



CLONMELLON ACTION PLAN 2018 - 2022

March 2018

Prepared for The Clonmellon Community in
partnership with Westmeath County Council


Future Analytics
Planning | Research | Economics



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1 Introduction - Clonmellon in Context

The objective of this Community Action Plan is to initiate and promote community-led socio-economic development and renewal over the coming five years. The plan is being promoted and delivered by Westmeath County Council in conjunction with local business and community stakeholders in Clonmellon with the purpose of improving the social, economic and environmental conditions for all its communities.

Under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, directed by the Department of Rural and Community Development, investment will be made available to Westmeath County Council over the next twelve months for local town and village enhancement projects to support the rejuvenation of rural towns and villages in the county. Such measures will help Clonmellon to enhance the prosperity and vitality of the town, making it a better place to live in and to visit. Clonmellon has endured significant economic and social challenges since 2008, which together have impacted upon the vitality and viability of the town to function in a sustainable manner and support its communities, hampering the ability of the town to fulfil its potential as a settlement.

The indicative actions set out in this plan represent ambition within the town to promote, initiate and support local socio-economic growth, contributing positively to the sustainable development of the town centre and the communities which reside in the town and its surrounding hinterlands. As new funding opportunities arise through European funding opportunities, such as the Natural Capital Financing Facility for investments in Natural Capital Projects, Structural Funds, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and government-led initiatives such as Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and LEADER, new opportunities will arise for Clonmellon to avail of investment in projects.

This five-year Action Plan ensures that Clonmellon is ready to avail of future investment opportunities and outlines targeted actions that will support rejuvenation and act as a tool for both the business and community sectors in Clonmellon to enable economic recovery and meaningful change over the lifetime of the plan and beyond. It is envisaged that improvement projects identified in the action plan will:

- **increase the attractiveness of the town as a local commercial and social centre** and as a result increase its sustainability as a place in which to live and work;
- **enhance the town environment and amenities** in the interests of residents, businesses and visitors;
- **promote the town's potential for tourism and as a centre for culture and local heritage**, thus enhancing the sense of identity- physically and socially.

The creation of this Community Action Plan has been made possible from funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for support through their Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Future Analytics Consulting (FAC) was appointed by Westmeath County Council to undertake this five-year Local Action Plan for Clonmellon, in conjunction with Westmeath County Council.

This Community Action Plan has been prepared in collaboration with the local community and seeks to provide a living document that the community in Clonmellon can use to define a vision for their community's future and a roadmap to achieve that vision. This plan comprises a range of ideas, actions and projects to be implemented by a range of groups and organisations, but that is the collective

responsibility of the local community and the local authority. It is intended that this plan will be used by the local community of Clonmellon to guide development and positive change.

The function of Clonmellon is to serve the needs of its immediate rural catchment with a primary focus on facilitating local services and community development.

Situated in the demesne of Killua and part of the ancient barony of Delvin, Clonmellon was built in the late eighteenth century by Sir Benjamin Chapman and abuts the Killua Castle estate where he resided. By 1837 Clonmellon was established as a market town. The village has a distinctive broad Main Street which, up to its demise as a market town, focused activity on the Market Square. This wide urban form is consistent with the design of market towns and villages throughout the country. The extended street vista is broken by its topography with the Main Street rising to a point approximately halfway along its length. Clonmellon has largely maintained its historic settlement structure through a linear form. The east of the village is characterised by impressive two storeys, three bay buildings with modern housing developments located at the western end of the village and an infill scheme offset south of the Main Street.

Clonmellon Settlement Plan, Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020

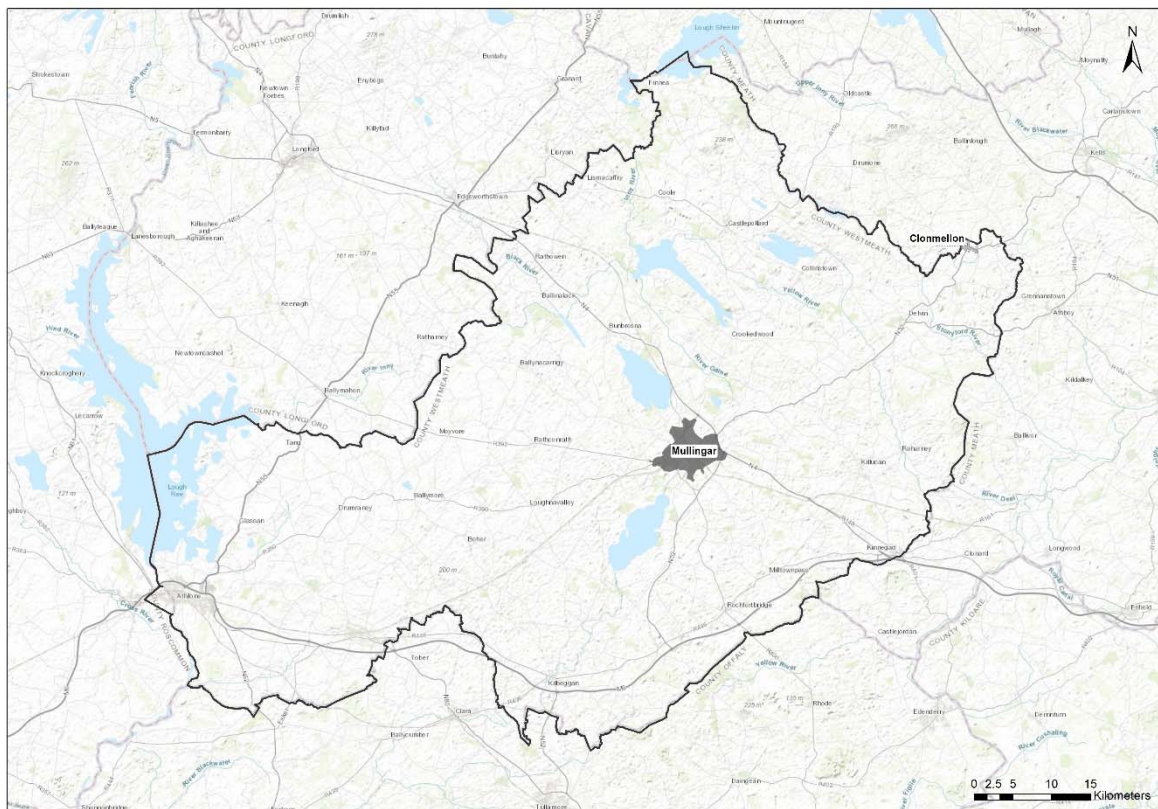


Figure 1 Clonmellon Context

1.1 Approach to this plan

As part of the plan process, FAC undertook comprehensive baseline socio-economic research, visits to Clonmellon and community stakeholder consultation, with business and retail representatives, community organisations and voluntary groups, NGOs, and individual residents. The information

obtained from the research and stakeholder consultation process provided the foundations for the formulation of a series of recommendations and actions, as outlined in this Action Plan.

The findings of the study, in the form of the Town Health Check, SCOT analysis, and the consultative community workshop, have been invaluable in identifying measures for developing new community and economic actions. The actions presented are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound) and will contribute to the enhanced vitality and viability of Clonmellon. Each of the actions are presented in the form of short-term (typically 0-6 months), Medium-term (typically 7-24 months) and long-term (typically 2-5 years).

1.2 Consultation

A key element of this project is to create a community-led plan that reflects the needs and vision of the local communities within Clonmellon. To do this, community and stakeholder consultation was undertaken to capture local knowledge, ideas and opinions. The objective of the wide scale consultation was to raise awareness within the community about the plan; provide all members of the community, business, retail, voluntary and community organisations the opportunity to participate and contribute to the plan formation and establishing a sense of community stewardship towards the plan, and its strategic actions.

As part of the project, consultation has occurred with local authority representatives, business and service providers, representatives of community and sporting organisations. A public consultation evening was held which was open to all members of the community to actively contribute to the action plan development process. The actions outlined in this plan reflect the consultation undertaken across a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

Consultation with key stakeholders was held by means of a participatory public workshop, which was held on 31st January 2018 in the Clonmellon Community Centre. The purpose of the workshop was to give those attending an opportunity to actively contribute to the process and discuss and share ideas on the challenges and future opportunities for Clonmellon. A meeting was held on the 13th March 2013 to discuss the draft action plan with those that had put their names forward for the steering group.

In finding key priorities for Clonmellon, the public consultation workshop has helped to shape the actions of this Plan. In addition, the workshops provided a forum for attendees to discuss their mutual interests in Clonmellon and understand the objectives and potential constraints relating to the future development of Clonmellon.

2 SCOT Analysis

As part of the preparation of the Clonmellon Action Plan, Westmeath County Council, together with Future Analytics Consulting (FAC) organised a public consultation workshop. The public workshop took place on 31st January 2018 in the Clonmellon Community Centre. The purpose of the workshop was to give those attending an opportunity to actively contribute to the process and discuss and share ideas on the challenges and future opportunities for Clonmellon.

A SCOT (Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities and Threats) analysis was undertaken by those attending the workshop which set out the strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats associated with Clonmellon. Socio-economic and demographic profiling, combined with site visits, and stakeholder consultation assisted in the preparation of the SCOT analysis and builds a picture of what is valued and appreciated in the area, where threats and opportunities lie.

The SCOT analysis helps to build a picture of what is valued and appreciated by members of the community in Clonmellon, what is unsatisfactory and needs changing, what external threats exist or may arise, and the future opportunities. The desk top reviews, combined with town visits, and stakeholder consultation assisted in the preparation of the SWOT analysis and builds a picture of what is valued and appreciated in Clonmellon, where there is potential for new community and enterprise opportunities, and what barriers may exist. The SCOT provides a basis for a vision for the future that stakeholders believe to be both desirable and achievable. Below the SCOTs are outlined under each relevant heading.

STRENGTHS	CONSTRAINTS
<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide street with ample parking (S1) • Location – major roads (N52 is the longest route in Ireland), only 1 hour from Dublin <p>Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial space (underutilised) • Community support from local retailers • Credit union • Pubs • Industrial estate – employment (S7) <p>Streetscape and Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market square with local café, good for meeting locals (S5) • Rural setting with high quality natural environment and lakes • Local cultural/built heritage with stone walls • Large open space for children to play • Safe place <p>Community</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of public transport – linkages • Lack signage/awareness for Clonmellon, signs from M3 on N52 don't say Clonmellon • Speed of traffic • Lack of feeder buses to secondary school in Kells <p>Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more industry • Insurance costs e.g. for benches • No post office, chemist, garda station, petrol station • Lack of IT infrastructure/poor broadband • Lack of commercial interest in developing sites <p>Streetscape and Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Clonmellon Arms hotel is an eyesore (C2) • Preservation order on market square

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active community council with fundraising history • New national school with after school clubs (S2) • Broad demographic/age range with lot of new houses • Active retirement group/services for elderly • Existing community groups (Coderdungeon, Whist, Class Act, Active Retirement, Bowls, Baby ballet, Raskin Rovers – hurling/GAA/Football) • Citizens advice support (Athboy hub) • Bingo, which brings people in • Community centre (S6) • Men’s shed (S5) <p>Recreation and Linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong GAA presence Sports facilities e.g. St Pauls GAA with upgrade coming (S3) <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural & historic heritage – Walter Raleigh and Lawrence of Arabia connection – Killua Castle (S6), St Johns Church (S4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of main street buildings • No public toilets <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of available funding • Anti-social behaviour e.g. at the playground (C1) • Lack of community involvement • Lack of shared community space • Big commuting population • No political representation • No meals on wheels • No mother/toddler group • Active retirement group only meets fortnightly • No community noticeboard • No community alert scheme • No citizen advice • Lack of awareness of funding availability/support i.e. how to obtain funding • Lack of capacity to get projects done • No USP, lots of individual but no joining up • Village centre population has declined • Meath/Westmeath border (Navan address, should be Clonmellon, Westmeath and 044 not 046- causes problems with post and ambulances) • Lack of housing for young people <p>Recreation and Linkages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of amenities
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic calming – reduce the carriageway, reduce big trucks- link to main street regeneration/public realm enhancement, shared surfaces/better signage including reduced speed signs- Moynalty is a good example, roundabout (O7) • Pedestrian crossings (O6) • Weekend/mid-day public transport – transport for youth and workers means 	<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic – bypass? • Limited transport options <p>Enterprise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of retail e.g. post office (if there was one more people would stop here), pharmacy, health store, hardware store, butchers, craft shop. Pension can be got in Credit

they have a choice to stay in Clonmellon, re-route buses

- Traffic – get them to stop

Enterprise

- Reopen Post office
- More retail - hardware store/butchers/craft shop
- IT hub
- Better broadband
- Local business association
- New pub
- Doctors surgery with longer hours
- ATM

Streetscape and Environment

- Tidy Towns – get new members
- Brighten up buildings and make the village more appealing – repainting, hanging baskets, better streetlights
- Historic plaques like Delvin
- Fáilte Ireland grants for civic improvements/Enterprise Ireland grants for empty buildings
- WCC compulsory purchase derelict/empty buildings – acquire land or supermarket/chemist (O9)
- Clonmellon clean up

Community

- Playschool/youth centre
- Am/dram – kid’s theatre
- Upgrade community centre, opportunity for family use, toddler group, lego group, cinema (O3)
- After school activities
- Activities for youth/teens at St Pauls and community centre(O8)
- Cycle groups/team building
- Many people willing to be involved
- Online newsletter/ Clonmellon Facebook Page/Clonmellon app
- Information centre

Recreation and Linkages

- Walking track at St Pauls (O1)
- Enhance the playground, including rezoning land currently zoned residential as town amenity/park (O2)
- Loop walks like Fore

Union but not many people know about it (T4)

- No nightclub (T5)

Streetscape and Environment

- Cycle lanes to make it safer for kids cycling to and from school
- Wrong spelling of Clonmellon on signs (T1)
- Poor quality footpaths in some places (T2)
- Empty houses on the main street which need to be occupied (T3)
- Lack of public toilet

Community

- Lack of community consolidation/apathy
- Lack of volunteers
- Anti-social behaviour
- Multiple committees e.g. community council, community hall, market square
- Lack of rental accommodation/retail
- Lies between 2 administrative areas, needs more of an identity – ‘feel the love’
- Lack of agency support/funding

- Allotments
- Sports e.g. cycling

Tourism

- Tourism opportunities – St Johns, Isaac function room – civil weddings/music, similar to Other Voices event in Dingle (O5); more B&B, AirB&B, craft shop, craft demos, farmers market, Potatoe festival, cycle groups, hens/stags, team buildings groups, tourist hub for historical towns e.g. Delvin, Fore, Collinstown, Kells
- Body and Soul – how do other villages, such as Slane, benefit from festivals? Campsite/bus link? Reroute festival traffic through the village rather than Ballinlough, Athboy
- Market square – farmers market, Christmas market (O4)
- Linkages with other places e.g. Ballinlough Lough Crew, Trim Castle, Fore
- Potato festival

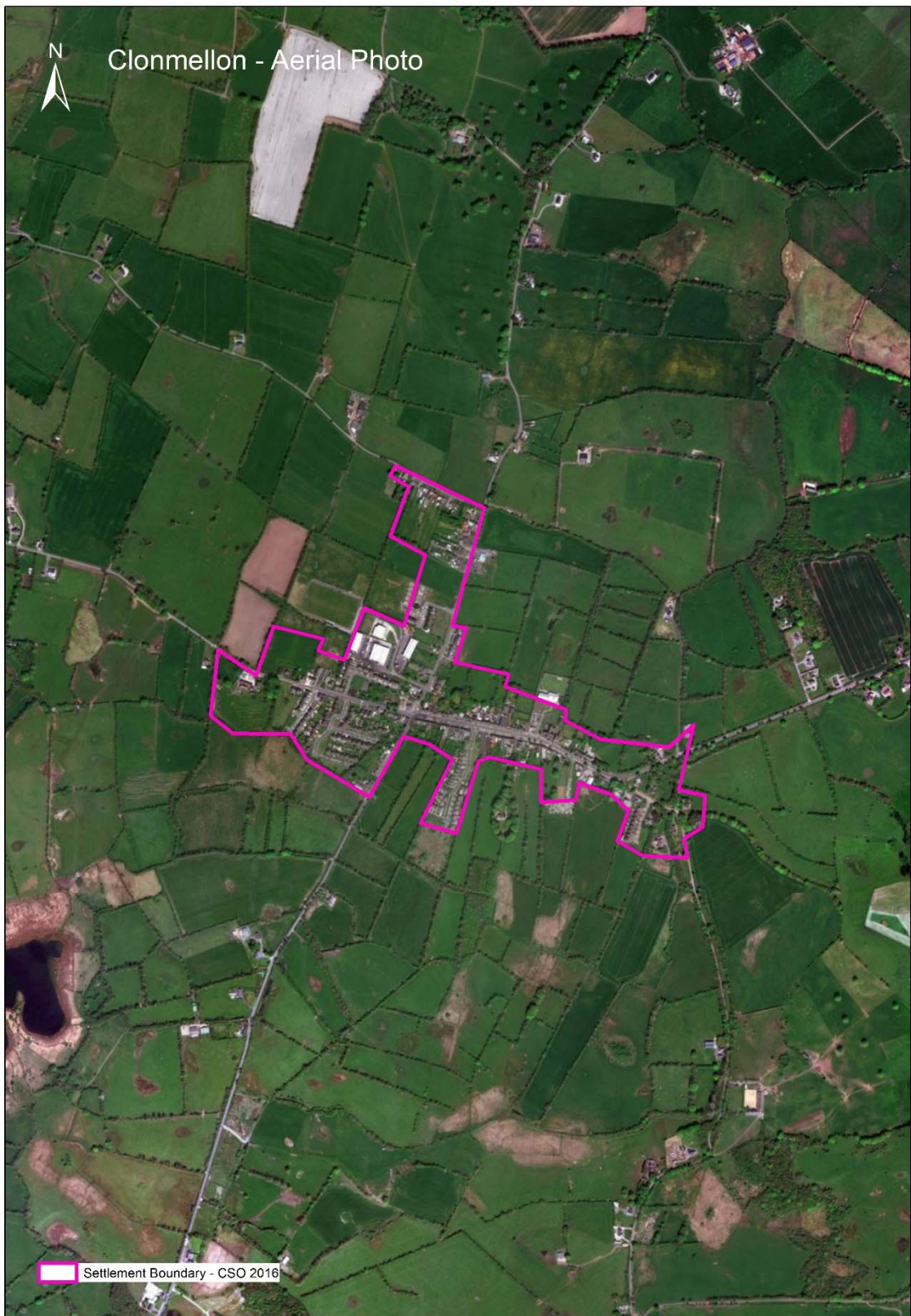


Figure 2 Clonmellon Key Issues

3 Vision

3.1 Vision Statement

Through consultation with Westmeath County Council and the local community, a vision for the Action Plan has been developed to translate the town's ambitions for enhanced socio-economic development into a clear roadmap for action over the coming five years.

Vision Statement for Clonmellon

Clonmellon will have at its heart a sense of community and pride - a place that people, particularly young people, want to live in, care for & be proud to call home. Clonmellon will become increasingly known as a vibrant centre for arts & culture - a village with heritage and a strong identity within Westmeath.

The objective for the community action plan is to provide the community with a roadmap for regeneration, based on a foundation of participatory engagement. The goal is to create more vibrant towns and villages, ones that maintain a link with tradition and reflect local values whilst also striving to ensure communities are more resilient. Regeneration is about working with the assets of the town to create a new chapter for Clonmellon.



Infrastructure

The actions within this theme focus on the **development of a more effective public transport network, along with safer roads, pavements and cycle routes, and better traffic management within**

towns and villages. Enabling safe and efficient movement is an important component of society, and for socio-economic development of the town and its community, in terms of people ability to access key services and resources, including health, education and employment; in supporting existing business and services; and in attracting new investment and visitors in the locality. It is important to enhance accessibility and mobility for all sections of the community to create an inclusive society, including both private and public modes of transport. This theme includes signage measures to raise awareness of the location of, and of arrival at, Clonmellon, and to encourage traffic to slow down, making the villages safer for residents and visitors.

Enterprise

The objective of this theme is to **promote, strengthen and diversify the local economy and support new investment opportunities** in a manner that complements the social, cultural and environmental values in Clonmellon. The focus is on helping to grow and sustain existing businesses while encouraging new investment and new opportunities. The focus is on the creation of opportunities to provide employment for people locally to reduce the need to commute for work.

Streetscape and Environment

The town environment is key to its vitality and character. The purpose of this theme is to **enhance the physical and visual public realm areas of Clonmellon for persons of all ages and abilities, to create a more vibrant, safe and attractive place to live, work and visit.** This includes measures to address issues of dereliction of buildings within the town. Enhancement of the natural environment is also a critical element of this theme, as this will have environmental, social and economic benefits for Clonmellon. This includes measures to support and promote the protection of biodiversity within Clonmellon and its hinterlands, and that promote awareness about biodiversity, sustainability and the unique heritage of Clonmellon. This is about conserving Clonmellon's built and natural heritage for current and future generations.

Community

An integrated community is one of the core components to a healthy and vibrant town. In the case of Clonmellon, an integrated community refers to celebrating all aspects of what makes a community, including the mixture of social and cultural diversity and experiences. The actions presented in this action plan strive to **promote diverse, dynamic, safe and connected communities to enhance community life for all** in Clonmellon. The actions include strengthening of community engagement, promoting volunteering and leadership within communities, supporting child and youth development, promoting life-long learning for people of all ages and abilities, promoting cultural and inter-generational social inclusion, better supports for improved physical and mental wellbeing, and the strengthening of community relationships.

Recreation and Linkages

The aim of this theme is to create a Clonmellon that **promotes and supports a healthy, safe lifestyle for all, where physical and mental wellbeing are valued and nurtured.** Sport and physical activity is an inclusive term of activities in which people may engage in an organised or casual manner. High quality amenities, sports and physical activity are important within a community as they contribute towards improved physical fitness, enhanced mental wellbeing, and help with improving social

inclusion. It is an objective of this action plan to create a Clonmellon where people of all ages and abilities can partake in physical activity or sport in a safe manner. Quality recreation amenity and sporting facilities also have benefits in terms of attracting visitors to an area, which has indirect benefits to the local economy.

Tourism

Tourism development proposals in this plan **promote the use of responsible tourism enabling the local community to use tourism for local economic benefit, to link Clonmellon with neighbouring communities and create opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in arts and heritage activities and festivals.** Activities and events help retain, support and strengthen the cultural heritage of Clonmellon and develop community cohesion – opportunities for the community to gather. Actions include the provision of measures to enhance participation in local arts, heritage and cultural activities.

4 Action Plan

Through consultation with Westmeath County Council and the local community, a series of actions have been developed which translate the town's ambitions for enhanced socio-economic development and sustainability into a clear roadmap for action over the coming five years. The action plan is designed to implement the objectives of the community action planning process, namely to:

- **increase the attractiveness of Clonmellon as a local commercial and social centre** and as a result increase its sustainability as a place in which to live and work;
- **enhance the environment and amenities** in the interests of residents, businesses and visitors;
- **promote Clonmellon's potential for tourism and as a centre for culture and local heritage**, thus enhancing the sense of identity- physically and socially.

The different stages of the plan development, in the form of the Town Health Check, SCOT analysis, and the consultative community workshop, have been invaluable in identifying measures for further action. The actions, which are **evidence based and community supported**, will contribute significantly to enhanced vitality and viability of Clonmellon.

Each of the actions can be implemented and achieved within the short (typically 0-6 months), medium (typically 7-24 months) and long term (typically 2-5 years). For the short-medium term the actions seek to achieve maximum impact and to identify potential quick wins.

Indicated partners are indicative for the draft version of the report and are subject to confirmation.

4.1 Infrastructure

	Action	Partners	Timeframe
1	Undertake a comprehensive revision of key town entry points to strengthen the 'announcement' of Clonmellon, to build a sense of place and to encourage increased visitors in to the town centre.	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed)	Short
2	Undertake a traffic management and road safety review . Road safety issues near schools is of key importance. Factors to review include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking and traffic management in Clonmellon • Safety assessment of the approach road design including carriageway reduction and new roundabout adjacent to former Clonmellon Arms site to slow traffic • Speed limit review on approach roads to the town centres¹ • The need for more pedestrian crossing in Clonmellon • Pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure leading to from the development boundaries to key community services, schools and amenities 	Westmeath County Council (WCC)	Medium
3	Seek a review of directional signage to Clonmellon from the M3 and N52	WCC	Medium

¹ 'To consider relocating the speed limit zone along the N52 on the southern entrance to the village'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 227

		National Roads Authority (NRA)	
4	Enable better public transport linkages by: (i) Advocating for an enhanced public transport service for Clonmellon through engagement with Bus Eireann ² (ii) Feeder bus for access to secondary school in Kells (iii) Creating a dedicated bus lay-by area for pick-ups / drop offs, complete with shelter and timetable	Bus Eireann	Medium
5	Engage with landowners to create a looped walk around Clonmellon and seek funding for implementation	Landowners WCC	Medium-Long
6	Review connectivity with key attractions and places of interest to improve accessibility and encourage increased visitor numbers to the town centre.	Westmeath Tourism	Long

4.2 Enterprise

	Action	Partners	Timeframe
1	Undertake a review of the existing vacant enterprise units and the existing infrastructure to assess if Clonmellon's current offering meets the needs of contemporary enterprise needs	WCC	Short
2	Seek provision of ready to go retail opportunities and encourage increased retail provision e.g. hardware, butchers, craft shop, post-office, pharmacy and service provision e.g. health centre/doctors ³	WCC	Medium
3	Advocate for improved telecommunications and broadband access	WCC	Medium
4	Seek provision of an ATM in Clonmellon	An Post	Medium
5	Utilise Market Square and develop it as a focal point for the town. It could function as a new innovative digital and/or creative hub for start-ups and entrepreneurs and/or visitor centre	Market Square Committee	Medium
6	Implement a Business Improvement Programme / Strategy to achieve improved efficiencies, revenue, skills and marketing plan with the aim of promoting and encouraging new investment	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce (proposed)	Medium-Long
7	Establish a Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce	Local businesses	Medium
8	Organise an annual town business briefing to promote the variety of services and supports that are available to business at a local level	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce (proposed)	Medium
9	Develop promotional material aimed at potential entrepreneurs or investors detailing available premises, land zoning, workforce profile etc.	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber	Medium

² 'To support the development of increased rural transport links to Clonmellon' Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 227

³ 'To provide for employment generating uses in Clonmellon and take advantage of its position on the N52 and attract inward investment'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

		of Commerce (proposed)	
10	Provide enterprise support mentoring - organise a training workshop for local retailers in areas such as online marketing, sales, the use of social media to promote local retailers and enhance visitor retail experience	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce (proposed)	Medium
11	Grow the creative economy and culture-led economic development and facilitate training sessions for local artists to enhance business and marketing skills	WCC	Medium-Long
12	Encourage and support the development of social enterprises, e.g. youth or community café, market, tourism, renewable energy, horticulture, skilled crafts, in cooperation with Social Entrepreneurs Ireland	Social Entrepreneurs Ireland	Medium-Long
13	Seek to create linkages with training and educational organisations and seek opportunities for creating professional development training to enhance skills within the population	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce (proposed) Educational providers	Medium-Long
14	Develop promotional material aimed at potential entrepreneurs or investors detailing available premises, land zoning, workforce profile etc.	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce (proposed)	Medium-Long
15	Support creative practitioners and entrepreneurs to access professional and business development opportunities, to enhance their contribution to the creative economy	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce (proposed)	Medium-Long
16	Support the promotion of local produce through the creation of a dedicated space for local arts / crafts to be displayed and marketed locally through pop-up shop initiative. Liaise with owners of vacant properties to rent space	Clonmellon Business Association/Chamber of Commerce (proposed) WCC	Medium-Long

4.3 Streetscape and Environment

	Action	Partners	Timeframe
1	<p>Town Enhancement Scheme to oversee the widespread improvement of buildings and streetscapes throughout the town to include⁴:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inventory of vacant and derelict buildings and sites and map and prioritise properties / areas for renovation. This includes the former 	<p>WCC Community groups Private enterprises Dulux</p>	<p>Short- Medium</p>

⁴'To secure the redevelopment and/or refurbishment of derelict or rundown properties'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

'To secure the development of vacant lands in the settlement centre for appropriate mixed -use development'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

'To work with Voluntary Organisations and Community Groups to obtain LEADER funding for enhancements to the town'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

'To secure the enhancement of the streetscape of Clonmellon'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

'To retain and protect existing mature trees which align the Main Street from the western entrance to the village up to Cluain Maolain National School' Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

	<p>Clonmellon Arms site and empty residential buildings on the main street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building façade review and shop front renovation plan, with repair works with emphasise on retaining and protecting original features, and ensuring the heritage character of the buildings is protected • ‘Repaint & Rejuvenate’ town painting scheme • Repair and upgrade heritage railings • Upgrade footpaths • New streetlighting • Hanging baskets <p>Buildings or public spaces not located in one of the key zones but considered to have a dominant / imposing impact on the town, its streetscape or access point(s) should be identified and considered as part of the scheme</p>		
2	Discuss optimum use and presentation of Market Square buildings with Westmeath County Council	Market Square Committee	Medium
3	Seek funding for upgrading the playground, including rezoning land currently zoned residential as town/amenity park & landscape ⁵	WCC Landowners	Medium
4	Seek provision of public toilets in Clonmellon	WCC St John’s	Medium
5	Undertake an age and disability friendly review of future public realm proposals planned in Clonmellon to ensure inclusive design	WCC Service providers to disabled and elderly Irish Wheelchair Association	Short
6	Improve maintenance and planting of community green areas	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed) Men’s Shed	Short
7	Support the ‘living over the shop’ scheme to increase vitality within the core town centre and increase housing in the area.	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed)	Medium
8	Develop a town and village centre Presentation and Planting Plan and engage with local retailers and residents to buy-in to the plan. Initiate a window display initiative with retailers to encourage that active window displays are maintained at ground floor to enhance street vibrancy. Where a premise is vacant, liaise with owners of vacant retail premises to have a window display.	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed) Men’s Shed	Short
9	Promote Green Infrastructure through a dedicated Green Infrastructure enhancement initiative through:	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed)	Short

⁵ ‘To investigate the feasibility of the provision of a village park within the centre of Clonmellon’. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

‘To secure the provision of a playground for the village’ Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 228

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of information to the public about current and upcoming local Clonmellon environmental projects, workshops, publications and how members of the public can contribute to green infrastructure expansion and enhancement Establishing a community initiative to retain, protect and enhance the existing native mature trees and hedgerows in the villages and surrounding hinterlands. Support existing efforts by resident's groups to enhance their estates through enhanced place management including plantings, lighting, increased incorporation of Green Infrastructure measures Promoting the enhancement of hedgerows and planting of new native hedgerows in housing estates and public spaces order to enhance biodiversity and increase Green Infrastructure corridors in urban areas Create a planted buffer zone to improve the visual impact of new housing development 	Men's Shed	
10	<p>Promote a 'Greening My Community' initiative by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with resident's groups to raise awareness of local biodiversity and increase biodiversity in rural towns. Working with local organisations like the Men's Shed or youth organisations to participate e.g. bat boxes, urban bee boxes, open space management to allow for meadows etc. Supporting the planting of a dedicated edible foods garden to promote sustainability and promotion of home grown healthy foods. 	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed) Men's Shed	Short

4.4 Community

	Action	Partners	Timeframe
1	Seek funding for development of St Johns as a community space/arts/centre/youth centre/café/co-working space/function room ⁶	Owners of St Johns WCC	Medium
2	Increase number of community groups to cater for all age groups e.g. new playschool/youth centre, am/dram and kids theatre, family use, toddler group, lego group, cinema, after school activities. Provide more support for groups e.g. so that the active retirement group can meet more regularly	Community groups	Medium
3	Introduce a community mechanism to increase community awareness and engagement. Harness use of	WCC	Short

⁶ 'To facilitate the expansion and development of educational, social and community facilities in the village'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 227

	digital and social media such as an online newsletter and/or Facebook page	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed) Men's Shed	
4	Seek change of address for Clonmellon to Westmeath (046) rather than Navan to establish a Westmeath identity and to enable essential services such as ambulances to be directed to Clonmellon effectively	WCC Meath County Council An Post	Short-Medium
5	Consolidate community groups e.g. community council, community hall committee, market square committee	Community groups	Short
6	Establish a Tidy Towns Committee and seek new members and engagement	Community groups	Short
7	Seek support and training for the community in accessing funding	WCC	Short
8	Seek provision of meals on wheels service	WCC	Medium
9	Provide better facilities and services for young people: ⁷ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek support for the development of a Youth Café or Youth Innovation Centre. This provides opportunity for cross-community cooperation involving the youth clubs, Men's Shed in renovating a café/youth meeting space. Possible location could be St Johns Support the establishment of a Clonmellon Youth Forum that encourages participation in young people in local initiatives and issues e.g. environmental protection, local planning process, community and social development issues Support training in decision making skills, self-awareness, and leadership 	WCC Longford Westmeath Education Training Board (LWETB) Local Youth Groups	Medium
10	Promote engagement by local schools and clubs with the Foróige developed drug awareness initiative 'It's up to You'	WCC Longford Westmeath Education Training Board (LWETB) Local Youth Groups	Medium
11	Promote and support creation of a GROW group meeting in Clonmellon to support people who have or are currently experiencing mental health issues www.grow.ie/	WCC Longford Westmeath Education Training Board (LWETB) Local Youth Groups	Medium
12	Develop community integration initiative e.g. community festival, or local market (e.g. at market square)	Community groups Fáilte Ireland	Medium

⁷ 'To explore the efficient use of educational buildings and facilities that benefits the wider community within Clonmellon'. Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, page 227

		Westmeath Tourism	
13	Enhance the volunteer spirit and strengthen cross generational cooperation and integration through, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of educational and literacy supports by retirees to disadvantaged youth and adults • Provision of IT skills to older persons, facilitate new library programmes to facilitate learning in a technological and social context 	Community groups	Medium
14	Support greater social inclusion of minority groups, LGBT community, refugees, Traveller community and new incoming members to the community through dedicated inclusion programme of events and activities e.g. World Food and Culture Weekend	Community groups	Medium
15	Establish a Community Alert Group / Support and encourage the expansion of the Community Alert system. Promote its existence and use within the communities	Community groups WCC Garda Siochana	Medium
16	Seek funding for monitored CCTV in areas of anti-social behaviour, particularly at the playground	WCC Garda Siochana	Medium
17	Seek funding for a town notice board to publicise events and activities to encourage community cohesion	Tidy Towns Committee (proposed)	Short

4.5 Recreation and Linkages

	Action	Partners	Timeframe
1	Assist in the development and promotion of sports activities and recreation e.g. by hosting a 'Come & Try It' programme	Community groups	Medium
2	Encourage new recreation activity groups e.g. cycling	Community groups	Medium
3	Seek funding to complete a community walk around St Paul's GAA ground	GAA WCC	Short-Medium
4	Establish a Parkrun event at St Pauls	GAA	Medium
5	Seek use of lands at Clonlough for previously permitted use as allotments and set up an allotments committee to drive this project	WCC	Medium
6	Identify current activities and programmes offered for Older Adults in Clonmellon and its hinterlands to identify gaps and potential target areas.	Community groups	Medium

4.6 Tourism

	Action	Partners	Timeframe
1	Commission a tourism and marketing strategy for Clonmellon to promote the combined tourism, recreation, heritage and cultural offerings on a regional and national basis. This plan to include:	Westmeath Tourism Fáilte Ireland	Long

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review visitor experience of local attractions • review of accommodation offering • digital engagement strategy • promotion of Clonmellon as a hub for visits to surrounding towns and attractions e.g. Delvin, Fore, Collinstown, Kells, Ballinlough Castle, Lough Crew, Trim Castle • review of how Clonmellon could benefit from proximity of Body & Soul Festival at Ballinlough Castle 	Tidy Towns Committee Community groups	
2	Establish a tourism sub-group to maximise engagement of Clonmellon with attractions in the wider region and to develop improved coordination with Westmeath Tourism to attract a greater proportion of visitors and market the towns offering as a destination	Community groups	Medium
3	Support the development of the arts sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a dedicated open arts space in the town where local artists can display and sell crafts. This could share a space e.g. café, tourism information point – St John’s may present an opportunity for this type of activity • Encourage partnerships to increase the number and variety of children and youth oriented arts programs offered in the community • Support creating an arts and culture programme for the town and increase participation and event hosting 	Community groups	Medium
4	Develop festivals in Clonmellon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for expansion of the Clonmellon Potato Festival programme and the Christmas Market • Seek development of a Farmers market 	Westmeath Tourism	Medium-Long
5	Form stronger tourism links with neighbouring towns and villages. Develop an inter-town forum in which tourism packages can be developed that showcase the best of each towns and promote travel between the towns	Westmeath Tourism	Medium-Long
6	Seek funding for a dedicated Clonmellon Heritage Trail to promote local history and cultural heritage incorporating the surrounding hinterlands and include Tullynally Castle, Fore Abbey while retaining Clonmellon as the centre point of the trail.	Westmeath Tourism	Medium-Long
7	Undertake an inventory of existing local built and cultural heritage including sites, buildings, stained glass windows, art, sculptures, stone walls and hedgerows. Prioritise properties / areas for renovation to protect and preserve the local heritage	Tidy Towns Committee WCC	Medium
8	Enhance the cemetery for visitors and locals who attend or are searching for family including for example improved signage, grave record, toilet facilities, landscaping and vegetation management to protect the existing cemetery	Tidy Towns Committee Clonmellon Parish	Medium

9	<p>Develop capacity for genealogy based tourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a dedicated history and genealogy centre in the town, encompassing the town's heritage and facilitating learning in local and family history • Provide a support service for visitors or diaspora to research their family history through a dedicated genealogy service. Utilise the <i>Ireland Reaching Out</i> national programme to connect with diaspora and connect diaspora to their ancestral townland 	Community groups Clonmellon Parish	Medium
10	Support and encourage local communities to learn about the place in which they live including local stories and places of interest, so they can act as local ambassadors	Community groups	Medium

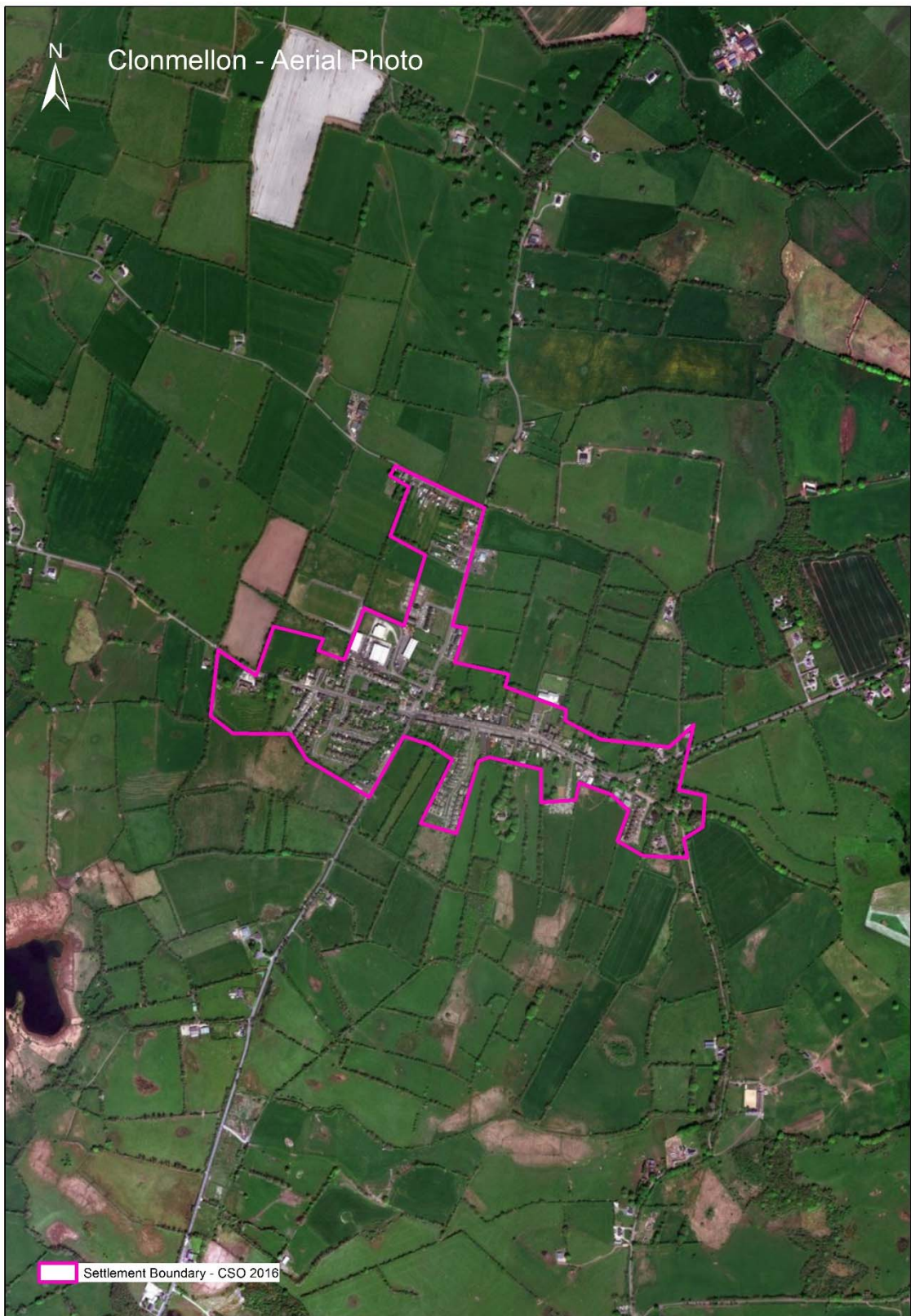


Figure 3 Clonmellon Key Actions

5 Next Steps

This Community Action Plan captures the benefits of an integrated and focused approach to securing future funding of community and business initiatives for Clonmellon. The benefits of this plan arise from improved efficiencies in coordinated thinking and initiatives, providing a unified voice for community and economic development in Clonmellon.

A key benefit of the plan is that it fully takes into consideration the distinct characteristics of the village, having undertaken community consultation and in-depth assessment of its distinct assets including community resources, recreation and visitor amenities and cultural heritage. Through research and consultation, specific areas of opportunity have emerged delivering significant potential for new and improved recreation opportunities, economic growth and tourism development.

While the scope of the Plan focuses primarily on the settlement of Clonmellon, it is recognised that opportunities exist in creating greater linkages with neighbouring settlements and attractions throughout Westmeath and indeed into neighbouring counties, which would have greater benefits for the town's future growth.

It is the objective of this Community Action Plan that the actions set out will encourage both individuals, community groups and businesses to get on board in realising the initiatives and contribute to new innovative ideas that will inspire continued growth for Clonmellon which will help it become more sustainable and successful – socially, environmentally, economically and in terms of civic leadership.

Appendix 1 Context

1 Strategic Context

Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020⁸

The Core Strategy of the Development Plan sets out strategic objectives for Clonmellon to guide its growth and development. The Core Strategy sets out a vision for the county and strategic aims required to deliver this vision. The strategy sets out a Westmeath Settlement Hierarchy, consistent with the Midlands Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022, as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Westmeath Settlement Hierarchy

Position in Hierarchy	Description	Settlement
Tier 1	Linked Gateway Town	Mullingar, Athlone
Tier 2	Key Service Town	Castlepollard
Tier 3	Service Town	Moate, Kilbeggan, Kinnegad
Tier 4	Local Service Town	Rochfortbridge, Killucan/Rathwire, Clonmellon , Tyrrellspass
Tier 5	Rural Centres	Delvin, Coole, Multyfarnham, Ballymore, Ballyncacarrigy, Raharney, Milltownpass, Collinstown, Glasson, Ballinalack, Rathowen, Finnea, Ballinagore, Ballykeeran, Castletown-Geoghegan

Settlement Plans

The County Plan contains settlement plans for the villages and towns of Westmeath. The plan for Clonmellon sets out policy statements and objectives that relates to specific issues for the town.

Housing Supply

- To provide for new residential development in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy and the Housing Strategy for the county

Social and Community

- To facilitate the expansion and development of educational, social and community facilities in the village.
- To explore the efficient use of educational buildings and facilities that benefits the wider community within Clonmellon.
- To provide for amenity uses within the village including provision for a playground.
- To support the development of increased rural transport links to Clonmellon

⁸<http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/planning/developmentplans/countydevelopmentplan2014-2020/>

Infrastructure

- To ensure that adequate and appropriate waste water treatment is in place prior to the development of lands.

It is also an objective:

- To upgrade the surface water drainage system subject to Appropriate Assessment and consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- To consider relocating the speed limit zone along the N52 on the southern entrance to the village.

Settlement

- To promote high quality residential uses as part of mixed -use development on back lands in the expanded village core.
- To permit the provision of new small-scale retail development and commercial outlets of a range and type consistent with the growth of the village and located in an expanded mixed use village core

It is also an objective:

- To carry out an environmental improvement scheme on the Main Street.
- To secure the development of vacant lands in the settlement centre for appropriate mixed - use development.
- To secure the redevelopment and/or refurbishment of derelict or rundown properties.
- To secure the enhancement of the streetscape of Clonmellon.
- To investigate the feasibility of the provision of a village park within the centre of Clonmellon.
- To retain and protect existing mature trees which align the Main Street from the western entrance to the village up to Cluain Maolain National School
- To work with Voluntary Organisations and Community Groups to obtain LEADER funding for enhancements to the town.
- To secure the provision of a playground for the village

Employment

- To provide for employment generating uses in Clonmellon and take advantage of its position on the N52 and attract inward investment.

Heritage and Tourism

- To promote and enhance existing archaeological, built and natural heritage elements associated with Clonmellon and to ensure their protection.

The Westmeath Local Economic Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Economic Enterprise and Tourism Strategic Policy Committee have prepared the Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2020. This sets out three high level goals:

- **Goal 1: Economic Development:** To create employment opportunities through sustainable economic development in Westmeath.
- **Goal 2: Integrated Economic and Community Development:** To secure sustainable economic and community development through the maximisation of educational opportunities and the provision of essential social and physical infrastructure.
- **Goal 3: Community Development:** To secure the creation of vibrant communities in County Westmeath through community development and quality of life initiatives

For each of these goals a set of objectives and corresponding actions were identified to achieve the overall mission of the plan: *'To enhance the well-being and quality of life of the people of Westmeath through sustainable economic and community development'*.⁹

⁹ http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/media/LECP_20162021_.pdf

2 Urban Profile and Characteristics

Demographics

Clonmellon has a population of 664 as of the Census 2016, an increase of 4.7% since 2011. A fifth of the population are aged 18 years or younger, while 10% are over the age of 65 years. 55% of the population of Clonmellon are classified as dependent (youth and aged combined).

Age dependency measures the amount of people who are considered economically inactive in a population i.e. those who are both too young (under the age of 19 years), and above a retirement age of 65. Census data from 2016 indicates that 32% of the population of Clonmellon are aged 19 years or younger. Combining this with the figure for those over 65 indicates 55% of the population of Clonmellon are classified as dependent. As different age groups possess different needs, this information is important for understanding social and economic development issues, and planning for future services.

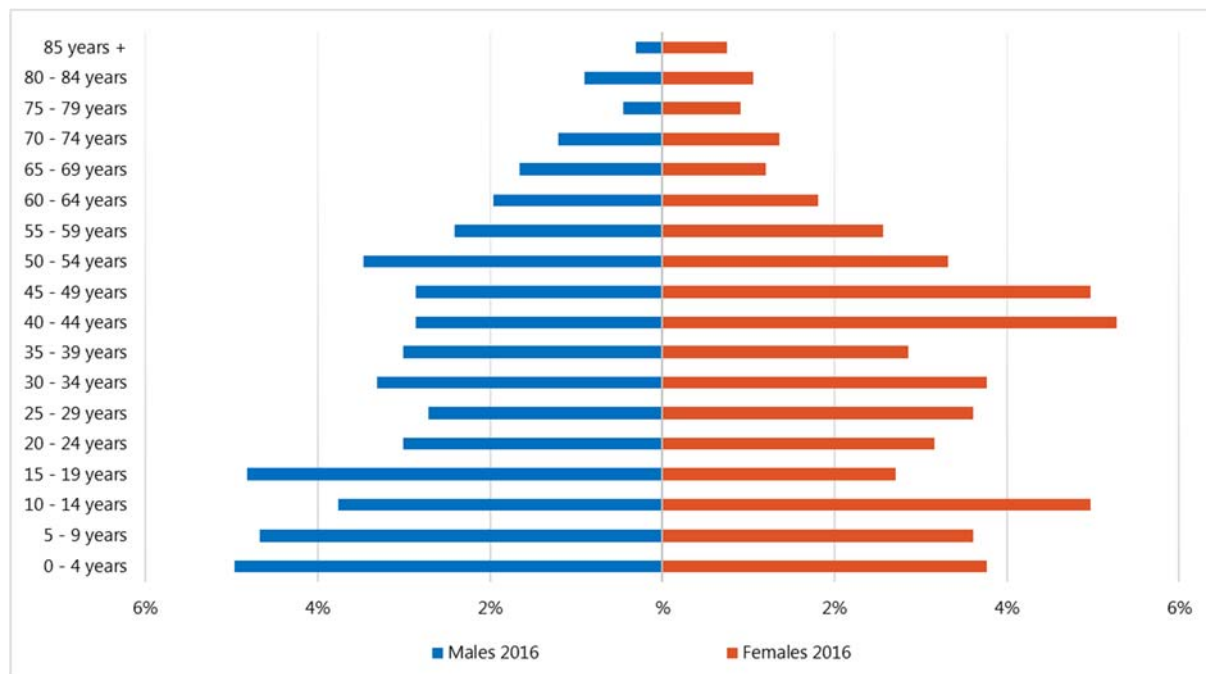


Figure 1-1 Population Structure of Clonmellon (Census 2016)

Household Formation

Nearly half (48%) of households are 1 and 2-person households respectively, the largest of any household categories, while a further 35% comprise 3 or 4-person households. 16% of households comprise 5 or more persons.

30% of Clonmellon households are married couples with children. 14% of households in Clonmellon are single-parent homes. 42% of the population aged 18 or older are married. 99% of households live in a house/bungalow, with 1% residing in a flat/apartment.

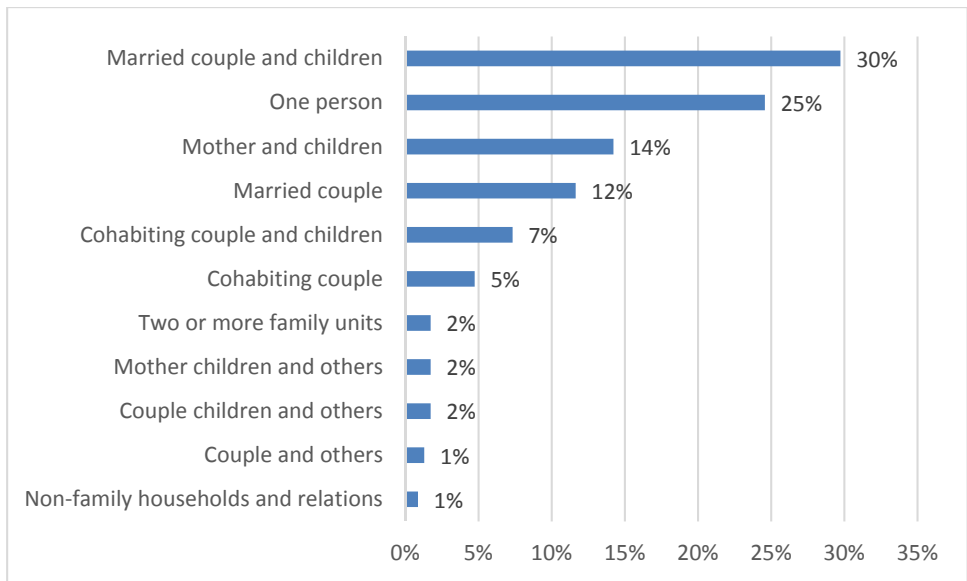


Figure 1-2 Household Type (Census 2016)

A review of families by the age of the youngest child shows that the youngest child is between newborn and four years of age in 31% of all families, the largest of any group. This information assists in planning for key community and education services.

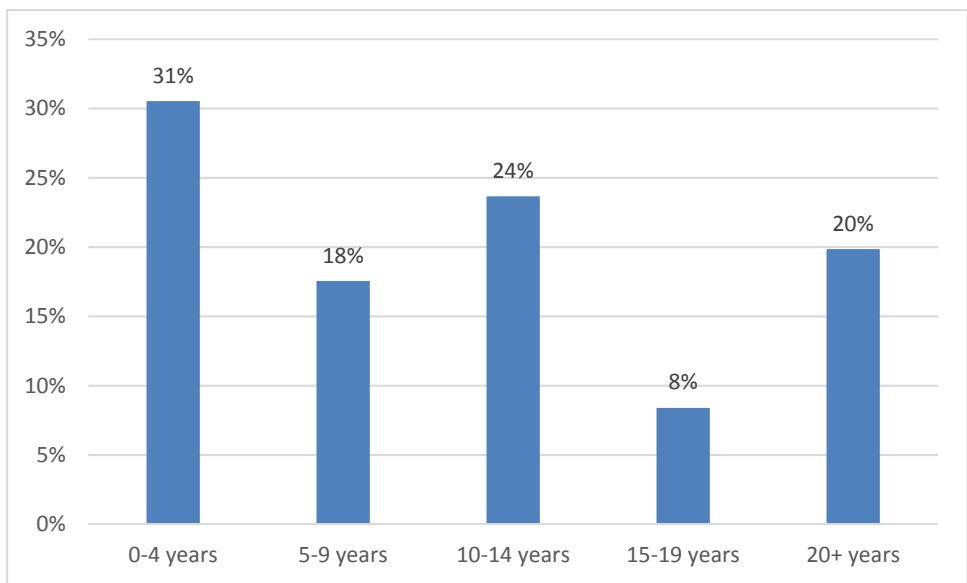


Figure 1-3 Families by age of youngest child (Census 2016)

Diversity

In terms of nationality, most residents are Irish nationals (94%), while British nationals make up the largest non-Irish national population at 2%. Of all foreign language speakers in the town, 21% speak Lithuanian while 11% speak French. Of those who speak a foreign language, over four fifths (87%) can speak English either well or very well, with only 5 people (8%) not being able to speak the language at all or not very well.

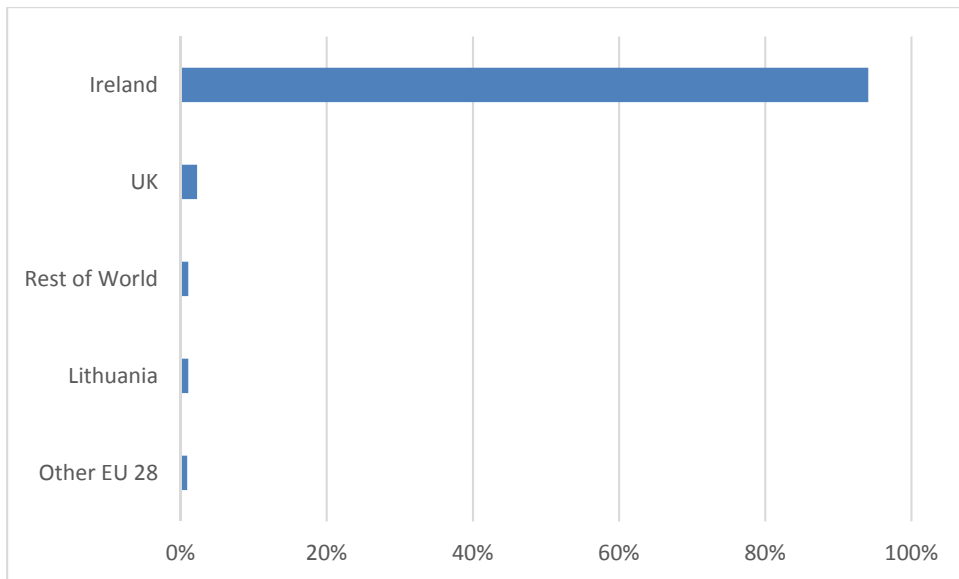


Figure 1-4 Usually resident population by nationality (Census 2016)

General Health and Wellbeing

87% of the population describe their level of health as being good or very good, while 1% are bad or very bad. A total of 27 persons are categories as 'carers', caring for a family member or friend. 63% of all carers within the community are female.

Deprivation

Pobal, an intermediary body working on behalf of the Government on EU funded projects supporting social and economic development, have developed a deprivation index to allow for analysis of relative rates of deprivation and affluence across the entire country. This indicates that Clonmellon is marginally above average.

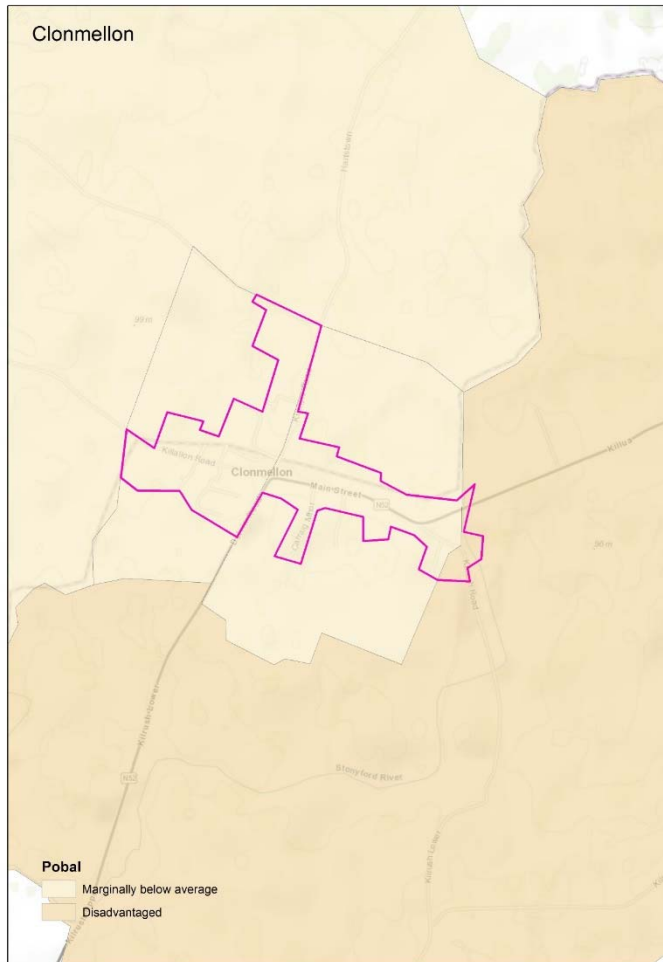


Figure 0-5 Pobal Affluence and Deprivation mapping by Small Areas (Pobal 2016)

Broadband Access

Broadband access or IT connectivity can be understood as internet access which connects an individual to computers, mobile devices and computer networks, enabling users to access internet services. Broadband access forms an essential component of ICT or Infrastructure Technology Infrastructure, with a high proportion of broadband accessibility being an essential feature of a vibrant economy. The figures for private broadband access in Clonmellon in 2016 indicates that nearly two-thirds of households (63%) of households have a personal computer, while 77% has broadband or other. 21% of households have no internet access. This compares to a national average of 87% of households that have access to the internet at home in 2016. Access to high quality broadband and ICT infrastructure will be an important element for the future socio-economic development of the town in terms of ability to access key services and resources, including health, education and employment, and attracting new and supporting existing investment in the locality.

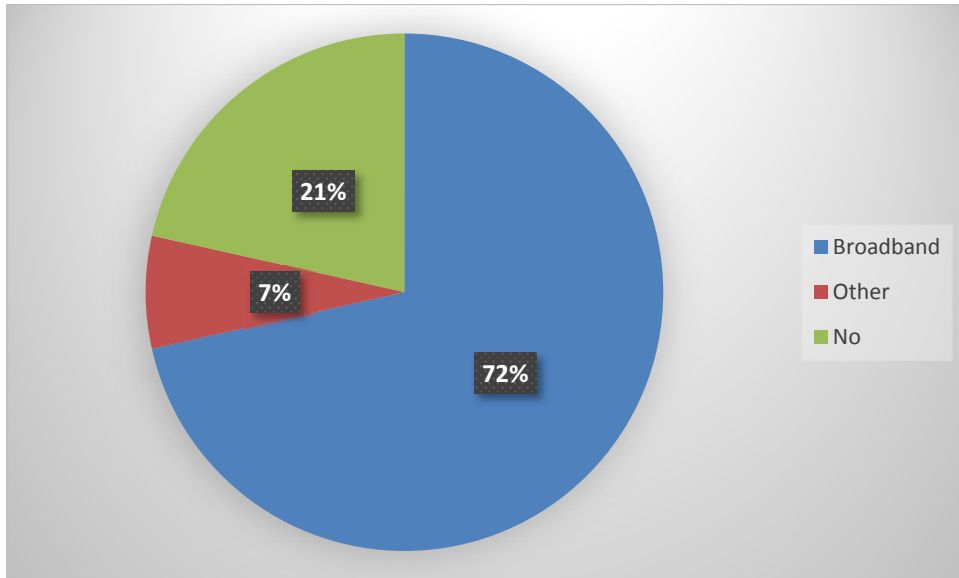


Figure 1 6 Proportion of households with internet access (Census 2016)

Education

A review of education levels shows that 4% of the population has a Postgraduate Diploma or Degree; 7% has a Honours Bachelor Degree Professional qualification or both, and 5% has Ordinary Bachelor Degree or National Diploma

Clonmellon has one national schools, a state of the art new school building with c. 230 students. The nearest secondary school is in Athboy, 5km away with another at Kells, 8km away, which is where the majority of Clonmellon children go. Those travelling to Athboy can avail of a subsidised bus ticket, while those travelling to Kells cannot and need to take a private bus at a cost of €30/week.

The nearest third level institutions to Clonmellon is Maynooth University. Longford and Westmeath ETB is located in Mullingar, while there is a Youthreach Centre located in Delvin and Longford town and the Athlone Training Centre in Athlone.

Employment

The principle economic status of residents shows persons aged 15 years or older who are physically able to work. Census 2016 determines that 55% of the population are employed, while a further 23% are either students or retired. The unemployment rate currently stands at 13%. A further 4% are unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability.

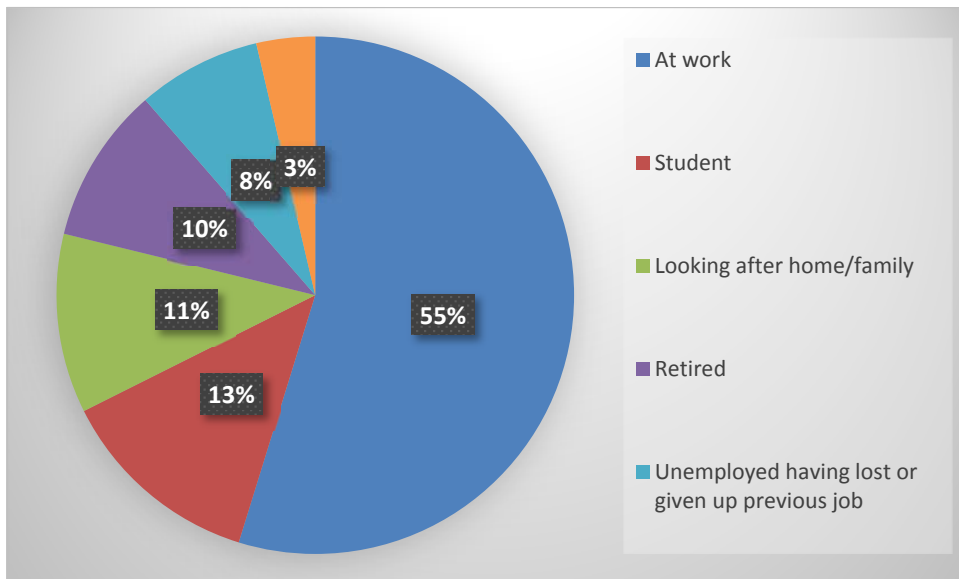


Figure 1.7 Principal Economic status (Census 2016)

A review of the socio-economic group characteristics of the town shows that that highest proportion of the working population are semi-skilled, while 13% respectively are employers and managers and non-manual. 11% are in professional class.

Of occupations stated, 14% are in Skilled trade (34) and Caring Leisure and Other Service (43) respectively. 11% of occupations are in Administrative and Secretarial Occupations, of which the proportion of females far exceeds the males within this occupation type. 10% respectively are in Process Plant and Machine Operatives (31), Professional (30) and Sales and Customer Service Occupations (30).

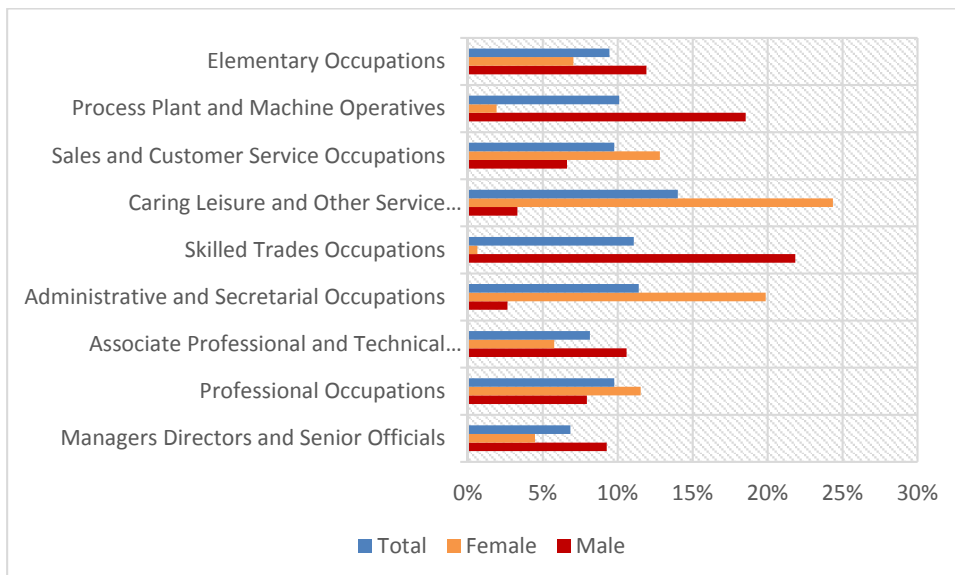


Figure 1.8 Persons at work or unemployed by gender (Census 2016)

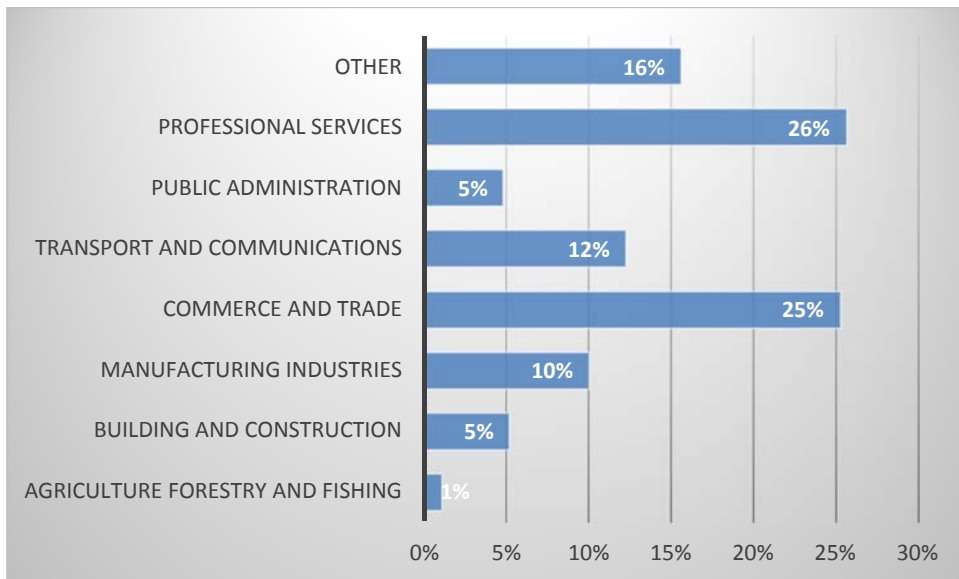


Figure 1.9 Occupation by sector (Census 2016)

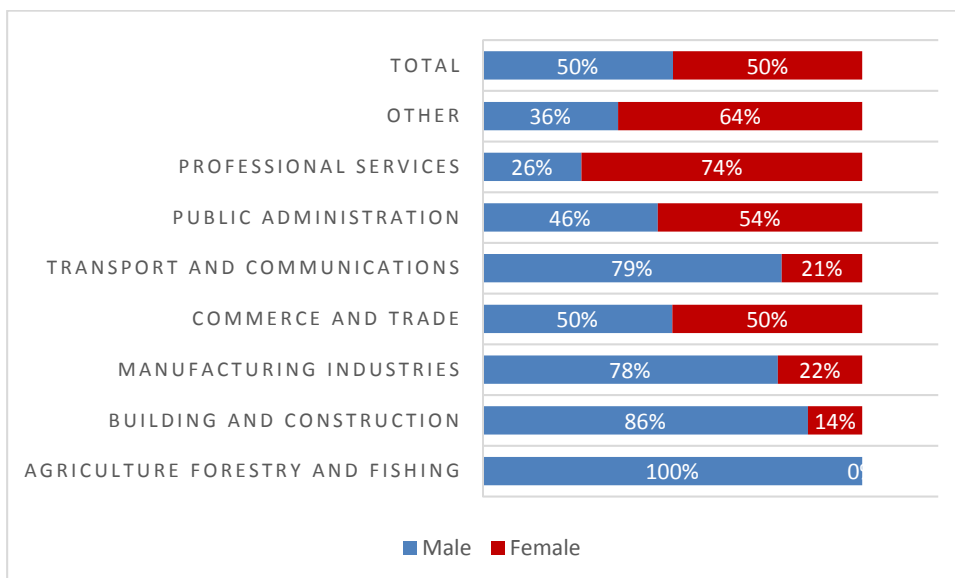


Figure 1.10 Occupation by gender (Census 2016)

Commuting

From the analysis of the patterns of transport to places of employment, school or college, it is observed that there is a high reliance on private transport within Clonmellon, with 58% of people using a car to commute. 15% of persons travel by foot. 3% of the population work mainly from home. For 28% of people, their journey time is under 15 minutes. 6% of households have no car, while 92% has at least one car. 32% of those who travel to work school or college leave before 7.30am, with 35% leaving between 8.01 and 09.30am. 25% of Clonmellon's population commutes between 30 minutes and 1 hour to work, school or college which appears to show that they travel to centres such as Athlone, Maynooth, Cavan for example. It takes 20% of the population over an hour to commute to school, college or work which appears to show that a significant of Clonmellon's population travel outside the county to locations in Dublin, Sligo, or Galway and further afield.

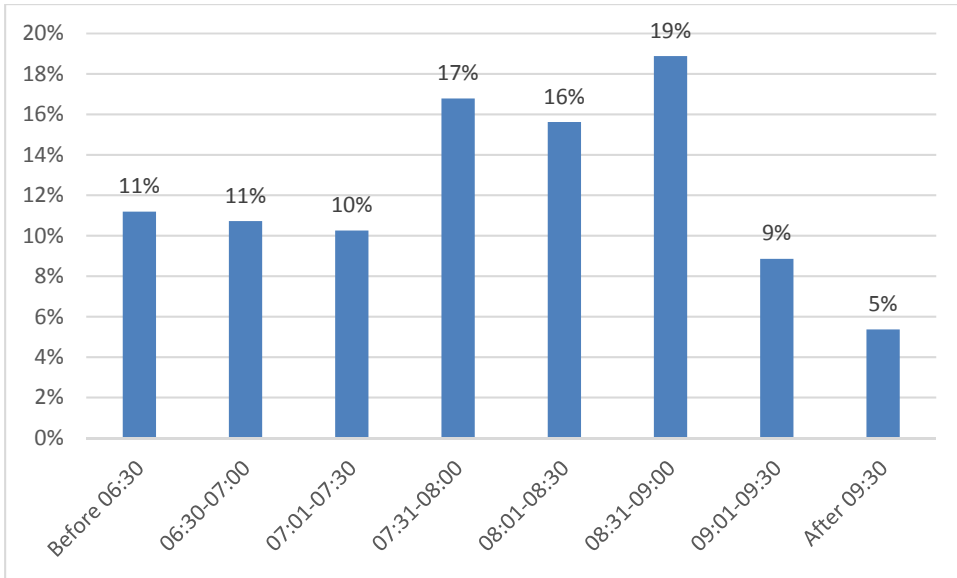


Figure 0-11 Population aged 5 years and over by time leaving home to travel to work, school or college (Source: Census 2016)

3 Health Check Analysis

The town centre health check is a useful tool in establishing a baseline which, will help to drive town centre development in the future. The Town Health Check collates information on Clonmellon based on a range of pre-determined indicators to create reliable baseline information, providing a valuable framework for identifying the town's many assets, and identifying where improvements can be made. The health check element of this plan focuses on the town's physical environment, the occupancy, type and variety of uses in the town, accessibility, the appearance of buildings and other public realm features including shop frontages, signage, lighting, street furniture, planting, as well as local attractions and assets. As outlined in the Retail Planning Guidelines, viability and vitality are core elements to the enhancement of town and village centres: *"Vitality is a measure of how active and buoyant a centre is, whilst viability refers to the commercial well-being of a town"*, thereby, a measure of its capacity to continually attract investment.

The health check study comprised baseline research including GeoDirectory land use data, site visits and stakeholder consultation and was undertaken by independent qualified town planners from Future Analytics Consulting, with experience in urban and rural planning and community development projects.

General Character

Clonmellon was built in the late 18th Century by Sir Benjamin Chapman and adjoins the Killua Castle Estate where he resided. It is situated in the demesne of Killua and forms part of the ancient barony of Delvin. By 1837 Clonmellon was established as a market town. The village has a distinctive broad Mai Street which, up to its demesne as a market town, focused activity on the Market Square. This wide urban form is consistent with the design of market town and villages throughout the country. The extended street vista is broken by its topography with the Main Street rising to a point approximately halfway along its length. Clonmellon has largely maintained its historic settlements structure through a linear form. The east of the village is characterised by impressive two storeys, three bay buildings with modern housing developments located at the western end of the village and an infill scheme south of the Main Street.



Physically, the core area of Clonmellon has experienced little change over the years. In recognition of its attractive built form, the settlement core has been designated as an Architectural Conservation Area. Coupled with this however, the core area has also experienced increased levels of population decline with significantly high levels of vacancy and dereliction both in terms of commercial units and residential units at the crossroad junction and along the Main Street. A derelict former forecourt store with canopy and associated dwelling forms a focal point within the village.



It is noted that the crossroads where the N52 bisects the centre of Clonmellon has a vacant building and/or use visible from all four approach routes. There are 18 protected structures located within the village core, which further emphasises the importance in protecting the architectural heritage of this village.

There is no public open space provision within the village core, however, from the eastern end of the Main Street, there are several mature trees and grass verge that align the street and enhance this approach into Clonmellon. These features along with some stonewalls add to the character and streetscape of this settlement.



Accessibility

Clonmellon is situated on the N52 National Route at a crossroads junction, approximately 29km northeast of Mullingar and 11km west of Athboy. Clonmellon is accessible to road users, given its development on the N52 and is also assessed by a network of local roads. It is within proximity to Kells (12km north of village), Delvin (8km south of village) and Athboy (9km south of village). On-street car parking is available throughout the town and the Main Street (located on the N52) acts as a thoroughfare for road users on the N52. A set of traffic lights is present within the centre of the village and is available for pedestrians, when required.

There is **no rail or public bus service** for Clonmellon, however private bus operators provide a valuable transportation service to secondary level educational facilities in Athboy.

There is currently a Bus Eireann service (111X) from Clonmellon-Delvin-Athboy-Dublin city centre. This service operates with two weekday morning services from Clonmellon-Delvin-Athboy-Dublin and two weekday daily evening services from Dublin-Athboy-Delvin-Clonmellon.

The core area of the town is served by a **network of public footpaths** however, there are improvements required, particularly on the northern side of Main Street. The provision of a footpath is also required along Killalyon road and will link an existing residential development with the village core.



Cycling infrastructure is limited, with **no designated cycle paths** in the town. There is significant potential for the provision of cycle friendly facilities in the town centre, leading to schools. However, more substantial works would be required on the regional roads outside of the town centre, leading to nearby recreation areas and attractions.

On-street parking is widely available around the Market Square and on secondary streets, free of charge. There are two pedestrian crossings in the village, one near the schools and the other near the playground.



Signage from the M6 and N52 lack directional signage for Clonmellon. There is signage for Clonmellon as you approach the village and on arrival but no signage to welcome people to the village or to encourage drivers to slow down. There is good signage within the village directing people to other settlements e.g. Fore.



The village is dominated at times by through traffic including large articulated vehicles.



Economy

The population of Clonmellon and its surrounding rural area allows the town to function as a 'local service town'. Small scale family run businesses dominate this settlement with no large commercial retailers present in the village. The high vacancy levels in the core area is indicative of the economic challenges which face this village and its competitiveness.

There is a diversity of uses within the village core which accommodate the needs of the local community and its surrounding rural hinterland including:

	Yes	No
Shopping & Services	Post Office Local Store (Gala) Local shop/hardware (Leonards) 3 Public Houses Credit Union Church Cemetery	No pharmacy No banking No butchers No hair salons/barbers No medical practice No specialised fashions No children's fashions No ATM
Restaurants/food outlets	Cafe Chinese Restaurant	Takeaway (Burger Hut – vacant)
Leisure	4 Public Houses Hotel	
Cultural/entertainment	3 Public houses (not incl. the Corner House Pub – use has ceased). Community Centre Playground	No Public library
Office space	None	

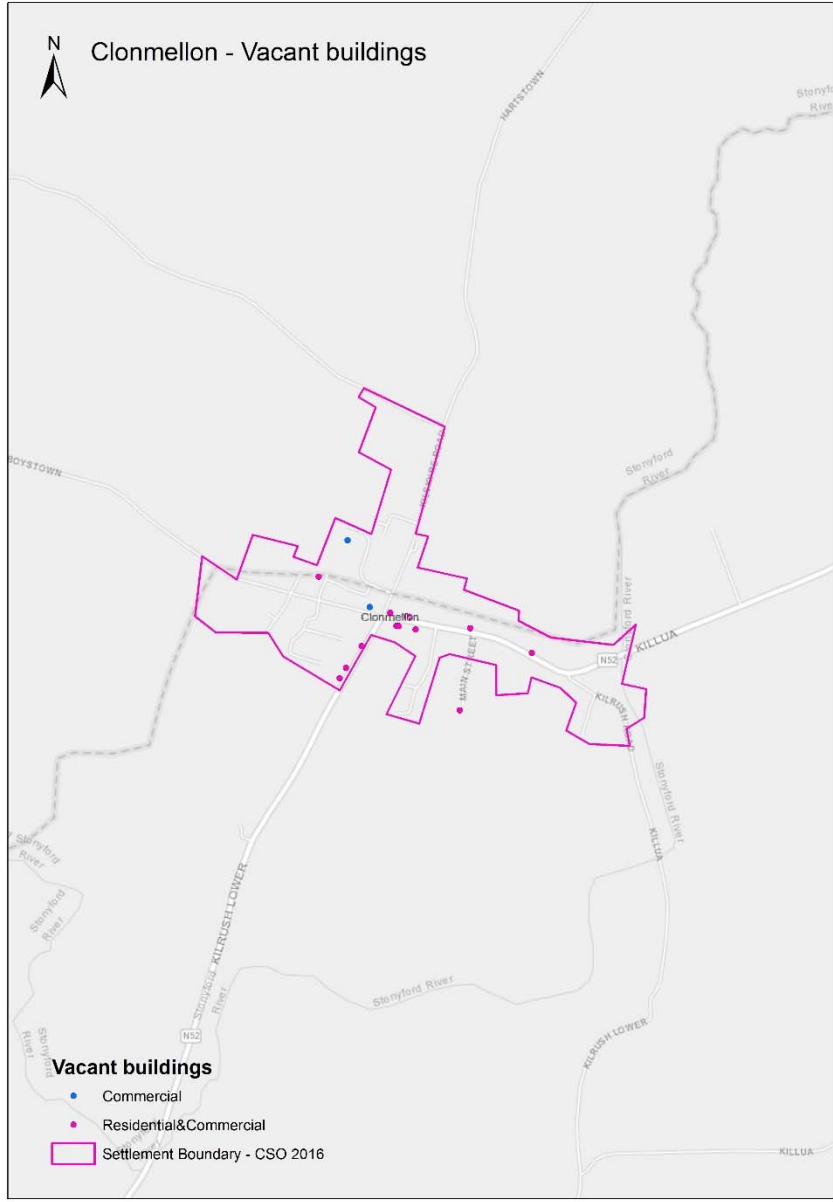


Own brand family businesses exist within the commercial core area of Clonmellon. A 'Gala' local store is the only national brand retailer established within the village. There is a limited rental sector on commercial units available in Clonmellon, with no availability at present. It is evident that some former commercial buildings within the village are now redundant with no impetus for their re-establishment. There is no enterprise centre or office space available in the town.



A review of vacant buildings within the town centre was undertaken which identified a vacancy rate of approximately 7% for commercial and mixed commercial units. This is a low rate of vacancy, especially compared to both the national commercial vacancy rate of 13.3% (Q2 2017) and the county level of 11.2%. As demonstrated by Figure 3 1, vacancy levels amongst residential premises are also an issue in Clonmellon. The residential vacancy rate in Clonmellon is 5.8% according to data derived from GeoDirectory (Q2 2017). Measures to address vacancy levels within the town are needed, including actions which will enhance the presentation of vacant units.

There are groupings of vacant properties located along the Main Street within the core area of the town which collectively are impacting on the vitality and viability of the core. A redundant forecourt station with canopy and an associated dwelling house is prominently located within the central area of the village and detracts substantially from the aesthetics of the area. Several terraced houses are also vacant and the Corner Pub has ceased operations as a public house, with this space reintegrated into the family home. Despite this, on-going works appear to be undertaken in a number of these vacant properties to ensure that they do not appear dilapidated. There are no properties within Clonmellon village listed on the Derelict Sites Register currently.





Public realm

Clonmellon has largely maintained its historic settlement structure through a linear form. This village is defined by its wide expansive Main Street which serves large volumes of traffic on the N52 and is flanked by many vacant properties which collectively are compromising its vitality and viability. No public realm improvement works have been undertaken on Main Street and associated footpaths in recent decades.





Several mature trees align the Main Street and there is some seasonal floral planting utilised at the crossroad junction. The mature trees and grass verge that align the street on the eastern approach contribute positively to the aesthetics of the village. Public lamp standards are functional. There is no street furniture in the form of seating (save for a picnic bench located on the north-eastern approach into the core of Clonmellon) and the existing public bins sited along the Main Street are functional, but dated. There is no public open space or sculptures within the core area to contribute positively to the aesthetics of the village. The core area of Clonmellon is for the most part free of clutter and graffiti. On-going maintenance ensures the regular removal of litter from on-street bin stores.





There are some new housing developments in the town and there is a playpark in a green space, which could be enhanced with new planting.





Improvements in terms of the upgrading of footpaths, enhancement of planting, upgrading of street furniture (where required), and improved signage is required in the village. It is also considered that the dilapidated state of the site of the redundant forecourt station/garage and associated dwelling house should be addressed. A standardisation of commercial signage throughout the village centre and promoting hand painted or individual lettering overhead signage as opposed to plastic signage would contribute positively to the village. These improvement works would be best achieved in collaboration with the local community and individual property owners.



Clonmellon possesses many heritage buildings which significantly contribute to the towns distinct character; however, some need considerable repair and/or maintenance work and are unoccupied, particularly some of the older houses/commercial units on the Main Street. There are heritage buildings throughout the town which are in good condition and retain much of their original character and features. One such example is St John's Church, the disused Church of Ireland building which is approached down a long tree

lined avenue and would suit a variety of uses. Another is the Church of SS Peter and Paul on Main Street, built in c. 1808 with a freestanding belltower built c.1830. Originally this church was constructed as a simple T-plan church, which was adjoined to the east by an earlier parochial house. The chancel was added to this church c. 1880. Unusually, the chancel is located on the south-side of the church. According to local tradition this was because the Chapman Family of Killua Castle, who donated the land for this church, insisted that the church should not open on to the road. The freestanding belltower, built c. 1830, is an unusual feature and is a reminder of political conditions in Ireland prior to Catholic Emancipation in 1827 when the Catholic Church was not permitted to use bells for worship.



Community Services & Resources

Key community and resource providers include the new primary school, the community centre and the Men's Shed, located in the Market Square.



Other important community services include the Credit Union and children’s playground. Clonmellon also hosts a range of community, voluntary, arts and sporting clubs, including Coder Dungeon, Clonmellon Active Retirement, Classact Stage School, Bingo at the Community Centre and St Vincent de Paul), and sporting clubs including St Paul’s GAA Football Club, Clonmellon & Crossakiel Gun Club, and Clonmellon Indoor Bowling.



Together, these community services, resources and groups perform an important role within the communities of Clonmellon and its surrounding hinterland in creating a social, dynamic, and healthy community to live and work.

Natural Environment and Built Heritage

County Westmeath is very rich in biodiversity and landscape types. Near Clonmellon are a number of areas of natural significance, including Girley Bog NHA. Clonmellon's history means that there are several buildings of architectural and archaeological heritage value both within the town and in its surrounding hinterlands.

Tourism and Recreation

While Clonmellon is not well known as a tourist town, it has many significant and unique attractions within close proximity of the town centre that would make the town centre a hub from which visitors can explore.

Activities within the town centre are limited. The town boasts a few buildings of architectural and heritage interest including the church of SS Peter and Paul, and the former St John's Church.

There are many very distinctive tourism and recreation attractions located within a close drive of Clonmellon including:

- Ballinlough Castle which includes luxury accommodation, golf club and hosts the Body & Soul Festival each year,
- Ballinlough Castle Golf Club, an 18-hole course with 180 acres of mature parkland,
- The Causey Farm, a visitor farm with activities such as ceili dancing, sheepdog demonstrations, Bodhran lessons, brown bread baking, cow milking demonstrations, a boglands visit and demonstrations of traditional turf cutting; and events throughout the year such as 'Lambing Live' at Easter and the popular Causey Christmas Experience,

- Loughcrew castle Gardens, over 2.5 hectares of landscaped gardens with fountains, sculptures and architectural treasures,
- Loughcrew Cairns, 3km east of Oldcastle, a group of 5,000-year-old passage tombs.
- Fore Abbey monastic site comprises a series of historic and cultural importance and, has a very high tourism potential. Fore Abbey is a 7th century monastic site, located 16km west of Clonmellon. Amongst the historic structures is St Feichin's church, built c. 900AD, Fore Abbey (Benedictine Priory), the Anchorites cell (17th century), together with the Columbarium, Doaghfeighin, and Tobernacogany. Approximately 18 crosses were situated along the pilgrim trail within a 10 kilometre radius of Fore, collectively known as the Fore Crosses. However, some are no longer in situ, while others need repair.

There is no information board located within the town directing prospective visitors to some of these resources, which would be beneficial. There is a local community website (www.clonmellon.com) which provides information on Clonmellon including an online noticeboard.

Appendix 2 Town Team Toolkit

Role of the Town Team

There has been widespread recognition that our town and village centres have suffered varying levels of deterioration and a loss of activity and vibrancy in recent years. The recent financial crises exacerbated this, however there was evidence of town centre decline long beforehand. Out-of-centre shopping centre offerings, mobile commerce and online retailing have all played their part and impacted town centres. While a variety of government and local authority incentives and schemes have emerged over recent years to address this decline, quite often the burden of responsibility lies with the local community itself. After all, it is the local community who are most aware of the needs and wants of a town. Therefore, it is no surprise that most of literature which seeks to reinvigorate ailing town centres focuses on the creation of forums or groups, composed of local stakeholders, who can lead this charge to address town centre decline.

The **Retail Consultation Forum**, established by the Irish Government in 2014, provides a platform for communication between the retail sector and government. They produced a report, “**A Framework for Town Centre Renewal**”, which established a variety of measures for improving town centres across the country. One of their “key attributes of a successful town centre” called for the creation of a local steering group, which can take the form of a Town Team. Quite often a town will have several community and business groups. Creating a ‘steering group’ can offer a way in which often disparate visions from multiple stakeholders can be addressed. Setting out a consistent vision for the town will allow for improved targeting of funding/business etc. Another recommendation is the identification of a local business champion. Effectively this is the creation of a position as a spokesperson for the town. Often this can be a passionate business person who can champion the town, and relays messages to the public.

Retail Excellence Ireland produced a Strategy for Retailing and the document begins by affirming the need for “effective partnerships”, or Town Teams, to be established if a town is to tackle issues surrounding retail and town centre vibrancy. If this Town Team is to be successful it needs to have an appropriate mix of stakeholders that accurately reflect all aspects of a community.

The concept of Town Teams are not unique to Ireland, rather this is something that has an international reach and has been trialled for several years elsewhere. For example, in 2011 the UK government supported the release of an independent review into UK high streets which sought to provide a strategy to reinvigorate town centres across the country. The **Portas Review** provides several recommendations that aim to revitalise and rejuvenate ailing town centres. One of the key recommendations was the establishment of Town Teams. The review calls for town centres to be run like businesses, and the town team concept is fundamental to this. A town team suggests a body that can take ownership of the town centre and provide a strategy and vision for the future growth and development, all the while maintaining a structured and professional approach.

Also in the United Kingdom, the **Economic and Social Research Council** undertook a comprehensive literature review that sought to identify factors that influence the vitality and viability of town centres. It identified 201 factors that influence high street performance, and further to this sets 25 priorities. The following table is adapted from the report and outlines the 25 priority factors of High Street/Town Centre success:

Priority	Factors
1. Activity Hours	Opening hours; shopping hours; evening economy
2. Appearance	Visual appearance and cleanliness
3. Retailers	Retailer offer and representation
4. Vision & Strategy	Leadership; collaboration; area development strategies
5. Experience	Service quality; visitor satisfaction; centre image; familiarity
6. Management	Centre management; place management
7. Merchandise	Range and quality of goods
8. Necessities	Car-parking; amenities; general facilities
9. Anchor Stores	Presence of anchor stores to give a location a basic character and importance
10. Networks & Partnerships with Council	Community leadership and networking
11. Diversity	Range and quality of shops; tenant mix; variety; retail diversity; alternative formats
12. Walking	Walkability and pedestrian flows; linked-trips
13. Entertainment & Leisure	Leisure and entertainment offer
14. Attractiveness	Attractiveness of place
15. Place Assurance	Atmosphere; BIDs; retail and tenant trust; store characteristics
16. Accessible	Accessibility; public transport options
17. Place Marketing	Marketing; special offers; vouchers for use in area
18. Comparison/convenience	Comparison shopping opportunities compared to comparison %
19. Recreational Space	Amount of recreational and public space
20. Barriers to Entry	Difficulties facing prospective retailers
21. Chain vs Independent	Number of multiple stores versus independent retailers
22. Safety/crime	Perceptions and actual crime
23. Liveable	Functionality of the area, connectivity, liveability
24. Adaptability	Retail flexibility, fragmentation; functionality; unit size
25. Store Development	Process of building, upgrading and renovating stores

Table A2.1: Top 25 priority factors of successful town centres, adapted from the ESRC Report.

It is deemed to be essential that all the priorities are addressed if a town centre is to thrive, however there are some that specifically relate to the Town Team concept: 4. Vision and strategy; 6. Management; and 10. Networks and Partnerships with Council. A Town Team can provide the leadership and collaboration that is required to develop a shared vision and strategy for a town centre, indeed this is a core element of Town Teams. Equally, with an appropriate and professional structure put in place, Town Teams can provide the necessary levels of management that is required for a thriving town centre. The vision developed initially will help to ensure there is a general structure for development to be managed. Networks and partnerships with the local authority or council are a fundamental part of the town team structure, with various suggestions calling for a member of the local authority to be present on town teams. The Town Champion will also play a vital role in terms of networking, and in conjunction with the town team itself there is a necessity for partnerships and networking opportunities to be developed to create a prosperous town centre.

Essentially, the function and objective of a town team is to create the required conditions for a successful and vibrant town centre. The definition, structure or name of the town team is not important; indeed it can take shape in multiple formats. However, it must not lose sight of the original vision, which is to create a sense of place that proves to be attractive to visitors and allows for the

conditions for retail and businesses to thrive in. The following sections will outline a generally accepted format that a Town Team can take, but this is by no means definitive. Just as every town is different, the structure of the town team can also be original and unique.

Advice for Town Teams

The **Retail Consultation Forum** recommends that a core town team of between 10 and 15 people is the most productive number. It also calls for the creation of a position it refers to as “Town Coordinator” which should be a salaried role that sees the person report to the Town Team and effectively act in the same capacity as a manager of a shopping centre. It also recommends that, as a key function of the Town Team, that there is preparation of a Town Centre Plan which sets out the vision for the town, a set of key objectives, priority projects and measurable goals (KPIs).

In terms of their composition, Town Teams should possess a range of stakeholders to give an accurate reflection of their community. The inclusion of several varied voices will ensure that the myriad issues faced by a community can be accurately reflected during the development of action plans. Town Teams enable the local community to collaborate and develop a plan to invigorate and revitalise a town centre. A fundamental part of this collaboration is the creation of a shared strategy, which is set out into achievable actions that are costed and have a timeframe in-place. This will ensure an efficient and timely delivery of the goals agreed upon, and provides a structure for members to follow.

Retail Excellence Ireland also support the idea of creating a strategy or a plan. They believe that a Town “Revival” Plan will provide the key document for use by the Town Team and should focus on internal factors for change. KPIs are required to measure all changes, and benchmarking must first take place to provide a comparison. A regular review process should be undertaken to ensure the plan is still relevant and that it continues to take on the suggestions of all stakeholder. All actions and goals should be realistic and achievable, and have a framework for realisation, preferably at set intervals of 1, 3, 5 and 10 years.

There are three components to a plan that Retail Excellence have found work best:

- Retail and Hospitality Investment – Innovative uses of vacant buildings; Rates and rent controlled areas; focus on the evening economy; extracting incentives from the Local Authority for businesses
- Citizen engagement – Creation of a citizen database for updates to be distributed; an “incubated spending scheme” that aims to develop spending patterns in the town centre; regular events such as farmers markets; innovative car-parking arrangements such as free parking at off-peak times.
- Standards and security – Street ambassadors to ensure street cleanliness; regular audits to ensure standards are met; ensure Gardai have a presence on town team; aiming for the purple flag will help remove safety issues that can surround evening activity.

Retail Excellence call for the creation of a position for a Town Manager, to act just as a manager in a shopping centre would. This could be within a BID group, part of a Chamber, appointed through the Local Authority, or a paid position within the Town Team itself. It is acknowledged that this may not be a position that is required to be limited to one town, and instead could be extended to cover several in one region.

The Portas Review stresses that it is vital there is a unique and tailored vision for the town set out by the Town Team. This will guide future developments. Another key aspect of the Town Team is the idea of a “Champion of Change”. This is a figurehead who can lead the Town Team, or represent the Town Team and engage with stakeholders. The champion should be an enthusiastic and driven individual who can spearhead the vision and development of the Town Team.

Finally, the UK **Department for Communities and Local Government** released a report which focused on British High Streets and included the creation of Town Teams. It created a list titled “**F-Factors of Success**” which all Town Teams should attempt to follow and address. The list, as adapted from the report, is as follows:

Foundations	What is the issue, or issues that first brought the Town Team together? Are these issues still valid, or have they been achieved? It is important to not lose sight of these issues as the Town Team evolves.
Function	What is the function of the Town Team, and in what form does this occur? Others need to be aware of the role of the Town Team and what their remit is (strengthening business, or creating social events). How this function will take place is also vital (coordinating, influencing or doing).
Form	Form follows function. If the town team begins as a rather loose collection of people, over time it could take on a legal form as a charity or company or cooperative, strengthening its reach.
Folk	The people involved with the Town Team are the most important aspect of it. This not only includes those that compose the team itself, but also those people the team deal with, work with and try to help. Involving the wider community, and particularly influential stakeholders will dramatically shape service delivery and overall success. Therefore, the selection of stakeholders is vital.
Finance	Subsequent to the start-up funds or grants that first allow the town team to be established, it is important to consider how funding will be attained.
Forward-plan	The creation of a forward plan is just as important as setting out the actions you wish to achieve. This involves creating proposals as to how the team will run and develop. Projects and actions will not be achieved if there is no structure in place to allow for success.
Fun	Make meetings enjoyable and activities rewarding, otherwise volunteers will not return.

Table A2.1: F-Factors of success, adapted from the Great British High Street Report.

Role of team members

Although the structure and make-up of a Town Team can vary with each one, it is still useful to have a general format to follow. Taking on board the range of literature on Town Teams, some of which has been discussed already, a foundational set of roles have been defined and are as follows:

- Chairperson
- Coordinating Officer
- Secretary
- Communications Officer
- Finance Officer

The primary role of the **Chairperson** is to lead the regular meetings that will occur between Town Team members. They are there to ensure that meetings function properly and are conducted in a professional manner such that all matters are addressed during the course of the meeting in a timely

fashion. The Chairperson should be a natural leader with excellent networking skills, as his or her role will go beyond hosting the meetings, and extend into the community, being a focal point and figurehead for the Town Team. Networking and creating exposure for the Town Team will be an important part of this role, along with the Communications Officer.

As **Coordinating Officer**, the responsibility exists to create an efficient and functioning environment for the Town Team and associated sub-groups (thematic groups). Due to the varied aims and themes that a town team will target, it is essential that lines of communication are open between all disparate groupings so there is no overlap or inefficient use of scarce resources. The coordinating officer will, essentially, act as a mediator between groups to ensure all original targets and visions are being worked towards and no unnecessary deviations from the aims occur.

The role of the **Secretary** is a vital one as it will allow for the successful functioning of the Town Team. At its most basic, the Secretary will be in charge of recording the minutes of all meetings, and ensuring the meetings themselves are organised in an efficient manner. In conjunction with the Finance Officer, the Secretary will strive to ensure that all administrative duties relating to grant applications are undertaken. They will take the lead in the development of the overarching Town Team vision and functioning guidelines, ensuring that both are adhered to.

Considering that exposure is central to the Town Team, as it allows for community buy-in and potential business networking opportunities, there is a need for a **Communications Officer**. Effectively, this role entails all external, or outward-facing aspects of the Town Team. Effective communication with the local community and all other stakeholders allows for the continued development of a shared vision for the town. It also provides a means through which Town Team achievements can be relayed to those not directly involved. Some practical tasks for a communication officer include; the creation/maintenance of a town website, running of all social media accounts, the creation of a citizen database, and all external communications (newspaper and radio advertisements etc.).

The **Finance Officer** performs a similar role to a Treasurer, however due to the extended remit of the Town Team, and the necessity to access large swathes of government funding, there is a more pronounced function to the position. Effectively, the Finance Officer will preside over all aspects of financial management. This can include the submission of grant and funding applications, financial budgeting, book keeping (if necessary), and resource allocation.

Governance Structure

Choosing the appropriate model of partnership within towns is imperative, as different models produce different outcomes and unintended consequences. An article in the Journal of Place Management and Development stresses the need for appropriate model selection. For example, the **Business Improvement District (BID)** model offers a contractualised, formal approach whereby several businesses will form a partnership that funds certain activities and programmes for improvement, while also offering a coordinated body through which lobbying the local authority can take place. While this clearly has many benefits to local retailers, it also creates a "default reliance on the local retailers" which effectively excludes other voices and potential agents of change within a town centre. Therefore, there is a need to be more inclusive when developing groups that aim to revitalise town centres. Neighbourhood Partnerships are a means through which this can be achieved,

and Town Teams are included within this format. They take a more holistic approach that values and focuses on social matters as well as playing a supportive role to the business community.

Retail Excellence Ireland suggest that a Team could form a **Limited Company** to “enhance effectiveness and financial wellbeing”. It goes on to state that there could be a membership scheme implemented which would provide a source of revenue. This could be an investment in the town itself, although it also has similarities with the Business Improvement District schemes. The BID schemes, while possessing plenty of advantages, may not be universally accepted as it effectively applies an additional levy to businesses.

The **Governance Code** is a resource to assist community, voluntary and charity (CVC) organisations develop their overall capacity in terms of how they run their organisation. It is a voluntary code provided free to all boards/committees/ executives of not-for-profit groups to encourage them to check themselves against best practice in the management of their affairs. It sets out structures of governance that can be utilised by a range of organisations, and could provide a useful framework for Town Team Governance models. There are three types of organisations covered in the code; Type A, Type B and Type C. Type A Organisations are those that are run by volunteers and generally tend to be such groupings as; local community groups, sports clubs and other such forums. These groups operate on almost no income. It is quite possible for a Town Team to operate under this model. However, if they choose to operate as a Companies Limited by Guarantee (CLG) should choose the Type B charter. This is perhaps more useful if the Town Team is required to become a CLG to apply for grants and access funding. It could also be required if the Town Team decides to appoint a paid single member of staff, such as a Town Manager.

Ultimately, the governance structure taken by a town team will be something that develops in time. While it may initially begin as a loose informal collection of local stakeholder, overtime this could change with a need for more formal structures to be put in place, particularly when there is a need to do so for funding applications. By following the guidance outlined in previous sections, a town team should have the adequate structures in place to ensure that any change to a more professional form is easily achieved.

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Appendix 3 Grants Available to Community Groups

Contact Point	GRANT	PURPOSE OF GRANT	BUDGET AVAILABLE FOR WESTMEATH (Estimated for 2018)	TYPICAL RANGE OF GRANT AVAILABLE
Community Development	Tidy Towns Grant and awards	Support Tidy Towns groups to participate in National competition	44,000	€500 to €6,000
	Residents Association grants	Assist Residents Associations in improvement and maintenance of their local area.	32,000	€150 to €650
	Community Action Scheme grants	Assist local community groups in undertaking projects which contribute to the general wellbeing and quality of life of the local community	€79,000	€300 to €1,500
	RAPID Grants	Capital Type projects for small scale works in disadvantaged urban areas.	€64,500	€500 to €5,000
	Community Facilities Grant	Assist community groups in undertaking small scale capital projects which benefit their local community	€64,500	€325 to €1,500
	Festival and Events grant	Encourage and promote local events which involve significant voluntary input and generate increased economic and community activity for the local area	€98,300	€250 to €8,000
	Christmas Lights grant	Assist local groups with cost of maintenance and upgrading of Christmas Lights in Towns and Villages	€48,000	€200 to €28,000
	Town & Village Renewal	To support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment	National budget of approx €15million	Generally up to €100,000
	CLAR Grants	To provide funding for small scale infrastructure projects in rural areas with population decline.	National budget of approx €5million	Generally up to €50,000

	Outdoor Rural Recreation Scheme	To provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure. .	National budget of approx €1 million	Generally up to €10,000
	Healthy Ireland	To support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health	€100,000	Depends on project
Westmeath Community Development	LEADER Rural Development	Aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversifying the rural economy.	€5.6million over 5 year programme	€1,250 to €200,000
Arts Office	Creative Ireland Grants	Provide support to local and community, artistic and creative activities and projects that will encourage cultural participation	€64,000	€750 to €5,000
	Arts in Community	To encourage meaningful collaboration between professional artists and groups/organisations such as schools and healthcare & community centres		€200 to €800
	Arts Act Grant	To assist amateur, community or voluntary individual, groups or organisations, which in the opinion of the authority, will stimulate public interest in the arts, promote the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or assist in improving the standards of the arts		€200 to €400
	Artists Bursary Grants	Provides funding to individual professional artists based in Westmeath who engages in an arts activity for a source of livelihood and who are the principal personnel in the creative process resulting in a work of art.		€200 to €700
Environment	Local Agenda 21 Grants	To assist small scale sustainable development projects by local non-profit groups focusing on environmental awareness and actions on waste, biodiversity, climate change, air or water quality, etc	€19,000	€100 to €1,000

	Environmental projects incl. Back to Beauty	Provide assistance to communities with litter control projects and restoration of litter black-spots	From litter control budget	
	Eco Schools Grants	To encourage young people to develop an interest and undertake environmental projects in their schools	€1,500	€500
	Cemetery Maintenance Grant	To contribute financially to local groups who carry out cemetery maintenance/improvement works and incur expenses associated with their local cemetery	€10,000	€250 to €750
Planning	Structures at Risk Fund	Capital works to reduce the risk of deterioration of buildings and structures of architectural heritage.	National competition	€5,000 to €30,000
	Built Heritage Investment Scheme	To fund the appropriate repair and conservation of historic structures with works that: are sympathetic to the character and special interest of the structure or are of a standard that matches the historical detailing, materials and techniques	€50,000	€2,500 to €15,000
Transportation	Local Improvement Scheme	Repair and upgrade of non-public roads, often leading to houses and important community amenities such as graveyards, beaches, piers, mountains, etc. or other non-public roads that provide access to parcels of land, or provide access for harvesting purposes (including turf or seaweed) for two or more persons.	Yet to be determined	