

Chairpersons report on behalf of

Kinallen Rural Community Development Association.

Year 2020-2021

In starting this report, I wish to highlight on behalf of KRCDCA committee our deepest thanks and appreciation to the local health care workers and all essential service staff who have worked so diligently over the past 18 months during what can only be described as the most difficult of circumstances. Your service will hopefully never be forgotten, and with continued appreciation shown.

Let me continue by saying that as the pandemic hit and continues to impact our locality and the rest of the UK we as a committee have had to change our direction, with this having a large impact on both what we can run and what we are able to offer the good people of this area. Unexpectedly we have ended up being busier than ever before and had the opportunity to offer new services. This resulted in the opening of a local food bank for those experiencing food poverty. The food pantry has in many ways become a bit of a beast regarding volunteer hours each week and the level of work involved. On average we cover around 30 miles per week, offering everything from three-day emergency food packs to weekly supplementary hampers to those in financial hardship. This work has been greatly helped by our volunteer Duke of Edinburgh students who keep us on our toes and feeling young at heart. They are a credit to their families and Schools.

We had also been offering care calls and a pharmacy run for those having to socially isolate. These have now finished with the end of aspects of lock down that had made them a necessity. They had their own challenges for the volunteers as we saw the

impact on our more vulnerable residents of being isolated from the contact they so desperately needed.

We unfortunately did experience the death of some of these people and that was difficult to accept and process. However, it was our greatest pleasure to be part of their journey and listen to their stories.

On a lighter note, we also joined up to the 'live he.re love here' 'adopt a spot' and had many enthusiastic new adopt-a-spot litter pickers. We hope to be able to host a thank you BBQ for these wonderful team in the next few weeks. Part of the grant that we got from 'live here love here' enabled us to offer an outside garden space for those needing time away from their family during lock down. We are thankful that we were able to finish off the large outside planters at the back of the hall with trees, plants and shrubs.

Alicia Hamilton took on many of the social media interactions including favourite recipes, craft ideas, and interacting with the hub club aged children which has grown rapidly. Our Social Media account grows each year with the normal lost cats, found keys and sharing important local information.

As a committee we continue our ongoing work developing and maintaining the infrastructure of the village. As stated, each year we continue to suffer from dog excrement being left by some walkers but are thankful that this seems to be improving in the hotspots of previous years. We have again and again had to contact council to have them clean up the park from excess litter, remind them to empty the bins and to have the area weeded and moss removed from the equipment. This play park is not fit for purpose, is situated in the wrong area, and is not maintained as other parks in our council area. We would be wrong not to thank councillor Tim

McClelland who has taken a great interest in this issue and has facilitated numerous Zoom and on-site meetings with council and the local PSNI community officer. We will leave this as a work in progress.

- We were glad to finally see the work at the crossroads finished and it has been widely used, the planting has not turned out to be of the quality we had hoped for, but we continue to work with the parks department to maintain this and will hopefully have additional spring bulbs planted this autumn ready for next year. We envisage seasonal planting also next year and are at present awaiting confirmation on this.

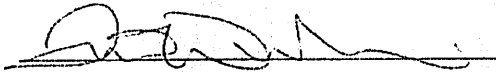
As you can see, we have been busy and as the chairperson I would like to offer my deepest thanks to all those who have helped us during this past year. As volunteers your time is priceless to us and it is never overlooked, thank you.

In finishing may I also publicly offer my most sincere thanks to all who have made donations to the food pantry via Harry's store Kinallen and at the Eurospar Dromara. We also would like to thank Marty at Moore meats Dromara who provided meat parcels for a family at Christmas past and to Carnbrooke meats Dromara and to Harry's store Kinallen for the donation of prepared Christmas dinners for those in need, also thanks to True word ministries Kinallen who provided the starters and desserts for these meals. Combined we provided a full Christmas meal to those who really needed them. We would also like to thank- Bryan and Jules at the Lagan View Arms, Dromara who held a BBQ and raised enough money to fill 3 carloads with much needed groceries. If I have overlooked anyone it is with regret for you all have truly represented what is best in our isolated rural community. As a village with no public transport within our council area your care for each other is uplifting and a pleasure to see.

I recommend this report to you all in the hope you will forgive my shortcomings and with deep appreciation to have been chair this past year, my sincere thanks to the committee and my vice chair.

- I will finish by saying a massive thanks to my wife Elaine and Son Nathan who have supported me and helped without complaint.

Andrew Dickson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Dickson', written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson KRCDA