

## **Minutes of Maghera Community Group Meeting**

Date /Time/Place 30/9/2021 7.30pm - St Joseph's PS

Attendees;

Mick, Matt, Neil, Karen, Gavin, Bronagh, Stephen Knight

**Stephen** from St Joseph's PS discussed

- the need for a safe route to school for children in the village
- connecting the network of walkways that already exist to allow routes to be developed to Newcastle, Castlewellan etc

Stephen explained that he used census maps of the area to identify walkways that already exist in the area. He then approached Conor Mallon and Laura Devlin (Down District Council) to discuss the possibility of developing and connecting these walkways. Conor Mallon advised that this is a good time to access money for this plan as Nichola Mallon (Minister for Infrastructure) has made money available through 'Money for Greenways' in council areas.

Stephen had already done a lot of work and showed the maps with the routes clearly marked.

He explained how DFI are currently promoting an Active Travel Initiative to

- Reduce congestion
- Link communities
- Promote physical and mental health

Stephen also explained that local farmers/landowners have already been approached and made aware of the ideas being considered. (ZERO negative response so far!)

He also explained that DFI requires a consultant to be appointed and paid for by the council who will liaise with the landowners concerned before funding can be considered for a walkway/cycle way. Stephen was clear to point out this was only his approach and that the (hopefully) final project may look entirely different but this seems like a really good approach.

The group thanked Stephen and Chris McCann (and the school in general) for the use of the school as it is a fantastic facility. Stephen also mentioned that the school are very happy to have the community group present in the school and are willing to help the group where they can.

Meeting finished at 8.15pm

Committee agreed to continue discussion with Stephen with regard to plans

To look at availability of grants

To locate and organise the necessary paperwork for a Community Charter

Date for next meeting to be agreed.

Email: [magheracommunitygroup@outlook.com](mailto:magheracommunitygroup@outlook.com)

Phone: 07517687020