

LIGONIEL HEALTHY LIVING CENTRE

Damien McCallin

Environment & recreation programme
coordinator

Where are we?

- At the top of the Crumlin Road, Belfast - turn left at Ligoniel Road
- In the Middle of Belfast Hills
- Originally a linen production village

Who are we?

- Established in 2003 funded by Big lottery for 5 years to reduce health inequalities prevalent in Ligoniel - an area of high deprivation – still remains in the top 10% most deprived areas
- Member of HLC regional Alliance
- Funding changed to EHSSB in 2008 through the 'Investing for health' department
- Funded by the PHA from 2010 to present
- Sub group of Ligoniel Improvement Association

LIGONIEL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Registered charity founded in 1974

LHLC Themes:

- Food and nutrition
- Brief intervention on smoking
- Capacity building
- Physical mobilisation
- Mental health and emotional well being

Implemented through three main strands:

- Strategic development:

Maria Burke

- Youth Health:

Nora Duncan

- Environment and recreation:

Damien McCallin

Promoting positive mental health through spaces and places

Wolfhill Environment & heritage site



Site located off
Mill avenue,
within the
Wolfhill housing
development,
Ligoniel.



Site is also
located in the
middle of the
Belfast hills
between Divis
mountain and
Cavehill...



The site used to be used by the linen industry, upon which the village was built long ago...



Some of the community used the site for fishing, walking etc. The site was not maintained as you can see!



The area had
been earmarked
for housing
development,
against the
wishes of the
local residents...



The dams had become a haven for wildfowl. Cattle grazed the grassland areas and even ventured into the streets at times!



LIA began to lobby and gained funding to purchase the land from the developer in 2008!



LHLC continued using the site for environmental and recreational projects and programmes of all shapes and sizes...



LFC was established in 2008 and have a membership of over 100 people and facilitate individuals and groups to enjoy catch and release fishing on the middle dam...



We attracted funding to enhance the site for environmental and recreational benefit for the general public.

1) Pathways



2) Boundary fencing and access gates...



3) An outdoor classroom



4) A pond dipping platform



5) Two floating fishing platforms suitable for wheelchair users



6) A forest walk and group work area



7) Viewing platforms and educational interpretation signage



8) Art features/ installations



Beneficiaries...

Glenveagh School are among several schools who benefit from the new development for environmental education services



Beneficiaries...

Summer schemes and other youth projects have benefitted both local and visiting children of all ages and abilities.



Beneficiaries...

Men's groups enjoy the site for many reasons including walking, fishing, volunteering among other activities



Other projects include:

- Couch to 5k
- Walking for health group
- Responsible dog walkers society
- Volunteer events and groups
- Guided heritage tours
- Foraging and jam making



Future plans

- Corn Mill Development
- Green prescription
- Link to Divis/Black mountain
- Greater range of activities



