

# From Moyasta to the tip of the Loop: Life here in 2027

## Six Trip Adviser Reviews from 2027 organised by number of words

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### Trip Advisor Review – Loop Head Peninsula 2027 - 121 Words

After 7 years of not being able to visit Kilbaha, I was shocked at what improvements Loop Head had been through.

It is now a thriving place that draws tourists for its quintessential Irish charm as well as it's community driven outlook. Myself and a group of

friends had great fun attending various concerts in small and charming venues along the Loop Head Peninsula, there is a great passion for the local art scene here in the shape of galleries, pottery lessons, a small theatre and various small music venues. There are also many tours around the Loop Head Peninsula which helps you get a feel for the way the locals live here.

It is a budding, artistic and inspiring part of the world.

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### Trip Advisor Review – Loop Head Peninsula 2027 - 320 Words

Loop head has changed so much in recent years, I can remember only a few years ago the place was full of life in the summer but right after there would be a steep drop off in the winter & I always felt that there wasn't anything to do once the tourism businesses closed for winter but nowadays the local community is vibrant year round from the tourism high in the summer to lots of community activity in winter, like weekly community swims, a local tag rugby league run between the community through the local GAA clubs. There's even a men's shed used by the whole community where a lovely group of people showed me how to do some gardening and simple home DIY tricks and I've even taught some of them simple tech tips.

When I first moved back home in late 2019 I was fearful of losing my job down the road or not be able to apply for a certain role because I wouldn't

have access to the required broadband speed that I would need as the requirements had been increasing for businesses and the local providers at the time couldn't guarantee the upload speeds required, however because of the hard work from the loop head together initiative, the local reps & people in the area that fear faded and my mind calmed over the years. Now there are even more people living here because of the opportunities this has brought to the area, some new faces, some old faces.

Another accomplishment I have seen come out of the group effort was the sheer resilience the community had when it came together with the right ideas to bolster the agriculture, horticulture & fishing communities in the loop. Now when I go to a local restaurant for a meal a lot of the produce has come directly from a local source whether it's microgreens, veg, meat or seafood.

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### Trip Advisor Review – Loop Head Peninsula 2027 - 640 Words

I am very proud to be living here on the Loop Head; a peninsula where safe and meaningful progression of both people and place is paramount; a peninsula, whose community came together in 2020 to create a development plan which placed a new importance the future viability of life on the Loop for all.

In these short seven years, huge strides forward have been taken with an ongoing **regeneration phase** of our local towns, villages and rural townlands and a growing and more diverse all-year-round population. Sustainability, both environmentally and economically, remained at the fore and the heritage and natural bio-diversity

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of the area remained protected and at its very core.

Housing was tackled using a two-pronged approach; a combination of putting life back into derelict buildings in our towns, villages, and more rural areas and, also working with the local authority to agree on a **positive lean in the area of planning permissions** annually.

**Specialised EU grants in the form of rural regeneration funds**, were sought and won specifically to help landlords bring certain buildings back to life and placed on the market, both for rental and for sale – with the sole condition that they go to long term lets or where possible that a buyer would commit, in theory, to living and working in the area (issue with owners’ rights here I suspect??)

**Trusted and agreed sewerage systems** have been adopted and the villages have really started to return to life.

**Incentives** were proposed and agreed upon through the local authorities to encourage individuals, couples and families to live in the town of Kilkee, the villages on the peninsula and their environs – from **exciting tax breaks to a state of the art digital infrastructure and the establishment of other local amenities such as shared working spaces, a local gym and fitness centre and a specialised primary care centre nearby**. All local sporting clubs availed of a **specialised Loop Head Sports Facilities and Amenities grant** to help do up and maintain their clubhouses and grounds, which are now reaping the benefits of a growing population.

Loop Head is powered entirely by **energy created on the peninsula**. With our own **community windmill** which is now finally generating enough power to maintain the whole peninsula itself and

is also powering other areas, thus producing an income for the local community groups.

**Agricultural biogas digestors** have made our farms almost entirely self-sustainable energy wise and we now have a strong young farming community who have banded together to create a **Loop Head ‘slow food’ collective**, which are now so popular and marketed so well, they supply stores all over Ireland. They have also created a **network for agri-tourism offerings**.

**Adult education is now provided** regularly in our various digital hub meeting rooms and state of the art local hall facilities. We have a range of **apprenticeships now available** on the peninsula itself and have attracted **many small new micro industries** to set up their companies out here, where the quality of life for them and their staff will increase productivity and happiness in the workforce. The windfarm has created **local employment** and many large companies are promoting that their staff now **work remotely from our peninsula**.

Local businesses are really feeling the benefits of an all year round increase in footfall. The **demand for all services has increased** across the board and has thus opened up **further employment opportunities** across all those sectors from agriculture, to energy, to construction, tourism, education and retail and hospitality.

Our Healthcare is vastly improved to cater for the boost in population. The numbers of this population influx are observed and **managed very carefully, and constant regular reviews of the development plan are carried out** to determine if there are any areas of weakness emerging or areas where our focus needs to be directed to next.

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[Trip Advisor Review – Loop Head Peninsula 2027 - 967 Words](#)

Monday 16th August 2027

Loop Head - 5 \*\*\*\*\*

We first visited Loop Head on a family staycation after the Covid pandemic in 2020 had brought Ireland and the world to a standstill.

We were blown away by the magnificence of the scenery and the lovely people who live on this peninsula. It was exactly what we needed to feel free and breathe fresh clean air after months of lockdown and fear.

It was evident in 2020, that this remote area had escaped the speed of progress in other parts of Ireland and with a dwindling population, lack of jobs and entertainment young people and families were being forced to look elsewhere for jobs, careers and education.

Our family believe that in a strange way, the pandemic has lessened the divide between the progressive modern Ireland and the Loop Head Peninsula. Haven't we all been contemplating the challenges we now have with how we interact with our our world – and now we seriously consider sustainable farming, recycling, plastic free products, environment and climate change in everything. All communities have looked inside to see how a better future can be made.

And this is what now brings me to the 'nitty gritty'.

It was under great pressure in 2020 that local people on the Loop Head Peninsula put forward an action plan to preserve Loop Head, to make it thrive, to attract investment, industry, excellent schools and healthcare. A tall order under tight time constraints.

The real beauty of this plan that it was to be engineered by locals - the people on the ground – not a city bureaucratic scheme.

So bringing you right up to date, we haven't been here for seven years and in that short space of time - we are conscious of initiatives, developments and projects that ensure the identity of this gem of a place and also safeguards the future of the population.

The land of 'surf and turf', not the dish commonly found on restaurant menus, but a peninsula with a unique setting flanked on either side by the mighty Shannon river and the Atlantic.

Tourism has been developed and who wouldn't love coming here - but it's seasonal.

The working groups secured funds, and with that came support for initiatives that would enhance rather than take away from what they knew they could build upon. Remember, the old saying, 'you never know what you've got until it it's taken away.'

So I shall start with the 'surf', it was obvious that contact had been made with other areas across

Europe that had faced the same time of decline as Loop Head – but had managed to concentrate on resources.

1. The mighty River Shannon offers her bounty to assist Loop Head. The setting up of oyster farms and salmon farms along her banks is now evident. There is an industrious fish processing plant – all the fish is sustainable and mostly line caught – this has been advertised successfully and is now held with high regard. These two enterprises offer opportunities for local fishermen, entrepreneurs and for visitors to learn about fishing, fishing management, quotas systems, etc.

2. The second - which was pioneering – is the production of sea salt. This little company filters seawater through charcoal, gentle heating it with locally produced renewable energy to create a salty brine that is left to form sea salt crystals! They go one step further by smoking the sea salt crystals with different flavours. This has created production line jobs and valuable insight into the rules and regulations regarding harvest and quality.

3. An enterprising farmer has marketed his salt marsh lambs and pigs for the food chain. Now a 'must have' speciality in restaurants throughout Europe. Whilst a fisherman has his own oak smoker for fish he catches - all great marketing and packaging.

4. The building trade – on our first visit we were shocked at the number of ruins on the Peninsula – why hadn't they been fixed up? Funding was secured to mark these ruins for rebuild using the initiative of employing young people under the direction of a master craftsman on dry stone wall building. Unique skills like thatching that were nearly extinct have been rejuvenated and so much of what was great in the past traditions has been preserved.

5. A cottage hospital which also deals with minor injuries is now near Kilkee overlooking the Atlantic.

6. It is evident that creatives are attracted to Loop Head Peninsula – the peninsula has its own local sculptors, painters, writers, musicians etc. People have also taken Dingle as an example where it tiny church (80 capacity) houses Other Voices which is aired on RTE and attracts top musicians worldwide. There is a plan to seek permission for one of the churches on Loop Head to be used as a

venue to celebrate the wonderful musical talent of the Loop and of visiting singers and musicians.

7. Workshops and Master Classes for artists, musicians, etc attract so many longer stay visitors and are relished by many local inhabitants. The interactions are magical.

8. Retreats – spiritual or otherwise are dotted about the Peninsula with an increasing presence for alternative therapies – when we first visited there was only the wonderful seaweed baths in Kilkee. Again, this expansion of these globally sought-after services has created job

opportunities. It is known that Loop Head has a ley (energy) line running through it: such a great feeling.

9. In Kilkee, which is a pretty seaside resort with a magnificent bay - now also has a world class cinema experience that easily competes with leading alternative venues in Dublin and elsewhere. Water sports are present there under excellent tuition. Their cafes are to die for.

**Finally**, there is now Wi-Fi throughout the Peninsula – which opens up another world of opportunities, connections and sharing.

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### **Trip Advisor Review – Loop Head Peninsula 2027 - 1,570 Words**

As I wake up on 1st June 2027 and look out across the estuary to Kerry from the Loop Head Peninsula, where I live, I feel good about handing over a part of our country to our children better than the one bequeathed by our parents. I remember the slow depopulation and growth of Holiday Homes, lived in no more than 3 to 4 weeks a year. Despair and emigration with the return in summer on holiday was the accepted way back then.

I look out on the Marine Protected Area which extends around the bays of the area, and remember the battle to have our sea area included in the new European Initiative in 2021. I thank the initiative in late 2020 (LDP) when the Loop at last realised it had a voice and a power.

I leave the house and drive to Kilkee for my shopping in my electric car, quiet and non-polluting, and am grateful to be part of the European Area Electric Car (EAEC) trial which chose Loop Head as one of the areas in Europe to evaluate the benefits and costs. Loop Head is now in the forefront as one of the leaders in cost/benefit for all energy and transport initiatives within Europe. The amazing school bus and local transport system run by Loop Head Transit (LHT) which uses methane to run its buses came out of this initiative. The ease of walking around the wild cliff areas and been able to hop on and off these buses is a miracle.

I pass the four Anaerobic Digesters on the Loop which make the methane from cow dung are now a part of our drive for Ireland to be zero carbon by

2030. The 95 jobs created by this initiative is a huge bonus to the area. It is great we do not have the slurry spreading, at sometimes environmentally challenging times of the year, with the resultant pollution of the water system. Now pellets are spread with no damage to any natural system as they fertilise the land without effecting the water.

As I pass the beautiful hedgerows at last left alone where safe to do so to encourage biodiversity and green corridors, I smile and give thanks that the over flailing of the hedgerows has stopped and that, when it is done, there is not cutting out of season. The same seems to have happened with weedkiller and poison. Such great partnerships have sprung up from the Loop Head National Park Centre in what used to be Querrin School. This Centre is a umbrella organisation for all Ecological and Biodiverse Groups in the area and has within the like of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, West Clare Wildlife Club, Loop Head Bog Nature Reserve, along with many more and holds courses and talks that has led to a highly innovative farming community supported by an equally understanding and willing local population with a mission to support the environment whilst still making a good living. It's numerous outdoor meetings led by experts are always fully subscribed by locals and tourist alike. Outdoor talks on birds, outdoor walks for flora and fauna ,whale watching and recording, to practical outings like picking periwinkles to spearing razor fish and of course how to cook and eat the joys of the shoreline.

I drive into Kilkee, park up in one of the three main car parks and wander down the pedestrian O'Curry

Street and enjoy looking at the variety, colour, and business of the local shops. I go to one of the most popular shops Organic Loop Produce (OLP) which produces on its 30-acre site in Clarefield the most amazing variety of seasonal vegetables and fruit. It has 17 full time workers and is one of the successes of the new way. I collect my order of fruit and vegetable and continue to the Old Courthouse which is now a Museum and Genealogy Centre to drop in correspondence. It also houses the Kilkee and West Clare Heritage and History Group which hosts a website and Facebook page promoting the Heritage of the area. They hold numerous meetings every year during the busy summer and winter and have a large following. They conduct history tours and do one to one genealogy tours for people whose ancestors were born on Loop Head. Graveyards on the Loop are now some of the best maintained in Ireland due to the Genealogy aspect. I remember when the car ruled Kilkee and am happy to see the that people again matter. The coffee shop is now more numerous than the pub and people are enjoying family places to drink, eat and especially talk. Great to see the art and design shops mingled among the more commercial outlets. The Irish School of Music and Dance is certainly keeping the young around and about and even though it is only open a few years it has a waiting lists for pupils. The Uilleann Pipes course is particularly popular and the pubs are alive at night with the Enya sounds.

The roads are now so pleasant with cycle and pedestrian paths all over the Loop. At last we now enjoy more gentle driving, maybe having realise we are going nowhere fast.

Home with the shopping and decide to go for a cycle. First stop Hough's beach for a swim which now has the right of way reopened with a cycle / parking area just above the beach with some dining tables and benches, new steps down to the magnificent half mile sandy beach. I remember the time this could have been lost and give thanks to the changes in attitude that allowed it to be saved for the people. People no longer dump rubbish when the gate is left open.

Next stop Carrigaholt which had its reed bed sewage system installed in 2024. The new developments in the area have give its inhabitants a new lease of life after the years of neglect due to the sewage problem, the Clare Dragoon Hotel,

which replaced the 'The Burton Arms' closed in 1930s, is especially welcome and now the most popular venue for weddings on the Loop. The pleasant pedestrianised square with the refurbished old pier now thronged with happy walkers, cyclists and shoppers and of course Carrigaholt Castle refurbished into a Museum of Local History along with its coffee shop is revered around the county and country. Great to see Carrigaholt now as a rival to Kilkee for new housing units as competition breeds success in this era of online business since Corvid-19.

I walk from Carrigaholt to the Wellness /Adventure centre at what was the old Irish College. The walk along the sea wall around College Bay built after the 2014 floods and now converted into part of the Loop Head Coastal Walkway (LHCW) is one of my favourite sections. The coffee shop at the Centre with its beautiful views and awesome cream buns does help with my decision. The Wellness Centre operates all year round and is always fully booked. The LHCW from Doonbeg through Kilkee, along the cliffs through Moveen and Fodera to Loop Head Lighthouse and back along the south section through Kilbaha, Carrigaholt, Doonaha and Querrin to finally end at the mouth of Poulnasherry Bay is pure heaven and the 55 mile hike is now a must for most tourists coming to the area. The B&Bs in the 5 centres outside Kilkee, which for most is the starting point, make a planned walk easy to organise.

The best however for cycling and walking is the Greenway from Ennis to Kilkee/ Kilrush. It took many years to get our own response to the other great Greenways of Ireland in Waterford and Westport/ Achill. But it happened in 2025 and with the new Moyasta Country Museum which has moved from Kilrush it is a success story and entices those who use it to explore further into the Loop.

Back on the bike and off to Kilbaha and so many roads and ways to choose as the refurbishment of all the byways and footpaths has led to great diversity and choice. Kilbaha after its town planning exercise and implementation in 2022 is a Mecca for small art and craft shops and the village is now a true competitor for Kilkee and Carrigaholt as a place people want to stay, explore, spend and enjoy. The courses on art and crafts are especially well liked and some of them (Textile and Plastic) attract worldwide audiences. The Lighthouse Centre in Kilbaha is now one of the four hostels on

the Loop. These hostels are not large dormitories like in my day but small en-suite units that accommodates everyone from tourist to student.

The boat trips from the harbours around Loop Head with the commentary on the geology and wildlife is a must in this area. Kilbaha also has numerous outdoor geology courses and complements the Geology Centre in Kilkee. Kilbaha is also famous for its photography classes and the new Night Sky Unit is a must for most visitors.

On to the Lighthouse, and bar the refurbishments in 2021, nothing much has changed and that is good as this is the wild untamed beautiful Loop Head.

I cycle home content and happy to live in a place reclaimed by the people for the people with a stable population of young and mature folk living life the 'Loop' way.

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## Trip Advisor Review – Loop Head Peninsula 2027 - 1,869 Words

Dear Trip Advisor Reader,

### 1. Introduction

I write about a beautiful place I've just spent two weeks in. That place being the Loop Head Peninsula, located on the furthest point west in the county of Clare, as they say there: 'next parish New York'. On a clear day, with eyes focused on an unending horizon looking west from a lofty lookout on the Loop Head Lighthouse, you can almost see the Lady in the Bay wave at you as she did in welcoming generations of guests from this island's shores.

What a beautiful part of the world! I'm hesitant to even attempt writing about it, reminded of what Seamus Heaney wrote in his poem Postscript about a trip he took along the northern shores of the same county when he suggested it was 'useless to think you'll park and capture it more thoroughly'. Alas, advice not taken here!

Something very much has changed in this part of the world since a previous visit there seven years ago, that time during the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic when we were all released from lockdown to go on 'staycation'. It seems, according to the woman who hosted a group of us on a mushroom foraging expedition early one morning, at that time the community came together to create an ambitious vision for the area with the actions taken since bringing about something magical and becoming a model for other rural communities around Ireland and even around the world.

What hits you first is the air, with, on turning left at Lisdeen to face south or on approaching Kilkee,

a refreshed feeling fuelled by clean air comes over you. Somehow it seems to erase any concerns that may have travelled with you to that point of entry. Then the scenery starts to unveil itself, views out over the Shannon Estuary as you meander along the winding coast road, part of the Wild Atlantic Way, or through the town of Kilkee with its famous horseshoe shaped beach, to travel west on the cliff road by an often-roaring Atlantic Ocean. Even the birds sing with a different resonance in these parts. An assault on the senses! Again quoting Seamus Heaney, one is in danger of being struck by 'big soft buffetings come at the car sideways and catch the heart off guard and blow it open.'

### 2. Something going on here!

What was going on, our mushroom foraging guide explained, was that the population of the peninsula was both declining and aging with this becoming a key concern for younger people wishing for a future in the area. The town of Kilkee and villages had lost the vitality they had from earlier years, becoming especially quite at the end of each summer when the many visitors to the area returned to winter down in their city residents. It seemed like other places were getting ahead, making progress while leaving the peninsula behind.

Though then, building on earlier work people from across the community came together and refusing to accept that the future would be written entirely from the past, began instead to create a new vision for 'Life on the Loop', with it emerging over many conversations as a possibility, forming when time was paused and thought itself allowed to grow. They considered all areas of life and what a future might look like in 10, 20, plus years from

then across each of these areas, recognising that global shifts could be leveraged for a local lift, then collaborating with a wider stakeholder group to share ideas and align how each could collaborate to fulfil on emerging collective objectives.

### 3. Global shift for a local lift!

They saw that climate change was indeed the greatest challenge facing humanity and how Ireland, operating inside its place of influence in the world way beyond its size, could move from a position of being a laggard to one as a leader in taking the actions needed to face this existential threat and create a sustainable world for all current and future peoples. This newly formed mindset informed all considerations by the group infusing it with energy and added momentum.

The group, recognising the proud past that County Clare has had in energy generation for Ireland all the way back almost a century ago when a young new state in its early years placed a big bet on a visionary idea to generate hydro-electricity from the river Shannon's flowing waters on the eastern edge of the county at a place called Ardnacrusha, to then later with the opening of Moneypoint power plant as the energy engine of the state over many decades. Then, in 2020, as the group looked west over the roaring waves of the Atlantic ocean and felt the power of the winds that had washed over them for all time they realised that with these waters and winds they could generate clean energy for all of Ireland and even for export into the European grid, creating high skilled and valued employment in the process. They got to work with others, researching, trialling, modifying and after time building innovative ways to bring clean energy ashore and keep County Clare and the Shannon river at the centre of energising Ireland's electricity supply. Many jobs, high tech and well paid, are being created with the Loop leading and learnings being shared across a connected globe.

Another big step forward came with connectivity, digital technology, high speed and reliable capacity, combining as a game-changer for the community. Connectivity is no longer discussed, it is assumed as an established foundation of the future being created. And what it has facilitated, in terms of enabling employment, education, health and social outcomes, generating a whole new way of life on the Loop with learnings being applied

around the world. One of the initial breakthroughs was in relation to work, with the community group quickly grasping the opportunity of remote working, a concept given momentum by Covid-19. Many people moved to the peninsula availing of the lifestyle then so long desired and facilitated by the prospect of working remotely, some part time, others availing of a new Government pilot scheme to provide for 20% of the public sector to work remotely. Remote hubs under the Clare County scheme DigiClare were developed in each of the villages with respectful restoration of old buildings providing modern new spaces for hot-desking, office facilities, co-working and conferencing. These have been a huge success connecting many different communities and becoming hot beds for far reaching innovations.

Then there was the explosion of all things to do with 'data' – big data, analytics, security, artificial intelligence, the internet of things, monetising – including a whole other world that opened up from concerns around the protection of our personal data by social media companies in particular and steps the EU took led by Ireland's Data Commissioner towards addressing this area of importance.

It along with digital connectivity changed the game, opening up new opportunities for employment with people 'living local while working global'. For instance, our guide's husband, with a farming background, had developed an on-line business facilitating trade in some sort of new currency across the globe among the rich and famous. All the while living in a beautifully restored thatched cottage on this edge of the world while farming goats to make cheese for local restaurants and export by niche suppliers to those with discerning tastes across continental Europe

### 4. Housing

With many people wanting to move into the area for all it offered housing had to be addressed and this had to be done in a way that respected the environment. The first principle applied was to work with and around that which was already in place. Hence old houses, not in use or underused, were prioritised for restoration and new builds primarily located within existing village clusters and the town of Kilkee.

Some further new builds were permitted outside clusters as part of a pilot initiative where established planning guidelines were relaxed, once certain sustainability requirements were met, with learnings taken from a successful scheme introduced in Wales some years prior. Another scheme that supported older people living alone in rural parts to swap their houses for one in the town of Kilkee generated some country houses for families while improving the lives of those that moved by bringing them closer to other people and all the amenities of a local town.

All such schemes and their application came about through processes of open communication and co-creation amongst the stakeholders involved. All developments were also progressed with the need to live sustainably in mind and guided by the principles put forward by Project Ireland 2040, the Clare County Development Plan and other future facing planning guidelines.

## 5. Agriculture

Agriculture also went through further significant change, as it had been doing down through previous generations. This started with a mindset shift towards a concept of 'authentic agriculture' centred on sustainability, built on what was local with a global market in mind. Gone is any requirement or expectation of a 'cheque in the post' to compensate for unsustainable activity. What began to emerge was a belief in the uniqueness of what the lands of the Loop could supply sustainably and how this could be processed locally for sale globally. Micro industries employing a few people, while contributing to the income of others, opened up, linking produces and consumers of niche products never imagined prior to the community creation process.

## 6. Tourism

Authenticity was also a cornerstone of the tourism offering with the value of what was local acknowledged and offered to those visitors that wished to immerse themselves in an experience not available elsewhere. The raw natural beauty of land and sea, taken together with the warm welcome became the foundation on which a sustainable model of tourism was built with those that visited tending to stay longer and spend more than elsewhere. Walking trails, fishing trips, experiencing the west and the welcome it extends were the core components of the offer.

## 7. Process

The importance of the community coming together as a collective to create their future at that time is an important part of this story. The initial work done by the community group, to shape a vision and strategy, was taken out into the wider population amongst all groups, the young, old, village, town, rural, recent residents, long time locals, even the diaspora, all had an input to further developing the ideas being formed and create a aligned view of the journey ahead. Schools, community groups, sports clubs, businesses, the churches, all became involved, seeing how the process would support their interest, how they might contribute to others, all the while a mutual mission was being formed.

This was further supported through a creative conversation constructed by the group with funding from a new Community Arts Grant introduced by Budget 2021. This included getting older people to share their stories of times now past, their thoughts for the future and younger people, through schools and sports clubs, envisioning a future for the area and expressing this artistically, a process managed safely during the time of Covid. A process at the heart of a new future fulfilled.

12<sup>th</sup> October 2027