

**2019  
-  
2023**



**COMMUNITY  
PLAN**

**CHARLEVILLE**

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## **Acknowledgements**

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The plan was prepared by the community, supported by staff of Ballyhoura Development and facilitated by Paul O Raw (O Raw Consultancy) & Associates, Niall Heenan and Dr Shane O Sullivan.

The facilitators wish to acknowledge the support, guidance and enthusiasm invested by members of Charleville Heritage Society (host group), local community groups and organisations, and the residents of Charleville Town throughout this project.

Thanks also to the full team of Ballyhoura Development staff, for their assistance and commitment through all stages of the project.



Paul O'Raw  
Community Trainer & Facilitator  
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## Foreword – Ballyhoura Development

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For the past 30 years Ballyhoura Development CLG has worked as the Community Led Local Development Company for North Cork and East Limerick.

During this time Ballyhoura Development has believed in working with communities in this area and listening to their needs. The importance of community consultation has been paramount, and we have assisted communities to develop tailor made plans for the future of their own areas.

Ballyhoura Development believe that a plan developed in this way, coming from the people themselves, is more sustainable and effective, and this is borne out through our work with the communities over almost 3 decades. In 2018 a new dimension was added where the community planning process was supported by external consultants, which led to considerable learning for the communities, staff and consultants.

Some of the common challenges which were identified by communities across the process include,

- Communications
- Parking and traffic management
- The need for public transport
- Influencing of Local Area Plans and regional strategies
- Lack of engagement by young people
- The need for supports to older people in our Communities
- Safe walking routes
- Improving access and link-ability
- Volunteerism

Ballyhoura Development commend the community of Charleville for your commitment to the community planning process. As the community led Local Development Company for the community of Charleville, we aim to continue our support as actions lead to implementation.

On behalf of the board and staff of Ballyhoura Development, we hope that this process has strengthened a sense of community and cohesiveness, and that it affords the ability to access funding and to harness new energy in the area going forward.

On behalf of the Board and Staff of Ballyhoura Development CLG.

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Aidan Gleeson

Chairperson

## Introduction to Community Plan

Having completed their five-year term of office the members of the initial Charleville Forum formed in 2011 disbanded in 2016 leaving a void to be filled. Recognising the need to continue the good work started by the previous Forum and to further progress improvements to our town, Charleville Heritage Society, a sub-committee of Charleville Chamber, took the lead and applied to Ballyhoura Development for grant aid to formulate a new five-year plan for Charleville.

Our application was successful and we received the whole-hearted support from Ballyhoura Development and the excellent co-operation of their staff, as we did from the facilitators, Paul O’Raw and Associates, without which, this plan would not be in place.

We also looked for and received the support and co-operation of many local volunteer groups, clubs and organisations who all do fantastic work in our community in their own individual disciplines, but who all make a tremendous contribution to the overall success of life in our town. The discussions at the initial meetings were incisive and enlightening and indicated the level of commitment that the members of each group have to their own place, and how they care and are willing to work to make Charleville a better place in which to live, work and play.

Charleville is a great town with fantastic people, but in common with other such towns faces challenges as we look to the future. Challenges such as making life better for the young and the elderly, of making our community more inclusive and welcoming of new people, of putting in place access to improved medical facilities and services, of coping with the changes the new M20 motorway will bring. We also need to attract more inward investment to provide employment for a growing population, and to improve the built and natural environment to make our town an attractive place to visit or in which to reside, and to acknowledge and preserve our past history, as we look with confidence to the future.

We hope that this plan which has emerged from the discussions and the suggestions put forward will contribute to meeting these challenges head on. But the job is only half done, as we now need the personnel to implement this plan and not let it gather dust somewhere on a shelf.

To this end, the members of Charleville Heritage Society, having created the environment to produce the plan, now step back to make room for a new Forum to carry on the mantle and to put into action the suggestions contained in the following pages. We will be available to participate and make a contribution in some form, if needed. But new blood, new energy and competent people with imaginative ideas are necessary to bring this plan to fruition in the time frame as outlined.

Finally, we congratulate everybody who has made a contribution to this document and we wish the new Forum every success in their endeavours to realise this plan and to achieve the huge potential of Charleville town.

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On behalf of Charleville Heritage Society:

Ian Doyle, Chairman

Michael McGrath, Hon. Secretary

Michael Donegan, Treasurer.

## Executive Summary

**CHARLEVILLE** is a busy market town in North Cork, located close to the border with Limerick. It is situated in a rich agricultural area known as the Golden Vale which spans parts of Counties Cork, Limerick and Tipperary. It is in the townland of Rath Luirc or An Rath, indicating that there was a settlement here in Early Medieval times, over a thousand years ago. The lands were purchased by Richard Boyle, one of the most successful Elizabethan adventure colonists in Ireland. Roger, his son and First Earl of Orrery and Lord – President of Munster, founded the town of Charleville in 1661 and named it in honour of King Charles II. The town was the centrepiece of a vast estate owned by the Earl. The town, as it is today, was laid out in a formal plan with two parallel wide streets. It was granted a charter in the 17<sup>th</sup> century with a Sovereign and two bailiffs elected annually by the twelve burgesses. Boyle's principle residence was Charleville House, a magnificent manor set within a vast deer park. The house was located to the north of the town – it was burnt by Irish forces in 1690 and nothing of the house now remains.

Charleville, like most Irish towns, underwent a period of rebuilding in the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century and most of its elegant streetscape dates to this period. One feature of the streetscape, now almost entirely disappeared, were the many side lanes that gave access to the areas behind the main streets. Charleville was an important market town with a weekly market on Saturdays and six fairs during the year selling cattle, pigs, hardware and other merchandise. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it had a number of industries including three tan yards, a blanket manufactory, and two large flour mills. The close relationship of the town with its rich agricultural hinterland continues to this day and is reflected in the success of the Golden Vale cheese plant (part of Kerry Group) the biggest employer in town. (*History of Charleville, Charleville Chamber*)

Charleville is a busy commercial, industrial and retail centre and is geographically located at 'the heart of Munster', within the Golden Vale region. It is strategically situated 60 km from Cork city to the south and 40 km from Limerick city to the north. The town has a strong retail sector which serves a wide hinterland. Numerous spin-offs both in the town and the surrounding area were created when Golden Vale Engineering closed its doors in 1983. The largest amongst these were BCD Engineering, Diamond Engineering and Sapphire Engineering. BCD is the second largest employer in Charleville. Golden Vale (part of the Kerry Group) continue to make cheese products in the town. Golden Vale is the largest employer in Charleville. There are a number of business parks in the vicinity of the town; Bakers Road, Ballysallagh Industrial Estate, IDA Industrial Estate Killmallock Road,

Charleville has numerous pubs, restaurants, a modern hotel, as well as two theatre facilities and is home to the North Cork Drama Festival which is held in the Parochial Hall. The second theatre is the Schoolyard Theatre which is home to the Shoestring Theatre group.

Charleville is at the junction of the N20 national road and the R515 regional road. The N20 runs north–south from Limerick to Cork cities, the R515 east–west from Tipperary town to near Abbeyfeale. Charleville is on Bus Éireann routes 51 (Cork – Limerick – Shannon Airport – Galway) and 320 (Limerick – Charleville). It is 65 km from both Cork Airport and Shannon Airport. Charleville railway station is on the Dublin–Cork railway line. It opened in 1849 on the Great Southern and Western Railway. The former Cork–Limerick line branched off the Cork–Dublin line at Charleville, continuing via Croom; the final goods train ran in 1976, since when Limerick Junction, already the junction for Dublin–Limerick, has also been the junction for Cork–Limerick.

Charleville has a vibrant community and voluntary sector with over seventy groups listed. These groups include a wide range of activities and services including sports, resident's associations, cultural and heritage groups, and care organisations. The Community Forum, no longer functioning, coordinated the preparation of a strategic plan for the community 2013-2017.

Charleville has experienced significant population growth in recent years, reflecting the demand for employment within local industry. Most of this growth comes from Eastern Europe and other non- EU countries. The migrant community now constitutes a significant proportion of the local population.

**Charleville Community Plan 2019-2023** was developed between September and December 2018, with preparatory work undertaken in the summer. In the absence of a community council type structure, Charleville Heritage Society was the host group for this project, as they felt it was an opportunity to consult with the wider community to identify needs and agree priorities for the town. The planning involved; gathering and analysing information from CSO Reports for the town, a confidential on-line community survey and a series of three community consultation workshops. This plan represents the strategic themes and priority actions as agreed by the people of Charleville participating in the planning process. The seven strategic themes are;

1. Traffic & Transport
2. Mobility & Access
3. Amenities & Facilities
4. Retail, Commerce & Tourism
5. Community Inclusion
6. Communications & Coordination
7. Youth Facilities & Activities

The presentation of the analysis of the Central Statistics Office returns for the ED of Charleville, at the first community planning workshop, set the context for the planning. Unlike many adjacent towns and villages, Charleville has experienced significant population growth, therefore one of the challenges to the town is in planning for larger population numbers. Part of this growth is attributable to the increase in migrant workers employed in the many industries nearby. Ensuring good opportunities for integration and participation of new communities therefore is a particular challenge for the town.

While Charleville enjoys higher than average employment levels and population growth, like many other Irish communities, the town suffered during the economic downturn. The out-migration of young adults being evidence of this. There are eighteen SAs (small areas) in the Electoral District of Charleville and just five of these are above average in the deprivation/ affluence index; thirteen SAs being either marginally below average, disadvantaged or very disadvantaged. Therefore, the ED is designated as being disadvantaged overall. It is worth noting that feedback from the survey and discussions identifies social divides as an issue to be acknowledged and addressed in future planning.

Like other rural towns, Charleville experiences traffic congestion due to its location on the N20 Cork to Limerick route; in time this should be relieved with the construction of the M20. Along with reduced traffic, locals would like to see considerable improvement in parking, and local traffic management within the town.

Charleville Chamber is very active, providing supports and taking initiatives for its members. Following consultation with its members it has a number of strategic priorities, in particular to support small to medium enterprises and commercial outlets who face the challenges of changing consumer preferences, competition by multiples and on-line shopping. The Chamber was very actively involved in this community planning process and has committed itself to leading on some of the actions.

While there are a number of facilities used by community and voluntary organisations, there is a consensus in the feedback of the need for existing premises to be upgraded and expanded to cater for current and future needs of a young, growing population.

Charleville Heritage Society has led the initiative to undertake a community planning project for the town, however it has clarified it is not their intention to be the lead organisation to oversee the implementation and coordination of this strategic plan. Their intention is to initiate the process, which they have done successfully, and to stimulate the broader community to identify a lead organisation or network to continue the work. This issue requires attention without delay to ensure momentum is not lost.

The seven strategic themes and their associated actions are set out in detail in section seven of this document.



## 1. The Planning Context

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The implementation of community-based plans takes place in a wider context of related plans and strategies. Over the life time of this plan the community will come into contact with several agencies, each implementing its own strategy. It is envisaged that strategic, partnership relationships with the community and key agencies will secure the successful implementation of this community plan.

**Fermoy Municipal District Plan 2017-2022** is the key reference plan most relevant to the actions identified by the community of Charleville in this planning process. The municipal plan anticipates further expansion of its population. The plan highlights the construction of the M20 Cork-Limerick Motorway as being critically important in relieving traffic congestion within the town and will allow for significant environmental improvements. The plan aims to support the economic and socio-economic development of the town in a sustainable manner.

**Cork County Local & Economic Development Plan (LECP) 2016**, while not providing specific 'Charleville' actions as such, provides a strategy for the long-term development of rural and urban Cork. Elements of the strategy worth noting in the context of Charleville, include improved transport infrastructure network, improved broad band, and a diversification of the economic base as necessary for sustainable growth. The LECP is the main strategic document of North Cork Local Community Development Committee, the membership includes representatives from the statutory sector, the private sector, and social and community interests.

**Previous Community Plans.** The community in Charleville has been very pro-active. Charleville Community Forum was very active in 2013/2014; it produced *Charleville Community Plan 2013-2017*, and progress was achieved on many of the actions listed in the plan. Being a significant rural town with a broad number of community and voluntary organisations, lessons can be learned from the Forum experience to guide the coordination and implementation of the plan.

**Charleville Chamber of Commerce** prepared a strategic plan 2015-2020. There are strong parallels between some of the Chamber's strategic priorities and the themes identified through the community planning process, for example; retail initiatives, upgrading broadband, and construction of the M20. The Chamber has actively participated in and supported this planning process. The business sector and the community sector share overlapping interests; close working arrangements and communications between both sectors will ensure active support for each other's goals.

**Ballyhoura Development CLG** is the local development company for Charleville and provides a range of programmes and supports for community development. Its staff deliver a high level of community engagement and assist groups to access numerous funding sources and initiatives. It often takes on the 'broker' role, opening doors, and creating linkages and working arrangements with relevant agencies in responding to locally identified needs. Their role has enabled strategic development and capacity building in local communities. As sponsor of the community planning project, they will remain committed to supporting the community of Charleville as it implements this plan over the coming years.



## 2. The Community Planning Process

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Ballyhoura Development invited communities to an information event held May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 in the Deebert House Hotel, Kilmallock. This gave an opportunity to introduce the facilitators and to outline the planning process to communities. There would be two phases; working with six communities September- November 2018, and a working with a further six communities January – April 2019. Interested communities were then invited to complete an expression of interest and submit to Ballyhoura.

A further, more detailed presentation was given to representatives from these six communities in Knocklong Community Hall July 12<sup>th</sup> 2018. This gave more information on what was involved and the role of the communities in the process. A schedule of dates was presented for communities to select the most suitable option.

A schedule of three consultation workshops was agreed with each community, with a month between each workshop. The main inputs from the facilitators were the Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile of the community and the findings from the individual and group on-line surveys.

Summary of the planning process;

- ✚ A schedule of dates was finalised with each community.
- ✚ The role and tasks of the host community were clarified.
- ✚ A series of three community consultation workshops
- ✚ A Demographic & Socio-Economic profile was prepared for each community. This was presented at the first community workshop and was the basis for discussions and identifying key themes.
- ✚ A confidential, on-line survey was circulated within the community. A summary of the responses was presented at the second workshop and helped to further clarify and develop local priorities. A separate survey of community groups was also distributed.
- ✚ A draft set of priority actions was presented and finalised at the third community workshop. This event also allowed the community to discuss how the plan of actions would be implemented and coordinated.
- ✚ Further edits of the plan, arising from the third workshop, were completed and the final plan was submitted to the host group and to Ballyhoura Development.

### **Promotion of the process to the community.**

A broad promotion campaign, inviting the community to attend, was implemented between Charleville Heritage Society (the host group) and Ballyhoura Development staff. This involved emailing all local groups and organisations, posters were printed and widely delivered, and large notice boards were printed and erected at key road junctions.

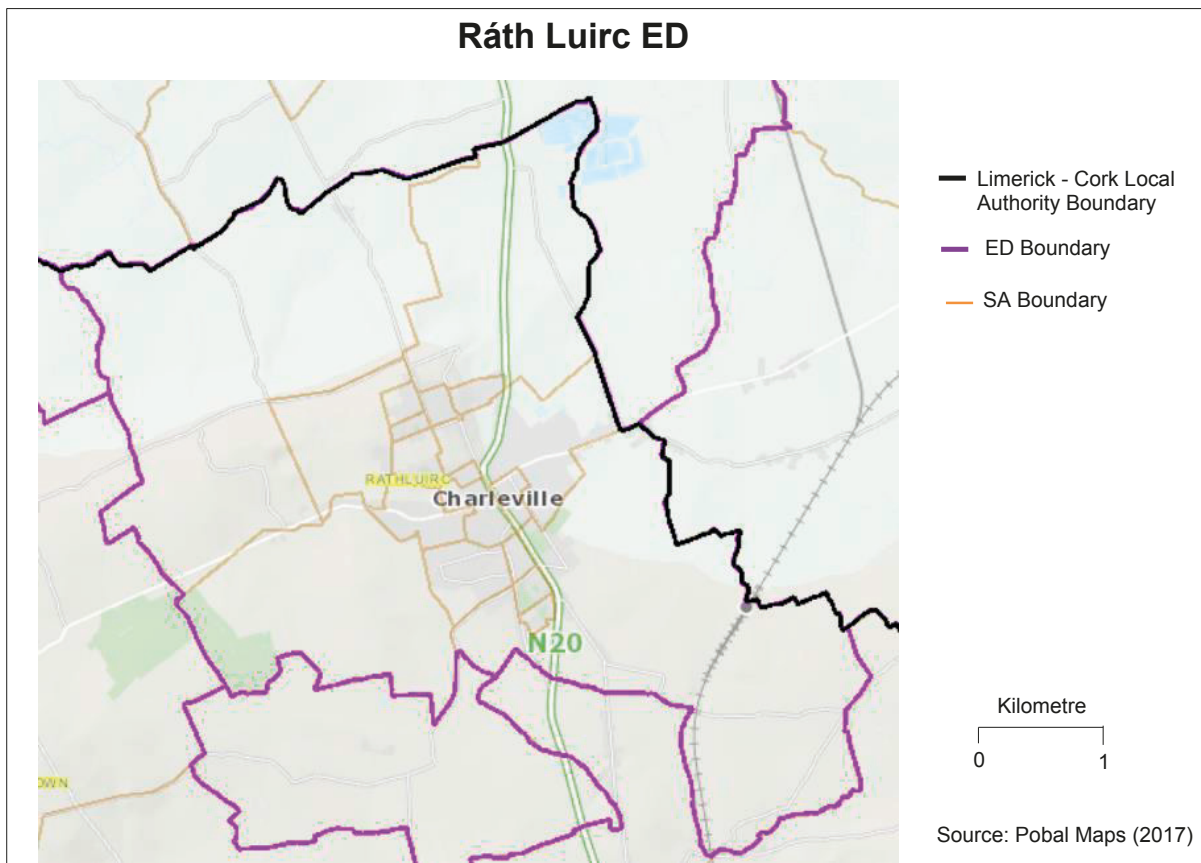
### 3. Demographic & Socio- Economic profile

This section provides a social and economic profile of Charleville, Co. Cork, a market town situated in North County Cork and adjacent to Limerick City and County local authority boundary, based on Central Statistics Office data 2016. Charleville is highly accessible as it is intersected by both the Limerick to Cork national roadway (N20); and the Dublin to Cork railway (with a station situated 2Km from the town centre). The key themes discussed in this profile include:

- population structure (demography)
- nationality and ethnicity; home ownership
- family cycle
- employment and occupational profile
- educational attainment
- health and disability

For comparative purposes, data has also been provided for the Ballyhoura region; Co. Cork; and Ireland. Prior to examining the distinct socio-economic characteristics of Charleville, it is important to outline the administrative boundaries covered by this profile.

**Map 1: Electoral Division and Small Area Boundaries for Ráth Luirc (Charleville) (2016)**



The town of Charleville is located in the Ráth Luirc Electoral Division (ED); and contains 18 Small Areas<sup>1</sup> (Map 1). All key statistics for Rath Luirc ED are outlined in Appendix 1 with comparisons provided for Ballyhoura

<sup>1</sup> Small Area (SA) data allow for the investigation of social and economic variation in considerably more detail than Electoral Divisions (EDs). Nationally, the EDs vary widely in terms of population size. For instance, some EDs have a

Region; Co. Cork; and Ireland. It is primarily ED data (Rath Luirc) from the Census of Population which has been used in order to compile this socio-economic profile for Charleville. However, the SA data has been utilised in order to measure the different deprivation / affluence categorisations across the ED. Table 1 provides an overview of key characteristics of each SA within the Ráth Luirc ED. These include: identification number; population size in 2011 and 2016; percentage population change (2011 – 2016); and townlands / streets / estates located within SA. The vast majority of Small Areas recorded an increase in population with the exception of SA047090002; SA047090007; SA047090009; and SA047090017. The largest increase in population between 2011 and 2016 was recorded in SA047090008, with this area including one of the most recently built housing developments (Orchard Heights) in Charleville.

**Table 1: Small Area Profile of Rath Luirc ED (Charleville)**

Townlands / Streets / Estates	Small Area ID Code	Pop. 2016	Pop. 2011	% Change 11 – 16
Kiltoohig; Fortlands; Ballyhubbo	047090001	241	202	19.30
Holy Cross Place; New Line	047090002	192	193	-0.51
Brendan's Place; Kennedy Place	047090003	261	242	8.26
Brindle Hill	047090004	260	222	17.12
Rathgoggan South; Ballysallagh	047090005	333	311	7.07
New Line; Ivy Close; Joanna Mews	047090006	240	238	0.84
Hillview Drive; Batt Donegan Place	047090007	234	250	-6.4
Orchard Heights	047090008	305	228	33.77
Smiths Road; Glen Haven; Meadow Vale Avenue	047090009	246	266	-7.51
Jail Lane; Park View; Smiths Lane	047090010	214	198	8.08
Main Street; Broad Street; Clancy Terrace; The Orchard	047090011	217	193	12.43
Upper Rathgoggan Heights; Mannix Place	047090012	232	220	5.45
Liscullane; Kippane; Ballydaheen; Gortskagh; Broghill North	047090013	185	172	7.55
Rathgoggan North; Deer Park View	047090014	231	230	0.43
Manor Hill; Deerpark Heights; Vale Close	047090015	254	242	4.95
Broghill South	047090016	154	152	1.31
The Turrets; Ceader Court; Old Limerick Road; Rathgoggan Middle; Kilmallock Road; Love Lane	047090017	186	194	-4.12
Rathgoggan Middle; Church View; Oakfield	047090018	268	251	6.77

population base less than 100 individuals whilst the Blanchardstown – Blakestown ED has a population in excess of 32,000 inhabitants. The SA boundaries resolve this deficiency in respect to population size as the boundary dimensions have to adhere to the following criteria: a minimum of 65 households, a mean of 92 and a maximum of just over 900 households. Furthermore, SA boundaries have to respect townland, ED and county boundaries; and wherever possible follow natural features on the landscape (Gleeson, Kitchin, Bartley & Tracey, 2009). However, SAs do not respect the boundaries of individual housing estates / developments within urban centres.

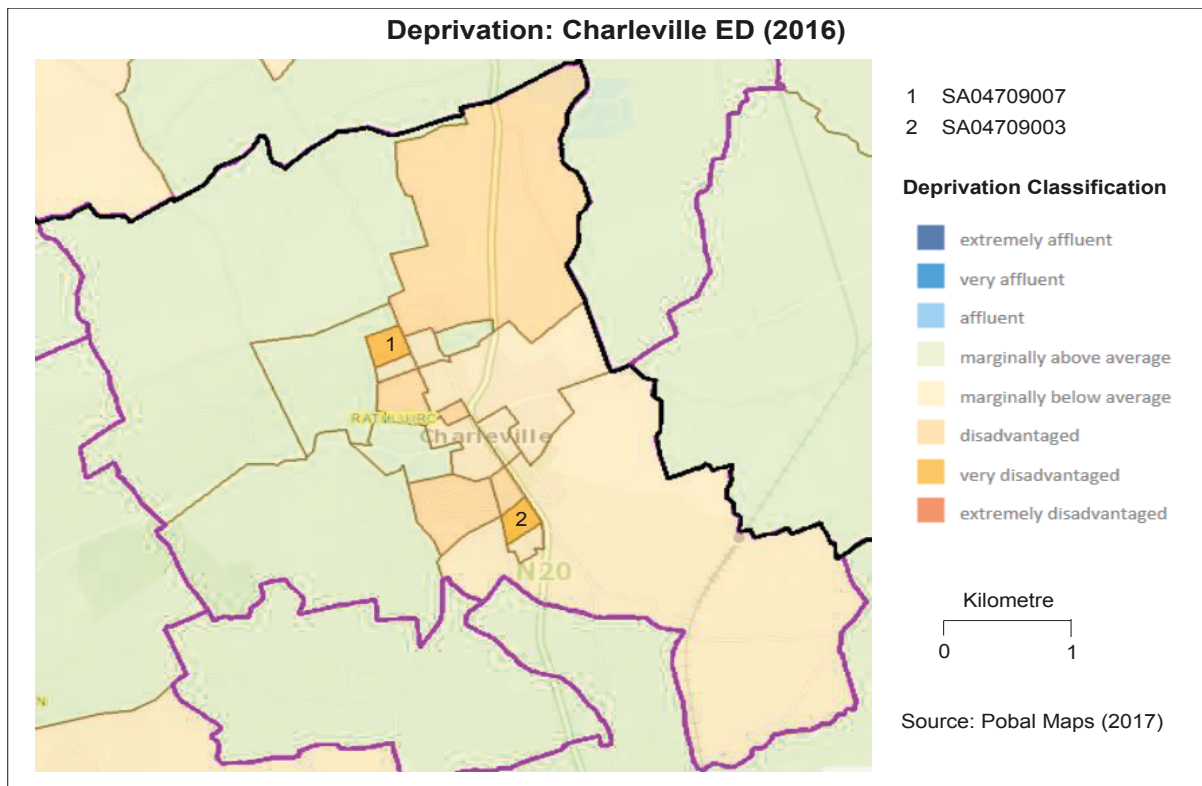
**Deprivation & Affluence.**

There is a distinct micro-geography associated with deprivation / affluence across the individual Small Areas within the Rath Luirc ED (Map 2). All of the disadvantaged Small Areas are situated on the eastern part of the ED, with a higher concentration of disadvantage in the more urbanised Small Areas. The Hasse Index provides a composite or overall measure of affluence or deprivation. It has been used by agencies, most notably Pobal, since the early 1990s, and is widely accepted as providing an objective analysis of the socio-economic well-being of localities. The Index is derived from data on employment and unemployment levels, educational attainment, housing tenure, social class and demography, each of which can be used independently as indicators for deprivation. Figures for each of these variables are compiled into a single index, with lower scores indicating higher levels of deprivation, and higher scores corresponding to higher levels of affluence. On this Index (See Table 2):

- The deprivation spatial footprint has increased significantly in Charleville between 2006 and 2011, with a deterioration in the deprivation categorisations for several Small Areas. This spatial pattern is attributable to the economic downturn after the 2006 Census.
- In 2016, 7 Small Areas within the Ráth Luirc ED were categorised as being marginally below average with a further 6 being categorised as being disadvantaged or very disadvantaged.
- The very disadvantaged locations are SA047090003 and SA047090007.
- The remaining 5 Small Areas were recorded as being marginally above average with respect to affluence.

The high level of unemployment experienced in the region as a consequence of the economic downturn (post 2008) has had a negative effect in increasing the rates of deprivation. Therefore, the generation of new employment is a key conduit for increasing the rate of affluence.

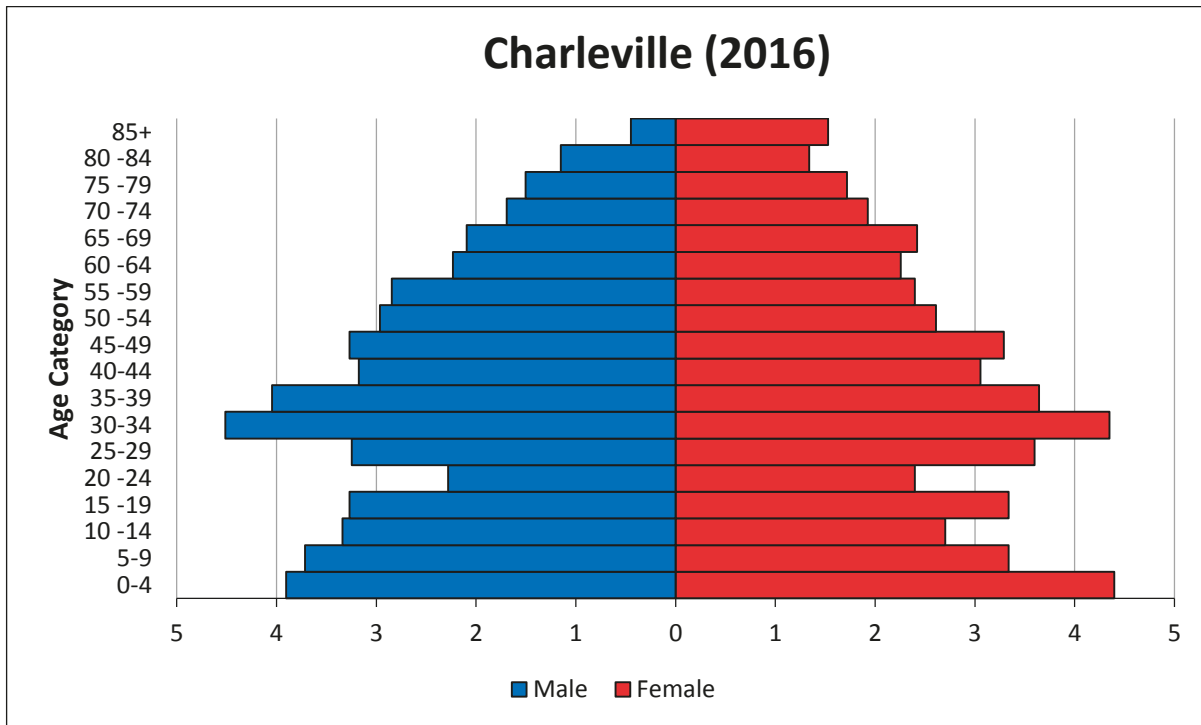
**Map 2: Affluence / Deprivation in Charleville (Rath Luirc ED – 2016)**



**Table 2: Deprivation / Affluence Categorisations for Small Areas located in Rath Luirc ED (2006 – 2016)**

<b>Townlands / Streets / Estates</b>	<b>Deprivation 2006</b>	<b>Deprivation 2011</b>	<b>Deprivation 2016</b>
Kiltoohig; Fortlands; Ballyhubbo	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
Holy Cross Place; New Line	Disadvantaged	Disadvantaged	Disadvantaged
Brendan's Place; Kennedy Place	Very disadvantaged	Very disadvantaged	Very disadvantaged
Brindle Hill	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
Rathgoggan South; Ballysallagh	Marginally below average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
New Line; Ivy Close; Joanna Mews	Marginally below average	Disadvantaged	Disadvantaged
Hillview Drive; Batt Donegan Place	Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged	Very Disadvantaged
Orchard Heights	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally below average
Smiths Road; Glen Haven; Meadow Vale Avenue	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
Jail Lane; Park View; Smiths Lane	Marginally below average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
Main Street; Broad Street; Clancy Terrace; The Orchard	Marginally below average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
Upper Rathgoggan Heights; Mannix Place	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
Liscullane; Kippane; Ballydaheen; Gortskagh; Broghill North	Marginally below average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
Rathgoggan North; Deer Park View	Disadvantaged	Marginally below average	Disadvantaged
Manor Hill; Deerpark Heights; Vale Close	Marginally above average	Affluent	Marginally above average
Broghill South	Marginally above average	Marginally above average	Marginally above average
The Turrets; Ceader Court; Old Limerick Road; Rathgoggan Middle; Kilmallock Road; Love Lane	Marginally above average	Marginally below average	Marginally below average
Rathgoggan Middle; Church View; Oakfield	Marginally below average	Disadvantaged	Disadvantaged

**Demographic Profile**



**Figure 1: Charleville Population Pyramid**

According to the 2016 Census of Population, there are 4,253 individuals living in Charleville, with 2,113 males and 2,140 females. The population has increased marginally (+249) since the previous Census of Population. The population pyramid (data derived from the 2016 Census of Population data) for Charleville highlights an unbalanced population structure (Figure 1). The population profile should conform to a pyramid structure<sup>2</sup> with a broad base and tapering sides to form a narrow peak. The more rectangular the graph is shaped, the slower the population is growing. The Charleville population pyramid indicates an ageing population structure for both males and females. Furthermore, there is a significant inversion for the 20 to 24 age category. This suggests the presence of empty nest households, insofar as young people are moving to larger urban centres in search of educational / training and /or employment opportunities.

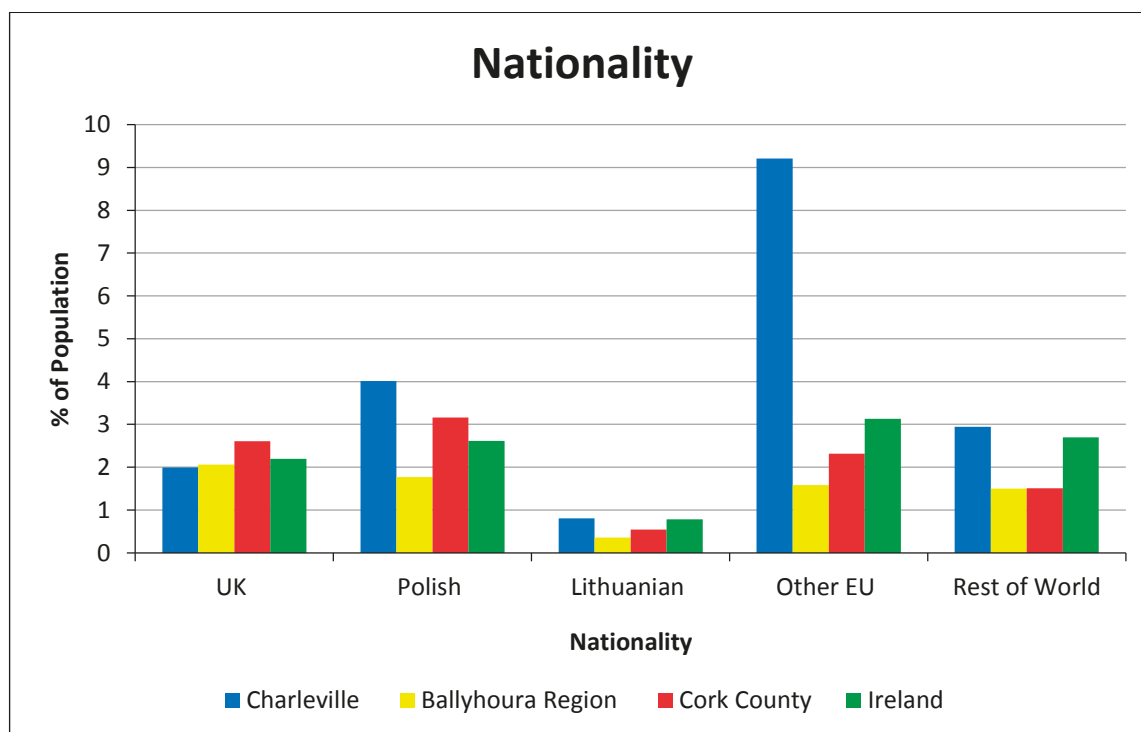
The youth and elderly dependency ratio and the demographic vitality ratio can be utilised to measure the vibrancy of a population within a selected location. The youth dependency ratio refers to the number of young people (aged 0 to 14) in relation to the number of working (economically active) population (aged 15 to 64). The youth dependency ratio for Charleville (0.32); Ballyhoura region (0.31); Co. Cork (0.33); and Ireland (0.30) is broadly similar. The elderly dependency rate refers to the number of elderly people (aged 65+) in relation to the number of working (economically active) population (aged 15 to 64) whilst the demographic vitality ratio refers to the number of persons aged 20 -39 years as a ratio of number of people aged over 60 years. There is a significant divergence between Charleville and the county; Ballyhoura Region and national figures with respect to the elderly dependency and demographic vitality ratios (Table 1). This implies the population in Charleville is aging more quickly in comparison to the other selected locations.

<sup>2</sup> A population pyramid is a graph which represents the age – sex distribution of a given population. Sex is shown on the left / right sides; age on the y-axis (vertical); and the percentage of the population on the x-axis (horizontal). Each group (male 0 to 4) is called a cohort.

**Table 1: Youth, Elderly and Demographic Vitality Ratios (2016)**

Location	Youth Dependency Ratio	Elderly Dependency Ratio	Demographic Vitality Ratio
Charleville	0.32	0.17	2.48
Ballyhoura Region	0.31	0.13	2.87
Co. Cork	0.33	0.12	2.94
Ireland	0.30	0.13	3.10

**Nationality**



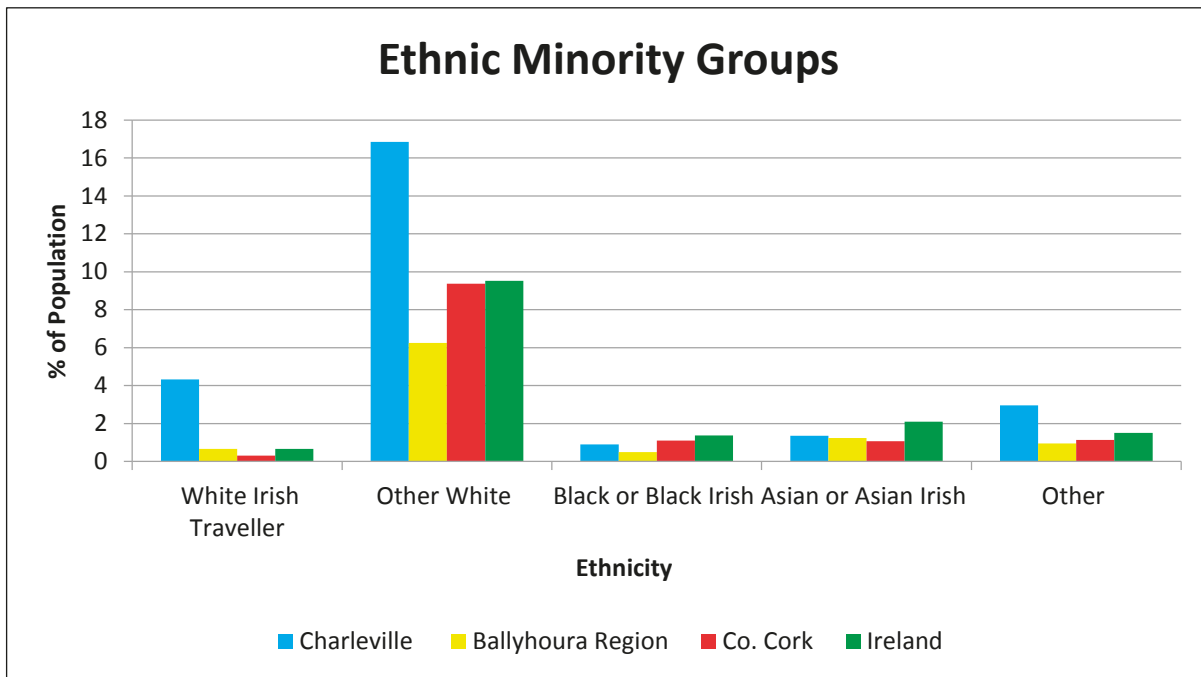
**Figure 2: Proportion (%) of Foreign Nationality Groups by Selected Location (2016)**

Charleville has a very significant migrant community with 18.96% of the population being categorised as foreign nationals in the 2016 Census of Population. The proportion (%) of foreign nationals living in Charleville is significantly higher than Ballyhoura region; Co. Cork and national averages (Figure 2). There was a significant divergence between the proportion (%) of Other EU nationals living in Charleville (9.21%) and the other selected locations in 2016. The Other EU nationals’ category refers to individuals who have originated from the EU with the exception of Irish; British; Polish; and Lithuanian nationals. In total, there are 388 Other EU nationals living in Charleville but it is impossible to determine from the Census results where these individuals have originated from. The proportion (%) of Polish nationals (5%) is also significantly higher in comparison to Ballyhoura region (1.76%); and national average (2.61%). However, the proportion (%) of foreign nationals from ‘rest of the world’ resident in Charleville (0.45%) is broadly similar to the national average but significantly higher than Ballyhoura region and Co. Cork. In absolute terms, there were 799 foreign nationals living in Pinewood Estate - UK (84); Polish (169); Lithuanian (34); Other EU (388); and Rest of World (124). It is not surprising for a specific nationality cohort to be concentrated within a localised geographic area, as this is a key spatial pattern associated with chain migration. This occurs when an individual or a small group of individuals inform family members / friends / neighbours of employment opportunities or better living



conditions in the destination country. This acts as a pull factor for further migration with the re-settlement usually occurring in close geographical proximity to where the family member / friend resides. Migrants are also concentrated in specific areas (within a city /town) due to the availability of rental properties at a specific time period, with some locations (housing estates / developments built since 2004 or inner town / city properties) being more likely to have a higher proportion of properties for rent in comparison to housing developments with more settled demographic cohorts (retired families). Furthermore, there is a tendency for foreign nationals to reside in urban centres due to better employment opportunities (especially in Charleville due to the prominence of the food-processing and manufacturing / engineering sectors) and transportation options (not necessary to own a motor vehicle). One of the biggest challenges faced by foreign nationals with respect to integration is the inability to speak the vernacular language (English) proficiently. In Charleville, 25.93% of the foreign national population speak English not well or not at all. This is significantly higher to the rates recorded in Ballyhoura (14.10%); Co. Cork (14.87%) and nationally (14%).

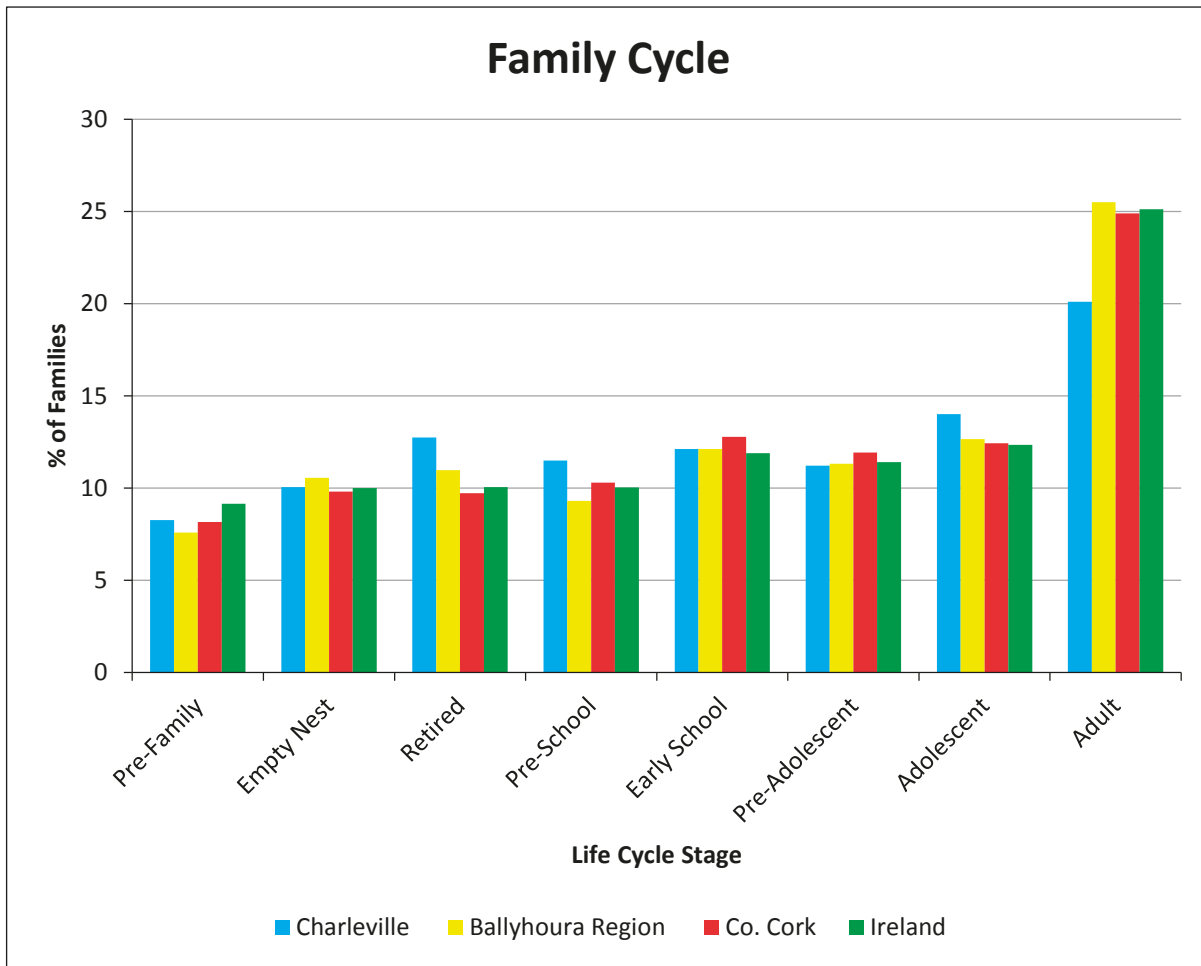
**Ethnic Groups**



**Figure 3: Proportion (%) of Ethnic Minority Groups in Selected Locations (2016)**

Charleville is an ethnically diverse settlement, with a significantly higher proportion of Irish white travellers; other white; and ‘other’ ethnic groups in comparison to the national, regional and county averages (Figure 3). The proportion of black or black Irish and Asian or Asian Irish in Charleville is broadly similar to the national average. Overall, 26.39% (1,112 individuals) of the population living in Charleville are non-white Irish. In absolute terms, there are 182 white Irish travellers; 710 other white; 38 black or black Irish; and 57 Asian or Asian Irish.

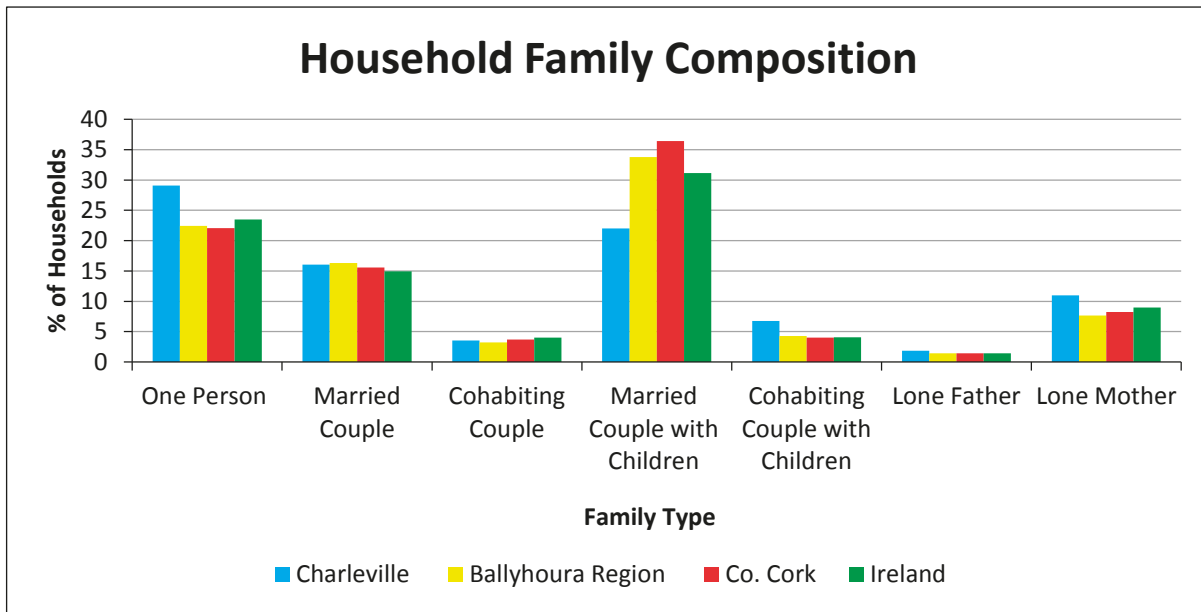
**Family Life Cycle Distribution**



**Figure 4: Family Life Cycle for Selected Locations (2016)**

The CSO defines a family for census purposes as being ‘a couple with or without children, or a one parent family with one or more children’. According to the 2016 Census of Population, there are 1,114 families living in Charleville. This includes: 92 pre-families; 112 empty nest families; 142 retired families; 128 families with pre-school children; 135 families with early school children; 125 families with pre-adolescent children; 156 families with adolescent children; and 224 families comprising of adult children. In comparison to the national, county and regional averages, there is an over-representation of empty nest; adolescent children; and adult children families in Pinewood Estate (Figure 4). The proportion of adult children families in Charleville is 5.03% lower than the national average. Conversely, there is an over-representation of retired and adolescent families living in Charleville in comparison to Ballyhoura region; Co. Cork and Ireland. This family life-cycle distribution concurs with the age-distribution of Charleville (as recorded in the population pyramid in Figure 1).

**Household Family Composition**



**Figure 5: Household Family Composition for Selected Locations (2016)**

Figure 5 indicates that there is a marginally higher proportion of lone parents (includes lone fathers and lone mothers) in Charleville in comparison to the other selected locations. Lone parent households have a particularly high risk of living below the poverty threshold. According to Grotti et al’s. (2017) analysis of Irish SILC (Survey on Income and Living Conditions) data, lone parents are the most susceptible social group to being affected by deprivation and poverty. The high levels of poverty in lone parent households are attributable to an inability to access employment due to high childcare costs and potential loss of medical card; low wage part-time employment; and low education attainment rates (Combat Poverty Agency, 2009). Furthermore, the overwhelming majority of lone parents tend to be female. Given the higher levels of lone parenthood, Charleville is more susceptible to having a higher rate of its population being classified as disadvantaged.

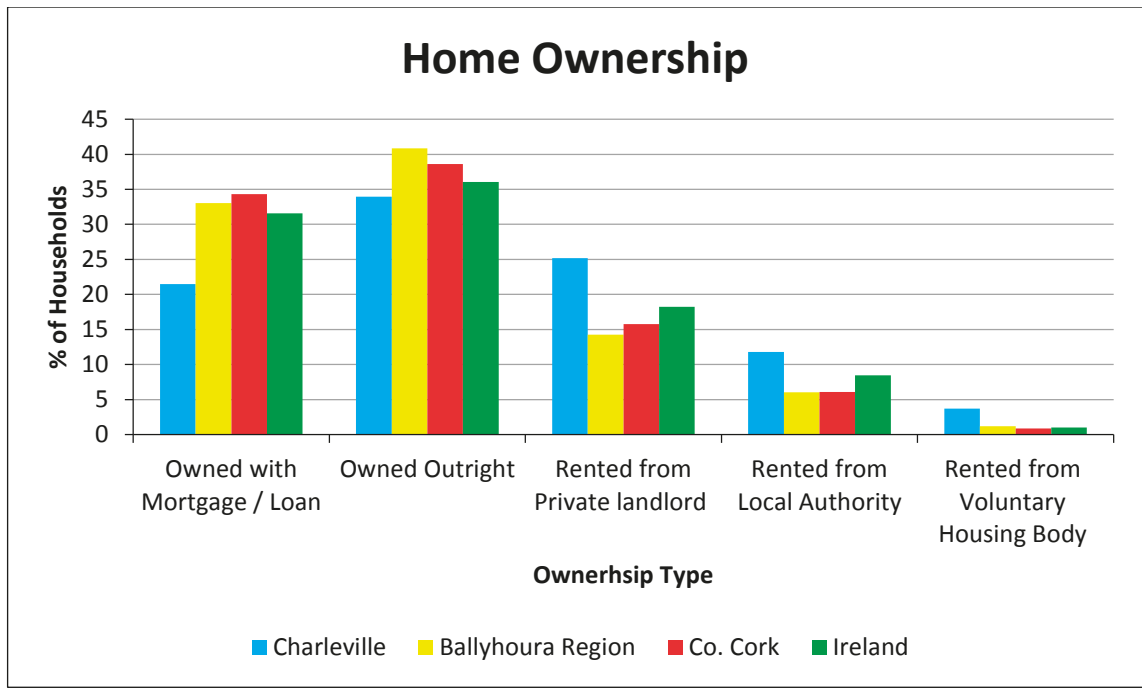
In addition, figure 5 indicates a lower proportion of married couples with children living in Charleville in comparison to the regional; county; and national averages, whilst there is an over-representation of single person households. The proportion of married couples and cohabiting couples (both without children) in Charleville is similar to the other locations outlined in Figure 5. The number of persons belonging to each family type in Charleville includes: one person (481); married couple (265); cohabiting couple (59); married couple with children (364); cohabiting couple with children (112); lone father and children (31); lone mother and children (182).

**Home Ownership**

In Charleville, there are substantial differences in respect of the nature of housing occupancy relative to national and regional trends (Figure 6). Lower rates of home ownership (owed outright; or with mortgage/ loan) are typically associated with locations experiencing higher rates of deprivation. This pattern is also evident in Charleville. Furthermore, the local authority owns a slightly larger proportion of properties in Charleville (11.76%) in comparison to Ballyhoura region (6.04%); Co. Cork (6.09%); and the state (8.43%). The proportion of furnished private rental properties in Charleville is substantially higher than the other selected locations. This is due to the significant proportion of foreign nationals living in the town. This cohort typically secures accommodation requirements through the private rental sector due to not having: the necessary financial resources to purchase a home outright and / or secure a loan / mortgage; or the necessary entitlements (length of residency rules) to secure rental properties from the local authority and / or voluntary

housing associations. Furthermore, foreign nationals may not have the desire to live permanently in a specific location. The following provides a breakdown (absolute numbers) of the status of home ownership in Charleville: ownership with mortgage / loan (354); owned outright (560); rented from private landlord (415); rented from local authority (194); and rented from voluntary housing association (61).

**Figure 6: Home Ownership Status for Selected locations (2016)**



**Employment Statistics**

The labour force participation rate in Charleville (as recorded in the 2016 Census of Population) is lower for females than the Ballyhoura region; Co. Cork and national average (Table 2). The male labour force participation rate is similar to the national average; and slightly higher than rate recorded in the Ballyhoura region. The female employment rate for Charleville is lower than other selected location rates for the 2016 Census of Population (Table 2) However, the male employment rate is broadly consistent with the Ballyhoura region but lower in comparison to the rates recorded in Co. Cork and Ireland. The employment rate refers to persons who worked in the week before the survey for one hour or more for payment or profit, including work on the family farm or business and all persons who had a job but were not at work (examples include illness and holidays) in the week. The male employment rate (56.65%) is significantly higher than the female employment rate (40.27%). However, this trend is replicated across all of the selected geographic locations.

Since 2008, the global economic downturn has had a detrimental effect on the Irish labour market, with Charleville being no exception. In recent years, there has been a gradual reduction in unemployment rates across the state. However, some locations are lagging behind, with Charleville being one example. The official unemployment rate is calculated by the CSO and it is updated on a regular basis through the Quarterly Household Survey. In the second quarter of 2016, the unemployment rate recorded in the South-West of Ireland was 7.4% (national average 8.6%). According to the 2016 Census of Population, the national (12.91%) and county (9.23%) unemployment rate (individuals looking for first job; and unemployed individuals lost or given up previous job) was considerably higher (See (CSO, 2012b) for an explanation with regard to this anomaly). The average unemployment rate for males and females in Charleville was 15.49% and 19.65%

respectively in April 2016 (Table 2). The female unemployment rate was markedly higher than the Ballyhoura, county and national averages.

**Table 2: Labour Force Participation Rate; Employment Rate and Unemployment Rate Comparison Summary Table for Selected Locations (2016)**

Location	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)			Employment Rate (%)			Unemployment Rate (%)		
	Male	Female	Total Pop.	Male	Female	Total Pop.	Male	Female	Total Pop.
<b>Charleville</b>	67.03	50.12	58.45	56.65	40.27	48.34	15.49	19.65	17.30
<b>Ballyhoura Region</b>	64.09	51.26	57.69	56.35	45.81	51.10	12.08	10.62	11.43
<b>Co. Cork</b>	68.72	54.76	61.62	62.13	49.95	55.93	9.59	8.79	9.23
<b>Ireland</b>	67.81	55.15	61.35	58.52	48.55	53.43	13.70	11.97	12.91

### **Occupational Profile**

A very small proportion of the male and female workforce is engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing. This is not surprising as the vast majority of the population live in an urban area. However, the proportion of males working in the manufacturing sector is significantly higher in comparison to the other locations due to the presence of a large agri-foods processing plant; and several engineering firms located in the town. The proportion (%) of males resident in Charleville who are engaged in building and construction; transportation and communications; and commerce and trade occupations are broadly similar to the other selected locations, whilst there is an underrepresentation of public administration and professional services occupations (Figure 7). The female occupational profile for Charleville is broadly similar with the other selected locations, albeit there is a lower proportion working in the transportation and communications; and public administration sectors (Figure 8). The 'other' category is higher for the female workforce in Charleville in comparison to Ballyhoura region; Co. Cork and Ireland. This is attributable to individuals engaging in multiple types of employment (pluriactivity).

Figure 7: Male Occupational Profile in Selected Locations (2016)

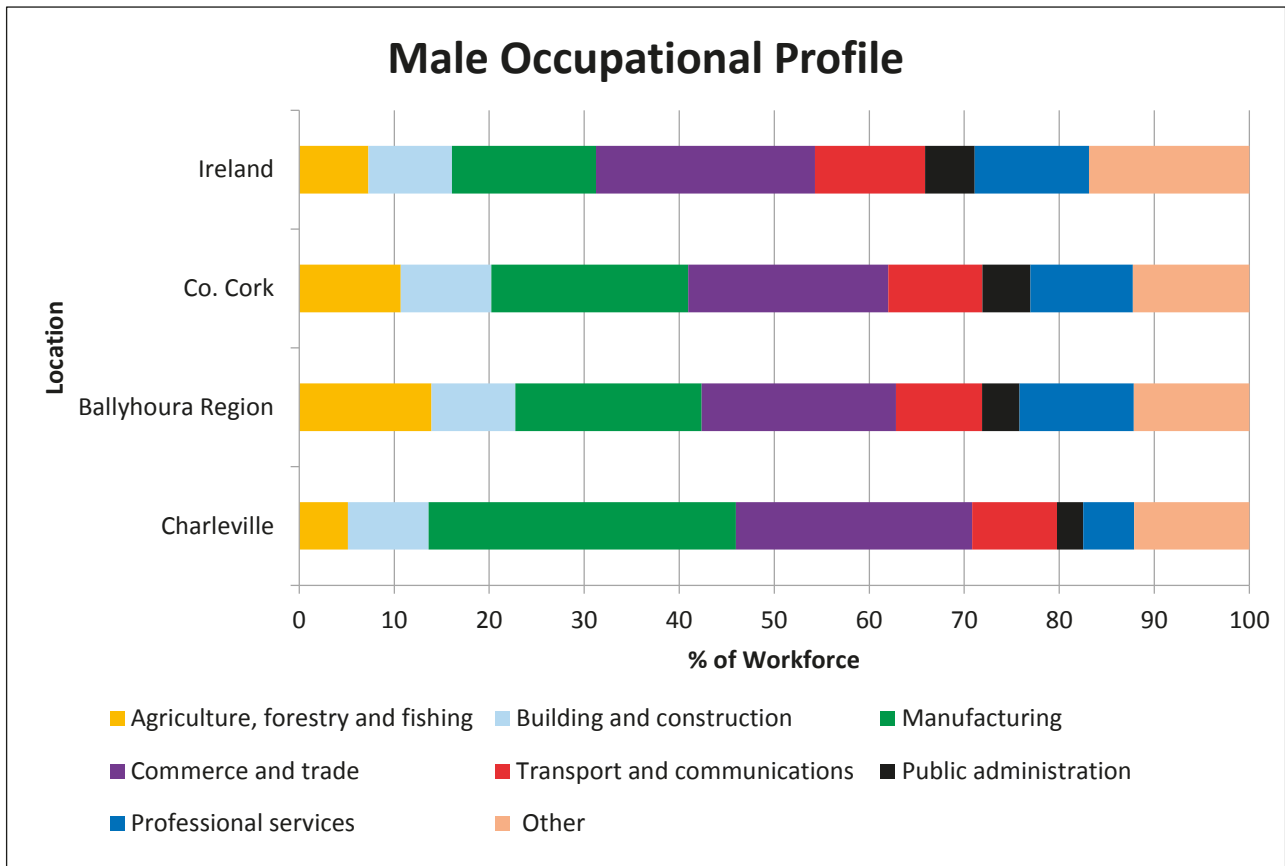
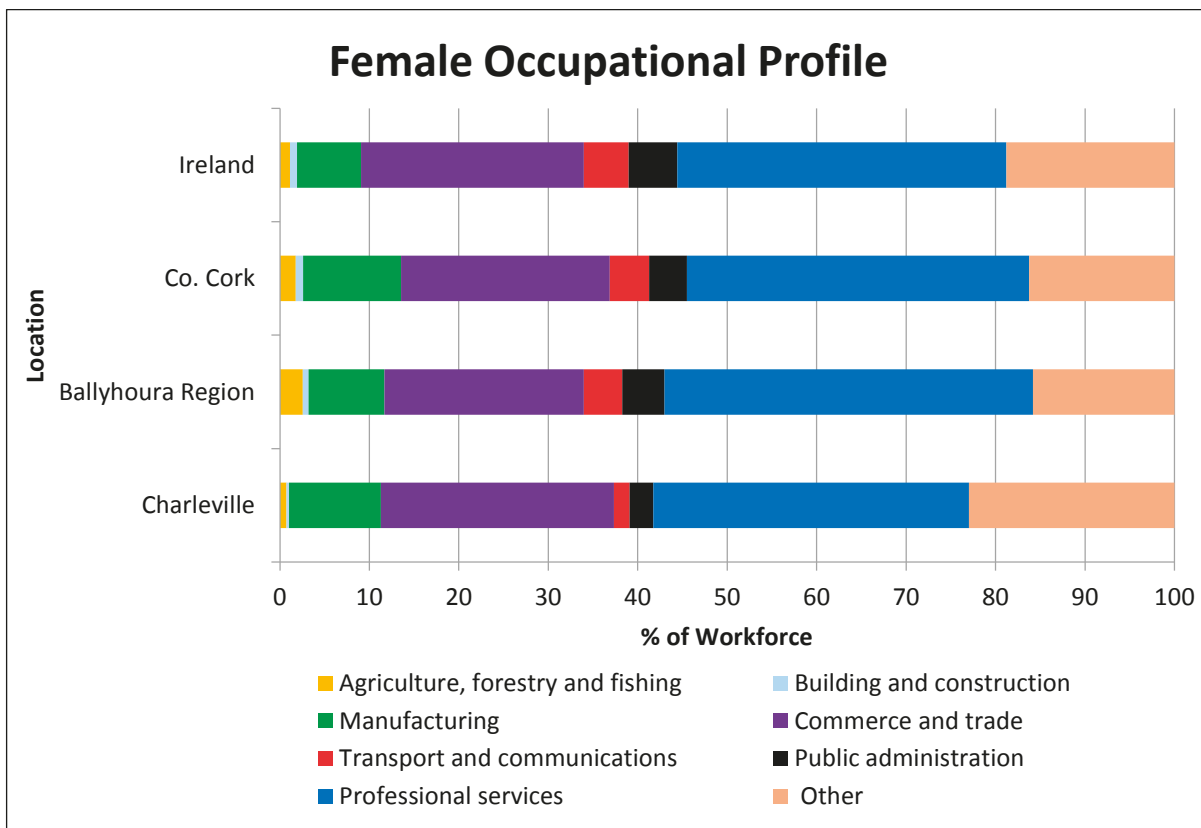


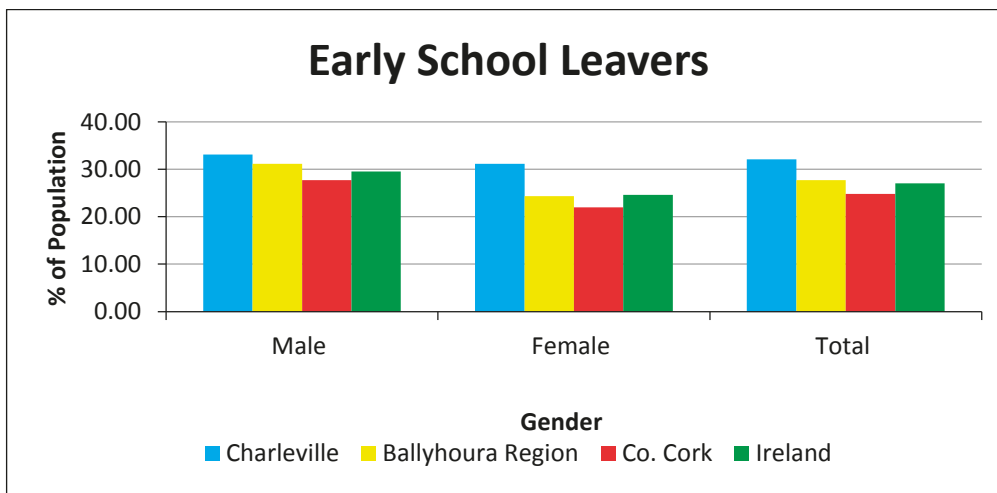
Figure 8: Female Occupational Profile in Selected Locations (2016)



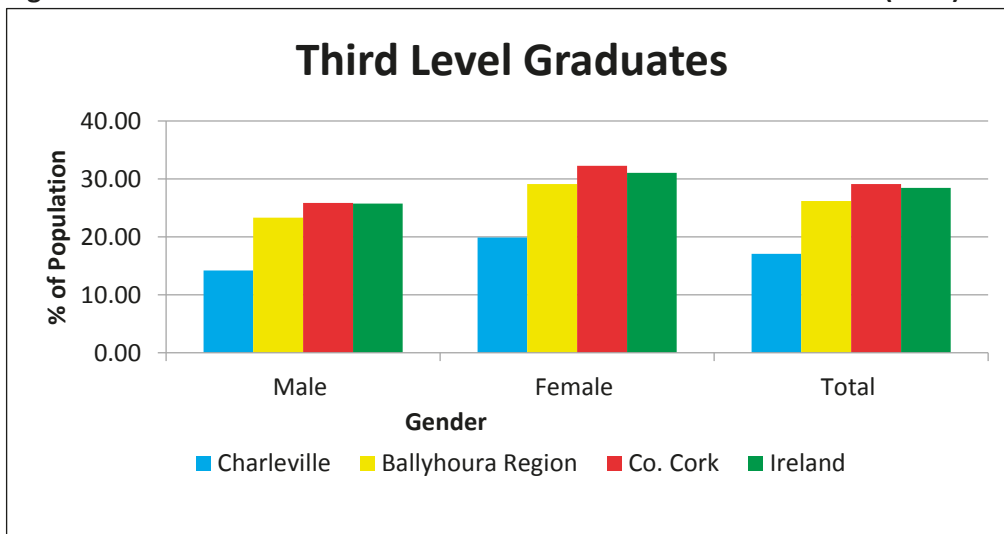
**Education Attainment**

The education attainment rates for Charleville deviate from both the Ballyhoura region; Co. Cork and national averages for the 2016 Census of Population (Figures 10 and 11). There is a gender divide across all geographical locations, with males being more likely to be early school leavers than females; and females more likely to have a higher level of education than males. An early school leaver has been defined as a person who has completed only minimal education (up to and including Junior Certificate) or no formal education whilst third level graduates includes undergraduate and postgraduate degree holders. In absolute terms, 892 individuals living in Charleville are classified as early school leavers (primary (354); and lower secondary (468); whilst the number of third level graduates is considerably lower (474). However, a significant number of individuals have attained a technically orientated education / skillset - technical or vocational qualification (306); advanced certificate / completed apprenticeship (182). The number of individuals who ceased with an upper secondary qualification (Leaving Certificate) is 622. In Charleville, the lower education attainment rates can be explained by an older age profile, a cohort who may not have been able to avail of free post-primary education prior to 1968; a higher proportion of Irish White Travellers than the national average (a cohort which traditionally has high rates of early school leaving); and a higher proportion of Polish and Other EU nationals than the national average. (cohorts who have a tendency to cease education with vocational / technical orientated qualifications).

**Figure 10: Gender Profile of Early School Leavers in Selected Locations (2016)**



**Figure 11: Gender Profile of Third Level Graduates in Selected Locations (2016)**

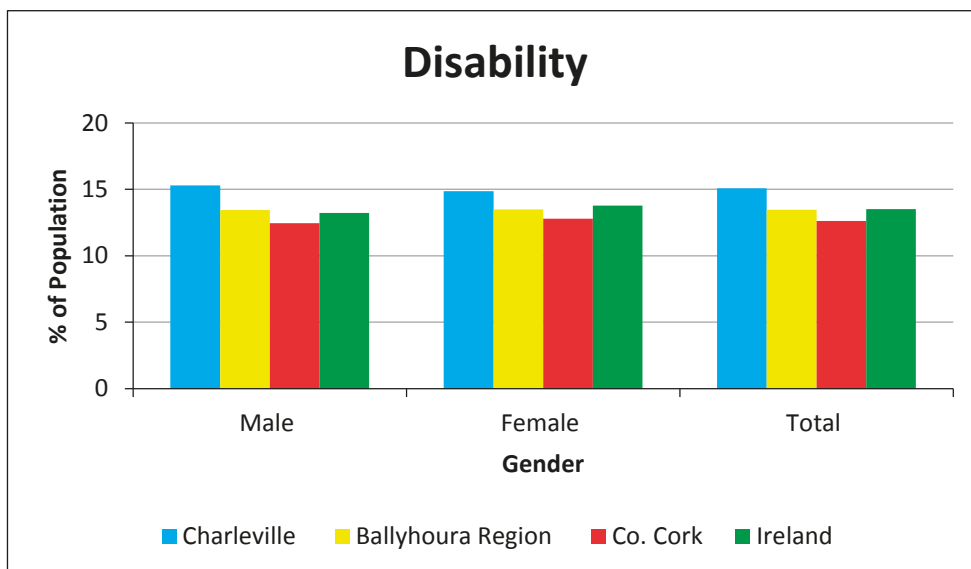




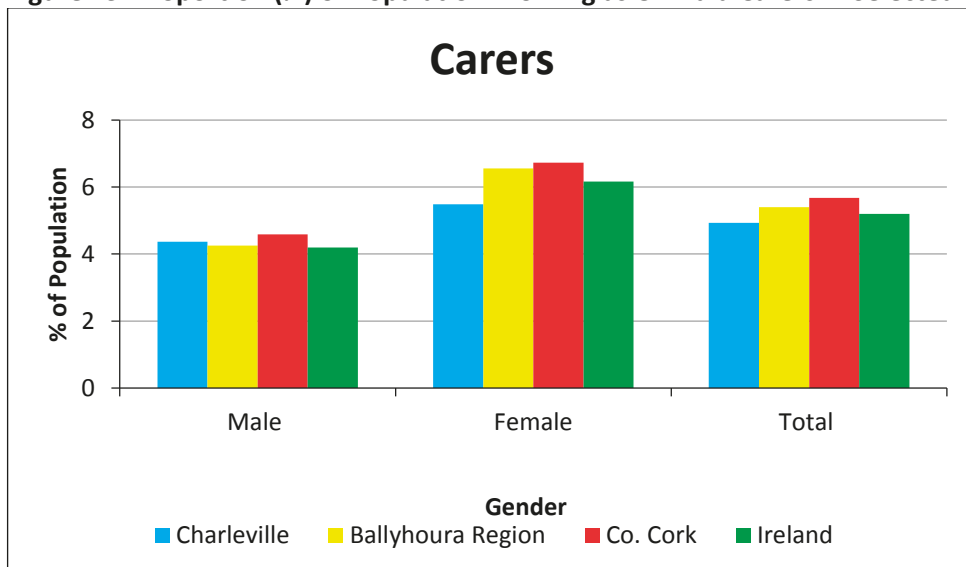
**Disability and Health Characteristics**

People who have an injury, disease or physical or mental disability are more likely to be dependent on the state for financial assistance. In order to receive a disability payment, the ailment must substantially restrict a person from acquiring work that would otherwise be suitable on the grounds of age, qualifications and experience. The percentage of people suffering from a disability is uniform across all locations for males and females, albeit marginally higher in Charleville (Figure 12). This is not surprising due to the slightly older age profile of the population living in the town. According to the 2016 Census of Population, there were 641 individuals (323 males and 318 females) with a disability living in Charleville. The proportion of male carers is broadly consistent with the national and county averages, whilst there is an under-representation of female carers in comparison to the selected locations (Figure 13). In total, there were 165 carers (72 male and 93 female) in Charleville. Overall, 93 individuals (46 male; 47 female) living in Charleville reported their health as being bad or very bad in the 2016 Census of Population. This equates to 2.18% of the population and it is higher than Ballyhoura Region (1.42%); Co. Cork (1.25%); and national (1.6%) proportions. The higher rate recorded in Charleville is due to the older age profile.

**Figure 12: Proportion of Population with a Disability in Selected Locations (2016)**



**Figure 13: Proportion (%) of Population Working as Un-Paid Carers in Selected Locations (2016).**



## **Conclusion**

The following provides a summary of key socio-economic and demographic findings (discerned from the 2016 Census of Population) with respect to Rath Luirc ED (Charleville):

- The population of Charleville has grown significantly between 2011 (4,004) and 2016 (4,253), with an increase of 249 individuals. This equates to a 6.22% increase in population.
- The elderly dependency ratio for Charleville (0.17) is higher in comparison to Ballyhoura region (0.13); Co. Cork (0.12); and Ireland (0.13).
- There are 799 foreign nationals living in Charleville - UK (84); Polish (169); Lithuanian (34); Other EU (388); and Rest of World (124).
- There are 1,112 individuals (26.39%) living in Charleville who are classified as non-white Irish. This includes: 182 white Irish travellers; 710 other white; 38 black or black Irish; and 57 Asian or Asian Irish.
- A diverse range of family types are living in Charleville - 92 pre-families; 112 empty nest families; 142 retired families; 128 families with pre-school children; 135 families with early school children; 125 families with pre-adolescent children; 156 families with adolescent children; and 224 families comprising of adult children.
- The labour force participation rate in Charleville (50.11%) is lower than Ballyhoura (57.69%); Co. Cork (61.61%) and national average (61.35%).
- A significantly higher proportion of males resident in Charleville work in the manufacturing sector in comparison to the national average.
- In Charleville, 892 individuals are classified as early school leavers (primary (354); and lower secondary (468). Conversely, the number of third level graduates in Charleville is considerably lower (474).
- According to the Pobal Deprivation Index, Charleville is classified as being marginally disadvantaged, with the disadvantage being most concentrated in two Small Areas ().

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Grotti, R., Maître, B., Watson, D. and Whelan, C. Poverty Transitions in Ireland: An Analysis of the longitudinal Central Statistics Office (CSO) Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), 2004 -2015. Social Inclusion Technical Paper No. 8, Dublin: Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

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## 4. The Three Community Planning Workshops, September – November

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018, E-Centre, Charleville - Priority Themes Emerging

A series of three community planning workshops were held; each workshop being two hours long. Over the three workshops up to fifty people representing groups, organisations, businesses and interested individuals, attended and discussed and analysed the presentations. At the first workshop the facilitator presented the key findings from the Demographic & Socio-Economic profile of the town. People were then invited to give their response and to record their suggestions on worksheets. Below is a summary of the table discussions.

1. Mobility & Access
  - Lobby CCC to implement maintenance and repair of footpaths, improved parking facilities including disabled parking spaces.
  - Ensure all footpaths and public spaces are accessible.
  - Continue lobbying in favour of M20 Limerick to Cork, thereby providing a by-pass for the town and relieving traffic congestion.
2. Growing Population – Amenities & Services
  - Develop a series of local cycling and walking routes in conjunction with CCC.
  - Undertake an audit of needs regarding community facilities e.g., meeting spaces, sports and culture, in conjunction with an audit of existing facilities to examine potential and gaps.
  - Lobby CCC to upgrade Town Park.
3. Community Coordination & Planning
  - Suggestion for a Facebook page 'Charleville Solutions', and an open, on-line platform for community communications.
4. New Communities
  - Consult new communities and new families on the issue of integration and involvement in community life.
  - Coordinate a festival to celebrate the diverse cultures in the town.
  - Organise intercultural awareness.
5. An Ageing Population
  - Lobby for a Local Ambulance Service and for a local South Doc facility.
  - Liaise with CCC and HSE for the provision of a large nursing home and more sheltered housing.
  - Consult older people on their needs.
6. Other Issues
  - Get Charleville on the tourism map.

These suggested actions were carried forward to the second planning workshop. People were invited to complete the on-line survey and to encourage others to complete it also.

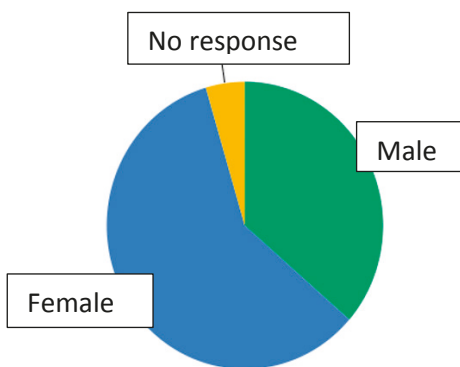
## Community Survey

The facilitators utilised the *Community Vibrancy Survey*, developed by Dr Brendan O’Keeffe (with permission). The original survey was designed in order to measure community vibrancy in South Kerry. <http://www.southkerry.ie/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Rural-Vibrancy-in-North-West-Europe-The-Case-of-South-Kerry.pdf>

An adapted version was used for this community planning process, and was circulated widely to the community in Charleville, and there were over 130 surveys completed, providing a summary of people’s views and perceptions to life in the town. The responses allowed the project facilitators to prepare a summary analysis of nineteen questions covering a range of topics, thus providing insights into various concerns and hopes from the community. The community’s answers provide a strong basis for proceeding with the action plan.

The slide presentation gave a detailed analysis of the survey feedback. Full presentation available at; [www.ballyhouradevelopment.com](http://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com)

### Survey Response (137 replies)



#### Gender of Respondents

Charleville Heritage Society, local organisations and Ballyhoura development actively promoted the community survey to local groups and organisations and succeeded in getting a high response rate. In total there were 139 responses, with 56 males, 75 females and 6 opting not to state male or female. Fig 14.

Fig 14, Gender of Respondents

#### Volunteering

The first set of questions were introductory and provided some background information on respondents. Question 5, 6, 7 & 8 pertained to volunteering, and in Charleville approximately two-thirds stated they were involved in organisations as volunteers. Of those who do not currently volunteer, two-thirds said they would be interested in volunteering. Reasons given for not getting involved are to do with family commitments, work commitments and not having enough time. When people were invited to say how they would personally like to get involved in the community almost one hundred answered offering a wide range of suggestions. This is very positive as it shows a few points worth noting. One is the wide range of ideas and creativity people have for the improvement of their community. Also, it shows there exists a considerable pool of untapped resources that can contribute to existing organisations as well as involvement in new projects and services. A common complaint from established groups is the problem of attracting new members. The above finding suggests that there are people with energy and ideas, willing to give time to their community. Fig 15.

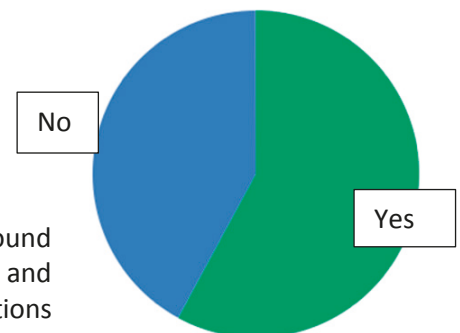


Fig 15, Volunteering

**Words used to describe Charleville**

In the survey people were asked to provide three words to describe Charleville (Q.9). The Word Cloud opposite illustrates the responses. Ninety nine people responded to the question and it is interesting to note the diversity of replies. While many people are very positive about Charleville as a place to live, considerable contradictory views were given, suggesting a level of social division within the community. In a healthy workshop discussion on this issue there was acknowledgment that social divisions exist and need to be addressed, this is reflected through the suggested actions under the theme of social inclusion.



Fig 16, Words Describing Charleville

**Economic Vibrancy**

Questions 10, 11 & 12 asked people to grade their responses to a series of statements, selecting between strongly agree and strongly disagree. These three questions reveal people’s perspectives on the economic, social and environmental vibrancy of the town. For example, less than 50% of respondents agree that adequate public transport services exist in Charleville. Even though Charleville is considered a busy, industrial town on a major transport artery, with significant employment, just two-thirds of responses believe the local economy is as strong as elsewhere, and only half feel the town attracts investment. There are mixed responses to the questions on local government services and value for money.

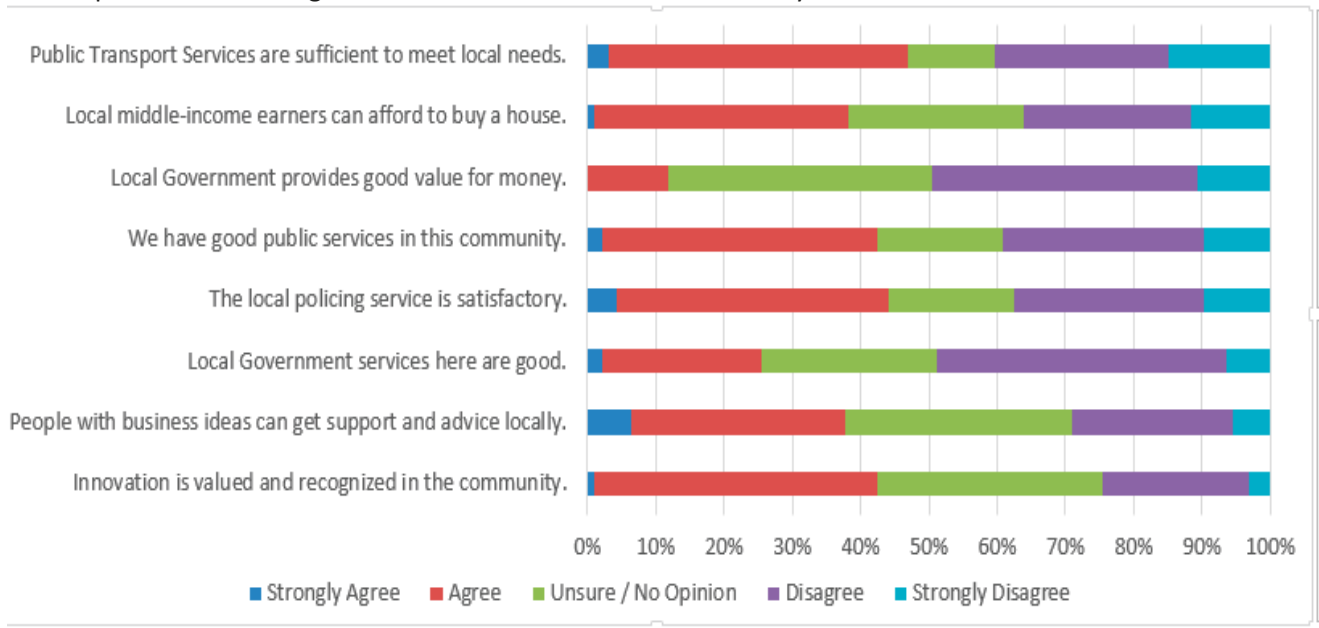


Fig 17, Economic Vibrancy

The economic vibrancy theme is continued in the following graph which reveals over 80% believe local businesses appreciate local custom. However, this does not seem to be reciprocated judging by the responses to the statement *Local people are good to support local business* which scores 65%. This issue is reflected in workshop discussions highlighting business concerns regarding consumer purchasing habits (on-line and in the cities). Despite the considerable level of manufacturing and processing industries in Charleville four out of ten agreed that most people in the community have decent jobs. This stands in contrast to almost three-quarters feeling that locals enjoy a good standard of living. Ballyhoura Development is the local development company operating in the area, and has an office presence in Charleville reflecting the strategic importance of the town. People were asked to respond to the statement that Ballyhoura Development provides good services for our community. Approx. 75% agreed with this statement.

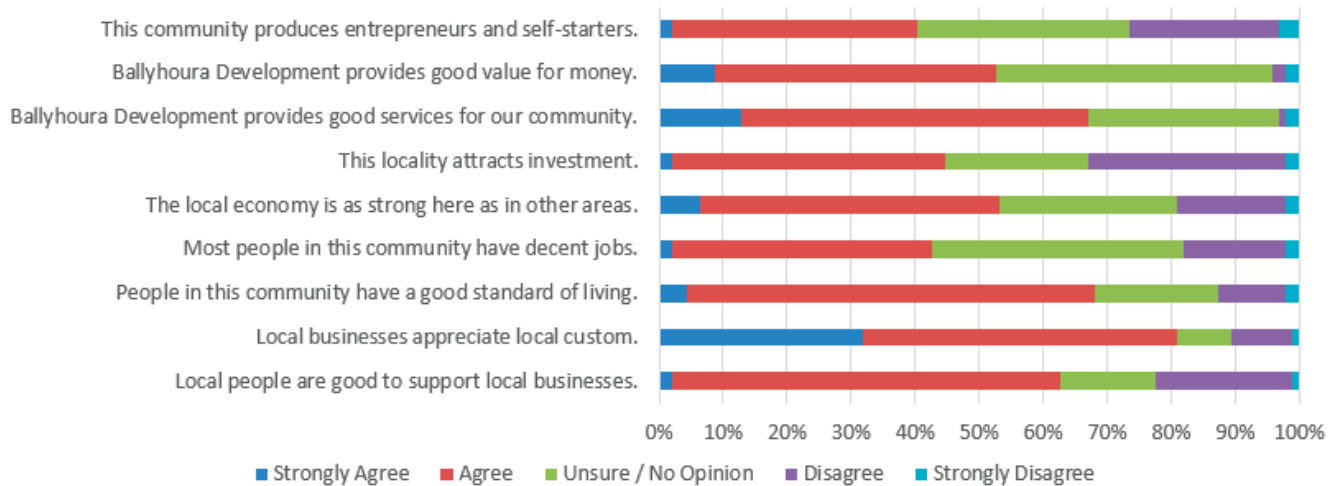


Fig 18, Economic Vibrancy (2)

### Social & Community Vibrancy

The following graph demonstrates a high level of concern related to the issues of anti-social behaviour and crime. A key concern is the lack of facilities for young people, while there are high levels of satisfaction with sporting facilities. Community self-belief is below 50% suggesting that more needs to be done in order to raise community self-confidence. It is possible that this perspective is brought about by a lack of awareness of the full level of community and voluntary activity and initiatives being pursued locally in the community with over seventy-five active groups and organisations. More coordinated communications might address this matter. Consistent with the comments on social division in the community there are mixed views in the responses on opportunities for newcomers to get involved in local activities. Given the considerable proportion of non-Irish nationals living and working in Charleville, it is likely that quite a number of them are not aware of what is available or how to get involved.

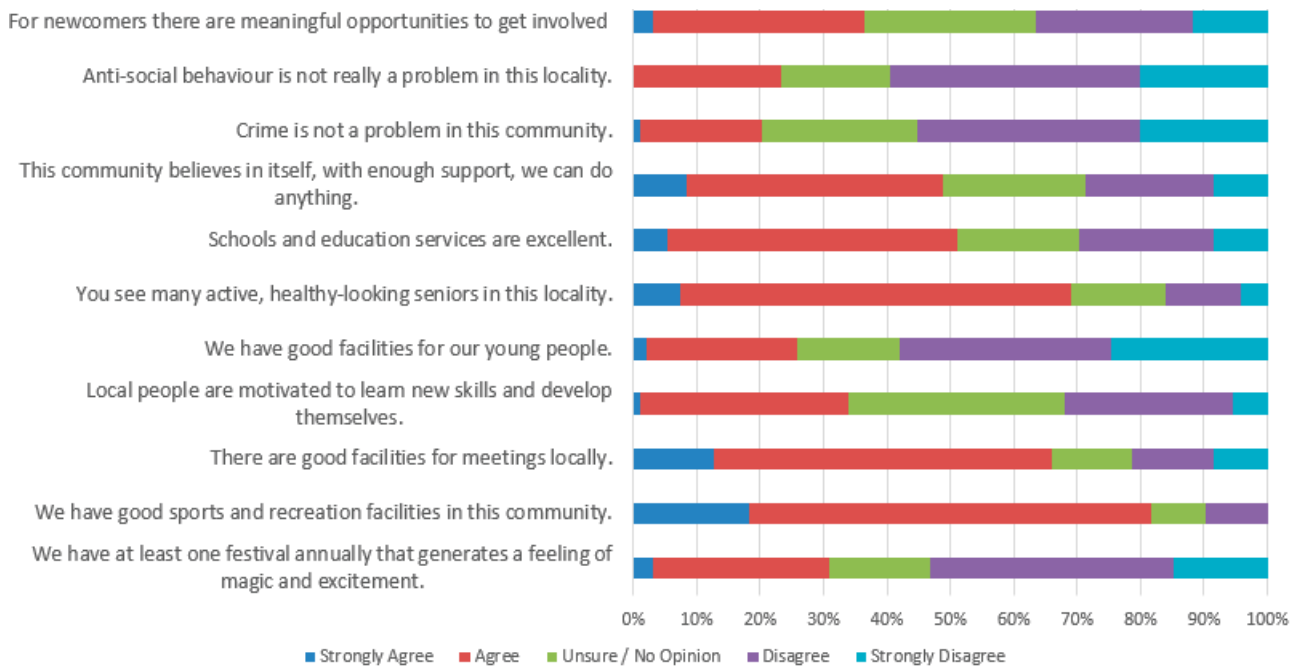


Fig 19, Social Vibrancy

The matter of adequate meeting, cultural, arts and youth facilities features strongly in survey responses in Charleville; the Municipal Area Plan for Charleville anticipates the need for expanded and/or upgraded

facilities to cater for a growing population. It can be seen in the following graph the level of mixed views on satisfaction with cultural facilities for example. There are a number of older, heritage buildings in the town, some in use by community and voluntary organisations. Both survey responses and workshop discussions underpin the case for auditing existing facilities and catering for anticipated needs. Having an objective audit will support the community in seeking additional resources to develop these facilities. Positives in this graph include the level of commitment to the community, opportunities for inclusion of people with disabilities and the custom of greeting one another in the street, even if the person is a stranger. Of concern is the proportion (less than 25%) of twenty-five to thirty-four year olds who don't consider Charleville a desirable place to live. If the community has a reasonable level of success in implementing this strategic plan over the coming five years, it would be interesting to re-examine this statistic.

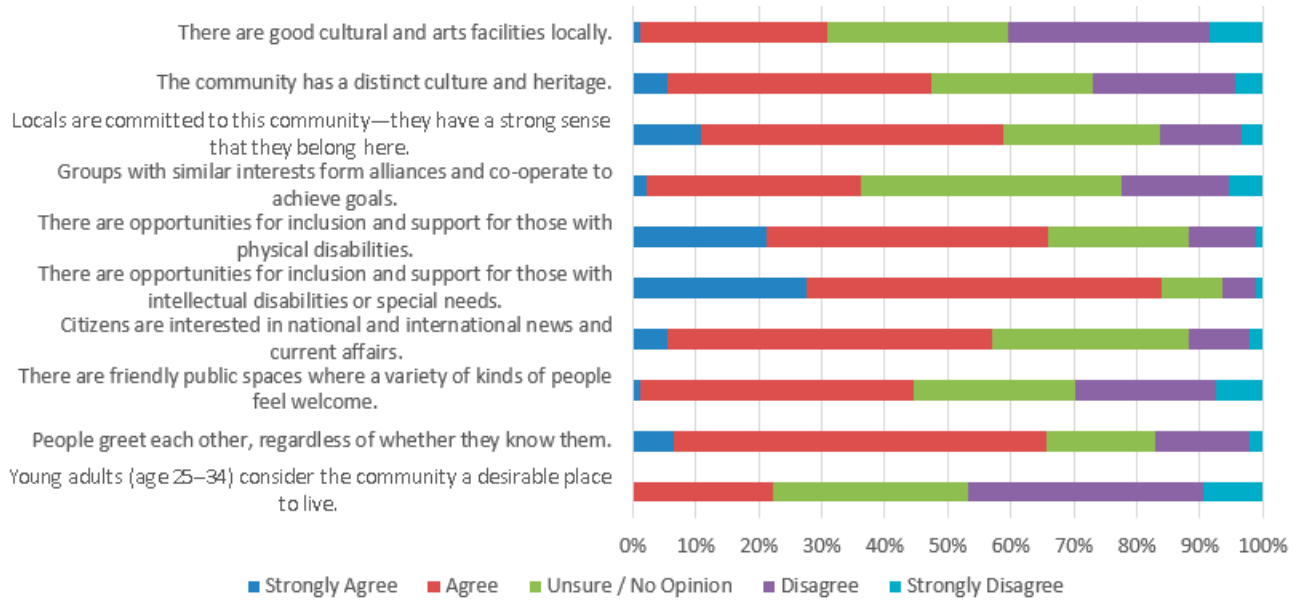


Fig 20, Social Vibrancy (2)

**Environmental Vibrancy**

The replies to the set of questions on the issue of environmental vibrancy suggest that people feel environmental matters are not receiving enough priority in the town (fig 21). Also, most people feel that planning and development is not carried out in a sustainable manner, and most people state there are not enough recycling facilities. There is further scope for developing the environment-related elements of the strategic plan.

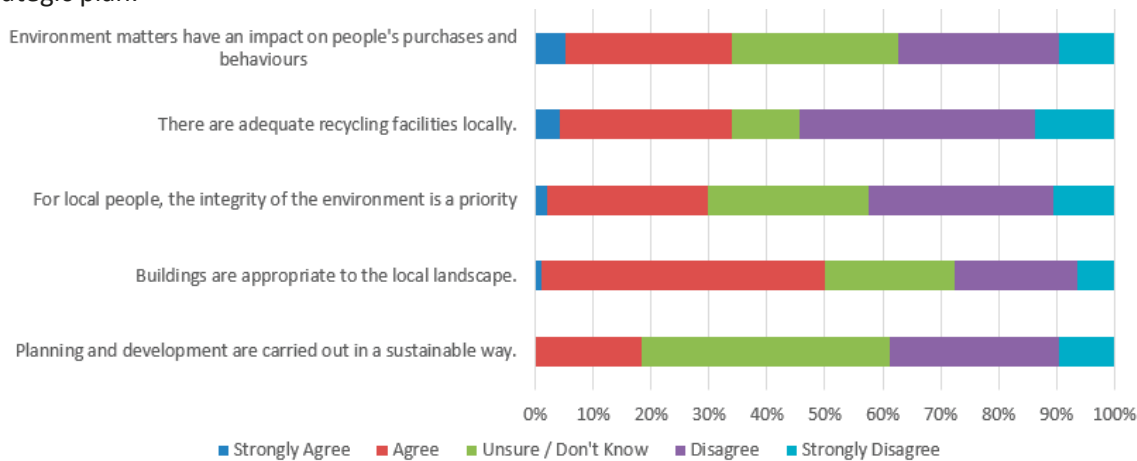


Fig 21, Environmental Vibrancy



### What do People like about Living in Charleville?

Often adverse experiences or perspective can outweigh the positives, even though they may be relatively small or infrequent, indicating our tendency to be more sensitive to threats and negative sentiments. In this question people were invited to give their views on what they like about living in Charleville. The Word Cloud opposite provides a snap-shot of responses; a friendly town with good people, the community spirit, the quality of life, the shops and the convenience to Limerick are some of the features people like about the town. Fig 22.



Fig 22, 'Likes' Word Cloud

### What do People dislike about Living in Charleville?

Throughout the consultation and planning there was a high level of consistency in response to local issues, and in the question of dislikes, people highlight the issues of traffic congestion and noise, lack of facilities for youth, for older people and for the arts, inadequate environment projects, anti-social behaviour and public transport. Others refer to the issue of derelict properties, inadequate public transport, lack of out-of-hours medical services, while some have no dislikes to mention. Of the ninety-nine responses to this question there were a small number of responses relating to settled community-Traveller community relations. It is an issue requiring further discussions and active listening to build up trust and community relations.

### Does Everyone Feel Included?

Very often, exclusion is not intentional. Most people do not set out to exclude others. Factors such as economic policy, cultural differences, and social segregation can bring about separation and division. In response to this question a significant number of people replied *No*. Almost two out of three people responded that they didn't think everyone felt involved. This would relate back to the responses on perceptions of social division within the town, and strongly suggests that this feeling of exclusion needs to be borne in mind in the Actions in community plan. Fig 23.

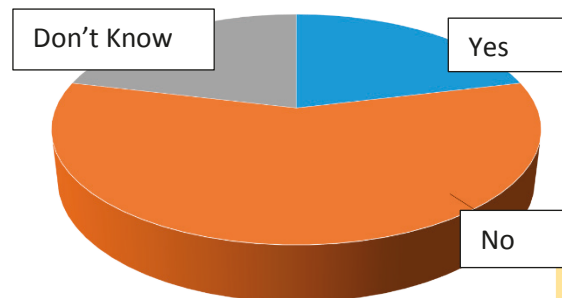


Fig 23, Does Everyone Feel Included?

### Changes

There were two questions on the perceptions of change; change due to population growth and changes over the previous five years. The majority responded that there has been significant population change in the town, saying it is now more multicultural, with more 'foreign nationals'. This reflects the census reports on population growth in Charleville mostly due to immigration in response to industry demand. A consequence of this is the number of new faces - the New Communities - who tend to be less integrated and less involved in community life. Many believe the town has improved while some feel it is the same or has disapproved. Some of the sentiments in regard to migrant workers are negative, but in contrast others believe migrants have settled in very well to their new home. These issues are reflected in the actions proposed by people in the planning workshops.



Fig 24, Changes

**Future-Focussed Questions**

The final questions were about priority issues to be addressed in the plan. The responses were consistent with earlier feedback and discussions. In summary the key issues identified include traffic congestion and parking, facilities for youth and for older people, upgrading the Town Park, improved coordination between community groups, a focus on the local economy and tackling anti-social behaviour. Addressing the challenges of immigration and social division within the community also need to be prioritised and built into future plans. In attempting to implement this broad range of areas, the community will need to develop a strategic working relationship with Cork County Council and other key agencies.

The principle current issues facing the community	
Traffic / N20 / Congestion Anti-Social Behaviour/ Crime Social Divides/ Social Exclusion Affordable Housing Lack of facilities for Youth	Integration of New People Park/ playground needs upgrading Economy/ Employment/ Retail Traveller-Settled Relations

The insights and issues identified in the survey formed the basis for the discussions on setting priorities in the second planning workshop.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Community Planning Workshop, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018, Charleville Park Hotel  
Identification of Priority Actions**

A slide presentation of the individual survey responses was presented as well as a 2-page handout (see appendices). The facilitator presented the following issues for further consideration;

- Main issues arising from the survey;**
1. Responding to population growth /New Communities
  2. Lobbying for construction of M20, improve parking
  3. Addressing social exclusion
  4. Coordination and communications between groups
  5. Audit the use of existing facilities to meet expressed needs (a place to meet, youth facilities, arts & culture, older people...)
  6. Strategic relationship with Cork County Council on various issues (traffic, parking, Town Park, footpaths, cycle paths and walks, housing...)





People were then asked to give their response to the survey presentation under the headings of Economic, Community/ Social, and Environmental factors. The following is a summary of the feedback from the tables;

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Economic Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town requires more and varied employment eg IT</li> <li>• Need for early morning train and bus services to Cork and Limerick</li> <li>• No bus shelters in town, suggestions re location of bus stops</li> <li>• By-Pass is critical. The town cannot achieve its potential until the M20 is built.</li> <li>• Concern at loss of retail to on-line and to cities, need for customer research and initiatives</li> <li>• Broadband is too slow, need for high speed</li> <li>• Limited car parking at northern end of town</li> <li>• Main street suffering from traffic and parking/ Make Smiths Lane one-way</li> <li>• Tourism needs to be promoted</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Community/ Social Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled parking spaces insufficient</li> <li>• Improve community buildings, investigate facilities for communal activities eg Croom Civic Centre</li> <li>• Communications needed between groups, install a display of events/ electronic panel for information</li> <li>• No doctor in town for after-hours</li> <li>• Hold a celebration/ open day event for all community groups.</li> <li>• Alternatives to sports for young people, mainly a sports focus, suggestion for a youth drama group and a link with North Cork Drama Festival, suggestion to survey young people through schools</li> <li>• More connections and linkages between groups eg Women’s Group, Men’s Shed, Tidy Towns</li> <li>• Differing views on how welcoming the town is, and acknowledgement of social divisions</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environmental Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buildings and facilities;             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Old Court House on Main Street could be upgraded and put to greater use</li> <li>- The School Yard Theatre is not used enough</li> <li>- Better use of Parochial Hall</li> <li>- Use old Radio Building as a display for youth projects, stuff they do in school</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Littering, especially at Power Crossroad towards Dawn Meats</li> <li>• Derelict and vacant buildings highlighted, suggestion of possible youth projects for these buildings</li> <li>• Not enough recycling facilities</li> <li>• Moateville house needs to be developed as a tourist attraction</li> </ul>










2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop.../...

Finally, working at tables, people were asked; *considering the summary from the 1<sup>st</sup> community workshop and the survey summary, what are the priorities for the community for the next five years?* The following represents the themes and priorities from the table discussions;

**1. Amenities & Facilities**

-  Town Park upgrade and development; install lights, a toilet, seating and a 'Buddy Bench'.
-  The Parochial Hall is underused and therefore barely covering costs. Undertake a survey of groups and clubs to ascertain how the hall could be better used by the community.
-  Assemble a consortium of interested stakeholders to investigate and pursue the purchase of the former CBS as a potential community facility.
-  Investigate a communal activity centre for the town such as Croom Civic Centre



**2. Traffic & Transport**

-  Lobby for the building of the M20.
-  Investigate the impact of motorway by-passes on other similar towns, such as Mitchelstown.
-  Investigate the benefits of constructing a relief road to help ease traffic congestion.
-  Undertake a traffic study to help regulate traffic movement through the town.
-  Make Smith's Lane a one-way system.
-  Engage with Bus Eireann to install bus shelters in the town, one either side of the street.
-  Ensure public transport buses are accessible
-  Lobby Bus Eireann and Irish Rail for earlier time tables to arrive in Limerick and Cork before 9.00AM.
-  Meet with Cork County Council to address car parking needs in the town.





**3. Retail, Commercial, Tourism**

-  Concern about changes in shopping trends, such as on-line shopping and shopping in Limerick city. Undertake an analysis of consumer needs to assist retailers responding to changing demands.
-  Produce a feasibility plan to convert the Market House building into a museum.
-  Pursue the development of Moateville House and Gardens as a major tourist attraction.
-  Lobby for an upgrade in internet speeds so Charleville can be designated a Gigabyte Town.
-  Engage with Cork County Council to address the issue of derelict buildings and sites.


**4. Integration**



-  Encourage local clubs and organisations to actively invite New Communities and new families to consider joining in events and activities.
-  Organise an Open-Day of all community and voluntary organisations in the town to celebrate the voluntary life of the community, and to encourage new people to get involved.

**5. Youth Facilities & Activities**

-  Undertake a consultation with young people.
-  Provide an age-appropriate 'hang-out' type space for teenagers.
-  Coordinate youth arts projects to decorate the windows of vacant premises
-  Establish a Youth Theatre group

**6. Communications & Coordination**

-  Provide an electronic information point in the centre of town for rolling community updates.

-  Create a town website and Facebook page subscribed to by all clubs and organisations.
-  Coordinate an email/ messaging service to all clubs and organisations.

**3rd Community Planning Workshop**  
**Charleville Park Hotel, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
**Finalisation of Actions for the Community Plan**

The purpose of the third community planning workshop was to finalise the actions in the strategic plan. Seven key themes were identified – emerging from the statistical analysis of census reports, the community survey and the consultation workshops. These themes include;

1. Transport & Transport
2. Mobility & Access
3. Amenities & Facilities
4. Retail, Commerce & Tourism
5. Social Inclusion
6. Communications & Coordination
7. Youth Facilities & Activities

The ‘World Café’ format was used;

- The facilitator presented a brief outline of the overall process and a summary of the key themes emerging
- Seven tables used, one for each of the key themes
- There were three rounds of 25 minutes
- Community representatives were invited to go to the three thematic tables of their choice and complete the worksheet
- Notes were taken of the discussions on the worksheets.

Participants were asked to discuss the draft actions on the handout, to ensure the actions were clear and realistic, to edit where appropriate, to add in new ideas as they arose and to delete an action if necessary.

The community representatives worked through almost all of the actions. They identified lead organisations, and edited the actions - some were amalgamated where appropriate and some were deleted.

This concluded the three facilitated workshops and allowed the full planning document to be finalised, see sections 6 and 7.

## 5. Strategic Development Themes

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The process applied throughout this community planning enabled people to work through a series of three facilitated consultation workshops, each workshop building on the previous. The main inputs presented by the consultant were the Demographic & Socio-Economic profile based on CSO reports, and the summary of the confidential, on-line survey. This allowed a number of key themes to be identified at an early stage, and subsequently developed further. The following seven themes were identified and prioritised through the analysis and summarising of statistics, feedback and round-table discussions. The specific actions are set out in section 8.

### 6.1 Traffic & Transport.

Situated on the N20 - the main transport artery between the cities of Cork and Limerick - the constant flow of heavy traffic through the centre of the town causes considerable congestion, parking, safety and noise concerns for residents of the town. This was clearly expressed at the workshops and through the survey, with people stating that the town cannot realise its full potential until the M20 is constructed. Plans for the construction of the motorway are proceeding, with Limerick County Council responsible for its implementation. Invitations for design went to tender in 2018, and it is anticipated that the road will open by 2027.

In the interim period residents have identified a number of actions to help ameliorate some traffic problems. Adequate parking, including parking for people with a disability, is proposed, as is converting Smith's Lane to one-way, a traffic study, and a relief road. Locals are also concerned with the level of repair and maintenance of streets and footpaths. These measures will help ease difficulties experienced by people as they undertake their daily business in town.

Linkages with major cities is identified in county strategic plans as necessary for the sustainable future of towns and villages. Local people identified a number of issues relating to public transport that need to be addressed. There are no bus shelters in Charleville. People wait patiently, in the rain at times, to catch their bus, feedback identified the need for bus shelters of both sides of Main Street, as well as suggestions for the location of the shelters. Locals who avail of both bus and rail transport to Cork and Limerick are dissatisfied with the current timetables as they do not allow passengers to get to their destination before 9.00AM. Facilitating greater independent usage of public transport service implies buses and trains be accessible.

### 6.2 Mobility & Access.

Streets, public spaces, services and facilities need to be accessible to all. Access for all includes people with a disability, people with either permanent or temporary mobility restrictions, wheelchair users, parents pushing children in buggies, as well as able-bodied people. Poor access restricts individuals' confidence and ability to go about their daily and weekly work, business and leisure. A need is also expressed for adequate disabled parking at strategic locations throughout the town.

### 6.3 Amenities & Facilities

As a town with a rich built cultural and heritage including the built heritage, Charleville has a number of notable buildings, some of which are underused or not currently in use. Throughout the consultation process, the feedback highlighted both concerns and opportunities associated with these buildings which include the Old Courthouse, the Parochial Hall, and the Schoolyard Theatre. Reference was made to the lack of suitable community meeting spaces, as was evident when arranging venues for the planning process. Concern was also expressed at the low level of usage of the Parochial Hall. Fermoy Municipal Area Plan identifies the need for



expanded and improved community facilities to meet the needs of a growing town population (at the time of writing an application had been submitted to Cork County Council Community Development Initiative for developments in the Parochial Hall). During the community planning process various suggestions arose in regard to existing buildings including; youth facilities, pop-up shops, tourism as well as suitable community, civic and meeting spaces. This would indicate a need to audit existing facilities, their usage, and their potential to meet the needs of a busy, modern community.

Charleville Town Park. In the process of preparing the community plan an allocation to Charleville of €100,000 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for the enhancement of the town park was announced. This is being match-funded by Cork County Council, and the money will be used to improve the play areas, to upgrade the footpath, and to install lighting. This is welcomed by local people. In addition, people wish to see the installation of toilet facilities and seating. It is evident that the park is valued by the community, its function becoming more important as people take more actions to care for their own health and well-being.

The consultation also named walking & cycling routes as requirements to encourage and support community and individual health, sport and well-being. The community will need to further clarify its plans in this regard and negotiate with Cork County Council and other stakeholders to develop these facilities to their potential.

#### **6.4 Retail, Commerce & Tourism**

There is a consensus in discussions that the tourism potential of Charleville is lying untapped. While the town enjoys significance in manufacturing and in food processing there is a recognition of the need for a more diverse economic base for the area. This is supported by county development policy which proposes a diversification of economic activity as key to ensuring the future of rural towns and villages. Discussions called for efforts to attract IT industry to establish locally, but critical to attracting IT businesses is the need to upgrade the quality of broadband to take the town to Gigabyte level.

Charleville town has a rich heritage which could be exploited to provide new employment and assist in diversifying the local economy. A project offering significant potential to attract tourists and visitors is the proposal to develop Moateville House and Gardens to the north of the town. This house was built in 1730 on the site of the original Charleville Mansion, constructed by Roger Boyle (brother of the scientist Robert Boyle). Roger Boyle developed Charleville in 1661 and named it in honour of King Charles. The house and twelve acres of gardens would be gifted to the community by the present owners, Kerry Group plc, should an agreed consortium of stakeholders and a business plan be put in place.

The extent of derelict and vacant premises and sites is a concern articulated in the consultations. An impression of dereliction can have a negative impact on public and investor sentiment towards a town. As well as the primary need for a vibrant, occupied main commercial centre, there is also the potential to convert a number of premises to social enterprise functions to meet local community and social needs. Charleville will need an agreed body to pursue the challenge of derelict and vacant premises with Cork County Council. Social enterprise projects may also attract specific funding and supports.

Some discussions under this theme refer to initiatives to support the retail sector in the town. The Chamber of Commerce has a strategic plan in place 2015-2020 and such initiatives would rightly come under the remit of the Chamber. However, close relations and communications between the community and the private business sector will ensure good information flow and mutual support for initiatives and plans.

While plans for the construction of the long awaited M20 motorway are at an early stage, some concern has been expressed regarding the potential impact on retailers of the town being by-passed. Given that it will take up to ten years to construct the motorway, the community, and in particular town retailers, have time to be informed, to plan, and to adapt for the changes ahead.

### **6.5 Community Inclusion**

A number of social inclusion issues arose in the census analysis, the workshops and the survey responses. These include a higher older age dependency rate, a significant migrant population, and some disadvantaged areas. There was a considerable level of contrasting views relating to social divisions and exclusions within Charleville town. While the planning process enjoyed a high level of community involvement, there were pockets with the town that were absent and therefore their views and inputs were not recorded. The reality of social exclusion is not unique to Charleville, and it requires new efforts and dialogue in support of greater inclusion and participation of groupings, who are sometimes on the margins of mainstream Irish society. This can include the Travelling Community, people in council housing estates and migrants. There was an acknowledgement of social divisions during the workshop discussions, and a range of positive, pro-active suggestions were made, for example to consult with the migrant community, to celebrate diversity, and to hold a community-wide Open Day to celebrate the wide range of community and voluntary organisations and activities across the town. Ballyhoura Development is keen to support community-led initiatives that support greater social inclusion and solidarity.

### **6.6 Communications & Coordination**

Charleville Community Forum oversaw the preparation of a community plan for the period 2013-2017. It operated in a partnership manner, it set up a Facebook page and a website to ensure good communications of plans and activities. The plan was ambitious and wide-ranging, and an update on its achievements is included in the appendices (appendix 9.3). However the forum ceased to operate in 2014, and since then there has been no coordinating body for the town. As can be seen in appendix many of the actions in that plan were completed or started. The fact that there is an equal number of actions not begun is perhaps due to the forum ceasing to function. It has been demonstrated that organised communities with agreed plans and an agreed representative structure, attract more resources for their areas. For this new community plan to reach its full potential, an agreed body, perhaps a new structure, is required to represent the wishes of the community with a coherent, strategic voice.

The community workshops facilitated a diverse range of community organisations and interested individuals to sit together and discuss issues of common concern and interest. The discussions were appreciated, but they also suggest that regular, perhaps yearly, round table community discussions can lead to better knowledge and understanding of community activity in the town. While good communications and goodwill is reported among local groups, the absence of a more coordinated approach means communications to all can sometimes be lacking. The feedback identifies the need for effective, coordinated communications, accessible by all community and voluntary organisations. This would include email, a central, electronic notice board and a town website.

### **6.7 Youth Facilities & Activities**

The level of involvement of young people age 15-25 in this process was very low. This may be indicative of the age profile of adult volunteers in local committees and groups, another factor for the low involvement is due to the actual consultation process not being specifically designed or targeted at a younger population. Of concern is the statistic from the survey response that only one in five young adults in the age bracket 25-35 years consider Charleville to be a desirable place to live. A specific survey with young people would provide more insights into this response. Those participating in the planning highlight concerns in respect of young people. These concerns relate to a lack of alternative activities to sports, and a lack of facilities and programmes, resulting in some young people 'hanging about' on the streets at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour. A number of positive ideas are proposed in the actions section, perhaps the starting point being the suggestion to undertake a consultation with young people through the schools. This feedback will inform the type of actions that will benefit young people as cherished members of the community.



## 6. Thematic Action Plan

The following table is a distillation of the various themes, ideas and needs that emerged during the consultation process. Some do not involve direct funding – they relate to communications and coordination at a community level. Some relate to better use and upgrading of existing facilities and premises, while some will require engagement and planning with relevant agencies. The lists of project partners may expand as projects are rolled-out. In order to ensure the delivery of these actions, it is necessary to invest in social capital and the capacity of community and voluntary organisations in Charleville. The question of an overall coordinating community structure/ forum is critical to the successful implementation of these projects. Such a structure ought to assume an oversight, administration, coordination and facilitation role, with responsibilities delegated on specific projects. This may require the establishment of some new groups, and the recruitment of new members generally.

Theme 1: Traffic & Transport			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partners
1.1 Engage with planners for convenient access from the town to the M20.	Charleville Chamber	Copy of motorway design.	Cork County Council Local councillors
1.2 Investigate the impact of motorway by-passes on other similar towns, such as Mitchelstown*	Charleville Chamber	Access reports from other similar towns.	
1.3 Investigate the benefits of constructing a relief road to help ease traffic congestion.	Charleville Chamber	Funding for an independent Planner's Report	Cork County Council Charleville Forum
1.4 Undertake a traffic study to help regulate traffic movement through the town, include car parking requirements, and consider making Smith's Lane one way.	Charleville Chamber	Local councillor's support Delegation to Cork County Council. Investigate plans for a car park at the former CBS. Encourage public use of free parking at multi-storey car park.	Cork County Council
1.5 Engage with Bus Eireann to install bus shelters in the town, one either side of the street*	Charleville Forum	Locations for bus shelters to be identified.	Bus Eireann LCCC Councillors
1.6 Engage with Bus Eireann and Irish Rail for earlier time tables to arrive in Limerick and Cork before 9:00AM*	Charleville Forum		Bus Eireann and Irish Rail
*Priority Actions			

Theme 2: Mobility & Access			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
2.1 Engage with Cork County Council to ensure all footpaths and public spaces are fully accessible and maintained*	Charleville Tidy Towns	Undertake a 'Walkability' survey Photographic evidence Refer to Mitchelstown 'Walkability' project.	Ballyhoura Development Cork County Council Older people's organisations Care and disability organisations
2.2 Engage with Cork County Council to improve disabled parking spaces*	Local lead group to be identified.	Consult people with a disability on the issue. Enforce by-laws	Charleville Forum Town Traders/ Chamber
2.3 Ensure public transport buses are accessible and have adequate parking.	Charleville Forum	Improved parking spaces for the buses. Provide bus shelters.	Cork County Council Cork Local Link Bus Eireann
*Priority Actions			

Theme 3: Amenities & Facilities			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
3.1 Upgrade and develop the Town Park; install lights, a toilet, and seating (a 'Buddy Circle)	Currently being led by a number of local sports organisations.	Agreed further priorities with user groups. Further capital funding	Local sports groups St Joseph's Foundation Cork County Council
3.2 Develop a series of walking and cycling routes in conjunction with CCC and other stakeholders.	Charleville Tidy Towns.	Maps of route plans. Consultation with groups and community.	Ballyhoura Development Cork County Council Sports organisations.
3.3 Undertake a survey of groups, clubs and the community to ascertain how the Parochial Hall could be improved and used more*	Parochial Hall Committee.	Funding to undertake a survey. Capital funding.	Charleville Forum. Cork County Council. Ballyhoura Development.
3.4 Initiate discussions with the Trustees of the Old Courthouse with a view to developing the premises for a number of community projects*	Charleville Forum.	Community Plan.	Men's Shed. Ballyhoura Development. Cork County Council.
*Priority actions			

Theme 4: Retail, Commerce & Tourism			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
4.1 Undertake an analysis of consumer trends to assist retailers responding to changing demands.	Charleville Chamber	Survey to be prepared.	Retail members of Chamber.
4.2 Pursue the development of Moateville House and Gardens as a major tourist attraction*	The Heritage Society	Establishment of a steering group to drive project forward. A business development plan. Major capital funding.	Ballyhoura Development. Charleville Chamber. Cork County Council. Local community .representation. Munster Vales.
4.3 Develop a Greenway on former rail line from Charleville to Patrickswell, Co Limerick	Ballyhoura Development	Funding for feasibility study. Subsequent national capital funding.	Local cycling clubs. Local sports clubs.
4.4 Clarify access to broadband in the town with the fibre provider*	Charleville Chamber	Access to broadband provider for discussions.	Cork County Council.
4.5 Engage with Cork County Council to address the issue of derelict buildings and sites.	Charleville Forum	Influence the Municipal District Local Area Plan for the town.	Tidy Towns Group. Charleville Chamber.
*Priority actions			

Theme 5: Community Inclusion			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
5.1 Consult new communities and new families on the issue of integration and involvement in community life*	Charleville Forum	Possible translation due to language barrier.	Ballyhoura Development. Charleville Chamber. Local clubs and organisations.
5.1 Encourage local clubs and organisations to actively invite New Communities to consider joining in events and activities*	Charleville Forum	Possible translation due to language barrier.	Ballyhoura Development. Charleville Chamber. Local clubs and organisations.
5.2 Organise an Open-Day/ Festival of all community and voluntary organisations in the town to celebrate the voluntary life of the community*	Charleville Forum	Funding Cork County Council	Local groups and organisations Macra na Feirme Foroige
5.3 Lobby HSE for a local ambulance service and for a local South Doc facility*	Charleville First Responders	Evidence-base required	County councillors Local GPs Fire Service
5.4 Liaise with Cork County Council and HSE to provide more sheltered housing.	Charleville Community Care	Evidence-base required	Local care organisations
5.5 Consult Older People on their needs.	St Vincent de Paul	Survey/ consultation to be designed	Ballyhoura Rural Services Day Care Centre
*Priority Actions			

Theme 6: Communications & Coordination			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
6.1 Re-establish or re-structure Charleville Community Forum*	Heritage Society to take the lead (planning host group)	Community Plan as reference document.	Ballyhoura Development.
6.2 Install an electronic information point for on-going community updates.	Charleville Forum	Electronic display accessible by local organisations for regular updating. Location to be identified.	Cork County Council. Parochial Hall Committee.
6.3 Organise communications by creating a town website, Facebook page, subscribed to by all clubs and organisations, and coordinate an email/ messaging service to all clubs and organisations.	Charleville Forum	Forum Facebook page and website to be updated and maintained. A scheme worker based in Parochial Hall. Develop a Charleville App.	Parochial Hall Committee. Local clubs and organisations. Ballyhoura Digital Skills. TY Students.
* Priority Actions			

Theme 7: Youth Facilities & Activities			
Actions	Lead Organisation	Resources required	Partners
7.1 Undertake a consultation with young people to identify needs in terms of facilities*	Forum	A plan for the consultation process.	Schools Sports clubs
7.2 Provide an age-appropriate 'hang-out' type space for teenagers.	Foroige	Funding Extra staff Bigger premises (Parochial Hall)	Schools Sports clubs
7.3 Coordinate youth arts projects to decorate the windows of vacant premises	Foroige	Agreed access to premises.	Schools Tidy Towns Group
7.4 Establish a Youth Theatre group	The Shoestring Theatre Company	Learn from the experience of Limerick Youth Theatre	Schools/ Transition Year North Cork Drama Festival
* Priority Actions.			

## 7. Consultant's Observations

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- 7.1 This community planning process highlights the ideas, energy and goodwill that exists within Charleville town to implement and develop this plan further. There is a significant level of community and voluntary experience to draw upon, though some if it is untapped at present.
- 7.2 The implementation and coordination of this plan requires a new structure. Ideally such a structure would be representative of the community. In the absence of this structure there is no single entity for agencies such as Cork County Council or Ballyhoura Development to engage with on behalf of the community. Likewise there is no single voice representing the agreed needs and plans for the town. In its absence there is the potential for the town to lose out on funding and other opportunities. It would be beneficial to examine re-forming the previous Community Forum or a similar representative structure.
- 7.3 While there is good informal communications between local organisations, a more structured system of communications is required, both for the public and for community organisations to ensure effective communications to the whole community.
- 7.4 Frustration is sometimes expressed about 'the lack of volunteers', however, the individual survey reveals that there is an untapped pool of resources within the community. Responses in the survey show that there are many people willing to get involved in voluntary activity, and that these people have practical ideas on where they would like to contribute their time and experience. The challenge is how to effectively engage with this potential pool of new volunteers.
- 7.5 Social divisions. Local citizens are rightly proud of their town and identify with it as home. However there are underlying social divisions calling for attention. The census reports for the ED of Charleville, as well as national reports, point to a number of groups at risk of exclusion; namely older dependent people, migrants, Travellers and resident's in local authority housing estates. The individual responses in the survey clearly highlight differing views on the level of inclusion in the town. The issue of New Communities must also be included to ensure Charleville is inclusive and welcoming. Migrants bring new cultural beliefs and traditions, and can be a source of new energy and ideas.

## 8. Appendices

### Appendix 8.1: Community Survey Feedback

Question	Responses
Q2. Male or Female	Male 61      Female 72      No Response 6
Q4. Which of the following best describes how long you have lived in this community?	Over half have in lived in Charleville 30 years or more
Q5. Do you volunteer in your community?	Yes 63%      No 37%
Q6. On average how many hours a week would you give to voluntary work?	Almost 2/3 give up to 5 hours per week Almost ¼ give up to 10 hours per week Over one in ten give more than 10 hours per week
Q7. What is the main factor that prevents you from joining a local community or voluntary group?	Time, Work, Family commitments, Childcare
Q8. If you had the opportunity, what would you like to do personally to help improve the quality of life for your community?	
Attract jobs, Promote tourism Better facilities and amenities More defibrillators Creative use of old/ vacant buildings Tidy Towns & Environment	Active age, Services for older people Facilities and programmes for young people Local coordination/ A shared community vision Get more people involved, promote inclusion and a sense of belonging
Q9. What three words would you use to describe your community?	
Pleasant, Friendly, Caring & Welcoming Vibrant, Active & Busy Diverse & Multi-cultural 8Good Organisations Helpful/ Together	Unwelcoming & Selfish Cliquish, Clannish Fractured & Disjointed Conservative Lacks Community Spirit
Q10. Economic Vibrancy	
Middle income earners can afford to buy a house	50/ 50      Yes/ No
People with business ideas can get support and advice locally	Mixed views between Yes, No and Unsure
The local economy is as strong here as elsewhere	Nearly 60% agree or don't know
This locality attracts investment	Half agree
Local business appreciates local custom	Over 80%
Local people are good to support local business	60% Agree      15% Unsure      25% Disagree
The local policing service is satisfactory	Agree 42%      Unsure 21%      Disagree 37%
Public transport services are sufficient	Nearly 50 / 50 split
Local government provides good value for money	Less than one in ten agree
We have good public services in this community	Nearly equally divided
Ballyhoura development provides good services	65% Agree      30% Unsure      5% Disagree
Q11. Social Vibrancy	
We have good facilities for our young people	Nearly 2/3 disagree
Anti-social behaviour is not really a problem	Only 15% agree
We have good sports and recreation facilities	Almost 9 in 10 agree
There are good arts and cultural facilities locally	Almost equal split between Yes, No and Unsure
This community believes in itself	40 % Agree      20% Unsure      40 % Disagree
Schools and education services are excellent	50 % Agree      20% Unsure      30% Disagree
There are opportunities for inclusion and support for those with physical disabilities.	Almost 85% agree



People greet each other regardless of whether they know them.	7 out of 10 agree
Young adults (age 25–34) consider the community a desirable place to live.	1 in 5 agree
Q12. Environmental Vibrancy	
For local people the integrity of the environment is a priority	26% Agree    30% Are unsure    44% Disagree
Planning and development are carried out in a sustainable way	Less than 15% agree
There are adequate recycling facilities locally	¼ agree
Q13. How would you describe the impact of recent population changes on your local community?	
	The majority believe the community has changed through population growth
Q14. What, if anything, do you like about living in your area?	Friendly, The Home Town/ meeting friends Convenient to cities, transport, and other amenities Good for shopping, Family nearby, The community spirit, The Quality of life
Q15. What, if anything, do you dislike about living in your area?	
Traffic, Congestion & Parking, Dereliction Lack of youth facilities/ arts facilities No common vision/ cliquish Playground small/ shabby Social isolation Anti-social behaviour	Nothing! Out of hours medical services Insufficient public transport No environment initiatives Litter & dog-fouling Lack of facilities for older people
Q16. Does everyone in your community feel included? Please comment.	46 responded to this question: 11 Said Yes    6 Were Unsure    29 Said No
Q17. How would you compare your community now with five years ago?	Significant population growth Many commented 'the same' Multicultural/ A lot of foreign nationals <i>'we know less people'</i> Some better/ some worse
Q18. What are the principle current issues facing your community?	
Traffic / N20 / Congestion Anti-Social Behaviour Social Divides/ Social Exclusion Lack of affordable Housing	Lack of facilities for Youth Integration of New People Park needs upgrading
Q19. What, if anything, needs to be done to make your town or community a better place in which to live and work?	
Traffic/ congestion/ M20/ parking Better youth facilities Better coordination and communications between groups A shared vision	Attract IT jobs, Retail Initiatives Housing/ affordable housing Better facilities/ creative use of vacant or derelict premises Tackle anti-social behaviour

**Appendix 8.2: Handout of draft actions at 3<sup>rd</sup> consultation workshop**

<b>1. Traffic &amp; Transport</b>
1.1 Lobby for the construction of the M20.
1.2 Investigate the impact of motorway by-passes on other similar towns, such as Mitchelstown.
1.3 Investigate the benefits of constructing a relief road to help ease traffic congestion.
1.4 Undertake a traffic study to help regulate traffic movement through the town.
1.5 Make Smith's Lane a one-way system.
1.6 Lobby Bus Eireann to install bus shelters in the town, one either side of the street.
1.7 Lobby Bus Eireann and Irish Rail for earlier time tables to arrive in Limerick and Cork before 9.00AM.
1.8 Meet with Cork County Council to address car parking needs in the town.
<b>2. Mobility &amp; Access</b>
2.1 Lobby Cork County Council to implement maintenance of footpaths
2.2 Lobby Cork County Council to improve parking facilities including disabled parking spaces
2.3 Ensure all footpaths and public spaces are accessible
2.4 Ensure public transport buses are accessible
<b>3. Amenities &amp; Facilities</b>
3.1 Upgrade and develop the Town Park; install lights, a toilet, and seating (a 'Buddy Bench')
3.2 Undertake a survey of groups and clubs to ascertain how the Parochial Hall could be better used by the community.
3.3 Assemble a consortium of interested stakeholders to investigate and pursue the purchase of the former CBS as a potential community facility.
3.4 Investigate a communal activity centre for the town such as Croom Civic Centre.
3.5 Develop a series of walking and cycling routes in conjunction with CCC.
<b>4. Retail, Commerce &amp; Tourism</b>
4.1 Undertake an analysis of consumer trends to assist retailers responding to changing demands.
4.2 Produce a feasibility plan to convert the Market House building into a museum.
4.3 Pursue the development of Moateville House and Gardens as a major tourist attraction.
4.4 Lobby for an upgrade in internet speeds so Charleville can become a Gigabyte Town.
4.5 Engage with Cork County Council to address the issue of derelict buildings and sites.
<b>5. Social Inclusion</b>
5.1 Encourage local clubs and organisations to actively invite New Communities to consider joining in events and activities
5.2 Consult new communities and new families on the issue of integration and involvement in community life.
5.3 Organise an Open-Day of all community and voluntary organisations in the town to celebrate the voluntary life of the community.
5.4 Lobby for a local ambulance service and for a local South Doc facility.
5.5 Liaise with Cork County Council and HSE to provide a large nursing home and more sheltered housing.
5.6 Consult Older People on their needs.
<b>6. Communications &amp; Coordination</b>
6.1 Provide an electronic information point in the centre of town for on-going community updates.
6.2 Create a town website and facebook subscribed to by all clubs and organisations.
6.3 Coordinate an email/ messaging service to all clubs and organisations.
6.4 Establish a coordinating body to oversee the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan.
<b>7. Youth Facilities &amp; Activities</b>
7.1 Undertake a consultation with young people.
7.2 Provide an age-appropriate 'hang-out' type space for teenagers.
7.3 Coordinate youth arts projects to decorate the windows of vacant premises
7.2 Establish a Youth Theatre group

**Appendix 8.3: List of Participating Organisations**

Charleville Chamber of Commerce
Charleville AFC
Charleville Agricultural Show
Charleville First Responders
Charleville GAA
Charleville Green Mile
Charleville Heritage Society
Charleville Ladies Group
Charleville Tidy Towns
Craobh An Rath Comhaltas Group
Deputy Manager TNC
Foroige
Gearys Bar Charleville
Lions Club
Murray Cloney
North Cork Athletic Club
Pitch & Putt Club Charleville
St.Vincent de Paul
Tidy Towns Charleville

**Appendix 8.4: Update on Charleville Community Plan Actions 2013-2017**

ACTION	UPDATE
Better communications and coordination between groups	Not formalised
Feasibility study for Agricultural Showgrounds	Done
Training for coaches	Done
Better Signage in the town	Done
Update directory of services	Done
Management of derelict sites and buildings	On-going
Locations for defibrillators	Done Partly. One in public, one in plaza
Identify and establish walkways and cycleways	Done Partly. Walkways done Cycleways not done
Physical environment to be maintained to a high standard	On-Going by Tidy Towns
Investigate McAuley Centre for Primary Health Care	Done. Primary Health Centre Established
Record traditional trades	Not yet done
Update forum website	Not yet done
Scan local history into digital format	Not yet done
Survey community training needs	Not yet done
Recruit volunteers Organise a volunteering fair	Not yet done
Survey young people's needs	Not yet done
Better traffic management, a one-way system	Not yet done
Survey all community facilities	Not yet done
Encourage volunteers for youth leadership	Not yet done
Event management training for Cheese Festival	Now defunct
Town Park Development	On-going
Well-being programme for secondary schools	On-going in school

**Appendix 8.5: Community Assets**

1. Over seventy community groups and organisations in the town and surrounds with informal linkages and networking between groups.
2. Two thirds of people in the survey are involved in volunteering.
3. An untapped pool of people willing to get involved and to contribute to new projects.
4. A Town Park.
5. A desire for a more inclusive community.
6. A number of buildings within the town with potential for further development and usage.
7. A history and a heritage to be developed and exploited.
8. A previous experience of coordination and planning through the Community Forum.
9. An active and supportive Chamber of Commerce.

**Appendices 8.6: Links to Slide Presentations and Surveys**

See [www.ballyhouradevelopment.com](http://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com) for links to the Socio-Economic Profile presentation and the Community Survey presentation.

**Appendix 8.7: Selected LECP Actions relevant to community plans****CORK LOCAL, ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN 2016- 2022**

<b>Theme: Human Capital</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To promote and co-ordinate actions that will ensure the development of human capital within Cork to meet the current and future socio-economic needs of the region	
Action 6	In 2017, develop a programme of actions to enable the Cork region to retain its youth population into adulthood.
Action 7	In 2017, develop a programme of actions to enable the Cork region to attract former residents to return.
<b>Theme: Employment &amp; Income</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To maximise employment and income levels within the Cork region by supporting the programme of actions set out in the South West Region Action Plan for Jobs 2015 – 2017.	
Action 2	In 2017, develop a programme of employment related actions to increase the attraction for in-migration to the Cork region of economically active persons.
<b>Theme: Rural Cork</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To promote Rural Cork as a key environmental, economic and social asset, to reverse depopulation where it continues to occur and to efficiently and sustainably manage growing rural area	
Action 3	..... to develop a programme of actions to ensure the provision of housing choice to residents, by location, type and cost.
<b>Theme: Connectivity</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that will enhance Cork's physical and technological connectivity and to develop sustainable and flexible connectivity options that can adapt to the changing needs of business and the community - locally, regionally, nationally and internationally in a manner that is compatible with protection and sustainable management of our natural resources.	
Action 1	During the lifetime of this plan, advocate for and support the roll out to all areas of County Cork the broadband connectivity planned for within the Government's National Broadband Plan.
Action 4	By 2018, to develop a programme of actions that will facilitate increased usage of public transport by all residents within the Cork region
<b>Theme: Community</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that will remove socio-economic barriers and enhance the sustainability of all communities within Cork	
Action 2	In 2017, to develop a programme of actions to encourage and facilitate enhanced civic and community engagement.
Action 3	In 2017, to develop a programme of actions to enhance the ability of communities to shape their futures.
Action 4	In 2017, to identify communities that are endangered and to develop a programme of actions to support their needs.
<b>Theme: Housing</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To promote and co-ordinate actions that will provide for sustainable stock and housing choice that enables the people of Cork, now and in the future, to have attractive places to live, suited to their needs and at costs that they can afford whilst ensuring the protection of natural environmental resources and in a manner that is compatible with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives	
Action 7	During the lifetime of this plan, to develop a programme of actions that will maximise housing choice – by type and location – to residents within the Cork region whilst ensuring the protection of natural environmental resources and in a manner that is compatible with the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.
<b>Theme: Natural Environment &amp; Climate Change</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To promote and co-ordinate actions that will ensure the long-term net consequences on the natural environment (locally and globally), as well as on our personal and social well-being, are considered through the management of Cork's.....(missing)	
Action 1	In 2018, to develop a programme of actions to promote the critical role that our natural environment plays in supporting our collective endeavours and in supporting our Key Assets.

<b>Theme: Health</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that will enhance the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Cork residents	
Action 2	By 2018, to develop a programme of actions to remove barriers for residents in accessing health services, leading to equality of opportunity in the health sector for all residents.
Action 6	In 2017, in collaboration with the Urban Cork, Rural Cork and Community Asset Management Groups, to develop a programme of actions to enhance the role that our physical and natural environments can play in facilitating a healthy region.
<b>Theme: Family &amp; Home Live</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions which support Family and Home Life as a key conduit for the development of Human Capital and as an important destination for our collective life endeavours.	
Action 4	In 2016, to develop a programme of actions to remove barriers for families in accessing support services.
<b>Theme: Social Inclusion</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that value every resident equally and contribute to reducing the number of persons in Cork experiencing consistent poverty, risk of poverty and social / economic exclusion.	
Action 3	During the lifetime of this plan, to develop a programme of actions that result in an improvement in recorded deprivation levels in Cork (as measured by the HP Deprivation Index) and particularly in those areas recorded as disadvantaged or very disadvantaged.
<b>Theme: Multiculturalism</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that will contribute to Cork's reputation as a high quality place to live and work for persons of all cultural backgrounds.	
Action 2	In 2017, to identify a programme of actions to promote the social and economic benefits of multiculturalism.
<b>Theme: Social Activities</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that will enhance access and quality of engagement of Cork residents with all cultural activities.	
Action 3	In 2018, to develop a programme of actions to meet the identified needs of residents and communities in accessing their preferred social activities.
<b>Theme: Arts, Heritage &amp; Culture</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that will enhance access and quality of engagement of Cork residents to social activities.	
Action 4	During the lifetime of this plan, to develop a programme of actions to assist community and volunteer groups in their supporting role in the development and maintenance of cork's arts, heritage and cultural assets.
<b>Theme: Security</b>	
<b>Goal;</b> To identify and promote actions that will enhance security – personal and property related – within the Cork region.	
Action 3	In 2017, to develop a programme of actions that will contribute to the feeling of security among residents within the Cork region.



**Appendix 8.8 Charleville Heritage Society**

Charleville Heritage Society was founded in 2014 and is a sub-committee of Charleville Chamber. It was set up to promote and preserve the history and heritage of Charleville town and area, so that future generations may appreciate the origins of our town and who founded it and the great people who have gone before us.

The members of the Society are delighted to have initiated this latest plan for Charleville and are looking forward to working with the members of the new Forum to progress their own plans in establishing a tourist stream for the town. Charleville, though a comparatively ‘young’ town having been founded only in 1661 (in comparison to 10<sup>th</sup> century Kilmallock and Buttevant in the 13<sup>th</sup> century), is rich in history and heritage. Founded by Roger Boyle or Lord Broghill, the First Earl of Orrery in 1661, and named Charleville by him in honour of Charles II of England.

Motaville House was built in 1730's on the footprint of the original Charleville Manor built by Roger Boyle in 1661. It, and the twelve acres of grounds are presently owned by Kerry Group plc, but as house and grounds are listed, they are willing to gift them to the local community.

The aim of the members of Charleville Heritage Society is to establish a lucrative tourist stream for Charleville by establishing a town museum and endeavouring to progress the development of Moatville House and twelve acres of gardens at Limerick Road as a tourist amenity. This will be done, hopefully, with the assistance and co-operation of Cork County Council, the Heritage Council of Ireland, Ballyhoura Development and Charleville Forum and Kerry Group plc.

The Boyle family were hugely influential throughout Munster in places such as Youghal, Bandon, Charleville and Castlemartyr. Charleville Heritage Society also intend to initiate the setting up of a Boyle Trail starting in Charleville in the north of the County with an interpretive centre, and moving on to the various other centres associated with the family in County Cork and in Lismore in Co. Waterford, again with the co-operation and assistance of the above bodies.

Moatville House



The Four Pond Field



Moateville House



Appendix 8.9 Images of the Town of Charleville







Ireland's European Structural and  
Investment Funds Programmes  
2014-2020  
Co-funded by the Irish Government  
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