

Rural Matters

Special Edition Balmoral Show 2019

Focus On

Rural Community Awards

Grants

Social Enterprise

Listen, Share, Change



Housing
Executive

Welcome to the 2019 Balmoral Show edition of our Rural Matters magazine

This year the Housing Executive stand is situated within the government section of the Eikon Exhibition Centre. We would be delighted to see you there to answer your questions or provide advice.

At the Show we will be promoting the wide range of services that the Housing Executive offers, including energy efficiency and disabled facilities grants, housing and homelessness support, community cohesion support and advice on how we can examine the need for more housing in your rural community.

We will also be launching our 2019 Rural Community Awards, with £6,000 of prizes up for grabs for any rural groups who have made a difference within their community. The awards last year showcased a wide range of inspirational projects, which demonstrated the vital contribution made by community groups in creating and supporting vibrant and sustainable rural communities. Read about how to apply for the 2019 Rural Community Awards on pages 6 and 7.

In this edition we feature the exciting Listen, Share, Change project on page 5. Listen Share Change aims to inspire meaningful conversations which address issues such as history, diversity and conflict that can affect peoples' lives.

On page 8 you can read about Libraries NI Out of Hours Service, which makes key library services available outside normal opening hours in 6 rural libraries. This may be particularly useful for accessing computer facilities and getting online.

We would also like to highlight the grants that are available for boiler replacements and disabled adaptations.

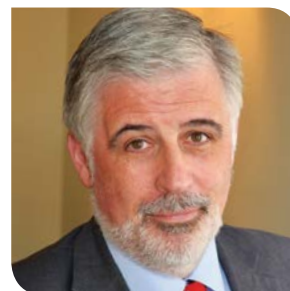
You can find out more about this, including how to apply, on pages 3 and 4.

On page 9 you can find out more about our approach to identifying hidden housing need in rural locations.

Finally, we hope you will enter our competition to win an Amazon Fire. Simply fill-in the slip at the back of the magazine and put it in the box at our stand at the Balmoral Show, or return it to the address shown. The answers to the questions can be found in the magazine. Good luck!



Professor Peter Roberts
Chair



Clark Bailie
Chief Executive



Boiler Replacement

The Boiler Replacement Allowance is a Department for Communities scheme, administered by the Housing Executive.



The Boiler Replacement Scheme is for people who own their own home, to help with the cost of replacing boilers which are 15 years old or older with new energy efficient boilers. To be eligible for assistance you must have a gross annual income less than £40,000.

The amount of allowance payable will depend on your total income, with those earning less than £20,000 receiving £700 for replacing their boiler, rising to £1,000 if time and temperature controls are also being installed. For those earning £20,000 or more but less than £40,000, the grant is £400 for replacing their boiler, rising to £500 if time and temperature controls are fitted.

The work must be carried out by a qualified and competent installer who has suitable experience and expertise. You must use a 'Gas Safe' registered installer for gas boilers.

THE BOILER REPLACEMENT SCHEME PROCESS

1

Contact your local Grants Office to get an application and installer form. When we receive your application form, we will determine your eligibility.

2

You should seek the advice of an installer about the type of new boiler and controls that best suits your needs and request they complete the Boiler Installer Form.

3

We may inspect your existing boiler prior to issuing an approval. If your boiler is eligible, we will issue an approval to install a new boiler. We will also let you know the amount of allowance you will receive.

YOU MUST NOT START ANY WORKS UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED A LETTER OF APPROVAL OTHERWISE YOUR GRANT WILL NOT BE PAID

4

When the work has been completed, you or your installer should submit the following documents:

- Notification of Completion of Works form
- Building Control Completion Certificate
- Installer's detailed invoice showing the name of the scheme and details of works carried out
- BACS form (instruction to pay allowance into a bank account)
- Planning Approval (if required)

5

We may inspect the work following which payment will be issued.

You can apply for a Boiler Replacement Allowance by contacting your local Housing Executive Grants Office on Tel: 03448 920 900

Disabled Facilities Grants

Disabled Facilities Grants are available to make the home of a person with a disability suitable for his or her needs, and are based on the recommendation of a local Occupational Therapist.

Any owner occupier, landlord or private tenant can apply for assistance providing that there is a person with a disability living in the home.

Only works recommended by your Occupational Therapist can be considered for grant aid but typical works may include:

- Making access easier to the bathroom, living room or bedroom
- Providing bathroom facilities
- Replacing a bath with a level access shower

- Making the preparation and cooking of food easier, e.g. by enlarging the kitchen or providing low level units
- Adapting lighting or heating controls
- Improving the heating system
- Addressing items of unfitness or disrepair to protect the safety of the occupants of the house

The amount of grant we pay depends on the approved cost of the work and the financial circumstances of your household. Grant aid up to a maximum of £25,000 is available but you may have to make a contribution towards the cost of the works.

However if the works carried out are for a dependent child, no contribution is required.

To apply your GP or social worker will refer you to your local Health and Social Services Trust. However our Grants Offices will also be happy to advise you about how to apply and to answer your questions at any stage of the process.

To contact your local Housing Executive Grants Office
Tel: 03448 920 900



Making rural communities safer

We are committed to ensuring anti-social behaviour, in all its forms, is tackled appropriately.

While the majority of our estates are safe and popular places to live, we recognise that nuisance and anti-social behaviour are real issues which can have a significant impact on individuals and communities.

It therefore is important that Housing Executive tenants in rural communities know what to do if they are worried about anti-social behaviour.

Reporting anti-social behaviour

Your local Housing Executive office or the PSNI is the first point of contact for those wishing to report anti-social behaviour.

You can also contact us by ringing **03448 920 900** or the PSNI on **101**

If you prefer a relative, friend or representative can make a complaint on your behalf.

We are here to support you

If you make a complaint we will respond in a sensitive way and take appropriate action to tackle the problem while taking your wishes into account. We can organise support for victims and witnesses by making referrals to specialist organisations such as Victim Support Northern Ireland.

We have specific powers to take action against our tenants who commit anti-social behaviour. This can include injunction proceedings, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and possessions. We will also work with partner organisations in the statutory, community and voluntary sector to address the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour to stop it reoccurring.

How we are working to improve community safety

We provide funding every year to develop local solutions to address anti-social behaviour in our estates. Some examples include Community Safety Warden schemes, an independent and confidential professional mediation service, good morning services, home safety schemes, diversionary activities for young people, and intergenerational programmes.



Listen, Share, Change



(Clockwise from top) Award winning author Paul McVeigh, our Belfast Regional Manager Jennifer Hawthorne, Verbal Chief Executive James Kerr, Patricia McQuillan from our Rural Residents Forum and Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive of the Special European Union Programmes Body launched the project at the Crumlin Road Jail.

€ 1.3m PEACE IV funding is being used to transform the lives of over 1500 Housing Executive tenants through the 'Listen Share Change' project.

Listen, Share, Change uses the Reading Rooms model of transportive storytelling to inspire meaningful conversations and in turn address the needs of Housing Executive tenants across Northern Ireland. By engaging participants in reading and discussion around purposefully selected literary works, they will be encouraged to explore and reflect on issues relevant to their own lives such as diversity, heritage and conflict.

The project, led by us and Verbal, aims to build positive relations between people from different communities and backgrounds.

52 communities will be engaged during the project with a view to developing 26 cross-community partnerships.

It will provide OCN Level 2 training in Facilitation Skills for Shared Reading for over 120 volunteers, who will then become Neighbourhood Champions, further implementing the Reading Rooms model at a local level beyond the project term. In addition 104 Future Youth Leaders will promote active citizenship and engagement.

Want to get involved?

Referrals for the Listen Share Change programme are welcomed from agencies and organisations working with young people and can be made by contacting the Project co-coordinator Louise Moore at lsc@theverbal.co

Or via the project leaders at the Housing Executive:

- **Gareth Doran**, (South Antrim, East, Causeway & West), Gareth.doran@nihe.gov.uk
- **Gus Moore** (Belfast North, South, West, East, Lisburn & Castlereagh), Gus.moore@nihe.gov.uk
- **Sean Brennan** (South Mid Ulster, South, South West, South Down, North Down & Ards), Sean.brennan@nihe.gov.uk

**LISTEN
SHARE
CHANGE**
Housing Executive



Is your village best in show?



Pick up an application form at our Balmoral Show stand for a chance to win prizes worth **£1,000** in our Rural Community Awards.

With a total prize fund of £6,000 available, community and residential groups in rural areas can apply for three awards:

- Cleaner and Greener
- Rural Community Spirit
- Sustainable Village of the Year

Each of these awards will have two categories, one for villages with a population of less than 1,000 and one for villages with between 1,000 and 5,000 residents, with a prize of £1,000 up for grabs for each category.

The awards, which are now in their fifth year, recognise rural communities that went the extra mile to make their neighbourhoods a better place to live. This could be by organising a community clean-up, introducing health and well-being initiatives or developing projects that improve community relations.

Tim Gilpin, our Acting Rural and Regeneration Manager, explains how the application process works:

"We have made applying for the awards as simple as possible this year. All residential and community groups have to do is complete a short form which can be downloaded from our website: www.nihe.gov.uk



To be considered for the Sustainable Village of the Year award, groups must apply for both the Rural Community Spirit and Cleaner and Greener awards. They should also write a 500 word statement that outlines steps that they have taken to shape the future of their village. For example, this could be projects that encourage biodiversity, protect local wildlife, create new jobs in the community or help residents lower their carbon footprint."



5 tips for writing an award winning entry!

1

Choose the right category ☒

make sure you choose the category in the Community Awards that best fits the work or projects of your group. You can apply for more than one category if you want to.

2

Leave enough time ☒

give yourself enough time to fill out the application form. You may need to start a few weeks in advance of the closing date so that you don't have to rush it the night before. The closing date is **31st July 2019**. Make sure you don't miss out!

3

Keep it simple ☒

Read each question carefully and make sure your answers are clear and concise.

4

Answer all the questions ☒

An incomplete form won't be considered by the assessment panel so make sure you have answered everything.

5

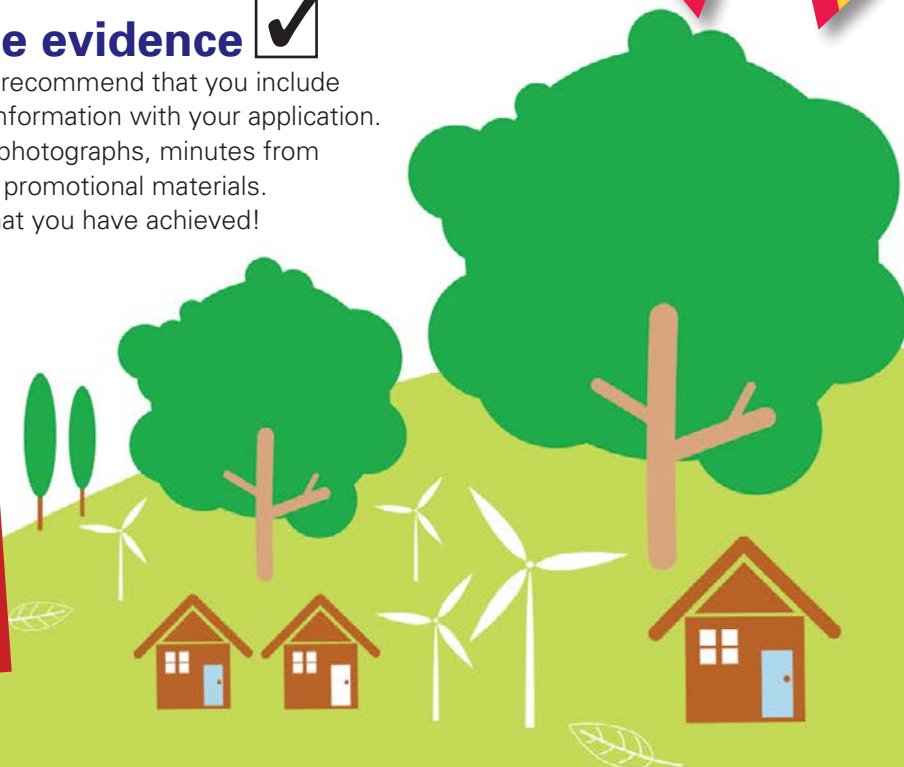
Provide evidence ☒

we strongly recommend that you include supporting information with your application. This can be photographs, minutes from meetings or promotional materials. Show us what you have achieved!



Date for diary!

JULY
31st
2019



The deadline for applications is 4pm 31st July 2019

Libraries NI Out of Hours Opening Service



Libraries NI, with funding from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has introduced an exciting Out of Hours pilot service in six rural libraries across Northern Ireland. The Out of Hours service provides local communities with more options to use facilities at a time that suits them, for up to an additional 35 hours every week.

The Out of Hours service is currently available in the following rural libraries:

- **Dungiven Library**
- **Irvinestown Library**
- **Lisnaskea Library**
- **Maghera Library**
- **Saintfield Library**
- **Whitehead Library**

The Out of Hours service offers adults controlled access to library facilities outside of normal library opening hours. Customers can access a limited but important range of services such as broadband/ Wi-Fi access, printing facilities, study space and book borrowing on a self-service basis.

This service could be particularly helpful for people who have online forms and registrations to complete as it offers increased access

to library broadband, Wi-Fi and computer facilities in areas that may be affected by limited broadband availability.

To access the library as an Out of Hours member, you must be aged 18 or over and be a library member. Children under 18 are welcome to use the service providing they are accompanied for the entire duration of their visit by an adult member.

You will need to attend a short induction event to learn to use the new technology and understand the safety measures involved. If you are not a member you can simply sign up to library membership which is free and open to all.

The current timetable for the Out of Hours Service in participating libraries is:

	Dungiven	Irvinestown	Lisnaskea	Maghera	Saintfield	Whitehead
Monday	5:00pm – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm	8:00am – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 10:00pm	10:00am – 9:00pm	10:00am – 8:00pm
Tuesday	5:00pm – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm	8:00am – 12:00pm and 7.00pm – 8.00pm	8:00am – 12:00pm and 8.00pm – 10.00pm	8.00pm – 9.00pm	7.00pm – 8.00pm
Wednesday	10:00am – 1:00pm and 7.00pm – 8.00pm	8:00am – 1:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 10:00pm	10:00am – 9:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Thursday	10:00am – 8:00pm	8:00am – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 10:00pm	5:00pm – 9:00pm	10:00am – 8:00pm
Friday	2:00pm – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm	5:00pm – 10:00pm	–	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday	2:00pm – 6:00pm	1:00pm – 5:00pm	1:00pm – 5:00pm	4:00pm – 8:00pm	1:00pm – 6:00pm	5:00pm – 8:00pm
Sunday	1:00pm – 6:00pm	–	–	–	–	–

Outside of these times each library is also available during their normal opening hours

Find out more about the Out of Hours service at:
www.librariesni.org.uk/out-of-hours



Give your community a boost with our Social Housing Enterprise funding

Our Social Housing Enterprise Programme can help you create new job opportunities, upskill local people and provide new services in your area.

We launched the programme in 2015 and have invested £500,000 per year so we can empower people living in Housing Executive communities to set up or develop their own social enterprise.

Through our Social Housing Enterprise Programme we've provided funding for:

- Community cafes and bakeries
- Childcare services
- Fitness facilities
- Employment opportunities
- Qualifications
- Health & wellbeing services

When our programme opens in the autumn you can apply for large awards (worth up to £50,000) or small awards (worth up to £1,000) for business start-up and education or training.

Interested?

Then make sure you chat to the Social Investments Team at our Balmoral Show stand.

Did you know?

We also support social enterprises on our estates by leasing our surplus land and letting our voided and commercial properties.

We want to hear from you...

We are currently developing our new Social Housing Enterprise Programme and are keen to hear from groups or individuals in rural areas who live in our estates.

You can chat to our Social Investments Team about setting up or expanding a social enterprise in your area by:

Calling
03448 920 900

or emailing
socialinvestments@nihe.gov.uk

We are hoping to launch our new programme in the autumn this year so make sure you check out our website and social media accounts for more details.



Housing Need Tests

The Housing Executive recognises that because there is less existing social housing stock in rural areas and much of our stock has now been sold, people in need of a home may not register or seek advice in their local Housing Executive office.

Without names on the local waiting list, the need for any additional social/affordable housing will remain hidden and new housing schemes will not be planned. Over time, this may impact on the sustainability of our rural communities.

To try to overcome this, every year we undertake rural housing

need tests in rural locations across Northern Ireland. Through these tests we work with rural communities to encourage those in need of a home to come forward and register on our waiting list. We also promote the range of housing services we offer.

If you think there may be hidden need for social or affordable housing in your area we would encourage you to contact our



Rural and Regeneration Unit at
rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk
so that we can determine if it would be appropriate to carry out a Housing Need Test.

Primary school children dream big!

As part of Rural Housing Need Tests, we've been running 'My Dream Home' art competitions in rural areas across Northern Ireland to encourage people in need of a home to register their interest in social and affordable housing. Since the last Balmoral Show we have held quite a few competitions. Here are a few of the winners!



My Dream Home...



Niall and Erin from St Mary's Primary School, Derrytrasna couldn't wait to open their Kindle Fires. They were presented with their prizes by our staff Denise McNally and Sinead Collins and their principal Mrs Una McAlinden.



Talisha, from Cloughmills Primary School, and Sean Óg Blaney, from St Brigid's Primary School, proudly show off their winning designs.



Aimee and Alfie from St Columba's Primary School in Clady were all smiles after winning the competition in their school.



Liam and Cora, from St. Colmann's Primary School in Lawrencetown, picked up Kindle Fires in January. They took a group selfie with their principal Darragh Tighe, and our staff members Denise McNally and Eoin McKinney.

If you would like to discuss the potential for new social and affordable housing in your area please contact our Rural & Regeneration Unit by email: rural.housing@nihe.gov.uk

Make the call and save money on your energy bills

The NI Energy Advice Line provides householders with free impartial energy saving advice.

By ringing **0800 142 2865** you can get advice on:

- Insulation
- Oil Buying Clubs
- Installing an energy efficient heating system or boiler
- Applying for home improvement grants
- Switching energy suppliers



HANDIHEAT

We've been awarded €2m to research energy efficiency measures in rural homes.

The €2m will be used to fund research that will tackle fuel poverty, identify renewable energy solutions and improve energy efficiency in rural homes across Northern Europe.

The 'Handi-Heat' project, which is run over 3 years, will look at developing a series of resources for government policy makers on sustainable energy solutions for rural communities.

It is being led by us, with support from the Northern Periphery & Arctic Programme (NPA) and the European Regional Development Fund, and aims to:

- document current home energy policy and practice across Northern Europe;

- develop viable business models with innovative solutions to tackle energy problems in rural areas;
- identify opportunities for rural communities to access renewable energy sources and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

Our Chief Executive, Clark Bailie, explains how we are involved in the project:

"Handi-Heat is a fantastic opportunity for us to collaborate with a range of organisations from the Republic of Ireland, Finland, Iceland and the Shetland Islands to find solutions to problems faced by rural householders such as a reliance on home heating oil."



Representatives from partner organisations across Northern Europe launched the project at Belfast Castle earlier this year.

"We will also be upgrading and providing four of our homes in Fermanagh with a renewable energy supply so we can find out how these measures could benefit our rural tenants."

WIN

an Amazon Fire!

We are giving the chance for two of our readers to win an Amazon Fire!

The closing date is 1 June 2019 and we will present the winners in the next edition of the magazine.

You can enter at our stand at the Balmoral Show or simply return the tear off slip to:

**Eoin McKinney, Rural Unit, Housing Executive,
2 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8PB**



1. Name one of the libraries included in the Libraries NI Out of Hours Service?

2. Name the Housing Executive's new rural energy efficiency research project?

Name*

Tel*

Email*

**We will retain your personal data until the competition draw has taken place, after the draw we will securely destroy the information. We will not use or retain your personal data for any other purpose.*

EMBRACING ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS

ARABIC

أنت غل يه فيزي جال غللا نكت مل اذا
يف قدع اس مل اى لى لوصح اجاتحتو مل
عيطتستف ، عيطخاو فيفشل قمجرتل
هذه ريفوت فيذيفنتل انكسالا قمدخ
لكنم يجرى ، بلطلل دن ع فيناجل تادمدخل
نم ليصرفتل اب رمل اذه لوح راسفتستال
يلجل اكتبككم

CANTONESE

如果英語不是你的母語，並且你需要
幫助來進行口譯和文字翻譯，那麼
Housing Executive可以根據請求而提供
免費的服務，請在你當地的辦公室詢問
進一步的詳情。

LITHUANIAN

Jei anglų kalba nėra jūsų gimtoji kalba ir
jums reikia pagalbos dėl vertimo žodžių ir
raštu, jums pageidaujant Housing Executive
gali suteikti nemokamas vertimo paslaugas;
dėl išsamesnės informacijos prašome kreiptis
į vietinį skyrių.

MANDARIN

如果英语不是你的母语，并且你需要
帮助来进行口译和文字翻译，那么
Housing Executive可以根据请求而提供
免费的服务，请在你当地的办公室询问
进一步的详情。

If English is not your first language and you need help with interpreting & translation the Housing Executive can provide free services on request, please ask for further details at your local office.

POLISH

Jeśli język angielski nie jest Państwa językiem
ojczystym i potrzebują Państwo pomocy
w zakresie tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych,
Housing Executive oferuje bezpłatne usługi
tłumaczeniowe na życzenie. O szczegóły
prosimy pytać biuro lokalne.

PORTUGUESE

Se o Inglês não for a sua língua materna
e precisar de ajuda com tradução e
interpretação, o Executivo de Habitação
pode providenciar serviços gratuitos
mediante solicitação, pode obter mais
informações no seu escritório local.

RUSSIAN

Если английский не является вашим
родным языком и вам требуется помощь
с устным и письменным переводом,
Жилищное управление может
предоставить по запросу бесплатные
услуги переводчика. За более подробной
информацией обратитесь в ваш местный
офис.

SLOVAK

Ak angličtina nie je váš materský jazyk
a vyžadujete si pomoc s prekladom a
tlmočením, kancelária úradu pre otázky
bývania (Housing Executive) vám ochotne
poskytne tieto služby bezplatne. Prosím,
požiadajte svoju miestnu kanceláriu o viac
informácií.

SOMALI

Haddii af Ingiriisigu uusan ahayn
luqaddaada hooyo oo aad u baahan tahay
in lagaa caawiyo turjumaadda oraahda
ah iyo midda qoran Agaasinka Guraynta
(Housing Executive) ayaa adeegyo bilaash
ah bixin kara marka laga codsado, fadlan
faahfaahin dheeraad ah weydii xafiiska
xaafaddaada.

For customers with sensory disabilities, information can be provided in alternative formats like large print, Braille or audio. Sign language interpreters can also be provided, but please give as much notice as possible to allow us to meet your request.

Housing Executive