

Lecture: Living High Streets Craft Kit and Downpatrick Pilot

Wednesday 22nd November 2023

7 pm for 7.30 pm

The Old Museum Building, 7 College Square North, Belfast BT1 6AR



Downpatrick has a distinctive character with the town centre, set between two hills with steep, narrow streets curving up and around the hills, giving a complete sense of enclosure. Several buildings, including Down Cathedral and the Southwell Charity are of special architectural interest, while the many fine town houses, in themselves good examples of Georgian domestic architecture, are an important ingredient of the landscape and provide an essential foil to the imposing public buildings.

The Downpatrick Regeneration Working Group (DRWG) has recently completed a systematic assessment of what is and is not working in Downpatrick, what could be improved, what could attract visitors and new residents, and what needs to change to improve the townscape. This process of enquiry using the Living High Streets Craft Kit had as its aim the co-production of a Framework with actions to rejuvenate Downpatrick that would command the support of the community.

Justine Daly, Expert Advisor at The Ministerial Advisory Group (**MAG**) for Architecture and the Built Environment, led this initiative, a first for Northern Ireland, using a new Living High Streets approach. This builds social capacity and skills and follows a community-led process to maintain positive change over the long-term, ensuring local people have a sense of ownership and control over their place.

In her lecture, Justine will explain how MAG and the Working Group approached this work, what they heard and what new plans for Downpatrick have emerged from the process.

Drinks will be served from 7 pm with the lecture commencing at 7.30 pm.

Members: £10, Non-members: £12.50, including refreshments.