

MOIRA HERITAGE-LED REGENERATION

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CONTEXT

Moira is a small town situated in County Down lying 8 miles west of Lisburn, 7 miles east of Craigavon and 10 miles from the urban extents of Belfast.



The Lagan Valley landscape has an established pattern of linear towns, villages and farmsteads located along a dense branching network of narrow roads which follow minor ridges. The western valley, within which Moira sits is a more sensitive landscape than others as it is overlooked from several vantage points on the higher surrounding lands.

Moira is an attractive village that takes its special character from its linear plan and location on the southern escarpment of this Lagan Valley landscape. It's character is enhanced by the picturesque Moira Demesne, and a large part of the village centre, which has been designated as a Conservation Area.



Moira is a well defined village with a significant number of amenities. The village centre is designated as a Conservation Area and has a number of attractive, listed buildings, housing boutiques and independent retailers.

Moira has received considerable recognition for its high quality environment including Best Kept Small Town Awards and Britain in Bloom Awards.



HERITAGE STORY

Moira first settled some 1500 years ago. The first dwellings were called ringforts and one such example still exists.

The Rawdons laid out the main street, which was built by the linen manufacturers. In 1744 Moira was described as a 'well laid out and thriving village, consisting of one broad street.'

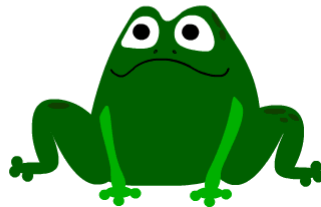
The main industry was quarrying limestone which was dispatched via the Lagan Navigation, which runs close to the town.

Major du Burgh built a house in 1651 and developed quantities of land which formed the Demesne. The 'castle' was demolished in the early 19th Century.

Close by is Moira Rail Station, the oldest building on the NI Railways network after opening in 1841.



According to Bassett's 'History of County Down' frogs were first discovered in Ireland at Moira.





MOIRA DEMESNE

Moira Demesne is a 40 acre parkland used as a recreation and leisure facility. It sits behind the village core with vehicular and pedestrian accesses at both ends leading on to the Main Street.



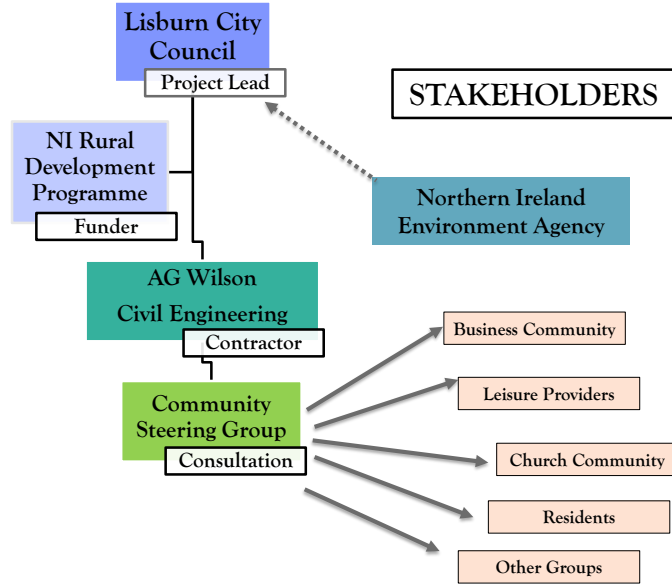
ISSUES

- ❖ Heritage Assets Inaccessible and In Poor Condition
- ❖ Anti Social Behaviour
- ❖ Poor Quality/Inaccessible Paths
- ❖ Limited recreation opportunities
- ❖ Unmanaged Access Points
- ❖ Lack of Community Ownership
- ❖ Low User Numbers





REGENERATION PROJECT



HERITAGE FEATURES

Restoration Work Carried out to Remains Of:

- 17th/18th Century Canals
- Historic Gardens
- Original Walls/Gate Posts – possibly of former ‘castle’
- Avenue of Limetrees





AFTER



- New Entrance Feature
- CCTV System
- New Recreational Facilities
- New Amenity Block with Community Room and Ranger Facilities
- Additional Parking
- New Play Park
- Outdoor Gym Equipment



NEW COMMUNITY SPACE



TOTAL PROJECT COST = £1,150,000

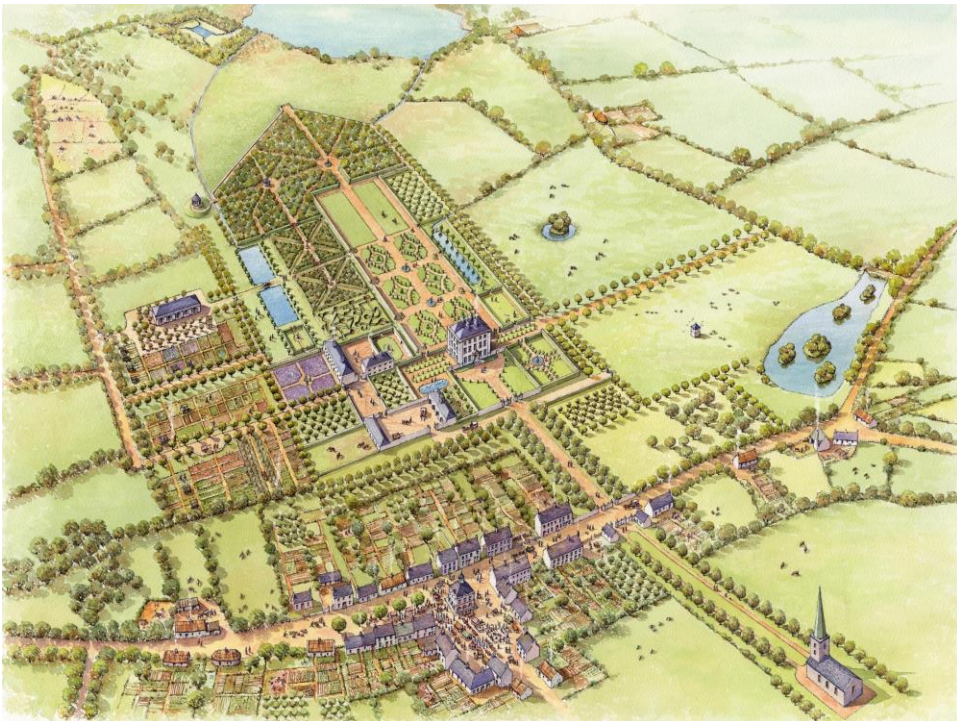
**£850,000
NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013**

**£300,000
Lisburn City Council**



SUCCESS of PROJECT

- ✓ Consulted Widely During Design & Construction Stage
- ✓ Engaged with new user groups
- ✓ Effective Client-Contractor Relationship
- ✓ Access/Parking Issues Managed
- ✓ Sensitive Integration of Heritage Assets
- ✓ New Community Spaces
- ✓ New Events Programme





PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

Scheme to deliver environmental improvements to the core of Moira village.

- Safer Pedestrian Environment
- New Street Furniture and Lighting Scheme
- Road Carriageway Improvements
- New Infrastructure for Planting/Floral Displays
- New Signage

EXISTING PAVING



EXISTING ARCHITECTURE



HISTORIC MAIN STREET





MAIN STREET TODAY





LESSONS LEARNED APPROACH

**Consultation is Key!!
At EVERY stage throughout the project!**

- Project Champions
- Speak to utilities early in the process
- Work closely with Historic Environment Division
- Confirm in writing any agreements with Transport NI
- Ensure your own teams have appropriate skills.



NEXT STEPS

- Agree 'in principle' new road levels and delivery methodology with Transport NI
- Next Round of Consultations – Council and Community (Build on the success of the previous approach)
- Develop Designs
- Secure Funding
- Project Delivery





THANK YOU