



SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: Newforge Community Development Trust

THEME:

Shared Spaces
Capital Development

FUNDING(ERDF+MATCH):

€5,792,108.38

MATCH FUNDERS:

The Department for Communities NI and the Department of Rural and Community Development, Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Newforge Community Development Trust

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Police Service of Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, Northern Ireland Prison Service, An Garda Síochána, Sports Changes Life, RUC Athletic Association

PROJECT CONTACT:

jonathan.caldwell@newforge.com

Start Date: 01/01/2019

End Date: 31/03/2023

One of the most visible consequences of the troubles/conflict is the high level of social segregation which can be found right across the region.

Communities continue to live and socialise separately, with many lacking access to a shared environment where they feel safe enough to meet and learn from one another. In the absence of shared spaces division and social tension remains.

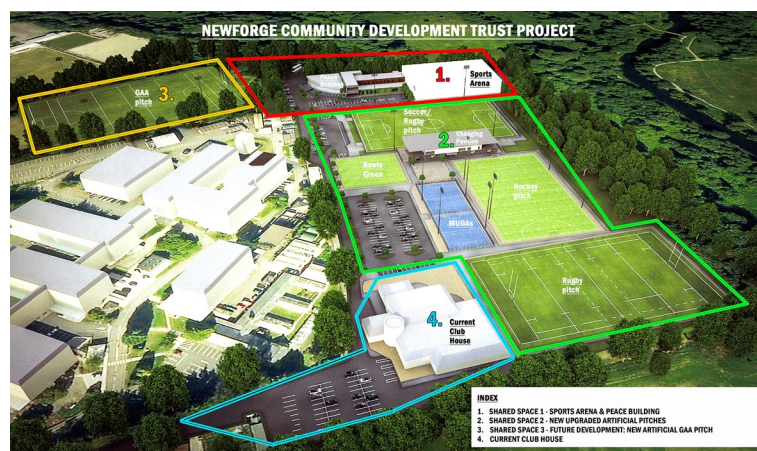
The Newforge Community Development Trust will develop and transform a 15-acre site located beside the River Lagan at Newforge Lane in South Belfast.

The site has been used, almost exclusively by the RUC Athletic Association and members of the PSNI for the past 60 years. The site was heavily fortified and inaccessible to the wider community.

The project aims to transform the site providing a range of indoor and outdoor sporting facilities that will be accessible to all.

“I have been involved in peace and reconciliation projects for many years and I am excited to see how the Newforge project can help to build tolerance and understanding through the programmes established in this scheme. The Trust is looking forward to working with our partners to develop this iconic sports facility which will provide a friendly, shared space to all members of our community.”

Newforge Community Development Trust Chair - Peter Sheridan



Newforge Community Trust Development Site Plan



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The newly developed site will be available to a wide number of groups including: community groups; youth groups; schools; churches; sports clubs; and residents from across Belfast, while integrating them with the 'public safety services' family. The project aims to promote cross-community reconciliation and community support for public security & safety services, delivering these by active engagement and participation in sport.



3D render of the proposed indoor sports arena

"The PEACE IV Programme supports a number of shared space projects across the region, which are transforming spaces into areas that can be jointly utilised by all sections of the community. This project is a great example of such a transformed space. Upon completion, it will create a new sports and recreation facility in Newforge that will deliver an extensive programme of cross-community activity that will led to sustained and meaningful contact between people from diverse backgrounds and cultures."

Tracy Meharg - Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities



Pictured at the projects launch are (l-r): Lady Mary Peters, NCDT Patron; Alan O'Neill, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service; Gina McIntyre, CEO of the SEUPB; Peter Sheridan, Chair NCDT; Paul Smith, Northern Ireland Prison Service; Tracy Meharg, Permanent Secretary DfC; Supt Sue-Ann Steen, PSNI; and Alistair McGowan, CEO Newforge.

Key Output: Capital Development to create new shared spaces: 8