

Mourne Mountains Landscape Partnership

Café Conversation Response to Q1

1. What are your initial thoughts, feelings, reactions to the project posters on the wall?

- 21 projects – £1.5 million over 4 years is modest
- Voluntary time is vital and community based projects can add to match funding
- Many projects overlap / could be combined
- Like to see some international dimension e.g. musicians / artists from UK / ROI or further
- Rather than combine – make sure there are links between them – Have cohesion and learning between them
- Very impressed by the range of projects and ideas and the number of people involved
- Need to ensure sustainability / archive what is achieved

Response to Q2

2. Which projects excite, appeal to you the most and how might you make them appealing to others?

- Music / Story / Songs – archive
- Arts (community)
- Oral history / storytelling
- Trails and Walks granite history

Group 2:

- General comments:
- What happens afterwards?
- Who will benefit?
- Basic infrastructure first!

Group 3.

Q1. Response

- Wide range of projects
- Much overlap – need for filtering and condensing of ideas and focus of projects
- Good to have a few focus projects – e.g. Cornmill
- It would be important to involve / connect with schools in many / most of these projects e.g. crafts and traditional skills etc.
- Perhaps 'gateway' towns / villages would be excellent to focus on e.g. Hilltown, Rostrevor
- In relation to arts – 'open air drama' workshops could be exciting for young people / adults / and the 'retired'

Q2. Response

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- We are excited about increased access to the Mournes – but better infrastructure / car parking must be in place
- Education in relation to traditional crafts is exciting and essential to inform young people about – spinning, weaving, basket making, dry stone wall building, stone working, fishing
- Interpretive Centre is of major interest as it can involve local community and bring information to visitors

Group 4

Q1. Response

- Why some areas excluded?
- Specify 'Built Heritage' – could mean anything
- Trails of dolmens, gold and granite from Mourne, Bronze age factory at Murlough, Newgrange granite from Mournes,
- Archaeological trail – rolling educational facility
- Importance of traditional Music
- Stories of Archeology
- 5 Easy steps from fishing boats in Kilkeel to Rita Hayworth and Hollywood

Do not exclude Kilkeel. Kilkeel is the Ancient Capital of the Kingdom of Mourne – Only two ancient Kingdoms in Ireland – Kerry and Mourne – The main settlement area for the Mournes has been excluded

Q3. Other concerns and consideration you have –

- Selling concept of project to landowners
- Economic benefits
- Raising income
- Turn resources into products
- Increase money through tourism
- Basic facilities – toilets – (Compost toilets)
- Infrastructure
- Sympathetic Building
- Festivals
- Arts and Crafts
- Storytelling
- Geology and Archaeology
- Opportunity for intergenerational communication – old people visiting schools to share stories

Group 5.

Q1 Response

- Environmental impact of more days on mountain
- Need for more education
- Opportunity to revitalise the countryside

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- Insurance – public liability
- Traditional Breeds- Less farmers – New opportunities to increase farming? Headage payments on black face sheep
- Opportunity for craft development
- Is there a need for restriction of numbers of sheep?
- Sheep would have been helpful to protect heather / would have helped with fires
- Opportunity to develop Mourne lamb
- Tourism trail sounds good
- Stories collection good opportunity – history / tourism

Q2 Response (possibly)

- Local Mourne
- Oral history – need to keep history alive. Need to involve young people – school groups
- Oral history events and living history: Way of Life / Farming / History / Fishing
- Mourne Granite: Needs education programme, easy accessible information
- Whats in it for the local?
- Opportunity to promote craft
- Develop branding of local products
- Need for structured approach to co-ordinate things
- Whats starting point / end point/