



From left: Richard Rogers (Groundwork); George Newell & Sonya Laverty (Lagan Village Youth & Community Group); Edward Kearney (Whitemountain Programme)

Transformation of derelict Ballarat Street site moves closer thanks to £25k Whitemountain Programme grant

The transformation of a former bonfire site and dumping ground on Ballarat Street, off the Ravenhill Road in South Belfast, has moved a step closer thanks to a £25k grant from the Whitemountain Programme.

Together with support from Belfast City Council and the Department for Communities, the funding will allow Lagan Village Youth and Community Group to develop the derelict site into a play space for young children and a gardening area with raised beds and seating for everyone to enjoy.

Breedon Ireland's Whitemountain Programme provides funding for community amenity and biodiversity projects within 15 miles of Mullaghglass landfill site through the Landfill Communities Fund. To date over £8.5million has been allocated to almost 250 projects. These range from sports facilities to community halls, and from wildflower meadows to play areas.

QUOTES

We were really impressed by the group's determination to overcome numerous obstacles and make this project a reality, and were delighted to be offer this support through the Whitemountain Programme. Although the project is modest in scale, we're confident it will help transform both the local environment and the lives of local residents.

Richard Rogers
Groundwork Northern Ireland

It has taken a lot of hard work and commitment to get us to this point and this funding from the Whitemountain Programme has given us a real boost. This site has seen residents tortured by flytipping and anti-social behaviour for many years and we can't wait to able to turn it into a space for the whole community to enjoy. We hope that the work will be complete by Spring 2023 to allow our local gardeners to begin planting up the raised beds.

George Newell
Lagan Village Youth & Community Group

The Whitemountain Programme has invested over £8.5 million in community amenity and biodiversity projects since it was established in 2007. The Programme has always been focused on addressing social need and supporting environmental regeneration and we're really pleased to be able to help the community undertake this transformative project.

With the forthcoming closure of Mullaghglass landfill site there will only be two further rounds of funding, so please check out the fund guidelines and, if your project is eligible, we'd be delighted to receive an application.

Edward Kearney
Whitemountain Programme

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Groundwork Northern Ireland manages the Whitemountain Programme on behalf of Breedon Ireland.

Groundwork NI is a charity that empowers local communities grown from the ground up, developing sustainable, happy and healthy places to live, work and play. One of our services is to work with partners to manage funds, ensuring money gets to where it is most needed. Throughout the years, we have distributed over £10 million in grants to community and environmental regeneration projects.

Lagan Village Youth & Community Group was established in 2012. It is based in a community centre on Ballarat Street and aims to make a significant difference to people's lives by inspiring and supporting them to learn new transferable skills, improve their health and wellbeing and connect with other local communities.

HOW TO APPLY

If you have a great community or biodiversity focused project which lies within the 15 mile radius of Mullaghglass landfill site near Lisburn (and within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site), then why not apply? The programme is currently open for applications. To find out more visit our website www.groundwork.org.uk/whitemountain or contact us at whitemountainprogramme@groundworkni.co.uk

Grants of up to £25,000 are available for projects making a positive impact at ground level, either developing facilities for community use or encouraging biodiversity and environmental improvements.

