

# Fivemiletown Library

## A New Chapter





**Libraries NI is the public library authority for Northern Ireland, dedicated to providing welcoming and accessible spaces where communities can connect, learn and grow. We manage a network of libraries that serve as vital hubs for information, education, and cultural engagement. As part of our commitment to enhancing the quality of our public spaces and reducing our environmental impact, Libraries NI is proud to officially open the brand-new Fivemiletown Library.**

The sustainable construction of Fivemiletown Library, along with the recent energy efficient refurbishments of Ballymoney, Bessbrook and Killyleagh libraries, the first public building refurbishments in the UK to be completed to the EnerPHit standard, demonstrates Libraries NI's commitment to improving the quality of public spaces while reducing the environmental impact. These libraries not only provide comfortable and modern spaces for visitors but also contribute to the broader goal of creating a more sustainable future for Northern Ireland.



**Ballymoney Library** - the first Non-Residential building in the UK to be completed to the EnerPHit standard.



**Bessbrook Library** - the second Non-Residential building in the UK to be completed to the EnerPHit standard.



**Killyleagh Library** - the third Non-Residential building in the UK to be completed to the EnerPHit standard.

The process of achieving EnerPHit is rigorous and requires meticulous attention to detail. For Bessbrook, Ballymoney and Killyleagh libraries, the journey involved enhancing the aesthetic and functional aspects of the building and also implementing complex engineering solutions.

By achieving EnerPHit, buildings dramatically reduce their energy consumption and carbon emissions, contributing significantly to environmental sustainability. For Ballymoney, Bessbrook and Killyleagh libraries, this means lower running costs, a more comfortable, consistent indoor climate and up to 65% less combined carbon output, equating to a reduction of approximately 22 tonnes of CO2 annually.



# History of Fivemiletown Library

The original Fivemiletown Library opened in August 1978 replacing a weekly mobile library service. The new facility, open six days a week was warmly welcomed by the community and quickly became a popular destination for avid readers. The new library, situated on Main Street, was unusual in that it was co-located with the local museum. Built at a cost of £50,000, the library and museum was officially opened in June 1979 by Mr J H Hamilton-Stubber, the Lord Lieutenant of County Tyrone.

The museum, which was open to the public during library hours, showcased exhibitions of life in the past and housed a unique collection of memorabilia, including items from

the Clogher Valley Railway. Although the museum closed in 2013, the library remained and continued to serve as an essential resource for the people and community of Fivemiletown.

As the years progressed however, the Fivemiletown Library building, with only 119m<sup>2</sup> of usable space, was no longer viable due to its outdated design and numerous deficiencies. These included poor accessibility, inadequate facilities and an inefficient layout that failed to meet modern standards for library services.





# The New Fivemiletown Library

Fivemiletown Library, situated in the Mid-Ulster District Council area, is strategically located on the busy Main Street and along the A4 route between Dungannon and Enniskillen, ensuring easy access for both local residents and surrounding rural communities. The library serves as an important resource for residents of Fivemiletown and surrounding area, acting as a central hub that provides essential services and connectivity.

Fivemiletown Library serves one Nursery School, nine Primary Schools and one Post Primary School, ensuring vital access to educational resources for young learners.











# A Library for the Future

The newly built Fivemiletown Library represents a significant investment of approximately £2.6 million provided by the Department for Communities. Delivering a modern, welcoming space for all members of the community, this significant capital investment is leading the way in sustainable public buildings. Designed to meet contemporary needs while embracing sustainable practices, the library spans 411m<sup>2</sup> across two floors and offers a wide range of facilities:

- The ground floor of the library is zoned to create dedicated spaces for children, young people and adults featuring comfortable reading spaces and resources for all ages
- Four public access computers and free Wi-Fi throughout the building
- The first floor features The Mount Stewart Suite, a multipurpose meeting room ideal for events, workshops or exhibitions
- Modern amenities including a lift and a Changing Places facility for enhanced accessibility
- A dedicated workspace booth with enhanced privacy features
- The library hosts a full programme of free social events for all ages including Rhythm and Rhyme, Class Visits, Book Clubs, Storytelling, Lego and Duplo Club and Tea and Newspapers.

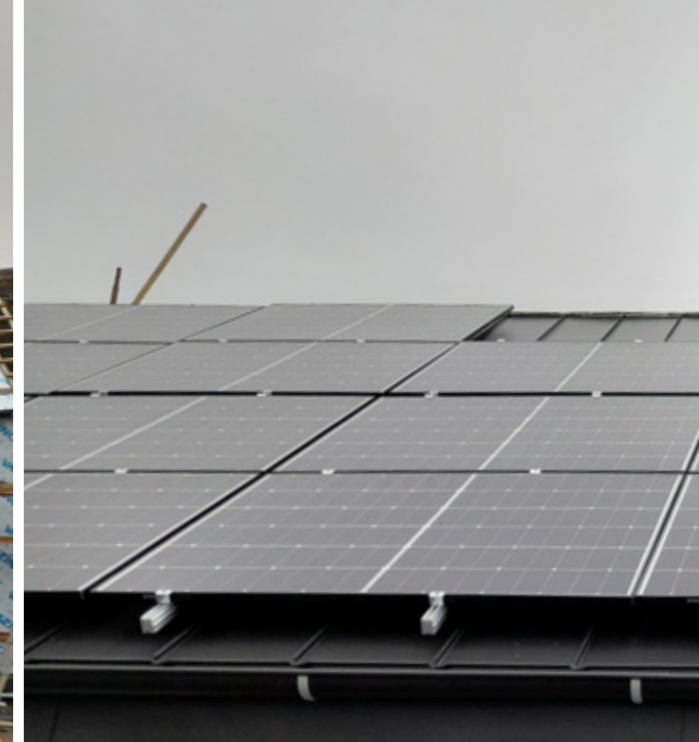


Accessibility is a priority, with two entrances: one on Main Street and one on Edfield Way, reached via the rear car park, which includes dedicated parking spaces, a bike shed and a dual electric vehicle charger. Between the car park and library, visitors can enjoy an enclosed sensory garden featuring an outdoor events space thoughtfully designed with seating, snowy mespilus trees and plants like lavender, rosemary and sage to add greenery and enhance biodiversity.



# Leading the Way in Sustainable Public Buildings

Fivemiletown Library is more than just a building - it is an excellent example of Libraries NI's commitment to sustainability and innovation. Incorporating green technologies and eco-friendly practices, the library is designed to minimise its environmental impact while providing a comfortable space for the community.



## Building Sustainability Highlights

- **Photo Voltaic Panels:** 21 roof-mounted solar panels generate up to 7,352kWh per year reducing long-term energy costs and carbon emissions
- **Eco-Friendly Transportation:** Dual electric vehicle charging points support green commuting
- **Energy-Efficient Features:** LED lighting installed consuming up to 80% less energy than traditional fluorescent lights, advanced insulation and double-glazed windows enhance energy savings and occupant comfort
- **Innovative Design:** A wind catcher and natural ventilation create a comfortable indoor climate whilst reducing energy consumption
- **Smart Technology:** A Building Energy Management System (BEMS) monitors and optimises energy use in real time.







## Smart, Sustainable Design

The library's architectural design ensures high performance and minimal energy use:

- **Optimised Layout:** The internal arrangement of the building takes advantage of the site orientation by placing a south-facing entrance and children's area to maximise natural light and warmth, while north-facing reading areas avoid glare for a better experience

- **Comfortable Environment:** Insulated walls and roofs ensure thermal efficiency in all seasons while reducing noise pollution
- **Biodiversity:** The enclosed sensory garden has been thoughtfully designed with snowy mespilus trees and plants like lavender, rosemary and sage to add greenery and enhance biodiversity.

## Mechanical and Electrical Innovations

- **Air Source Heat Pump:** Efficiently heats the building using underfloor systems
- **Water Efficiency:** Taps and toilets conserve water without compromising functionality
- **Smart Lighting:** Adjustable levels adapt to occupancy and natural light, reducing energy waste
- **High Eco-Efficient Lift:** Reduces energy consumption during operation.







# Achieving EnerPHit Standard

The process of achieving EnerPHit is rigorous and requires meticulous attention to detail. For Bessbrook, Ballymoney and Killyleagh libraries, the journey involved enhancing the aesthetic and functional aspects of the building and also implementing complex engineering solutions. The retrofit included the installation of high-performance wall and roof insulation, advanced airtightness measures, and triple-glazed windows that minimise heat transfer and prevent energy loss.

Additionally, the mechanical ventilation systems with heat recovery system (MVHR) plays a pivotal role in maintaining indoor air quality and temperature stability. It ensures that fresh air is constantly supplied, while stale air is efficiently removed, all while conserving the energy used to heat or cool the building. This not only prevents dampness and improves air quality but also contributes to the library's overall energy efficiency.





# Protecting the Past and Driving the Future

Libraries NI recognises the importance of conserving and preserving our library buildings, particularly the historic Carnegie Libraries located in Lurgan, Bangor, and Falls Road. These libraries not only represent significant architectural legacies but also contribute to the cultural heritage of their communities.

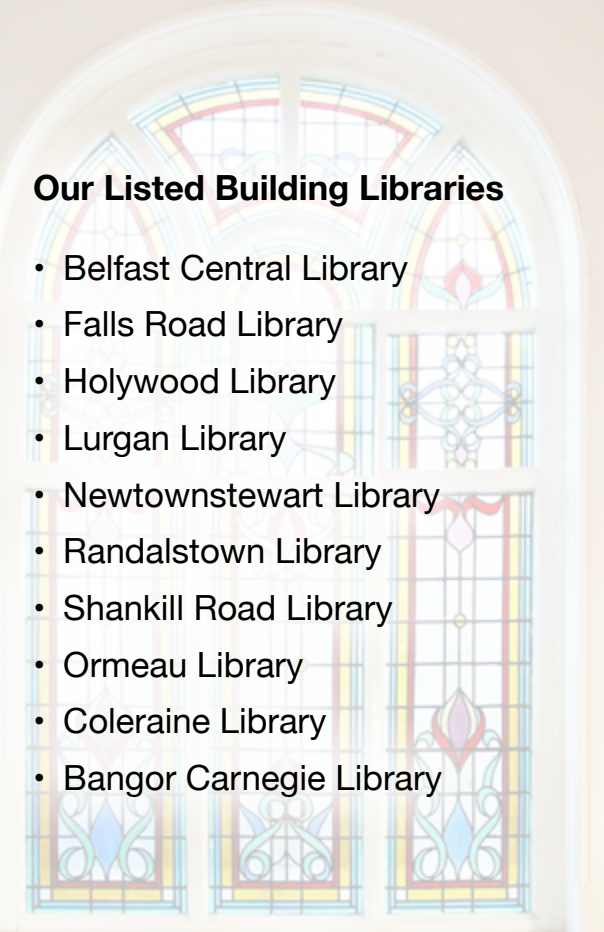
There are a number of studies demonstrating the impact of a new build or a refurbished library contributing to the regeneration in the immediate areas surrounding the new library and adding social value and amenity.

The legacy of our libraries is evident in their ability to empower and enable communities. The enduring nature, place, and value of libraries at the heart of communities is illustrated by the continued use and appreciation of these spaces. As we move forward, Libraries NI remains committed to enhancing our buildings and services, ensuring they remain vital hubs for information, education, and cultural engagement for future generations.



## Our Listed Building Libraries

- Belfast Central Library
- Falls Road Library
- Hollywood Library
- Lurgan Library
- Newtownstewart Library
- Randalstown Library
- Shankill Road Library
- Ormeau Library
- Coleraine Library
- Bangor Carnegie Library





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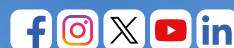


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