

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the third edition of the PEACEPLUS Newsletter. As Chair of the Fermanagh and Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership, I am delighted to share the progress being made as the PEACEPLUS Programme continues to deliver positive outcomes across our district.

In April, the PEACEPLUS Team hosted a Networking and Information Event at the Strule Arts Centre, Omagh, marking the launch of the implementation phase of the Local Action Plan. The event showcased a wide range of PEACEPLUS-funded opportunities in skills development, volunteering, health and wellbeing, youth engagement and cultural awareness, while encouraging communities across the district to get involved in the exciting programmes now underway.

This edition highlights the progress made across our PEACEPLUS programmes over recent months, showcasing the positive impact these initiatives are having in communities throughout Fermanagh and Omagh, while also highlighting upcoming opportunities. I hope you enjoy reading about these achievements and encourage you to take part in the many exciting free programmes PEACEPLUS has to offer.

Councillor Errol Thompson, Chairman of the Fermanagh & Omagh PEACEPLUS Partnership



Project Officer Caitilin Jones with participants at the 'Environment for All' Programme's Bicycle Repair Workshop, where participants learned practical maintenance skills while supporting community-led sustainability through the Repair Café initiative.



The 'Exploration of Our Cultural Roots Through Music' programme launched its first theme, Irish Country Music, through 6 weeks of social dancing classes, culminating in a shared 'Final Fling' celebration of music and dance.



The 'I Want You to Know About Me' Programme officially launched in May, with Council Chair, Councillor Barry McElduff and members of the LGBTQIA+, Traveller and Newcomer communities in attendance with representation from the PEACEPLUS Team.

FERMANAGH AND OMAGH PEACEPLUS LOCAL ACTION PLAN - Programme Updates

Creating Thriving Communities Across Fermanagh and Omagh

The 'Enhancement to Existing Community Spaces and Halls' Programme continues to make good progress. Refurbishment works have been completed at Youth Sport Omagh, with Omagh Community House and works at Trillick Leisure Centre and Fintona Ecclesville Centre nearing completion. Procurement is underway for improvement works at the ARC Healthy Living Centre, Teemore Shamrocks GAC and Errigal Ciaran GAC. Works at Aughakillymaude Community Association, Enniskillen Rangers, Cashel Community Centre, Melvin Hall, Gillaroo Cultural Centre and Melvin Recreational Complex remain on track for completion by the end of August 2026. Share Discovery Village works plan to be on site in September 2026.

Bringing Communities Together Through Better Spaces

The 'Outdoor Recreational Capital' Programme is gathering pace, creating and enhancing inclusive, welcoming outdoor spaces, helping to bring communities together, encouraging shared use. The programme will transform community spaces across the district. Funded through PEACEPLUS, with match funding from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, works have been completed at the play parks in Lack and Ederney and Cavanaleck. Works continue at Derrygonnelly Community Centre, Owenkillew Centre - Gortin, Killyfole, Dromore, Buchanan Villas - Killyclogher, and the transformation of Glennan Park and McIvor Villas.



Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Councillor Debbie Coyle and Chair of the PEACEPLUS Partnership, Councillor Errol Thompson, are joined by Stewart Burns, Cleansing Manager and Michelle McGinley, Play Parks Officer at the official opening of the new play parks in Ederney (above) and Lack (below).



Investing in Youth Spaces

Plans for the **'Capital Youth'** Programme are moving forward, with proposals to create shared activity youth spaces for teenagers to meet and socialise in green space developments in Enniskillen and Omagh.

Training Today's Volunteers

Fermanagh Trust has successfully completed the first wave of courses as part of the **'Investing in Community Volunteers'** Programme, with applications now open for two exciting opportunities. The Fermanagh Young Leaders Forum, offers a free seven-month programme for young people aged 17–25. Participants will develop leadership skills and explore community development. The Diploma in Community Development Practice is a part-time accredited programme designed for volunteers, community activists, committee members, and those working in the community and voluntary sector, the programme provides practical learning and insights into effective community development. For more information contact: sonya@fermanaghtrust.org.

Shaping Healthier Lifestyles Together

The **'Connecting Communities Through Wellbeing'** Programme has completed the Consultation and Engagement phase of the project. Partners are now collating feedback to develop an Action Plan for programme delivery. ARC Healthy Living has also launched a guest group to trial the Hero of Health App, a user-friendly digital platform designed to promote healthy lifestyles and empower people to manage their own health, helping to reduce GP workloads. For more information contact: jenny.irvine@archlc.com.

Exploring Heritage, Sharing Stories

The Exploring Local Heritage workshop brought together the Omagh Heritage Forum and Cavan Orphanage Committee to reflect on the project and discuss proposals for memorial spaces at the Omagh Workhouse and St Joseph's Orphanage, Cavan. Following a competitive tender process, a contract has been awarded to deliver the next phase of the **'Exploring Our Local Heritage'** Programme. Over the next 18 months, the initiative will engage more than 350 residents in discovering,

interpreting, and celebrating the unique heritage of local towns, villages, and rural communities. For more information contact Isabel Brennan: Isabel.brennan@fermanaghomagh.com.

Youth: Skills, Fun, Community

The **'Community Youth'** Programme, led by Todds Leap Outdoor Activity Centre with AB Coaching and Insight Solutions, have held three Multi-Sports Creative Activity Camps in Irvinestown, Omagh Youth Sport and Omagh Leisure Complex for young people aged 11–16. The camps helped build teamwork, confidence and new friendships. Further Activity Camps are to follow.



For more information on future camps in other DEAs contact: Joanne Harte: joanne@toddsleap.com.

Ideas to Action: Greener Communities

The **'Environment for All'** Programme continues to support greener, more connected and sustainable communities. A Repair Café webinar and visits to established Repair Cafés provided local groups with the knowledge and inspiration to develop their own community-led initiatives. Successful groups have also received gardening equipment and resources through the Supporting Community Gardens and Greener Towns & Villages schemes, while schools and community groups are delivering environmental projects, including community growing and litter-picking initiatives. Participants also took part in a cross-border visit to Carrickmacross Tidy Towns and a practical Bike Repair and Maintenance Workshop to learn new skills and share best practice. For more information on upcoming events and workshops, contact: caitlin.jones@fermanaghomagh.com.

Journey Through Our Musical Traditions

The 'Exploration of Our Cultural Roots Through Music' Programme, led by Dun Uladh, officially launched in March offering a wide range of free events and activities. With four key themes: Irish Country Music, Showband & Dance Hall Era, Songs from Home, and Irish & Ulster-Scots Traditions. The first strand, Irish Country Music, completed in June with the hugely popular Social Dancing classes. Participants learned a variety of traditional dances including jive, quickstep, foxtrot, waltz, line dancing, and two-hand dances. For more information contact Anne-Marie: peaceplus@dunuladh.ie.

Celebrating Identity, Building Connection

The 'I Want You To Know About Me' Programme, designed by FOCUS, fosters peace, integration, and cultural understanding, supporting ethnic minority communities, LGBTQIA+ Irish Traveller groups. The programme officially launched in May and will see activity over the next 12-18 months delivering arts and crafts workshops, community cafes, podcasts, short film, cooking workshops and cultural events. It will focus on enhancing integration and create opportunities for people from all backgrounds. For more information contact: projects@omaghfocused.org.

'Voices for Change' Programme

Women's Aid Fermanagh & Omagh is delivering the 'Voices for Change' Programme, promoting healthy relationships and stronger, safer communities across the district. Consultation events have now been completed across all District Electoral Areas (DEAs). Feedback from participants will help shape the programme's design and delivery, ensuring it reflects local needs and priorities. Through workshops and community engagement, participants will explore topics including healthy relationships, bystander intervention, trauma-informed practice, gender-based violence awareness, and challenging racism, hate crime and sectarianism. For more information, contact kerrie@fermanaghwomensaid.com.

Promoting Inclusion Through Language and Cultural Understanding

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will lead the 'Language Support' Programme to deliver initiatives Celebrating Cultures and Diversity, including ethnic minority language support, Irish, Ulster-Scots and sign language support training. These programmes will promote inclusion, celebrate diversity, and strengthen connections across communities. For more information contact: peace@fermanaghomagh.com.

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For more information about the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan or to register your interest in participating in a programme, please contact the PEACEPLUS Coordinator at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council on 0300 303 1777 (local rate) or via email at peace@fermanaghomagh.com. Visit our webpages: <https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/services/community/the-peaceplus-programme/>



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

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