

Hollywood Shared Town

Annual Report

For the year from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018



Hollywood Shared Town is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in Northern Ireland and a registered charity.

Its company number is NI 617275 and its charity reference number is NIC 101962.

Its registered office is % 3 Bangor Road, Hollywood, Co Down, BT18 0NT.

During the year the directors were:

Simon Bridge

Tony Buckley (resigned 23 November 2017)

Christine Layton (resigned 21 April 2017)

Bill Lockhart

Robin Masefield

Trevor Ringland

John Woods

Sacha Workman

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Hollywood Shared Town (HST) is to help to build mutually supporting working relationships between the many organisations, groups, businesses and institutions in the Hollywood area to encourage and enable them to work together to create a more cohesive, shared space which reflects and celebrates the diversity that exists within the community.

Its vision is that it will thus help to build within Hollywood and the surrounding area the 'social capital – the network of contacts which provide mutual support, advice, encouragement, information and other forms of assistance - which helps local groups to work better for the benefit of the community of those who live and work in the area.

In doing this its objective is the development of Hollywood as a shared town which is:

- a) a safe and welcoming place for people to live, learn, work, socialise, raise children and do business;
- b) a place of high quality of life supported by a strong community and local economy;
- c) a place with a vibrant cultural scene and attractive physical appearance; and
- d) a place characterised by respect and toleration for difference and respect and pride in the locality's history and built and natural heritage and environment.

ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

The activities undertaken and/or supported by HST during the year from 1st April 2017 to 31 March 2018 can be considered in the following four categories – and more detail about them is provided in the subsequent paragraphs:

- Activity membership. In 2016 HST changed its articles to create a category of activity members. This was done to facilitate the inclusion within Holywood Shared Town of groups which would struggle to organise and/or seek charity registration as separate entities. Following this in 2016-17 Patchwork and the Redburn Youth Group were accepted as activity member groups and this year the Holywood Men's Shed also joined - and Redburn Community Café.
- Contributions to Holywood's cultural calendar. This year not only did HST continue its annual Culture Night initiative but it also held a 'Big Tea'^{*} to consider how this and other cultural contributions might be further developed.
- Activities for young people. As well as facilitating the Redburn Youth Group HST also held a 'Big Tea' to facilitate a wider discussion about the needs of young people and the support for them.
- Environmental activities. In particular through Holywood Men's Shed, which operates from the old stable yard at Redburn, HST has provided and/or assisted a range of initiatives to encourage the conservation, appreciation and use of Redburn County Park.

ACTIVITY MEMBER GROUPS – facilitating group activity

Community Café

In September 2017 the then dormant Redburn Community Café provided refreshments for the Redburn Community Centre open day organised by the groups using the Centre. Later in the year it organised a Halloween party and then, in the new year, the weekly café was started again in the Centre on a trial basis to provide a weekly drop-in opportunity, especially for mothers and children.

Hollywood Shared Men's Shed

After several years of independent existence Holywood Men's Shed applied to become part of HST with effect from 1 June 2017. This greatly strengthened the governance arrangements and accountability of the Men's Shed and all members of the Shed are activity members of HST and can vote on matters relating to the Men's Shed.

The Holywood Men's Shed aims to provide a friendly, inclusive and safe environment for all members, where they can gather and/or work on meaningful projects at their own pace, in their own time in the company of others. It has the following objectives:

- To provide a social and workshop space for members.
- To provide all members with opportunities to share their skills and experience and to learn new skills.

^{*} For HST a 'Big Tea' is a facilitated discussion about an issue of relevance to Holywood. A 'Big Tea' is typically held in the early evening in a suitable venue with refreshments provided - and with invitations being issued to a people from a wide range of local interests as well as from relevant statutory bodies.

- To plan for a range of activities to encourage health and well-being.
- To provide a safe and friendly environment.
- To promote the well-being of all residents of and visitors to Hollywood.

Membership is open to all people over the age of 18 although in practice the majority of members are over the age of 50. Many have gone through life transitions, such as retirement, illness, bereavement or separation. Somewhat uniquely membership is also open to women but the males form a considerable majority.

The Shed operates from the Old Stable Yard in Redburn Country Park under license from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It is open seven days per week, 365 days per year. Most of the buildings are sheds and cabins donated by the general public, along with much of the equipment. There are two large sheds for woodworking, one for arts and crafts, a number of smaller storage sheds, a polytunnel and a cabin with a kitchen for socializing. Many people using the country park visit the Shed, they are always welcome and appreciated and this helps create a great community spirit. Visitors are also a ready source of new members. All visitors are offered a free copy of a booklet on the history and flora/fauna of Redburn Country Park and encouraged to come back.

The Shed aims to operate a low cost, sustainable model. Much of its income is generated through donations for wood products and plants which have been made or grown by members. These are on display in the Yard throughout the year or at stalls, such as at Hollywood May Day Fair.

Highlights of the year were a number of family events run by the Shed primarily for local families. These included forest schools, foraging expeditions and Halloween and Christmas parties. Not only did these have an element of local environmental education (and followed an earlier 'Big Tea' about the Park) but they also created an opportunity for parents and children jointly to enjoy themselves in the open air with games, craft activities and a shared communal meal. It is hoped to repeat and expand on these activities in the year ahead. Another highlight was the creation of a small "enchanted garden" in the area outside the Yard. It includes a number of wood sculptures and play/picnic areas for local families by whom it is much appreciated.

Shed members report that they get a lot of satisfaction from serving and sharing with the community in this way.



Patchwork

The Patchwork group meet once a week in Redburn. Each member can either work on the class project or get help and advice on their own sewing projects. The members like meeting with others who share the same interest in sewing. They report that they get ideas and inspiration from the tutor and class members and enjoy getting out of the house for a couple of hours and spending time on something that they enjoy doing. They also enjoy the company and all problems and aches and pains seem to be forgotten about during the class.

Most of Patchwork's members live alone and report that the companionship is everything to them. Also old skills, such as patchwork, are kept alive. They love the chat, comparing what they make and say that makes for a most interesting and animating experience. This can be all the company they have during the entire week – for them it's a really worthwhile few hours!

Redburn Youth Group

In 2016 HST had responded to a request from residents in Redburn to help them to establish a youth club and, with the assistance of the North Down Community Network' Housing Executive funding was obtained for a pilot and a group was formed at the beginning of 2017. After the pilot the youth group was able to continue and was then successful in obtaining an Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery to enable it to operate during 2018.

The group generally met once a week but its programme of activities included a residential and during this the young people were engaged in conversation with the leaders. This provided some feedback about the benefits of the group although there was a level of scepticism to be overcome and, for example, when responding, some young people could not fully believe that the leaders would be genuinely interested in what was being said. "No one has ever taken a real interest in my opinions before" was not an uncommon retort. However one of the leaders reported that one of the most heartening pieces of feedback he had received was in a discussion during the residential when one 14 year old boy declared that he had 'rediscovered that "good clean fun" was the best kind of fun'.

HST therefore believes that the project has:

- Helped to prevent anti-social behaviour by developing contact with and between young people at an early stage and providing them with alternative activities.
- Helped to bring people in the Redburn area together and to build relationships between them. It is interesting that at an open day in the centre it was for the children's activities that most people came.

CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS - a programme of creativity

HST has long held the view that creativity in all its guises can play an important part in its work and ambitions. The town is fortunate to have a number of great arts events spanning a range of activities that create excellent highlights throughout the year.

Amongst these events is Hollywood's Culture Night, It is part of a wider initiative that takes place on the same date across Ireland. Hollywood's sixth Culture Night event was in September 2017 and it attracted an estimated 5,000 people to the numerous performances and happenings taking place in the High Street. The poor weather earlier in the day may have deterred some but there was a noticeable increase in the younger age

group, below 18 years old. The town was brought alive with a host of activities including displays, music, dance, fashion and circus. A huge 'thank you' is owed to the funders and hard-working volunteers who made this happen.

In March HST held a public 'Big Tea' to discuss 'Creative Holywood'. Over 55 people came along to exchange ideas and air views about how HST might develop an artistic calendar for the town. There was agreement on a number of priorities including setting up a steering group, undertaking an audit of existing activity, creating a Statement of Intent, securing the involvement of schools, considering a marketing mechanism for all Holywood's arts events, fundraising and, in the longer term, creating a dedicated arts venue with full-time staff.

A survey carried out in Holywood during Culture Night 2017 found that nearly 90% of attendees said they were very or fairly satisfied with the event and would actively recommend it. The variety and diversity of cultures was praised, especially the friendly and community feel, the showcasing of young people performing and the different cultures. To build on this, and take forward to priorities suggested by the 'Big Tea', a small group is working this and HST hopes that over the coming year it can make further progress in developing its aspirations for a 'Creative Holywood'.



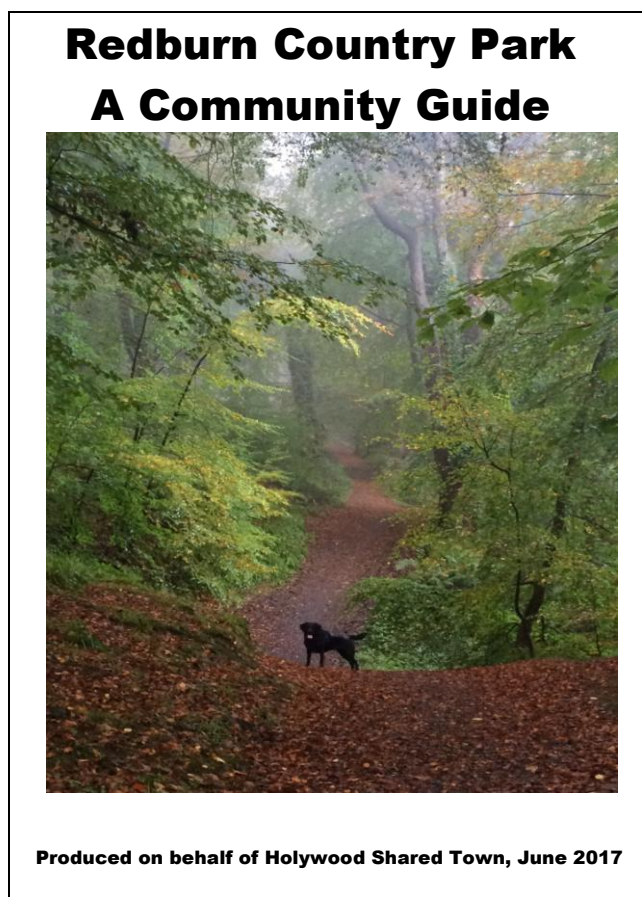
YOUNG PEOPLE – support for Holywood's future

In May 2017 it was reported that a 'crisis meeting' was held in Holywood in response to complaints by residents about under-age drinking and anti-social behaviour. In June 2017 Holywood Shared Town (HST) and the other groups using the Redburn Community Centre conducted a survey of residents in the Redburn housing area which indicated that what people most wanted for the area was more organised activities for young people. As reported above HST had already responded to a request from residents in Redburn to help them to establish a youth club and an evaluation of its pilot quarter reported that it had engaged with over 30 local young people aged between 9 and 15 who resided within easy walking distance of the Community Centre. A high proportion of them lived with a single parent, and four of them lived with state-appointed guardians who do not have any parental rights (which proved challenging when registration or consent forms required parental signatures).

However to explore further what might be done and to foster contact between the various interested groups in Holywood, HST organised a children and young people 'Big Tea' in February 2018 to answer the question '*How can we give our children and young people the best start in life?*' This created an opportunity for 60 people working in the town professionally and voluntarily with children and young people to meet and learn about each other's work. Some of the key messages from the event were that the

voice of children and young people needs to be heard, that there is a lack of facilities and services for those in the 12+ age group, that marginalisation and inequality have a real effect on children's mental health and early years experience, and that paramilitary control is an issue that needs to be addressed.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES –care for our historical and natural heritage



Following the earlier 'Big Tea' held in 2016-17 to explore ideas for developing and utilising Redburn Country Park HST has continued to work in close liaison with the Holywood Men's Shed, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and other organisations to make the Park more accessible and interesting. Among the relevant initiatives were:

- The publication in the summer of 2017 of a Community Guide to the Park outlining its history and highlighting its key features. (Copies are available at Redburn Community Centre and the Men's Shed.)
- The initial clearance, led by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), of the historic garden behind the former Redburn House. Further developments took place in 2018 including further work by TCV, again with local residents helping as volunteers.
- A survey of the former garden site in early summer 2018 by the Ulster Archaeological Society Survey Group. An expert team was engaged in surveying, mapping and recording the site the results of which will be brought together in a public report
- As reported above Holywood Men's Shed have also continued their programme of public events, with a particular emphasis on young people and intergenerational opportunities.

OTHER ENDEAVOURS

Liaison activities

HST has continued to respond to invitations to participate in consultation initiatives, such as the liaison meetings about the recent Redburn Square public realm work. In doing this, and if necessary linking with other groups also, it has endeavoured to represent local views and wishes so that they can be heard and considered.

Sports

During the year HST continued to participate in discussions about sharing sports facilities in Holywood. There is agreement between the Football, Gaelic and Rugby clubs who are working with the Council on the concept of a shared pitch with a 3G surface and flood lights to be used not only by all three clubs but also for the benefit of the wider community including the local schools. The discussions have also been about the development of sports facilities at Seapark and the wider concept of a community sports hub – and with working with the schools on opening up of more sports facilities for community use.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND BENEFIT DELIVERED

The activity reports above indicate not only what HST did during the year but also why. Therefore HST's main achievement has been to continue to develop and enhance its contribution to Holywood, and the surrounding area, in accordance with its purpose and vision. The following table indicates how the key activities contributed to HST's objectives and therefore how they helped it to continue to deliver its projected public benefit.

<i>HST's objectives</i>	<i>The year's activities– and their contributions</i>
A safe and welcoming place for people to live, learn, work, socialise, raise children and do business	The Redburn Youth Group provided organised activity for young people and the children and young people 'Big Tea' both discussed their needs and facilitated networking between providers to improve communication and joined-up provision.
A place of high quality of life supported by a strong community and local economy	Patchwork and Men's Shed both provided social activities for mainly older people – a form of interaction which much improves their quality of life.
A place with a vibrant cultural scene and attractive physical appearance	Culture Night is a significant part of Holywood's growing and varied cultural calendar and the culture 'Big Tea' explored how this could be further developed with the wide variety of others contributors.
A place characterised by respect and toleration for difference and respect and pride in the locality's history and built and natural heritage and environment.	HST's 'Big Teas' are held specifically to share ideas about key issues for Holywood. The current programme of activities in Redburn Country Park are in part a follow up from the earlier 'Big Tea' and help to promote an awareness of, and an appreciation for, both its history and natural heritage. HST's efforts to liaise with other contributors, including participating in consultations on improvement initiatives, helps to ensure that local views on Holywood's environment are informed, heard and considered.



IN CONCLUSION

Accounts and reserves policy. Hollywood Shared Town's accounts for the year area attached which show the charity's financial position. They indicate that, at the end of the year, the charity had funds of £9,869. Of this £7,418 was reserved for specific activities, having been raised for those purposes, which left unallocated reserves of £2,451. HST's policy is to ensure that it has enough reserves to cover contingencies such as having to close the company. However, as it has no outstanding liabilities and no staff with redundancy commitments, its obligations in such an eventuality would be minimal.

Governance. Hollywood Shared Town's Board of Directors confirms that in its governance of the company it has had due regard to the Commission's guidance and its public benefit requirement.

Acknowledgements. Finally the Directors would like to thank all those who helped them in all their various endeavours. The activities reported above could not have been done without their assistance.

6th December 2018