

Riverine Community Park

Ezine

April 2022



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Citty & Strábane
Districk Council

Introduction

The Riverine project is a unique project creating a shared community park and activity space, offering a variety of indoor and outdoor facilities, as well as activity programmes, which will bring communities together on a cross community and cross border basis.

Project Funding

€8,962,540.60 has been provided under the Shared Space objective of the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB). This is broken down into €7,618,159.51 from the PEACE IV Programme with Government Match-Funding of €1,344,381.09 provided by the Department for Communities NI and the Department of Rural and Community Development Ireland.

The project is being jointly developed by Donegal County Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council and aims to transform two currently unused open natural spaces of 30 acres, linked by a pedestrian and cycle bridge across the River Foyle.

The vision is to create a neutral space which allows the whole community, regardless of age, race, religious background, or ability, to get active, develop new friendships, find new interests, create a positive, connected, and energized future.

The Riverine Community Park Project aims to address the impact of the conflict in the Lifford and Strabane area, and its hinterlands, by regenerating the border riverside area to create a cross-border community park straddling the River Foyle. It will be a shared space to bring communities together from both sides of the border, to re-connect and to form new, long-lasting connections and relationships.

Donegal County Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council have compiled this Ezine to update Elected Members, members of the Riverine Community Forum and all interested stakeholders.

Planning & Design Update

Task	Geographic Area	Status
Planning	NI Planning Application	PAN and PACC have been completed and the application submitted February 2022. Currently being assessed by DCSDC Planning Dept.
	ROI Planning Application	Further information requests received from An Bord Pleanála with a response date of 28 th April 2022 Including details of the underwater archaeology survey.
Design	NI /ROI	Detail design on going
	Play Equipment	Detailed design commencing on play equipment, design to be arranged shortly.
	Bridge and Embankment	Ongoing detailed design workshops with Department of Infrastructure Rivers / Office of Public Works / A5 WTC Project Team

Programme Update

The anticipated programme for the design is as follows:

Milestone	ROI	NI
Submit Planning Applications	September 2021	February 2022
Receive Planning Approvals	June 2022	Sept 2022
Tender for Construction	August 2022	October 2022
Commence Construction	November 2022	January 2023
Complete Construction	November 2023	December 2023

Partial Log Boats discovered during Underwater Archaeology Survey

Boat No.1



Boat No. 2



Land Acquisition:

Negotiations to purchase the land necessary for the project are ongoing in both Lifford and Strabane with all landowners engaging positively with the project.

Riverine Community Park Overview



Proposed Bridge to ensure best connection on both sides of the park



Community Hub Building – front aspect



Community Hub Building – side aspect



Community Animation Programme

The Culture & Peace Activity Trails project is progressing by Brilliant Trails with the Community Engagement Plan and they will be recruiting for a series of workshops shortly. This will provide an opportunity for the public to be involved in creating a number of unique, community-led interactive trails within the Riverine area.

Riverine Community Forum

The Riverine Community Forum meetings resumed on 29th March 2022 on an online basis, after a short delay. A replacement Donegal Youth Council Officer joined the group and was made very welcome. The members were updated on all aspects of the project, including the capital project, trails update and tenders. The next meeting is scheduled for 26th April 2022 and will be hybrid and hosted by a member of the forum in the DCSDC area.

Angling Fair

The North West Angling Fair was held at Melvin Sports Hall in Strabane on 2nd and 3rd April 2022. The Community Animator organised a promotional stand for the Riverine Community Park project. Public interest and excitement with the future development of the Park was very encouraging.

North West Angling Fair



This project is supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)