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£2 MILLION POT OF GOLD

A £2 million worth of regeneration work is set to transform Hollywood town centre under the ambitious masterplan which has now been given the green light by a government minister, it has emerged this week.

A £1 million revamp was recently announced for the town's commercial heart by Department of Social Development Minister, Nelson McCausland, when he attended the AGM of the Hollywood Residents' Association.

Now it has been revealed that another million will be poured into the regeneration coffers by North Down Borough Council to match the seven figure sum already promised by Mr McCausland.

And the spin-off for the town centre could be equally headline-making with estimates that the investment could boost 'footfall' in Hollywood's commercial heart by up to 100% over the next 20 years.

To date it is known that the projected £2 million investment should come on line in 2013 and will provide:

• "what is called 'a public realm and streetscape scheme' for the creation of vastly improved street signage and furniture around the town's commercial heart"

• "a proactive project to develop Hollywood's 'historic selling points' with imaginative ideas to promote the town through the unique features of its ancient past."

It will also:

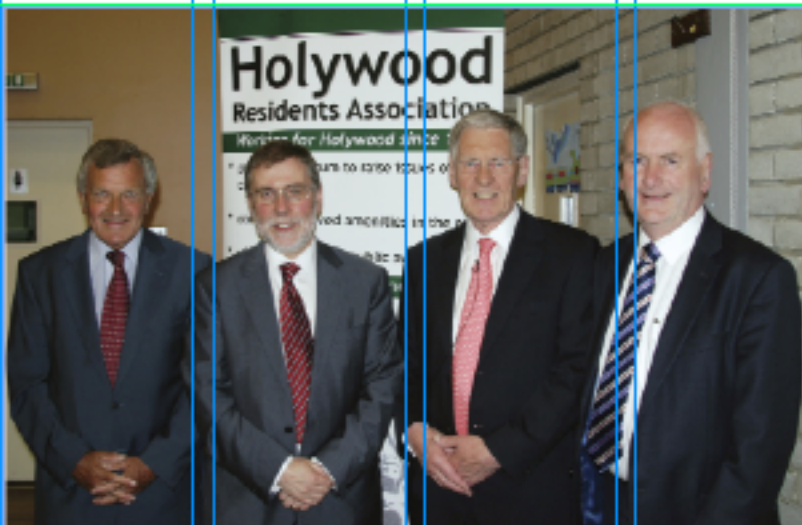
- "identify how regeneration opportunities within the town can be fully realised over the next 25 years"
- "help build consensus among government bodies, council, local community and private developers on how to optimise development opportunities."

News that the £1 million of funding announced by Minister McCausland, is to be matched by North Down Borough Council, was given by North Down politicians.

Hollywood Alliance councillor, Andrew Muir, said, "The £1 million of funding already secured will be matched by North Down Borough Council to create a £2 million package, which will help deliver a new enhanced town centre fit for the future."

"I urge all local businesses, residents and community groups to engage with the masterplan consultation when it commences in the near future."

"The Department for Social Development and North Down Borough Council will soon start seeking views



Pictured after the Minister's announcement at the AGM of Hollywood Residents' Association are (from left) RMA Treasurer, Alan Andrew; DSD Minister, Nelson McCausland; RMA Chairman, Raymond Mallon; and Gordon Dunne MLA.

of all local people concerning their vision for Hollywood town centre.

"This will then help influence a programme of works to take place from 2013 onwards. It will include pavement and signage improvements to regenerate Hollywood and create an even more attractive town centre."

DUP Councillors Peter Weir MLA and Jennifer Gilmore also welcomed the investment recently announced by the Minister for Social Development.

Mr Weir said, "I am delighted that DSD has allocated £1 million to Hollywood for this work, which will include resurfacing of pavements and improvements to street lights, bins and signage in the town centre."

"Subject to council approval it is hoped that the council

will then match fund this with another £1 million. This is a wonderful opportunity to improve the town centre by getting rid of unnecessary street furniture and improving our unique historical town."

Councillor Gilmore also applauded the announcement, adding, "This is a really great opportunity for us to improve the character of the streets in the town centre."

"There is also a Hollywood Masterplan being developed at present which will see the input from statutory bodies, the council and the community to develop a plan for the town."

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