

Borris-In-Ossory Community Plan 2018-2022



Borris-in-Ossory Development Association

June 2018

V1.1



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1. Introduction and Background

Borris in Ossory (Irish: *Buiríos Mór Osraí*, meaning "Burgage of Osraige") is located on the old N7 Dublin- Limerick road, now the R445, and adjacent to junction 21 of the M7 motorway. Borris in Ossory is located 5 kms from Ballybrophy Train Station which provides mainline rail services between Cork, Limerick and Dublin and to smaller settlements such as Roscrea. The village is also a long-established stopping point for inter-urban bus links. Geographically, Borris in Ossory is located in west Laois, close to the Tipperary border between the towns of Mountrath and Roscrea. It has an area of 20.8km² / 5,151.6 acres / 8.0 square miles

The village centre comprises of the Main Street which accommodates the main retail, commercial, institutional, educational and residential functions of the village. There are a number of protected structures in this part of the village. Although the village centre is compact and the architectural quality of the village is strong, Borris in Ossory suffers from dereliction and poor maintenance of some buildings and would benefit from enhancement of the public realm. Architectural focal points include the Church of Ireland and former courthouse. During 2014 and 2015, works were carried out to conserve the delicate decorative stonework at the courthouse and to restore the historic railings and gates round the building.

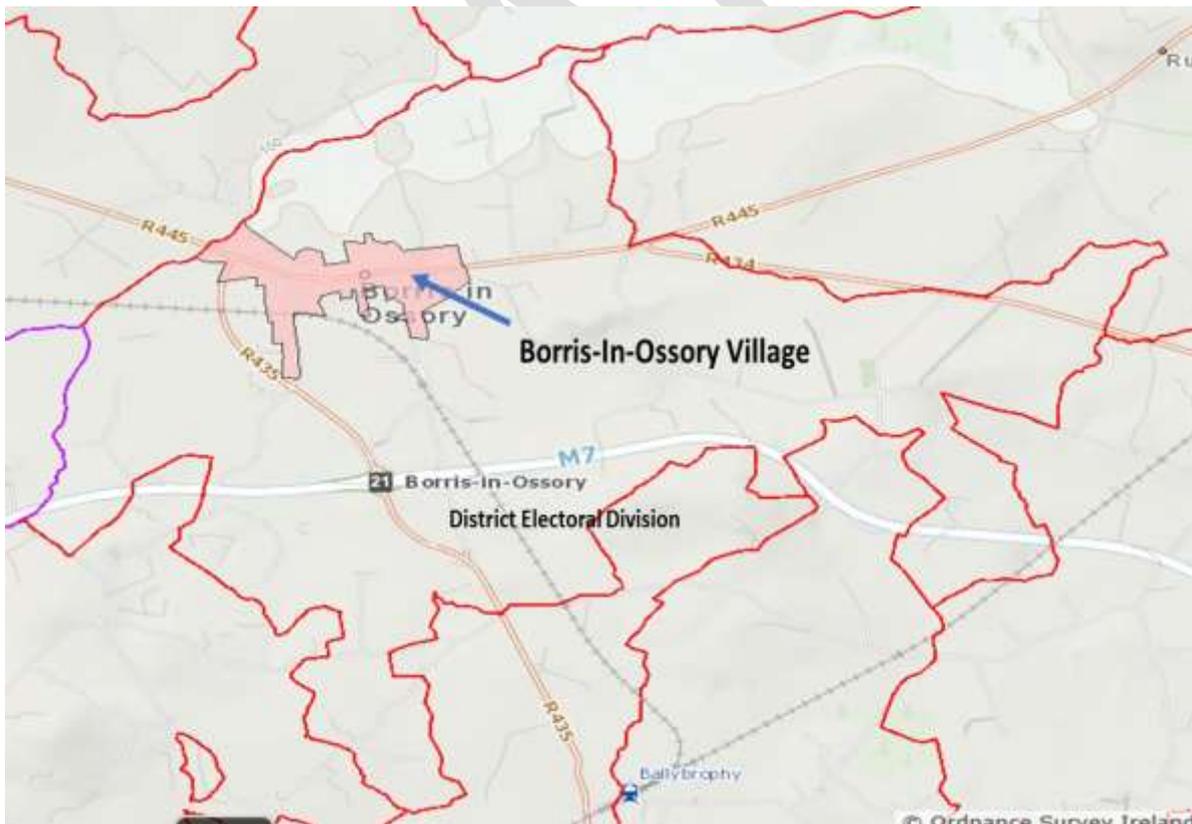


Fig. 1.1 Village Location in DED

Recreational space in Borris in Ossory is found at the Gaelic playing fields located 1.5km to the east of the village. The amenities include a playing pitch, dressing and meeting rooms.

While, the existing community facilities at Borris in Ossory are limited, an extensive range of community groups are present in the village. O’Brien Hall has an important communal and recreational role within the local community. The Council will encourage the more active use of the hall.

Regarding childcare facilities, the village has a play school, crèche, after school club and school collection services. A new primary school opened in 2012. The present public water scheme in Borris in Ossory is sourced at Donaghmore borehole. Borris in Ossory has its own wastewater treatment plant. In terms of transport, it is served by inter urban bus links to Dublin and Limerick. A town link service connects nearby towns and villages. Ballybrophy railway station is located approximately 5km south of the village.

The village of Borris-In-Ossory is situated within it’s the electoral division of the same name. For the purpose of this analysis, the electoral division of Borris-In-Ossory is selected as the optimal demographic area, as it encompasses the entire village and the surrounding rural environs that are likely users of the community groups. This area is 20.71 square kilometres. This socio-economic and demographic profile of Borris-In-Ossory outlines patterns observed and compares trends in the area with those across the County of Laois. For the purposes of this study the primary area researched consists of the district electoral division areas of Borris-In-Ossory (ED 08080) with comparisons to Laois county, the Midlands Region, the State and the village of Borris-In-Ossory. The profile contains a comprehensive assessment of the population of the area, including age, families, education levels, housing, labour force, disabilities, socio-economic, Computer, car and internet access and other relevant data appropriate for the promoters and is drawn from the 2016 Census of population and Pobal Maps.

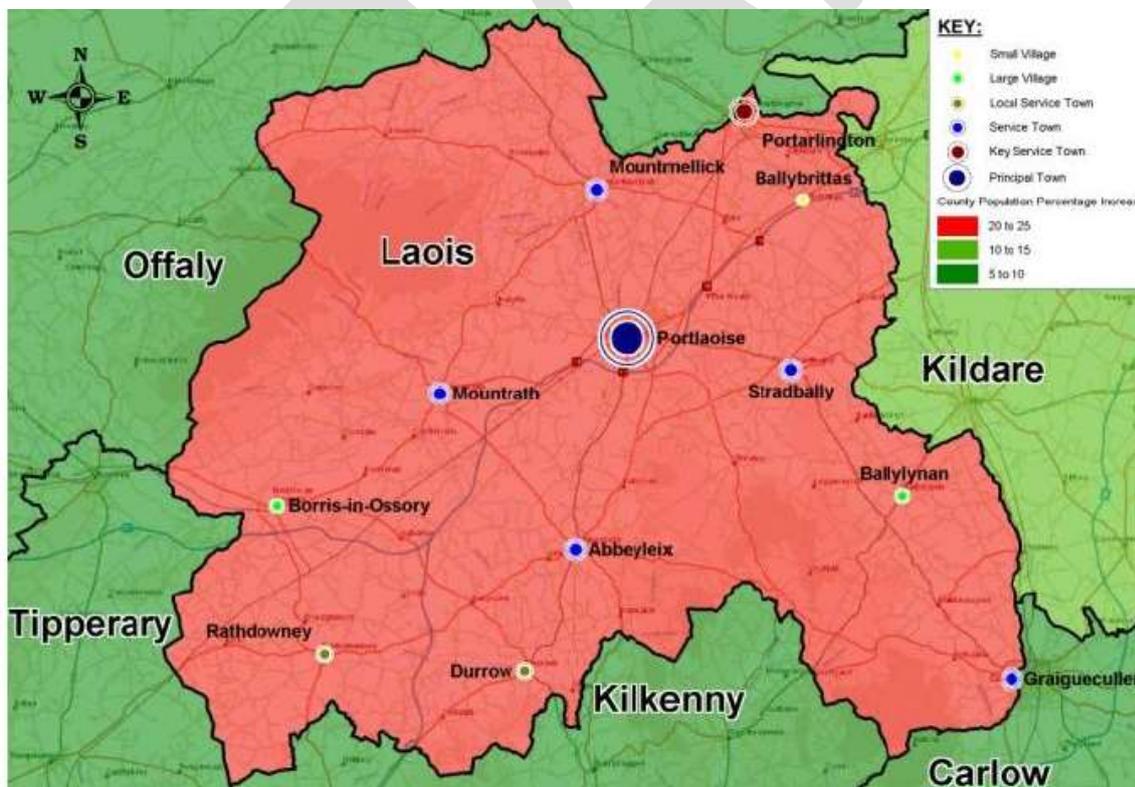


Fig. 1.2 Village Geographic Location within County Laois

2. Scope and Methodology

2.1 Rationale and Scope of this plan

This plan has been commissioned by Borris in Ossory Development Association with financial support from Laois Partnership to provide clear direction and a roadmap for the development of the social, economic and environmental development of the greater Borris in Ossory area.

The aim of the plan is to build on the positive aspects of the village's natural setting and topography, its links to the wider landscape and environs, its natural and built heritage and its diversity and mix of uses, in order to make it a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

The main objectives are to;

- To establish a “shared vision” for the future of Borris in Ossory;
- To set out policies, projects and practical guidance on the management and enhancement of the Public Realm in Borris in Ossory;
- To develop a pipeline of practical and deliverable projects that can be undertaken by the local community in partnership with the local authority and statutory bodies over the next 5 years.
- To identify practical measures to maximise quality of life for residents and to enhance the town's economic potential in terms of development;

Borris in Ossory has suffered for many years from serious traffic congestion. This situation has recently changed significantly, with the opening of the M7 motorway, which bypasses the town. Significant volumes of heavy goods traffic still use the Main Street to avoid the toll bridge, however. While the by-passing of Borris in Ossory has resulted in considerable challenges to local businesses, the community can see this also represents an opportunity for the village to reinvent itself. Laois County Council is committed to working closely with the community to progress these projects and the proposed plan will complement and help to consolidate these initiatives.

This plan will help to prioritise actions and as a platform for the community to pursue its wider aim of developing a vibrant village, with particular focus on community engagement. As such the plan will bring together a wide range of existing projects that the community has sought to initiate to date, such as walking and cycling routes, together with detailed recommendations for improving the public realm and the re-use of heritage buildings that will help to revitalise the town centre and its economy, and the Main Street in particular. It is the community's expectation that the plan will act as a spring-board for a wider range of community driven initiatives.

This plan will play an important role in shaping places to make the area a better place to



both live and work and improve quality of life. It seeks to do this by:

- Agreeing a vision and securing consensus about what the place should be like;
- Improving community physical infrastructure.
- Enhancing character and culture including built and natural heritage;
- Identifying gaps in service provision
- Cherishing both the young and the old in their community and making adequate provision for services for all age categories.

These aims will be achieved with an understanding that in the changing face of rural Ireland all service can no exist in every location, due to viability and demand, however this plan is an opportunity to address rural decline and start a new chapter in the life of Borris in Ossory a village on the Western frontier of County Laois.

2.2 Methodology

This plan culminates a number of months of work by the local community which was initiated in early 2017.

A comprehensive community consultation exercise was undertaken in local volunteers who were trained in community survey techniques. The surveys results were presented at public meetings and needs identified were democratically prioritised. Section 4 of this report provides a summary of the key findings of this exercise which was completed by summer 2017. See appendix 1 for a full copy of the Community Needs Assessment. All houses in the village were called to as part of this exercise.

The consultation which was comprehensive an far reaching was undertaken and needs assessed using the following headings; Demographics, Community Infrastructure, Youth, Existing groups and organisations, Community Security and community safety and training and development needs.

The services of Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting were contracted to facilitate the development of a community plan. Subsequently in 2018 meetings were held with organisations and groups in the area on a one to one basis to identify organisational needs. Meetings with groups and community representatives in the catchment areas which include Killasmeestia and Knockarue were undertaken to ascertain needs of those areas.

Consultation meetings were also undertaken with staff and elected members of Laois County Council, and Laois partnership.

A scoping exercise was then undertaken to examine sites and locations around the village both suitable and potentially available for development of community infrastructure. This exercise involved looking at three interlinked categories of sites those that were in a state of dereliction and required attention, opportunity led sites and demand led sites.

3. Profile and Socio Demographic Analysis of the Area

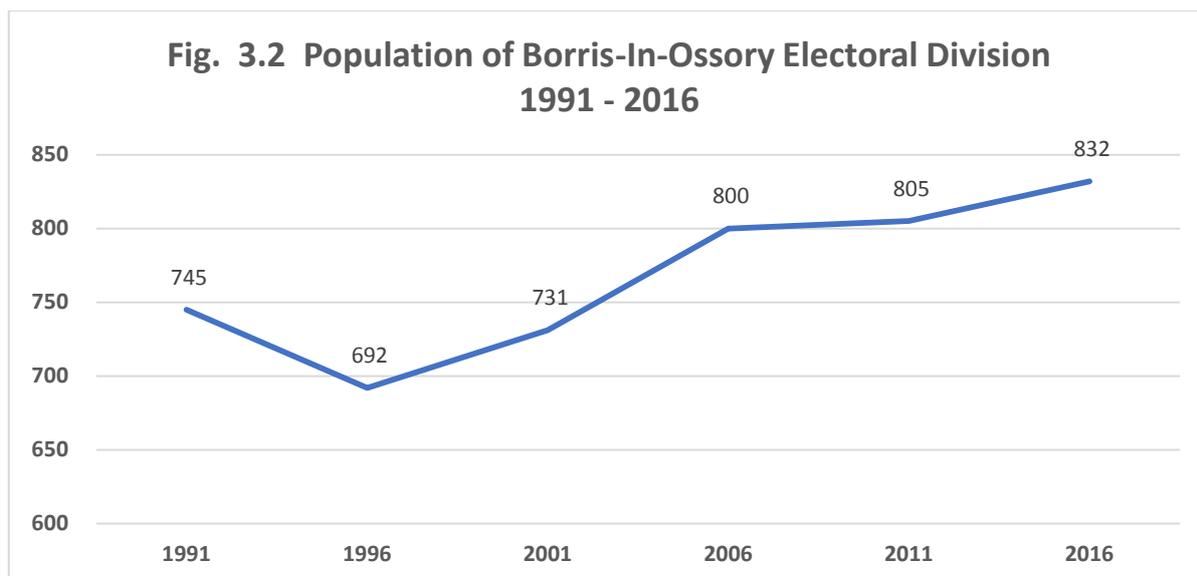
3.1 Population of County Laois and Borris-In-Ossory

In April 2016 Co. Laois had a population of 84,697, consisting of 42,811 males and 41,886 females. Ireland has experienced a population growth of 30.1% over the past 20 years, and the Midlands Region has grown at an even higher rate (39.1%). Co. Laois has grown by an extraordinary 54.0% over the same period, which is the second highest growth rate experienced by any local authority area throughout the 20-year-period.

Even since the economic decline, Ireland's population has continued to grow by 12.3% between 2006 and 2016. Co. Laois' population has grown by 26.3% over the past ten years. The fastest growing ED is Clondarrig, which has grown by 185.7%, almost tripling its population, although this relates to a comparatively small population base. Borris (72.4%) and Ballybrittas (56.9%) also have experienced population growth with is very high by national comparison. Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Division has increased by 3.35% in the past 5 years and 11.68% since 1991.

TABLE 3.1 - Population of Borris-In-Ossory 1991 – 2016

Area	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	%Change 11-16	%Change 1991-
Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Division	745	692	731	800	805	832	3.35%	11.68%
Borris-In-Ossory Village	332	282	379	488	475	508	6.95%	53.01%
County Laois	52,314	52,945	58,774	67,059	80,559	84,697	5.14%	61.90%



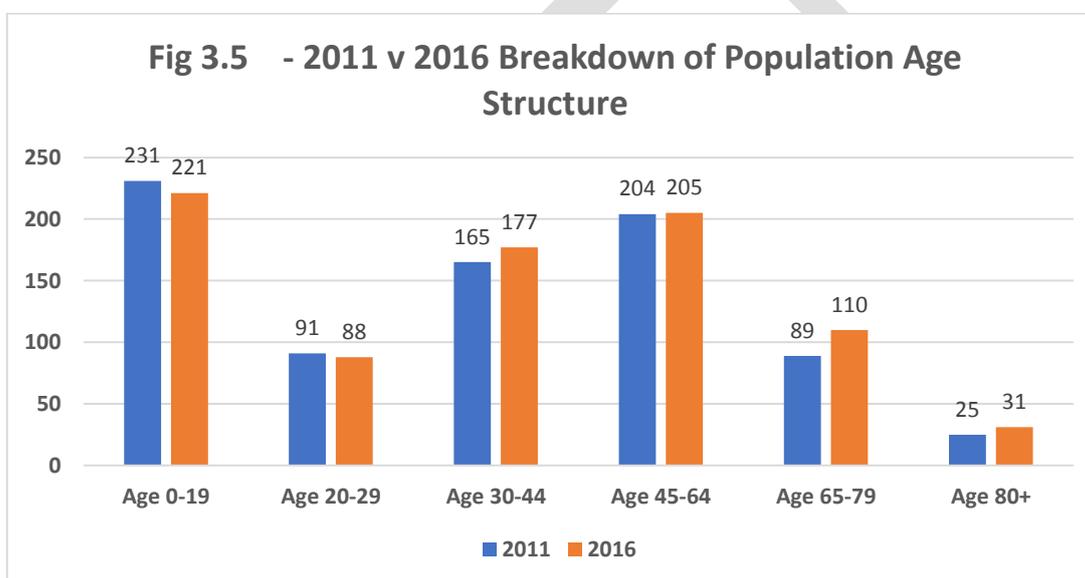
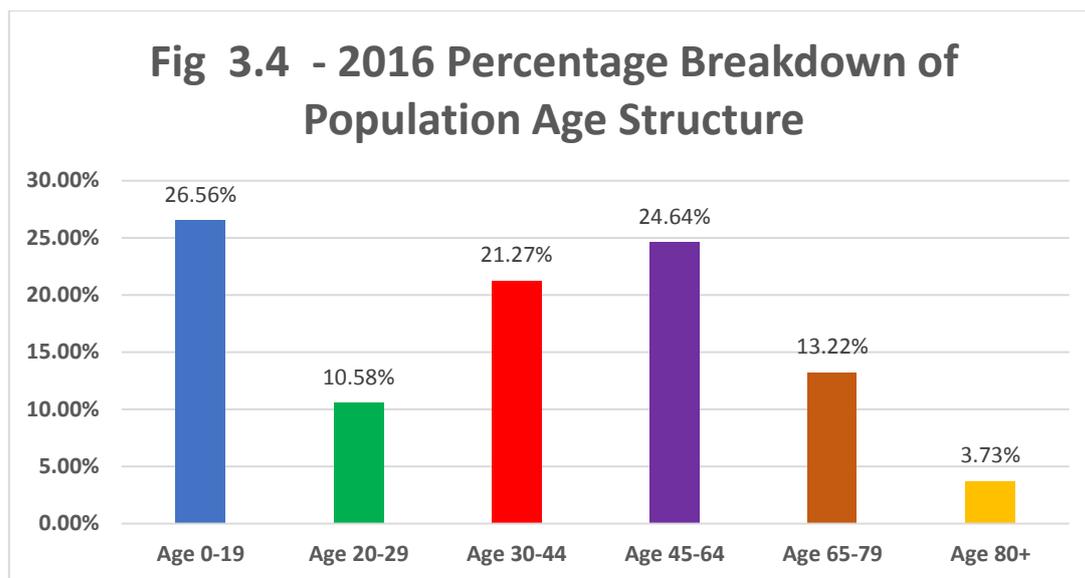
The population in the area declined significantly in the mid-1990s and recovered by 2006 with a net increase. The population has increased modestly since, with a rise in the rate of change from 2011. The village population has expanded substantially over the past 25 years with an overall increase of 53% despite a sharp decrease in the early 1990s. This compares with an increase of 61.9% of an increase in County Laois during the same period. In the 5 years to 2011, Laois recorded the largest population gain in the country with 20%. In contrast, the electoral district of Borris-In-Ossory increased by just 11.68% in 25 years. The National average population gain during this time is 35%.

Age Structure

The age structures in this population analysis is categorised into 6 profile ages; 0 to 19 years of age; 20 to 29; 30 to 44; 45 to 64; 65 to 79 and 80 plus. Table 3.3 illustrates the Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Division's age structure with Fig 3.3. County Laois has a higher 0 to 19 age percentage of 31% compared to the State (27.5%) and Borris-In-Ossory (26.6%).

Table 3.3 – Population by Age Structure 2011 - 2016

Year	Aged 0 to 19	Aged 20 to 29	Aged 30 to 44	Aged 45 to 64	Aged 65 to 79	Aged 80 Plus	Total
2011	231	91	165	204	89	25	805
2016	221	88	177	205	110	31	832
Change	-10	-3	12	1	21	6	27
Change	-4.33%	-3.30%	7.27%	0.49%	23.60%	24.00%	3.35%



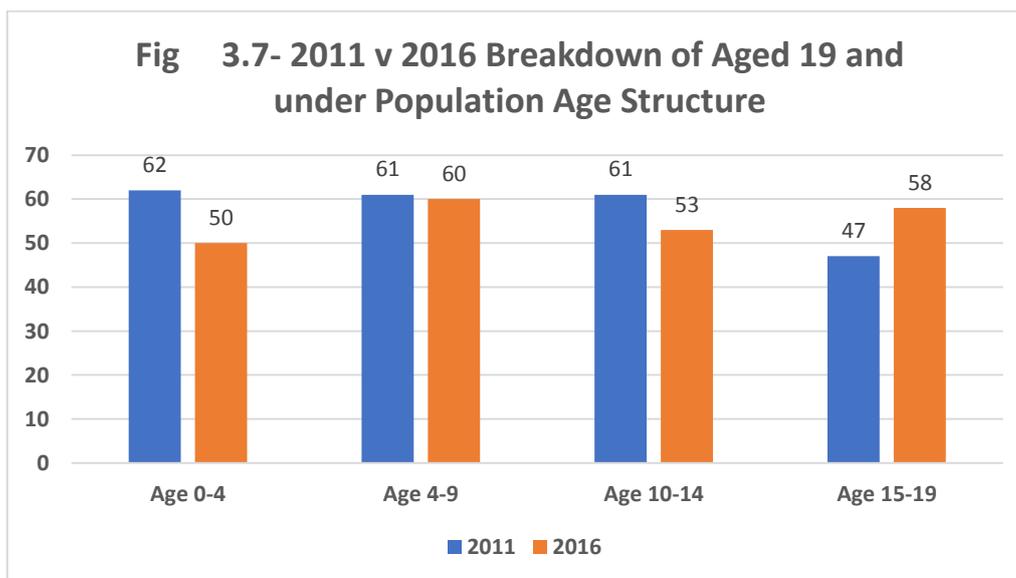
In the 5 years to 2016 in Borris-In-Ossory, the only age group to decline in numbers is the 29 and younger category. The 20 to 29 age group fell by 3.3% while the 19 and under age group fell by 4.33%. Emigration may be a mitigating factor for the 20-29 age group along with movements to urban centres throughout the island. Senior citizen numbers increased substantially by 23.7%, while there was a significant increase in the 30-44 age group. The 45 to 64 age group was stagnant, but remained the 2nd largest group with 205 individuals.

The 19 and younger category contrasts with the total for the county which is at 30.86% of the total and growing (26.56% for Borris), while the 65 and over category for County Laois represents 11.34% of the population (16.95% for Borris). The State average for the 65 and over category is 13.4%. Borris-In-Ossory has a significantly higher senior citizen proportion in its population than the State average.

Table 3.6 – Population of Aged 19 and Under by Age Structure 2011 – 2016



Year	Aged 0 to 4	Aged 5 to 9	Aged 10 to 14	Aged 15 to 19	Total
2011	62	61	61	47	231
2016	50	60	53	58	221
Change	-12	-1	-8	11	-10
Change	-19.35%	-1.64%	-13.11%	23.40%	-4.33%



A further breakdown of the under 19 age group provides an insight into its decline. There is a significant decline in the under 4 category indicative of a declining birth rate and / or emigration / outflow of young families. The fall in age 10-14 numbers indicate an outflow of young families, which is down from its corresponding 4-9 age group in 2011. There is a substantial gain of 23.4% in the 15-19 age category.

Fig 3.8 2016 Population Pyramid of Borris-In-Ossory DED

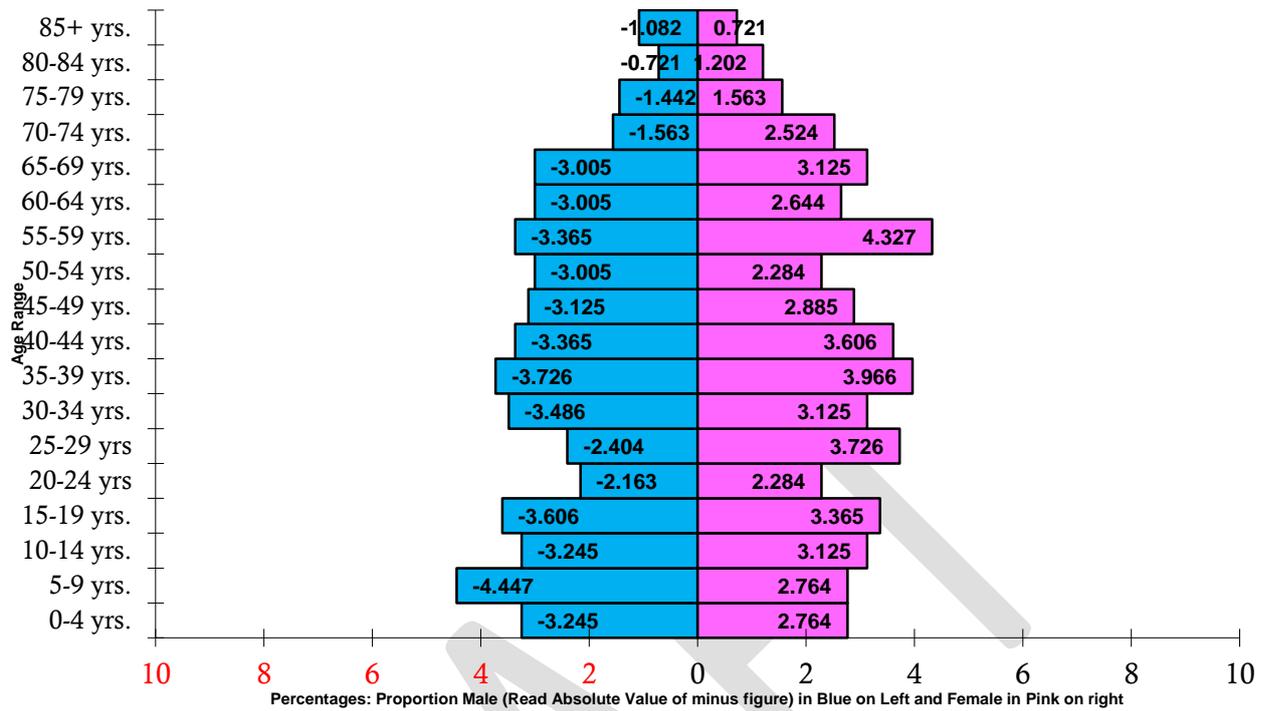
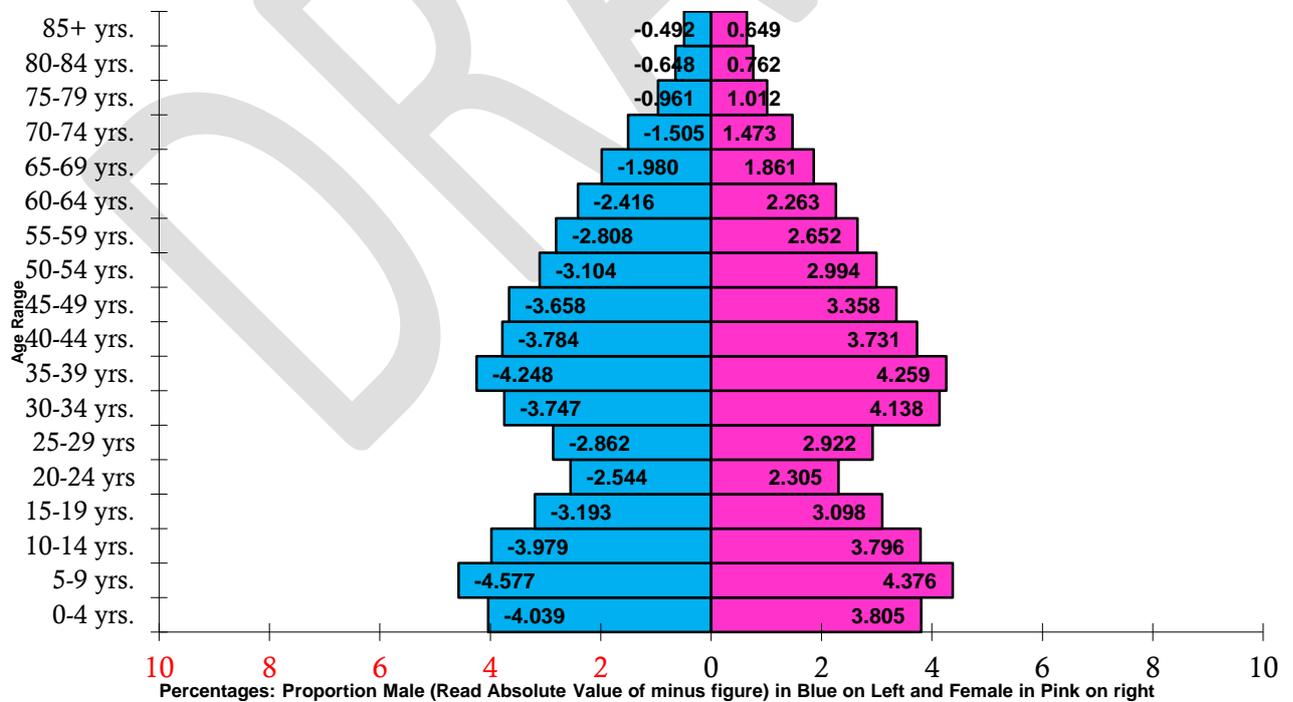
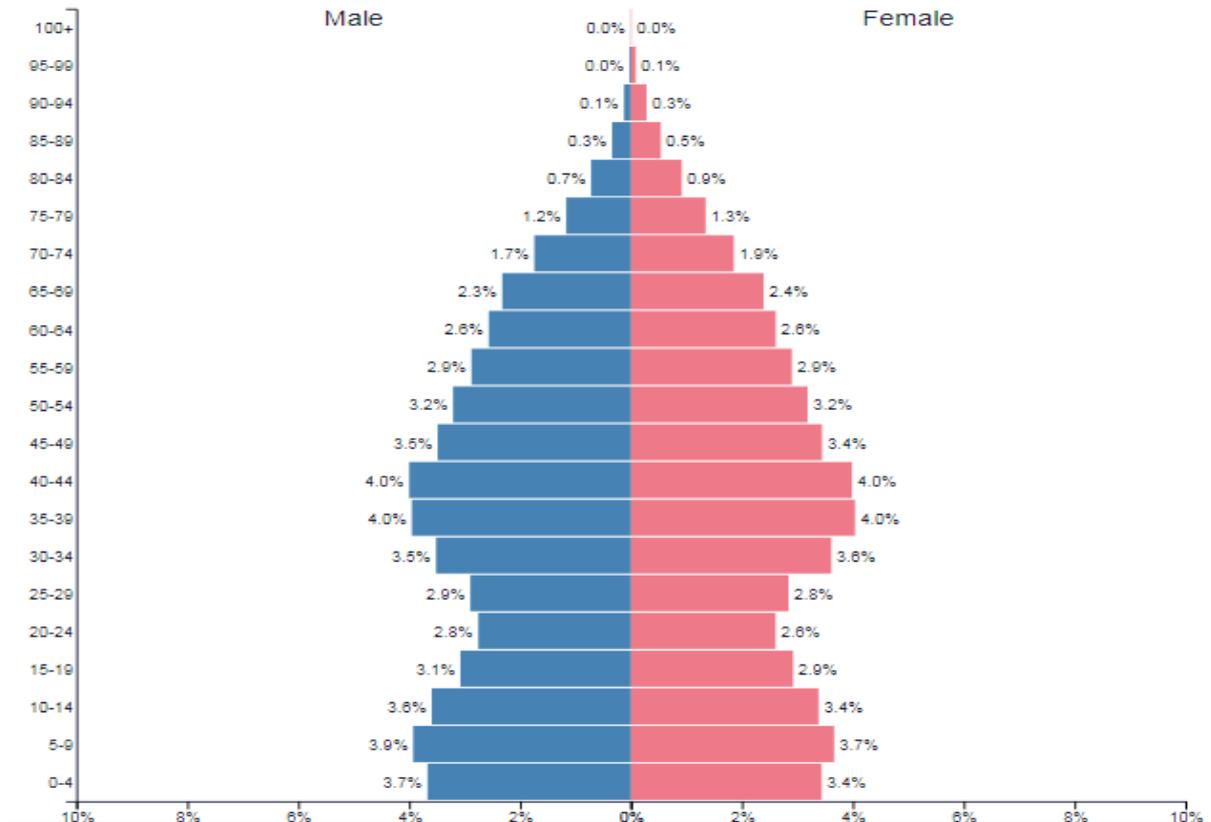


Fig 3.9 2016 Population Pyramid of County Laois



Ireland ▼
2017

Population: **4,749,153**



3.2 Youth and Elderly dependency

Dependents can be defined as those outside of the 15 – 64 year age brackets. As indicated in the following table County Laois and Borris-In-Ossory has a higher percentage of its population within the age dependency groups than most in the region and the state. Such population statistics are highly relevant for the provision of services such as schools, crèches, playschools, playgrounds etc for younger people and nursing homes, accessible community facilities and age friendly policies for older people. Figs..... of the population pyramid illustrate a modest divergence, particularly in older groups, in age structures considering the small sample of population in comparison to the county and state. The electoral district has a notable large percentage of 65+ year residents giving a dependency ratio of 26.7% in comparison of 17.7% for Laois county and 20.4% for the State. This infers that provision for services for the elderly should be a priority in the area.

Table 3.10 Youth and Elderly Dependency



Area	% Youth Dependency (0 – 14)		% Elderly Dependency (65 & over)		% Total Dependency	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Borris-In-Ossory	36.3%	30.9%	22.5%	26.7%	58.8%	57.6%
Laois	37.9%	38.3%	15.4%	17.7%	53.3%	56.0%
Longford	36.1%	37.2%	19.5%	22.8%	55.6%	60.0%
Offaly	36.0%	35.7%	17.9%	21.3%	53.9%	57.0%
Westmeath	34.1%	34.3%	17.2%	19.7%	51.3%	54.0%
State	31.9%	32.3%	17.4%	20.4%	49.3%	52.7%

Within Co. Laois, the typical urban-rural differential in age dependency ratios is somewhat less pronounced compared to other counties. Age dependency rates are lowest in some rural areas, namely Colt (27.8%) and Marymount (29.9%). Portlaoighise (Maryborough) Rural is the main urban area with a rate of 31.6% (marginally below the national average), and rates are highest in Garrymore (47.2%) and Arless (43.5%). Overall, age dependency rates exceed 40% in seven EDs, all of which are rural.

Population by sex and marital status

Marital Status	Male	Female	Total
Single	234	206	440
Married (incl. same sex civil partnership)	155	153	308
Separated	10	14	24
Divorced	10	13	23
Widowed	7	30	37
Total	416	416	832

37% of the population are currently married (similar for the State and Laois), while 7.2% are no longer married through bereavement or separation (Laois, 8.5%; The State, 8.8%).

Usually resident population by place of birth and nationality		
Location	Birthplace	Nationality
Ireland	750	768
UK	36	19
Poland	21	21
Lithuania	0	0
Other EU 28	14	14
Rest of World	5	2
Not stated	0	2
Total	826	826

9.2% of the population were born outside of Ireland, 47.37% of those were from the UK, 27.63% from Poland, 18.42% from other EU countries and 6.58% from the rest of the world.

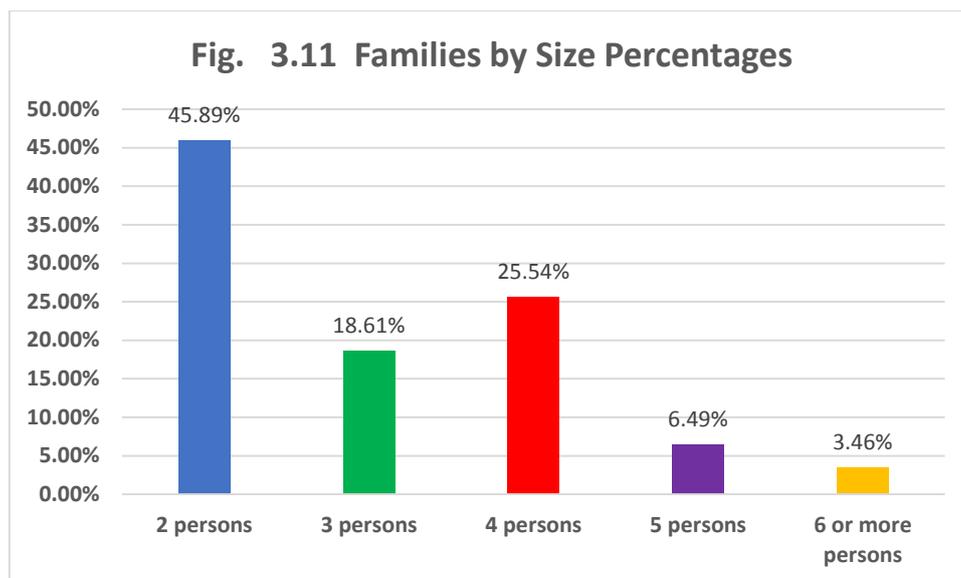
3.3 Households & Families

Households in Laois v State v Borris

Profile of Borris-In-Ossory Families and Households

Table 3.10 Families by Size and No. of Children

Family by Size	No. of Families	No. of Children
2 persons	106	24
3 persons	43	53
4 persons	59	124
5 persons	15	46
6 or more persons	8	35
Total	231	282



Family units with children, by size and age of children

Number of children	All children under 15	All children 15 or over	Children both under and over 15	Total
No children	0	0	0	82
1 child	23	34	0	57
2 children	28	21	14	63
3 children	7	5	8	20
4 children	3	0	3	6
5 or more children	1	1	1	3
Total	62	61	26	231

Family units with children, by type of family and age of children			
Age of children	Couples with children	Mothers with children	Fathers with children
Number of families			
All children under 15	46	13	3
All children 15 and over	43	16	2
Children both under and over 15	19	6	1
Total	108	35	6
Number of children			
All children under 15	91	21	5
All children 15 and over	75	18	3
Children both under and over 15	50	16	3
Total	216	55	11

There are 231 families in the area representing 84.5% of the population and 282 children in total (including sons and daughters of all ages). A remarkable higher than average of families have just 2 members (45.9%, compared to the State (39.5%) and Laois (35.8%)). Consequently, there are much fewer large families than average with less than 10% with 5 members or more. This is reflected in Borris-In-Ossory's lower than average youth dependency ratio. 35.5% of families have no children, compared to 26.1% in Laois and 29.2% for the State.

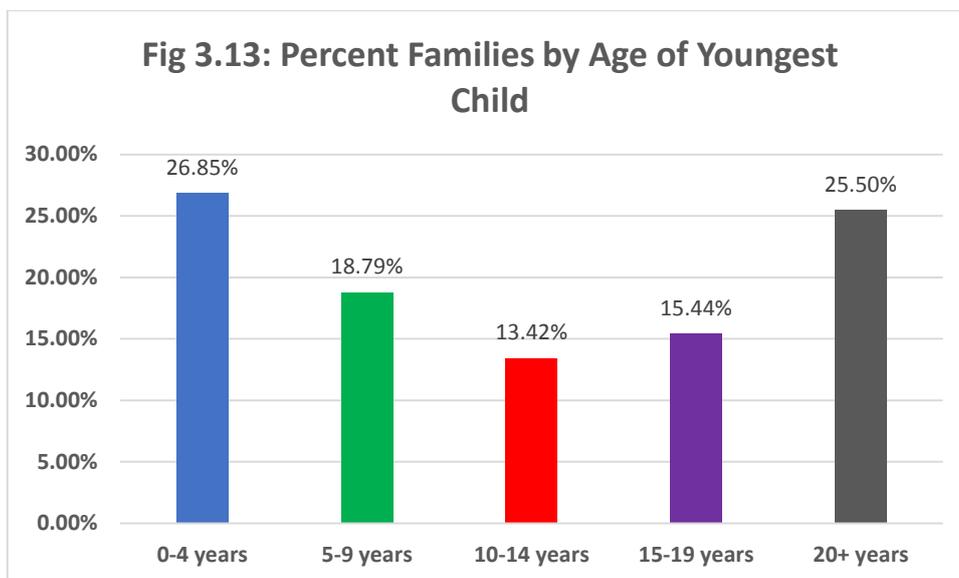
There are 41 lone parents with 66 children of lone parents. This represents 27.5% of families with children and is slightly greater than the national average and the Laois average, but has declined from 30% in 2011. All but 9 families have 3 children or less with 82 families childless. 80 of the households in Borris-In-Ossory electoral district are single occupancy, with 51 of them resident in the village.

TABLE 3.12 – FAMILIES BY AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD

Families by age of youngest child	No. of Families	No. of Members
0-4 years	40	146
5-9 years	28	115
10-14 years	20	78
15-19 years	23	80
20+ years	38	120



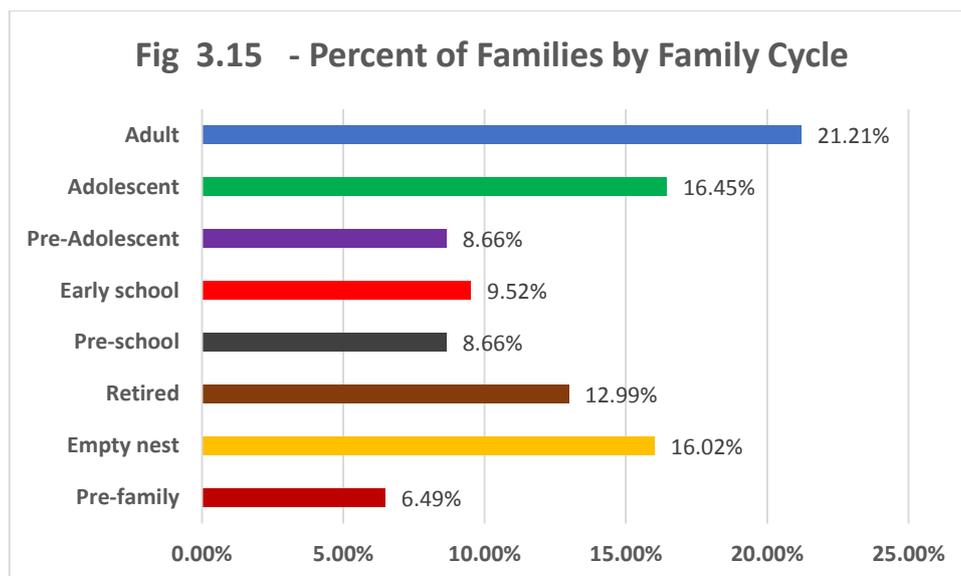
Total	149	539
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Those proportions of children in the lower age categories are below the county and national average. 31% of County families with children have children under the age of 4 as their youngest.

TABLE 3.14 - FAMILIES BY LIFE CYCLE

Family cycle	No of families	No of members
Pre-family	15	30
Empty nest	37	74
Retired	30	60
Pre-school	20	57
Early school	22	83
Pre-Adolescent	20	85
Adolescent	38	144
Adult	49	170
Total	231	703



35.5% of families have no children at home, categorised as pre-family (female is under 45, 6.49%), empty nest (female is between 45 and 64 years, 16.02%) and retired (65 and over, 12.99%). This figure has surged from 28.6% in 2011. This compares to the National average of families with no children at home of 29% and 26% in County Laois in 2016. The largest variances here is in the empty nest and retired categories, a reflection on the higher proportions of older people in Borris-In-Ossory. 21.21% of families have an eldest over the age of 20, while the rest (43.29%) have the eldest child at various stages of childhood development. 76.5% of women over 20 years of age have had children.

Females aged 20 years or over by number of children born

Number of children born	Number of females
0	71
1	41
2	78
3	39
4 or more	73
Total	302

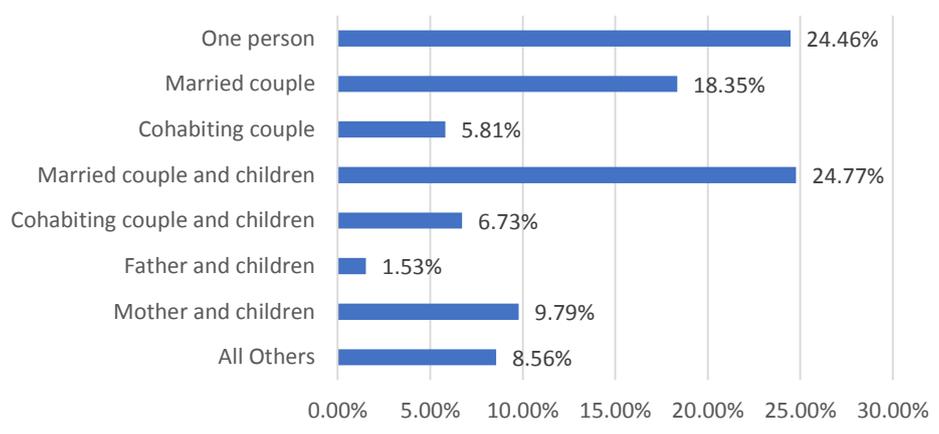
Table 3.16 Private households by type

Type of Household	Households	Persons
One person	80	80
Married couple	60	120
Cohabiting couple	19	38



Married couple and children	81	325
Cohabiting couple and children	22	85
Father and children	5	15
Mother and children	32	83
Couple and others	2	7
Couple children and others	5	27
Father children and others	1	3
Mother children and others	2	7
Two or more family units	1	4
Non-family households and relations	7	14
Two or more non-related persons	10	33
Total	327	841

Fig 3.17 Private Household by Family Type



24.5% of householders are living alone. This is similar to the National Average and County Laois. 24.2% of households have couples who live together who do not have children which is significantly higher than the National average (19%) and County Laois (18%). This is up from 20% in 2011.

Table 3.18 Private households by size

Size of household	Households	Persons
1 person	80	80
2 persons	114	228
3 persons	44	132
4 persons	63	252
5 persons	15	75
6 persons	6	36
7 persons	3	21
8 or more persons	2	17
Total	327	841

35% of households in Borris-In-Ossory have 2 people residing, significantly higher than the National average of 28.6% and County Laois (26.4%). This correlates to the high numbers of childless couples in Borris-In-Ossory.

Table 3.19 Private households by type of accommodation

Type of accommodation	Households	Persons
House/Bungalow	320	828
Flat/Apartment	4	4
Bed-sit	0	0
Caravan/Mobile Home	2	4
Not stated	1	5
Total	327	841

There are 327 households in Borris-In-Ossory electoral district, 206 of those are in the village. 320 for the households are houses or bungalows and all of the other type of accommodation is situated in the village. There are 2 caravan / mobile homes with 4 people. Only 11 households have more than 5 people.

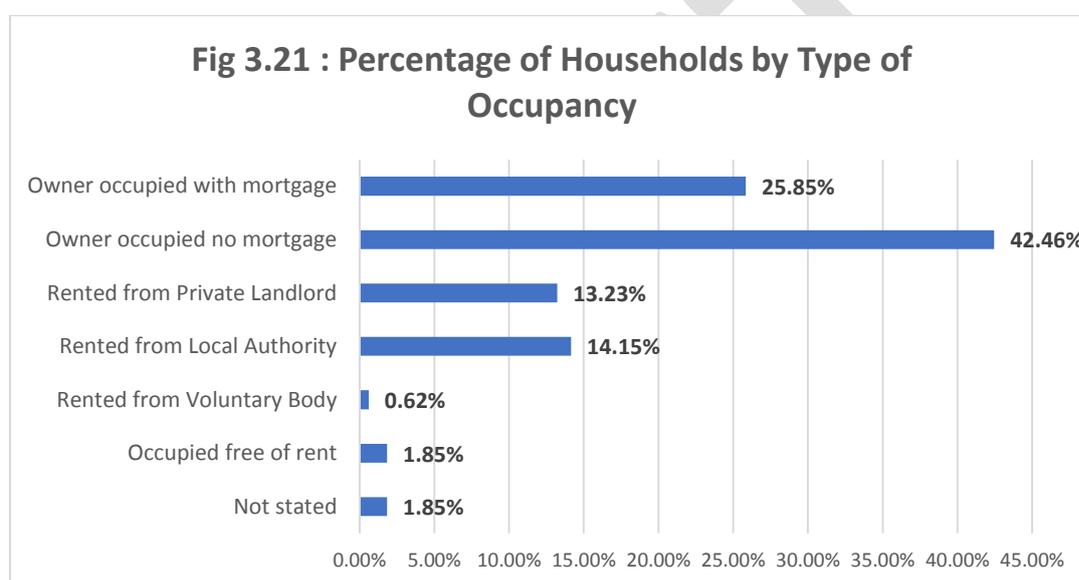
Permanent private households by year built		
Period Built	Households	Persons
Pre 1919	40	91
1919 - 1945	27	65
1946 - 1960	13	28
1961 - 1970	18	38
1971 - 1980	36	67
1981 - 1990	28	67
1991 - 2000	37	108
2001 - 2010	97	291
2011 or later	5	10
Not stated	24	72
Total	325	837

42.77% of the households have been built since 1991

Table 3.20 Permanent private households by type of occupancy

Type of occupancy	Households	Persons
Owner occupied with mortgage	84	278
Owner occupied no mortgage	138	294
Rented from Private Landlord	43	106
Rented from Local Authority	46	120
Rented from Voluntary Body	2	6
Occupied free of rent	6	9
Not stated	6	24
Total	325	837

Fig 3.21 : Percentage of Households by Type of Occupancy



84 households in the electoral district have a mortgage. This represents 25.85% of the occupied properties. 28% of households are rented and 42.46% of households are owner occupied with no mortgage. This compares with 36% of the households in the state being owner occupied with no mortgage and 31.6% with a mortgage. 14.15% of households are rented from the Local Authority. This compares to 8.43% State average and 8.97% for County Laois.

Permanent private households by number of rooms		
Number of rooms	Households	Persons
1 room	3	5
2 rooms	8	8
3 rooms	28	66
4 rooms	27	56
5 rooms	90	233
6 rooms	58	146
7 rooms	46	127
8 or more rooms	41	125
Not stated	24	71
Total	325	837

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Permanent private households by central heating	
Central heating	Households
No central heating	5
Oil	166
Natural Gas	3
Electricity	5
Coal (incl. Anthracite)	17
Peat (incl. turf)	102
Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG)	3
Wood (incl. wood pellets)	16
Other	1
Not stated	7
Total	325

Only 3 households use Natural Gas ((less than 1%) compared to a third of households in the State. 31.4% use peat compared to the National average of 5.3%.

Occupancy status of permanent dwellings on Census night	
Occupancy Status	Permanent Dwellings
Occupied	326
Temporarily absent	0
Unoccupied holiday homes	5
Other vacant dwellings	66
Total	397

71 dwellings are unoccupied in Borris-In-Ossory. 66 of those are not for holiday purposes and can be considered “ghost” houses from the legacy of the 2000s housing construction



bubble. This represents 16.62% of the total number of dwellings and compares to 9.15% of the State average.

Permanent private households by water supply	
Type of water supply	Households
Public main	213
Group scheme with public source	16
Group scheme with private source	4
Other private source	85
None	0
Not stated	7
Total	325

66.46% of households use a public source of water supply with the vast majority using the public mains. 54.5% use a public sewage scheme.

Permanent private households by sewerage facility	
Type of sewerage facility	Households
Public scheme	177
Individual septic tank	134
Other individual treatment	6
Other	2
No sewerage facility	0
Not stated	6
Total	325

Table 3.22 Waste Facilities

3.4 Disadvantage, Affluence and Deprivation

The Midlands Region is the second most deprived region of Ireland, but Co. Laois is the second most affluent local authority area within the region. Like any other part of the country, Co. Laois has been affected by the economic downturn after 2007, reflected in the drop in the absolute deprivation score from -1.2 in 2006 to -9.3 in 2011, recovering to -6.2 in 2016.

This represented a drop of 8.1 in 2011, compared to a nationwide drop of 6.5. This also implies that the relative position of Co. Laois has significantly worsened from the 17th to the 21st most affluent local authority area in Ireland. The county is not characterised by particular extremes, either with regard to affluence or deprivation, nor are there any strong spatial patterns with regard to the distribution of affluence and deprivation.

Of the 97 EDs in Co. Laois, the majority (57) are marginally below average while the remaining EDs are marginally above average (39) with just 1 affluent. There is a slightly higher occurrence of disadvantage in the more urban areas of the county, including Mountrath, Mountmellick, Portlaoise, Stradbally, Abbeyleix, Borris-in-Ossory and Rathdowny, but the whole county is situated in the middle field of the overall affluence to deprivation spectrum.

However at a local level, 4 EDs slipped into the Disadvantaged categories. These disadvantaged EDs are Dangans (-10.06), Rathdowney (-10.71), Doonane (-11.22) and Mountmellick (-11.54). In 2011 these were borderline between 'disadvantaged' and 'marginally disadvantaged'. The most affluent EDs in Co. Laois are Moyanna (12.02) (which made a remarkable increase into the affluent category from 2.79 in 2011, thanks to a 0% Male Unemployment rate in 2016), and Ballybrittas (7.86), Cullenagh (7.45) and Jamestown (7.24).

In 2016 there were 8 small areas with 2,093 individuals classified as very disadvantaged in Co. Laois (up from 1,219 people in 2011). The very disadvantaged areas were located within the EDs of Portlaoighise (Rural and Urban), Mountmellick, Rathdowney and Mountrath. In total, they constituted 2.47% of the total population (84,697). This is sharp rise from 1.51% in 2011.

In 2016 there were 10,768 individuals living in 42 small areas classified as disadvantaged in Co. Laois (up from 9,456 people in 2011). The disadvantaged

areas were located within the EDs of Abbeyleix, Ballinakill, Ballylynan, Borris, Borris-in-Ossory, Clonaslee, Clondarrig, Dangans, Doonane, Durrow, Graigue Rural, Mountmellick Urban, Mountrath, Portarlinton South, Portlaoighise Rural, Portlaoighise Urban, Rathdowney, and Stradbally.

In total, they constituted 12.71% of the total population (84,697), an increase from 11.73% in 2011. Thus, 15.2% of the population (12,861 individuals) in Co. Laois in 2016 were living in Small Areas that are Very Disadvantaged or Disadvantaged.

Table 3.23 Pobal Statistics Deprivation



The ED of Borris-In-Ossory has a deprivation score of -7.05. The relevant statistics that formulate the HP Deprivation scores are analysed through this Profile of area chapter. There are 5 small areas exclusively in the ED of Borris-In-Ossory. This is illustrated in Fig.... The Pobal statistics for these 5 small areas are outline in table.... All the small areas are either marginally disadvantaged or disadvantaged. 309 people live in the disadvantaged small areas. The South-East small area of Borris-In-Ossory has a particularly low score in the ED. This score was exacerbated by education, employment, disability, Local Authority housing and car ownership factors.

3.5 Ethnicity & Religion

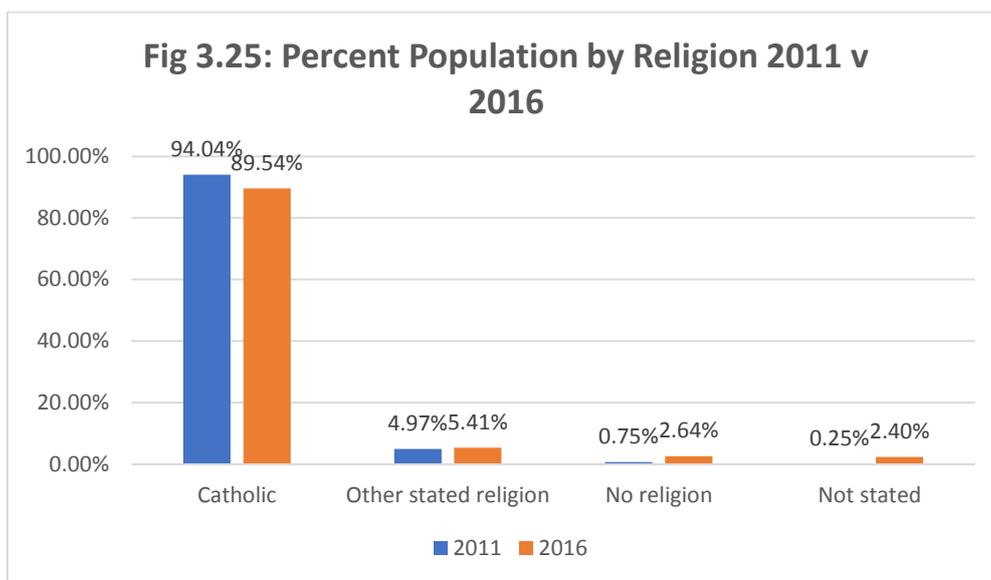
Usually resident population by place of birth and nationality		
Location	Birthplace	Nationality
Ireland	750	768
UK	36	19
Poland	21	21
Lithuania	0	0
Other EU 28	14	14
Rest of World	5	2
Not stated	0	2
Total	826	826

9.2% of the population were born outside of Ireland (compared with the State 17.28%), 47.37% of those were from the UK, 27.63% from Poland, 18.42% from other EU countries and 6.58% from the rest of the world. For the purposes of social inclusion in the community of Borris-In-Ossory, we analysed the ethnicity data from the CSO for the region. There are 7% of people in the electoral district who describe themselves as non-Irish and 10.5% who have religions other than Catholicism. The national average is 15% non-Irish and 15% other religions. There are 5 people in the ED that identify as White Irish Travellers, down from 11 in 2011.

Usually resident population by ethnic or cultural background	
Ethnic or Cultural Background	Persons
White Irish	742
White Irish Traveller	5
Other White	56
Black or Black Irish	0
Asian or Asian Irish	0
Other	3
Not stated	20
Total	826

Population by religion	2011	2016
Catholic	757	745
Other stated religion	40	45
No religion	6	22
Not stated	2	20
Total	805	832

Table 3.24 Population by Religion



Speakers of foreign languages by language spoken

Language	Persons
Polish	24
French	4
Lithuanian	0
Other	23
Total	51

Speakers of foreign languages by ability to speak English	
Ability to speak English	Persons
Very well	30
Well	12
Not well	8
Not at all	1
Not stated	0
Total	51

9 People in the electoral district cannot speak English well.

3.6 Education

There has been a continuous improvement in the level of education amongst the adult population over the past 25 years throughout Ireland.

In 1991, 33.2% of the total population over 15 had primary education or no formal education only. This dropped to nearly half that level (18.0%) in 2006 and even further to 15.2% in 2011. In Census 2016 this figure was 12.5%. The rate for Co. Laois has fallen from 32.3% in 1996, to 19% in 2006, 15.4% in 2011 and 13.1% in 2016 thus closely reflecting the national trend.

In 2016, 63.7% attained a second level schooling, and 26.2% a third level education. Younger people were significantly better educated than older members of society. Laois residents have lower levels of educational attainment than the State average. The County has a slightly higher percentage of people with lower secondary school, technical/vocational qualification and advanced certificate/apprenticeship as their highest level of educational attainment. It has a lower percentage of people with bachelor's degrees or post-graduate qualifications as their highest level of education.

The age at which Laois residents cease their education tracks the national average, with one exception: over 5 percent fewer people in the County were found to be in education in the 21 years and over category when compared against the national figure.

Despite the considerable improvement at county level, there remain several rural EDs where still considerable parts of the adult population have primary education only. These are Nealstown (25%), Errill (23.5%), Caher, Arderin, Dunmore, Clonmore (23%).

The reverse applies with regard to third-level education, which has more than doubled over the past 25 years. In 1991, 13.0% of the national adult population had completed third-level education. This grew to 29.1% in 2006, but increased by only another 0.1 percentage point to 29.12% in 2011. In 2016 this figure grew significantly to 33.4%. The proportion of Laois' population with third-level education has grown from 9.2% in 1991, to 22.3% in 2006, 23% in

2011 and 26.2% in 2016. This 25-year growth is marginally below that which has occurred nationally (17.0 percentage points compared to 20.4 percentage points nationally). It also leaves the Laois trailing national trends by some seven percentage point with regard to higher education.

At ED level, and again mirroring the situation with regard to the higher incidences of low levels of education, there are low shares of population with third-level education in Rathdowney (15.6%), Cardtown (16.1%) and Tinnahinch (16.2%), but none of these is falling below the 15% level.

The educational attainment of Laois residents is likely influenced by the profile of available job opportunities. For employment reasons, many Laois born residents may choose to live elsewhere after completing their higher education. Educational attainment is greater in the eastern part of Laois that experiences a high level of out-of-county commuting and lower in western areas that are associated with in-county working.

Borris-In-Ossory Education

TABLE 3.26 - Population aged 15 years and over by Highest level of Education Completed

Education Level	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
No Formal Education	7	2.46%	5	1.67%	12	2.06%
Primary Education	65	22.89%	35	11.71%	100	17.15%
Lower Secondary	57	20.07%	51	17.06%	108	18.52%
Upper Secondary	57	20.07%	62	20.74%	119	20.41%
Technical or Vocational qualification	28	9.86%	33	11.04%	61	10.46%
Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship	16	5.63%	12	4.01%	28	4.80%
Higher Certificate	13	4.58%	9	3.01%	22	3.77%
Ordinary Bachelor Degree or National Diploma	4	1.41%	19	6.35%	23	3.95%
Honours Bachelor Degree Professional qualification or both	12	4.23%	21	7.02%	33	5.66%
Postgraduate Diploma or Degree	11	3.87%	16	5.35%	27	4.63%
Doctorate(Ph.D) or higher	1	0.35%	2	0.67%	3	0.51%
Not stated	13	4.58%	34	11.37%	47	8.06%
TOTAL	284		299		583	

In 2016, 19.21% of the total population over 15 had primary education or no formal education in Borris-In-Ossory. This is substantially higher than the county and national average, but is down from 21% in 2011. 54.2% attained a second level schooling and 18.5% a third level education. These figures are 6 to 7 percentage points lower than the Laois average and over 12 percentage points lower than the national average.

Fig. 3.27 - Population aged 15 Years + by Highest Level of Education Completed

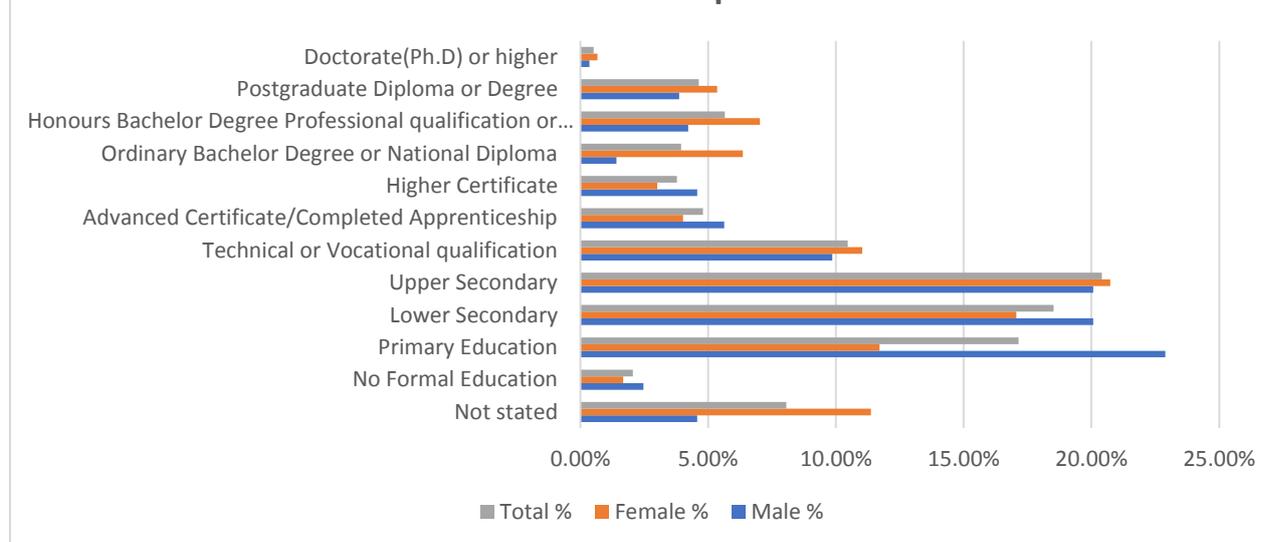
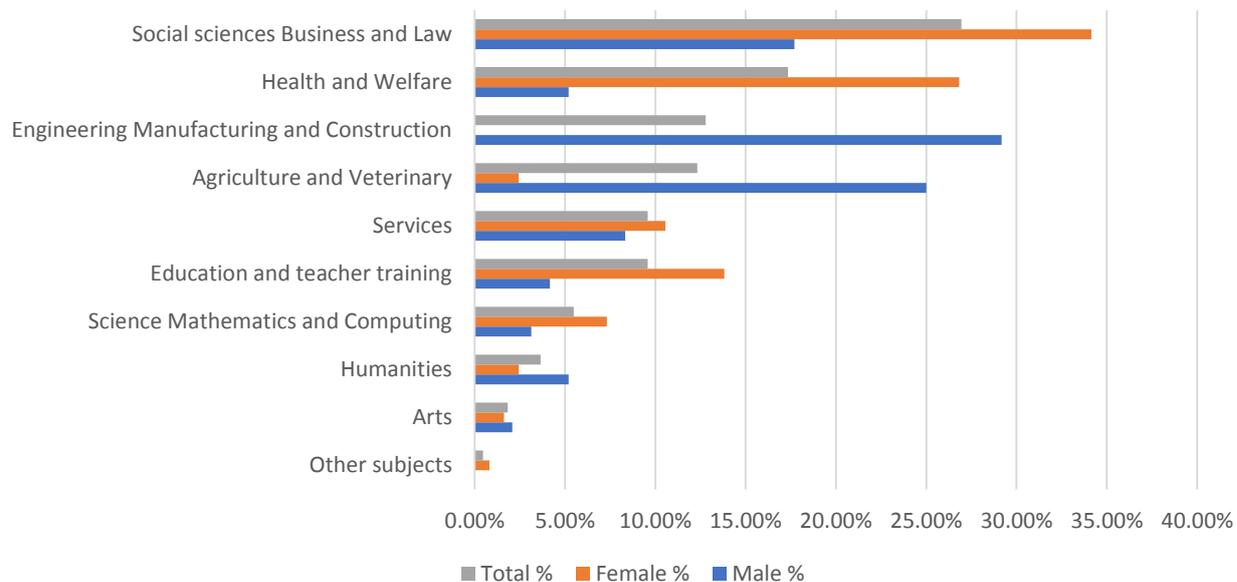


TABLE 3.28 - Population aged 15 years and over by Field of Study

Qualification	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
Education and teacher training	4	1.41%	17	5.69%	21	3.60%
Arts	2	0.70%	2	0.67%	4	0.69%
Humanities	5	1.76%	3	1.00%	8	1.37%
Social sciences Business and Law	17	5.99%	42	14.05%	59	10.12%
Science Mathematics and Computing	3	1.06%	9	3.01%	12	2.06%
Engineering Manufacturing and Construction	28	9.86%	-	0.00%	28	4.80%
Agriculture and Veterinary	24	8.45%	3	1.00%	27	4.63%
Health and Welfare	5	1.76%	33	11.04%	38	6.52%
Services	8	2.82%	13	4.35%	21	3.60%
Other subjects	-	0.00%	1	0.33%	1	0.17%
Not Stated (including unknown)	188	66.20%	176	58.86%	364	62.44%
TOTAL	284		299		583	

Similar to the National average and County Laois, Social Sciences Business and law is the most popular field of study, albeit a lower proportion by 4 percentage points. Engineering is also a lower preference, with agricultural higher than the National average.

Fig. 3.29 - Population aged 15 years + by Field of Study



Population aged 15 years and over by age education ceased

Age	Males	Females	Total
Under 15 years	21	11	32
15	17	10	27
16	21	11	32
17	25	21	46
18	33	33	66
19	6	19	25
20	10	7	17
21 and over	26	48	74
Not stated	125	139	264
Total	284	299	583

The age at which Borris-In-Ossory residents cease their education tracks the County Laois and national average, with one exception: over 6 percent fewer people in the County (and almost 12 fewer than national average) were found to be in education in the 21 years and over category when compared to the Laois figure.

3.7 Pobal HP 2016 Deprivation

The following is a summary of the Pobal Deprivation scores for Borris in Ossory area. The area is designated as a significantly more deprived area than County Laois or indeed compared to the Country as a whole.

Fig. 3.30 Deprivation Areas Map

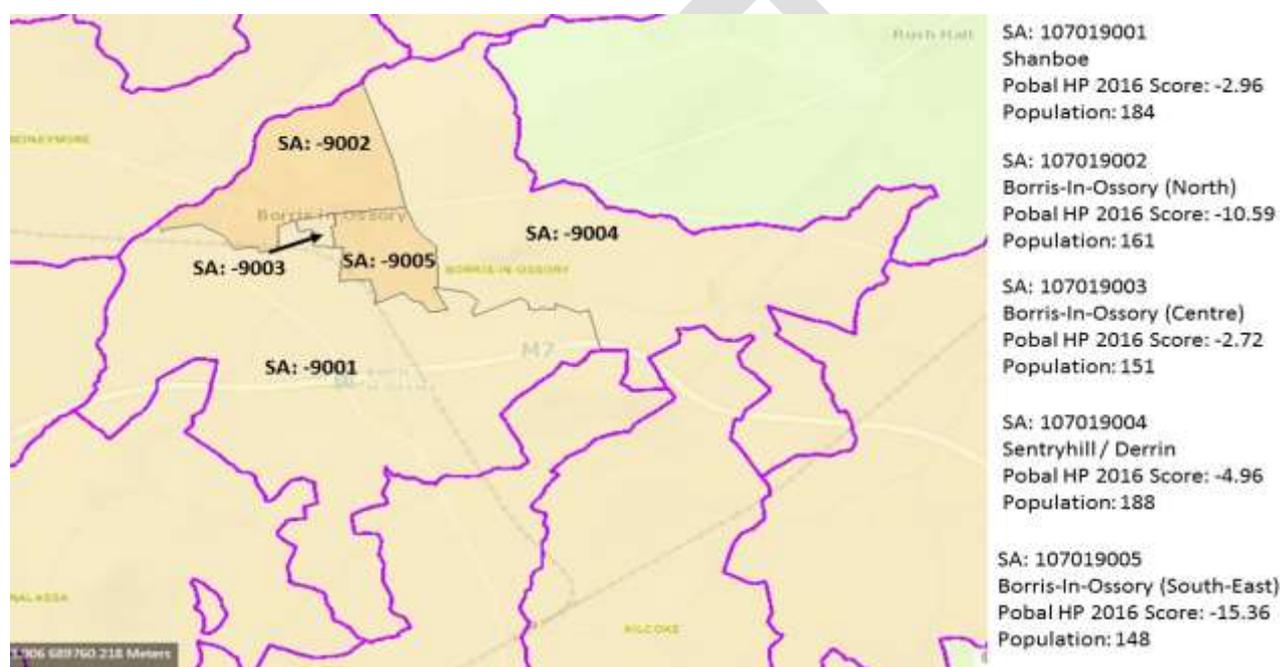


Table 3.31 Pobal deprivation scores

Small Area Name	Shanboe	Borris-In-Ossory (North)	Borris-In-Ossory (Centre)	Sentryhill / Derrin	Borris-In-Ossory (S-East)	Co Laois	Ireland
SA Refer. No.	107019001	107019002	107019003	107019004	107019005	(2016)	(2016)
Deprivation Score	-2.96	-10.59	-2.72	-4.96	-15.36	-2.53	0.24
Total population	184	161	151	188	148	84,697	4,761,865
Age Dependency Ratio	36.41%	36.65%	39.74%	37.23%	32.43%	36.07%	34.50%
Lone Parent Ratio	25.0%	19.0%	35.0%	19.0%	29.0%	18.42%	19.90%
Prop. Primary Ed. Only	22.0%	25.0%	9.0%	22.0%	22.0%	14.22%	13.00%
Prop. 3 rd level Ed	20.71%	17.86%	29.49%	21.6%	11.11%	27.78%	35.90%
Male unemployment rate	5.77%	16.67%	30.95%	10.64%	21.21%	15.92%	14.10%
Female unemployment rate	17.14%	21.21%	15.63%	10.53%	33.33%	15.34%	12.20%
Proportion in LA rented Accom	0%	7.04%	22.0%	0%	51.72%	9.00%	8.70%
Households without a car*	5.41%	21.92%	3.7%	4.41%	24.14%	10.95%	15.17%
Persons with a disability*	9.46%	17.81%	3.7%	5.88%	13.79%	13.45%	13.51%

4. SWOT Analysis

The SWOT Analysis was prepared through feedback from consultation process and through a planning workshop with the local committee.

SWOT ANALYSIS –Borris in Ossory Area	
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High Levels of Self-Employment; ➤ Strong Agricultural Base; ➤ Established Community Structures; ➤ Strong volunteerism tradition ➤ Strong Base of Work Skills and higher education. ➤ Strong community & voluntary sector ➤ Accessible Location ➤ Population Growth & Potential ➤ Good Local Committee ➤ Lots of Groups & Organisations – ➤ New School ➤ 2 Doctors – 3 days a week. ➤ Have local Link Bus Service ➤ Location adjacent to a regional traffic route ➤ Strong fundraising ability locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No community hub or all-encompassing focal point. ➤ No Garda Station ➤ Access to Motorway – Traffic & Crime ➤ Poor Community Physical Infrastructure – Lack of Community Hub ➤ Derelict Properties and Ghost Estates ➤ Periphery of County Boundaries ➤ Lack of Political Representation ➤ Lack of Services/Retail ➤ No Bus Eireann
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New Rural Development Programme will bring an opportunity to realize some significant capital projects. ➤ To help ourselves and provide much need local services. ➤ Improve Quality of Life ➤ Tap into EU & Public Funding Schemes ➤ Develop Strategic partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Commuter culture – people travel outside the area to work. ➤ Lack of Inward Investment; ➤ Economic downturn, improved economy not reflected locally. ➤ Costs of basic services ➤ Availability of adequate funding to realise plans. ➤ Losing More Business ➤ Losing Young People ➤ Decline in Population ➤ Visual Appearance continue to further deteriorate ➤ Crime ➤ Further Loss of Public Services ➤ Loss of Jobs & Economic Activity

5. Consultation Findings

A comprehensive community consultation was undertaken by the group in 2017 which involved door to door surveying of residents on their views in relation to the needs of the area and what project should be prioritised.

A number of common themes emerged from that needs assessment exercise which ultimately shape this strategy. Full detail of the needs assessment is available supporting document appendix 1. *'Community Needs Assessment – Borris in Ossory 2017'*

They can be categorised across the following headings;

- Public Realm and Appearance of the village.
- Community Physical infrastructure
- Youth Facilities and Activities
- Services for Older people
- Economic Development

5.1 Public Realm and Appearance of the Village

The current image of the village suffers from the presence of a number of derelict properties on its main street. This is in particular evident on approach from the Mountrath direction the first large building you see is the derelict hotel. When approaching from Roscrea and the motorway the derelict courthouse is the first building you see.



Pic.1 Derelict Courthouse Building



Pic.2 Derelict Property on Main Street.



Pic. 3 Derelict Hotel on Main Street on approach from Mountrath

There are a number of other properties in a poor state of repair on the Main Street. The physical appearance of the village featured strongly in the consultations. There are also two ghost estates in the town which have suffered from vandalism leading to further deterioration of the physical appearance of the village.



Pic. 4 Ghost Estate to rear of Main Street



Pic. 5 Disused Convent Building adjacent to school and chapel

The village has a small green area on approach from the Roscrea road opposite the courthouse.



Pic. 6 Green area on approach from Roscrea.

A former tennis court site is no longer used and is local adjacent to the GAA pitches on the Mountrath Road. A process is currently being undertaken to update the trustees of this property.

The village lacks a village green or square and has no identifiable town core at present. It is also one of the few villages in the region that does not have a playground, a town park, public walking track or facilities for young people.

The consultation and needs assessment identified the need to develop the following;

- A public playground
- Carry out enhancement works on the approach to the village
- Create a public space for recreation and landscaped areas in the village.
- Improve public safety and security due to increased crime levels due in part to proximity to motorway.
- Street Lighting at Killasmeestia.
- Address the derelict state of the courthouse
- Enhance the physical appearance of the main street and tackle dereliction.

5.2 Community Physical infrastructure

The community has 5 halls within its catchment area that are potentially available for community use. None of the halls are under the control of the development association.

Saint Canices old boys school is a small hall on the Main Street.

Saint Josephs School Hall is the assembly hall for the new school that has been constructed recently in Borris in Ossory and is off main street adjacent to the disused Convent building and Chapel.

The O'Brian Hall is a Billiards Hall that was built on parish land adjacent to the old boys school. There is a small meeting room in this building accessible by walking through the billiard hall.

Knockaroo Community Centre is location several kms from Borris in Ossory and is the site of an old school house. The building is structurally secure however in need of significant updating and is rarely used by any group or organisation due to its rural location and outdated interior.



Pic. 6 Knockaroo Community centre

Killasmeestia Community Centre is located several kms from the village of Borris in Ossory and adjacent to a thriving community childcare facility and school. Children travel from significant distances to attend both the school and childcare facilities. The hall is in a good state of repair and is well used by the school and also for social dancing. The building would benefit from a new kitchen facility. Laois County Council and the local Parish were approached to ascertain the potential to secure land to develop new community facilities such as a community centre and a playground. The Council had no property in the village other than the courthouse which is unsuitable and the parish

has kindly offered lands to the rear of the two halls in the Main street. This site needs to be surveyed to assess its suitability for development.



Pic. 7 Killasmeestia Community Centre



Pic. 8 Interior of Killasmeestia Parish Hall

The consultation and needs assessment identified a number of priorities that require attention;

- A new Community resource centre facility
- New kitchen at Killasmeestia Hall
- Knockaroo Hall refurbishment (should a use be found for the building.)
- Make use of the upper empty floor in new community Childcare facility at Killasmeestia.

5.3 Youth Facilities and Activities

A young club operates in the village of Borris in Ossory with in region of 25 regular members. Young people were actively targeted in undertaking the needs assessment exercise as were young leaders in the area. There are currently no dedicated facilities for young people in Borris in Ossory or its catchment area outside of the GAA club.

The following is a summary of the need identified for young people;

- St. Joseph's hall modified to make it more usable by young people for sports and other activities.
- Volley Ball and basketball facilities.
- Handball alley developed.
- And are that can be used for discos and dancing to take place.
- Exercise space and permanent tailored home for the youth club/youth café type facility.

There were also calls for more opportunities to occupy young people during summer holidays such as summer camps, work for young people locally and safe and supervised environment for social interaction.

5.4 Services for Older people

A men's shed group operate in village and are currently looking for a base from which to operate on a permanent basis.

The following needs were identified to meet the needs of older people in the community;

Improving footpaths to allow greater access around the village

- Develop a Men's shed space.
- Develop a Women's Shed project

5.5 Economic Development

Many of the issues the village has encountered in relation to dereliction in particular are due for the best part due to the economic downturn that hit the country in 2008. Borris in Ossory has many visible scars of that recession such as the Ghost estates, derelict hotel and other derelict properties in the villages. There are however a significant number of thriving businesses on the main street. The economic standing of the village and its surrounding area will ultimately have a knock on effect on the physical appearance of the village due to private sector investment or lack thereof.

While the community development group has limited ability to generate economic activity it can together with Laois County Council and other partners help to create conditions and environment for economic activity to prosper and for existing businesses to be maintained.

Key areas of need that were identified as priorities to be addressed were;

- Maintained key services on the village such as the doctor and post office.
- Encouraging property owners to maintain their buildings on Main Street and securing financial assistance is possible to do so.
- Improving broadband service to the area.
- Making the village a safer place to do business by introducing traffic calming.
- Encourage uptake of LEADER and LEO grant from local businesses.



Pic. 9 Closed Filling station on Main Street

6. Strategic Plan

The strategic plan is presented under 5 strategic priority areas of intervention. These priorities have 5 objectives and in turn 18 actions to implement to plan.



Mission Statement

'TO BE INSERTED – IF YOU HAVE ONE PLEASE PROVIDE'

6.1 Public Realm

Objective 1: Improve and enhance the Physical appearance and recreational infrastructure and access in the Village and environs

Actions

1. Develop a Public Amenity/Town Park area.
2. Provide a Public Walking Track via the Link Road
3. Improve Footpaths & Street Lighting – Wheelchair Access in Borris & Killasmeestia
4. Improve road safety through re-alignment at Kilkenny Road Junction
5. Introduce new Speed Limit Measures
6. Address current state of dereliction of the Courthouse.



6.2 Community Infrastructure

Objective 2: Enhance and improve existing community infrastructure

1. Community Resource Centre/Community Hub
2. Kitchen in Killasmeestia
3. Tennis Court Site

6.3 Youth

Objective 3: Increase youth service provision in the area and provide suitable facilities.

1. Playground
2. Youth Facility & Storage area/ Youth Café
3. St. Joseph's Hall – extension – more user friendly for sports

6.4 Older People

Objective 4: Cherish the older people in our community and provide opportunities for social interaction.

1. Men's Shed Home
2. Examine potential to develop Older Women's' Group
3. Facility for Senior Citizens/ Active age Group to meet.

6.5 Economic Development

Objective 5: Maximise the economic potential of the village and its environs.

1. Broadband Solution
2. Shop Fronts Scheme

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: Public Realm					
Objective 1: Improve and enhance the Physical appearance and recreational infrastructure and access in the Village and environs					
Actions	RESOURCES REQUIRED	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE	LINKAGES
1. Develop a Public Amenity/Town Park area	Secure site at end of town from Local Authority. Grant aid to complete. Application to 2018 Town and Village renewal.	New town park, public amenity area provided.	Improved approach to village from Motorway/Roscrea road. Enhanced public amenity area for residents to enjoy. Improved quality of life.	2018	Laois County Council T&V Renewal 2018
2. Develop public walking track via Link road	Mapping of walkway, liaison with local engineer, specification developed and funding secured.	New 3.4km looped public access walkway via public road from village park.	New local amenity provision. Healthier lifestyle for local residents, safer for walkers.	2018	Laois County Council. T&V Renewal 2018
3. Improve Footpaths & Street Lighting	Identification of exact locations that require improvement in Borris and Killasmeestia. Specifications for works developed by local engineer. Funding secured with Laois County Council;.	New footpaths developed, new lighting installed, existing public lighting in Killasmeestia extended past chapel and transferred to public power supply.	Improved safety and access around the village particularly for older people, children and people with disabilities.	2019	Laois County Council.
4. Improve road	Meeting with local roads	Junction realigned.	Improved safety at	2019	Laois County Council.

safety through re-alignment at Kilkenny Road Junction	engineer, junction modifications assessed and developed, budget secured to complete.		Kilkenny road junction		
5.Introduce new road safety measures	Speed reduction measures agreed with council. budget secured..	Reduced speed of vehicles in particular HGV's through village.	Improved safety for residents, improved environment for businesses and customers embarking from premises on main street.	2019	Laois County Council T&V Renewal 2018
6. Address current state of dereliction of the Courthouse.	Meeting with Laois County Council staff to address deterioration of the building.	Building de listed and demolished or remedial works to remove this building serving as a prominent eyesore from the Main Street.	Visual appearance of Main street dramatically improved and/or land made available for development as playground or focal point for the town.	2019	Laois County Council Heritage Council Laois LEADER Partnership

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: Community Infrastructure					
Objective 2: Enhance and improve existing community infrastructure					
ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE	LINKAGES
7. Develop a new community Resource Centre/Hub	Identification of a site or building for conversion into a new community resource centre.	New community centre developed in Borris in Ossory	Focal point to serve the community developed,	2019	Laois County Council Property owners in the town. Laois Partnership
8. Develop a new kitchen at Killasmeestia Community Centre	Discussion with Laois Partnership re. Funding. Suitable applicant to secure funding.	New Kitchen at Killasmeestia Community Centre developed.	Improve range of events hall can be used for. Increased usage of the building.	2020	Parish Hall Committee Laois Partnership
9. Utilise the tennis court site	Finalise securing title in names of new trustees. Identify use and implement	Tennis court developed for community benefit or disposed of and proceeds used to develop community infrastructure in the village.	Un utilised Community asset used for betterment of the community.	2020	Trustees Solicitor Laois County Council

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: Youth					
Objective 3: Increase youth service provision in the area and provide suitable facilities.					
ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE	LINKAGES
10. Develop a new playground in the village	A suitable Site needs to be identified. Council and Parish has both been approached and no suitable site available from either.	Site identified, funding secured and new playground developed.	Play facility provided for children and young people in the area.	2019	Sport Section Laois County Council. Laois Partnership Landowners in the village.
11. Develop a new youth facility and Youth Cafe	Located in new Community centre, dedicated space.	New youth facility developed	Increased numbers attending youth club, improved quality of life for young people. Social outlet in their own community.	2019	Youth group Laois Partnership
12. St. Joseph's Hall – extended and modified leaving it more user friendly for sport	Funding through the school to modify existing hall to make it usable for sports.	Hall modified and extended to increase usage.	Healthier lifestyle and improved quality of life for young people. Social outlet in their own community.	2020	Service users and family members.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: Older People					
Objective 4: Cherish the older people in our community and provide opportunities for social interaction.					
ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE	LINKAGES
13. Develop a new Men's shed facility	Building for Men's Shed identified and resourced	Suitable and accessible Men's shed building and storage area secured.	Increased numbers of older Men join the group. Improved operating environment.	2019	Laois Partnership Men's Shed
14. Examine potential for development of an Older Women's group	Facilitation of the bringing together a interested women and securing funding to progress if sufficient interest. Examine models from elsewhere.	Older Women's group established	Social outlet for older women's based in the local community.	2020	Laois Partnership
15. Identify and Provide a facility for Senior Citizens/Active Age group to operate from	Building with capacity, access and suitability to operate an active age group from.	Older people's services in the community developed – potentially in new community centre if progressed.	Care of elderly in the community enhanced. Improved quality of life for older people in the community.	2020	Laois Partnership Older Peoples group

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 5: Economic Development					
Objective 5: Maximise the economic potential of the village and its environs.					
ACTIONS	RESOURCES REQUIRED	EXPECTED OUTPUTS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	TIMESCALE	LINKAGES
16. Improve broadband provision in the area	<p>Liase with broad band providers to assess potential for community broadband provision.</p> <p>Quantify level of interest in business and residents in paying for high speed broadband.</p> <p>Lobby politicians to address deficit.</p>	Improved broadband speeds in the village.	More attractive location for businesses to locate. Impediment to business staying in the village or locating here removed.	On-going delivered. until	<p>Broadband service providers.</p> <p>LEO</p> <p>Laois Partnership – Broadband Measure in LEADER.</p>
17. Enhance visual appearance of buildings and shop fronts in the village.	<p>Financial incentive for building owners to improve premises visual appearance. Communication with all building owners.</p>	Improved visual appearance of Main street and village as a whole.	Increased confidence of private sector to invest in the village, pride of place instilled in local business people and residents.	2019-2022	<p>T & V Renewal 2019-2022</p> <p>Local Businesses</p> <p>Laois County Council</p>

7 Implementation arrangements

TO BE AGREED

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Appendix 1 - Community Needs Assessment 2017

(See attached document)



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Appendix 2 - Additional Detailed Statistical Data

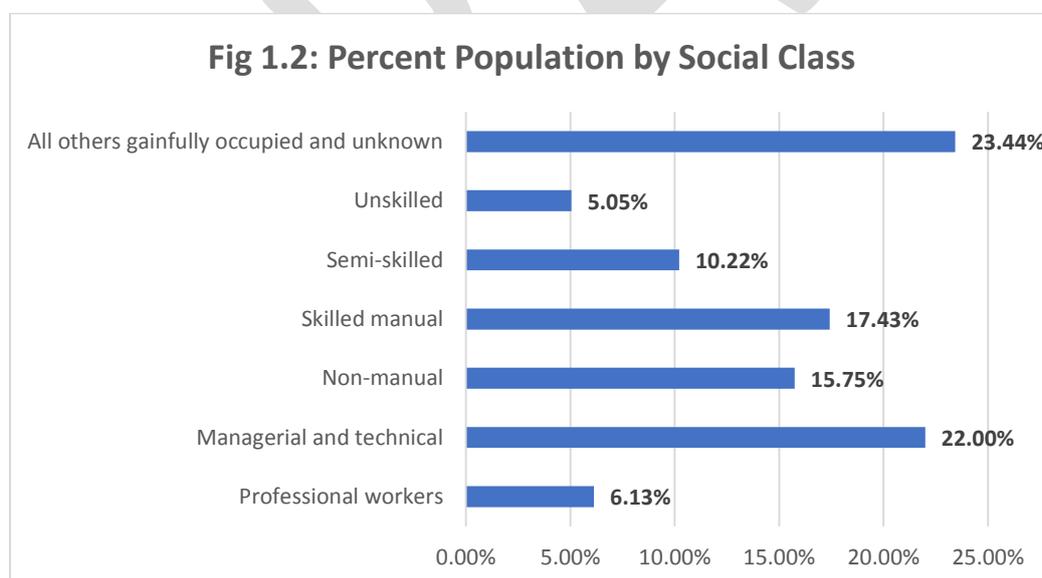


The following is a summary of additional statistical data that have been compiled and analysed on Borris in Ossory and can be used for specific application for funding where detailed analysis pertaining to certain specific issues is required.

Borris-In-Ossory

TABLE 1.1 - Population by Social Class

Social Class	No.	Percent
Professional workers	51	6.13%
Managerial and technical	183	22.00%
Non-manual	131	15.75%
Skilled manual	145	17.43%
Semi-skilled	85	10.22%
Unskilled	42	5.05%
All others gainfully occupied and unknown	195	23.44%
TOTAL	832	



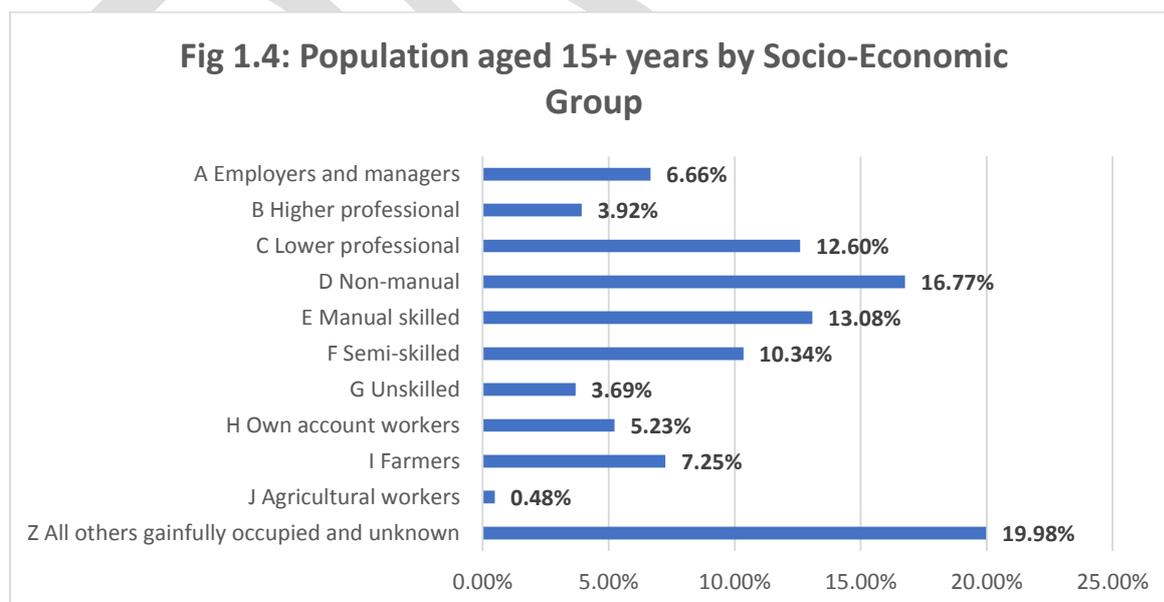
42.88% of the population over 15 years of age are in the top 3 social classes with 6.13% professional workers, 22% managerial and technical and 15.75% non-manual. A further 17.43% are skilled manual and 10.22% are semi-skilled. 5.05% of the population are unskilled with 23.44% classified as others. The level of

professionals (28.1%) is lower than the county average, while 15.3% are semi-skilled and unskilled is conversely marginally lower than the County average.

TABLE 1.3 - Population aged 15 years and over by Socio-Economic Group

Socio-economic group of reference person	No.	Percent
A Employers and managers	56	6.66%
B Higher professional	33	3.92%
C Lower professional	106	12.60%
D Non-manual	141	16.77%
E Manual skilled	110	13.08%
F Semi-skilled	87	10.34%
G Unskilled	31	3.69%
H Own account workers	44	5.23%
I Farmers	61	7.25%
J Agricultural workers	4	0.48%
Z All others gainfully occupied and unknown	168	19.98%
TOTAL	841	

There is significant lower proportion of employers and managers in the Borris-In-Ossory ED (6.66% compared to Laois (13.11%) and the National average (15.45%)). Other Professionals represent 16.5% of the ED population, which is higher than the Laois proportion (14.9%), but lower than the National average (18.8%). Agricultural related categories are marginally higher than the county and national average, which would be expected for a rural ED, albeit at a lower level.



Borris-In-Ossory labour force participation rate is significantly lower than the national average and County Laois. This is attributable to higher retirement, home duties and unemployment rates. See Table (...)

TABLE 1.5 - Persons at work or unemployed by occupation

Occupation	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
Managers Directors and Senior Officials	9	4.37%	6	3.59%	15	4.02%
Professional Occupations	14	6.80%	33	19.76%	47	12.60%
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	12	5.83%	9	5.39%	21	5.63%
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	8	3.88%	26	15.57%	34	9.12%
Skilled Trades Occupations	67	32.52%	2	1.20%	69	18.50%
Caring Leisure and Other Service Occupations	5	2.43%	26	15.57%	31	8.31%
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	4	1.94%	24	14.37%	28	7.51%
Process Plant and Machine Operatives	42	20.39%	2	1.20%	44	11.80%
Elementary Occupations	20	9.71%	10	5.99%	30	8.04%
Not stated	25	12.14%	29	17.37%	54	14.48%
TOTAL	206		167		373	

Of those in the labour force 22.25% are in professional occupations (compares to 29.64% for Laois and 35.7% for the State). All the other occupations correlate with the County and National averages except for Skilled Trades and Plant and Machine operatives which are at a higher rate.

Fig 1.6: Persons at work or unemployed by occupation

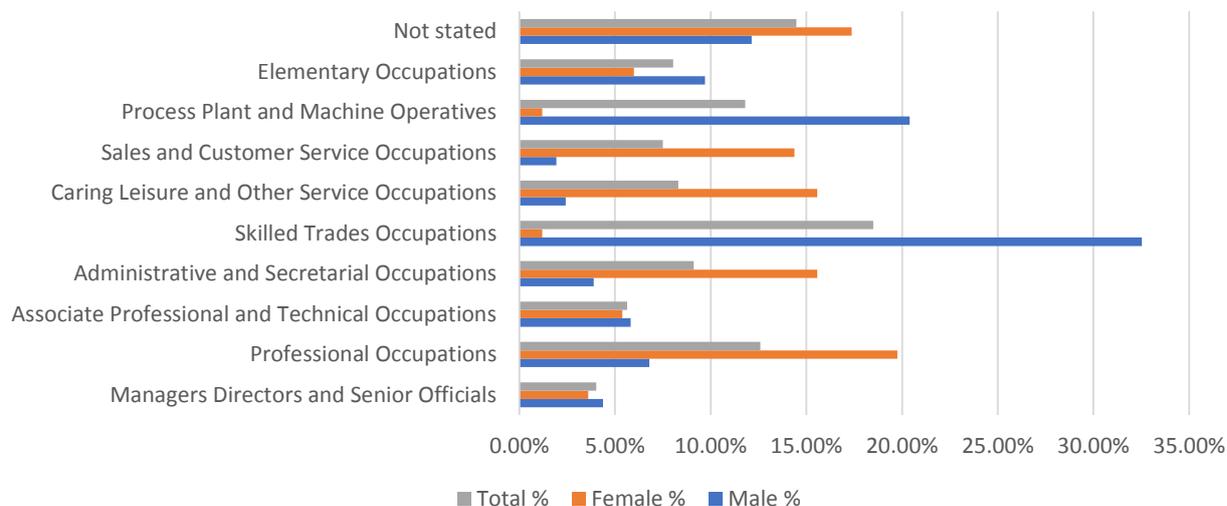


TABLE 1.7 - Persons at work by Industry

Industry	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
Agriculture forestry and fishing	28	15.91%	1	0.72%	29	9.24%
Building and construction	27	15.34%	2	1.45%	29	9.24%
Manufacturing industries	21	11.93%	6	4.35%	27	8.60%
Commerce and trade	40	22.73%	38	27.54%	78	24.84%
Transport and communications	17	9.66%	5	3.62%	22	7.01%
Public administration	9	5.11%	10	7.25%	19	6.05%
Professional services	12	6.82%	46	33.33%	58	18.47%
Other	22	12.50%	30	21.74%	52	16.56%
TOTAL	176		138		314	

Almost 1 in 4 of the Labour Force in Borris-In-Ossory ED are involved in Commerce and Trade, which is similar to the National average but higher than the rate in Laois County (21.8%). Agriculture and Construction are twice the national average rate, which would be expected in a rural area. Professional's services are a much lower occupation than the national average (23.5%) and Laois (23%).

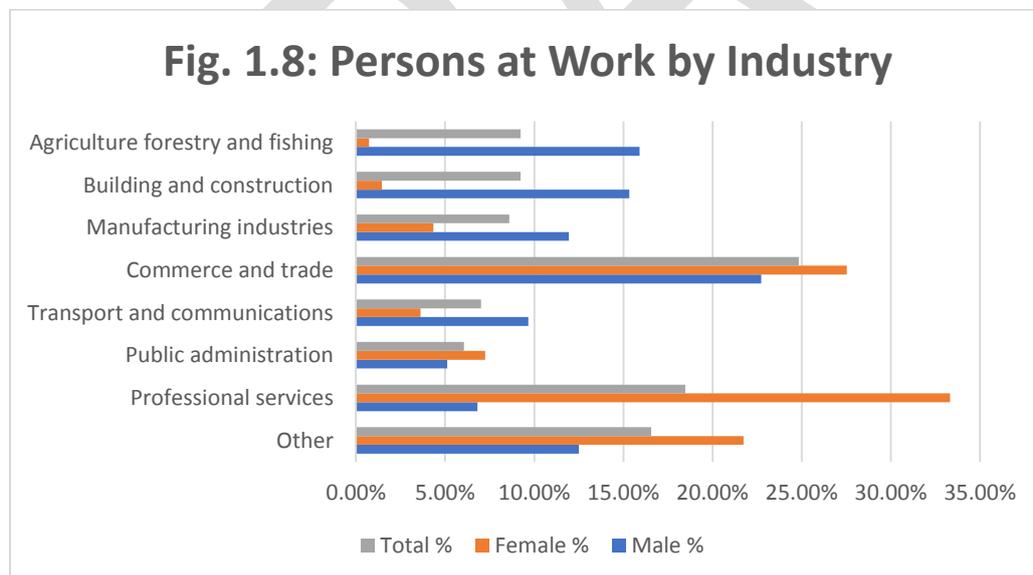


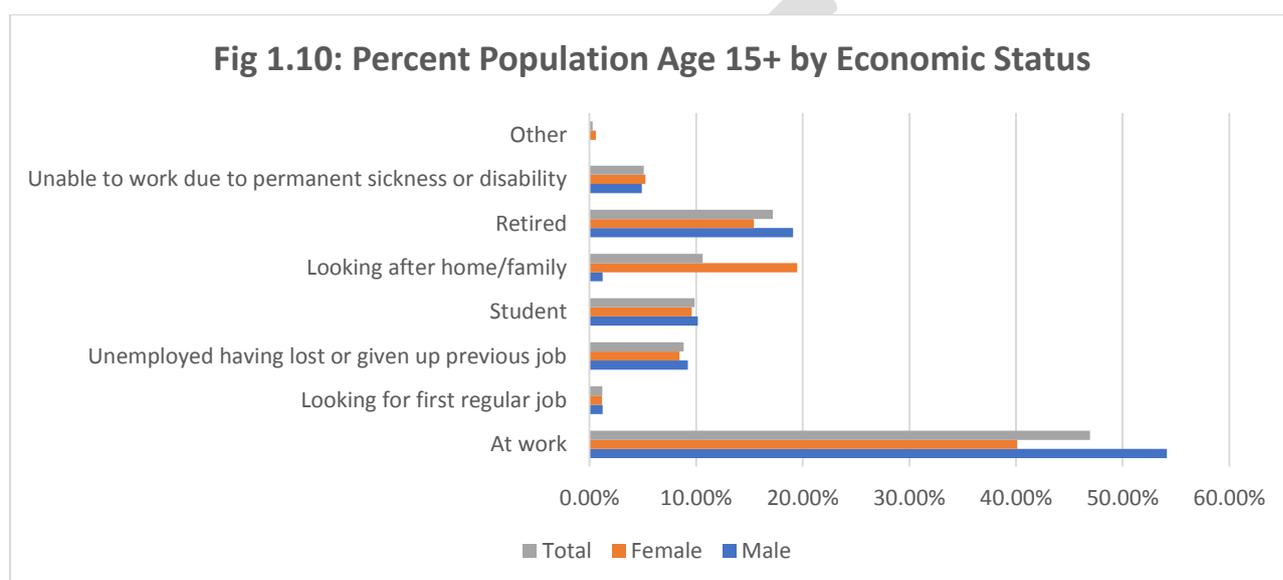
TABLE 1.9- Population aged 15 years and over by principal economic status

Population aged 15 years and over by principal economic status and sex	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
At work	176	54.15%	138	40.12%	314	46.94%



Looking for first regular job	4	1.23%	4	1.16%	8	1.20%
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	30	9.23%	29	8.43%	59	8.82%
Student	33	10.15%	33	9.59%	66	9.87%
Looking after home/family	4	1.23%	67	19.48%	71	10.61%
Retired	62	19.08%	53	15.41%	115	17.19%
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	16	4.92%	18	5.23%	34	5.08%
Other	0	0.00%	2	0.58%	2	0.30%
TOTAL	325		344		669	

Fig 1.10: Percent Population Age 15+ by Economic Status



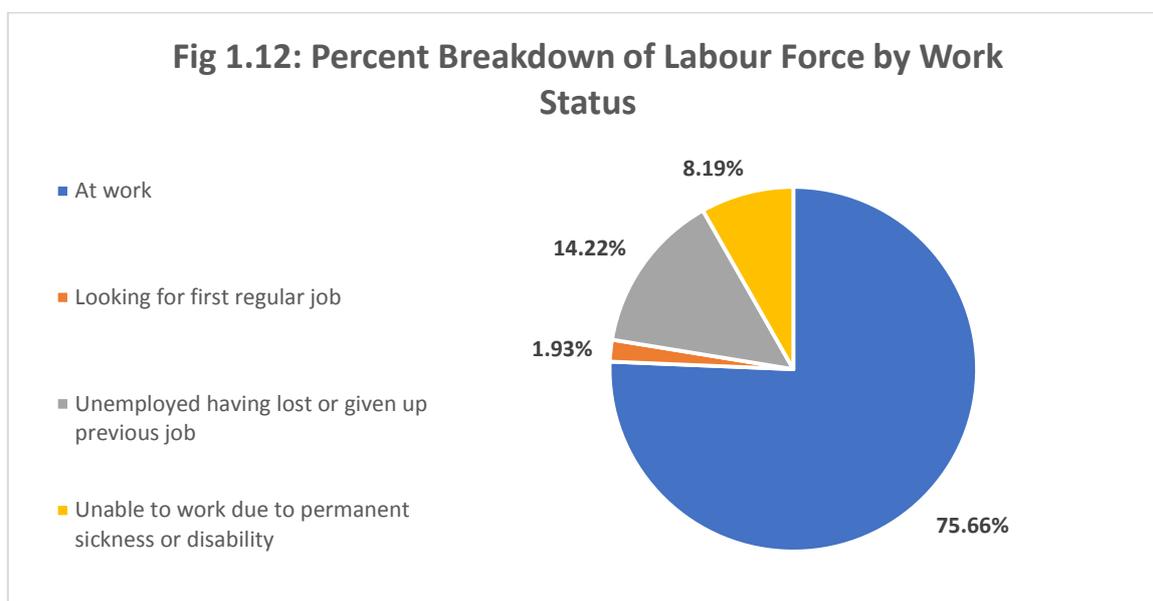
Less than half of those in Borris-In-Ossory over the age of 15 are at work (46.94%). 9.87% are students, 10.61% are homemakers and a further 17.19% are retired. At least 15.1% are not at work due to being unemployed (10.02%) or having a disability (5.08%). These proportions differ somewhat to County Laois and nationally, with those retired in Laois at 12.64% and the State at 14.52% the most significant variance to lower the proportion of those at work below the national average of 53.43%. There is also a notable variance in unemployment which is analysed further below.

Table 1.11 Population of the Labour Force by Work Status

Members of the Labour Force by work status	Male	% Male	Female	% Female	Total	Percent
At work	176	77.88%	138	73.02%	314	75.66%
Looking for first regular job	4	1.77%	4	2.12%	8	1.93%
Unemployed having lost or given up previous job	30	13.27%	29	15.34%	59	14.22%
Unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability	16	7.08%	18	9.52%	34	8.19%



TOTAL	226	189	415
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Just over three quarters of those in the potential labour force are at work. 14.22% are unemployed while a further 1.93% is looking for their first regular job. 8.19% are unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability. The unemployment figures are higher than County Laois (12.8%) and the State average (10.8%). The disability figure is also higher than the state average (6.43%) and the county (6.98%).

The Labour force figures for Borris-In-Ossory are a significant improvement from the 2011 Census where 21.81% of the Labour Force were unemployed.

Commuting

Despite occupying a strategic location, and possession of an enabling infrastructure (transport, energy, telecoms and water), Laois has failed to attract a sufficient level of economic investment to support its population growth. 42% of Laois workers with a fixed place of work commute out of the County for their job, with Dublin (30%), Kildare (27%), Carlow (15%), Offaly (10%) and Kilkenny (7%) the most popular destinations (POWCAR 2014). Just 20% of Laois-based jobs are performed by inbound commuters.

Map 1.13 – Commuting in Laois

INBOUND AND OUTBOUND COMMUTERS



The net outbound commuting of Laois residents to all surrounding counties (excluding Offaly) for employment indicates the need for the creation of additional jobs in the County in the interests of a sustainable economy, smarter travel and a good quality of life.

Map – Commuting out of Laois and Borris in Ossory

TABLE 1.14 - Population Aged 5 Yrs and over by means of travel to work, school or college

Means of Travel	Work	% Work	Education	% Educ	Total	Percent
On foot	12	3.82%	29	16.20%	41	8.32%
Bicycle	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Bus minibus or coach	3	0.96%	56	31.28%	59	11.97%
Train DART or LUAS	5	1.59%	2	1.12%	7	1.42%
Motorcycle or scooter	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Car driver	202	64.33%	6	3.35%	208	42.19%
Car passenger	4	1.27%	76	42.46%	80	16.23%
Van	47	14.97%	-	0.00%	47	9.53%
Other (incl. lorry)	3	0.96%	-	0.00%	3	0.61%
Work mainly at or from home	19	6.05%	-	0.00%	19	3.85%
Not stated	19	6.05%	10	5.59%	29	5.88%
TOTAL	314		179		493	

Similar to the Laois average, 64.33% of the population in Borris-In-Ossory commute to work by car (driver). There are higher than average drivers of Vans who commute and lower levels of commuters using Public transport

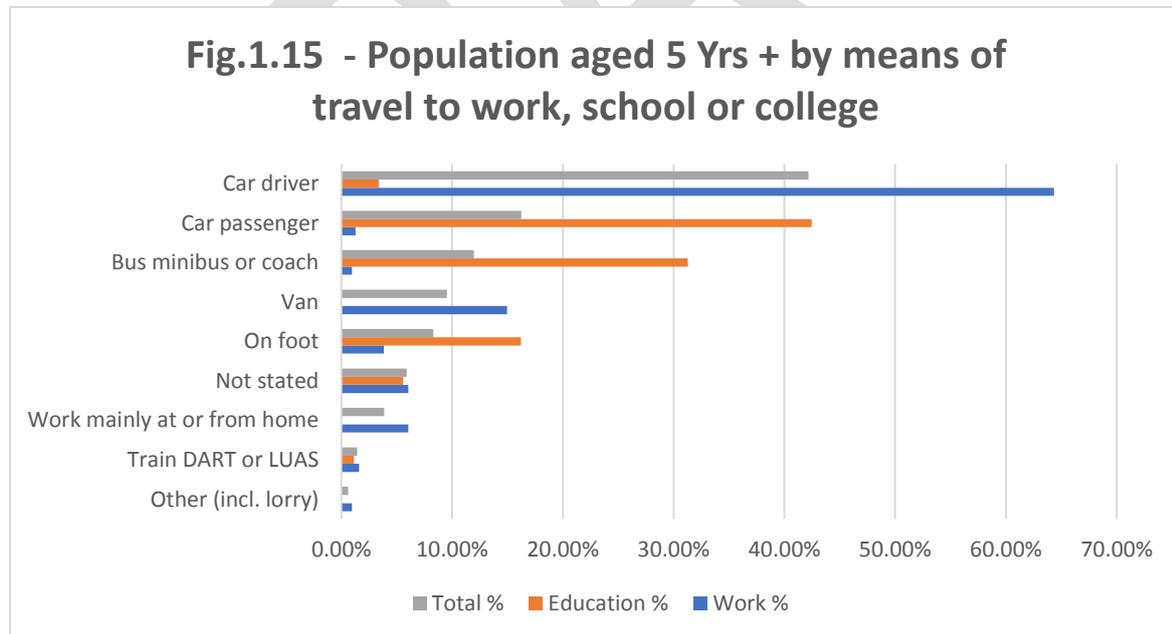


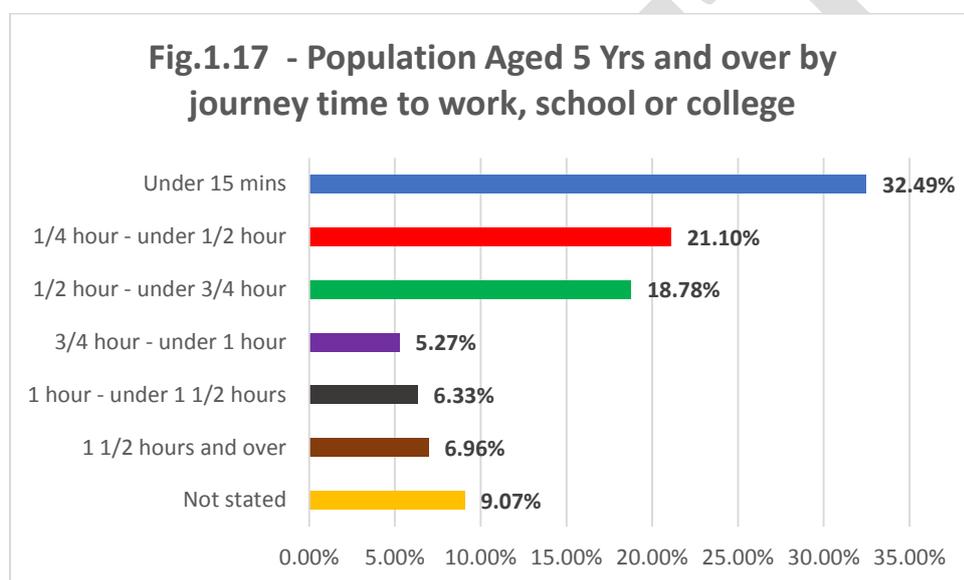
TABLE 1.16 - Population Aged 5 Yrs and over by journey time to work, school or college

Journey Time	No.	Percent
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Under 15 mins	154	32.49%
1/4 hour - under 1/2 hour	100	21.10%
1/2 hour - under 3/4 hour	89	18.78%
3/4 hour - under 1 hour	25	5.27%
1 hour - under 1 1/2 hours	30	6.33%
1 1/2 hours and over	33	6.96%
Not stated	43	9.07%
TOTAL	474	

The average commuting time is just under 30 minutes. There is a higher rate of those who take more than 90 minutes to commute (6.96%) than the Laois average (4.73%) and the national average (2.26%)



Population aged 5 years and over by time leaving home to travel to work, school or college	
Time leaving home	Persons
Before 06:30	41
06:30-07:00	44
07:01-07:30	53
07:31-08:00	77
08:01-08:30	72
08:31-09:00	69
09:01-09:30	69
After 09:30	19
Not stated	30
Total	474

8.6% of the commuters in Borris-In-Ossory leave home before 6:30. This is higher than the Laois average (7.58%) and the National Average (5.75%).

1.18 Economy, Income, Productivity, Industry, Retail & Public Services

	2014 in €th	2013 in €th
Employee Earnings	1,176,000	1,171,000
Self Employed Earnings	110,000	103,000
Rent Earnings	113,000	100,000
Net Interest & Dividends	52,000	24,000
Primary Income Total	1,451,000	1,398,000
Social Protection Transfers	388,000	383,000
Total Household Income €t	1,839,000	1,781,000
Per Person €	22,729	22,088
Taxes	434,000	398,000
Total Disposable Income €t	1,405,000	1,383,000
Per Person €	17,365	17,152



1.19 Income per Person in County Westmeath - 2006 to 2014

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Disposable Income	19,160	20,083	21,610	19,890	18,416	17,228	17,327	17,152	17,365
Disposable Indices (State=100)	95.7	95.1	96.0	95.8	94.6	91.8	90.3	92.5	90.5
Total Income	24,407	25,530	26,675	24,612	22,771	21,859	21,873	21,729	23,108
Total Indices (State=100)	93.5	93	94.1	93.7	92	89.3	87.4	88.5	90.1

1.20 Compare to Midlands Region and State

Area	Total Income	Disposable Income
Laois	23,108	17,365
Midlands Region Average	22,104	17,035
Westmeath	22,484	17,806
Longford	21,431	16,663
Offaly	20,964	16,460
State	25,633	19,178

The Midland region of Ireland has the second lowest disposable income per capita. County Laois has the second highest disposable income (although it has the highest total income per capita) in the region.

Similar to the wider regional and national picture, the local economy has undergone rapid changes of fortune over the last ten years. The current outlook for the Laois economy is positive. There has been consistent improvement in employment levels in Laois since mid-2013. Relative to the national average, Laois has a young population and high labour-force participation rates. Similar to the wider Midlands and national trends, Laois' services sector continues to grow its share of the local economy in employment and productivity terms.

Economic Sectors

In line with national and regional trends, the largest employer in Laois, and the most important sector in terms of productivity, is the Services Sector (also known as Tertiary Sector), followed by Manufacturing and Construction (Secondary Sector), with the Natural Resources areas including farming and forestry (Primary Sector) positioned third. The important areas in employment terms for Laois are the public, wholesale/retail services, manufacturing (despite trend of decline) and farming.

Between 2006 and 2011, employment in the primary sector increased marginally. Employment in manufacturing continues to decline (decrease of 18% in numbers employed), a long-standing trend. Employment in construction collapsed (-60%). The level of employment in all broad industrial groups in the Services Sector increased. An increasing population generates employment in many service areas: education (increase of 42% in numbers employed), banking and financial services (22%), hotels and restaurants (16%) as well as wholesale and retail services (17%). Since 2011, persons at work has increased from 30,337 to 33,541. There has been an increase in all sectors bar Agriculture & Public Administration. Construction employment has recovered 20.3% from a low base of 1,623 persons. Commerce and Trade, and Professional services have also seen robust recovery.

Laois has a limited number of companies that benefit from IDA (2 companies with 87 full-time employees) or EI support (EI declined to provide specific details in the interests of data protection). Nationally, the number of agency supported enterprises are significant. In 2010 agency-assisted companies operating in Ireland provided almost 300,000 direct jobs, a similar number of indirect jobs, 80% of exports and 40% of national GVA (Forfas 2011).

In line with the trend for the Midlands (according to Solas 2014), most private enterprises in Laois are micro in employment terms.

1.21

European Commission's SME Definition	Laois Private Enterprises (Publicly-funded organisations & commercial semi-State companies excluded, chains not excluded)
Micro <10 employees	80%
Small <50 employees	17.3%
Medium <250 employees	2.4%

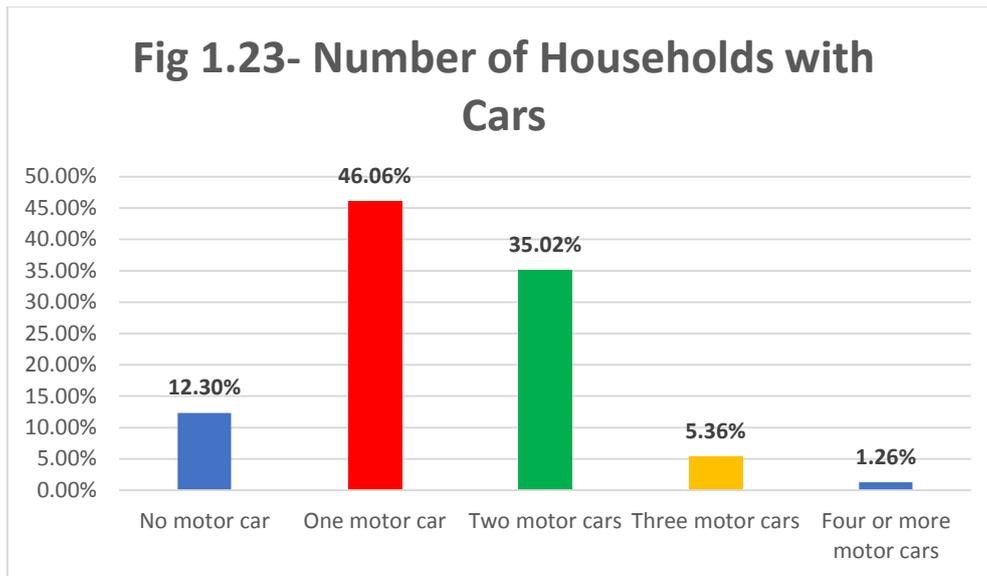
Source: Data Ireland & Exodea May 2014

ECONOMIC

Education, Car Ownership, PC & Internet Demographics of *Borris-In-Ossory*

TABLE 1.22 - Number of Households with Cars

Number of cars	No.	Percent
No motor car	39	12.30%
One motor car	146	46.06%
Two motor cars	111	35.02%
Three motor cars	17	5.36%
Four or more motor cars	4	1.26%
TOTAL	317	



Commuting Demographics of *Borris-In-Ossory*

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Appendix 3 - References to Borris in Ossory in Laois County Development Plan

Residential development

BIO 1 Mixed-use applications which comprise a housing element will be considered within the Village Centre zoning, loss of active commercial or retail floorspace to residential use will not be accepted;

BIO 2 Housing to be provided in line with Housing Strategy 2017-2023;

BIO 3 Promote densities in the order of 12 dwelling units to the hectare.

Built Form and Context

BIO 4 Consolidate the village centre by way of infill development, backland development and redevelopment as appropriate;

BIO 5 Encourage restoration or redevelopment of derelict sites, vacant or underused buildings within the village centre;

BIO 6 Extend the quantity and improve quality of the open space to the front of the old courthouse to provide an appropriate setting to this protected structure as well as an amenity for local people;

BIO 7 Enhance the appearance of the Main Street by means of tree planting.

BIO8 Examine the feasibility of potential uses for Borris in Ossory Court House during the lifetime of the plan;

BIO9 Continue a programme of restoration to the Courthouse Building in line with Conservation principles, supervised by a qualified conservation professional;

Economic Development



BIO10 Encourage industrial development to the west of the town to harness the development potential arising from the proximity to the motorway interchange, require the preparation of a master plan including site specific flood risk assessment for these lands;

BIO11 Facilitate business and enterprise development on appropriate lands within and adjoining the village centre;

BIO 12 Retain and improve the range of commercial services available in the village.

Infrastructure

BIO 13 Facilitate the provision of a feeder bus link between Ballybrophy Station and Borris in Ossory to provide for the integration of the rail and road network;

BIO 14 Improve pedestrian linkages in the town and provide cycling linkages as per the objectives map and cycle parking at buildings in community use, particularly schools;

BIO 15 Facilitate the mobility of persons with special needs by way of disabled parking provision and suitable pedestrian network;

BIO 16 Enhance traffic safety at the Skeirke and Rock Road intersections;

BIO 17 Facilitate traffic management improvements at the junction between the Main Street and the Rathdowney Road;

BIO 18 Provide enhanced community facilities in Borris in Ossory, such as a playground subject to available funding.

BIO 19 Enable the improvement of circulation within the church car park;

BIO 20 Support provision, expansion or redevelopment of social infrastructure (public open space, educational amenities (school and child-care), community facilities);

BIO 21 Encourage the removal of overhead power lines and their placement underground;

Habitats (Natura 2000 Sites)

BIO 22 Ensure that any development that has the potential to impact on the Natura 2000 site is subject to Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive;

BIO 23 Implement SuDS where appropriate;

BIO 24 Ensure full compliance with all existing planning permissions and with relevant measures prescribed under the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan;

BIO 25 Ensure that any flood defence works or river channel maintenance is assessed according to Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and carried out in accordance with the NPWS and IFI authorisation.

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