

Castletown

Smart Community Plan.

Part 4 of 4

Community Management & Planning



A Plan by the Community for the Community



1. Introduction

Welcome to the **Castletown Smart Local Management Plan** plan June 2019. This plan has been compiled by the **Castletown** community for the **Castletown** community. The plan comes at the end of a twelve month process of working to strengthen the community management capabilities in **Castletown**.

Benefits of a Local Plan

- ✓ Better local collaboration
- ✓ Encourages greater volunteerism
- ✓ Provides direction to local development
- ✓ Creates a unified voice and action team
- ✓ Helps identify & understand problems
- ✓ Improves access to outside supports



Clare Local Development Company

The Wider Project: The project has been funded by Clare Local Development Company and facilitated by a company called eTownz. The project is part of a wider project in Clare where forty communities across the county have been undertaking similar exercises. As many nearby communities are undertaking similar projects and developing local action teams, it creates collaboration opportunities for neighbouring communities.

The Four-Part Plan: This document is one of four parts of a community plan for **Castletown**. These represent four top tiers of community planning: Economy, Wellbeing, Environment and Management.



Castletown may wish to develop more detailed plans for specific areas within one of the four parts, such as a specific Tourism plan under the Economy heading, or a specific Energy plan under the Environment heading.

Town Teams: The importance to local development of collaboration between local people, clubs, businesses and service providers cannot be understated. eTownz suggests **Castletown** creates teams for each of the four top tiers: **Economy, Wellbeing, Environment and Management**.



> How Did We Get Here?

The **Castletown Smart Local Management Plan** has been compiled over 12 months from community feedback. eTownz liaised with a small group of dedicated local volunteers to organise and gather the information in this report.



> Plan Structure

This is a 'smart' community plan. It draws on information from different sources and can be updated at any time through the eTownz online dashboard- [Click Here](#) . This allows different sections of the community to engage with an ongoing planning process

The plan was compiled by creating a 'model' of **Castletown**. The information is logged to a database as 'Record Logs'.

Each record log is assigned both a "Log Type" and a "Log Theme". This provides the framework for the community plan. This modular plan is compiled using the eTownz Dashboard, allowing the plan to be easily updated by the **Castletown** team in the future, adding new project ideas and challenges.

Your Community Idea Card

1) Type: (circle as appropriate)

a) Asset
b) Project (Past / Present / Ideal)
c) Stakeholder (Clubs / Groups etc.)
d) Goal

2) Community Development Theme: (circle as appropriate)

a) Health, Recreation & Quality of Life
b) Environment & Sustainability
c) Business & Employment
d) Community Management & Planning

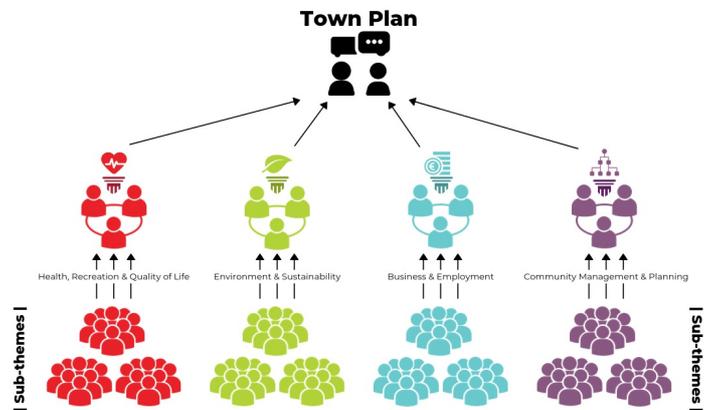
3) Title: *Local GAA Club*

4) Summary:

The local club is...

> What Next?

The plan hopes to assist **Castletown** locals with creating a series of community development teams. Each team will cover one of the four top tiers; **Economy, Wellbeing, Environment or Management**. Teams should be composed of representatives from local clubs, businesses and service providers, as well as interested people from **Castletown** . Teams will set their own agendas for how often they would like to meet, what projects to undertake and so on.



> So What Can You Do?

If you have an interest in local issues in Castletown , there are a number of ways you can get involved:

- **Share:** Read and share this report with others
- **Survey:** Complete the surveys or register your club/organisation
- **Contribute:** Contribute your ideas on any record by clicking on the log record title or visiting the eTownz dashboard
- **Join a team:** Register for a team online or attend a meeting to get involved in the **Castletown** plan.



2. Executive Summary

Management, Planning & Coordination Town Team

The first step in developing management initiatives in the community is to create & support a team of relevant people and organisations that can help coordinate activities and facilitate change. The team can be small or large and decide its own format. The team may take on its own projects or simply meet occasionally to help coordinate groups with common interests. The team could be comprised of local residents, businesses, club or public service representatives. The team structure can be simple to start with and decide how often they should meet as they see fit. The team can seek to gain a greater understanding of local barriers and opportunities to formulate a plan for future activities. There are also a wide variety of supports available and well prepared team can help the community can take advantage of these. Building a local environment team helps coordinate cross-community initiatives, helps liaising with service providers, and helps the community understand & address local management challenges.

Local Communication Plan

Communications is key to effective local development. The town management team may want to work towards communication plans to ensure there are effective channels to communicate messages on local issue & opportunities, such as the work of the town teams. Such a plan might start with identifying local people who would be interested in preparing and implementing a local communications plan. The plan might consider both online and offline channels. Consideration may be given to both promoting the community and its offering to visitors but also keeping locals up to date on local events & activities.

Youth Council & Youth Plan

One challenge in identifying & supporting the needs of local youth is getting them involved in local development. The management team may want to work towards the foundation of a youth council to encourage young people to get involved in community development, to develop a plan for the youth in the area. Local schools and youth-oriented clubs & activities could be involved in the foundation of a youth council or help in a survey of the needs of young people in the area.

3. Summary of Community Stats

In this section we provide a summary of key statistics related to the community based primarily on 2016 Census data. In the appendices we provide further detail via charts and below this table are direct links to the data visualisations.

4. Stakeholders

Good local plans should strive to help all stakeholders within a community, especially the most vulnerable.

Sometimes, plans tend to focus on the most obvious stakeholders, such as local hotels, but forget about the small business owner working from home; they acknowledge the local football team, but ignore the local bridge club.

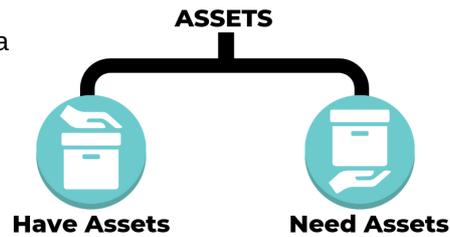
By building a register of the various local stakeholders, we aim for the Castletown Smart Community Plan to be inclusive and relevant to the needs of people and organisations throughout Castletown. The image across provides a breakdown of relevant stakeholders types.



TITLE	SUMMARY	TYPE	Number Follows	Number Comments
Castletown Tidy Towns - 8649	<p>T2: Streetscape , Planning & Management, Participation & Volunteering</p> <p>T3: Liveable & Tidy Towns, Built Environment & Landscape</p>	Group/Club	0	0
Laois Partnership Company - 5971	<p>The Rural Development Programme; Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) DSP Job Club; Community Employment Schemes; Tus Programme; Rural Social Scheme; Services to the Elderly Programme(LSTEP); National Childcare Schemes; Back to Education initiative. The Company's catchment area is the whole of Laois</p> <p>T2: Employment</p> <p>T3: Job Seekers</p>	Public Service	0	0
Public representatives - 6150	<p>The areas local TDs and councillors.</p> <p>T2: Planning & Management</p> <p>T3: Planning, Management & Governance</p>	Public Service	0	0

5. Assets

Identifying, understanding and appreciating the assets within a community is an important part of any community plan. This plan takes elements from a popular approach to community planning called Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). ABCD works on the premise that positive and effective community plans are built by leveraging existing assets within a community. Therefore, it is important to properly log all relevant assets in this category.

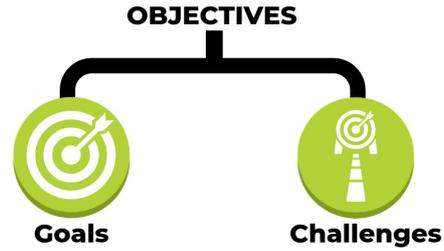


TITLE	SUMMARY	TYPE	Number Follows	Number Comments
St Edmund's graveyard - 8591	A historic graveyard in the town that dates from the 19th century. The site is very well-maintained. T2: Streetscape T3: Built Environment & Landscape	Have	0	0
Cross community collaboration - 8609	The local community in Castletown has good relationships with Mountrath and other towns and villages. Residents can access and use local services and amenities in other areas. A good example of this is Mountrath Golfclub . T2: Sports & Recreation, Participation & Volunteering T3: Hobby Groups, Sport & Physical Activities	Have	0	0
Bridge - 5963	The local bridge that spans the Nore is an attractive landmark and offers walkers a great view of the river. T2: Streetscape	Have	0	0
Located near Portlaoise - 6091	The town is located near Portlaoise which now has a large entrprise park and a range of services and social amenities.	Have	0	0
Zone of archaeological potential - 6100	Zones of Archaeological Potential. There is beleived to be areas of archaeological in the town and these could be used to boost tourism in the area.	Have	0	0
Glass Recycling Bank - 6152	There is a glass recycling bank just off Main Street	Have	0	0
The Corn Mill - 6208	The Corn mill was probably built during the lifetime of John "The Miller" Roberts (1768 - 1830) who lived in Castletown. He was the owner of the The Nore Flour and Outmills. Over the years the Corn Mill was a thriving business. Water from the river Nore was used to turn the large mill wheel outside the mill which was joined to the other wheels inside where the various grain grinding processes were carried out. The weir was built to control the power of the water onto the mill wheel. The De La Salle Order owned the mill for a long number of years and it is now the property of Mountrath Golf Club. This will be a protected structure under the Laois County Development Plan. T2: Streetscape T3: Built Environment & Landscape	Have	0	0
Connection to GAA field - 4972	Paths to allow people to walk safely to the GAA club. T2: Infrastructure & Transport T3: Transport & Logistics	Need	0	0
Broadband - 5969	Broadband is not satisfactory but there are plans to improve this in the future. The town needs broadband is it is to remain economically competitive.	Need	0	0
Signage - 6153	The village needs better signage for tourists to point out places of interest T2: Communications	Need	0	0

6. Objectives

Defining local goals and challenges can often be the most difficult component of a community plan, but it is vital nonetheless.

Of course, different stakeholders within the community may wish to prioritise different goals. As such, defining clear goals is a necessary step in selecting projects and preparing a tailored action plan.



The table below provides a themed breakdown of local objectives, which are divided Goals & Challenges.

TITLE	SUMMARY	TYPE	Number Follows	Number Comments
Improve participation in local clubs/groups - 8598	Clubs such as the ICA and the local Mounrath Golf Club are concerned about the number of new members. These clubs are crucial for the community. T2: <i>Participation & Volunteering</i> T3: <i>Growing local volunteer base</i>	Goal	0	0
Revitalise, restore, maintain local disused buildings - 5980	A need to renovate disused buildings which are an eyesore. Can be reused as additional community facilities, businesses, sports club etc. T2: <i>Streetscape , Culture & Heritage</i> T3: <i>Local Heritage, Built Environment & Landscape</i>	Goal	0	0
New streetscape layouts - 7784	New streetscape layouts can be trialled by using temporary "kerblines" created by hay bales, planters or paint. This could work really well when trialled as part of an event or festival. T2: <i>Infrastructure & Transport</i>	Goal	0	0
Improvements to village green - 7787	The village green is a real asset for the village, and the history of the place could be brought to life with sculptures of animals or other relevant themed work. This could be trialled with work in willow before committing to anything more permanent. T2: <i>Planning & Management</i>	Goal	0	0

7. Projects

Projects are the actions that stakeholders take to improve their community. Local projects can range from things like coaching a youth team to building a hall or organising a clean-up. While sometimes overlooked, it's important to appreciate the projects that have recently been undertaken or that are currently underway in the area, as this helps place the capabilities for future projects in context.



TITLE	SUMMARY	TYPE	Number Follows	Number Comments
Monument in main square - 8567	A plan to erect a public monument in the main square. This could give the town a distinctive identity. The monument could commemorate the town's history, its musical heritage, the river or contribution to hurling. T2: <i>Streetscape</i> T3: <i>Built Environment & Landscape</i>	Idea	0	0
Build Astro turf at Community Centre - 4978	Astro turf in the tennis courts. This would allow locals to use this facility all year round and it could promote the physical well-being of people.	Idea	0	0
Clear leaves from village Green - 6151	We need to organise a group of people to clear fallen leaves from village green as to not disrupt the roads or community as a whole.	Idea	0	0
Raise Funds for Sport Pavillion - 6160	Raise €400,000 towards cost of new sports pavilion T2: <i>Sports & Recreation</i> T3: <i>Sport & Physical Activities</i>	Idea	0	0
Complete street design - 7783	A complete street design would ensure that footpaths, traffic, parking, social space and trees could be planned out in a co-ordinated way. This would make the town a more livable space and more attractive to visitors. T2: <i>Streetscape</i> T3: <i>Liveable & Tidy Towns</i>	Idea	0	0
Reorder car spaces - 7785	The handsome main street is wide enough to accommodate through traffic and parking, but would benefit from a better ordering of parking spaces. T2: <i>Infrastructure & Transport</i>	Idea	0	0
A "backlands" parking area - 7786	This parking area can also form part of the overall approach to managing car circulation in the village. T2: <i>Infrastructure & Transport</i>	Idea	0	0
More seating spaces - 7788	There is an opportunity for an extended seating space in the vicinity of the historic pump and shop. Work has already been carried out to provide an attractive setting for the water pump, and given that this side of the street is sunny, a larger paved area might work well to extend in front of the shop. T2: <i>Streetscape</i>	Idea	0	0
Connecting path - 7789	A safe connecting walk is required to connect the village with the new walk at the GAA pitches. T2: <i>Streetscape , Infrastructure & Transport</i>	Idea	0	0

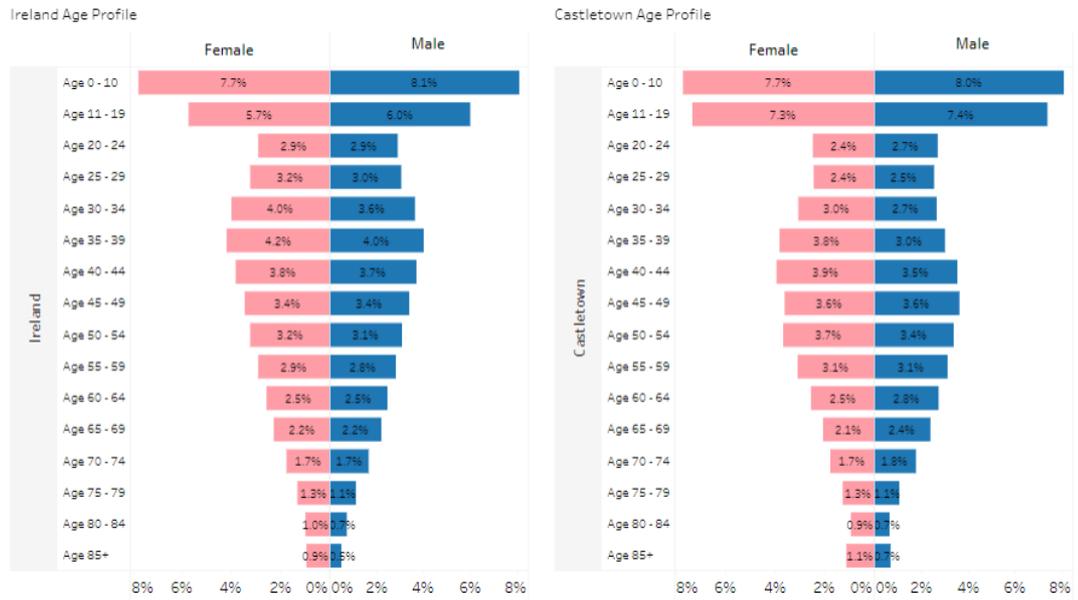
TITLE	SUMMARY	TYPE	Number Follows	Number Comments
Sound Buffers - 7790	Sound buffers should be installed to reduce noise from the bypass. T2: Infrastructure & Transport	Idea	0	0
Community Centre upgraded - 8570	A series of projects that have improved the Community Centre. These include new entrance, new toilets and improved access. T2: Planning & Management T3: Planning, Management & Governance	Past / Present	0	0
Tidy Towns @17 - 8586	Castletown entered and was successful in the 2017 Tidy Towns competition. They received 319 points in total with the following subcategory breakdown. Community Involvement & Planning - 50 Built Environment and Streetscape - 41 Landscaping and Open Spaces - 48 Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities - 32 Sustainable Waste and Resource Management - 17 Tidiness and Litter Control - 58 Residential Streets & Housing Areas - 33 Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes - 40 T2: Streetscape T3: Liveable & Tidy Towns, Built Environment & Landscape	Past / Present	0	0
Castletown Community Planning Workshop - 5958	Groups working together at a workshop to further collaboration and develop a community plan. T2: Planning & Management T3: Planning, Management & Governance	Past / Present	0	0
Rural Broadband Scheme - 6099	The Rural Broadband Scheme has been established to enable a basic broadband service to be provided to individual rural premises which are not capable of obtaining a broadband service from existing internet service providers. The scheme included extensive parts of the county.	Past / Present	0	0
All Weather Pitch - 6162	We built a new all weather pitch two years ago.	Past / Present	0	0
Community Centre Wi-fi access - 4981	Improve wi-fi access in the community centre so it might suit students studying or small business owners meetings as well as local groups in the community. T2: Employment, Education & Skills, Participation & Volunteering T3: Youth Education & Skills, Special Needs Education, Upskilling Volunteers	Planned	0	0
New Pavilion - 6161	A Committee has been formed to plan all aspects of the new pavilion build.	Planned	0	0
Tidy Towns 2019 - 8319	The community plan on entering the Tidy Towns competition in 2019 and would encourage all residents, business and clubs to assist where they can T2: Streetscape , Habitats & Environment T3: Liveable & Tidy Towns	Planned	0	0

8. Appendices

Local Population Profile - Census '16

Ireland Population by Age Group - Census 2016

Select Community to Compare



Here is a visualisation which compares the national population profile versus the profile for Castletown electoral division

Ireland Population by Age Group - Census 2016

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/pat.kennedy#!/vizhome/IrelandPopulationbyAgeGroup-Census2016/IrelandPopulationbyAgeGroup-Census2016>