

Submission No. 125



# Loughgraney Community Development Plan 2019 -2022

Prepared on behalf of the Community by the Voluntary Community Planning Group

April 2019



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



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## Introduction

This document is the result of a year-long process enabled by Clare Local Development Company. The process leading to this plan was led by a group of local volunteers who worked closely with a facilitator whose role was to guide and inform the planning process. The actions proposed in this plan have been informed by the needs, interests and concerns of those living in the area.

Members of the planning group invested a great deal of personal commitment in attending meetings, taking on tasks, and reflecting on the needs brought forward by their community. The members of the planning group were as follows:

- Thomas O'Mara
- Pat Hayes
- Grahame Bowes
- Hilary Dully
- Ger Hoey
- Ollie Noone
- Kathleen McNamara
- Kieron O'Callaghan
- Mary Sheedy

The impact of volunteers across the broad spectrum of activities to be found in the community is enormous, and a great deal of gratitude is owed to them. Sincere appreciation is due to those who committed to this planning process.

## Loughgraney

Loughgraney is a collective name for communities in east County Clare surrounding the lake, Lough Graney. It is a very rural area with all the aspects of a traditional rural life. The main population clusters are Dromindoorra, Caher and Flagmount. The closest commercial centre is Scariff, which is about 14km from Caher. But as the area is located close to the Galway border, there is also a significant draw to Gort, Co. Galway which is approximately 20km (from Caher). Ennis, Clare's County Town, is 37km from Caher, a drive of about 40 minutes. The M

Loughgraney is an area of great scenic beauty and its greatest natural asset is the Lough itself. There are great opportunities for outdoor activities such as walking, swimming and water sports.

The community clear on the best things about living in Loughgraney as evidenced by residents' views gathered from the community survey that forms the basis of this plan.

### *Best things about life in Loughgraney:*

- Close knit/friendly
- Natural beauty/scenery
- Peaceful/quiet
- Local shops/services
- Community facilities
- Sports/outdoor activities
- Pubs
- Near motorway/towns
- Schools
- Family friendly
- Diverse/well integrated
- Youth club
- Well-kept church/graveyard

The task of this process was to allow residents to acknowledge the strengths of the community and to identify aspects which could be improved upon.





## Community Profile

Loughgraney residents are situated mainly in the Electoral Divisions of Killanena (Dromindoora), Derrynagittagh (Caher) and Corlea / Cahermurphy (Flagmount).



Killanena ED



Derrynagittagh ED



Corlea/Cahermurphy ED

Collating census data for Loughgraney is complicated by the fact that the community resides in at least three Electoral Divisions.

In 2016 the Census returned the following data for each ED:

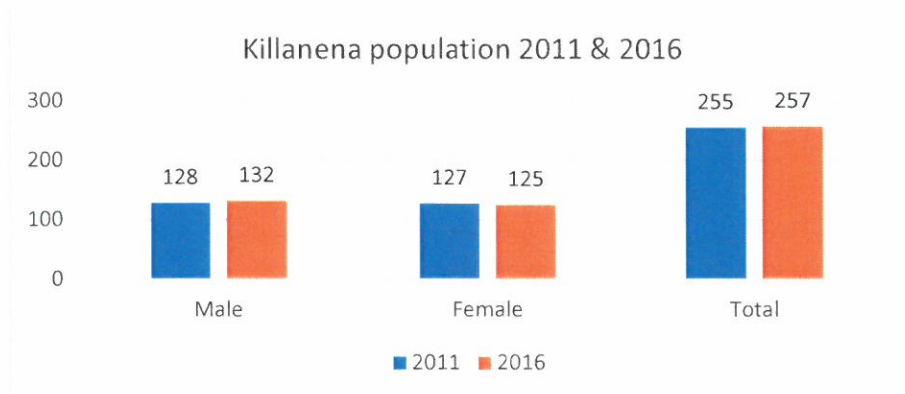
**Killanena** population was 257, of which Males numbered 132 and Females were 125. The total housing stock was 127, of which vacant households (excluding holiday homes) numbered 20.

**Derrynagittagh** population was 137, of which Males numbered 71 and Females were 66. The total housing stock was 68, of which vacant households (excluding holiday homes) numbered 8.

**Corlea/Cahermurphy** population was 170, of which Males numbered 83 and Females were 87. The total housing stock was 103, of which vacant households (excluding holiday homes) numbered 17.

As Killanena ED is the most populous, the rest of the profile data is presented for that ED only. Full CSO data for each of the three EDs has been supplied to the planning group and is available from the CSO Small Area Population Maps site <http://census.cso.ie/sapmap/>.

## Population



- The population in Killanena was almost the same in 2016 as it was in 2011

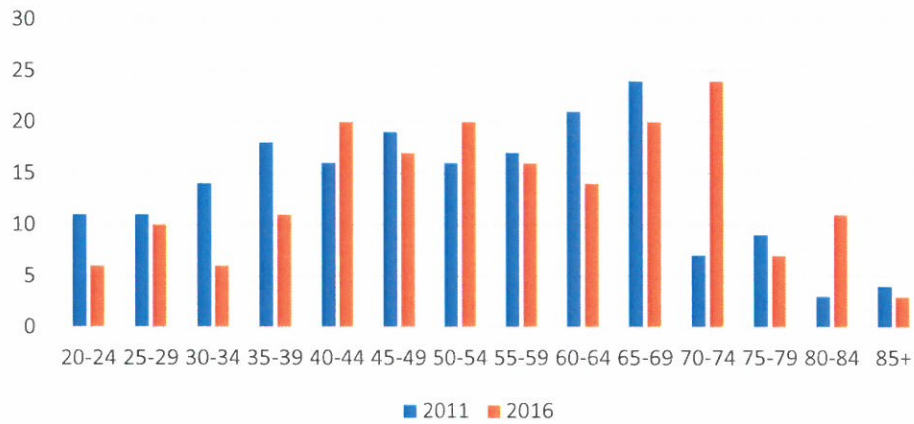


Killanena Population 0-19 years by age

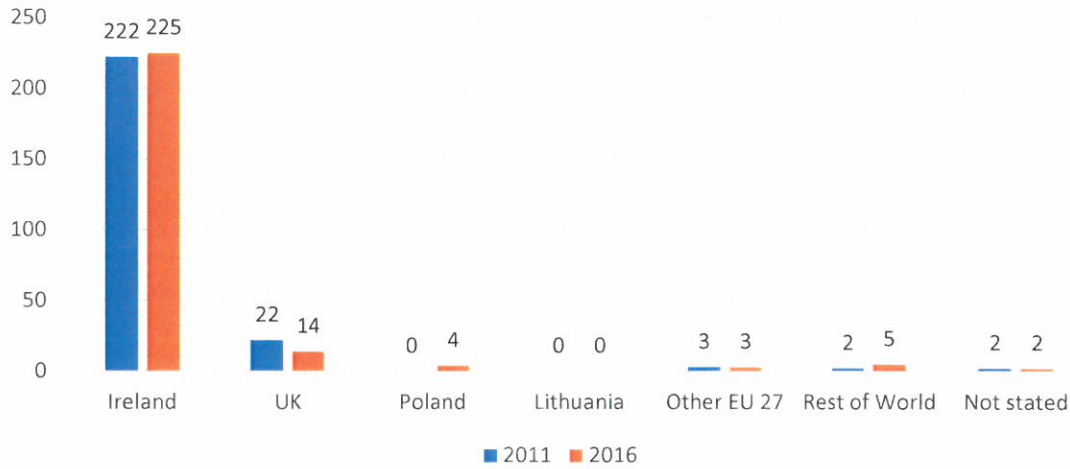


- Useful information for childcare providers and schools

Killanena population aged 20 and over by age group

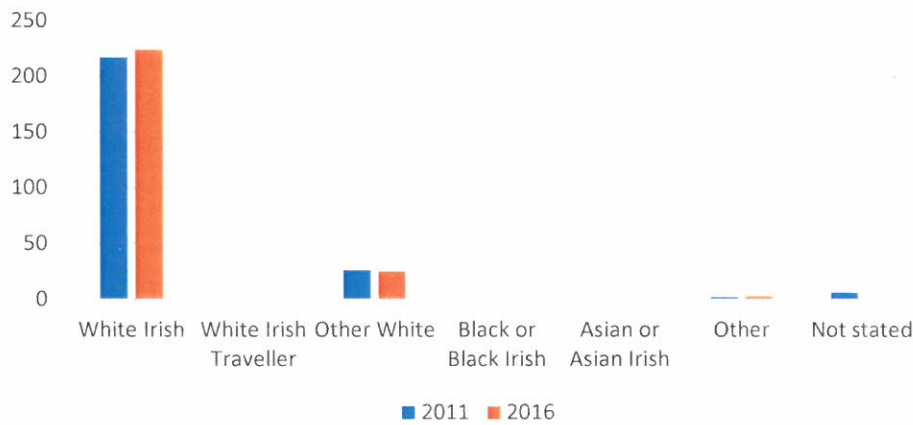


Usually resident population by nationality - Killanena



- The population of Killanena ED is almost entirely Irish, with a small number of UK nationals and very few other nationalities.

Killanena - usually resident population by ethnic/cultural background



- There almost no ethnic diversity in Killanena ED

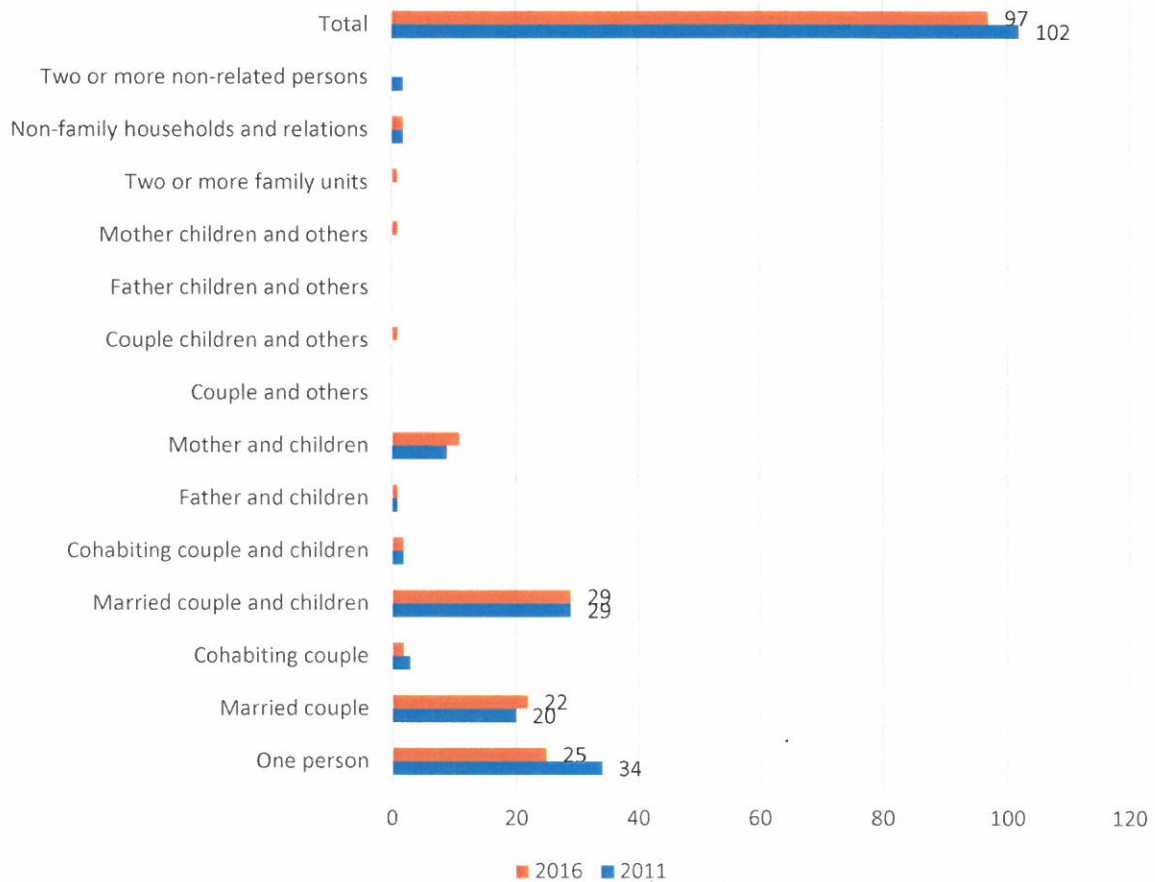


### Killanena - Families by size 2011 & 2016



- There is no consistent trend in number of different sized families between 2011 and 2016.

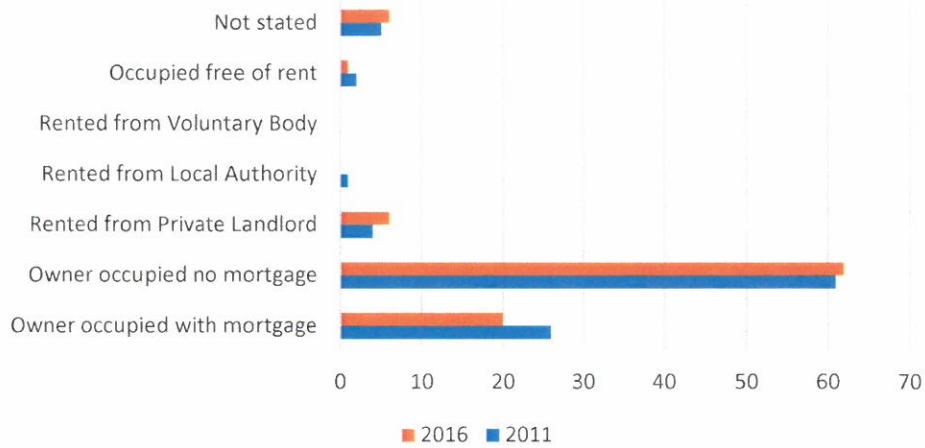
### Private households by type



- There were 5 fewer private households in Killanena ED in 2016 than there were in 2011.
- In 2016 most households were married couples with children, the next most common household type is people living on their own.

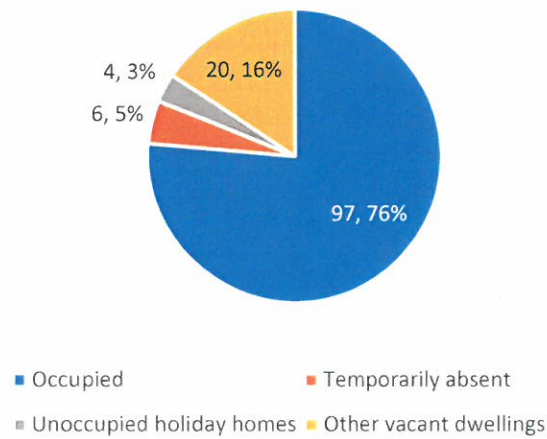


### Private households by type of occupancy



- The overwhelming majority of residents in Killanena ED are in owner occupied houses.
- There were no residents in local authority or social housing in 2016

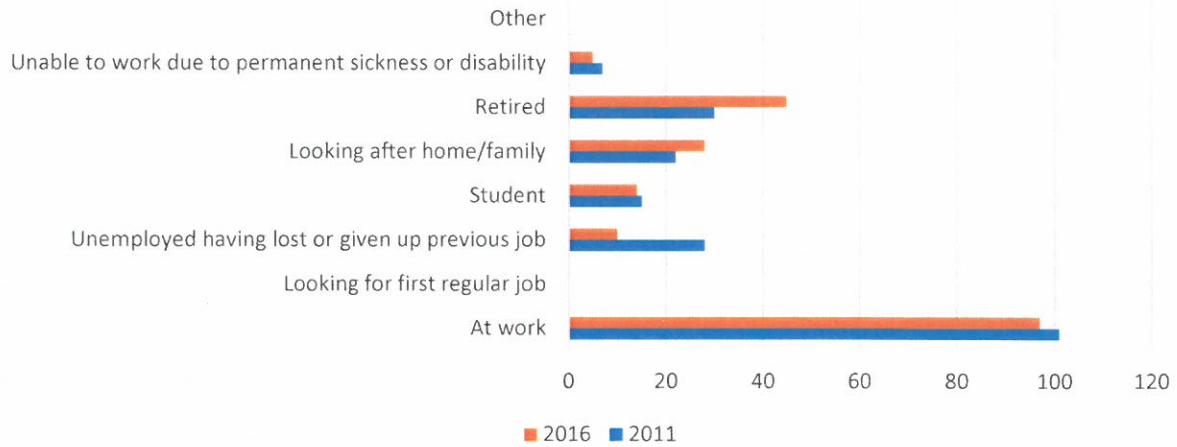
### Occupancy of permanent dwellings 2016



- There were 20 vacant dwellings in Killanena ED in 2016.



### Population 15 years and over by principal economic status



- A significant portion of the population in Killanena ED is retired, this proportion has grown since 2011.

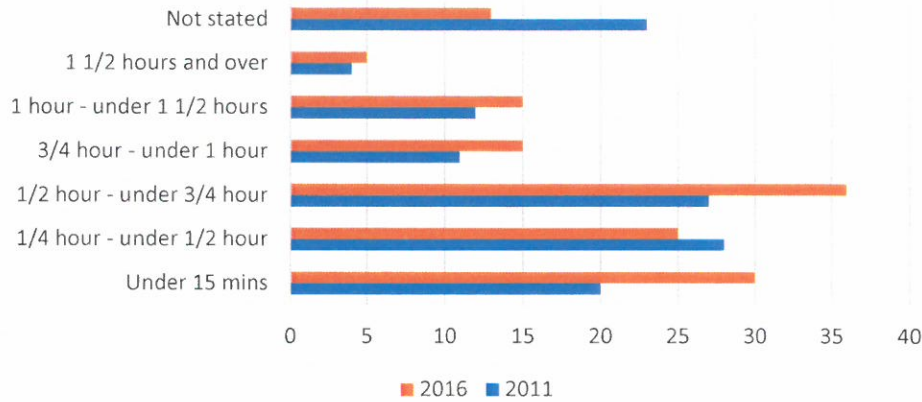
### Population aged 15 and over by age education ceased



- No significant educational attainment trends in Killanena ED between 2011 and 2016.



### Population aged 5 and over by journey time to work, school or college



### Persons with a disability by sex

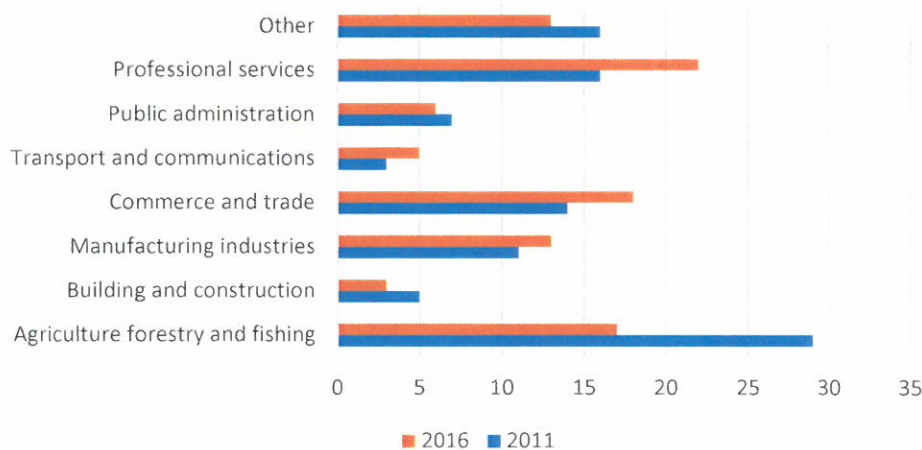
Disability	Male	Female	Total
Total	18	15	33

### Carers by sex

Carers	Male	Female	Total
Total	3	1	4

- A total of 33 people in Killanena ED were living with a disability in 2016 and 4 people were family carers.

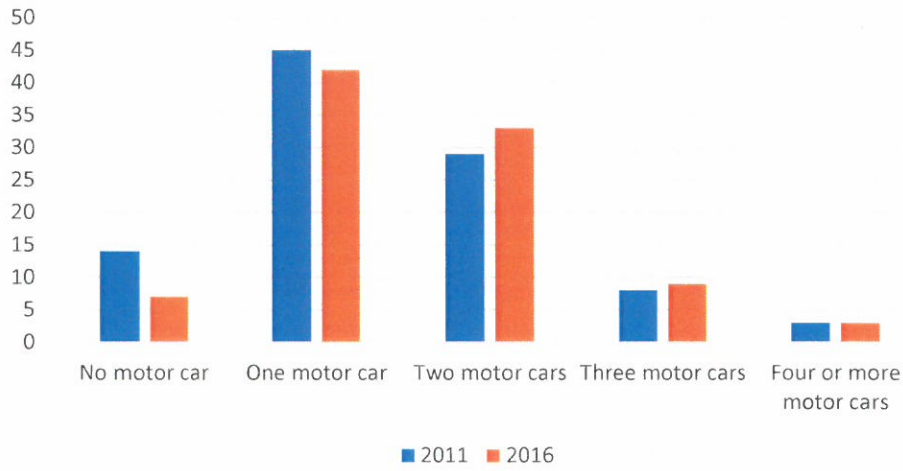
### Persons at work by industry



- The number of people employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector has reduced significantly in Killanena ED between 2011 and 2016.



Number of households with cars

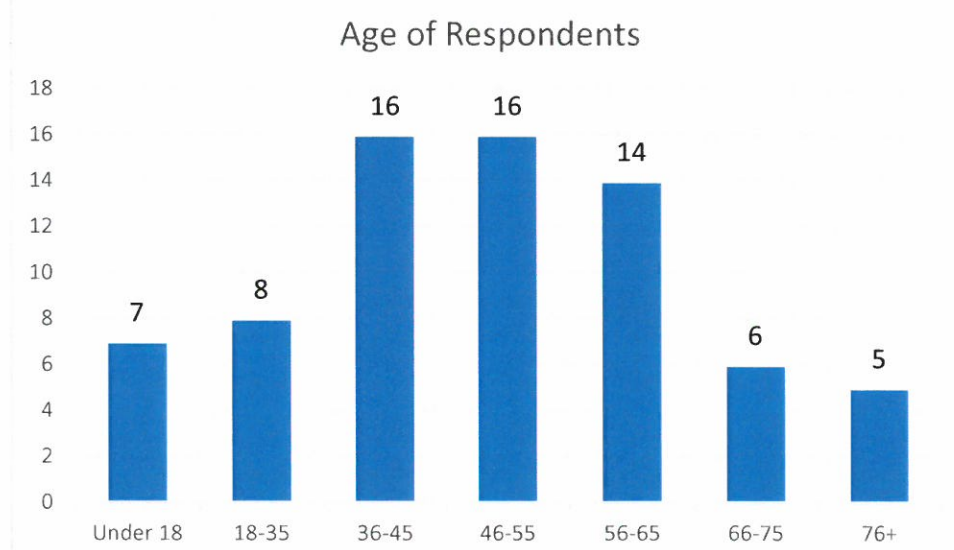




## Loughraney Community Development Planning Process

Following an initial expression of interest by Loughraney Community Development Association (LCDA) to Clare Local Development Company, a four-phase process was undertaken to inform this plan:

- 1) *An Orientation Phase:* This phase involved the establishment of the planning group to lead and project-manage the planning process in Loughraney. Orientation was provided on how to conduct an evidence-informed planning process while materials and information were also provided to the planning group to support the process.
- 2) *An Information Gathering Phase:* The planning group implemented a broad-based consultation process during Phase 2. A survey was developed (see Appendix 1) to enable residents to identify strengths, needs, interests and concerns from their experiences of living in Loughraney, and to identify priority projects that they'd like addressed in the emerging community plan. A total of 74 individuals from across the life cycle responded to the survey as outlined below:



The gender breakdown of respondents was 67% female and 33% male.

- 3) *Analysis of Information and Action Planning Phase:* Phase 3 required the planning group to examine the information gathered through the community consultation, identify priority needs and select priority actions based on both need and the ability of the community to implement the actions.
- 4) *Writing Phase:* Phase 4 involved the preparation, agreement and finalisation of this document as the core output of the planning process.



## Survey Results & Prioritised Actions

There were a very large number of suggestions in the returned surveys. The full list can be found in appendix 2, the actions prioritised for this plan are as follows: - **TABLE TO BE PRESENTED TO COMMUNITY MEETING IN MARCH FOR FEEDBACK**

	<b>Prioritised Actions</b>	<b>Lead Group(s)</b>	<b>Location/Outline</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1	Lough Graney – improve access signage & amenities	LCDA	White Sands & Flagmount Pier	3 years
2	Increase population – list vacant houses and potential sites	LCDA	Various	1 year
3	After school club for Dromindoora NS pupils	Loughraney Kids' Corner + NS	Transport to LKC	1 year
4	School bus for Dromindoora NS	Dromindoora NS Parents' Council	Dromindoora environs	2 years
5	Walking / cycling routes	LCDA with CLDC, East Clare Way & Coillte	Forestry paths / East Clare Way	2 years
6	Playground	LCDA	Research location and equipment	2 years
7	Clean up litter / dumping	Environmental Group & RSS	Various	1 year + ongoing
8	Volunteer recruitment	LCDA	Hold community event	Spring 2019
9	Support local trades people / suppliers / businesses	LCDA & Parish Council	Create local directory	1 year
10	Film nights	LCDA	Community Hall	1 year
11	'Welcome Home' Christmas event + year end community report	LCDA & Parish Council	TBC	1 year
	Lobby Clare Co. Co. for:	LCDA	Various	Start now & ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road maintenance / hedge trimming</li> <li>• Speed detection signs Dromindoora</li> <li>• Footpath from Dromindoora NS to pitch</li> <li>• Dredge river to reduce flooding</li> <li>• Monitor Lough G. water quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Local Authorities Water Programme</li> <li>+ Local Authorities Water Programme</li> </ul>		
12				



## Next Steps

This plan reflects the needs, interests and concerns of the community as identified by its residents in 2018. Lead groups have been assigned to each prioritised action and a timeline given for completion; the steps required to implement each action will be determined by its lead group.

Some revisions may be made after the community feedback event in March.

Several of the actions and issues identified through the survey were already being addressed by local groups, several were outside the scope of local groups. The full list of survey responses is contained in appendix 2.

The planning group is extremely grateful to everyone in the community who assisted in this process, especially those who completed the survey.



## Appendix 1 – The Survey

### Have your say – complete this survey!

- We need your help to plan the future!
- How can we improve life for people living around Loughgraney?
- Please ask every member of your household to do this survey – we want to hear from younger people, older people, and everyone in between!
- Need more copies? You'll find them here:
  - O'Mara's, Flagmount
  - Canny's, Killanena
  - Dromindoora P.O.
- Or, you can do the survey online here <http://bit.do/OnlineSurvey> - please also share this link with people who have moved away from the area, we'd like to hear their views too.
- Deadline for returning your survey is Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
- Return to Dromindoora P.O., Canny's or O'Mara's
- Thank you!
- Kindly supported by Clare Local Development Company and the LEADER programme.

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I am: Male  Female

I am aged: under 18  / 18 – 35  / 36 – 45  / 46 – 55  / 56 – 65  / 66 – 75  / 76+

#### Questions:

- Please list the things you like most about life in this community.
- Please list the things you don't like about life in this community.
- What would improve life in this community *for you*?
- Please list the actions or projects you would prioritise to improve the quality of life for this community.
- We're concerned about declining population. Do you know people who would move to the area if housing was available? Yes/No

The response to the final question was:

Yes	30
No	44



## Appendix 2 – Survey Responses

### **These are things that people suggested and that are already happening:**

- All weather/Astro Turf pitch – being developed at Dromindoorra NS – will be accessible to community
- Security / policing – have text alert scheme; get form at P.O.
- Summer activities for teens – kayaking, swimming, GAA camps
- Older people’s activities – crafts and exercise happening –check weekly newsletter available at church/shop. Also, Raheen Day Centre.
- Running track – current track at White Sands and future track planned for Astro Turf site

### **These are things that people suggested, but we need groups or new volunteers to take on:**

- Environmental awareness – need volunteers
- Social events / classes – need volunteers
- Discussion groups e.g. Rural Development – need volunteers
- Home visits / small tasks done for older people – refer to Social Services Group
- Community garden – need volunteers
- Music clubs – need volunteers – 2 choirs already
- International youth exchanges – need volunteers
- Men’s Shed – need volunteers
- Irish language classes – need volunteers
- More sports/exercise classes – yoga started, need volunteers to organise more
- Use Knockbeha and Duglawn NSs – Parish Council looking at future use/sale for community benefit
- Merriman Festival – need volunteers
- More community events – need volunteers
- Use Parochial House – refer to Parish Council
- Map location of graves in local graveyards – need volunteers
- Include use of Hall in gym membership – up to the Hall Committee

### **These are the suggestions that haven’t been prioritised for this plan:**

- Public transport – please let Clare Bus know what transport you’re looking for
- Lack of jobs – private sector issue
- Teens’ activities – youth club, sports, already, Astro Turf coming
- Café – private sector (unless can get use of Broderick’s café when it’s sold)
- Use Broderick’s – it’s for sale, will see if we can use café when it’s sold
- Tourism plan – concentrating on Lough and walks for now
- Out of hours medical services – have ShannonDoc
- Cost of houses to rent/buy – private sector issue
- Footpaths – road sizes make it impossible
- Reduce forestry – private sector issue
- All weather sports facility – have Hall and getting Astro Turf





- Information & welcome for newcomers – lots of info at O'Mara's and going to do local directory
- Consult community – did consult for this plan
- Access to Caher House & grounds – private property
- GAA pitch upgrade – good quality now
- Support for local events – good support generally
- Interaction between young and old – Youth Club does this
- Reduce divide between Kilanena/Flagmount – open to suggestions
- Community website – have newsletter and Facebook pages, website v hard to keep updated
- Wellness therapies – have Ciúnas in Feakle [www.ciunascentre.org](http://www.ciunascentre.org)
- Full time Comm. Radio – doing what we can with volunteers we have
- Pay less for use of hall – very reasonable rates now
- Book/craft shop – private sector
- Community spokesperson – have public representative
- Recycling bins – at Canny's and Flagmount
- Save church & P.O. – agree, need ideas
- Seating in graveyards – have some, not used much
- Step down medical facility – too ambitious for community project
- Illegal hunting – policing issue
- Broadband / mobile phone reception – some black spots, don't know how to remedy
- Easier planning permission process – the issues are too varied
- Reduce rates for businesses – businesses need to lobby for this, we'll try to increase customer numbers