



Glen's Healthy Places Programme

Participatory Budgeting across the Glen's

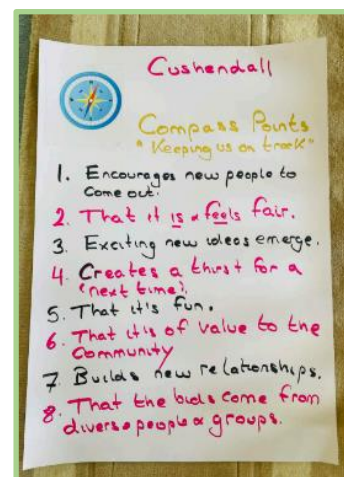
Learning Briefing August 2022

This learning brief is part of a series that will reflect on the activities, impacts and learning from the different projects connected to the Glen's Healthy Places programme as they unfold.

Funded by the Community Foundation Northern Ireland, this programme has been developed from a PHA sponsored pilot that was delivered during 2019/2020. Programme activity is co-ordinated by a working group led by Northern Area Community Network that also includes representation from Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Fresh Minds Education and Participatory Budgeting Works.

Participatory Budgeting Overview

As with the Glens Men project, the Participatory Budgeting benefited from rapid implementation based on the learning experiences of the pilot phase. Prior to the delivery of the events, the facilitators organised a series of 'Compass Points' events with each participating village to strengthen local engagement and provide a deliberative platform for residents to co-design their own PB process. The compass points also allowed residents space to create a PB event that was reflective of the need in each village but also the broader aims of the Take 5 framework. This opportunity was important as it increased their stake in the process and allowed them to negotiate what type of outcomes they felt were important as a community.



Scale and Impact of Participatory Budgeting

Since the inception of the project, a total of four Participatory Budgeting processes (which includes the Compass Point events and collation of the bids) have been organised and delivered across the Glens in the villages of Cushendall, Cushundun, Glenariff and Armoy. The table below provides a breakdown of the overall attendance, total and description of the bids submitted, as well as the level of funding awarded by each PB event. Figures for the Glenariffe event are aggregated into the total data row but have not been shared on request of the local PB event committee.

Event	Pot size	Attendees	Bids	Votes	Awards	Award %
Cushendall	£6,000	252	17	4251	13	76%
Cushundun	£6,000	120	14	638	8	57%
Glenariffe	£6000	213	24	6074	10	24%
Armoy	£6,000	202	19	1697	12	64%
Total	£24,000	787	74	12662	43	58%

- In total £24,000 of funding has been awarded (£6,000 per village) to date. This award has been spread across 43 winning projects that were chosen by residents from a combined total of 74 different local bids, representing an overall award percentage across the villages of 58%.
- Cushendall had the highest bid award percentage (76%) and had the most awards with 13 and Cushundun the lowest number of funding awards (8).
- Each individual village funding pot was split into different levels and 38 of the 44 awards (84%) were awarded to the value of £500 or less, 5 awards (11%) to the value of £1000 and 1 (2%) equaling £2,000. In total 787 people have attended the events so far and the combined number of votes totaled 12,662 across the bidding projects.
- Overall, 787 people have attended Participatory Budgeting Events across the Glens. Cushendall attracted the most attendees (252) and Cushundun had the lowest (120). Some of these individuals also attended the compass point events held prior to voting day.

Scale and Impact of Participatory Budgeting (continued)

The event evaluation data showed that typically, participants are female (65%) and aged 26 to 65 although there is representation across age groups. In general, PB has been highly regarded across the Glens villages and three broad factors contribute most to the high degree of satisfaction. These are:

Personal enjoyment in the event (65%) was significant but also that people were happy to participate and vote (56%), the time went quickly (19%), getting involved again (30%) and meeting new people (29%)



Community development effects, in that PB was good for our community (56%), it encouraged community involvement (53%), wide participation (49%) and there were significant intergenerational impacts (38%)



Process effects in venue choice (49%), the fairness (40%) and ease of the voting (37%) as well as the efficiency of local event management (46%)



The diagram below describes one example from Glenariff which shows the extent of local participation, the range of projects that were proposed and how participants gained personal and wider social benefits from the process. It also shows how the process was well organised and efficient and clearly offers an important method for strengthening both local participation and community development.



Event feedback from those that participated in the PB processes as well as attending the events has been predominantly really positive and shown when used in this way, PB can showcase but also help catalyse innovative examples of funded community practice. Post award allocation, it will be important to monitor the effectiveness of this funded work across the different Glens villages. Not just in terms of local community impact but also to explore how such practice could be scaled, embedded or replicated in the context of wider or emerging funding opportunities.