

**Cumann Pheadair Naofa
(St. Peter's GAA Club, Warrenpoint)
www.warrenpointgaa.com**



**CUMANN PHEADAIR NAOFA C.L.G.
COISTE FORBARTHA**

REPORT BY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

TO CLUB AGM ON 27 OCTOBER 2020

18 October 2020

We are currently proceeding towards the end of the process of implementing our second 5 Year Club Development Plan for 2017 to 2021.

This 5 Year Development Plan reflects and integrates the following core parts of the club's planning process and strategy for the 5 year period as summarised below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mission | - Why we exist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vision | - What we aspire to be |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Values | - What we believe in |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Context | - Where we are at (baseline) and who we serve |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action Areas | - What we want to focus on |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goals / Strategies / Actions | - What we want to achieve and in what manner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Measures and Monitoring of Success | - Utilisation of predetermined Key Performance Indicators and review and monitoring of same to facilitate, how we'll know when we've been successful |

The following were identified as **core themes** in the 5 Year Development Plan:

- Volunteerism and retention of people within club family
- Community
- "Whole of family for the whole of life"
- People Centred (not restricted to physical and infrastructure development)
- Joined up thinking and inclusiveness
- TEAM** Cumann Pheadair Naofa i.e. **Working Together Everyone Achieves More**
- Games development and coaching
- Effective holistic plan for facilities, acknowledging in the short to medium term that the club will be operating multi-site facilities
- Consistent with the Official Guide of the GAA (An Treorai Oifigiúil)

We are currently living in extraordinary and unprecedented times due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has greatly affected the club's ability to fully implement its full range of activities. The commitment of club volunteers and members to operate within the framework of the Public Health guidelines and restrictions has been truly inspirational. Working together, much has been achieved and additional activities to support our local community in difficult times have been implemented. Our Senior Committee has continued to meet using virtual communications and a number of unique communications and coaching programmes were facilitated via social media, video and the club website.

Setting aside the challenges of Covid-19, The following continue to be the **key issues** facing Cumann Pheadair Naofa and these are all addressed within the 5 Year Club Development Plan:

- Vision, joined up thinking, clarity and a holistic integration of club activities.
- Ongoing Governance and Club Policies.

- ❑ Developing Coaching and Games Development Plan across all 5 games, including strategy to address player drop-out and retention by the age of 19.
- ❑ What do we need to do to enable the current group of young gaelic footballers, to produce a Down Senior Football Championship winning team within the next five years (up to 2021).
- ❑ Ongoing emphasis to increase participation across all club activities alongside achieving elite performance.
- ❑ Recruitment of adequate and committed volunteers to ensure the delivery of the proposed Club Development Plan.
- ❑ Ongoing enhancement of the finance function, without which it will be impossible to implement the proposed Club Development Plan.
- ❑ Facilities with priority for renewing Strategic Alliance with St. Mark's High School, upgrading dressing rooms, 125 Pavilion, provision of spectator stand at Pairc Liam Uí Ír, proceeding with exciting Joint Venture Project with St. Mark's High School, new Hurling Wall and new Handball facilities. In context of facilities, explore potential for greater utilisation of upstairs room in Clubrooms at Mary Street.
- ❑ Community, Health and Wellbeing Initiatives to further embed our club in the community and increase its attractiveness to all ages and genders.
- ❑ Retention of young people (both players and non-players), and encouraging former players and non-playing members to remain active and maintain a link with Club.
- ❑ Build upon excellent foundations and continue to improve club communications, both internally and externally.
- ❑ Embracing evolving ICT across all club activities to enhance efficiency and effective utilisation of limited resources.
- ❑ Achieve renewal of Club Maith platinum accreditation by end of 2021.

Within the 5 Year Club Development Plan, **Action Plans** were developed under **eleven strategic themes** as listed below:

- ❑ Governance, Administration, Club Policies and Procedures;
- ❑ Club and Community Development;
- ❑ Communications and ICT;
- ❑ Irish Culture and Heritage;
- ❑ Games: Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, Ladies Gaelic Football and Handball;
- ❑ Coaching Structures and Games Development;
- ❑ Youth and Schools;
- ❑ Developing a Healthy GAA Club in Warrenpoint;
- ❑ Development of Club Facilities;
- ❑ Finance and Fundraising; and
- ❑ Social Committee Activities.

The 5 Year Club Development Plan reflects the desired future direction and journey for the Club, the challenge for us all, will be implementation of the eleven Action Plans. We currently review the Action Plans every 6 months and I am delighted to record that we are broadly on target, and in some instances ahead of target. The key target that we would all love to achieve, would be to secure another Down SFC title before 31 December 2021. It certainly has not been for lack of effort and we have

come close over the past two years and we express our sincere thanks to our senior footballers and management team, along with the Senior Football Focus Group.

From a development perspective, the major project over the past 12 months has been the evolution of the Our Vision Project. After much effort, a local community survey in December 2019 and two public meetings, the club submitted its full planning application to Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Planning Department on 20th March 2020 for the proposed extension to its club grounds located at Moygannon. The proposed development comprises a new pitch, ball stops & dugouts, walking track, amenity areas, improvements to existing car park, boundary fencing, two storey pavilion incorporating changing rooms, toilets and meeting rooms over, improvements to existing entrance and visibility splays from Rostrevor Road and alterations and refurbishment of existing changing rooms.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions, the NM&DDC Planning Department did not validate the Planning Application until 22nd April 2020. With the help of our professional advisors, the club submitted detailed responses to queries raised by the Planning Officers and the various statutory consultees on 25th September 2020. This submission can be read from registering on the Planning Portal for Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.

The club is very hopeful that full planning permission for the proposed exciting Our Vision Project development will be secured before Christmas and building works will commence in 2021.

I would like to express sincere thanks to the other two members of the Our Vision Project Planning Sub-Group Gerry Gray and Hugh Carr and the Senior Committee for all their support. Many thanks also to the Our Vision Project professional advisors, led by architect Bernard Dinsmore.

Special thanks to the Our Vision patrons for their continued strong financial support in very challenging economic times, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In this regard sincere thanks to Club Treasurer, Donal McCormack and Assistant Treasurer Shane Lavery for their ongoing support over the past 12 months re monthly monitoring of Standing Orders and co-ordinating information to submit Gift Aid claim. With the assistance of Gift Aid we hope to meet our target of raising £400k over four years from the Our Vision patrons, an amazing achievement, if it can be delivered.

Once planning permission is secured, we will be seeking the support of the Our Vision Steering Group again.

In addition to the priority of moving along the Our Vision project, I believe other initiatives to be addressed over the next 12 months should include utilising the GAA Complete Guide to Volunteer Recruitment, Retention and Evaluation to empower the club to develop and implement a Volunteer Action Plan to recruit additional volunteers and enhance the competencies and outputs from our volunteers. Renewing our Club Maith accreditation and commencing the preparation for our new 5 Year Development Plan should also be priorities.

All Club Policies, Individual Officer Portfolios and Terms of Reference for various Sub Committees were updated and approved on 2nd January 2020. In terms of transparency and communications, all this information, including the Club Organisation Chart is available for download from the club website warrenpointgaa.com

During the past twelve months club officers and coaches have attended a variety of courses and we have further developed our communications (e.g. greater use of Social Media, video, and virtual meetings communication etc.). In addition, Operation Transformation, again, greatly enhanced our Healthy Club and Community Initiative.

In terms of club governance and administration, it is encouraging to note the breath and diversity of our team and membership, including the implementation of a strategic succession strategy and securing record membership of 870 members, of which 412 are youth members.

During the past year, we also completed the very comprehensive Ulster GAA Club Audit Questionnaire and the Sport NI Club Survey.

There is only limited resources, including volunteer time available and I'm delighted to report, that as a result of a great collective team effort, much has been achieved over the past year.

As I step down from the role of Club Development Officer, I would like to record that it has been a great honour to serve this club as Development Officer over the past 5 years and sincere thanks to all, especially the club's senior officers and Senior Management Executive Committee members for their support over the past 5 years.

“The work goes on, the cause endures....”

Onwards and Upwards – the Cumann Pheadair Naofa way.

Is mise le meas.

Fearghal Mac Cormaic
(Oifigeach Forbartha)

18 October 2020