Cushendall – old school house

Chairman

“Here we are at this time of the year again. It’s easy to get caught up in all the hustle and bustle of Christmas although we don’t want to forget some of those things that make it special – the warmth of home, the love of family and the company of good friends. I’d like to ask you all to take it upon yourselves to make sure that no one is lonely this Christmas.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year – hopefully Santa will bring you everything you ask for!”

Councillor Sandra Hunter
Chairman

Free Advice Service for Local Residents

The Citizen’s Advice Bureau (CAB) has trained advisers who can provide specialist information and advice on various issues including consumer issues, employment legislation, social security benefits, money advice, health, housing rights and other legal matters.

As a resident of Moyle, you can speak to a CAB advice worker (without an appointment) at the following locations:

**BUSHMILLS - COMMUNITY CENTRE**
Mondays - 9.15-11.30am

**BALLYCASTLE - SHESKBURN HOUSE**
Mondays - 1.00-4.00pm
Tuesdays - 10.00-11.30 & 12.30-4.00
Every Tuesday of the month except the 1st Tuesday

**CUSHENDALL - OLD SCHOOL HOUSE**
1st Tuesday of the month
10.00-1.00 & 1.45-4.00

Moyle District Council contributes in excess of £13,000 per year to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), which is then match funded by the Department of Social Development for the provision of this Advice Service in our district.

To access advice by e-mail, log on to:
www.citizensadvice.co.uk

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**Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Area Partnership**

**Causeway Coast and Glens (CCAG) Tourism Partnership** works in partnership with Tourism Ireland, NITB, the region’s six Local Authorities and the private sector to maximise tourism business opportunities, visitor numbers and tourism revenue throughout the region. It is primarily responsible for the out of state tourism marketing for the area. As one the partners, Moyle District Council contributes £40,000 per annum to the Tourism Area Partnership. Councillor Colum Thompson and Councillor Padraig McShane represent Moyle District Council on the Board of Directors for CCAG with Esther Mulholland, Director of Development and Caroline Carey, the Acting Tourism Development Manager, sitting on the Board on an advisory capacity. Caroline also represents the Moyle area on the Operational Executive which meets on a monthly basis.

Presently over 400 businesses are represented by the (CCAG), the largest partnership geographically, with 143 businesses from the Moyle area signed up for 2013. The membership comprises businesses from a range of sectors, all benefiting from tourism including accommodation, visitor attractions, restaurants, tour guides, ferries, airlines, public transport, community groups, tour operators, golf clubs, activity providers, etc.

CCAG Tourism Partnership has worked with the local authorities and NITB to finalise a regional Tourism Area Plan 2012-2017 which was launched in July 2012. If you are interested in learning more about CCAG and the benefits of membership, visit www.causewaycoastandglens.com or telephone 028 7032 7720 or email mail@causewaycoastandglens.com

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**Moyle and the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust**

The Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (The Trust) was established in May 2002 as a partnership body with the responsibility of promoting and enhancing the unique qualities of the Causeway Coast and Glens area. It aims to promote a sustainable tourism/development industry for the benefit of visitors and the people who live and work here.

The Trust arose from the work of the Causeway Initiative which brought together a range of different organisations including landowners, local Councils and the farming, tourism, education, environment and community sectors, in effect, all those interested in the promotion of sustainable development within the Causeway Coast and Glens area.

The Trust has core costs of £359,511 and depends on funding from local and central government of which Moyle contributes £11,000 per year. The Trust consists of a Board of 11 Directors, which includes the Council’s Chairman, Councillor Sandra Hunter, Council Officers with tourism and countryside management expertise and observers from the tourism and environment sectors.

The five objectives which constitute the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust’s Business Strategy are:

- To develop sustainable and effective partnerships
- To raise awareness of the unique and special qualities/character, in both landscape and heritage terms (natural, built and cultural) of the 3 AONBs and their surrounding area
- To deliver an excellent protected area management provision for the CCGHT geographical area
- To ensure best practice in sustainable development principles throughout the CCGHT geographical area
- To deliver a sustainable, efficient and effective core activity/management for CCGHT
Local villages in Moyle have been enhanced recently thanks to funding from North East Partnership through the Rural Development Programme Measure 3.5 Village Renewal, and a partnership approach between Moyle District Council and local community groups. The funding is aimed at encouraging village communities to develop an integrated approach to regenerating their village through the production of Village Plans and resulting improvement projects.

**CUSHENDALL**

Aidan McPeake, Director of Environmental Services explains that “In Cushendall, we worked with Cushendall Development Group and created eleven community allotments on the Cottage Wood site, which already have a very impressive display of vegetables. Also in the Cottage Site, we have created a wild flower meadow and a new pond surrounded by plants. The village car park was also revamped with the creation of 10 much needed carpark spaces”.

The Development Group also used part of the funding to produce re-usable jute bags in an environmental drive to stop the use of plastic carrier bags. They also worked with the business community to create a new business web-site directory. The website [www.glenbusiness.com](http://www.glenbusiness.com) provides an excellent opportunity for local businesses to promote themselves.

**BUSHMILLS**

In Bushmills, we worked with Bushmills Community Association to redevelop Hamill Car Park. Previous work which involved the installation of a coach stopping area was further enhanced with the revamping of the car park and the installation of impressive granite picnic seating. An eye-catching granite sculpture, which has taken inspiration from the River Bush and the salmon which abound in it, is nearing completion.

We also provided support to a joint Bushmills Village Forum and Bushmills Trust initiative ‘Brighter Bushmills’. Vacant properties have taken on a new lease of life with imaginatively themed window panels making the town a visitor attraction in its own right.

**GLENARIFF**

In Waterfoot, mindful of the fact that the village has an award winning beach, we have worked with Glenariff Improvement Group on an environmental improvements scheme which promotes the various entrance points in the village. Natural stone walling has been used to mark the entrances to the beach as well as creating natural resting points from which to stop and admire the spectacular views of the coast and the Glen. Work is also planned to transform the area of ground at the bridge into a community seating area with natural stone seating.

In all, each of the villages received investment in excess of £80,000 thanks to public funding through the Rural Development Programme as well as match funding from Moyle District Council and in some cases significant contributions from local community groups.

Louise Scullion Community Services Manager explains that “The Village Renewal approach of working with local communities to identify their needs, to find local solutions and then working in partnership to secure funding has ensured that our local villages have benefited greatly from this funding programme. With further Village Renewal funding bids submitted either directly by Council or support provided by Council to local organisations to submit bids, there are more exciting village projects to come, so watch this space!”

**Did You Know...**

- 7,200 bins are collected and emptied in Moyle each week
- There were 12,880 tourist enquiries at Ballycastle Tourist Information Centres from January 2012 to October 2012
- Rathlin Boathouse welcomed 10,967 visitors between April and September this year
- 2078 dogs are currently licensed within Moyle
- The Moyle district is officially represented by our Councillors on 62 different Committees and Working Groups
- 526 births, deaths and marriages have been registered in Moyle to date during 2012
- 58 Entertainments Licences have been issued so far this year
- Our Community Grants Programme helped fund over 25 events and activities throughout the district over the summer period
- You are entitled to one free bulk collection service per year

**Highlights of Moyle Community Cohesion Project**

The Moyle Community Cohesion Project has increased understanding and tolerance of all cultural traditions in the Moyle District Council area, through sharing and exchange. It is supported by Moyle District Council’s Good Relations Strategy and is funded under the European Union’s PEACE III Programme which is managed on behalf of the Special EU Programmes Body by the North East PEACE III Partnership.

Several successful public consultations have been held in the participating villages of Mosside, Liscolman, Bushmills, Cushendun, the Glens and Ballyvoy, where residents and members voted for representative pieces of art for public display in their village.

Each group participated in workshops which explored personal and community identities and promoted community interaction and engagement. The workshops looked at the issues of cohesion, the archaeological history of an area and the history of Ulster Scots. Participants also engaged in an educational excursion to Derry/ Londonderry, where community relations and public art exploration led to improved levels of trust and tolerance among the project beneficiaries. Each village group will be holding further workshops and would like to encourage members of the public in each village to attend.

The public art process will soon be underway, so if you would like any further information or would like to get involved please contact Katherine Workman, Cohesion Officer, at Moyle District Council on 028 2076 2225 or email kworkman@moyle-council.org

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**Community Grants Programme**

- Over £427,000 has been allocated to community initiatives in Moyle District
- Grants totalling £170,000 were approved in the first round of the 2012/13 programme
- Over 35 applications were submitted for grants in Round 1
- 56 organisations benefited from funding

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**Moyle Environmental Services**

- A total of 28,925 undertakings and reports were completed over the year
- 4,832 littering and graffiti inspections were carried out
- 582 pieces of litter were removed from beauty spots in the village over the year
- 10,987 visitors to the Glens between April and September this year

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**Moyle District Council**

- Over 11,500 tourist enquiries at Ballycastle Tourist Information Centres
- Over 6,000 visitors to Rathlin Island in 2012
- 7,200 bins are collected and emptied in Moyle each week
- 2078 dogs are currently licensed within Moyle
- Over 6000 visitors to the Moyle District in 2012

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**Moyle Development and Renewal**

- Over £80,000 has been invested in community grants
- 425 community projects have received funding
- Over 25 events and activities have been funded
- Over 500 community grants have been awarded

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**Moyle Council**

- Over 11,500 tourist enquiries at Ballycastle Tourist Information Centres
- Over 6,000 visitors to Rathlin Island in 2012
- Over 7,200 bins are collected and emptied in Moyle each week
- 2078 dogs are currently licensed within Moyle
- Over 6000 visitors to the Moyle District in 2012

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**Moyle Peace Partnerships**

- Over 11,500 tourist enquiries at Ballycastle Tourist Information Centres
- Over 6,000 visitors to Rathlin Island in 2012
- Over 7,200 bins are collected and emptied in Moyle each week
- 2078 dogs are currently licensed within Moyle
- Over 6000 visitors to the Moyle District in 2012
FLOOD WARNING - Are you prepared?

FLOOD WARNING - WHAT TO DO

If your area is at risk of flooding, there are things you can do to reduce the impact and damage caused to your property.

You should check local news, weather forecasts and water levels near you and be prepared to put into action any plans you have made to deal with the flooding, which may include:

- **Moving cars, pets, food, valuables and important documents to safety.** Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if it’s safe to do so. If water enters your home do not use it again until the supply has been checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- **Be prepared to evacuate your home.**
- **Make up a flood kit including:** a torch, foil ‘space’ blankets, waterproof clothing, waterproof boots, a battery powered portable radio, rubber gloves, and key personal and business documents. (This includes house insurance details and copies of essential medication prescriptions). Keep the kit upstairs, if possible.
- **Look out for any elderly neighbours or otherwise vulnerable people living in your community.** If possible call with them to check if they need any assistance.

You can also try to stop flood water from entering your home by:

- **Using sandbags, flood barriers and flood boards to prevent water entering through doors.**
- **Sealing airbricks with plastic covers or cloths/towels.**
- **Putting plugs in sinks and baths and weighing them down with a sandbag, pillowcase or a plastic bag filled with garden soil, or a heavy object.** This can help to prevent waste water entering your property during a flood.

What to do if a flood happens?

To report a flood, ring the flooding incident line. This is the only number you need regardless of the source or cause of the flooding.

**0300 2000 100**

This number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This is a non emergency number so if you are in danger or need rescued, call the emergency services on **999**.

**Emergency financial assistance:**

In the aftermath of flooding, you should contact the Environmental Health Unit of Moyle District Council on **028 2076 2225** to check if emergency financial assistance is available and if you are eligible.

**Other useful contact numbers:**

- **Northern Ireland Electricity**
  0845 7643 643
- **Northern Ireland Water**
  0845 7440 088
- **Ni Gas Emergency Centre**
  If you can smell gas, call **0800 002 001** immediately.
- **Northern Ireland Housing Executive**
  03448 920901
- **Councils out of hours number**
  078 8970 7083

You may also wish to contact your local Councillor regarding any flooding in your area. Further government advice and information can be obtained at [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk).

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**Don’t ‘Give a Dog a Bad Name’**

While the majority of dog owners are responsible, a careless few are still giving dogs a bad name by not picking up after their pets in our parks, pavements and open spaces.

Dog waste is not only extremely unpleasant and unwelcome, it is also the perfect breeding ground for bacteria and other forms of infection such as Toxocara Canis which can be a source of illness and disease and puts children at particular risk.

We are determined to tackle the problem, and over the winter months problem areas will be monitored and evening and weekend patrols will be ongoing.

If you let your dog foul and you don’t remove the faeces you can be issued with a £75 fixed penalty. The owner, or person in charge of the dog, gets the option to pay or go to court. If taken to court and found guilty, the maximum fine is £2500 plus court costs.

We would therefore ask all dog owners to keep our district clean and report any regular offenders to the Environmental Health Department on **028 2076 2225**.

**REMEMBER**

When walking your dog - NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT A POOP SCOOP OR PLASTIC BAG

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**FREE MICRO-CHIPPING COMING TO AN END**

In conjunction with the Dogs Trust we have been micro chipping dogs free of charge since June 2011. The free micro chipping offer will come to an end on the 31 December 2012. After this date there will be a charge to have your dog micro chipped. Due to changes to dog control legislation, dog licences can no longer be issued unless the dog has been micro chipped in effect making it compulsory. We would therefore advise anyone who has not yet got their dog micro chipped to do so before the 31 December 2012 whilst the service is free.

At present you can get your dog micro chipped for free at your vets, if you have your dog there for any other consultation.

Alternatively you can bring your dog to the Moyle District Council Offices any Friday morning between 9.00am-10.00am.
**Make ‘Getting Fit And Healthy’ YOUR New Year’s Resolution For 2013**

There are many benefits to improving your fitness, including meeting new people, discovering new interests and generally feeling better and healthier.

Club Pulse Fitness Suite at Sheskburn House Ballycastle boosts a state of the art gym which is full of everyday people of all shapes, sizes and ages, who are all looking to get fit …and stay fit!

Why not call down and let our fitness instructors take you on a tour of the gym? If you decide to join you will be given a full induction where you will be shown how to use each piece of equipment along with the smart card system. You will also get your own individual training programme designed according to your goals and limits. Other benefits enjoyed by members include the many classes available, such as Optimum Fitness, Spin and Pilates as well as the opportunity to finish off your workout by relaxing in the sauna.

**Club Pulse is open:**
Monday to Friday 7.30am – 10.00pm & Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm.
For further details Tel: 028 2076 8559.

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**Moyle District Council’s Corporate Plan**

The Council’s Corporate Plan is now available to view or download at:

[www.moyle-council.org](http://www.moyle-council.org)

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**CHRISTMAS RECYCLING**

Please place all Christmas cards in your blue recycling bin and your real trees can be shredded and sent for composting by bringing it to Carneatly Amenity Site, Moyarget Road, Ballycastle

**OPENING TIMES**

**Winter (Oct – April)**

Monday – Friday 10.00am – 4.15pm
Saturday 10.00am – 5.45pm
Bank Holidays 10.00am – 5.45pm

**Summer (May – Sept)**

Monday – Friday 10.00am – 6.45pm
Saturday 10.00am – 5.45pm
Bank Holidays 10.00am – 5.45pm

Closed Christmas Day

**Recycling Facilities Available**

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**Council Services Go Online At**

[www.moyle-council.org](http://www.moyle-council.org)

In recent months you may have noticed the appearance of a new section ‘Online Services’, in the top left corner of our website.

Councils are now required to provide facilities online for the licensing of various local business activities, such as Entertainment and Food Premises.

Currently there are 16 types of licence, permit, registration or notifications where you can apply and pay online. These can be found under the Business Licensing and Registrations heading. You can apply online or download an application from our website – alternatively, please telephone 028 2076 2225 and request one to be posted to you.

You can also apply online for the Tennis Tournaments that are held in Ballycastle during July and August. New online services planned over the coming months include:

- Ordering new Bins
- Dog Licence Renewals
- Caravan Site Day Bookings

If you have any queries or suggestions for Council services which you would like to see online then please email us at info@moyle-council.org
POLITICAL SPEED DATING

Political Speed Dating once again proved popular with our local young people. Organised by the Good Relations Officer, Tracy Walker, it was held here at the Council Offices, where Councillor Colum Thompson won the Certificate of Appreciation for the second year running!

This fun, annual event has been taking place for some years now to coincide with Local Democracy Week and there’s a bit of light-hearted competition between the Councillors as they are marked on approachability and listening skills by the young people.

One of the main aims of Local Democracy Week is to encourage Councillors to meet with people from their local communities, especially young people. Each year, Moyle Youth Council help plan and support the event and this year they also had help from members of the Teen Ballycastle group. Taking part in the event gives young people a chance to meet their local Councillors, learn more about local politics and chat about issues that matter to them. In turn, our Councillors also get the opportunity to meet some local young people and find out about their issues and concerns.

For more information on any upcoming events and programmes please contact the Good relations Officer on 028 2076 2225.

Ballycastle Community Carol Service and Christmas Switch-On

The Ballycastle Community Carol Service & Christmas Lights Switch-On will take place on Thursday 6 December 2012 in the Diamond, Ballycastle at 6:15pm.

This year’s festive event will be opened with performances from each of our local primary schools. This will be followed by the joint Cross and Passion and Ballycastle High School Choir and a joint Blessing from representatives of our main local Churches.

DJ Jake will open the second half of the night around 7:20pm with fun and music and the countdown to the big Switch-On and of course there are rumours that the old guy with the red suit and white beard will be making an appearance too!

Everyone is welcome, so please come along and join in the Christmas spirit!

For further information and programme details, log on to our website: www.moyle-council.org or telephone us on (028) 2076 2225.

Help Make Life Easier for the Emergency Services

In order to facilitate the Emergency Services and indeed various delivery services, it is important that property owners clearly display the allocated street/road number, to help locate them much easier.

It is also an offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995 for the owners/occupiers not to mark their property with such a number. Failure to do so can result in summary convictions leading to a fine.

Anyone who requires a number to be allocated to their property, should contact the Building Control Department at Moyle District Council on 028 2076 2225.
Community Matters...

Bushmills Salmon And Whiskey Festival
Celebration of Local Culture, Heritage and Produce

The Bushmills Salmon and Whiskey Festival was held in September and was organised by the Bushmills Traders Association in association with various community groups and organisations.

The Festival was named after the two products that Bushmills is most famous for - its Salmon and Whiskey - and celebrated the local culture, heritage and produce. It highlighted the village’s world jewels; Salmon fishing on the River Bush, the Salmon Research centre - one of the top three facilities of its type, as well as the Old Bushmills Distillery – the oldest Licensed Distillery, famous worldwide for its Whiskey Produce, which recently celebrated its 400th anniversary.

On the day, there was fun for all the family and events included vintage cars and fancy dress parades, culture talks, music and entertainment, cookery demonstrations and much more.

The day’s events were rounded off with a spectacular fireworks display which was organized and managed by the Dunlop Brothers.

The organisers would like to thank all who volunteered on the day, all sponsors and fundraisers including the National Trust, The Old Bushmills Distillery, the Ulster Scots Agency, the Bushmills Inn, Moyle District Council and Ballyness Caravan Park and everyone else who helped to make the day the success it was.

Bushmills Community Association

Throughout 2012 Bushmills Community Association (BCA) has forged links with other Community Groups. Two days were spent on a Good Relations Programme entitled, “My Culture and Me” along with Dunseverick Community Association. Feel free to call into the Community Centre to see the resulting artwork.

Members of the group have also worked closely with The Giant’s Causeway Community Association on a number of occasions, including successful Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

BCA and the groups mentioned above also joined forces with Rathlin Community Development Association and went on a fact finding visit to Cloughmills, Ballygalley and Broughshane, bringing back a wealth of new ideas to help improve their own areas.

Bushmills village was the venue for the Salmon and Whiskey Festival which was a resounding success and BCA is proud to have been a part of it.

Looking ahead, our Senior Citizen’s will sit down to a delicious Christmas Lunch, hosted by BCA on 13 December 2012. This will round off a great year for the group, as members look forward to 2013.

Are you struggling with debt? Help is at hand.

Advice NI and Debt Action NI offer accessible debt advice services to people worried about their money and experiencing financial difficulties. The service is free, confidential and independent.

Debt Action NI advisers can help people cope with everyday financial struggles. They can assist with maximising income, budgeting and working out how much money is available to pay debts and which debts need to paid first. They can contact creditors and try and get them to freeze interest, waive charges and accept realistic repayment offers. Depending on the client circumstances, they can support with and advise on the range of debt relief options including Debt Relief Orders and IVA’s. They can also help in cases where an individual is at risk of eviction or has received a repossession order on their property.

Debt Action NI is funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment, coordinated by Advice NI and supported by Payplan. They can be contacted by Freephone helpline on 0800 917 4607 to speak directly to an adviser or log-on to www.debtaaction-ni.net to send an appointment request or speak with a virtual adviser. People can also text ‘Action’ to 81025 and an adviser will call them back or they can contact their local adviser, Annmarie O’Donnell on 028 7034 2966.