The cut and thrust of our community continue to make our work in Kesh Development Association even more vital and more needed. We are now in our 54th year and while the world has changed our core values of social purpose and support for the most vulnerable in our community sits at the heart of our work.

As in last year’s report I was to divide my report into four main areas:

1. Our Community Centre – this imposing community resource is still in need of renovation and improvement. Groups such the Evergreens have complained about lack of heat and poor acoustics making their life in their very difficult. We look forward to the Council starting work on the Centre. Improving the heating and making it more comfortable and welcoming for all. The hall has been well used. From Zumba to yoga and a host of other groups the hall has been well used throughout the day and evening. Once again, we thank Catherine – and increasingly Stephen for their tireless efforts in keeping the Centre clean and tidy. Meanwhile we look forward to the changes ahead and the investment proposed.

2. The North Fermanagh Park is now shaping up as an amazing resource for all the community. We have been privileged to witness stronger community relations with our neighbours in Ederney through this project. The working arrangements of the Park are still under consideration and a recent application to Peace IV has been made for a new modular building to act as a hub. The work with Ederney will continue as we look forward to future projects that will empower and energise our shared community.

3. The main activities in the village, the Christmas Lights and the Community Festival bring out the very best in our community. The tireless efforts of those who erected the lights and organised the joyful carol singing around the community must be praised and acknowledged. Similarly, the hundreds of folk enjoying the Carnival again the year has been a highlight of the year. Robert and his enthusiastic team have been busy and have encouraged significant tourism in the area. We hope both the lights and the Carnival continues to surprise and delight in the coming year.

4. The financial position of the organisation still provides a considerable challenge in this changing world. We need to lobby our Council in terms of grant support – in some cases the support for things like oil and electric has not increased in over a decade. As such we have been forced to look at costs for hiring the Centre and for other services such as photocopying and laminating. We hope that the proposed changes to the Community Centre make it more energy efficient and that our running costs decrease in the months ahead. We also want to see the Centre used by statutory authorities too. Our village is half way between Omagh and Enniskillen and as such a convenient place for meetings.

In conclusion I wish Kesh Development Association all the best for the year ahead and we look to the future with confidence.

Billy Gilmore Chairman