



The Village Voice

Cullybackey Community Partnership



Cullybackey plays its part in marking the Queen's Jubilee

Cullybackey College Army Cadets and 1st Cullybackey cub scouts gather along with Mid and East Antrim Deputy Mayor Matthew Armstrong, Councillor Timothy Gaston, Mr Bertie McNeilly CCP as they plant the first of two oak trees for the Queens Green Canopy

Cullybackey is aiming to become an environmentally friendly village

Cullybackey Community Partnership (CCP) is continuing to work with local companies and businesses to bring about improvements to the village

Every effort is being made to ensure that the village is playing it's part in encouraging ways to improve the environment, protect wildlife and encourage fruit, vegetable and herb growing.

Translink are supplying a bug hotel to be put in the Community Orchard, to provide a home for bugs and insects.

In addition a number of workshops have been held covering bee friendly planting, herb growing and food growing. A new orchard has been planted at Arthur Cottage which will add to the existing orchard in the village.

The schools are also promoting gardening and the benefits which can be got from "growing our own". CCP is also recognising the need to promote recycling and are currently looking for somewhere to site a clothes bin.

This will then be managed by Cash for Kids who will donate £450 for every ton of clothing they collect

Cullybackey will be competing in Britain in Bloom 2022

Cullybackey Community Partnership was thrilled to learn that its' entry as a finalist in the 2022 Britain In Bloom competition had been confirmed.

This is a nation wide competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Competition is stiff and standards high Having won gold with their 2019 entry, Cullybackey has much to do if it is to maintain this standard.

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



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Cullybackey Railway Works

The Cullybackey Area Signalling and Level Crossing Renewals Project represents a major capital investment by the Department for Infrastructure and is essential to maintain high safety standards and operational performance for users of the railway.

The commencement of the project was announced in December 2021.

The project, which is being taken forward by contractor Babcock on behalf of Translink, involves a platform extension at Cullybackey Train Station, the upgrading of the three Level Crossings in Cullybackey and cable ducting works from Killagan (2 miles north of Cullybackey) to Ballymena.

Contractor compounds are located at Shellinghill Road, Sand Road and Spence Crescent and these are used for essential material handling, storage and access to the track.

Babcock are issuing letters regularly to properties to notify when engineering works are

expected to occur. To date, letters have been sent to provide residents with information regarding establishment of the compounds, cable ducting works and preparatory works around the station platform. These will continue as the project progresses.

We are also working with the local community to support initiatives and leave a legacy associated with the works. The Translink Safety Bus has visited both Buick Memorial PS and Cullybackey College to highlight safety issues associated with the use of public transport to local children in a fun and interactive environment.

Most recently we were delighted to partner with Buick Memorial PS to provide sponsorship for book vouchers as part of the schools Book Fair.

Translink are also working closely with Cullybackey Community Partnership to develop environmental and biodiversity projects that will benefit the whole community such as the creation of a Bug Hotel at the local orchard site.

If anyone has concerns with how the works are being carried out they can contact Babcock's dedicated control centre on +44 (0)20 8629 5060 then option 5 (Rail Systems), then option 1 (Translink).



Further Developments at Galgorm Resort & Spa

Exciting times are ahead for the resort as they reveal their sustainability plans for the future.

From using solar and hydro power and planting trees to encouraging outdoor activities such as walking and cycling, Galgorm is certainly going green.

The shepherd's huts currently provide the opportunity to spend time close to nature and the possibility of adding a tree house

to the complex could add to the experience. This is an exciting prospect and will add yet another reason for people to visit the area.

We are currently working with the resort to find ways to attract more visitors to the village and have regular meetings to get updated on their plans.

We are still awaiting developments on the proposed extended path to Galgorm and will continue to keep you informed of any developments



Photo gallery of the great work that our young people are doing in the Village. Top shows the Buick PD pupils helping the environment, doing scientific experiments and competing at the music festival Centre are the army cadets, cubs and beavers all doing their bit to promote environmental responsibility.

Bottom are the guides demonstrating the importance of growing our own. We are fortunate to have the great teachers that we have in the village together with the many youth group leaders who do such a great job educating and moulding young lives and giving them a sense of responsibility.



Britain in Bloom Continued...

The judging criteria has changed for 2022 with the emphasis now being on perennial plants and pollinators.

Considering the needs of wildlife is a key requirement. This could mean less colourful displays and more greenery in an attempt to improve the environment and using plants in a way to do this.

Cullybackey Community Partnership will continue to find ways of adding new features as well as making the most of what is already there.

Visitors to the village are always welcome and with a new gift shop, great eateries and places of historical interest we are looking forward to seeing new faces in the village this year.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of the CCP contact Joanne on 02825882281



The Hub - A place to meet, greet and shop in the village

The Hub at the Maine Business Centre, has fast become an integral part of the village. Planned and run by the Bann Maine West cluster group as a centre of activity, the Hub is living up to it's plan.

Combining a chatty cafe, an information point, a craft activity centre and a shop, it caters for a wide range of needs. Working in close association with the Cullybackey Community Partnership and using both the hub and the community space, it has the capacity to accommodate the needs of groups, classes and individuals. Monthly police surgeries provide the village with the opportunity to discuss any issues of concern that it might have.

The gift shop is more than just a shop. Anyone can call in , browse the shop, pick up a gift, hear about some of the local people who supply the shop and be made to feel welcome. Joanne, who runs the shop says that many volunteers from within the Cullybackey community are keen to help out. Local people have taken ownership of the hub and see it as a real asset to the village.



Looking to the future, it is hoped that the activities can be expanded and that the shop will prove to be a great convenience when needing to pick up a small gift a craft item or a greeting card and reduce the need to travel at a time when petrol costs are rising almost daily.

New CCP Trustees

Three new names have just been added to the board of Trustees of the Cullybackey Community Partnership. We are delighted to welcome them on board and know that they will prove to be hard working and forward thinking. The new trustees are; Mr Jonathon Fulton, Mrs Coleen Christie and Rev Adrian Halligan. Mr Roy McClean also joined the group recently and all have brought new talents and new thinking which can only be of great benefit to the village.



For more information on any of the articles in the newsletter or to submit your own, contact Cullybackey Community Partnership by Email cullybackey@nacn.org or Telephone: 028 2588 2281

Check out our Facebook page, Cullybackey Community Partnership, and like and share our posts.

We are also online at cullybackeycommunitypartnership.co.uk

The Village Voice is supported by John Cummings, NISA Cullybackey

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