

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 9 NOVEMBER 2021

2 November 2021

We are currently proceeding towards the end of the process of implementing our second 5 Year Club Development Plan for 2017 to 2021 and plans are at an early stage for the preparation of the Club Development Plan 2022 – 2027, which will be assisted by our completion of the new Club Maith certification process.

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:

- Mission** - Why we exist
- Vision** - What we aspire to be
- Values** - What we believe in
- Strategic Context** - Where we are at (baseline) and who we serve
- Action Areas** - What we want to focus on
- Goals / Strategies / Actions** - What we want to achieve and in what manner
- 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 continue to live 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.

In June 2020, the club commenced GAA for All, a bespoke programme for children aged 4 – 14 with additional needs with a focus on assisting participants with ball skills (across all GAA Codes), exercise and more importantly fun and inclusion in a safe child centred friendly environment. This has been a very significant club community development project. 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. This year the club celebrated the tenth anniversary of Ladies Gaelic Football in Cumann Pheadair Naofa.

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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 incorporated into the 2022 – 2027 Development Plan.
- ❑ 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. Much work has already been invested in the review of the current Club Maith process.

Within the current 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.

From a development perspective, the major project over the past 24 months has been the evolvment of the Our Vision Project.

We are delighted to inform you that St. Peter's GAA Club Warrenpoint were granted full Planning Permission on 20th October 2021 at the Newry Mourne & Down District Council Planning Committee Meeting in respect of its Planning Application (submitted March 2020) for the proposed development (of the Our Vision Project) comprising a new practice pitch with goals, ball stops and dugouts, on the former Pony Field, a walking track, amenity areas, internal road, improvements to the existing car park, boundary fencing, a two storey pavilion incorporating changing rooms, toilets with meeting rooms, improvements to existing entrance to the Rostrevor Road.

The granting of planning permission for the Our Vision project development adjacent to the club's existing Pairc Liam Úi Ír facilities at Moygannon is a significant forward step in the implementation of the club's integrated Strategic Plan to facilitate the community development of the provision of sports facilities to service the growing needs of existing and future Gaelic Football, Ladies Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie, GAA for All, and Handball activities in the Warrenpoint area. The proposed project which includes a walking track will also encourage greater community participation in physical sport.

We would like to thank the professional team led by local architect Bernard Dinsmore who assisted with the Planning Application and acknowledge the exceptional ongoing support, commitment and generosity of Our Vision Project Patrons, the help and encouragement from public representatives, including local Councillors, MLAs and MP and also thank the GAA at county, provincial and national level, and Community Finance Ireland for their support.

With anticipated public funding support to complement the great efforts of Our Vision Patrons, field ground works are expected to commence before May 2022, and it is hoped the overall Our Vision capital development project could be completed before the end of 2023. A small dedicated Our Vision Focus Group is determined with support from the Senior Committee to see the successful delivery of the Our Vision Project.

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. Completing 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 30th March 2021. In terms of transparency and communications, all this information, including the Club Organisation Chart is available for download in dedicated section from the club website warrenpointgaa.com which has been redeveloped to be a more user friendly website. The club Roll of Honour is regularly updated on the club website and continues to be a quality reference source.

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Feargal as Club Volunteer Development Officer and myself attended a Young Volunteers in Sport Webinar on 1 November 2021 hosted by Ulster GAA, Ulster Rugby and Irish FA as part of the Department for Communities Programme, Sport – A Home for Lifelong Volunteering.

It has been a great honour to serve this club as Development Officer over the past 12 months and sincere thanks to all especially to club's Senior Officers for their support.

Is mise le meas.

Aine Mhic Cormaic
(Oifigeach Forbartha)

2 November 2021