



Killeshin Sustainable Community Plan 2018-2023



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Introduction

The purpose of this sustainable community plan is to develop a long term vision and a five year plan for the Killeshin area and all its citizens based on a thorough analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and through consultation with those living and working in the area.

Commissioned by Killeshin Community Centre Committee (KCCC) on behalf of the people of Killeshin this community plan has been supported by a grant from the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 through Laois Partnership Company. The goal of this community plan is to help the people of Killeshin to engage in community led development to enhance the quality of life for the current and future population of Killeshin. Geraldine Cawley, a rural development specialist worked with the community over a period of six months from January 2018 to write a plan for the community.

Also included as part of this plan was is an architects design for a new village centre at Killeshin Community Centre. This design provided by PDS Ltd. is based on the needs, goals and objectives identified in this community plan.

Definition of the study area

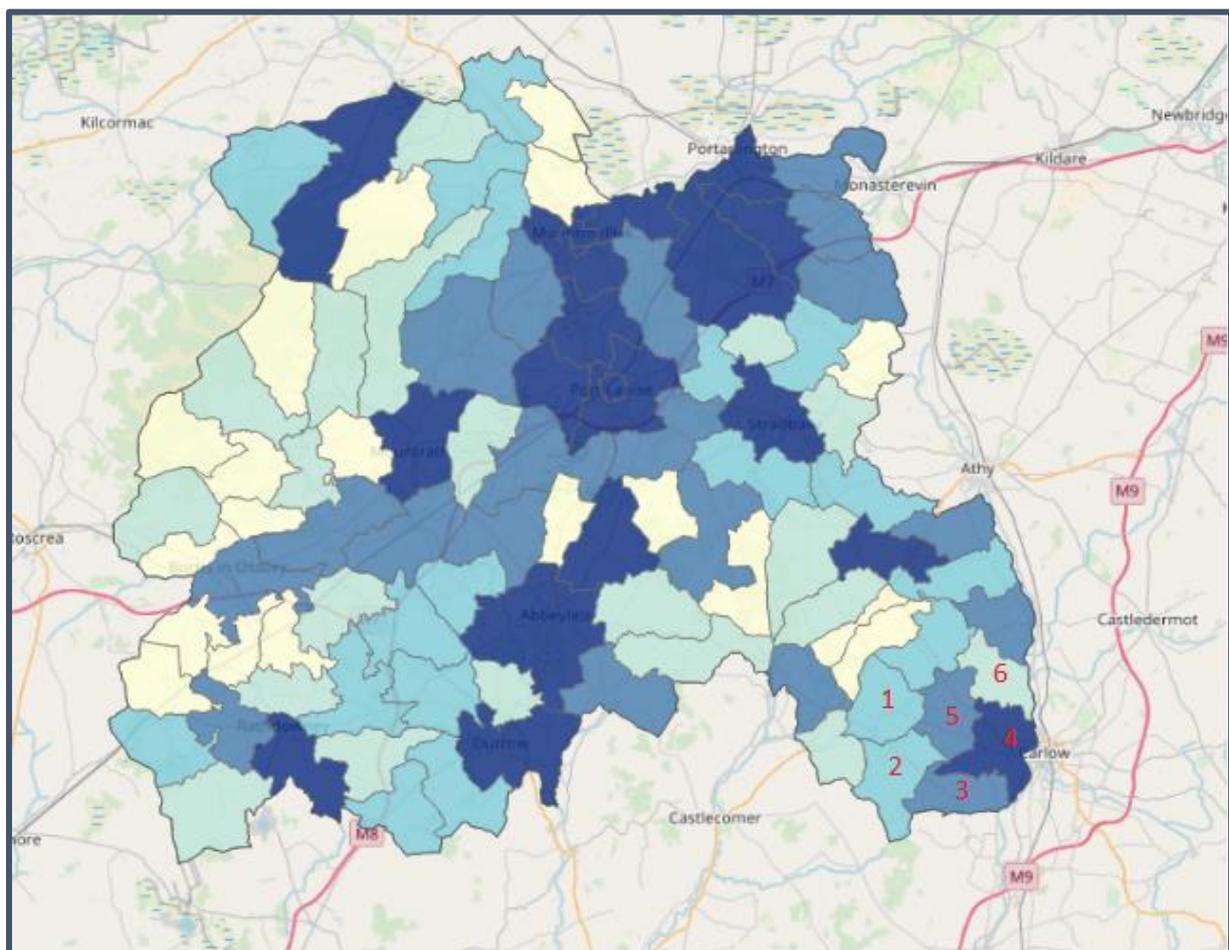
For the purpose of this plan the Killeshin community is defined as being the geographical areas of the Electoral Districts (EDs) of Ardough, Ballickmoyler (containing the village of Killeshin), Graigue Rural, Rossmore, Shrule and Turra. (For more detailed information on each of these electoral districts see Appendix 1). These neighbouring DEDs are part of the picturesque Slieve Margy region, located in the municipal district of Graiguecullen – Portarlinton in the Laois Offaly constituency and the Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly.

Graigue Rural and Rossmore directly border Carlow town with the river Barrow acting as a natural boundary. The village of Killeshin County Laois is located on the R430 Abbeyleix to Castlecomer regional road, approximately 5kms west of Carlow and 28kms by road to Portlaoise. The village comprises a Roman Catholic Church, a cemetery, a primary school, a public house, a grocery store, various sporting organisations/facilities and an extensive

Community Centre which houses community facilities and small businesses. In recent years 56 houses (Rath Glen development) have been built in the village with plans for a further 75 houses (over several phases) in the near future. The ruins of a medieval monastery having a Romanesque Doorway and cemetery are also located in the village. Close to the village is the Old Reservoir known locally as the Waterworks which for decades supplied water to Carlow town. The reservoir area now under the ownership of Laois County Council is an amenity area used for swimming, fishing, nature trails and walks. Oisín House is located at the site of the original dancing boards at Rossmore. A small playground, toilet block and function room provide facilities for community use. Ecclesiastically, the area constitutes the parish of Graiguecullen-Killeshin.

Map 1: Map of the Killeshin area within Co. Laois - electoral districts as follows;

- 1 = Turra, 2 = Ardough, 3 = Rossmore,
4 = Graigue Rural, 5 = Ballickmoyler, 6 = Shrule**



Part 1 - Socio-Economic Profile of the Killeshin Area

Section A – Human Capital

A1. Demographic Analysis

The following table represents the total population and the population change rate per Electoral District in the Killeshin area from 1996 to 2016.

Table 1: Population numbers & percentage change per electoral district 1996 to 2016

DED	1996	2002	2006	2011	2016
Ardough	288	305 (+5.9%)	295 (-3.28%)	343 (+16.27%)	345 (+0.01%)
Ballickmoyler	563	548 (-2.9%)	544 (-0.8%)	614 (+12.9%)	651 (+13.05%)
Graigue Rural	1508	1819 (+20.6%)	3120 (+71.5%)	4539 (+45.5)	4786 (+0.05%)
Rossmore	406	397 (-2.2%)	423 (+6%)	456 (+7.8%)	455 (-0.01)
Shrule	254	277 (+9.06)	290 (+4.69)	308 (+6.21)	305 (-0.01)
Turra	277	303 (+9.39)	348 (+14.85)	370 (+6.32)	362 (-0.02)
Killeshin Area	3296	3649	5020	6630	6904
Co. Laois	52945	58672 (+10.9%)	67112 (+14.4%)	80,458 (+19.8%)	84697 (+0.06%)

Source: CSO Small Area Population Statistics, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017

All EDs in keeping with population trends in Co. Laois over the same period, experienced significant population growth during the Celtic Tiger years of 1994 to 2008. The overall population in the Killeshin area has grown greatly to 7325 in 2016. The ED of Graigue Rural in particular shows a dramatic increase in population - especially in the period 2002 to 2011. This is due to the housing and commercial development which took place as a result of the rezoning of land and opening in 1999 of the Carlow Northern Relief Road and the Bill Duggan Bridge.

The building of the Rathglen housing estate in Killeshin Village saw a marked increase in the population of the ED of Ballickmoyler. The remaining EDs farthest from Carlow Town also grew their population and are currently maintaining it despite the economic downturn which resulted in depopulation in many rural areas of Ireland.

Further analysis of the population

- Gender analysis of the population of Killeshin area shows that of the 6904 people living in the area, 3385 were male and 3519 were female.
- The average age of a person living in the more urban electoral district of Graigue Rural is 32 years with this rising to 38 years in the rest of the more rural Killeshin area.
- With regard to nationality, the latest census figures from 2016 show that just over 88% of those living in the Killeshin area are Irish. Polish nationals make up a further 4.2% (287 people), with other nationalities comprising the remainder of the population. The vast majority i.e. 699 of the 793 non-Irish nationals live in the electoral district of Graigue Rural.
- In 2016 there were 861 people in the Killeshin area with a disability with another 251 working as carers.
- Children aged 0 to 18 years make up 27% of the overall population of Killeshin area. Further analysis of this age group is available in the table below.

Table 2: Child population by age group per electoral district 2016

	PRE-SCHOOL 4 YEARS & UNDER	PRIMARY 5 TO 12 YEARS	SECONDARY 13 TO 18 YEARS	TOTAL 0-18 YEARS
ARDOUGH	19	50	14	83
BALLICKMOYLER	40	67	33	140
GRAIGUE RURAL	465	694	187	1346
ROSSMORE	23	58	26	107
SHRULE	20	50	14	84
TURRA	33	41	9	83
TOTAL KILLESHIN	600(33%)	960(52%)	283(15%)	1843

Source: CSO Small Area Population Statistics 2016

- The information in Table 2 tells us that of the children living in Killeshin one third of them were aged 4 and under, half were primary school age and the remaining 15% were secondary school age. With over 1800 children in the area and a large proportion of those at primary school age or younger this points to the need for educational, social and sporting facilities which caters for their needs.

A2. Education

The Killeshin area is well served by pre-school and primary school facilities. There are 3 primary schools within the local area which the vast majority of students living in the Killeshin area attend. These are St. Fiaccs National School, Killeshin Road, Graiguecullen, Educate Together, Athy Road Carlow and Scoil Chomhghain Naofa, Killeshin.

As can be seen in the chart below, the number of pupils attending Killeshin N.S. has increased greatly over the last 20 years. This necessitated the building of a new 16 teacher school on a green field site within easy walking distance of The Den. With the opening of the new school, the building of the Rathglen estate in Killeshin and the overall population growth in the local area the number of pupils continue to rise in Killeshin N.S. When contacted Mr. Conor Denieffe Principal of Killeshin School stated that the predicted enrolment in 2018 will grow to 386. Attendance numbers at the school are predicted to remain steady over the short to medium term as the new housing developments in Killeshin results in more families settling in the village of Killeshin.

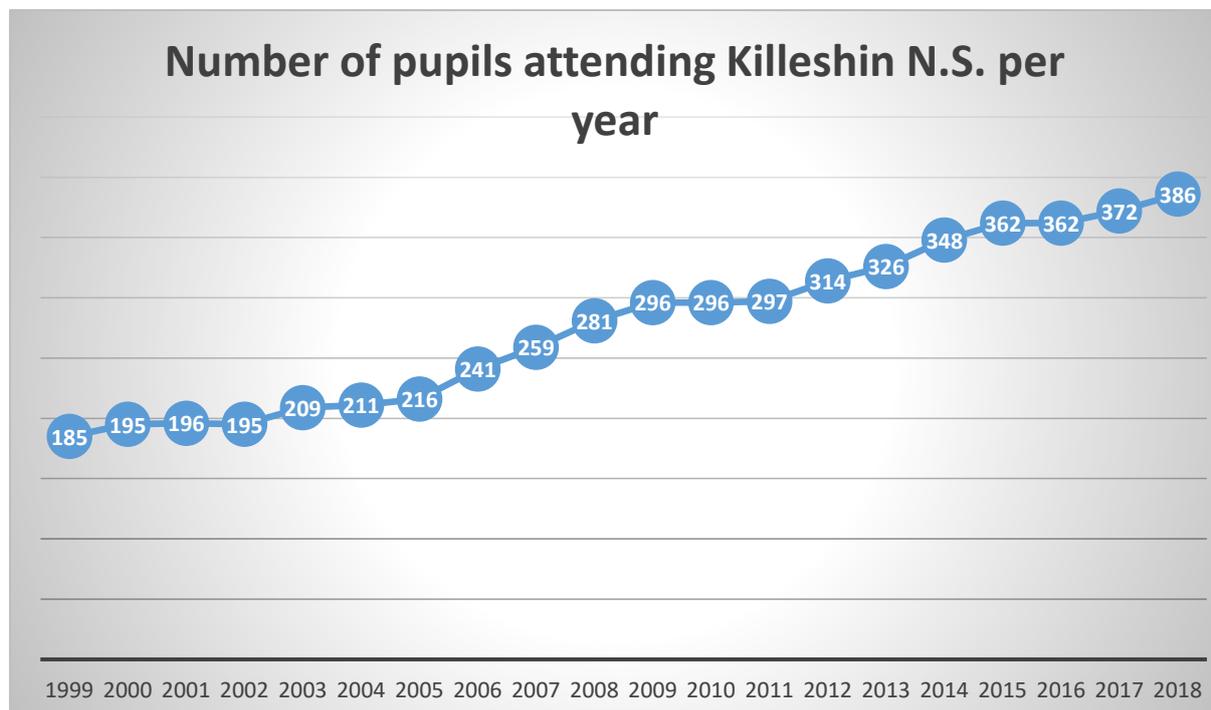


Chart 1: Killeshin National School Population September 1999 to 2018 (expected)

The Den is a community owned and managed childcare facility which offers breakfast club, preschool, after school and Summer Camp services to local families. This charity is a very

valuable resource to all families in the community and provides employment to 13 local people whilst acting as anchor tenant to Killeshin Community Centre.

Saplings a special school for children with autism and complex needs is relocating to its new home in Killeshin Community Centre in 2018. This school is a very welcome addition to Killeshin but concerns exist about the extra traffic and parking requirements that this will bring to the area. There will be 23 children attending Saplings by September 2018 and 21 staff on site each day.

Almost all secondary school students in the Killeshin area attend schools in Carlow town or in the case of Knockbeg just outside the town. Post Leaving cert and third level courses are also available in Carlow Institute of Further Education, Carlow Institute of Education and St Patricks College.

Adult Population - Highest Level of Education Achieved

Education levels in the Killeshin area are depicted in table 3 below and compared against those in Laois and the State. Education levels attained by those living in the Killeshin area are higher than the average in Co. Laois. Half of those living in Laois have completed education up to and including upper secondary level but the figure in Killeshin is lower i.e. 44% which is higher than the state average of 45%. Furthermore 17.5% of the population have received an honours degree or higher compared to just 14.5% of Laois.

Table 3: Highest Educational levels of those achieved compared to Laois and the State

Education Level	Killeshin	Laois	State	Comment
No Formal Education	1.5	1.79%	1.69%	Equal to Laois and IRL
Primary Education	8.6	11.33%	10.79%	Lower rates in Killeshin than Laois and IRL
Lower Secondary	15.6	16.23%	14.52%	Lower than Laois and higher than state average
Upper Secondary	18.5	20.96%	18.52%	Lower than Laois and same as State average
Technical or Vocational qualification	10.5	9.87%	8.77%	Higher than Laois and State average
Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship	7.8	6.59%	5.89%	Higher than Laois and State average
Higher Certificate	5.8	4.90%	4.95%	Higher than Laois and State average

Ordinary Bachelor Degree or National Diploma	6.4	6.71%	7.66%	Lower than Laois or State average
Honours Bachelor Degree, Professional qualification or both	10.2	8.32%	10.70%	Higher than Laois, lower than state average
Postgraduate Diploma or Degree	6.8	5.92%	9.17%	Higher than Laois, lower than state average
Doctorate(Ph.D.) or higher	0.5	0.34%	0.93%	Higher than Laois, lower than state average
Not stated	7.8	6.97%	6.41%	

Source: CSO Small Area Population Statistics 2016

A3. Employment/Unemployment

The 2016 census figures says that the total labour force in the Killeshin area is 5109 people. Of this labour force 87% (3283 people) are available to work. This is the same as the national average (87.1%) but higher than the average in Co. Laois (84.7%). The 2016 unemployment rate for the Killeshin area was 13% which is again lower than the rate in Co. Laois (15.3%) and almost the same as the national rate (12.9%). With 64.3% of the labour force actually working in Killeshin, this was more than the county and national rates of 62% and 61.4% respectively.

A4. Household Structure

The chart which follows represents stage of family cycle of the families in the Killeshin area.

The following definitions apply for a family nucleus of a husband and wife of cohabiting couple;

Pre-family = wife is <45 years

Empty-nest = wife is 45-64 years

Retired = wife is aged 65 years and over

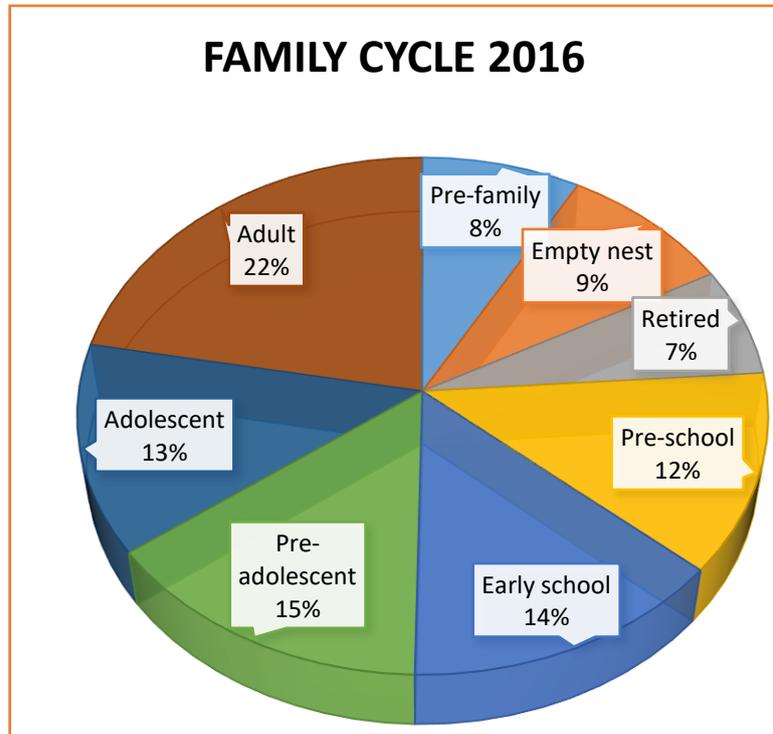
Pre-school = oldest child is aged 0-4 years

Early-school = oldest child is aged 5-9 years

Pre-adolescent = oldest child is aged 10-14 years;

Adolescent = oldest child is aged 15-19 years;

Adult = oldest child is aged 20 years and over



When compared to the national average there are less families at the *empty nest* or *retired* stage in Killeshin than nationally. Also there are more than the national average at the pre-school, early school, preadolescent and adolescent stage of family cycle in Killeshin.

A5. Levels of Social Exclusion

The 2016 POBAL HP deprivation index is used to measure the relative affluence or disadvantage in a geographical area using data from various census. Each area is scored and described using a predefined term which is then used by government agencies and others to determine policy. The Pobal HP Index is useful to compare and predict socio economic differences between areas in relation to health, well-being, education, financial position, housing, environment and crime.

The deprivation score for the Killeshin area shows that it is not an affluent area with only the ED of Rossmore being rated as being of *Marginally Above Average* affluence. All other EDs in the area are in keeping with the description of County Laois as *Marginally Below Average*.

Table 4: Deprivation Score per electoral district of Killeshin area 2016

Ardough	Ballickmoyler	Graigue Rural	Rossmore	Shrule	Turra
Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Above Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average

Source: Pobal Maps - Deprivation Indices 2016

<https://maps.pobal.ie/WebApps/DeprivationIndices/index.html>

Despite the downturn in the economy over the last ten years or so the deprivation index description has remained the same for the Killeshin area since 2006 despite the large increase in population. However, examining the deprivation of the Killeshin area on an overall population basis reveals that a large number of the population live in an area that is *Disadvantaged* or *Marginally below Average* relative to the average.

Table 5: Deprivation Index per head of population 2016

Deprivation Index Description	Population
Disadvantaged	1381
Marginally Below Average	4200
Marginally Above Average	1323
Total population Killeshin area	6904

Source: Derived from Pobal Maps Deprivation Index & CSO Small Area Population Stats 2016

Furthermore, two distinct geographical locations within Graigue Rural have been designated as being so disadvantaged as to be included in the Carlow RAPID area. (RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) is a focused Government initiative to target the 51 most disadvantaged urban areas and provincial towns in the country).

The community run childcare service The DEN which is based in Killeshin village offers a reduced rate under the *Community Childcare Subvention Programme* to families who are on a low income. In 2018 36 families were eligible for and benefitted from this scheme in The DEN. This further indicates that there are families in the area who are disadvantaged and on a low income so the provision of local services such as an affordable childcare facility is important.

Section B- Infrastructure

B1. Physical Infrastructure

Public Transport

Rail Services are available from nearby Carlow town with the main Dublin to Waterford service providing good commuter links to Dublin in particular. Travellers can also access other direct train networks to Limerick/Ennis and Cork from Portlaoise.

Private and public bus services operate from Carlow town to various locations and third level institutions. There are weekend college routes from Carlow-Galway (NUIG & GMIT) and Carlow- Limerick as well as many daily services to Dublin, Waterford and Portlaoise.

Two school transport services carry children in the Killeshin area to Killeshin National School. Post primary school children can also avail of the bus transport scheme to schools in Carlow town if they wish.

Roads

The N80 national secondary roads which connects Carlow to Portlaoise passes through the Killeshin area. Killeshin village is located on the busy R430 Carlow to Castlecomer regional road. Many residents in Killeshin village are concerned about speeding through village despite the location of solar powered speed deterrents.

The most concerning serious safety issue as highlighted through public consultation is with regard to the Rathglen junction with the R430. This entrance is the only entrance serving residential, educational and sporting facilities in the community and many in the Killeshin community think that the layout of this junction is inadequate for the amount of traffic using it and is therefore causing a huge safety concern. Residents of the Rathglen estate are concerned about their safety and quality of life as traffic increases with the planned housing and community developments in the immediate village centre.



IMAGE 1: A view of the existing junction at entrance to Rathglen Estate (on right hand side)

The Killeshin community needs the action by Laois County Council to assess the traffic safety issues and to put in place traffic calming and traffic easing measures at this junction. This needs to be done urgently before the return of school in September 2018.

Children from the various local school and pedestrians walk from the village community centre across the R430 to Killeshin Church. A clear, safe pedestrian route does not exist from Killeshin Village Centre across the R430 to Killeshin Church. The absence of a footpath or kerb on the Church side of the junction and on the road to the church contributes to the danger.

Parking

Killeshin National School Parents Association highlighted their concerns about the road safety of children in the school environs on behalf of all families who attend Killeshin National School. It is felt that there is a large volume of traffic and insufficient parking available at the school and community centre which results in a dangerous environment for children particularly. Many parents are very worried that this will be exasperated by future housing

and other development plans at the community centre. This issue was raised at the public consultation meeting, community group consultation (see audit documents included in Section F Consultation with Voluntary/Sporting Organisations) and in individual conversations with community members.

Parking at Holy Cross Killeshin church is insufficient to meet the needs of the community. The road to the church is very narrow with a very limited number of parking places available at the church. This means that churchgoers must park their cars along the already narrow road causing an obstruction and potentially cutting off access for emergency vehicles along that road.

Individual community members and those active in community development activities strongly maintain that the money received by Laois County Council for the levy for the housing developments currently underway should be spent in the immediate Killeshin area to improve the road and parking infrastructure.

B2. Social Infrastructure

Crime and Crime Prevention

Sergeant Graham Kavanagh is the Crime Prevention Officer with An Garda Síochána for the Laois/Offaly Policing division of which Killeshin belongs. For the purpose of this community plan Sgt. Kavanagh carried out a *Report of the crime prevention initiatives available to Killeshin Community*. This report is included in full in Appendix 2 at the end of this plan. The main points of this report are summarised as follows;

- The Killeshin community whilst located in Co. Laois is divided for policing purposes with some EDs falling under the Portlaoise Division via Abbeyleix and others included in the Carlow Division.
- Garda Numbers of relevance to Killeshin
 - Abbeyleix Garda Station has 3 Sergeants, 10 Gardaí and 2 Detectives,
 - Durrow Garda Station has 1 Garda
 - Ballylynan has 2 Garda
 - Arles has 1 Garda

- There are no discernible issues with public order or anti-social behaviour. This Sgt Kavanagh attributes to the vibrant community of Killeshin and the work and engagement with young people in the area.

Table 5: Crime Statistics 2015 to 2017 (RTC = Road Traffic Collision)

Crime/Offence Type	2015	2016	2017
Burglary	7	8	3
Criminal Damage	2	0	1
Drugs for Sale or Supply	1	0	0
Drugs Simple Possession	1	0	0
Theft from MPV	0	6	1
RTC Material Damage only	9	5	14
RTC Non Serious Injury	0	0	1

- Burglary is the crime which has the highest profile in the area with many burglaries carried out by travelling criminals although there is a local element to some. The vast majority of thefts from cars occur in domestic driveways with only a small number from public spaces. Burglary appears to occur most frequently between 8am and 10am with 11 occurring, and then 10pm to 8pm with 7 occurring. Burglaries include thefts from sheds, garages and outhouses etc.
- Since 2005 it has been open to communities to apply for authority to erect CCTV cameras in their locality. However the issue of Data Controller and Data compliance is currently under review in these cases. This however does not stop schemes from processing the appropriate planning and associated documentation in order to be ready for when the Data Control matter is resolved.
- A number of well-meaning groups nationwide have taken it upon themselves to install CCTV only to find they are in breach of the relevant legislation. For that reason the Garda Commissioner has made clear guidelines relative to applications of this nature.
- Killeshin Community Centre Group are to be complimented for developing a sustainability plan and considering crime prevention as an element.

Many thanks to Sergeant Kavanagh for his very informative report and help and advice since his appointment.

Community Text Alert System

Five years ago a Community Text Alert System was set up in the Killeshin area (excluding the more urban areas in Graigue Rural). Volunteers visited every house in the Killeshin area and collected contact details and a small membership fee from those who wished to join. There are currently approximately 470 households who are members of the community alert system. The community alert operator Mr. Larry McHugh says that he would field on average 2 calls a week from the public and would circulate an average of one text to members per week. This can increase or decrease depending on the weather and time of year. The text alert system is operating very successfully and is a great asset for its members. The Community Alert Group has built up a strong relationship with the local Garda Síochána who have been responsive in their communications.

Killeshin residents are concerned that the distance a Garda needs to travel from Abbeyleix Garda station in response to a crime/accident in the area is too far and that the addition of another Garda to the Arles station would aid crime prevention in the area. Whilst this has gained support with decision makers no date has been established for when this will actually happen. The Community Alert Group is lobbying on behalf of the Killeshin community to have an extra Garda stationed in the Arles station.

B3. Environmental/Natural Infrastructure

Ireland's second largest river the Barrow creates the eastern boundary of the Killeshin area with county Carlow. The Fushoge river, a tributary of the Barrow rises in the area and meets the Barrow in Slieve Margy. The Castlecomer plateau in the west of the Slieve Margy area rises to over 1000ft resulting in spectacular views over counties Wicklow, Laois, Kildare, Kilkenny, and Carlow. Coal was mined in the DED of Rossmore until recently (1970s) and Rossmore woods is a Coillte run forest centered on the disused coal mines. These woods are often used by walkers despite harvesting taking place there recently. The Slieve Margy Way a 75km walk developed by the now disbanded Slieve Margy Area Development group with the help of LEADER, passes through this beautiful countryside. This walk is now overgrown and seldom used. No other tourist attractions, amenities or facilities have been established in the area to take advantage of the beautiful landscape, or the many heritage sites in the area. The uniqueness of the Rossmore/Killeshin area in particular with its mines, forest, spectacular scenery, nearby waterworks and Romanesque doorway has great potential for rural tourism.

National Monuments in State Care in Laois

There are eight national monuments in state care in Co. Laois. The Romanesque doorway and graveyard in Killeshin and the church and cross at Sleaty also in the wider Killeshin community are two of these.



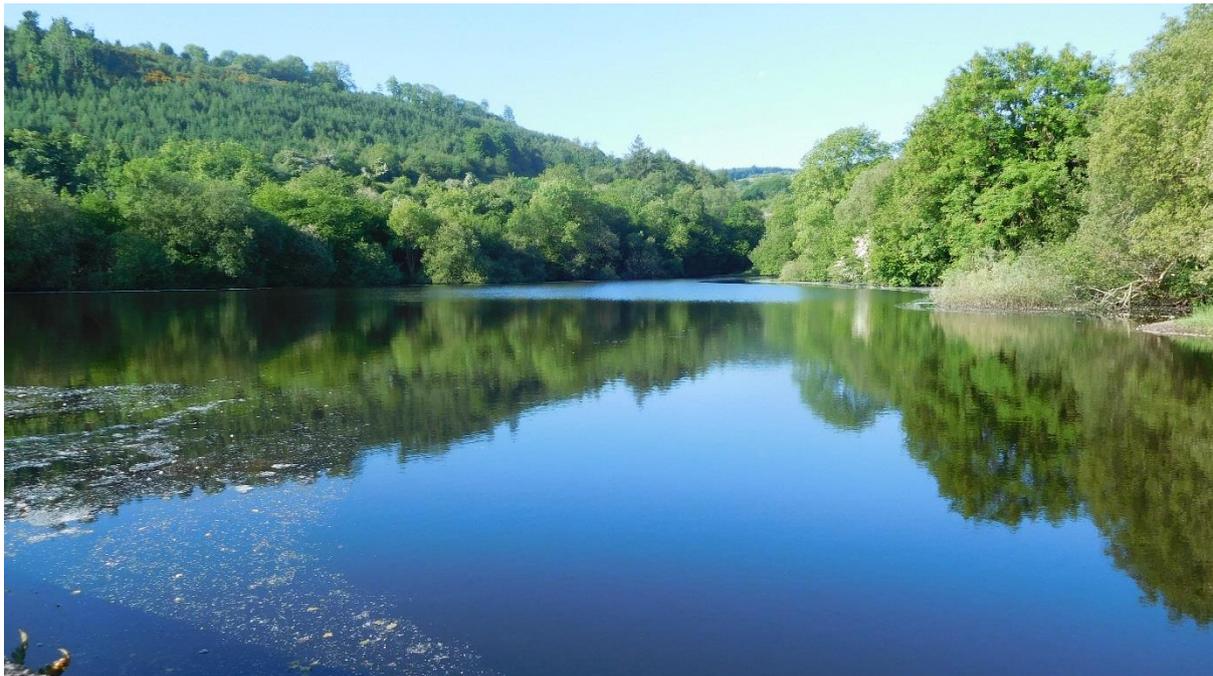
These sites of national architectural and historical importance are owned by the State and are therefore their responsibility. All issues re damage etc. should be reported to the National Monuments Service by phoning 01 8882000 or e-mailing nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie as soon as possible.

Designated Amenity Views and Prospects in County Laois

The *Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023* designates the view from the Rossmore/Oisín Park area as one of thirteen amenity views and prospects in the county which need special protection from “development that would seriously hinder or obstruct such views and prospects”. Individual planning applications in these areas will be considered on a case by case basis through the development management process.

Killeshin Reservoir

Killeshin reservoir, known locally as the Waterworks supplied water to Carlow town for 99 years from 1896. Ownership of the Reservoir was transferred to Laois County Council who worked with Killeshin Community Development Group (The Den) to develop a public amenity there.



Parking facilities, bridges and a walkway were added in 2013 and whilst it is a popular spot with locals and teens in the hot weather especially there is huge scope for development here.

The old pump house shown below is in good condition for a building of its age (1928) and has room for parking and other outdoor space close by.



Investigation into extending the walk further from the Waterworks is needed as there is interest in developing a walk and in providing some water based activities on the water itself. It is important that the biodiversity and habitat is managed and preserved so any works carried out there should be cognisant of this. At the recent public consultation meeting several attendees expressed an interest in further developments at the Waterworks.

Section C – Social Capital

C1. Community led development

The people of Killeshin have been proactive in providing for their own needs over the years. In 1974 a large community hall was built and was the scene of many local dances and community events. This facility is still in use but is in need of modernisation and the addition of facilities.

Oisín Park was built with community fundraising and the help of LEADER 1 funding in 1999. The DEN a successful community owned childcare facility has operated in Killeshin Village since 2000 and it goes from strength to strength providing childcare facilities from early morning to evening time. In addition to offering a childcare service where none previously existed this charity provides local employment and provides an income to the Community Centre as anchor tenant of there. This organisation is operated by volunteers from the local community who sit as directors in the board of management.

Both Killeshin F.C. and Killeshin GAA club have fundraised huge amounts of money locally to purchase and build new pitches for their members. Both organisation now need to provide changing, meeting rooms etc.

When Killeshin National School moved to the new building the old premises was purchased by Graiguecullen Killeshin Parish on behalf of the people of Killeshin. A strong committee of capable people agreed to develop this site in conjunction with the existing Community Hall as a self-sustaining community facility. The Den and Killeshin Pipe Band were provided with a permanent home. An all-weather pitch was completed and some improvements made to the hall. Small businesses were attracted to setup at the Community Centre with the aim of providing these locals an affordable location and to provide an income to the community for the payment of the mortgage. The *Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023* recognises “the ambition towards community led economic development” in Killeshin. Having secured and upgraded much of the Old school building this committee is now ready to modernise and develop the facilities at the community centre further.

The Parents Committee of the local National School has provided money for the children at the school to extend the playground (twice!), purchase laptops, extra literacy books, sound equipment and other items. This has been achieved in no small way with the strong support of local businesses and all the families in Killeshin.

C2. Community Activism

The community of Killeshin is noted as being a very proactive one in terms of engagement with local authorities and government bodies despite a feeling that its close proximity to Carlow town and distance from Portlaoise has led to the area being overlooked. The people of Killeshin have made submissions to the last 2 Laois County Development Plans. Killeshin currently has a representative on the PPN and the board of Laois Partnership with another person being a member of the now defunct Community Forum.

Public meetings have been called on several occasions to deal with threats (pylons) and to grasp opportunities (community alert) - these are invariably well attended. During times of sadness and bad weather local organisations, famers, neighbours and friends help and look out for one another showing the strength of social capital in the area.

C3. Voter Turnout

Voter turnout in the Killeshin area is higher than the Laois average. However this is an area that could easily be improved by more people using their right to vote. It is important that Killeshin is an area where voters turn out and assert their right to elect their representatives.

Table 6: Voter Turnout in the 2015 General Election (Source: Mr. Sean Fleming T.D.)

Box No:	Location	Voters	Turnout
78	St. Fiacc's Hall	821	50%
79	St. Fiac's Hall	460	60%
80	St. Fiac's Hall	594	54%
81	Killeen	588	63%
92	Killeshin	381	67%
93	Killeshin	527	61%
100	St. Fiacc's Hall	611	51%

Laois Constituency Turnout 59%

National Turnout 65%

C4. Profile of Voluntary Organisations

Organisation	Function	Membership	Activities
Forever Young	Active Retirement Group	40 Adults	Social and educational activities for the older generation. Meets at the community Centre fortnightly
Killeshin F.C.	Soccer club	Adults 115 Children 135	Association football club for all ages and both sexes. Owns 2 playing pitches and also has access to a training pitch. Uses several portakabins as dressing/toilet facilities.
Killeshin GAA Club	Gaelic Football Club	Adults 140 Children 150	Provides facilities and structures for participation in gaelic football competitions.

			Currently has 2 full size and 1 juvenile pitches with a small club house and toilets. Also operates a strength and conditioning gym in the Community Centre for its members.
Killeshin LGFA	Ladies gaelic football club	Adults 31 Children 85	Provides the structures for the playing of gaelic football by ladies. Uses the facilities of Killeshin GAA club and Community Hall.
Killeshin National School Parents Association	Parents Association	All parents of children attending	Works to improve the educational experience of the children at Killeshin N.S. Creates a school community. Meets at the school.
Killeshin Community Development Ltd. Aka The DEN	Community run Charity	Board of management volunteers 8	Provides a childcare service for all in the area who wish to avail of it. Provides employment to 12 employees. Takes care of the graveyard and helps around the Community Centre.
Killeshin Wheelers Cycling Club	Cycling club for adults	30	Organises regular group cycles for members Offers advice and support Charity fundraising Affiliated to Cycling Ireland
Killeshin Pipe Band	Pipe Band	Adults 28 Children 10	Provides music and entertainment Opportunities for musicians to improve and enjoy playing together Provides tuition, equipment and uniforms
Oisin Players	Amateur Drama Group	Adults 25 Children 0	Long running drama group which performs two plays each year in Killeshin. Donates surplus funds to a worthy cause locally
Rossmore Killeshin Development Association (RKDA)	Voluntary group,	Adults 20 Children 0	Manages and takes care of the grounds and facilities at Oisin Park.

	manages Oisin Park		Provides a playground, picnic area, function room, kitchen and dancing boards. Runs music and dancing events, hosts Scouts for campouts.
Killeshin Community Centre Committee	Voluntary group which manages Killeshin Community Centre	Adults 17 Children 0	Provides educational, social and sporting facilities for all in the community. Organises and hosts community events Lobbies and responds proactively to events and issues in the area Generates income from microbusinesses and SMEs from rental to spend community facilities.

Section D – Economic Structure

D1. Workforce/Occupations

The workforce in Killeshin are spread across many occupations with those in the skilled trades being the most common followed closely by people working in the professional occupations.

Table 7: Persons at work or Unemployed by occupation 2016

Persons at work or Unemployed by Occupation	Number	Percentage
Skilled Trades Occupations (e.g. farmers, bricklayers, cooks, electricians, pipe fitters, plasterers, IT engineers, florists, butchers)	548	16.9%
Professional Occupations (e.g. pharmacists, physio, radiologist, nurses, solicitors, teachers, librarians, accountants)	444	13.7%
Not stated	399	12.3%
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations (e.g. lab technicians, draughtsperson, quality assurance & electrical technicians)	313	9.7%
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	295	9.1%
Elementary Occupations	267	8.3%

(e.g. forestry, farm workers, postal workers, security guards, shelf fillers, dry cleaners)		
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations (e.g. childminders, home carers, travel agents, hairdressers, beauticians, cleaners)	265	8.2%
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	255	7.9%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	227	7.1%
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	221	6.8%

The table below shows that almost half of Killeshin workers are working in the professional services industry or commerce and trade. Only a small percentage work in agriculture and forestry.

Table 8: Persons at work by industry 2016

Persons at work by Industry	Number	Percentage
Professional services	683	24%
Commerce and trade	682	24%
Other	580	20%
Manufacturing industries	343	12%
Building and construction	173	6%
Transport and communications	154	5%
Public administration	133	4.6%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	109	3.8%

D2. Employment in Killeshin Community Centre

There are 5 microenterprises based in portakabins in Killeshin Community Centre as follows;

MPowered Fitness – sports and athletic rehabilitation and recovery, employs 1 person

Fifty Shades Hair Salon – provides unisex hairdressing and beauty treatments, employs 4 people

Killeshin Tea Rooms – Café and gift shop, employs 1 person

Jane Eyre Book Keeping Services – book keeping and payroll serviced for SMEs, employs 1 person

Nicholas Maher Master Herbalist – herbalist and iridologist, employs 1 person

Saplings Special School will relocate from their existing premises to their new home in Killeshin Community Centre in May 2018. This will increase the numbers employed at Killeshin Community Centre by another 30 people (some in part-time employment) with 21 employees being onsite on any one day.

The Den is currently the biggest employer in the Community Centre with 13 employees at present. It is located in the permanent structure of the old national school building.

In total by September 2018 there will be 61 people working from premises based at Killeshin Community Centre.

D3. Farm Diversification

As noted in the *Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023* about the Killeshin area “diversification in the rural economy has started to occur in this area with the growth of artisan food producers”. These include;

Bolton Family Jams – family run business which produce chutneys and jams from locally grown fruit and vegetables. Products are sold at markets and local shops.

12 Acres Brewing Company – an award winning craft brewery which was set up by 3 entrepreneurial brothers to add value to the malting barley which has been grown on their farm for many years. It is Ireland’s first brewery to provide full traceability for their malting barley and it operates in a sustainable way.

The Village Dairy – produces fresh local milk and cream from local farms. It specialises in organic and jersey milk and its products are widely appreciated in the hospitality industry as being of superior taste and quality.

Clonmore Meats – meat processor for local beef and lamb which sells to the public from its factory shop and also to the retail trade.

Section E – Existing Policies

E1. Future Housing Developments including Social Housing

There will be significant housing developments in the village of Killeshin over the next 3 years. The houses for construction are family homes of a minimum three bedrooms and it is expected that this will grow the need for childcare services and education in the Killeshin area. Details of these housing developments are as follows;

Rathvarna - 6 detached houses under development since December 2017, all are sold.

Rathillion - on sale from plans December 2017 - 25 unit housing development consisting of 10 four bed semi-detached houses, 8 two storey semi-detached houses and 7 four bed two-storey detached houses at The Quakers, Killeshin, Co. Laois. These will begin construction in February 2018 with a two year building and sale period.

Rathglen - 50 unit housing development consisting of 7 four bed bungalows, 19 four bed two storey units, 10 four bed two storey semi-detached units and 14 three bed two storey semi-detached units at The Quakers, Killeshin, Co. Laois. Construction and sale over a three year period from 2018 after houses in Rathillion have been sold.

Planning Permission has been granted to construct 6 four bedroom houses connected to existing services at the Quakers, Killeshin.

Part V of the Planning and Development Acts means that the developer must reserve up to 10% in land in new developments for Social Housing. There will be 8/9 houses allocated for social housing needs in the new housing developments in Killeshin Village. These houses are allocated by Laois County Council.

No other major housing developments are planned for the Killeshin area at this point in time. However Laois Co. Council has retained substantial parcel of lands in the Graigue Rural ED adjacent to the ring road for future development needs. Furthermore, Laois Co. Council in their current County Development plan highlights two separate zones in the Killeshin area. It says the following;

“Zone A – Urban environs beside Carlow Town and it is envisaged that there will be Strong Growth in these towns during the Plan period. In this scenario these areas will act as nuclei for strong and sustained growth of both settlement and enterprise due to stability and coordination. A further area classified zone B exists in the immediate hinterland of Graiguecullen / Carlow town taking in the village of Killeshin which has seen much development over the last plan period”.

Also of note - planning permission was submitted in early 2018 for the construction of a 60 bed nursing home in Graigue Rural.

Part 2 – Consultation with voluntary and sporting organisations

When the analysis of existing statistics and documents about the Killeshin area was complete the next phase employed in the creation of this plan was that of consultation. Each sporting and voluntary organisation was consulted in order to build a picture of their issues, plans and needs for the future.

Where possible the author of this plan attended a group meeting to explain the community plan. Organisations were also invited to the public consultation meeting to give and hear opinions. Each voluntary/sporting organisation was given a two page audit document to complete. This audit document gave the organisations scope to detail their plans for the future, their issues and what they need to achieve their plans as well as basic information about the organisation.

As a result of the consultation process the following needs were identified as being common across organisations;

- provision of a playground with equipment for adults and older generation also
- traffic calming and management throughout the village especially at the entrance to Rathglen/playing pitches/school and to Killeshin Community Centre
- improved facilities at Killeshin Community Centre – better heating and lights, provision of a stage, improved parking, resurfaced hall floor, changing facilities and showers, outdoor lighting, improved ground service
- affordable access to training locally for volunteers especially for those who are directors of companies in areas such as corporate responsibility, biodiversity and habitat management, rural tourism, GDPR compliance
- funding for each organisation to extend and maintain existing facilities and activities
- the need for additional volunteers to help run organisations and the maintenance and growth of local support for local events

The following organisations completed and returned audit documents;

Forever Young Active Retirement Group

Oisin Players

Killeshin F.C.

Killeshin LGFA

Killeshin GAA Club

Killeshin Pipe Band

Killeshin Wheelers

Killeshin National School Association

Killeshin Community Development Ltd (The DEN)

Killeshin Community Centre Committee

Rossmore Killeshin Development Association (Oisín Park)

Each audit document has been transcribed in full and are included next.

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Forever Young Active Retirement Group*

Contact person: *Vonnie Bolton (Hon Secretary)*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *086 3629516*

Email address: *None available*

Website: *None available*

Facebook Page Name: *None available*

What does your organisation do?

We are an active retirement group catering for the older generation in the Killeshin and surrounding area. We meet every fortnight for different activities – social and educational.

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *40*

Children (U18): *0*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

“The Old Den” i.e. portakabin at Killeshin Community Centre.

What issues/difficulties are your members experiencing at the moment?

Lighting in the area between the Astro turf pitch and the Hall is not sufficient. We are concerned for our safety. We would appreciate the provision of kitchen items such as dishwasher tablets, washing up liquid and clothes.

Physiotherapy services are no longer available in Graiguecullen. We have to attend Abbeyleix which is a 30 minute drive away and not accessible public transport or affordable by taxi.

Can you suggest a solution to these problems?

Improve the lighting and parking at Holy Cross Church and Killeshin Community Centre.

Offering health services in Killeshin

What would the members of your organisation like to see happening in the Killeshin community over the next 5 years?

We would use audio visual equipment such as a screen and music system.

We are also interested in physical activities for the elderly for example Yoga. An outdoor Park with equipment suitable for the elderly. A playground to bring our grandkids.

The availability of a Community Bus for use by our and other groups in the community.

We are very interested in taking IT classes and other online classes except there aren't any computing facilities available at the Community Centre and the broadband connection is not good.

Other comments/suggestions/issues continued

None

Many thanks for your input!

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin F.C.*

Contact person: *Ian McDonald*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *087 2390562*

Email address: *ianmcireland@eircom.net*

Website: *www.killeshinfc.ie*

Facebook Page: *Killeshin FC*

What does your organisation do?

Association Football (Soccer) club providing a club with up to date facilities and coaching

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *115* **Children (U18):** *135*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

Own club grounds, 2 full size pitches and training pitch. Car park and portakabin dressing rooms. Also training pitch on neighbouring farm. We hire the AstroTurf pitch and sports hall at Killeshin Community Centre during winter months. We use a meeting room in the Glenside Bar. A limited number of fundraising events took place in Killeshin Community hall in the last year. The Whist club use The Old Den for their weekly card games in aid of Killeshin F.C.

What are your organisation plans for the future?

Club Development Phase 2 – In 2017 we received planning permission and a sports capital grant to construct a clubhouse/dressing rooms. (Design included on following pages) We aim to commence building in summer 2018. We have agreed to purchase 0.5 acre which will help provide a third pitch.

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

- 1) Financing phase 2 of our development plan,*
- 2) The proposed switch to the calendar year/summer soccer*

3) *Develop ladies and girls teams*

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

- 1) *Finance to continue from community support of our fundraisers. Better facilities at Killeshin Hall such as a stage, heating and lighting would allow us to hold events locally meaning more profit.*
- 2) *An open channel to the F.A.I. decision makers to air our concerns about summer soccer and have them addressed*
- 3) *Completion of our clubhouse/dressing rooms will help greatly to accommodate ladies and girl's teams*

Any other comments or information you wish to provide (please continue overleaf if necessary)?

In 2017 Killeshin FC and Killeshin GAA jointly applied to the Village Renewal Scheme for finance to bring the access road from Killeshin National School to our club grounds up to standard. This was unsuccessful. This is still a long term target for our club. Phase 2 of our development programme and the development of ladies and girls teams is currently our priority.

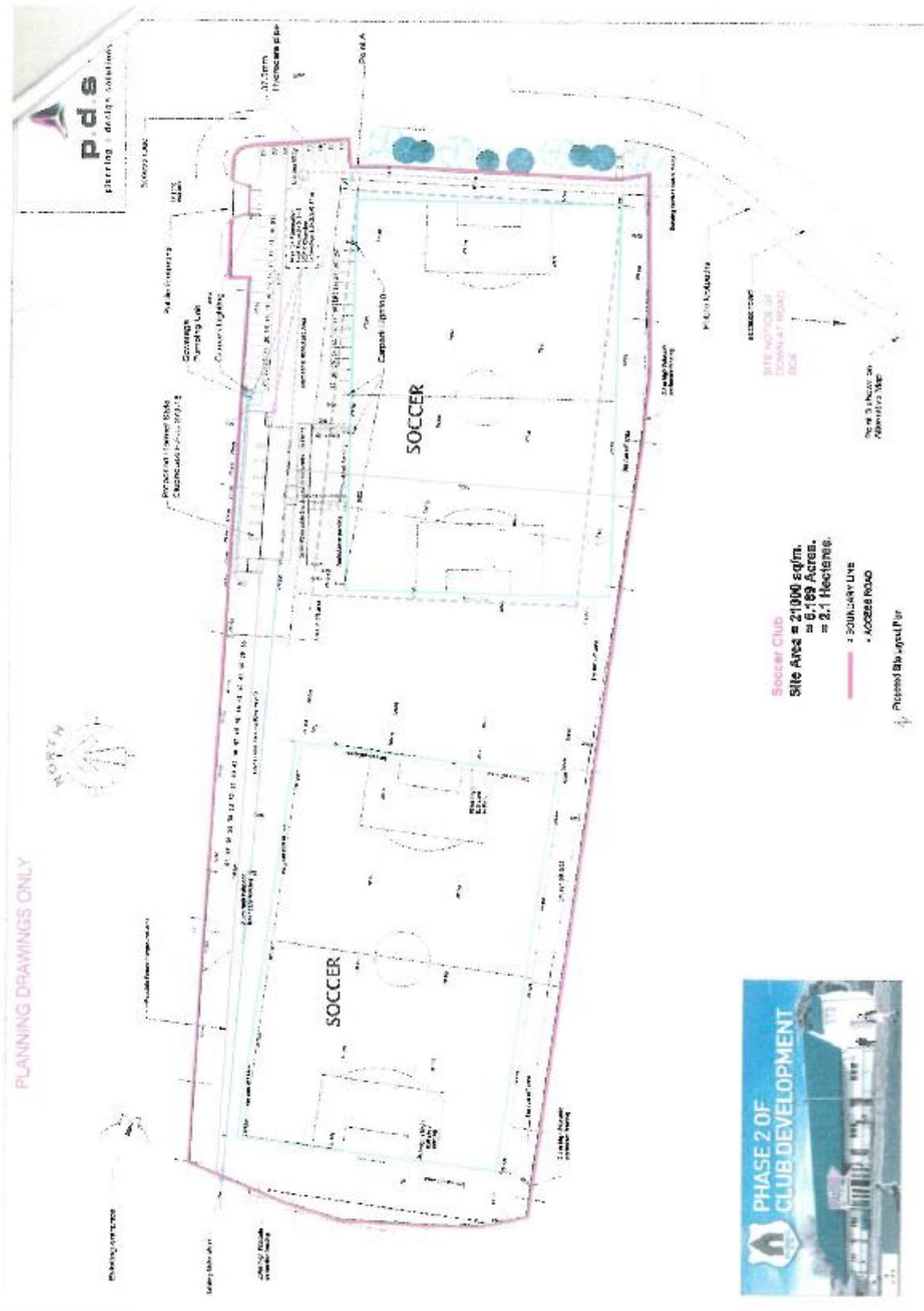
We applied to the 2017 Sports Capital grant programme for a grant of €135,000. We were granted €78,000. This leaves us with a shortfall of €57,000 to complete our clubhouse. Our clubhouse (drawings and image included) consists of 4 F.A.I. standard dressing rooms, toilets, showers, kitchen, club lounge, physio room, official's room and future plans for a gym on the first floor.

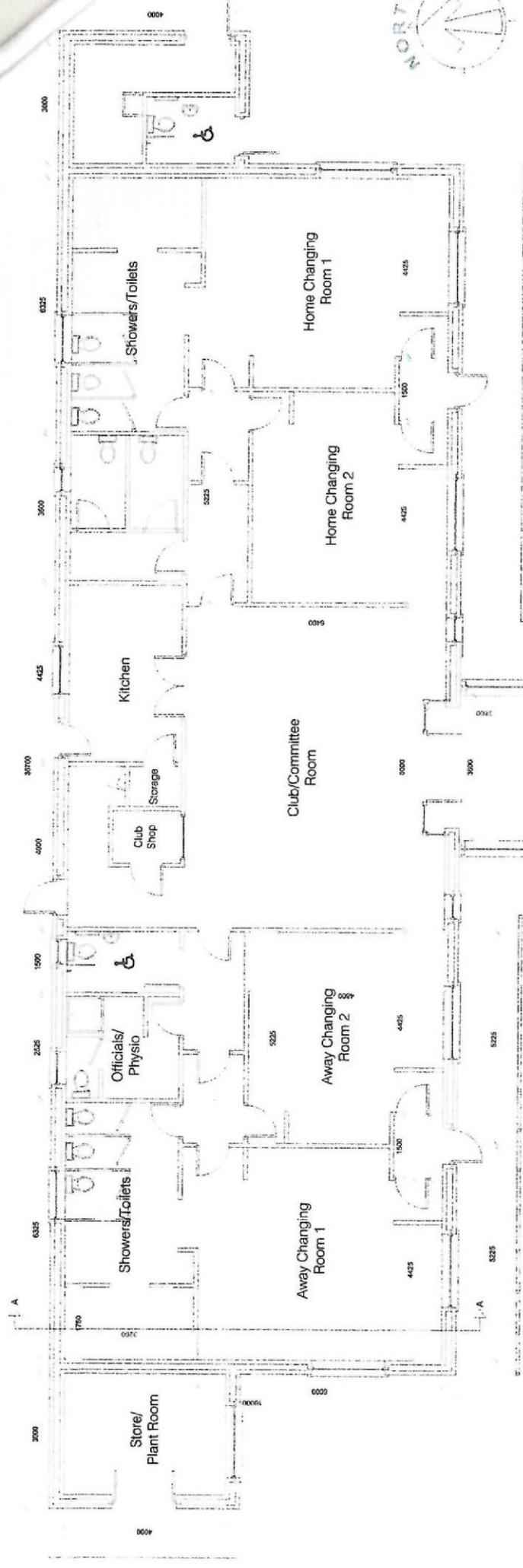
The extra land we have agreed to purchase will allow us to realign our main pitch and training area to a North-South alignment. This will then give us 3 full size pitches.

Phase 3 of our club development programme which is planned for after phase 2 will consist of developing floodlights, boundary fencing, and completion of car park and pitch side boundaries.

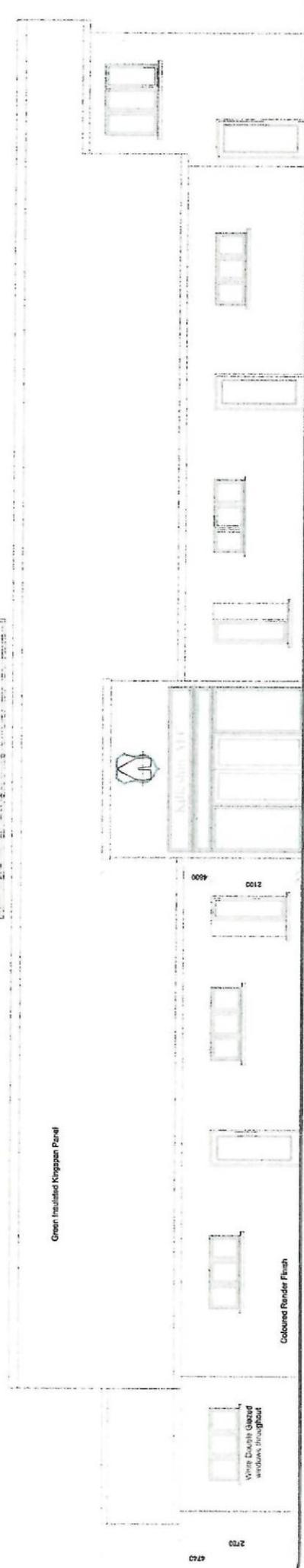
Many thanks for your input!

Phase 2 of development at Killeshin F.C





GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION



FLOOR AREAS	
Ground Floor Area	= 307.8m ²
First Floor Area	= 126.5m ²
Total Floor Area	= 434.30m ² 4,675 sq.ft

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin GAA Club*

Contact person: *Micheál Brennan (secretary)*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *087 2574129*

Email address: *michealbrennan31@gmail.com*

Website: *www.killeshingaa.ie*

Facebook Page Name: *Killeshin GAA and Killeshin GAA juvenile Club*

What does your organisation do?

We provide playing facilities and structures to play gaelic games in Killeshin

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *140*

Children (U18): *150*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

We own the recently developed Seamus Hearns Park which consists of a senior and juvenile pitch and toilets. On the other side of Joe's Road we retain use of our old training pitch with 2 small dressing rooms and a meeting room.

We use the hall and astroturf pitch in Killeshin Community Centre for training purposes. We currently rent a room there for use as a strength and conditioning gym. We have used the hall for fundraising events in the past but the lack of a permanent stage is a limiting factor.

What are your organisation plans for the future?

We hope to build a new clubhouse at Seamus Hearns Park as our current facilities are too far away from our main playing pitches and do not meet the needs of our members. (See design on following pages)

In conjunction with Killeshin FC we would like to finish the approach road to our grounds.

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

Raising funds for our much needed clubhouse at our main pitches.

Recruiting volunteers at committee level and as coaches.

Keeping our young people involved and playing is a challenge.

Keeping our members safe as we have limited parking and facilities in two different locations.

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

We need more people from our community to get involved.

We need finance to pay for our planned development.

Any other comments or information you wish to provide (please continue overleaf if necessary)?

We are concerned that future developments in Killeshin such as the new houses and the relocation of Saplings to Killeshin Community Centre will cause parking issues especially at school times and for funerals at Holy Cross Church. We look after parking and shuttle buses for funerals and the Community centre is the base for this.

The amount of rules and regulations now in place are difficult to keep up with and this can turn people away from getting involved.

We run a Cúl Camp each summer for the children, this is a great success. We try to accommodate Killeshin LGFA as best we can and our pitches are frequently used for county and schools matches due to the quality of the pitches especially during the winter. Killeshin GAA is always available to assist other organisations and individuals whenever possible.

Many thanks for your input !

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin Ladies Gaelic Football Club*

Contact person: *Jason Monaghan (chairperson)*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *085 7730832*

Email address: *Killeshin.laois@lgfaclubs.ie*

Website: *None*

Facebook Page Name: *Killeshin Ladies Football*

What does your organisation do?

We play ladies gaelic football from Under 8 to Adult level

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *31*

Children (U18): *85*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

We are grateful to Killeshin GAA Club for use of their pitches, dressing rooms and meeting room. In winter we rent the hall or AstroTurf pitch at Killeshin Community Centre. We hold fundraisers such as our St. Patricks Day gathering in Killeshin Community Hall and also other events such as a table quiz in The Glenside pub.

What are your organisation plans for the future?

We want to keep our club growing in numbers and fielding teams from Under 8 to adult level with the aim of playing at senior level.

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

Lack of female shower facilities at the GAA pitches

We are depending on the goodwill of others in the community for facilities and whilst they are always very generous we must fit in around their needs.

Keeping players interested and playing as they get older. Recruiting coaches and committee members.

Good winter training facilities such as an all-weather pitch. An upgrade of the facilities at the community hall – floor is in poor condition, no showers or changing rooms.

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

An upgrade to facilities at the Community Centre.

We will work with Killeshin GAA club in their endeavours to build their club house and improve facilities.

Other comments/suggestions/issues?

None

Many thanks for your input!

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin National School Parents Association*

Contact person: *Eugene Lynch (Secretary)*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *N/A*

Email address: *killeshinnsparents@gmail.com*

Website: *N/A*

Facebook Page Name: *N/A*

What does your organisation do?

We are committed to ensuring that our school is one of the most technically modern schools in the locality and provide the children of Killeshin N.S. with a good balanced education in the future.

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *260 i.e. the parents of children attending Killeshin N.S.* **Children (U18):** *0*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

We use the school for events and also the community hall and local GAA pitches. For swimming we attend Graiguecullen swimming pool.

What issues/difficulties do your members experience at the moment?

- *Parking limitations within the vicinity of the school*
- *Child Safety – lack of working pedestrian lights and traffic volumes in the area of the school*
- *Lack of parking in the vicinity of the church grounds*
- *No community playground which includes toilet facilities*
- *Lack of traffic calming on main road*

- *Lack of public lighting in Killeshin Village*

Can you suggest a solution to these problems?

- *Increased parking facilities*
- *Cycle lane to improve child safety*
- *Traffic calming and a roundabout at the entrance to Rathglen*
- *Improved and working street lights*

What would the members of your organisation like to see happening in the Killeshin community over the next 5 years?

- *Upgrade of technology in the school with an improved broadband service*
- *Update the school library to include a higher rotation of popular books*
- *Further internet safety training for children and parents which incorporates education on bullying*
- *Development of a youth café/centre with the option of extending facilities for adult training/relaxation classes (e.g. yoga)*

Other comments/suggestions/issues

None

Many thanks for your input !

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin Community Development Ltd. (aka The DEN)*

Contact person: *Tony Carr (Chairperson)*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *059 9147909 (The DEN)*

Email address: thedenkcdl@eircom.net

Website: *None*

Facebook Page Name: *The Den Childcare*

What does your organisation do?

We are a community owned charity which provides a breakfast club, early learning and afterschool childcare service for all in the Killeshin area who wish to avail of it. We also help maintain the graveyard and help out around the community centre.

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *12 paid staff and 8 board members*

Children (U18): *None*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

We lease indoor and outdoor space from Killeshin Community Centre and have renovated same for the provision of classrooms, kitchen, office, toilets and outdoor play area. Our activity camps in the summer use the Community Hall on occasion for sports.

What are your organisations plans for the future?

To continue to develop and expand our service and facilities to meet the needs of the community. We would like to add more equipment to our outdoor play area and are currently assessing the need for another classroom given planned development in Killeshin.

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

Finance – trying to offer a great service at an affordable price to the community in a market which is quite uncertain.

Capacity – With planned developments in the area i.e. new houses and welcome arrival of Saplings we are assessing if we will have capacity for the future

Community Support - our board is volunteer run, we find it difficult to recruit volunteers

Car Parking – can be difficult for parents. We are always concerned about child safety when walking kids to and from Killeshin National School particularly. Cars are parked in unsuitable positions and visibility is difficult.

Keeping up with rules and regulations for governance, financial accountability, employment law, data protection etc.

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

Money – we need to maintain and grow our current number of service users. We need certainty around government/EU support of childcare schemes.

Support from the Community - as we are community owned and run we need volunteers especially parents of children attending The DEN to volunteer on our board of management.

Advertising – we need to advertise our services more effectively.

Locally provided training for our board of management at hours that suit these volunteers.

Other comments/suggestions/issues continued

- *Improvements are needed to the lighting in the carpark at Killeshin Community Centre. Also marked car parking spaces and tarmac in the car park.*
- *Signage*
- *Shared spaces – vegetable patch, benches, flowers in Killeshin Village*
- *Playground – a public playground that our children could use which is easily accessed by all*
- *A footpath from Killeshin Village to the Carlow Ring Road at the Castlecomer Road roundabout*
- *Lighting and a footpath to Holy Cross Church from Killeshin village centre*
- *Traffic Calming measures to slow traffic through Killeshin and on the road to Killeshin National School.*

Many thanks for your input !

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin Wheelers Cycling Club*

Contact person: *Tom Ronan (Chairman). Frank Power (Secretary)*

Contact details;

Phone Number: Tom – 0851743381 Frank 0858590530

Email address: tronan@eircom.ie powerfg@eircom.net

Website: www.killeshinwheelers.ie

Facebook Page Name: killeshin wheelers

What does your organisation do?

We organise cycles for club members on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings.

We also organise the Mark Attridge Memories Cycle in September to raise money for charity. Beneficiaries in 2016 and 2017 were the Irish motor Neurone Disease Association and St. Claire's hospitality kitchen in Carlow.

We are currently organising a couch to 50 km initiative to encourage more people to cycle and to attract new members to the club.

We try to encourage more people to cycle and to join our club by publicising that we are a friendly leisure cycling club and we organise safe group cycles for members. We are affiliated to Cycling Ireland so all members have cycling licenses and insurance.

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: 30

Children (U18): 0

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

We have used a room in the community centre for turbo training sessions during the winter months. We also hold meetings in the community centre.

What are your organisation plans for the future?

We hope to increase club membership and encourage more people to see cycling as a safe way to stay fit and improve their health.

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

- *Competition from other cycling clubs and alternative exercise providers i.e. Boot camps, running clubs etc.*
- *Safety when cycling on public roads is a big issue as there is a perception that it is not safe to cycle.*
- *The road surface can also cause problems and the lack of cycling lanes in the countryside.*

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

We can benefit from any county or national campaigns that encourage people to take up cycling and we can help them to get started in a safe way.

Improvements to cycling infrastructure in the country would help greatly and the development of the Greenways have been very beneficial. It would be great to see the proposed Blueway on the Barrow proceed to provide a safe environment for leisure cyclists and walkers.

Any other comments or information you wish to provide?

None

Many thanks for your input !

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin Pipe Band*

Contact person: *Michelle Ryan / Ger Dunne*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *0857069471 / 0879124555*

Email address: *michelleryan1990@gmail.com / gerriedunne@gmail.com*

Website: *N/A*

Facebook Page Name: *Killeshin Pipe Band*

What does your organisation do?

Killeshin Pipe Band provides music and entertainment for the Killeshin & Graiguecullen parish and its surrounding areas. As an organisation, we range in ages from 8 to 80+ years of age. This consists of playing members, committee members and our extended background team. We practice in our Band Room in the Killeshin Community Centre each Tuesday and Friday evening. We also practice every second Sunday during competition season (May-August). We participate in various parades and events around the country. We also compete in many competitions throughout the year. These competitions require us to travel quite often as a band, from as nearby as Dublin to as far as Glasgow, Scotland for the World Pipe Band Championships. We hold a number of annual fundraising events throughout the year. Our main fundraiser is our May Sunday Fun Day. Others include our Flag Day in July and our Church Gate collection. All funds raised at these events goes towards the upkeep of our band room, the upkeep of our instruments and uniforms, our music instructors and also any necessary travel expenses that we may require.

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *Approx. 28* **Children (U18):** *10*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own and/or those belonging to another)?

We have use of the two large rooms at the front of the Community Centre. These were two classrooms combine into one large room. Our pipers practice in this large room each night.

The drummers in our band unfortunately practice around a table in a small room off the hallway. This has caused quite a lot of frustration in recent times due to the increase of numbers in our band. We also have two small store rooms for storage, a small kitchen and one toilet. We have our own access to our Band Room from the front of the building.

What are your organisation plans for the future?

We plan to progress our band's performance in the competition field, thus improving our overall performance as a band when we represent the community at events around the world. We have upped our game in recent years by sourcing tuition from farther afield. We hope that all our hard work will pay off and we will progress up in music grades in the coming years. In the near future, we will represent our community, county and country in Glasgow, Scotland this August for the third time at the World Pipe Band Championships. We will be competing against 60+ bands so our number one aim this year is to qualify into the final from our heat.

In order for us to progress and develop our band in the future, new members are always needed. This requires a lot of time to recruit new members, be it from local areas or afar. As fantastic as gaining new members is for our band, this in turn requires more uniforms and more piping and drumming supplies. All instruments are owned by the Band itself, with the exception of some pipers owning their own pipes. Therefore the upkeep of these instruments relies on the Band's funds. Similarly, a lot of time and resources is needed in advertising for new members. Our number one form of communication with the public is via our Facebook page which is run by our committee's PRO. This involves constant updates of our events and activities in order to keep our page active. On big events, such as our big trip to The Worlds, we try to get into the local papers for some additional advertising. We often put notices into the Parish Link also of upcoming events in the community. Thankfully this is free of charge.

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

As already mentioned above, the ongoing cost of running the band will always come into play with regards to issues within our organisation. Uniforms and instruments will always need to be renewed and kept to a very high standard. With the hope of expanding and gaining new members in the coming years, more equipment will be needed. There is huge competition within the community who are all trying to compete for the same pool of money. Unfortunately for us we are quite a small organisation in comparison to others in the area and it requires 110% of our effort at all times when it comes to our fundraisers. Therefore all support from the community and its centre is necessary. In regards to our premises, we have one large room

that is perfect for a full band practice i.e. Pipers and Drummers playing together. But it is quite difficult for us to practice separately as we do not have sufficient space. This is something that will cause further issues down the line once we hopefully expand in members. Our premises will require some work this year and a fresh coat of paint will be required throughout as we have not completed any work since our initial move.

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

Fundraising is the key. If we can give 110% to all fundraising events that we hold the more funds we gain for the running of the band. The more events we can attend, the more known in the area we become. The more competitions we can attend in the summer, the more the band can develop their performance and grow in confidence. This in turn, gaining more members and gaining more publicity. Advertising is something we need to keep on top of. Facebook and word of mouth are our main communication techniques that we are working very hard on.

With regard to Killeshin Community Centre specifically– is it meeting your needs? How could it be improved?

The Killeshin Community Centre is a fantastic centre that we as an organisation greatly appreciate. It is exactly what we needed and it's a great location that we can call our home. We have had many visitors from around the country complementing our set up and it works very well for us as a band overall. Facilities do need an upgrade. A new roof and new windows are something that would cause concern to us. We as a band have taken care of the inside of our quarters but with regards to the community centre as a whole, this is something we feel needs to be upgraded.

Other comments/suggestions/issues?

N/A

Many thanks for your input !

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Rossmore Killeshin Development Association*

Contact person: *Liam Moran*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *087 2578570*

Email address: info@oisinpark.ie

Website: www.oisinpark.ie

Facebook Page Name: <https://www.facebook.com/oisin.park.9>

What does your organisation do?

We maintain the upkeep of Oisin Park and house. We try to keep heritage and culture alive in the Killeshin area. We provide a safe area for children to play where they can be easily supervised by parents.

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *20*

Children (U18): *0*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

Oisin House is used for children's parties and family gatherings. There are various events run throughout the year such as a bonfire at Halloween, Easter Sunday dawn mass, rambling nights and a mid summer barbeque. There is a contained children's playground which is very popular. There is also a public toilet block facility. There are 2 car parks available and the park is contained by fence.

What are your organisation plans for the future?

We would like to improve our facilities and offer more such as an area for camping. We have had a lot of interest from Scout groups. We also have plans to develop the attic in the hall to be used as dormitory accommodation for scout groups. Plans have been submitted to Laois Co. Council for this and planning permission has been granted.

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

Difficulty in recruiting volunteers. We have a very small core group. Generating finance is difficult. There is a problem with littering, we would like to install security cameras.

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

We need more people to get involved, people with a little more diversity in outlook and ideas. We would like to see younger people getting involved, and more involvement from the local community.

There is always the problem of financing. To avail of any kind of grant the money has to be found somehow first and then the work completed before any grant application can be undertaken.

Any other comments or information you wish to provide?

There are a variety of things we would like to do. Following is a list of these.

- 1. Replacement of the Dancing Boards/viewing area as the structure is unsound.*
- 2. Replacement of the parents' shelter at the playground as the old one had to be removed on safety grounds as it had decayed due to rot.*
- 3. We would like to fit a security camera system to cover the park.*
- 4. We would like to fit a traffic barrier at the entrance with a pay per visit coin box attached where visitors would pay 1 euro to enter.*
- 5. A lot of the perimeter fencing needs to be replaced as it has decayed due to rot.*
- 6. We would like to develop an area suitable for camping. This involves some excavation and grading of part of the park to reduce the slope (see proposed design next pages)*
- 7. We would like to develop the attic into a dormitory area for scout groups (see proposed design next pages). We have planning permission for this, we are lacking funds.*

8. *We have an ongoing issue with water. There is a high level of iron in the water from the well. There is a softener and filter fitted but this needs regular work. We have discussed harvesting the rain water from the roof of the hall to be used for the public toilets as it is expensive to use filtered water for these.*
9. *We would like to fit viewing telescopes in the park, these would be on a pay for use basis with a coin slot.*
10. *The Slieve Margy way needs to be reintroduced as a walking route.*

All of the above are limited by 2 things - people and funding. We would like more people from the local community to get involved with some fresh ideas and thinking for the future.

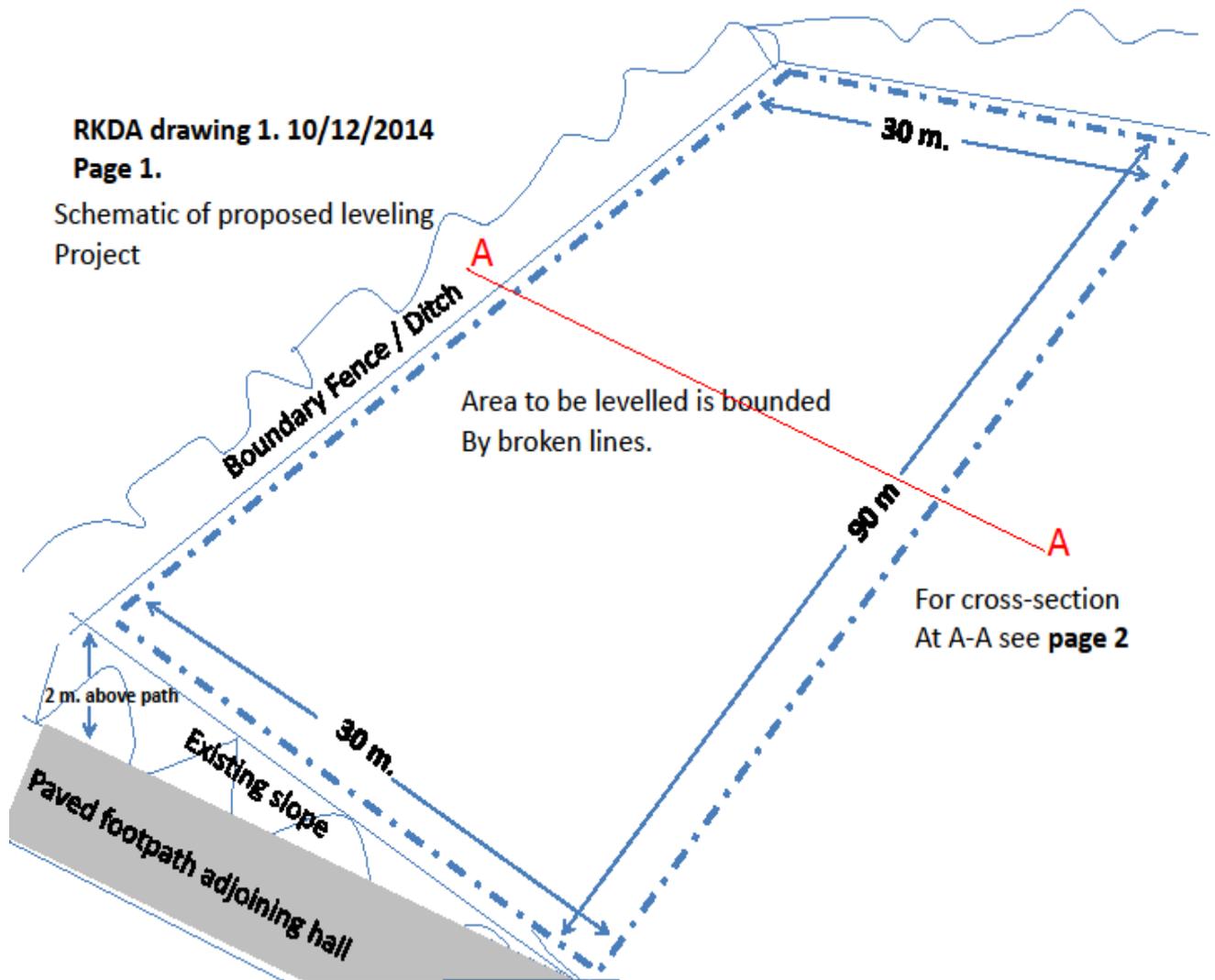
Many thanks for your input!

Proposed Design of Camping Area

RKDA drawing 1. 10/12/2014

Page 1.

Schematic of proposed leveling
Project



Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Oisin Players*

Contact person: *Niall Dempsey*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *086 8263174*

Email address: *niall@ndtax.ie*

Website: *None*

Facebook Page Name: *Oisin Players*

What does your organisation do?

Amateur drama group in Killeshin

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *25*

Children (U18): *0*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

We rent the use of the lounge in Glenside Pub Killeshin to practice and perform our plays

What are your organisation plans for the future?

To continue performing plays for in Killeshin

We plan to create a junior drama group for children aged 14 and under

Issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

- 1) No permanent place to perform our drama*
- 2) We need a stage located in a premises which is suitable for children to practice*
- 3) Nowhere to store our limited equipment and props*
- 4) Investment needed in lighting and sound equipment*

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

A purpose built permanent stage and drama area

Funding for the purchase of equipment

Any other comments or information you wish to provide?

- *Currently Oisin Players perform 2 plays every year in the Glenside Pub. These are a resounding success with each of the 3 to 4 night run sold out*
- *All plays are self-funded with any surplus funds donated back to a worthy community cause*
- *We really need a purpose built drama theatre to expand Oisin Players into our local schools*
- *Funding for lighting, sound and props*
- *Key opportunity to expand into other cultural areas such as Music Generation*

Many thanks for your input!

Community Organisation Audit

Name of your Organisation: *Killeshin Community Centre Committee*

Contact person: *Laurence Phelan (Chairman)*

Contact details;

Phone Number: *059 9147592/086 8521941*

Email address: *laurence@morrystownproperties.com*

Website: *None*

Facebook Page Name: *Killeshin Community Centre*

What does your organisation do?

We provide a range of facilities for the community. These include educational, sporting and social.

How many members are in the organisation?

Adults: *17*

Children (U18): *0*

What facilities do you use at the moment (include your own or those belonging to another)?

- 1) Community Hall*
- 2) The DEN (preschool and after schools premises and service*
- 3) The Pipeband room*
- 4) Saplings School*
- 5) Function rooms for social, sporting and cultural activities*
- 6) All-weather pitch and gymnasium*
- 7) Small businesses*
- 8) Car park*

What are your organisation plans for the future?

- 1) Replace all large scale prefabricated buildings with permanent structure*
- 2) Build stage and dressing rooms to hall*
- 3) Provide large scale playground (public)*
- 4) Tarmac existing carpark and build additional car park*

What issues face your organisation over the next 5 years?

- 5) *Procuring finances to complete the plans outlined above.*
- 6) *To maintain and where appropriate, increase the modest rental income from current occupiers of our premises.*

What does your organisation need to overcome these issues and to make your plans a reality?

- 1) *Substantial grant funding*
- 2) *Provision of long term low interest loans*

Any other comments or information you wish to provide?

None

Many thanks for your input!

**Part 3 – Consultation with businesses in
Killeshin Community Centre**

Each business renting a unit at Killleshin Community Centre were requested to complete an audit form in order to help identify the issues they experience. Due to privacy reasons each individual audit form is not included in this plan. Instead these issues and concerns have been generalised as follows;

- Parking issues – no spaces left for customers of businesses, the lack of markings in the car park has meant that cars park dangerously and business owners have been blocked in.
- Redesign the layout of the units at the Community Centre to make better use of the space in order to maximise the area. Resurface the outside space.
- Put in flowers and other landscaping/beautification to make it more attractive.
- The portakabins are temporary and some tenants report damp and mould issues.
- Signage needed to advertise to those who use the school road

One business owner is concerned that “any plan for the centre keeps the community spirit and feel in the area and involvement for all”.

Part 4 – Consultation with the general community

A public consultation meeting was held in the Pipe Band room in Killeshin Community Centre on March 7th 2018. This meeting was advertised locally on posters, flyers, social media and notices in The Nationalist newspaper and the Parish Link newsletter. This resulted in 47 people attending and providing feedback for a SWOT (strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis. This analysis was then used to identify projects that the community were interested in pursuing over the next 5 years.

The following strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities are a direct transcription of the notes taken at the public meeting;

Strengths

- Rossmore Killeshin has unique historic and natural environments such as Romanesque doorway, unparalleled views of the Barrow Valley from the Castlecomer plateau, Killeshin Waterworks, Rossmore woods and the now disused coalmines
- Strong traditions in religion (Holy Cross Sodality), music (Killeshin Pipe Band, Bolton School of Music, Oisin House Ramblers), dance (Killeshin Set Dancers) and drama (Oisin Players)
- Low Age dependency ratio with a larger than national average number of young people living in the area
- Well educated population
- Excellent community childcare facility The Den which is flexible to parents needs by offering breakfast club, preschool and afterschool sessions at an affordable price.
- Is part of a vibrant and proactive Roman Catholic parish
- Its close proximity to Carlow town makes it a popular and attractive location for many people to live.
- Commutable distance to Dublin, Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Portlaoise by car or public transport from nearby Carlow town
- Many vibrant voluntary and sporting organisations are active in the community and proactive in providing for their own needs and those of the community
- High levels of community spirit and social capital which is particularly evident in times of need.

- Strong participation and engagement with statutory bodies such as Laois Partnership, Laois County Council and PPN
- Strong and united response to threats e.g. Pylon and windfarm objection and opportunities
- Community Buildings which although in need of upgrade and modernisation are available for community and personal use
- A modern primary school with an excellent reputation for education in a modern, comfortable building with an active Parents Association working for the betterment of pupils.
- Local grocery/sweet shop at the heart of Killeshin village which provides many additional services on a voluntary basis to the community
- Popular, traditional public houses serving the community –The Glenside Killeshin, The Mall Clonmore, Behans Tolerton, Kellys Ballickmoyler
- Effective community text alert system which enhances the security of all in the community
- Artisan food businesses in operation in the area.
- Reputation ... Killeshin Sunday is well known around Carlow, Laois, Kilkenny
- Recycling – access to recycling facilities at Killeshin Community Centre and active Green Schools committee in Killeshin N.S,
- St Fiaccs House provides for the needs of the elderly in the community though it's live in and day services.

Weaknesses

- Proximity to Carlow town and distance from Portlaoise contributes to a general feeling that the Killeshin area is in a political wilderness and does not receive any help from local authorities.
- Money is spent outside of the local economy in nearby Carlow town rather than in the immediate area or indeed in Co. Laois.
- Poor quality land for agriculture which limits the land use.
- Despite good work from Laois County Council some roads are still prone to flooding

- An old Community Hall which needs to be modernised, upgraded and expanded to meet the needs of those using it.
- Improvements and modernisation of existing community facilities, in particular at Killeshin Community Centre
- Further development and expansion of facilities requires at Killeshin GAA, Killeshin F.C. and Oisín Park.
- No Playground in Killeshin Village for the high number of children in area
- Parking at Killeshin National School is insufficient and adhoc resulting in dangerous conditions for children.
- Parking at the Community Centre unmarked and unstructured. Poor surface.
- Unfinished road to local playing pitches
- Excess speed of traffic through Killeshin Village despite speed limits
- Bad road conditions and dangerous junctions
- Some non-natives who have settled in the area do not participate in local activities or contribute to the development of the area.
- Access to broadband is patchy and expensive.
- Poor access to healthcare facilities which have been reduced over the last few years. E.g. patients must travel to Abbeyleix for physiotherapy services. A substandard health centre which is difficult to access in Graiguecullen. No community dentist or orthodontic services available to children attending Killeshin National School. The nearest casualty department is Portlaoise Hospital or St. Luke's Hospital Kilkenny.
- Killeshin is in the Abbeyleix Policing area which is a half an hour drive away and is under resourced. Although in adjacent to Carlow Town, Gardaí there will not respond to calls from the Killeshin area. There is a need for an additional Garda to be located to Arles Garda Station.
- Safe Walkway for use
- Lighting at the school is not enough
- Access to Rathglen, Rathillion, Killeshin National School and sports grounds busy
- Very limited availability of parking at Holy Cross Church, no room for emergency services to get through
- No Village improvement group to enhance the physical environment in Killeshin Village especially

Opportunities

- Unique area of natural beauty as evidenced by the designated scenic view/prospect status given to the Rossmore area.
- Killeshin Waterworks offers a unique opportunity for development as a recreational and educational amenity.
- Oisin Park – great venue for local events with room and desire for expansion.
- *Strong traditions in dancing. Lessons available locally in set, Irish and HipHop dance.*
- Vibrant musical environment with the successful Killeshin Pipe Band and Bolton School of Music as well as very active choirs in the parish churches.
- Well educated, young inhabitants
- Population set to rise with new housing developments in Killeshin Village
- Progressive voluntary organisations which are ambitious to provide for local needs and sporting success
- The provision of additional pedestrian linkages from the school to the church.
- Unique natural and heritage resources Tourism industry
- Potential of stage etc.
- Opportunity exists to leverage some funds from new development in the area... County Council development fund and Nursing Home
- Saplings, local enterprises at the community centre help to pay for community facilities and mortgage
- Representation on PPN, Laois Partnership

Threats

- Main road from Castlecomer to Carlow passes through the village and is dangerous due to traffic speed and bad bends.
- The primary school may reach capacity which could require the capping of numbers.
- The lack of water infrastructure is contributing to poor water quality.
- Anti-social behaviour in some estates, Boy racers in Rossmore and Sulky racing in Graigue Rural

- The loss of employment through the FAS Community Employment scheme and Community Services Programme would adversely affect the upkeep of facilities and the provision of services in the area.
- High levels of education means –outmigration of young population as they seek employment and suitable jobs
- Anti-social behaviour in Rossmore Woods and at Killeshin waterworks.
- Dumping and littering is an ongoing issue
- There is a rise in the number of home break-ins and robberies. ?
- Granting of planning permission in Special Areas of Views not acceptable
- Provide facilities for young people
- Upkeep and Maintenance of facilities which are developed
- Any future development will need to be done in a good way

Part 5 - Needs Identification, Vision Statement, Goals & Objectives

Based on the SWOT analysis from the public consultation meeting and results of the audit of voluntary and business organisations the following **needs** if fulfilled were identified as being of benefit to the widest proportion of people and organisations in Killeshin. Fulfilling these needs within five years was judged as being achievable given the resources currently available in the Killeshin community.

1. To provide modern facilities to organisations and people of all ages to take part in educational, sporting and social activities in their own locality
2. To protect and enhance the character and integrity of the existing natural and built environment of Killeshin
3. To improve the health and wellbeing of all living in the area
4. To make the roads safer for all living or passing through the Killeshin area
5. To support local businesses to thrive and provide employment in the Killeshin area

A Vision for Killeshin

By the year 2023 Killeshin will be a vibrant safer community which provides for the recreational and social needs of its citizens and organisations whilst protecting and enhancing its cultural and natural heritage.

GOAL 1: To provide facilities and activities which promote the physical and mental wellbeing of all in the community.

Objectives

1.1 That a children's playground incorporating an outdoor gym for adults be designed and built in a suitable location in Killeshin Village.

Actions:

- Put in place a playground action committee to advance this project with nominees from Killeshin N.S. Parents Association, The Den, Saplings, Forever Young and Killeshin Community Centre Committee.
- Identify and secure a suitable location. Create a design with the help of a playground design specialist (if necessary) which meets the needs of the users and is within a realistic budget.
- Secure finance via grants and/or fundraising. Build and maintain playground. Monitor ant-social behaviour.

1.2 That a safe, accessible and convenient walkway for public use be developed in the Killeshin area.

Actions:

- Identify a suitable route to be developed as a public walkway.
- Negotiate and agree access with landowners/community organisations.
- Secure finance from grants and/or fundraising to carry out any needed work
- Maintain and extend walkway if needed

1.3 That a *First Responders Scheme* incorporating all the major voluntary organisations in Killeshin be established and equipped to react to a life threatening emergency.

Actions:

- All voluntary organisations in the Killeshin area to select one or more volunteers to be trained as a Cardiac First Responder.
- Life Saving Equipment as recommended to be purchased and located in a location(s) agreed as most advantageous to the community

- Volunteers trained and First Responders Scheme launched in the community

1.4 That initiatives and activities in addition to sporting ones are provided for the large number of teenagers in the Killeshin area.

Actions:

- A team of interested volunteers (some already identified at the public consultation meeting) use community facilities to run various youth projects for local teens.

1.5 That the Killeshin Community Hall and the equipment in it be modernised and upgraded to facilitate participation in sports and other physical activities such as dancing.

Actions:

- Killeshin Community Centre Committee (KCCC) to ensure that improvements and modernisation of the Community Hall for physical activities are included in the overall design of Killeshin Village Centre which is being prepared.
- KCCC to raise finance from own income and grants to renovate and extend the hall as per the needs of the community.

GOAL 2: To protect, conserve and improve the natural and built environment in the Killeshin area for all to enjoy.

Objectives

2.1 Create an outdoor communal space at Killeshin Community Centre for running events such as markets, fetes, concerts, performances, parties etc.

Actions:

- Killeshin Community Centre Committee (KCCC) to ensure that an outdoor space for gatherings is included in the overall design of Killeshin Village Centre being prepared by PDS Ltd.
- KCCC to raise finance from own income and grants to build Killeshin Village Centre.

2.2 Develop the resources at Killeshin Waterworks as a recreational and tourist amenity for all to enjoy and benefit from.

Actions:

- Organise a subcommittee under the umbrella of KCCC from those people who expressed interest at the public consultation meeting.
- Subcommittee to develop recreational, community and tourist amenities as appropriate on behalf of the community.

2.3 That the historic Romanesque doorway and church in Killeshin and the cross and church in Sleaty are conserved and protected as befitting their importance to Irish architectural heritage.

Actions:

- Both of these ecclesiastical sites are National Monuments (only 8 in total in Co. Laois) and therefore owned and protected by the State. However all in the community of Killeshin should be mindful of their significance and protective of them. Anything of concern should be reported immediately to the National Monuments Service.

2.4 That illegal dumping and littering in the Killeshin area be reduced by 25% over next 5 years

Actions:

- Killeshin Community Alert group to continue to act as the contact point for dumping issues with all dumping reported to the Litter Warden via this group. All incidents of dumping to be recorded for metrics purposes.
- Greater organisation and publicity in the Killeshin area about the Clean-up Laois week with the aim of cleaning up a greater proportion of the area.

2.5 That the village environment be enhanced and beautified for all who live or pass through it.

Actions:

- A village renewal group (akin to a Tidy Towns group) should be established under the umbrella of Killeshin Community Centre Committee to tidy up and improve the village for all to enjoy.

2.6 That voluntary groups in Killeshin have access to affordable training locally in corporate responsibility, habitat management, rural tourism, community energy schemes and GDPR compliance.

Actions:

- Laois PPN and Laois Partnership Company to be approached to provide the required training locally.

GOAL 3: To improve personal safety and security throughout the Killeshin area but especially in Killeshin village

Objectives

3.1 That in light of developments in Killeshin Village a review of traffic levels and speed limits be carried out to identify ways to improve road safety especially at the entrance to the community centre and Killeshin National School

Actions:

- Killeshin Community Centre Committee to contact Laois County Council to organise a traffic review.
- Based on the results of this review appropriate action be taken by Laois County Council with the support of the local community.

3.2 That initiatives to improve driving habits and parking behaviour around Killeshin National School be introduced.

Actions:

- Killeshin N.S. Parents Association to raise awareness of safety issues amongst parents at the school and start a campaign for adherence to safety signs and parking rules.

3.3 That improved parking facilities be created in Killeshin village for those attending schools, games at the playing fields and using the facilities in the community centre. Furthermore that additional outdoor lighting be installed at Killeshin Community Centre to provide a safer environment for all hall users.

Actions:

- Additional lighting to be added outside Killeshin Community Hall
- The design for the new Killeshin Village Centre should be cognisant of the need for parking

- GAA and Killeshin F.C. to consider the feasibility of adding parking on the currently unfinished road to their grounds (see 3.5 which follows)
- Community groups to lobby Laois County Council to spend the development contribution accruing to them from the new housing developments in Killeshin on improving parking and road safety in Killeshin.

3.4 That the number of parking spaces at Holy Cross Church be increased and that additional outdoor lighting to be added to prevent accidents

Actions:

- Graiguecullen Killeshin Parish to work with Laois County Council to provide additional car park and lighting at Holy Cross Church

3.5 That the road leading to the soccer and GAA pitches be completed providing safe access for all types of road users and where possible provide much needed parking.

Actions:

- Community and sporting organisations to lobby Laois County Council to spend the development contribution accruing to them from the new housing developments in Killeshin.

3.6 That the number of crimes in the Killeshin area be reduced by 25% by 2023

Actions:

- Residents to be take action to prevent burglaries (the most frequent crime in the area) by locking their cars when at home and fitting and using locks on sheds/garages etc.
- The Community Alert group to be supported in their efforts to highlight the need for the addition of another Garda resource to the Arles Garda Station.
- All incidents of crime in the area to be reported to An Garda Síochána by all residents regardless of seriousness of the crime.

GOAL 4: Retain and develop our strong traditions of culture and the arts

Objectives:

4.1 That the dancing boards and other facilities at Oisín Park be protected and upgraded to provide additional facilities for current and future activities there.

Actions:

- Rossmore Killeslin Development Association (RKDA) to be supported by the community by more volunteers actively engaging in running events and fundraising for improvements needed.

4.2 That stage facilities be added to Killeslin Community Hall for use by all for drama, dancing, music performances etc.

Actions:

- Include permanent office/business space for use by existing and future microbusinesses in the architects design for Killeslin Village Centre
- KCCC to raise finance from own income and grants to renovate and extend the hall as per the needs of the community.

GOAL 5: To create a thriving local economy by providing a sustainable environment which supports businesses, employees and consumers

Objectives

5.1 That the existing temporary portakabins which house microbusinesses at Killeslin Community Centre be replaced with permanent, higher quality accommodation.

Actions:

- Include permanent office/business space for use by existing and future microbusinesses in the architects design for Killeslin Village Centre
- KCCC to raise finance from own income and grants to renovate and extend the hall as per the needs of the community.

5.2 That families continue to be offered affordable, high quality childcare at The DEN in their local community thereby enabling them to attend work and avail of training/educational opportunities.

Actions:

- Parents of children attending The Den (and other interested persons) to volunteer on the board of management of Killeshin Community Development Ltd. to ensure the continued provision of a childcare service.

5.3 That training facilities particularly in Information Technology be provided for all ages and abilities in Killeshin Community Centre.

Actions:

- Include a space/room which could be used as a training room with IT connections in the architects design for Killeshin Village Centre.
- KCCC to raise finance from own income and grants to build and kit out training room.

5.4 That local businesses are supported with local custom thereby securing jobs and anchoring money in the community.

Actions:

- Killeshin community residents should spend their money meaningfully by buying local goods and services.
- Social media users can help advertise and promote local businesses through sharing and interacting with media pages of those local businesses.

On the basis of these goals and the actions needed to achieve them it is clear that Killeshin Community Centre needs a professional design for a Village Centre in order to meet the needs of the community. A design for the Killeshin Village Centre has been created by PDS Ltd and is included in Appendix 4 of this document.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Map, area and townlands of Electoral Districts in Killeshin area

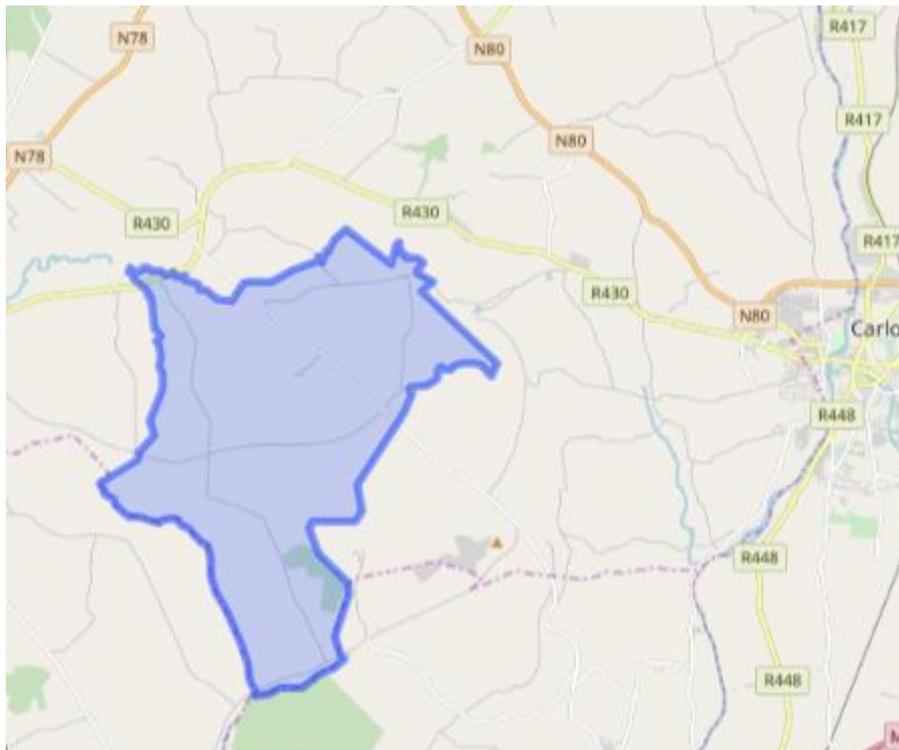
Electoral District: Ardough

Ardough has an area of 17.9 km² / 4,424.4 acres / 6.9 square miles.

It is comprised of 6 townlands;

Ardteagle, Ardough or Huntspark, Coorlaghan

Coornariska, Gortahile and Monavea



Electoral Division: Ballickmoyler

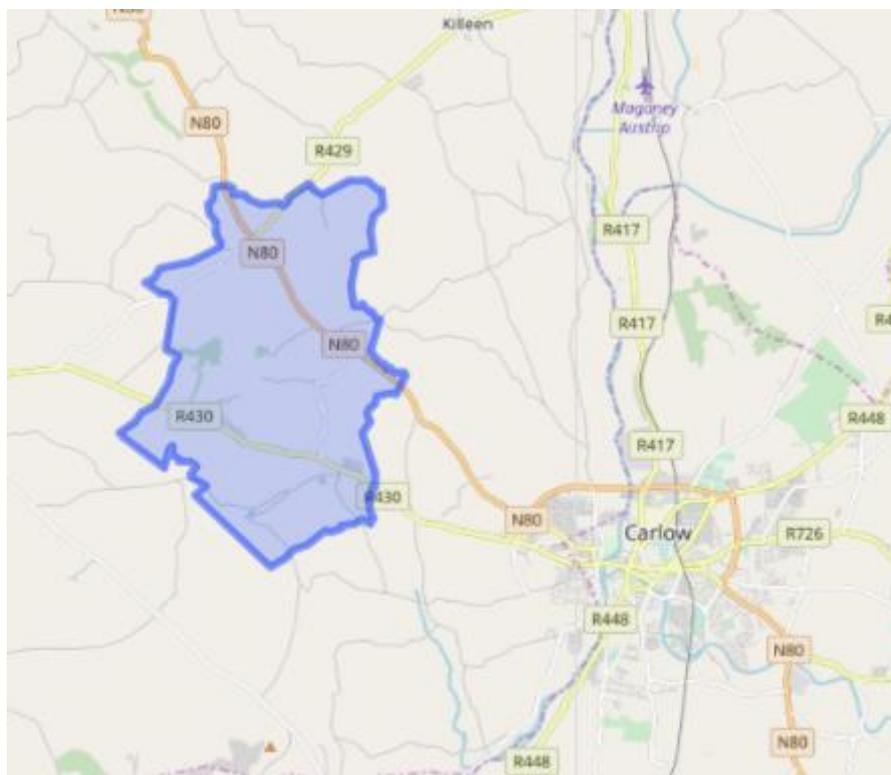
Ballickmoyler has an area of 13.9 km² / 3,429.1 acres / 5.4 square miles.

There are 11 townlands in Ballickmoyler;

Ballinrahin, Cappalug, Cloonaloo

Coolhenry, Coolrain, Copperhill Demesne

Keeloge, Killeshin, Lambstown and Shanvally



Electoral District: Graigue Rural

Graigue has an area of 17.1 km² / 4,237.7 acres / 6.6 square miles.

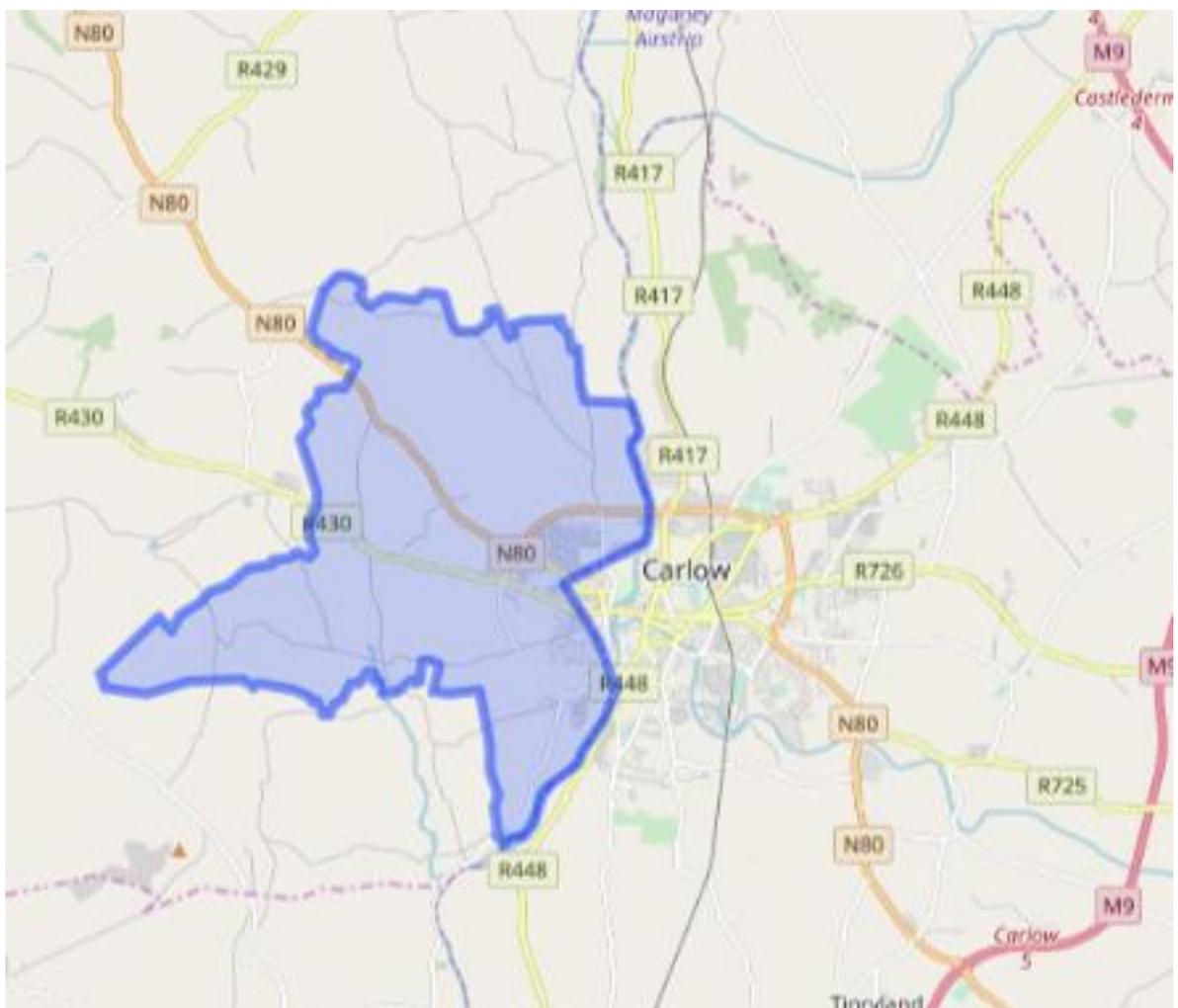
There are 14 townlands in Graigue Rural;

Ballykillen, Crossneen, Curragh,

Derrymoyle, Garrough, Graigue

Harristown, Leagh, Monure,

Oldderrig , Sleaty, Springhill and Stanney



Electoral District: Rossmore

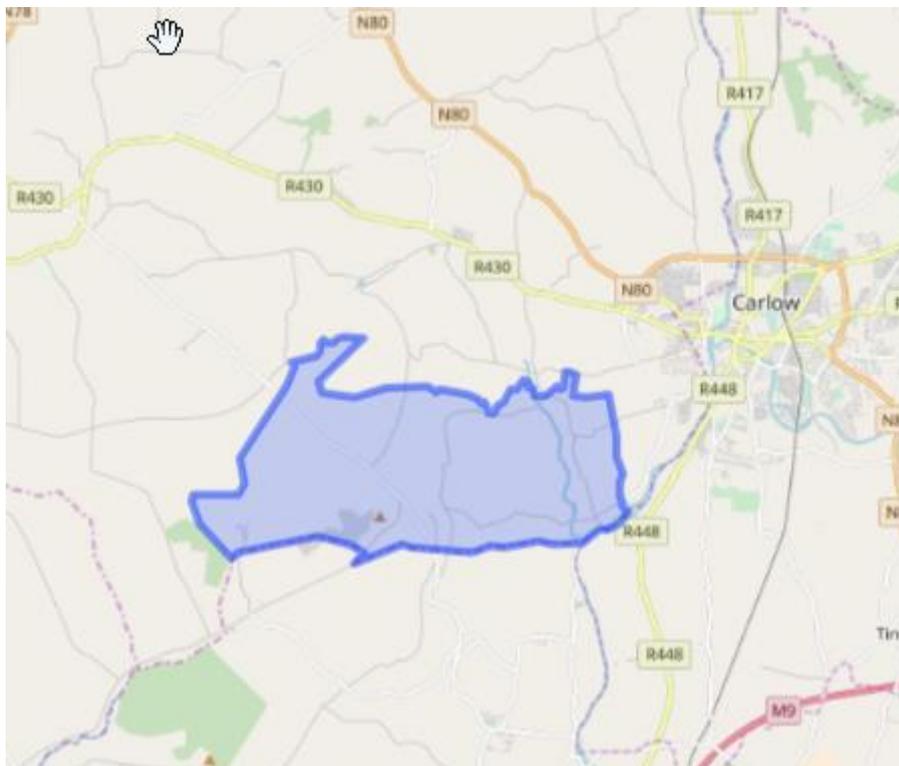
Rossmore has an area of 12.5 km² / 3,086.0 acres / 4.8 square miles.

It is comprised of 3 townlands;

Ballyhide

Clogrennan

Rossmore



Electoral District: Shrle

Shrle has an area of 12.2 km² / 3,007.8 acres / 4.7 square miles.

It is comprised of 16 townlands;

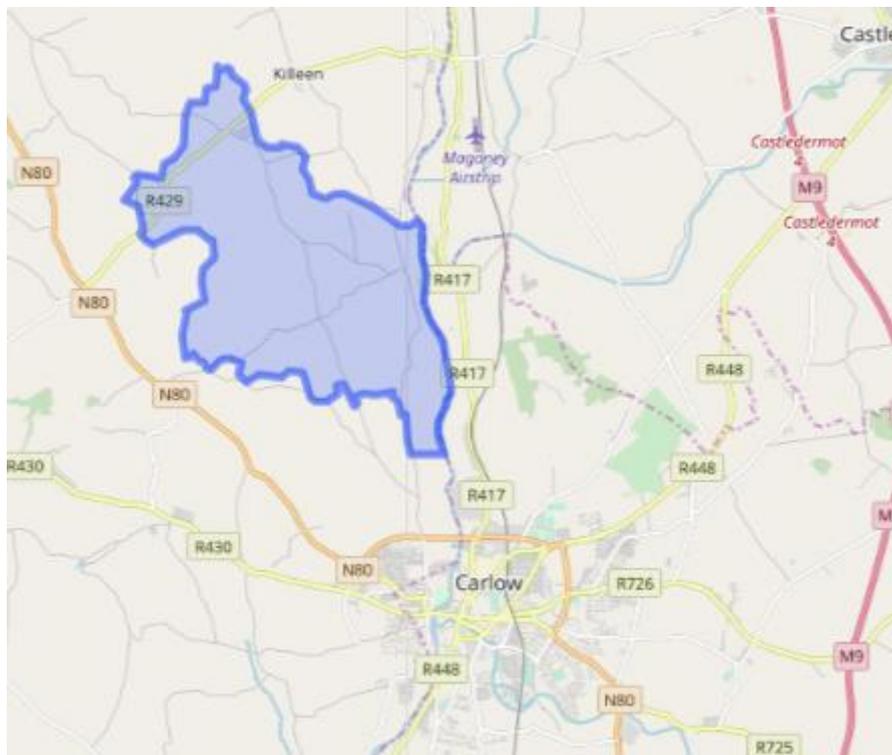
Anneville, Ballyharmon, Bohernasear,

Cappanaboe, Cappanamrogue, Clonagh,

Coolanagh, Hollymount, Killenny,

Knockbeg, Rappa, Rathduff,

Rathduff, Rossena, Rosstillegane and Shrle



Electoral District: Turra

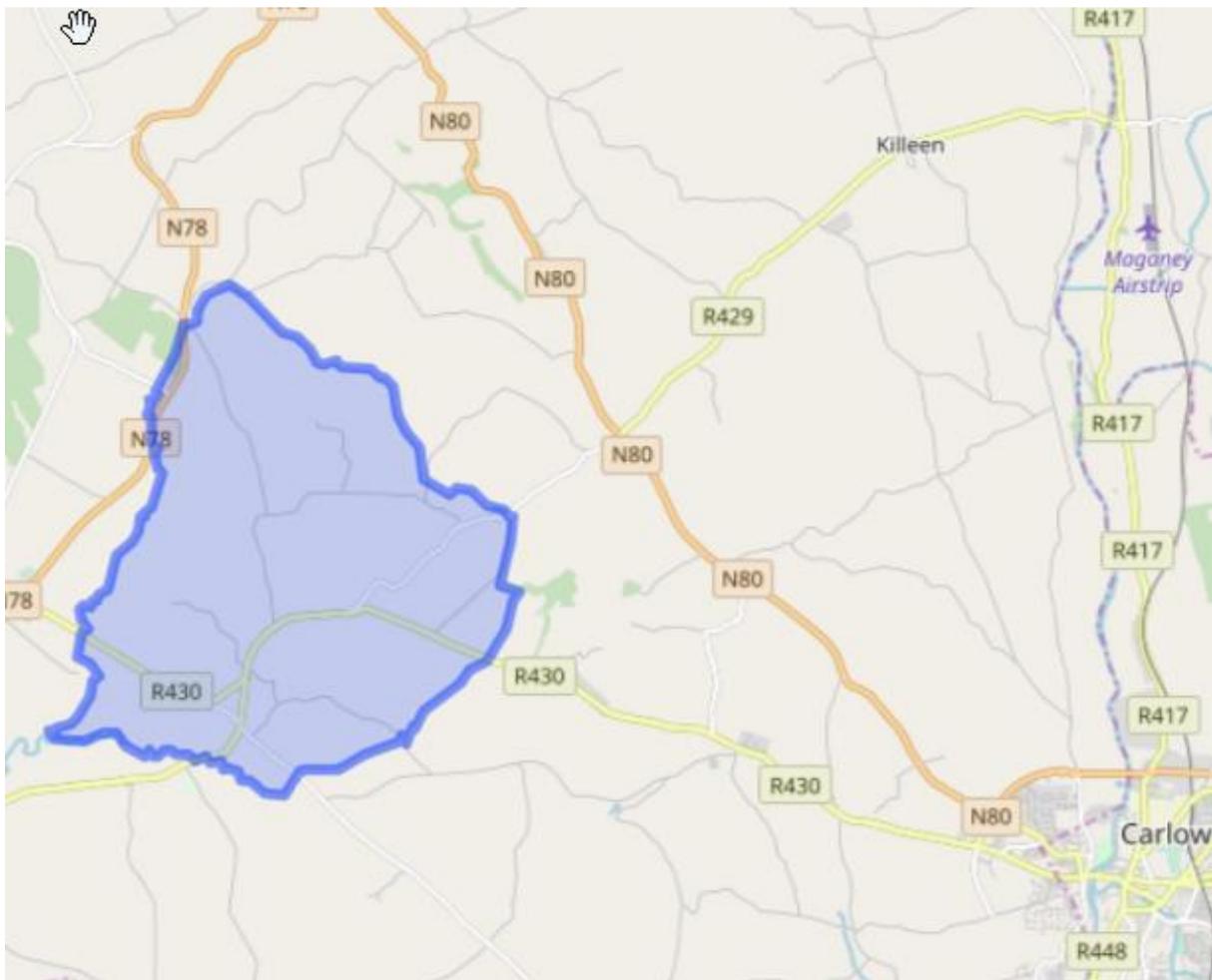
Turra has an area of 15.9 km² / 3,918.3 acres / 6.1 square miles.

It is comprised of 9 townlands;

Aghaterry, Aghcross, Ballickmoyler Upper,

Ballynakill, Drumnagh, Rushes,

Towlerton, Turra, Woodland or Garragh



Appendix 2: Census definitions for Family Cycle

Family Cycle

The following classification is used for Family Nucleus:

Pre-family = Family nucleus of husband and wife or cohabiting couple where wife is under 45 years;

Empty-nest = Family nucleus of husband and wife or cohabiting couple where wife is aged between 45 and 64 years;

Retired = Family nucleus of husband and wife or cohabiting couple where wife is aged 65 years and over;

Pre-school = Family nucleus where oldest child is aged 0-4 years;

Early-school = Family nucleus where oldest child is aged 5-9 years;

Pre-adolescent = Family nucleus where oldest child is aged 10-14 years;

Adolescent = Family nucleus where oldest child is aged 15-19 years;

Adult = Family nucleus where oldest child is aged 20 years and over

Appendix 3 – Killeshin Area Crime Prevention Initiatives (2018)



AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA Crime Prevention Office Laois/Offaly



Killeshin Area- Crime Prevention Initiatives

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9th May 2018

An Garda Síochána



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RE: Report of the Crime Prevention Initiatives available to Killeshin Community

Introduction

The Crime Prevention Officer has been asked to submit a report on the Garda Crime profile including the views and make suggestions regarding crime prevention initiatives which can be included in a Sustainable Community Plan for the area of Killeshin.

The geographical area being considered within this report has been outlined as including the following town's lands:

Ardteagle, Ardough, Coorlaghan, Coornariska, Gortahile, Monavea, Ballinrahin, Cappalug, Cloonaloo, Coolhenry, Coolrain, Cooperhill, Holymount, Keeloge, Killeshin, Shanvally, Ballykillen, Clonmore, Crosneen, Curragh, Derrymoyle, Garrough, Graigue, Harristown, Leagh, Monure, Old Derrig, Sleaty, Springhill, Stanney, Clogrenan, Rossmore, Ballyhide, Knockbeg, Rathduff, Shrule, Cappanboe, Anneville, Rappa, Clonagh, Killenny, Bohernasear, Ballyharmon, Cappanamrogue, Rosstilligane, Rossena Aghaterry, Aghcross, Ballickmoyler Upper, Ballynakill, Drumagh, Garragh, Rushes, Tolerton and Turra.

The Electoral Districts are Ardough, Ballickmoyler, Graigue Rural, Rossmore, Shrule and Turra. Garda Districts and Electoral Districts are not aligned and therefore for reporting purposes I can only report on matters within the Garda Division I operate within i.e. Laois and Offaly.

Geographical Location of the Proposed Location

Killeshin is a village located on County Laois and County Carlow border. It is located on the R430 regional route, 5km kilometres north west of Carlow town and 34 kilometres south east of Portlaoise. The location under review is similar to other locations within my area of responsibility as whilst the location is in one county it is policed by different Garda Divisions i.e. Killeshin area is policed by Portlaoise with some of the electoral district in the Carlow District. This occurs in areas bordering Tipperary and Offaly, Westmeath and Offaly, Meath and Offaly, Kilkenny and Laois and Kildare and Laois.

Current Policing of the Area.

Arles Garda Station consists of 1 Garda. Like most rural Garda Stations in the Garda Division the hours that the Gardaí attached to these stations have been reassessed in order to achieve the optimum policing for the public. It is noted that there are regular mobile patrols and checkpoints in the area. The Garda member endeavours to stay within his area of responsibility but occasionally he would have to assist or augment units in Abbeyleix Garda Station. Abbeyleix Garda Station has 3 Sergeants and 10 Gardai and 2 Detectives, Durrow Garda Station has 1 Garda, and Ballylynan has 2 Garda. These members are assigned to various units and therefore do not work all at the same time. Members will team up in order to offer effective policing when in a position to do so.



Crime Profile of the General Area.

Nationally the crime which has the highest profile is Burglary due to the invasiveness of the crime and the ramifications for victims and the greater Community. This more than any other crime causes the greatest fear amongst the population. Crime Figures have been studied for the area of Killeshin. Any preventative measures put in place will have an added benefit to the Community and the neighbouring areas.

This is because many Burglaries are carried out by travelling criminals, which are criminals from outside the area using vehicles and willing travel long distance to carry out crimes rurally. It can also be stated that we would consider that a local element would participate in criminal activity also.

On a very positive note there are no discernible issues with public order or anti-social behaviour. This is purely down to the positive vibrant community of Killeshin and the surrounding areas. I have seen first-hand the work and positive engagement with young people in the area.

A study of Crime Statistics for the area as outlined shows the following crime and offences as requested. I can only report on reported crime and therefore if any discrepancies arise between these figures and those which are perceived to have occurred in the area this may be down to non-reporting

of crime. Due to Data Protection and the fact that crime figures are low for the area I am not in a position to identify each location that crimes occurred as this can potentially identify victims of crime.

Figure 1 Crime Statistics 2015 to 2017 (RTC = Road Traffic Collision)

Crime/Offence Type	2015	2016	2017
Burglary	7	8	3
Criminal Damage	2	0	1
Drugs for Sale or Supply	1	0	0
Drugs Simple Possession	1	0	0
Theft from MPV	0	6	1
RTC Material Damage only	9	5	14
RTC Non Serious Injury	0	0	1

On analysis of thefts from cars the vast majority of thefts from cars occur in the driveways of the home with public car parks accounting for 2 cases. On analysis of national figures 38% of cars that had property stolen from them were unlocked and parked in a domestic driveway. The key message is remove anything of value from your car before parking same and lock and secure it. CSO amalgamates all theft and theft related figures so I cannot give a comparable figure for theft from cars for County Laois.

On analysis of road traffic collision locations - the following locations appear regularly Clonmore, Stanney, Springhill, Tolerton, Strand Road, Rossmore, Joes Road, Coolhenry, Springhill, Old Derrig, the Mall, Ballykillen, Keelogue, Rathillig, Sleaty Road.

On analysis of Burglary figures the following locations appear: Killeshin, Hollymount, Ballickmoyler, Clannore, Killeshin Road, Coolhenry, Coolenaugh and Monure. On analysis of time of year and time of occurrence there was no real pattern. I analysed the months as per Figure 2 below.

Figure 2 These figures are over the years 2015 to 2017 inclusive.

January	2
March	3

April	1
June	3
July	1
August,	2
September,	1
October.	5

CSO figures for Burglary and related offences show the following figures for County Laois for 2015, 2016 and 2017, 586, 362 and 336 respectively. It should also be noted that CSO figures for Arles Sub District show Burglary and related offences for 2015, 2016 and 2017 as 16, 20 and 19 respectively. The difference between these figures and in Figure 1 above can be explained by the exclusion of a the remainder of towns lands in the Arles policing district from our survey area and the inclusion of possible figures for handling stolen property or possession of articles used in the commission of a crime for example.

Burglary appears to occur most frequently between 8am and 10pm with 11 occurring, and then 10pm to 8pm with 7 occurring.

It must be borne in mind that An Garda Síochána define Burglary as against any building of a permanent structure and that would include a garage or shed for example and some of these figures include such locations.

Population/ Age Profile of General Area.

This area reported upon covers an area of approximately 68.5 square kilometres. The population as per CSO figures 2016 was 6916. The area comprises of substantial rural communities with small villages with a small number of housing clusters interspersed throughout the location.

According to CSO each electoral district is populated as follows:

Ardough 346 persons, Ballickmoyler 650 persons, Graigue Rural 4793 persons, Rossmore 463 persons, Shrule 304 persons and Turra 360 persons.

Crime Prevention

According to An Garda Síochána Policing Plan 2018 and Laois County Development Plan 2017 to 2023 section 4.2.5 Crime Prevention is recognised as a key element to ensuring community stability and safety. As a Crime Prevention Officer I am cognisant that this is ensured by ***detering, delaying, denying*** and ***detecting*** any criminality in any area. Patrolling and community engagement is also crucial and this is carried out in various methods. The use of Garda Checkpoints is critical to deterring and denying criminal entities access to our locality.

The establishment of Community Alerts (rural), neighbourhood Watch Schemes (urban centres) and Residents Associations are critical to communities and ensure engagement on a continual basis with An Garda Síochána and local authorities.

In the relevant area under review there are a number of such groups which greatly assist the community they represent. There are a number of text alert schemes also in operation which allow An Garda Síochána to disseminate information to the public about scams, suspicious individuals and vehicles and offer crime prevention advice.

Since 2005 it has been open to communities to apply for authority to erect CCTV cameras in their locality. Under Section 38 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005 a group having satisfied certain criteria can obtain the authority of the Garda Commissioner to install and erect such systems that they can fund themselves.

In April 2017 the Department of Justice through the Department of the Environment released funding of 60% up to €40000 for such schemes. However the issue of Data Controller and Data compliance is currently under review in these cases. This however does not stop schemes from processing the appropriate planning and associated documentation in order to be ready for when the Data Control matter is resolved.

The Legal Constraints

The Data Protection Act is of prime importance relative to Community Based CCTV. It is unfortunate that a number of well-meaning groups nationwide have taken it upon themselves to install CCTV only to find they are in breach of the relevant legislation. For that reason the Garda Commissioner has made clear guidelines relative to applications of this nature.

It is vital that the necessary permission be received whether public or private buildings/locations are being utilized to situate cameras.

The footage contained on hard drive(s) should be clear after 1 calendar month.

Costs.

It should be noted that no costs for this procedure can be borne by An Garda Síochána whether it be installation or ongoing maintenance costs. The system is to be community based and funded. A maintenance contract should be included in installation contract to keep the system operational over its lifetime.

The engagement with a local PSA (private security authority) registered CCTV installer is integral to the installation and upkeep of the CCTV system. Three (3) written quotes should be obtained.

A cost effective option could be to fit one camera and monitor its effectiveness before spending monies on a number of cameras. The group should spend their hard earned monies wisely in this regard which I no doubt they will.

Storage/Viewing of System.

Secure Storage of the hard drive(s) is vital to the integrity of the system. The public must be satisfied that:

- 1) The system is secure from theft and data theft,
- 2) The designated operators have Garda Clearance
- 3) A written log/record of all viewings with dates, times and reason maintained.

The Committee are considering remote access to view and download footage. I do not have the relevant expertise to comment on the technicalities of this but suffice to say whatever system they eventually decide upon that Data Security and Integrity is the most important factor to consider. If

hard drives are to be located at poles then they are to be secured. A steel box, insulated at least 6mm steel secured to the pole and 1 x 5 lever dead lock to a minimum standard of BS 3621 installed. If the system is to use broadband then data must be secured with relevant software.

Signage

The system is to be of an overt type. Signage indicating the presence of CCTV must therefore be fitted on relevant roads and particularly on the approach roads to a village/town centre. The public must be in no doubt that their actions may be recorded by CCTV. Specific wording for signage may be obtained from the Advisory Committee. The Local Authorities are now the Data Controllers and should be consulted in every aspect of this system including signage and erecting poles. Laois County Council is very proactive in working with groups in this regard.

Conclusion.

As stated the Community Group are to be complimented for developing a sustainability plan and considering crime prevention as an element.

Please be aware that the above document gives advice only based on my experience as a Crime Prevention Officer and I am not a technical expert.

Disclaimer:

This report should be regarded as a subjective appraisal of onsite security. The assessment and recommendations contained herein are not intended to be absolute legally binding and may not prevent determined criminality. Recommendations are made with due regard to the fire and planning regulations, however the fire prevention officer or local authority planning officer should be consulted where appropriate. The sole responsibility for the implementation of any security recommendations which follow rests with the party or parties who have authority or control over the site and premises surveyed.

Yours sincerely

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Appendix 4: Killeshin Village Centre Design

P.D.S Ltd., Carlow assessed the current village layout, considered the needs, goals and objectives of the community of Killeshin as provided in this plan and proposed a new village format for Killeshin.

Image 1 Overview of the Village (existing format)



Image 2 - North of the Village (existing layout)



IMAGE 3 – South of the Village (existing layout)



IMAGE 6 – Possible additional Parking (in RED)

- Review all parking within the village especially that related to the school(s). This may be part of future residential developments.



IMAGE 7 – Possible Playground Location



IMAGE 8 – Speed Issue

Biggest Concern with existing village format is SPEED of traffic through the village especially at the junction circled in RED

Proposed Changes include;

Increase sight lines to the West, remove walls and fencing, relocate pole, remove wall of pump house, traffic calming measures on both sides of the road, cut back landscaping.

