

The power of small – Encouraging a grassroots recovery

Regeneration / Degeneration?



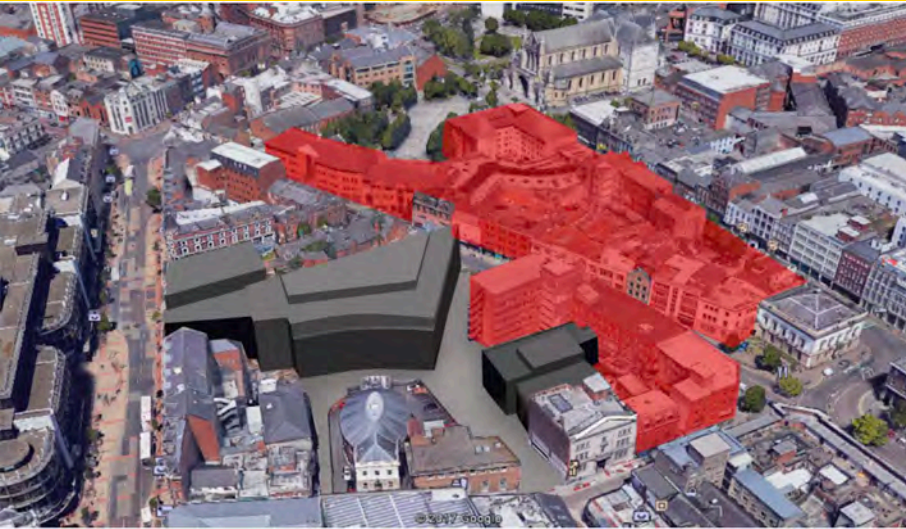
Urban Renewal Area No. 144 - The Village, south Belfast, 2013

- Wholesale loss of distinctive historic fabric – Area of Townscape Character
- Associated erosion of identity
- Reduction in population in central location – 40% put back

Wasted materials, energy and resources



Monolithic vs fine grain



NI Connections | Thu 4th Feb
NEWS © 1min

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New £500m urban regeneration scheme

[The largest regeneration project in Belfast City Centre](#)

Castlebrooke Investments project will deliver 1,500,000 sq ft of prime residential, Grade A office, retail, food and beverage space in Belfast city centre.

The project is the largest single regeneration project in Belfast city centre.

“...the largest single regeneration project in Belfast City Centre”

“The development is rooted in the aspirations of the city to become more international and build on the optimistic spirit which is already alive in the city. The scheme is the embodiment of the positivity surrounding Belfast and it will become a benchmark for UK regional cities.”

Neil Young, Chief Executive of Castlebrooke Investments

Signature = significant?



Belfast Region City Deal

£1bn
of investment



**BELFAST
DESTINATION HUB**

MOURNE GATEWAY

INFRASTRUCTURE

**CARRICKFERGUS
CASTLE**

 #BRcitydeal

Major = relevant to citizens' daily lives?

Major Developments



“The Belfast Destination Hub is a **transformational project designed to capture Belfast's unique spirit.**”

Architectural Heritage Fund - Heritage Transformed programme

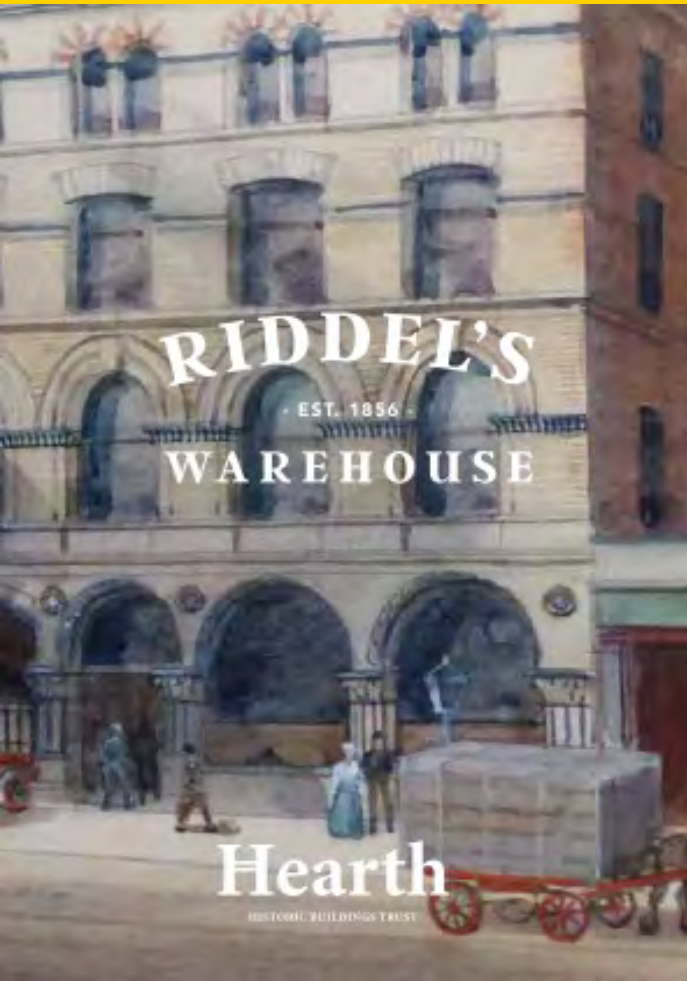
UK's leading social investor in heritage

Supports the sustainable re-use of historic buildings for the benefit of communities, especially in economically disadvantaged areas.



The Pilgrim Trust

From meanwhile to meaningful...



Hearth Historic Buildings Trust

- 19th century ironmongery warehouse – quintessentially Belfast building
- Co-working space
- Performance and exhibition space
- Phased approach – testing times

Diversity of uses – key to city centre revival



St Columb's Hall Trust, Derry

- Grade A listed
- Music and film venue
- Creative therapy centre of excellence
- Place for youth assembly
- Co-working space

Aim to bring historic building 'back to life'

By Ryan Sands

ryan@mourneobserver.com
A PUBLIC consultation on bringing Kilkee's iconic Vogue Cinema 'back to life' will open this week.

Kilkee Development Association (KDA) Charitable Trust is working in partnership with a number of stakeholders to explore the possibility of rejuvenating the listed Newry Street building, which dates back to 1940 and has been vacant since 2007, and will officially open the consultation through its social media channels on Friday.

The Trust has entered into a community asset transfer (CAT) process as it seeks to transform the building, drawing on its unique assets to retain its heritage links – including to the Second World War – in a bid to regenerate the local area.

KDA chairman Diane Coulter said that the trustees are "delighted to have secured funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) to support our efforts to explore the opportunity to preserve a local landmark, which holds significant heritage links to Kilkee town centre dating back to 1940".

"The AHF funding and support will play a vital part in moving the project forward into a community led project, whereby local citizens will have their input on how the building can be brought back to life," she said.

"We are delighted to be embarking on this exciting project, and to be working in



Kilkee Development Association, Charitable Trust representatives, chief executive Donna McConnell (left) and chairman Diane Coulter who helped launch a public consultation into the future of the former Vogue Cinema building in the town. P12-161220



R-Space Gallery, Lisburn -

Kilkee Development Association, The Vogue Cinema Community Asset Transfer (CAT)



Open House Festival, Bangor Courthouse (CAT)



Kilcooley Women's Centre, The Old Market House, Bangor

ENVIRONMENT

City centres need to be more like villages, says Eden Project founder

By Tom Bawden
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

City centres need to make themselves more like villages to keep high streets alive, according to the founder of the Eden Project in Cornwall.

Sir Tim Smit said he has been approached by "many dozens" of local authorities and retail developers in the past two years asking him to help save their city centres as people desert the streets, offices and shops by moving to the country and working from home.

While the pandemic has made things worse, the trend was well under way before Covid struck and is not going to go away when things get back to relative normality - meaning cities have to completely rethink their layouts, he warned.

Sir Tim, whose eco-biome attraction near St Austell, in Cornwall, is one of the world's largest indoor rainforests, said the crisis had given urban areas a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalise themselves as they work to win people back.

He suggested starting by taking inspiration from China's book and working to make cities feel like a series of connected villages, with a clear identity and a sense of community.

"How do you create cultural installations that somehow make you feel rooted?" asked Sir Tim, who is working to make his Eden Project



Sir Tim, founder of the Eden Project, says the UK should take a leaf out of China's book when it comes to city planning.

actually quite central to the way people feel good about where they are.

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Big draw Ideas to attract people to city centres

- Significantly reduce car numbers, if not eliminate traffic of things that have been growing locally. It's not just a middle



- Innovative partnership between **Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)** and **Department for Communities(DfC)** supported by AHF
- Villages of under 5,000
- Unused historic buildings
- Open to charities and social enterprises
- Uses must **target rural poverty and social isolation**

Addressing core community needs



The Old Post Office, Gracehill – social enterprise training hotel

The Wool Store, Caledon Co. Tyrone - childcare facility

26 IRISHMAGAZINE NEWS

Funding boost in move to transform old village tea rooms into 'well-being' hub

New centre will be focal point for the community

BY EMMA EVAN

THE OLD TEA ROOMS in Ederney have been awarded a boost in funding to transform the building into a modern, well-being hub.

The Ederney Tea Rooms, a key venue and hub for the community, has been awarded a grant of €100,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help fund the project.

The building, which was built in the 1920s, has been used as a tea room for many years. It is now being transformed into a modern, well-being hub.

The grant will be used to fund the renovation of the building, including the installation of new windows, doors, and a new roof. It will also be used to fund the purchase of new furniture and equipment.

The new centre will be a focal point for the community, providing a space for people to meet, socialize, and engage in various activities. It will also be used to provide training and support for local businesses.

"Streets such as Main Street in Ederney are changing fast and new ideas are going to be vital to securing the future of so many buildings like this one"

The project is being led by the Ederney Community Development Trust, which is working in partnership with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Ederney Community Development Trust.

ONE STOP CLUBS... Ederney Community Development Trust will use fundraising funding, which will help to cover the project in the next stage of construction work.

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Chandler's House, Rathfriland – affordable housing + community space

The Pat Murphy House, Ederney – co-working and wellbeing hub

AHF Transforming
Heritage

Transforming Places through
Heritage programme
Interim Report — Year 1

February 2021


Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

£15 million grant from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

3.5 year programme to support charities and social enterprises restoring and bringing new uses to historic high street buildings in England.

Sits within a wider set of interventions:

High Street Heritage Action Zones (HAZ), led by Historic England and the **Future High Streets Fund**, administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

High Street West, Sunderland



Binn's Department Store

Bought by Sunderland City Council and gifted to Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust
Partnership formed with Pop Recs

AHF support: Project Viability Grant, Project Development Grant, Transformational Project Grant, Heritage Development Trust pilot

Other investment: Crowdfunding, Historic England, Trusts and Foundations

Midsteepie, Dumfries



"Creating a new neighbourhood with a mix of uses, built on principles of local prosperity and well being"

Community Benefit Society est.

Beginning with The Oven – Community Asset Transfer – concept testing

Part of a wider plan to create 60 new homes and 50 new commercial spaces, inc. 25 business start-ups.

Cocktail of funding, inc. community shares

AHF supporting urgent repairs to facilitate meanwhile uses

Harnessing the transformative (staying) power of people and place

