Kilfinane

COMMUNITY PLAN

2022 - 2027

Kilfinane Community Plan

Acknowledgements

The Kilfinane Community Plan 2022-2027 was organised by Kilfinane Community Council and facilitated by Ballyhoura Development CLG. Kilfinane Community Council would like to thank the staff of Ballyhoura Development and the community of Kilfinane for their work and efforts in organising and engaging with their community planning process.

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Foreword from Ballyhoura Development

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 prioritised working with community members by assisting and empowering them to drive their own development in line with locally recognised priorities. Community-led planning has been a core activity in this regard, resulting in tailor-made plans for the future of their own areas.

Ballyhoura Development believe that a plan developed in this way, coming from the community itself in consultation with local stakeholder groups, is more inclusive, relevant, supported, and generally successful.

In 2021 the community of Kilfinane organised their community planning process with Ballyhoura Development's help. Some of the common challenges which were identified by communities across the process include:

- Community spaces and dereliction;
- Community organisation and inclusion;
- Youth services;
- Transport and mobility;
- Tourism, culture & heritage.

Ballyhoura Development congratulate Kilfinane for your commitment to the community planning process. As the community-led Local Development Company for the community, Ballyhoura Development will be at your service as you move towards the implementation of this plan over the coming years.

On behalf of the board and staff of Ballyhoura Development, we hope that the planning process has been enjoyable, developed new connections locally, and generally strengthened the sense of community in Kilfinane. We hope that this has provided some new energy that will be carried forward and that this plan will help leverage funding to achieve some of your goals.

Mary Laffan

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Mary Laffan
Chairperson
Ballyhoura Development

Summary and Immediate Priorities

Kilfinane Community Plan 2022-2027 was developed between October 2021 and June 2022, with socio-economic profiling and preparatory work done locally in summer 2021. Kilfinane Community Council were the focus of this work which led to three nights of consultations and community planning involving the wider community to identify needs and agree priorities for the town. The planning involved: gathering and analysing CSO information and reports for Kilfinane; an online and hardcopy community survey which was circulated to group contacts and available from Sheehy's Centra and the Ballyhoura Development office on Main Street; 4 community consultation workshops facilitated by Ballyhoura Development CLG. Signage was erected along the main roads into Kilfinane advertising these workshops. This plan represents the core planning themes and priority actions as agreed by the community of Kilfinane through this planning process. The 7 Themes are:

1) Community Spaces, Derelict Buildings & Disused Buildings
2) Community Organisation & Inclusion
3) Youth Services
4) Transport, Mobility & Access
5) Tourism, Culture & Recreation
6) Community Safety
7) Services, Jobs & Sustainable Economy

Below is a brief introduction to Kilfinane itself and the context of the new Community Plan.

Kilfinane is a town in southeast County Limerick. Its name is derived from the Irish meaning Church of St. Finian, which was founded in the 7th century. The lands that Kilfinane lies on were owned from the 13th – 17th centuries by the Fitzharris family but were confiscated by the Cromwellians in the 17th century and given to the Oliver family, who controlled it for the following 200 years.

The town is located near the highly productive Golden Vale region and agriculture is a key economic activity for the area. Within Kilfinane itself there are a number of businesses including: A food store, pharmacy, a handful of bars, two restaurants, a butcher, Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre, Ballyhoura Development Offices, DaVinci Creative, a service station, a garage, hair salons, second-hand shop, leather goods wholesale manufacturer, a GP, and a post office. Tourism and culture are also well developed locally: the town contains Ballyhoura Luxury Hostel and Ballyhoura Caravan Park, as well as being the home to the yearly HearSay Festival, hosting the 2021 Ballyhoura Walking Festival and Joyce Brothers Music Festival, and the Old Chapel Rooms event venue. It is also common for residents to commute to Kilmallock (10km) and Mitchelstown (20km) for employment.

Kilfinane is located on the R517 regional road – 20km from a junction with the N20 Cork-Limerick road to the west and 20km from the M8 Cork-Dublin road to the southwest. The town is serviced by the Bus Éireann 329 Kilfinane-Limerick bus and by Local Link's 210/215 Kilmallock-Mitchelstown service. To the north it is 10km from Kilmallock, 40km from Limerick City, and 74km to Shannon Airport. Cork/Cork Airport are about 72km to the south.

Kilfinane has a vibrant community and voluntary sector with around 40 groups currently active. Maintaining a vibrant network of groups with new members and volunteers is a key focus of this plan

and essential to ensure successful project delivery over the coming 5 years. Active local groups include:

- Community-focused groups including Kilfinane Community Council, residents' groups, age-specific groups;
- Sports organisations including Blackrock GAA and Kilfinane Athletics Club. Ballyhoura Bike Trails and Ballyhoura Trailriders are located just outside Kilfinane and Ardpatrick;
- Drama and music groups including Ballyhoura Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann; WestEnd Drama Group, and more. The Kilfinane Old Chapel Rooms is a fantastic community and events venue located within the town and managed by Kilfinane Community Projects CLG.
- Kilfinane Coshlea Historical Society is also active in local history across the area.

According to the latest CSO figures (2016) the population of Kilfinane is 1,159. This compares to 1,168 in 2011 and so it can be seen that Kilfinane's population has remained steady over the period. The demographic analysis that was presented at the first community planning meeting in September 2021 evidenced that this population is aging faster than the national average. It follows that two key aims of this community plan will be to 1) ensure that there are sufficient services locally for this older age cohort, and 2) supply services and amenities that will make it more possible/desirable to live and work in Kilfinane.

The Socio-economic analysis also noted a relatively high level of disability and poor health reported by the local population. At 2.14%, this is significantly higher than both the county (1.86%) and national averages (1.6%). While pointing to the older population dynamic, this points to the importance of the provision of amenities and services that will affect wellness and quality of life.

Kilfinane Community Council has led the initiative to produce a new community plan for the period 2022-2027. The plan herein will be enacted by local people – each action requires different types of work and input by interested people. Anyone who is interested on working on an initiative or providing input is more than welcome to do so over the coming period. This will be essential to maintain energy and to make the plan a success.

Immediate Priorities

1) Solving issue of derelict and disused buildings to provide more, multi-purpose community space

While there are a number of facilities locally that are used by community and voluntary organisations, a strong consensus formed during the meetings that many of these require upgrading, there are ownership issues outstanding with some, while other community-owned amenities would also be desirable.

There are many venues located in Kilfinane that are used by the community for various events, classes and meetings. These include the Old Chapel Rooms and Teach na Cille. Scoil Pól is also undertaking the development of a significant community auditorium space that will link in with the work and interests of several local groups and events.

However, there are many public, parish, and privately-owned derelict buildings in Kilfinane. These include the old Primary School, the Maple Ballroom, the Garda Station, and private shops and dwellings along main street. These are not only unsightly, but also a health hazard, as some have become public dumping grounds or infested by rodents. Others, such as Teach na Cille, are in immediate need of refurbishment. In the case of private ownership, the community, premises owners, and LCCC may need to engage together to find a reasonable solution that prevents the streets becoming unsightly and valuable space being wasted.

With the Old Chapel Rooms and the planned community auditorium at Scoil Pól, Kilfinane proudly boasts state of the art event space. What is missing locally is the more conventional multi-purpose community space. Through this planning process, Kilfinane community has acknowledged that such a space could house remote working space, storage space for local groups, men's shed activities, a youth hub, community allotments, and more.

The provision of a multi-purpose community space by targeting derelict or unused sites around Kilfinane is a key priority of this planning period.

2) Festivals, Heritage and Culture

With a number of active groups and seasonal events, Kilfinane has a rich cultural and heritage sector. Events such as HearSay, the Joyce Brothers and Walking Festivals have become major successes and draw people into Kilfinane.

Over this planning period, Kilfinane community intend on leveraging this local expertise to promote Kilfinane as a cultural destination. Expanding these festivals is one action. Another is the establishment of a food festival and food market to support local producers and bring people down main street to improve social and economic vibrancy.

This will require the partnership of local stakeholders in business, culture, and tourism to ensure that these events that make Kilfinane distinct are allowed to develop to the benefit of the local community.

3) Outdoor recreation, health, and environment

Sport and outdoor recreation are important aspects to Kilfinane cultural heritage. The area around Kilfinane is an area of distinct natural beauty. This plan, along with the wider policy context, promotes exercise and outdoor recreation (see next section for summary) and the development of amenities that will promote this. This includes the upgrading of existing facilities as well as the development of new amenities.

There are many greenways and walks in the wider area around Kilfinane. However, these are poorly connected to Kilfinane itself. The extension of these greenways into Kilfinane is therefore a priority in order to increase foot and cycle traffic through the town centre. This could also include repair work to the footpaths along main street that are a hazard in places. In general it would be beneficial to open up and better connect some of the spaces within the town more suitable for recreational use. The Sunken Garden at the Ballyhoura centre is one such place; a walk around Ballyhoura Apple Farm and Herb Garden and a Moat viewing area; pedestrianizing the area/road behind the fountain; adding

tables for chess playing or relaxing here with the addition of plants/trees to deaden traffic noise – these are all potential projects that would enrich the outdoor environment of the town centre.

New amenities that encourage outdoor exercise and socialisation are required in Kilfinane and fit into the post-Covid policy context. The walking projects mentioned above could pass through a new public park that may be developed on publicly-owned land behind Radharc Cillín, adjacent to Kilfinane. Establishing an outdoor gym is a potential project desired by the community. Some existing sporting facilities would also benefit from upgrading. Blackrock GAA is an important local sports organisation which has secured funding to upgrade its facilities over the coming period.

The potential for developing public gardens or allotments, or a Social Farm and a Biodiversity Park came up many times during the planning process. These would work towards not only environmental but also educational, economic, and inclusive aims of the plan and the wider planning context. Expanded facilities such as tennis courts and a basketball court could be added in the future. Such projects will be explored by the community over the coming period.

4) Local Economic Development and Diversification

The way we work is changing and rural economies need to be diverse and flexible in order to stay competitive into the middle of the 21st century. There are many ways to do this. Following Covid-19, there will be an emphasis from funders the development of remote working spaces in rural areas. Establishing whether there is a need or desire for this in Kilfinane will be one action over the coming period.

Diversifying ways of working also enriches the quality of life of rural towns and attracts more people to remain local. Considering the wealth of arts and cultural experience and offerings in Kilfinane, another possibility might be to set up an Arts/Crafts/Traditional Skills Hub to host workshops and demonstrations/tours. The space could be used by workers to create and sell products and set up an Arts shop with a Community Café. Such a space could include a residential programme for artists with a studio space available. This would also increase footfall into the town as the opportunities for events are expanded.

The Social Farm mentioned above could include gardening/polytunnels/growing produce. This would lead to the possibility of a town market that is sustainable and local. Educational courses could be offered through LCETB which already has a base in the town, residential or day programmes for mental health/working with other groups in relation to this, and more.

An early economic action arising from this plan might be to organise a Business Working Group that to assess business and economic development over a continuous period. Such a group could assess options for increasing employment within the town itself, what is lacking, and what are the employment and service needs in the context of a population that is likely to increase.

1. The Planning Context

Locally-led Community Planning processes come to form the grassroots level of layers of local, regional, national, and European level planning policy. The most successful community plans are those that are developed in the knowledge of how the priorities of local people fit into this broader planning framework. The communities that tend to be most successful in securing funding are those that base their funding applications on a well-developed community plan that achieves the goals of the various planning frameworks at a local level.

Below are some of the planning frameworks that the actions of this community plan aim to address:

Kilfinane Local Area Plan 2012-2018 – Extended until 2022[1]

The Kilfinane Local Area Plan (LAP) was developed by L.C.C.C. in consultation with the local community. It arose from a lengthy stakeholder engagement process and with the advice of experts in housing, health care and infrastructure provision.

The plan asserts that "it is the long-term vision of the Council that Kilfinane functions efficiently as a place where people can and want to live, work, and visit, and which fosters an authentic sense of place."[2]

Its priority actions include:

(a) Rationalising the residential land use in the town to comply with the population targets as set out in the County Development Plan core strategy.

(b) Ensuring development accommodates envisaged housing need and diversity to sustain vibrant, socially balanced communities.

(c) Ensuring that land use zones and objectives provide for adequate social and recreational facilities, in tandem with the growth of Kilfinane.

(d) Enhancement and development of the town centre.

(e) Ensuring that the town develops in a way that protects and enhances the richness and integrity of the town's natural, built and cultural heritage.

(f) Ensuring that the growth of the town is accompanied by adequate infrastructure.

These themes have informed those developed by the community as part of the Community Planning process. The actions outlined in the final section of this document can be seen as the grassroots level interventions that help to achieve the aims of Limerick City and County Council as described above.

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[1] https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/planning-and-property/development-plans/local-area-plan-kilfinane
[2] Kilfinane LAP, pg 21.

Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028[3]

The Kilfinane LAP sits within the context of draft Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. They classify Kilfinane as a Level 4 Large Village. The plans also classify the road through Kilfinane as a strategic regional road, prioritised for maintenance and upgrading to ensure connections to Limerick, Tipperary, and Cork. The Plans recognise the need for maintenance and development of Kilfinane to ensure economic and social vibrance into the coming decades, noting that part of Kilfinane is zoned for residential development.

However, the Plans also acknowledge that Kilfinane is located in an area where wastewater treatment is at capacity. This is an issue that will have to be dealt with if significant development is to be achieved.

Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2021-2030, and Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025

The priority actions outlined in Project Ireland 2040 for the Mid-West region, as detailed in the National Development Plan 2021-2030[4], provide a number of strategic alignments to the Kilfinane Community Plan 2022-2027. These include:

NSO1: Compact Growth: "This outcome aims to secure the sustainable growth of more compact urban and rural settlements supported by jobs, houses, services and amenities, rather than continued sprawl and unplanned, uneconomic growth. This requires streamlined and co-ordinated investment in urban, rural and regional infrastructure."

Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025 echoes the aims of the NDP with a specific focus on rural areas. The Policy states that the vision is;

"for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development, which is built on the interdependence of urban and rural areas, and which recognises the centrality of people, the importance of vibrant and lived-in rural places, and the potential to create quality jobs and sustain our shared environment."[5]

It aims to achieve this vision through supporting communities and business to transform their economies to a more circular model, provide community funding to increase recreational amenities, local enterprises, and outdoor spaces in order to maintain rural areas as great places to live and with opportunities locally fit for the middle of the 21st century.

Across a number of key thematic actions, the Kilfinane Community plan aims to provide community amenities, improved outdoor community spaces, services for young and older people, and improved infrastructural connectivity. These interventions will offer increased opportunity for sustainable growth and improved quality of life around Kilfinane.

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[3]   https://mypoint.limerick.ie/en/consultation/draft-limerick-development-plan-2022-2028
[4]   https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/580a9d-project-2040-documents/
[5] Our Rural Future, page 18. https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4c236-our-rural-future-vision-and-policy-context/

EU Green Deal

The European Green Deal aims transform the EU to the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. To achieve this, it sets out an all-encompassing agenda to transform entire sectors including transport, agriculture, manufacturing, construction, energy, bioproduction, and more.

The plan includes carbon tariffs for non-performing sectors and requires Member States to produce Climate Action Plans indicating the transitions that they will undertake to meet their obligations.

The EU will finance these policies through an investment plan – InvestEU, which will provide at least €1 trillion in investment: To reach the goal of climate neutrality, roughly €260 billion per annum is required by 2030 in investments.

This means that while the transition towards a circular economy and carbon neutrality is great, there will be significant funds allotted over the period covered by this plan for projects that can demonstrate that they engage with the transition to sustainability. Retrofitting, energy upgrades, projects that reduce the need to commute, and biodiversity and conservation projects are just some examples of those that will benefit under this funding.

Covid-19 and the "Making Remote Work" Policy Programme

The COVID-19 pandemic and response has transformed the way we live, work and socialise. At a community level, the years 2020-2021 have been challenging as many community spaces have been forced to shut their doors, while periodic fundraising events have had to be postponed.

As medium-term government policy emerges and recovery funding / eligibility criteria take shape, some common themes have become apparent. The foremost of these are prioritising the development of outdoor social and recreational space, as well as supporting transformations in the way we work that can benefit Ireland's smaller towns and villages. Along with the transition to sustainability, these form core policy goals of the coming years.

Making Remote Work, Ireland's new National Remote Working Strategy identifies that 94% of workers surveyed would like to see remote working made a permanent option in the years ahead.[6] The plan acknowledges that this will require investment in small towns and villages to support services for a larger and more diverse daytime population.

Kilfinane's Community Plan engages directly with these themes and so aligns itself with the priorities of the funds that will emerge from such strategies. It includes actions that will investigate the feasibility of establishing community remote working space, re-develop outdoor community spaces and amenities such as an outdoor gym and allotments, and support the development of Kilfinane to allow the community to be less reliant on commuting for employment.

Taken together, this plan for Kilfinane aligns strategically with the broader policy environment, offering a bespoke, locally-relevant foundation on which this work can be built.

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[6] Making Remote Work, page 2. https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/51f84-making-remote-work-national-remote-work-strategy/

2. The Community Planning Process

Kilfinane Community Council had been keen to undertake a holistic community planning project for a number of years. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, changing priorities of funders, and many EU level programmes restarting or changing for the decade 2020-2023, it is clearly a prudent time to organise local priorities in order to be in a position to access funding at the appropriate time.

Members of Kilfinane Community Council approached Ballyhoura Development during summer 2020 and requested that Ballyhoura staff design and facilitate this process. However, due to the return of strict COVID-19 restrictions and the collective nature of community planning, the actual workshops did not begin until late 2021.

During the intervening time, Ballyhoura Development worked with Kilfinane Community Council to develop ideas for a number of possible projects locally, in arts and culture, rural development, and recreation.

Kilfinane Community Council and Ballyhoura Development discussed a draft planning process and a schedule of three consultation workshops was agreed, commencing autumn 2021.

During the spring and summer of 2021, Kilfinane Community Council and Ballyhoura Development began animating locally for this project by contacting local stakeholders and community members and advertising the coming project. The project has been a success thanks to the work undertaken by members of Kilfinane Community Council in communicating the value and importance of community planning to the community in general.

The Planning Process has been designed utilising the core ideas and principles of the "Smart Villages Approach" from the European Network of Rural Development. The Smart Villages Approach is "about rural citizens taking the initiative to find practical solutions – both to the severe challenges they face and, importantly, to exciting new opportunities which are transforming rural areas."[7] A planning process based on this approach is designed to:

- Leverage digital technologies for development;
- Acknowledge that the community is not isolated but rather connected to the surrounding countryside, communities and small towns in terms of economy, activities and opportunities;
- Promote partnership and cooperation between community groups, statutory bodies, organisations and public and private actors locally, regionally, and nationally;
- Utilise bottom-up approaches to planning and development, strictly in line and in mind of relevant top-down policies and priorities;
- Produce bespoke, local area-relevant plans that are designed by the local community, for the local community, considering highly particular local assets, opportunities and challenges.[8]

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[7] EU Rural Review 26, pg 7. https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/enrd_publications/publi-enrd-rr-26-2018-en.pdf
[8] Ibid.

Summary of the planning process

- A schedule of dates was agreed by Kilfinane Community Council and Ballyhoura Development CLG.
- The role and tasks of Kilfinane Community Council (the Host) and Ballyhoura Development CLG (the Facilitator) were clarified.
- A series of four community consultation and planning workshops were advertised locally on Facebook, by erecting signage and by contacting local stakeholders and community members.
- A Demographic & Socio-Economic profile was prepared for Kilfinane. This was presented at the first community workshop and formed the backdrop to the planning process and the development of priorities for Kilfinane.
- A survey was circulated within the community. Copies were available online and in print in the local shop and in the Ballyhoura Development offices in Kilfinane. A summary of the responses was presented at the second workshop and helped to further clarify and develop local priorities.
- 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.
- A draft summary report was issued to Kilfinane Community Council for clarification. Further edits of the plan, arising from the third workshop, were completed and the final plan was submitted to Kilfinane Community Council.

3. Kilfinane Socio-Economic Profile

Written and delivered by Dr. Shane O'Sullivan, Technological University of the Shannon.

This section provides a social and economic profile of Kilfinane, with the village located in South – East County Limerick on the R517 route which links the area with Kilmallock (9Km) and Mitchelstown (23Km). Kilfinane is located 43Km from Limerick City. The village is adjacent to the Ballyhoura Hills in the Golden Vale region and at 150 metres above sea level this village has picturesque views.

The key variables discussed in this profile include: population structure (demography); nationality and ethnicity; home ownership; family cycle; employment and occupational profile; educational attainment; and health and disability profile. The data for this socio-economic profile has been obtained from the 2016 Census of Population. For comparative purposes, socio-economic data has also been provided for the Ballyhoura region; Limerick City and County; and Ireland. Prior to examining the distinct socio-economic characteristics of Kilfinane, it is important to outline the administrative boundaries covered by this profile.

Methodology

Traditionally, communities in rural Ireland correspond to parish boundaries. To date, the Central Statistics Office has produced Census of Population data at a number of geographical scales (e.g., region, county, garda division, local authority area). However, census data are not recorded or published at the level of Roman Catholic / civil parishes. The only exception to this is the Archdiocese of Dublin for Census 2011, but this practice was not replicated for Census 2016. Although some census data are available at the level of the townland (as components of parishes), the usage of townland data (sub-units of parishes) is problematic. There are challenges associated with the lack of fixity of townland boundaries over time, the tendency to use neighbourhood / housing estate names (rather than traditional townland names) in urban areas and a limited number of socio-economic variables (primarily number of inhabitants and dwellings) released by the CSO, due to the need to respect the confidentiality of residents. Given the absence of readily accessible data at parish-level for Kilfinane, the following steps were undertaken by the researcher for the compilation of the parish / community statistics:

1. Identification of townland, ED and SA boundaries within the parish of Kilfinane. Data sources consulted for the identification of parish boundaries included Diocese of Limerick Heritage Project website http://www.limerickdioceseheritage.org/ and the Pobal maps website: http://maps.pobal.ie/#/Map.

2. The extraction of townland, ED and SA level data from the 2011 and 2016 Censuses of Population (CSO website).

3. The grouping of townlands into the relevant SA(s). In numerous instances, a SA contained townlands belonging to two or more parishes. Therefore, it was necessary to weight the SA population proportionally between the respective parishes. Each subsequent socio-economic variable has been weighted accordingly.

4. The compilation of socio-economic data tables by aggregating SAs / and or components of SAs for selected variable categories for Kilfinane. Furthermore, all data have been rounded to the nearest whole (absolute) number and the percentage calculated for each variable category.

5. The illustration of the data tables through the compilation and arrangement of figures (graphs, charts and population pyramid) for Kilfinane.

This profile corresponds to the official boundary of the Roman Catholic parish of Kilfinane. This area includes the settlement of Kilfinane and its immediate rural hinterland. In total, this area contains 6 Small Areas[9] and a portion of another SAs (an estimate has been calculated for this SA). All key statistics for the Kilfinane community are outlined in this section with comparisons provided for Ballyhoura Region; Limerick City and County; and Ireland. It is primarily SA data from the Census of Population which has been used in order to compile this socio-economic profile for Kilfinane. Furthermore, SA data has also been utilised in order to measure the different deprivation / affluence categorisations across the community. Table 1 provides an overview of key characteristics of each SA within the Kilfinane community. These include: identification number; population size in 2011 and 2016; percentage population change (2011 – 2016); and townlands / streets / estates located within SA. The majority of SAs recorded a decrease or no change in population. The largest decreases in population between 2011 and 2016 was recorded in SA127090006 (-9.73%) and SA127090002 (-7.21%). However, there was 1 SA which recorded a significant increase in population - SA127090004 (8.18%).

Table 1: Small Area Profile of Kilfinane Community

SA ID Code	Pop. 2016	Pop. 2011	% Change 11 – 16	Townlands / Streets / Estates
SA127090001	259	253	2.37	Ballygeagoge; Ballinlyna Lower; Ballinlyna Upper; Ballyroe Upper; Ballyriggin; Thomastown
SA127090002	193	208	-7.21	Ballinanima; Ballyroe Lower; Bosnetstown; Moorestown; Killeen; Garrynlease
SA127090003	245	245	0	Vale View; Church Road; Main Street; Radharc Cillin; Captains Lane
SA127090004	185	171	8.18	Mountain View; Mill Road
SA127090005	137	139	-1.44	Treada na Rí; Sráid na Faithche; Laught St.
SA127090006	102	113	-9.73	Castle Lane; High St.; Lower Main St.; Mill Hill; Barrack St.
SA127008001	38	39	-2.56	Laurencetown North; Laurencetown South

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

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[9] 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 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.

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 (including negative) scores indicating higher levels of deprivation, and higher scores corresponding to higher levels of affluence. On this Index (See Table 2):

- The spatial extent of disadvantage within the Kilfinane community has deteriorated between 2006 and 2016, with 2 SAs moving from being classified as slightly below average to disadvantaged. However, 1 SA moved from slightly below average to slightly above average.
- In 2016, 4 SAs within the Kilfinane community were categorised as being marginally below average.

Even though some SAs were recorded as being slightly below average with respect to disadvantage, this does not necessarily mean there is a high proportion of the population living in poverty. One has to acknowledge the difference between social deprivation and material deprivation. The latter is typically associated with poverty.

**Table 2: Deprivation / Affluence Categorisations for SAs located in Kilfinane (2006 – 2016)**

SA ID Code	Deprivation 2006	Deprivation 2011	Deprivation 2016
SA127090001	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Above Average
SA127090002	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average
SA127090003	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average
SA127090004	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Disadvantaged
SA127090005	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average
SA127090006	Marginally Below Average	Disadvantaged	Disadvantaged
SA127008001	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average	Marginally Below Average

Demographic Profile

According to the 2016 Census of Population, there are 1,159 individuals living in Kilfinane, with 601 males and 558 females. The population has declined marginally (-9) since the previous Census of Population. The population pyramid (data derived from the 2016 Census of Population data) for Kilfinane highlights a varied population structure (Figure 1). The population profile should conform to a pyramid structure[10] 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 Kilfinane population pyramid indicates an ageing population structure for both males and females (due to its irregular shape). There is a significant inversion for the 0 - 4 and 20 - 24 age categories and especially for females. This suggests young people are moving to larger urban centres in search of educational / training and /or employment opportunities. However, the school-going population in Kilfinane is significant as indicated by the higher proportions within the 5 – 9; and 10 – 14 age categories. Furthermore, the population pyramid indicates the emergence of a stagnant demographic base with the potential for population loss into the future. This is due to a high proportion of males and females aged in excess of 60 years in 2016.

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[10] 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.

Figure 1: Kilfinane Population Pyramid
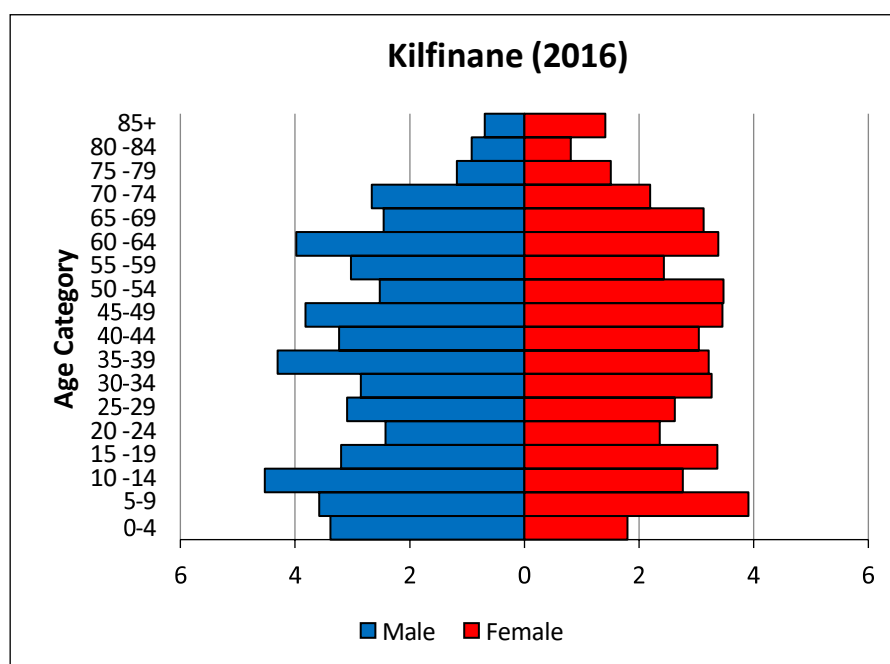
The youth and elderly dependency ratio and the demographic vitality ratio can be utilised to measure the vibrancy of a population within a selected location. The youth dependency ratio refers to the number of young people (aged 0 to 14) in relation to the number of working (economically active) population (aged 15 to 64). The youth dependency ratio for Kilfinane (0.29) is lower in comparison to the Ballyhoura region (0.31) and Ireland (0.30), but identical to Limerick City and County. 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 divergence between Kilfinane 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 Kilfinane is older in comparison to the other selected locations.

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

Location	Youth Dependency Ratio	Elderly Dependency Ratio	Demographic Vitality Ratio
Kilfinane	0.29	0.17	2.12
Ballyhoura Region	0.31	0.13	2.87
Limerick City and County	0.29	0.13	2.97
Ireland	0.30	0.13	3.10

Nationality

According to the 2016 Census of Population, Kilfinane has a very low proportion (6.74%) of foreign nationals in comparison to Ballyhoura region (7.27%); Limerick City and County (9.62%); and state average (11.42%). Furthermore, UK nationals (who are English speaking) are the most prominent foreign national cohort living in Kilfinane (Figure 2). UK nationals are the single largest non-Irish foreign national group in rural Limerick. Their distribution varies considerably throughout the county with the highest concentrations in the South-West and South-East of the county. Only 8 individuals stated in the census that they spoke English not well or not all. An inability to speak the vernacular language poses difficulties with respect to integration. The situation is more profound when there are such a small number of people as accessing local English language supports / services is unfeasible and impractical. Therefore, these individuals are at significant risk of isolation and marginalisation. In absolute terms, there were 78 foreign nationals living in Kilfinane - UK (45); Polish (14); Lithuanian (4); Other EU (7); and Rest of World (8).

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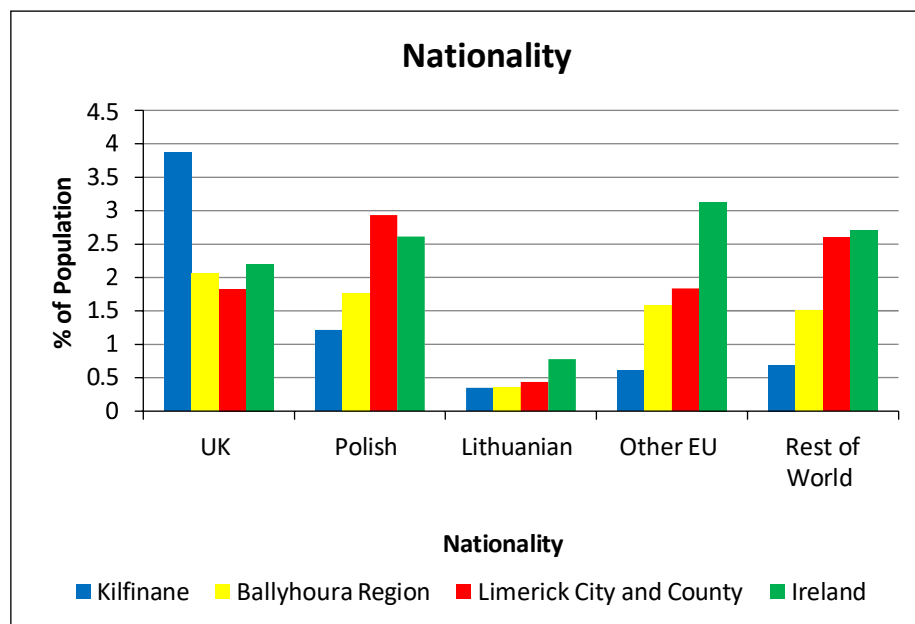
Ethnic Groups

According to the 2016 Census of Population, there is no significant ethnic minority group living in Kilfinane, with the possible exception of other white which accounts for 5.7% of the population (Figure 3). This refers to white individuals who are neither white Irish nor white Irish traveller. Overall, 6.93% (80 individuals) of the population living in Kilfinane are non-Irish white (this term refers to all minority groups including white Irish travellers). In absolute terms, there are 0 white Irish travellers; 66 other white; 0 black or black Irish; 3 Asian or Asian Irish; and 11 others.

Figure 3: Proportion (%) of Ethnic Minority Groups in Selected Locations (2016)
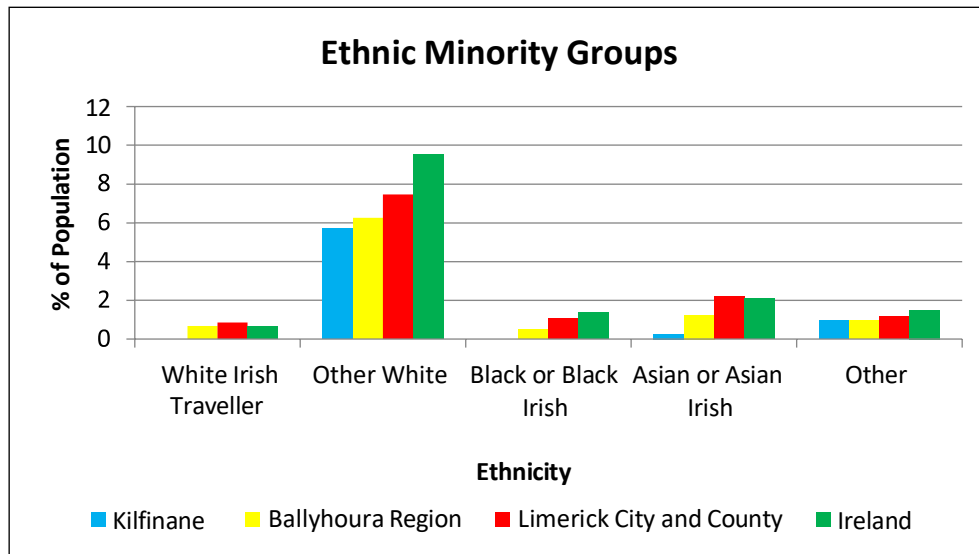
Family Life Cycle Distribution

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 317 families living in Kilfinane. This includes: 22 pre-families; 40 empty nest families; 35 retired families; 19 families with pre-school children; 31 families with early school children; 35 families with pre-adolescent children; 49 families with adolescent children; and 86 families comprising of adults. In comparison to the national, county and regional averages, there is an over-representation of empty nest; adolescent; and adult-children families in Kilfinane (Figure 4). The proportion of pre-families; pre-school; and early school families in Kilfinane is lower when compared with Ballyhoura region; Limerick City and County; and Ireland.

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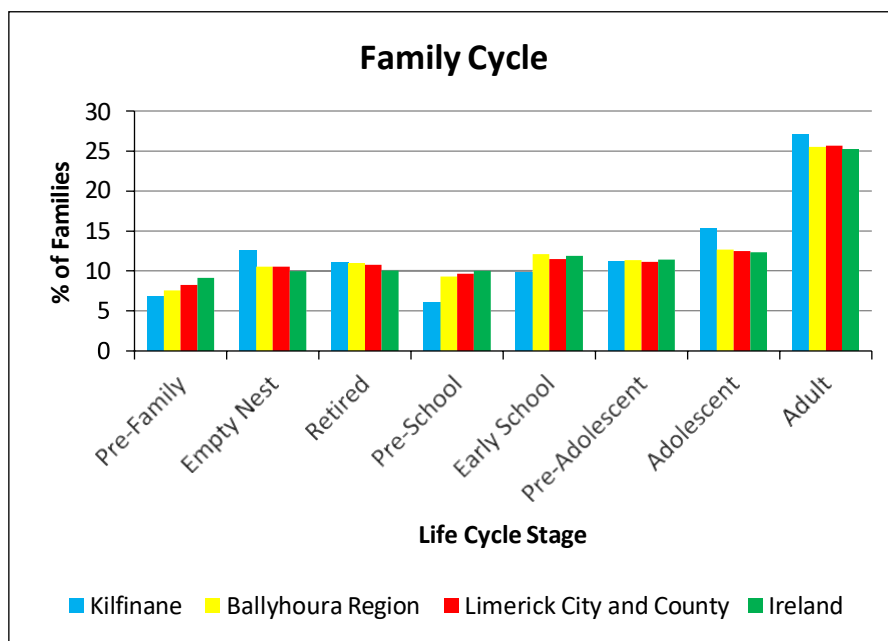
Household Family Composition

Kilfinane's household family composition differs from the Ballyhoura region; Limerick City and County; or Ireland (Figure 5). This is due to a larger proportion of one person (single occupancy); and lone parent households in Kilfinane in comparison to the other selected locations. These groups are the most susceptible to be living in disadvantage. Furthermore, the proportion of married couple with children households is also lower in Kilfinane. The number of persons belonging to each family type in Kilfinane includes: one person (141); married couple (76); cohabiting couple (15); married couple with children (114); cohabiting couple with children (21); lone father and children (7); lone mother and children (61).

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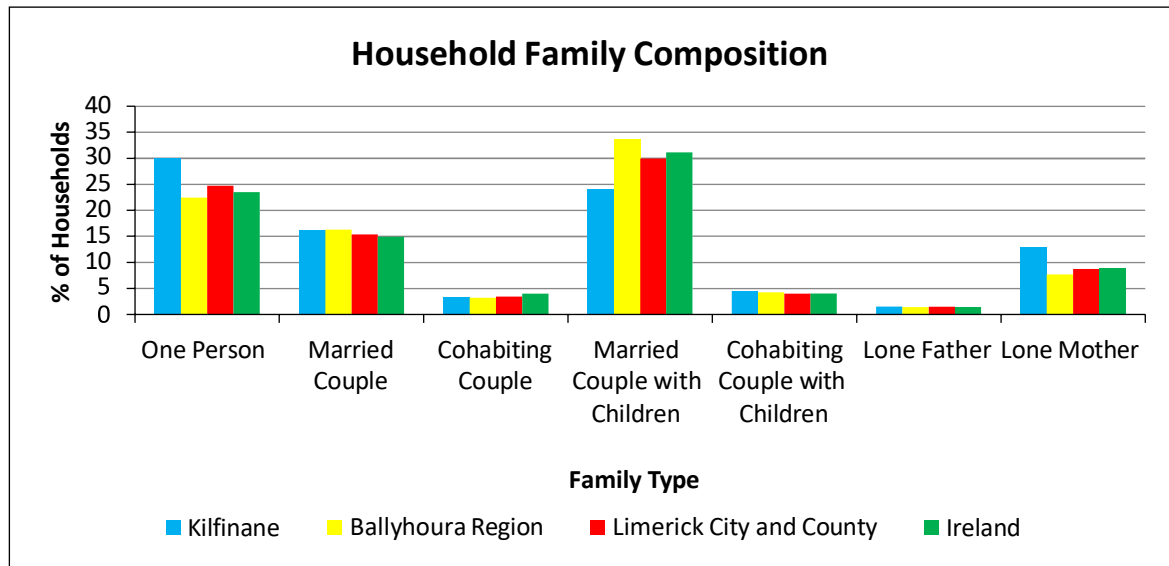
Home Ownership

In Kilfinane, there are differences in relation to the nature of housing occupancy relative to national and regional trends (Figure 6). A significantly higher proportion of households own their home outright in Kilfinane (43.48%) in comparison to the national average (36.04%). Furthermore, an additional 24.25% of homes in Kilfinane are owned with a mortgage / loan. Therefore, private home ownership is very dominant in this community and a limited proportion of households are renting from private landlords (13.51%). The proportion of local authority housing in Kilfinane is higher than Limerick City and County, and Ireland. However, 32% and 33% of properties in SA127090003 and SA127090004 respectively are rented from the local authority. The following provides a breakdown (absolute numbers) of the status of home ownership in Kilfinane: ownership with mortgage / loan (114); owned outright (205); rented from private landlord (64); rented from local authority (62); and rented from voluntary housing association (5).

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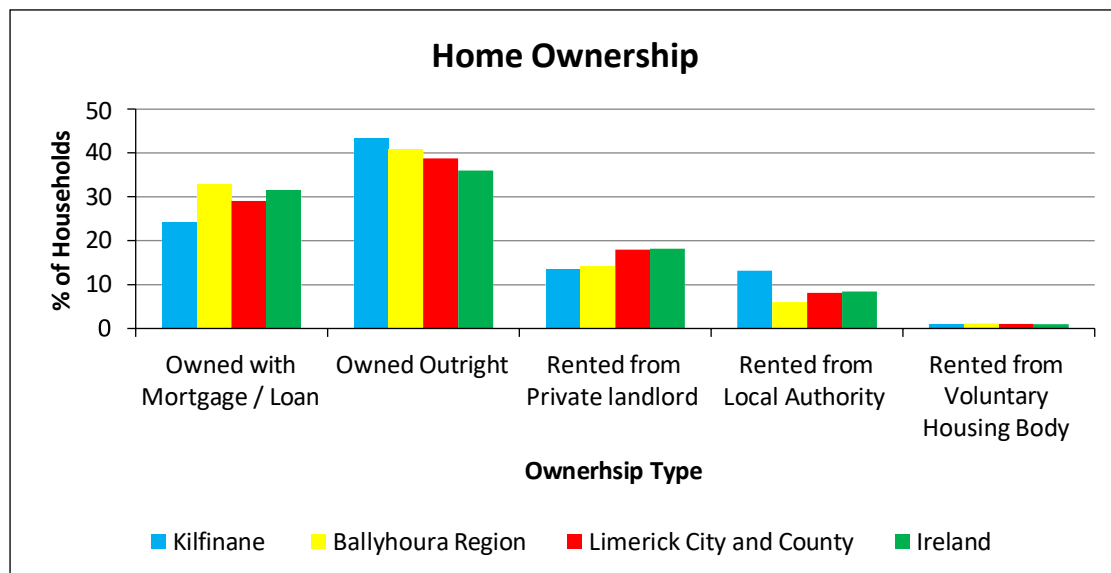
Employment Statistics

The labour force participation rate in Kilfinane (as recorded in the 2016 Census of Population) is lower for both males and females in comparison to the Ballyhoura region; Limerick City and County; and national average (Table 2). A similar trend is also evident for the employment rate, which refers to persons who worked in the week before the Census 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 (51.53%) is significantly higher than the female employment rate (42.01%). However, this trend is replicated across all of the selected geographic locations.

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

	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)			Employment Rate (%)			Unemployment Rate (%)		
			Total			Total			Total
Location	Male	Female	Pop.	Male	Female	Pop.	Male	Female	Pop.
Kilfinane	62.35	48.84	55.65	51.53	42.01	46.30	18.95	13.98	16.79
Ballyhoura Region	64.09	51.26	57.69	56.35	45.81	51.10	12.08	10.62	11.43
Limerick CC	64.64	51.52	58.02	54.83	44.65	49.69	15.17	13.34	14.35
Ireland	67.81	55.15	61.35	58.52	48.55	53.43	13.70	11.97	12.91

Since 2008, the global economic downturn has had a detrimental effect on the Irish labour market, with Kilfinane 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 Kilfinane 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 Mid-West of Ireland was 8.5% (national average 8.6%). According to the 2016 Census of Population, the national (12.91%) and local authority (14.35%) 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 Kilmallock was 18.95% and 13.98% respectively in April 2016 (Table 2). The unemployment rate for both males and females was markedly higher than the Ballyhoura, local authority and national averages.

It is important to note that the impacts associated with COVID-19 on labour force participation; employment; and unemployment rates are not reflected in these figures. Social welfare data on employment / unemployment rates is not published at SA or ED spatial units.

Occupational Profile

There is no significant variation in the male occupational profile when compared with Ballyhoura region. Furthermore, there are only minor differences when compared with Limerick City and County; and national profiles (Figure 7). There is a larger agricultural workforce in Kilfinane. This is not surprising with a significant agricultural hinterland surrounding the village of Kilfinane. The proportion (%) of males resident in Kilfinane (22.80%) who are engaged in manufacturing is higher than Ballyhoura Region (19.62%), Limerick City and County (20.29%) and national (15.13%) averages. Furthermore, there is also an under-representation of males engaged in building and construction; commerce and trade; and transportation and communications activities. The female occupational profile for Kilfinane is broadly similar with the other selected locations, albeit there is a lower proportion working in public administration; and transportation and communications (Figure 8). The 'other' category is broadly similar with the national average for both males and females. This category refers to individuals engaging in multiple types of employment (pluriactivity).

In Kilfinane, there is a reliance of commuting to work. For instance, 43% of the workforce (male and female) commute between 15 to 90 minutes daily to their employment; and approximately 78% travel by private transport (car / van / motorcycle).

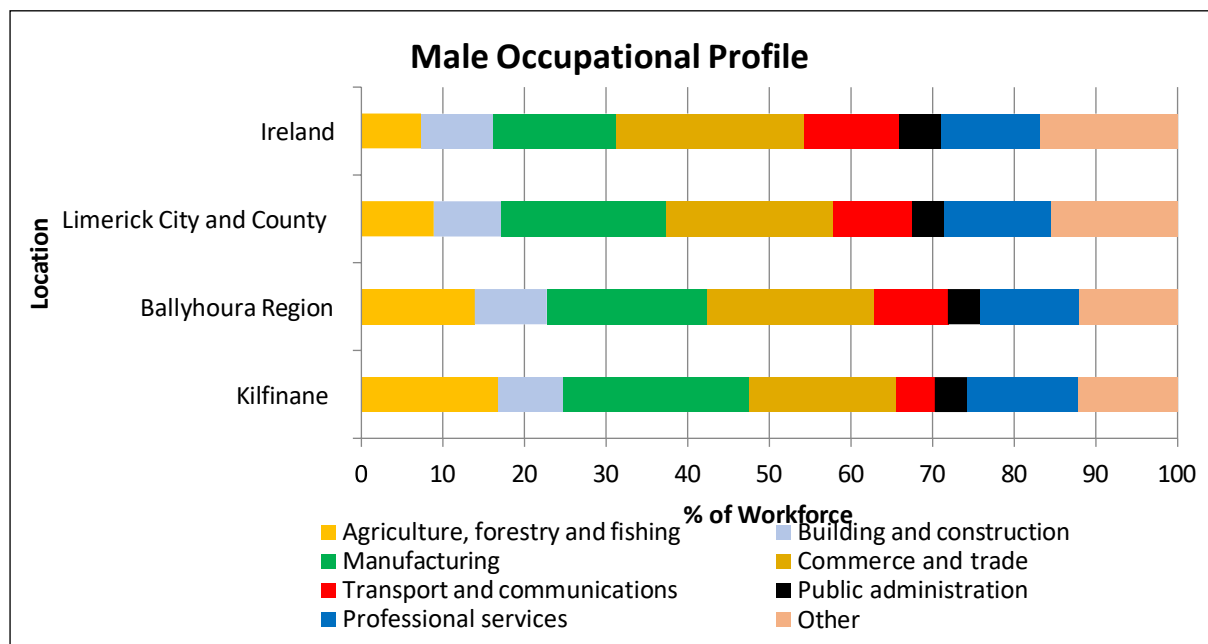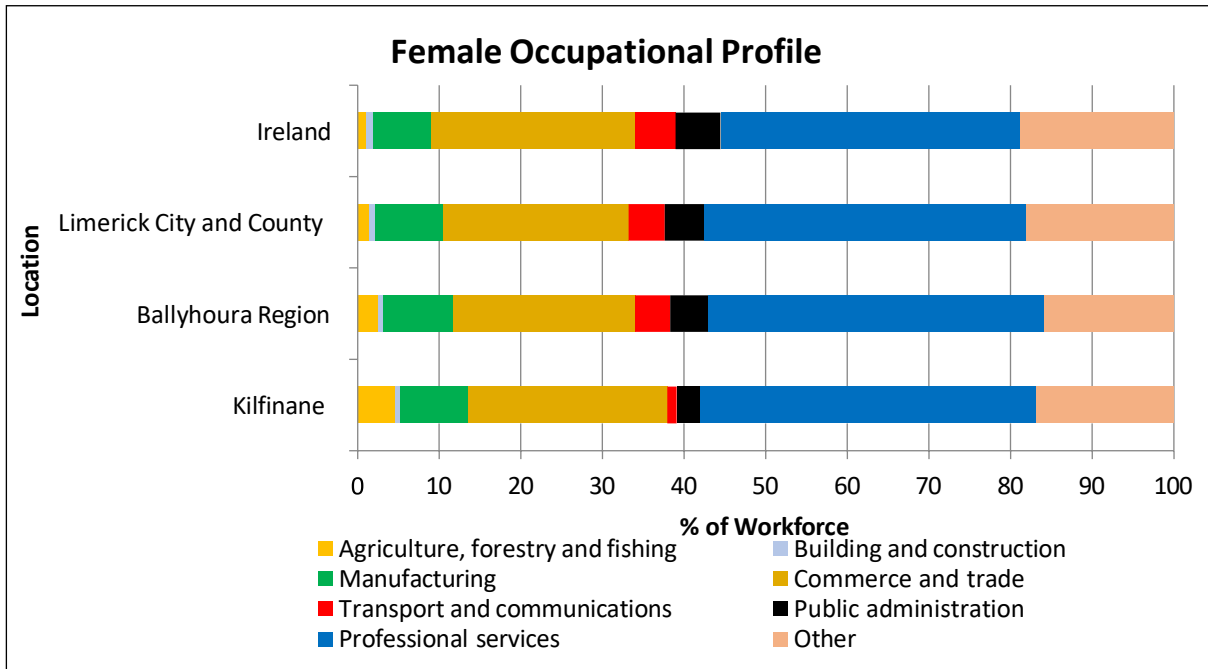**Figure 7: Male Occupational Profile in Selected Locations (2016)**

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

Education Attainment

The education attainment rates for Kilfinane differ from the Ballyhoura region; Limerick City and County; 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 include undergraduate and postgraduate degree holders. In absolute terms, 232 individuals living in Kilfinane are classified as early school leavers (no formal education (14); primary (79); and lower secondary (139); whilst the number of third level graduates is considerably lower (147). However, a large number of individuals have attained a technically orientated education / skillset - technical or vocational qualification (96); advanced certificate / completed apprenticeship (61). The number of individuals who ceased with an upper secondary qualification (Leaving Certificate) is 163. In Kilfinane, 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; and out-migration of young people in search of higher education; training and / or employment.

Figure 10: Gender Profile of Early School Leavers in Selected Locations (2016)
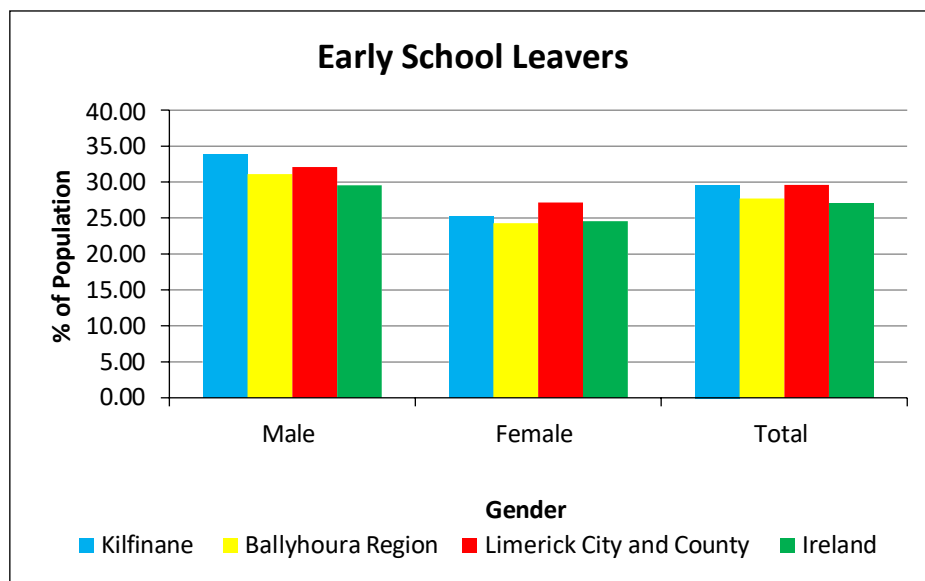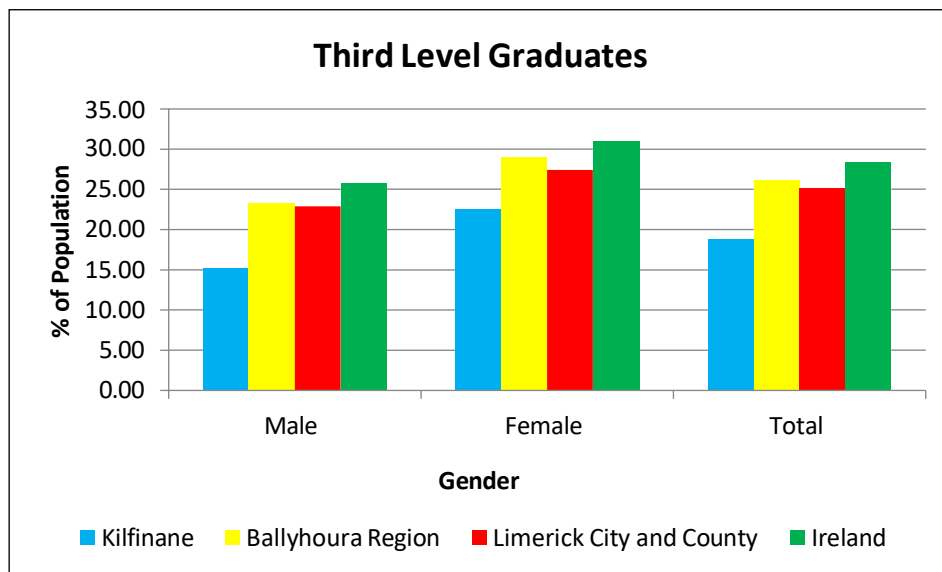
Figure 11: Gender Profile of Third Level Graduates in Selected Locations (2016)

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 in Kilfinane is higher for both males and females in comparison to the other selected locations (Figure 12). According to the 2016 Census of Population, there were 183 individuals (89 males and 94 females) with a disability living in Kilfinane. The overall proportion of carers in Kilfinane is also higher in comparison to the other selected locations (Figure 13). However, there are significantly more female carers (33) than male carers (26) in Kilfinane. Overall, 27 individuals (14 male; 13 female) living in Kilfinane reported their health as being bad or very bad in the 2016 Census of Population. This equates to 2.14% of the population and it is higher than Ballyhoura Region (1.42%); Limerick City and County (1.86%); and Ireland (1.6%).

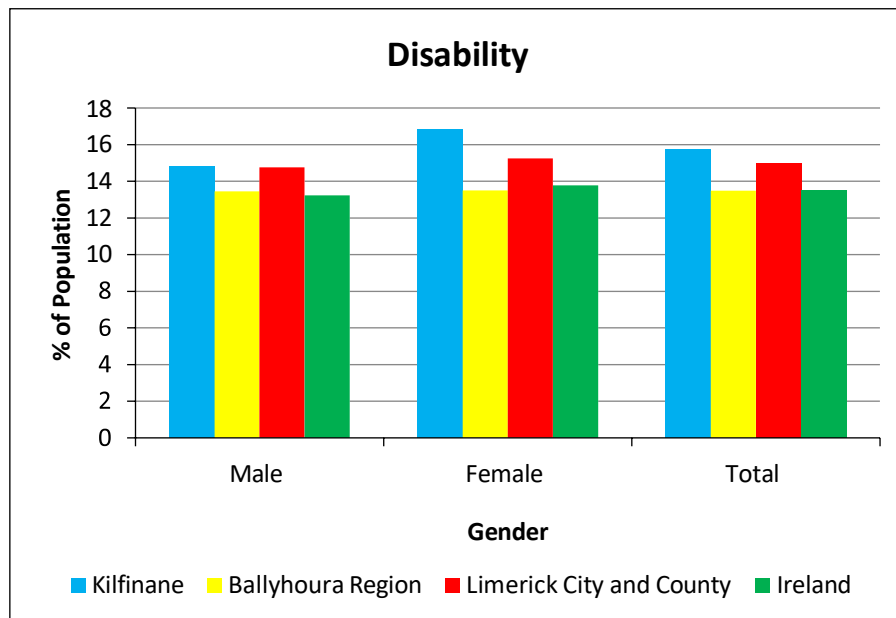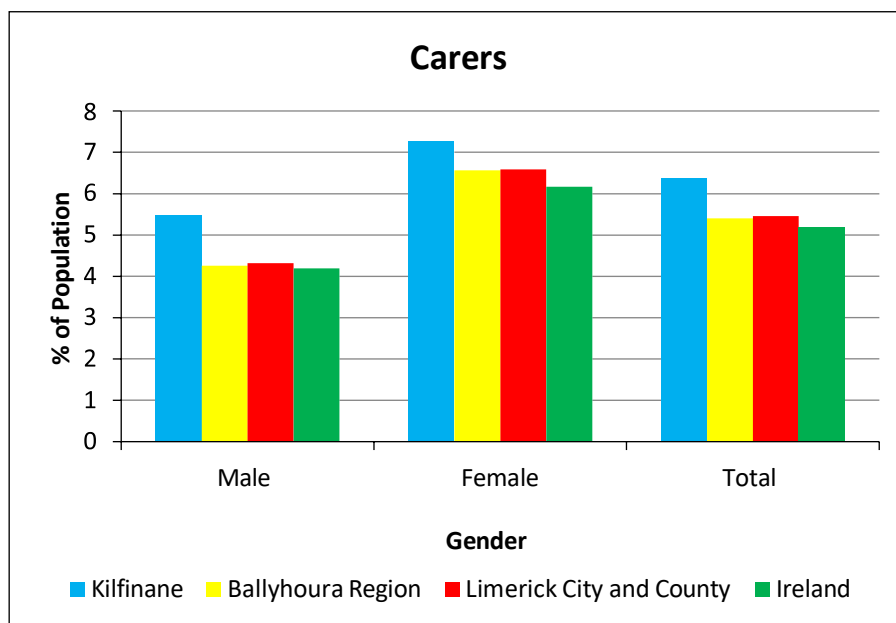**Figure 12: Proportion of Population with a Disability in Selected Locations (2016)**

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 Kilfinane:

- The population of Kilfinane has declined between 2011 (1,168) and 2016 (1,159), with a decrease of 9 individuals. This equates to a -0.77% decrease in population.
- The elderly dependency ratio for Kilfinane (0.17) is higher in comparison to Ballyhoura region (0.13); Limerick City and County (0.13); and Ireland (0.13).
- There are 78 foreign nationals living in Kilfinane - UK (45); Polish (14); Lithuanian (4); Other EU (7); and Rest of World (8).
- There are 80 individuals (6.93%) living in Kilfinane who are classified as non-white Irish. This includes: 0 white Irish travellers; 66 other white; 0 black or black Irish; 3 Asian or Asian Irish; and 11 others.
- A diverse range of family types are living in Kilfinane - 22 pre-families; 40 empty nest families; 35 retired families; 19 families with pre-school children; 31 families with early school children; 35 families with pre-adolescent children; 49 families with adolescent children; and 86 families comprising of adults.
- The labour force participation rate in Kilfinane (55.65%) is lower than Ballyhoura (57.69%); Limerick City and County (58.02%) but lower than the national average (61.35%).
- A higher proportion (16.79%) of the working age population were classified as being unemployed in the 2016 Census of Population. This contrasts to a national average of 12.91%.
- In Kilfinane, 232 individuals are classified as early school leavers (no formal education (14); primary (79); and lower secondary (139)). Conversely, the number of third level graduates in Kilfinane is lower (147).
- According to the Pobal Deprivation Index, Kilfinane has two small areas classified as being disadvantaged in the Hasse / Pobal Deprivation Index. All the other SAs are marginally below average, with the exception of one being classified as marginally above average.
- In May 2022, in response to the War in Ukraine a group of Ukrainian Nationals arrived in Kilfinane, at the time of printing of this plan their was 26 Ukrainian Nationals living in the Ballyhoura Luxury Hostel in Kilfinane, 16 Adults and 10 children. The local community in Kilfinane in partnership with Ballyhoura Development and other key statutory and voluntary providers of supports and services have supported the integration of the newly arrived population in community life.

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CSO 2016 Data for Kilfinane

Indicator	Kilfinane	Ballyhoura	Limerick C&C	State	% Ballyhoura	% Co. Limerick	% of State
Youth dependency	0.29	0.31	0.29	0.30	95.23	100.72	96.14
Elderly dependency	0.17	0.13	0.13	0.13	125.53	125.41	129.35
Demographic vitality ratio	2.12	2.87	2.97	3.10	73.83	71.39	68.41
% Irish	92.64	91.20	88.77	87.05	101.58	104.36	106.42
% Other EU 27 (incl. UK)	12.09	5.77	7.03	8.72	209.58	171.97	138.64
% Rest of the world	0.69	1.50	2.59	2.70	46.17	26.79	25.73
% Irish White Travellers	0.00	0.67	0.86	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
% Non-Irish White	6.93	9.60	12.71	15.17	72.17	54.52	45.67
% early school leavers – m	33.81	31.12	32.10	29.53	108.66	105.33	114.51
% early school leavers – f	25.25	24.31	27.13	24.58	103.86	93.08	102.70
% 3rd-level – m	15.17	23.27	22.88	25.75	65.19	66.30	58.92
% 3rd-level – f	22.51	29.09	27.39	31.04	77.37	82.16	72.51
Labour force participation rate – m	62.35	64.09	64.64	67.81	97.29	96.46	91.95
Labour force participation rate – f	48.84	51.26	51.52	55.15	95.30	94.81	88.56
Employment rate – m	50.53	56.35	54.83	58.52	89.68	92.16	86.35
Employment rate – f	42.02	45.81	44.65	48.55	91.71	94.11	86.54
Unemployment rate – m	18.95	12.08	15.17	13.70	156.93	124.91	138.34
Unemployment rate – f	13.98	10.62	13.34	11.97	131.63	104.81	116.80
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - m	16.75	13.91	8.89	7.30	120.39	188.28	229.30
% at work in building and construction - m	7.97	8.83	8.22	8.79	90.28	97.00	90.71
% at work in manufacturing – m	22.81	19.63	20.30	15.14	116.21	112.37	150.67
% at work in trade and commerce - m	17.97	20.46	20.36	23.06	87.87	88.26	77.93
% at work in transport and communications - m	4.74	9.04	9.71	11.60	52.50	48.85	40.91
% at work in public administration - m	3.99	3.96	3.99	5.20	100.73	99.94	76.72
% at work in professional services - m	13.56	12.04	13.01	12.04	112.65	104.25	112.62
% at work in other – m	12.21	12.14	15.52	16.87	100.51	78.66	72.36
% at work in agriculture, forestry and fishing - f	4.66	2.54	1.45	1.13	183.14	321.54	412.96
% at work in building and construction - f	0.52	0.66	0.66	0.78	78.85	78.60	66.72
% at work in manufacturing – f	8.39	8.49	8.39	7.16	98.76	99.91	117.15
% at work in trade and commerce - f	24.37	22.28	22.68	24.92	109.36	107.41	97.76
% at work in transport and communications - f	1.14	4.31	4.44	4.98	26.54	25.78	22.95

% at work in public administration - f	2.91	4.70	4.84	5.47	61.97	60.19	53.27
% at work in professional services - f	41.14	41.21	39.44	36.77	99.83	104.30	111.87
% at work in other – f	16.88	15.82	18.10	18.79	106.74	93.26	89.83
% HH with no PCs	38.79	30.84	31.80	28.19	125.78	121.97	137.63
% HH with no internet access	30.46	22.38	22.38	18.44	136.09	136.08	165.22
% broadband	54.31	64.70	65.60	70.69	83.94	82.79	76.83
% HH no car	15.78	9.49	15.95	15.17	166.29	98.93	104.00
% No central heating	2.17	1.70	1.66	1.37	127.64	130.46	158.92
% travel to work by private motorised vehicle	78.34	80.14	75.73	69.21	97.75	103.44	113.18
% travel to work by public transport	0.85	1.31	2.70	8.86	65.05	31.55	9.63
% travel to school / college by private motorised vehicle	58.93	61.28	56.47	50.15	96.17	104.36	117.50
% travel to school / college by public transport	2.92	13.62	14.71	20.33	21.43	19.83	14.35
% disability	15.77	13.47	15.00	13.51	117.08	105.19	116.80
% carers	6.37	5.40	5.46	5.20	117.92	116.73	122.53
% bad or very bad health male	1.97	1.35	1.77	1.55	145.95	111.60	127.15
% bad or very bad health female	2.33	1.51	1.97	1.66	154.51	118.14	140.36
% Pre-family	6.82	7.58	8.24	9.15	90.04	82.78	74.52
% Empty nest (family)	12.63	10.56	10.52	9.99	119.65	120.02	126.43
% Retired (Family)	11.05	10.97	10.80	10.05	100.77	102.39	110.03
% Pre-school (family)	6.06	9.30	9.67	10.04	65.12	62.67	60.36
% Early school (family)	9.86	12.11	11.48	11.89	81.40	85.85	82.92
% Pre-adolescent (family)	11.12	11.32	11.14	11.41	98.19	99.78	97.44
% Adolescent (family)	15.34	12.65	12.49	12.34	121.21	122.81	124.28
% Adult (family)	27.12	25.51	25.66	25.13	106.33	105.70	107.92
% One person households	30.02	22.45	24.74	23.49	133.70	121.33	127.82
% Married couple households	16.21	16.32	15.39	14.96	99.33	105.34	108.30
% Cohabiting couple households	3.27	3.23	3.46	4.02	101.39	94.62	81.51
% Married couple with children households	24.14	33.76	29.96	31.12	71.50	80.58	77.58
% Cohabiting couple with children households	4.50	4.26	3.99	4.05	105.78	112.81	111.16
% One parent family (father) with children households	1.49	1.46	1.49	1.45	101.89	99.70	102.33
% One parent family (mother) and children households	12.97	7.68	8.77	9.00	168.73	147.87	144.08
% House/Bungalow (hh)	96.13	94.14	88.39	86.45	102.12	108.76	111.20
% Flat/Apartment (hh)	1.91	4.16	9.92	11.80	46.00	19.26	16.20
% Bed-Sit (hh)	0.00	0.04	0.10	0.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
% Caravan/Mobile home (hh)	0.04	0.35	0.28	0.27	12.73	15.73	16.42
% Owned with mortgage or loan (hh)	24.25	33.03	29.10	31.55	73.43	83.35	76.86

% Owned outright (hh)	43.48	40.85	38.81	36.04	106.46	112.05	120.65
% Rented from private landlord (hh)	13.52	14.26	18.00	18.24	94.82	75.09	74.10
% Rented from Local Authority (hh)	13.17	6.04	8.17	8.43	218.20	161.23	156.20
% Rented from voluntary/co-operative housing body (hh)	1.06	1.16	1.07	0.99	91.25	99.15	107.58
% Occupied free of rent (hh)	2.55	2.12	1.78	1.62	120.51	143.04	157.74
% Occupied dwellings	81.98	86.84	87.07	85.22	94.41	94.15	96.20
% Temporarily absent dwellings	0.56	2.76	2.96	2.53	20.20	18.82	22.04
% Unoccupied holiday homes	3.48	0.74	0.53	3.10	469.82	660.75	112.07
% Other vacant dwellings	13.99	9.66	9.44	9.15	144.78	148.15	152.88

4. The Community Planning Workshops

Workshop 1: Kilfinane Demographics and Local Priorities
7th October 2021, Old Chapel Rooms, Kilfinane

Introduction

Kilfinane Community Council and Ballyhoura Development CLG welcomed Kilfinane community members to the workshop and explained the Community Planning process, the policy environment, and the activities that the community would undertake over the following three workshops.

Socio-Economics and Demographics

The workshops were opened with a socio-economic analysis of Kilfinane, presented by Dr. Shane O'Sullivan of Technological University of the Shannon. This is presented in detail in the previous section of this plan. The socio-economic analysis clarified key demographic shifts and notable trends in Kilfinane when compared to Limerick County, the Ballyhoura area, and Ireland in general. This analysis provided the starting point of the communities planning efforts, outlining some opportunities and challenges that ought to be addressed. Core themes include:

- The population of Kilfinane is aging. This suggests the importance of planning for lifelong learning opportunities, establishing or supporting groups such as the Active Retirement Group, and providing health and leisure amenities locally.
- As the population of Kilfinane is aging, it is important to provide facilities and amenities to allow young people to continue to work and live locally to maintain a vibrant economy and social opportunities. Remote working opportunities and leisure amenities are two potential examples.
- The % of early school leavers is high in the area. This of course reflects the key economic activities of the area surrounding agriculture and industry. Nevertheless, this again points to the importance of providing for lifelong learning opportunities and upskilling services for those that require them.

SWOT analysis

To get a sense of the challenges and opportunities as understood by the group at large, the community members undertook a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis of Kilfinane. The SWOT analysis process helped community members to get a sense of how their personal priorities or perceived issues fit into the feelings of the broader community. This allows a more shared agenda to take shape. A summary of the results is as follows:

- Schools
- History and Heritage
- Great Community Spirit / Pride
- Rural and Natural Environment
- Moat draws a lot of interest and work is actively ongoing
- The facilities we have a brilliant

- Ballyhoura office
- Location (relatively near two cities)
- Festivals
- GAA
- The People
- Safe place

- No outdoor meeting space/ park / community garden
- Current sporting facilities in need of upgrade; Lack of other sporting facilities such as gym and pool
- Healthy food initiatives / food market
- Lack of community group interaction / no opportunity to mingle.
- No men's shed, women's shed, ladies group.
- Need to promote the natural beauty of the town more.
- Lack of storage for groups
- No community alert scheme
- Too few trained in using defibrillators, those trained need to be known as such
- Lack of professional services in town (dentist, accountant)

- Derelict Buildings
- Lack of Amenities and services (especially for youth)
- Public Transport
- No local Garda Station
- No Community Alert
- Path infrastructure and poor connections to local walks
- Street Lighting
- Dog Litter
- Lack of knowledge surrounding social enterprises
- No greengrocers/lack of cafes and delis
- Lack of mental health facilities/promotion of such facilities

- Inform people of events, groups or services in the community (packages, newsletter)
- Link Kilfinane with other towns (bike trail, walk ways)
- Support working from home (hub)
- Get involved in more sustainable initiatives (sustainable market, renewable energy, biodiversity park)
- Welcome group, look at how to attract people to live here. (link with first point)
- Business network
- Opportunities with derelict buildings
- Mens shed/creative spaces/retreat centre
- Swimming pool

- Energy efficiency – retrofits, community energy project to sell back to the grid, future proof the energy supply of Kilfinane
- Opportunity to develop community gardens or allotments and better use green space available e.g. develop the river walks, moat field, grow a maze, etc
- Opportunity to make better use of Helping Hands
- LCETB courses in e.g. yoga, crafts, skills, etc
- Improve road markings, straighten main road
- Set up local crafts market/locally grown food market

Ballyhoura Development CLG

- Decisions being made without consulting community (County Council, Local Planning Authority)
- Lack of communication between groups
- Keeping existing services in the town
- Issues with deeds and ownership of derelict buildings
- Planning restrictions on properties
- Future of the Doctor
- Emigration / young people leaving the town for work
- Aging population
- Anti-social behaviour
- Need more volunteers

- Community/local voices not heard during the development of Kilfinane
- Lack of communication between groups and organisations
- Loss of existing services in the town due to retirements with no replacements etc
- Vacant buildings that the community has no control/influence over
- Planning restrictions stagnate growth

Ballyhoura Development CLG

The image that emerges from the above is of a vibrant community with notable local community, economic, and environmental assets. The Chapel Rooms, drama groups, historical groups, local GAA team and accommodation providers are good examples, as are the references to active local groups and the Culture and Heritage events and facilities.

Nevertheless, there are clear issues that need to be addressed too, such as upgrades to public spaces, bus stops and community amenities. The existing sporting facilities such as the GAA's also need to be refurbished, with open amenities added to the benefit of the entire community. Finally, there is clear need for interventions to support a more diverse economy and vibrant workforce. These points were recorded and used to shape the interventions designed in Workshops two and three.

Workshop 2: Community Survey and Establishing Strategic Planning Themes
11ᵗʰ November 2021, Old Chapel Rooms, Kilfinane

Community Survey

Prior to the community planning project, a community survey was circulated in Kilfinane to get a sense of the types of stakeholder groups that might take part in the project, and to probe the community's feelings about life in the area. Some of the results are summarised below:

145 survey responses were received – an impressive number that demonstrates good community buy in to the process. Just over half of respondents were aged 36+. What is significant is that 40% of respondents were under the age of 25. This is an excellent response from young people in Kilfinane that is rarely seen in these community surveys. It means that the plan developed from these workshops includes the voices of Kilfinane's young people, and services or interventions aimed at them arising from the plan will have a higher chance at success.
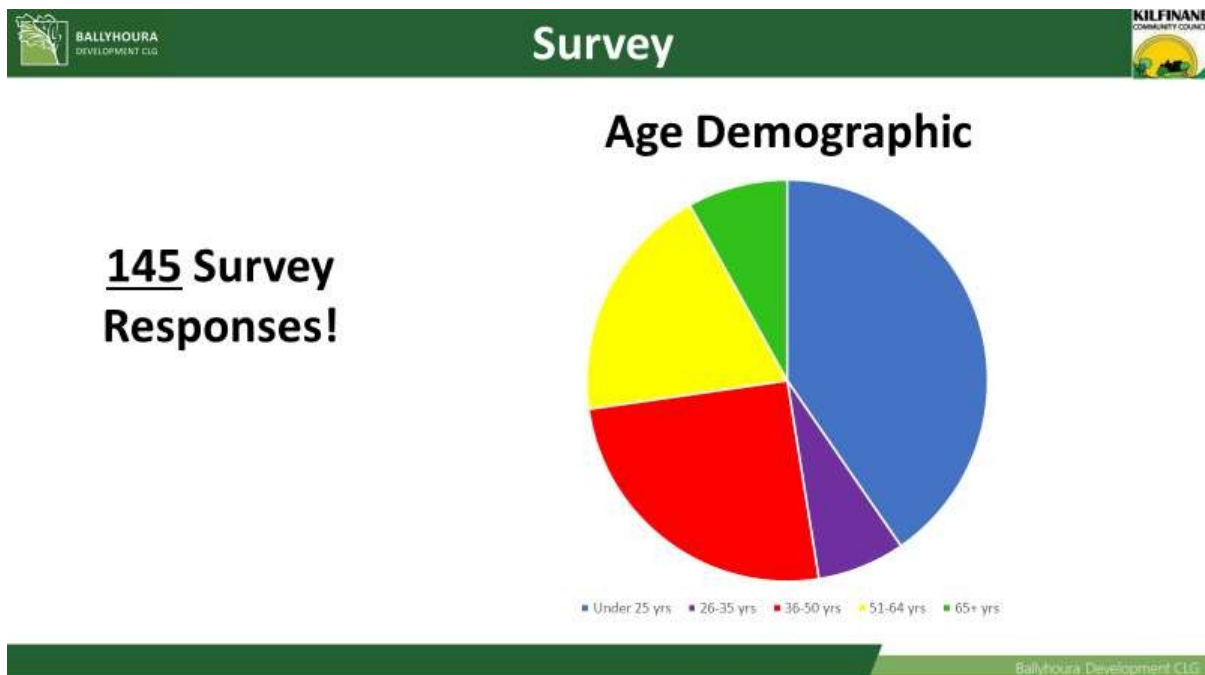
Volunteering

There is a good tradition of voluntarism locally. 62 respondents (43%) stated that they are involved in volunteering locally. This is evidenced by the number of local community groups and their high levels of activity. One notable barrier to volunteering was a lack of knowledge of available opportunities. One of the key actions of this plan will be to establish an umbrella forum where all local groups and stakeholders are represented, increasing the capacity of Kilfinane community to network and communicate effectively.

Volunteering

Out of 145 participants 62 people said they volunteered while 81 people said that they did not volunteer.

Out of the people who said they volunteered, 51 volunteer 0-5 hours a week, 8 volunteer 5-10 hours a week and 2 volunteer 10+ hours.

Out of the 81 who said they did not volunteer 31 people said they would be interested in volunteering, 15 people said they might be interested and 35 people said they would not be interested.

Barriers people face in volunteering work and family constraints, childcare, Lack of knowledge of opportunities, No groups of interest and no time.

Economic and Social Vibrancy

Tourism and tourist amenities are clearly points of strength for Kilfinane. It is obvious that the community are proud of their area and see Kilfinane as a good place to live.

Kilfinane is very socially vibrant, as seen in the high score for Culture / Heritage below. Festivals such as HearSay, Ballyhoura Walking Festival, and the Joyce Brothers Music Festival demonstrate the level of activities that are organised locally that draw people into Kilfinane for these significant regional events. Event centres such as the Old Chapel Rooms and the planned auditorium at Scoil Pól are excellent supports to this sector locally.

Local groups such as Kilfinane Arts, Crafts and Traditional Skills Group; Ballyhoura Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (BCCE); Kilfinane Old Chapel Rooms, Kilfinane Community Projects, Drama Society, and more, are driving a significant agenda of arts and cultural events and activities throughout the year. This plan recognises the value of this work to Kilfinane and aims to facilitate communication and cooperation between all groups to maximise the positive impact and visibility of all these related activities over the coming period.

Weak points include poor internet and phone signal, as well as some dissatisfaction with available services and supports, such as professional service suppliers (dentists, accountants, and so on) and bus connections. In general, there is a need to increase diverse local employment and enterprise opportunities in order to limit community members' need to commute for work. This is a key priority of numerous overlapping policy programmes including Project Ireland 2040, Making Remote Work, Our Rural Future 2021-2025; Rural Development Policy, Ireland's Climate Action Plan, and The EU Green Deal. This can be actioned through exploring the provision of remote working and enterprise space in Kilfinane, as well as encouraging service providers in neighbouring towns to provide outreach or virtual services to Kilfinane periodically, among other interventions contained in this plan.

Improving these issues will be key to maintaining Kilfinane as a vibrant place of business and community life into the middle of the 21st century. It will involve communicating and working closely with service providers such as transport providers, telecommunications providers, and others to find shared solutions. The establishment of designated working groups and points of contact will be important first steps.

Economic Vibrancy
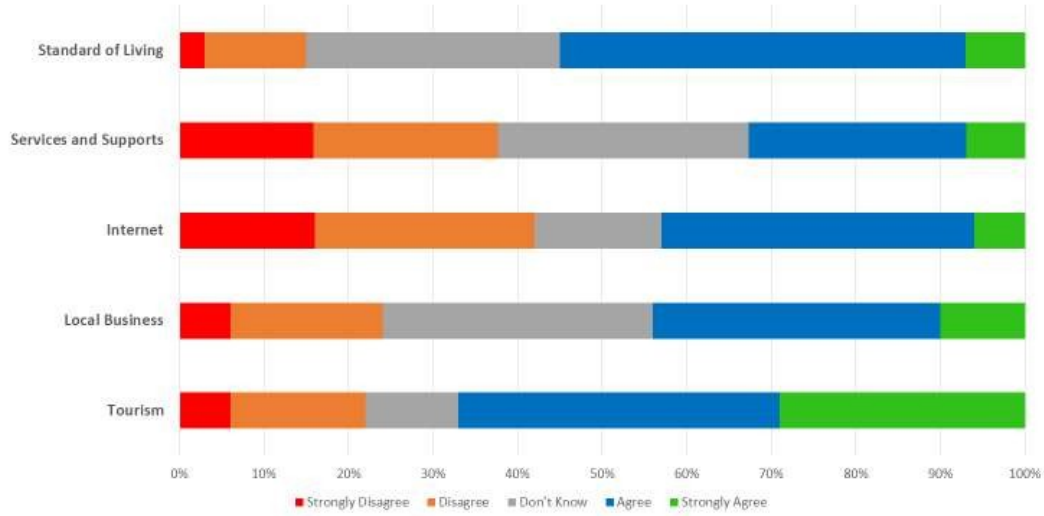
Social Vibrancy
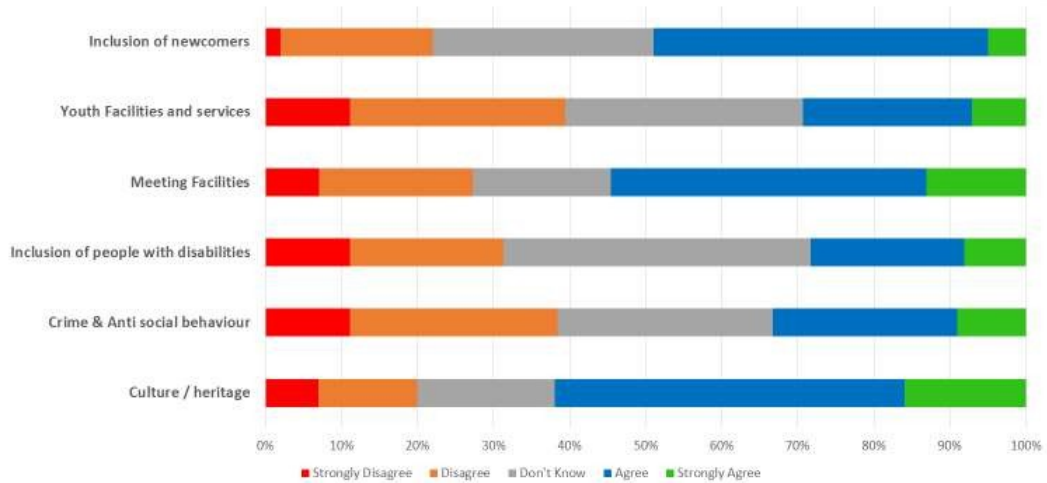
Environmental Vibrancy

Kilfinane is an area of great natural beauty nestled in between the Ballyhoura mountains. There are many stunning walking routes around the town. One issue that was picked up during the meetings was that the road, path and walking infrastructure connecting Kilfinane to the forests and walks is underdeveloped or lacking entirely. This Plan will engage with this problem and the relevant agencies with a view to solving it.

The world class mountain biking facility a few kilometres outside Kilfinane and Ardpatrick is also a significant amenity and a draw for tourism. This area is also associated with many competitive and recreational events throughout the year. Maintaining this excellent environment while developing responsibly and sustainably are key goals of this plan and of national policy.
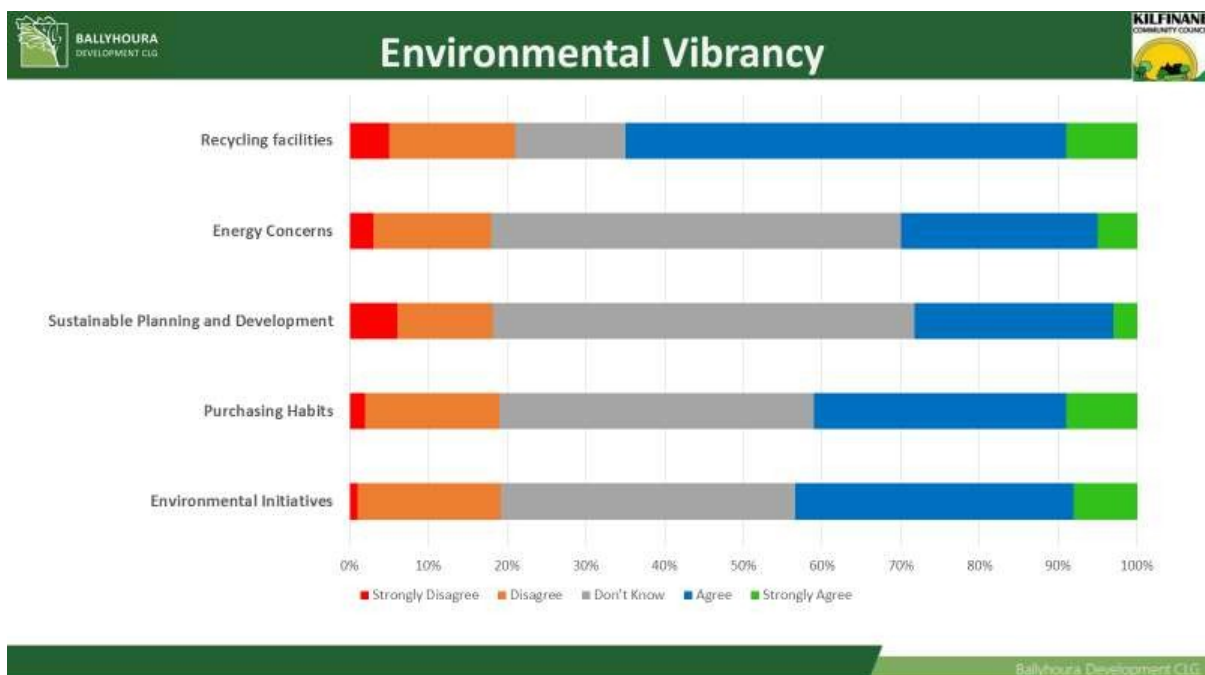
Establishing Strategic Planning Themes for Kilfinane

The thrust of the first two planning workshops was to facilitate community members to move from individual opinions about their local area to a shared community list of priorities and actions. The socio-economic analysis, SWOT analysis, and presentation of a community survey coupled with the group work and conversations at each workshop encouraged the community to refine their priorities down to key actions.

A summary list of these priorities is below:

Priorities

- Develop walking routes
- Sustainable Market
- Education opportunities
- More festivals all year round
- Improve current sporting facilities and add others
- More opportunities for older generation to get involved
- Engage with local authorities and other organisations to get as much resources as possible
- Encourage more flora and fauna in the area
- Remove excessive signage

- Traffic calming measures in the town
- Connective greenways / cycleways with other towns
- Meals on Wheels
- Social Evenings
- Keep the town tidy
- More facilities and activities for younger people
- Renovate derelict buildings
- More community groups
- Youth Centre
- Mental Health Facilities
- Use spaces for other amenities on the weekend

Workshop 3: Finalising Planning Themes, Actions and Responsibility
10th March 2022, Old Chapel Rooms, Kilfinane

The third workshop was designed to group the priorities identified during workshop two into broader strategic planning themes and formulate a Register of Potential Projects. These were then plotted in detail to identify individual actions within the themes, the groups that will take responsibility, resources required, and potential for collaboration.

Community members were asked to complete worksheets in a group, outlining how each action could be progressed. There was also an opportunity to add in extra actions or amend existing ones.

Ballyhoura Development staff cycled between groups to aid in identifying relevant stakeholder and partners, as well as providing advice on potentials for grant funding.

The seven strategic planning themes for Kilfinane are:

1) Community Spaces, Derelict Buildings & Disused Buildings
2) Community Organisation & Inclusion
3) Youth Services
4) Transport, Mobility & Access
5) Tourism, Culture & Recreation
6) Community Safety
7) Services, Jobs & Sustainable Economy

Participants were asked to discuss the draft actions, 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 all of the actions on the worksheets. They identified lead organisations and edited the actions – some actions were amalgamated where appropriate and some were deleted.

Workshop 4: Final Consultation and Draft Revision

23rd of June 2022, Old Chapel Rooms, Kilfinane

The fourth workshop began with a presentation from the Chairperson of the Kilfinane Community Council. They discussed the many events and current projects the Community Council have overseen this year.

The final work sheets with the previously decided themes and potential projects were places at each table for the attendees to review and make any last-minute edits.

Ballyhoura Development staff circulated between groups to aid groups and discuss any questions or advise on any suggested amendments.

Participants then discussed any suggested amendments with the larger group and once a consensus was reached Ballyhoura staff took note of the final amendments.

The draft plan was then issued to the participants who attended any of the previous workshops via email. They were advised that should any further amendments to the final draft plan be requested, to email the Ballyhoura Team by 5pm on the 29th of June.

This concluded the fourth facilitated workshop and allowed the full planning document to be finalised.

See section 6 for a detailed layout of these themes.

5. Potential Projects Register

- Identify a suitable derelict or disused site in Kilfinane for the provision of a community-owned multi-purpose space.

- Arts & Crafts Hub with Community Café: the space could be used by workers to create and sell products and set up an Arts shop with a Community Café. Such a space could include a residential programme for artists with a studio space available and/or host workshops and demonstrations/tours.

- Social Farm and Biodiversity Park: Identify unused site for the development of community allotments with a view to expanding into Social Farm and Biodiversity Park in the future. This would be both a social inclusion intervention and also service a sustainable weekly local market and provide a space for education and learning and outdoor recreation. Expanded facilities such as tennis courts and a basketball court could be added in the future.

- Food Market: Establish a Kilfinane food market in partnership with local producers and local/regional tourism and hospitality stakeholders. Secure funding for provision of a roof structure over the Sunken Garden adjacent to main street for market use.

- Teach na Cille: Assess potential for development of meeting space for community groups, active retirement, youth groups, AA meetings, remote working, storage space, and clubs.

- Old Primary School: Assess potential for community centre, remote working hub, provision of space for arts and crafts group, education and training, community café, allotments/community gardens, meeting space, space for clubs.

- Secure an Astroturf pitch available for community use.

- Extend Playground for Active Retirement Activities including outdoor gym.

- Establish a community exercise facility including a swimming pool.

- Develop a community park on land behind Radharc Cillín.

- Develop a network of walking trails that connects Kilfinane centre to the walks and greenways that surround it.

- Pedestrianise road behind fountain.

6. Strategic Planning Themes and Project Register

The following tables present the seven strategic planning themes that emerged from four consultation workshops with members of Kilfinane community following socio-economic profiling and preparatory work undertaken by local community groups with the help of Ballyhoura Development CLG. The themes begin with a Potential Projects Register that emerged from the work of the communities over the course of the workshops. The tables below further break these down, and are organised into priority actions, lead groups, resources required, and partner organisations. Some involve seeking funding, others the establishment of new groups locally or committees to work on a specific project. More again are targeted conversations with key stakeholders in local government, businesses, residents, or the community and voluntary sector.

This list should not be considered exhaustive - key actions, opportunities and issues will arise during the enactment of this plan. All themes and actions require community members to take leading roles in their progression and in the plan in general. The plan represents the work and priorities of Kilfinane community members. It will be pursued by local people with the help of partner organisations and stakeholders. It is therefore critical that community organisations receive the numbers of volunteers and level of work and input needed to make this plan a success and make Kilfinane an even more desirable place to live over the next 5 years and into the future.

Theme 1: Community Spaces, Derelict Buildings & Disused Buildings

Action	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partner Organisation
1.1 Establish a Community Spaces working group and Heritage working group to lead actions under this theme.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Contact List for community groups and individuals – ask people to join this group.	
1.2 Seek funding for feasibility to review options for development of several derelict/disused community sites and buildings around town.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Funding for consultant. • Meeting with LCCC.	Ballyhoura Development CLG Community Spaces Working Group Ballyhoura Heritage & Environment CLG OPW for OPW owned buildings. LCCC
1.3 Investigate feasibility of/appropriate locations for community garden/allotments – with potential to be expanded to a Social Farm and Biodiversity Park.	Community Spaces Working Group Kilfinane Community Council	• As part of Action 1.2 • Funding for consultant to carry out feasibility study.	Ballyhoura Development CLG Ballyhoura Apple Farm LCCC Parish Council IFA Teagasc
1.4 Liaise with Limerick City and County Council and conservation architect regarding derelict buildings.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Contacts for partner organisations to enable sharing of plans/ideas.	Heritage Council LCCC Kilfinane Coshlea Historical Society Ballyhoura Heritage and Environment CLG

Action	Lead	Steps	Partners
1.5 Engage with legal specialists regarding ownership of certain sites that might be brought into ownership of current Community Council.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Appoint solicitor.	LCCC OPW Community Spaces Working Group Parish Council
1.6 Investigate a suitable location for a community centre via a feasibility study.	Kilfinane Community Council	• As part of Action 1.2.	Ballyhoura Development CLG
1.7 Investigate opportunities and spaces for social enterprises, training / subsidised services e.g. café, accommodation, food hub.	Community Spaces Working Group Kilfinane Community Council	• As part of Action 1.2.	Ballyhoura Development CLG Ballyhoura Heritage and Environment CLG Business Working Group (see Action 7.1)
1.8 Explore the opportunity to incorporate smart village technology in future projects.	Community Spaces Working Group	• Consult external contractor on works that are required.	Ballyhoura Development CLG Kilfinane Community Projects CLG Blackrock GAA Ballyhoura Apple Farm
1.9 Identify an integrated space for groups to use as storage.	Community Spaces Working Group	• As part of Action 1.2.	Kilfinane Community Council Ballyhoura Heritage and Environment CLG Ballyhoura CCE West End Drama Group

Action	Responsible	Details	Partners/Stakeholders
			Kilfinane Arts, Crafts and Traditional Skills Group (subgroup of KCC) Christmas Group (subgroup of KCC)
1.10 Investigate the benefits of merging Kilfinane Community Council and Kilfinane Community Projects CLG.	Kilfinane Community Council Kilfinane Community Projects CLG	•Volunteers from both companies to begin merger. • Seek guidance from the Charity Regulator.	Charity Regulator Revenue
1.11 Liaise with groups within the community before any community property or land is sold or disposed of to ensure it is available for community use first if required.	Community Spaces Working Group	Meetings with other groups to identify land/properties available for use	Kilfinane Community Council Ballyhoura Heritage and Environment CLG LCCC OPW Parish Council

Theme 2: Community Organisation & Inclusion

Action	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partner Organisation
2.1 Establish a Community Organisation and Inclusion Working Group.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Contact List for community groups and individuals – ask people to join this group.	
2.2 Hold Networking meetings inviting representatives from all Kilfinane Community, Sporting, Arts, Heritage and Business groups with aim of engaging with Community Plan, establishing working groups and begin project planning.	Community Organisation and Inclusion Working Group	• Database of local contact phone and email addresses. • GDPR training/information to be provided to participating groups.	Kilfinane Community Council Local Community Groups and Organisations.
2.3 Identify new members, occasional volunteers, and/or working group members for Kilfinane Community Council.	Community Organisation and Inclusion Working Group Kilfinane Community Council	• Database of local contact phone and email addresses. • Local volunteers with different capacities. • People to work in PR for KCC and working groups – provide training if required • Provide GDPR information/training to volunteers. • Engage with the local school, offering mentoring and a chance to engage with current projects for transition year students.	Local Community Groups and Organisations Scoil Pól
2.4 Explore establishing key local groups currently missing - e.g. Men's Shed, Ladies Group, Youth Club, Community Café.	Community Organisation and Inclusion Working Group	• Volunteers to lead and run each group set up. • Community survey looking at what similar groups are doing.	Womens' Shed Limerick Limerick Youth Services Foróige Ballyhoura Development CLG

Action	Lead	Resources	Partners
2.5 Establish an annual intercultural food fair event.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Venue to hold event. • Funding for event.	Ballyhoura Development CLG Ballyhoura Apple Farm
2.6 Explore merging future and ongoing projects across the different community groups within Kilfinane.	Community Organisation and Inclusion Working Group	• Identify projects that might be common to various groups and arrange meetings for these groups. • Annual networking event for local groups.	Kilfinane Community Council Kilfinane Community Projects CLG Ballyhoura CCE HearSay International Audio Festival Kilfinane Tidy Towns Ballyhoura Development CLG Ballyhoura Heritage & Environment CLG Ballyhoura Fáilte
2.7 Explore the opportunity of creating an integrated annual community events calendar.	Community Organisation and Inclusion Working Group	• Volunteers required to create and manage this calendar on an ongoing basis. • Create a shared calendar – provide training if required.	Kilfinane Community Council All local community groups/organisations Ballyhoura Development CLG
2.8 Explore the opportunities of setting up task forces or subgroups to pursue individual projects, e.g. Community Spaces group, Transport Group.	Community Organisation and Inclusion Working Group	• Volunteers from within the community to participate in the groups. • PR people to advertise on social media and design posters.	Kilfinane Community Council

Theme 3: Youth Services

Action	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partner Organisation
3.1 To Establish a Youth Group Coordinating group.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Training – Youth Safe Guarding/Youth in Community Modules. • Investigate Big Brother / Big Sister or No Name Clubs.	Limerick Youth Club Foróige
3.2 Gauge local young people's opinion on services/amenities desired locally.	Youth Services Working Group	• Create survey	Local Schools Limerick Youth Services Foróige Ballyhoura Development CLG
3.3 Investigate Feasibility of Youth Centre or areas of interest to teenagers e.g. youth café, outdoor gym. Use methodology relevant to capturing youth opinion.	Youth Services Working Group	• Funding for feasibility study (being carried out under Theme1, 1.1)	Kilfinane Community Council Ballyhoura Development CLG
3.4 Restart a volunteer led Youth Club in Kilfinane.	Youth Services Working Group	• Volunteers who can regularly participate to supervise the group. • Provision of relevant training for volunteers.	Limerick Youth Services Foróige
3.5 Youth themed projects in themes of Environment, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor pursuits, Drama, Musicals.	Youth Services Working Group	• Connect with all groups within the community to encourage engagement with youth placements in ongoing projects in these themes.	Limerick Youth Services Foróige Ballyhoura Development CLG

Theme 4: Transport, Mobility & Access

Action	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partner Organisation
4.1 To Establish a Mobility Working Group.	Kilfinane Community Council		
4.2 Engage with Local Link and Limerick City and County Council regarding installation of bus shelter.	Transport and Mobility Working Group	• Current data of transport infrastructure.	Local Link LCCC
4.3 Engage with Limerick City and County Council and Local Residents Group to solve issue around parking at times of key events and festivals (this plan looks to expand these).	Transport and Mobility Working Group	• Survey of days/times/locations where parking is an issue.	LCCC Local residents
4.4 Seeking funding to develop bike racks and a bus shelter in the town.	Transport and Mobility Working Group Kilfinane Community Council	• Survey to find out if bike racks are needed in the town. • Identify suitable locations for bus shelter and bike rack.	Ballyhoura Development CLG LCC
4.5 Explore the expansion/improvement of walking and cycling routes close to and within the town.	Transport and Mobility Working Group	• Access through and development of key sites around Kilfinane. • Identify funding streams and suitable organisations to apply.	Ballyhoura Development CLG LCCC
4.6 Investigate the establishment of a taxi service as a new business.	Transport and Mobility Working Group	• PR to find out if anyone is interested in running this service.	Business Working Group Ballyhoura Development CLG

Theme 5: Tourism, Culture & Recreation

Action	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partner Organisation
5.1 Establish a Tourism, Culture and Recreation Working Group.	Kilfinane Community Council		
5.2 Explore establishing Seasonal Markets and more festivals in Kilfinane.	Tourism, Culture and Recreation Working Group	• Apply for Festivals grants. • Add to visitballyhoura.com listings.	Ballyhoura Fáilte Ballyhoura Development CLG
5.3 Seek funding for establishment of Kilfinane Walking Trail.	Tourism, Culture and Recreation Working Group	• Identify which organisation(s) can apply for funding. • Work with the Transport and Mobility Working Group.	Ballyhoura Development CLG Ballyhoura Apple Farm Balyhoura Heritage & Environment CLG LCCC Ballyhoura Fáilte
5.4 Improve GAA facilities and shared community sporting amenities.	Blackrock GAA	• Create a survey to find out what sporting amenities/facility the community wants.	Community Spaces Working Group
5.5 Pursue funding for outdoor gym in Kilfinane.	Tourism, Culture and Recreation Working Group	• Apply for grant funding.	Ballyhoura Development CLG LCCC
5.6 Seek Heritage funding for promotion/interpretation of key historical sites.	Kilfinane Community Council Kilfinane Coshlea Historical Society	• Meet with interested groups to identify key historical sites. • Apply for funding.	Ballyhoura Development CLG Kilfinane Coshlea Historical Society Irish Heritage Council
5.7 Seek funding for creation of Sculpture Audio Trail and app.	Kilfinane Community Council Tourism, Culture and Recreation Working Group	• Apply for funding.	Ballyhoura Development CLG HearSay Grey Heron Media

			Kilfinane Tidy Towns
			Ballyhoura Heritage & Environment CLG
5.8 Build on local musical offerings by hosting county Fleadh, and a music festival.	Tourism, Culture and Recreation Working Group	• Identify funding available. • Find suitable locations to hold County Fleadh competitions (Scoil Fhionáin and Scoil Pól used previously).	Ballyhoura CCE Kilfinane Community Council
5.9 Improve outdoor facilities, e.g. public toilet, picnic spot.	Tourism, Culture and Recreation Working Group	• Identify funding sources. • Locations for public toilet and picnic spot – planning required.	Ballyhoura Development CLG LCCC

Theme 6 Community Safety

Action	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partner Organisation
6.1 Establish a Community Safety Working Group.	Kilfinane Community Council		
6.2 Engage with an Garda Síochána re-enhancing local Garda presence in key locations/at key times.	Community Safety and Awareness Working Group		An Garda Síochána
6.3 Make use of expanded community text alert.	Community Safety and Awareness Working Group	• List of group and individual contacts emails/phones.	Text Alert Community Crime Prevention Programme Garda Siochana Muintir na Tire
6.4 Secure grant funding for modern, efficient community safety equipment (Automatic gates, asset tracking, CO2 alarms).	Kilfinane Community Council	• In conjunction with Action 1.8. • Funding to acquire this equipment for relevant locations.	Community Safety and Awareness Working Group Community Spaces Working Group Ballyhoura Development CLG
6.5 Create more awareness around the location of the defibrillators and determine if more locations are required.	Community Safety and Awareness Working Group	• Training for the community to use a defibrillator. • Training programme.	Irish Red Cross

Theme 7 Services, Jobs & Sustainable Economy

Action	Lead Organisation	Resources Required	Partner Organisation
7.1 Establish a Business Working Group with a mandate to liaise with local businesses, assess economic diversification required.	Kilfinane Community Council Local business representatives	• Local Business owners to take part in group.	All local businesses
7.2 Survey the desire/need of a Remote Working Hub / Enterprise space in Kilfinane.	Business Working Group Ballyhoura Development CLG	• Feasibility study from Action 1.2. • Look at similar projects in neighbouring communities.	Ballyhoura Development CLG
7.3 Engage with professional service providers (e.g. accountants) in Kilmallock and Mitchelstown to investigate outreach services.	Business Working Group	• Community Audit of professional services lacking locally.	
7.4 Seek funding for a digital community noticeboard showing walks, bus services, local businesses, suppliers, sites of interest.	Business Working Group	• Identify funding streams.	Ballyhoura Development CLG All local businesses/organisations interested in participating LCC
7.5 Explore becoming a Sustainable Energy Community.	Kilfinane Community Council	• Information sessions from organisations such as SEAI for sustainable energy. • Identify available funding.	Ballyhoura Development CLG