

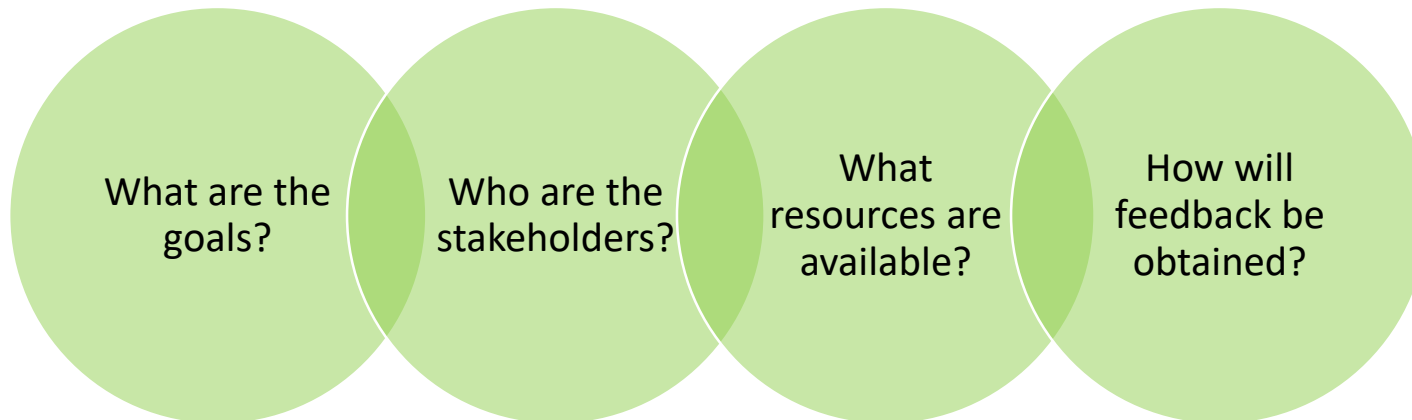
Community Trails Development in Northern Ireland

Community Engagement



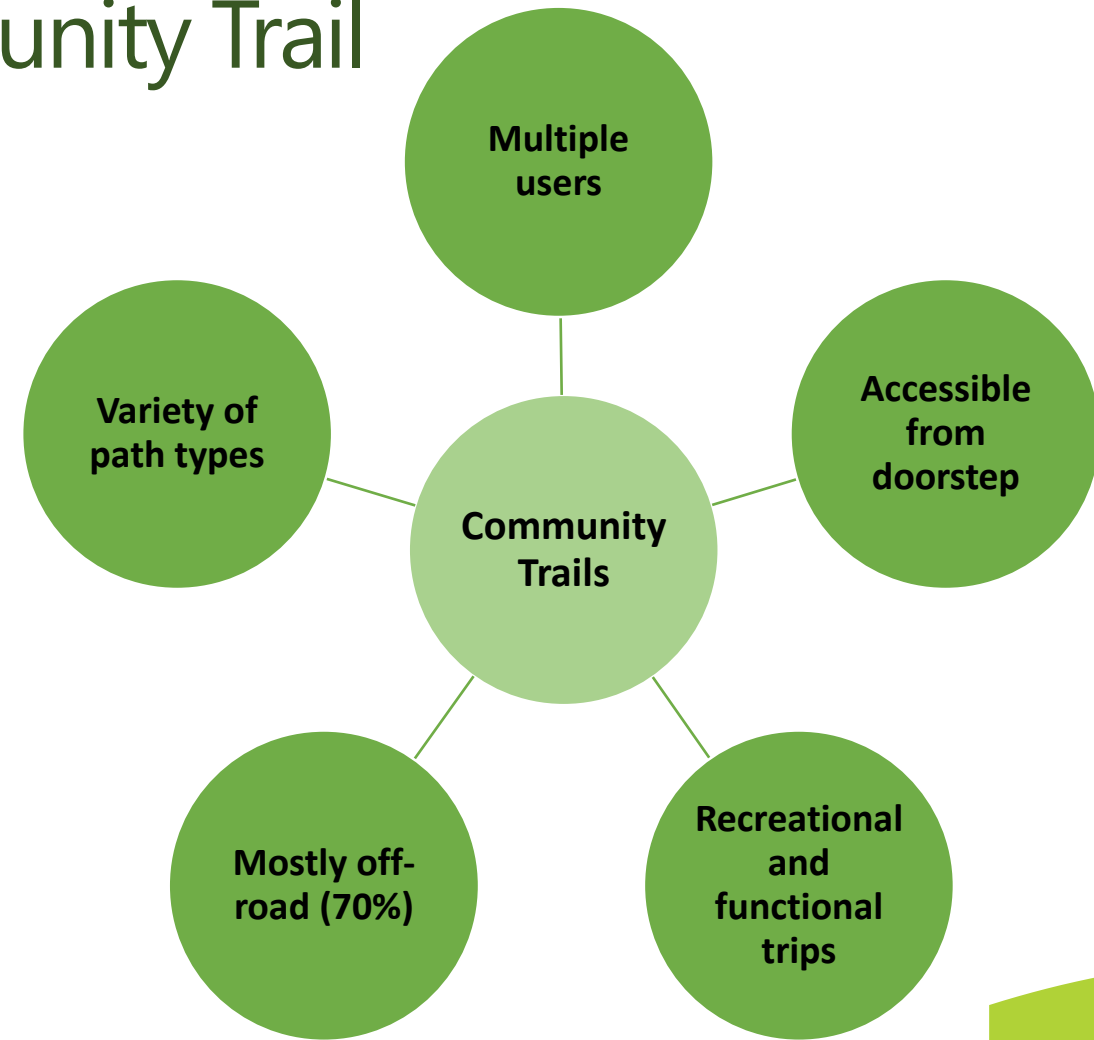
What is a Community Engagement?

- Identifying information and data to contribute to the overall goals and aims of a project
- Developing a relationship and trust with stakeholders
- Dependant on participation and involvement
- Requires planning



Community Engagement in Community Trail Development

- What is a Community Trail?
 - Is a formal trail that connects –
 - Communities to local outdoor spaces
 - Different communities together
 - Community Trails link together to create a Community Trail Network



Community Engagement in Community Trail Development

- Overall aim to identify
 - Existing opportunities and future need
 - Users (individuals, groups – clubs, families etc.)
 - Ideas for development
 - Determine current and potential participation
 - Constraints
 - land ownership (opportunities and barriers to access)
 - Feedback



Community Engagement in Community Trail Development

- Considerations
 - Time and resources
 - Method of engagement
 - Neutral venues
 - Accessibility and timing
 - Managing participants
 - Obtaining adequate information
 - Visibility / marketing





Feasibility Study into the Development of Community Trails in the Ards Peninsula.

Aim:

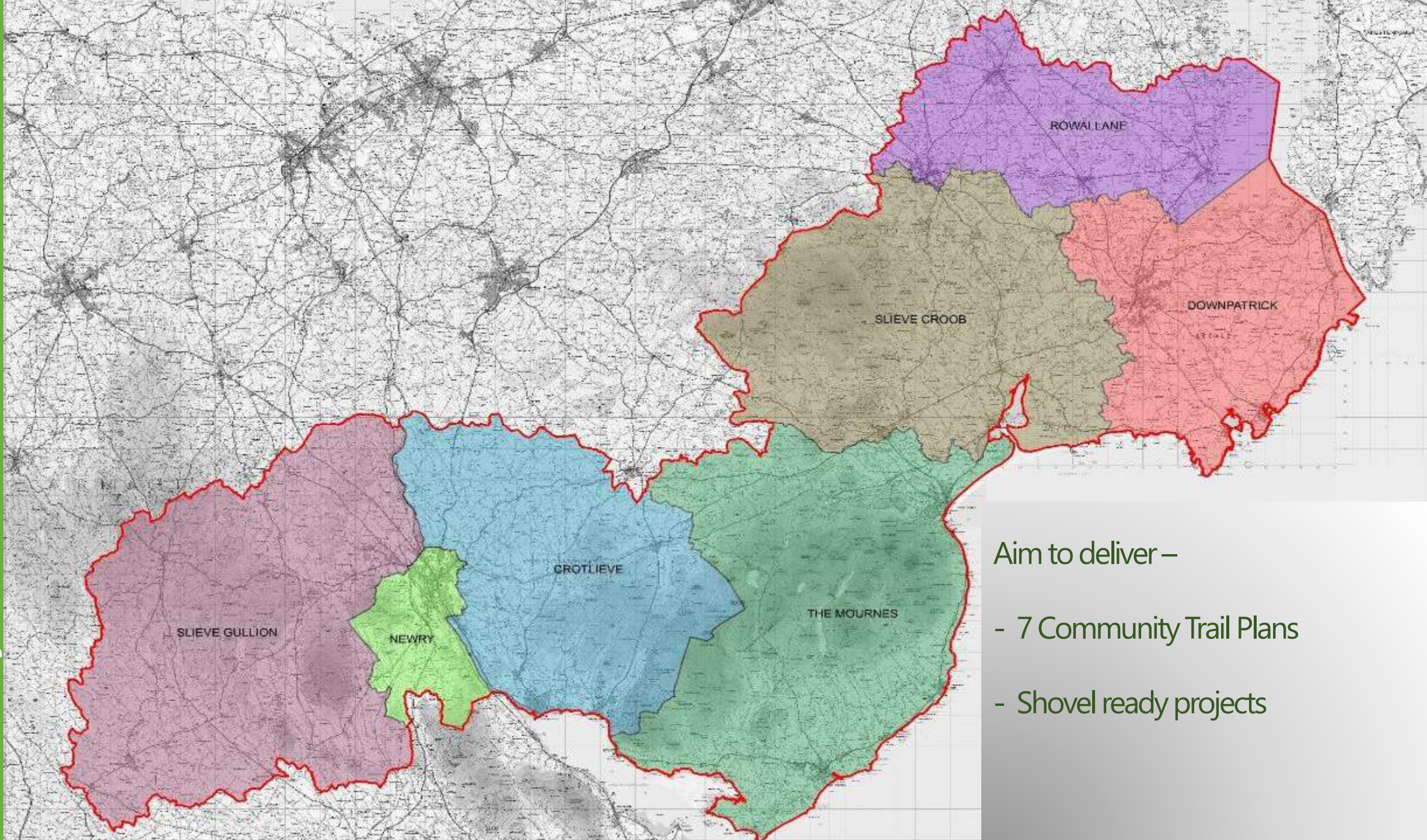
- Identify existing and potential opportunities
- Identify feasible Community Trails

Community Engagement in Community Trail Development

- Local Community Network
- Mapping events
 - Public Consultations
 - Members of the public and specific users
 - Private group meetings (community associations and groups)
- One to one meetings
 - Active community members
- Walks with users and user groups
- Telephone conversations and e-mail feedback



Newry Mourne and Down DEAs



Aim to deliver –

- 7 Community Trail Plans
- Shovel ready projects

Community Engagement in Community Trail Development

- One to one meetings:
 - DEA Co-ordinators, Council Access Officers, Local Community Group/ Development Associations and User Groups
- Public Consultation:
 - Members of the public and user groups
- Village Plan Meetings:
 - Opportunity to speak with active members of local community



Community Engagement in Community Trail Development – Benefits

- Local knowledge from key groups/associations
 - Stimulate creativity
 - Improves understanding of an area
 - Test appetite for Community Trail development
 - Community buy in - identify a 'Community Champion' for next phase
 - Develop further contacts for consultation
 - Further familiarisation of area
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Community Engagement in Community Trail Development – Constraints and Issues

- Managing expectations
- Ensuring independence
- Identifying feasible options
- Conflict



Community Engagement in Community Trail Development – Conclusions

- Valuable source of information
- Consultation with key representatives
- Considerable planning required
- Manage demands of user and rights of landowners



Community Engagement in Community Trail Development

- What processes of community engagement are others doing?
- What works well?



Questions?

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