. When the CRISP scheme was available, the trustees, who are Protestant, would not consider getting involved in any such project as it had the "taint" of a community initiative. At that time, the Development Association was too small (four members) to undertake the CRISP project. It is evident that the Association has a lot of work to do in order to change perceptions among the Protestant population, especially the older people. As the Association has no venue, the committee would like to restart the village festival. This would be a three-day event based on the Kesh and Irvinestown festival models, only on a much smaller scale.

The Association provides the Christmas lights for the village, a dinner for the senior citizens (which attracts some cross-community support), and has received funding from the RDC Community Action-based measure to restore a public lane beside the primary school, a project which would improve the appearance of this neglected area. It is hoped that work will start on this very shortly.

Recently there has been a lot of private housing built in the area. The new residents work in Enniskillen and do not take an active part in village life. The Association would like to get them involved in the village through different community events. In one way Lisbellaw has the advantage of being near Enniskillen but this can be a great disadvantage for local businesses. The area is not a big tourist destination, but the local guesthouses do a good trade during the summer and some tourists spend money in the village.

Because the group has been inactive for so long, it does not network with any other associations.

To date, Lisbellaw Community Development Association has £26.38 in funds. The Association has obtained a grant of £29,000 from the RDC for the restoration of the lane. The Association carries out a house-to-house collection to pay for the Christmas tree and lights, but, apart from this, there is no active fund-raising.

Since Lisbellaw is perceived as being a prosperous village, the group finds it difficult to obtain financial assistance; potential funders point to this prosperity and indicate that the area does not qualify for a grant, yet it may qualify for a CPDS if there is a suitable community economic project.

As Lisbellaw is a predominantly Protestant area, the committee members feel that their attempts to foster relations between the two communities would be fruitless. They are going to provide social events for all, but feel that they cannot alter the perceptions of the majority Protestant population (although some progress has been made through the EMU scheme between the two primary schools). Community relations do not exist, as such, in the village. Because of this situation, the members feel that they may have problems of credibility with agencies and other community association groups, and they do not want to be disadvantaged or embarrassed by a situation that is beyond their control. As they have been inactive for a number of years, locals do not always realise that the Association exists. The group hopes to change this situation in the coming years.

Other Activities In The Area

- Lisbellaw Soccer Club which attracts cross-community support; the group has an application with the Sports Lottery for the development of premises;
- Active Scouts and Cubs group which have replaced the youth club in the village;
- A recently opened, private nursery;
- Community playgroup, although new premises are required;
- A newly renovated Church of Ireland Parish Hall; and
- The Methodist Church is in the process of renovating their hall.

Carrybridge

Carrybridge is situated approximately four miles North-West of Lisnaskea on the B514. Its Catholic:Protestant ratio is perceived to be 10:90.

Currently there is no community association in this area; the reasons for this are as follows:

- There are few people in the area; therefore, the workload would fall on a small minority of people;
- Tourism is vital to the few businesses in the area and, during the summer months, it would be very difficult for people to find the time to devote to the Association; and
- Although nobody has tried to establish a group, the three local businesses work closely; for example, they have succeeded in having the bridge floodlit in conjunction with FDC.

As this is a tourist area, all development is going to be tourist-based, as Carrybridge is the first commercial stop after going through the canal; indeed Carrybridge hosts an annual boat sale at Easter which has proved to be very successful. It is suggested that a Development Association, should one be formed, could undertake the following initiatives:

- Provide better toilet and laundry facilities for the tourists on passing cruisers. If these facilities were provided, more tourists would stop off at Carrybridge and contribute to the local economy;
- Upgrade the petrol and diesel pumps at the jetty; and
- Provide an area for bait and catch storage for fishermen, and facilities for drying out clothes and equipment.

Tamlaght

Tamlaght is situated about two-and-a-half miles from Enniskillen. The Enniskillen Green Belt adjoins the development limit of the village, and the A4 Protected Route runs through it. There has been a big growth in private housing development which gives the area the characteristics of a dormitory village. It is served by two grocery shops, petrol station and sub-post office.

Tamlaght Youth Club

Tamlaght Youth Club was formed in 1982 under the aegis of the then Church of Ireland minister, Rev. Lumley. Mr. McFrederick has been the leader for the past sixteen years.

The group meets every Friday night in the Derryvullan church hall. Membership is open to both sexes and the age range is from eight to fifteen years. On average, there are twenty-two members, but numbers vary greatly from year to year. They come mainly from the immediate area, but, in the past, members have come from Lisbellaw and Garvary. The hall where they meet has excellent facilities but does not have an outside play area.

The club has been unsuccessful in obtaining funds from the Western Education and Library Board (WELB), which means that the church will have to subsidise it for the coming year. Members may undertake some fund-raising themselves, but lack of funds may also jeopardise the club's day outings which are organised in co-operation with the Sunday School.

Women's Institute

Tamlaght Women's Institute meets in an old Nissan hut which is in a bad state of repair; the group has negotiated a 'peppercorn' 999 year lease for the ground from the Housing Executive and has received funding, and is awaiting decisions, from a variety of sources to renovate the hall - £45,000 has already been secured from Fermanagh District Partnership, Ireland Funds (American), Children in Need and Enkalon Funds. This project has proved to be a real challenge for the women; many did not believe that they would be able to achieve its aim of getting their own hall, but with the help of people like FDC's Community Development Officer, the ladies have proved that it can be done; the process has been a very rewarding experience for all those involved as the ladies had no previous experience of looking for funding, or dealing with funders.

The Institute has a close working relationship with the Fermanagh Women's Network which have arranged for various courses for women in the local area through the Institute, e.g. computer training. The Institute believes that it is very important to provide a wide and varied programme of activity in order to attract the support of younger women and over an eighteen-month period, the group had 902 enrollments for courses.

Other Activities In The Area

Tamlaght Orange Order has a timber premises which also provides the meeting place for the lodge pipe band.

Business Perspective

Business people feel that community-led associations should not have preferential treatment when it comes to funding. The owners of the Carrybridge Hotel have tried to obtain funding from various sources, but have not been successful - why then should associations that have no proven track record be eligible for huge amounts of funding from various sources? (For example, an hotel is rumoured to be in the pipeline for Ederney; this is a community development project which will obtain funding). The argument is that there are empty bed spaces in Fermanagh and these should be filled before any new development would be undertaken. There is also the problem that, if the hotel is built, and the management undercuts other hotel rates, this may well jeopardise the already precarious position of many hotel owners in the county.

Community associations are successful in providing social and educational activities for local communities but should stay away from business.

Lisbellaw Credit Union - Orange Order

The Credit Union was founded ten years ago and is a member of the Federation of Credit Unions but is not affiliated to the Irish credit union movement. In Lisbellaw, it is called a community credit union and is open for all to join, provided they reside within a five-mile radius of the village or have family members in the lodge. There are 300 members with savings amounting to a quarter of a million pounds and they hope to have their own premises in the village

Comments From The Consultation Process

The main issues arising from the consultation process are detailed in the following section:

A Protestant Perspective (Views Of A Local Orange Lodge Member)

- ***Protestants View All Catholics As Nationalists And Therefore Do Not Want To Be Associated With Them In Any Way;*** Protestants are scared of a community hall in the area, as they do not want to be associated with Catholic social activities;
- ***The Protestant Ethos Is Different From That Of Catholics;*** Protestants are noted for their independence and entrepreneurial spirit, while Catholics are more community orientated and will not hesitate to apply for grant assistance, or advice, where available;
- ***However, There Now Seems To Be A Greater Willingness Among Protestants To Get Together To Obtain Funding For Different Projects;*** they have observed how the Catholics have obtained vast amounts of financial assistance during the past decade and now wish to obtain their share;
- ***It Will Be Necessary To Enlist The Help Of Fermanagh District Council;*** someone from the Council (ideally a Protestant), should go out to Protestant communities and get across the message that local residents, working as a group, can make a significant contribution to the social and economic regeneration of their areas;
- ***Initially, Protestants Need To Work As A Single-Identity Group;*** it will be necessary for them to prove they can succeed before they can integrate into the community development sphere;

- ***It Appears To Some People In Lisbellaw That Community Groups “Waste” Vast Sums Of Money;*** groups have obtained funding for projects which have not been of any benefit to the local area;
- ***The Terms Of Funding Have Not Always Been Explained Properly;*** there are problems with matching funding and the issue of payment on receipt;
- ***In Recent Years, The Orange Order Has Received Bad Publicity;*** this has come about because of marching issues. The general public perceives these issues to be the Order’s main concern, whereas they represent only a small part of what the Order stands for and does in the community;
- ***Membership Of The Order Entails Devoting Much Time And Effort To Achieve Its Objectives;*** the members support some persons in the Protestant community financially and in other ways. Together with church-based activities, the Orange Order plays a very big part in the social life of many rural areas;
- ***The Orange Order Plays A Vital Role In Educating Its Members About Their Cultural Heritage;*** without the Order, this culture would have been submerged;
- ***During The “Troubles” The Order Suffered a Decline, As Some Protestants Disassociated Themselves From It, In Order Not To Offend The Catholic Community, Or Because They Did Not Want To Be A “Target”;*** it was mainly left to working-class persons to keep the organisation together; some Protestants have used the Order as a stepping-stone “for their own ends”; as a result of these factors, the Order has lost some of the influence it has had in the community.

A Business Perspective

- ***Some Business People Feel That Community-Led Associations Should Not Have Preferential Treatment When It Comes To Funding;*** such funding could have a detrimental effect, in some instances, on established businesses which have proven track records (the displacement factor);
- ***Community Associations are perceived as being successful in providing social and educational activities for local communities, but should stay away from business.***

Summary

This area is relatively prosperous in a Northern Ireland context. The ‘Protestant work ethic’ is an important determinant of local attitudes to Catholics who are perceived as being dependent on financial and other assistance. The consultation section indicates the deep divisions which exist between the two communities in Northern Ireland and which are still prevalent in this area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE LISBELLAW AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Lisbellaw Area	Number in Tamlaght Area	Number in Carrybridge Area
Guesthouses	6	3	1	2
Self-catering	15	12	3	-
Hotels	1	-	-	1
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels				
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Carrybridge Boat Company	1	-	-	1
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	2	1	1	-
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	4	3	1	-
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	-	-	-	-
Community Halls	2	1	1	-
Masonic and Other Halls	2	1	1	-
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	-	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	1	1	-	-
Playgrounds	2	1	1	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	-	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF LISNASKEA

(Including Maguiresbridge and the Townland Community of Ballindarragh)

Description Of The Area

Lisnaskea is a relatively prosperous market town (by Fermanagh standards), situated between the Carnmore Hills and Upper Lough Erne. It is the second largest town in Fermanagh, after Enniskillen. The town lies at the intersection of the A34 Enniskillen-Clones/Cavan/Dublin route and the B127, Lisnaskea-Derrylin road. Since 1971, the population has increased by 54.3%, from 1,592 in 1971 to 2,457 in 1991. It is forecast (in the Fermanagh Area Plan), that the town will have a population of around 3,100 by the year 2007. Traffic flows have also increased substantially in the area in recent years; the latest figures available (DoE Roads Service Traffic Division), show that the number of vehicles per day on the A34, Lisnaskea-Maguiresbridge Road increased by 13.7% between 1990 and 1995. In the same period, there was an increase of 16.6% on the Lisnaskea-Newtownbutler road.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: LISNASKEA AREA (SUB-AREAS: MAGUIRESBRIDGE AND BALLINDARRAGH)		
POPULATION:		
Total	2710	
Male	1288	(47.5%)
Female	1422	(52.5%)
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
1971	1991	GROWTH
2850	2710	-5%
HOUSEHOLDS:	881	
OCCUPANCY DENSITY: 3.08 Persons Per Household.		
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:	168 th Most deprived in Northern Ireland (worst 30%)	
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:	Six in total. <i>Two in the most deprived 20% in Northern Ireland.</i> <i>One other in the Worst 30%</i>	
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	123	
FEMALES	29	
OVERALL	152	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:	67.4%	
PROTESTANT:	25.5%	
OTHERS/NO RESPONSE:	7.0%	

Socio-economic Background

The following paragraphs provide an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics in Lisnaskea and the surrounding area.

According to the 1991 census, there were 2,710 residents in the overall area (the Lisnaskea electoral ward) in that year, comprising 1,288 males and 1,422 females. This represents 5% of the Fermanagh population and 0.17% of the Northern Ireland population.

The population is predominantly Roman Catholic (approximately 67%) with the second largest denomination being Church of Ireland (21%). The following table provides details of all affiliations:

Breakdown Of Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1,827	67.4%
Presbyterian	48	1.8%
Church of Ireland	569	21.0%
Methodist	74	2.7%
Others	191	7.1%
TOTAL	2,709*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

The area has the usual range of commercial facilities and social amenities which include Church halls and the Castle Park Activity Centre. Lisnaskea ranks as the 14th most deprived ward in Fermanagh, out of a total of twenty-three, and 168th most deprived of the 566 wards in Northern Ireland. (These rankings were determined in a study on disadvantage (*Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et al*, 1994), from which the following rankings are taken.)

DEPRIVATION LEVEL OF THE WARD		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	168	30
Extent	-	-
Intensity	163	29

Of the six Enumeration Districts (EDs) in the Lisnaskea ward, three are among the most prosperous 50% of Northern Ireland's total of 3,729; the others are relatively deprived. The main contributory factors relating to their deprivation are:

- High Household Density;
- Households Without A Car;
- Children In Households With Unemployed Or Part-Time Employed Adults;
- 18-24 Year Olds With No Qualifications; and
- Unemployed Persons.

Community Development Situation

The following section indicates the current community development situation in Lisnaskea and its surrounding areas.

Lisnaskea Community Development Association

The Lisnaskea Community Development Association (LCDA) was established in 1990 following a public meeting. Its objectives are to assist in the development of the town, both economically and culturally, and to improve the community and social aspects of life in the area. The Association is cross-community in make-up and includes one Councillor and one housewife, the remainder being business people.

To date, the group's core project has been the development of Lisnaskea Enterprise Centre. The centre was funded by the Department of Environment and International Fund for Ireland under the CRISP programme with additional support from Fermanagh District Council (total project value of £981,480). Future initiatives will include environmental improvements to Main Street and the provision of a bird sanctuary. LCDA perceives the area's needs to be mainly economic, and, with this in mind, is employing a development officer in co-operation with the Tempo Development Association. Although the group has not yet been involved in any networking with other groups in the area, it intends to do so in the near future and the

members are fully aware of the benefits of such co-operation. However, for the past six years, it has been networking with Clones as a member of the Lisnaskea and Clones Economic Development Initiative (LACED). LCDA members perceive their group to have a high profile and to be well respected in the local community.

The Association has negotiated a loan of £100,000 from the Department of the Environment; this loan is being repaid with income derived from the operation of the Enterprise Centre, and through on-going fund-raising by the group.

Lisnaskea and Clones Economic Development (LACED)

LACED was formed in 1991 to undertake social and economic initiatives in Lisnaskea and Clones and their respective hinterlands. The two towns were motivated to co-operate, in part, by the availability of cross-border funding. While Lisnaskea has a thriving commercial core and a small manufacturing base, Clones has suffered the loss of shops and businesses in recent years, and has little, or no, manufacturing base. The cross-border group is constituted entirely of business people; it is 60% Catholic.

LACED has spearheaded a number of cross-border initiatives, including an Awards Night for small companies, the Asgard Sail Ships (training vehicle) and, on the social side, a bridge tournament. Discussions have taken place in relation to the joint promotion of visitor accommodation. The group perceives that its needs could be met by a combination of physical/infrastructural initiatives, in tandem with more local democracy, which in turn would lead to economic development. Some indirect links have been established with cross-border groups and initiatives including: Slieve Beagh Cross Border Initiative, the Erne-Shannon Community Tourism Group, the Ulster Way and the Kingfisher Trail (with Fermanagh District Council and Leitrim County Enterprise Board). Generally speaking, the group keeps a low profile in the community.

LACED has obtained £5,000 from the Ireland Fund to help promote its objectives, and financial assistance for the Asgard initiative came from Co-operation North. The organisation has no overheads or operating costs.

Friendship and Caring Trust Ltd. (FACT) - Lisnaskea

FACT was established in 1990, primarily to provide residential and respite facilities for persons with learning, physical and mental disabilities, and for families with associated problems. The group is mainly female and is cross-community, composed of business people and other interested individuals; it is a non-profit taking company with charitable status and is in partnership with Sperrin Lakeland Health Trust.

The FACT Centre opened in 1996; it was funded as follows:

DoE:	£500,000
Dept. Finance & Personnel (ERSN), NICVA, Lottery and Various Trusts:	£200,000
Various Fund-Raising Groups Around the Lisnaskea Area: (within a 10-12 mile catchment area).	£200,000
Fermanagh Trust	£10,000

No borrowing was required to pay for the project; however, following the opening of the Centre and prior to full occupancy, it was necessary to borrow to cover running costs. It is now operating at break-even point. The group has plans to develop the facilities and provide a Day-Care centre, a specialised behavioural unit, and outreach centres. It is also hoped to encourage the growth of satellite self-help groups.

The Share Centre Lisnaskea

The Share Centre is located about five miles south of Lisnaskea. It was established in 1981, with two objectives in mind:

- to provide a place for disabled people to have a holiday and have equality of opportunity; and
- to create full-time, permanent employment for local people.

The group's Board of Management is cross-community and is representative of the surrounding area, of gender, and of the disabled in the community. The group evolved from a number of families who had organised holidays jointly for disabled members - an initiative which clearly demonstrated the need for such provision. The development of the Centre was funded as follows:

ERDF: helped finance six chalets and the marina;

Lottery and INTERREG: funded the indoor centre, dining rooms and indoor arts arena;

IFI: funded the £325,000 pool.

Fermanagh District Council: provided some funds and support in kind, including accessing land.

Twenty-seven permanent jobs have been created as a result of this support, and 10,000 residential and 5,000 day visitors are accommodated annually. The organisation considers that the needs of the area can be addressed through a combination of socio-economic, physical and cross-community initiatives with particular emphasis on the 16-25 age group.

Share's Management Board has networked with the Erne-Shannon Community Tourism Group and is represented on the nine-member Celtic Budget Accommodation and Marketing Organisation, which represents all the groups at trade fairs and targets tour operators, etc. There is reciprocal co-operation with another voluntary organisation (VSO). Support for the Share Centre, through voluntary contributions from the community at large, is very important, both with fund-raising and providing advice on practical matters. The group has borrowings of £150,000.

Other Activities In The Area

- Lisnaskea Childcare Committee is in the process of working up a cross-community childcare project to cater for a wide range of childcare and parenting needs in the town;
- Lisnaskea Historical Society which attracts cross-community support;
- An active cross-community Senior Citizens Club; and
- A progressive Credit Union.

Maguiresbridge District Community Development Association (MDCDA)

Maguiresbridge is situated approximately eight miles south-east of Enniskillen and three miles north of Lisnaskea. The population of the town increased significantly between 1971 and 1981 (480 to 626, or +30.4%); however, the increase during the subsequent inter-censal period was just 3.0% to 645, according to the 1991 Census Report. The Religious breakdown (for the Maguiresbridge area) is as follows:

Breakdown of Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentile of Total
Roman Catholic	229	35.5%
Presbyterian	24	3.7%
Church of Ireland	269	41.7%
Methodist	45	6.9%
Others	78	12.2%
TOTAL	645	100%

The town has the usual range of retail outlets, but lacks an industrial base.

MDCDA was founded in 1994 following a series of public meetings. Its objectives are to promote and facilitate recreational, social, educational, and economic initiatives for the benefit of the whole community. The Association is cross-community, and has a good mix by gender, age, and occupation.

The group's achievements to date have been to undertake a series of environmental schemes (it manages a CWP environmental scheme) and to organise a number of social events. It operates from centrally located premises in the town. The members are anxious to provide a centre containing work-space units and a neutral venue for social interaction. A major concern is the lack of health service provision in the town.

The group has not been involved, hitherto, in networking, either locally or on a cross-border basis, but is considering the benefits which might accrue. MDCDA considers that the group is representative of the local community and valued by it, judging from the amount of public support it has received.

The association has received the following funding:

Fermanagh Trust :	£3,500
CCR :	£3,500
RCN :	£2,000
Inter-Church Fund :	£1,700
NIVT :	£45,000 (to employ a Development Worker for 3 Years)

Maguiresbridge Flute Band

The Maguiresbridge Flute Band was formed in 1984 for purely cultural reasons. It is single identity (Protestant) and uses the local Mission Hall for practice and other activities. The band members are mainly aged between 18 and 30. Currently, one member is unemployed and the rest are in employment. The band participates in outdoor competitions during the summer period and in indoor competitions from October to March. Maguiresbridge Band networks with other bands in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.

The band considers that it is viewed very favourably by the Protestant Community. It was, and continues to be, self-financing.

Other Activities In The Area

- The only community owned project is a playcentre built with over £50,000 mainly from IFI and Central Community Relations Unit capital monies and Charitable Trusts;
- The playcentre is also the base for Maguiresbridge Women's Group;
- The cross-community Fishing Club is involved in a lot of river enhancement work; and
- The Sliver Band has been in existence for over fifty years.

Ballindarragh Accordion Band

Ballindarragh is a townland community located West of Lisnaskea and approximately equidistant from Lisnaskea and Maguiresbridge. The Ballindarragh Accordion Band was formed in 1958; it does not take part in competitions. The members of the band are all from the Protestant Community and use the local Protestant church hall for practice etc. The band consists of all age groups, from two of the founding members to children around seven years of age. It participates at parades by invitation, manages its own activities and does not engage in any form of networking. The members receive support from both traditions in their fund-raising initiatives. They have never asked for, or received, support from any funding agency.

Comments From the Consultation Process

The main issues produced from the consultation process are detailed as follows:

- ***More than half of the groups interviewed felt that Lisnaskea was “worse off” than other towns in Fermanagh (Irvinestown in particular);*** this is seen as being due, in part, to its proximity to both Enniskillen and the border, creating a “see-saw” economy. The peripheral location of Fermanagh was seen as having caused great disadvantage to the area generally, and created a feeling of being cut off from the policy makers. Maguiresbridge was considered to be worse off than Lisnaskea.
- ***There is a consensus that more economic initiatives are needed;*** these should be taken in conjunction with some emphasis on cross-community contact in the Lisnaskea and surrounding area, and more support should be provided by the main statutory agencies with responsibility for economic development.
- ***There is a perception that the whole community benefits from community development;*** people who would not meet otherwise, come together and it helps to build unity. The benefits accruing will depend upon the type of project undertaken;
- ***Groups expressed concern about a variety of issues which they have had to face, and continue to face;*** these issues included: the difficulties of being in the voluntary sector and therefore being at the whim of Government Policy (e.g. the Ace Scheme), or otherwise at the mercy of statutory organisations which are incapable of differentiating between large and small groups; public accountability; the huge amount of time and commitment needed; the lack of recognition of a group’s autonomy, trust and credibility;
- ***In Lisnaskea and the surrounding area, financial pressures are serious;*** the continuous need to draw funds from the local community - in many cases, to enable groups to “keep their heads above water” was the major issue. Some views expressed by a minority, included putting the general public “in the picture” before any course of action is decided. Once projects have commenced, the pressure to make projects viable, and the stress which can be experienced by group members, were other significant issues.
- ***There is a consensus that relationships in the rural areas are very good;*** in particular, members of the farming community assist each other, as and when, the need arises.
- ***There is a perception that Lisnaskea is not really affected by the main issues which affect the rest of Northern Ireland;*** in reality this appears not to be entirely valid despite the fact that in social terms Lisnaskea has strong links across the Border. There are indications that it is the younger people who are affected by the current problems in Northern Ireland rather than the older generation.
- ***The current political situation has produced some very dedicated people who are trying to make things better;*** it has also produced a very polarised community, which has suffered as a result of that polarisation.

- ***It would appear that one or two groups have a greater understanding with the Republic than with some groups in their own area;*** this raises quasi-political issues, but it also reflects the town's proximity to the border and the close personal links which exist across the border.
- ***The view was expressed that the main issue is the existence of a class problem;*** the economic growth is militating against the poorer classes and causing marginalisation. Facilities are not being located where the people want them - it is "...planning by trend..", with the main benefits going to the 'better-off'.
- ***"..Community relations around the Maguiresbridge area have never been the same since Bobby Sands was elected..";*** that event caused a bad split within the community which has never healed and has included the boycotting of Catholic shops; but that is ultimately only a reflection of the poor inter-communal relations in the area. An attempt at mixed socialising has, in the main, had no lasting effects, although some progress has been made in the last five years through the Association, fishing club and playgroup.
- ***Most groups felt that they were working towards the aim of better community relations;*** they indicated a willingness to amend their structures and/or activities to reinforce community relations in their areas.
- ***Special interest groups do not appear to have the option to change either their structures or their activities;*** they tend to have a very specific single-minded focus; this is due to their historical make-up and background.
- ***In general, political issues were seen as having an adverse effect on community development;*** many of these issues are 'imported' from elsewhere; to a lesser extent, festivals and sports activities were also cited as having an adverse effect on relationships.
- ***The Department of the Environment is being blamed for lack of progress;*** it is felt that the Department has a case to answer with regard to its inhibiting the promotion of economic development, through its planning decisions.
- ***It is felt that groups which were "encouraged to organise" because of funding may have less chance of survival than those which "organised themselves";*** self-motivation and leadership in the community are important factors in community activity, and those groups which were established as a result of self-motivation are expected to survive longer than those formed to take advantage of funding opportunities.
- ***There may be a lack of leadership in part of the community;*** this reflected a view that, in the Protestant community, leadership in promoting community activity is missing.

Perceptions of the Agencies

The following paragraphs indicate the groups' perceptions of the funding agencies:

- ***A number of groups have had no dealings with funding agencies;*** of those which did, similar views/complaints were expressed: the continual need to justify courses of action; groups really had to "fight" for their needs; the bureaucracy with application forms, draw-down procedures and monitoring systems; the time and resources involved in dealing with agencies.
- ***There was a perception that certain community ventures around the Belfast area have not produced the success that was intended and this affects attitudes to projects elsewhere;*** Making Belfast Work was cited as an example; but, it was argued, this scenario will not necessarily be repeated in other areas and should not cloud the judgement of the agencies.

- **Groups were concerned about “goal posts being moved” by the agencies;** in some cases, changes had been made to offers and plans which, by the time of draw-down, caused difficulties in implementation.
- **Alarm was expressed at the increase in legislation;** e.g. Fair Employment, Health and Safety etc. which, when passed on to voluntary groups, create additional financial implications which are not usually included in budgets.

Border Area

The following comments indicate groups’ perception of the border and its effects on social, economic and communal factors in Lisnaskea and the surrounding area.

- **More than half of the groups interviewed did not consider themselves to be in a border area;** as such, they had no comments to make, either positive or negative. Of the remaining groups, the two main issues were: the collapse of the first cease-fire and subsequent violence, which had a detrimental effect on the number of visitors coming from the Republic of Ireland; and currency and exchange rate fluctuations. This latter issue is currently producing greater movement to the South from the North, but the uncertainty in the past of these currency fluctuations has led to feelings of resentment.
- **Groups are of the opinion that the area’s peripheral location has led to a “see-saw” economy;** this, in turn, has made economic development more difficult to plan and to implement.
- **The closure of border roads more or less divided the two communities;** this division exists at both a social and an economic level, and has had an adverse effect on community relations in the area;
- **The general feeling was that the border was always there and was more or less taken for granted;** this changed dramatically during times of trouble when uncertainty caused tension and fear. There is not the same interaction between the communities - the border created a false divide as some Northern border towns would have tended to gravitate towards Southern towns e.g. Teemore and Derrylin towards Ballyconnell, Roslea and Newtownbutler towards Clones, Lisnaskea towards Clones or Belturbet and Belleek towards Ballyshannon and Bundoran.

Business

- **From a business perspective, Lisnaskea is seen as having quite a good industrial base with approximately six major factories;** it has been a good trading town with its customer base reflecting the community - that included a sizeable number of Southern customers. It is felt, however, that in recent years, Government expenditure has been directed towards Irvinestown and Enniskillen, and, in the South of Ireland, developments in Monaghan and Cavan have tended to keep locals at home.
- **Relationships between the communities can vary depending on the time of year;** there is a “pendulum effect”; notwithstanding this, quite a high degree of tolerance exists in, and around, Lisnaskea. During the marching season, however, the underlying fear has caused some businesses to be affected by boycotts.
- **The present currency and exchange rate fluctuations are having a serious effect on business in the town;** a 20% financial barrier has been created; this, in tandem with the growth of the larger towns, substantiates the case for special concessions.

Summary

The overall conclusion is that the area has a number of diverse groups which are working very hard at community level to make a difference to their area. The groups are concerned about the lack of economic development - in particular the attitude of Government and statutory agencies to the voluntary sector. Community relations are weak and initiatives are needed and must be supported; employment has to be addressed, sooner rather than later.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE LISNASKEA AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Lisnaskea Area	Number in Maguiresbridge Area	Number in Ballindarragh Area
Guesthouses	5	3	2	-
Self-catering	8	7	-	1
Hotels	1	1	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	2	2	-	-
Hostels	1	1	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Viking Voyager	1	1	-	-
Idlewild Derryadd Cottages	1	1	-	-
Share Centre	1	1	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS				
	5	4	1	-
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	5	3	2	-
Catholic Church Halls	2	1	1	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	2	1	1	-
Community Halls	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	3	1	1	1
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	2	1	1	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	2	2	-	-
Playgrounds	2	1	1	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	4	3	1	-
Doctors Clinic	3	2	1	-

AREA PROFILE OF NEWTOWNBUTLER

(Including the Townland Communities of Derrykerrib and Magheraveely)

Description of the Area

Newtownbutler is a “border” village situated in the South-East region of the county, in close proximity to the Cavan and Monaghan boundaries. It is the main settlement in an electoral ward which is very sparsely populated and which comprises only two other “town-land” settlements, Derrykerrib and Magheraveely; otherwise, it is entirely rural with a relatively large number of farm houses because of the preponderance of small farms. The area has been shown to be highly deprived in social and economic terms and it has become an occasional “flash point” for inter-communal conflict, with, in recent years, regular “stand-offs” during the “Marching Season” in Newtownbutler.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: NEWTOWNBUTLER AREA (SUB-AREAS: DERRYKERRIB AND MAGHERAVEELY)		
POPULATION:		
Total		2287
Male		1127 (49.3%)
Female		1160 (50.7%)
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	GROWTH
2663	2287	-14.1%
HOUSEHOLDS:		675
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:		3.39 Persons per Household
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:		21 st Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 5%)
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:		Eleven In Total
		<i>4 In the Most Deprived 10% in Northern Ireland</i>
		<i>4 Others In Worst 20%</i>
		<i>All Deprived (i.e. in Worst 50%)</i>
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	137	
FEMALES	33	
OVERALL	170	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:		65.4%
PROTESTANT:		24.5%
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:		10.1%

Socio-Economic Background

The following provides an analysis of the demographic, social and economic statistics in Newtownbutler and the surrounding area.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2,287 residents in the overall area (the Newtownbutler electoral ward), comprising 1,127 males and 1,160 females. This encompassed 4.2% of the Fermanagh population and 0.14% of the Northern Ireland population. In the past, this community lost many of its young people through emigration, brought about, in part, by its location on the periphery of Northern Ireland, and the marginalisation and isolation that goes with that - especially its remoteness from the major industrial and commercial settlements in Ireland.

The population is predominantly Catholic (approximately 65%) with the Church of Ireland being the second largest denomination (around 18%). The area has two church halls (one

from each religious group) and approximately forty small businesses (including many in construction services such as plumbers, carpenters etc.).

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1496	65.4%
Presbyterian	56	2.4%
Church of Ireland	421	18.4%
Methodist	84	3.7%
Others	230	10.1%
TOTAL	2287	100%

The area exhibits some of the worst social and economic statistics in Northern Ireland and it suffers particularly from poor public and household amenities, high levels of unemployment, heavy dependence on low-value-added farming and very low levels of educational attainment. It ranks as the most deprived electoral ward in Fermanagh and among the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland; it is twenty-first of Northern Ireland's 566 wards in terms of degree of deprivation (as quantified in the Policy and Planning Unit's publication *Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland: Robson et al; 1994*), placing it in the worst 4%.

Deprivation Level of the Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	21	4%
Extent	109	20%
Intensity	40	10%

In 1991, Newtownbutler had a 30% overall unemployment rate compared to Fermanagh's and Northern Ireland's figures of 18.2% and 15.7% respectively. It ranks among the worst 9% of Northern Ireland wards in unemployment terms and it ranks in the worst 1% when long-term unemployment levels are considered.

There is also a high level of dependency in the area; 51.2% (much higher than for the rest of the County, or for Northern Ireland as a whole) of the area's population are either under-19 or over-65, placing pressure on those who are economically active, or on social services, to provide for many of the area's families. At 27.5%, the proportion of dependents under the age of fourteen is higher than the corresponding Fermanagh or Northern Ireland figures. The area also has a high proportion of people (20.7%) looking after the home - significantly higher than the Fermanagh or Northern Ireland averages.

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs indicate the current community development situation in Newtownbutler and its surrounding areas:

Newtownbutler Development Association

It was against this backdrop, that Newtownbutler Community Development Association (NCDA) was established in 1990 to promote and facilitate the regeneration of its local area; the group has a cross-community make-up, essential to the establishment of initiatives aiming to be of real benefit to all local residents. It has already met with some success in developing positive community enterprises and harnessing the enthusiasm of the local residents. To date, the group has been involved in the successful development of an hotel (now in operation), which attracted funding (£1 million, approximately) under the Community Regeneration and Improvement Special Programme (CRISP); it is also currently involved in the implementation of an Environmental Improvement Initiative for the town; furthermore, it has secured a lease from Fermanagh District Council, at a 'peppercorn' rent, on the Old Courthouse, which it

proposes to refurbish for use in its new project - a community resource facility. The group is continuously engaged in fund-raising initiatives for these projects.

In the past, the group has collaborated with other community groups in the vicinity and with groups south of the border. However, NCDA believes that a development officer is needed in the area to establish and strengthen cross-border relations. The members further believe that their group is representative of the local community as demonstrated by the large attendance at their open meetings.

Newtownbutler has established a cross-border partnership with Belturbet and funding for a worker is in place.

Other Activities In The Area

- The Newtownbutler community playcentre has received £50,000 in funding.

Derrykerrib Community Development Association

Although it is accessible by road, Derrykerrib is really an island in Upper Lough Erne, situated between Newtownbutler and the Cavan border, in the Newtownbutler electoral ward. Derrykerrib Community Development Association (DCDA) was established in 1986, primarily to improve the poor access for residents of the island; however, its remit has now been extended to encompass wider community development initiatives in the area. Its focal point is a community office situated on the island itself.

The group comprises local residents and is cross-community in structure, even though the majority of the surrounding area is Catholic. The group has been involved in the development of a bridge to connect the island with the mainland, published a community history of the island, obtained a bus shelter, and has a CWP Environmental programme; it is also currently promoting the development of a craft centre project. It perceives the needs of the area as being met by a combination of economic and cross-community initiatives, and it has co-operated with other groups in South-Eastern Fermanagh - in particular, with Donagh Community Development Association, although it does not have a working relationship with Newtownbutler Community Association. It has endeavoured to network with groups south of the border, but this has been hindered by failure to agree on a specific project which would allow this networking to be undertaken in a meaningful way, with mutual benefit to the parties involved. DCDA is convinced that many of the local residents perceive the organisation as being representative of them, and cite the letters of appreciation in the local papers, as evidence of its general acceptance in the area.

The group's current financial position has been created primarily through direct, local fund-raising by the group itself. However, it has received assistance with the purchase of equipment from the Rural Development Council (RDC), and a small sum of money from the Fermanagh District Council (FDC). The group is currently at break-even point, and has found the scope for raising additional matching funding quite restricted. Of the agencies, the group considers Fermanagh District Council and the Rural Development Community to have been the most supportive. Furthermore, DCDA would be keen to see more funds targeted at the creation of employment opportunities in the more deprived areas, such as South-East Fermanagh.

Magheraveely Community Development Association

Magheraveely is a small village located approximately three miles east of Newtownbutler and eight miles south-west of Roslea, along the border with County Monaghan. The area's facilities consist of one public house and one grocery store; there are no churches or schools. Magheraveely Community Development Association (MCDA) was founded in 1995,

essentially to provide a social and communal base for its residents; however, it has also played a major role in the enhancement of the aesthetic appearance of the village which has been awarded the “Most Improved Village” award for 1997. The community group has no neutral venue for any proposed cross-community activities; nevertheless, it continues to support any such activities with whatever facilities are available.

Although the immediate area is primarily Protestant, MCDA is cross-community and comprises local residents, specifically local business people and farmers who have worked well together. The group has played an important role in enhancing the village’s appearance and, in providing social events and activities for residents of all ages; it is currently seeking funding for the provision of a neutral, community-based ‘focal’ centre, to advance its programme of development. The group perceives the area’s needs to be a combination of social, communal and physical/infrastructural requirements. The members anticipate that the development of a community base in Magheraveely, could produce tremendous social and communal benefits for the entire community. The group has not yet been involved in cross-border activities, as the members have other priorities, although, they have expressed a willingness to engage in such events in the near future. MCDA considers itself representative of the people of the area, as illustrated by the attendance at events and meetings.

MCDA is currently operating at break-even point, and has gathered funds mainly through local fund-raising events, with some support from Fermanagh District Council, Fermanagh Trust, and it was awarded millennium monies to expand the range of activities for its senior citizens . Furthermore, the group is eager to see the funding agencies promoting social and cross-community development, to enhance cohesion between the different communities, in socially deprived areas, such as Newtownbutler and the surrounding areas of Magheraveely and Derrykerrib.

Comments from the Consultation Process

The main issues produced from the consultation process are detailed as follows:

- ***There is a consensus that Newtownbutler and the immediate surrounding area is ‘worse off’ than the rest of Fermanagh;*** while this is seen as being primarily due to its location on the periphery along the Monaghan/Cavan border, it is also perceived as an area that has been neglected by those responsible for economic development.
- ***There is apprehension concerning future access to social services;*** the issue of whether the Erne Hospital will continue to be accessible to Newtownbutler residents, or will be closed, or downgraded, is a major source of concern; locals are apprehensive that they may be forced to use the services of Monaghan or Cavan County Hospitals, rather than having such services in their own county.
- ***There is a perception that one of the merits of community development is that it unites the entire community;*** the view was advanced that it ‘keeps alive’ the local area, especially those areas which have suffered most from outward migration.
- ***Funding agencies are seen as being so bureaucratic that they waste the time of voluntary people;*** groups indicated that community organisations encounter too much *bureaucratic ‘red tape’* when dealing with the funding agencies. Given the voluntary nature of community organisations, there is an excessive work load placed on members and a heavy demand on their time, factors which, in the opinion of the groups, are not taken into consideration by the agencies. The inordinately slow response by the funding agencies to applications for grant-aid is seen as an illustration.

- ***In Newtownbutler itself, the major issues confronted by community organisations are politically based;*** by comparison with the political pressures, financial pressures take a ‘back-seat’ in places like Newtownbutler. During the “Marching Season”, or whenever political conflict and unrest are seen in the town, there is a feeling of alienation on both sides of the community, with the result that panic and fear is visited upon elderly citizens, and there are poor attendances at local club/social meetings and at events run by cross-community organisations. This is seen as a result of the underlying polarisation which exists in the area and (from the Catholic perspective) of the links between the Protestant Churches and the Orange Order. On the other hand, there is also a view (expressed by a minority) that cross-community activity really only strengthens links which already exist, but that there is little evidence of new links being created.
- ***There is general agreement that the only solution to such conflict is through dialogue between the different opposing groups;*** (Sinn Fein and the Orange Order are seen as the two main bodies involved). However, groups expressed apprehension that no compromise will be reached on future parades due to the extreme antipathy which exists.
- ***Good “neighbourly” community relations exist in the area for most of the year, notwithstanding religious or political differences;*** although the political problems create anxiety across the entire community during the “Marching Season”; for the remainder of the year relationships are good, especially in the rural areas.
- ***In the more rural areas of the electoral ward there exists a lack of local interest in participating in community projects;*** those from farming backgrounds are much more reluctant to commit significant time to voluntary activities because of the unusual hours of their work.
- ***Groups indicated a willingness to amend their structures and/or their activities to reinforce community relations in the area;*** there is a strong belief that community relations are hindered by a minority of individuals whose attitudes are deeply entrenched in extremely polarised political positions. There is a general acceptance by both sides of the community (but more so by Catholic representatives) that the Protestant community should get more involved in cross-community activity. It is also believed that, if a neutral focal point was created in which people could socialise, this would contribute to the reduction of political ‘aggression’; by targeting the ‘grass roots’ on a larger scale, it was felt by those interviewed, individuals could work together to promote better community relations within a larger social network.
- ***In general, there is a perception that, if political issues were eliminated from the community relations aspects, improvements could be achieved;*** the form of these improvements was not specified, (nor was the degree of impact expected to be achieved).

Perceptions of the Agencies

The following paragraphs indicate the groups’ perceptions of the funding agencies:

- ***Groups generally felt comfortable when negotiating with the agencies;*** however, they acknowledge that there exist complications concerning the operation of agencies and, in particular, the criteria which must be met in order to secure funding, and the “red tape” involved.
- ***Groups were concerned about the slow delivery of grant-aid from the agencies, once it has been approved;*** there is a perception in the Newtownbutler area that, of the agencies with which the groups have been engaged in negotiations, IFI and DoE were the most helpful. In addition, groups in the Newtownbutler area expressed serious disappointment

that the funding agencies have not supported the provision of more jobs in the rural areas of Fermanagh (where jobs are needed), and that there is no proactive approach to job creation: The main agency for supporting job creation among small businesses was perceived as failing badly in this respect.

- ***There is serious anxiety that projects which 'fit' the necessary funding criteria will not be successful in attracting funding from the agencies, because they are being promoted and/or controlled by an individual entrepreneur instead of a community group;*** groups believe that this policy should be reconsidered, as there exist too many gaps and far too many overlaps in the funding criteria, but these do nothing to encourage entrepreneurship in deprived areas.

Border Area

The following comments, indicate groups' perceptions of the border and its effects on social, economic and communal factors in Newtownbutler and its surrounding area:

- ***The border and in particular, the numerous border check-points have created serious negative impacts on the community's economic and social development, and on communal relations;*** the overriding issue was the inconvenience caused by closing the border roads, thereby forcing individuals to travel journeys which were sometimes up to twelve times the normal distance which they would have travelled if the direct route had been available. This created political "anxiety" and antipathy. Since the roads have been opened, there is no need to take these long detours, and this has aided freedom of movement and encouraged individuals to move from the North to the South of Ireland and *vice versa* on a regular basis. At present, ***currency rates*** and ***exchange rate fluctuations***, are producing greater movement from the North to the South, due to the booming 'tiger' economy in the Republic of Ireland.
- ***There is a difference of opinion amongst groups concerning economic development in their area;*** some groups perceive that, due to their location on the periphery of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland (and of Europe), economic development has been made more difficult, as investors consider this area to be a "no-man's-land"; furthermore, investment has been hindered by the changes in currency exchange rates which currently favour investment south of the border. However, other groups in the area believe that the opening of border roads has made economic development in the area easier, due to the free movement of traffic.
- ***The border check-points have left the Newtownbutler area divided;*** Catholics believe that these check-points symbolised almost thirty years of conflict and rule by a British Government whose actions have created a feeling of social, economic and political insecurity. However, the Protestant community accepts that whenever "The Troubles" were in progress, the checkpoints gave them a feeling of protection, as they believed that a lot of terrorist weapons were being transported across the border. Since the cease-fire, there is agreement across the entire political spectrum that morale has improved in the area.
- ***Down through the years, smuggling was prevalent;*** this increased profit margins of the businesses in the area, but it also contributed to a 'black economy' in the county as a whole, creating unwelcome and unfair competition for businesses in other parts of the county.

Village/Town

Newtownbutler's community organisations claim to serve the needs not only of the village itself but also of the surrounding area of Roslea, Magheraveely, Clones, Donagh and Derrykerrib. The following views were expressed:

- ***It is perceived by local residents that the immediate needs of Newtownbutler are economically based, with social and communal factors being secondary.*** Reasons for this are implied in the socio-economic analysis of this area. Groups anticipate that, if the economic aspects of the deprivation situation were addressed, this would have a 'trickle-down' effect on the social and communal needs of the area; these have, in the past, been the main target for many of the activities of the area's community groups.
- ***Groups from outside the village see the Newtownbutler group as serving the needs of the village only;*** contrary to the view expressed above, other groups in the area perceive the village-based group as having a very narrow remit, though they agree on the need to afford priority to economic issues.

Businesses

- ***Businesses in the area acknowledge that community activity would be more beneficial to the entire community, if the public were more supportive of the group's existence and aided its development;*** there is an acceptance that community groups should operate as voluntary organisations, as a business would normally have a different agenda, and voluntary organisations should address issues for which private sector approaches would be unsuitable. A "non-business" community group is likely to be more 'closely-knit' and therefore more applicable to community development.
- ***Businesses recognise that community-based development is needed in this area;*** this is evident from the lack of social and physical infrastructures, the poor roads network (by comparison with the rest of Fermanagh and Northern Ireland), and the small number of tourists visiting this peripheral, but historically 'rich', area; community activity is seen as an appropriate means of addressing such issues.

Summary:

The overall conclusion from this review, is that this area is severely deprived in social, communal, physical/infrastructural and economic terms. The local groups expressed concern about the lack of economic development in the area and, particularly the lack of support from the agencies. Furthermore, groups believe that the recurring problem of tension between the two main communities during the "Marching Season" needs to be addressed.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE NEWTOWNBUTLER AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Newtownbutler Area	Number in Derrykerrib Area	Number in Magheraveely Area
Guesthouses	3	1	-	2
Self-catering	5	3	-	2
Hotels	1	1	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Crom Estate	1	1	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS				
	4	2	1	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	1	1	-	-
Catholic Church Halls	1	1	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1	1	-	-
Community Halls	-	-	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	3	1	1	1
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	1	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	1	1	-	-
Doctors Clinic	1	1	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF ROSLEA

(Including the Townland Communities of Aghadrumsee (incorporating Inver), Clogh, Corranry and Derrygannon)

Description of the Area

The “border” village of Roslea is situated approximately twenty-five miles south-east of Enniskillen and nine miles east of Lisnaskea in South-East Fermanagh. It is located close to the border with County Monaghan, and is the main settlement in the Electoral Ward of Roslea. The overall ward is sparsely populated as illustrated by its population density of 0.25 persons per hectare, which is below the Fermanagh average of 0.29 persons per hectare (the lowest for any Local Authority area in Northern Ireland). The Roslea ward comprises four “townland” areas: Derrygannon, Aghadrumsee, Clogh and Corranry.

<u>STATISTICAL SUMMARY: ROSLEA AREA</u> (SUB-AREAS: AGHADRUMSEE, CLOGH, CORRANNY AND DERRYGANNON)			
<u>POPULATION:</u>			
Total	2204		
Male	1166 (52.9%)		
Female	1038 (47.1%)		
<u>POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:</u>			
<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>GROWTH</u>	
	2,609	2,204	-15.5% *
<u>HOUSEHOLDS:</u>	620		
<u>OCCUPANCY DENSITY:</u>	3.55 Persons per Household.		
<u>DEPRIVATION:</u>			
<u>OVERALL WARD:</u>	28 th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 5%)		
<u>ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:</u>	Eleven In Total		
	<i>3 In the Most Deprived 10% in Northern Ireland</i>		
	<i>7 Others In the Most Deprived 30% in Northern Ireland</i>		
	<i>All Deprived (i.e. in Worst 50%)</i>		
<u>UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):</u>			
MALES	131		
FEMALES	36		
<u>OVERALL</u>	167		
<u>RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:</u>			
CATHOLIC:	82.7%		
PROTESTANT:	10.7%		
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:	6.6%		

Socio-Economic Background:

Using mainly Census data, the following paragraphs indicate the social, economic and demographic position of Roslea and its townland communities of Aghadrumsee, Clogh, Corranry and Derrygannon.

According to the 1991 Census, Roslea Electoral Ward had a population of 2,204 residents, consisting of 1,166 males and 1,038 females. This comprised 4.1% and 0.14% of the total Fermanagh and Northern Ireland populations respectively. Since 1981, the area has experienced a 9.5% decline in its population base, even though the overall Fermanagh population exhibited a 6% increase during that period. Compared with Fermanagh and Northern Ireland, Roslea has a very young demographic profile; the proportion of Roslea ward’s population under twenty years of age is 37.8% whereas the corresponding Fermanagh and Northern Ireland figures are 34.8% and 32.5% respectively. Consequently, it also has a higher dependency ratio, with a large cohort of young people depending on a relatively small “working” population. The area also has a disproportionately high male population, as

illustrated by its male:female ratio of 1:1.2 this reflects the depopulation being suffered by a peripheral, border area, and is a common characteristic of declining rural areas.

The main religious affiliation of the population is Catholicism (over 80%), the second largest being Church of Ireland: over 9%. The following table provides a detailed breakdown of religious affiliations.

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Catholic	1822	82.7%
Presbyterian	18	0.8%
Church of Ireland	202	9.1%
Methodist	17	0.8%
Others	145	6.6%
TOTAL	2204	100%

In Roslea village, there is one Protestant R.P.B./Church Hall and approximately ten small businesses. Roslea exhibits poor social and economic statistics in Northern Ireland terms; it suffers from high unemployment and has a heavy dependence on low-value-added farming. The vast majority of the ward's farms are classified in EU terms as either "very small" or "small", typically providing employment for one or two persons respectively. In addition, under the 1984 European Directive (Directive 84/189/EEC), all of this area's land is classified as either "disadvantaged" or "severely disadvantaged", reflecting the poor quality of the land in terms of fertility and (low) productivity.

It is ranked among the most deprived 5% of electoral wards in Northern Ireland as illustrated by its ranking of twenty-eighth in terms of "degree" of deprivation (c/f Policy Planning and Research Unit's publication "*Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*": Robson *et al*; 1994), and among the worst 3% in terms of intensity. It is also the second most deprived Electoral Ward in Fermanagh District.

Deprivation Level of the Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	28	5
Intensity	14	3
Extent	85	16

The absence of any major service or manufacturing employers (especially the low level of public sector employment) contributes to the area's high unemployment rate and the resultant low level of prosperity. Roslea has more than double the effective unemployment rate for Northern Ireland as a whole; in 1991, it had an unemployment rate of 33.7% compared to the Northern Ireland and Fermanagh figures of 15.6% and 18.2% respectively. Consequently, it ranked among the worst 7% of Northern Ireland's wards in unemployment terms and it ranked as the worst of the entire 566 wards in Northern Ireland in terms of long-term unemployment.

Roslea has a considerably higher proportion of its population classified as "Self-Employed" than the average for the Fermanagh region (21.4%) which, in turn, significantly exceeds the Northern Ireland average for this category (12.8%). These figures reflect the predominant role of agriculture in the economic structure of Roslea and Fermanagh, since the majority of the self-employed are in the farming sector. The high proportion of owner-occupied homes also identifies this area as predominantly rural, even by Fermanagh standards.

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs illustrate the current community development situation in Roslea and its surrounding townland-community areas.

Inver Frontier Community Association (Aghadrumsee)

Inver Frontier Community Association (IFCA) was established in December 1996 to provide a social focal point for the Protestant community, because community and social interaction and activities among Protestant residents of the Roslea area had decreased during “The Troubles”. The community (especially the teenagers) were moving to the main settlements of Enniskillen and Fivemiletown, where problems of drugs and alcohol abuse are more common. It was against this background that the group was established; inevitably, the group is a single-identity organisation and its primary remit is the preservation and promotion of the cultural identity of the Protestant community in Roslea and the surrounding areas.

IFCA currently uses the Protestant R.P.B. Community Hall at Roslea for its meetings; however, due to “..politically-motivated vandalism..”, the hall is unsuitable for social events. The group perceives the immediate needs of the area to be mainly economically based, given the lack of employment opportunities in Roslea; secondary needs relate to the poor provision of physical facilities and the area’s negative cross-community relations. IFCA has co-operated with the Clogh Community Development Association on numerous occasions; the members have also expressed a keen interest in engaging in cross-community ventures with a “non-polarised” Catholic community group, although they believe that participation from the Catholic community in Roslea would be low. The group would also be willing to network with groups in the Republic of Ireland, but has not yet identified such an opportunity.

This group has successfully organised an event to promote public awareness of the Protestant culture in the border areas of Fermanagh, for a group of “Peace People” from Finland and Sweden. It has not yet received any financial assistance from public bodies, but it continues to operate on a viable basis as a result of its extensive fund-raising schedule. IFCA considers itself representative of the Protestant community in Roslea, as reflected by the large attendance at its public functions.

Clogh Memorial Hall Committee

Clogh is a parish area situated approximately two miles south-east of Roslea village along the border with County Monaghan. Clogh Community Development Association (CCDA) was founded in November 1997 as a single-identity (Protestant) group, following the opening of the border roads in the area which resulted in improved access to Clogh Church of Ireland and the Memorial Community Hall; this had previously entailed passing a security check-point. Like Inver Frontier Community Association, the group (which is totally composed of representatives from the farming community) was formed to provide social interaction for its church members.

The group has been involved in organising bowling events with other groups in the area and it has co-operated with church groups from Clones, Kinawley and Derrylin. It sees the primary needs of the area as relating to inter-community relations, with subsidiary needs relating to economic development and the area’s poor physical-infrastructure.

CCDA members believes that it is fully representative of the community. The Association attracts large attendance to its social events, organised two or three nights a week. The group has not received grant-aid from any funding agencies, and it operates an on-going fund-raising programme.

Derrygannon Community Development Association

Derrygannon is a townland area situated four miles north-west of Roslea village and nine miles south-east of Brookeborough. Derrygannon Community Development Association (DCDA) was established in 1988; it aims to alleviate the poor social and economic conditions of, and provide employment opportunities for, residents of the immediate Derrygannon area. These two factors have caused high emigration of young, talented people who leave to seek employment elsewhere. The group has successfully built a Community Hall (which is used for Meetings, Youth Club events, Ceili Dancing, Women's Group activities, Entertainment and Private Functions), and they are currently involved in a local "walks" project with the Sliabh Beagh Initiative, which, it is hoped, will bring economic and social benefits to the community. Apart from the Community Hall, there exist no facilities in the area; the nearest Church is located four miles away in Roslea village.

Due to the absence of Protestant residents in the area, DCDA is a single-identity body, although it has attempted to organise numerous cross-community events in Derrygannon Community Hall which was built with local fund-raising and significant monies from the Charitable Trust sector. The group comprises local residents who have a good working relationship. They are currently involved with Knockatallon Development Association (in County Monaghan) in developing the "walks" project (which is based on Sliabh Beagh - a mountain area on the Fermanagh/Monaghan border), and have, in the past, arranged cross-community events with groups from staunchly Protestant areas; they accept that children should get more involved in cross-community activity, so that prejudice can be eliminated at an early age. The group has received financial support from Fermanagh District Council, the Rural Development Council and Fermanagh District Partnership. Financially, they are currently operating at break-even point, and they continue to fund-raise to finance their on-going running costs. The group believes that it is representative of the local community, and it has consistently attracted large attendances to public meetings and events.

Roslea Community Development Association:

Roslea Community Development Association (RCDA) was founded in 1979 because of the absence of any neutral venue capable of acting as a social focal point for the residents of Roslea. The group's objectives are communal and social, rather than economic. RCDA has its own development worker (funded by NIVT) and has been involved in the management of a Community Centre owned by FDC; the centre accommodates a playgroup and various local groups from both sides of the community (though its use by Protestants is minimal) and which has been available for local training courses. However, the group is single-identity due to the lack of involvement by the Protestant community. The group claims to have been the catalyst for all social and economic development in the area, e.g. the Enterprise Centre (run by a separate organisation, Roslea Enterprise Ltd.), Heritage Centre (which is managed by Roslea Historical Society) and the Oaklee Housing development which incorporates a Day Centre funded by Social Services; consequently, it has been involved with most of the other groups in the area. The Association is also responsible for a CRISP Environmental Improvement scheme worth £300,000, designed to compliment all the community economic activity in the town.

RCDA is composed of local Councillors, community workers, business people and farmers. The majority of members are residents of the surrounding areas rather than of the village itself, and there is a belief that deprivation and the need for improvement is greater in the outlying areas. The group has networked with other groups south of the border, through their participation in the Sliabh Beagh Cross-Border Partnership, and they have received financial support from Fermanagh District Council.

Other Activities In The Area

- The Credit Union has recently built its own premises in the town.

Corranny Community

Corranny is a small townland area located approximately five miles west of Roslea village and eight miles east of Lisnaskea. The area does not have a community group; it has a very small population with no community facility nor church hall; it is thought that the existence of a community organisation could not be justified in terms of the population base. Facilities include one small local shop, a post office, a joinery works and primary school. It is entirely rural, with a very low population density.

Comments from the Consultation Process:

The main views expressed during the consultation process can be summarised as follows:

- ***There is a widespread view that Roslea and its surrounding areas are “worse off” than the rest of Fermanagh;*** groups agree with the deprivation statistics produced by the “Robson Report” (op. cit.), which identified Roslea as a deprived area in social, economic, infrastructural and communal terms. Most groups perceive that these deprivation statistics are the result of Roslea’s isolated location on the periphery of Fermanagh, Northern Ireland and Europe; this has led to relatively high transport costs and extensive emigration of young, talented residents. Others believe that these deprivation statistics have been produced by a combination of factors derived from the deterioration of the agriculture industry and the prevailing community conflict in the area.
- ***It is generally agreed that younger people should get more involved in community development in this area;*** groups accept that if economic, social and communal benefits are to be reaped from the development of the area, it is imperative that young people are represented at, and participate in, meetings and activities - but this has not been happening to a great enough extent.
- ***There is concern that because of the voluntary nature of community organisations, members tend to suffer from “burn-out” at a rapid rate;*** a major problem associated with community organisations is the continuous need to fund-raise; the consequent pressures create personal worries and stresses for members, who often choose to withdraw from such activity and from participation in the group.
- ***There is a need for an industrial base in the area;*** groups in the Roslea area attribute the area’s deprived status to “..discrimination..” in recent government policy. They perceive past economic policy to have concentrated the development of factories and job-creating opportunities in a limited range of locations, with the result that the majority of factories were located in predominantly Protestant areas - East of the Bann - promoting the marginalisation and isolation of the peripheral regions West of the Bann, including South (especially South-East) Fermanagh.
- ***Group members believe that the Protestant community should get more involved in cross-community activity;*** interviewees perceived the Catholic community to be keener on alleviating political tensions in this area, through participation in cross-community activities, than the Protestant community; the latter are seen to be more motivated by the betterment of their own community, rather than the development of the entire area. (*This view was expressed primarily by representatives of the Catholic community, but was not contradicted by Protestant interviewees.*)

- ***There is a consensus that political differences can be resolved only through dialogue and negotiation;*** groups feel that the enormous pain caused by political conflict can be alleviated only through discussion and negotiation, although that view was qualified by a belief that such activities should be accompanied by greater effort on the part of statutory bodies to promote equality throughout society.
- ***There is general agreement that groups should aim to ensure the long-term viability of projects;*** groups accept that there is a great need to ensure that good projects remain sustainable, rather than “...spreading...” the available funds to promote the development of a greater number of projects, many of which may become “*White Elephants*”.
- ***There is a consensus on the part of those involved in community activity that the primary merit of community development is that it improves the economic status and general welfare of the community;*** groups accept that community development encourages social interaction and unity of purpose among opposing communities and that it has the capacity to promote more entrepreneurship and increased ambition among residents to create economic prosperity. On the other hand, there exists considerable scepticism about the potential of community development generally, since there is a view that statutory agencies do not fulfil their responsibilities because of what was described as “... their commitment to a fixed agenda...”.
- ***There is a general belief that tourism in this area is not fully exploited;*** groups are concerned about the reluctance of the local Council and the Tourist Board to promote Roslea and its surrounding area as a tourism location, with the result that community organisations are left to their own devices to promote tourism in the area.

Perceptions of the Agencies

The comments below reflect the groups’ perceptions of the established funding agencies:

- ***Overall, groups did not feel relaxed when dealing with the agencies;*** groups felt that the agencies exhibited bureaucratic tendencies which resulted in too much time being involved in completing forms and unnecessarily long time-spans with little or no progress. It was accepted that, of the agencies with which groups in this area dealt, the Rural Development Council and Fermanagh District Council were the most helpful.
- ***Groups considered that application forms tended to be difficult to complete;*** groups perceived that only those members with a high level of educational attainment could complete these forms satisfactorily. Hence, given the rural nature of the Roslea area, applicants experienced difficulties in both completing the forms and in evaluating professional assistance.
- ***Groups would be keen to see the funding agencies undertaking a more proactive role;*** groups feel that the agencies should aim to replicate an American-style, investment-induced system where possible, so that good, worthwhile projects are implemented and not buried in a complicated and bureaucratic selection process.
- ***Groups believe that the agencies should make funds more accessible to areas that are heavily deprived;*** this would entail making funds more accessible to areas which are in special need - like South-East Fermanagh - so that improvements in the standard of living and the quality of life could be realised.
- ***There was a perception that the agencies responsible for economic development were doing little, or nothing, to redress the economic disadvantage visited on this area;*** group members expressed disappointment at the low level of economic activity in South-East Fermanagh and they perceived the economic development agencies as “...making no effort...” in this area.

Border Areas

The following points indicate groups' perceptions of the border and its impact on the social, economic and communal life of Roslea and its surrounding area:

- ***The physical presence of the border checkpoints had detrimental effects on cross-border relations and cross-border trade;*** this extended from the reluctance of residents from the Republic of Ireland to “..cross..” the border, because of the fear induced by the political tensions in the North, to a view that part of Roslea’s natural hinterland for trade had been cut off.
- ***The opening of border roads enhanced community morale in the area;*** local groups could now more readily interact with groups South of the border to achieve economic, social and communal progress for the area. In addition, the elimination of the long detours created by the closure of roads, has produced an improvement in residents’ quality of life. The original closures were seen as acts designed to annoy and/or punish local people, rather than as measures with any justification in “security” terms.
- ***There is a general acceptance that economic development has been hindered by the border;*** groups believe currency fluctuations, political conflict and the “infrastructural deficit” in this area, have created a disincentive to potential investors to support development projects. Alternatively, some groups anticipate that freedom of movement, brought about by a combination of peace in the North and the joining of the European Union, may overcome such impediments by persuading local government agencies and business enterprise to invest in this area.

Village/Town

Community groups in Roslea believe that they have to try to serve the needs of both the immediate village and the surrounding areas of Corranny, Derrygannon, Clogh and Aghadrumsee. General comments included:

- ***Groups recognise that the needs of the area encompass a combination of economic shortcomings, and the lack of social and physical facilities and services;*** given the lack of an industrial base, Roslea and its extended townland communities exhibit dangerously high unemployment levels. Groups also perceive that the absence of a neutral venue impedes the development of cross-community contact. Furthermore, residents feel that some essential services, such as bus and chemist services, are under-provided in this area. Consequently, groups feel that there is a need to address these issues.
- ***Groups in Roslea village itself accept that they receive great support from the surrounding areas, though, possibly, they do not provide adequate support to those outlying areas in return;*** the surrounding rural areas are in greater need of the benefits produced from community group activities, than is Roslea itself, and these needs are not being addressed adequately.

Cultural Organisations

The following represents the main views articulated by cultural groups in the Roslea area:

- ***There is an acceptance that groups should be more aware of the different cultures in the area;*** although cultural groups believe that their main objective is to promote their own cultural aspirations, there is an acknowledgement that groups should aim to understand other cultural groups’ perspectives, so that ignorant perceptions can be eliminated.

- *Groups perceive their primary duty to be the provision of social benefits to the community;* cultural groups feel that they have no part to play in the economic development of the area. They also consider that financial assistance to their members is outside their remit.
- *Groups are aware that more cross-community involvement should be undertaken;* although cultural groups are primarily “single-identity”, there is an acknowledgement that cross-community interaction should be initiated to enhance general social interaction within the community.

Summary

Roslea has a wide range of problems; socially and economically, the area is deprived; there is a need for an industrial base in the area to provide jobs; cross-community activity is low and there needs to be a much higher degree of interaction between the two communities to reduce the polarisation which has developed over recent years. There is a belief that those who initiate projects in this area will have to do the bulk of the work, that they will eventually begin to feel the stress of doing so and that ultimately their withdrawal from the project will lead to its failure; the result is that many potential projects - including some good, relevant, cross-community projects - are never undertaken in this area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE ROSLEA AREA						
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Roslea Area	Number in Corranney Area	Number in Derrygannon Area	Number in Aghadrumsee Area	Number in Clogh Area
Guesthouses	7	1	-	-	1	5
Self-catering	2	-	-	-	-	2
Hotels	1	-	-	-	-	1
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS						
Roslea Heritage Centre	1	1	-	-	-	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS	10	6	-	2	1	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES						
Protestant Church Halls	1	-	-	-	-	1
Catholic Church Halls	-	-	-	-	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community Halls	2	1	-	1	-	-
Masonic and Other Halls	3	1	-	-	1	1
SPORTS FACILITIES						
G.A.A. Pitches	2	2	-	-	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	1	1	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	1	-	-	-	-
MEDICAL SERVICES						
Pharmacists/Dispensary	1	1	-	-	-	-
Doctors Clinic	1	1	-	-	-	-

AREA PROFILE OF TEMPO

(Including the Townland Communities of Cavanacarragh, Coa and Garvary)

Description of the Area

Tempo is situated on the B80 route, approximately 9 miles from Enniskillen, and 11 miles from Fintona. The population of the village increased from 302 to 340 during the 1971 - 1981 period (12.6% growth); however during the 1981-1991 inter-censal period there was a decrease of 14.1%, giving a population of 292 when the last Census was conducted. The number of households nevertheless increased by 19 (22%) over the 20-year period. Most of the Tempo area has been shown to be highly deprived in social and economic terms.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY: TEMPO AREA (SUB-AREAS : COA, CAVANACARRAGH AND GARVARY)		
POPULATION:		
Total		2285
Male		1152 (50.4%)
Female		1133 (49.6%)
POPULATION CHANGE 1971-1991:		
1971 *	1991	GROWTH
2282	2285	0.1%
HOUSEHOLDS:		718
OCCUPANCY DENSITY:		3.18 Persons per Household.
DEPRIVATION:		
OVERALL WARD:		97th Most Deprived in Northern Ireland (Worst 20%)
ENUMERATION DISTRICTS:		Eleven In Total <i>1 In the Most Deprived 10% in Northern Ireland</i> <i>3 Others in the Worst 20%</i> <i>5 in the Worst 25%</i> <i>Nine Deprived (i.e. in Worst 50%)</i>
UNEMPLOYMENT (September 1998):		
MALES	76	
FEMALES	25	
OVERALL	101	
RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:		
CATHOLIC:		44.8%
PROTESTANT:		40.8%
OTHERS / NO RESPONSE:		14.4%

Socio-Economic Background

The following section provides an analysis of the demographic, social, and economic statistics of Tempo and the surrounding area.

According to the 1991 Census, there were 2285 residents in the overall area (the Tempo electoral ward), comprising 1152 males and 1133 females. This represented 4.2% of the Fermanagh population and 0.14% of the total Northern Ireland population. The population remained static during the 1971-1991 period at ward level, and, as indicated above, the village population suffered a decline. Static or negative growth in an area is usually an indicator of deprivation.

The population of Tempo ward is fairly evenly divided between the two main religious traditions - around 45% Catholic and 41% Protestant, as the following table shows:

Breakdown by Religious Affiliation		
Religion	Number	Percentage of Total
Roman Catholic	1024	44.8%
Presbyterian	108	4.7%
Church of Ireland	595	26.0%
Methodist	230	10.1%
Others	329	14.4%
TOTAL	2286*	100%

* Totals do not always correspond from table to table as the Census Office employs 'blurring' techniques to preserve confidentiality in certain circumstances at ward level and below.

According to a recent study of disadvantage (*Relative Deprivation in Northern Ireland*, Robson *et. al.* 1994), the Tempo electoral ward is the 11th most deprived in Fermanagh. In the Northern Ireland context, it ranks 97th out of 566 when deprivation is measured by 'degree' of disadvantage, and irrespective of whether deprivation is measured in terms of 'degree', 'extent' or 'intensity' Tempo is within the worst 25% in the region.

Deprivation Level of the Ward		
	Rank	Percentile
Degree	97	17
Extent	97	17
Intensity	114	21

An examination of deprivation at Enumeration District (ED) level indicates that nine of the area's EDs exhibit a fairly severe level of disadvantage, with one moderately deprived and one quite prosperous. The primary factors contributing to deprivation in the ward include the following;

- Pensioners In Accommodation Without Central Heating;
- Households Without Bath, Shower, Or WC;
- Properties Without Access To The Public Sewerage System; and
- High Household Population Density.

Much of the land in the Tempo area is 'upland' and is suitable only for low-value added, grass-based farming; forestry activity has been increasing in the area in recent years.

Community Development Situation

The following paragraphs indicate the current community development situation in Tempo and the surrounding areas.

Tempo Development Association

Tempo Development Association was formed in 1986, with the objective of improving the local environment and promoting local economic development. It is a cross-community group of fifteen members with approximately equal representation from the two principal religious traditions and a good mix of business people, farmers and female members. The Association has initiated several improvements to the village including the appearance of the Main Street. It has leased land from the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and provided a picnic area on what was formerly overgrown land on the Enniskillen road. Other initiatives include the provision of Christmas lights and the organisation of special events (e.g. "Santa Comes To Town"). It has also carried out a Social and Economic Audit of the area in conjunction with Tempo Historical Society in 1994 (see later). The group has bought a derelict village pub and land at the Meadow and renovated it into centrally located industrial retail units and a Day-Care Centre.

The Association is represented on the Fermanagh District Council's 'Show Me' project, in partnership with the University of Ulster and based in INTEC. Linkages have been

established with Universities in the USA to develop a 'what if' economic and social type model into which prospective investors can tap.

The group has received £957,000 under the CRISP package. Funds for Christmas lights, etc. have been provided by Fermanagh District Council. No borrowing has been undertaken.

Tempo Historical Society

The Society is cross-community; it was formed in 1988. It is involved in a local audit and in various forms of cross-community activity. In 1997 it hosted a meeting on 'Parades and Protests' with invited speakers. A number of controversial issues have been discussed - both historical and topical, e.g. the commemoration of the 1798 Rebellion. The Society owns Dooneen Community Educational Centre and is in the process of securing funds for a total conversion and extension.

Coa Community Association

Coa is a typical townland community situated five miles north of Enniskillen. The topography of the district is characterised by rugged mountainous terrain where traditional peat extraction for domestic fuel is still carried on. Traditional farming practices are undertaken on marginal farm holdings. However, agriculture has ceased to be the area's major source of revenue; many residents of the community are now employed mainly in the County Town's service organisations, or by its manufacturing companies.

The Association's objectives are "to promote the benefit and interests of the inhabitants of the area...". The group is to an extent cross-community - 80% Catholic and 20% Protestant and is representative of the occupations of the local residents.

The Association has twice renovated and extended a redundant two-room National School to provide a modern community centre which serves as a focal point for local residents. Funds for this were received from the Sports Lottery, Fermanagh District Partnership, Rural Development Council, Fermanagh Trust, local fund-raising, and a loan from the Inter Church Loan Fund. The committee is currently planning to have a community relations audit conducted in November 1998; the proposed audit will place a strong emphasis on community relations in the district, but will also incorporate the social and economic dimensions of Coa's community and of its catchment area by providing a detailed socio-economic review.

Within Coa Community Association there is a youth club, pipe band, bowling club, GAA club, Women's group, a very successful community playgroup and a sub-branch of Irvinestown Credit Union.

Cavanacarragh Community Association

Cavanacarragh Community Association was officially formed in 1986. It is a single-identity group (Catholic), although the catchment area is estimated to be 60% Catholic and 40% Protestant. The group meets in a hall which is perceived to be Catholic-controlled, although it is owned and managed by CCA. There is obviously a need for a neutral venue in the area. The occupations of the committee members are broadly representative of the composition of the district - farmers, builders, sales representatives and a number of self-employed persons. The Association has been responsible for setting up the Topped Mountain Historical Society and the local Youth Club. It has also organised a number of activities for Senior Citizens, and a townland quiz on an annual basis.

Other Groups In The Area

Coa Pipe Band

The band was formed around 1815. Its objectives are mainly cultural and it provides a focus and interest for the young people of the area. Formerly, band members gathered in each others' houses to engage in social interaction. The Pipe Band is single identity (Catholic), and the members are mainly from the farming community.

The Band plays chiefly at festivals and concerts; it does not take part in competitions, as numbers have decreased and it is felt that it is not currently of competition standard.

Topped Mountain Historical Society

The Society is cross-community, around 50:50 by religious affiliation, and is also representative of the area in terms of age and gender. It was established in 1989 by the past pupils of a local school to celebrate the centenary of the school. The Society is comprised of engineers, doctors, teachers, nurses, etc. and is generally regarded as a good mixed group, but it is under-represented from the younger age divisions.

The Society has produced a history publication and a well acclaimed historical video of the area. It also campaigned to secure the purchase of the Mountdrum Archeological Complex by FDC and is now in the process of drawing up a site as an archaeological park. The Society campaigned to have the Topped Mountain area designated as an Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI), similar to that given to Devenish Island - one of two ASAI in Fermanagh.

Garvary Young Farmers Club (YFC)

The club is cross-community, although the religious breakdown fluctuates from year to year. It was formed in 1984 and it is culturally and project driven. Members are involved in social and educational events and often organise fund-raising activities for charities.

Issues arising from the Consultation Process

- ***All of the groups, except one, felt that the area was comparable to other areas in Fermanagh:*** However, Tempo Historical Society felt that its premises were worse than those of other groups, while Topped Mountain Historical Society expressed grave concern about the over-spill from the County Town encroaching on the rural area. Proximity to Enniskillen was cited by some as being an advantage, and by others as a disadvantage, but all agreed that they were not really disadvantaged within the County.
- ***The needs of the area were perceived as being economic, cross-community and physical:*** Particular emphasis was placed on cross-community contact and fears were expressed that the community spirit was being eroded, possibly due to the proximity of Enniskillen. Topped Mountain Historical Society endeavoured to get the area designated as part of the Draft AONB and complementary ESA designations in order to limit excessive housing and industrial development in the area.
- ***While the YFC and Coa Pipe Band have worked within their own network, the remainder of the groups have not seriously embarked on any networking activity:*** Most agree, however, that it is an important aspect of community work and should be considered.
- ***The commitment of voluntary workers is not generally appreciated:*** this is a problem which this area shares with much of the rest of the County.

- ***Finance is a problem for community groups:*** It is felt that there is a strong case for a community bank to provide facilities for community activities and for community groups.
- ***Bureaucracy hinders progress:*** Problems arise in dealing with Public Sector Agencies, which are seen as very bureaucratic and difficult to deal with; essentially the view is that the Agencies “...don’t care...”.
- ***Provision of a neutral venue would be important:*** this area is very much in need of a facility in which everyone could feel comfortable and could support.

Finance

The YFC and Pipe Bands generate funds from within their own organisations (WELB gives a small amount to the YFC - it is the only outside funder). The other five groups all received various amounts of funds from Fermanagh District Council. Coa Community Association received approximately £100,000 from different charitable trusts, Sports Lottery, FDC, RCN, FDP and FT. Topped Mountain Historical Society received approximately £1,850 from the Arts Council, RCN and FDC towards the production of its video of the area. Tempo Development Association received £947,000 under CRISP (DoE and IFI) and funds for Christmas lights from FDC. Tempo Historical Society received approximately £2,000 from CRC and NIVT.

All of the above groups engage in fund-raising quite regularly. The only group with any borrowing is Coa Community Association.

Perceptions of Agencies

Four of the seven groups received some form of financial support from a number of the agencies. The groups felt that the agencies were generally helpful. The groups had specific needs that they would like the agencies to support.

There was a desire for the agencies to be more accommodating towards the groups; there is a need for more realism from agencies as the voluntary nature of community groups was problematic. One area of concern was/is the pressure to spend money by a given deadline. It was suggested that money should be allocated as, and when, it was needed. There is a need for someone to guide groups in the direction of funds and other forms of support, etc. specific to their objectives. Virtually all of them need follow-up support.

Community Relations Implications

All of the groups were of the opinion that community relations in the area are good and people get on with one another. However, there is, to some extent, a ‘them and us’ feeling. There is a long road to go and there are still many underlying tensions. The overall situation tends to cause some fear and anxiety, and no one has any control over this.

There will always be single issue groups and communities which may not wish to change, or whose general objectives would not lend themselves to change. At present, there is a huge need for more opportunities for both traditions to meet; e.g. playgroups and bowling clubs seem to have had success. This area’s proximity to Enniskillen appears to be diluting the sense of ‘belonging to the community’. Educating people about their cultures and their neighbours’ cultures is also very important for community relations.

Summary

The problems in Tempo cover a broad spectrum. Whilst it is generally perceived that community relations in the area are good, there are still tensions, and there is a lack of trust between the two communities. Tempo's location close to Enniskillen, while it is not having negative effects on the area socially, or economically, is causing problems with community relations and with community contacts generally. The growing population of Enniskillen is 'taking over' the countryside and is leading to some tension between the locals and those who have recently purchased, or built, houses in the area.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF FACILITIES IN THE COA AND TEMPO AREA				
TOURIST ACCOMMODATION	Total Number	Number in Tempo Area	Number in Cavanacarragh and Garvary Area	Number in Coa Area
Guesthouses	2	1	1	-
Self-catering	10	6	4	-
Hotels	-	-	-	-
Caravan/Campsites	-	-	-	-
Hostels	-	-	-	-
TOURIST ATTRACTIONS				
Topped Mountain	1	-	1	-
NUMBER OF COMMUNITY GROUPS				
	4	2	1	1
HALLS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES				
Protestant Church Halls	3	2	1	-
Catholic Church Halls	2	2	-	-
FDC-Recognised Neutral Venues	1	1	-	-
Community Halls	2	-	1	1
Masonic and Other Halls	1	-	1	-
SPORTS FACILITIES				
G.A.A. Pitches	1	1	-	-
Soccer and Rugby Pitches	-	-	-	-
Playgrounds	1	-	1	-
MEDICAL SERVICES				
Pharmacists/Dispensary	2	1	1	-
Doctors Clinic	2	1	1	-

County-Wide Organisations

The Aisling Centre Trust

The Aisling Centre Trust was formed in October 1990 with the objective of providing help and support to vulnerable members of the community, by providing counselling and a place to which such individuals could come to relax and socialise and begin the process of healing. The initiative was undertaken by three Sisters of Mercy; the Sisters had bought the house originally, so running costs constituted the main problem at the beginning. Demand for the services has increased significantly, and a new extension is being added at a cost of £250,000. The group is cross-community and attracts people from all over Fermanagh and neighbouring counties where such counselling is not available. The main beneficiaries of the Aisling Centre are those on the threshold of a mental breakdown, and others who do not really know what to do with their lives. During its period of operation, the Aisling Centre has achieved great credibility in the community. It provided the first personal development programme in the county and is now involved in a major European project called Options for Change to further adult career development for women. The group members represent a wide range of skills and occupations.

The Trust supports a lot of smaller voluntary organisations, enabling them to provide services not otherwise possible, and many groups use the organisation's facilities. The centre is seen as a neutral venue. There is networking and co-operation with many other groups in the area, and contacts have been established in the Republic of Ireland. The Trust is committed to developing links with other groups, and closer co-operation is envisaged with voluntary and statutory agencies, and the Sperrin Lakeland Trust.

The Aisling Centre Trust has received financial support from the following sources:

Peace & Reconciliation	The Lottery Fund
EGSA	NIVT
Training for Women Network	Children in Need
Fermanagh District Partnership	Childhood Fund
DHSS	Desmonds & Sons Ltd.
Rural Development Council	Castlehume Golf Club

The major issue from the perspective of the Aisling Centre is currently one relating to expansion. There is a waiting list for the various services provided and, thus, an urgent need for bigger premises. The organisation is perceived as being at a critical stage in its development, where planning is of paramount importance; to that effect, a strategic five-year plan is being prepared.

The Trust sees community relations in the area as being "pretty good". Insofar as the group is concerned, a wide variety of people frequent the Centre. In order to contribute to building better relations and encompassing an even wider range of clients, the Trust's management acknowledges that some public relations exercises will be required to convey the fact that the services provided are for everybody - not just for women.

Barnabas Trust

The Trust was established in 1988 as an initiative of the Methodist Church in Enniskillen; it is a cross-community group and includes representatives of the four main churches in the area. The Trust is proactive in targeting the marginalised sections of the community, such as the elderly and the long-term unemployed. The former are rendered whatever assistance is required and possible, such as undertaking household tasks, help with shopping etc. Particular attention is paid to residents in outlying rural areas.

Barnabas Trust indicates that care for the ageing population of Enniskillen (the Fermanagh population has 13.6% over 65 compared to the national figure of 12.6%) is one of the major needs of the area. The long-term unemployed are assisted with job placement and work experience, to build up a work ethos which will lead to further employment opportunities. The Trust also pays particular attention to the needs and problems of young people many of whom have “not much to look forward to”. However, members of the organisation, do not perceive anti-social behaviour as presenting as great a problem as in many other areas of Northern Ireland.

The Trust networks with a number of local groups such as Enniskillen Together and with the Salvation Army, Beacon House and various other societies. Co-operation with the St. Vincent de Paul Society is being contemplated. Contacts have also been established in North America.

Training programmes have been supported by the Training and Employment Agency (ACE schemes) and Fermanagh District Partnership has contributed towards the acquisition of equipment. Other funding sources include the International Fund for Ireland. The Trust also undertakes fund-raising activities. It has taken a conscious decision not to apply for National Lottery money as it regards it as being “the poor man’s tax”.

The Citizens Advice Bureau

An independent advice service, the Fermanagh Citizens Advice Bureau was set-up in 1976; it provides a county-wide service through its full-time office in Enniskillen, and outreach facilities in Irvinestown (covering Ederney, Kesh and Trillick), Lisnaskea (covering Knocks, Newtownbutler and Donagh), Roslea and Belleek. These clinics were established due to lack of public transport in these areas and the high level of enquiries originating in them.

Given its “overseeing role” the Bureau has identified certain pockets of poverty in the County: such areas include the Devenish ward in Enniskillen and the Border areas of Newtownbutler, Roslea, Garrison and Belleek.

The majority of enquiries involve benefits - 3,079 clients out of a total client base of 6,707 during 1996-1997. The majority of the benefit enquires – 959 - concerned Disability Benefits, followed by 556 concerning Income Support, the lowest type of monetary benefit, and 468 enquiries about Incapacity Benefits. This indicates that those seeking advice in Fermanagh suffer from severe economic hardship and many are on the poverty line, as these benefits represent their only form of income.

Other major problem areas within the county involve those who have got themselves into financial difficulties, particularly those with mental health problems who have not been able to manage their money, and elderly people, right across the County, who are just £1-£2 above the Income Support level - which means that they lose out on other benefits.

A growing area of work recently has involved cross-border issues, e.g. goods warranty, employment, and pension queries; consequently, the Bureau has developed close links with its counterpart in the Republic.

The main priority for Fermanagh, from the perspective of the Bureau, concerns the lack of affordable accommodation for young people, particularly some form of sheltered accommodation to house young people coming out of “care” etc. allowing them to have continued follow-up with a social worker and so that they can obtain advice if they run into any difficulties. Private rented accommodation in Enniskillen is very expensive with levels exceeding Belfast prices; the average rent for a one-bedroom flat in the town is £65; with Income support amounting to only £38 it is impossible for young people to have

independence, particularly as the Housing Executive will grant a maximum of only £25 towards rent.

Although not specifically recorded, the Bureau believes that it handles more enquiries from the Catholic community; it is perceived that this is because Protestants do not like asking for advice, letting others know their business, or taking “hand-outs”. To a certain extent this has begun to change and Protestants are now more willing to seek advice.

As the Bureau is independent and provides free advice, it must seek money to cover its running costs and to fund its development plans; this means that it is “competing” with local groups for funding.

Enniskillen Together

“We do not know the underlying fears, jealousies, and perceptions (of the other tradition) because we only discuss them with our own side. Protestants/Unionists are fearful because they are isolated and unsupported, Catholics/Nationalists are resentful and do not trust Unionists. We need to listen to each other with the three core concepts of all counselling”.

Enniskillen Together is a “peace and reconciliation” group. It was formed in 1987 in the aftermath of the Enniskillen bomb, by a number of people from various religious backgrounds. Its purpose is the help individuals and groups to reach out - to understand and accept other individuals and groups with a view to bringing about a better situation in Northern Ireland generally, and in Enniskillen in particular. Initially, the group had three aims:

- to organise a festival;
- to provide an integrated school; and
- to get the churches to co-operate.

The group is cross-community and consists of around seventy members, of whom around 40% are Protestant. There is a committee (five Protestant, four Catholic), of middle-class background, including five women and four men. “Need” as understood by Enniskillen Together, is a need for each person to listen to, and understand, the other. The group’s policy is to co-operate with as many others as possible, despite time and money constraints.

Most of the group’s financial support comes from the Community Relations Council (75%-80%), from other charities, membership fees and street collections. The financial situation is usually strained and sometimes it is necessary to get an overdraft.

In the opinion of Enniskillen Together, community relations are good in the area at a shallow level.

(Fermanagh Ltd.) Addressing the Needs of Displaced People (FEAR)

FEAR was formed in 1995 with the intention of setting up a Trust fund for specific projects to address the economic regeneration and symbolic recognition of abandoned Border areas. In particular, FEAR is attempting to address and support individuals and families from the Protestant/Unionist community, including the security forces community, living in rural Fermanagh, who have been victims of the current ‘troubles.’ The objective of the group is to provide monetary support to “.. to help in a small way, in order that these people can catch up on what they have lost out, over the years, as a result of having to move...”

NIVT awarded a development grant to assist in establishing the group so that it could identify needs and potential projects. Preliminary research was conducted on identifying those needs.

Recognition of the experiences of Protestants who were forced to abandon their roots, due to either direct intimidation or fear, is central to the *raison d'être* of the group; specifically, the group wishes to identify those who were forced to move, and ascertain if they, or their families, desire to return to the original homestead. For families which would like to reclaim their property, FEAR wishes to provide funding to assist with the regeneration of the home and the farm lands, including assistance for:

- Replacement Dwellings;
- Structural Work;
- Farm Re-stocking;
- Farm Re-seeding;
- Building of Farm Sheds/Outhouses;
- Drainage;
- Fencing; and
- Repairs to Lanes

If returning is not an option, families would receive other financial support as a symbolic gesture, or recognition of their experiences.

Fermanagh Women's Network

The group was formed in 1992 with the express objective of 'putting women on the agenda', addressing issues facing women, providing support and training, and assisting local development work. Within local development, the Network provides training in the group's own environment in relation to:

- aims and objectives;
- values;
- fund-raising;
- how to 'own' a group;
- group dynamics; and
- building up the group

On-going support is provided through review groups. The organisation also has an information resource i.e. newsletters, mailings, discussions, register of trainers, committee skills booklet and a suite of transportable computers which are used in venues throughout the County. In addition, the Network has a health development project concerned with women's personal health plans include the development of a Listening Ear service, Peer Education programme, and a Community Health Network for Older Women.

Enniskillen is the group headquarters, but satellite groups can be found in seventeen other areas of the County; these local groups are totally autonomous, but they have a close relationship with the Enniskillen office. The Network has found that it is much easier to establish groups in Catholic areas as structures are already in place there, than within the Protestant community, but it is proactively targeting Protestant areas as it believes that the Network can provide a service (particularly for younger women), which does not already exist.

The group believes that the value of women's activity is not widely recognised as most emphasis appears to be placed on economic development; there is a tendency for the 'soft' development in which the Network is engaged to be dismissed because its outputs cannot be quantified in the same way as other projects are measured.

The group networks with the WEA, other Women's Networks North and South, Health Networks, the Council and Funding Agencies; it believes in pooling resources to prevent duplication. It was selected to participate in a pilot project run by ArtSPark, a consortium initiative developed by the University of Ulster, to encourage arts, culture and development groups in the border counties to increase their networking and information sharing via technology; as a participant it was given 'state of the art' computer equipment which has proved to be a tremendous resource. Some of the groups with which the Network is actively

involved include the Cross Border Women's Network, Making Women Seen and Heard, Sustainability Working Party, Forum for Rural Women, and the Administrators Network.

A major issue identified by the group is the inadequate child-care provision within the County - this prevents women from becoming involved in activity outside the home. Another important aspect is the inclusion of all minority groups which are represented in Fermanagh i.e. Chinese, Filipino, Indian and Travellers, to ensure that they have a say in the development of the County.

In relation to the group itself, the most pressing problem is securing money which will allow it to continue providing its range of services, as there is no prospect of sustainability if funding ceases. Many people realise the benefit, both personally and to the community, of the work carried out by the Network and of the need for such work, but it is always difficult to obtain continuing financial support, as many funders are primarily interested in economic development; funding channels are limited for the Network's activities.

Orange Cultural Society

Established in 1994, the aim of this Protestant, male organisation is to preserve Orange artifacts and educate people about the tradition and history of the Orange Order. Although the group has received some financial assistance, it is reliant upon donations in order to cover the cost of each exhibition; it puts on its travelling display by invitation only, and only if the group believes that the venue is acceptable to members of the Protestant community. The group is aware that it could probably obtain more grants if it did more exhibitions in mixed areas; however, it also needs to be able to justify its actions to its own community.

The biggest problems facing the group is storage of the artifacts and being able to preserve the material; ideally, in the longer-term, the group would like to see a centre housing its collection.

In general, the group members do not find the agencies helpful and they are not given any assistance in filling out forms etc.; there is a general perception that some agencies have given them money "just to keep them quiet" as Protestant funding is a relatively "hot potato". Other Protestant, single-identity groups experienced similar problems; some funders told them categorically that they would not receive money unless they were cross-community; these groups found out later that this was not the case.

The group feels that Fermanagh has a lot to offer historically which could be used to strengthen the local tourism sector, e.g. more people were killed in the Battle of Newtownbutler than at the Boyne or other historic sites. Fermanagh could be the scene of various re-enactments, thereby utilising historical events for the benefit of posterity, and in so doing, raise the profile of the Fermanagh. In 1995, Armagh Council ran an "Orange" programme of events which was well attended by both communities, and it is felt that Fermanagh could do something similar, perhaps even looking at both cultures in order to raise awareness of the "other" side's traditions by demystifying them; this would also help to improve communications between Protestants and Catholics.

The Twelfth of July has the potential for being the largest "folk day" in Europe but due to its recent portrayal as a "sectarian" event, this opportunity has been lost; there are agencies, like the Council, which could help to turn this situation around (even if it is simply by having a stall there), but the group believes that it is easier for them to walk away.

Rather than encouraging tokenism, the group believes that funders should not exclude groups on the basis of being single-identity, and that money should be made available to the two traditions if they wish to pursue separate cultural programmes.

Prisoner Groups

The major problem from the perspective of former prisoners is that many of them have improved their education when in prison, but, because of their 'record', they cannot secure jobs and have no chance of raising the money needed to start their own businesses. Many of the prisoners feel that the statutory sector has been responsible for preventing them from getting back into the workforce; as a result, they see a need for greater independence, and for that reason they want their own centre and believe that they should be in a position to secure funding from the Peace and Reconciliation Programme.

Long-term prisoners also have difficulties reintegrating into their families and into society in general. This creates social pressures and often leads to the breakup of marriages; these aspects are generally negative for society as a whole.

The Royal British Legion

There are sixty branches of the Royal British Legion within Northern Ireland; however, there are only two within Fermanagh, located in Enniskillen and Irvinestown. To a certain degree, each branch is autonomous and is responsible for deciding the specific activities in which it engages; however, all Northern Ireland branches report to the regional office in Belfast which, in turn reports to the central office in London. The Legion is a registered charity comprised of members of the security forces, and the Enniskillen branch has approximately eight hundred members from all over the county.

There is a public perception that the Legion simply organises the "Poppy Appeal" and that it is a place where older people go to reminisce about the World Wars; these activities occur, but the Legion has many other functions now; in order to meet the changing needs of members, its role has changed over the years, but it still has much to do to communicate its new role to the general public. The Legion, today, is primarily a welfare organisation which assists, with small grants of money etc., members who are facing difficulties, and it also helps to look after the families of those killed in the "Troubles", assisting with, for example, education expenses, (approximately forty families are currently being assisted). The Legion is undertaking an education programme through schools, to teach young people about the role it now plays; there has been some resistance from older members who do not really see the need to explain to the wider community what it is about, but younger members believe that, in order to ensure its long-term survival, the "old image" must be modified, and the change communicated.

The Enniskillen branch decided, a few years ago, to rebuild its old hall, as it was in a bad state of repair and, as it is the only British Legion hall in the county, members felt that it was very important that money should be spent to make the necessary repairs. The International Fund for Ireland was approached, but funding from this source was not secured and there is a general perception amongst members that the reason for this is because of the name "Royal" and the organisation's British connection. However, as the repairs were vital, the local branch members had no alternative but to go ahead and fund the repairs themselves.

Local members are somewhat annoyed by the Council's attitude towards their request for a bronze sign at the Diamond, to match the other signs there, indicating where the centre is located. After being transferred around various departments, their request was refused; this decision would be easier to accept if the Council had a standard policy in relation to signs; as the Legion pointed out, GAA pitches are sign-posted, and they see no reason why their venue should not also be sign-posted as many people use it. However, the Enniskillen branch does have a good working relationship with the Council which has supported its fireworks display, Poppy Appeal and the 50-year commemoration to mark the end of the Second World War.

The Legion networks with branches in the Southern region covering the Republic of Ireland, particularly Athlone; many of the branches do not have a centre and Enniskillen provides the venue for many joint activities. The Association has developed a friendship with the people of Warrington, which suffered from an IRA bomb; a bicycle trip from Enniskillen to Warrington was organised to celebrate the continuing relationship and the shared history of the two areas.

In order to fund local activities, the Enniskillen branch hires out rooms, hosts BBQ's, annual dinners, dances and bingo sessions, which are supported by non-members from both communities; however, the majority of its expenses are covered by revenue from the bar. It sponsors a variety of different competitions and makes donations to other groups.

The Poppy Appeal still remains a core activity for the Legion, which has been proactively involved in trying to widen its appeal amongst the Catholic community, as this community also suffered casualties during the World Wars. Although it has been successful in receiving some support from the Catholic community, many donors prefer to remain anonymous; this has caused some ill-feeling, as some members of the Protestant community believe that Catholics do not support the campaign. The Legion tries to be as inclusive as possible; Catholics are involved in its activities and the Legion wants to ensure that this continues.

The Branch is currently looking to widen its network and would welcome the opportunity to meet with other groups, agency personnel and potential funders in order to find out what is going on and to be able to "put a face to the name".

St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul is a charity which offers support to those who are facing economic difficulties. A representative of the organisation stated that although there is a high level of community development initiatives within the county, their clients, who are typically those in the lower socio-economic classifications have not benefited from recent developments; indeed, over the past few years, the charity has received higher than average requests for assistance which suggests that community development initiatives, groups and funders have failed to improve the situation for those who are in most need of support.