

Carnview House Asset Transfer Project

This project reflects a partnership between Rathfern Community Regeneration Group, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, NBEI and Development Trusts NI. Through the Community Asset Transfer Pilot Programme, the partners are exploring possibilities associated with acquiring and re-developing the former Carnview Children's Home site (pictured right on Knockenagh Avenue, Rathfern, Newtownabbey)

Prior to NBEI involvement and working out of Rathfern Social Activity Centre (pictured right) the group have worked since 2009 to acquire ownership of the Carnview House site. In this time they have explored various potential concepts and uses for the vacant asset with no agreed outcome.



What support has NBEI provided?

Initially NBEI provided the group with **investment** to complete a detailed **economic appraisal**. This provided Rathfern with a number of feasible options to acquire and develop the facility, including the potential to develop a sustainable social enterprise model focussing on Health and Wellbeing activities

NBEI has funded a **business development manager** who is based in the Rathfern Social Activity Centre. Their role is to drive forward the asset transfer of Carnview House as well as to scale up some of the existing income generating activities that are based in the Rathfern centre

NBEI also provided **additional revenue support** to cover some of the costs associated with further **marketing** and **administration** of the Rathfern Social Activity centre. To help move forward the asset transfer NBEI also part funded a **building conditions survey** of the vacant Carnview House site

How has NBEI support helped and who has benefited so far?

Despite NBEI's best efforts, the asset transfer of Carnview House was not realised during the NBEI programme. However NBEI have supported the Rathfern group engage with Antrim and Newtonabbey Council to explore another option on another parcel of land located close to their existing centre. In addition to providing project development support, NBEI has helped to build the capacity of Rathfern to generate commercial sales, develop in house training programmes linked to hill walking tours and orienteering as well as lever in additional grants from local funding streams.

"Without the intervention and support from NBEI this project could have been shelved, but after nine years of business plans, concept studies and appraisals the project will evolve as a Community Health and Well Being Centre or Hub that will benefit not just the local community of Newtownabbey but also people from Belfast and South & East Antrim"

Thomas Kirkham - Rathfern Community Regeneration Group