

**ARDS PENINSULA VILLAGES PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024/25
GIVEN AT AGM ON 26TH JUNE 2025
BY BILL MEGRAW, CHAIRPERSON**

- APVP still meeting every month both via Zoom or in person, with sub group meetings Kite Festival and Heritage being held in person.
- Charitable Status maintained.
- Several Strategic meetings held with local Councillors in terms of promoting the work of APVP and asking for support for the Ards Peninsula villages.
- Continued engagement with Council Regeneration Dept with updates on ANDBC Small Settlement Schemes, Village Plans, etc.
- Engagement with Housing Executive and Supporting Communities, Louise Wallace is APVP representative on HE Housing Community Network.
- Delivered the Ards Peninsula Kite Festival held in Millisle a great event with good press coverage.
 - Funding obtained from ANDBC Events and Festivals and Housing Executive for the Kite Festival.
 - Ongoing revision and development of policies and forms to ensure compliance with ANDBC policies and health and safety of the public.
 - Giant Kites and Sand sculptor on Site;
 - Up to up to 9000 attendees, volunteers survived 1110 of those attending the event and recorded 73% from Ards and North Down Borough, 27% outside the Borough;
 - 8 Food stalls and 13 craft stalls;
 - Kite Design workshop;
 - Broad range of children's entertainment – DJ, bouncy castle, magician, stilt walkers, roundabout, etc all free of charge; and
 - 33 volunteers manning event.
- Ards Peninsula Art Mosaic Project – funding was obtained from Arts Council for NI, to undertake an Intergeneration Art Mosaic project in villages on the Ards Peninsula. This has now been complete with 6 villages completing a village art mosaic, as funding was reduced it didn't allow for a mosaic in each village. Completed works now back with groups in the villages of Ballywalter, Carrowdore, Greyabbey, Millisle, Portaferry and Portavogie.

- Ards Peninsula Heritage Trail sub group has been meeting to explore pursuit of it and have engaged with ANDBC Heritage Officer. Currently exploring possible funding towards development of village heritage maps and Ards Peninsula Heritage Map.
- Update undertaken of APVP website, also continued updating to APVP 2 Facebook Pages ie Ards Peninsula Village Partnership and Friends of Ards Peninsula.

Thanks

Thanks were to the management committee of APVP for their continued engagement and commitment to APVP. Thanks also expressed Carol Day (co-ordinated Craft Stalls at Kite Festival), our Traders at Kite Festival, Housing Executive, Supporting Communities and our MLAs and Councillors and ANDBC Council Staff from Regeneration Dept, Heritage Dept, Parks Dept and Community Development Dept. And to CDRCN for help and secretariate.

We'd like to thank and pay tribute to Robin Holliday and Michael Johnson (non Trustees) who has been on the APVP Committee and passed away this year. Also we'd like to thank Jo Scott and Louise Wallace (non Trustees) who have because of other commitments have made the decision to step down from the Committee their input has been invaluable.